



STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN
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MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Governors
From: Larry J. Martin, Executive Director
Date: April 12, 2021
Re: Executive Director Report

Spring is a wonderful time of year. For me, it brings a renewed sense of optimism and energy after a long Wisconsin winter. I hope you are able to get outside and enjoy the weather.

While it has only been less than two months since my last report, there is much to share with you.

Excitement is also building for our 2021 Annual Meeting and Conference (AMC), set for June 9-11. If you attended the Solo and Small Firm Conference last fall, you'll be familiar with the virtual platform. We have a solid lineup of thought-provoking and engaging speakers, plenty of ways to earn your CLE credit, and an abundance of networking opportunities – all available from the convenience of your home or office. Joining us this year will be members of the Wisconsin Association for Legal Administrators, as well as Judges from across our state. I encourage you to visit the [AMC website](#) to learn more – and register by April 28 for early-bird discounts.

I encourage you to read this report and note the impressive work that continues on by our volunteers and staff as we pass the one-year mark of being safer at home.

As we look forward to gathering in person again, the safety of our staff and members remain a priority. Therefore, the State Bar Center will remain closed to most staff and all members – and we will continue to hold virtual meetings and events– until mid-summer.

Thank you for your continued support. Stay well and, as always, ever forward!

RECENT COLUMNS of Interest

In case you missed my recent columns in the *Wisconsin Lawyer*TM magazine:

- **Your State Bar: Vel Phillips: Statue Is a Fitting Honor.** The State Bar of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Law Foundation support a proposal to place a statue of Vel Phillips outside the State Capitol. We encourage you to help, too. (March)
- **Your State Bar: Value: Your Membership Dollars at Work.** Get the full value of your State Bar membership. Use the programs, products, services, and discounts created with your professional and personal needs in mind. (April)

UPCOMING EVENTS to Keep on Your Radar

- **Board of Governors' Meetings**
June 9 (virtual), Sept. 23 (Kenosha), and Dec. 3 (State Bar Center – Madison)
- **State Bar Elections**
April 23: Ballots due, results are in
- **2021 Annual Meeting & Conference (Virtual)**
June 9: Cheryl Furstace Daniels swearing-in as 66th State Bar president, 5 p.m.
June 10-11: Conference
- **Member Recognition Celebration (Virtual)**
June 23
- **Joint Leadership Orientation (BOG, Section, Division, Committee Leaders)**
Sept. 21: Expungement clinic (tentative), Kenosha
Sept. 22: Orientation, Kenosha
Sept. 23: Board of Governors' meeting, Kenosha

EDUCATE – Developing Skilled Legal Professionals

PINNACLE Revises Practice Resources

Under the brand PINNACLE[®], the State Bar produces Wisconsin-focused seminars and substantive practice resources, including webcast and on-demand seminars and a comprehensive library of 80-plus treatises, practice guides, system and code books, practice forms, and two document assembly programs.

PINNACLE recently revised the following resources:

- *Drafter’s Guide to Wisconsin Condominium Documents; A Guide for Wisconsin Nonprofit Organizations;*
- *Contract Law in Wisconsin; Securities, Mergers, and Acquisitions in Wisconsin;*
- *Eckhardt’s Workbook for Wisconsin Estate Planners;* and
- *The Law of Damages in Wisconsin*

The following projects are in development:

- updating the Juvenile and Criminal/Traffic editions of the *Wisconsin Judicial Benchbook*;
- updating six of 14 codebooks this fiscal year; and
- identifying potential new topics and working on the release of a new title for PINNpoint Enhanced Course Materials this summer.

Seminars: Helping Lawyers Find Better Ways of Working

Paul Unger, a national speaker and author who coaches lawyers how to be more efficient, is partnering with PINNACLE to produce a four-part webcast series beginning in April. Topics include:

- “Get Focused! Time & Distraction Management + Digital Detox” (April 27-June 5)
- “How to Better Manage Your Workload: Email Management” (May 11-June 19)
- “How to Better Manage Your Workload: Task, Goal & Deadline Management” (May 25-July 10)
- “Get Organized! Fight Paper – Organize your Digital Matter File!” (June 8-July 24)

Upcoming PINNACLE webcast programs of note:

- “Constitutional Challenges to Business Closures During COVID-19” (April 20-May 17)
- “Rural Practice: Should I Try It?” (April 21-June 8)
- “Legal Ethics 2020: Current Issues in Professional Responsibility in the ‘New Normal’” (April 20-June 4)

Shaping State Bar Products and Services

The Professional Development Team is looking to State Bar members for their ideas and opinions that will help improve or shape existing and new products and services, delivery models, and other emerging learning and resource needs.

A panel of attorneys is providing their input on a number of marketing and product development questions involving evolving print to digital books, in-person versus distance learning, and a possible extension of Ultimate Pass that could bring together CLE seminars and Books UnBound®.

Registration Opens for Annual Meeting & Conference, June 10–11

Registration is now open for the virtual State Bar of Wisconsin **2021 Annual Meeting & Conference** (AMC). The conference is packed with great speakers and CLE credits, including:

- **Opening Plenary:** Thursday, June 10, “Opportunities for Differentiation in a Digital World,” **Michaele DeStefano**, Professor of Law, University of Miami Law School
- **Special Guest Speaker:** Thursday, June 10, “Changed Genders, Changed Perspective,” **Ellie Krug**, Human Inspiration Works, LLC
- **Closing Plenary:** Friday, June 11, “Redeeming Justice: Addressing Racial Injustice and Repairing the Criminal Justice System,” **Jarrett Adams**, Law Offices of Jarrett Adams, PLLC

The Wisconsin Association for Legal Administrators (WALA) will hold its Annual Conference of Education in conjunction with AMC. WALA sessions are open to all attendees on Wednesday, June 9.

More judges and justices will attend AMC this year, thanks to the collaboration between the Director of Judicial Education and the State Bar. Qualified circuit court and court of appeals judges and Supreme Court justices may attend AMC at no charge, courtesy of the Director of State Courts Office. Several CLE programs were specifically developed considering the needs of judicial attendees, including:

- “How the Rules of Professional Conduct for Attorneys Affect Judicial Decision-Making”
- “Secondary Trauma in the Judiciary”
- “Understanding the Role and Reliability of Forensic Sciences in the Courtroom”

Practice411: Supporting the Business of Law

The State Bar’s Law Office Management Assistance Program, **Practice411™**, assists lawyers in improving their efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of legal services and in implementing systems and controls to reduce risk and improve client relations. It offers resources to help lawyers manage the business aspects of their practices.

Practice411 facilitates information sharing among members through **monthly roundtable law practice management discussions**, via telephone and videoconference, on the third Monday and Tuesday of each month. Recent topics include key takeaways from the ABA TECHSHOW, law firm succession planning, and technology-related challenges to working remotely.

The Practice411 manager also engaged in the following activities:

- Provided video interview for story, “[New Ethics Opinion and Practical Considerations for Working Remotely](#)” (*InsideTrack*)
- Presented “Helpful Zoom Tips & Tricks” (Walworth County Bar Association)

To reach Practice411, contact [Christopher Shattuck](#) or call (800) 957-4670.

Providing Ethics Guidance

The State Bar’s **Ethics Program** provides guidance and help in resolving questions regarding Wisconsin’s Rules of Professional Conduct for attorneys. Ethics counsel recently gave the following presentation:

- “Reconciling SCR 20:3.8, *Brady v. Maryland*, Marcy’s Law and Victim Impact Statements” (Sheboygan County District Attorney’s Office)

Ethics counsel also wrote the following articles:

- “[Threatening Criminal Prosecution or Professional Discipline](#)” (*Wisconsin Lawyer*)

- “Ethical Dilemma: Law Firm Names When Named (Retired) Partner Practices Elsewhere” (*InsideTrack*)
- “A Primer: Crowdfunding for Legal Fees” (*Wisconsin Lawyer*)

Questions? Contact Ethics Counsel [Aviva Kaiser](#) or [Tim Pierce](#), or call the Ethics Hotline at (800) 254-9154.

WisLAP: Keeping Wisconsin Lawyers Healthy

The **Wisconsin Lawyers Assistance Program (WisLAP)** provides free confidential assistance to lawyers, judges, law students, and their families coping with substance use disorders or dependence, mental health challenges, or other stressors that negatively impact the quality of life and the practice of law.

WisLAP also provides educational programming for firms, local bars, and other legal entities and associations on the topics of substance use, mental health, and well-being.

WisLAP staff recently gave the following presentations:

- “Lawyer Well-Being Key to Personal and Organizational Success” (Marquette University Law School Organization for Student Well-Being)
- “Compassion Fatigue” (Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee)

**Lawyer Well-Being Week:
May 3-7**

Join WisLAP and the State Bar of Wisconsin for a variety of activities. Look for more details at wisbar.org/wislap.

For details about the national event, turn to the [Institute for Well-Being in Law](#).

WisLAP continues to administer the peer assistance program, 24-hour hotline for lawyer assistance, and monitoring program at (800) 543-2625. Questions about WisLAP? Contact [Mary Spranger](#).

Division, Section, and Committee Reports

The **Government Lawyers Division (GLD)** participated in a “Careers in Government” virtual discussion panel on Feb. 10. The division co-hosted the event with the Wisconsin Association of African-American Lawyers, the Wisconsin Hispanic Lawyers Association, the LGBT Bar Association of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Asian American Bar Association. The GLD is planning a spring CLE program with PINNACLE that will be offered free to division members.

The GLD is offering grant money to assist members with CLE tuition fees. If you know of a government lawyer in need, contact [Karen Beall](#).

The **Senior Lawyers Division** (SLD) is creating free programming to assist senior lawyers in obtaining CLE credits that meet the requirements of the new emeritus status rule. The division recently presented two CLE programs, the “Ethics of Transitions” and the “[Ethics of Transitions Part II 2020](#).”

Look for additional programming in the SLD Educational Library:

- “Wellness for Senior Lawyers”
- “Transitioning Considerations”
- “Serving on Civic Boards”
- Working from Home”

The SLD is offering scholarships for their members to attend the virtual Annual Meeting & Conference in June. These scholarships cover registration fees and are available on a first come, first served basis. Scholarship recipients are asked to write a short report about the benefits of attending the event and the information learned at the conference for inclusion into an upcoming SLD newsletter. To apply, contact [Kim Burns](#).

The **Young Lawyers Division** is continuing its PINNACLE-produced CLE webcast series, “Keeping Up with Hot Legal Trends,” to provide free one-credit presentations on relevant emerging topics to division members. Sixty people registered for the Feb. 16 CLE, “CBD Business Litigation: Five Trends to Watch.”

Future topics include:

- “[Immigration in the Modern Era](#)” (April 20)
- “[Demystifying Discipline: A Lawyer’s Guide to Grievances](#)” (May 12)
- “What’s Brewing: Emerging Legal Issues in Baseball” (Date TBD)
- “Rural Practice Panel Discussion” (Date TBD)

The **Business Law Section** and **Labor and Employment Law Section** are partnering to present an April 20 CLE, “[Navigating Diversity and Inclusion: Perspectives on Accountability from Companies and Employees](#).” This presentation is provided to members of both sections and WAAL at a discounted price.

In February, the **Business Law Section** and the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic (MVLC) launched the [Small Business Assistance Program](#) to provide one hour of free legal advice weekly to three small businesses with urgent legal needs due to the pandemic. Two additional appointment slots were added in March to accommodate the demand of clients interested in these services. Sessions are held virtually, and clients come from around the state.

The **Children and the Law Section** is presenting a May 17 CLE program, “Advocating for Children in School Disciplinary Proceedings.” This is the fourth in its CLE series that is available free to members.

The **Civil Rights and Liberties Section** is partnering with PINNACLE to present a May 26 CLE program, “Lawyers Behaving Badly: A Look at Ethics Litigation.” The section will offer this presentation at a discount to section members.

The **Construction and Public Contract Law Section** is presenting a May 13 CLE program with PINNACLE titled, “Timber and Tech: 2021 Trends in Construction Design, Building and Innovation.” Participants will learn about the use of drones and mass timber projects, hear from a panel of experts, and network at the CLE program.

The **Dispute Resolution Section** created free mediation-related document templates for section members. Members can modify these documents for use in their own practices.

The **Elder Law and Special Needs Section** is working with PINNACLE for the annual “[WisPact Update 2021](#).” Section members will receive a \$50 discount. The section also is offering five scholarships to members interested in entering the fields of elder law or special needs planning law. To qualify, members must be practicing five years or less in these fields.

The **Elder Law and Special Needs Section** and the **Family Law Section** approved grants to Legal Action of Wisconsin to help fund student participation in the State Bar **Diversity Clerkship Program**.

The **Litigation Section** is offering 10 full membership scholarships to diverse section members as a way to increase the diversity of lawyers practicing in the litigation field.

20
(and counting)

The number of small businesses receiving free legal assistance from the Business Law Section and the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic Program between Feb. 5 and March 26.

The **Solo/Small Firm and General Practice Section** offered a CLE program, “[Recognizing and Reducing Bias for Attorneys](#),” on April 9. This presentation featured a U.W. psychologist Dr. William Cox. Section members were able to attend for free.

Several sections held virtual networking sessions with student organizations at the U.W. and Marquette University law schools in order to connect with students and provide information about their practice area.

- The **Business Law Section** held a session with the Marquette Business Law Society on March 24.
- The **Environmental Law Section** held a networking session with the Environmental Law societies at each law school in early April.
- The **Health Law Section** participated in a March joint networking session coordinated by the Health Law societies at both law schools.

Two sections made changes in their dues effective July 1, 2021:

- The **Business Law Section** is extending free membership to new attorneys in their second year of practice in Wisconsin. Previously, membership was only offered to members in their first year.
- The **Family Law Section** is reducing its member dues by \$5.

Seventeen sections are contributing a total of \$29,500 in sponsorship funds for the 2021 **Annual Meeting and Conference**. This helps to offset the cost of the event while creating awareness of the section benefits. Three sections also are offering scholarships for eight attendees.

The **Diversity & Inclusion Oversight Committee** continues to work with the law schools to support students while working toward achieving the strategic goals of the State Bar. State Bar representatives will meet with administrators from Marquette University to develop a strategic plan for student outreach.

ADVOCATE – Advocating for Justice, Clients, the Legal System & the Profession

Advocacy & Access to Justice: Keeping an Eye on Wisconsin’s Biennial Budget

The Government Relations Team is [focused on the Wisconsin legislature’s biennial budget](#) and its impact on important State Bar legislative priorities. In February, Gov. Tony Evers introduced his “Badger Bounce Back” budget plan that supports many of the State Bar’s top policy priorities:

- increasing civil legal aid funding by \$5 million;
- returning 17-year-olds to juvenile court jurisdiction and revisions to state juvenile shackling rules;
- reforming and expanding expungement eligibility;
- funding for new circuit courts, new ADA and SPD positions;
- indexing the private bar defender rate to inflation; and
- expanding broadband internet access in rural communities.

What You Can Do

As the biennial budget moves through the legislature, the State Bar encourages you to contact your legislators and ask them to prioritize funding for our legal system. Use the [State Bar Advocacy Network](#) to send messages of support to your representatives.

Recent Legislative Victories

SB62, a State Bar-supported bill that provides pay progression for Wisconsin's State Public Defender office, was signed into law as Wisconsin Act 7 on March 2, 2021. This bill allows the agency to retain experienced and talented attorneys and keep pay competitive with their state prosecutor colleagues.

The State Bar **Family Law Section** initiated SB116, allowing the courts to incorporate reasonably certain future events into child custody and placement agreements. It was signed into law as Wisconsin Act 20 on March 26, 2021.

Continuing Our Work on Racial Justice, Diversity & Inclusion

The Racial Justice Task Force, led by Past President Jill Kastner, is examining ways the State Bar can effectively use its resources to combat racial injustice and disparities, advance equal justice, and promote diversity and inclusion in the Wisconsin legal community. The task force last met Feb. 15, 2021, with another meeting set for April 14. Here is an overview of its work:

- **Mandatory CLE on Diversity, Inclusion and Bias:** The Board of Governors will discuss at its April 16 meeting whether Diversity, Equity and Inclusion should qualify as CLE and whether this training should be mandatory CLE. In other Midwest states, Missouri requires one credit each reporting period. Iowa added DEI and Wellness as part of the required two credits of Ethics. Kansas is working on a similar proposal. Illinois and Minnesota already have mandatory DEI CLE requirements.

- **Work of Board of Governors’ Committees:** The Strategic Planning, Policy, and Governance committees are working on issues and initiatives to promote racial justice.
- **Racial Justice Policies:** The following policies were discussed at the February board meeting. They are scheduled as action items for the April meeting.
 - Law Enforcement Reform
 - Racial Disparities
 - Profiling and Collection of Demographic Data
 - Consumer Protection and Repossessions
- **Volunteer Opportunity to Promote Access to Justice and Racial Justice:** The State Bar is working with community partners to host an in-person Expungement Clinic in Kenosha prior to the board’s orientation on Sept. 21. Members interested in volunteering for this clinic, or any virtual expungement clinics, can receive free CLE training by Legal Action. To volunteer, contact [Jill Kastner](#).

ICYMI: Diverse Law-related Organizations Featured in InsideTrack

A commitment to diversity and inclusion is one of the State Bar’s five [Guiding Principles](#). As noted in SCR 10.02, we strive for an understanding and commitment to diversity, the elimination of artificial barriers to opportunities, and the advancement of the universal desire of all members to optimize their potential for success.

In an effort to create awareness of diverse law-related organizations, the State Bar is highlighting these leaders in *InsideTrack*. Learn more about the organizations and the people who lead them:

- [“Bryant Park: Speaking Up for Asian American Lawyers”](#)
- [“Amber Rafeet August: Leading the Wisconsin Association of African-American Lawyers”](#)
- [“Meet Dennis Puzs Jr.: Serving Tribal Communities, Indian Law Section”](#)
- [“Breanne Snapp: On Advancing Women Lawyers”](#)

Look for more stories in upcoming issues. Questions? Contact [Joyce Hastings](#).

Supreme Court Grants Modification to Emeritus Membership Class

Effective July 1, 2021, members who elect emeritus status, available at age 70, are considered inactive (retired). Those who elect emeritus status prior to July 1, 2021, are granted legacy status and will remain subject to prior rules. Under the new rules, members age 70-plus who actively

practice law are considered active – with full dues and CLE requirements – until becoming “senior active” members at age 75. For more information, read [InsideTrack](#).

Empowering the Public to Take Part in Important Advance Directives

An estimated 80 percent of adults Wisconsin residents have not completed an advance directive documenting their preferences about issues surrounding health care decisions. In the age of coronavirus, advance care planning is as important as ever.

In advance of Health Care Decisions Day, [recognized in Wisconsin on April 16](#), elder law attorney Ben Adams of McCarty Law, LLP, Appleton, appeared on Wisconsin Public Radio’s Larry Meiller Show on April 13. Ben was joined by Ellen Koski, executive director of the Fox Valley Advance Care Planning Partnership in Appleton. The State Bar honors the day by providing members and the public free PDF access to “A Gift to Your Family: Planning Ahead for Future Health Care Needs” in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). The guide is available April 12–23.

If you missed the broadcast, you can find it in the Larry Meiller Show [archives](#).

FACILITATE – Helping the Public Access the Legal System

Pro Bono: Connecting the Legal Community with Opportunities

- **Wills for Heroes** – This pro bono program is continuing to use a virtual free legal clinic model. First responders and volunteer lawyers work together via email and videoconferencing to complete basic estate plans that are sent to the first responders with instructions for execution. From July 1, 2020, to March 29, 2021, members have volunteered virtually to complete over 125 estate plans for first responders statewide. Since this program began in 2009, volunteers have completed more than 5,088 estate plans for Wisconsin first responders and their spouses.
- **Wills for Healthcare Heroes** – With permission from the national Wills for Heroes Foundation, the State Bar recently began work with volunteers from Quarles & Brady LLP to modify and expand the Wills for Heroes project to serve health care workers on the front lines of the pandemic. Quarles & Brady volunteers and law students at Marquette recently completed their training, conducting their first virtual estate planning clinic in February for health care support workers at Aurora Sinai Medical Center in Milwaukee.
- **Pro Bono Portal** – Since the [State Bar Pro Bono Portal](#), launched in late November, 19 legal services agencies have joined the website, 133 total volunteer opportunities have been posted, with 59 active listings. The website provides an easy way for volunteers to

find and connect with pro bono opportunities. The von Briesen & Roper firm recently invited the pro bono program manager to give their attorneys a virtual tour of the website and answer questions about the platform.

Access to Justice Commission: Expanding Help to the Unrepresented

The Access to Justice Commission, created by the Wisconsin Supreme Court at the request of the State Bar, works to expand access to the civil justice system for unrepresented low-income Wisconsin residents. Here are a few of its projects:

- **State Funding for Civil Legal Aid** – The commission continues to work with civil legal aid stakeholders, including the State Bar Government Relations Team, Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation, and newly formed Civil Legal Aid Alliance of Wisconsin to educate legislators about the need for and the return on investment from an increased state budget appropriation for civil legal aid in Wisconsin.
- **Wisconsin Free Legal Answers**, the commission’s signature pro bono effort, now has 330 registered volunteers. Volunteer lawyers have responded to more than 530 civil legal questions between Jan. 1 and March 31, 2021. Question volume is up significantly compared to first quarter 2020.
- **Law Student Practice Rule** – Effective July 1, 2021, Wisconsin law students can assist clients under the supervision of an attorney after completing one year of law school – instead of 1 1/2 years – under current law student practice rules (SCR Chapter 50). On March 2, 2021, the Wisconsin Supreme Court approved the commission’s petition to update these rules. In addition, out-of-state law school graduates will be able to practice under supervision of an attorney while they await admission to the bar.

The new rule gives Wisconsin-based law students more training and experience and it expands the pool of law-trained individuals available to help the state’s indigent and low-income individuals and families. It also allows organizations to recruit – and potentially hire – from a larger pipeline of diverse out-of-state graduates. [Learn more.](#)

- **Wisconsin Law Help Website** – The commission continues to work collaboratively with the State Bar’s Legal Assistance Committee, the State Law Library, and others on a project to develop an easy-to-use website for Wisconsin residents to search for and connect with appropriate legal resources that fit their circumstances and legal issues. The project is inspired by similar law help websites in [Illinois](#), [Ohio](#), [Michigan](#), [Minnesota](#), and other states.

- **Pro Bono Honor Society** – The 2020 Wisconsin Pro Bono Honor Society includes 258 lawyers who voluntarily report performing a minimum of 50 qualifying pro bono hours – that’s roughly 13,000 total hours – last year. Members are recognized on the [commission’s website](#), in State Bar publications, and at local bar association meetings.

Resolving Client Disputes

- The State Bar’s [Fee Arbitration Program](#), a confidential and inexpensive way for clients and lawyers to resolve fee disputes, currently has 49 open cases (compared to an average of 30 arbitrations in a year). Hearings continue to be held via videoconference.
- The [Wisconsin Lawyers’ Fund for Client Protection](#) Committee will hold its next meeting April 14 to consider claims for reimbursement to clients who were victims of lawyer theft. The committee will review 20 claims totaling more than \$432,000 against 15 attorneys.
- The Supreme Court approved [Petition 19-25](#) to raise the fund’s annual client protection fee by \$5 – from \$20 to \$25 – on March 8, 2021; it will take effect July 1, 2021.

LRIS: Connecting Employers to Clients

The **Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS)** connects attorneys with clients who are carefully prescreened for legal issue, geographic location, and ability to pay.

More than 375 lawyers serve on the LRIS panel, covering 40 practice areas. From July 1, 2021, to March 26, 2021, LRIS specialists fielded 22,690 calls from the public. Approximately 1 in 4 callers are referred to an attorney; the remaining callers receive information, referrals to community or government agencies, or basic legal advice through the State Bar’s Lawyer Hotline.

LRIS is looking for lawyers of all levels of experience for its referral service. It is especially in need of panel members who are fluent in Spanish due to an increase in Spanish-speaking referrals. Memberships run annually from July 1 to June 30. However, join now through June 2022, and receive nearly three months free. To learn more, visit the **LRIS webpage**.

Increasing Awareness through the Media

Through its statewide media outreach and response efforts, the State Bar provides information, corrects inaccurate reporting, connects the media with lawyers as experts on a variety of issues, and serves as a trusted resource to journalists while highlighting the critical role and expertise lawyers play in society. Here are some recent examples of media inquiries and referrals:

- *Wisconsin Examiner*: [“Sex crimes and holding public officials accountable”](#) (Referral to Atty. Ben Kempinen)
- TMJ4 (Milwaukee): Supreme Court Ruling on Mask Mandate (Referral to Atty. Jessica Kramer, Kramer, Elkins & Watt LLC)
- TMJ4 (Milwaukee): [Can a 16-year-old get the COVID-19 vaccine without parental consent? Here are some answers](#) (Referral to Atty. William Sulton, Gingras, Thompson & Wachs)
- *Milwaukee Biz Journal*: Supreme Court Ruling on Mask Mandate (Referral to Atty. Lester Pines of Pines Bach LLC)
- WISC TV (Madison): Restitution Law (Referral to Atty. Robert Barrington, Dodge County District Attorney’s Office)

Quotes and recognition:

- *Wisconsin Law Journal*: [“Court approves changes to emeritus membership status, more practice time for law students.”](#) (Paywall, Jeff Brown, pro bono manager)
- Above The Law: [“New Remote Working Guidance and Cybersecurity Best Practices for Lawyers”](#)

High School Mock Trial Concludes Exciting Season

A year ago, Wisconsin High School Mock Trial students faced the sudden cancellation of the end of the tournament. In 2021, they returned to compete via Zoom. Despite the pivot, lessons were learned and lives were changed, making the event a true success. Read more in [InsideTrack](#).

Waukesha South, appearing in its first state final competition, bested longtime state finals competitor and 2019 champion Shorewood High School in an astoundingly close match on March 9 for the right to attend the national competition in May. Ten teams competed in the state finals competition March 6 and 7, with 60 volunteer judges.



Waukesha South witness Mika Liss, left, playing the part of the defendant, answers questions via Zoom from Shorewood attorney Riju Dey during the state mock trial tournament final round on March 9.

The Wisconsin High School Mock Trial is funded by the **Wisconsin Law Foundation**, the State Bar's charitable arm. Founded in 1983, the program helps students gain a deeper understanding of our legal system while developing leadership, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

Support the Law Foundation via Your Membership Renewal

Like many charities across the country, the pandemic has taken a toll on fundraising efforts this past year for the Wisconsin Law Foundation.

The annual Fellows dinner, the Foundation's largest fundraising event was canceled last fall. In addition, with no in-person meetings hosted by the State Bar for over a year, donations of volunteer mileage reimbursement have become nonexistent. Your support to further the Foundation's mission are needed now more than ever.

Please consider including a donation on Line 9 of your State Bar dues statement or call (800) 728-7788, ext. 6171, or (608) 250-6171. For other Foundation giving options, visit www.wisbar.org/wlfdonate.

Law Foundation Provides Support to AMC

The **Wisconsin Law Foundation**, the charitable arm of the State Bar of Wisconsin, is providing funding to the Annual Meeting & Conference in the following ways:

- An underwriting grant to fund speaker Ellen "Ellie" Krug, for her session on, "Changed Genders, Changed Perspectives."
- Scholarships to participants of the annual G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy.
- Scholarships to participants of the annual Leadership Summit.
- Scholarships to past participants in the Diversity Clerkship Program, who are in their first years of practice.

Questions? Contact [Larry Martin](#) or [Beth Drake](#).

INNOVATE – Planning Together for the Future

Diversity Clerkship Program: Matching Students and Employers

The **Diversity Clerkship Program**, a 10-week clerkship program for first-year law students of diverse backgrounds, successfully matched 27 law students with [25 employers](#) for this summer. This represents a 107 percent increase in placements over 2020, which was impacted by the pandemic, and a 42 percent increase over 2019.

The committee is exploring workshops and ways to help the students navigate their clerkship. Members of Wisconsin Association of African-American Lawyers (WAAL) volunteered to organize a virtual workshop with the participation of other affinity groups.

Questions? Contact [Dr. Jeneise Briggs](#).

Welcome! Acquainting U.W. Law Students with the State Bar



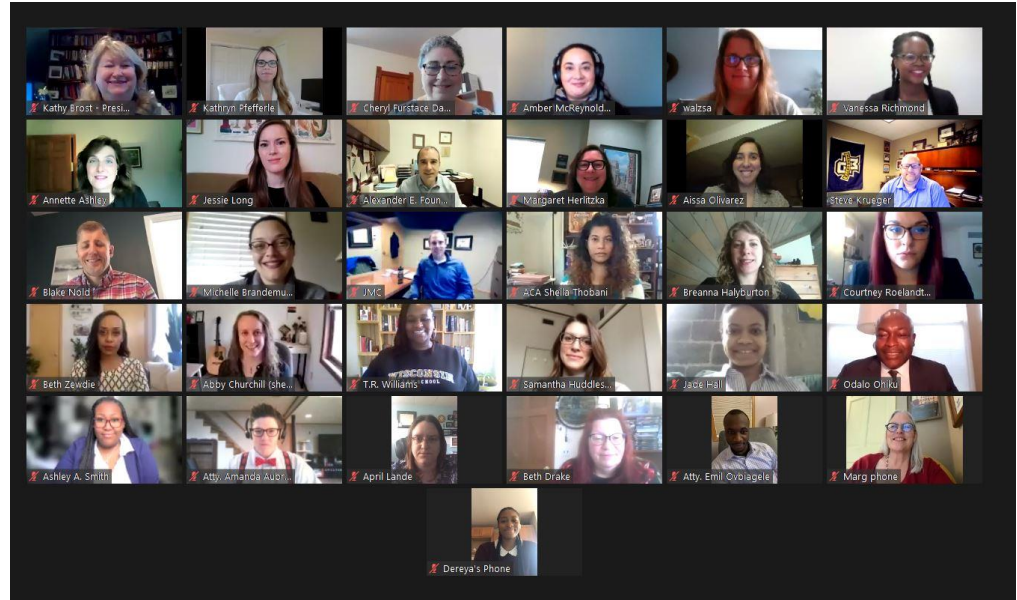
Thirty-nine 3L students in the U.W. Law School’s Lawyering Skills class received a warm welcome from State Bar staff during a virtual visit on April 1. They learned more about State Bar services and products available to them as students and practicing attorneys.

Growing New Leaders: Leadership Development Summit

Twenty-six potential future leaders in the legal community joined the State Bar on April 10 to explore how to get involved with the organization, identify their volunteer interests, and gain insight from experienced State Bar leaders.

The Leadership Summit is a three-hour program that brings together State Bar leaders and the next generation of leaders – new lawyers who are not yet involved in the legal community.

Participants in past summits have gone on to serve in leadership positions with the State Bar and with their local and specialty bars. Those who make a volunteer service commitment are eligible to receive an AMC scholarship made possible through the Wisconsin Law Foundation.



Twenty-six potential future leaders in the legal community attended the State Bar Leadership Summit on April 10.

Leadership Academy Sponsors New Monthly Refresher Series for Alumni

The State Bar is offering a monthly refresher series to the alumni of the G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy. The series is open to those who have completed the program over the past four years. The academy is a multisession training program to give lawyers the skills, strategies, and resources to be effective leaders in the profession and community.

- March: “Addressing Sensitive Topics,” presented by Judges Carl Ashley and Pedro Colon, and Immediate Past President Jill Kastner
- April: “Workplace Well-being” presented by Mary Spranger, WisLAP program manager

The Leadership Academy is funded in part by a grant through the Wisconsin Law Foundation.

Ready.Set.Practice Program Rolls with 25 New Mentees

The Ready.Set.Practice Mentoring Program successfully matched 25 mentors and mentees for this year's program. The program brings together lawyers having six years or more of experience within the legal profession with new lawyers practicing for five years or fewer. This year, the **Public Interest Law Section** also is piloting a section mentorship program and is expanding the mentorship program to diverse students to help create a more welcoming professional network when they graduate from law school. Questions? Contact **Karen Beall**.

Turbocharging Change: Who are Wisconsin's Legal Innovators?

Help us identify our 2021 class of Wisconsin Legal Innovators, the movers and shakers that put new ideas to work to solve problems for their clients and communities. Who is embracing current challenges, looking for opportunities to do it better?

Through "That's a Fine Idea: Nominate a Wisconsin Legal Innovator" initiative, the **Communications Committee** annually solicits nominations from Wisconsin's legal community, looking for examples that will encourage Wisconsin lawyers to adopt an entrepreneurial approach to delivering legal services.

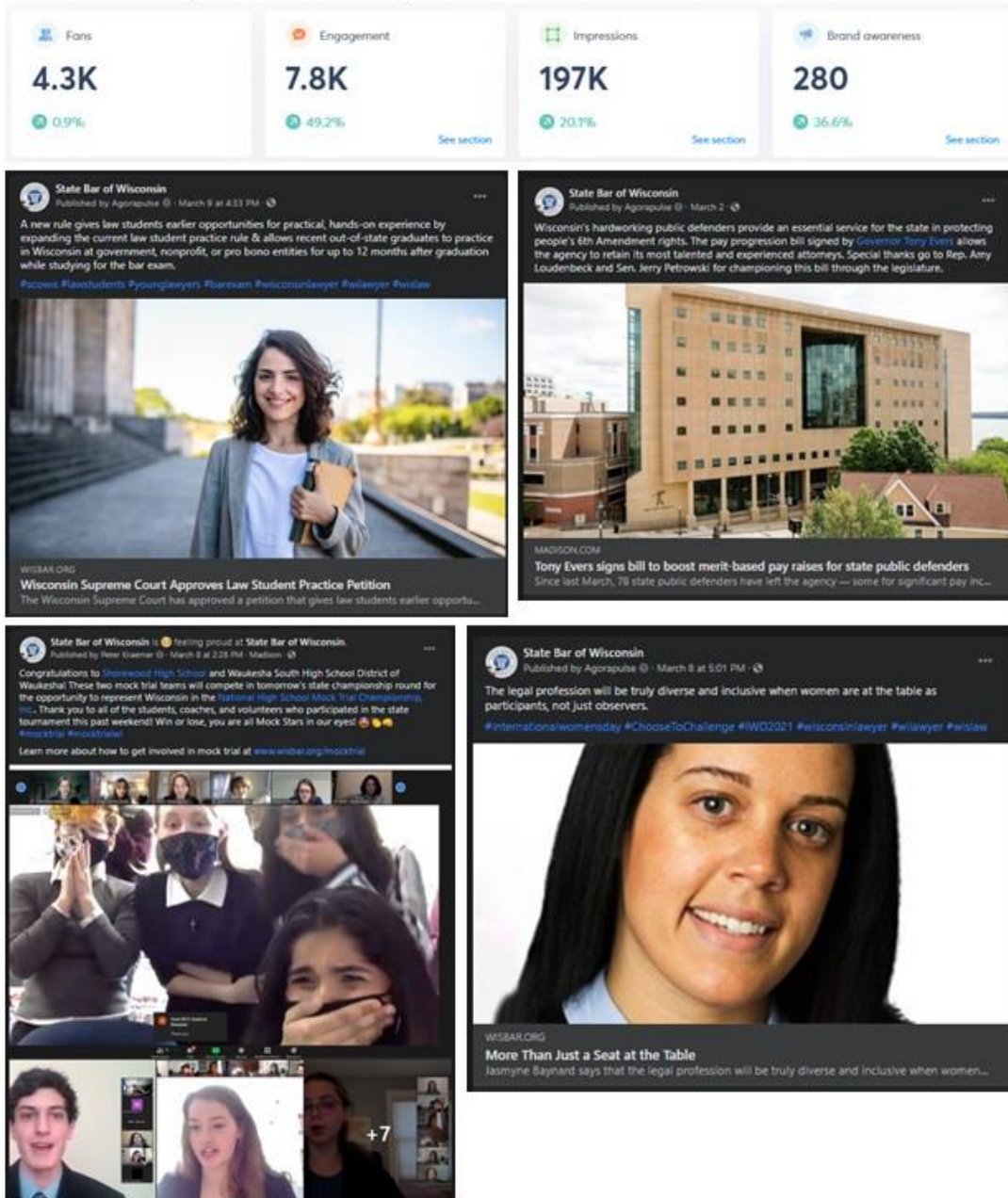
Know a Legal Innovator? How about you? Nominations are open until June 30. Learn more at ThatsaFineIdea.com.

Social Media: A Look at Top Content

Increasingly, our members engage with the State Bar and each other through our social media channels. Join the conversation; connect with us on Facebook, Twitter (@statebarofwi), LinkedIn, and Instagram (@statebarofwi). Here are some recent metrics and examples that demonstrate how social media plays a role in advancing our mission.

Facebook

Posts and metrics from Feb. 1, 2021 – April 6, 2021



Twitter

Posts and metrics from Feb. 1, 2021 – April 6, 2021



State Bar of WI @StateBarofWI · Feb 17

Remembering Wisconsin's Black Lawyers: James Jones was the first Black law prof at @WisconsinLaw. He was a labor scholar & a source of inspiration for many students with his unyielding persistence for excellence. #blackhistorymonth #wisconsinlawyer #wlawyer #wislaw #blacklawyers



State Bar of WI @StateBarofWI · Feb 7

Mary Spranger, Manager of the State Bar of Wisconsin's Lawyers Assistance Program, says her office has had recent conversations with attorneys who essentially worked themselves into having panic attacks because they made a mistake on a case.



It's Okay To Feel Stress and Anxiety. But Don't Ignore it... The past year has been a time of disruption and maybe even a little bit of chaos. Practicing law can bring stress ... [wislawnow.com](#)

State Bar of WI @StateBarofWI · Feb 4

Thrilled to be partnering with the @mulaw Volunteer Legal Clinic to provide this free legal service to small businesses!
Attorneys: Volunteer at [app.joinpaladin.com/probonow/oppo...](#)

Thanks @WKOW 27 for helping get the word out!

State Bar of WI @StateBarofWI · Mar 31

Wisconsin Supreme Court Clarifies Governor's Public Health Emergency Powers | concludes Gov. Evers exceeded his authority when declaring a public health emergency due to COVID-19, extending previous orders, without the legislature's consent.

[#scowis.wisbar.org/NewsPublicatio...](#)




Lawyers offering free legal advice to small businesses affected by pandemic
Wisconsin small businesses affected by COVID-19 and the tough economy of 2020 can receive free legal advice, provided through the State Bar of ... [wkow.com](#)

State Bar of WI @StateBarofWI · Mar 10

While Wisconsin ratified the Equal Rights Amendment in 1972, the ERA has never been officially ratified. A look at its history and efforts to achieve gender equality under the law.

[@storminbenomin](#) #womenshistorymonth #legalhistory @WisHistory #wlawyer



The ERA: Where Are We Now?
Although Wisconsin ratified the Equal Rights Amendment in 1972, the ERA has never been officially ratified, and ... [wisbar.org](#)

State Bar of WI @StateBarofWI · Mar 19

Your State Bar is in ... How about you? We encourage you to donate to the siting of the Vel Phillips Statue at the Wisconsin Capitol Square. So far, \$202,563 have been raised on a goal of \$250,000. Learn how you can support this important project.



Vel Phillips Statue Fundraiser
This project includes construction of a significant statutory on the State of Wisconsin Capitol Grounds. The statutory ... [classy.org](#)

LinkedIn

Posts and metrics from Feb. 1, 2021 – April 6, 2021



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3,935 followers
1w • 🌐

Paulina Fernandez on being a new lawyer 📖 "In the law, as in other professions, it takes practice to gain confidence, and repetition and confidence to be able to execute. ... Succeeding as a lawyer requires knowing that in comfort, we do not grow. ... While I am still in the new attorney phase, I am embracing all the challenges, taking note of my progress, and allowing my experience to shape the attorney I want to be." 📄 Read on <http://bit.ly/sbw28279>

🗨️ What did you learn in your first year as an attorney?



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⚠️ Attention! ⚠️ COVID-19 vaccine eligibility now includes judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, clerks, and others essential to in-person criminal court proceedings.

#wicourts #wisconsinlawyer #wilawyer #wislaw



COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Expanded to Court System Professionals
wisbar.org

State Bar of Wisconsin
3,935 followers
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Meet Breanne Snapp, president of the LEGAL ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN. Find out more about Snapp and the association that advances the interests of women in the legal profession, <http://bit.ly/sbw28235>.

Picture: Breanne Snapp and her husband Wade Pittman pose for this photo from December 2019 with their daughter Bianca – just a few weeks old – and their cat, Precious.



State Bar of Wisconsin
3,935 followers
1mo • 🌐

Wisconsin's hardworking public defenders provide an essential service for the state in protecting people's 6th Amendment rights. The pay progression bill signed by Governor Tony Evers allows the agency to retain its most talented and experienced attorneys. Special thanks go to Rep. Amy Loudbeck and Sen. Jerry Petrowski for championing this bill through the legislature.




Tony Evers signs bill to boost merit-based pay raises for state public defenders
madison.com

Instagram


Posts and metrics from Feb. 1, 2021 – April 6, 2021

Followers	Engagement	Impressions	Brand awareness
1.3K	458	10K	7
2%	142.6%	87%	16.2%
	See section	See section	See section




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statebarofwi "In some ways, COVID has positively impacted the justice system from a criminal sentencing standpoint. Case law in Gallion tells us that circuit courts are to start with probation as a first alternative, yet pre-COVID sentencing recommendations in Milwaukee County for misdemeanor cases such as OWI second offense or carrying a concealed weapon resulted in pretty significant jail time. Now, the recommendations seem to be more aligned with case law for nonviolent cases." – May Y. Lee, a solo practitioner at . Milwaukee [📍](#) [👍](#) How is COVID-19 affecting your practice? Five Wisconsin lawyers share how they're meeting today's



statebarofwi While Wisconsin ratified the Equal Rights Amendment in 1972, the ERA has never been officially ratified. A look at its history and efforts to achieve gender equality under the law <http://bit.ly/sbw28270> [📷](#) Pictured: Crystal Catherine Eastman (1881-1928) with Amos Richards Eno Pinchot (1873-1944), a lawyer and progressive reformer. Eastman, a

👍 🗨️ 📌



statebarofwi Finding a mentor is critical as a new attorney. How to locate yours and nurture a relationship <http://bit.ly/sbw28266>.

By Tiara Oates, Becker, Hickey & Poster SC

[#wisconsinlawyer](#) [#wilawyer](#) [#wislaw](#) [#mentorship](#) [#lawpractice](#) [#lawtwitter](#) [#younglawyers](#)

👍 🗨️ 📌

Larry is on Twitter!

Larry Martin is actively engaging with members and thought-leaders on Twitter (@LarryJMartinED). Connect with him! A selection of his recent tweets are below.

Larry J. Martin @LarryJMartinED · Mar 18

Continued violence & discrimination against Asian Americans cannot be ignored. We must work to support our family, friends, neighbors & colleagues who face the ugliness of racism & hate. We are challenged to build a more just, peaceful & love-filled world. @StateBarofWI

Larry J. Martin @LarryJMartinED · Apr 6

It's election day in Wisconsin. Important local & state-wide races on the ballot. If you have not already, get out & make your voice heard. Vote! @StateBarofWI @SBWRotundaRpt @Practice411 @SBWPINNACLE @WAALawyers @mulaw @WisconsinLaw



Larry J. Martin @LarryJMartinED · Feb 23

Another great event connecting with @StateBarofWI members. This time participating in the Milwaukee Bar's Annual Judges Night, held virtually this year.



Larry J. Martin @LarryJMartinED · Feb 18

Proud to represent @StateBarofWI & WI Law Foundation today in announcing a lead gift of \$25K on behalf of our 25K members to honor Vel Phillips with a statue @WI State Capitol. A great civil rights leader, lawyer & judge. @WAALawyers @NABE_News @SBWRotundaRpt @ABADiversity



Larry J. Martin @LarryJMartinED · Feb 18

Had a great time reconnecting with friends & @StateBarofWI members at @WAALawyers virtual happy hour tonight!

