



STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN

Your Practice. Our Purpose.®

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Governors
From: Larry J. Martin, Executive Director
Date: September 21, 2020
Re: Executive Director Report

This year will go on record as historically significant. We started 2020 with an economy that had one of the lowest levels of unemployment on record. By spring, the COVID-19 pandemic brought us near record-setting unemployment. The May death of Minneapolis resident George Floyd highlighted the racial discord, injustices, and inequities that have been a part of our country's history for 400 years. Our nation, including my hometown of Kenosha, remains rocked to its very core.

That's why the issues of racial equity in the justice system and diversity and inclusion in Wisconsin's legal community are a priority for the State Bar. With the newly formed Racial Justice Leadership Group, we are taking a hard look at what we can do to further combat racial injustices within our own backyard. Our communities depend on us. Every day matters in the movement to racial equity.

The pandemic has also challenged us to work differently and look at ways we can help our members during these difficult times. In spite of the pandemic, we have added value to membership in ways that I would not have imagined last year. I know it's taken a lot of hard work and collaboration from you, our elected and volunteer leaders, and our staff.

I am really excited about our first-ever virtual Solo & Small Firm Conference, set for Oct. 28-30. We have partnered with a national vendor with an impeccable reputation for designing high-end virtual conferences. Just like in-person conferences, there will be plenty of networking and great learning opportunities. Staff and volunteers are hard at work ensuring the conference will be a valuable and enjoyable experience for our members. I hope you will join us.

Finally, election season is right around the corner. With the projected shortage of poll workers due to the pandemic, I am hoping you, your staff, and colleagues will join the State Bar's call and volunteer your time toward this civic engagement. Visit myvotewi.com to learn more!

Thank you for your continued support. Continue to stay well and as always, ever forward!

RECENT COLUMNS of Interest

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

- [**Your State Bar: Racial Equity: Is Time to Step Up.**](#) As an organization, the State Bar is acting to ensure equal justice, but we can't do that alone. Take a moment to reflect on what you can do, as an individual and as a member ... then do it. (July/August)
- [**Your State Bar: Learning From Lane:**](#) No one individual has better personified for me this ethic of investing and giving back to the profession and the common good than our former State Bar President, the late G. Lane Ware. (September)

UPCOMING EVENTS to Keep on Your Radar

- **Budgeting and Strategic Planning Process Training For Section, Division, and Committee Leaders**
Oct. 1 (virtual)
- [**Wisconsin Law Foundation Virtual Reception Honoring Justices Wilcox and Butler**](#)
Oct. 13 (virtual)
- [**Wisconsin Solo & Small Firm Conference**](#)
Oct. 28-30 (virtual)
- [**Election Law in Wisconsin 2020**](#)
PINNACLE[®] OnDemand & webcast seminar
Oct. 1-31
- **Board of Governors' Meetings**
Dec. 4 (virtual)
2021 dates: Feb. 26, April 16, and June 9
- **2021 Annual Meeting & Conference, Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells**
June 9: Cheryl Furstace Daniels swearing-in as 66th State Bar President; Kick-off the conference reception & UW/Marquette law school reunions
June 10 & 11: Conference plenaries, programs, lunches, exhibit hall and receptions

EDUCATE – Developing Skilled Legal Professionals

Wisconsin Solo & Small Firm Conference: Going Virtual

The State Bar contracted with a national vendor, recognized as the best in class for its effective virtual classroom, to host the [Wisconsin Solo & Small Firm Conference](#), set for Oct. 28-30.

The WSSFC will give solo and small-firm practitioners broad knowledge to help them efficiently and profitably run their business. Programming includes:

- Four plenary sessions including “CLE at Sunset,” “Lessons Learned from COVID-19,” “Implicit Bias,” and “How Millennials Will Change 3 Key Ethics Concepts.”
- Four tracks cover substantive law, practice management, technology, and quality of life/ethics
- 28 breakout sessions offering 15.5 credits, including 11.5 CLEs, 9 EPRs, 10 LPMs, and 4 LAU credits

Attendees also will have the ability to connect with vendors, network with old and new friends, and earn chances to win great prizes.

Pivoting Toward Online CLE Learning, Books

Under the brand PINNACLE[®], the State Bar produces Wisconsin-focused seminars and substantive practice resources, including live, 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.

After the State Bar suspended indefinitely all in-person programming in March due to COVID-19, the Professional Development Team shifted to delivering webcasts and live virtual events. The Seminars Team continues to work with speakers to move their CLE learning to online formats giving members the ability to take their credits at a place and time that is convenient to them.

The focus on the State Bar’s move to electronic format includes our books and forms. Authors, editors, production, and administrative staff are working on updating many of our resources, and creating new materials for members to use as they research their client needs. Over the next few months look for new materials addressing issues related to landlord-tenant law, minor guardianship of the person, and mental health law.

Planning in Works for Annual Meeting & Conference: June 9-11, 2021

The State Bar Annual Meeting & Conference is scheduled for June 9-11, 2021, at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Planning is in full swing.

Sign up as a sponsor and promote your law firm statewide. For more information, contact Karen Richter at krichter@wisbar.org.

Providing Practice Management and Ethics Support

The State Bar of Wisconsin's Law Office Management Assistance Program, **Practice411**TM, 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.

The Practice411 Program facilitates information sharing among members through monthly roundtable law practice management discussions. Roundtables were held via teleconference in June, July, August, and September to discuss social engineering attacks, free technology tools, and Zoom court appearances.

The **Practice411** Program co-presented with State Bar ethics counsel the following programs:

- Fee Agreements, Credit Card Payments, and Trust Account Obligations 2020 – Half-day PINNACLE seminar
- A Review of Fees, Engagement Agreements and End of Representation Letters – Wisconsin Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators

Practice411 authored and provided interviews on the following subjects:

- “Law Firm Profitability During a Pandemic” – Wisconsin Lawyer, July 2020
- “Experts offer advice for managing remote practices, kids’ virtual schooling” – Wisconsin Law Journal, Aug. 31
- “Basic Technology for Your Solo or Small Firm” – InsideTrack, Sept. 2
- The Importance of Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plans for Attorneys and Their Practices – Krause Financial Services

The **State Bar Ethics Program** provides guidance and help in resolving questions regarding Wisconsin's Rules of Professional Conduct for Attorneys. The program is on pace to respond to more than 3,000 calls from members and provide 40 presentations, many for PINNACLE. The Ethics Committee will likely issue four to five new ethics opinion by year end.

Practice411 FY 2020 Statistics

- 462 individual consultations with members (18% increase from FY19);
- 745 e-list subscribers (1% increase from FY19); and
- 21 virtual and in-person presentations to 3,107 members (385% increase from FY19).

To reach Practice411, call (800) 957-4670. Contact the Ethics Hotline at (800) 254-9154.

WisLAP: Adapting to Changing Needs During Pandemic

As a result of COVID-19, the [Wisconsin Lawyers Assistance Program](#) (WisLAP), the State Bar's peer assistance program offering a confidential 24-hour mental health and substance use hotline, began customizing its services to include specific guidance and expertise on pandemic well-being, well-being for parents with school-aged children, services for law students, and best practices for helping support lawyers with substance use problems. This positions WisLAP as a valued resource on a variety of topics – beyond mental health and substance use addictions.

WisLAP gave presentations and promoted its services to the following:

- The Wisconsin Judicial College Annual New Judge Orientation
- State Bar of Wisconsin: New member orientation
- Legal Association for Women: Maintaining Well-Being During Challenging Times
- Wisconsin Association of Corporate Counsel: Lawyers and Substance Abuse
- U.W. and Marquette law schools student organizational fairs
- *Wisconsin Law Journal*: “Experts offer advice for managing remote practices, kids’ virtual schooling

WisLAP statistics in FY 2020:

- 1,550 people attended WisLAP CLE presentations
- 240 individual participants received services
- 576 staff contacts made with participants (does not include monitoring or WisLAP volunteer interactions)
- Top topics addressed: Mental health alcohol/substance use disorders, work related issues, combination of issues, and character/fitness issues
- Top client type: Attorney, colleague, law student, families, and judge

The confidential 24-hour helpline number is (800) 543-2625.

Kicking Off Wisconsin Lawyer Well-Being Task Force

A new Task Force on Wisconsin Lawyer Well-Being was formed to determine what practical steps the profession should take to improve the well-being of attorneys statewide.

This group, comprised of 37 members of Wisconsin's legal community, brings together State Bar members, along with representatives of the court, law schools, regulatory agencies, local and specialty bar associations, the public, and others to solve the challenges of lawyer wellness in Wisconsin.

The task force includes Hon. Todd Bjerke, chair, La Crosse County Circuit Court; Lindsey Draper of the National Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being; and Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices Hon. Rebecca Dallet, Brian Hagedorn, and Jill Karofsky.

The group met in July and earlier this month to review the National Task Force's recommendations. Subcommittees will work on various aspects of this issue.

Division, Section, and Committee Reports

Government Lawyers Division: The GLD has \$3,320 in grant money to help members with no other financial means pay for CLE tuition and travel. If you know of a government lawyer in need, contact Kim Burns at (608) 250-6181 or kburns@wisbar.org.

Nonresident Lawyers Division: The NRLD is hosting its annual CLE virtually in October. Speakers include State Bar Ethics Counsel Aviva Kaiser and Milwaukee Circuit Court Judge Carl Ashley. Judge Ashley will speak on bias and diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.

Senior Lawyers Division: The division is working with PINNACLE to coordinate a series of virtual CLE and general education recordings on topics of interest to senior lawyers. A library of these recordings will be available only for division members. Some timely topics include:

- Substance Abuse by the Aging Lawyer;
- Technology for Senior Lawyers;
- Alternatives to Retirement: How to Stay Connected to the Legal Practice; and
- Dealing with Depression as Part of the Transition Process.

In addition, the SLD is planning its annual CLE event, "The Road to Retirement," in May 2021.

Young Lawyers Division: New board members were oriented during the YLD's Aug. 29 board meeting. In addition, the board plans to survey its members on CLE topics of interest, and create a one-credit virtual CLE program. The Annual Young Lawyers Conference will not take place in 2021 due to the uncertainty of in-person meetings and the ongoing pandemic.

The **Appellate Practice Section** staged its biennial Best Brief Award ceremony virtually on June 25, honoring the [winners of this year's competition](#). The Best Brief award recognizes attorneys who are superior legal writers, promote appellate advocacy, and who deliver briefs that are articulately and persuasively written and can be used as models for upcoming appellate lawyers.

The **Dispute Resolution, Litigation, Labor & Employment, and the Appellate Practice sections** partnered with Resolute Systems Institute and the Wisconsin Supreme Court Planning and Policy Advisory Committee to distribute a survey to 249 Wisconsin judges to better understand the landscape of mediation in Wisconsin and court needs. Read the results: "[What Do Wisconsin Judges Think About Mediating Cases?](#)"

Since the last Board of Governors' report, State Bar sections have produced more than 30 blogs. The **Elder Law & Special Needs Section** is the newest blogging section, [rolling out its blog in August](#). Section blogs are now featured in WisLawNow, a new community of Wisconsin Legal bloggers launched by the State Bar this summer.

One of the benefits of joining the **Real Estate, Property and Probate Section** is access to a robust forms library at no additional cost. Section volunteers are currently reviewing and updating 24 forms directly related to real estate, property and/or probate practice.

The Business Law Section board participated in a virtual networking event with new State Bar members interested in the field of business law.

In preparation for new guardianship laws for minors (2019 Act 109) taking effect Aug. 1, the **Children and the Law Section** presented a July CLE program, “[Working Through the Maze of the New Guardianship for Minors](#).” The section worked 10 years to get this legislation passed. The CLE presentation was free to section members. More than 150 State Bar members attended the live webcast presentation.

The **Children and the Law Section** partnered with PINNACLE to present a second CLE on Sept. 2, “[Trending Topics on Juvenile Justice Reform & Practice](#).” It covered racial disparities and biases in Wisconsin’s legal and education systems, ongoing reform efforts, and tailored ethics guidance and self-care tips for attorneys who represent minors in juvenile court matters. The section offered scholarships to attorneys new to practicing law and a discount to all members to attend.

The **Environmental Law Section** partnered with PINNACLE to present the “[32nd Annual Environmental Law Update](#)” on Sept. 10. The CLE provided an overview of current topics in the environmental law field, including the impact of 2017 Wisconsin Act 369, current efforts to curb the levels of PFAS in Wisconsin, and how to maintain effective practices during a pandemic. Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul served as the keynote speaker. The section funded several scholarships to new attorneys to encourage their practice in this field.

The **Elder Law and Special Needs Section** partnered with PINNACLE to present “[Legal Issues of the Aging](#)” on Sept. 18. This annual event offers the latest trends in the elder law field, including Medicaid rules associated with retirement benefits, rule changes for withdrawals of inherited IRAs under the SECURE Act, and Wisconsin’s Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. The section funded scholarships for several new attorneys and discounted tuition for section members.

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

Stepping Up: Racial Justice Leadership Group Forms as Civil Unrest Unfolds

The issues of how we police, systemic racism, and implicit bias against Black Americans opened the nation’s eyes with the May 25 officer-involved death of Minneapolis resident George Floyd. In response, President Kathy Brost formed the State Bar Racial Justice Leadership Group, comprised of herself, Jill Kastner as Chair, Cheryl Daniels, Alexander Lodge, Judge Carl Ashley, Judge Kori Ashley, Eric Andrews, Kristen Hardy, Randall Brotherhood, and myself. The group first met June 12, held regularly scheduled meetings in the summer, and continues to meet. The group identified several short- and long-term action steps, including:

- developing a stronger statement against racism/easier access to information on [the State Bar website](#);
- working with the BBE to petition the Wisconsin Supreme Court for CLE credit on Elimination of Bias/Diversity and Inclusion training;
- maintaining greater focus on diversity and inclusion within the State Bar, collaborating with affinity bar groups, the law schools, and other stakeholders to promote greater diversity of law students, faculty, and presenters, as well as racial justice education and anti-racism training at the law schools; and
- working toward racial justice for low-income Wisconsinites.

If you have questions or suggestions for the Racial Justice Leadership Group, contact Jill Kastner at jmkastner@gmail.com.

Advocacy & Access to Justice: Keeping a Focus During the Pandemic

With the pandemic halting legislative activities for the last six months and elected officials focusing on the Nov. 3 election, the Government Relations Team has focused its legislative advocacy efforts on further educating members about issues germane to them by incorporating video messaging into the bimonthly [Rotunda Report newsletter](#).

To date, the topics include:

- [Grassroots Advocacy: How to Help Make Change Happen](#)
- [Overview of State Bar Lobbying Program](#)
- [2020 State Senate Elections Preview](#)
- [2020 State Assembly Elections Preview](#)
- [Pro Bono in a Pandemic](#)

The GR Team is finding creative ways to maintain connections with the legislature when in-person lobbying is not possible. They engage in Zoom calls with caucus leaders to gain insight into their priorities – as well as what we may expect in the fall, including the possibility of a post-election Senate floor period to finish outstanding business from last spring.

In addition, the GR Team is keeping an eye on various study committees and task forces occurring throughout the fall, while moving forward with initiatives that lobbying sections hope to pursue in the 2021-22 session, and doing preliminary outreach with the administration in advance of budget drafting season.



FACILITATE – Helping the Public Access the Legal System

LRIS: Connecting Lawyers with Clients

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

LRIS currently has 456 lawyer panel members, covering 40 practice areas. Panel members are needed in Districts 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 16. To learn more or register as a panelist, visit the [Lawyer Referral and Information Service page](#) on wisbar.org.

In FY20, LRIS specialists handled 30,374 calls from the public. Approximately 1 in 4 callers are referred to an attorney; the remaining callers are given assistance in the form of information, referrals to community or government agencies, or basic legal advice through the State Bar Lawyer Hotline.

All-new Virtual Wills for Heroes Clinics Open

Through Wisconsin's Wills for Heroes program, sponsored by the State Bar of Wisconsin, volunteer attorneys and support personnel participate in clinics scheduled at the request of first responder organizations around the state. At these in-person events, volunteer lawyers prepare simple wills and other basic estate planning documents at no charge for eligible first responders and their spouses or domestic partners.

With the pandemic putting a hold on in-person clinics this spring, the pro bono program resumed operations in July using a virtual free legal clinic model. First responders and volunteers work together via email and videoconferencing to complete basic estate plans that are sent to the first responders with instructions for execution.

Wills for Heroes recently served police departments in Franklin, Greenfield, Jefferson, and Milwaukee, as well as the Milwaukee Fire Department, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Wisconsin State Troopers.

Pro Bono Marketplace Coming Soon!

With a rise in legal issues stemming from the pandemic – unemployment benefits, unlawful evictions, and domestic violence, to name a few – the need for pro bono work has never been greater.

Partnering with a justice technology company, Paladin, the State Bar will host a centralized Wisconsin pro bono portal, or marketplace, for volunteers looking for pro bono opportunities or providers wanting to make lawyers aware of new and existing opportunities.

Attorneys and law students will be able to browse individual pro bono matters or other disaster-related pro bono opportunities, and respond directly to the program that posted the opportunity.

The State Bar will coordinate the portal and provide free access to participating pro bono programs to post their volunteer opportunities.

The launch is targeted for October 26, which coincides with National Pro Bono Week. Questions? Contact **Jeff Brown**, pro bono manager, jbrown@wisbar.org

Increasing Awareness through the Media

Through its statewide media outreach and response efforts, the State Bar provides information, corrects inaccurate reporting, and connects the media with lawyers in a variety of legal areas. Here are some recent examples of media coverage:

- [Madison365.com, “UW law students of color feel duty to community, culture”](#)
- [Wisconsin Law Journal, ‘Experts offer advice for managing remote practices, kids’ virtual schooling’](#) (Paywall)
- [Krause Financial Services, “The importance of business continuity and disaster recovery plans for attorneys and their practices.”](#)
- [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, “Defense team for Kyle Rittenhouse, already crusading on conservative media, finally adds Wisconsin lawyer”](#)
- [The Journal Times, “Journal Times Editorial: Lawyer who spat on teen protestor should be disbarred”](#)
- [The Journal Times, “Martin: Office of Lawyer Regulation investigates lawyer misconduct”](#)
- Fox6 Milwaukee, Wildlife coverage on home insurance claims
- [Wisconsin Law Journal, “Supreme Court declines to take up lawsuit over State Bar’s mandatory dues”](#) (Paywall)
- [Washington Free Beacon, “Supreme Court turns down free speech challenge to mandatory dues, membership”](#)
- [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, “U.S. Supreme Court declines to hear lawyers challenge of State Bar of Wisconsin Dues”](#)

Ensuring Access to Justice: The Commission’s Work

- **Wisconsin Free Legal Answers**, the Access to Justice Commission’s signature project, is a free virtual legal advice clinic for qualifying users to post questions to volunteer lawyers online. The program is continuing to expand with more than 300 volunteer attorneys. The service has received more than 1,300 questions so far in 2020 – 30 percent more than received in all of 2019. The number of questions grew during the pandemic, with a large jump in employment and housing-related questions.
- The **Access to Justice Commission** has three new members, with two being appointed by the Wisconsin Supreme Court: Nora Platt, attorney, Northwestern Mutual; and Dennis Moore, trustee, Village of Germantown. Gov. Tony Evers appointed Robert Agnew Jr., a community organizer in Milwaukee.
- The commission recognizes that it will need additional funding to respond to the increased legal needs experienced by Wisconsin residents during the pandemic. It is working with WisTAF and other partners to obtain additional CARES Act funding for civil legal aid.

Resolving Client Disputes

The State Bar's **Fee Arbitration Program** is a confidential and inexpensive way for clients and lawyers to resolve fee disputes. There are 38 open cases. Arbitration hearings have resumed via videoconference

Promoting Public Understanding of the Law: Wisconsin Law Foundation

Awarding \$24,400 in Grants

The Wisconsin Law Foundation announced its 2020 Truman Q. McNulty grant awards, funding innovative individual projects that promote public understanding of the law, improve the administration of justice, or supporting other law-related public service projects.

The Foundation awarded a total of \$24,400 in grants to the following projects:

- ABC for Health, Madison – community legal education initiatives
- Briarpatch Youth Services Inc., Madison – Restorative Justice Program Youth Peer Court
- Catholic Multicultural Center, Madison – low-cost immigration legal services
- Centro Legal, Milwaukee – Family Law Consultation Program
- Milwaukee Justice Center – creating a touch-free intake process due to COVID-19
- RISE Law Center, Madison – End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin
- State Public Defender's Office, Madison – the Student Expulsion Prevention Project
- Wisconsin Teen Court Association – Restorative Justice Summit
- Teen courts in Crawford, Grant, Portage, and Winnebago counties

October 13 Event Honor Justices Wilcox & Butler, Fellows Dinner Canceled

All State Bar members and guests are invited to a virtual event honoring Justice Jon Wilcox and Justice Louis Butler for their dedication and long-time service to the Wisconsin Law Foundation and Fellows of the Wisconsin Law Foundation. The event is set for 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13. Read more about the two Justices in [*InsideTrack*](#). Join the event [here](#).

The live program will include special remarks from Gov. Tommy Thompson, Gov. Jim Doyle, Justice David Prosser, and Justice Janine Geske. Foundation President Peggy Herlitzka will emcee the event.

Please note, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Foundation will not hold its annual dinner and reception of the Fellows this year. However, if you are not already a sponsor and would like to honor the Justices and support the Wisconsin Law Foundation, please go to our online [donation page](#). Your support and contribution is greatly needed, as the cancellation of the Fellows dinner represents a significant loss in our efforts to grow and expand the Foundation's work.

INNOVATE – Planning Together for the Future

New WisLawNOW Blogging Community: Greater Exposure for Legal Thought Leaders

This summer, the State Bar of Wisconsin launched an online community exclusive for Wisconsin legal bloggers as a new member benefit. Called WisLawNOW, this community brings together blog content written by State Bar of Wisconsin members under a single website.

Aggregating nearly 50 Wisconsin legal blogs – including State Bar section blogs – into one hub provides bloggers and their firms with greater visibility. It also gives members access to a growing, timely library of legal knowledge that is searchable and responsive to mobile devices – without the hassle of searching and subscribing to multiple news feeds to stay current.

In addition, twice a month, members will receive WisLawNOW’s Top Picks, an email

Read the full announcement in [InsideTrack](#).

“I don’t know who dreamed up this new email blast of timely legal blogs, but I LOVE IT! Well done to the folks at the State Bar (again)!”

-- Deanne Koll, New Richmond

Welcoming New Members Amid the Pandemic

The State Bar of Wisconsin welcomed the Class of 2020 without the usual pomp and circumstance. Their achievements were celebrated in early June with a virtual welcome ceremony hosted by the Wisconsin Supreme Court and the State Bar of Wisconsin. Read about seven new lawyers featured in [InsideTrack](#).

Joining the legal profession in the middle of a pandemic creates challenges for new lawyers. To welcome new members, the State Bar created a new member biweekly email newsletter, “News for New Lawyers,” with video introductions to State Bar programs and services and invitations to virtual networking events. To date, the Business Law Section, the Criminal Law Section, and the Young Lawyers Division have participated in the events.

Recognizing Legal Innovation: 2020 Innovators Announced Early November

Several of this year’s Wisconsin Legal Innovators will be recognized for their quick response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The State Bar of Wisconsin will honor its 2020 Wisconsin legal innovators in the November Wisconsin Lawyer magazine and at the December Board of Governors’ meeting. The Communications Committee oversees the annual awards program.

Last spring, through the seventh annual “That’s a Fine Idea: Legal Innovation Wisconsin” initiative, the committee solicited nominations from Wisconsin’s legal community, looking for examples of innovation that encourages the profession to adopt an entrepreneurial approach to the delivery of legal services.

Diversity Clerkship Employers Forge Opportunities at a Distance

The 2020 **Diversity Clerkship Program**, a 10-week summer paid employment program, afforded 1L Marquette University Law School and University of Wisconsin Law School students with diverse backgrounds the opportunity to build legal practice skills and knowledge in a private law firm, a corporate legal department, or a governmental agency.

Thirteen students participated in the program the year and received valuable experience. Due to the pandemic, students and employers celebrated the conclusion of the clerkships with a virtual reception on July 30. Read more about it in [InsideTrack](#). The program is sponsored by the **Diversity and Inclusion Oversight Committee** and the reception was supported through a generous grant by the **Wisconsin Law Foundation**.



Dues Payments Made Easier For Members

The State Bar announced earlier this year a plan to offer installment payments for members experiencing economic hardships as a result of the ongoing pandemic. The installment plan spread out payments over four months – June, July, August, and September. There would be no processing fees and the deadline to sign up was June 9. More than 900 members took advantage of the plan.

In addition, there is continued growth in the number of members who prefer to pay their State Bar dues online. As of Sept. 16, 12,502 members have paid their dues online in FY21 compared to 10,852 in FY20. The number of members who pay by mail during the same timeframe is 10,768 in FY21, compared to 13,347 in FY20.

That's a (Virtual) Wrap: G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy

The **G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy** is a comprehensive leadership development-training program created by the State Bar's Leadership Development Committee supported by a generous grant from the Wisconsin Law Foundation. It's specifically designed to empower participants with the skills, strategies, and resources to become effective leaders in their careers, communities, local and state bar associations, and the profession itself.

Due to COVID-19 limitations, the Leadership Development Committee transitioned its final session of this year's G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy to a virtual format, focusing on relevant and timely topics. The program included the following topics:

- **Leading in Tumultuous Times Panel Discussion:** From the pandemic to increased racial tensions across the nation, participants learned how they can be better leaders in a time of crisis, bringing change to our communities, the legal profession, and our world.
- **Daily Communication That Gets Results:** Participants learned strategies for running and participating in effective meetings, whether they take place in person, by phone, or by Zoom.
- **Making Positive Change in the Civil Justice System:** Participants learned how to make positive change in the civil justice system, in areas impacting civil rights, and in the community.

Ready.Set.Practice Mentoring Program Needs Mentors

Recruitment is underway for the 2021 **Ready.Set.Practice Mentoring Program**, which matches new lawyers with experienced mentors to assist with law practice management, effective client representation, and career development. As part of our Diversity and Inclusion initiatives, the State Bar is looking to attract more diverse attorneys and law students to the program, with the goal of expanding professional networks within the legal profession.

If you are interested in serving as a mentor or know someone who needs a mentor, complete the [Mentor or Mentee Application Forms](#) or contact [Karen Beall](#).

New Benefits Save Time, Improves Bottom Line for Members

The Insurance & Member Benefits Committee is expanding the products and services available to State Bar of Wisconsin members. The newest benefits added to the savings program include:

- [PracticePanther](#): Legal practice management software including billing, trust accounts and office automation;
- [Tabs3](#): An integrated suite of desktop or cloud-based products from billing and practice management to trust accounting;
- NOMOS Marketing: A full-service digital marketing agency exclusively serving the legal industry; and
- Patriot Payroll: Payroll software built to save time and resources (coming soon!).

The [State Bar of Wisconsin Group Insurance Health Plan](#) is another option for members to consider as they review their personal or firm's health care coverage. Firms can enroll in the group health plan at any time throughout the year, not just during open-enrollment in November. In Dane County, coverage is provided through Quartz; throughout the rest of the state, coverage

is provided by Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation (a/k/a WPS, WPS Health Insurance, Arise Health Plan, or WPS Health Solutions).

Learn more about State Bar benefits [on WisBar.org](#). Send suggestions for other relevant products and services to memberbenefits@wisbar.org.

Improving WisBar's Marketplace

[Marketplace](#), the State Bar's online store for CLE seminars, books and forms, and practice management tools, continues to improve. Here are some recent changes:

- enhanced keyword search function for better results;
- updated checkout process to eliminate errors;
- improved the multi-user registration process; and
- refined the calendar view.

If you have any feedback, contact [State Bar Customer Service](#).

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 June 1 – Aug. 31, 2020



State Bar of Wisconsin
June 7 · 🌐

As the leadership of the State Bar of Wisconsin, we are disturbed and disgusted by the actions of an attorney who allegedly spat in the face of a protester during a demonstration on Saturday.

We do not condone this behavior under any circumstance – period. The State Bar of Wisconsin champions integrity, civility, and respect in dealings with the public, colleagues, clients, and the courts. The behavior of lawyers and others directly contributes to the public's confidence in our justice system. We unequivocally support equal justice and the right of all citizens to peacefully protest.

News reports indicate local Shorewood officials are handling this matter with charges being referred to the district attorney's office this week. While the State Bar has no authority to discipline lawyers, the State of Wisconsin Office of Lawyer Regulation investigates complaints and ultimately the Wisconsin Supreme Court imposes sanctions on licensed attorneys.

Jill Kastner, president
Kathy Brost, president-elect
Cheryl Daniels, incoming president-elect
Chris Rogers, past president
Larry Martin, executive director

20,879 People Reached 4,756 Engagements


👍❤️👍 246 67 Comments 165 Shares

[Boost Post](#)

State Bar of Wisconsin
July 15 · 🌐

The pandemic highlights the essential nature of lawyers and pro bono service.

By Jeff Brown, State Bar Pro Bono Program Manager
[#probono](#) [#wisconsinlaw](#) [#wisconsinlawyer](#)



WISBAR.ORG
Shifting Gears: Pro Bono in a Pandemic
Lawyers are not typically thought of as first responders, but...

3,255 People Reached 209 Engagements

[Learn More](#) [Boost Again](#)

State Bar of Wisconsin
August 4 · 🌐

Wisconsin's newest circuit court judges bring varied backgrounds and experience to the bench, in addition to being accomplished lawyers.

Read our <https://wicourts.gov/news/view.jsp?id=1269>.



4,588 People Reached 1,582 Engagements

👍❤️👍 47 5 Comments 14 Shares

[Boost Post](#)

State Bar of Wisconsin
August 1 · 🌐

Congratulations and welcome to the Court, Justice Karofsky! We look forward to working with you!



ISONLINE.COM
A Wisconsin Supreme Court justice was sworn in after she ran 35 miles. Then she started running another 65.

6,253 People Reached 1,034 Engagements

👍❤️👍 131 1 Comment 30 Shares

[Boost Post](#)

Twitter

Posts and metrics from June 1 – Aug. 31, 2020



State Bar of WI @StateBarofWI

Meet seven new Wisconsin lawyers, just beginning their careers, while in a world of pandemic, social unrest, and economic challenges. Welcome to the profession to all the graduates! 🎓🎓🎓

@WisconsinLaw @mulaw @WAALawyers @QuarlesandBrady

Class of 2020: New Lawyers amid Pandemic, Social Unrest
Meet seven new Wisconsin lawyers, just completing their final semester and beginning their careers as lawyers, while in a world of ...
@wisbar.org

3:12 PM · Jun 17, 2020 · AgoraPulse Manager

State Bar of WI @StateBarofWI

Black Americans suffer from police brutality and crippling fear caused by systemic racism and implicit bias that is ingrained our legal system, law enforcement institutions, and countless other facets of American life. This is unacceptable. Black Lives Matter.

9:39 AM · Jun 17, 2020 · Twitter Web App

State Bar of WI @StateBarofWI

How do we address implicit bias and drive change in the legal profession? Courageous Collaborations can help. Former @mobarnews president Dana Tippin Cutler introduces the program she helped create. (From 2018)

A Conversation About Courageous Collaboration and Implicit Bias

204 views 0:06 / 1:33

State Bar of WI @StateBarofWI · Aug 27

We can't thank enough this great group of attorneys for contributing their time to the profession! 🙏

Wisconsin Association of African-American Lawyers @WAAL... · Aug 20

The 2019-2020 WAAL membership year is quickly coming to an end. Thank you for the leadership of WAAL President Makda Fessahaye and to the outstanding work of the 2019-2020 Board of Directors!

Show this thread

State Bar of WI @StateBarofWI

Advocates familiar with different interpretation approaches – and which jurists favor them – can gain a distinct advantage when crafting their positions. #appellatetwitter #scotus #scowis

By Joseph S. Diedrich @JSDiedrich @HuschBlackwell
wisbar.org/NewsPublicatio...

9:00 AM · Aug 2, 2020 · AgoraPulse Manager

LinkedIn

Posts and metrics from June 1 – Aug. 31, 2020




State Bar of Wisconsin
3,614 followers
2mo • 🌐

🎉 Congratulations to Anza D'Antonio of **Johnson Controls**, this year's recipient of the Diversity & Inclusion Trailblazer Award! 🎉 The award celebrates an individual who contributes to and enhances diversity and inclusion within the Wisconsin legal profession.

Working with the **Marquette University Law School**, "D'Antonio created a strong partnership with academia, law firms, and in-house departments focused on providing legal experience and opportunities for high school students, many of whom are from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in the legal profession," said Judge Cari Ashley, chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Oversight Committee.

More on those making a big difference in the profession, <https://bit.ly/2kzeVMj>.

#diversity #diversityandinclusion #wisconsinlaw #wisconsinlawyer #lawpractice



State Bar of Wisconsin
3,614 followers
2mo • 🌐

🎉 Congratulations to Sofia Ascorbe, the Young Lawyers Division's Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year! 🎉 Ascorbe is honored for her commitment to helping the underserved, including managing the Eviction Defense Project at **Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc.**, which helps people who are facing eviction connect with lawyers and work out manageable solutions that allow them to remain in their homes.

More on those making a big difference in the profession, <https://bit.ly/2kzeVMj>.

#wisconsinlaw #wisconsinlawyer #landlordtenant #eviction



State Bar of Wisconsin
3,614 followers
3mo • 🌐

"When I started as a public defender in 2008, being a judge wasn't really on my radar screen. ... It wasn't until later that I saw the need for thoughtful and compassionate judges. That started me on the process of getting to that role."



Mario White, court commissioner and ex-public defender, appointed as judge
madison.com • 1 min read

👍👎🗨️ 122 • 3 Comments

State Bar of Wisconsin
3,614 followers
3mo • 🌐

It is our great pleasure to welcome Daniel P. Tokaji as the new **University of Wisconsin Law School** Dean! We look forward to continuing our strong partnership with the law school as he leads its faculty and students into the future.
<https://bit.ly/28v5xc6>

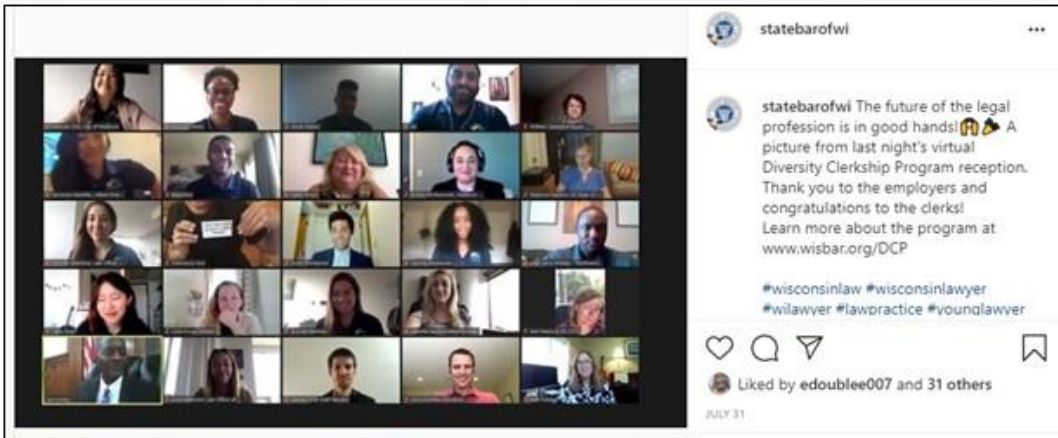
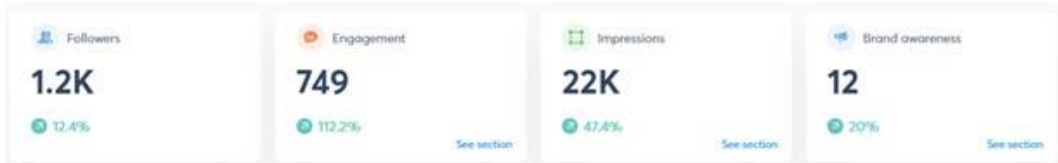
We also want to thank Dean Margaret Raymond for her steady leadership at the law school over the last nine years. She will continue to be a great friend to the State Bar of Wisconsin and the broader community.

#wisbar #wisconsinlawyer #wisconsinlaw #lawyer #wislawyer #wislaw #wislaw



Instagram

Posts and metrics from June 1 – Aug. 31, 2020



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

Kathy is already off to a great start leading @StateBarofWI
Thanks Kathy for your hard work, but also for making our efforts enjoyable and fun!
@Practice411 @BarPresidents
@NABE_News
@ABABarServices
@WAALawyers
@mulaw
@WisconsinLaw

State Bar of WI @StateBarofWI · Jul 30
Kathy Ernst brings a fun side to doing serious work. Meet the scrappy small-firm attorney and new State Bar president. bit.ly/wi2007f2.



Larry J. Martin @LarryJMartinED

It's time to step up for the cause of racial equity.
@StateBarofWI
@Practice411
@waal
@WisconsinAABA
@mulaw
@WisconsinLaw
@NABE_News
@ABADiversity
@SBWPINNACLE
@SBWRotundaRpt
@BarPresidents @ABABarServices

State Bar of WI @StateBarofWI · Jul 31
"The State Bar is acting to ensure equal justice, but we can't do that alone. We need your help. Please. Take a moment to reflect on what you can do, as an individual and as a member ... then do it." - @LarryJMartinED wisbar.org/NewsPublicatio...

2:33 PM · Aug 2, 2020 · Twitter for Android

Larry J. Martin @LarryJMartinED

A great and well deserving recipient. Congrats T.R.! You've earned it!
@StateBarofWI @WAALawyers
@Practice411
@GovEvers
@SBWRotundaRpt

Wisconsin Association of African-American Lawyers @WAALawyers · Aug 11
T.R. Williams, Deputy Outreach Director for the Office of @GovEvers is our 2020 WAAL Attorney of the Year!



Larry J. Martin @LarryJMartinED

Congrats @StateBarofWI Past Pres. Michelle Behnke @MeeshieWI for leadership as @ABAesq Treasurer. You have made a profound impact in serving our nation's legal community. Your friends & colleagues in WI could not be prouder. @ABAhod @ABABarService @BarPresidents @WisconsinLaw



Larry J. Martin @LarryJMartinED

Thanks to the support of well over 1,000 members, the Wisconsin Law Foundation is making a difference across Wisconsin. Read about our latest grants!
@StateBarofWI @Practice411 @SBWPINNACLE

State Bar of WI @StateBarofWI · Aug 21
Each year, the Wisconsin Law Foundation uses donations to fund programs that directly impact Wisconsin residents – especially children. When the pandemic hit, these grants helped many programs continue their missions. wisbar.org/NewsPublicatio...

10:31 PM · Aug 26, 2020 · Twitter for Android

