

Press Release



STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN
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Sarah A. Johnson named State Bar Pro Bono Attorney of the Year

MADISON, Wis. (April 21, 2024) -- Sarah A. Johnson is the recipient of the 2025 [State Bar of Wisconsin Pro Bono Attorney of the Year](#), recognizing her exceptional dedication to providing legal services to low-income individuals and her innovative use of technology to enhance service delivery.

Since retiring in March 2024, Johnson has been a pivotal contributor to Milwaukee-based [Legal Action of Wisconsin's \(LAW\) Volunteer Lawyers Project \(VLP\)](#). She is a weekly volunteer at the [Milwaukee Justice Center County Courthouse's Consumer Debt Defense Clinic](#), where she has transformed clinic operations, improved client outcomes, and strengthened access to justice.

Beyond direct client assistance, Johnson has revolutionized LAW's clinic operations by integrating technology to streamline processes. She developed automated workflows for various clinics, including:

- **Consumer Debt Defense Clinic:** Automated tasks such as client file creation, clinic note recording, initial pleading drafts, and client correspondence, allowing volunteer attorneys to focus more on advocacy.
- **Eviction Defense Clinics:** Designed workflows enabling on-site drafting and filing of Motions to Seal, reducing delays and ensuring timely filings.
- **Record Clearing Clinics:** Collaborated with the VLP team to implement similar workflows, providing timely and comprehensive support to clients.

Additionally, Johnson has worked closely with LAW staff to enhance grant management and reporting processes, further improving administrative efficiency.

Her innovative solutions have not only benefited LAW but have also served as models for legal aid organizations nationwide. Through a Legal Services Corporation Pro Bono Innovation Fund grant, Johnson's workflows are being shared with other programs, amplifying her impact on the legal aid community.

The Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award is presented annually by the State Bar Legal Assistance Committee to individuals who demonstrate exceptional commitment to developing and delivering legal services to low-income populations or who create innovative methods for providing volunteer legal services.

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ABOUT THE STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN

The State Bar of Wisconsin is the integrated professional association, created by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, for attorneys who hold a Wisconsin law license. With more than 25,000 members, the State Bar aids the courts in improving the administration of justice, provides continuing legal education for its members to help them maintain their expertise, and assists Wisconsin lawyers in carrying out community service initiatives to educate the public about the legal system and the value of lawyers. For more information, visit wisbar.org.



Sarah A. Johnson is the recipient of the 2025 State Bar of Wisconsin Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award for her innovative contributions to legal aid, including streamlining clinic operations and improving access to justice for low-income individuals through technology.

Photo attached: Sarah A. Johnson, the 2025 State Bar of Wisconsin Pro Bono Attorney of the Year.

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