

Spring 2021

Hello Future Lawyers!

Welcome to the spring 2021 issue of *Just the Facts: Student News from the State Bar*.

This is a vibrant newsletter that will be published three times per year (spring, summer, and fall). In addition, important updates and information will be sent to you throughout the year. We hope to be fully engaged in your academic journeys and beyond law school.

In this issue:

- [Supreme Court Approves Earlier Hands-on Experience for Law Students](#)
 - [State Bar Annual Meeting & Conference: Reserve Your Free Spot](#)
 - [27 Clerks Participate in 2021 Diversity Clerkship Program](#)
 - [Upcoming CLE Programs – Free for Law Students](#)
 - [Congratulations to These Scholarship Recipients](#)
 - [New Scholarship Opportunity for Milwaukee Public School Graduates](#)
 - [Boost Your Job Search](#)
 - [How to Get a Head Start on Your Career](#)
 - [Get Answers to Your Legal Dilemmas](#)
 - [We Want to Hear From You](#)
 - [Find Us on Social Media](#)
-

Greetings!

“Spring is proof that there is beauty in new beginnings.” – Matshona Dhliwayo



Welcome to the spring newsletter. I really like this quote. It reminds me of one semester closing and another about to start. Now that I’m no longer in college, I look forward to seeing the buds on my plants and trees and watching them intently over the weeks and months growing to full sizes. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to embrace the new beginnings that’s on the horizon. Whether that’s the completion of law school (congratulations!) or the closing of one semester and the start of another.

I hope you enjoy our spring newsletter.

Wisconsin Supreme Court Approves Earlier Hands-on Experience for Law Students

Effective July 1, 2021, law students can “practice” – including appearing in court under supervision – after completing “the first-year curriculum for a full-time student.”

The Wisconsin Supreme Court recently approved a petition that gives law students earlier opportunities for practical, hands-on experience through a rule that lets law students represent clients under the supervision of an attorney.

For most law students, that means they can obtain supervised law practice experience through clinical programs starting the summer after their first year of law school. Under the current rule, they have to wait until halfway through their second year.

The Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission had filed the petition, requesting modifications to modernize and expand the rule to give law students practical experience earlier. The State Bar of Wisconsin supported the petition.

The Court approved the petition, with certain modifications, in a [final order](#) that repeals and recreates SCR Chapter 50, effective July 1, 2021.

For more, [see the WisBar News article on WisBar.org](#).

State Bar Annual Meeting & Conference: Reserve Your Free Spot

Mark your calendars: the virtual [State Bar of Wisconsin Annual Meeting & Conference](#) (AMC) is **June 10-11, 2021**.

For the first time, AMC will be accessible virtually from the comfort of your home, apartment, or wherever you might be. Take advantage of this opportunity for the biggest educational and motivational event of the year. With an engaging virtual platform, you'll find it easy to navigate and network.

The best part: law students who are registered with the free [State Bar of Wisconsin Law Student Associate Program](#) can attend the AMC with no registration fee required. To learn more about the law student program, visit the [program webpage](#) or [sign up on WisBar.org](#).

What is AMC? At AMC, you can:

- choose from [24 educational sessions](#), in addition to programs focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion, and lawyer health and well-being;
- attend three plenary sessions;
- access CLE programs during the event and [after via post-event replays](#);
- join in the [swearing-in and celebration](#) of incoming State Bar President Cheryl Daniels on Wednesday, June 9, at 5 p.m.; and
- take the opportunity to network with lawyers and judges from across the state and the U.S.

Don't miss these featured speakers:



Opening Plenary: [Michele DeStefano](#), professor of law at the University of Miami Law School. DeStefano is founder of Law Without Walls, an international think-tank of more than 1,000 lawyers, business professionals, entrepreneurs, and law/business students that create and hone new skillsets and mindsets. The goal is to foster innovation around the intersection of law, business, and technology. Recognized as a legal innovator, she is the author of [Legal Upheaval: A Guide to Creativity, Collaboration, and Innovation in Law](#).

Closing Plenary: [Jarrett Adams](#), Wisconsin lawyer practicing in criminal defense and civil rights in both state and federal court. Adams was wrongfully convicted at age 17 and sentenced to 28 years in a maximum security prison. After 10 years in prison and multiple appeals, he was exonerated with the assistance of the Wisconsin Innocence Project. Following his release from prison, he graduated from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Adams tells his remarkable story in his book, [Redeeming Justice](#).



Special Guest Speaker [Ellie Krug](#): With over 100 civil trials to her credit, Krug was the first Iowa lawyer to transition genders, and is one of the few attorneys nationally to try jury cases in separate genders. She later relocated to the Twin Cities, where she served as the founding executive director of [Human Inspiration Works, LLC](#), a legal nonprofit honored by the American Bar Association award for innovatively increasing legal access. She wrote [Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change](#), and she uses her experience to examine gender biases and the

impact of labeling people.

[Reserve your spot today](#), so you don't miss this great opportunity to join your future colleagues and judges from across the state for this virtual, educational, and motivational opportunity.

Questions? Contact the State Bar Customer Service team at customerservice@wisbar.org or (608) 257-3838.

27 Clerks Participate in 2021 Diversity Clerkship Program

By Andrew Chevez, Program Chair

The State Bar of Wisconsin Diversity Clerkship Program (DCP) is proud to announce that 27 1L students from the U.W. and Marquette University law schools have been selected and matched with a participating employer to undergo a paid clerkship during the summer of 2021.

Founded in the early 1990s, the DCP has provided more than 500 students with an opportunity to gain actual legal experience and to network with lawyers in the profession. On completing the program, the students come away with a better understanding of the legal field and the employment process, and are better equipped with valuable skills going into their pivotal 2L employment interviewing phase.

We wish the 2021 DCP student class success in their clerkships, and are thankful to our 2021 employers for their commitment and dedication.

Thank You to These Employers for the 2021 Diversity Clerkship Program

- Alliant Energy
- Bell Moore & Richter SC
- Boardman & Clark
- CapSpecialty
- Dean Health Plan
- Dewitt, LLP
- Fiserv Inc.
- GE Healthcare
- Gingras, Thomsen & Wachs - Madison and Milwaukee offices
- Hall Render Killian Heath & Lyman, PC
- Hawks Quindel
- Kowalski Family Law
- The Law Office of Odalo J. Ohiku
- Legal Action of Wisconsin
- Madison City Attorney's Office
- Milwaukee City Attorney's Office
- Molson Coors
- Northwestern Mutual
- Rathje Woodward
- Regal Beloit Corporation
- Stafford and Rosenbaum
- Wisconsin Department of Corrections
- Wisconsin Department of Justice
- Wisconsin Department Safety and Professional Services - Division of Legal Services
- Zendesk

Upcoming CLE Programs – Free for Law Students

Here are two upcoming CLE programs by State Bar sections on the following timely topics and are offering them to students for free:

- ***Navigating Diversity and Inclusion: Perspectives on Accountability from Companies and Employees*** is April 20 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. This panel discussion explores how businesses create and support a diverse, inclusive workforce, and what rights employees have to be treated equitably and with respect regardless of race, gender, and other demographics. Panelists include Derek Hawkins of Amazon; Newman (Larry) Leverett of Johnson Controls; and William Sulton of Gingras, Thomsen & Wachs. The discussion is moderated by Prof. Nadelle Grossman of Marquette University Law School. For registration and more details, please visit [WisBar.org's Marketplace](https://www.wisbar.org/marketplace)
- ***Advocating for Children in School Disciplinary Proceedings*** on May 17, noon to 1:15 p.m. This presentation features [Regan Hendrickson](#). Registration for this event is not yet available but stay tuned for more details.

Congratulations to These Scholarship Recipients!

The Construction and Public Contract Law Section awarded \$2,000 scholarships to two law students for this spring semester. Congratulations to **Liz Simonis** of Marquette University Law School and to **Adam Mazin** of U.W. Law School! The section annually awards the scholarships to law students interested in pursuing the field of construction law. Interested? Look for application information in *Just the Facts* next fall.

What are State Bar Sections? Sections are practice area-related groups within the State Bar, and they are eager to network with law students. Several sections regularly hold (virtual) social events arranged with student organizations. Any organizations interested in connecting with a State Bar section for a networking event are encouraged to contact State Bar section coordinators [Jane Corkery](#) or [Craig Jolly](#).

New Scholarship Opportunity for Milwaukee Public School Graduates

Milwaukee Public Schools graduates studying to become lawyers have a new scholarship opportunity. Offered by the Milwaukee Public School Foundation, the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Scholars Program scholarship is open to female and nonbinary students of color.

Students attending college or law school can receive \$2,000 in each year of their undergraduate studies in advance of law school, and up to \$10,000 in each year of law school.

Students can apply on the [Milwaukee Public School Foundation website](#). The first scholarships go out this summer.

Read about the Milwaukee lawyer behind the scholarship [in this Dec. 16, 2020, InsideTrack article](#).

Boost Your Job Search

Want to get the jump on job postings? Be sure you:

- Look for Friday for Hire on the State Bar's [Facebook](#) page – new job openings are posted every Friday.
- Be sure to like and follow the State Bar on Facebook, [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#) to receive notification of all State Bar postings and opportunities.
- Check out the [Classifieds](#) on the State Bar of Wisconsin's website for open positions and business opportunities.
- Visit the pages for [Local and Specialty Bars](#) to access their elists for occasional job postings.

How to Get a Head Start on Your Career

It's no secret that getting involved with the State Bar before and after graduation helps kick off careers, by helping you meet colleagues and stay in touch with practice areas and issues. Here are a few ways to get involved:

- **Join a Section**

With 24 area-specific [sections](#), the State Bar offers lawyers the opportunity to meet and get involved with colleagues in specific practice areas. Section members have opportunities to network with other legal professionals, participate in continuing legal education seminars, and explore professional development opportunities. For more

information about sections, visit the [section webpages on WisBar.org](#).

- **Join State Bar Divisions**

The State Bar's [four divisions](#) offer members the opportunity to meet and work with other attorneys who share certain characteristics. The divisions are organized under broad categories that reflect the location and experience of State Bar members.

As a new lawyer, you are automatically enrolled in the Young Lawyers Division. Wisconsin lawyers who live and practice outside the state are automatically enrolled in the Nonresident Lawyers Division. Lawyers in government practice are members of the Government Lawyers Division.

To learn more about each division and ways to get involved, visit the [divisions' webpages on WisBar.org](#).

- **Keep Your Practice Up to Date with PINNACLE® Seminars, Webinars, and Books**

State Bar of Wisconsin PINNACLE offers a wide variety of continuing legal education (CLE) programs to help you earn your credits. There are many ways to watch CLE programs – through live seminars or webinars, webcast replays, and on demand. In addition, find your practice area books either in print or [online via Books UnBound®](#), the State Bar's interactive online library.

To learn more and see upcoming CLE seminars and browse the selection of books, visit [WisBar.org Marketplace](#).

- **Become a WisLAP volunteer**

The State Bar's [Wisconsin Lawyers Assistance Program](#) (WisLAP) is a free, confidential peer-support program with approximately 150 volunteer lawyers and judges trained to offer support and guidance to lawyers, judges, law students, and their families. These volunteers are at the forefront of the WisLAP program. Training is free. Visit [WisBar.org](#) to learn more about WisLAP volunteer opportunities.

Get Answers to Your Legal Dilemmas

Have a legal ethics question? Contact the State Bar's two full-time ethics counsel, [Aviva Kaiser](#) and [Tim Pierce](#), to guide and help in resolving questions regarding Wisconsin's Rules of Professional Conduct for Attorneys. They also release monthly articles addressing ethical hot topics, [like this one in WisBar InsideTrack](#) on whether you may encourage client online reviews.

Find Us on Social Media

Stay connected with the State Bar of Wisconsin on social media:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [YouTube](#)

Let's Connect: We Want to Hear From You

Please share ideas or topics you'd want to see us capture in the newsletter by emailing me at jbriggs@wisbar.org.

Don't forget: the State Bar is here to help you. Let us know if we can assist you – give me (Jeneise Briggs) a call at (608) 250-6083 or [send me an email](#).

[Dr. Jeneise Briggs, Ed.D.](#)

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