

Winter 2022

Greetings Future Lawyers!

Welcome to the Winter 2022 issue of *Just the Facts: Student News from the State Bar*.

This is an email newsletter that will be published three times per year (fall, winter, and spring). [You can find it on WisBar.org](https://www.wisbar.org) – along with other information for law students. 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.

“Successful people are not gifted; they just work hard, then succeed on purpose.” – G.K. Nielson

Welcome back, and have a successful semester!

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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 **Dylan Ochoa** from U.W. Law School and **Rebecca Sherpo** from Marquette University 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](#).

Annual Meeting & Conference: Mark Your Calendars for June 16-17

Mark your calendars: the virtual [State Bar of Wisconsin Annual Meeting & Conference](#) (AMC) is **June 16-17, 2021**. This year the meeting will be at Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva.

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](#).

Take advantage of this opportunity for the biggest educational and motivational event of the year. You won't want to miss this great opportunity to join your future colleagues and judges from across the state! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the State Bar Customer Service Team at customerservice@wisbar.org or (608) 257-3838.

Family Law Section: Join Us for the Annual Family Law Workshop

If you are interested in family law, stay tuned for information about the 41st Annual Family Law Workshop, to be held this summer. This annual workshop from the State Bar of Wisconsin Family Law Section is held in Door County at the Stone Harbor Resort, on Aug. 4-6, 2022. It is a great opportunity to explore current issues in family law. The Family Law Section offers scholarships to attorneys and law students to attend. Look for scholarship information, which will be available in February. Contact Section Coordinator Jane Corkery for more information, at jcorkery@wisbar.org.

Construction and Public Contract Law Section: Join Us April 27 for this CLE Event

The State Bar Construction and Public Contract Law Section is presenting an upcoming CLE event over the lunch hour on *Rising from the Rubble: What the Miami Building Collapse May Mean for the future of Structural Materials*.

This live webcast presentation takes place April 27, 2022, and features Megan Seebeck from Advanced Engineering Investigations. The presentation covers building and structural collapses, the investigation of the Miami building collapse, basics and potential failures of reinforced concrete, where things are now, and what that means for the future.

Discounted tuition is available for law students, and registration will be open soon. For more information, contact Section Coordinator Jane Corkery at jcorkery@wisbar.org.

Character and Fitness Screening & the Wisconsin Lawyers Assistance Program

Most of you are aware of the character and fitness screening process when applying for the bar examination. Like applying to law school, this is a time to be completely open and honest with the Board of Bar Examiners (BBE) about conduct that could potentially adversely affect your ability to practice law. Here's how the [State Bar of Wisconsin Lawyers Assistance Program \(WisLAP\)](#) can help you with this process, should you have reasons to disclose.

"Within the past seven years have you ever cited physical or mental illness, or an emotional, nervous or behavioral disorder as an explanation for your poor academic or professional performance?"

That is a question from the [BBE's character and fitness application](#). The best thing you can do is be completely honest about past conduct. I've heard more than one student tell me they didn't report something because they didn't think it would be discovered. Trust me when I tell you, it *will* be discovered. What happens when you're not forthcoming and the BBE finds out on their own is a candor problem. Now, in the eyes of the BBE, you're seen as a liar or someone trying to hide things. Someone that can't be trusted. Understandably, this makes it very hard for them to incontestably recommend you to be a lawyer. Typically, the indiscretion will not be a bigger hindrance to your application than the withholding of the indiscretion.

WisLAP can help you with this process by documenting your steps toward sobriety and rehabilitation. If, for example, you know that as a 1L you have one or more OWIs, it makes sense to contact WisLAP right away, and voluntarily start our monitoring program. When you're

ready to apply to the bar, you will have had at least three years of documented proof that you've got things under control.

There is no guarantee that WisLAP can always help in these matters. Some situations get out of our control prior to contacting us. That's why it's important to call us early. However, if it's not early and you do feel like things are past out of control, call us anyway. We never turn away lawyers, law students, or judges that need our help.

Contact WisLAP at (800) 543-2625 and at wisbar.org/wislap.

The Skills Every Future Lawyer Needs

What are the skills required of lawyers in the 2020s? Is traditional legal education equipped to provide all you need to know? [Forbes.com offers some answers.](#)

In an increasingly technological world, in some ways lawyers of tomorrow will have to learn to be even more "human" than today's attorneys. Learn about the skills every future lawyers needs in this [LAW360 In-Depth](#) article.

Wondering about where to find more information about practice areas? Check out the Law Librarian research guides, a monthly column in *InsideTrack* written by members of the Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin (LLAW). To see a list of these columns, search on WisBar for the keyword "LLAW" and site source *InsideTrack* ([or click the link here](#)). This will get you a quick list and help you boost your research.

State Bar Benefit: StudyBuddy at a Discount

Do you know about your [benefits as a State Bar Law student associate member](#)? Law student associates who are registered with the State Bar can now get a 20% discount on subscriptions to **StudyBuddy Pro Law Student Success platform**.

These law school study tools have been developed by Academic Support Law Professors and are designed to supplement and reinforce what you're learning in law school.

The StudyBuddy Pro resource allows you to:

- access the world's largest case brief library;
- view hundreds of on-demand prep courses;
- access nearly 2,000 multiple choice questions tailored to the videos;
- use the free law dictionary;

- add notes to your cloud-based notepad;
- print any materials for in-class and study group use; and more.

For more information, see the [CaseBriefs StudyBuddy Pro website](#). Sign up at [StudyBuddyPro.com](#) and use coupon code **WisBar21** to get the discount

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](#).

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](#)
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- [Twitter](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
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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 jevans@wisbar.org.

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

Jacque Evans

[Jacque Evans](#)

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