

**Fall 2021**

Hello Future Lawyers!

Welcome to the fall 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:

- [Meet Jacque Evans, the State Bar's New Diversity & Inclusion Specialist](#)
  - [Are you a State Bar Student Associate Member?](#)
  - [Summer 2021 Diversity Clerkship Program: The Students' Perspective](#)
  - [Interested in Construction Law? Apply for This Scholarship](#)
  - [Make Connections, Learn Practice Tips at WSSFC \(Virtually\): Students Attend Free!](#)
  - [Need Guidance? Here's Where You Can Get a Mentor](#)
  - [What are State Bar Sections?](#)
  - [Character and Fitness Screening and the Wisconsin Lawyers Assistance Program](#)
  - [State Bar Benefit: StudyBuddy at a Discount](#)
  - [Get Answers to Your Legal Dilemmas](#)
  - [We Want to Hear From You](#)
  - [Find Us on Social Media](#)
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## Meet Jacque Evans, the State Bar's New Diversity & Inclusion Specialist

Let me take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Jacque Evans, and I am the State Bar of Wisconsin Diversity and Inclusion Specialist.

I am in my early stages with the State Bar. Prior to working with the State Bar, I worked in education, counseling, and workforce development. I have worked in various capacities with diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Life experiences are always teaching lessons. Therefore, I am a lifelong learner who enjoys working with people. I was born in Mississippi and raised in Wisconsin from the age of one. I have traveled to 38 of the 52 states, and to two other countries.



I believe in being the bridge that brings people to cross to other cultures and embrace our difference in order to enhance our world. I'm so excited to be working with and learning from you while understanding more in-depth the justice system. From me to you, have the most amazing year!

### Are you a State Bar Student Associate Member?

If not, sign up to become a [Student Associate Member](#) today! Receive all the benefits available to help you in your present and future law career.

Here are a few of the benefits available:

- A network of important contacts and job search assistance
- Free continuing legal education course with practicing attorneys
- Resources to help you in your studies and professional career
- Experience with issues and concerns you will encounter as a lawyer
- A realistic sense of what to expect in your day-to-day professional life
- Familiarity with the profession that could otherwise take several years to develop
- Current information on the changes in law and impact of coming legislation
- Free or special student discounts on publications

## Summer 2021 Diversity Clerkship Program: The Students' Perspective

The State Bar's Diversity Clerkship Program is a 10-week, paid summer employment opportunity where first-year Marquette University Law School and University of Wisconsin Law School students with diverse backgrounds are matched with a wide array of employers from private law firms, corporate legal departments, and governmental agencies. Student clerks gain practical legal experience, and participating employers obtain valuable legal support.

Founded in the early 1990s, the program 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.

Here's what two 2021 law clerks have to say about their experience:



**Jada Davis:** "My favorite experience with my clerkship has been getting to work one-on-one with our clients. I got to facilitate a lot of those office appointments where clients will come in and we answer their questions and start paperwork, just being able to facilitate those meetings because it is a small firm I get to work hands on with a lot of the people we're working with and drafting a lot of the things we're giving to them that we're giving to the court and getting feedback right away from all the work that I'm doing. It's been a really valuable experience working at Ohiku [Law Office]."

**Tierney Gill:** "I came into Alliant [Energy] knowing absolutely nothing about the utility industry and have gained a lot of professional relationships and the ability to use my skill sets and learn from a diverse group of people."



### How to Apply for Summer 2022

Are you a 1L student interested in applying to the program for summer 2022? [Visit the Diversity Clerkship Program page](#) on WisBar.org, [read the program brochure](#), and [submit your application](#) by 4 p.m. on Jan. 14, 2022.

## **Scholarship Opportunity: Construction and Public Contract Law Section**

The State Bar Construction and Public Contract Law Section once again offers a \$2,000 scholarship to a recipient from each Wisconsin law school for the Spring 2022 semester. Interested applicants should contact section coordinator Jane Corkery at [jcorkery@wisbar.org](mailto:jcorkery@wisbar.org) for more information.

## **Make Connections, Learn Practice Tips at WSSFC: Students Attend Free!**

The State Bar of Wisconsin [2021 Solo & Small Firm Conference](#) (WSSFC) is Oct. 28-30 – and you can attend from where you are. WSSFC is a virtual event – but with all the great features of an in-person conference. Experience amazing live plenary sessions, interactive breakout sessions, and insights from seasoned practitioners and renowned presenters. Attend sessions on substantive law, practice management, technology, quality of life, and ethics. Participate in fun, interactive social events, meet new colleagues, and expand your circle.

The best news: Law Student Associates attend free. [Find out more on WisBar.org](#) and [register via the WisBar.org Marketplace](#).

Not yet a State Bar Law Student Associate? [Sign up on WisBar.org \(it's free!\)](#) so you qualify for the free tuition to the conference.

[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](mailto:customerservice@wisbar.org) or (608) 257-3838.

## **Need Guidance? Here's Where You Can Get a Mentor**

Law students, are you interested in getting a head start before you graduate? Apply as a mentee in the [State Bar of Wisconsin's Ready.Set.Practice. Mentoring Program](#), which matches law students with experienced lawyer advisors.

The program is a great opportunity for those seeking guidance on transitioning from the study of law to the practice of law, or anyone interested in learning about specific practice areas.

We especially encourage diverse law students to take advantage of this free program to be paired with a diverse legal advisor, who can help answer your questions as you enter the legal profession.

Time is precious, and this program is designed to give busy law students and lawyer advisors a jump start, complete with supporting materials that allow you to get right to work. We

encourage you to communicate via phone, email, and/or videoconference, like Zoom – or if you have the opportunity, to meet in person.

Meet with your lawyer advisor as often as your schedule allows during the upcoming school year. You might decide to bring questions over the course of a few conversations and go no further; you might identify some specific areas you're interested in exploring and meet regularly during the rest of the academic year. The depth and length will be totally up to you.

To apply, [visit WisBar.org](https://www.wisbar.org) and [complete the Law Student Application](#). Email your completed application to [Karen Beall](#) today!

### **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](#).

## **Character and Fitness Screening and the Wisconsin Lawyers Assistance Program**

By [Jason Magill](#), WisLAP Coordinator, State Bar of Wisconsin

You're most likely 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.

Without getting into the weeds about the appropriateness of the following question, I'd like to discuss how the [Wisconsin Lawyers Assistance Program](#) (WisLAP) can help you with this process, should you have reasons to disclose:

*“Within the past five 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 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 who 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 and voluntarily start our monitoring program. When you're ready to apply to the State 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 who need our help.

Reach out to WisLAP by calling (800) 543-2625 or visiting [www.wisbar.org/wislap](http://www.wisbar.org/wislap).

## **State Bar Benefit: StudyBuddy at a Discount**

Law Student Associates registered with the State Bar of Wisconsin 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 Professor 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](http://CaseBriefsStudyBuddyPro) website. Sign up at [StudyBuddyPro.com](http://StudyBuddyPro.com) and use coupon code **WisBar21** to get the discount.

## 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](#).

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

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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](mailto: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](#)

Diversity and Inclusion Specialist & Law School Outreach Program Coordinator

State Bar of Wisconsin

[www.wisbar.org](http://www.wisbar.org)

(608) 250-6083

(800) 444-9404, ext. 6083

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