

# The Bar Report

*Executive Director's Report to the Board of Governors*



***State Bar of Wisconsin***

June 2025



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### A Message to Outgoing Board Members

**On behalf of the State Bar of Wisconsin, we  
extend our heartfelt gratitude for your  
invaluable time, expertise, and dedication  
toward Wisconsin's legal community:**

Angela Aliota	Jessica Shrestha
Meighan Anger	Jessica Slavin
Elisabeth Bridge	Melodie Wiseman
Dean Dietrich	Tiffany Woelfel
Sarah Guenther	Building Bridges
Alison Helland	Liaisons Selana Bravo
Jennifer Johnson	and Robert Held
Russell Karnes	Vanderwyst
Deanne Koll	
Randall Nash	
Mary Schanning	
Tatiana Shirasaki	

***Your legacy will continue to inspire us!***



Larry J. Martin  
Executive Director

# Advancing Our Mission

This is my final report to you and is written with deep appreciation for the incredible opportunity you have given to me over the last fourteen years, eight as your Executive Director.

It has been my privilege to be a part of the State Bar's mission of serving our members, the court, and the public. More importantly, it has been my pleasure to be a part of a legal community of lawyers, justices, judges and colleagues who tirelessly work every day to ensure access to justice and the preservation of the rule of law. It is a community of which I am proud to count myself a part.

Together, we have accomplished much and moved the organization forward. The State Bar is financially strong and is a respected voice among policy makers in our advocacy for improving the quality of legal services and the regulation of the legal profession. We have developed a close partnership with our Justices, judges and court system, and our commitment to providing high quality educational programming and products to our members is unrivaled.

We brought back the Annual Meeting & Conference (AMC) and invested in an annual Solo-Small Firm Conference which is second to none. In addition, through our leadership development efforts, we are identifying, training, mentoring and nurturing the next generation of leaders in the legal profession and our communities. Thanks to the support of many, the Wisconsin Law Foundation has seen exponential growth, and this next year will extend four-times the amount in grants given just thirteen years ago.

Our ethics, Practice 411 and WisLAP programs, as well as support for our sections, have expanded, as we continue to make our members' practice, our purpose. In addition, I would put up our award-winning *Wisconsin Lawyer* magazine against any other bar publication as the best in the country.

Finally, the State Bar continues its commitment to creating a culture of belonging and opportunity for everyone through various programs and initiatives, such as our Diversity Clerkship Program.

Thanks to the collective work of our members, elected and volunteer leaders and staff, the State Bar of Wisconsin has a well-earned reputation as one of the most innovative and service-focused state bars in the country.

The time has simply come for me to step aside and pursue the next chapter of my life. I am profoundly grateful for the many experiences, friendships, and accomplishments that together we have had. I love the people I work for and work with.

*Larry*

## In Case You Missed My Columns in *Wisconsin Lawyer*™

- ["Bringing Together the Bench & Bar"](#) (April 2025)
- ["In Praise of Government Lawyers"](#) (May 2025)



# Advocate

*We're Advocating for Justice, Clients, the Legal System and Profession*

## Wisconsin Budget Update: Key Legal Provisions Removed, Advocacy Continues

### Joint Finance Committee Removes Over 600 Budget Items

In early May, the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Finance Committee (JFC) initiated its biennial budget review by eliminating more than 600 items from Gov. Tony Evers' proposal. This action included the removal of increased funding for **civil legal aid**, a measure supported by the State Bar of Wisconsin and other advocates. The [proposed investment](#) aimed to allocate \$9 million in General Purpose Revenue and \$8 million in federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to the Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation (WisTAF) for distribution to nonprofit legal service providers.

### Additional Legal Provisions Affected, Others Kept

The JFC also removed proposals to return 17-year-olds to juvenile court, modify

the expungement process, and provide additional funding for counties operating treatment and diversion (TAD) programs. However, certain State Bar-supported items remain under consideration, including **pay progression** for Assistant District Attorneys and State Public Defenders, **additional positions** for District Attorney offices and the State Public Defender, and an **increase in the private bar rate** to \$125 per hour for "serious case" appointments.

### Family Law Section Bills Receive Legislative Hearing

On May 7, the State Bar's Family Law Section presented two bills during a joint hearing

before the Assembly Committee on Children and Families and the Senate Committee on Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention, and Children and Families. [AB 153/SB 163](#) would require both payors and payees to notify the other party of substantial income changes. [AB 189/SB 189](#) proposes waiving final hearings in divorce or legal separation cases when both parties agree and meet specific criteria. These bills were introduced by **Rep. Ron Tusler** (R-Harrison), **Sen. Eric Wimberger** (R-Green Bay), and **Sen. Jesse James** (R-Thorp).



Family Law Section Board members **Jolene Schnieder** (top and seated left) and **Lindsey Cobbe** testifying before the Assembly Committee on Children and Families.





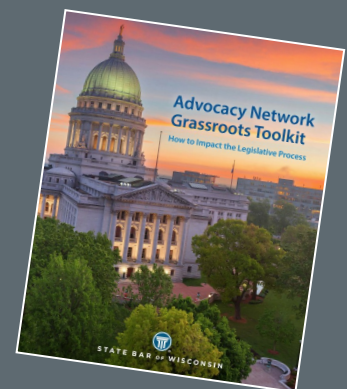
Rep. Ron Tusler (R-Harrison) and Sen. Jesse James (R-Thorp) introduce AB 153 and AB 189 on May 7 at the Wisconsin State Capitol.

## Other State Bar Policy Positions

As always, you can review the State Bar Board of Governors' **priority policy positions** on WisBar.org and visit the **Advocacy Network** and the **Grassroots Toolkit** to learn more about becoming an effective legislative advocate.

We encourage governors to promote these materials and action alerts to your State Bar constituents.

If you have questions, ideas, or comments contact Grassroots Coordinator **Devin Martin**.



## Next Steps in the Budget Process

The JFC aims to complete voting on funding proposals by mid- to late June, with the Legislature debating and voting on the final budget in late June or July. To maintain the proposed budget timeline, several significant issues must be resolved swiftly.

Republican leaders have indicated that the budget will not advance until reaching an agreement with the Governor on implementing a tax cut using the state's current surplus. Additionally, Republicans anticipate a more prolonged process due to the need for meticulous drafting of spending provisions, a response to the governor's extensive partial veto authority. This authority was recently affirmed by the Wisconsin Supreme Court in *LeMieux v. Evers*, where a 4-3 decision upheld Governor Evers' use of a partial veto to

extend a school funding increase from two years to 402 years by altering digits and punctuation in the budget bill.

If a budget is not passed by the end of the fiscal year on June 30, Wisconsin has a unique provision that allows the state to continue to operate on previous budget year appropriations. This allows Wisconsin to avoid a government shutdown with operations continuing until a new budget is passed and signed into law.

## Continued Advocacy for Civil Legal Aid Funding

Despite the removal of civil legal aid provisions from the budget, there remains potential for reintroduction. State Bar members are encouraged to advocate for this funding by contacting legislators. Resources and action alerts are available at **JusticeBreakingPoint.org**.

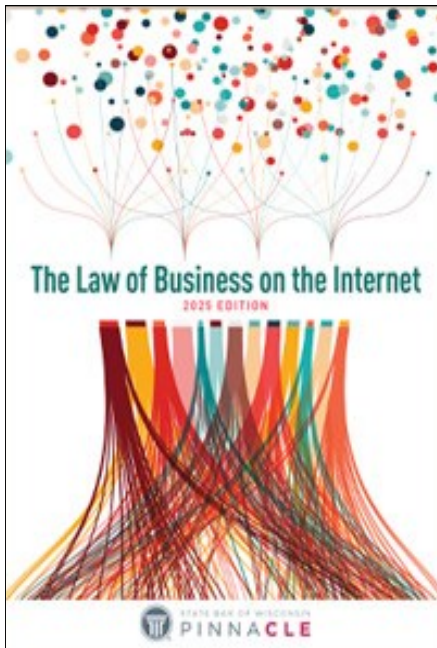


# Educate

We're Developing Skilled Legal Professionals

## Professional Development: PINNACLE Book Highlights

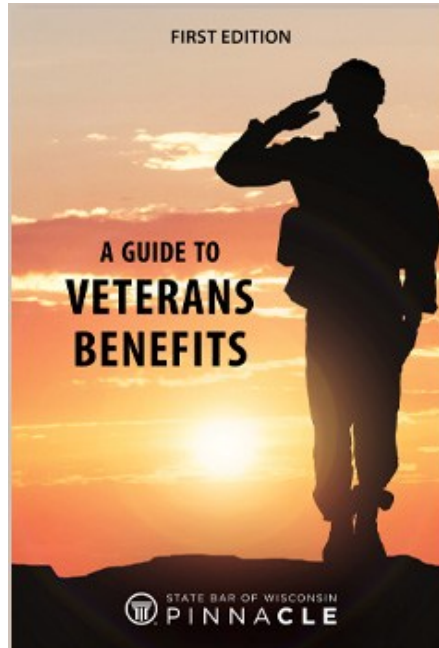
### Spotlight: Two New Books For Your Library



#### [The Law of Business on the Internet](#) (Read [review](#) here.)

The internet has transformed commerce, enabling businesses to reach customers and conduct transactions across borders. But that convenience brings legal complexity. This new title addresses liability, intellectual property, and regulatory compliance in the digital marketplace.

Thank you to attorneys **Shane Delsman, Alex Phillips, Kirk Samson, and Zach Willenbrink** for sharing their expertise on this evolving topic.



#### [A Guide to Veterans' Benefits](#)

Navigating veterans' benefits can be daunting for both clients and attorneys. *A Guide to Veterans' Benefits*, a new comprehensive resource from PINNACLE®, is designed to help you counsel veterans and their families with confidence, clarity, and compassion.

Special thanks to attorneys **Andrew J. Adams, Shana Dunn, Sean P. Griffin, and Travis James West** for their work on this first-edition book.

All-New  
May 2025  
[WisBar MarketPlace](#)

[Wisconsin Civil Litigation Codebook](#) A trusted statutory compilation for attorneys practicing civil litigation in Wisconsin.

[Wisconsin Public Records and Open Meetings Handbook](#) Covers the rights and limits of public access to government records and meetings.

[Wisconsin Judicial Benchbook, Vol. I: Criminal/Traffic](#) Use the same resource Wisconsin judges rely on for handling criminal and traffic cases.

[Attorney's Guide to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals](#) Step-by-step guidance and practical insight for navigating appeals to the Seventh Circuit.

### Contact Us!

Have an idea for a book or want to become an author? contact State Bar Product and Publications Manager [Samantha Cherney](#).

## State Bar of Wisconsin PINNACLE® Seminars

### Webcast Replays



Learn how to implement AI in your legal practice ethically and effectively. Topics include setting policies, privacy and disclosure, legal research tools, and practice management integration.

#### [2025 Summit: Beyond the Buzz: AI Implementation in Legal Practice](#)

*1.0 CLE, 1.0 EPR, and 6.0 LPM credits*

**Replays:** June 18, 26, 30 | July 11, 21, 29 | Aug. 7, 22, 27

### Estate Planning Webcast Replays-CLE Credit

Understand the consequences of divestment, lookback periods, countable income and assets, and the Medicaid application and appeals process.

#### [Medicaid: The Final Spend Down 2025](#)

*2 CLE credits*

**Replays:** June 18, 26, 30 | July 11, 21, 29 | Aug. 7, 22, 27



#### [Boldly Go Where No Estate Plan Has Gone Before 2025](#)

*2 CLE credits*

**Replays:** May 12, 20, 28 | June 5, 13, 16, 24 | July 2, 25

#### [Step-by-Step Estate Planning I 2025](#)

*7.5 CLE credits, 1 EPR credit*

**Replays:** Sept. 17 | Oct. 13

#### [Step-by-Step Estate Planning II 2025](#)

*6.5 CLE credits*

**Replays:** Sept. 16 | Oct. 8 | Nov. 17

### Ethics OnDemand Replays-CLE Credits



Whether you're an attorney, paralegal, or another non-lawyer professional, it's your duty (and your goal) to maintain the highest ethical and professional standards in your practice. Unfortunately, there are supervisory mishaps for which lawyers can face disciplinary action and even reputational harm. Even inadvertent actions by non-lawyer staff can lead to real consequences without clear guidance, education, and oversight. Join State Bar of Wisconsin Ethics Counsel **Sarah A. Peterson** for *A Lawyer's Supervisory Responsibilities to Non-Lawyer Staff*.

#### [A Lawyer's Supervisory Responsibilities to Nonlawyer Staff 2025](#)

*1 CLE credit, 1 EPR credit*



## Still Time to Register: 2025 AMC Offers CLE, Legal Insights, and Judicial Programming

Walk ins are welcome. till time to register for the State Bar of Wisconsin's 2025 Annual Meeting & Conference (AMC), taking place June 18–20 in Madison. This year's event offers opportunities to connect, learn, and unwind alongside members of the bench and bar.

### Program Highlights:

- **Attorney General Josh Kaul** will provide updates on multistate federal litigation and its impact on Wisconsin. [Watch this sneak peak video](#) for details.
- A timely panel discussion will examine the future of administrative deference in Wisconsin following the *Tetra Tech* case and the U.S. Supreme Court's 2024

decision in *Loper Bright*, which overturned *Chevron*.

### Panelists include:

- **Former Justice Daniel Kelly**, Wisconsin Supreme Court, New Civil Liberties Alliance
- **Judge Shelley Gaylord**, Dane County Circuit Court (retired)
- **Prof. James Speta**, Northwestern Law School (amicus brief author in *Loper Bright*)
- **Moderator: James Goldschmidt**, Quarles & Brady LLP

For additional context, see the April 23 *InsideTrack Weekly* video interview.

### New this year:

A dedicated Judicial Track titled "*Handling Complex Civil and Commercial Cases: Best Practices for Judges and Lawyers.*"

- *Session One*: Pretrial and Discovery
- *Session Two*: Business Torts, Economic Loss Doctrine, Receiverships, and Wisconsin's Unique Legal Landscape





## State Bar Road Show

### STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN

# On the Road Again



The State Bar of Wisconsin made a stop in Eau Claire on April 24 for the second event in its Road Show series—bringing together members of the bench and bar from counties across western Wisconsin, from La Crosse to Bayfield. The event offered a full day of learning, networking, and reconnecting with colleagues in a local setting.

Opening the day, **Judge Lisa Stark**, Presiding Judge of the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, District III, delivered thoughtful remarks reflecting on the importance of civility in the legal profession. She also offered a compelling comparison of how the practice of law has evolved over time.

Throughout the day, attendees

heard from State Bar leaders, including President-Elect **Dan Gartzke**, Executive Director **Larry Martin**, and Young Lawyers Division Secretary **Ellen Atterbury**.

The event featured two main programs:

- **Client Referrals, Client Intake & Case Management**
- **Succession Planning: Preparing for the Unexpected**

Dr. **Amber Ault**, manager of the Wisconsin Lawyers Assistance Program (WisLAP), led a dedicated meet-up and listening session focused on the stressors and challenges facing legal professionals. Presenters included:

- **Brent Hoeft**, State Bar

practice management advisor

- **Katie Wilcox**, manager, State Bar Lawyer Referral Service
- **Dean R. Dietrich**, past president, State Bar of Wisconsin

**Special thanks to our generous sponsors, who helped make this event possible:**

- Ruder Ware LLSC
- Weld Riley S.C.
- Bakke Norman S.C.
- Hale Skemp Hanson Skemp & Sleik
- Professional Insurance Programs
- WILMIC
- Hupy and Abraham S.C.
- Wiley Law, S.C.
- Willow River Law LLC
- Emerald Valley Law LLC



# Facilitate

*We're Helping the Public Access the Legal System*

## Our Ongoing Commitment to Justice, Legal Access, and Member Support

### Pro Bono Conference to Explore Civil Legal Aid Challenges & Solutions

The Legal Assistance Committee announced that the 2025 Wisconsin Equal Justice Conference will be held virtually on July 31 and Aug. 1, 2025. The conference agenda will focus on key issues frequently encountered by civil legal aid providers in their efforts to assist low-income and disadvantaged residents of Wisconsin.

### Summary of Wisconsin Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection Committee

On May 14, 2025, the Wisconsin Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection Committee convened to review a total of 26 claims, which included 15 new claims, 8 deferred claims, and 3 reconsideration requests. Following thorough evaluation, the committee approved 3 claims, authorizing payments totaling **\$6,555**.

### LRS Connects Thousands to Legal Help

So far this fiscal year 2025, the Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) handled 27,393 calls, resulting in **7,187 referrals** connecting individuals with legal support. The team includes a specialist and a customer service representative fluent in Spanish, enhancing service to bilingual State Bar members and the broader public.

LRS also hosts a weekly hotline staffed by volunteer attorneys who answer basic legal questions from the public. We are currently recruiting attorneys from all practice areas to join the LRS panel. As a limited-time incentive, new panel members will receive an additional month of membership at no cost.

To learn more or sign up, visit [WisBar.org](https://www.wisbar.org) and connect with Lawyer Referral Programs.

### Customer Service Handles 16,000+ Calls

The Customer Service team fielded **16,097 calls** so far this fiscal year from both members and the public. From onboarding new members and updating records to registering event attendees and processing book orders, the team plays a critical role in delivering timely, professional service. Their work ensures smooth interactions, accurate records, and efficient support across all programs—including the Lawyer Referral Service.

## Wisconsin High School Mock Trial Team Returns From Nationals

Over Mother's Day weekend, the Whitefish Bay High School Mock Trial team represented Wisconsin at the 2025 National High School Mock Trial Championship in Phoenix, Arizona. After winning the state title in March, the team spent weeks preparing for the national competition, marking the school's first-ever appearance on the national stage.

While the team did not capture the national championship, their performance highlighted exceptional legal reasoning, teamwork, and composure.

To support future competitors and inspire the next generation of legal professionals, visit [WisBar.org](https://www.wisbar.org) to learn about volunteer opportunities.

Established in 1983, the Wisconsin High School Mock Trial program is funded by a generous grant from the [Wisconsin Law Foundation](https://www.wisconsinlawfoundation.org), the charitable arm of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

## Media Impact Report

Between late March and mid-May, the State Bar fielded a diverse mix of media inquiries, including high-profile stories on artificial intelligence and privacy, consumer rights, and Wisconsin's judicial system. We successfully connected reporters with knowledgeable attorneys to help educate the public about the legal system.

In addition, proactive media outreach resulted in coverage of the State Bar's leadership transitions, public education resources, and member recognitions, including awards and pro bono honors.

### Media Inquiries Fulfilled

**"After years of payments, she learned reburying her father**



*Denis Regan*  
— [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](https://www.milwaukeejournal.com)

**will cost thousands more. Should she get a refund?"**



*Mindy Tempelis*  
— [Wisconsin Public Radio](https://www.wisconsinpublicradio.org)

**"Waukesha County DA calls out need for more prosecutors"**

### Thought Leadership



*Mark Goldstein*  
— [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](https://www.milwaukeejournal.com)

**"Door-to-door salespeople in Wisconsin could be recording you at home with AI, and it's legal"**



*Ryan Billings on Law Day*  
— [Tribune Enterprise](https://www.tribuneenterprise.com)  
— [WisPolitics](https://www.wispolitics.com)

**"Checks and balances: Embracing our patriotic skepticism"**

### End-of-Life Planning

**"Legally ensure your family can make health decisions"**  
— [Merrill Foto News](https://www.merrillphoto.com)

**Advance directives and health planning (Attorney source Ben Adams)**  
— [WPR: The Larry Meiller Show](https://www.wpr.org)

**"State Bar of Wisconsin offers free healthcare planning guide"**  
— [Wausau Pilot & Review](https://www.wausaupilot.com)

## Leadership News



**"Jill Creston Rothstein named executive director of State Bar"**

*Jill Creston Rothstein*

—[Janesville Gazette Extra](#)  
—[Watertown Daily Times](#)  
—[WisPolitics](#)

**"State Bar thanks Chief Justice Ziegler, welcomes new chiefs A.W. Bradley and Karofsky"**

—[WisPolitics](#)

## Awards & Recognition



**"T.R. Williams honored with State Bar's Diversity Trailblazer Award"**

*T.R. Williams*

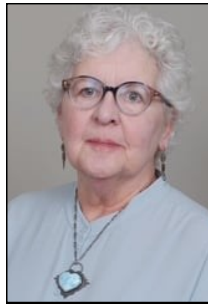
—[Madison365.com](#)



**"Dean Dietrich honored by State Bar Senior Leaders"**

*Dean R. Dietrich*

—[Wausau Pilot & Review](#)



**"Wausau woman recognized for lifetime commitment to public interest law"**

*Ellen Piementel*

—[Wausau Pilot & Review](#)



**"Schofield attorney named to Pro Bono Honor Society"**

*Miranda Lezcano*

—[Wausau Pilot & Review](#)

**"WisLawHelp.org honored as Pro Bono Organization of the Year"**

—[Wausau Pilot & Review](#)

## Bar Governance



**"Stevens Point attorney elected State Bar President"**

*Stephen Sawyer*

—[Point/Plover Metro Wire](#)

**"State Bar of Wisconsin announces election results"**

—[WisPolitics](#)

## Know Your Legal Rights

Between Jan. 1 and May 31 media outlets have published 75 Know Your Legal Rights columns. The following columns have run since the last report:



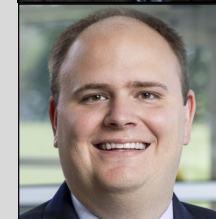
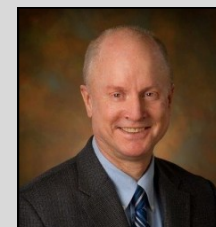
*Zak Wroblewski*

**["What to do if another website steals or posts your content"](#)**



*Jessa Victor*

**["How photos can strengthen your disability claim"](#)**



**["Wisconsin spouses can't make medical decisions without this document"](#)**

*Ben Adams*

*Jon Fischer*



*Kevin Trost*

**[Essential legal tips for homebuyers"](#)**





# Cultivate

*We're Planning Together for the Future*

## Practice411: Guiding Law Practices with an Eye on the Future

### Practice 411 Presentations Highlight Law Practice Management Resources

State Bar Practice Management Advisor Brent Hoeft presented at the 2025 State Bar Roadshow in Eau Claire, delivering two sessions to members. The first, "Creating Time by Improving Client Intake and Case Management Workflows," focused on efficiency strategies. Hoeft also served as a panelist for "Succession Planning: Preparing for the Unexpected."

In addition, Hoeft was invited to speak at the U.W. Law School to students interested in launching solo practices after graduation. His presentation highlighted State Bar resources available to support new lawyers in opening and managing a law firm.

### AI Summit Explores Practical Applications in Legal Practice

Hoeft served as program chair for the 2025 AI Summit: *Beyond the Buzz – AI Implementation in Legal Practice*, a full-day event held in-person and via live webcast on May 28, 2025. **For webcast replay dates, see page 7 of this report.**

### Member Consultations Continue with Emphasis on Practice Management

Practice411 continued to provide confidential consultations to State Bar members. In this reporting period, consultations related to non-technology practice management accounted for 71 percent of all sessions—the most common topic category. Consultations related to legal technology made up the remaining 29 percent. No consultations were conducted for Office of Lawyer Regulation (OLR) diversion matters.

### About Practice 411

The State Bar's Practice411™ program helps lawyers improve their efficiency and effectiveness in delivering legal services and implementing systems, tools, and controls to reduce risk and enhance client relations. It provides members with guidance, resources, and support in managing their law practice. Questions? Contact Practice Management Advisor [Brent Hoeft](#).

## WisLAP Summary of Activities

The Wisconsin Lawyers Assistance Program (WisLAP) provides confidential support to lawyers, judges, law students, and legal professionals facing mental health, substance use, and well-being challenges. Over the past three months, WisLAP has advanced its outreach, education, and direct service initiatives:

### Internship & Student Training

**Successfully concluded the inaugural WisLAP internship year**, training two clinical social work students in lawyer-support and care.

### Education & Awareness

**Facilitated a panel** on lawyer mental health and wellness for the State Bar's Leadership Academy.

**Organized and delivered daily programming** during *Lawyer Well-Being Week*.

**Delivered presentations** to private law firms and county bar associations.

## State Bar Ethics: A Commitment to Excellence

The following ethics-related CLE sessions were delivered during this reporting period:

- **April 18, 2025** – “Ethical Use of Generative AI”
- **May 1, 2025** – “Prospective Client Conflicts and Ethical Use of Generative AI”

The Ethics Committee met May 2, 2025, and issued two new formal opinions:

[EF-25-01: Lawyer as Witness](#)  
[EF-25-02: Lawyer Mobility](#)

**Two articles** were published addressing timely ethical challenges in legal practice:



[“Can I Charge a Contingent Fee in a Probate Matter?”](#)



[“AI and Storing Client-Related Information”](#)

### Content & Outreach

**Hosted a listening session** at the State Bar's Eau Claire Roadshow focused on well-being in the legal profession.

**Released a new episode of [Listening to Lawyers](#)**, an audio archive featuring interviews that showcase the resilience of Wisconsin's legal professionals

### Direct Support Services

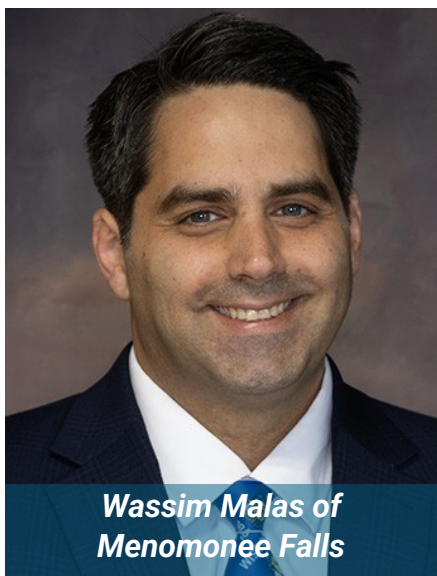
**Provided confidential support**, consultation, coaching, and referrals to lawyers, judges, and allied legal professionals statewide.

**Offered open office hours** on-site at two district attorney offices to improve accessibility.

## Three Attorneys Selected For Rural Practice Development Program

Three attorneys have been selected to participate in the State Bar of Wisconsin's Rural Practice Development Program, a strategic initiative designed to address the widening justice gap in rural areas of the state.

This year's participants are:



**Wassim Malas** is a solo attorney focusing on estate planning, business, and real estate law.

**Weston Schmidt** is incoming assistant corporation counsel in Oneida County.

**Mark Schmitz** is a farm transition advisor and part-time solo attorney focused on estate planning and real estate.

The program provides a \$10,000 stipend to support relocation and practice in an underserved rural county, with the goal of encouraging long-term attorney retention in these communities.

**Participants commit to living and practicing in a designated rural county for two years,**

**receiving \$5,000 at the start of the commitment and the remaining \$5,000 upon successful completion.** In addition to the stipend, each attorney will receive:

- **A PINNACLE® Books UnBound subscription** for individuals (valued at \$1,409 annually)
- **A PINNACLE® Ultimate Pass™ Gold** (valued at \$1,199 annually)
- **Membership in the Lawyer Referral Service** panel, if applicable (valued at \$125 annually)

The program promotes deeper engagement by encouraging attorneys to integrate into the local community through networking and service.

The long-term goal is to foster sustainable, mutually beneficial relationships between attorneys and rural residents, ultimately strengthening access to justice in underserved areas.

The program is fully funded from a generous multi-year donation by State Bar leader **Kathryn Bullon**, through the Wisconsin Law Foundation's Kathryn Rasmussen Bullon Fund to Enhance Legal Representation.





# Group Reports

*We're Working Together for the Common Good*

## Section, Division, and Committee Highlights

### Incoming Section Leaders Orientation

On May 9, incoming section chairs attended an orientation at the State Bar. The session provided an opportunity to connect with fellow leaders, review the section handbook, and begin planning for the upcoming term.

### Annual Meeting and Conference Sponsors/Scholarships

Several sections awarded scholarships for the Annual Meeting and Conference, including Administrative and Local Government Law, Appellate Practice, Civil Rights and Liberties, Environmental Law, Indian Law, International Practice, and Public Interest Law.

### Appellate Practice Section Collaborates with UW-Madison Moot Court

The Appellate Practice Section partnered with the U.W.-Madison Moot Court Board. Section volunteers assisted in

judging moot court competitions, supporting the next generation of legal professionals.

### Construction & Public Contract Law Section Community Engagement

On May 1, the Construction & Public Contract Law Section, in collaboration with Centro Hispano of Dane County, presented "Construction Trends 2025," focusing on innovation and sustainability in the construction industry. Attendees toured Centro's facility to observe sustainable building practices firsthand.

### Environmental Law Section Volunteer Event

The Environmental Law Section hosted a networking and volunteer event in partnership with the Urban Ecology Center at Riverside Park in Milwaukee. Participants engaged in land stewardship efforts, contributing to habitat maintenance and supporting community educational and recreational resources to benefit residents, students, and campers.



*Mark Bender of Godfrey & Kahn spoke to the Construction & Public Law Section about direct pay under the Inflation Reduction Act at its May 1 meeting at Centro Hispano of Dane County.*



## Health Law Section Networking in Appleton

On May 21, the Health Law Section held a networking event in Appleton, bringing together professionals from across the health law field. The gathering facilitated the exchange of insights and the strengthening of professional connections in the region.

## International Practice Section Hosts Immigration Webinar

On May 29, the International Practice Section hosted a webinar titled "Latest Experiences and Developments in U.S. Immigration: Perspectives from a Leading Afghanistan Attorney." **Najib Azad**, an author, lawyer, and U.W.-Madison faculty member, shared his experiences. Born in Paktia, Afghanistan, Azad resettled in the U.S. after the Taliban takeover in August 2021. He previously served as press secretary for former Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and as a senior advisor to NAMS/NATO.

## Labor & Employment Law Section Awards Annual Scholarship

The Labor and Employment Law Section hosted a networking reception on

May 21 at Boardman Clark, where it announced **Ashley Li** as the recipient of its annual scholarship grant. The award supports a U.W.-Madison law school student who has secured an unpaid summer position in public interest law, with work closely aligned with labor and employment law.

## Government Lawyers Division Produces PINNACLE; Grant Funds Available

The Government Lawyers Division collaborated with PINNACLE to produce "Innovations in Justice: Treatment Court Standards and Competency Cases 2025." The division remains committed to providing timely and relevant educational programming for its members.

Grant funding is currently available to help members with limited financial resources cover CLE tuition and travel expenses. If you know of a government lawyer in need, contact Program Coordinator [Karen Beall](#).

## Nonresident Lawyers Division Reaches Out to Members

Nonresident Lawyers Division members potentially affected by recent disasters in Kentucky received outreach emails from the State Bar

offering support through the Practice 411 and WisLAP programs.

## Young Lawyers Division Hosts Conference

The Young Lawyers Division hosted its 15th Annual Young Lawyers Conference on March 28 in Brookfield. The free event drew 120 attendees, who earned CLE credit, connected with fellow new attorneys, and learned from State Bar staff and event sponsors.



*The Young Lawyers Conference with keynote speaker and ABA President-elect Michelle Behnke and State Bar President Ryan Billings.*

## Diversity & Inclusion Oversight Committee (DIOC)

The DIOC remains committed to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion within the legal profession. A fair and effective legal system depends on the inclusion of voices from all backgrounds and perspectives. The committee promotes equitable access to educational opportunities and works to create an environment where all individuals feel valued, respected, and empowered.

## Law Student Outreach

To encourage law students to pursue legal careers and engage with the profession, State Bar staff attended the graduation fair at Marquette University Law School to promote available benefits, services, and opportunities.



**Diversity Clerkship Program Subcommittee:** *The subcommittee hosted a soft skills workshop for FY25 clerks at the State Bar. The workshop was led by members of the Wisconsin Association of African American Lawyers.*

## Leadership Academy and Summit Concludes; Academy Recruitment Opens Aug. 1

The 2025 Leadership Summit was held Saturday, April 5, at the State Bar Center, on the same day as the G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy concluded. The event is marked by a joint luncheon

Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Brian Hagedorn delivered the keynote address to the joint group. A summary of his remarks appeared in the April 9 issue of [\*InsideTrack Weekly\*](#).

Recruitment for the 2025–26 Leadership Academy opens Aug. 1 and runs through mid-September. Program details are available at [WisBar.org](https://www.wisbar.org).

### 2025–26 Academy Session Dates

- Session 1: Nov. 14–15
- Session 2: Jan. 16–17
- Session 3: April 24–25

The Leadership Summit offers emerging leaders the opportunity to explore pathways for engagement within the legal profession. Many participants expressed interest in becoming more involved with the State Bar through leadership roles.

A call for nominations will be circulated in November, offering you the opportunity to recommend lawyers for the 2026 Leadership Summit.



# Wisconsin Law Foundation

## Events Honoring Michelle Behnke Raise Record \$150K For Law Foundation

Nearly 300 members gathered in Madison and Milwaukee in May to honor **Michelle Behnke**, former State Bar president (2004–05), as she prepares to take office as president of the American Bar Association. The events, held at her request to benefit the Wisconsin Law Foundation, raised \$150,000—the largest amount ever collected from a single effort in the Foundation’s 74-year history.

Behnke is only the second Wisconsin attorney to serve as ABA president, following Milwaukee attorney Carl Rix, who held the position in 1946–47.

The success of the events was made possible by nearly 200 sponsors, as well as additional donors and attendees who gathered in celebration.

Special thanks to **Boardman & Clark LLP** for hosting the Madison event and providing a welcoming venue overlooking the Capitol, along with generous appetizers and beverages.

The Wisconsin Law Foundation is once again promoting the **Every Member, Every Year** campaign to help expand our mission and impact. The idea is simple: we’re asking every member of the State Bar of Wisconsin to make a contribution—of any amount—at least once each year.

You can give by adding a donation to your annual dues statement or by scanning the QR code below.

Past donors have made a meaningful difference. With the collective support of all 25,000 State Bar members, we can continue to meet rising needs across Wisconsin. Our goals are ambitious, and your ongoing support is essential to strengthening and sustaining vital programs statewide.

Please join us in committing to an annual contribution—no matter the amount. With **Every Member, Every Year**, we can continue building a stronger future together.

### Six Easy Ways to Give

- Donate online at the WLF Donations page on [WisBar.org Marketplace](https://www.wisbar.org/marketplace).
- Mail a check: Wisconsin Law Foundation, 5302 Eastpark Blvd; Madison, WI 53718-715
- Call us: (608) 250-6171 or (800) 444-9404 ext. 6171
- Check the box on your State Bar mileage reimbursement form
- Designate a donation via your State Bar Author/Speaker reimbursement.
- Use your phone camera to scan the QR code.



***Support Your Wisconsin Law Foundation  
Every Member. Every Year***





# Social Media

**March 26, 2025, to May 14, 2025**

The numbers reflect the changes compared to the previous time period of Feb. 4, 2025, to March 25, 2025

## Metrics



Likes/ Followers	 L: +1.4% 5,798 F: +0.1% 6,262	 +2% 2,085	 +2% 7,340	 +2% 2,550
Engagement/ Interactions	 +126.3% 2,931	 +72.9% 930	 +123.7% 7,673	 -33.7% 53
Impressions	 +79.2% 1,757,635	No Info Available	 +88.8% 81,564	No Info Available
Mentions	 +62.5% 26	 +133.3% 7	No Info Available	No Info Available
Posts Published	 +59.3% 223	 -12.6% 90	 +33.1% 165	 -26.3% 14
Post Reach /Impressions	 +127.3% 83K	 +59.2% 20K	No Info Available	No Info Available
Engagement	 +128.6% 2,961	 +107.4% 871	 +123.7% 7,673	 +347.1% 76
Views	 (+771.9%) 25,173	 +12.1% 45,767	No Info Available	No Info Available
Video Views	 (+115.4%) 3,274	No Info Available	No Info Available	 (-48.5%) 8,015
Watched Time	No Info Available	No Info Available	No Info Available	 -71.4% 289H 41min

## KEY TERMS

- **Likes/Followers:** Number of likes, followers subscribers gained during the selected period.
- **Engagement/Interactions:** Number of interactions (likes, saves, comments, shares and direct messages) with State Bar profiles
- **Post Reach/Impressions:** Number of times State Bar content has been viewed.
- **Mentions:** when a user tags another user, Page, or Group in a post, comment, or photo using the "@" symbol.
- **Reach:** Number of unique users who have viewed State Bar profiles.
- **Views:** Number of times State Bar videos have been viewed.
- **Watched time:** The total time people spent watching State Bar videos.





## Top content

Circuit Court Judge  
Hannah Dugan

Image

STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN  
Leaders in the Law. Advocates for Justice®

Apr. 25 2025

**"The leadership of the State Bar of Wisconsin is d...**

Engagement	2K
Engagement rate per reach	38.3%
Engagement rate per impression	37.8%
Reach	5.2K
Other clicks	1.6K
Clicks	135

Image

Apr. 3 2025

**The State Bar of Wisconsin congratulates and welco...**

Engagement	634
Engagement rate per reach	13.7%
Engagement rate per impression	13.3%
Reach	4.6K
Other clicks	359
Clicks	117

Link

Mar. 27 2025

**Heroic! SPD attorney Dominique McQueen saved the**

Engagement	280
Engagement rate per reach	11.2%
Engagement rate per impression	9.9%
Reach	2.5K
Other clicks	39
Clicks	111



## Top content

Carousel

28 2025

**/ lawyers gathered in Oakfield to connect and ...**

Engagement rate per view	4.6%
Engagement rate per reach	7%
Reach	816
Comments	0
Saved	0
Likes	50
Engagement	57

Image

Mar. 27 2025

**Heroic! SPD attorney Dominique McQueen saved the**

Engagement rate per view	3.7%
Engagement rate per reach	4.6%
Reach	723
Comments	0
Saved	0
Likes	31
Engagement	33

Carousel

May. 2 2025

**Congratulations! Welcome these new Wisconsin la...**

Engagement rate per view	
Engagement rate per reach	
Reach	
Comments	
Saved	
Likes	
Engagement	



## Top content

**Circuit Court Judge Hannah Dugan**

**Image** STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN  
Leaders in the Law. Advocates for Justice®

Apr. 25 2025

**"The leadership of the State Bar of Wisconsin is d...**

Engagement	650
Likes	90
Clicks	541
Impressions	6.1K
Engagement rate per impression	10.6%
Engagement rate per reach	17.9%
Comments	16
Shares	3

**T.R. WILLIAMS**

**Image** STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN

May. 5 2025

**T.R. WILLIAMS DOESN'T JUST TALK ABOUT CHANGE – SHE...**

Engagement	445
Likes	272
Clicks	102
Impressions	4.1K
Engagement rate per impression	10.6%
Engagement rate per reach	14.9%
Comments	69
Shares	2

**SARAH A. JOHNSON**

**Image** STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN

Apr. 22 2025

**What better way to kickoff National Volunteer Week...**

Engagement	444
Likes	213
Clicks	146
Impressions	3.8K
Engagement rate per impression	11.5%
Engagement rate per reach	17%
Comments	83
Shares	2



## Top content

**Video** Is coming to Madison!

Apr. 2 2025

**Join us for three days of dynamic CLE sessions, ne...**

Video views	117
Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Comments	0
Shares	0
Added to playlist	0
Subscribers gained	0
Total engagement	0

**Video**

May. 5 2025

**What does the U.S. Supreme Court's Loper Bright de...**

Video views	106
Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Comments	0
Shares	0
Added to playlist	1
Subscribers gained	0
Total engagement	1

**Listening to Lawyers**  
A Wisconsin Lawyer Podcast

**Video** WISLAWNOW PODCAST

Apr. 17 2025

**In this episode of Listening to Lawyers, trial att...**

Video views	104
Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Comments	0
Shares	0
Added to playlist	0
Subscribers gained	0
Total engagement	0