



STATE BAR
OF WISCONSIN

The Bar Report

executive director's report
to the board of governors

September
2025





Jill Rothstein
Executive Director

Advancing Our Mission

Dear Members of the Board of Governors,

I am honored to join you as Executive Director of the State Bar of Wisconsin. As I begin my tenure, I am reminded of both the privilege and the responsibility that comes with serving our profession here in Wisconsin. The State Bar has a proud history of supporting its members, advancing justice, and strengthening the public's trust in our legal system. I am grateful to serve with each of you at a time of growth and possibility.

I recognize that transitions like this one bring both opportunities and challenges. I am learning the many programs, people, and traditions that make the State Bar strong, and I am energized by the fresh perspective that comes with being new. My immediate priority is to listen—to understand what matters most to our members, to hear the aspirations and concerns of our Board and leadership, and to connect with staff whose daily work makes our mission possible.

This Board meeting and Joint Leadership Orientation provide an ideal starting point. Together, we will set the tone for the year ahead, exploring how we can build on the State Bar's strengths while also adapting to new challenges—whether in technology, the practice of law, or the needs of our diverse membership.

The State Bar is strongest when its leaders work in partnership—when we draw on the talents and experiences of members from every corner of the profession. I am committed to fostering that collaboration and ensuring that your voices, ideas, and perspectives shape the direction we take. It's a big tent.

Thank you for welcoming me into this community. I look forward to meeting each of you, learning from your insights, and working alongside you to support Wisconsin lawyers and the public we serve. I am excited about what we will accomplish together.



Advocate

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

State Budget Signed with Justice System Investments, but No Civil Legal Aid Funding

On July 3, Gov. Tony Evers signed the 2025-27 state budget, a bipartisan agreement between Republican and Democratic legislative leaders. The budget includes significant new investments in Wisconsin's justice system but does not include additional funding for civil legal aid.

Justice System Investments

The budget provides pay progression to help retain experienced attorneys in both the district attorney (DA) and state public defender (SPD) offices. It also funds 54.5 new assistant district attorney (ADA) positions statewide—42 positions across 23 counties and 12.5 positions in Milwaukee County—along with 12.5 support staff for the SPD. Funding for Milwaukee ADAs comes from a change in state law allowing the county to keep all fine and forfeiture revenues from state traffic law violations.

Judicial Council Staffing Restored

The budget also funds a staff attorney for the Wisconsin Judicial Council, a 21-member board that develops court rules and procedures. The position was eliminated in 2017, leaving administrative tasks to volunteers. Restoring this role is expected to improve the Council's effectiveness and efficiency.

Civil Legal Aid Excluded

Despite State Bar advocacy and support from the Civil Legal Aid Alliance of Wisconsin, lawmakers removed Gov. Evers' proposed civil legal aid funding early in the budget process. Advocates sought \$9 million in general purpose revenue (GPR), \$8 million from federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds, and removal of a \$75,000 cap on provider grants. None of these requests were approved. Current funding remains limited to \$1 million in TANF funds restricted to domestic violence survivors. The State Bar will continue to advocate for increased civil legal aid funding.

Looking Ahead

The Legislature is scheduled for two weeks of floor sessions in September, October and November but may use fewer. One or two floor days per month are expected, along with committee hearings to advance legislation.

State Bar section boards have several bills with active positions. For questions, contact State Bar lobbyists [Cale Battles](#) or [Lynne Davis](#).

For grassroots engagement with elected officials, contact Grassroots Coordinator [Devin Martin](#).



Cale Battles



Lynne Davis



Devin Martin



Educate

We're Developing Skilled Legal Professionals

Professional Development: PINNACLE Book Highlights

What it is: The State Bar of Wisconsin's PINNACLE® Books Department develops and maintains essential legal resources that support our members' practice needs. Our work includes:

- **Books** – Comprehensive, authoritative legal publications authored by Wisconsin experts.
- **Forms** – Over 1,300 practical, ready-to-use templates to streamline legal work.
- **Books UnBound® (BUB)** – Our digital platform offering online access to updated legal content for members who prefer electronic resources.

Why it matters: These resources ensure that State Bar members have access to reliable, up-to-date tools to serve their clients effectively and maintain the highest professional standards.

Have an idea for a book or want to become an author? contact State Bar Product and Publications Manager **Samantha Cherney**.

New Book Alert!

Wisconsin Torts Law: Products Liability (Arrived Aug. 29, 2025)

Author: Jesse Blocher, Habush, Habush & Rottier

As the first in a new tort law series from State Bar of Wisconsin PINNACLE®, this book provides a comprehensive, Wisconsin-specific roadmap to litigating products-liability cases, whether you're building a claim or mounting a defense.

A Testimonial ...

"Finally! Finally, those of us that handle product liability cases in Wisconsin have the go-to source for not only the law but also practical guidance. Every lawyer that handles Wisconsin products liability cases – on the plaintiff side or defense side – needs this book within arms-reach. Thank you to Jesse for putting together such an exhaustive guide to Wisconsin products liability law and practice."

Al Foeckler | Partner | CANNON & DUNPHY S.C.

Books Spotlight: Two Essential Revisions

Wisconsin Employment Law - 2025

To find the most comprehensive treatment of Wisconsin law governing private-sector, nonunion employment available, look to *Wisconsin Employment Law*. It presents the perspectives of both employee and employer advocates and provides an invaluable combination of experience and knowledge for attorneys and human resource professionals.

Wisconsin Attorney's Desk Reference - 2025

The *Wisconsin Attorney's Desk Reference* is a uniquely useful collection of actionable information on 11 practice areas and 35 topics grouped by related subject areas. Perfect as a primer, a refresher, or a starting point, the *Desk Reference* is designed to be an easy-to-use guide for any attorney who needs a quick answer to a question, or an introduction into an area of law.

State Bar of Wisconsin PINNACLE Seminars

What it is: PINNACLE, the State Bar's largest provider of continuing legal education (CLE), delivers more than 100 programs each year in formats including in-person seminars, live webcasts, webcast replays and OnDemand programs. The division annually produces 45–55 in-person programs, 40–65 stand-alone webcasts and two multi-day conferences.

September Kickoff Programs

In-person seminars with concurrent live webcast and replays:



Public Records and Open Meetings

Wed., Sept. 3



21st Annual Employee Benefits Update 2025

Thurs., Sept. 4



48th Annual Torts Update

Fri., Sept. 5



Pretrial Techniques

Wed., Sept. 10



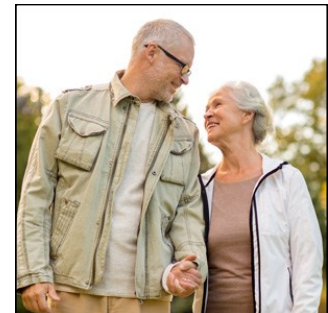
37th Annual Environmental Law Update

Thurs., Sept. 11



49th Annual Workers' Compensation Update

Wed., Sept. 17



Legal Issues of the Aging

Fri, Sept. .19

Closely Held Business Update

Tues., Sept. 23

Plus a series of original one-to two-hour stand-alone webcasts throughout the month. The full schedule is on WisBar [Marketplace](#).

Looking Ahead

Wisconsin Solo and Small Firm Conference

Thurs., Oct. 16–Sat., Oct. 18
Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells,
Four tracks: substantive law, practice management, technology, and quality of life/ethics.



Facilitate

We're Helping the Public Access the Legal System

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

Every day, the State Bar connects the public with legal resources and supports our members who provide those services. From pro bono initiatives to client protection, referral programs, and frontline customer service, these efforts ensure the legal system remains accessible, fair, and trusted across Wisconsin.

Conference Proceeds to Fund Pro Bono Grants

Proceeds from the 2025 Wisconsin Equal Justice Conference will fund new Pro Bono Grants in FY26.

The event, hosted by the Legal Assistance Committee on July 31–Aug. 1, drew 158 registrants. Topics included Social Security disability, trans rights, immigration, and presentations by the State Public Defender.

Why it matters: These grants strengthen pro bono efforts statewide by supporting projects that expand access to justice.

Client Protection Fund Approves \$33,231 in Claims

The Wisconsin Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection approved 19 claims totaling \$33,231.71 at an emergency meeting on June 17, 2025. The committee reviewed 30 claims filed after the death of a solo practitioner and approved just over half.

What it is: The fund reimburses clients for financial losses caused by attorney dishonesty under Supreme Court Rule 12.04–12.12. State Bar staff manage administration, while the WLFCP Committee reviews claims.

Why it matters: The fund protects public trust in the legal profession by compensating clients harmed by attorney misconduct.

Fee Arbitration Program to Launch Volunteer Training

The Fee Arbitration Program will launch new volunteer arbitrator training in fall 2025. The training is being developed by the Committee on Resolution of Fee Disputes and program staff.

Why it matters: By resolving disputes fairly and efficiently, fee arbitration helps maintain confidence in the attorney–client relationship.

Lawyer Referral Service Connects Thousands With Legal Help

The Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) connected more than 8,200 people with legal assistance in fiscal year 2025, including 2,079 referrals in the final quarter. Staff handled 11,813 calls last quarter, bringing the annual total to 35,504.

The service also provides bilingual support, with a specialist and a customer service representative fluent in Spanish, improving access for Spanish-speaking members and the public.

The weekly LRS hotline continues to expand access to legal advice, thanks to volunteer attorneys who answer basic legal questions. Attorneys from all practice areas are invited to join the panel and learn more at wisbar.org.

Why it matters: LRS ensures individuals across Wisconsin can find trusted legal help quickly, breaking down barriers to access.

Customer Service Team Supports More Than 25,000 Calls and Renewals

The State Bar's Customer Service team fielded more than 25,000 calls in fiscal year 2025, including 9,011 in the last quarter. During dues season, the team also guided more than 25,000 members through the renewal process.

Beyond call support, the team welcomes new members, updates records, registers event attendees, processes book orders, and answers questions about services such as LRS. Their behind-the-scenes work ensures accuracy and professionalism in every interaction, creating a seamless experience for members and the public alike.

Why it matters: Customer Service is often the first point of contact, shaping members' experiences and ensuring reliable support.

Mock Trial Program Prepares for 2026 Season With New Leadership

Wisconsin High School Mock Trial is preparing for the 2026 season, with **Jacque Evans** stepping in as State Coordinator.

Evans brings extensive experience and enthusiasm to

lead the program, which introduces high school students to the legal process.

The program is seeking regional coordinators in Madison and Appleton to help oversee competitions and ensure a positive experience for participants. Those interested in volunteering or learning more may contact [Jacque Evans](#).

Wisconsin High School Mock Trial is primarily funded by the Wisconsin Law Foundation, the charitable arm of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

Why it matters: Mock Trial builds skills and confidence in the next generation of Wisconsin's legal community.

Media Impact Report

State Bar Earns Widespread Media Attention

The State Bar of Wisconsin was in the national spotlight this summer, earning coverage on issues ranging from ABA leadership to diversity policies and criminal justice reform.

Between July 1 and Aug. 22, the organization was featured in 265 media mentions with a total potential reach of 582 million and estimated reach of 194 million.

National news stories included:

Wisconsin Attorney Elected ABA President Raises Visibility

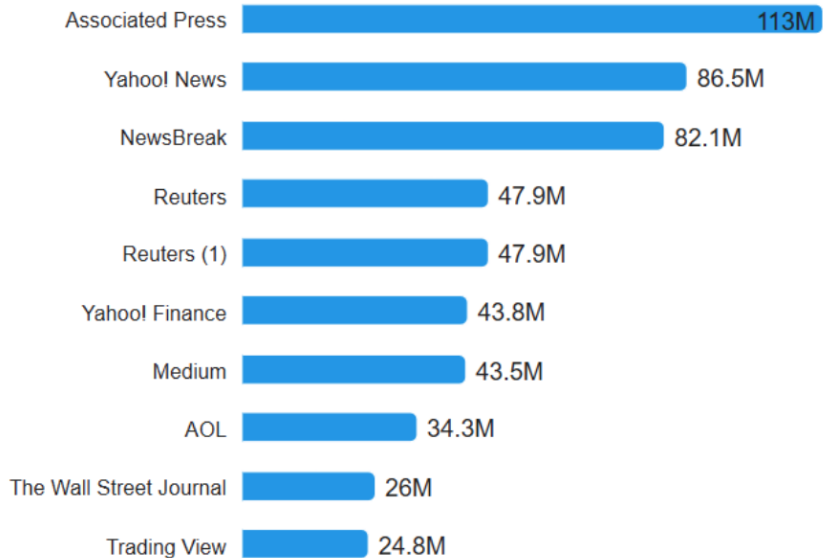
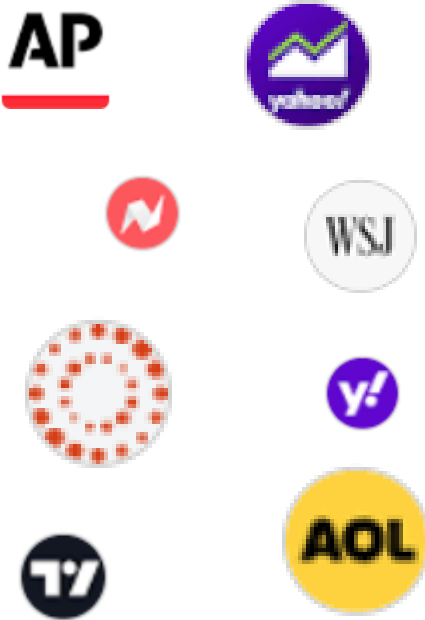
Michelle Behnke, a former State Bar leader and attorney at BoardmanClark, was sworn in as American Bar Association president on Aug. 11, 2025.

Why it matters: This milestone elevates the Bar's national profile and reinforces Wisconsin's leadership role within the legal profession.

State Bar Successfully Resolves Legal Challenge to Leadership Academy and Leadership Summit

The State Bar successfully resolved a legal challenge to the Leadership Academy and Leadership Summit programs, meaning that these vital opportunities will continue unimpeded. The legal challenge claimed the programs used race and ethnicity to select participants. However, the programs invite, encourage, and accept candidates of all backgrounds, and do not select applicants based on race, ethnicity, or other immutable characteristics. The settlement is a clarification of its applicant process, and a win for the State Bar.

Top Publications By Editorial Reach July 1-Aug. 22



The State Bar's editorial reach (Meltwater Media Monitoring estimate: 583 million) between July 1 and Aug. 22, reflects the total potential audience for these publications. Actual readership is likely closer to one-third of that figure, or 194 million

Know Your Legal Rights Newspaper Column

What it is: The *Know Your Legal Rights* column is a bi-monthly consumer legal column written by State Bar members and distributed by the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. It provides the public with plain-language explanations of everyday legal issues, such as Social Security benefits, insurance claims, workplace rights, and consumer protection. The column is published in newspapers statewide and online, reaching thousands of readers. Columns are also promoted on State Bar social media channels.

Why it matters: By offering clear, practical guidance, the column helps demystify the law, connects the State Bar to the public it serves, and reinforces the Bar's role as a trusted source of legal information.

The latest: Between July 1 August 22, newspapers published 41 Know Your Legal Rights columns.

Your contact: Questions or interested in writing an article? Email Public Relations Manager [Mike Wiltse](#).

Focus Areas of Legal Rights Columns, May to August, 2025

- Protecting Creative Work and Business Assets
- Homeowner's Insurance Claims
- Disability and Lump-sum Awards
- Boating and Alcohol Laws
- Personal Injury and Accident Response
- Workers Compensation and Medical Recovery

Read the stories on wna.com.



Cultivate

We're Planning Together for the Future

Practice411: Guiding Law Practices with an Eye on the Future

What it is: Practice411™ is the State Bar's law practice management assistance program. It helps lawyers run their practices more effectively, with a focus on efficiency, risk management, client service, and attorney well-being. Services include:

- **One-on-one confidential consultations** on practice management, technology, and operations.
- **Educational outreach** through presentations, CLE programs, podcasts, and publications.
- **Resources and referrals** to help attorneys navigate challenges and adopt best practices.

Member Consultations

- Confidential consultations continued.
- 85.2% of consultations involved non-technology practice management.
- 14.8% of consultations involved legal technology

Educational Outreach

The State Bar hosted its first annual AI Summit, a full-day program focused on practical implementation of artificial intelligence in legal practice.



The event was offered both in-person and via live webcast and will remain available as webcast replays throughout 2025. Visit [WisBar MarketPlace](#) to register. Additional outreach efforts included

- A co-presentation of "The State of AI in Legal Practice" at the 2025 Annual Meeting & Conference
- Production of Episode 2 of the Practice Pulse podcast: "[Talking Malpractice Insurance with Matt Beier of WILMIC](#)."
- A column, "[Securing Your Digital Practice: Essential Password Strategies for Attorneys](#)" in *Wisconsin Lawyer*.

State Bar Ethics: A Commitment to Excellence

What It Is: The State Bar's Ethics Program provides confidential guidance to members on applying the Wisconsin Rules of Professional Conduct in daily practice. Members receive one-on-one advice through the Ethics Hotline, while CLE programming, articles, and committee work further support professional responsibility and compliance across the legal community.

Why it matters: The Ethics Program protects both lawyers and the public by helping attorneys proactively address ethical challenges before they become problems. By fostering accountability and supporting compliance, the program reinforces confidence in the integrity of Wisconsin's legal system.

CLE Presentations

The Ethics Program delivered multiple CLE presentations, since May. Here is a sampling:

- "GenAI in the Law"
- "A Day in the Life of the Ethics Hotline: Calling All Conflicts"
- "Duty to Correct Errors"
- "An Ethics Smorgasbord"

Publications

Ethics Counsel published two articles between May and August, including:

- ["What To Do with Unclaimed Money in a Trust Account"](#)
(*InsideTrack Weekly*)
- ["Client Consent and Unreasonable Fees"](#)
(*InsideTrack Weekly*)

WisLAP: Well-being in Law

What it is: 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.

Why it matters: WisLAP's work strengthens the resilience and well-being of Wisconsin's legal community. By providing confidential support, proactive training, and crisis response, the program helps reduce stigma around mental health, ensures legal professionals have access to resources when they need them most, and fosters a healthier, more sustainable profession.

Over the past three months, WisLAP has advanced its outreach, education, and direct service initiatives:

On-Site Office Hours

- Held "office hours" at the Dane and Dodge County District Attorney's offices, offering direct access to WisLAP resources.

Training & Education

- Delivered stress reduction training to three groups of administrative staff in private law firms.
- Presented a CLE on "Moral Injury in the Legal Profession" in collaboration with Atty. Jennifer Lee Edmondson.
- Continued offering LAU-eligible training events to county bar associations, government agencies, and private law firms.

Outreach & Communication

- Released WisLAP podcast *Listening to Lawyers* in July, highlighting lawyer well-being issues.

Crisis Response & Peer Support

- Supported the Wisconsin Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the State Public Defender's Office following the death of colleague Jessa Nicholson Goetz.

Law Student Outreach

What it is: Law Student Outreach connects Wisconsin law students with the State Bar and the legal profession through mentoring, networking, and career development opportunities. Students gain access to resources such as the Diversity Clerkship Program, practice area expos, CLE discounts, and connections with practicing attorneys that help prepare them for their future careers.

Why it matters: Law Student Outreach strengthens the pipeline of future lawyers by engaging students early, supporting their professional development, and fostering meaningful connections with the legal community. These efforts ensure students are better prepared for practice and help the State Bar build lasting relationships with the next generation of members.

Staff attended the following law student outreach activities:

- The Marquette Law School Organizations and Resources Fair on Aug. 22, 2025.
- Legal Intern Day. This event is a collaboration between Kohler, Regal Rexnord, the

Manitowoc Company, and host Foley & Lardner. Fifty-two people attended the event.

- The United States District Court Western District of Wisconsin Summer Law Clerk & New Associate Day on July 10. The event was facilitated by Chief District Judge James D. Peterson and attended by 92 Summer Law Clerks and New Associates in the Western District.

Photos: Western District Summer Associate & Intern Day on July 10, 2025.



Ready. Set. Practice. Mentoring Program

What it is: Pairs new lawyers and law students with experienced attorneys to build skills, confidence, and professional connections. Mentors guide participants in exploring practice areas, navigating early career challenges, and developing networks. Extra focus is placed on supporting law students as they transition into practice.

Recruitment timeframe: Sept. 15–Oct. 15, 2025. Experienced attorneys (6+ years) are invited to mentor new lawyers and law students. Sign up at: wisbar.org/readysetchallenge.

G. Lane Ware Academy Updates

What it is

- A comprehensive leadership development program created by the State Bar's Leadership Development Committee.
- Designed to equip participants with the skills, strategies, and resources to serve as effective leaders in their careers, communities, bar associations, and the legal profession.
- Features nationally and regionally recognized presenters.

Why it matters

- Builds a pipeline of strong leaders for the legal profession and the State Bar.
- Provides hands-on training and mentorship opportunities that extend beyond the classroom.
- Alumni report lasting value in their professional growth and leadership development.

Updates

Interest forms for the 2025–26 class accepted until Sept. 15.

This year's sessions are scheduled as follows:

Session 1: Nov. 14–15, 2025
Session 2: Jan. 16–17, 2026
Session 3: April 24–25, 2026

2026 Leadership Summit

What it is

- A program designed to engage new lawyers in State Bar volunteer leadership opportunities.
- Offers sessions on balancing work, life, and volunteer leadership; explains the career benefits of bar involvement; and helps participants find their niche in bar service.
- Tailored for newer lawyers who have shown leadership ability and an interest in State Bar engagement.

Why it matters

- The Summit develops the next generation of leaders for the legal profession and the State Bar.
- It provides practical tools and hands-on volunteer experience that encourage long-term engagement in bar service.

What's new

- **The 2026 Summit is scheduled for April 25.** Nominations open soon, with details to be shared by email in November.
- The G. Lane Ware keynote address will be delivered by **Judge Mary E. Triggiano**, director of the Andrew Center for Restorative Justice and clinical professor of law. Judge Triggiano previously served as chief judge of Wisconsin's First Judicial District in Milwaukee.



Explore State Bar Member Benefits That May Save Your Money!

Group Health Plans for Law Firms

What it is

The State Bar's Group Health Plan, provided by **Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation (WPS)**, helps law firms provide quality health care coverage to members and their employees. The plan is available for offices with two or more non-family members working at least 26 hours per week. Federal regulations prevent true solo attorneys from participating.

Why it's important

The plan offers firms access to competitive group health coverage at a time when premiums are projected to rise sharply, according to [KFF, a nonpartisan health policy research group](#), reports that in 2026 health care premiums could increase by as much as 75% for subsidized ACA marketplace coverage, and by 8–20% in the non-subsidized market. Final rates will be released Nov. 1, just prior to the open enrollment period.

Key takeaway

With significant health insurance cost increases expected in 2026, the State Bar's Group Health Plan offers law firms an alternative to help control expenses and provide coverage for attorneys and staff.

More information

For details, see "[Prepare Now: Major Health Insurance Changes Coming in 2026](#)" or contact Professional Insurance Programs representatives for rate quotes:

- **Christine Nadolski**, Benefits Manager — cnadolski@profinsprog.com, (414) 755-4172
- **Wendy Block**, Senior Account Manager — wblock@profinsprog.com, (414) 755-4185

WDA Dental Savings Plan

What it is

The WDA Dental Savings Club, offered in partnership with the State Bar of Wisconsin, provides members and their staff with discounts on dental care. The program offers both individual and group pricing options.

Why it's important

Members can save on a wide range of dental services, including cleanings, fillings, crowns, braces, dentures, and cosmetic procedures. The program is not insurance, but it can be used alongside dental insurance or after plan coverage has been exhausted.

More information

For details, see [New Member Program: An Affordable Dental Benefit Option for Your Law Firm](#).

or contact Professional Insurance Programs representatives Christine Nadolski or Wendy Block

Travelers Auto/Home Discount Program

What it is

The State Bar of Wisconsin now offers members access to the Travelers Auto and Home Insurance Program as a new discount benefit. The program is available to members living both in Wisconsin and in other states.

Why it's important

Through Travelers and its agency InsuraMatch, members can compare quotes from multiple national and regional carriers, including options for unique or high-risk situations. The program provides another avenue for members to review and potentially reduce their auto and home insurance costs.

More information

For details, see [New Discount Program: Travelers Helps You Find the Best Rates](#) and check out rate quotes on WisBar.org.



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.

Construction & Public Contract Law Volunteers Help Senior

The Construction & Public Contract Law Section partnered with Revitalize Milwaukee for its annual volunteer event, building a new fence for an 85-year-old homeowner and the four generations of her family who share the home. The project provides added security and creates a safer space for the family to enjoy together.

Family Law Section Holds 44th Workshop

The Family Law Section hosted its 44th Family Law Workshop Aug. 7–9 in Sturgeon Bay, drawing 149 registered attendees. The program offered CLE sessions for both seasoned practitioners and those new to the field, along with optional networking events, including a lunch and an afternoon trolley tour.

Health Law Section Hosts Appleton Networking Event

Members of the Health Law Section gathered in Appleton for an evening of networking, giving those outside Madison and Milwaukee a convenient opportunity to connect. The event offered a relaxed setting for building professional relationships, exchanging ideas, and enjoying conversations with both familiar faces and new acquaintances.

IP & Technology Section Hosts 19th Academy

The Intellectual Property & Technology Law Section hosted its 19th Annual Intellectual Property Academy July 17–18 at Stone Harbor, drawing about 45 attendees.

Panels covered artificial intelligence and data security, patent litigation funding, and name, image and likeness.

Featured speakers included Jeff Draeger (Intel) and Micky Minhas (formerly Microsoft), sharing in-house counsel insights.



Members of the Intellectual Property & Technology Section enjoyed a scenic boat tour along the shores of Green Bay, part of Lake Michigan, during the 19th Annual Intellectual Property Academy in Fish Creek, Door County.



Attendees at the 44th Annual Family Law Workshop in Sturgeon Bay.

Divisions, Programs & Committees: Connect, Learn, Lead

The State Bar's divisions and programs offer members opportunities to learn, network, and take on leadership roles. Each group serves a unique purpose — from mentoring new lawyers to supporting members across the state and beyond.

For section and Ready.Set. Practice. program questions/ information: Contact Program Coordinator [Karen Beall](#).

Government Lawyers Division (GLD)

GLD attorneys are employed in government service, including public defenders, prosecutors, corporation counsel, family court commissioners, city attorneys, U.S. attorneys, and more.

What they do: Provide a forum to exchange ideas, and foster communication between government and private practice lawyers.

Membership: Free for any State Bar voting member who receives government salary.

Member support: Offering grants to help government lawyers cover CLE tuition and travel.

Recent activity:

- Partnered with PINNACLE to host the “**Public Records and Open Meetings Update 2025**” on Sept. 3 live at the State Bar Center and by [webcast](#) through Jan. 26, 2026.

Nonresident Lawyers Division (NRLD)

What they do: The NRLD helps members living outside Wisconsin stay connected to the State Bar and each other. Membership is free and automatic for lawyers with an out-of-state address. The division fosters communication, business opportunities, and supports a nationwide network of State Bar chapters.

Recent outreach:

- Reached out to members in Arkansas, Minnesota, and Texas affected by disasters, offering assistance through Practice 411™ and WisLAP.

Senior Lawyers Division (SLD)

What they do: The SLD focuses on networking, education, and community among senior lawyers age 60 and older.

Recent activity:

- Sponsored the 50-Year Member Recognition Celebration on May 15.
- Hosted a June networking luncheon at the Annual Meeting & Conference (AMC).
- Awarded three scholarships to lawyers with financial need to attend the AMC.

Young Lawyers Division (YLD)

What they do: The YLD supports lawyers under 36 or in their first five years of practice by providing leadership training, networking, and public service opportunities. Membership is free and automatic.

Recent activity:

- Held Board orientation, planning session, and networking reception on Aug. 22 in Madison.

Upcoming activities:

- Organizing Oct. 24 CLE and networking reception in Hudson.
- Planning the 16th Annual Young Lawyers Conference set for March 20, 2026, in the Wisconsin Dells.

Diversity, Inclusion and Oversight Committee

What it is: The Diversity, Inclusion and Oversight Committee (DIOC) is committed to advancing an equitable and inclusive legal profession.

Why it matters: A fair and effective legal system thrives when it reflects the voices and perspectives of people from all backgrounds.

The DIOC is comprised of three subcommittees:

- **Diversity Clerkship Program Subcommittee** – Oversees the Clerkship Program.
- **Education Subcommittee** – Plans and organizes diversity CLE programs, including selecting topics, recruiting speakers, coordinating logistics and marketing.
- **Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee** – Builds relationships with affinity bar groups, law students and community partners to increase diversity and inclusion in Wisconsin's legal profession and strengthen community among lawyers.

Leadership structure:

Subcommittees use a co-chair model to

- promote collaboration and decision-making.

Composition:

- Subcommittees include participation from non-members to broaden in-

Diversity Clerkship Program (DCP)

Upcoming activities:

DCP student information sessions will be held at:

- **Marquette University Law School** – Oct. 21, 2025
- **University of Wisconsin Law School** – Oct. 22, 2025

These sessions will explain the application process and benefits. Past participants will share success stories to highlight the program's

Recent activity:

A **recognition reception** was held July 24, 2025, with 76 attendees. Clerks shared their summer experiences, and employers highlighted the value of the program.

Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee

Upcoming activities:

"A Day in Court" is launching

Sept. 26, 2025, at the Milwaukee Municipal Courthouse. The goal is to spark student interest in law and connect to the Wisconsin High School Mock Trial Program.

Mark Your Calendars For AMC in 2026

The State Bar of Wisconsin's Annual Meeting & Conference (AMC), the organization's largest gathering of the bench and bar, will be held June 10–12, 2026, at the La Crosse Center and Radisson Hotel in La Crosse.

The move to western Wisconsin follows requests from members outside Madison and Milwaukee to bring the event to other parts of the state. The conference offers opportunities for connection with State Bar members and judges living on the western side of Wisconsin.

Sections, committees, and divisions are encouraged to submit Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for AMC programming by Oct. 17. The event also provides visibility for law firms and organizations statewide, while helping attorneys expand referral networks.

For more information on AMC sponsorship opportunities, contact Crystal Brabender at cbrabender@wisbar.org.



Wisconsin Law Foundation

About the Wisconsin Law Foundation

What it is

- It's the charitable arm of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

Why it matters:

- Promotes public understanding of the law, improves the administration of justice, and supports law-related public service.
- Funds innovative programs that strengthen the civil justice system.

The latest:

- Assets grew **17.58%** in FY25 to more than **\$3.8 million**, an increase of **\$576,357** over last year.
- Fundraising reached a record **\$391,619** through giving to the Primary Fund, Fellows, four designated funds, and events honoring ABA President Michelle Behnke.
- The Foundation awarded a record **\$83,950** in grants in FY25 grants.
- Several requests went unfunded and others were scaled back to provide critical support to as many groups as possible as nonprofit funding sources decline.

Fellows Dinner to Honor Cheryl Daniels and New Inductees on Oct. 16

The Wisconsin Law Foundation will present the 2025 Charles L. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award to Cheryl Furstace Daniels, past president of the State Bar of Wisconsin, at the Annual Fellows Recognition Dinner on Oct. 16 at Monona Terrace in Madison.



Cheryl Daniels, recipient of the 2025 Charles L. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award.

The dinner will also recognize new Fellows inductees, joining a program that honors State Bar members who demonstrate exceptional legal ability, commitment to public service, and

dedication to the advancement of the profession.

The Goldberg Award is given annually to a lawyer whose career reflects a lifetime of service in the public interest.

Daniels, who served as State Bar president in 2020–21, is recognized for her long record of service to the profession and her community.

Fellowship is among the State Bar's highest honors, limited to 2.5% of total membership and extended by nomination to a select group of Wisconsin lawyers each year.

Event Sponsors



Every Member, Every Year

Giving Made Simple



**WISCONSIN
LAW FOUNDATION**
Charitable Arm of the State Bar of Wisconsin



- 1 Include your donation on your membership dues renewal
- 2 Donate online at wisbar.org/wlfdonate
- 3 Mail a check to the Wisconsin Law Foundation, 5302 Eastpark Blvd., Madison, WI 53718
- 4 Check the box on your State Bar Mileage Reimbursement Form
- 5 Designate a donation via your State Bar author/speaker reimbursement
- 6 Scan the QR code on your phone



Information: (608) 250-6171 or (800) 444-9404 ext. 6171

Fellowship is among the State Bar's highest honors, limited to 2.5% of total membership and extended by nomination to a select group of Wisconsin lawyers each year.

2025 Fellows Recognition Dinner

Thursday, October 16, 2025
Monona Terrace Community & Convention Center

- 5:30 p.m.** Reception (cash bar)
- 6 p.m.** 2025 Class of Fellows Group Photo
- 6:30 p.m.** Dinner Begins (general seating)
- 7:40 p.m.** Hon. Charles N. Clevert Jr., Fellows President: Welcome Address
- 7:45 p.m.** Hon. Charles N. Clevert Jr.: Introduce & Present the 2025 Class of Fellows
- 8:05 p.m.** Fran Deisinger: Foundation President: WLF Update & Report
- 8:15 p.m.** Fran Deisinger: Present the 2025 Charles L. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award
- 8:30 p.m.** Hon. Charles N. Clevert Jr.: Brief Closing Remarks



Social Media

May 14, 2025 to August 15, 2025

The numbers reflect the changes compared to the previous time period of March 26, 2025, to May 14, 2025

Metrics



Totals

New Likes/ Followers (Growth)	+112	+65	+265	+123	<i>TOTAL AUDIENCE</i> 18,295 +3.1%
Engagement/ Interactions	+3,400	+1,200	+14K	+1,400	<i>TOTAL INTERACTIONS</i> 20,207 +17.5%
Impressions	1M	68K	138K	26K	<i>TOTAL IMPRESSIONS</i> 1,256,535 -55.2%
Posts Published	392	159	368	41	<i>TOTAL POSTS</i> 960 +17.4%

Audience Growth

Total audience: 18,295 (+3.1%). Best growth: LinkedIn (+265) and YouTube (+123)
LinkedIn continues to be the strongest growth platform.

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
- **Impressions:** Number of times State Bar content has been viewed.
- **Posts Published:** The number of posts that were published across all platforms

Engagement & Interactions

Total interactions: 20,207 (+17.5%). LinkedIn leads with 14K, far ahead of other platforms. Engagement shows strong resonance with professional audiences.

Impressions

Total impressions: 1,256,535 (-55.2%). Facebook dominates reach (1M). While reach fell sharply, engagement rates rose — fewer people saw posts, but those who did were more engaged.

Posting Activity

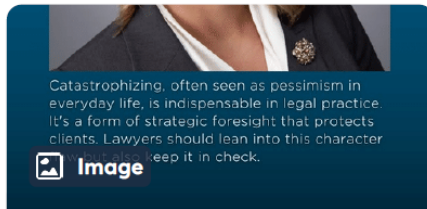
Total posts: 960 (+17.4%). Facebook (392) and LinkedIn (368) had the most. High posting volume may explain engagement gains, but reduced reach suggests algorithm limits.

Key Takeaways

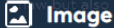
- LinkedIn is the star platform, driving growth and engagement.
- Facebook maintains reach but needs richer engagement strategies.
- Engagement is trending up despite declining impressions.



Top content



Catastrophizing, often seen as pessimism in everyday life, is indispensable in legal practice. It's a form of strategic foresight that protects clients. Lawyers should lean into this character trait and keep it in check.



Jul. 10 2025 • Facebook State Bar of Wisconsin

Wisconsin L... Final Thoug...

Catastrophizing is indispensable in legal

Engagement rate per reach 3.1%

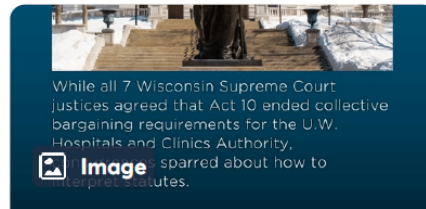
Engagement 207

Clicks 40

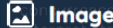
Other clicks 137

Reach 6.7K

Engagement rate per impression 3%



While all 7 Wisconsin Supreme Court justices agreed that Act 10 ended collective bargaining requirements for the U.W. Hospitals and Clinics Authority, the justices sparred about how to interpret statutes.



Jul. 15 2025 • Facebook State Bar of Wisconsin

Courts - Wi... WisBar Cou...

While all 7 Wisconsin Supreme Court justices agree...

Engagement rate per reach 4%

Engagement 185

Clicks 19

Other clicks 160

Reach 4.6K

Engagement rate per impression 3.9%



Jul. 2 2025 • Facebook State Bar of Wisconsin

Bottom Up Podcast

New Episode! Family law lawyers won't want to mis...

Engagement rate per reach 2.3%

Engagement 63

Clicks 20

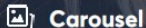
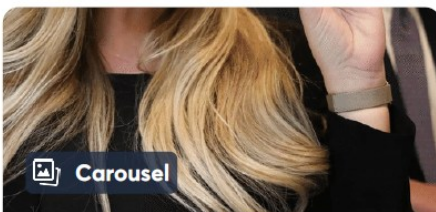
Other clicks 25

Reach 2.7K

Engagement rate per impression 2.2%



Top content



May. 22 2025 • Instagram State Bar of Wisconsin

Congratulations! Welcome to these new lawyers, gra...

Reach 2.1K

Engagement rate per reach 7.5%

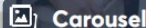
Engagement rate per view 4.9%

Engagement 162

Likes 136

Saved 3

Comments 2



Jun. 4 2025 • Instagram State Bar of Wisconsin

Congratulations! Welcome to these new lawyers, gra...

Reach 2K

Engagement rate per reach 5.4%

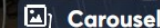
Engagement rate per view 3.7%

Engagement 106

Likes 86

Saved 2

Comments 1



Aug. 1 2025 • Instagram State Bar of Wisconsin

Diversity Clerkship Program...

The future of the profession is bright! Last week,...

Reach 1.1K

Engagement rate per reach 7.5%

Engagement rate per view 4.9%

Engagement 83

Likes 71

Saved 2

Comments 3



Top content

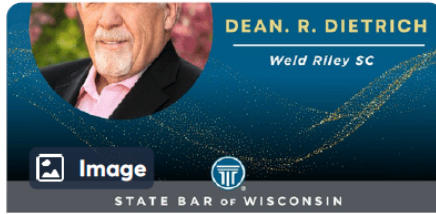


May. 22 2025 • State Bar of Wisconsin

Admissions

Congratulations! Welcome to these new lawyers, gra...

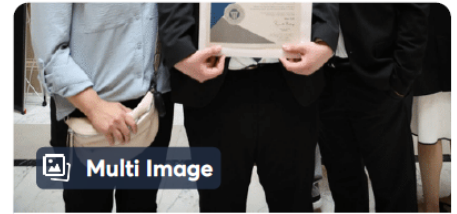
Engagement	4.6K
Shares	4
Comments	3
Engagement rate per reach	124.8%
Engagement rate per impression	66.4%
Impressions	7K
Clicks	4.4K
Likes	234



May. 29 2025 • State Bar of Wisconsin

We are proud to announce that Dean R. Dietrich, im...

Engagement	260
Shares	0
Comments	27
Engagement rate per reach	8.5%
Engagement rate per impression	5.9%
Impressions	4.4K
Clicks	99
Likes	134



Jun. 4 2025 • State Bar of Wisconsin

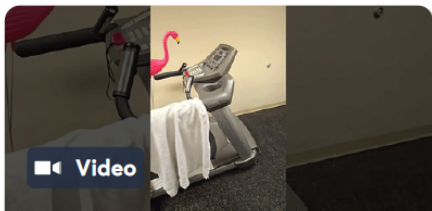
Admissions

Congratulations! Welcome to these new lawyers, gra...

Engagement	2.2K
Shares	2
Comments	1
Engagement rate per reach	96.6%
Engagement rate per impression	56.9%
Impressions	3.9K
Clicks	2.1K
Likes	94



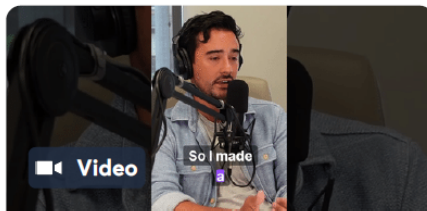
Top content



Jun. 16 2025 • State Bar of Wisconsin

Connect with Us:

Video views	1.6K
Likes	6
Dislikes	1
Comments	0
Shares	2
Added to playlist	0
Subscribers gained	0
Total engagement	9

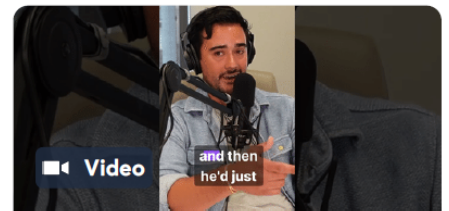


Aug. 9 2025 • State Bar of Wisconsin

Bottom Up... Family law

How do you deal with the stress in your practice? ...

Video views	789
Likes	0
Dislikes	0
Comments	0
Shares	0
Added to playlist	0
Subscribers gained	0
Total engagement	0



Aug. 11 2025 • State Bar of Wisconsin

Bottom Up... Family law

"He would just light it up with his guns..." Atty....

Video views	782
Likes	4
Dislikes	0
Comments	0
Shares	0
Added to playlist	0
Subscribers gained	0
Total engagement	4