



STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN
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MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Governors
From: Larry J. Martin, Executive Director
Date: Sept. 22, 2021
Re: Executive Director Report

On July 1, we began a truly historic year, with an all-women team of officers – a first in the State Bar of Wisconsin’s history. In addition, we are excited to welcome a new group of new Board of Governors members who are joining us for their first term, and to welcome back those returning members. Welcome, all!

As the pandemic persists, we will continue to prioritize the health and safety of our members and staff. The State Bar is pivoting back, in large measure, to holding our meetings virtually or in some cases to a later date. In addition, the vast majority of State Bar staff are continuing to successfully and productively work remotely, at least until early January 2022. It is my hope that we will then begin to welcome our team and members back to the State Bar Center, in accordance with a multi-phased plan that takes into consideration the organization’s needs, the health concerns and work preferences of team members, and the evolving nature of the pandemic.

Working from home for much of the last 17 months has had its benefits. But, for me, not being in the office and, more importantly, not interacting in person with members and colleagues has had significant drawbacks. Quite honestly, I have missed the interaction and the value of listening and learning directly from those I serve and work with. That is why since July, I’ve gotten back on the road, traveling the state, while taking appropriate health precautions along the way.

As your executive director, I am a firm believer that the State Bar of Wisconsin should not just expect our members to always come to us – we need to get to where our members live and work, too.

Over the summer, my travels have taken me from Superior to Kenosha and many points between. I’ve met with individual State Bar members and leaders and groups of members.

One week in August, I traveled nearly 900 miles in three days with Christopher Shattuck, our law practice assistance program manager, connecting with members in nine separate meetings in six communities in central and northern Wisconsin.



My travels allowed me to hear and see firsthand the issues and challenges of practicing in rural and northern Wisconsin, and that meaningful access to justice in much of our state is in true crisis. However, I also learned there is plenty of legal work to be had, and great opportunity for members to establish a thriving practice in some of our state's most spectacular landscapes and communities.

I also had the chance to talk with members about the value of State Bar membership. We want you to learn about and take advantage of the programs, products, and services you've invested your dues dollars in. We don't take a single member anywhere for granted.

As long as conditions allow (both pandemic and weather), I will continue to visit around the state. Spending time with members energizes me.

Please continue to stay well and, as always, ever forward!



Welcome to our 2021-22 officers! Look for the September issue of Wisconsin Lawyer™ magazine for a feature on women as leaders in the State Bar.

RECENT COLUMNS of Interest

In case you missed my recent columns in the *Wisconsin Lawyer™* magazine:

- **Your State Bar: Of Love and Labor:** Together, State Bar staff members Joyce Hastings (communications director, retired Sept. 3) and Jan Marks (executive coordinator) represent more than 87 years of experience and institutional knowledge. But is not their longevity that deserves celebration. Rather it is their never-wavering passion for what they do to serve others. (July)
- **Your State Bar: Back to the Future:** As we return to our offices, we return to a world that will be both familiar and now different. What exactly our future will look like and how life will have changed remain to be seen. (June)

UPCOMING EVENTS to Keep on Your Radar

- **Wisconsin Solo & Small Firm Conference (Virtual)**
Oct. 27-29; online via the State Bar's 6Connex conference platform, with a new networking feature that enhances attendees' ability to chat with each other.
- **#LoveYourLawyerDay (Social Media)**
Celebrate your favorite lawyers (we do!) on the first Friday of November. In 2021, it is Nov. 5.
- **G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy 2021-22**
Three sessions: Nov. 5-6, 2021*; Jan. 21-22, 2022; and April 8-9, 2022.
*If unable to meet in person in November due to the pandemic, this session will be held March 4-5, 2022.
State Bar Center, Madison
- **Upcoming Board of Governors' Meetings**
Dec. 3, 2021. The 2022 dates are: Feb. 25 (virtual), April 29, and June 15.
- **Annual Bankruptcy Update**
Feb. 24-25, 2022, The American Club, Kohler

ITEMS of NOTE

A 'New' WisBar.org



In August, we launched the first phase of a major update to the WisBar.org website. This first phase moved us into a supported version for patches and security, along with more modern options and development with the updated version as we move ahead.

During this migration, we moved WisBar.org from a SharePoint 2010 to a SharePoint 2019 platform, which required navigation through previous versions. Those working with the administration side of WisBar.org experienced some favorable improvements, and those viewing the website from the outside will note some streamlined presentation of its pages, as well as new mobile-friendly features. As part of this major project, we recognized and continue to address the cleanup as required.

We will continue to enrich the users' experiences with WisBar.org with a solid foundation from which to build our pages. *We appreciate everyone's patience in getting us to this point.*

In the next two to four months, we will upgrade our computer hardware and server environment, to address and boost the performance of our network systems. It is this "backbone" upon which WisBar.org and our other State Bar systems reside and operate.

Although a lot of what you will see currently will appear familiar, the “new WisBar.org” is noteworthy, for it is a long-term proposition and a critical piece to our engagement now and into the future with our members, our staff, the courts, and the public at large.



New Communications Director: Joe Forward

Join us in welcoming Joe Forward as our new communications director. He succeeds Joyce Hastings, who retired Sept. 3 after 44 years with the State Bar.

For more than a decade, Joe served as the State Bar’s legal writer, where he worked closely with Joyce and was instrumental in developing, writing, and managing content for State Bar publications.



As of Sept. 6, Joe is responsible for the leadership and management of the State Bar Communications Department and serves as editor of the *Wisconsin Lawyer*™ magazine.

EDUCATE – Developing Skilled Legal Professionals

Sign Up Now for the 2021 Wisconsin Solo & Small Firm Conference

There is still time to register for the virtual [Wisconsin Solo & Small Firm Conference](#) (WSSFC).

Due to pandemic concerns, in September we pivoted WSSFC to a virtual-only format. On Oct. 28-30, 2021, we will once again be working with the 6Connex conferencing platform, with plans of making the experience even more engaging than last year, while providing the CLE content that solos, small firms, medium firms, and managing partners need and rely upon.

This year, attendees will be able to customize their conference by setting up appointments with speakers, exhibitors, other attendees, or staff, giving them a chance to



network. Those meetings can happen in a group video with several people, in a one-on-one video, or with an email chat.

Also, based on the profile members create for themselves and what events they choose to attend, each day they will get a matchmaking report that identifies people who are showing the same interests. This is another way to set up meetings and network with individuals that have like or common interests. This event and platform is one of our most popular events of the year, something that should not be missed.

Mark Your Calendars for the State Bar Annual Meeting & Conference, June 16-17, 2022

The State Bar Annual Meeting & Conference is scheduled for June 16-17, 2022, at the Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva. Planning is already in full swing, so stay tuned for more details. Sign up as a sponsor and promote your law firm throughout the state. For more information, contact Crystal Brabender at cbrabender@wisbar.org.

The 2021 virtual AMC was a huge success, attracting a crowd of attendees similar to previous years.

CLE Programs: New Material, Upgraded Use of Technology

Expect more from your CLE programs this year. We have been planning and developing new CLE material and advancing our use of technologies, providing access to CLE material when and how members want it. Our customized marketing and communications efforts will ensure members gain access to new and important material in their practice areas as it becomes available.

Look for these new programs:

- **Forensic Justice Institute**, Jan. 20-21, 2022. A conference with two half-days of programming, based upon science meant to get everyone in the process (judges, prosecutors, defense, and expert witnesses) on the same page with reliable forensic evidence.
- **Virtual Magic: Presenting with Excellence over the Phone and Web** – Featuring Steve Hughes, dates starting Oct. 6, 2021.
- **The Essentials of Music Copyright Law with the Beatles** – featuring Jim Jesse, with dates starting Nov. 11, 2021.

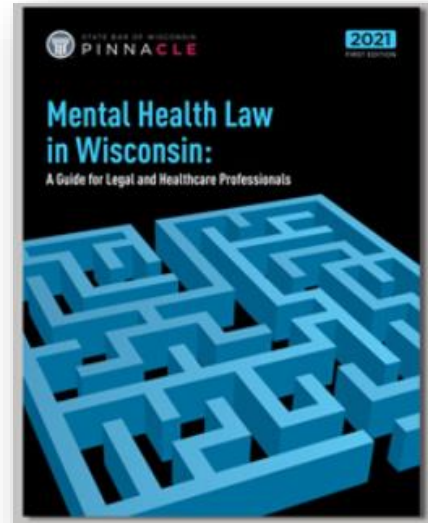
Professional Development: New and Updated Books

The Professional Development Team released a number of book updates, as well as a revision of our book, [*Guardianship and Protective Placement for the Elderly in Wisconsin*](#).

We are also continuing our new book launch activities with our most recent new releases, [*Wisconsin Landlord & Tenant Manual*](#) and [*Mental Health Law in Wisconsin: A Guide for Legal and Healthcare Practitioners*](#).

Please take a moment and visit the State Bar of Wisconsin Marketplace (marketplace.wisbar.org) to learn more about these new books.

As many of our current authors retire or move on to other ventures, the attorney-editors are busy recruiting new authors to take over current book projects. We are also always looking to expand our offerings into new areas of expertise. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a State Bar of Wisconsin PINNACLE® author, or if you have suggestions about new areas for PINNACLE Books to explore, please contact Publications Manager Carol Chapman at cchapman@wisbar.org.



The State Bar Certified Paralegal Program Celebrates Two Years

The Certified Paralegal (CP) program successfully completed its second renewal process, which included the first time CPs reported continuing education credits. We have had 249 out of 277 CPs renew their certification status. And we have a handful of renewals still working their way through the process. Some are not allowed to renew as they are not currently working for an attorney. Of the 249 renewals, 105 of them had to report 12 credits of continuing education. CPs need to report credits every two years. We are pleased with the progress of the program and will be ramping up efforts to get more paralegals certified.

Practice411: Supporting the Business of Law

The State Bar's Law Office Management Assistance Program **Practice411™** helps lawyers to improve their efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of legal services and in implementing systems and controls to reduce risk and improve client relations. It provides that help lawyers manage the business aspects of their practices.

Law Practice Assistance Manager Christopher Shattuck met with members for roundtable law practice management discussions via teleconference in June, July, and August to discuss marketing best practices, trust accounts, and recent reports impacting the profession. He also wrote these recent articles:

- **5 Tips: Common Trust Account Violations with Travis Stieren** in the July 7, 2021, edition of *InsideTrack*.
- **Do Not Let Ransomware Win: Back Up Your Data**, in July/August 2021 edition of *Wisconsin Lawyer*.
- **Trust Account Scams Increasingly Target Wisconsin Law Firms** in the Aug.18, 2021, edition of *InsideTrack*.

Christopher Shattuck and the Practice411 program provided a number of helpful educational sessions, including:

- Answers to Advanced Trust Account Questions... in partnership with State Bar ethics counsel for the Annual Meeting & Conference.
- **Ethics and Data Breaches**, with State Bar ethics counsel for the Annual Meeting and Conference.
- **Zoom Basics for Senior Lawyers 2021**, with PINNACLE and the State Bar Senior Lawyers Division.
- **How to Avoid Scams Targeting Lawyers 2021**, with PINNACLE and the State Bar Senior Lawyers Division.
- **Data Breaches: Help for Senior Lawyers 2021**, with PINNACLE and the State Bar Senior Lawyers Division.
- Webinar on **Low Cost & Practical Tools for Increasing Efficiencies in Law Practice** for the Massachusetts Law Office Management Assistance Program.

In August, Shattuck teamed up with Executive Director Larry Martin to meet with Board of Governors representatives from Districts 7, 11, and 16, and with local bar association leaders from Ashland, Douglas, Oneida, and Price counties on a tour of northern Wisconsin. Shattuck

also presented three CLE programs on succession planning, encryption for law firms, and best practices for law firm management.

To reach Practice411, contact [Christopher Shattuck](#) or call (800) 957-4670.

Providing Ethics Guidance

The State Bar's [Ethics Program](#) provides guidance and help in resolving questions regarding Wisconsin's Rules of Professional Conduct for attorneys. Ethics counsel recently gave the following presentations:

- Wisconsin Association of Legal Administrators (WALA, June 9, 2021): "Answers to Advanced Trust Account Questions: Credit Card Processing, Wire Transfers, Disputes, and Much More" with Christopher Shattuck.
- AMC (June 10, 2021): "Ethics and Data Breaches: Planning, Remediation & Response for Law Firms" with Christopher Shattuck and James Pearson.
- AMC (June 10, 2021): "A View from the Bench: How do the Rules of Professional Conduct for Attorneys Affect Judicial Decision-Making" with Judge Mario White, Judge D. Todd Ehlers, Judge Michael J. Hanrahan, and Tim Pierce.
- AMC (June 11, 2021): "Risk! 2021 Legal Ethics Edition" with Dean Dietrich, Stacie Rosenzweig, Tim Pierce, and Tom Watson.
- Legislative Council (June 25, 2021): "Do the Legislative Council Staff Attorneys Have a Client? How Can Legislative Council Staff Attorneys Reconcile the Rules of Professional Conduct with the Statute Creating the Legislative Council?"
- Kimberly Clark (July 14): "Ethics for In-house Counsel" CLE program.
- PINNACLE webinar (Aug. 3, 2021): "Conflicts for Municipal Lawyers."
- State Bar Family Law Conference (Aug. 5): ethics presentation.
- Division of Hearings & Appeals, Office of Workers Compensation Hearings (Aug. 6): ethics presentation.
- Indian Law Section Annual Conference (Aug. 26, 2021): SCR 20:8.4(i) and Model Rule 8.4(g); SCR 20:8.5.

Ethics counsel wrote the following articles:

- ["Ethical Dilemma: Is There a Duty to Correct an Error by a Court?"](#) (*InsideTrack*)
- ["Dilemma: Estate-planning Clients, a Divorce, and Potential Conflicts?"](#) (*InsideTrack*)
- ["Dilemma: Accepting Cryptocurrency as Payment"](#) (*InsideTrack*)

Questions? Contact Ethics Counsel [Aviva Kaiser](#) or [Tim Pierce](#), or call the Ethics Hotline at (800) 254-9154.

WisLAP: Keeping Wisconsin Lawyers Healthy

The **Wisconsin Lawyers Assistance Program (WisLAP)** provides free confidential assistance to lawyers, judges, law students, and their families coping with substance use disorders or dependence, mental health challenges, or other stressors that negatively impact the quality of life and the practice of law.

WisLAP also provides educational programming for firms, local bars, and other legal entities and associations on the topics of substance use, mental health, and well-being.

On Sept. 10, WisLAP staff held a virtual training for volunteers with roughly 60 attorneys in attendance. We are hoping to recruit younger and more diverse volunteers moving forward.

WisLAP 24-hour Hotline

WisLAP continues to administer the peer assistance program, 24-hour hotline for lawyer assistance, and monitoring program at (800) 543-2625. Questions about WisLAP? Contact WisLAP Coordinator [Jason Magill](#).

Division, Section, and Committee Reports

The **Government Lawyers Division** is offering \$3,320 in grant money to help members with no other financial means pay for CLE tuition and travel. If you know of a government lawyer in need, contact [Karen Beall](#) at the State Bar.

The **Senior Lawyers Division** is in the process of planning their annual CLE event, rescheduled for March 2022. The division has recently started a Blog of Experience on WisBar.org to connect with members and increase engagement. They will publish quarterly articles with varying topics of interest to senior lawyers.

The **Young Lawyers Division** held their first meeting and orientation on Aug. 27, where new board members will learn about the division and their roles as directors. The board will also set its goals for FY22 including planning the Annual Young Lawyers Conference, to be held in Wisconsin Dells in March 2022. The division is committed to providing networking opportunities to its members, and will be focusing efforts on hosting events to engage with members.

The **Dispute Resolution Section** recently created a Diversity Committee. The goal of this committee is to help make the section board better reflect the diversity of the section in all areas of diversity.

The **Criminal Law Section** started writing blogs to provide timely and more frequent communication to section members. It's also a good way for them to get their name out there. Their very first blog article, "[A Pandemic Positive: Changes in Courtroom Practice Increases Access](#)," was also published in *Inside Track*.

The **Intellectual Property & Technology Law Section** is in the process of planning their 15th Annual Door Country IP academy. Although it will be virtual, they are keeping the cost to attend low as a benefit to their members. The academy is scheduled for Sept. 23-24, 2021.

The **Indian Law Section's Ninth Annual Indian Law CLE** took place virtually on Aug. 25-27. The program focused on advancing the interests and promoting the rights of tribal communities, and featured speaker Bryan Newland, who provided an update on President Joe Biden's Indian Country agenda and litigation.

Earlier this summer, the **Business Law Section** offered a two-part CLE series on Financial Accounting for Attorneys. This was available for free to members, and 70 people attended each part of the series.

The **Children and the Law Section** spent a portion of their financial surplus to purchase travel-size duffle bags, essential toiletry items, and socks for juvenile shelter facilities, to assist teens aging out of the facilities.

The following sections are working with **State Bar of Wisconsin PINNACLE™** to present a CLE in their practice area and are funding benefits for their members:

- The **Elder Law and Special Needs Section** is presenting the seminar Legal Issues of the Aging in September, and offering four scholarships to attorneys newly entering this practice area and funding a \$50 discount to all section members.
- The **Environmental Law Section** is presenting the 33rd Annual Environmental Law Update in September, and offering scholarships to new section members and to members of four affinity groups, to facilitate a variety of perspectives in the practice area.

The **Family Law Section** hosted the 40th Annual Family Law workshop on a virtual platform on Aug. 5-6. They provided 11 scholarships and offered the workshop at a discount to members. This is traditionally held in Sturgeon Bay, Door County, so all attendees received a gift box of Door County products in order to provide a little Door County to everyone that registered.

Law Student Liaisons: Several State Bar sections have student liaisons on their boards or are presently recruiting student liaisons from U.W. and Marquette law schools to facilitate connections with law students. The section boards ask the student liaisons to submit articles for section blogs, provide a report at board meetings, and coordinate a social event or discussion with the board and students, so that board members can share their experiences with students and encourage them to enter their field. Sections participating include:

- Appellate Practice
- Business Law
- Children and the Law
- Civil Rights and Liberties
- Criminal Law
- Elder Law and Special Needs
- Health Law
- Intellectual Property and Technology Law
- International Practice
- Labor and Employment Law
- Litigation
- Public Interest Law

***Advocacy & Access to Justice:
Advancing State Bar Priorities***

On July 8, 2021, Governor Tony Evers signed the 2021-23 executive budget, wrapping up another biennial budget process. Despite some partial vetoes, the GOP-authored budget remained mostly intact as passed by the legislature, with significant tax relief included and without many of the proposals outlined in Evers' earlier proposed budget plan.



State Bar Senior Government Relations Coordinator Cale Battles appears on WisEye on July 14, during a legislative briefing on LRB 2890 relating to modernizing Wisconsin business statutes.

Civil legal aid funding remains at a status quo level of \$500,000 per year from TANF funds, restricted to cases of domestic abuse. The State Bar will continue to work to educate legislators on the importance of civil legal aid funding and advocate for an increase in future budget appropriations. The final budget also includes a provision to borrow \$125 million for broadband expansion grants to internet provider companies in Wisconsin, a great first step in bringing reliable, fast speed internet to all of Wisconsin's legal community and clients.

With new policy positions adopted in 2021, the State Bar is supporting legislative efforts to address racial injustice and improve the justice system, including through policing reforms and citizen engagement with law enforcement. Several new bills relating to law enforcement reform were passed during the session. Senate Bills 120, 121, 122, 123, and 124 were signed into law by Gov. Evers as Acts 75, 48, 49, 50, and 51, respectively.

What You Can Do

The State Bar encourages you to contact your legislators on issues affecting the legal profession. Use the State Bar **Advocacy Network** to send messages of support to your representatives. If you are interested in hosting a virtual or in-person meeting with your local lawmakers and/or local Bar Association, please contact Devin Martin at dmartin@wisbar.org.

The State Bar is supporting Assembly Bills 329 to 334, the Speaker's Task Force on Racial Disparity's package of reforms. Those bills were passed by that chamber on June 16 and have all been referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety, as were their companion bills, Senate Bills 470 to 476. More information and details on these or other bills can be found on the [Government Relations Advocacy Network page](#).

Finally, our grassroots work continues to connect and build strong relationships between State Bar members and their lawmakers. On July 13 and 15, the State Bar hosted virtual meetings between lawyer-legislator members and their colleagues and constituents. Sen. Lena Taylor and Sen. Eric Wimberger, and Reps. Jimmy Anderson, Gary Hebl, Evan Goyke, Tip McGuire, and Ron Tusler joined over 70 State Bar members for a discussion on State Bar advocacy and how State Bar members can best advocate for issues that impact the legal profession. On July 16, leaders from the State Bar met with Sen. Wimberger in Green Bay, who is the only attorney legislator in the Senate GOP caucus, to continue discussions on State Bar priorities.

On Sept. 9, the State Bar hosted a legislator meet and greet at State Bar Board of Governor John Macy's home in Oconomowoc. Waukesha county Reps. Scott Allen (R-Waukesha) and Adam Neylon (R-Pewaukee) attended, along with 20 other members and leaders of the State Bar and Waukesha County Bar Association. A lively discussion was followed by social time and networking.

On Sept. 17, the State Bar hosted a legislator meet-and-greet in Kenosha. Kenosha county lawmakers Sen. Van Wanggaard (R-Racine), Reps. Tod Ohnstad (D-Kenosha), Tip McGuire (D-Kenosha), and Samantha Kerkman (R-Salem), and Kenosha Mayor John Antaramian attended, along with 25 members and leaders from the State Bar and the Kenosha County Bar Association.

We look forward to hosting more meetings of this type in the future and welcome members to get engaged in the legislative process.

Continuing Our Work on Racial Justice, Diversity & Inclusion

The **Diversity & Inclusion Oversight Committee (DIOC)** met Aug. 25, 2021. Beginning June 30, 2021, Judge Kori Ashley is the committee's chair. The committee plans to reignite the Affinity Bar Leader and State Bar Leader Group that began meeting in 2019, continue the work with the law schools on diversity programs and continue to provide education and share knowledge on diversity in the legal profession.

Diversity Clerkship Program (DCP): To celebrate this year, [a virtual celebration](#) was held July 22. The program had a record number of clerks in 2021, with 27 clerks participating in the program. There is a [great article on the 2021 program](#) in the Aug. 18, 2021, issue of InsideTrack. The 2022 year begins with DCP Informational Sessions for each law school the last week in October.



Law clerk and Marquette law student Jada Davis, right, poses with Asia Patterson, an attorney with Ohiku Law Office in Milwaukee, where Davis served as clerk.

FACILITATE – Helping the Public Access the Legal System

Pro Bono: Connecting the Legal Community with Opportunities

- **Kenosha Expungement Clinic** – Just this past Tuesday, Sept. 21, the State Bar and our partners, the Kenosha County Bar Association, Legal Action of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Association of African American Lawyers, and the Urban League of Racine & Kenosha, held a free expungement legal clinic for Kenosha area residents. This event was an opportunity for area residents who have a conviction or arrest record to learn more about their legal rights and their eligibility to remove or seal that information. We also provided information about the availability of pardons. Thanks to Legal Action, all participants who volunteered were given training in advance.
- **Wills for Heroes** – This pro bono program continues to serve first responders using a hybrid model. For most clinic requests, first responders and volunteer lawyers are working together via email and videoconferencing to complete basic estate plans that are sent to the first responders with instructions for execution. One in-person clinic was held on Aug. 21 in Eau Claire where 21 first responders and their spouses were served, and a virtual clinic was held for the Madison Police Department on Aug. 31.

- **Pro Bono Portal** – The [State Bar Pro Bono Portal](#) provides an easy way for volunteers to find and connect with pro bono opportunities online. We now have 22 participating legal services organizations using the website and 226 volunteer opportunities have been posted (75 are actively recruiting).
- **Small Business Assistance** – The Business Law Section has launched their new free legal assistance effort for Wisconsin small business who have non-litigation legal issues. Volunteers staff a weekly virtual legal clinic with help from students at Marquette Law School. Since the project launched on Feb. 5, 2021, volunteers have assisted 64 small businesses in every area of the state.

- **Newsletter** – The State Bar’s new Pro Bono Highlights email newsletter was distributed to all members in August and September to provide an update on pro bono efforts, resources, and volunteers in Wisconsin.



- **Training** – The pro bono program co-sponsored a Sept. 15 volunteer training with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office and LegalCorps’ Inventor Assistance Program.

Access to Justice Commission: Expanding Help to the Unrepresented

The Access to Justice Commission, created by the Wisconsin Supreme Court at the request of the State Bar, works to expand access to the civil justice system for unrepresented low-income Wisconsin residents. Here are a few of its projects:

- **State Funding for Civil Legal Aid** – For most of the last year, the commission worked with civil legal aid stakeholders to increase Wisconsin’s state budget appropriation for civil legal services. Volunteers and staff from the State Bar government relations team, the Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation, and the newly formed Civil Legal Aid Alliance of Wisconsin to educate legislators, especially those on the Joint Finance Committee, about the need for and the return on investment from an increased state budget appropriation for civil legal aid in Wisconsin. Despite our best efforts, the effort was ultimately

unsuccessful. Wisconsin's appropriation will remain at \$500,000 per year and is limited to assistance to the use of federal TANF funds to assist victims of domestic abuse.

- **Wisconsin Free Legal Answers**, the commission's signature pro bono effort, provides an easy to use online legal clinic that is available statewide. It has over 330 registered volunteers. The program received 2,047 questions in FY21, and volunteers responded to 1,950 of them, for a 95% answer rate. The leading areas for questions in FY21 were Family (840), Tenant/Landlord (281), Consumer Debt (220), Employment (154), Real Estate (75), and Probate (61). A recent profile in the State Bar's new Pro Bono Highlights newsletter profiled former State Bar President Michelle Behnke's volunteer work with Free Legal Answers. Clients have submitted over 260 questions so far in FY22.
- **Wisconsin Law Help Website** – The commission continues working collaboratively with the State Bar's Legal Assistance Committee, the State Law Library, WisTAF, and others to develop an easy-to-use website where Wisconsin residents can search for and connect with appropriate legal resources that fit their circumstances and legal issues. The group has developed its project description and is now working on its governance and staffing model as well as funding. The project is inspired by similar legal help websites that exist in [Illinois](#), [Ohio](#), [Michigan](#), [Minnesota](#), and most other states.

Resolving Client Disputes

The State Bar's [Fee Arbitration Program](#) is a confidential and inexpensive way for clients and lawyers to resolve fee disputes. The program currently has 37 open cases. Seven new arbitration requests were received in the first two months of FY22. Arbitration hearings continue to be held via videoconference.

Increasing Awareness through the Media

Through its statewide media outreach and response efforts, the State Bar provides information, corrects inaccurate reporting, connects the media with lawyers as experts on a variety of issues, and serves as a trusted resource to journalists while highlighting the critical role and expertise lawyers play in society. Here are some recent examples of media inquiries and referrals:

- TMJ4 (Milwaukee), July 30: "[The legal ramifications of health systems requiring employee vaccinations,](#)" with referral to Atty. Shannon Toole.
- TMJ4 (Milwaukee), July 28: "[Mensah decision could cause sweeping change for prosecuting officer-involved shootings,](#)" with referral to Atty. Craig Mastantuono.
- WDJT CBS 58 (Milwaukee), Aug. 20: "[Fort McCoy to house refugees still finishing immigration paperwork,](#)" with referral to Attys. Teddy Chadwick and Gabriella Parr.

LRIS: Connecting Attorneys to Clients

The State Bar of Wisconsin [Lawyer Referral and Information Service](#) (LRIS) connects attorneys with clients who are carefully prescreened for legal issue, geographic location, and ability to pay. More than 375 lawyers serve on the LRIS panel, covering 40 practice areas. Panel members are needed who are bilingual.

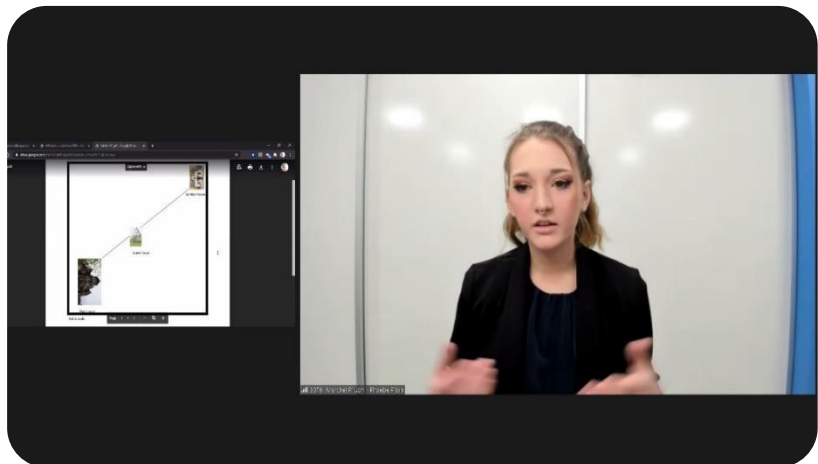
Since July 1, LRIS specialists responded to 5,569 calls from the public. Approximately one in four callers are referred to an attorney; the remaining callers are given assistance in the form of information, referrals to community or government agencies, or basic legal advice through the State Bar Lawyer Hotline.

The LRIS program continues to experience an increase in Spanish-speaking referrals and are in need of Spanish-speaking attorneys. To learn more or register as a panelist, visit [the Lawyer Referral and Information Service webpage on WisBar.org](#).

Mock Trial 2022 Is Virtual

The State Bar of Wisconsin High School Mock Trial Tournament 2022 registration opened Sept. 20. The competition will be held virtually, as it was in 2021.

This year features a civil case. A college student scores a gig at the sweetest employer in town. When they collapse on the job, they return to feel a target on their back, and next thing they know, they are fired. Were they fired for failing to follow company policies? Were they a target of discrimination for their medical condition? Were they the unfortunate fallout of sibling rivalries in management coming to a head? Or come combination thereof?



Phoebe Pilon, a “witness” for Superior High School’s mock trial team, describes an exhibit over Zoom during the Wisconsin High School Mock Trial semifinals on March 7, 2021.

Wisconsin High School Mock Trial is funded by the Wisconsin Law Foundation. To learn more about mock trial and about how to volunteer, visit the mock trial webpage, at wisbar.org/mocktrial.

Pro Hoc Vice System Upgraded

The pro hoc vice admissions has launched a new online system. Attorneys seeking to try a case in Wisconsin no longer have to mail in the documents to the State Bar, but can apply online, at wisbar.org/prohacvice. All applications must be filed and all fees paid online using the above link. Applications are no longer accepted by mail.

Advancing the Wisconsin Law Foundation's Mission

Thanks to Kevin and Roseann Lyons, Donations Make Twice the Impact

Thanks to a generous pledge by Law Foundation Board member attorney Kevin Lyons and his wife, Roseann Lyons, all donations from individuals who have not contributed to the Wisconsin Law Foundation since July 1, 2018, will be matched for a cumulative dollar total of up to \$25,000. Donations through June 30, 2022, will have twice the impact!

The Law Foundation provides funding for a broad array of programs in communities across Wisconsin, including focusing on developing the next generation of legal and civic leaders; promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives; supporting mock trial, teen courts, and restorative justice efforts; and providing grants to attorneys providing services in rural and underserved communities.

We were able to respond to these needs because of the past generosity of our donors. And now, thanks to the Lyons, donations go twice as far. Now, more than ever, please consider making a donation to your Wisconsin Law Foundation today.



Kevin and Roseann Lyons

Fellows Dinner Postponed to May 2022

It is with regret that we announce that – after much deliberation and due to the increasing uncertainties surrounding the recent surge of the COVID-19 pandemic – the 2021 Wisconsin Law Foundation Fellows Dinner is postponed until spring 2022.

The Fellows Dinner, originally scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 7, 2021, will now be held Thursday, May 5, 2022, at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

We hope that this postponement allows for us to gather for a live event, which will celebrate the Fellows classes of 2020 and 2021 and the recipients of the 2020 and the 2021 Goldberg Awards. The Fellows organization was created by the Law Foundation as a special means to honor State Bar of Wisconsin members who have achieved significant accomplishments in their careers and contributed leadership and service to their communities. In addition to this recognition, the Fellows aims to energize its members to continue their efforts in the promotion of justice, advancement of the profession, and improvement of legal education.

Fellows are lawyers, reserve or retired judges, or teachers of law who are members of the State Bar of Wisconsin in good standing, and are recognized in the legal profession for outstanding attainment in professional, public, or private careers, and for their devotion to the welfare of their community, state, and nation as well as the advancement of the legal profession.

INNOVATE – Planning Together for the Future

Law Student Outreach

State Bar staff attended Student Orientation Fairs, on Aug. 20 at Marquette Law School and on Sept. 2 at U.W. Law School, to meet the new students and educate them on the benefits of a Student Associate Membership. It is very important for the State Bar to expose law students to the benefits, services, and experiences the State Bar offers to members, so they will chose to practice law in Wisconsin and become active in the State Bar when they graduate.

New Member Onboarding

Joining the profession in a pandemic creates challenges for new lawyers. Given our COVID-19 limitations, and the inability to welcome our new members in person, we've created a series of emails sharing information on the State Bar programs and services, a video introduction to those managing the programs, and information on engagement opportunities. These "News for New Lawyers" emails are distributed biweekly for a full year.

Leadership Development Committee

Ready.Set.Practice Mentoring Program: Apply by Oct. 15

Mentors are encouraged to apply for the 2022 [Ready.Set.Practice Mentoring Program](#). If you have practiced six or more years, here's your chance to help expand someone's professional network and comfort level in the legal profession. Help mentees explore a new practice area, share your own learning experiences, use the opportunity to enhance your communication and interpersonal skills while ushering in the next generation of attorneys to the legal profession.

If you are interested in serving as a mentor, please complete the mentor application form found at wisbar.org/readyssetpractice or contact [Karen Beall](#).

This year's efforts will focus on expanding the program to more diverse attorneys and law students, with the goal of creating a more welcoming professional network. A Public Interest Law Section pilot project is underway focusing on outreach to law students interested in public interest law, and in the Elder Law and Special Needs Section, focusing on new lawyers interested in that practice area.

Leadership Development Summit Is April 9, 2022

Don't miss your opportunity to nominate a new lawyer with leadership potential and interest in State Bar volunteer service to attend this event, scheduled for April 9, 2022. An email will be sent to all leaders in November requesting your nominations.

[The Leadership Development Summit](#) provides new lawyers who have been identified as potential leaders the chance to learn about and become engaged in State Bar volunteer leadership opportunities. Discussions led by State Bar leaders focus on how to balance work, life and bar leadership; why bar leadership is a good investment; and how lawyers can find their niche in a volunteer bar opportunity. This is specifically designed for newer lawyers who have demonstrated interest in State Bar of Wisconsin involvement.

Insurance & Member Benefits Committee

Group Health Plan for Law Firms

The State Bar of Wisconsin group health plan for law firms continues to offer firms another option to consider in offering health care options to attorneys and staff. Law firms can enroll in the group health plan at any time throughout the year, not just during open-enrollment time in November.



In Dane County, coverage is available through Quartz;

throughout the rest of the state, coverage is provided by Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation (aka WPS, WPS Health Insurance, Arise Health Plan, or WPS Health Solutions).

A Group Health Plan Town Hall Meeting was held June 24. If you were unable to attend, you can view the recording [on YouTube](#). Another **Group Health Plan Town Hall** is scheduled for Sept. 29, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. [Follow this link to register](#) for this webinar.

A presentation entitled “Exploring Your Exclusive State Bar of Wisconsin Group Health Plan Benefits for Law Firms” will be held at the Solo Small Firm Conference, on Oct. 29 at 8:15-9 a.m.

Information can be obtained from the following representatives at the Professional Insurance Programs:

- Christine Nadolski, team lead – benefits, cnadolski@profinsprog.com, (414) 755-4172
- Wendy C. Block, benefits account manager, wblock@profinsprog.com, (414) 755-4185

New Member Benefits

The Insurance & Member Benefits Committee continually explores and reviews products and services to make available to State Bar members. Explore your member benefits [on the Member Benefits page on WisBar.org](#) and take advantage of the many discounts available to you as a State Bar member. These new programs will be available to members soon:

- **1-800-FLOWERS:** Find the perfect business gift with 1-800 Flowers! Explore exclusive flowers and gourmet gifts while saving on your purchases. Members save on 1-800 Flowers with their membership. Browse a full catalog of flowers, baked goods, gift baskets, and more.
- **HP Computer Equipment:** members can save up to 35% on HP products with free shipping. HP even offers personalized assistance to help find the perfect PC or other HP home and office products.
- **CaseBriefs StudyBuddy Pro:** Law student resources designed to help students succeed in law school. The platform provides students with lessons, outlines, refresher courses, issue spotting essays, multiple choice questions, and exam prep workshops.



Social Media: A Look at Top Content

Increasingly, our members engage with the State Bar and each other through our social media channels. Join the conversation; connect with us on Facebook, Twitter (@statebarofwi), LinkedIn, and Instagram (@statebarofwi). Here are some recent metrics and examples that demonstrate how social media plays a role in advancing our mission.

Facebook

Posts and metrics from May 18 – Aug. 25, 2021

The dashboard displays four key metrics:

Metric	Value	Change
Fans	4.4K	0.7%
Engagement	12K	0.7%
Impressions	422K	29.1%
Brand awareness	259	-35%

The post grid includes:

- A congratulatory post for Talana Okrusko, Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year, featuring her portrait and a grid of other award winners.
- A post titled "STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN DIVERSITY CLERKSHIP PROGRAM" with a logo.
- A post from August 2 at 11:12 AM discussing legal requirements for employer vaccination, quoting Shannon Toole.
- A promotional post for "WSSFC21 WISCONSIN SOLO & SMALL FIRM CONFERENCE 2021" with the headline "CUSTOMIZE YOUR CREDITS!".
- A video post from TMM.COM titled "The legal ramifications of health systems requiring employee vaccinations" showing a hospital setting.

Twitter

Posts and metrics from May 18 – Aug. 25, 2021



State Bar of Wisconsin @StateBarofWI · Jun 18

Let's go Bucks! 🍌 Meet Mike Sneathern, who is helping the Milwaukee Bucks succeed and thrive in his role as @Bucks' chief legal officer, bit.ly/3zeqX2q.

#wisconsinlawyer #wllawyer #wislaw #wisconsinlaw #sportslaw #FearTheDeer 🍌 #MilwaukeeBucks



State Bar of Wisconsin @StateBarofWI · Jun 21

The basic idea is simple: firms commit to candidate pools that are at least 30% diverse when hiring senior associates and partners, promoting into equity partnership, and filling management positions.

#lawpractice #diversityinlaw #diversityandinclusion #legalinnovation

Bob Ambrogio @bobambrogio · Jun 21

How An Idea Borrowed from Football is Driving Law Firm Diversity, with Lisa Kirby of Diversity Lab @DiversityLabCo @llsaskirby @LawNextPodcast lawsitesblog.com/2021/06/how-an-idea-borrowed-from-football-is-driving-law-firm-diversity/

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State Bar of Wisconsin @StateBarofWI · Jun 21

🍌 Lisa Kirby shared innovative ideas for increasing diversity & inclusion in law in Wisconsin Lawyer magazine (Feb 2020), bit.ly/39RwyEI.

@DiversityLabCo @llsaskirby

State Bar of Wisconsin @StateBarofWI · Jun 1

The State Bar recently welcomed 158 new lawyers – graduates of @mulaw. They met the challenges of a pandemic, and are just starting their legal careers. Congrats! 🍌

#younglawyers #newlawyers #lawschool #wisconsinlawyer #wisconsinlaw

Welcome to 158 New Wisconsin Lawyers: Marq...
 Spending half their law school years in a pandemic, 158 members of the Class of 2021 ...
wisbar.org

State Bar of Wisconsin @StateBarofWI · Aug 19

As US forces exit #Afghanistan, Milwaukee Atty. Kimberley Motley is once again working to help people there. Read our 2018 profile on Motley and what it was like to be the only foreign lawyer to have a practice in Afghanistan wisbar.org/NewsPublicatio...

#wisconsinlawyer #wisconsinlaw



State Bar of Wisconsin @StateBarofWI · Jun 7

Congratulations to Eau Claire Atty. Edmund Manydeeds! Elected to serve as president of the @UWSystem Board of Regents for 2021-22 school year. In 2010, he became the first Native American member of the Board of Regents.

wpr.org/uw-system-board-...

#wisconsinlawyer #wisconsinlaw



State Bar of Wisconsin @StateBarofWI · Aug 5

Don't overlook local laws in your #legalresearch!♦♦ The WI State Law Library has created a comprehensive guide to Wisconsin Ordinances and Codes.

By Bonnie Shucha @shucha @WisconsinLaw #municipallaw #wisconsinlawyer #wllawyer #wislaw #wisconsinlaw



Researching Local Law – Municipal & County L...
 When researching a legal issue, local laws are an often overlooked resource. Municipal and ...
wislawnow.com

LinkedIn

Posts and metrics from May 18 – Aug. 25, 2021



State Bar of Wisconsin
4,261 followers
3mo • 🌐

Congratulations and welcome to the profession, **University of Wisconsin Law School** graduates! 🎓 148 new lawyers were sworn in at the State Capitol this past weekend. More photos to come!

#newlawyers #younglawyers #lawstudents #lawschool #wisconsinlawyer #willawyer #wislaw #wisconsinlaw



State Bar of Wisconsin
4,261 followers
1mo • 🌐

Milwaukee residents facing eviction or foreclosure will have free access to a lawyer under a new pilot program launched with federal relief funds.

"Milwaukee saw 56,420 evictions filed between 2016 and 2020, according to Track Milwaukee Evictions. When a tenant has legal representation, 90 percent of evictions cases are dismissed or delayed — but only 3 percent of families facing eviction in a typical year have representation, according to data from the Milwaukee Eviction Defense Project."

#wisconsinlawyer #willawyer #wislaw #wisconsinlaw #landlordtenant #realestate #eviction



Milwaukee County Launches Pilot Program To Provide No-Cost Representation For Residents Facing Eviction, Foreclosure
wpr.org • 3 min read

State Bar of Wisconsin
4,261 followers
3mo • 🌐

Wisconsin has the highest percentage of women justices of any state supreme court in the nation at nearly 86 percent. As of Aug. 1, women make up nearly half of the judges on the Wisconsin Court of Appeals and about a third of judges on the state trial court bench. And the number of women on each lower court is at a record level and rising. Read the full release: https://lnkd.in/g_XEd856.

#wicourts #scowis #wisconsinlawyer #willawyer #wislaw #wisconsinlaw



State Bar of Wisconsin
4,261 followers
3mo • 🌐

Congratulations to 2021 Judge of the Year Ralph Ramirez! As a grandson of migrant workers and the first lawyer in his family, the Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge says there is both an art and a science of the bench. He shares about his career journey, outlook at court, and love for the outdoors. <http://bit.ly/sbw28408>.

#wicourts #wisconsinlawyer #willawyer #wislaw #wisconsinlaw



Instagram

Posts and metrics from May 18 – Aug. 25, 2021



statebarofwi As #PrideMonth comes to an end, we want to share one final shout out for the LGBT Bar Association of Wisconsin – an association of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender legal professionals and their allies. Visit www.lgbtbarwis.org to learn more.

#wisconsinlawyer #wisconsinlaw

[View Insights](#)

Liked by odalajohiku and 22 others



statebarofwi Renee Nawrocki, president of the Association for Women Lawyers, shares how her career has evolved since becoming a lawyer, and why she's passionate about AWL's mission to boost the careers of women lawyers in Wisconsin <http://bit.ly/sbw28412>.

Pictured: Renee Nawrocki and family on the day of AWL's When There Are 9k Run/Walk earlier this year.

#wisconsinlawyer #wilawyer #wislaw #wisconsinlaw #lawyers #womenlawyers #womeninlaw #femalelawyer

[View Insights](#)



Wisconsin State Capitol

statebarofwi Congratulations and welcome to the profession, Marquette University Law School graduates! 🎉 158 new lawyers were recently sworn in at the State Capitol.

#newlawyers #younglawyers #lawstudents #lawschool #wisconsinlawyer #wisconsinlaw #mulaw #marquettelaw @marquetteu @marquettelawschool

12w

marly0220 Congratulations, Class of 2021!

[View Insights](#)

