



VOTE FOR PRESIDENT ELECT JOHN E. DANNER

Harrold, Scrobell & Danner, S.C. - Minocqua, WI.

*Candidate For
State Bar of Wisconsin President-Elect*

“It is truly an honor to be nominated to be the 2022 President Elect. I have been actively involved with the State Bar for much of my career and will continue to do so in the future. I believe that the future of the State Bar of Wisconsin hinges on its members being involved at both the local and state levels. I also believe that it is paramount for the State Bar to move forward with the ideas and proposals set forth in the Rural Practice Initiative Report which is before the Board of Governors. Without a solution to the problem of lawyers choosing to practice in areas other than the Milwaukee, Madison and Fox Valley metropolitan areas, areas of Wisconsin will be without lawyers in private practice.

MY BACKGROUND

Graduate of the University of Iowa College of Law (1979)
Undergraduate Degree in Speech, Loras College (1972)
Graduate Study in Communication Behavior, West
Virginia (1973)

MY PRIORITIES AS PRESIDENT

Pursue all potential opportunities to encourage attorneys to
Practice in rural Wisconsin

Encourage the development of a long range financial
Plan incorporating membership projections
And Strategic Planning initiatives

Continue Cost-Benefit analyses of current Bar programs

Develop strategies to improve the public’s perception of the
Legal Profession

Continue awareness of efforts nationwide which could
impact the Mandatory/Voluntary Bar debate in Wisconsin

Continue to improve the Bar’s diversity and inclusion
programs

MY LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- State Bar Treasurer (2016-2018)
- Member State Bar Finance Committee (2016-2022)
- District 16 Governor (2012-2016)
- Board of Governors Executive Committee (2014-16)
- Member Oneida - Vilas - Forest County Bar Association
- Member of Judicial Election Steering Committee
- Wisconsin Law Foundation Fellows
- Oneida County Court Commissioner (1985-present)
- Director, Wisconsin Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company
(1998-2022)
- Rural Practice Initiative Committee (2019-2021)
- Board of Governors Reapportionment Committee Chair
(2015)
- Member and Chair of District 16 OLR Investigative
Committee (1996-2007)
- Bench Bar Relations Committee (1989-95; 2001-08)
- CLE Committee (2001-04; 2008-12)
- State Bar Membership Committee (2008-09)

PERSONAL

- Married to my wife, Randi for 44 years
- Three daughters, Stacey (Jason), Tricia (Jeremy) and
Melissa (Justin)
- Seven grandchildren, Macayla (13), Kipton (10), John
(10), Madelyn (7), Connor (7), Owen (5) and Tanner (3)

I have been in private practice in Minocqua since 1979. My focus areas have been family law, civil litigation, real estate transactions and bankruptcy. Currently, I am undertaking many of these types of cases in the role of mediator, with a great deal of success in resolving those issues.

My wife, Randi, and I have raised three daughters and have been blessed with three sons-in-laws and seven grandchildren.

State Bar Involvement

My active involvement with the State Bar began with an appointment to the Bench-Bar Relations Committee in the mid-1980s. I was chairperson for one year, and stepped aside when our youngest child developed heart issues and required surgery. I am proud to have been involved what evolved into SCR 62, Standards of Courtesy and Decorum for the Courts of Wisconsin. I also served on the CLE Committee.

I served four years as District 16 Governor prior to seeking the position of President Elect in the 2016 election. I was appointed treasurer to succeed Paul Swanson in 2016, and served a full two year term beginning in 2017.

I have served on the Finance Committee since 2016, and chaired the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors in 2018.

In addition I have served on the Judicial Election Steering Committee, the BOG Reapportionment Committee, and most recently, chaired the Rural Initiative Task Force.

Current State Bar Needs

The State Bar's demographics are changing dramatically. Fewer lawyers are graduating from law schools, and even fewer are choosing to begin or relocate their practices to the Greater Wisconsin area. That geographic area is the State of Wisconsin excluding the metropolitan areas of greater Milwaukee, Madison and the Fox River Valley. As the membership continues to age, there is a possibility that counties in Wisconsin could have no lawyers in private practice. Solutions to these demographic issues need to be found and implemented by the Bar's governors in order to ensure access to justice for all residents of the State.

SBW members need to become more involved if we are to maintain the vitality of our organization. To achieve that, the SBW needs to find ways to make participation by members more attractive. The SBW needs to adapt to the changing times just as other professions have been forced to do. There is no magic solution to deal with these issues, but I do see the need for leadership to address them in the short term.

The State Bar and the Wisconsin Legislature

During my two terms on the Board of Governors, and thereafter, I have come to the conclusion that the Bar's influence with the legislature is not as strong as it should be. The Bar's lobbying team does a fine job. The perception of the role of lawyers in our society today in general by those serving in the legislature needs to be improved. The Bar needs to find ways to improve this perception among the general public as well. I believe that we need to examine our lobbying strategy in order that the Bar's influence can be more greatly felt in the legislative process. The Bar needs to find a way to assist the legislators in governing in a bi-partisan manner as opposed to the current line drawing in the sand strategy that seems to be the daily practice.

The Ever Changing Practice of Law

The economics of practicing law is different for all Wisconsin lawyers than it was five or ten years ago. New and newer lawyers are saddled with debt that makes practicing law without other sources of income nearly impossible. Other professions, such as education and health care, have successfully obtained legislation which allows their members to have student loans forgiven should they practice their professions in certain demographic areas. While lawyers who choose government service are eligible for loan forgiveness, there is a need to expand this benefit to private practice attorneys working in less advantaged areas of the state.

The State Bar and Service to Its Members

There is a common perception among our members that the State Bar does not meet their needs. The Bar should function as if it were a voluntary organization, striving to achieve among the membership as a whole a strong desire to belong and to participate. Without participation, the Bar is weakened. I see the importance of participation and service to the Bar, and will encourage any endeavor by the Bar to impress upon its members to do the same. I will strive to maintain the level of participation in the State Bar among those who do participate, and will work to recruit those who do not participate to do so.

Vote

There are about 20,000 full time dues paying members of the State Bar of Wisconsin. In recent years, between 5,000 and 7,000 members actually vote in bar elections. It is my hope that more than fifty percent of our members actually vote this year, with the elections being conducted electronically. The Bar's Mission is to "support our members in a dynamic and diverse society in delivering valued professional services, promoting access to justice and pursuing professional satisfaction". The Bar's Vision is "Our members are the respected guardians of the dignity and integrity of the rule of law within a fair and accessible justice system." I challenge the membership to live that mission and vision in your practice, and to renew your involvement with the Bar by voting in this year's election. In so doing, I also ask that you give me your vote.