

The Bar Report

Executive Director's Report to the Board of Governors



STATE BAR
OF WISCONSIN

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JOINT LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION

SEE YOU IN SHEBOYGAN!

The beach at Kohler-Andrae State Park, Sheboygan, with a mid-September morning sunstar illuminating the waves of Lake Michigan.

We support our members in a dynamic and diverse society in delivering valued professional services, promoting access to justice and pursuing professional satisfaction.



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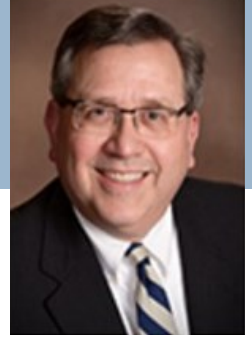
SOCIAL MEDIA

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From the desk of ...

Larry J. Martin, Executive Director



We are now a couple months into the 2023-2024 fiscal year. I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your interest in serving the legal community as a volunteer leader of the State Bar of Wisconsin. Your commitment to the highest standards of justice and fostering a thriving legal community is valued, appreciated, and needed.

I'm excited about continuing our broader initiatives in the new fiscal year, including our commitment to advocating for criminal justice reform, enhancing access to justice, and supporting the legal profession. We saw great success last year advocating for much needed increases to justice system funding. I'm hopeful that we will make headway this fall on our continuing legislative priorities, including expungement reform, juvenile jurisdiction, and the rural attorney shortage. I'm also optimistic about our DEIA initiatives as we continue growing our educational programs, mentoring opportunities, and partnerships with affinity bars. As always, we will strive to create an equitable legal community that reflects the populations we serve.

The Joint Leadership Orientation plays a pivotal role in ensuring a smooth transition of governance and setting the tone of the year ahead. It's an opportunity for Governors, Building Bridges Liaisons, Division, Committee, and Section Leaders, and State Bar staff to come together, learn more about each other, exchange ideas, and enhance your understanding of the Bar. In the year ahead, your diverse ideas, opinions, and creative solutions will be necessary for solving challenges and seizing opportunities that will better serve the courts, the public, and our members.

Finally, I want to draw your attention to the [Wisconsin Solo and Small Firm Conference](#) on Oct. 19-21 at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in the Wisconsin Dells. This is one of the State Bar's signature events. Please read more about it on page 5 and 6 of this report.

I'm truly excited about the year ahead and working with you. Again, thank you for your support. Enjoy the crisp fall weather that is ahead of us, and as always, ever forward!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry".

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

- **Stepping Up in Service to Our Communities:** State Bar of Wisconsin members and staff play essential roles in their communities by volunteering in a variety of ways. (June 2023)
- **A Template for Success:** Finally, there is good news in our efforts to address what has been a chronic funding crisis in Wisconsin's criminal justice system. (July 2023)
- **A North Star to Guide Us:** The rule of law is an unwavering beacon, one that lawyers and bar Associations should always rely on for direction and guidance. (September 2023)



Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendar

- **Upcoming Board of Governors' Meetings**
 - Dec. 1, 2023: State Bar Center, Madison
 - Feb. 23, 2024: Virtual

In-person CLE Seminars and Webinars

- **Legal Ethics 2023: New Opinions, New Rules, New Issues**
October 5, State Bar Center, Madison
- **Annual Real Estate Update 2023**
October 6, State Bar Center, Madison
- **Assessing Credibility in Any Legal Setting: What They Don't Teach You in Law School Featuring Doug Cash**
October 11, State Bar Center, Madison
- **Wisconsin Solo & Small Firm Conference 2023**
October 19-21, Kalahari Resort & Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells

For all in-person CLE seminars and conferences, visit [Wisbar MarketPlace](#).

► PINNACLE Book Spotlight

Guardianship and Protective Placement of Older Adults in Wisconsin, is now available in print and online. It is the first of several new revisions planned for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

All PINNACLE® titles, except for codebooks, are available in print and online through a **Books UnBound™** subscription. The key advantage of Books UnBound is that it can be read in the office, or on a phone, tablet, or laptop. It's perfect for court or to use in meetings with clients or colleagues. It is a great way to save time – and money.

Questions about our books, forms libraries, or consumer handbooks? Contact Publications Manager **Carol Chapman**.

► PINNACLE Seminar Spotlight: Don't Miss These Two CLE Events

Legal Ethics 2023: New Opinions, New Rules, and New Issues

Oct. 5, State Bar Center

Delve into recent ethics opinions from the State Bar Committee on Professional Ethics and get practical advice on a wide range of topics, including:

- Handling advanced fee payments under the new trust account rule
- Responding to negative criticism on social media
- Preventing conflicts of interest
- Using artificial intelligence in everyday practice
- Sharing an office with other lawyers



Wisconsin Solo & Small Firm Conference 2023 (WSSFC)

October 19-21, Kalahari Resort and Convention Center

Earn CLE, EPR, LPM, and LAU credits while getting the latest tools and techniques for a successful practice. Choose from sessions across four tracks:

- Substantive Law
- Practice Management
- Technology
- Quality of Life/Ethics



Enjoy social options at WSSFC:

- **Oct. 19:** Family Fun Night features FREE bowling, pizza and soda as well as discounted Tom Foolery tickets.
- **Oct. 20:** Dine-arounds feature a chance to socialize with friends and colleagues at local restaurants.

► The Seminar Season Is In Full Swing ...

Enjoy freedom, flexibility, convenience, and cost-savings with the State Bar of Wisconsin PINNACLE® Gold, Silver or Bronze Ultimate Pass™. You'll get the continuing legal education seminars you need, when you need them. Questions? Contact [Tim Clark](#), Seminars Manager.

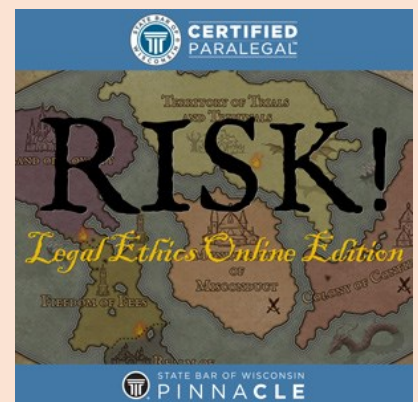
► Check Out The New State Bar Paralegal Certification Requirements

Starting in July, 2023 persons wishing to be certified by the State Bar of Wisconsin must complete 15 credits, three of which are ethics. New applicants must also have completed a minimum of 2,000 hours working as a paralegal under the supervision of a licensed attorney.

Paralegal credits include (but are not limited to):

- [Crafting Future Legacies: Paralegal Estate Planning, 2023](#)
- [Building Foundation: Probate Skills for Paralegals 2023](#)
- [Insurance Defense and the Litigation Paralegal: Going to Trial 2023](#)
- [Thorough and Efficient Legal Research with Fastcase 2023](#)
- [RISK! Legal Ethics 2023](#) (an interactive gamification)

Is your paralegal up to date with their knowledge and skills? Contact [Dan Sitzler](#), Learning and Development Specialist, or [Toni Wood](#), Registrar, for more information.



We're Working Together for the Common Good

Section Reports

The **Administrative and Local Government Section** partnered with PINNACLE on a September 19 program, "Administrative Law: Basics and Recent Developments 2023." Section members received \$20 off for in-person and webcast replays. The section hosted a networking lunch after the program. [This seminar is available on webcast.](#)

The **Elder Law and Special Needs Section** is co-producing their annual seminar with PINNACLE, "Legal Issues of the Aging" on September 22. This year's presentation features sessions on Medicaid estate recovery, income tax considerations for irrevocable trusts, and creating an accessible and inclusive practice. The section offered five scholarships to section members who were new to the practice area to encourage young attorneys to enter the practice. Section members enjoyed a networking lunch at the event. [This seminar is available on webcast.](#)

The **Environmental Law Section** held their "35th Annual Environmental Law Update" on September 14. Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul spoke on environmental challenges in the state. Presentations covered updates on air, water and PFAS. The section provided five scholarships to members who are in their first five years or working for a non-profit or government agency. The section also funded a networking lunch for attendees. [This PINNACLE seminar is available on webcast.](#)

The **Family Law Section** hosted 154 attendees at the 42nd Family Law Workshop in Sturgeon Bay on August 10-12. Attendees had the option to attend a sunset trolley tour. The programming included a mental health professionals panel discussion on burnout in the legal profession, an introduction to DFS tools and calculators, and more.

The **Intellectual Property & Technology Law Section** held their 17th Annual Intellectual Property Academy in Lake Geneva on July 20 and 21. Attendees earned CLE credit in topics such as intellectual property management, technology transfer, ethics issues, IP asset valuations in business, artificial intelligence and patent research. Attendees also enjoyed a boat tour.



Artificial Intelligence panel members (L to R): Professor BJ Ard, Christopher Shattuck, Nicholas Jensen, and Alexander Lodge. This was a demonstration of how AI works; asking it to create Spiderman in the form of Monet.

The **Indian Law Section** held their Eleventh Annual Indian Law CLE in Oneida/Green Bay on August 17 and 18. This CLE focused on two supreme court cases: *Brackeen v. Haaland* and *Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians et al. v. Coughlin*. Other topics included jurisdictional disputes, ethics in human resources, and avenues for tribal water protection. Approximately 70 people attended the CLE.



Indian Law Section Board Members (L to R): Jeff Simmons, Lorenzo Gudino, Martina Gast, Ashley Duffy, Robert Lundberg, and Andrew Morgan.

The **Litigation Section** made a \$5,000 donation to the Wisconsin High School Mock Trial Program, a \$3,000 donation to University of Wisconsin Law School's Mock Trial program, and a \$3,000 donation to Marquette University Law School's Mock Trial program. These are one-time donations to ensure the continuance of these important programs.

13 Sections Offer Student Liaison Board Positions

The following sections have a law school student liaison(s) on their board:

- Administrative & Local Government
- Business Law
- Children and the Law
- Civil Rights and Liberties
- Criminal Law
- Dispute Resolution
- Elder Law and Special Needs
- Health Law
- International Practice
- Labor and Employment Law
- Litigation
- Public Interest Law
- Real Property, Probate and Trust

► Division Reports

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

The **Young Lawyers Division** held its orientation and first board meeting of the year in August where they discussed goals for the upcoming year, including planning the 14th Annual Young Lawyers Conference which will be held on March 8, 2024, in Madison. Following orientation, the division hosted an evening networking reception. They are planning an upcoming CLE with networking reception at The Listmore Hotel in Eau Claire on November 10.

Nonresident Lawyers Division (NLRD): The State Bar leadership trio of President Dean Dietrich, NRLD President Melodie Wiseman and Executive Director Larry Martin communicate with NLRD members living in areas impacted by hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes, and natural disasters in FEMA-declared disaster areas. Since June, communications have been distributed to members living in Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Tennessee, Mississippi and Vermont reminding them that WisLAP and Practice411 are available to them, as a member benefit, to help them cope with the challenges they are facing.

► Committee Reports

The **Diversity Inclusion & Oversight Committee (DIOC)** recently welcomed new committee members Khalil Davis and Juan Ramirez. DIOC is maintaining open communication with Affinity Bar Leaders.

The **Diversity Counsel Program**, a working group of the Communication and Education Subcommittee, is developing a December program, "Unlocking the Power of Diversity: Effective Strategies for Retaining and Promoting Diverse Talent." The program will feature keynote speaker Sherri Ann Charleston, J.D., Ph.D., Harvard University's first Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer. She is an alumna of U.W.-Madison Law School. Joining Dr. Charleston will be Judge Ashley Morse, Rock County Circuit Court. Judge Morse will be the panel moderator.

Law Student Outreach (LSO): The State Bar is committed to exposing law students to the benefits, services and experiences the State Bar offers to members so they will choose to practice law in Wisconsin and become active in the State Bar when they graduate. The group is working on new offerings to the Diversity Clerkship Program. Staff attended the New Student Orientation at Marquette. There were 196 1L students in attendance.

Data & Research, a subcommittee of the DIOC, is working to promote and retain diverse attorneys in the state, will be hosting a networking event for the law students. The first will be in Milwaukee in September and the second will be in Madison in March.

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

► **Legislature Fall Schedule Is Set**

Beginning in September, the legislature resumes floor sessions and public hearings. Fall floor periods are scheduled from Sept. 12 through Sept. 21, Oct. 10 through Oct. 19, and Nov. 7 through Nov. 16. After that, the legislature will break and return Jan. 16, 2024, for the start of the spring floor period. In between floor periods, both chambers will hold committees on legislation, giving the public the opportunity to weigh-in on legislation.

► **Grassroots Advocacy Key to Educating Lawmakers, Passing Bills**

The continued grassroots support of our State Bar Board of Governors, their colleagues and constituents is critical this fall as the Advocacy and Access to Justice Team works to educate lawmakers on expungement reform, returning 17-year-olds to juvenile criminal courts, and the rural attorney shortage issue.

Please send a message through the [State Bar Advocacy Network](#). You can use a prewritten message or write your own message. Either way, we've made it easy. If you have already sent a message, we encourage you to send a follow up.

Expungement reform, introduced this session as [AB 37](#) and [SB 38](#), faces similar challenges and headwinds as in previous years. In past sessions, the Assembly overwhelmingly passed the legislation, but struggled to receive the same support in the Senate. If this session is to be different, it will require grassroots support from State Bar members. One way to make an impact on this bill is to reach out to State Bar Advocacy staff and coordinate with your colleagues living in key state Senate districts.

The issue of **returning 17-year-olds to juvenile jurisdiction** courts seems to be gaining some traction, with a bill expected to be introduced sometime this fall. Of course, introducing a bill is by no means an indication of whether it will pass, and the State Bar will be working to generate grassroots support for this topic. Be on the lookout for "action alert" emails to help amplify and coordinate the voice of the legal profession on this topic.

Other grassroots advocacy highlights: a new **civil legal aid** action alert was sent to all members and partner organizations of the Civil Legal Aid Alliance of Wisconsin on June 13. It was targeted to all 16 legislators serving on the Joint Finance Committee, urging them to vote for a motion to make a substantial increase in civil legal aid funding. A similarly targeted message was sent to members of the Joint Finance Committee asking them to include modest funding for the Judicial Council.

► Celebrating Lawyers For Their Pro Bono Work

The [Pro Bono Honor Society](#) and the State Bar of Wisconsin recognized 296 lawyers who donated at least 50 hours of pro bono service in 2022. That adds up to at least 14,800 hours. Read a few stories of why lawyers volunteer their time and expertise to help resource challenged individuals with their legal needs in [InsideTrack](#).

If you do pro bono work, be sure to track your hours! The deadline to certify your 2023 pro bono hours is March 1, 2024. Forms are available on the Pro Bono Honor Society page noted above.

► Find Pro Bono Opportunities Based on Your Interest and Time

Did you know the State Bar Pro Bono Portal offers 61 volunteer opportunities (as of Sept. 5, 2023)? You can sort these opportunities by engagement type, practice area, causes & communities, location and more. [Learn more here](#).

► Consumer Protection Program Updates

The [Fee Arbitration Program](#) will be training new volunteer panelists on September 27. When disputes occur, two or three trained arbitrators listen to arguments presented by both sides. The decisions made are final and binding, subject only to the appeal rights under Chapter 788, Wisconsin statutes. Panelists may be lawyers and members of the public.

The [Wisconsin Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection](#) is designed to provide reimbursement to clients who have incurred financial losses due to dishonest conduct of their attorneys. Volunteers will be considering at least 26 applications at the committee's October 3 meeting.

➤ Connecting Attorneys with Clients

The State Bar of Wisconsin Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS), available in English and Spanish, connects attorneys with clients who are carefully prescreened for legal issue, geographic location, and ability to pay. LRIS panel members are needed across Wisconsin. [Learn more here.](#)

LRIS By the Numbers:

36,103

Calls to the LRIS Program in FY22-23

9,122

Referrals to participating LRIS panel members in FY22-23

683

Calls per week

152

Individuals who have used the 24/7 online self-referral program (May 15-Aug. 25, 2023)

➤ Wisconsin High School Mock Trial Season Starts September 18

Since its inception in 1983, the Wisconsin High School Mock Trial Program has brought our legal system to life for thousands of students. Students gain a deeper understanding of the court system as they develop their arguments and build their cases.

The Mock Trial program is funded by a generous grant from the [Wisconsin Law Foundation](#), the charitable arm of the State Bar of Wisconsin, supporting law-related and public service programs statewide.



Interested in volunteering for Mock Trial?
[Learn more here.](#)

Mark Your Calendar: Mock Trial Key Dates

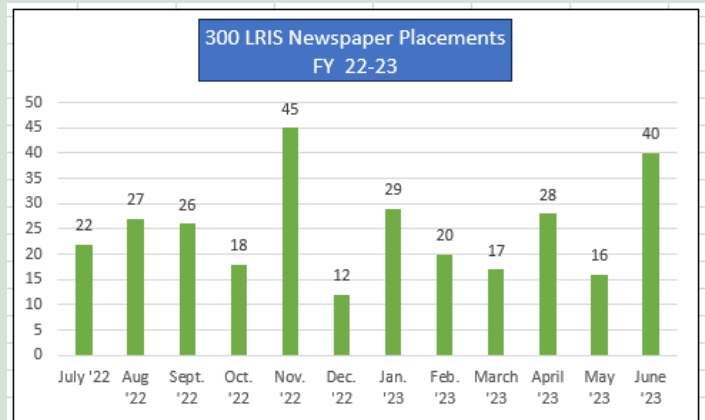
Online registration	Sept. 18, 2023	Regional competition	Feb. 3, 2024
Case Release	Oct. 2, 2023	State competition	March 2&3, 2024
Final Entry Deadline	Nov. 13, 2023	Final round	March 4, 2024
Team Drop Deadline	Dec. 11, 2023	National Championship	May 2-4, 2024, <i>Wilmington, Delaware</i>

► Helping the Public Understand Legal Issues

Know Your Legal Rights, a bi-monthly legal newspaper column written by members of the State Bar and distributed by the Wisconsin Newspaper Association, appeared in 300 newspapers across the state in FY '22-23.

Stories published in June, July and August included:

- **Custody issues for unmarried parents**
(By AnnMarie Sylla, Schott, Publitz & Engle, s.c., Waukesha)
- **Protecting yourself from fraud during home renovations**
(By Kevin Trost, Trost LLC, Madison)
- **Legal Avenues in dealing with bad neighbors**
(By Ralph E. Johnson, Axley Brynelson LLP, Janesville)
- **What Wisconsinites need to know about marijuana legalization in neighboring states**
(By Michael Forella III, Forella Law Offices, Kenosha)
- **What are the legal pitfalls of setting off your own fireworks?**
(By Michelle Wenninger, Wenninger Law LLC, West Bend)
- **Legal protections for whistleblowers**
(By Will Kramer, Pines Bach LLP, Madison)



All State Bar members are eligible to write these legal columns with preference given to panel members in the State Bar Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS) panel members first, as the columns are sponsored by LRIS. To learn more, contact [Mike Wiltse](#), Public Relations Manager.

► Spotighting Issues: Facilitating and Promoting Media Coverage

The State Bar was involved in the following media stories:

- *CAP Times*: **"ChatGPT has wrecked legal cases, but can lawyers use AI ethically?"** (Aviva Kaiser, Ethics Counsel) *Estimated Audience: 76,000*
- *Wausau Pilot & Review*: and *WAOW-TV (Wausau)*: **"Longtime Wausau attorney named State Bar president"** and **"State Bar of Wisconsin president talks future goals"** (Dean Dietrich) *Estimated Audience: 100,333*
- *WXOW-TV* and *WLAX/WEAU-TV (La Crosse)*: **"Judge Gonzalez receives Lifetime Jurist Award"** and **"La Crosse Co. judge receives Lifetime Jurist Award"** (Judge Ramona Gonzalez) *Estimated Audience: 78,782*

- *Reuters* and seven other media outlets: **“Wisconsin high court rejects state bar diversity training proposal”** (Dean Dietrich) *Estimated Audience: 15.2 million*
- *Wisconsin State Journal*: **“Pay hike will help ensure just court system in Wisconsin”** *Estimated Audience: 466,000*
- *Chicago Tribune, AP, and 81 other media outlets*: **“Wisconsin Republicans propose raises for public defenders, Prosecutors”** *Estimated Audience: 46.5 million*
- *Black News*: **“George Floyd’s death impact on health care and law as shootings and crime skyrocket past post-pandemic peak”** (Margaret Hickey) *Estimated Audience: 433*

May 15—August 25 Media Update

Source: Meltwater Media Monitoring

- 450**
Mentions
- 118.6**
Million
- \$1.76**
Million
- Mentions** include stories where the State Bar of Wisconsin name is mentioned. The mention may have resulted from media pitches, statement responses, sponsored stories, and news issued by members. The story may be positive, neutral or negative. It does not reflect all Legal Rights columns produced by State Bar members.
- Estimated Reach** (People who may have seen the stories.) Meltwater’s estimation numbers were reduced by 1/3 to offer a conservative estimate.
- Advertising dollar equivalency** is what a media buyer would pay if the story was an advertisement or paid advertorial. The numbers are an estimate and not an exact value.

Promoting Public Understanding of the Law: Wisconsin Law Foundation

Law Foundation Ends Fiscal Year Strong

Thanks to our generous donors, the Wisconsin Law Foundation ended the Fiscal Year 2023 strong, with a surge of donations coming in via membership dues thanks to our “Every Member Every Year” campaign.

Donations were significantly up, while operating expenses came in under budget. In addition, investment income dramatically increased in the final quarter, with a record amount in grants continuing to expand donors’ impact.

With both fundraising and investments combined, the Law Foundation’s total assets grew \$302,752 this year, a 12% increase over FY22.

On behalf of our donors, the Law Foundation distributed a record \$67,563 in scholarships, awards and grants to organizations, programs, and services across the state. In 2024, the Foundation will extend \$70,536. To give you a sense of the growth in impact, the Foundation awarded \$26,782 in 2013. That was the first year in which the Foundation implemented a policy of spending no more than 4% of the Law Foundation’s corpus.

This allows the Foundation to grow and move toward a fully sustainable funding model. The last decade's steady growth in distributions demonstrates the wisdom and value of this approach.

Thank you to donors throughout the year who continue to move the Wisconsin Law Foundation's mission and work forward.

► Fellows to Gather in Madison October 10 to Honor 2023 Class

The Annual Wisconsin Law Foundation Fellows Recognition Dinner is set for Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at Monona Terrace in Madison. The Fellows will honor new inductees and present the Charles L. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award, given annually to one lawyer in recognition of lifetime service in the public interest.

The Fellows program recognizes State Bar members who have demonstrated outstanding legal ability and devotion to the wellbeing of their community, state, and nation, as well as to the advancement of the legal profession. Opportunity to join the Fellows is limited to 2.5% of the State Bar's total membership and is extended, by nomination, to only to a limited number of Wisconsin lawyers each year.

► Every Member, Every Year

The Wisconsin Law Foundation is continuing its "Every Member, Every Year" campaign to support and expand our mission and work.

We are asking every member to give a donation of any amount to your Law Foundation at least once every year.

Ways to Give

- Include a donation on line 9 of your State Bar dues statement;
- Donate online at wisbar.org/wlfdonate; or
- Use your phone camera to scan the QR code:



To scan the code, open the camera app on your phone, then point the camera at the QR code and a banner will appear. When you tap the banner, it opens the donation webpage on WisBar.org.

Cultivate

We're Planning Together for the Future

► Providing Ethics Guidance

The Ethics Program provides guidance regarding Wisconsin's Rules of Professional Conduct for Attorneys. Ethics counsel delivered 22 presentations from June 6 to August 22, with five through PINNACLE. A sampling includes:

- "Responding to Online Criticism, (PINNACLE)
- "Ethics of Witness Preparation" (PINNACLE)
- "What We've Got Here is Failure to Communicate"
- "Fee Agreements, Credit Cards, and Trust Obligations (PINNACLE)
- "When James Joyce Met Vladimir Lenin: Ethical Challenges with Chat GPT"
- "Lawyering for Tribes: The Ethical Challenges of Group Lawyering"

Ethics Counsel wrote two articles, including:

- "[Dilemma: Practicing in Two States: Do I Need Two Trust Accounts?](#)" (*InsideTrack*)
- "[Dilemma: Can I Respond To Online Criticism?](#)" (*InsideTrack*)

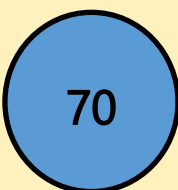
The Ethics Committee also issued two new ethics opinions:

- [Wisconsin Formal Ethics Opinion EF-23-01 Responding to Online Criticism](#)
- [Wisconsin Ethics Opinion EF-23-02 Guardian ad Litem Conflicts and Informed Consent, Confidentiality and other Obligations under the Rules of Professional Conduct](#)

► Prioritizing the Well-being of Lawyers

The Wisconsin Lawyers Assistance Program (WisLAP) offers confidential well-being support to the legal community. WisLAP staff are available for consultations, mental health trainings, and well-being presentations. Additionally, WisLAP trained volunteers are available for individualized peer-to-peer support upon request. [Schedule a consult here](#). It's quick, easy and confidential!

WisLAP By the Numbers (June 1, 2023 to August 20, 2023)



Member consultations



Attendance at trainings and presentations

WellNEWS: A Member Benefit: Did You Know WisLAP offers WellNEWS? WellNEWS is a quarterly publication (written by members) focused on well-being, self-care, mental health, and work-life balance. Help support the Wisconsin legal community by writing an article on any of these topics. Both the June and March publications can be found on wisbar.org. [Read them here.](#)

► The 2024 AMC is in Green Bay!

Mark your calendars! The State Bar Annual Meeting & Conference is scheduled for June 20-21, 2024, at the Hyatt Regency KI Center in Green Bay. This year's event will be complete with a social event at the Champion's Club overlooking Lambeau Field.

The AMC is an excellent opportunity to connect with judges and lawyers from around the state. More than 40 judges and justices from the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and Circuit Court levels joined State Bar members at AMC in Milwaukee to connect and learn together. More details will be released as 2024 plenary speakers are identified.

As a Board of Governor member, and a leader within the state, this is a great opportunity for you to sponsor the AMC and promote your law firm or organization throughout the state. For more information, contact [Crystal Brabender](#), Advertising Sales Manager. If you are a BOG liaison to sections and divisions, please remind them that RFPs for CLE breakout sessions are due no later than October 16.

► Welcoming New Lawyers to the State Bar

Joining the legal profession can be challenging and learning about all the programs and services available to young lawyers can be overwhelming. As a result, the State Bar developed an email campaign on State Bar programs and services, video introductions to program managers, and information on engagement opportunities. Using a recognizable "News for New Lawyers" banner, these emails are distributed twice a month for a full year and intended to encourage young lawyers to take advantage of the many programs and services available to them.

► Practice411: Supporting the Business of Law

The State Bar's Practice411™ Program continued supporting solo and small firm members through Law Practice Management Discussion Group meetings. The August and September roundtable discussions were hosted by Ethics Counsel Aviva Kaiser.

Practice Manager Chris Shattuck gave the following CLE presentations to groups or in conjunction with State Bar's PINNACLE seminars:

- "Artificial Intelligence for Senior Lawyers" (Senior Lawyers Division)
- "Is Your Firm Ready for the New Trust Account Rule Changes" (WALA)
- "Wisconsin Law Firm Self-Assessment" (PINNACLE seminar)

Shattuck also wrote, "[Get a Free Check-up: Complete the Updated Law Firm Assessment.](#)" (*Wisconsin Lawyer*)

► G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy Begins in November

Thank you to those who nominated candidates for the G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy. The selection for this year's class has taken place and sessions will be held on the following dates:

- Session 1: November 3 & 4, 2023
- Session 2: January 19 & 20, 2024
- Session 3: April 19 & 20, 2024

► Don't Delay: Apply For the Ready.Set.Practice. Mentoring Program

Application period for Mentors and Mentees Ends October 15

Recruitment is underway for the 2024 Ready.Set.Practice. Mentoring Program. If you have practiced six or more years, here's your chance to help new lawyers establish connections and build confidence as they enter 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.

Extra focus is being given to assist law students who are looking to build a welcoming network before they graduate from law school. Any lawyers interested in helping law students by answering their career-focused questions are encouraged to apply, especially new lawyers who can relate their recent experiences transitioning out of law school and into the workforce.

If you are interested in serving as a mentor for a new attorney or law student, please contact [Karen Beall](#). Learn more at [Ready.Set.Practice](#).

► Nominate a New Lawyer For The Leadership Development Summit

[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 focus on how to balance work, life and bar leadership; why bar leadership is a good investment for you and your career; and helps lawyers find their niche in a volunteer bar opportunity. This is specifically designed for newer lawyers who demonstrate interest in State Bar of Wisconsin involvement.

Don't miss your opportunity to nominate a new lawyer with leadership potential who is interested in State Bar volunteer service to attend this event scheduled for April 20, 2024. Look for a call for nominations in November detailing the program and asking for your nominations.

► Now Is the Time To Explore Health Insurance Rates

With increasing wages, inflation, medical utilization, and sky-rocketing pharmaceutical costs, health care coverage premiums continue to rise. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, small employers continue exploring alternative health care options and the percentage of workers covered by these alternative arrangements has increased from 21% in 2019 to 41% in 2022.^[1] Before reducing coverage, decreasing employer contributions, or eliminating coverage completely for attorneys and law firm staff, consider exploring the State Bar's group health plan for law firms as a cost-saving option.

The group health plan for law firms provides another option to consider in offering health care options to attorneys and staff. November's open enrollment timeframe brings this topic to the forefront, but law firms can enroll in this group health plan at any time throughout the year, not just during the open-enrollment period. Coverage is provided by Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation (a/k/a WPS, WPS Health Insurance).

A presentation entitled "Take Control of Health Insurance with the State Bar of Wisconsin Group Health Plan for Law Firms" will be held live at the Solo Small Firm Conference on Friday, October 20 at 8:00 am with a webinar replay on November 8.

Information and quotes can be obtained from [Christine Nadolski](#), Team Lead—Benefits, Professional Insurance Programs, (414) 755-4172.

^[1] Issue Brief, Drivers of 2024 Health Insurance Premium Changes, July 2023, page 4.

► State Bar Meetings: New Registration Tool Coming Soon

The State Bar is developing a new way for members to RSVP for non-fee meetings online via Marketplace. Here is how it will work:

- Members will receive an email notification of their meeting with a link to Marketplace where they will register. It will have a similar look as the State Bar Seminars registration page.
- The member (who is qualified to attend a board or committee meeting) will be able to step through and select their Attending/Attending Virtual/Not Attending response and other options, then complete the registration for \$0.
- Members will have a secure option for their administrative assistant to register for meetings on their behalf, if they wish.
- If there is a fee associated with a meeting, the member will be able to pay for it by debit or credit card.

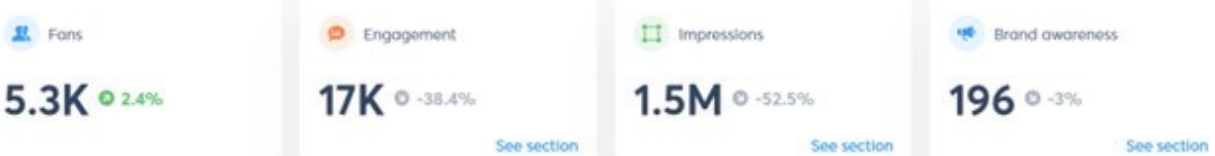
This pilot project is undergoing rigorous testing. Once complete, staff will be trained to use it for meetings.

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 23 – Aug. 26, 2023 (compared to period prior)



LinkedIn

Posts and metrics from May 23 – Aug. 26, 2023 (compared to period prior)

Followers

6.2K +4.6%

Engagement

14K +9.8%

Impressions

158K -6.2%



State Bar of Wisconsin
6,251 followers
3w • 🌐

Today we welcome newly sworn-in Justice Janet Protasiewicz to the Wisconsin Supreme Court and thank outgoing Justice Patience Roggensack for her decades of service on the bench.

Learn more about Justice Roggensack's important impact on the court. Read our feature in Wisconsin Lawyer magazine. <https://lnkd.in/g/RnctEUf>.

#wisconsinlawyer #wisconsinlaw #scowis #wicourts



State Bar of Wisconsin
6,251 followers
1mo • 🌐

She's an in-house counsel who discovered law almost by accident – but loves the legal profession as a way to effect real change in people's lives. Get to know Racine attorney Jeunesse Rutledge, president of the Association for Women Lawyers, an organization that promotes the welfare, interests, and professional development of lawyers who are women. <https://bit.ly/sbw29862>

#wisconsinlawyer #wisconsinlaw #wisbar #womanlawyer



State Bar of Wisconsin
6,251 followers
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Ronnie V. Murry II has been appointed to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court – Branch 18. The appointment will fill the vacancy being created by Judge Pedro Colón's appointment to the Court of Appeals – District I, effective Nov. 19, 2023. Murry will complete a term ending July 31, 2024.

Murry has been a federal public defender in Milwaukee since 2015, where he represents indigent criminal defendants in the Eastern District of Wisconsin and before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Previously, he served as an assistant state public defender in Green Bay, representing indigent clients in criminal, juvenile, and civil commitment proceedings.

Murry is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater and UW Law School. He is active in the Milwaukee Bar Association and the Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Association.

Full press release: <https://lnkd.in/g/TNv63Ph>

#wisconsinlawyer #wisconsinlaw #wicourts



State Bar of Wisconsin
6,251 followers
2mo • 🌐

🌟🌟 What an event! Scenes from Annual Meeting & Conference. Thank you to the lawyers, judges, speakers, staff, exhibitors, and many others for making this year's #SBWAmc one to remember! 🌟🌟

Loads more photos on our Facebook page, <https://lnkd.in/g/kTQ4m58>

#wisconsinlawyer #wisconsinlaw #wisbar



Twitter

Posts and metrics from May 23 – Aug. 26, 2023 (compared to period prior)

State Bar of Wisconsin @StateBarofWI Promote

They are members of the legal community who make a difference – by mentoring others, offering pro bono services, and so much more. Congrats to these legal superstar! 🌟👏

📷 Lots more photos on our Facebook page facebook.com/StateBarofWI/

#sbwamc #wisconsinlawyer #wisconsinlaw



State Bar of Wisconsin @StateBarofWI Promote

Kicking off the Annual Meeting & Conference with opening remarks from Chief Justice Annette Ziegler and a fascinating discussion on cancel culture.

#wisconsinlawyer #wisconsinlaw #sbwamc



State Bar of Wisconsin @StateBarofWI Promote

To mark #PrideMonth, the State Bar hoisted the Pride Flag here at the Bar Center. We observe this time to celebrate the progress made in advancing inclusiveness and equality, while reflecting on how we can continue, as a community, to move forward together.



State Bar of Wisconsin @StateBarofWI Promote

Congratulations to new State Bar president Dean Dietrich! Sworn in ahead of #SBWamc. More great pics from the ceremony to come! 🌟👏

#wisbar #wisconsinlawyer



State Bar of Wisconsin @StateBarofWI

You've always got a friend at #SBWamc! 🌟 This is pretty amazing. 🌟 Snag those selfies

Kevin J. Palmersheim @KevJPalmersheim - Jun 14

See friends this wk at State Bar of Wis.'s Annual Mtg & Conf.-including "Superhero" non-resident lawyer Nilesch Patel. Take a photo with Nilesch, post to Twitter, Facebook or Insta with #SBWamc hashtag, & be in a drawing for new AirPods. Feel free to tag @StateBarofWI & @Mahalaw



Instagram

Posts and metrics from May 23 – Aug. 26, 2023 (compared to period prior)



statebarofwi Congratulations! 🎉👏
Welcome to these new lawyers,
graduates of the U.W. Law School. 🌟

🌟 New lawyers: Welcome to the profession! As you begin your career, we hope you'll continue engaging with your State Bar of Wisconsin. We have a ton of resources available for young lawyers. Info at www.wisbar.org/memberbenefits

Best wishes!

📷 Photos from each admissions group on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StateBarofWI/>



statebarofwi

statebarofwi How can lawyers take extreme ownership of their career? Milwaukee-based attorney Nate Cade, a heavy-hitting litigator who often works on high-profile cases, shares tips for honing your craft. 🎧 Check out the full interview at www.wisbar.org/podcast or wherever you get your podcast.

#wisconsinlawyer #wisconsinlaw #wisbar #wislawnow #bottomup #podcast #newlawYER #younglawYER #lawpractice #lawstudent #lawyerlife

12w

ovblaw Another episode! ❤️

[View insights](#)

11 likes
MAY 20

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statebarofwi A few photos from yesterday's Western District Law Clerk & New Associate Day in Madison. The event provides young lawyers with an overview of what practice before the federal court entails. Thank you to the the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin for hosting a great presentation! 🌟 The State Bar provided breakfast for the event.

Special thanks to the speakers:

Joel W. Turner
Clerk of Court - District Court

James D. Peterson
Chief District Judge

[View insights](#)

Larry is on Twitter!

Larry Martin is actively engaging with members and thought-leaders on Twitter (@LarryJMartinED). Connect with him! A selection of his recent tweets are below.

Larry J. Martin
@LarryJMartinED

Continuing my travels this summer, meeting 1 on 1 w/21 new members of @StateBarofWI Bd of Governors. This week, meetings in Wausau, Madison & SE WI, including a great meeting with Elizabeth Stinebaugh, Racine Governor. It's going to be another great year! @LegalActionWI



Larry J. Martin
@LarryJMartinED

I get to work with an incredible team of @StateBarofWI colleagues who in addition to serving our members, have a strong ethic of giving back to their communities. @Practice411 @NABE_News @ABABarServices @ABAJournal @LASMilwaukee @WIJudicare @LegalAid

State Bar of Wisconsin @StateBarofWI - Jun 23
State Bar members and staff play essential roles in their communities by volunteering in a variety of ways.

By Larry J. Martin @LarryJMartinED

#wisconsinlawyer #wisconsinlaw #wisbar
wisbar.org/NewsPublicatio...

Larry J. Martin
@LarryJMartinED

Just had a great lunch meeting up in Keshena at the Menominee Casino Resort with new @StateBarofWI Board of Governor Luis Garza, representing District 10. Another great leader joining the board! @Practice411 @SGWRolundaRpt



Larry J. Martin
@LarryJMartinED

On the road again this summer meeting with members where they live & work. Yesterday, traveling buddies OLR Director @TCSamuelson & @ccshattuck @Practice411 and I met with members in Stevens Point, Wausau & Baraboo. A great day connecting! @NABE_News @RuderWare



Larry J. Martin
@LarryJMartinED

Greatly enjoyed attending @MKE_bar Annual Meeting last night. Proud of my friend & @StateBarofWI Board member @Emil_Esq who was sworn in as the new MBA President. A great leader! Now I'm off to the start of #sbwamc! @Practice411 @NABE_News



Larry J. Martin
@LarryJMartinED

Kicking off @StateBarofWI #sbwamc in Milwaukee Tuesday w/ a Board of Governor's service project - @mulaw Volunteer Legal Clinic @ House of Hope. Provided free, brief legal help. Proud of @marghick_hickey leadership in bringing us together. amc.wisbar.org @NABE_News

