



G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy

Here is what past participants of the G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy had to say about the program:

"My participation in the G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy gave me the great opportunity to meet and network with a diverse group of attorneys from all over the state with varying practices. The Leadership Academy not only enhanced my communication skills, but inspired me to increase my involvement with the State Bar of Wisconsin. I absolutely recommend lawyers from all backgrounds to consider participating in the Leadership Academy." – **Makda Fessahaye** *(Class of 2016-17)*

"It was inspiring to be in the room with so many interesting attorneys in various stages of their careers. It was meaningful to hear from an impressive list of professionals (judges, professors, and psychologists) on a range of topics that we can all put into practice, regardless of our practice areas." – **Kristen Hardy** *(Class of 2016-17)*

"The Leadership Academy really showed me how to recognize that everyone has different leadership styles and learning styles. Once you recognize that fact, you are better equipped to capitalize on critical leadership skills to successfully work with others, whether in a professional or personal setting." – **Renaë Flowers** *(Class of 2016-17)*

"The creators of the Leadership Academy put considerable thought into the design of the program, incorporating different perspectives on leadership and communication. The program effectively combined practical tips with more abstract and theoretical concepts, providing us holistic guidance on what it takes to be an effective leader at work, in the community, and socially. In my 15 years of practice, this was the most effective and engaging program I've ever attended." – **Dave Turek** *(Class of 2016-17)*

"My experience with the Leadership Academy was eye opening and beneficial because it enabled me to recognize leadership attributes I already possessed and identified leadership attributes that I need to work on as part of my personal journey to become a better leader and a better lawyer." – **Dawn Klockow** *(Class of 2018-19)*

"The G. Lane Ware Academy was an invaluable resource for developing my understanding of what it takes to be a leader in the legal community. I have already benefited from many practical aspects of the presentations and hands-on training provided. I highly recommend the program to any attorney looking for guidance on how to manage the daily stresses of a legal career while creating a vision for their future role in the Bar." – **Eileen Dorfman** *(Class of 2018-19)*

"I have been an attorney for 30 years. Attending the G. Lane Ware Academy proved that a person is never too old or too experienced to learn many new things. The Academy offered new perspectives and taught me many fresh and innovative principles on leadership, conflict management, networking, public speaking, and time management. I walked away from each session with very practical information that I have been able to use in my workplace and in my practice. I also met some of the best people in the program and look forward to long-lasting relationships with all of them. I cannot say enough about the outstanding quality of the Academy, and would encourage any attorney to take advantage of the learning and the experience." – **Lisa Bergersen (Class of 2018-19)**

"I can't say enough about how much I enjoyed the G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy. It is such a great atmosphere not only to learn about leadership but to learn about yourself. I was surprised by the diverse group of attorney attendees and to see that despite the diverse background and practice areas that we shared many of the same struggles in our development as attorneys. This is not your typical CLE where it's a race to get through the slides. It is interactive, enlightening, and entertaining. You develop relationships with the presenters and the attendees, which is incredibly unique and so valuable. We were already talking about when we can get together before the Academy had even finished!" – **Jonathan Klock (Class of 2018-19)**

"The G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy provided an invaluable opportunity for me to not only learn new leadership skills, but also to be introspective and honestly identify and assess the leadership skills I already possess. The faculty and my fellow attendees created an environment where we were comfortable to take risks and grow both as individuals and leaders. I am honored to have had the opportunity to learn, network, and grow with colleagues that I now consider friends." – **Melissa Spindler (Class of 2018-19)**

"Participating in the G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy was a life-changing experience. It gave me the opportunity to develop my leadership skills and unearth skills I did not yet possess. I appreciate the academy's diversity both in private and public sector attorneys but also in culture. My colleagues were some of the most engaging and thought-provoking people I have been around and I'm a better listener, leader, and attorney because of our various interactions. I would highly recommend the Leadership Academy." – **Saveon Grenell (Class of 2018-19)**

"For the majority of my professional life, I have maintained the belief that there is so much that I don't know, that surely I cannot possess any leadership traits. The G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy opened my eyes to discredit that belief. Through my participation in this program, I gained a new sense of professional self-worth, was able to recognize leadership attributes I already possessed, and allowed me to find a creative way to combine the skills I had with the skills I learned. It has been a very satisfactory journey. Kudos to the Leadership Development Committee for creating a practical and fun program to teach us how to be better lawyers." – **Cynthia Herber (Class of 2018-19)**

"The Leadership Academy provided useful written resources that I was able to share with my leadership in developing our office culture. We didn't have to reinvent the wheel which is incredibly helpful for anyone with a small practice. Apart from tangible resources, I was able to meet industry experts, judges, and other lawyers that have helped expand my network outside of my area of practice and into other parts of Wisconsin. I can now tap a greater and stronger network and bolster my practice." – **Asma Kadri (Class of 2018-19)**

"The Leadership Academy provided me with the confidence and tools to become a leader at my law firm and in my areas of practice. I'm already seeing the benefits of the program in my career as it has helped me see my potential, pursue opportunities for leadership and more effectively network." – **Claire Hartley (Class of 2018-19)**

"I had the opportunity to participate in 2019-20. While our program ended with the start of the pandemic, I did find the entire experience beneficial. Meeting others across the state was exciting, encouraging different viewpoints and interesting collaborations. The time commitment for this program (three weekends, all day Friday and ½ day Saturday in Madison) is worth the investment." – **Mary Ferwerda (Class of 2019-20)**

"I found my experience attending the Leadership Academy incredibly beneficial. I learned new coping skills for the stress that comes with a career in law, and fine-tuned my active listening skills. In addition, I expanded my professional network with lawyers from a variety of practice areas outside of my own, which has helped me to have contacts from all over the State of Wisconsin. The time commitment for this program is worth the investment." – **Ryan F. Poe-Gavlin (Class of 2019-20)**

"I am so thankful for the opportunity to participate in the G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy. The Academy provided me with real-life, practical applications for my practice. The speakers were experts in their field and had a genuine interest in helping participants develop their leadership skills. This was an invaluable experience for me as I transitioned to a new leadership position in my organization." – **Choua L. Vang (Class of 2019-20)**

"As a newer lawyer, the Leadership Academy pushed me out of my comfort zone in a highly engaging, interactive environment. Not only did the Academy sharpen my communication and presentation skills, but I left with increased confidence in my conflict resolution abilities and a better understanding of what is necessary to be an effective leader." – **Morgan Stippel (Class of 2021-22)**

"I want to reiterate my prior comment: this was the single best public speaking seminar I've ever attended. I've never heard someone so concisely and effectively discuss both the "what" (i.e., practice tips) and the "why" (i.e., why those tips make sense). You changed my way of approaching public speaking and use of PowerPoint. I will be a better advocate as a result. Thank you!" – **Timothy C. Samuelson (Class of 2021-22)**