

Just The Facts

Welcome to the December 2023 issue of “Just the Facts” Law Student Newsletter

Welcome future lawyers! I hope you have had an amazing semester. The State Bar of Wisconsin is aiming to make your transition, whether it's during law school or in the legal field, as easy and painless as possible. Keep an eye out for this newsletter to stay informed on the benefits and opportunities available to you. Have a great winter break!

“Believe you can and you’re halfway there.” – Theodore Roosevelt

A Law Student Perspective

By Kaitlin Clancey

Participating in the State Bar’s Diversity Clerkship Program (DCP) was a transformative experience during my first year of law school. The program provided practical legal exposure and mentorship, allowing me to explore diverse areas of law and develop essential skills in legal analysis, writing, and research.

Through the DCP, I had the privilege of working on various legal topics, expanding my horizons, and discovering my passion within the legal field.

My mentor's guidance provided a safe space for learning, enabling me to take risks and grow as a legal professional.

Being a representative of Marquette Law, I took pride in showcasing the university's academic excellence and promoting diversity in the legal profession. Additionally, serving as a student liaison for different sections of the State Bar of Wisconsin allows me to network with influential legal professionals, contributing to the ongoing efforts for inclusivity in the legal community.

I highly recommend applying to the DCP and pursuing liaison positions at the



State Bar of Wisconsin. These experiences not only enhance legal skills but also empower individuals to advocate for diversity and collaboration within the legal profession, paving the way for our voices to be heard as legal practitioners.

Very truly yours,
Kat

Run into Your Career on Purpose

The Sections listed below are seeking student liaisons to serve on their Section Boards. The student liaison position provides the opportunity to meet and interact with attorneys from all over the state and board meetings involve discussion of current issues and events in the practice area.



Sections

Administrative and Local Government Section - The Administrative and Local Government Section is seeking a student liaison from the University of Wisconsin Law School to join their board of directors as a non-voting member. The student liaison would attend Board meetings (4 per year) which are primarily offered virtually. The Liaison will provide a brief informal report at meetings and may be asked to coordinate an event for Section members and law students interested in this field. The Liaison may have the opportunity to join Section committees and participate in projects. Interested students should submit a statement of interest and resume by **December 20th** to Christine Casey at ccasey@wisbar.org.

Dispute Resolution Section - The Dispute Resolution Section is seeking a student liaison from the University of Wisconsin Law School. The student liaison would attend Board meetings which are primarily offered virtually. The Liaison will provide a brief informal report at meetings and may be asked to coordinate an event for Section members and law students interested in this field. The Liaison may have the opportunity to join Section committees and participate in projects. Interested students should submit a statement of interest and resume by **December 20th** to Christine Casey at ccasey@wisbar.org.

International Practice Section - The International Practice Section is seeking a student liaison from the University of Wisconsin Law School and the Marquette Law School. The student liaison would attend Board meetings which are primarily offered virtually. The Liaison will provide a brief informal report at meetings and may be asked to coordinate an event for Section members and law students interested in this field. The Liaison may have the opportunity to join Section committees and participate in projects. Interested students should submit a statement of interest and resume by **December 20th** to Christine Casey at ccasey@wisbar.org.

Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law Section - The Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law Section is seeking a student liaison from Marquette Law School.

The student liaison would attend Board meetings which are in person and offer a virtual option. The Liaison will provide a brief informal report at meetings and may be asked to coordinate an event for Section members and law students interested in this field. The Liaison may have the opportunity to join Section committees and participate in projects. Interested students should submit a statement of interest and resume by **December 20th** to Christine Casey at ccasey@wisbar.org.

The Litigation Section's purpose is to bring together members who have an interest in civil litigation, insurance law, and tort law. To learn more about the Litigation section, watch the Introduction to the Section [here](#)!

Law Student Benefits

Law Student Associate Member - TODAY is the time to take advantage of all the benefits available to help you in your present and future law career.

- Diversity Clerkship Program
- A network of important contacts
- Job search assistance
- Resources to help you in your studies and professional career.
- Experience with issues and concerns you will encounter as a lawyer.
- A realistic sense of what to expect in your day-to-day professional life.
- Familiarity with the profession that could otherwise take several years to develop.
- Current information on the changes in law and the impact of coming legislation.



Try it today at booksunbound.wisbar.org. Law Student Associates also receive complimentary access to Books UnBound®, the exclusive online digital resource from State Bar of Wisconsin PINNACLE® that gives you online access to PINNACLE books!



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Health & Wellness in the Legal Profession

Staying Balanced When the World is Off Kilter

By Amber Ault Ph.D., MSW

Ukraine and Russia. Israel and Palestine. Larger wars and smaller wars. Terrorism abroad and at home if the US is your home. The fallout of these situations is wide-ranging, deeply distressing, and heart-wrenching. And in so many instances, people in the US are asked to line up, and told we must choose “one side” or becoming, literally, “the other.” And yet, we live in a diverse and pluralistic society, and you attend law school with the incredible resources of students and faculty from across the country and the planet. How can you resist the pressure of polarization in the current environment, be an ambassador of civility for the people around you, and learn about the world by strengthening your friendships in law school?



Here are six tips:

1. Cultivate humility: remind yourself that you don't know what you don't know.
2. Cultivate curiosity: wonder what it might be like right now to be a Ukrainian, Russian, Israeli, Palestinian, Muslim, or Jewish person in the United States, then outside of the US, then worried about family and friends and country?
3. Cultivate empathy: understand that all of us carry burdens other people don't know we carry, and that the person sitting next to you likely does, too.
4. Cultivate kindness: from a place of humility, curiosity, and empathy, notice who needs a friend, who might be under very extraordinary stress, who needs you to say hello to them or sit with them, or invite them to study with you.
5. Keep yourself centered, grounded, and calm by daily using mindful breathing, outdoor breaks, exercise, and connection. Avoid feeding interactions in which others describe individuals or groups in rigid, stereotyping terms, and use humility, curiosity, empathy, kindness, and groundedness to calm inflammatory behaviors.
6. Know the difference between protest and harassment. Support peaceful protest; discourage harassment, which inflames situations, harms individuals, and undermines civility.

Practicing peace with friends and colleagues allows us to understand more about how to cultivate it in the broader world. Law school may offer you one of the most wonderful opportunities you'll ever have to meet people different from you, to ask humble, curious questions about their experience in the world, and to learn by listening to their answers. Mental health and social well-being are supported deeply by this kind of connection, and by feeling the humanity of people we may have been taught to see through the lenses of prejudice,

stereotypes, and generations-long political conflict. You can play an important part in modeling civility and kindness by taking the opportunity to make friends with your law school colleagues and seeing the world through others' eyes.

Amber Ault, Ph.D., MSW is the Manager of the State Bar of Wisconsin's Lawyers Assistance Program. WisLap offers support to lawyers, law students, and others in the legal profession experiencing stress, anxiety, depression, and difficulty developing healthy coping strategies and trains attorneys, law students, and others in skills to support each other.

If you are interested in writing or reading about the legal profession's wellness tips and tricks? If you are interested in getting involved with WisLAP as a mentee, volunteer, or future committee member, email the WisLAP Member Coordinator, Amber Gilles, agilles@wisbar.org or WisLap Manager, Amber Ault, Ph.D., MSW, aault@wisbar.org. You can also access WisLAP online via Wisbar.org/wislap.

Check out the podcast "Bottom Up"

Produced by the State Bar and hosted by Attorney Emil Ovbiagele and Kristen Hardy, discussions include relatable stories that highlight interests, challenges, and opportunities for attorneys in the first decade of practice. The podcast is available on multiple platforms. [Take a listen](#) and gain some insight!



Scholarship Opportunities



[Marquette Law School](#)
[UW Law School](#)

Networking Opportunities

**Save the date for the 14th Annual
Young Lawyers Conference!**

March 8, 2024

9:00 am-4:00 pm – Conference

4:00 pm-6:00 pm – Networking reception

Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison

Registration will open in January 2024. *(Free to students)*

Establish Your Reputation: Write for Your State Bar

Raise your profile, advance your career, and share your perspective with other legal professionals by writing for the State Bar. Through our nationally recognized publications like *Wisconsin Lawyer* magazine, there are so many ways to show your stuff and shape the profession. Learn more at www.wisbar.org/contribute.

Also, by emailing Jacque Evans jevans@wisbar.org, share ideas or topics you'd like to see us capture in the law student newsletter!



Check out the [ABA Journal](#) for Law Student News across the country.



Share ideas or topics you'd like to see us capture in the newsletter by emailing me!

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