

# The Bar Report

*Executive Director's Report to the Board of Governors*



***State Bar of Wisconsin***  
February 2025



**STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN**

*Your Practice.® Our Purpose.*



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**2025  
Board of Governors’ Meetings**

- **April 11, 2025 (Friday)**  
*State Bar Center, Madison*
- **June 18, 2025 (Wednesday)**  
*Monona Terrace, Madison*



Larry J. Martin  
Executive Director

# Advancing Our Mission

There are good things happening at the State Bar of Wisconsin, and while they are noted later in the report, I want to bring attention to them.

This spring, the State Bar will host two receptions honoring former State Bar President **Michelle Behnke** (2004–05) as she becomes only the second Wisconsin lawyer to serve as ABA president. The events will take place in May with one in Madison and one in Milwaukee. These gatherings will benefit the [Wisconsin Law Foundation](#). Please learn more about these events on page 16.

The State Bar is working to address **Wisconsin’s legal deserts** with two key initiatives. Launched Jan. 13, the [Rural Practice Development Program](#) helps attract lawyers to underserved areas by offering incentives. Now in its second year, the [Rural Clerkship Program](#) provides first- and second-year law students from Wisconsin and Minnesota with full-time, paid summer positions. Read more on pages 12 and 13.

**Civil legal aid** is a major priority of the State Bar. Many Wisconsinites face legal challenges but lack the resources for an attorney, and without state funding, many eligible individuals are turned away from civil legal aid. This vital service helps low- and middle-income residents secure health care, employment, safety, and veterans’ benefits while also saving taxpayer dollars. Let me be frank: if civil legal aid has any chance of funding from the legislature, it will be because an overwhelming number of you, our members, reach out to your legislators. The State Bar urges you to act—use our [Advocacy Network](#) to send a message today!

Finally, I hope you will join other legal professionals from across Wisconsin for the largest State Bar gathering of the year, the [State Bar’s Annual Meeting and Conference](#), happening June 18-20 at Monona Terrace in Madison. I’m especially excited about our new **Judicial Track**. Learn more on p. 13.

These are just a few of the exciting things happening at the State Bar. Every day, we’re working to support our members, strengthen the legal profession, and expand access to justice. I encourage you to stay engaged, get involved, and take advantage of the opportunities available to you. Thank you for your support, and as always, ever forward!

*Larry*

## In Case You Missed My Columns in *Wisconsin Lawyer*™

- [“Valuing Our Community”](#) (Dec. 2024)
- [“Join Campaign to Increase Civil Legal Aid”](#) (Jan. 2025)
- [“Honoring and Celebrating a Great Leader”](#) (Feb. 2025)



# Advocate

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

## Wisconsin Legislature Sworn In, New Maps Shape Narrower GOP Majority

The Wisconsin Legislature was ceremonially sworn in on Jan. 6. Republicans continue to hold majorities in both the Senate and Assembly, but with smaller margins after newly implemented legislative maps.

The State Senate returns with 18 Republican and 15 Democratic members, down from a previous 22-11 split in the 2023-24 session. In the Assembly, Republicans retained 54 seats and Democrats won 45, a 10-seat shift from the previous 64-35 division. The biggest change is that one in four lawmakers sworn in are serving their first term.

While the overall legislative composition has changed, most leadership roles remain the same:

- **Rep. Robin Vos** (R-Rochester) continues as Speaker of the Assembly, a role he has held since 2013.

## Familiar Faces—With One Newcomer



- **Rep. Tyler August** (R-Walworth) remains as Assembly Majority Leader.
- **Rep. Greta Neubauer** (D-Racine) continues as Assembly Minority Leader.
- **Sen. Devin LeMahieu** (R-Oostburg) returns as Majority Leader.
- **Sen. Dianne Hesselbein** (D-Middleton) remains the Minority Leader.
- **Mary Felzkowski** (R-Tomahawk) is the new Senate President, elected by her caucus this year.

## Become an Advocate: Introduce Yourself to Lawmakers Today

It's as easy as ...



To ensure lawmakers consider the justice system and legal profession during the budget cycle, we encourage all State Bar members to connect with their legislators as the 2025-26 session begins.

## Three Easy Steps to Connect with Lawmakers

1. **Review Key Issues**— Explore the [State Bar's priority policy positions](#) and the [Advocacy Network Grassroots Toolkit](#) on WisBar.org.
2. **Take Action**—Use the **Advocacy Network** on Wisbar.org to send a **pre-written or personalized message** to your representatives.
3. **Find Your Representatives**— Type in your address and zip code, and our database will generate a list of your representatives with their contact information.

Your voice matters—engage today for a stronger legal profession!



Please share these two resources with State Bar members and encourage your colleagues to do the same. For questions or ideas, contact Grassroots Coordinator [Devin Martin](#).

## InsideTrack Now Published Weekly

We're excited to announce a change to *InsideTrack*!

We'll deliver concise, timely updates to your inbox weekly instead of twice per month. The publication, moving forward, is called *InsideTrack Weekly*.

It will be sent to members by email the first four Wednesdays every month.

This new schedule ensures you'll receive essential news and insights in smaller, more frequent doses – making it easier to stay informed

without feeling overwhelmed by too much content.

Together with a cleaner and modernized design, we hope readers will have a better user experience. Read the full story at [WisBar.org](#).

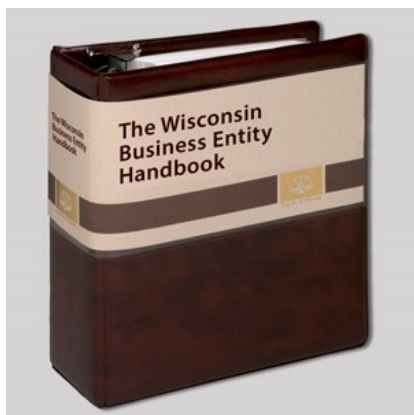


# Educate

We're Developing Skilled Legal Professionals

## Professional Development: PINNACLE Book Highlights

Check out the latest additions and updates to the PINNACLE® Book collection this month:



### (NEW) [“The Wisconsin Business Entity Handbook”](#)

This book outlines key issues to help determine the right business structure for a client. It compares entity types based on organizational, operational, and taxation considerations.

Topics include:

- Essential requirements for creating entities, including necessary forms
- Tax consequences of choosing a particular entity
- Reporting responsibilities and annual filings
- Management and governance structures for the new entity

- Fiduciary duties, rights, and ownership limitations
- Personal and financial liability considerations

Thank you to **Nathaniel S. Hammons, Joseph W. Boucher, Joseph A. Camilli, Julijana L. Englander, West A. Foster, Jessica Y. Harrison, Craig B. Miller, and Melissa Auchard Scholz** for authoring this new book.

### (UPDATE) [“Contract Law in Wisconsin”](#)

This two-volume book is divided into six sections, covering distinct areas of contract law to help you quickly find solutions. It includes practical tips, examples, and guidance for drafting and reviewing contracts. Draft airtight contracts with confidence using *Contract Law in Wisconsin*.

### (UPDATE) [“Real Estate Transaction Systems”](#)

This resource is essential for attorneys, paralegals, and brokers managing real estate procedures. It includes worksheets, checklists, and sample forms to keep you and your clients organized.

Topics include:

- Residential and commercial properties
- Vacant land
- Condominiums
- Land contracts
- Options to purchase

### (UPDATE) [“Criminal Code and Select Traffic Statutes”](#)

This comprehensive guide provides immediate access to Wisconsin's criminal law statutes, including:

- Selected corrections and traffic statutes
- Wisconsin Rules of Evidence
- Wisconsin Criminal Code
- Controlled substances
- Wisconsin Criminal Procedure Code

**We Value Your Input:** We welcome ideas for new books and feedback on current publications. If you're interested in writing, contact State Bar Product and Publications Manager [Samantha Cherney](#).

## State Bar Launches Paralegal General Certification Test

February is Paralegal Month at the State Bar of Wisconsin, and we want to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of paralegals. To celebrate, we're introducing our new [General Certification Test](#).

Why is this test important? The test offers Certified Paralegals a new credential and provides an alternative path to certification for others.

The Paralegal Certification General Certified Test sets a new standard for professionalism and quality among Wisconsin paralegals. Do your paralegals have what it takes to pass this challenging certification?

Certified paralegals ensure your team has the essential skills and knowledge of Wisconsin law necessary to excel in today's competitive legal landscape.

For more information about the [Certified Paralegal Program](#), contact State Bar Learning and Development Specialist [Dan Sitzler](#).

During Paralegal Month, certified paralegals can enjoy 15% off all OnDemand titles in February.



We also have four new seminars for paralegals beginning in February:

Feb. 12 to March 4:  
["Legal Writing for Paralegals: Tips from an Appellate Judge"](#)

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Feb. 13 to May 29, 2025:  
["From Intake to Trial: The Paralegal's Personal Injury Playbook"](#)

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Feb. 19 to April 10:  
["Working with Experts and Preparing for Trial"](#)

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Feb. 25: ["Paralegal Ethics: A Lawyer's Supervisory Responsibilities to Non-Lawyer Staff"](#)

Stay tuned for more announcements throughout Paralegal Month.

Have a CLE program idea or interested in speaking? Email State Bar Seminars Manager [Tim Clark](#).

*"Certified paralegals ensure your team has the essential skills and knowledge of Wisconsin law necessary to excel in today's competitive legal landscape."*

—Theresa Elliott, State Bar Professional Development Director



# Facilitate

*We're Helping the Public Access the Legal System*

## Pro Bono Initiatives: Committee Launches Grant Program, Monthly Civil Legal Aid Column

The Legal Assistance Committee is planning the 2025 Wisconsin Equal Justice Conference with a revamped format that includes a grant program. Any revenue exceeding event costs will fund grants administered by the Committee, enhancing its mission to expand civil legal services.

The Committee is also publishing columns in *Wisconsin Lawyer* focused on closing the civil legal aid gap. The first article in January, "[Bridging the Justice Gap Amid Growing Challenges](#)," is authored by **Megan E. Lee** of Judicare Legal Aid in Wausau.



Additionally, Executive Director Larry Martin lends his column to this critical issue, titled "[Join Campaign to Increase Civil Legal Aid](#)."

## Fee Arbitration Application Available in Spanish



The Fee Arbitration Program translated its English application and program rules into Spanish. Both versions can be accessed on [WisBar.org](http://WisBar.org).

## Wisconsin Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection Releases 2024 Report: \$286K Reimbursed to Clients

The **Wisconsin Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection (WLFCP) 2024 Annual Report** provides an overview of claims considered and payments made between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. During this fiscal year, the WLFCP

Committee reviewed 79 claims, approving 19 and disbursing a total of \$286,529 to clients who demonstrated that they suffered eligible financial losses.

The Fund ended the year with a balance of \$1,367,79. It is supported by assessments, interest, and restitution collections.

This report also offers historical context, detailing the Fund's activity since 1981, including trends in claims, types of financial losses reimbursed, and geographic distribution. The **full report is available at [WisBar.org](http://WisBar.org)**, and a **print version will be available in March**.

### Questions?

Reach out to State Bar Pro Bono Manager [Sarah Watson](#).



## Lawyer Referral Service and Weekly Hotline Updates

The State Bar Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) has undergone a rebranding, simplifying its name by removing the "I" for "Information" to focus more on delivering high-quality referrals to our panel members.

We continue to receive a significant number of inquiries from the community, and we are dedicated to offering valuable services that benefit both our members and the public.

In FY 25, our specialists have managed an impressive 10,958 calls and made 2,754 referrals, providing essential support to those seeking legal assistance.

Consumers request the top five legal areas:

- Family Law (Custody)
- General Personal Injury
- Consumer Law (Small Claims)
- Family Law (Divorce)
- Real Estate (Landlord/Tenant)

We take pride in having a specialist and a customer service representative fluent in Spanish, which enhances our capacity to serve our bilingual

State Bar members and the wider community.

### LRS Weekly Hotline

LRS operates a weekly hotline where volunteer attorneys graciously offer their expertise to answer basic legal questions from the public.

The hotline is seeking school law attorneys to join our hotline. This initiative plays a vital role in providing immediate support and guidance to those who may not otherwise have access to legal counsel.

To learn more, please visit the LRS hotline page on [WisBar.org](http://WisBar.org).

## Volunteer Judges Needed For Mock Trial

The Wisconsin High School Mock Trial State Tournament is slated for March 7-8. The final round will take place March 9. The national championship will be held in Phoenix, Arizona in May.

We would be honored to have you join us in this fun and challenging educational event by participating as a Mock Trial judge. Read more about this year's competition in [this year's competition in InsideTrack Weekly](#).

All judges will receive a copy of the [Mock Trial Handbook](#) and case materials to review

## Mock Trial: Virtual Rivalry Turns Deadly

This year we are immersing ourselves in a captivating criminal case. Clearwater, Wisconsin faces another tragedy as a new cast of characters seek to uncover the murder of rising virtual reality gaming star, Astor Rufflebottom. Astor was killed a mere three hours before the championship round of the National CastleDusk™ Tournament, where they were set to compete against their fierce rival, M.J. Mossbridge, at the historic Hotel Clearwater. The state alleges that Mossbridge killed Rufflebottom to secure their spot and claim the title of ultimate CastleDusk™ Champion. But, Mossbridge isn't the only one with a motive against the victim.

ahead of time; can preview the "Judge's Training Video" online at their convenience; and will be provided scoring instructions and a brief training on the day of the tournament.

The Wisconsin High School Mock Trial is funded, in part, by a generous donation from the [Wisconsin Law Foundation](#). The program started in 1983.

## Media Placements Showcase Members as Leaders

“Know Your Legal Rights” is a bimonthly legal newspaper column written by State Bar of Wisconsin members and distributed by the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. Subject areas highlight issues such as consumer protection, divorce, criminal law, Medicaid planning and more.

In FY 2025-26 newspapers across the state have published 131 stories.

Additionally, public relations issued a January 22 consumer fraud alert to statewide media on reports of [notario fraud](#) in immigration law.

Educating the public about legal issues is one of the purposes of the State Bar as an organization. Media placements also allow the State Bar to showcase members as leaders, emphasizing the value of hiring lawyers and their contributions to the communities they serve.

If you or a colleague would like to contribute to a “Know Your Legal Rights” column, please email Public Relations Manager [Mike Wiltse](#).

View these stories at [wnanews.com](http://wnanews.com).

## Know Your Legal Rights Stories

01



Divorce, Holidays, and Kids

02



Lemon Law Part I

03



Lemon Law Part II

04



Slip and Fall

05



Filing For Divorce

## Educating the Public About Key Legal Issues

Our “[Know Your Legal Rights](#)” columns highlight key practice areas that impact everyday life, offering valuable insights for the public. Here is what we have covered FY2024-25:

**Family Law (Divorce/Custody):** Articles cover important topics like digital age parenting, balancing religious beliefs in custody cases, and the [complexities of divorce](#). These issues are crucial for navigating family dynamics and ensuring fair outcomes for parents and children.

**Estate Planning:** With topics like [Medicaid planning](#) and advance care directives, estate planning columns guide readers in securing their financial future and [making crucial decisions for long-term care](#). These tips help individuals protect their assets and make informed medical decisions.

**Personal Injury:** Providing practical advice on what to do after car accidents or [slips and falls](#), personal injury articles are essential for understanding legal rights and ensuring fair compensation when injured.

**Other Practice Areas:** From [lemon law](#) to workers' compensation, these articles address common issues like [consumer rights](#), insurance claims, and criminal law, offering readers knowledge to protect themselves in various legal scenarios.

These columns play an essential role in educating the public, empowering readers to understand their rights and make informed decisions across different aspects of life.



# Cultivate

We're Planning Together for the Future

## State Bar Ethics: A Commitment to Excellence

Ethics Counsel delivered 13 presentations between Nov. 6 and Dec. 19, 2024. Highlights include:

- “Ethics of AI”
- “Special Considerations for Government Lawyers”
- “Ethics in Family Law”
- “Ethics Update”



Writing for ...

**WISCONSIN LAWYER**

..... ❖ .....

**Ethical Dilemma Column**  
“Charging Legal Fees for Nonlegal Work”

Read it here

The Ethics Committee met on Nov. 22, 2024, and Jan. 17, 2025.

## Practice411™: Guiding Law Practices with an Eye on the Future

### FastCase Update

In December 2024, Fastcase launched vLex Fastcase for State Bar members. Practice Management Advisor Brent Hoeft managed the launch, hosted a vLex walkthrough webinar, and answered member questions. The new vLex Fastcase and webinar recording are available on [WisBar.org](http://WisBar.org).

- “Generative AI in the Legal Industry: Trends for 2025,” [Wisconsin Lawyer](#).

### Consultations with Members

Practice411 continued offering confidential member consultations. Non-technology Practice Management was the most frequent category, nearly 70% of consultations, followed by legal technology at 25% and OLR Diversion at 5%.

### All-New Podcast Coming Soon

The [Bottom Up](#) podcast recently announced the State Bar will launch **Practice Pulse**, a new podcast focused on practice management. Hosted by Hoeft, the first episode will be released in February.

### About Practice411

The State Bar’s Practice411™ helps lawyers improve their efficiency and effectiveness in delivering legal services and implementing systems, tools, and controls to reduce risk and enhance client relations. It provides members with guidance, resources, and support in managing their law practice.

### Presentations

- “Opening a Law Practice and State Bar Resources”
- vLex Fastcase Launch Walkthrough and Demo
- “Generative AI in the Law Office: What It Is and How to Ethically Implement It”

### Questions?

Contact State Bar Practice Management Advisor [Brent Hoeft](#).

## Rural Clerkship Program Expands, Offering 37 Paid Summer Positions

The Rural Clerkship Program is expanding in its second year, offering 37 paid summer clerkships to first- and second-

year law students from Wisconsin and Minnesota law schools.

This year, 61 students applied for positions with 15 employers. One law firm is offering two clerkships, while the State Public Defender's Office is

providing 22 positions. The program connects law students with valuable hands-on experience in rural communities, helping to address the need for legal services in underserved areas.

## AMC News: Connect, Learn, and Grow at the State Bar's Biggest Event

Join members of the bench and bar from across the state at the State Bar Annual Meeting and Conference (AMC). This is your chance to see old friends and meet new ones in an engaging and informative setting. The conference is slated for June 18-20, 2025, in Madison.

### Judicial Track

New to AMC is a special two-session Judicial Track, titled "**Handling Complex Civil and Commercial Cases: Best Practices for Judges and Lawyers.**"

Developed by judges, the program is designed to foster collaboration between the bench and bar.

**Session One:** Covers pretrial strategies, including scheduling, discovery disputes, sanctions, depositions, and judicial oversight. Judges and lawyers will discuss case management and courtroom best practices.



**Session Two:** Examines business torts, the economic loss doctrine, receiverships, and Wisconsin's commercial laws, offering key insights for complex business litigation.

### Plenary Sessions

**Closing Plenary: "The End of Deference? *Tetra Tech*, *Loper Bright*, and Judicial Review of Agency Decisions"**

A panel will discuss the Deference Doctrine and judicial review, focusing on Wisconsin's *Tetra Tech* (2018) and the U.S. Supreme Court's *Loper Bright* (2024) rulings, eliminating agency deference.

### Closing Plenary Panelists

- **Former Chief Justice Patience Roggensack**, Wisconsin Supreme Court (retired);
- **Judge Shelley Gaylord**, Dane County Circuit Court (retired);
- Professor of Law **James Speta**, Northwestern Law School; and
- Moderated by **James Goldschmidt**, Quarles & Brady LLP

**Opening Plenary:** Details coming soon.

Visit [amc.wisbar.org](http://amc.wisbar.org) for more details and to register!

## WisLAP Tackles Lawyer Burnout, Mental Health Issues

The Wisconsin Lawyer Assistance Program (WisLAP) continues to support Wisconsin lawyers, judges, and law students through education, outreach, and direct assistance.

### All-New Podcast

**Listening to Lawyers**, a new podcast, provides the Wisconsin legal community with opportunities to hear personal stories from Wisconsin lawyers about adversity, perseverance, resilience, transformation, and hope.

The first podcast, "Episode 1: From Montgomery to Milwaukee—The Journey of Lawyer Lindsey Draper," premiered in January. Listen on [Spotify](#), [Apple](#), and [YouTube](#).

### Presentations & Outreach

- **County Bar Associations:** Presented on lawyer wellbeing and mental health to the Outagamie and Winnebago County Bar Associations.

- **Judicial Conference:** Partnered with **Judge Jennifer Dorow** to present "The Courtroom: A Dense Emotional Field" at the 2024 Wisconsin Judicial Conference.
- **Administrative Law Judges:** Delivered a two-hour interactive training on burnout mitigation at the Wisconsin's administrative law judges annual holiday gathering.
- **WILMIC Annual Meeting:** Discussed how lawyer mental health can increase malpractice liability, ethics complaints, and how to prevent these with WILMIC President **Tom Watson**.
- **State Public Defenders Annual Meeting:** Provided resources alongside WisLAP volunteer **Judge Kris Kerig**.

### Ongoing Support & Services

- Regular office hours at the Dane County District Attorney's Office.
- Written articles for [The Lawyer's Journey](#) blog and [Wisconsin Lawyer](#).
- Individual consultations on stress, anxiety, depression, relationship concerns, and substance use.

Questions? Contact WisLAP Program Manager [Amber Ault](#).

## Solutions to Legal Deserts

Launched on Jan. 13, the State Bar [Rural Practice Development Program](#) addresses the gap in legal services in rural Wisconsin by encouraging attorneys to relocate to underserved communities.

The program offers a unique opportunity to establish or join a practice while receiving a financial stipend.

Each year, three attorneys are selected to relocate and practice law in rural Wisconsin for at least two years. Participants receive a \$10,000 stipend, with \$5,000 provided at the start and another \$5,000 upon completion of the two-year term. Attorneys can choose to open their own practice or work with a law firm, government agency, or nonprofit within the program's guidelines.

In addition to the stipend, participants will receive valuable State Bar resources, including a subscription to PINNACLE® Books Unbound (valued at \$1,409 annually), PINNACLE® Ultimate Pass™ Gold (valued at \$1,199 annually), and, if applicable, membership in the Lawyer Referral Service panel (valued at \$125 annually).

**Applications are due March 31.**



# Group Reports

*We're Working Together for the Common Good*

## Section Highlights

The **Bankruptcy, Insolvency & Creditors' Rights Section** will host its annual Educational & Social Retreat in Kohler on Feb. 27-28. Florida Bankruptcy **Judge Laurel Isicoff** will discuss ethics and AI, **Paul Stenzel** will provide an overview of Indian law in Wisconsin, and Wisconsin bankruptcy judges will address current issues in bankruptcy law.

The **Construction and Public Contract Law Section** awarded two \$2,000 scholarships for the spring 2025 semester. One recipient is from Marquette Law School, and the other is from U.W. Law School. Selections were based on GPA and demonstrated interest in construction and public contract law.

The **International Practice Section**, in partnership with the Madison International Trade Association and the Madison Committee on Foreign Relations, hosted a virtual CLE on Jan. 22 titled "The Known Unknown:

Potential Changes in Immigration Policy Under the New Trump Administration." The program examined current immigration policy and anticipated changes under the new administration.

The **Section Leaders Council** held a virtual meeting on Jan. 24. State Bar President **Ryan Billings** and Executive Director **Larry Martin** provided updates on bar activities. President-elect candidates also addressed members, outlining their platforms and future initiatives. Discussions focused on succession planning and strategies for developing a board's talent pipeline.

### Save the Date!

- The **Intellectual Property and Technology Law Section** will host its academy July 17-18 at Stone Harbor Resort in Door County.
- The **Family Law Section** will hold its annual workshop Aug. 7-9 at Stone Harbor Resort in Door County.

- The **Indian Law Section** will host its annual CLE Nov. 6-7 at The Wilderness Resort in the Wisconsin Dells.

## Division Highlights

The **Young Lawyers Division** is planning its 15th Annual Young Lawyers Conference on March 28 at the Brookfield Conference Center. The event features a full day of CLE programming, including a keynote presentation by **Michelle Behnke**, president-elect of the American Bar Association.

Awards will be presented for the **Outstanding Mentor** and **Outstanding Young Lawyer**, followed by a networking reception from 4–6 p.m. For details and registration, visit [Marketplace](#) on WisBar.org.

The **Nonresident Lawyers Division** reached out to members impacted by the wildfires in Los Angeles and the New Years Day attack in New Orleans offering assistance through Practice411 and WisLAP for those affected by disaster.

## Committee Highlights

The **Diversity and Inclusion Oversight Committee - Education Subcommittee**: The Diversity & Equity Educational Program is hosting a program titled, "Authenticity at Work: Balancing Self-Expression with Legal Considerations in the Modern Workplace," on March 10 at the Italian Community Center in Milwaukee.

This program will explore:

- the concept of employee expression in the workplace, focusing on how personal identity, authenticity, and expression of values intersect with workplace culture;
- the benefits of authenticity at work, while addressing potential legal implications of employee speech that crosses the line from expression to harassment;
- the role of an organization to address discriminatory conduct;
- strategies for employers to find balance and foster inclusive workplaces.

- Keynote Speaker & Moderator: Attorney **Catarina Colón**, Husch Blackwell
- Panelists: **Eric Locker**, **Monica Cail**, **Saveon Grenell**, and **Margaret Hickey**

All are welcome to attend this event. Law firms, lawyers, and judges will all find benefit in this program. Reserve your spot today. Visit [WisBar.org](http://WisBar.org) for more information and to register.

A sponsorship campaign is underway. To learn more, contact Diversity and Inclusion Specialist [Jacque Evans](#).

### Leadership Development Committee

- **Leadership Academy:** Wisconsin **Supreme Court Justice Brian Hagedorn** will deliver the G. Lane Ware Keynote Address at Session Three.
- **Leadership Summit:** Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations. This year's class is now set.



# Wisconsin Law Foundation

## State Bar to Honor Michelle Behnke's ABA Presidency While Supporting the Wisconsin Law Foundation

The State Bar of Wisconsin will host two receptions this spring honoring former State Bar President Michelle Behnke (2004-05) as she becomes only the second Wisconsinite to serve as president of the American Bar Association. The first was Milwaukee attorney Carl Rix (1946-47).

These gatherings celebrate Michelle's achievement as she assumes ABA leadership and, with her permission, will also raise critical funds for the Wisconsin Law Foundation, the charitable arm of the State Bar.

We are seeking individual and law firm sponsorships to support the foundation and honor Michelle. Donors will be listed by name on event invitations, signage, and in all social media communications.

### Reception Details:

- **Madison:** Wednesday, May 7, 5:30–7 p.m. at Boardman & Clark LLP, 1 S. Pinckney St., Suite 410 (U.S. Bank Building on Capitol Square).
- **Milwaukee:** Tuesday, May 13, 5:30–7 p.m. at Wisconsin Club, 900 W. Wisconsin Ave.

### Sponsorship Levels:

- \$5,000 (lead sponsor)
- \$2,500 (lead sponsor)
- \$1,000
- \$500
- \$250
- \$125

### Exciting News!

Atty. Kathryn Bullon has pledged to match all donations made in Michelle's honor, up to \$50,000—giving us the opportunity to raise \$100,000 for the foundation's mission.

To pledge support, email State Bar Executive Director [Larry Martin](#) or call (608) 250-6038. No immediate payment is required; we will follow up in the spring.



***“Be the catalyst for others to make a difference. Look around you and invite others to join you in your service. If each of us reaches out to one other person and invites them to serve us and join in the work of our profession and our communities. Imagine the impact.”***

—Michelle Behnke on Sept. 29, 2022, during the Wisconsin Law Foundation's Fellows Dinner where she was honored with the Charles L. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award.









# Social Media


**Nov. 4, 2024 to Jan. 22, 2025**

The numbers reflect the changes compared to the previous time period of Aug. 16 to Nov. 4, 2024

Metrics				
Followers	6,200	1,972	7,120	2,410
Audience Growth	+0.8	+0.7%	+1%	+3%
Engagement	1,651 -24.2%	789 -3.2%	3,664 -75.9%	862 -13.2%
Impressions	519,474 +4%	60,217 -2.9%	72,388 -30.5%	N/A
Brand Awareness	55 -43.3%	7 -69.6%	N/A	N/A
Reach	N/A	420 -5.4%	N/A	N/A
Views	N/A	N/A	N/A	19,070 +3.3%
Watched Time	N/A	N/A	N/A	1052h 05 Min +23.3%

- **Audience growth:** Number of followers gained during the selected period.
- **Engagement:** Number of interactions (likes, saves, comments, shares and direct messages) with State Bar profiles
- **Impressions:** Number of times State Bar content has been viewed.
- **Brand awareness:** Number of mentions and shares for State Bar content.
- **Reach:** Number of unique users who have viewed State Bar profiles.
- **Views:** Number of times State Bar videos have been viewed.
- **Watched time:** The total time people spent watching State Bar videos.

## Top Content:



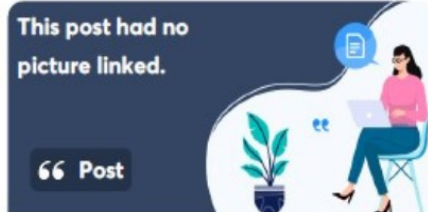
**Image**

Nov. 1 2024

**Every day is #LoveYourLawyerDay around**

Reach	2.6K
Engagement	350
Clicks	61
Other clicks	123
Engagement rate per reach	13.5%
Engagement rate per impression	10.3%

This post had no picture linked.



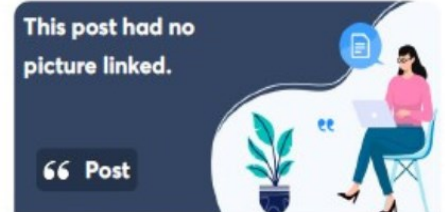
**Post**

Aug. 30 2024

**School is starting. What is your #1 piece of advic...**

Reach	2.5K
Engagement	872
Clicks	0
Other clicks	813
Engagement rate per reach	35.5%
Engagement rate per impression	33.9%

This post had no picture linked.



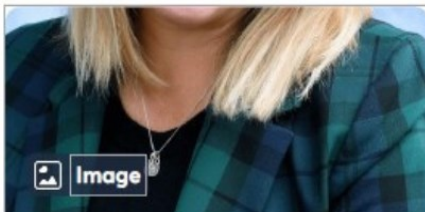
**Post**

Oct. 31 2024

**Best law-themed costume for Halloween?**

Reach	2.3K
Engagement	1K
Clicks	0
Other clicks	1K
Engagement rate per reach	44.6%
Engagement rate per impression	43.9%

## Top Content:



**Image**

Aug. 28 2024

**Samantha Wagner has been appointed to the Brown Co...**

Reach	998
Comments	2
Likes	38
Saved	1
Engagement	41
Engagement rate per reach	4.1%
Engagement rate per impression	3.4%

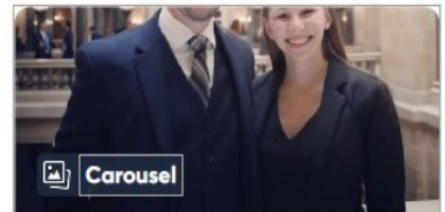


**Carousel**

Oct. 14 2024

**Congratulations to the 2024 Class of Fellows of th...**

Reach	658
Comments	0
Likes	60
Saved	2
Engagement	68
Engagement rate per reach	10.3%
Engagement rate per impression	8.1%



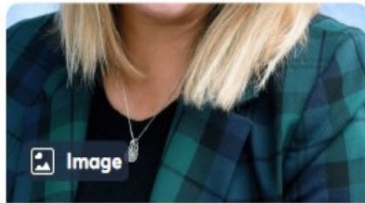
**Carousel**

Sep. 26 2024

**Congratulations! Welcome to these new lawyers who ...**

Reach	553
Comments	0
Likes	80
Saved	1
Engagement	85
Engagement rate per reach	15.4%
Engagement rate per impression	13.2%

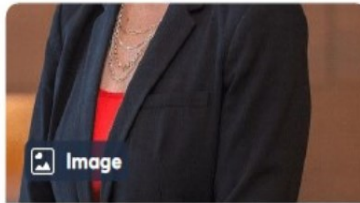
## Top Content:



Aug. 28 2024

**Samantha Wagner has been appointed to the Brown Co...**

Impressions	3.2K
Clicks	122
Likes	97
Shares	2
Comments	19
Engagement	240
Engagement rate per reach	10.9%
Engagement rate per impression	7.6%



Sep. 20 2024

**Congratulations to Judge Mary Triggiano, recipient...**

Impressions	2.6K
Clicks	52
Likes	132
Shares	1
Comments	6
Engagement	191
Engagement rate per reach	11.2%
Engagement rate per impression	7.4%



Sep. 18 2024

**A BIG THANK YOU to Emma Knatterud-Johnson of Hawks...**

Impressions	2K
Clicks	73
Likes	46
Shares	5
Comments	2
Engagement	126
Engagement rate per reach	10.2%
Engagement rate per impression	6.4%

## Top Content:



Sep. 16 2024

**Every lawyer wants happy clients. (It makes their ...**

Video views	100
Likes	1
Comments	0
Shares	2
Added to playlist	3
Total engagement	6



Sep. 3 2024

**How have recent changes in marijuana laws impacted...**

Video views	99
Likes	4
Comments	0
Shares	4
Added to playlist	2
Total engagement	10



Sep. 30 2024

**Connect with Us:**

Video views	52
Likes	0
Comments	0
Shares	1
Added to playlist	1
Total engagement	2