

Welcome to the Holiday Season. After an extra bout of summer through most of October, it is finally starting to look and feel like Fall is supposed to in Southeast Michigan (and who still says climate change isn't real and here to stay?). We can now look forward to a few months of less daylight, less sunshine and increasingly colder weather, with or without snow. But, take heart because November and December also bring us the holiday season! From now until at least New Year's Day, the pace picks up and the free space on your calendar quickly disappears. Although winter is still on its way, I look forward to what this time of year brings: time with family and friends; maybe catching up on some reading by the wood stove; food that simmers all day or takes time in the oven.

Which brings me to the core of the first holiday: giving thanks. I would like to say thanks to all of you who have had participated in a WCBA event so far this year! As I mentioned in my last missive, we had some great events in September. October has been no different. In addition to some well-planned programs from our individual sections (often teaming with other sections to provide cross-area relevancy), October included our **Bias Awareness Week**. The WCBA partnered with the Vanzetti Hamilton Bar Association and the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, Washtenaw Region for our Bias Awareness Annual Event. This year we gathered at Weber's for a wonderful strolling reception with live jazz accompaniment from the WIHI Jazz Ambassadors. The WCBA presented its Martin Luther King, Jr. "I Have a Dream" Award to **Kim Moore** for her exemplary work in the trenches of the court system, and the VHBA presented **Robyn McCoy** with their annual Frederick Douglass Award for her continued example of how to be an attorney, educator and activist on an everyday basis. In return, both Kim and Robyn honored us with their heartfelt words of acceptance. For our keynote address, we got to hear from ACLU Michigan Legal Director, **Michael J. Steinberg**, as he reminded us of all of the positive changes made through legal action in protecting civil rights and liberties, as well as how much more work can be done. Thank you to all who helped prepare, present, clean up, attend, speak and commune. It was a wonderful evening!

More thanks to those of you who made it out to what I hope is the first of many low-key social activities: the bike ride along the Huron River. Thank you to those of you who made it to the **September Speakeasy**. Thanks to the combined effort between sections to put together another great "**Meet and Greet**" with the **Trial Court Bench** at the Pretzel Bell.

Finally, a special word of thanks to **Rosemary Frenza Chudnof** and an invitation to all the members. Rosemary has been the point person on developing a new benefit for our membership, centered on wellness. Please make room in your calendar for our first in a series of programs exploring mindfulness, wellness, and mind-body healthiness, particularly for our profession. The first program is a lunch seminar on **Mindfulness for Busy Professionals** and will take place Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from noon to 1:15pm at 200 N. Main St., Lower Level. A light lunch will be provided. Please see our website for details and sign up if you have not done so already at <https://www.washbar.org/events/mindfulness-busy-professionals/>.

Speaking of signing up, another great WCBA tradition is right around the corner. December 7<sup>th</sup> is our annual **Holiday Wine Tasting and Charity Fundraiser** at Paesano's on Washtenaw. Please join us for this fun holiday mixer and contribute to our holiday charity. We look forward to seeing you there to enjoy good company, good wine and good food. Please see our website for details and reservation information at <https://www.washbar.org/events/holiday-wine-tasting-2/>. And as we look ahead to 2018, keep an eye out for a special invitation for a new kind of event offered by the WCBA and presented by our New Lawyers Section.

Finally, due to the number of events in October, the President's Speakeasy took a break, but plans to make an appearance in early November. The alternative outdoor outing also took a break, but we plan to host another event before Thanksgiving, so check our website for updates (as well your email). As we continue with our work and our various other commitments, remember to take some time to relax along the way. The Holiday Season can be fun, but also stressful. Enjoy it with balance!