

*The Washtenaw County Bar Association – It's Where You Belong!* We rolled out this tagline last July at the start of our fiscal year to help us welcome and support more lawyers in our Bar. Thanks to relationships, activities, and our website, we expanded our membership ranks with 67 new members this year. Having exceeded last year's tally of 43 new members, and knowing new members are waiting to join in July, I am eager to start attracting even more lawyers this coming year. In the meantime, we are rolling through a busy spring!

First, congratulations to Judge Richard E. Conlin on receiving the WCBA's Professionalism & Civility in the Practice of Law Award at our Annual Award Meeting & Election in April. Judge Conlin has served on the 14A District Court bench since his appointment in 1995. Doug Mullkoff nominated Judge Conlin for the award with this heartfelt statement, a feeling clearly shared by the 100+ people who attended to honor the judge.

"Dick Conlin has been a joy to practice in front of. He was highly respected as a civil attorney before generously giving back to the community by agreeing to become a judge. His temperament is ideal for the bench. Always pleasant, calm, and kind. He makes people know they matter. Wise but soft spoken and humble. Quick to smile and put others at ease. Courteous, helpful, friendly. Dick sets the standard for excellence."

Doug Mullkoff and Mike Gatti presented the award to Judge Conlin, and Judge Connors shared a big fish tale involving the honoree. Ever the gentleman, Judge Conlin admitted only that the story had "elements of truth in it." Established in 1991, the Professionalism & Civility Award is now presented every third year at the annual Bar dinner, on a rotating schedule with the Patriot and Liberty Bell Awards.

The annual Bar dinner also included the return of 18 former Bar presidents for the second year in a row. A personal note of thanks to all of our former Presidents for continuing to support the Bar. I am glad you still belong! Events like this one and the upcoming Bench-Bar conference also make it easy to catch up with members, like talking with Abby Elias on the eve of her last day in the Ann Arbor City Attorney's Office after 23 years. Congratulations, Abby, thank you, and enjoy your retirement! Congratulations also to Joy Gaines on her promotion to First Assistant Public Defender, Juvenile Division! Joy is modest; thankfully, Chief Public Defender Delphia Simpson was there to share the news.

Thank you also to this year's Board members, committee and section chairs, and to Executive Director Kyeena Slater and Kelley Lindquist. The Board is a vibrant mix of personalities guiding the Bar and Kyeena and Kelley make the daily operations run like a well-oiled machine. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Mark Jane will step up as President. I look forward to Mark's leadership with his passion for the Bar, his knack for the fine print, and his winning trivia knowledge.

After our Bench-Bar conference on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, keep an eye open for the "WCBA Night Out at the Driving Range" in May and a book discussion event on *Tough Cases*. Also, I'd love to have you join me again in a fun 5K run/walk, this time the "Oberun". It's an evening summer solstice event at Wiard's Orchard on Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. [www.runoberun5K.com](http://www.runoberun5K.com) After that, there are only four months until the Bar makes another strong showing in the Purple Run 5K for SafeHouse!

Last, to further foster that feeling of belonging, I hope you enjoy getting to know more of our members through the *Before They Were Lawyers* quiz below.

Cheers from the Bar,  
Elizabeth

*Before They Were Lawyers*

Match the attorney with a past job

1. Judge Archie Brown, 22<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court
  2. Karen Field, Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office
  3. Nick Gable, Legal Services of South Central Michigan
  4. Joy Glovick, Conlin, McKenney & Philbrick, P.C.
  5. Joelle Gurnoe-Adams, Chalgian & Tripp Law Offices, PLLC
  6. Elizabeth Jolliffe, Your Benchmark Coach
  7. Tom Kent, University of Michigan Office of the General Counsel
  8. Matthew Kerry, Kerry Law PLLC
  9. David McDaniel, Jaffe, Raitt, Heur & Weiss, P.C.
  10. Miriam Perry, Washtenaw County Office of the Public Defender
  11. Judge Kirk Tabbey, 14A District Court
  12. John Whitman, Garan Luow Miller, P.C.
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- a. Fotomat attendant
  - b. Dental assistant
  - c. English teacher in rural Japan
  - d. Lady Foot Locker salesperson
  - e. Garbage collector
  - f. Backstage security, Castle Farms Music Theatre
  - g. Auto mechanic
  - h. Irrigation system installer
  - i. Photographer @ "Picture Man"
  - j. Auto mechanic
  - k. Tile Setter
  - l. Auto body & repair technician

**Answers will be published in the May/June Res Ipsa Loquitur**