

To unintentionally quote The Scorpions, who borrowed from the UK Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, the winds of change are coming. In fact, they're already here. I don't mean to repeat my last President's message, but socially and professionally, things are changing for all of us whether we're ready for it or not. In my last message I was optimistic that we would be able to hold our annual golf outing at the end of August. I even thought we may be able to hold a Bar meeting or two in person at some point this fall. As has become the norm, those plans had to get thrown out the window and we're adapting on the fly.

One event that *did* go as planned was the virtual Bench-Bar Conference that was held on August 7th via Zoom. If you were able to attend, you were treated to a bird's eye view of your colleagues' homes and offices - I hope you all enjoyed my kitchen color scheme. I want to thank all of our speakers: Chief Judge Kuhnke, Chief Judge Burke, Chief Judge Pope, Trial Court Administrator Meg Ivey, 14A District Court Administrator Lisa Fusik, 14B District Court Administrator and Magistrate Mark Nelson. The information relayed about the current and anticipated operations of the circuit and district courts is invaluable during normal times. Given our present circumstances, it's critical, and I want to thank the Judges for taking time out of their summer schedules to inform us of what's been happening behind the scenes. I also want to thank our Judiciary Committee Co-Chairs, Jinan Hamood and Shalini Nangia, for putting together the first, but probably not last, event of this kind. Chairing the Judiciary Committee is quite a task every year, but even more so when planning something it both remotely *and* in an election year.

As far as upcoming events, the WCBA will be celebrating Bias Awareness week during the first week of October. The specific schedule is still to be determined, but planning is well underway. This year the committee is led by Nimish Ganatra, Arianne Slay and Past President Orlando Simon. Bias Awareness events will be held virtually this year, but that certainly doesn't make them any less important or impactful. Check your emails for updates on events as they become available.

Along those same lines, Joy Gaines, WCBA President Elect, held a virtual meeting of our Section Chairs on September 9th. It was great to see all our Chairs talk about their upcoming plans for the year and start collaborating on joint section meetings. Some sections have already planned meetings with speakers, so be sure to check out the WCBA calendar for more information. One bonus of being virtual is the ease of attending section meetings now. No more leaving the office for an hour or two - you can attend from your desk! That said, I do miss the lunches for the Estate Planning, Probate & Trust Law Section meetings at the Ann Arbor City Club.

Given that we're going to have a highly contested and most likely controversial election between now and my next message, I just want to remind everyone to take care of your mental health during these times. This election season would be stressful enough without a pandemic in the background. When it comes to ingesting and dealing with political and COVID-19 information, we can easily become overloaded. Take care of yourself by limiting the amount of information you take in on a daily basis. I started this pandemic working from home with cable news on in the background at all times. I quickly realized that I felt better if I had an ESPN fishing tournament on instead. We all have people who rely upon us, whether it's children, spouses, parents and even clients. We need to make sure we're in the right frame of mind so we can take care of those who rely upon us. If we're not right, we can't always give the support needed to those we care about.

No matter what happens over these next few months, keep a positive outlook and remain hopeful. As attorneys, we're seen as leaders in the community. Let's set a high standard for those around us.