

It is so hard to believe that we are heading into the final months of 2021. The WCBA has been so busy this fall! I'm happy to report that the sections are all planning their monthly meetings. We have fifteen sections, and that's a lot of planning in September and October. The Estate Planning, Probate & Trust Law Section hosted the annual Probate Court training for people who want to serve as guardians ad litem. The event was very well-attended, and we should have more attorneys available to serve in that capacity. We had our first "Speakeasy" at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market, and made some new friends at that event. If you haven't attended a Speakeasy before, please give it a try. You'll enjoy meeting new (and old) friends.

We held our first general membership meeting, which was also our first virtual membership meeting, since March 5, 2020: The Bias Awareness Celebration! This year, we had two recipients of the Martin Luther King, Jr. "I Have a Dream" Award: Belinda Dulin and the Washtenaw County Circuit Court Drug Team, headed by Chief Judge Carol Kuhnke.

We honored Belinda Dulin for all her work with the Dispute Resolution Center and her work on having civil discourse with people holding different perspectives on the important issues of our society. Her life-long commitment to having the hard conversations and having them be conversations instead of shouting matches is so inspirational.

We also honored the Washtenaw County Court Drug Treatment Team, headed by Chief Judge Kuhnke. We had the pleasure of hearing from one of the Drug Court participants and his appreciation for being in a court that was trying to help him rather than punish him.

At the meeting, which is a joint event with the Vanzetti Hamilton Bar Association, the Vanzetti Hamilton Bar Association presented its Frederick Douglass Racial Justice and Harmony Award to My Brother's Keeper, an organization that seeks to transform communities of color by growing and transforming themselves, as men of color, and thereby positively change the community's perception of the contributions made by boys and men of color. It also seeks to ensure that boys and men of color have spaces that are financially sustained and responsive to historical and present barriers to success and self-determination.

Over 40 of our members, friends, and community attended – even if only virtually – and there was not a dry eye by the end of this uplifting and hopeful meeting. If you weren't able to make this meeting, please put it on your calendar next year. You won't regret it.

Just as the last months of the year are busy with the holidays, so is the WCBA. The sections are continuing to meet. We will have our Holiday Party where we annually supporting a charity. This year, we have selected the Secret Santa Society of Ypsilanti. The Secret Santa Society is a group of volunteers who collect donations, wrap and deliver them to families in Ypsilanti Christmas Eve night – when Santa comes! They believe that every child deserves the experience of the magic of Christmas. Please come to the party, and please support the Secret Santa Society. You can learn more about them here: [Secret Santa Society of Ypsi \(google.com\)](#)

I close this letter to you with some reflections on my favorite holiday: Thanksgiving. I like it because any and everybody can participate. It's not the province of any religion, race, or ethnicity. It's the holiday everyone in the USA gets to celebrate, and a holiday we all share. Also, Thanksgiving food is the best! The day brings together my favorite things: good food, good people, and good conversation. I hope you

all have a wonderful Thanksgiving, and that your last few months of 2021 are also full of good people, good conversation and good food.

*Joy*

Happy Holidays!