

Wow! It's been quite a year. In October, we had our first WCBA meeting (via Zoom) since the start of the pandemic as we celebrated Bias Awareness Week. By the time you read this, we will have had our Joint Annual Meeting and Bench-Bar Conference - our first in-person WCBA meeting since Trivia Night on March 5, 2020.

It is unbelievable how much life has changed over this past year. We've gone from mandatory masks to optional masks. We've returned to in-person hearings, including jury trials. We've had new people come into our lives – new friends, first-time WCBA members, babies. We've lost people in our communities – friends and family. Nothing looks the same as it did at this time last year.

And we made it! Our Sections, Committees, and Board have provided training, updates, and support to our membership and those who live and work in Washtenaw County. Here are a few examples of what we were able to accomplish this year as the WCBA:

1. The Probate Section's annual training;
2. The New Lawyers' networking event;
3. The Judiciary Committee's Zoom updates from the Chief Judges;
4. The Labor & Employment Section's book club;
5. The ADR Section's membership addressed implicit bias as mediators;
6. The newly-revived Juvenile Law Section's first CLE on representing youth in delinquency matters
7. A virtual Bias Awareness Event, with not a dry eye, where we honored the great work of Judge Carol Kuhnke and the Treatment Court Team, Belinda Dulin, and persons directly impacted by our criminal justice system and addiction;
8. Partnering with Legal Services of South Central Michigan in collaboration with the Ypsilanti District Library to provide a Q&A on evictions to local residents;
9. The Family Law Section hosted the LJAP Program Director to talk about compassion fatigue, and;
10. The Barn Holiday Party, a joint event with the Women Lawyers of Michigan – Washtenaw Region, where we had a chance to see each other (in person) and support four charities in our community.

I end this year of my Presidency on a note of gratitude. It has been my great pleasure to share in this journey with each of you and with the kick @\$@ Board of Directors: Sam Bernstein, Jen Lawrence, Kate Sharkey, Shalini Nangia, Paul Fessler, Alex Hermanowski, Jinan Hamood, Scott Munzel, Bob Magill, Ashley Lundy, Sydney Koch, Nimish Ganatra, Kristin Davis, Mara Kent, John Kline, Kym London, and Sarah Meinhart. They are talented, smart, committed, innovative, brave, AND SUPER FUN! They embody everything that is best about the WCBA.

Special thanks to Teresa Killeen who is so patient and amazing as our editor of *Res Ipsa*. She really helped me be brave about some of the things that are most important to me, so that I can share them with you in the midst of the wackiness that is my life.

Of course, none of this would be possible without Kyeena, who amazes every day, and Josie. It also wouldn't be possible without all of our Committee and Section co-chairs who put in the work for which we could never adequately thank them. Here's a link in case you want to express your gratitude:

[Committee Chairs](#)
[Section Chairs](#)

But most of all it wouldn't be possible without you - the wonderful attorneys in this association who sponsor events, plant flowers at Avalon, and show up at Speakeasys. I may be leaving my Presidency, but I remain an engaged member of the WCBA, and look forward to spending time with you as we continue to try to make our County better for all of its citizens.