

Season's Greetings!

As we begin the holiday season, I try to make my calendar slow down. I take a step back from work between Thanksgiving and New Year's. The holidays are a time for family, friends, and get-togethers. I sleep in a bit more, eat more food than usual, and spend time with my children. And, I would encourage all of you to do the same. It's been a busy fall, and there are yet more events as the holidays near.

This fall, the WCBA and Vanzetti M. Hamilton Bar Association co-hosted the Bias Awareness Strolling Reception in October. The Washtenaw Chapter of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan (WLAM) again joined in sponsoring the Strolling Reception. The Bias Awareness event has been co-hosted by the WCBA and Vanzetti Hamilton now for over thirty years. This marked the first in-person evening membership meeting we've had since the pandemic started. It was quite the success and we had great attendance.

Every year at the Bias Awareness reception we seek to highlight important relevant issues. This year, our keynote speaker was Bonsitu A. Kitaba-Gaviglio, who is the deputy legal director of the ACLU in Michigan. Ms. Kitaba-Gaviglio focused on the recent reversal of *Roe v. Wade* and how that decision marginalizes women of color.

The WCBA presented its Martin Luther King, Jr. "I Have a Dream" Award to Ann Arbor attorney and community activist Robyn McCoy. Ms. McCoy was recognized for her extensive work in pro bono expungement and education. Vanzetti Hamilton presented its Frederick Douglass Racial Justice and Harmony Award to community activist Trische' Duckworth. Ms. Duckworth is the founder of Survivors Speak, a group advocating for victims of domestic violence.

Big thanks are owed to our WCBA Race, Gender, & Ethnic Bias Awareness Committee Members Nimish Ganatra, Kymberlie London, K. Orlando Simon, and Robert Burton-Harris.

In other events, I hosted a President's Speakeasy in September. It was great to see so many people show up and have such a wonderful time! I will host another one of these after the holiday season winds down.

Turning to the future, the WCBA will hold its Holiday Party on December 14th. We will be moving this event to a new venue, Live, in downtown Ann Arbor, at the corner of First and Huron. This event promises to be better than ever. Come out and see your colleagues and friends for an all-around good time. The Holiday Party is yet another event that has been on hiatus during the pandemic. So, mark your calendars!

I encourage everyone to treat the holiday season the way I do by taking a step back from work. As lawyers we work so hard and have so much responsibility. With court and business conducted by Zoom, it feels that our workloads are faster and fuller than ever. Let's use this holiday season to focus on friends, family, and ourselves. Enjoy some time away from the office, go a day without checking e-mails, and take a well-deserved break.

Happy Holidays,

Sam Bernstein