

Greetings Members!

As I write my last President's Message, I would like to use this opportunity to reflect on the last year and my time serving the Washtenaw County Bar Association.

I always saw my presidency as something of a "bridge year." A bridge between the pandemic years and the post-pandemic years for the WCBA. For the last several years, we have had to put our traditional in-person events on hold. They are the events that our members value in our organization: the Bias-Awareness Dinner, the Holiday Party, Trivia Night, and the Bench-Bar Conference.

This year marked the return of those events. At the bar, we hoped that people would be comfortable returning to in-person events and were happy to see attendance return to pre-pandemic levels for our events. Thank you so much to our members who stuck with us through these hard pandemic years and returned when you could.

We just held the annual Bench-Bar Conference. It was a great turnout. We were lucky to have a keynote speaker, Michigan Supreme Court Justice Kyra Harris Bolden. Our judges gave us updates on our local courts.

As my last reminder, I want to remind our golfers out there of the WCBA Golf Scramble now scheduled for Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at the Washtenaw County Golf Club. Please mark your calendars to compete against your colleagues for year-long bragging rights!

It was a year ago, at the last Bench-Bar Conference, when I was handed the gavel from our last WCBA President, Joy Gaines. A bit of ancient trivia to share: Joy was my supervising attorney at the Washtenaw County Public Defender's Office when I was a student intern after my first year of law school. She was there for my first-ever court appearance. Joy made sure I didn't mess up too much! I could not have been more honored to follow in her footsteps as her successor as president of the bar.

I was, in turn, honored to hand the gavel to our future president, Jennifer Lawrence. Jen has been dedicated to the WCBA for a decade now and will be an outstanding president.

It has been an honor serving the WCBA organization. I have been serving on the Bar's Board of Directors for nearly as long as I have been a lawyer. It started many years ago when I was elected Co-President to the New Lawyer Section. This was back when the New Lawyer Co-Presidents had to do monthly lunchtime swearing-in motions for newly admitted lawyers.

This organization has been a key part of my personal and professional growth as a lawyer. Even as I leave the Board, I will remain committed to being an active member of the WCBA.

As I sign off on my last President's Message, I want to point out it was not until being President that I can see how much effort and contributions various people put into this organization. There are so many of you that are selfless with your time, your most valuable resources. The Bar would not be the same without you.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Bar during my presidency: the Board, the Bar staff, Teresa Killeen for editing all my President's Messages, and our Executive Director, Kyeena Slater. Have a great summer!