2021 marks the NWSBA’s 25th Annual Mock Trial Invitational. This year, we will be hosting the competition virtually via a custom platform we are designing with Consortium Software out of Battle Ground, WA. Nick Waters, CEO of Consortium, has donated much of his time and resources to help make this new format a reality. The following is an overview of Consortium.

As the pandemic started to take effect in the Chicago area, the Pacific Northwest was already in the thick of it. It was a trying time for all businesses. The business and legal landscape was rapidly changing, and no one was sure what the new normal would be. As a technology company we were in constant contact with our customers. We were ensuring continuity of business systems, leveraging technology to handle temporary shutdowns, new reporting requirements and the ever-present challenge of keeping workers working from new and remote locations. From these early months it became very evident that technology would be the defining factor in how well businesses were able to perform and survive.

Businesses that were traditionally slow to respond to new technology and change were forced to rapidly adopt work from home programs that mimicked small, home-based businesses. Access to existing corporate infrastructure required in-person attendance and that was simply not safe because of the pandemic. Businesses that were able to quickly decentralize outperformed their competition. Many smaller firms adapted quicker or were already partially operating in a work from home style environment. Those firms were able to leverage their existing work from home infrastructure to provide consistent performance and in turn have been able to capture market share.

The technology components that have had the greatest impact in the covid and post-covid environment are remote access, system integration, and web-based platforms. The need for remote access is straightforward. Employees need to access on-premise systems remotely. There are a multitude of commercially available tools from VPN to RDP. System integration is the ability to pass data from system to system or department to department. In most instances, system integration can be done by application programming interface (API) or electronic data interchange (EDI). This allows information to pass from one system to another without the need for human interaction. Web-based platforms or web applications are inherently decentralized by nature and can be accessed by any device that has a web browser. Many of the modern web platforms provide a single tool, or application, to solve a business need, but are also capable of speaking with other applications. When you combine multiple web applications, or platform tools together, you can create a decentralized business system, which is always available, from anywhere there is a network connection.

Consortium Software has offered all these things and more through Stackable Software, a cloud-based platform that hosts an array of applications designed for all types of business, industries, and organizations. Our dynamic platform is completely scalable offering an efficient new way to support the needs of our clientele. With the onset of covid the demand for software of this nature has increased and the benefits will continue well into the post-covid era.

We are proud to support the Northwest Suburban Bar Association with their exciting endeavors. We look forward to continuing to be leveraging the latest technology bringing new benefits to their members and the community.
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The roll out of the vaccine has not met expectations and the insurrection in DC with it’s basis rooted in conspiracy theory has brought forth the clarity that the clock hitting midnight on New Years Eve was not a magic cure for our society’s ills. We have a challenging time ahead and we will get through this together.

This past year:
- We saw New York devastated by Covid 19.
- Our economy is in decline.
- Instead of our country being brought together from the common threat of Covid 19 we were torn apart as face masks were being made a political issue.
- We saw an African American male suffocated before our eyes by a police officer while he and fellow citizens pleaded for his safety in Minneapolis.
- We watched in horror as Chicago police were ganged up on by a mob pelting police with bottles doing their duty protecting city property.
- We were all shocked as Minneapolis burned.
- We saw how the votes of our soldiers fighting abroad and those citizens that were most vulnerable were almost ignored as there was an attempt to block mail in votes during a pandemic.
- Michigan Ave was pillaged and Chicago’s Ronald McDonald House ransacked while families with a sick child were terrified as thugs took advantage of protests.
- We saw elected officials ignore the constitution, ignore valid votes, ignore the rule of law and this is all evidenced by ignoring findings of state governments and rulings of the courts.
- Recently we saw the confederate flag marched through the capitol building as if it belonged and we saw police assaulted by thugs claiming to be patriots in direct contradiction to the rule of law in our nation’s capital.

I will tell you I saw goodness and greatness as well and the best of humanity during the past twelve months.
- Neighbors helped neighbors as the pandemic encroached.
- Grocery store workers took on and continue to take on the risk of the ultimate sacrifice for not much more than minimum wage
- Health care workers subject themselves to great risk and sacrifice to help a nation sick with from a pandemic.
- We saw protesters of all races and religions supporting equality, we saw police overwhelming work to protect our communities during challenges over the past year and risking their own health and safety.
- People ordered food for pick-up just to support their community businesses.
- Our scientists rose to the occasion and in record time came up with a vaccine.
- We saw the courts affirm an election while applying due process and preserving the integrity of the republic through the constitutional process.
- We saw Capital Police heroes stand up to a mob where they were hopelessly outnumbered at the capitol building.
- We saw schools retool and teachers relearn how to teach on zoom.
- We saw more people than ever before exercise the franchise.

Continued on Page 13
Once our courts open again, we hope that you will consider volunteering for one or more of the services listed below.

**Court Facilitator**
The Court Facilitator program is unique to the Third Municipal District. The NWSBA provides volunteers on Thursdays from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM to assist the Domestic Relations judges. Dates are scheduled by the Association staff through use of a Sign Up Genius website.

**Paternity Court Facilitator**
Paternity Court Facilitators volunteer on Thursdays from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM to assist the Paternity Call. Dates are scheduled by the Association staff through use of a Sign Up Genius website.

**Pro Bono Desk**
The Pro Bono Desk, located in Room 251 in the Rolling Meadows Courthouse, is a volunteer service provided by members of the Northwest Suburban Bar Association. It is a free service to members of our community.

Attorneys serving at the pro bono desk are available to answer legal questions members of the general public may have. While the attorneys serving at the pro bono desk will try to answer your questions to the best of their ability, understand the attorney(s) serving that day may not have expertise in the legal area for which you have a question. The attorney(s) serving the pro

Volunteers are needed at the Third District Courthouse every Friday from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Volunteer dates are scheduled by the Association staff through use of a Sign Up Genius website.

**LINK TO SIGN UP GENIUS:**
A link to the volunteer sign up can be found on the Home Page of our website under the “Member Dashboard” tab. If you are a member and are not receiving volunteer emails from Sign Up Genius, please call the Association office at 847-621-2378.

Again, thank you for your service,
Pro Bono Committee Co-Chairs

Matthew Hess	Lance Ziebell
847-577-1123	847-705-7555
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Lawyers Assistance Program
DISCHARGE OF TAXES IN BANKRUPTCY –  
*In re Alexander, Dk. No. 19-05033, Adv. Pro No. 19-5033 (D. Conn. 2020)*

*Why This Case is Important:* While income taxes generally are dischargeable in bankruptcy, certain requirements must be met for a discharge to be granted. Filing bankruptcy too early, as the taxpayer did in this case, is a major mistake that could have been avoided with competent legal advice.

*Facts:* In *Alexander*, the taxpayer owed past-due income taxes for 2011 through 2015. She timely filed her returns for all of these years, including having filed her 2015 return on October 17, 2016. In February 2017, after the IRS threatened to take certain collection actions against the taxpayer with respect to her 2015 debt, she filed a request for a collection due process hearing. The hearing was not closed until October 2017. Under the Internal Revenue Code, the IRS was prohibited from taking action to collect the 2015 liability the entire time the hearing was open. On October 31, 2019, the taxpayer filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy. In the course of the bankruptcy, she filed an adversary proceeding against the IRS in an effort to have her 2011 through 2015 liabilities discharged. The IRS conceded that the 2011 through 2014 liabilities should be discharged but contested the 2015 discharge on the basis that not enough time had passed between the filings of the taxpayer’s 2015 return and bankruptcy petition.

*Law and Conclusion:* Under Section 507(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code, income taxes are not dischargeable in bankruptcy unless (1) the tax return in question was due more than three years before the bankruptcy filing; (2) the return was filed more than two years before the bankruptcy filing; and (3) the tax to be discharged was assessed at least 240 days before the bankruptcy filing.

These time periods are extended by the time that the IRS was prohibited from collecting the tax because of the taxpayer’s filing of a request for a collection due process hearing, plus 90 days. In this case, if the taxpayer had not requested a collection due process hearing, her 2015 taxes would have been dischargeable as of October 17, 2019 (three years after the 2015 return was due) and therefore would have been discharged by way of her October 31, 2019 bankruptcy filing. However, because the taxpayer’s collection due process hearing was open for eight months, during which time the IRS could not take action to collect her 2015 liability, her 2015 taxes were not dischargeable in bankruptcy until 3 years and 11 months after the 2015 return was due. With the return due in October 2016, the earliest the taxes could be discharged was September 2020. Therefore, the Court found in favor of the IRS and the 2015 taxes were not discharged.

**UPDATING ADDRESS ON FILE WITH IRS –**  
*Gregory v. Commissioner, No. 19-2229 (3d Cir. 2020)*

*Why this Case is Important:* This case reverses a decision of the Tax Court discussed in the April 2019 edition of Newsbriefs, and eases the burden on taxpayers to update their addresses on file with the IRS by placing a greater burden on the IRS.

*Facts:* In *Gregory*, the taxpayers filed their 2014 joint income tax return using their home address in Jersey City, New Jersey. The IRS selected the return for examination. While the audit was ongoing, the taxpayers moved to Rutherford, New Jersey. In the course of the audit, the taxpayers used their new address in multiple forms they sent to the IRS, including a power of attorney and a consent to extend the statute of limitations,

*Continued on Next Page*
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though they never filed an IRS Form 8822, Change of Address. When the IRS issued a Notice of Deficiency in 2016 proposing an assessment against them of additional taxes, it was sent to their old Jersey City address. As a result, the taxpayers did not receive the notice until January 2017, after the deadline for filing a Tax Court petition had passed. They still immediately filed a petition. In response, the IRS filed a motion to dismiss the petition for being filed late. The Tax Court granted the motion and dismissed the taxpayers’ petition based on them not having followed IRS procedures for updating their address by filing a Form 8822. The taxpayers appealed the decision to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

Law and Analysis: While the IRS has provided specific guidance and instructions for taxpayers who need to update their address by means other than filing a tax return, the Court pointed to case law that has required the IRS to use reasonable diligence to determine a taxpayer’s last known address. “Reasonable diligence” is measured by what “the IRS knew or should have known at the time it sent the notice of deficiency,” including information it should know “through the use of its computer system.” Based on the taxpayers having submitted to the IRS a power of attorney and other forms showing their new address and verbally communicated their new address to IRS agents, the Court determined that the IRS should have reasonably known the taxpayers’ correct address. That being the case, the Court overturned the Tax Court’s grant of the IRS’s motion to dismiss, thereby allowing the taxpayers to move forward with their petition disputing the IRS’s notice of deficiency. It is worth noting that the Tax Court will only be required to follow this precedent in cases originating in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

If you would like more details about these cases, please contact me at 312-888-4113 or jnesser@lavellaw.com
NORTHWEST SUBURBAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Matrimonial Law CLE
Co-Chairs: Anna Bush, Bob Boszko, Anthony Calzaretta, Nicholas Richardson & Rebecca Zeilenga

March 1, 2021  
11:45 am - 5:00 pm

NWSBA Webinar
Free to members in good standing. $100 –Non-Members

Seminar will begin promptly at 11:45 AM and will include digital materials.

To receive full credit attendees must be checked in by 11:45 AM.

Participants will receive 1 MCLE Ethics Credit in Mental Health & Substance Abuse pending approval by The MCLE Board of the Supreme Court of Illinois and The Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism and Civility.

This seminar is appropriate for ALL LEVELS

Gary A. Newland,  
President of the NWSBA

Covid Psychological Implications for Lawyers & Clients  
Pamela Rak, LCSW PC

Effect of Covid on Business Valuations  
Joe Modica, CPA

What Do We Do if the Client is a Nut Job?  
David Finn, PsyD

Case Law Update  
Gloria Block, JD, Hoffenberg & Block

Panel of Parenting Coordinators  
Anna Bush & Miriam Cooper

Judges Panel  
Hon. Regina Scannicchio, Hon. Pamela Loza, Hon. Colleen Daly, & Hon. Rossana Fernandez

Meditation for Lawyers  
Presenter To Be Announced

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Helping Others: The Commitment We All Make As Attorneys

Giving back to others to give them a better life comes easy to Cinthya Lee. She has lived it her whole life and knows first-hand the importance of mentoring and giving back to others. When she was 2 years old, Cinthya fled the unrest and civil war in Nicaragua and her family was granted political asylum in here in America. Her Dad was an accountant and her mom a social worker, but due to educational and language barriers, they were not able to pursue those career paths here in the United States. At a young age Cinthya realized that education and hard work can not only change the course of an individual’s life but can change the course of that person’s family as well.

Cinthya attended college and financed her own education. It wasn’t until she was in college that she became a United States citizen and began her path to giving back. In college she was paired with a mentor in the Chicago Bar Association who explained the importance of providing positive role models and instilled the responsibility to give back. Her mentor connected Cinthya with the Chicago Legal Clinic allowing her the ability to reach out and give back to the community at large.

Cinthya attended DePaul Law School and graduated in 2006. During law school, in addition to her responsibilities of legal studies and raising a family, she worked as a paralegal at a medical malpractice firm. All these responsibilities did not stop her from giving back to others. Cinthya felt a strong need to give back to others, took her mentor’s words to heart and gave her time and energy to the Chicago legal clinic where she worked with the clinic until well after she finished law school.

In the Chicago Legal Clinic Cinthya worked during the mortgage melt down and provided assistance to low-income Chicago residents with mortgage foreclosures. In the free time that she had, Cinthya spent hours on end each day bridging the language barrier and helping people fill out the forms so that modifications could go through. Through her efforts and assistance, untold numbers of Illinois residents got to keep the homes that they had worked so hard to obtain.

During law school Cynthia also assisted low-income individuals with tax preparation. She was proud that she helped people doing something they needed and wanted to do but didn’t have money to pay a preparer. She was amazed at the gratitude of every single person that she worked with. “They were all so grateful that someone took the time to help them fulfill their duties to society to get their taxes filed and paid.”, said Cinthya.

She also did immigration preparation for people who needed help. One individual touched her and made her realize the importance of her work, a young kid who wanted to go to college. “He had

a deep desire to educate himself and better himself and his family, but he didn’t have the ability to get funding because he was not a citizen of the United States”, said Cinthya. “It really hit home that here I was staring across the table at myself years ago. Helping him get ahead in life and make himself a better person meant the world to me and affirmed that I was making the right choices in helping others.”

In April of 2013, another of Cinthya’s mentors advised her the best place to help others and get litigation experience was the State’s Attorney’s office. It would give her the Court exposure in order to continue to help others and was a natural extension of giving back. In that role, she got to work with a lot of complaining witnesses to help them through what can be a daunting and frightening experience. While the financial pressures of raising a family on a government salary led her to a choice to pursue private practice, she misses the office comradery and the exposure to different cases.

Today, Cinthya continues her tradition of giving back by mentoring and doing pro bono work. It still resonates with her when she walks through the Courthouse. “I see the fear in the eyes of the litigants, and I see my own family. I see the fear and the desperation of people in the system of their adopted country that doesn’t speak their language and they don’t understand the process, but helping someone in a really difficult place in their lives gives me great satisfaction. That satisfaction of giving back. Knowing that we, as lawyers, can positively influence someone in this world. We can believe in our own accountability in our lives. We choose our success through our choices and can make a difference if you are willing to sacrifice and work hard and get an education. Teaching the lesson that we can change ourselves and our community at large by the choices that we make is amazingly transforming.”

“We as lawyers have a duty to give back. As lawyers, we live in a place of privilege and it is a responsibility that we live each day. Being a lawyer doesn’t feel like a job because I get to live my purpose. That purpose is to help other people to have access to that privilege. Giving back gives hope to people about the kindness of humanity and I hope that every lawyer takes that responsibility seriously because we can make a difference in someone else’s life.”
Employment Law CLE
Patricia Jochum, Thomas Hargrove, & Barbara Bell, Co-Chairs

March 4, 2021
12:00 PM - 2:15 PM

NWSBA Webinar

Free to Members in good standing

$100 – Non-Members

Seminar will begin promptly at 12:00 PM and will include digital materials.

To receive full credit, attendees MUST be checked in by 12:00 pm.

This program is appropriate for ALL LEVELS

Gary A. Newland, President of the NWSBA

WORKPLACE BULLYING:
POISON ON THE JOB

Workplace Bullying and Mobbing:
Employment and Labor Law Overview
David C. Yamada

Professor of Law and Director, New Workplace Institute, Suffolk University Law School; Globally recognized authority on workplace bullying and psychological abuse; Author of the Healthy Workplace Bill; Sought out by the media for information on these topics including the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Boston Globe, Chronicle of Higher Education, Bloomberg, Associated Press, National Public Radio, MSNBC, and ProPublica.

Unique Client Challenges in Workplace Bullying-Related Cases
Gary Namie, PhD

Co-Founder and Director, Workplace Bullying Institute; Co-Author The Bully-Free Workplace and The Bully at Work; Interviewee on more than 1,100 tv, radio, magazine, and newspaper interviews as an expert by Business Week, the New York Times, National Post, Macleans, NPR and CBC. Expert Witness for plaintiffs and defendants. Workplace Bullying University Training for Professionals

Participants will receive 1 hour of General Credit and 1 hour of Professional Responsibility Credit in Civility pending approval by The MCLE Board of the Supreme Court of Illinois and The Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism and Civility.

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If you look at the pictures accompanying the article about the holiday fundraiser you might see something a little odd. In one picture you will see me, my mentee, Alex, and a person in a gorilla costume. When most people see the picture the first question I get is “why is there someone handing out presents in a gorilla costume”? The short answer is: beloved former attorney, Kevin O’Donnell (for the record as much as I admire Judge Kevin O’Donnell I am not talking about him).

Most of you may have known Kevin O’Donnell from his distinguished legal career, but I knew a different side of him. Unlike most of you, I met Kevin for the first time when I started as a mentor at the Bridge Youth and Family Services. He was, as most of the kids like to remind me, everyone’s favorite mentor. Kevin came to The Bridge in 2004 because he was interested in mentoring at-risk children. His goal was to teach kids self-respect and the ability to laugh and he did that with every moment he had.

“There’s no point in being grown up if you can’t act a little childish sometimes.” Anyone who had the pleasure of meeting Kevin probably thought that quote was from him, but it wasn’t. The quote is by the Fourth Doctor from a British show called Doctor Who. While Kevin mentored, he personified that quote. He understood the mentor program was set up to help kids who didn’t have stability at home and needed an outside role model. He knew that because of the instability at home, most of these kids didn’t have the luxury of being silly or childish at home. They had to help take care of the house, other kids and sometimes their parents. Kevin gave those children a chance to be a kid, even for just a few hours. He was never afraid to do whatever it took to make sure the kids felt comfortable being silly, including wearing a gorilla suit to the zoo.

Kevin was initially matched with seven-year-old Zach who in his short life had already experienced significant trauma and lacked a male role model. Volunteer mentors are asked to make a one year commitment to be matched with their mentees. Kevin and Zach far exceeded that and were matched for seven years. Zach is proudly serving our country as a member of the Navy and kept in touch with Kevin up to his passing. Zach, however, was not the only mentee he had and he always had time for anyone who needed him, including mentors like myself.

When I met Kevin, he took me under his wing, like he would anyone who needed the help. While I was not a kid in the program, I needed mentoring all the same. I had never mentored kids before and to say I was a little anxious would be an understatement. Kevin took me under his wing and taught me what it meant to be a mentor. I saw how he interacted with every kid in the program and made them feel comfortable and cared for. How he used humor and levity even when the mentees were being difficult. He was a genuinely fun person who let his love and caring for other people show. It was through him that I learned that the key to mentoring is to be your authentic self and even when you have to be the disciplinarian, make sure the kids understand it is because you care.

Unfortunately, Kevin O’Donnell passed away on July 3, 2020 at the age of 73 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. The loss was felt by everyone who knew him and especially by the kids and mentors at the Bridge. After Kevin’s passing, everyone agreed that we had to celebrate his life in a way that he would approve. The Bridge decided the best way to honor his legacy was to make sure that Kevin was always with us, as a gorilla. That is why all the presents received from the NWSBA fundraiser was given to the kids by a person in a gorilla suit; because nothing personifies Kevin’s legacy like adding silliness even in the darkest times. I would like to think Kevin would approve.
First, I want to thank the Northwest Suburban Bar Association for the recent opportunities given to our League to further our mission, and am honored to be given space to explain who we are and what we do.

The League of Women Voters of Arlington Heights-Mount Prospect Buffalo Grove Area including Prospect Heights-Elk Grove Village-Wheeling is a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in League includes advocacy and outreach at the local level (our coverage area encompasses all of High School District 214) as well as at the County (for us, Cook), State, and National Level. Additionally, we belong to two Inter-League Organizations (ILO’s), both the Lake Michigan Region and the Upper Mississippi River Region. Why? Because many issues have a regional boundary! Like our name which includes six municipalities, membership also includes six levels of governmental oversight. Not bad for an organization with scant few employees. At the local level, we have zero paid staff.

I hear you asking, that sounds good, but what the heck do you do? My favorite quip is “We Turn Slativists into Activists.” But truly, our main mission, since our founding in 1920, is to empower Voters and Defend Democracy. How do we accomplish such a lofty mission? It ain’t easy, because at the local level, as I said, we have no paid employees. Our core activities encompass what we refer to as Voter Services: Voter Registration, Get Out the Vote, Mock Elections, and Candidate Forums. But we also have a thriving Emerging Leader Program (for those under the age of 26) which includes school programming, internships, and Scout programs. Finally, while we are non-partisan, we advocate on issues that have undergone rigorous study and consensus. Our public policy positions are vast but key areas include voting rights, criminal justice, gender equity, the environment, healthcare, education, fair maps, money in politics, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Further, we try to keep on top of local issues and report and act on them as needed. And then we have fun events like a podcast, movie, and book club and we even had a Gala for our 100th Anniversary in 2020 and plan to make it an annual affair (post COVID, of course). Certainly, none of this happens in a vacuum so we have a team dedicated to communicating our mission through social media, a newsletter, and the press.

As part of the NWSBA, I hope you had an opportunity to see us in action at our Judicial Forums we co-hosted prior to the November 3rd election. We are immensely proud of the work we do to help our communities know the issues and candidates which will be on the ballot. And elections happen constantly. Or at least they seem to. We barely had a moment to breathe from a hectic Presidential Election Season this year when we began our efforts to increase involvement in our local elections. In my mind, local elections are more important than any other election because it is our locally elected Boards who have a direct impact on our day to day life. I find it frustrating that nearly everyone complains about their taxes which are used to support our local services yet in the last municipal election in Arlington Heights fewer than 10% of the electorate bothered to vote. Our local League works hard to change that figure.

That is the bird’s eye view of what we do. Each month I will present a closer look at one of these programs but in the meantime, for more information please visit www.lwvah.org or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Twitter.
The legal community specifically rose to the occasion, lawyers poll watched, made sure election laws were followed, fought cases in court for both Republicans and Democrats, retooled, retrained and relearned how to practice in a pandemic. Never forgetting their responsibility to protect commerce and individual rights during the pandemic. The legal community at large includes prosecuting lawyers, defense lawyers, civil lawyers, transactional lawyers, judges, state’s attorneys, public defenders, sheriff’s office, courthouse security, bailiffs, police, clerks of court, probation officers, bar associations like ours and many other people and entities.

Again, I would like to share with you how the Northwest Suburban Bar Association has facilitated the process by assisting in retooling the legal community by providing advice on software and retraining the legal community during the pandemic. We have offered and given well over 1000 hours of continuing legal education on topics related to technology, changes in court rules and procedures, facilitating a judges forum for candidates, poll watching, working with other bars to advance legal understanding and ability to practice the law during a pandemic.

Even though we have cut our budget at the same time we are stepping up service and managed to set long term plans in place to protect the future of this association. Julie Barth our executive director and Christine Bartels have helped our board do our best to keep committees running and provide regular updates to membership on new court orders and changes in practice.

Moe Ahmad, the NWSBA 1st Vice President has been spurring on our substantive law committees to meet and teach membership while at the helm of the criminal committee with Jason Stevens, Richard Adler, Thomas Moran and Matt Fakhoury, among others.

Ken Appicella, the NWSBA 2nd Vice President has been leading with the social committees and working with the mock trial committee and will need your help with Mock Trial in February. Mock Trial will be done virtually in a zoom like format this year and 20 schools have signed up. We will need your help just as we did before. I ask you be involved and help the students be involved in an activity this year that is educational, safe and fun. The leadership on Mock trial committee consists of Frank Serio, Patricia Jochum, Donald Cosley and others. Please see the link to sign up for mock trial is http://mock.durablecms.com/register_scoring_judge.html.

Anthony Calzeratta, the NWSBA Treasurer has guided us through the process financially while also being a leader on the family law committee along with Anna Bush, Robert Boszko, Nick Richardson, Rebecca Zeilinga among others and are proceeding with their annual Family Law seminar that is attended by lawyers throughout the state that will be held on March 1, 2021. What a fantastic committee and great seminar.

The NWSBA must acknowledge Steph Garces Donnat for her work with the NWSBA’s first judicial candidate forum. The candidate forum consisted of the judicial candidates in the Northwest Suburbs in a debate like forum for the public. Steph worked with the League of Women Voters and high school students to pull off a spectacular event on zoom for the candidates and the community. We hope this becomes an annual event for our Association. Steph along with her Co-chairs on the Women in the Law Committee, Erin Adamski and Margarett Zuelerger have transformed the women in the law committee into one of the most dynamic committees in our association offering regular CLE. The Women in the Law Committee is offering another amazing seminar in conjunction with the Holocaust Museum featuring Ruth Bader Ginsberg’s life next month. Their seminars appeal to both men and women and they have been some of the best seminars of any committee and all our welcome.

Our Pro-Bono Committee, Employment Committee, Real Estate Committee, Tax Law Committee, Veterans Affair Committee, Young Lawyers, Estate Planning Committee, Ethics Committee, Media & Ethics Committee, Immigration Law Committee, Criminal Law Committee, Civil Litigation Committee, Business Law, Debtor Creditor Committee, Membership and other committees have been doing their best to navigate Covid 19 and to inform and educate and we want you to find a place to be involved. Our association is about education and community and everyone is welcome to participate.

With special recognition I must mention Scott Kuntz for his amazing work on Debtor Creditor and Scott Zambo for being editor of Newsbriefs.

Our Charity committee led by Brian Frieman has been the spotlight of our association for giving back to the community hit hard by the pandemic. Brian has ventured us into new territory by raising money for over 130 Thanksgiving dinners for families in the Northwest suburbs impacted by the economy. We have also provided well over 100 holiday gifts for kids whose parents could not afford gifts for their children.
A sense of accomplishment should be felt by the Northwest Suburban legal community as we reached out and exceeded our goals and made a concrete contribution to our legal community and community at large and we are not stopping. We are only going to continue to get better.

The cornerstone of our democratic republic may be the Constitution, but the cornerstone of our association is caring about our community, legal and otherwise, while not forgetting our mandate to improve the legal profession and educate lawyers. The CLE that are coming up this year with the Geo and Raj are:

- **February 4** – Police seminar
- **February 10** – Setting up the Law Office of the Future by Bella Schiro
- **February 17** – Dep by Zoom (Lexitas)
- **February 24** – MOCK TRIAL – NO WEBINAR
- **March 10** – Blockchain and Cryptocurrency by Nelson Rosario.
- **March 17** – Using Trial Pad in the Courtroom by Sean Driscoll
- **March 23** - Police Seminar – Part 2
- **March 24** – Training for Mediators with Judge William Haddad
- **March 31** – Law Office Planning with Allison Shields
- **April 14** – Audit Trails in Medical Records
- **April 21** – Managing Large Document cases (presented by TransPerfect)
- **April 28** – OPEN

I have been a member of our association for some time and the reason is the people that make up its membership. Being president of this association is an honor as we are blessed to have an association that offers mentorship, education, friendship and a sense of community. There is a cost associated with providing the services we provide to lawyers. I ask that you pay your dues so we can continue to serve you and our community as best we can. Help us Help you and let’s do amazing things in 2021.

In conclusion, I would like share the words of John Fitzgerald Kennedy from his inaugural address:

“So let us begin anew-remembering on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof. Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate.

In your hands my fellow citizens, more than mine, will rest the final success or failure of our course. Since the country was founded, each generation of Americans has been summoned to give testimony to its national loyalty. The graves of young American who answered the call to service around the globe.

Now the trumpet summons us again-not as a call to bear arms, though arms we need-not as a call to battle, though embattled we are—but a burden of a long twilight, year in and year out, “rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation”—a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself….

And so, my fellow American: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country

With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God’s work must truly be our own.”

With John F. Kennedy’s words in mind I thank you for allowing me to serve as the president of the Northwest Suburban Bar Association and may 2021 bring with it the hope for a better tomorrow.
May Dinner Meeting and Roast of Ernie Blomquist
May 14, 2009

Sam has no idea he’s next!
President, Gary Newland, called the meeting to order at 5:22 p.m.

The NWSBA had tremendous success in joining Northwest Compass for Toys for Tots this holiday season. NWSBA raised over $6500 for children via Gofundme page. This was remarkable!

It benefited the Bridge Youth and family services, as well as local schools. The money donated was used for purchase holiday gifts to children whose family are struggling financially. This was a great cause that really put the local community in good spirits with the help of all donors and organizers behind the scenes.

A big THANK YOU to each person who donated their money and/or time to helping us surpass our goal during the holiday season. We are so grateful for your ongoing support and generosity.

Additionally, our annual mock trial is right around the corner and will be held virtually this year. We have sent out a sign up for attorneys who wish to volunteer their time as judges for this memorable event. This sign up was sent electronically via email to all NWSBA members.

Lastly, Harper Community College is still looking for attorneys who would like to volunteer to hold mock interviews for paralegal students to prepare them for law firm interviews post-graduation. Attorneys who are interested can email Stephanie Donat at Sgarces@garceslawfirm.com.

Congratulations to new members Helen Scheller and Mohammad Ayman Owaynat.

Office Space For Rent

Office Space Near The 3rd District Courthouse:

Large furnished office overlooking a park at Northwest Highway and Euclid Avenue

Walking distance to train.

Includes secretarial space, library and photocopier.

Contact Ernie Blomquist  847-253-8100
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NW Hwy & Euclid -- Free standing building. 1400 sq. ft.
Your Own Healthy Space!! David @ 847-340-5388

PALATINE: Private suite with separate entrance available for rent.
Contains two offices and reception/office staff area. Approx. 30' x 25'.
3 single offices also available for rent. Can be combined with two-office
suite or rented separately. Includes use of conference room and plenty of
parking. Walking distance to METRA, shops, restaurants. Call John at
847-359-6100.

OFFICE SPACE NEAR THE 3rd DISTRICT COURTHOUSE: Large fur-
nished office overlooking a park at Northwest Highway and Euclid Ave.
Includes secretarial space, library and photocopier. Contact Ernie
Blomquist 847-253-8100

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS: Large office within walking distance of Rolling
Meadows Courthouse. Fourteen law firm suite. 121 S. Wilke Road Suite
301, Arlington Heights, IL 60005. Anyone interested can contact Gary
Newland at 847-840-8950.

Employment Opportunities*

Personal injury Firm In Arlington Heights  Looking for a legal assis-
tant/paralegal. Pay commensurate with experience. 847-840-8950

Criminal & Traffic Associate
Sexner & Associates LLC, an established criminal/traffic defense law
firm is seeking to add a full-time associate attorney to our already
strong legal team. Since 1990, our attorneys have aggressively and
compassionately represented those charged with offenses ranging from
minor traffic tickets to serious criminal felonies. Our attorneys repre-
sent clients in Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane and nearby counties. Backed
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legal environment within which to grow professionally while handling
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are encouraged to apply again. Benefits include health insurance, paid
vacation/holidays and retirement plan. Email resume in absolute confi-
dence to mitch@sexner.com. Additional firm information can be found

Arlington Hts: Paralegal/legal assistant with experience in personal
injury litigation. Pay commensurate with experience. Email resume
Gary@newlandlaw.com and put Resume PI on subject line.

*You must be a member of the NWSBA (Including Law
Student/Student Status) in order to place an ad in the
Employment Opportunities section. All ads are subject to
approval by the Editor.

Members in the News

Congratulations to Joseph Vito who has been made a
Partner at Lavelle Law. Vito focuses primarily on per-
sonal injury cases along with work on litigation, real
estate and election law cases.

Vito joined Lavelle Law in November of 2015. His
career has included work at law firms and corporations.
Vito received his B.A. from the University of Illinois,
Urbana-Champaign before attending Chicago-Kent
College of Law where he was awarded his J.D. He
serves on the Board of Governors at the Northwest
Suburban Bar Association.
CALENDAR

February 4 – Police seminar

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Please check the website calendar for a complete list of CLEs & Committee Meetings.