NWSBA Holiday Gift Drive Benefits Families in Our Community

The Northwest Suburban Bar Association partnered with two local nonprofits and local schools to give presents to over 220 needy children this holiday season. The drive was organized by Chloe Newland, an intern at the Bar Association, and Brian Freiman, the Chair of the Charity Committee of the NWSBA. Over $6,600 was raised and over 100 presents were donated by Ferrera Insurance of Woodstock. The money went to two local charities and Dr. Tomas Bookler, the McKinney-Vento Regional Homeless Liaison from North Cook Intermediate Service Center, helped get the local schools involved.

Northwest Suburban Bar Association’s own George Bellas donated $1,500 to meet the original goal set of $5,000 and then other generous donors took his lead and helped raise the impressive amount. When asked about his immense generosity, George had this to say:

Navigating the issues of the past year have been difficult on many families in our community and emphasizes the importance of gratitude for what we have. I am grateful that our work at Bellas & Wachowski has allowed us to be in a position to support the community. It is my privilege to help an organization like Compass which makes a difference in so many people’s lives.

The Northwest Suburban Bar has been a significant contributor to my professional development over the past 40 years and I have developed a number of friendships with the members. I greatly enjoy giving back and helping the Bar whenever possible.

One of the recipients of the generous donations made by Honorable Judge Thomas Roti and others was Northwest Compass Inc, a nonprofit in Mt. Prospect that helps people with food and housing insecurity. Northwest Compass was the lead agency helping to facilitate the drive to help kids this holiday season. Northwest Compass used the money allotted to them to get gifts for the kids that they picked. When the fundraiser started, employees called each individual family and asked for a gift list from the kids. Because of the generosity shown by the lawyers in the Bar Association, Northwest Compass was not only able to give presents to every family on the list, but also able to expand the offer to other clients.

Sonia Ivanov, Executive Director at Northwest Compass

Continued on Page 14
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President’s Page
By: Gary A. Newland

EDITOR’S NOTE: President Newland’s column was submitted prior to the occurrences of Wednesday, January 6, 2020.

Most of us will likely agree 2021 definitely brings with it hope for the future since we now have a vaccine. The vaccine may in fact afford us the opportunity to go back to a normal life free of concern from the pandemic in months to come.

We have also seen a menacing threat gaining momentum in 2020 that no vaccine can cure. This threat is unfounded conspiracy theories that have clouded the judgment of many and appears to be striking at the heart of our democratic principles. I find not one party or person accountable for all the conspiracy theories. In fact, conspiracy theories are not a new concept at all. George Washington who is renowned for his honesty stated “Truth will ultimately prevail where there is pains taken to bring it to light.”

Facts are something lawyers and judges deal with every day in an attempt to pursue justice. It is clear truth and justice cannot be separated and are intertwined. Conspiracy theories by definition are not rooted in fact and are nothing more than mere speculation and speculation is not admissible under the rules of evidence in a court of law.

Even though the rules of evidence do address the admissibility of unsubstantiated theory the constitution does not directly address truth or conspiracy theories but it does address freedom of speech. For the most part someone can make outrageous claims and such claims are generally protected speech from government interference. We can all hope the media does its job and takes “pains” as George Washington stated to bring truth to light and we must expect our politicians to be bold enough to lead and not seize on division and false narratives.

Conspiracy theory is rooted in fear and misunderstanding. Fear weakens the democratic process resulting in civil discord and division which leads to mob rule and extremism. The founding fathers knew that mob rule is just as destructive to a republic as government sponsored tyranny. Significantly, in support of our Constitution in 2020 lawyers locally and throughout the country have been active in making sure our democratic process follows legal standards so our election outcomes are not shrouded in uncertainty. In recent months I have observed Lawyers be poll watchers for both parties, arguing for and against individual right to vote, challenging election laws in an attempt to test and protect the constitution and showing ultimately we are a nation of laws. It is truly amazing how power and division are tempered, controlled, balanced through the constitutional power of the courts to interpret the law. Living under the rule of law in a Democracy is not easy nor does it always seem fair but with all it’s problems and inconstancies we are moving forward with ratifying the second election in a generation that has been litigated to conclusion on our path to create a more perfect union.

Continued on Page 6
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 web site.

**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 web site.

**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 there to provide legal advise, but are not there to represent the general public on a pro bono basis (free of charge) and therefore do not represent you in any way in the matter for which you may be seeking advice. However, since you are seeking legal advice, your communications with the attorney(s) are subject to attorney-client privilege. Those visiting the pro bono desk are limited to 5-15 minutes in length, depending on the number of others waiting.

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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## Newsbriefs

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15th of the month

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Northwest Suburban Bar Association
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Miriam Cooper

Association Attorney
Adam Berger

Parliamentarian:
David Saxe/George Sachs
Upon taking the helm the Northwest Suburban Bar Association in my installation speech I quoted part of Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address because it referenced a time of division in our country not unlike today.

With this in mind, I will tell you lawyers are essential to the functioning of this great nation as the court process helps heal social rift and sometimes even the thought or threat of the court process helps resolve division and promote compromise. We as lawyers have done a great deal to defend the constitution and more is expected of the legal community this year and we will rise to the occasion.

I would like to share with you how the Northwest Suburban Bar Association has facilitated the process by assisting in retooling with advise 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, polling, working with other bars to advance legal understanding and ability to practice the law.

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.

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 on February 24, 2021. The 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 and fun. A volunteer sign up with be sent out later this month.

Anthony Calzeratta, the NWSBA Treasurer has guided us through the process financially.

Steph Garces Donat the NWSBA Secretary has offered us an edge with her understanding of social media and 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.

We have ventured 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.

Your dues have allowed the bar association the opportunity to offer the CLE and programs we referenced above and more. For the first year of the Charity Committee headed by Brian Freiman raised the money through donations from “Go Fund” me pages to exceed our goals to help the community. Brian efforts were supported by staff and staff salaries are paid for by dues.

A sense of accomplishment should be felt by all those that paid dues and or reached out with a charitable contribution and helped us exceed our goals and make a concrete contribution to our community.

The cornerstone of our democratic republic may be the Constitution but the cornerstone of our association is caring about community. We have been offering CLE with other bar associations to expand our community and enhancing your networking opportunities and relationships.

CLE that are already on the docket for next year with the Geo and Raj are:

Continued on Next Page
Continued From Previous Page

January 6 – Get a Healthy Start to the New Year
January 13 – Setting up the Law Office of the Future
(NEEDS TO BE RESCHEDULED)
January 20 – The Little Black Box in your Car
January 27 – Social Media Strategies during Social Distancing
February 17 – Dep by Zoom

Numerous other committees have meetings and CLE planned as well. Your participation is welcome.

I have been a member of our association for some time and the reason is the people that make up its membership. We are blessed to have an association that offers mentorship, education, friendship and a sense of community. I ask that you pay your dues so we can continue to serve you and our community as best we can. Paper invoices were sent out the first of this month. If you prefer to pay online, go to your profile on the NWSBA website www.nwsba.org under Invoicing, Payment & History for a direct link to your invoice.

Help us Help you and let’s do amazing things in 2021.

STEPHEN S. NEWLAND & GARY A. NEWLAND

Gary focuses his practice on Personal Injury and Workers’ Compensation.
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Professional Ethics Committee CLE
Marie Sarantakis & Scott Kozlov, Committee Chairs

The New Normal: Ethically Practicing Law During the Pandemic

Ethical Questions for Operating a Virtual Law Office
Mark Palmer

Overcoming Practical Challenges in a Remote World
Panel discussion moderated by Marie Sarantakis, featuring the Honorable Frank Andreou, Melisa Quinones, and Nancy Chausow Shafer

Participants will receive 2 MCLE Ethic Credits in Legal Ethics pending approval by The MCLE Board of the Supreme Court of Illinois and The Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism and Civility.

Please register in advance for this meeting:
https://www.nwsba.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1414970&group=

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

By attending this Zoom event, you consent to video recording, photography and audio recording you and waive all rights you may have to any claims for payment or royalties in connection with any use, exhibition, streaming, webcasting, televising, or other publication, and you release the NWSBA and the presenter(s) and each and all persons involved in the event, from any liability connected with the taking, using, recording, digitizing, or publication and of photographs, videos, and/or audio recordings of this event.

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Helping Others: The Commitment We All Make As Attorneys

In 2004, after attending Missouri Columbia Law School, Nick Richardson was sworn in as an attorney and learned firsthand the financial challenges that went along with getting an education. When that first student loan payment came in, Nick made a promise to himself. That he would do his best to make sure that other students did not have to struggle as much as he did to better himself. That’s why each year, at least twice a year, Nick and his wife Ashley give out scholarships to high school students going away to college.

Nick and his wife were watching TV at home one night when Nick suggested the idea of funding a scholarship for college age kids to Ashley. She quickly agreed and thought it was a good idea to help those that needed an education. Thus, the Nick Richardson scholarship fund was born. It has been a team effort that both of them have gotten behind to better students in the Northwest Suburban community.

Ashley came up with the question for the students to answer every year that had to do with the legal community that awarded the scholarship to the best written most original ideas of why they wanted to be part of the legal community. The scholarship was publicized in high schools all around the Northwest Suburbs.

For the past 8 years, Nick and his wife have presented the checks of up to $2500 a piece to four different students at his office. Nick stated, “The kids are always very grateful, and it is wonderful to see the window to the future opened to growing minds.” Parents of the students always want to tag along to take pictures with their college bound children. One thing that consistently surprises Nick about the process is that the parents of the children are surprised that a lawyer would do this. When they leave his office, Nick is confident that the parents have a more positive image of attorneys than when they came in.

Nick has always focused on giving back. As part of his pro bono work as a domestic relations attorney, Nick had a very rewarding case representing a person whose spouse had a profound mental illness which put the children in harms way. After many hours of pro bono time, Nick was successful in getting the person custody of the children. Nick was rewarded with a very grateful client and the satisfaction of knowing that the children were safe. “Doing Pro Bono work is just another way that we can all give back to the community.”, said Nick.

Nick also does community work in the community. In the past he has put together Easter baskets for underprivileged children, donated and passed out Thanksgiving Turkeys during the holidays and worked with the Palatine township to feed and clothe the poor.

Ironically, Nick still has student loans himself. When asked why he was giving out money to others when he still had these outstanding debts, Nick replied, “I didn’t get help in school. This is important to me because I don’t want kids to struggle in school. The nature of our job as attorneys is so adversarial. As attorneys, we often have to take a positional approach that is based on one person’s wants and desires. As attorneys, we are fortunate. We are allowed to make money, have access and do things that others don’t have the opportunity to do.

Seeing that every day and knowing how much we have been blessed, you want to do something good for people that doesn’t have any other reward than doing good for people.”
Holiday Gift Drive Photo Recap
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
FOR NWSBA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

If you would like to be more involved in the NWSBA in a leadership role, please consider a spot on the NWSBA Board of Governors. We are now accepting Resumes and Letters of Intent for the current open board positions. Qualifications as stated in the current NWSBA Bylaws can be found on our website under the Member Services tab > ‘Bylaws 7.3 Qualifications to hold Office of Directorship of the NWSBA’.

Resumes and Letters of Intent should be submitted to Julie Barth, Executive Director, by no later than Friday, January 22, 2021.

2021 Nominating Committee:

Chair: Kenneth Apicella

Committee Members:
Michael Rothmann
Hon. Ketki Steffen
Patrick Schuette
James Riegel
MEMORANDUM

To: All Employees
All Judges

From: Timothy C. Evans
Chief Judge

Date: December 15, 2020

Re: Probation Officer Anthony Kinahan

The Office of the Chief Judge received notification that Anthony Kinahan, a probation officer in the court’s Adult Probation Department, passed away on December 12, 2020, following an illness.

Mr. Kinahan became a valued member of the Adult Probation Department in March 2001, working in the pretrial unit at the Skokie and Rolling Meadows courthouses. Mr. Kinahan was proud to be a veteran and regaled colleagues with anecdotes from his Army days. He came to the probation department later than some, but professed it to be most satisfying time in his professional career.

Mr. Kinahan’s dedication to the department, excellent listening skills, and ability to make people laugh will be missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts go out to Mr. Kinahan’s family, colleagues, and friends during this difficult time.
SAVE THE DATE!

MATRIMONIAL LAW COMMITTEE

ANNUAL CLE

Monday, February 1, 2021

Be on the lookout for more details:

Weekly Update
NWSBA Website
Email Blasts
Compass, expressed her gratitude by saying “on behalf of Northwest Compass I would like to give a very special thank you to NWSBA for organizing a holiday Fundraiser for Underprivileged Children on Northwest Compass behalf. We are very honored and grateful for the support.”

Another non-profit that was able to distribute presents to many local children was the Bridge Youth and Family Services in Palatine. The Bridge is a local agency dedicated to helping kids and families in the Village of Palatine. The Bridge offers services ranging from crisis intervention for youth, counseling for minors and a mentor program that allows at-risk youth to be paired with volunteer mentors. Elizabeth Dobrzynski, the Mentor Program Coordinator at the Bridge Youth and Family Services said this about the fundraising efforts “The results of this fundraiser help so many families and children who have been struggling all year long through the pandemic. Some families received their gifts with tears of gratitude in their eyes. It is astounding what the initiative of a local teen coupled with generous donors can accomplish. We are so fortunate to have been a recipient agency of everyone’s generosity.”

Between the Thanksgiving turkey fundraiser and the Holiday Fundraiser over $13,000 was raised for local children and families this year. The money raised helped feed over 130 families and gave gifts to over 220 children this holiday season. When asked about the successful fundraisers, Gary Newland, President of the Northwest Suburban Bar Association, had this to say “We are a community Bar Association and being a positive force in the community during these challenging times helping families improve helps the reputation of our lawyers.”
Donald Norman, left, with then Incoming President Lee F. DeWald in 2010 during the 50th Anniversary and Installation Dinner. Don, who, with Bill Moore, Kenneth Meyer (pictured below) and Jim Dowd had the idea in early 1960 to form a bar association for attorneys in the northwest suburbs. Later that year, 24 lawyers gathered at Jack Gunnell’s, a local bar, restaurant and bowling alley at Route 83, Rand Road and Kensington Avenue and formally organized the Northwest Suburban Bar Association.

Don was presented the Founders Award at the celebration held on Thursday, June 17, 2010.

First President of the NWSBA

Kenneth G. Meyer
1960-1961
Vice President, Moe Ahmad, called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m.

The NWSBA has partnered with Northwest Compass for Toys for Tots this holiday season. NWSBA is raising money for children via Gofundme page. It benefits the Bridge Youth and family services, as well as local schools. The money donated will be used for purchasing holiday gifts to children whose family are struggling financially. This is a great cause and $50 helps a child in need of holiday cheer. The goal of the toy drive is to raise $5000 to help 100 children. Please consider donating what you can.

Further next year’s mock trial will still be held virtually this year and we continue to look for attorneys who will volunteer their time to be a part of this exceptional event. Attorneys are welcomed to participate and are encouraged to sign up in advance. More information will be coming.

Lastly, Harper Community College is 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.

Congratulation to Jennifer Baratta, Paul Motin, Lori G. Levin as new members of the NWSBA.

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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.

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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.

Referrals

Gary Newland is accepting referrals for federal court personal injury claims. If your case has been removed to Federal Court or you otherwise have Federal Jurisdiction We can help. 847-797-8000.

Looking to take over practice of retiring injury attorney. If retiring or looking to slow down call 847-840-8950.

Condolences

Condolences to Hon. Thomas D. Roti on the loss of his brother, Bruno Roti. Bruno was the owner of Bruno’s Lounge on Sheridan Rd., just north of the Loyola El stop. Many members probably enjoyed drinking there during their college days at Loyola. He was 87. Funeral arrangements were private.

Condolences to the family and friends of probation officer Anthony Kinahan who passed away on December 12, 2020 following an illness. (See the memo from Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans on page 12 of this issue.)
Visit the NWSBA Calendar Page for the most up-to-date information on all events.

PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF CLEs & COMMITTEE MEETINGS.