NWSBA Continues “Coats for Clients” Program

The Northwest Suburban Bar Association Coats for Clients Program was such a success in the winter months that the program is going to be adapted year round. The program was started with the intent to let anyone who needs it to have access to warm winter clothing during the cold Chicagoland winter. The program was set up by partnering with Northwest Compass Inc, a non-profit located in Mount Prospect, that works with people with housing and food insecurity. The program was initially helped by a coat drive arranged by the Community Outreach Committee of the NWSBA and Northwest Compass Inc that resulted in over 150 coats being donated to the program. The Coats for Clients Program was a rare undertaking that saw Presiding Judge Marisie, Beth Tariza from the Public Defender’s office, Lorna Amado-Chevlin from the State’s Attorney’s office and Superintendent Angelo from the Sheriff’s Office all working together with the NWSBA and Northwest Compass to assist members in the community who needed warm clothing for the cold winter. The program was successful providing coats to people but it also proved there was a need to provide clothing all year long.

The Coats for Clients program was mostly used by people who were arrested and released in bond court. In the course of a normal misdemeanor or felony arrest a Defendant can get arrested in the clothing they are in at the time, which can be very minimal. There were people who got arrested in their homes and they were dressed in clothing that is not appropriate for the weather outside. Sometimes they would be clothed in just shorts and an undershirt. After the arrest, the Defendant would go to bond court and if they got an I-Bond (a bond that only requires the Defendant’s signature to be released) they were released in what they were arrested in.

Continued on Page 11
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From a business perspective trying to make the most of the pandemic financially is the goal. Since business models were changed we all needed to think a little differently. As an injury attorney I needed to examine and do introspection analysis on how I was going to maintain my practice pipeline of business that is referral based from other lawyers and clients during the pandemic. The challenge was people were not getting injured as they were not going out of their homes. The fact is the pandemic itself really was not a source of business as very little litigation grew out of the virus or its spread. I had always had a mass tort component to my practice. In fact my first job was defending a multinational corporation from a mass tort that killed many and fractured many families.

As an injury lawyer practicing for over 25 years with business pipeline issues caused by the pandemic I decided to venture deeper into mass tort litigation and leaped into Zantac claims and Round Up claims. Both products have caused cancer in people, ruined lives and are part of multi district litigation (MDL). I have also taken on NFL concussion claims and have met some players that have hired me and are really fantastic guys and childhood heroes of mine.

Expanding the mass tort part of my practice is a good fit because it is not related or controlled by the circumstances of the pandemic and it is a natural outgrowth of my existing practice that has brought me into federal court regularly.

The cases do not prevent me or limit my ability to take the claims I have historically taken like the standard auto, trucking claims, trip and fall, slip and fall, bicycle, motorcycle, mass tort food poisoning and many other types of negligence and intentional torts.

The hardest part of the process was making the decision to get out of my comfort zone and refine my skills in different venues. This has caused me to grow and take on some stress.

Most of you that have watched Geo and Raj at lunch know they are trying to make our members aware of technology to modify and improve the practice of law. My firm has taken practice tips from Geo and Raj as we all should but my firm frankly has always been current with our technology. Being current with technology is key to maintaining and growing your firm. This is why I recently leased a new copier for the suite I manage. Our suite is a great incubator of idea where over 20 lawyers and firms have a synergy wherein there is always someone to learn from. Along those lines we all share an excellent copier that does most functions but I thought it best that we add a little speed, color and three hole punch for everyone’s benefit including my own. When looking for a copier with state of the art technology I decided I wanted to support a vendor that has supported the NWSBA and advertises with our Bar. I chose Phil Kedra at Canon as Canon has supported our bar for many years.

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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Newbriefs

Published by: NWSBA
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Production Editor: Julie Barth
Deadline to submit:
15th of the month
Advertising Rates:
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Immediate Past President:
Miriam Cooper

Association Attorney
Adam Berger

Parliamentarian:
David Saxe/George Sachs
When you are looking for a vendor to improve your technology please consider the organizations that support the NWSBA. Below is a list of vendors that have supported us over the past 12 months or so:

ADR Systems
Amirante Law Offices, P.C.
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Bush & Heise
Canon Solutions America, Inc.
Chicago Title & Trust Company
Closing Velocity
Consortium Software
Law Office of Miriam Cooper & Assoc. LLC
Cosley Law Office
Country Financial
Euclid Title Services
Edward Jones - Andrew Erickson
Favaro & Gorman
Fidelity National Title
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Suburban Law Group, LLC

We are all interconnected and I personally want to thank our vendors for their support and I ask that you all when possible acknowledge our vendors anyway you can. Remember use our vendors to improve your practice and for finding pathways for success and will help the NWSBA continue to offer our amazing programing.
Annual Meeting & Scholarship Presentation
Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 5:00 PM
Via Webex

Never used WebEx before? No problem!

How you will participate: The Scholarship Award Ceremony & Annual Meeting are being held in a WebEx live-online environment this year. You will need to have a working computing device and modern web browser (Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Firefox, etc.), and Internet access to access the meeting remotely. For questions regarding Web Conferencing technical requirements, please go to https://www.webex.com/

When to sign in: It is recommended to sign in at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the session to ensure successful visual and audio connection to the WebEx platform.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND HELPFUL TIPS ON USING WEBEX

VISIT THE LINKS PROVIDED IN THE MOST RECENT “WEEKLY UPDATES”
February 6, 2021

Via Electronic Mail

Julie Barth
Executive Director
Northwest Suburban Bar Association
2340 S. Arlington Heights Road, Suite 510
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
E: jbarth@nwsba.org

Re: NWSBA Nominating Committee

Dear Ms. Barth;

On behalf of the Nominating Committee for the Northwest Suburban Bar Association, it is my pleasure to report that the committee has recommended the following candidates for the following positions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Calzaretta</td>
<td>Second Vice President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Donat</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Richardson</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenneth Donat</td>
<td>Board of Governors</td>
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<td>Patricia Jochum</td>
<td>Board of Governors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zubair Khan</td>
<td>Board of Governors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Zambo</td>
<td>Board of Governors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is worth noting that the competition for positions was extraordinarily strong this year and the committee had to make difficult choices between multiple high-caliber candidates. We are confident, however, that those recommended will serve as stewards to the Association’s success moving forward.
Hey, Hey! It’s Your Birthday

There are a few milestone birthdays--16, 18, 21, 30, 40, 50...But for me, 18 seemed extra special. Adulthood. For Real. It was scary, exciting, thrilling, and a bit anxiety-inducing all rolled into one. My son recently turned 18 and while it was exciting, he realized 18 didn’t afford him much. Sure, he could be tried as an adult should he commit a crime (not something I’m terribly worried about), join the military (I’m a military brat but this is not one of his aspirations), he could get a pet (we already have two spoiled greyhounds), and the rest of the list is just as droll. Except for voting. He could finally vote and have a voice in the government that decides things like whether or not he’s old enough to join the military or drink. After over ten years volunteering for an organization dedicated to Getting Out The Vote, I know most 18-year olds could care less if they can vote and our League aims to change that.

The idea for our Birthday Envelopes began after we learned that voter turnout hit a 20-year low in the 2016 election, with only 55% of those eligible casting their votes (CNN). Furthermore, among young voters aged 18-24 years old, only 50% were registered to vote and only 39% actually followed through and voted in the 2016 election. (Census Bureau). A friend and member of our League, Joan Sellegren, read about LWV Naperville’s “Birthday Boxes” program and asked if we could do something similar.

But Joan is a problem solver and we soon came up with “Birthday Envelopes” instead of “Birthday Boxes,” and decided to include things students would appreciate: candy, a pen which says “the VOTE is mightier than the pen,” a VOTE sticker, a refrigerator magnet, and a QR Code linking the students to everything they need to know to get registered and to VOTE. The second issue was how to get these envelopes to students. The staff has been enthusiastic about their response to this program and the opportunity to celebrate new voters. Typically, a staff member delivers the envelope to students on their 18th birthday which generally elicits a rousing round of “Happy Birthday” from their classmates. The cost of the program is approximately $1 per student and is administered to all students remaining in school until they are old enough to vote. To discuss sponsoring the Birthday Envelope with your logo on the envelope contact info.lwvah.org.

Continued on Page 12
Professional Ethics in Film CLE
Presented by
Dick Adler & Clifford Scott Rudnick

May 13, 2021
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

NWSBA Webinar
FREE
to Members in good standing
$100 – Non-Members

Seminar will begin promptly at 1:00 PM and will include digital materials.

To receive full credit, attendees MUST be checked in by 12:45 PM.

This program is appropriate for ALL LEVELS

World-renowned civil rights defense attorney, Bryan Stevenson, works to free a wrongly condemned death row prisoner.

Program Format
Participants will watch “Just Mercy” and we will stop at each point the actors are faced with an ethical dilemma under the ABA Model Rules and the Illinois Attorney Rules of Professional Conduct. There will be an opportunity to discuss and analyze several issues raised by the presenters and the attendees, particularly related to treatment and solution. Time will be allotted to discuss some of the differences between real practice and the movie.

Presented by:

Richard Adler, Attorney at Law, J.D., University of Wisconsin & Film Expert

Participants will receive 3 MCLE Ethics Credits: 1 in Diversity and Inclusion and 2 in Professional Responsibility, pending approval from The MCLE Board of the Supreme Court of Illinois and The Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism and Civility.

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, televisual, 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 of photographs, videos, and/or audio recordings of this event.

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Continued From Page 1

The process of having someone released in garments that were not appropriate for the weather outside proved an imposing problem that the Coats for Clients program was able to assist with. When a Defendant was released without the proper attire for the cold winter months, some of the Cook County Sheriffs in Rolling Meadows would go the extra mile and walk the person to where the coats were kept in the Public Defender’s Office in the Rolling Meadows Courthouse. The bighearted Sheriff would show the Defendant what they could take to protect themselves from the Chicago weather. The Coats for Clients program proved that there is a need for the clothing year round.

The Coats for Clients program has been modified to benefit people year round so that there are clothes available for Defendant’s and other clients. With the changing of the weather came a change in the clothing available for people. With the warmer weather the program pivoted from winter coats to lighter spring jackets and sweatshirts for people to take from the Public Defender’s Office. The adjustment to lighter attire was a signal about the importance of the program according to a person on the Community Outreach Committee of the NWSBA.

The Executive Director of Northwest Compass, Sonia Ivanov, had this to say about the continuation of the program beyond the winter months

We at Northwest Compass are so pleased that the program we started with the Northwest Suburban Bar Association has helped so many people. We were excited to work with the NWSBA to expand the program year round because we know how many people in our community have a hard time getting the necessary clothing needed. Housing and food insecurity can be a hidden problem in the community and the renewed dedication by the Community Outreach Committee of the Northwest Suburban Bar Association shows how dedicated the local legal community is to helping people in their area. It shows the compassion and humanity of the lawyers of the community. We are proud to work with the Rolling Meadows Courthouse and the Northwest Suburban Bar Association to help people in the community and excited to continue the important work the Coats for Clients Program started. We hope that by working together to support the community we can make a pathway for people who come to the courthouse and need the community support to get a referral to a non-profit so they can get the food or housing help they need during this hard time.

For now the Coats for Clients Program has proved to be such a positive benefit to the courthouse that it is here to stay for a while. When looking into the future a person on the Community Outreach Committee of the Northwest Suburban Bar Association said they would like to expand. They are in discussions with Northwest Compass to try to have not only tops but sweat pants and other garments necessary for people in the courthouse. That is a future plan but for now one thing is sure, the Coats for Clients Program is here to stay.

Pictured is the first iteration of the Coats for Clients Program.

Submitted by: Brian Freiman
Chair: NWSBA Community Outreach Committee
In the 2018-19 and 2019-2020 school years, LWV-AH-MP-BG delivered nearly 7,000 “Birthday Envelopes” to students in School District 214 and St. Viator High School to encourage eligible 18-year olds to register to vote. In the 2020-2021 School year, because of COVID, we also delivered another 3500 envelopes to students but gave them to every Senior when they picked up supplies. Because of the uncertainty of in-school learning, we determined it was best to reach students when we could. As we make plans for the 2021-2022 school year, we anticipate being able to return to individualized delivery but will pivot if circumstances change. We are dedicated to ensuring every youth in our area knows how to use their voice. Additionally, we have plans to interpret our materials into Spanish and Polish.

The follow-up survey from the first year of the “Birthday Envelope Initiative” showed the following positive results:

- 79.6% received their envelope
- 210 students cited the BE as the main reason they registered to vote
- 1,251 students cited the BE as making it more likely they registered to vote
- The remaining students cited they would have registered regardless of receiving the envelopes

Furthermore, families served broken down by village/city (2018/19 data):
- Arlington Heights 3684
- Buffalo Grove 619
- Des Plaines 963
- Elk Grove Village 860
- Mount Prospect 2673
- Prospect Heights 756
- Rolling Meadows 719
- Wheeling 1631

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**LunchAndLearnWithGeo&Raj**

**By: George “Geo” Bellas**

About two years ago I started a series of monthly presentations at the Third District Courthouse focused on tech and litigation. Last March we had to cancel the monthly seminars due to the closing of the courthouses, so I decided to start weekly webinars on topics which were relevant to practicing law in the pandemic and technology.

Over the past year we have covered topics ranging from working remotely, evictions, blockchain, smartphones, black boxes, electronic evidence and wellness. All of the webinars are FREE and intended to keep our members connected. The webinars have been well attended and well received. The presenters have been generous with their time and have come well-prepared.

This is the upcoming schedule for May:

- May 12 – The Changing Business of Law – Amato Law
- May 26 - Managing Large Document cases - presented by TransPerfect

With the pandemic restrictions easing up, I plan to continue to offer the webinars remotely as frequently as my schedule permits. This seems to be a better choice than presenting at the courthouse and seems to reflect one of the permanent changes the pandemic has brought to the practice.

Thanks to my co-host, Raj Jutla, who has helped with the coordination of the events and to the staff (Julie and Christine) at the Bar. And special thanks to our President, Gary Newland, who had the vision to accept my proposal for the weekly webinars to help keep the members involved and informed.
YOU’RE INVITED
TO BE A WELL-BEING CHAMPION

WHAT IS IT?
Too many lawyers and their support teams aren’t thriving. It’s time to take action. Well-Being Week In Law (WWIL) is one way to do so. You’re invited to join organizations across the legal profession to lead and participate in activities that promote health and happiness across the legal profession.

WHO’S INVOLVED?
The “who” is you! WWIL is an event of the Institute for Well-Being in Law (IWIL), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance Program’s Well-Being Committee serves as a sponsor. We invite you to join us and many other organizations in being a champion for lawyer well-being.

WHY PARTICIPATE?
Too many in the legal profession struggle with mental health and alcohol use disorders. Many others, while not dealing with a diagnosable illness, still are not fully well. The aim of WWIL is to raise awareness about mental health and encourage action and innovation across the profession to improve well-being.

WHEN IS IT?
May 3-7, 2021. The month of May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?
The WWIL team of volunteers has been working hard to make it easy for you to get involved. On our web page, you’ll find out how to join an event or organize your own activities:

1. Sign up for a webinar
2. Download an Activity Planning Guide to plan your own activities.
3. Read and download resources and tools (e.g., tip sheets, etc.).
4. Find materials to market your activities, like logos, stickers, social media post ideas, and more.
WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING

SAVE THE DATE EVENTS:

2021 Annual Golf Outing
Wednesday, September 22, 2021
Schaumburg Golf Club

2021 Annual Holiday Party
Wednesday, December 8, 2021
Maggiano’s Schaumburg
President, Gary Newland, called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

The NWSBA is building a strong relationship with Harper College’s Paralegal Program. Volunteer law firms and attorneys will be conducting mock interviews for paralegal students who are preparing to work in a law firm. These mock interviews are going to be ongoing and we are still looking for volunteers who want to help conduct mock interviews. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Stephanie Donat by emailing Sgarces@garceslawfirm.com

The NWSBA is relocating to another office and we are actively looking at different office spaces. There will be more updates in the next month.

Lastly, the pro bono and legal self help desk will continue and the attorney room is being used this. The attorney room is located the Third Municipal District Courthouse. If you want to participate in the legal self help desk you can contact the NWSBA directly.

Congratulations to Syed M. Raza as a new member of the NWSBA.

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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### Office Space

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 furnished 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.

ROLLING MEADOWS: Furnished office for $400 per month includes WiFi, utilities, use of conference room. Month to month lease. Call Don Cosley at 847-253-3100.

### Employment Opportunities*

Personal injury Firm in Arlington Heights looking for a legal assistant/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 represent clients in Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane and nearby counties. Backed by our experienced and supportive office staff, we offer an exciting legal environment within which to grow professionally while handling an ever-changing array of interesting and challenging cases.

Applicants should have at least one year of criminal/traffic trial experience. Prosecutors, public defenders and others who have a strong desire to pursue justice and provide exceptional client service are encouraged to apply. Those who have applied for a position in the past are encouraged to apply again. Benefits include health insurance, paid vacation/holidays and retirement plan. Email resume in absolute confidence to mitch@sexner.com. Additional firm information can be found at www.sexner.com.

Arlington Hts: Paralegal/legal assistant with experience in personal injury litigation. Pay commensurate with experience. Email resume to 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.
CAcaenger

May 5 – Lunch & Learn with Geo & Raj: Well Being Week in Law (WWIL) – Erin Clifford

May 12 – The Changing Business of Law – Amato Law

May 13 – Ethics in Film CLE - “Just Mercy” - Dick Adler & Clifford Scott-Rudnick

May 26 - Lunch & Learn with Geo & Raj: Managing Large Document cases (presented by TransPerfect)

September 22 - Annual Golf Outing

December 8 - Holiday Party

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