Inspired by the Greatest Two Minutes in Sports

In 2015, my wife, Julia, and I were fortunate enough to have walk-around passes to the Kentucky Derby. While we had been to the Derby many times before, this was the first time either of us had ever actually seen the race in person. Sure, we experienced the race from the infield and paddock while in college and for several years thereafter, but in 2015 we got to both experience and see the race.

The day was perfect and was only made better when, about an hour before the race, we were invited by a couple (previously unknown to us) into a third-floor clubhouse box directly on the finish line for the duration of the Derby Day festivities. It was incredible! Suffice it to say, Julia and I are unlikely to ever experience the Derby like that again, especially since that race was won by American Pharoah, a horse that went on to win the Triple Crown. In summary, we witnessed greatness on that early Saturday in May, greatness in American Pharoah, greatness in strangers welcoming strangers into their box, greatness in all that is the Kentucky Derby—a race that is emblematic of our community coming together, supporting a two-week celebration of all things Louisville.

While it remains to be seen how the Kentucky Derby will be run this year—currently scheduled for September 5, 2020—we should not let its absence this spring cause us to lose sight of the importance of achieving greatness in supporting one another, the LBA and our community at large. This support can manifest itself in many ways. For example, the way in which the LBA staff has transitioned to working remotely, focused on providing valuable content and updates to the LBA's membership, is truly inspiring.

In addition, the way that the LBA is partnering with the Center for Nonprofit Excellence to provide guidance on COVID-19 related legal issues free of charge makes me proud to be a lawyer. And, I was further reminded of the good the greater LBA membership provides when learning an LBA member helped establish a food pantry through Empathy in Action—occurring May 2 at 10 a.m. at 1314 Bardstown Road, while other members are making donations to various charities, including the Red Cross, The Jewish Community Center, The Community Foundation's One Louisville: COVID-19 Response Fund and University of Louisville's Louis and Louise W. Weissman Student Emergency Fund.

There is no doubt that COVID-19 impacts all of us both professionally and personally; however, it is important to bear witness to all the good that is happening around us. Moments can seem long and dark, but when you stop and pay attention, you cannot help but be inspired by the light of those around us. Therefore, I challenge you to give back to our community in whatever way you can this month.

As attorneys, we make up a substantial portion of Louisville's leadership dynamic; therefore, it is incumbent that we use our time, talent and treasure to provide for those who are less fortunate or who are focused on keeping us safe. Whether you donate blood or plasma to the Red Cross, help those you love, or make a contribution to your favorite charity, I ask that you add to the patchwork of greatness happening every moment throughout Louisville. While we cannot enjoy the Kentucky Derby this spring, let's make sure we don't lose sight of the race's ability to bring our community together.

Therefore, please do whatever you can to give back this month and send a selfie or a photo of your efforts to sfurkin@loubar.org—not for self-promotion, but rather to help us all stay connected—something we all need during these challenging times. Next month, we will include these photos in this publication to highlight the incredible impact the LBA's membership is making in our community.

Finally, in closing, I ask that you also take a moment to sincerely thank those currently serving in the frontlines of our community's response to COVID-19. The doctors, nurses, firefighters, police and other essential workers in our community are true and inspiring examples of greatness! Expressing your appreciation of their extraordinary dedication will only take a minute and will make a lasting impact.

Sincerely,

Peter H. Wayne IV
LBA President