

There Ain't No Time for The Summertime Blues

June is a busy month in the Louisville legal community. Often, attorneys are in a mad dash to get their final CLE credits, recently-graduated law students are beginning their bar examination studies and law students often have their first real-life experiences working in law firms as interns and clerks. This summer, the LBA is helping welcome these (hopefully) future lawyers by sponsoring many different events.

First, we're excited to bring back our annual Summer Intern Program. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we've raised enough money to place up to nine students from Central High School in internship positions with firms and public service legal offices across the city. On June 3, the LBA is hosting a Summer Intern Orientation luncheon where the students will get to meet each other, learn more about what will be expected of them in their new roles and talk about their new responsibilities.

From June 6 through 11, the LBA, the KBA Young Lawyers Division, the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law and Bellarmine University are hosting the annual Summer Law Institute (SLI). This annual program is for high school students interested in the legal profession. Participants will learn the fundamentals of trial procedure, discuss important legal and social issues and study how the law affects people's lives. SLI provides high school students an opportunity to meet and interact with local lawyers, judges and law professors. Throughout the week, students will be participating in workshops and mock trial practice with the students from Bellarmine Mock Trial team.

The SLI has previously received the National Association of Bar Executives and LexisNexis Community & Educational Outreach Award. Every year, SLI receives high praise from students, parents and local practitioners who interact with the group. The SLI seeks a diverse class of students willing to perform at their highest level for this unique opportunity. As of today, there are almost 20 graduates of SLI who are now actively practicing law, most of whom are in Louisville. If you would like to know more about the SLI and how you can help us with future sessions, please contact Marisa Motley at mmotley@loubar.org.

From June 15-17, the LBA will join many of our fellow members at the Kentucky Bar Association Annual Convention in Owensboro. Our LBA staff will be in the exhibit area promoting our Placement Service, the Kentucky Lawyer Referral Service and talking to new and experienced attorneys about the benefits of membership. If you plan being in Owensboro, please stop by the LBA booth to say hello and grab some swag.

In July, the LBA will be hosting a reception for recent Kentucky Bar admittees, going back as far as winter 2020, and summer associates and interns. Stay tuned as more information about this event becomes available. Later in July, the LBA will host its final summer associate/intern event, which will be a farewell reception. Please join your fellow LBA members in celebrating the various summer associates, interns and volunteers by giving them the sendoff they deserve before heading back to school.

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In my first President's Page, I set forth some of the goals I wanted to accomplish during my term as LBA President. I'd like to use this President's Page to look back to see the progress the Board has made since January.

In my January 2022 President's Page, one goal I set was improving the communication and interaction between the LBA and its membership, as well as the general public. I am pleased to report that we have accomplished this goal; by the time you read this article, the LBA will have hosted three open forums and educational sessions concerning issues that affect many people in our community—cash bail reform, medical marijuana and suicide prevention. Not only did the LBA stream the forums on its various social media platforms, but a wide variety of local print and broadcast media also reported on them.

Likewise, the LBA partnered with *The Courier-Journal* and the League of Women Voters to publish many question-and-answer articles with the candidates participating in the recent judicial primaries. Not only did those articles introduce voters to the various candidates, they also explained the many differences between levels within our judicial system. Moreover, on May 1, the LBA released the results of its membership-wide poll evaluating the judicial primary candidates in hopes of better educating the members of public when they stepped into the voting booth on primary day.

In March, *The Courier-Journal* published a piece I wrote imploring the legislature to fully and equitably fund Kentucky's Judicial Branch. Although we as lawyers see practically

every day the deleterious and harmful effects underfunding the judicial branch has on all corners of our community, many community members are unaware of those effects. That underfunding comes in many shapes and sizes, from underpaid judges and judicial staff, to overworked public defenders and prosecutors, to widespread vacancies in our jail, prisons and correctional staffs.

Another goal I set out in my January President's Page was improving the Bar Center technological capabilities and updating the Bar Center's physical space. Since then, the LBA's Executive Director, Kristen Miller, the Executive Committee and the newly formed Bar Center Use Committee have been regularly meeting to discuss potential IT and structural improvements, as well as some potential ways to make the Bar Center a profes-

sional and personal hub for Louisville's legal community. In fact, we've had some preliminary meetings with some space designers to help us envision all the Bar Center's potential capabilities. I urge you to stay tuned because these future steps are sure to be especially exciting.

I also wrote in January about my goal to update the LBA's public calling card—our logo. I'm happy to say that our Logo Committee sent out a proposal to nearly a dozen graphic designers and creative firms back in April and received numerous very impressive responses. The Committee will be voting soon on a potential partner and making a recommendation to our Board so we can get this process underway in the next few weeks.

Finally, later this summer the Board of Directors will start a new strategic planning process which will set the organization's vision and direction for the coming years. It has been several years since the Board formulated a strategic plan, and all the exciting initiatives and ideas the Board has discussed mandate that a formal plan be put in place to help guide the organization and to provide consistency in vision in the years to come.

Despite these accomplishments, there's one area where I've fallen short—community service. In my first President's Page, I expressed my hope for starting an LBA Habitat for Humanity house, for which members could volunteer at any time. After some investigating, however, we learned that to build such a house, the LBA would need to be responsible for paying for all the structure's raw materials. Alternatively, the LBA could sponsor a team of volunteers each weekend, but it would cost the organization thousands of dollars for those teams to participate. In the coming months, we will be looking for different ways in which our members can volunteer in our community. In the meantime, however, our very important pro bono work is bouncing back post-pandemic. We are currently revamping our Call-A-Lawyer service to allow volunteers to take calls remotely instead of working from the Bar Center each month. If you would like to sign up for this month's panel and share very general legal advice with our callers from the comfort of your own phone, please let Marisa Motley know. We will also be bringing back our Pro Se Divorce Clinics this fall. Join us for a free CLE on August 11 to learn how you can help people complete the appropriate paperwork to file for divorce on their own—stay tuned for more information in a future issue of *Bar Briefs*.

I also welcome **your** individual input and opinions. If you have an idea about an event, CLE or other program you would like to see the LBA host, please let me know. Alternatively, if you perceive any problems or have misgivings about a particular program or the Board's current vision, please reach out to me. My e-mail is seth@gladsteinlawfirm.com and my cell number (502) 230-1978. The Board, including the President, serves as the membership's pleasure, and wants nothing more than the organization to succeed for generations to come. Your input is imperative for the LBA to reach that goal.



Seth A. Gladstein
LBA President