

Message from the President – WPBA

As I begin my year as president of this wonderful bar association in this most interesting and challenging of times, I want to thank the members of the WPBA, my fellow board members and officers, and all of the past presidents who have come before me, including my immediate predecessor, John J. P. Krol, Esq.. I am grateful for the opportunity to be of service and will do my best to continue our traditions.

In my zeal to get started, I surfed the web to see what was being said about bar associations. Amidst the doom and gloom, I found an article written by Adrienne B. Koch, Esq. for the ABA Journal entitled “The case for bar associations: Why they matter”.

<https://www.abajournal.com/voice/article/the-case-for-bar-associations>

What Adrienne wrote resonated with me and I will share a portion of it here. She wrote that:

Bar associations perform vital functions, both in the legal profession and in society at large. These include serving as a central point of engagement for lawyers who wish to participate in pro bono work; helping to educate the public about legal issues, developments in the law and their legal rights; reporting on legal trends and advocating for legal reform; and helping to maintain the integrity of the legal profession.

But there is something else voluntary bar associations provide that is unique, irreplaceable and vital to every lawyer’s practice: the opportunity to meet, know and work collectively with a community of lawyers and judges beyond the walls of one’s own office. This is how we truly participate in the profession of law. We may find other places to get our CLE credits more cheaply or efficiently, and we may no longer need the large libraries of books that many bar associations historically provided for their members. But no available substitute for any of those things can take the place of the bar association as a vehicle that enables us to engage in the activities that make the practice of law more than just a job.

Bar associations are the heartbeat of the legal profession.

Thus, in this time of social distancing, the role of the WPBA has never been more important. The Officers and Board of Directors are already hard at work putting together social events, such as our Fall Social, Pizza with the Mayor, Judicial Candidate’s luncheon, numerous Continuing Legal Education Presentations, the Golf Outing, Holiday Party and much more. To the extent that some of these events must be virtual due to safety concerns, they will be delivered free. If you are still reading and have not already done so, please consider joining or renewing your membership. I look forward to seeing you in person when it is safe and appropriate to do so, and until then virtually via Zoom!

Very truly yours,

Jim Landau