



Karen Adinolfi

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we find ourselves in mid-February already, I thought I would provide you with some information as to events at the Bar you might not be aware of. As we find ourselves in February already, I thought I would provide you with some information as to events at the Bar you might not be aware of. Recently, the Bar started another year of our Pathfinder Program, a mentor-mentee program that matches University of Akron School of Law students with Bar member attorneys. The Program is an informal one, with the amount and type of interaction up to the mentors and mentees. I have had several mentees over the years and have so enjoyed watching them grow in the law and in their confidence, and make decisions about the future. If you are intrigued and want to help out an eager law student, look out for future sign ups!

Did you know that the Bar has a monetary fund dedicated to helping attorneys and their immediate families who are in need? The William C. Becker Lawyers' Fund has been in existence for many years, although I have discovered that many attorneys do not even know it exists. The Fund's financial assistance can include grants, interest- and security-free loans, paying advances, applying money to medical or other needs, or after the attorney's death, advancing money for expenses such as the costs of burial. The Fund can assist with personal or professional-related expenses. Those wishing to apply for assistance complete an application and the Becker Fund Committee, headed up by Irv Sugerman and comprised of attorneys interested in the Fund's mission, evaluates it and decides whether and in what form to make an award. The Fund is a wonderful example of attorneys helping their

own in times of personal or professional need. If you or someone you know is in need and could benefit from the Fund, feel free to contact Irv Sugerman or Allen Nichols.

The Fund's reach, however, does not stop there. In seeking to find other ways to fulfill its mission of helping lawyers in need, it is underwriting, along with the Gearinger Fund, a full-day Wellness Seminar sponsored by the Bar's Lawyers' Assistance Committee. Because of this underwriting, cost for the full-day seminar for Bar members is only \$25.00! Attendees will receive six hours of CLE, which includes the full amount of professional conduct, along with a continental breakfast and lunch. The Lawyers' Assistance Committee always puts on terrific, quality programming, and this seminar will be no exception. The seminar will be held on March 6, 2020 and spaces are filling fast! Do something for yourself, and go to www.akronbar.org/wellness2020 to register. Hope to see you there!

This month's New Lawyer Spotlight turns to Ashlee James, a 2019 summa cum laude graduate of the University of Akron School of Law. While in Law School, she was President of the Student Bar Association and a member of the Moot Court Honor Society. Ashlee works for the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, where she is an Assistant Prosecutor in the Child Protection Unit. I can't wait to see what she does!

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