



Karen Adinolfi

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

September 2019

Fall has arrived, although it is hard to be excited about it when it still feels like summer! The season brings one of the Bar's most popular events, the Bradford M. "Buck" Gearing Professionalism Dinner. Named for the late Buck Gearing, a greatly missed Past President and benefactor of the Bar Association, the Gearing Professionalism Dinner annually honors one of our own who has exemplified the trait of professionalism in his or her career. This year's dinner and celebration will be held on October 17, 2019 at the Sheraton Suites in Cuyahoga Falls. That evening, we will honor Summit County's beloved Judge Patricia Cosgrove, a longtime Summit County Court of Common Pleas judge who maintains a busy pace as a visiting judge since her retirement. Please join us for this inspiring event! You can register for the dinner at the Bar Association's website, <https://www.akronbar.org>.

Fall also brings the gearing up of committees and sections, and this year we have an excellent group of leaders. Whether it's a practice area you're interested in (such as Criminal or Labor and Employment Law), or an affinity group (such as Women in the Law), or you want to work toward improving our profession and community (such as with the Diversity Committee, Lawyers' Assistance, or Access to Justice), I know that you can find something that interests you. Take a look at the calendar on the Bar Association's website and if you see a group that appeals to you, drop in to a meeting and see what it's up to. You'll meet colleagues, referral sources, mentors, mentees and friends. I have always been involved in at least one committee and have enjoyed every minute of it!

The Bar Association's Vision Statement reads as follows: The Akron Bar Association will be recognized as the voice of the legal community to promote the highest respect for the law and justice system, thereby creating a thriving democracy. The Bar Association takes that directive seriously, and takes every opportunity it can to advocate for its members, recognizing that any time lawyers are recognized for their work, treated fairly, and are respected, we will see only positive effects. One of the recently launched efforts of the Bar Association is to try and reap the benefits of an increased budgetary allotment from Ohio's General Assembly for indigent defense during the next biennium. While it remains to be seen how the increased funding will play out, the Bar Association pledges that it will do everything it can to ensure that all Akron and Summit County lawyers who accept criminal felony appointments are treated fairly and consistently with their skill level and the valuable work they provide. If you have any questions about this effort, do not hesitate to let me know.

This month's New Lawyer Spotlight turns to Victor Chukwudelunzu, a member of the Bar Association's 2018-19 Leadership Academy class. A 2016 graduate of the University of Akron School of Law, he also holds an M.B.A. from the University of Akron and received his B.A. in Political Science and Government from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. Victor focuses his practice on immigration law, family and juvenile law, and business transactional law. While in law school, Victor volunteered for the Expungement Clinic and in the CASA/GAL program, which he continues to do to this day. I can't wait to see what he does in the future!

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