



Karen Adinolfi

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Even though it has been less than a month since I was sworn in as President of the Akron Bar Association, I am so enjoying my role. Those of you who have sent me congratulations and words of encouragement, thank you and please know that you have made the transition so wonderful! A special thanks goes to Bill Chris, who has been a wonderful mentor to me in my President-Elect year and who is now enjoying the far more relaxed status of Past President. And to Hal DeSaussure, I truly look forward to working with you in your President-Elect year.

I have been involved with the Akron Bar Association since I was in law school, yet it remains to me a vibrant, innovative organization that has at its core the mission to advocate for and support Summit County lawyers and the legal profession. In the coming year, I pledge to dedicate my best efforts to that mission, which, to me, is comprised of the following principles, not really in any order:

- Advocacy for the livelihood and quality of life of lawyers in Summit County;
- Championing the rule of law;
- Innovative programming and initiatives to advocate for and support the legal profession;
- A strong and vibrant relationship between the Akron Bar Association and the University of Akron School of Law;
- A collaborative and cordial relationship between the bench and bar;
- Cultivation of the pipeline to encourage and support those seeking a career in the

law, especially those from groups that have been traditionally underrepresented in our profession;

- Advocacy for access to justice while balancing the needs of the legal practitioners in our community;
- Maintaining the Akron Bar Association's excellent programs that provide service to our profession, such as Grievance, the Investigative Subcommittee, Bar Applicants and Law Students, and Lawyers' Assistance;
- Quality mentoring of law students and new lawyers; and
- Outreach to the community to educate them about all aspects of the profession and the values we hold dear.

While that sounds like a tall order, it is what the Akron Bar Association, its leadership, staff and members do every day. I have no doubt that at least one of these principles is of interest to you. I would be delighted to discuss opportunities for you, so feel free to contact me at any time.

Good things are always happening at the Akron Bar Association and in our legal community. I am sure you have seen covered in the media the history-making, all-female Summit County Court of Common Pleas bench. What an inspiration! And, how wonderful that all of our judges in this County, at all levels, participate in and support our initiatives!

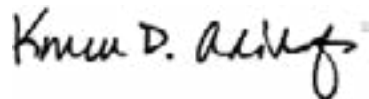
Additionally, over the next few months, you will

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be hearing more about the significant changes to Ohio's notary laws and the opportunity that a collaboration of Ohio metropolitan bar associations, spearheaded by our own Executive Director, Allen Nichols, has seized with respect to these developments.

As I developed my vision for the closing paragraph of this column (where presidents put their personal "stamp" on it), I entertained many thoughts. My grandmother was a wonderful woman, but not the best cook, so I could not follow in Bill Chris's footsteps. I am a tried and true cat lady, but I did not think monthly anecdotes about my cats would appeal to all, although I am always happy to share them (and photos!) with you. Perhaps funny quotes from my favorite sitcoms? That has promise. (One of my particular favorites, from The Office's Michael Scott: When asked whether he wanted to be loved or feared as a leader, he responded, "Both. I want people to be afraid of how much they love me.").

What I have decided on is to spotlight a newer lawyer in our community in each Examiner. I recently had lunch with Hanne-Lore Gambrell, a first-year associate at Brouse McDowell. Hanne-Lore is a 2018 magna cum laude graduate of the University of Akron School of Law and practices in the area of Real Estate, Construction and Corporate Transactions. We had an excellent discussion ranging from the serious (work-life balance for the new lawyer with a family) to the not-so-serious (the significant benefits of Taco Tuesday). Hanne-Lore has expressed interest in heading up the Diversity Committee and has so many innovative ideas. I cannot wait to see what she does!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kevin D. Ashby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a small registered trademark symbol (®) at the end.