



Karen Adinolfi

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, it seems like a world away since the last time I wrote my column for The Examiner. Our world has changed so quickly and so drastically that it is hard to put anything into words without it sounding woefully insufficient. I will try.

I had originally drafted March's column to be full of all the wonderful events coming up in the Spring – Federal Court luncheon, Ohio State Bar Association District 11 meeting, University of Akron Public Interest Fundraiser Trivia Night, the Law Week events, and so many others. One by one, we have had to cancel these for reasons all having to do with our new normal here. What is especially disappointing is these events gave us so many opportunities to engage with one another. Never fear, however, as when this situation passes – and it will – we will have so many opportunities to make up for lost time.

I was especially heartened to read that the State of Ohio's Stay-at-Home Order specifically exempted legal services from its reach, deeming them "essential." Such recognizes the vital role that lawyers play both in terms of keeping our economy going as well as safeguarding our rights and protecting those most vulnerable in this crisis. Use technology, and keep in mind social distancing and other precautions, but keep doing your great work!

Unfortunately, the rapidly and radically changing nature of our world virtually guarantees that those who suffer from mental illness or addiction issues will find those conditions more difficult to manage

and those who have not suffered may find themselves at greater risk of doing so. The Akron Bar Association's Lawyers' Assistance Committee remains ready to assist you or a lawyer that you know. The following link takes you to information about the Committee and how to access its confidential services. Don't hesitate to reach out at:

<https://www.akronbar.org/LawyersAssistance>

Finally, I cannot thank enough our Bar Executive Director, Allen Nichols, the Bar staff, and the Board of Trustees for their commitment and energy in meeting this situation head-on. It is through them that the Bar Association can continue to support and advocate for the lawyers of Akron and Summit County.

While the Bar offices are closed in compliance with the Stay-at-Home Order, we remain willing and able to assist you whenever we can. Do not hesitate to reach out, and in return, when you receive notice that your membership is up for renewal, please renew. The Bar will need your financial support when this situation is over more than ever to remain the vital and viable organization that it is.

Thank you!

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