

For the Record

The Official Newsletter of the John W. Peck Chapter

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**CLICK ON DATES TO
REGISTER**

PLEDGE:

VIRTUAL CELEBRATION OF

2021 EMERGING WOMEN

LITIGATORS

Thursday, March 25, 2021

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEET & GREET:

with Sixth Circuit Judges

Thursday, April 8, 2021

VIRTUAL LUNCH WITH A

JUDGE:

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Friday, April 16, 2021

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Friday, April 23, 2021

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Thursday, April 29, 2021

President's Message, from Steve Weigand

FBA Chapter Members,

Although the last year has been quite unusual, our Chapter remains steadfastly committed to ensuring that each of you receives value through your involvement with the FBA. As we look forward to the time when we can safely gather again for our traditional in-person events, we have enjoyed seeing you, and look forward to seeing you, at our various virtual events.

I must express my tremendous gratitude to our Board and our federal judges, who have created a number of engaging virtual events. We had our first virtual Meet & Greet event with Judges Douglas Cole and Matthew McFarland, which Judge Timothy Black facilitated. We also hosted a Meet & Greet with Judges Michael Newman and James Knepp, which Judge Bowman facilitated; a Meet & Greet with Judges Philip Calabrese and Ben Beaton, which Scott Kane moderated; and have a Meet & Greet scheduled for April 8 with Sixth Circuit Judges Eric Murphy and Chad Readler, which Kevin Schad is facilitating.

In addition, Judge Bowman has continued to spearhead our gender equity initiatives, including the second annual PLEDGE program, which recognizes outstanding woman lawyers in our community. Darren Ford is hosting a virtual trivia night in April, and David Boyles is leading our mentoring program with UC Law and Chase.



Meanwhile, we are continuing our monthly service partnership with Tender Mercies, which Judge Sandra Ammann started many years ago.

We have a number of additional virtual CLEs and events in the works, including a revamped virtual "lunch" with a judge program, which Grace Royalty is leading.

Finally, I must give a huge shout out to our Immediate Past President, Kevin Schad. Through his fantastic leadership, we were able to seamlessly shift into our virtual programming in 2020 and continue to "gather" in new and unique ways.

Please continue to stay tuned to what is happening in our Chapter. There are many upcoming events that you will not want to miss!

2021 Executive Committee

President: Steve Weigand

Vice President: Jade Smarda

Treasurer: Lauren Kuley

Secretary: Judge Stephanie Bowman

Immediate Past President:

Kevin Schad

2021 Judicial Officers

Judge Timothy Black

Judge Jeffrey Hopkins

Members at Large

David Boyles

Darren Ford

Rich Nagel

Bryce Lenox

Beth Bryan

Dan Donnellon

Megan Mersch

Heather Hawkins

Scott Kane

Rich Moore

Chandra Napora

Grace Royalty

Kevin Tierney

Glenda Wright Wins National Scholarship Award

Glenda Wright, a second-year law student at the Northern Kentucky University Chase College of Law and Vice President of Chase's Student FBA Chapter, won the 2021 The Robert A. McNew Law Student Scholarship. The Robert A. McNew Law Student Scholarship is named in honor of the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association past president and founder of the Fellows program, Robert A. McNew, who also served as president of the FBA.

Glenda's personal essay impressed the review committee for the McNew Scholarship. She candidly wrote about the challenge her and her three siblings' faced as children being raised by a single mother who suffered from mental health illness and struggled with substance abuse: "Growing up, I was acutely aware that my mother was 'sick.' At the time I did not fully understand why her illness was not curable by traditional medicine. Nine-year-old me had never heard the phrases 'dual diagnosis' or 'co-occurring disorder.' Forced to solve for myself 'grown-up' problems like homelessness, food scarcity, poverty, and abandonment because my mother was incapable of doing it, I matured quickly."

Judge Bowman, who mentors Glenda through the FBA Mentoring program, was not surprised by the award: "I am not at all surprised that the National FBA recognized Glenda Wright with the McNew Law Student Scholarship. When we first met, Glenda immediately impressed me with her level of community involvement and public service as well as her intelligence, candor and wit. I have no doubt that Glenda will continue the good work she has started and that she will be a champion for those who need a voice."



In law school, Glenda is active with a number of organizations including the Student Bar Association, Black Law Student Association, Legal Association of Women, and Phi Alpha Delta. She participated as a 2020 scholar in the W. Bruce Lunsford Academy for Law, Business + Technology Honors Program. Glenda also serves as associate editor of the Northern Kentucky Law Review and as vice president of the law school's student chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

The John W. Peck FBA Chapter extends its sincere congratulations to Glenda for her well deserved scholarship award. Our Chapter is lucky to have among its members inspiring individuals like Glenda who have persevered through and overcome adversity.

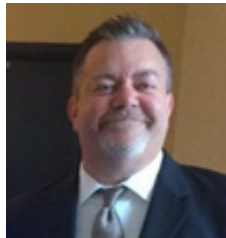
Congratulations, Glenda!

Upcoming Virtual Meet & Greet with Sixth Circuit Judges

**Thursday, April 8, 2021
From 12 - 1pm**



**Judge Chad Readler
United States Court of
Appeals
for the Sixth Circuit**



**Kevin Schad (moderator)
Appellate Director,
Federal Public Defenders
Office**



**Judge Eric Murphy
United States Court
of Appeals
for the Sixth Circuit**

We hope you will join us for this virtual opportunity to learn more about Judge Chad Readler who received his judicial commission on March 7, 2019 and Judge Eric Murphy who received his judicial commission on March 11, 2019.

Register via Zoom: [HERE](#)

A Message From Kevin Schad, Immediate Past President:

Hey All,

A new chapter in our organization began with the installation of Steve Weigand as our new Chapter President. I want to thank you all for the last year. I have been privileged to have served my term for the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Chapter.

Although this year had some unique difficulties, and we were not able to enjoy each other's company as much as usual, your commitment to the FBA, despite all of that, is most appreciated. I want to especially thank the Board for their support of me during my tenure – they made everything so easy! I have been exposed to enough other federal districts, and FBA chapters, to know that we are especially blessed here.

I look forward to seeing the Chapter grow, and attending events as the “former” or “former, former” president as our new leaders rise. Again, thank you all, and I look forward to raising a glass with you in person soon!



Event Recap: Leaders in Community Host Panel Discussion: The Business Case for Gender Equity and Why Now is the Time to Make Changes to Your Organization

On October 8, 2020, Judge Stephanie Bowman and other legal community leaders furthered the Chapter's PLEDGE initiative by hosting a virtual panel discussion regarding how racial injustices and the COVID-19 crisis have put structural and systemic inequality in the national spotlight. As everyone is aware, since March 2020, organizations have had to adapt, evolve and reassess ways of doing business. Leaders in our Chapter and local legal community held a panel discussion that highlighted how organizations can use the reassessment opportunity created by COVID to also reassess how general and racial equity can be improved in the work place. Judge Bowman, Katherine Daughtery Neff, Tammy Bennett, Nicole Armstrong, and Shelby Thompson made up the panel that addressed the question of why law firms lack wom-

en in leadership roles, provided their input on strategies law firms can implement to bring more diversity and inclusion to their practices, and addressed how firms can build diversity in their leadership positions. Further, the panel will also explained why embracement of these strategies is critical to a successful future.





Federal Bar Association

Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Chapter

VIRTUAL LUNCH WITH A JUDGE

Dates/Times:

Tuesday, April 13, 2021
Friday, April 16, 2021

Thursday, April 22, 2021
Friday, April 23, 2021

Wednesday, April 28, 2021
Thursday, April 29, 2021

ALL FBA members are invited! Registration is FREE (by invitation only). This year, Lunch with a Judge will be virtual and “lunchless” but will still allow members to engage with judges seated in Cincinnati and Covington in an informal yet professional setting. Your confirmation email will include the information for the video conference call. The video conference calls will be about an hour (usually noon to 1:00). Please select your date preference(s) to be considered for one or more of the Lunch with a Judge dates available. Registration will remain open through March 24th, unless we reach capacity prior to that date. After March 24th, registration will reopen only to the extent that space remains available!

Judges who are planning to participate are listed below:

U.S. District Judge Douglas R. Cole (OHSD- Cincinnati)

U.S. Sr. District Judge Michael Barrett (OHSD- Cincinnati)

U.S. District Judge Tim Black (OHSD- Cincinnati)

U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephanie Bowman (OHSD- Cincinnati)

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Beth Buchanan (OHSB- Cincinnati)

U.S. District Judge David Bunning (EDKY - Covington)

U.S. Sr. District Judge Susan Dlott (OHSD- Cincinnati)

U.S. Chief Bankruptcy Judge Jeffery Hopkins (OHSB- Cincinnati)

U.S. Magistrate Judge Karen Litkovitz (OHSD- Cincinnati)

U.S. District Judge Matthew McFarland (OHSD- Cincinnati)

U.S. Circuit Court Judge John Nalbandian (6th Cir.)

U.S. Magistrate Judge Candace Smith (EDKY - Covington)



Federal Bar Association

Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Chapter

PLEDGE: PROMOTING LAWYER EXCELLENCE & DRIVING GENDER EQUITY

**Join Us For The
2021 Emerging Women Litigators
Virtual Celebration
On Thursday, March 25, 2021
From 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

We hope you will join us virtually to celebrate these five women of achievement. The PLEDGE event aims to spotlight the professional successes of exceptional women lawyers in the greater Cincinnati area at a critical point in their careers. The Gender Equity Task Force believes in supporting and retaining today's talented women lawyers so they can become tomorrow's leaders and advocates. Especially given the setbacks and challenges of 2020, it is more important than ever to recognize the emerging women lawyers and their accomplishments.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

THE PLEDGE CLASS OF 2021



Tessa L. Castner,

Frost Brown Todd

Tessa represents employers in all aspects of employment law. She litigates and advises clients on matters involving wrongful terminations, employment discrimination, wage and hour law, non-competition agreements, trade secrets, and OSHA.



**Sarah Vonderbrink
Geiger,**

**Keating
Muething & Klekamp**

Sarah Vonderbrink Geiger practices in the firm's Litigation Group, assisting clients in all aspects of litigation and dispute resolution. Sarah's practice is concentrated in the area of litigation, with a focus on general civil litigation, business and commercial litigation.



Alison M. Huenefeld

Cors & Bassett

Alison is a litigation associate with Cors & Bassett and her practice focuses primarily on Labor & Employment, Construction, Transportation, Workers' Compensation, and Franchising.



Ana Perez Crawford,

**Porter Wright Morris &
Arthur**

Ana concentrates her litigation practice in commercial disputes related to product liability, transportation and logistics, and business competition. She has worked with privately held companies as well as public institutions and universities in a variety of litigation contexts.



Kellie Ann Kulka

Graydon

Kellie is a member of the firm's Litigation group, working in the areas of personal and business disputes and media law. Kellie has clerked for several Cincinnati Judges, including Judge Robert P. Ruehlman. During her time with Judge Myers, Kellie worked primarily on the Commercial Litigation Docket.

SPECIAL THANKS TO CHAPTER AND PLEDGE SPONSOR LEXISNEXIS



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Highlights from the FBA's "Virtual Meet & Greet" with Judges James Knepp and Michael Newman

On December 17, 2020, the FBA hosted a virtual meet-and-greet with our new district court judges. Each judge gave the FBA some information on their personal backgrounds and preferences.

Judge James Knepp (N.D. Ohio) grew up on an Ohio dairy farm and said his upbringing best prepared him to serve as a federal judge because it taught him to be a self-reliant problem solver. He practiced medical malpractice and railroad law until he was appointed to serve as a magistrate judge in 2010. Judge Knepp said that his practice is to grant joint motions liberally, and he gives attorneys leeway to manage housekeeping matters as they see fit, so long as they do not abuse that privilege. Judge Knepp hopes to be involved in as many settlement conferences as possible but will not allow litigants to re-argue their dispositive motion during settlement conferences.

Judge Michael Newman (S.D. Ohio) grew up in rural New Jersey and attributes his appointment to the federal bench to his depression-era parents instilling the values of humility, common-sense,

and practical problem solving. Judge Newman served as a law clerk to Magistrate Judge Jack Sherman Jr. and Judge Nathaniel R. Jones for the Sixth Circuit. He adopted Judge Sherman's mantra that tasks should be done right the first time and admired Judge Jones' commitment to civil rights, equality, and access to justice. Judge Newman was a partner at Dinsmore & Stohl until he was appointed to serve as a magistrate judge in 2011. Judge Newman's practice is guided by providing "customer-friendly" litigation. To this end, Judge Newman is responsive, approachable, and hopes to reduce client costs and litigation-related stress. Judge Newman will rule on all dispositive motions himself and delegate discovery supervision and mediation to magistrate judges. Both judges strongly encouraged litigants to consent to magistrate judges, citing the strong qualifications and strenuous confirmation process of magistrate judges. The judges are also proponents of the FBA New Lawyer Standing Order, which gives newer attorneys the opportunity to participate in oral arguments.

Summary provided by Clay Prickett of Faruki PLL

AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENTS

“For the Record” Wins Highest Newsletter Award from FBA National for Consecutive Year

The John W. Peck Chapter Wins FBA National’s 2020 “Presidential Achievement” Award

Former Chapter President Dan Donnellon Awarded the President’s Award of Excellence

