We believe in helping our members be the best they can be. We’re committed to inspiring intellectual curiosity and a strong social conscience. This investment in the professional development of our legal community is what sets the Columbus Bar Association and its members apart.

In this issue, you will learn more about the CBA, its members, our events, community service projects and the efforts we undertake to improve our community.
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The 2017-18 officers are President Lisa Pierce Reisz of Vorys Sater Seymour and Pease, President-Elect Samuel Peppers of Dinsmore & Shohl, Secretary/Treasurer Magistrate Amy Koorn of Franklin County Probate Court and Immediate Past-President Brigid Heid of Eastman & Smith Ltd. Elected to serve their first term are Michael Bonasera and Lindsay Ford Ellis. Elected to serve a second term are Robert Erney, Lorie McCaughan and Hon. Charles Schneider. Serving current terms are Eimear Bahnson, Mark Collins, Luke Fedlam, Dave Thomas and Elizabeth Zuercher.

OUR PROMISE

TO OUR MEMBERS

“We promise to provide you with supportive, engaging and unique opportunities that remind you why being a lawyer is so important. Your professional success at each stage of your legal career is at the core of everything we do.”

Becky Hartman
Membership Director

Your Columbus Bar Association: A Year in Review

MEMBERSHIP

4,512 total members (83% returning members)

76% Attorney Members
10% Sustaining Attorney Members
5% Paralegals and Non-Attorney Legal Professionals
9% Law Students

REVENUE SOURCES

- Membership
- CLE
- Notary Public
- Insurance Commissions/Bonds
- Lawyer Referral Service (LRS)
- Directory/Directory Advertising
- Court Interpreters
- Other (investment income, space rentals, Columbus Find a Lawyer, etc.)

In 2016-2017:

- 599 new members
- 3,784 registrations for CLE seminars
- 10,000+ calls to Lawyer Referral Service
- 3,667 notary applications processed
- 1,200+ surety bonds written

VALUE STATEMENT

Brigid E. Heid
Columbus Bar Past President

We believe our members are the best lawyers in the community. We want to inspire our members to continue being the best they can be through personalized attention that makes practicing law easier, life a little more manageable and balancing it all more fulfilling.

From education to ethical guidance, from staffing support to client development tools, from leadership opportunities to engagement with thought leaders, all of our programs are designed to help members learn, connect and position themselves for professional growth.
Each year, the Columbus Bar Association awards members with the Bar Service Medal and the Professionalism Award. This year, the Professionalism Award goes to S. Michael Miller, Kegler, Brown Hill + Ritter, and the Bar Service Medal goes to Richard C. Simpson, Bricker & Eckler LLP.

S. MICHAEL MILLER

Miller is receiving the Professionalism Award in recognition of his exceptional dedication to the standards of the profession and for demonstrated integrity. Miller is an active supporter of the Columbus Bar Foundation, has been a member of the Bar for over 30 years, and has been an active attorney for more than 50 years. He has worked as an FBI Special Agent, an Assistant Franklin County Prosecutor and a Judge of the Franklin County Municipal Court. From 1980 through 1997, he was elected four times to serve as the Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney. He is a three-time Columbus III lawyer of the Year in the fields of general practice and white collar criminal defense, according to the Best Lawyers in America.

To read more about Miller and his professional accomplishments, visit his firm's website: http://www.keglerbrown.com/michaelmiller

REBECCA C. KELLS

Our President's Award recognizes an individual for his/her exceptional leadership as a second year committee chairperson. Rebecca C. Kells is the chair of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Committee, and under her leadership the committee has flourished.

Kells created and distributed a survey to find out about how and when central Ohio attorneys were using ADR and mediation in their practice. Two hundred and twenty (220) people responded to the survey and the data has been used to shape CLE and committee programming.

Kells also developed and launched the pilot of Morning Meet Ups with Mediators: a program providing education and mentoring to lawyers and others interested in conflict resolution. She also organized CLE programming for the Bar and produced content for a website designed to educate the public about ADR, which will launch this summer.

In addition to never canceling a meeting, Rebecca sent personal invitations to other committees and individuals to help bolster her committee attendance every single month. She has truly been the model chair.

To read more about Kells' professional accomplishments, visit her website: https://kellslawoffice.com/about-2/

GEM AWARD

JAKE LEVINE

This year, President Brigid Heid is giving a year-end GEM Award to Incubator Attorney Jake Levine as the CBA member who most fully supported and helped us achieve the core GEM objectives for the year (Goals, Engagement, Membership). Here’s how he has helped us achieve our mission:

Levine has helped define our Goals for the future by being an integral part of the Practice Management Task Force, which helped develop our Strategic Plan. He’s also a fully Engaged member in the bar and a constant fixture at the CBA by participating in inc, being an active member of various committees and of the Barrister Leadership Program, he takes advantage of our CLE’s and volunteers for ABC & Ask the Attorney.

Finally, Levine Helps us grow Members at the CBA by being an enthusiastic ambassador to the law schools, students, and new members and recruiting new lawyers to join.

To read more about Mr. Levine, his professional career and achievements, head over to his website: https://www.jacoblevinelaw.com/about

NEW CBA PRESIDENT: MIKE CARPENTER

The Columbus Bar Foundation is dedicated to promoting an understanding of the law, the role of the legal profession and access to justice for all. As President, Carpenter will uphold these responsibilities and more throughout his 2017-18 term.

Carpenter has been a CBA sustaining member for over 30 years and is on the Board of Trustees. He is also a member of the CBA’s Visitation Committee, where he initiated the program that recognizes the service of deceased CBA members by presenting hand-blown memorial bowls to their families.

He also sits on the Board for many other organizations: American Heart Association, The Columbus Academy, the Board of Directors of The Ohio State University Foundation, the National Alumni Council of The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and the Chief Justice Thomas Moyer Legacy Fund Committee of the Ohio State Bar Association. He is a partner with Carpenter, Lips & Leland, LLP, where he has earned recognition as one of the Best Lawyers in America in three areas: Bet-the-Company Litigation (2014 Columbus Lawyer of the Year), Commercial Litigation and Defendants Personal Injury Litigation (2012 Columbus Lawyer of the Year).

To read more about Carpenter and his professional accomplishments, visit his firm’s website: http://www.carpenterlips.com/profiles_carpenter.htm

NEW CBA PRESIDENT: LISA PIERCE REISZ

As President for the 2017-18 year, Lisa Pierce Reisz will uphold the responsibilities of the CBA, including community service, lawyer discipline, providing continuing legal education and public education about the law.

Reisz is a partner with Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP and has been a sustaining member for more than 25 years and on the Board of Governors for approximately six years. She also sits on the Board for the Legal Aid Society of Columbus and Ohio State Legal Services Association. Reisz participates in the Lawyer to Lawyer Mentoring Project, CBA Homeless Project and Professional Ethics Committee. As a partner in the Vorys’ Columbus office and a member of the health care and litigation groups, Reisz’s practice focuses on health information technology issues.

To read more about Reisz and her professional accomplishments, visit her firm’s website: http://www.vorys.com/reisz

NEW CBA PRESIDENT: RICHARD C. SIMPSON

The Bar Service Medal is being presented to Columbus Bar Association member Richard Simpson in honor of his long history of distinguished service to the Columbus Bar. Simpson has been a Sustaining Member of the Bar for over 30 years and has been an active attorney for 45. He’s an avid supporter of the Columbus Bar Foundation and has served as Chair of the Columbus Bar Services Board for eight years. He’s also served as a member of the CBS Agency Board, served on the Admissions Committee for over 25 years, and was on the Board of Governors from 2013 - 2015.

To read more about Simpson’s professional accomplishments, visit his firm’s website: http://www.bricker.com/people/richard-simpson

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LOCAL LAW FIRMS ARE COMMITTED TO DIVERSITY

Founded in 2000, the Columbus Bar Association’s Managing Partners’ Diversity Initiative was one of the first such programs undertaken by a metropolitan legal community, along with a recognition by our local law firms that we needed to do better in making our firms reflect the community in which we live. We have made progress on that front, but the most recently signed fourth action plan acknowledges that we can and should do better.

Reflecting on over 15 years of work, the plan focuses on two particular areas for improvement: fostering a larger pipeline of diverse law firms and engaging in more effective mentoring. The Initiative’s focus on the pipeline seeks to attract students to the legal profession at an early stage, and stay connected with them every step of the way in hopes that we can see more of them starting their careers in Columbus law firms. By collaborating with a variety of existing programs, our legal employers will work to more effectively identify and support lawyers of color even before finishing law school.

Mentoring is an important component in bringing diverse students to and through law school. Among the biggest challenges in building a diverse law firm, is not just attracting the lawyers, but keeping them. Participating in a mentoring relationship helps to cement young professionals in their communities, creating deeper connections with new attorneys and keeping them connected to Columbus. There is an array of mentoring resources for diverse students and lawyers in Central Ohio, we want to help those programs work together and learn from each other, and we want to help connect willing mentors to mentees.

Lawyers have a special responsibility to make the legal system work and to help both our clients and the community understand an increasingly daunting array of the rules. A legal profession that is more reflective of our society can only improve our ability to fulfill that responsibility.

MINORITY CLERKSHIP PROGRAM

MINORITY CLERKSHIP PROGRAM EMPLOYERS

MCP Employers Past
Franklin County Court of Common Pleas
Online Computer Library Center, Inc. (OCLC)
Nationwide
Jones Day
Benech Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff
Frost Brown Todd LLC
Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter
Reminger Co., LPA
Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
Troutman Pepper Hamilton & Silverman LLP
Vorys Sater Seymour and Pease LLP
Asiana Penner & Leach LLP
Capital University Law School
Columbus Bar Association
Columbus City Attorney
Hispanic National Bar Association, Region Ten
John Merc, Langston Bar Association
Ohio Attorney General
The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law

MCP Employers Current
Aberman and Fitch
Barley & Cavaleri LLC
BakerHostetler LLP
Bricker & Eckler LLP
Caldicott Halter & Griswold LLP
Carilli Patchen & Murphy
Columbus City Attorney’s Office
Crabbe Brown & James LLP
Dinsmore & Shohl LLP
Eastman & Smith Ltd.
Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney
Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP
Honda North America, Inc. - Law Division
Ice Miller LLP
Isaac Wiles PLLC
Maguire & Schneider LLP
Disciplinary Counsel, Supreme Court
Ohio Attorney General
Ohio Department of Transportation
Pzena & Morris
Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP
Remington Co.
Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP
Student Legal Services
Taft, Stettinius & Hollister
Thompson Hine
Vorys Sater Seymour and Pease

MINORITY CLERKSHIP PROGRAM CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

In December 1986, Columbus attorney Nort Webster contacted Guy Reece II about creating a program to provide summer clerkship opportunities for African American law students. With the blessing of the CBA Board of Governors, the Minority Clerkship Program was born — and is now a catalyst for the success of hundreds of law students.

The Minority Clerkship Program began with nine local law firms each selecting an African American student from the two local law schools. Several years later, the program has expanded to include all students from ethnically diverse backgrounds. Over three decades, more than 30 firms, corporations and government agencies have participated in the program. Over 700 students have benefited from the summer clerkship experience.

William Nolan, Bar & Thinnest Managing Partner

MINORITY CLERKSHIP PROGRAM CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

MINORITY CLERKSHIP PROGRAM

SPECIAL ADVERTISING FEATURE TO COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST | June 16, 2017
TO DIVERSITY

“We promise to work together with leaders in the legal profession to promote and foster diversity and inclusion in central Ohio. Through programs spanning decades, we’ll continue our sustained approach to achieve diverse talent that is more reflective of the society in which we live and which enhances the lives of all.”

Jocelyn Armstrong
Assistant Executive Director and Diversity Coordinator

OUR PROMISE

TO YOUR EDUCATION

“We promise to provide a timely, engaging, innovative and convenient curriculum. We promise to equip attendees with the most up to date information necessary to stay at the top of their game. And, we promise you will have fun.”

Judy McInturff
CLE Director
A YEAR IN REVIEW
1. President Brigid Heid celebrating with members who have been practicing for 50 years
2. Members engaging at the 50 Year Luncheon
3. Past President Carl Smallwood and Rep. Joyce Beatty
4. Barrister Leaders Susan Kim, Colleen Koehler, Cedric Collins, Rebecca Bradley, Dan Porembski, Jacob Levine and Madison Whalen on Ask the Attorney
5. CBF Retreat, 2016: Columbus Bar Foundation Board of Trustees
6. James Robenalt signing copies of his book for members after a CLE
7. Concert on the Commons: President Brigid Heid with Law Students Ryan Sandor and members of the committee
8. EAGLE Committee at Sur La Table
9. Constitutional Conversation Speakers Colleen Hanball and Prof. Dan Mobi with students from Cristo Rey Columbus
10. Past Presidents’ Golf Outing: President Brigid Heid with Executive Director Jeff Stichler and committee member
11. CBF President Tom Hill and President Brigid Heid with Law and Leadership Institute’s Heather Creed and a student
12. Members trying their luck at the Gala
13. Past President Kim Shumate and Board of Trustees member Heather Robinson and their spouses
14. Financial Services Mixer: Rep. Joyce Beatty with Committee Co-Chairs Steven Forry and Keesha Warmbo and Member Doug Vonderhaar
15. CBF President Tom Hill and President Brigid Heid with Law and Leadership Institute’s Heather Creed and a student
16. Members trying their luck at the Gala
17. Past President Kim Shumate and Board of Trustees member Heather Robinson and their spouses
18. Members test out the props in the photo booth
19. Past Presidents Jay Michael and Belinda Barnes and their spouses
20. Past President Nelson Genshaft at the Golf Outing
21. Past President Carl Smallwood with hery Foreman and his wife
22. New Lawyer Reception: New attorneys enjoy a speech from New Lawyers Chair Caitlyn Nedlerth
23. New Lawyers tour the Ohio Statehouse on Halloween
24. New Lawyer Committee Co-Chair Heather Baird and Caitlyn Nedlerth
25. New Lawyers sweep the stones at the Columbus Curling Club
26. Judges supporting the Foundation at Rock ‘N Bowl
27. Hannah Botkin Doty, Colleen Hanball, Garrett Marshall and Judge Teri Jamison
COLUMBUS BAR FOUNDATION SUPPORTS CENTRAL OHIOANS’ ACCESS TO JUSTICE

As the philanthropic arm of the Columbus legal community, the Columbus Bar Foundation enhances access to justice and develops resources for central Ohioans through the support of the city’s legal professionals.

In its relatively short history, the CBF has made over $4 million in grants. Through these grants, we aim to provide legal services for indigent clients, promote professionalism within the legal community, support new lawyers entering private practice and assist attorneys in immediate need.

In October, we held our annual Pro Bono Celebration, jointly with the Columbus Bar Association and the Legal Aid Society of Columbus. I heard firsthand how our efforts are materializing throughout central Ohio. Our grants support programs like Community Mediation Service, which helps to stabilize housing and prevent homelessness for families, and the Law and Leadership Institute, an Ohio-wide program that inspires and prepares high school students, primarily from urban public school districts, for post-secondary success.

This year, the CBF also opened the Assisted Civil Self-Help Center in the Franklin County Municipal Court. Many self-represented litigants lack basic knowledge of the civil court system and how to navigate it, creating a significant barrier to fair and equal justice, and the idea for the Self-Help Center was born.

OUR PROMISE

TO THE BAR

“We promise to deliver programs and services to help our members be more successful. You will always be welcomed at your neighborhood bar, and our staff will treat you with the respect and personalized attention you deserve.”

Jill Snitcher McQuain
Columbus Bar Executive Director

OUR PROMISE

TO THE FOUNDATION

“We promise to work on behalf of the community to improve access to the courts, especially for the poor. Through the Columbus Bar Foundation, we help support efforts to provide free and low cost legal services in clinics throughout Franklin County to thousands of clients every year with a network of over 400 volunteer attorneys.”

Marion Smithberger
Columbus Bar Foundation Executive Director

Grants and Programs

The Columbus Bar Foundation supports programs and projects that further its vision for a more just and equitable legal system in central Ohio. Below are some of the Foundation’s larger programs and the cumulative amount of grants made:

- Open Books Open Minds-Juvenile Detention Facility Media Center
- Capital University Law School-Program on Dispute Resolution Education
- Columbus Bar Foundation Program for new lawyers
- Law and Leadership Institute
- Public Interest Law Foundation Fellowships; Schermer Scholarships
- CBA renovation and appointment of Education/Committee Meeting Rooms
- Community Mediation Services
- Center for Family Safety and Healing
- Lawyers for Justice
- Columbus Bar Pro Bono Program
- Helping Hands of Marion County
- Open Books Open Minds-Juvenile Detention Facility Media Center
- Ohio Attorney General’s Office
- Self-Help Center

Areas of Focus

- Access to Justice
- Diversity
- Education
- Excellence
- The Future

If you would like more information about the Foundation, please visit www.columbusbarfoundation.org or call Marion Smithberger at 340-2070.
hose of us who have lived in Columbus are well aware that among its many strengths is its diverse and vibrant immigrant population. In fact, in 2014, the Census Bureau estimated that almost 15 percent of the city’s residents spoke a language other than English. Despite the harsh rhetoric of the 2016 presidential election, there is ample evidence that immigration is a net economic benefit to American communities and that immigrants tend to be more entrepreneurial and commit fewer crimes overall than the native-born population. Nevertheless, Columbus residents who speak limited English often need to access local courts for a variety of reasons, including domestic relations issues like divorce and child custody, to address traffic citations, challenge unscrupulous housing practices, resolve disputes between debtors and lenders and many other issues that we’ve probably all had to deal with from time to time. When someone with limited English proficiency is in court, whatever the reason, the critical role of the court interpreter is immediately apparent.

There are many parts of Ohio where courts frequently use a trusted community member like a Spanish teacher or another bilingual individual to interpret for litigants who don’t speak English well enough to proceed without assistance. However, as an attorney and certified court interpreter, I can tell you that interpretation is every bit as much of a professional discipline as the practice of law.

In fact, the Ohio Supreme Court recognized this several years ago and promulgated a new rule requiring the appointment of certified professional court interpreter in cases where one of the parties requires it. Rule 88 of the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio requires courts to appoint a certified court interpreter in every case where one is required and reasonably available. Having litigated cases with both certified and non-certified interpreters, I can tell you that the difference is often night and day. If you are involved in litigation where a court interpreter is required, making sure your interpreter is certified is a prudent step to take. And if you are bilingual and looking to join a challenging and highly rewarding profession, I encourage you to investigate what it takes to become a certified court interpreter yourself.

For more information or to schedule an interpreter for your hearing or deposition, please contact Shirley Coressel.

CBIS was established to help the legal community comply with Supreme Court of Ohio Rule 88, which requires that a Supreme Court of Ohio certified court interpreter be appointed whenever a party to or witness in a legal proceeding cannot readily understand or communicate because of a hearing, speech, or other impairment.

For more information, please visit the Columbus Bar website (www.cbalaw.org) or contact Shirley Coressel at 614/340.2075.
Today, clients expect lawyers to manage businesses. Court cases take approximately 2 months to get to trial and 10 years, including those I play softball with and most of the attorneys I currently consider friends. I would have met none of them but for the CBA.”

The best place to network with your peers? The Columbus Bar Association. The CBA has hands-down the best place for attorneys in central Ohio to network. There are nearly 30 substantive law committees, each meeting monthly, as well as professional development and board-appointed committees for you to get involved with. I have met more attorneys than I can count due to my involvement in the CBA over the last 10 years, including those I play softball with and most of the attorneys I currently consider friends. I would have met none of them but for the CBA.”

The number of cases proceeding to trial in recent years has dwindled dramatically. This shift is not the result of fewer cases being filed, it’s because attorneys and litigants are getting smarter about resolving costly and time-consuming litigation. According to economic research firm Micromics, on average, federal court cases take approximately 24.2 months to get to trial and 33.6 months to get through an appeal. Litigants simply do not have the patience or appetite for this prolonged, expensive disruption of their personal lives and businesses.

Today, clients expect lawyers to manage their cases toward settlement. This sentiment is amplified once the client is handed a case budget and timeline. Mediation is often the most prudent path from a business perspective as the cost of defending or pursuing an action commonly outweighs the potential reward.

The American Arbitration Association reports that over 85 percent of all mediations result in settlement. This is often the case even when prior settlement discussions between the parties have failed. There are several reasons why the mediation model creates a better opportunity for resolution:

First, mediation provides a safe environment for reasonable thinking and action. Parties locked in litigation are often reluctant to proffer reasonable numbers because they fear it will be viewed as a sign of weakness. Likewise, attorneys don’t want to “cave” during negotiations and risk the ire of their clients. Mediation is a time-out from the litigation process. In mediation, the mediator can coax the parties into the “zone of bargaining” with realistic probing into the parties’ claims and defenses. A good mediator will allow the parties to mutually hone in on reasonable numbers without causing either side to lose face.

Second, mediation is inherently a win-win. An experienced attorney will prepare his/her client for the reality that mediation is not the place to maximize one’s legal rights. It is an opportunity for an early end to litigation and a deal that each side can live with. If a party fashions itself a “loser” it does not have to agree to the deal. Litigation produces winners and losers, mediation does not.

Third, mediation holds the promise of self-determination. Taking a case to trial may appear to be a bold, strong move, but it requires placing the outcome in the hands of a judge or jury. Mediation keeps the parties in control of their case – that control vanishes in a courtroom.

The late Chief Justice Warren Burger warned that traditional litigation “is too costly, too painful, too destructive, (and) too inefficient for really civilized people.” He was right. Mediation offers an expedited, confidential and financially sound alternative to litigation. For these reasons, savvy litigants now routinely choose mediation over trial.

“Community involvement has always been important to me, both personally and professionally. My membership with the Columbus Bar Association helps me achieve both of those goals, particularly through my involvement with the Minorities in the Law Committee and the New Lawyers Committee. As a law student, I participated in the Minority Clerkship Program, and my clerkship was an excellent foundation for my legal career. Now, as an attorney, I’m able to meet law students who are getting ready to embark on the laws of their legal careers by participating on an audit panel during the MCP student orientation session.

And, my involvement with the New Lawyers Committee has provided great opportunities where I can pursue my passion for community service while meeting new attorneys in the Columbus area.”

“The Columbus Bar Association has the ability to enhance your life, as it has done mine, both personally and professionally. My involvement continues to increase my legal knowledge, improve my practice and enrich my friendships. My role as a leader in our Bar Association showed me the high caliber of our members and their continuing commitment to our community. Your involvement in the association will benefit you every time you participate and engage!”

Kathryn Rosenbaum
Blawkoh ermme

Miller Law LLC

Kathryn Rosenbaum
Blawkoh ermme

Choosing Mediation

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CONCEALED CARRY UPDATE

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Senate Bill 199, regarding Ohio’s concealed carry laws, went into effect on March 21. This bill permits individuals to carry firearms and ammunition in their private vehicles on an employer’s property.

Employers cannot have a policy or rule that restricts individuals with a concealed carry license from transporting or storing firearms or ammunition in personal vehicles.

1. An individual is in the vehicle, or the firearms or ammunition are locked within the trunk, glove box, or other enclosed compartment or container within or on the personal vehicle, and

2. The vehicle is in a location it is otherwise permitted to be.

In the bill, both the concealed handgun license law, affecting where individuals can conceal carry. For example, previously, concealed carry was not permitted on college and university campuses except handguns, which could be kept in a locked vehicle. But now, colleges and universities can permit concealed carry on campus. Without college or university action, individuals with a concealed handgun license are only permitted to have a handgun in a locked vehicle.

The statute provides employers immunity for injury or death caused by another person’s actions involving a firearm or ammunition transported or stored in a vehicle unless the employer solicited or procured the actions. However, all employers should review their policies regarding weapons in the workplace to assess whether updates are necessary to ensure compliance with Ohio law.
The concept of Columbus Bar Incubator program originated in the mind of Jill Snitcher McQuain, Executive Director of the Columbus Bar Association, with the purpose to provide a means for young attorneys who had been in practice for less than two years and wanted to be solo practitioners to have a twelve-month, structured and comprehensive mentoring experience (this was later expanded to fifteen months).

When I stepped by the CBA in January 2011 to pick up my new directory, I mentioned that I was going to seek a possible teaching position for a general practice seminar. I was then invited to Jill’s office where she laid out her vision: having the CBA provide low-cost office space, numerous opportunities to network with local attorneys, referral sources for cases and most importantly a list of qualified practitioners who could be called upon for advice and guidance in handling first impression cases. The final part was the most critical as law schools provide an excellent theoretical education, but the practical aspects of law practice are unknown and daunting. The mentoring of young attorneys is a duty that all members of the legal profession should take seriously because, like most professions, we are judged not by our strongest members, but by our weakest.

The structural and practical problems were daunting. With great and valuable input from Bruce Campbell, then counsel to the Bar Association, a structure was set up that was separate from the CBA but allied with it. This structure allowed the participants to consult with co-participants and mentors to handle matters competently for clients. The office space was initially donated by Tiano & Associates, and the furnishings were underwritten by the Columbus Bar Foundation, allowing the Columbus Bar to minimize the expense for the new lawyers.

The next hurdle was how to structure an application process and recruit new lawyers. An application form was finalized after many attempts and both Capital and Moritz Law School at The Ohio State University agreed to help make the program known to their graduates. This pool of applicants has since been expanded to include all Ohio Law Schools.

During the initial application process, a list of about twenty local attorneys was compiled that included specialists in topics that solo practitioners would most likely face. After consulting with my wife, I volunteered to be an “in-house” mentor on Fridays in order to get the program off the ground. Once this was accomplished, the Columbus Bar, Inc. program opened for business on April 1, 2011. I have remained as the “in-house” mentor since then and have expanded my time to two days a week since my retirement.

If you’re interested in supporting the Columbus Bar Inc program, contact Jocelyn Armstrong at (614) 340-2051.

Mentors

One office within the Columbus Bar Inc. suite is dedicated for on-site mentors, like Colby, to be able to meet with the attorneys and provide guidance. The mentoring relationship is a fundamental part of what Columbus Bar Inc is providing new solo attorneys to enhance their likelihood of success.

In addition to the mentoring relationship, inc mentors provide educational seminars on a variety of topics, which include making a business plan, client intake, interviews and screening, pro bono opportunities, mediation and more.

“As a governmental law office, we are happy to be active members of the Columbus Bar Association. The services and programs of the CBA are truly invaluable to our staff. CLEs offered by the CBA cover a broad range of subjects and address ongoing trends in the legal profession. Practice committees provide our staff with the ability to learn, and a place to meet others in the profession in a welcoming environment.”

Bill R. Hedrick
Columbus City Attorney’s Office Chief of Staff

“For more than thirty years the Columbus Bar Association has provided vital support to help us build and manage our practice. The dedicated professionals who run the Lawyer Referral Service, ColumbusFindALawyer, CLE, practice committees and bond programs are always great to work with, easy to contact and consistently responsive. The association has earned its reputation for superior commitment to service, professionalism and civility.”

Paul K. Hemmer
Carroll Ucker & Hemmer, LLC

Let us host your next meeting

Located adjacent to Columbus Commons, the conference and meeting facilities at the Columbus Bar Association are available days and evenings at rates that are significantly less than similar accommodations in a hotel.

Space available for up to 110 people
Food and beverage service
Audiovisual equipment

Let us handle all the arrangements for your next event.

The Columbus Bar can help you find the right attorney for your legal issue.

We’ve been helping central Ohioans find the right lawyer for over 60 years. Search for an attorney by legal specialty on our website, or call the Columbus Bar’s Lawyer Referral Service.

FIND A LAWYER:
directory.cbalaw.org
(614) 221-0754