



Board Brief

APRIL



Message from the President

“Caring Connectivity” Through COVID-19

As we realize we’re part of the whole while we navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic and face fear, uncertainty, and stress, I can attest to the clarity and flexible

devotion that the OSBF has tirelessly exhibited. It is the paragon of “caring connectivity.” While obviously nothing is the same today as it was when I last communicated with you, the OSBF’s responses to various challenges guided by Lori’s leadership and the collective wisdom and intellect of Rob Ware (immediate Past President), Velda Hofacker (President-Elect), and Jack Stith (Treasurer/Chair of Audit and Finance Committee), have been flexible, inspiring, and unwavering.

All meetings are now by video platforms. Leadership connects virtually every day. While the Fellows’ May symposium has been postponed, the Fellows are working diligently to keep their project at the forefront vis-à-vis Facebook postings and connections, obtaining sponsorships (which includes a matching one), and determining how the 2019 Fellows can best interface with the incoming 2020 Fellows.

As for our past grantees, we’ve reached out to support them with their projects through this frightening time. Our Grants Committee met and voted to recommend that the board provide more than \$300,000 in grants over the next few months. Development is focused on “stewardship,” meaning we’re staying in close contact with past Fellows and donors through many personal calls and handwritten missives, relaying our thankfulness for their support. The Audit & Finance Committee has been perspicacious in monitoring and protecting our investments and endowment. Past Presidents have called to assist. All our committees are nimble and have adapted very well in order to fulfill their respective 2020 goals.

Like everyone, we hope this worldwide pandemic is but a brief disturbance. But we are not naïve. This is an indelible time, and life will never be as before. We’re resolved to fulfill our mission through caring connectivity, which is further defined by resilience, enterprise, and high spirit. We will move forward in a healthy way.

Please stay well, be safe, and shelter creatively,

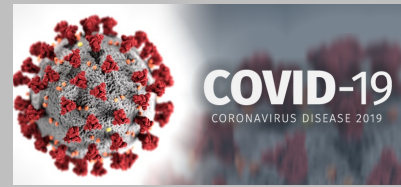
In fellowship with gratitude,

Mark Kitrick
President

As we continue to adjust in a COVID-19 world, the OSBF remains hard at work moving its mission forward.

We are in touch with our Fellows, and we are reaching out to our grantees. We're continuing to hold our staff, committee, and Board of Trustees meetings through GoToMeetings, and we persist in our fight to improve Ohio's legal system for all.

To read OSBF's official response to COVID-19, visit OSBF.org/OSBFCOVID19.



In 1996, Richard Susskind (author of the paradigm-challenging book [The Future of Law](#)) predicted that emails would come to dominate the way lawyers would communicate with clients and that the web would become the first port of call for lawyers when undertaking research. These ideas were so controversial that some senior lawyers called for Susskind to not be allowed to speak in public. Now, we know that Susskind was absolutely on target. When I began my career, business was conducted by fax, phone, and letter. In today's world, business is conducted by email, text, and IM. Even the use of words is no longer always necessary. A coworker may send a text featuring several emojis in place of words, and their colleague may respond with nothing but a meme. Although Governor DeWine's current stay-at-home order to fight the spread of the Coronavirus has transformed the work of non-essential workers from in-person to virtual nearly overnight, it's been a remarkably manageable transition for many of us – we were only a half-step away. Through emails, texts, and video platforms, many of us are successfully executing all the essential functions of our jobs remotely.



When the dust of the pandemic finally settles, will we arrive at a place where more work is conducted remotely instead of in a communal office five days a week? And as our lives continue to be lived more and more in the virtual world, how will the OSBF effectively engage our Fellows? Of course, we will continue our in-person events. In fact, with more people working remotely, in-person events may be appreciated more than ever. Yet to keep pace with the times, participation in our Fellows community must include even more opportunities for virtual participation. Posting on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, as we already do, is important. But I am challenging our staff to use these and other technology platforms in new ways so that we can more consistently and effectively engage with our Fellows virtually.

Now is the time to reach out. Now is the time to innovate. The need for social connection has never been greater, and the organizations who can provide that connection will remain strong. Help us by engaging with us now in the virtual world and by communicating in ways that may feel unfamiliar, just like emails and searching on the internet once did. If we choose to reach out virtually, we will have a community that is vibrant and relevant.

It isn't really a choice, actually – we need to begin to adapt now. Otherwise, as other social networks continue to evolve, ours will be left behind.

Thanks to a grant from the OSBF, Pro Bono Partnership of Ohio (PBPO) updated its website to allow volunteer attorneys to sign up for opportunities in real time and filter them by location and practice area. The organization was also able to enhance its applications for prospective volunteers and nonprofit clients. This update will help the PBPO staff pair nonprofits with the appropriate volunteer and use the information collected in a meaningful way for reporting and tracking outcomes.



Interested in volunteering with PBPO? See a list of opportunities at PBPOOhio.org/Volunteer-Opportunities.

Community Service Award FOR ATTORNEYS FORTY AND UNDER



Congratulations to our **District 9 recipient Lee Heckman!**

Lee is a Partner at Reese Pyle Meyer PLL in Newark. At the firm, his areas of practice include estate planning, probate, real estate, business law, and tax-exempt organizations. He is a member of the Licking County Bar Association and the Ohio State Bar Association. Lee also serves on the board of the Canal Market District and Enterprise Hub and the Granville Education Foundation and has been listed as a Rising Star in *Ohio Super Lawyers* from 2015 to 2020.



Congratulations to our **District 11 recipient Christopher Teodosio!**

Christopher is a Partner at Brouse McDowell in Akron. He serves as President of the Andrea Rose Teodosio Memorial Foundation and as Secretary of the Sir Thomas More Award Committee. He's also a board member of Community Legal Aid and is a member of the Blossom Committee of The Cleveland Orchestra. Christopher is a new member of the OSBF's 2020 Fellows Class and a Fellow of the Akron Bar Foundation. In 2017, he received the Greater Akron Chamber's 30 For the Future Award.



Congratulations to our **District 12 recipient Jaclyn Vary!**

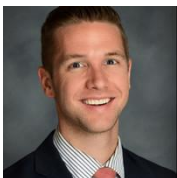
Jaclyn is a Partner at Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP. She is a 2020 Class Fellow of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, a national organization working to build a more open and diverse legal profession. She serves as a board member and Membership Committee Chair for the Estate Planning Council of Cleveland. Vary is a member of the American Bar Association, Ohio State Bar Association, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, and Geauga County Bar Association. She is also a member of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts Committee and Reach Out for Nonprofit Organizations Committee.



Congratulations to our **District 2 recipient Judge E. Gerald Parker Jr.!**

Judge Parker is the first African-American male elected to the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas, General Division. He is a member of the Dayton Bar Association, the Ohio State Bar Association, and the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association. He also serves on the boards of Building Bridges, Inc., the Dayton Mediation Council, the Salvation Army, and the Judicial Advisory Board of the Monday Community Correctional Institution.

In 2018, Parity, Inc. named Judge Parker one of Dayton's Top Ten African American Males. He's also received the WHIO Channel 7 Making a Difference Award.



Congratulations to our **District 15 recipient Bryan Conaway!**

Bryan is a partner with Knowlton, Bennett & Conaway. In his role, his practice areas include real estate law, probate law, oil and gas law, business development, corporate law, criminal law, and general civil litigation. He serves on the Ohio State Bar Association's Board of Governors, on the Guernsey County Law Library Resources Board, and on the Hospice of Guernsey, Inc. Board.

Staff Update



The OSBF staff is working hard from their *home* offices. While the pandemic has turned the world upside down, our mission hasn't faltered. Our focus remains on our Fellows and grantees. We are brainstorming ways to engage with Fellows from a distance, and we are continuing to support our grantees. Recently, we surveyed our grantees to see what their concerns and needs are during this unprecedented time, and their responses were presented for discussion to the Grants Committee.

The staff is grateful for your support and encouragement, which continue inspiring us each and every day. Thank you!



Can we count on you to do your part? At the end of each issue of the Brief, we will ask you to partake in an activity (we promise it will be easy!) to help us spread the word on the great work the Foundation is doing throughout Ohio.

Will you take a few minutes to write a brief welcome message to our 2020 Fellows? Congratulate them on the honor of being an OSBF Fellow, share words of encouragement, and let them know why being a Fellow is so worthwhile. While the Class won't be able to begin their year like we normally do in person, we are still holding a virtual orientation and will do our part to make sure they have a great experience and feel welcomed to the OSBF family.

Please send your message to Jordann at JDillard@OSBF.net.

When you give, we give.

All donations to the OSBF go directly to our grantmaking efforts.

[Give Now](#)

Ohio State Bar Foundation | OSBF@OSBF.net | 614-487-4444 | OSBF.org

See what's happening on our social media sites:

