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Message from the President

Go To... Where? Zoom, Zoom, Zoom!

As we contend with the seismic shift from COVID-19, we're experiencing *en masse* a paradox. While we are *GoingTo* and *Zooming* to meetings and events with titles implying that we're

traveling rapidly, we're not moving at all. Instead, we're transfixed for hours facing a flat screen world. Our day-to-day reality faces familiar grids similar to tic tac toe or Sudoku. We see talking people in squares surrounded by illuminated grids. We no longer visit actual museum galleries, but instead virtual ones populated with our colleagues, friends and families. All this cyber traveling gives us *GoToMeeting* or *Zoom* fatigue as - our vocabulary increases with "social distancing," "shelter in place," and "contact tracing." And what have we accomplished conversing in the virtual universe without leaving our chairs?

The OSBF community has been creative and concentrated on accelerating us forward. We conducted our 2nd board meeting and accomplished much during the four plus hours. For instance, we approved our final and 3rd year \$100,000 payment regarding our strategic partnership grant. We will complete our first of its kind long term partnership project by continuing to educate and test the public on their knowledge of civics in new ways. Thousands more in Ohio will know about the law and its effects. The Grants Committee submitted its recommendation to provide 8 grants (9 projects) for the Spring totaling \$320,002. With the coronavirus affecting our ability to accurately predict whether we can safely gather in the Fall, we agreed not to have our annual dinner in October. Instead, we'll present awards and celebrate vis-a-vis the serial use of social media and videos. As for development, we are grateful to those who've supported us over the years. And we hosted orientation online our new 2020-2021 Fellows, thirty lawyers with a wide spectrum of backgrounds and experiences. It was an engaging, productive afternoon starting with a meet and greet. Afterwards, we held three breakout sessions with each brainstorming about the

project the Fellows might create. Our Fellows have now begun pioneering their own path to fulfill the OSBF mission.

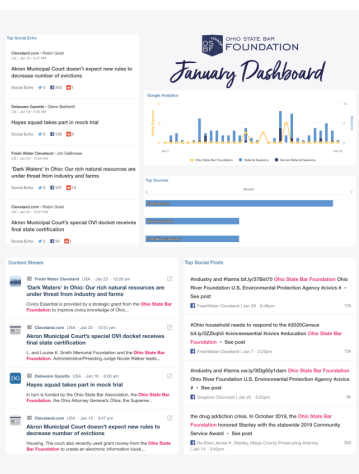
This year has changed us. We will never forget it. We will fondly remember OSBF's flexible approach during this challenging time. This starts with our employees Lori Keating, our ED, along with Cynthia Kincaid, Tiffany Patterson, Staci Waterman, Jordann Dillard, Lisa Ray, Bev Graves, Pam Brown, and Michele Mitchell. We are proud of you, and we humbly thank you!

In fellowship with gratitude,

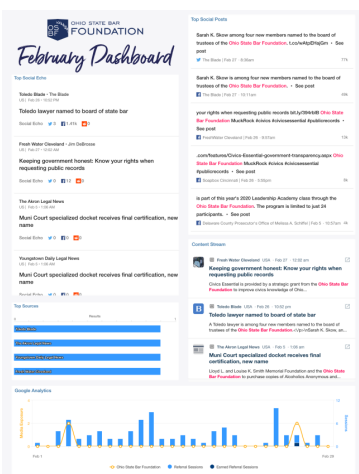
Mark Kitrick
President



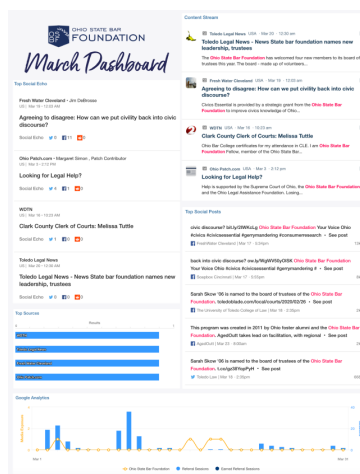
We are excited to share the brand-new **OSBF Dashboard** ! This monthly one pager will share where the Foundation has been in the media. Check out articles mentioning the OSBF, social media posts, and more. Click the links below to get caught up on where OSBF has been in 2020.



JANUARY DASHBOARD



FEBRUARY DASHBOARD



MARCH DASHBOARD



APRIL DASHBOARD

Without question, the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted our personal and professional lives in ways we could not have imagined even a few months ago. We have faced unprecedented challenges and adapted quickly to uncertainty. Perhaps the biggest change most of us have encountered has been a global move to working from home. Many familiar organizations are not only working from home but also extending their work-from-home policies. For example:

- Amazon and Microsoft employees are working from home until at least October.
- Google employees will likely work from home the remainder of 2020. Facebook is following suit.
- Work from home policies for employees at Nationwide and Twitter have been so successful that both companies are now expanding those policies permanently, even if a vaccine is found for Covid-19.



As we adapt to a remote new world that may be long-term, how do we translate not just workplace but other traditionally in-person encounters to meaningful virtual interactions? My children, who signed up for summer camp, are now planning for an on-line experience. The camp asks parents to encourage their kids to pitch a tent and sleep in their own backyard for three nights. Each camper will receive a package in the mail that includes a camp t-shirt, journal, and items they will need to embark on a daily “virtual adventure,” although I have yet to understand exactly what that means. The counselors will lead purposeful virtual conversations with small groups of participants, who will get to know each other throughout the week. These efforts, I believe, cannot possibly replicate the typical over-night camping experience, but I am intrigued to see how a camp hopes to create the most fun, meaningful substitute experience that it can imagine in the virtual world.

What about the OSBF’s signature events, like Fellows Orientation, Induction, and Annual Dinner? Well, we hosted our first virtual hosted Fellows Class Orientation just more than a week ago. President Mark Kitrick gave an amazingly inspirational welcome, that made me feel the Fellows were embarking on likely the best experience in their professional lives. Staff led a presentation with the group featuring fun facts about each Fellow captured in caricature. These silly yet engaging conversational starters brought together this new group quickly, as each Fellow was asked a follow-up question or two about their featured favorite activity, accomplishment, or ambition. By the end of our time together, people felt introduced to each other and staff received complimentary emails from Fellows after the program’s end.

My hope is that at the end of this pandemic, whenever that comes, we will more highly value the in-person interactions we once took for granted. Even if the virtual falls short of the in-person experience, if we fill a need of engagement and create a feeling of community, it should count as a win. I will continue to encourage our OSBF to be bold and experiment, and I ask that you help us make virtual engagement worthwhile by being willing to participate. Although separated by physical distance we are, after all, in this together.



We love when our grantees give us a shoutout on social media!

A big thanks to The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland for tagging us in their recent post on Facebook. We

are grateful that they have the ability to continue serving their community during this pandemic through their new website and online intake.



The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland

2 hrs · 🌐

Thanks to funding from the O'Neill Foundation, [Supreme Court of Ohio](#) , and [Ohio State Bar Foundation](#), we have continued to serve people during this crisis through our new website and online intake. Thank you for helping us [#ExtendJustice](#).

👍 Ohio State Bar Foundation, Laura Ray, Jess Bowden and Legal Aid of Western Michigan



Staff Update



Last week, Executive Director Lori Keating presented *Building a Better Justice System: The Work of the Ohio State Bar Foundation* to the current OSBA Leadership Academy class. Her discussion was part of a day-long program that featured, among others, Tim Young from the Office of the Ohio Public Defender, Angie Lloyd from the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation, Kate Stickland from the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education, and Heather Creed from the Law and Leadership Institute.

The OSBA Leadership Academy is an interactive leadership training program designed to nurture and prepare lawyers for effective leadership in the OSBA, the profession, and their communities.

Lori enjoyed meeting this new class of attorneys, which represent every type of practice and all parts of Ohio. Hopefully, we will welcome them as future OSBF Fellows one day!



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.

Are you interested in ways you can engage more with OSBF, its Fellows, and its grantees during this time? The staff continues to brainstorm ways to boost engagement, and we would love your help.

If you'd be interested in participating in virtual opportunities, email Marketing and Communications Manager Jordann Dillard at JDillard@OSBF.net .

When you give, we give.

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

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

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