

To the Members of the Akron Bar Association:

Since our last announcement to you our situation has changed rapidly, and frequently. We trust that you, your colleagues and family members are well. We are holding our own at the Akron Bar, but here are some updates on our operations, etc.

Health and Safety of Employees and Members

This continues to be our first priority. We are following the guidelines provided by the Summit County Public Health Department (<https://www.scph.org/covid-19>) and other state/national/international agencies that provide guidance on such issues. As our guide we are using the recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control that all gatherings of 50 or more people be canceled/postponed for eight weeks – through May 16. Staff are working part-time from home and are working split shifts in the office to minimize the number of people in the building at any one time. When in the office we are practicing the appropriate social distancing measures. We are also limiting access to our building.

Meeting Attendance

Meetings of sections, committees, etc. are also still scheduled. We are using Zoom or our conference call capabilities for all meetings so that members may attend virtually instead of in-person.

Meeting Room Reservations

We have cancelled all outside use of our meeting rooms and are not accepting applications for the interim.

CLE Attendance

We encourage our members to select the Akron Bar Association as their CLE provider of choice and that thought continues. We are converting our in-person seminars to live interactive webinars if it can be done easily. We are grateful to the Ohio State Bar Association for its willingness to share its technology with us to make this happen. If you are registered for the March 20 CLE: The SECURE Act and Estate Planning you will be attending as a webinar.

Don't forget, we offer Self-Study CLE at <https://akronbar.ce21.com/> and encourage you to review the many offerings available to you from our partner bar associations throughout Ohio.

Cancellations

Whether they be CLEs or other events we have had to cancel/postpone a few.

- The annual Las Vegas Worker's Compensation seminar scheduled for May.

- We are rescheduling the White Williams Bankruptcy Seminar
- We are canceling the Federal Courts Luncheon
- Law Week
 - We are canceling the Street Law Summit
 - We are canceling the Acoustic lunch event
 - We will attempt to reformat the Ask an Attorney event to a call-in only session.
 - Red Mass is technically a Cleveland Diocese event so I have reached out regarding the likelihood it will still be held
 - Law Day Luncheon – We are holding off on a decision for this event because we would like to be able to gather to celebrate our members and the legal profession...and by that time we'll all appreciate seeing friends and colleagues! We'll wait a little closer to see if we can make this one event happen, but safety will guide our decision (as well as our contract with the venue!)

On a personal note: These decisions are not easy, but we understand our part in helping minimize the spread of COVID-19. I'm grateful to the leadership and support of ABA President Karen Adinolfi and President-elect Hal DeSaussure as we work through these issues. The Akron Bar Association also has a tremendous staff that makes my job much easier and I appreciate each of them for their efforts in keeping your Association up and running during this time.

Questions

Please contact Executive Director C. Allen Nichols at callen@akronbar.org or 330.436.0101 with any questions.

Stay safe!

Allen
