



2020 Executive Committee

Allison Jackson	President
Amanda T. Tonkin	Vice President
Mikel Towe	Immediate Past President
Bryce Fitzgerald	Secretary/Treasurer
Meagan Davis Collver	Member-At-Large
Courtney Epps Read	Member-At-Large

How can you get involved?
Sign up for a Barrister committee online www.knoxbar.org. Contact one of the Officers or Committee Chairs to express an interest or feel free to call the KBA Office at 522-6522 for more information.

Who are the Knoxville Barristers?

The Knoxville Barristers are lawyers who are members of the Knoxville Bar Association who are under 36 years of age or have been practicing law less than five years. Probably no other local bar association and group of young attorneys work harder or have a more diverse list of public service opportunities than those right here in Knoxville. While providing valuable and appreciated public service, these young lawyers have fun enjoying each other and enjoying serving others.

BARRISTER COMMITTEE 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Access to Justice Committee

Chairs: J. Spencer Fair & Luke P. Ihnen

The committee continued to dedicate efforts to the monthly Veterans’ Legal Advice Clinic, which included the administration and recruitment of attorney volunteers. This clinic has been continuous for 4 years. COVID-19 presented a challenge, and the clinic was halted for several months, but we picked back up in a virtual format beginning in August. We are hopeful the clinic can return to an in-person format in 2021, and it will likely require some significant media to get the word out to the community again.

Athletics Committee

Chairs: Luke D. Durham & James Parker

The Barristers Athletic Committee originally planned to host two events in 2020, an inaugural axe throwing competition event and the 2020 Barristers Charity Golf Tournament at Holston Hills Country Club. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee had to cancel the axe throwing event. Also as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee had a reduced amount of membership meetings and membership participation. Luckily, the Committee was able to host the 2020 Barristers Charity Golf Tournament under modified procedures. While the tournament saw a reduced amount of sponsorships as a result of the economic environment and pandemic, there was full participation on the part of the golfers with twenty-four teams of golfers registering to participate in the annual golf tournament.

CLE Committee

Chairs: Caitlyn Elam & Jared Garceau

The CLE Committee’s mission is to provide KBA/Barrister members with affordable, high-quality programs of interest to young lawyers and law students. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee was unable to put on its annual Summer Fun CLE series.

Constitution Day & School Outreach Committee *Chairs: Mikel Towe & Zack Walden*

In 2020, our committee’s initiatives moved to virtual events. The Law and Liberty Award was presented virtually at the Law Day Celebration to Mike Stanuszek. Constitution Day was also held virtually at South Knox Elementary and Christenberry Elementary. Committee Chairs Mikel Towe and Zack Walden prepared an educational video about the Constitution, the three branches of government, the preamble, and the Bill of Rights. Judge Suzanne Bauknight participated in a virtual event with in-classroom and distance learning students.

Diversity Committee

Chairs: Soojin Kim & Jessica Jernigan-Johnson

Our goal this year was to build stronger connections between the Barristers Diversity Committee and diverse law students that would result in productive conversations about diversity in Knoxville and potential steps that we, as a bar, could take to make the KBA a more welcoming and inclusive place. To that end, the Diversity Committee hosted two Zoom meetings with law students

from University of Tennessee and Lincoln Memorial University to discuss diversity and inclusion issues in Knoxville and in general. The Committee is planning to continue hosting small group discussions with law students for the remainder of the year. We are also planning a CLE for February regarding justice in Tennessee with panelists who can speak to systemic inequality in the justice system.

Hunger & Poverty Relief Committee (HPRC) *Chairs: Meagan Collver & Chuck Sharrett*

This year, the Hunger and Poverty Relief Committee continued a number of its annual activities with modifications due to COVID. The Professional Clothing Drive was delayed from its normal commencement in April until October due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was combined with our annual KARM's Coats for the Cold initiative. Even though this combined drive was new this year, the community responded very well to it resulting in hundreds of items of clothing being donated to the Career Closet at LMU and KARM. The Committee's third annual Brews for Backpacks event unfortunately had to be cancelled this year due to rising reported cases of COVID in Knox County, Tennessee and surrounding counties. The event was still able to raise approximately \$90 in donations that will go towards providing foster children in East Tennessee with much needed school supplies and backpacks. The Committee will wrap up the year with the annual Canned Food Drive to benefit Second Harvest on November 9 through 30, 2020, and will host a toy drive for SPARK (formerly known as the East Tennessee Technology Access Center) to provide toys to children with special needs during our Annual Elections and Holiday Party.

Law School Mentor Committee *Chairs: Kathryn O'Neal & Patrick O'Neal*

The Law School Mentor Committee held the Mock Interview Program at UT College of Law and at LMU Duncan School of Law. The Mock Interview Program helps law students prepare for interviews for summer associate positions by providing them with an opportunity to engage in a "practice" interview conducted by a KBA member. Afterwards, each student receives feedback on his or her interview performance and résumé. This year the Committee conducted mock interviews with the assistance of numerous volunteers from the KBA. We received great feedback from the law schools, and the students greatly appreciated everyone's time and efforts.

Membership Services Committee *Chairs: Bob Dziejewski & Courtney Walker*

This year, although the annual summer party and the New Admittees celebration were not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the membership services committee was able to host a virtual mixology class and two "pod happy hours" for attorneys and law students. The pod happy hours allowed Barristers to gather in a way consistent with social distancing requirements. The first of these events was held on October 7 at Central Filling Station and was attended by 8 individuals, including members of the Barristers executive committee as well as law students. The second happy hour was held on October 22 at Bearden Beer Market, with 12 individuals in attendance.

Mock Trial Committee *Chairs: Erica Green & James Snodgrass*

The Mock Trial Committee coordinated and hosted the second single weekend Regional High School Mock Trial Competition for Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 on February 21-23. Usually, the competition is open to Districts 2-4; however, the Committee was happy to welcome District 1 this year when they were not able to have their local competition. The competition featured 11 teams from 8 different high schools, including Carter High School, Farragut High School (Blue Team), Farragut High School (Silver Team), Jefferson County High School, Knoxville Catholic High School (Yellow Team), Knoxville Catholic High School (Green Team), Powell High School, Seymour High School, Unicoi County High School (Blue Devils Team), Unicoi County High School (EatMoreChicken Team), and Webb School of Knoxville. The Committee coordinated over 50 volunteers to serve as judges and bailiffs to help with the competition, including 34 KBA attorney volunteers and 26 law students. The Committee awarded first place to the Powell Team and second place to Farragut High School's "Blue" Team. Both teams advanced to the State Tournament, which unfortunately was unable to be held due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Volunteer Breakfast Committee *Chairs: Mitchell Panter & Matthew Knable*

For January through March volunteers were organized to serve breakfast at the Volunteer Ministry Center (VMC). Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the VMC was unable to allow volunteers in the building for the remainder of the year. The Committee Chairs prepared breakfasts at home and delivered them to the VMC for the rest of the year.