



2020

YEAR IN REVIEW

Board of Governors

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Jason H. Long
Loretta G. Cravens
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Board Member, 2020-21
Board Member, 2020
Board Member, 2020-22
Board Member, 2020
Board Member, 2020-21
Board Member, 2020-21
Barristers President
Board Member, 2020
Board Member, 2020
Board Member, 2020-22
Barristers Vice President
Board Member, 2020-22
Barristers Imm. Past President

Our Staff

Executive Director
CLE & Sections Coordinator
Membership Coordinator
Programs Administrator
Lawyer Referral Administrator
LRIS Assistant

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Tammy R. Sharpe
Jonathan Guess
Elisabeth Martin
Tracy Chain
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KBA Committees

What are KBA Committees?

The Knoxville Bar Association is committed to advancing and supporting both the legal profession and the public in the greater Knoxville area. KBA committees offer members the ability to provide professional development and networking opportunities, charitable community outreach, educational events for the public, support for other attorneys, and so much more. Read the reports below about each Committee's mission and accomplishments in the past year for more information.

How can you get INVOLVED?

Only members can serve on committees, and the best time to sign up for committees is during dues renewal in December. Some committees have a set number of participants or close participation after the start of each year, so you may not be able to join at a later date in the year. Committees often meet monthly, and while you're not required to attend every meeting, we do ask that committee members commit to attending as many meetings as possible. Each Committee operates a little differently, so if you have questions about this commitment, contact the chair(s) of the Committee to learn more. Click the [online form](#) to volunteer.

Only have a few minutes to spare but still want to PARTICIPATE?

Read the "News You Can Use" email from the KBA each Friday for updates on KBA programs, including requests for volunteers, opportunities to speak, donate goods or your time or attend special events. Or, proactively reach out to a committee chair to let them know of your willingness to assist with a particular project.



Access to Justice Committee

2020 Chairs: Debra L. House and Daniel L. Ellis

MISSION: The Access to Justice Committee is focused on the KBA's goal of improving the efficiency, fairness, and accessibility of justice to all citizens. Much of our work this year has been designed to foster attorneys' involvement with nonprofit organizations, thereby helping to meet the KBA objectives of using the bar's collective resources to improve the community's well-being and improve the public's understanding of the legal profession. In addition to helping the public achieve access to justice, the Committee is focused on assisting attorneys in achieving the objective of fulfillment and satisfaction in the practice of law by helping individuals and organizations who are typically underserved by the legal profession.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: Virtual Legal Clinics hosted in partnership by UT Law and Legal Aid of East Tennessee organized by Kathryn St. Clair Ellis and Joy Radice in April, May, and June. LMU Law Students volunteered for the June Clinic as well; Dandridge Expungement Clinic, organized and hosted by UT College of Law in conjunction with the UT Nursing School to ensure access to the clinic in person in a conscientious and COVID-19 best practices way; Invited and involved non-lawyer community leaders from Knoxville Community Step Up to share their experiences and insights on where our Knoxville communities need us to focus our access to justice work.

Archives Committee

2020 Chair: Kim Burnette

MISSION: To collect, store, and preserve materials of interest to and history of the KBA membership.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: The Archives Committee endeavors to collect, store, and preserve materials of interest to the KBA membership. Since 2014 the Archives Committee has been supported by generous grants from the Knoxville Bar Foundation. This has enabled the Archives Committee to continue with our Bar History Project and to conduct additional interviews with senior members of the Knoxville Bar. The completed legal history interviews are available for viewing on the KBA website. The Committee is grateful to the Knoxville Bar Foundation for its continued support of the Legal History Project.

Continuing Legal Education Committee

2020 Chairs: Judson K. Davis & M. Samantha Parris

MISSION: The Committee is responsible for the concept, presentation, and other aspects of each KBA CLE event and provides advice and counsel to the Board of Governors on CLE related issues. CLE presentations include 1-hour Lunch and Learns, Section and In Chambers Sessions; extended 3-hour seminars on one subject; all-day presentations, such as the Law Practice Today Expo and Wellness Conference; and online programs. Ideas for programs and speakers come from the Committee itself, other KBA committees, sections, third-party sources, the bar as a whole, and the bench, both State and Federal. Subjects for presentation range from specific subjects within an area of the law, changes in the law by legislature and courts, particular functions of a given local court, law office management, work-life balance, and as well as, pure fun. The Committee continually reevaluates the concepts and effectiveness of our programs.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: The CLE Committee is proud to advise that during the calendar year 2020, the KBA sponsored 7 in-person, 43 webinars, and 4 programs with both a virtual and an in-person option offered. Over the year, 191 online programs were available to members in our online catalog, particularly helpful since the in-person CLE required was waived in 2020. The Committee thanks the 131 presenters who provided high quality education for East Tennessee attorneys.

Diversity in the Profession Committee

2020 Chairs: Akram Faizer & Carlos Yunsan

MISSION: To foster in the Knoxville legal community a climate of awareness of the particular needs of minority lawyers, as well as to implement programs designed to ensure that every attorney will have the opportunity to succeed professionally and participate in the affairs of the legal community without regard to race, color, creed, religion or gender.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: On February 13, the Committee sponsored a Lunch & Learn program entitled "Essential Tips for Managing Generational Differences in the Workplace." Ron Harris, Director of Diversity for BlueCross Blue Shield of Tennessee, was the keynote speaker, and the program provided 45 minutes of dual CLE credit to attendees. Harris advised attendees that diversity is a reality in today's American, while inclusion and cultural competence is an institutional choice. Program evaluations by attendees were exceedingly positive. The 2020 itinerary was hampered by the COVID-19 global pandemic, which precluded in-person meetings, luncheons, and in-person events and forced us to convene online via Zoom Videoconference commencing March 2020. On June 3, after the tragic murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis, MN police and the commencement of nationwide Black Lives Matter protests, KBA President Hanson R. Tipton and KBA Executive Director Marsha Watson consulted with Diversity in the Profession Committee co-chairs in issuing a statement on behalf of the KBA, that expressed sympathy with peaceful demonstrators and in support of anti-racism measures. From July 24 through August 21, the Committee sponsored a "21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge," which followed a syllabus created by the ABA Section of Labor and Employment Law. The goal of the Challenge was to assist bar members in becoming more aware, compassionate, constructive, engaged people in the quest for racial equity. Participants were asked to complete short assignments (typically taking 15-30 minutes) that included readings, videos, or podcasts, and which were emailed on 21 consecutive days. 82 members participated in the Challenge. On October 1, the Committee sponsored its annual Diversity CLE via Zoom webinar. The program was entitled "Removing Obstacles: Finding Innovative Solutions to Tackle Bias and Social Injustice" and featured the highly regarded Memphis Attorney, Shelby County Board of Commissioners Chair, and Memphis Greenspace President and CEO, Van D. Turner, Jr., who shared a powerful message of leadership, courage, and creativity that both inspired and demonstrated how to remove obstacles to effectuate meaningful change in our communities. Specifically, Mr. Turner provided an insider's look at how Greenspace, Inc., succeeded in removing two confederate monuments from public parks in Memphis in a manner that was empathetic, lawful, consultative and peaceful. After the presentation, participants were divided into small breakout sessions to discuss challenges observed or experienced in the areas of bias and inclusion locally and brainstorm creative solutions. In addition, this year's program challenged participants to pair up after the event with an "accountability partner" to move the lessons learned from concepts to action. KBA President and Committee member Hanson Tipton followed up via email to encourage and remind participants to select their accountability partner. Despite the format change necessitated

by the ongoing pandemic, 65 attorneys and 47 law students participated in the program. Notwithstanding the COVID pandemic, the Committee insisted on continuing with the KBA organized "Buddy Match" program, with its goal insuring that all law students, including those from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds, are provided mentoring opportunities. Under the Buddy Match program, law students are paired with local practitioners and law professors who volunteer to be mentors and have an obligation to meet online with their assigned law students at least once prior to the KBA's annual diversity and inclusion October event. This year, 50 students from two law schools were paired with 50 mentors from local law firms, government entities, legal not-for-profit organizations, courts, and law schools, who participated in the Buddy Match program. Those who participated in the program gave exceedingly positive feedback. The Committee, in collaboration with members of the KBA Board of Governors, developed the concept for a monthly 500-word DICTA column entitled "What I Learned about Inclusion and Why It Matters." The purpose of the column is to foster discussion and learning around the topics of inclusion and bias and how they affect members of the local bar by sharing honest and insightful experiences from peers of various backgrounds. On October 22, thirty law students participants in a webinar entitled the "Economics of Practicing Law in Knoxville" featuring Keith Burroughs, with Egerton McAfee.

Fee Dispute Resolution Committee

2020 Chairs: C. Scott Taylor & Robert L. Vance

MISSION: To provide assistance to both clients and lawyers when a dispute arises regarding attorney's fees and both parties agree to participate in the process in which the FDC issues a non-binding decision.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: The Committee received nine fee disputes during 2020. The total number of complaints received was comparable to prior years, but files were not opened on several matters due to lack of a response from parties and BPR complaints being submitted simultaneously.

Functions Committee

2020 Chairs: Courtney Epps Read & Emily K. Stulce

MISSION: To identify and implement social functions that bring an ever diverse membership together outside the confines of work so that they may make new friends and renew existing ones.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: As with many things in 2020, Covid-19 forced us to make adjustments. Originally, we had planned an axe-throwing tournament at Craft Axe Throwing for April and a day-trip to the Virginia Creeper Trail for August, thinking we would add more events as the year progressed. However, due to social distancing and crowd restrictions, we had to cancel those events and look more towards virtual participation; Prior to stay-at-home orders, along with the New Lawyers' Section, we were able to have a Rooftop Party at Radius in the new Embassy Suites Hotel downtown. The event was well attended and gave KBA members an opportunity to go to Radius for the first time, meet new members, enjoy cocktails and snacks, and take in panoramic views of downtown and the surrounding area; As many were still working from home in April, we held a virtual social hour featuring Attorney and Mixologist Dawn Coppock, who led the group in creating a Quarantini followed by catch-up and visiting on a Zoom call. In May, we had a virtual Cinco de Mayo social hour during which Attorney and Musician Roman Reese provided "live" music during the Zoom meeting. Overall, factoring in the constraints of virtual participation, we were pleased with the turnout for each of these events.

Interprofessional Relations Committee

2020 Chairs: Sherri DeCosta Alley & Paul E. Wehmeier

MISSION: To encourage mutually beneficial interaction among lawyers and other professionals in the community, such as physicians, accountants, financial planners, and the like. In addition, where existing relationships may be somewhat strained, we aim to find ways to promote a spirit of cooperation and better understanding. The Committee welcomes member participation and ideas for networking and/or events or programs to be held in conjunction with other professionals in 2021.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: No activities due to COVID 19.

Judicial Committee

2020 Chairs: Samuel W. Rutherford & Broderick L. Young

MISSION: To coordinate with and provide support to the members of the judiciary and the various courts with a goal to constantly enhance the interactions and relationships between local attorneys and judges.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: This year, the Committee conducted two Judicial Candidate Member surveys for contested races related to the justice system. In January, 507 members participated in the KBA's candidate member survey for the offices of Knox County Criminal Court, Division II, Knox County Law Director, and Knox County Public Defender, which were on the March 3 ballot. In June, 463 members participated in the candidate member survey for the contested races on the August 6 ballot, which included the Knox County Public Defender and the Knox County Law Director. The surveys were designed to provide a measure of guidance to voters who might otherwise be unfamiliar with the candidates. The Committee once again coordinated the annual judicial luncheon at the KBA Law Practice Today Expo with speaker Mayor Kincannon, but the event was cancelled due to the pandemic. The Committee coordinated Judicial News columns for DICTA featuring local judges' profiles and continued to assist with CLE programs related to the judiciary. Members of the Committee also discussed Court reopenings in Knox County and provided insights about when jury trials would resume.

Law Office Technology & Management Committee

2020 Chairs: Robyn Jarvis Askew & Stephen Ross Johnson

MISSION: To provide information to bar members relevant to technology and the management of the practice of law.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: The Committee worked for seven months planning the Law Practice Today Expo scheduled for April 2 and 3, 2020. On March 17, the UT Conference Center cancelled all events due to the pandemic. Twenty-two speakers, including Mayor Indya Kincannon, thirty-five sponsors, and 150+ registrants were notified about the cancellation of the Expo. To plan for the 2021 Expo, the Committee sent an event planning survey to KBA members on September 2, and 454 members shared their thoughts on in-person and virtual events, COVID-19 protocols, and CLE sessions for the Expo in 2021. The Committee plans to present the 2021 Law Practice Today Expo virtually on April 7, 8, and 9, 2021.

Lawyer Referral & Information Service (LRIS) Committee

2020 Chair: Theodore R. Kern & John P. Newton

MISSION: The Committee is responsible for oversight of the Lawyer Referral & Information Service, including development and recommendation of policy and programmatic changes for the LRIS, the Speakers Bureau, and the LawLine OnLine service.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS:

The Committee reviewed the LRIS referrals and income for fiscal year July 2019 to June 2020. In that time, the LRIS staff provided referrals to 2,577 individuals and collected \$189,795.22 in fee percentage income, which reflects almost \$1.27 Million in fees earned by participating attorneys. The Committee made recommendations to the Board of Governors regarding changes to the 2020-21 LRIS application to update the Estate Planning panel area by separating Wills and Trusts into two separate subpanels. The Committee adopted a formal complaint to provide better service to both referral clients and the panel members. Finally, the Committee discussed efforts to promote the LRIS on social media and in Google searches and assisted the LRIS staff in newsletter content, blogs, and social media posts to increase public awareness of the service.

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers Committee

2020 Chairs: James M. Cornelius, Jr. & John W. Butler

MISSION: It is the mission of the Committee to assist judges, lawyers, and law students with behavioral health-related issues, whether it be alcohol or drug dependency, depression, or other mental health issues. The Committee assists these individuals in identifying, treating, and recovering from these illnesses, which in turn protects the interests of clients and the public from harm caused by impaired judges and lawyers. To ensure confidentiality, no figures regarding involvement are released.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: The Committee worked quietly behind the scenes in 2020, on a confidential basis and in conjunction with TLAP, to assist judges, lawyer,s and law students with behavioral health-related issues. Based upon the confidential nature of the Committee's business, we are not at liberty to disclose or publicize the results of our work with members of the bench and bar in 2020. The Committee also worked in conjunction with TLAP in 2020 to educate the bench and bar on the causes and treatments for behavioral health-related illnesses.

Legislative Committee

2020 Chairs: Stephanie D. Coleman & Cheryl G. Rice

MISSION: To keep KBA members informed about proposed state legislation that may affect their clients and the courts. Legislation concerning the continuation of the Judicial Selection Commission, the potential election of the Attorney General and various reforms in the civil justice system continue to be monitored.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: Our Committee held an initial planning meeting early in 2020 to plan for events of the 2020 year, which was well attended. In that meeting, we discussed the legislative update and how to accomplish that this year. With the great help of Committee Co-chair Stephanie Coleman, we continued the practice of regular (typically weekly) updates to the membership via a dedicated page on the KBA website which provided information from the Committee as well as a place for input from membership of potential legislation of interest. During our planning meeting we also determined that we would plan a day on the hill, which was scheduled for March 3, 2020. We had a day scheduled with many of our legislative delegation, but unfortunately, Nashville experienced a large tornado that morning, and the visit was cancelled.. Due to the pandemic, the legislature declined to have visitors to the legislature, and we were unable to host a December breakfast for our local delegation.

Membership & Membership Services Committee

2020 Chairs: Loretta Cravens & Taylor Williams

MISSION: To support the foundation of the KBA – its membership – by striving to increase participation of local practicing attorneys in the organization. It further promotes services designed to enhance the quality of membership within the KBA.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: Throughout the year, the Committee worked on efforts to recruit nonmembers and to reach new bar admittees. The Committee continued to expand the member discount and practice management savings programs, considered dues waiver requests, and oversaw the compilation and publication of the annual KBA Attorneys' Directory, an invaluable benefit of KBA membership. To help members during the COVID-19 pandemic, the KBA's website was updated regularly with the Governor's Executive Orders and court updates. Town halls with local judges and court officials were scheduled to keep members apprised of COVID-19 protocols and changes to court operations. More than 500 members participated in a Take Care Tuesday Series which offered CLE and health and wellness in April and May. In July, the Committee conducted a member survey on law firm operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and received 232 responses. A flu shot clinic was held on September 25 with Mac's Pharmacy, and laptops were collected from members and donated to the Emerald Youth Foundation.

Memorials & Resolutions Committee

2020 Chairs: Ruth T. Ellis & John E. Eldridge

MISSION: To prepare resolutions memorializing the lives of Knoxville area attorneys who have passed away during the preceding year. These resolutions are placed in the permanent records of both the KBA and the Chancery Court of Knox County. In addition, the committee plans, makes preparations for, and sponsors the annual Memorial Service, which honors members of the bar who passed away during the preceding year, inviting members of the bar, as well as the families of the deceased to attend.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Memorial Service scheduled in November was cancelled. Sixteen local attorneys have passed away since the service last year, and memorial notices have been emailed to KBA members. The Committee hopes to schedule a Spring 2021 Memorial Service. The Committee's work has been appreciated as meaningful and well received by both the bar and the families of the members of the bar who have passed.

Professionalism Committee

2020 Chairs: Garry W. Ferraris & Hon. John F. Weaver

MISSION: To advise the KBA Board of Governors about potential rule changes and develop programs that emphasize the importance of maintaining the highest professional standards. The Committee periodically reviews potential recipients and makes recommendations to the Board of Governors for awards such as the Courage in the Face of Adversity Award and the Don Paine Lawyer Legacy Award.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: The Committee met during 2020, mostly by zoom, to evaluate proposed amendments to Tennessee Supreme Court rules affecting the profession and practice. Among proposed amendments reviewed during 2020 were the rules package covering amendments to appellate and civil procedure and Tennessee Supreme Court rules concerning the timeliness of recusal motions, annual registration and payment of annual fees and professional privilege tax, interest on IOLTA accounts, and unidentified funds in IOLTA accounts, transfers to disability inactive status during the course of disciplinary proceedings, admission and licensing of attorneys, and mandatory CLE covering diversity, inclusion, equity, and elimination of bias. Because of COVID-19, the Committee-organized annual KBA Fall Hike was postponed to Spring 2021.

Publications Committee

2020 Chairs: Melissa B. Carrasco, Catherine E. Shuck & Chris W. McCarty

MISSION: To provide interesting and informative articles to members of the KBA in its monthly publication, *DICTA*. The Committee has worked to expand and diversify both the magazine's content and member participation.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: The Publications Committee was able to continue our normal activities despite the abnormal circumstances, including publishing articles to help readers navigate the pandemic. Hannah Lowe explained the Tennessee COVID-19 Recovery Act and intrepid Tech Reporters Bill & Phil devoted Gadget of the Month columns to Contact Tracing Apps and Must-Have Tech for working from home. Gavin Shepherd analyzed why Business Interruption insurers are denying COVID-19 claims and explored some of the resulting legal actions. Chad Hatmaker explained the Emergency FMLA and Paid Sick Leave laws, and J Randall Patterson contributed a cover story on the pandemic's overall impact on the practice of law. On the lighter side, members shared the "Silver Linings" they found during lockdown and beyond, and Angelia Nystrom shared her pandemic cooking adventures, including finding the best recipes off the back of the cans and boxes; becoming a bread baker; and coming up with creative and nutritious meals without leaving her house for over two months. Sarah Booher gave us perspective by exploring the last pandemic's impact on Knoxville, devoting an Urban Legends column to the 1918 Flu. And Stewart Harris's Monthly Constitutional columns were particularly timely this year, including a column about compulsory mask orders. A big thanks as always to our regular contributors: Nate and Katie Ogle, Melissa Carrasco, Jason Long, Robbie Prior, Joe Jarrett, KBA President Hanson Tipton, and the inimitable Nick McCall, whose Last Word column will run for the last time in January.



KBA Sections

What are KBA Sections?

Sections are designed for attorneys in particular areas or types of practice to network with one another and receive professional development. Sections may vary on how often they meet for discussions, sponsor events and send communications to their members. By joining a section, you are not necessarily making a commitment to actively participate in section meetings and events, but we hope you will as often as your schedule allows so that the sections can continue to build a sense of community in these areas and types of practice.

How can you get involved?

Complete the form [online](#) to sign up..



Alternative Dispute Resolution Section

2020 Chairs: Daryl Fansler and Betsy Meadows

MISSION: To promote the use of appropriate forms of dispute resolution and to develop the KBA's ability to meet some of the public's need for mediators, arbitrators, and others who help resolve disputes at less social cost than the judicial process. The Section also educates local practitioners on current uses and trends in dispute resolution throughout the country.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: The Section sponsored six CLE programs this year, including "Walk A Mile In Their Moccasins: Mediation from the Client's Perspective"; "The Ethical & Legal Challenges of Mediating with the Public Sector"; "Mediating Complex Construction Dispute Cases"; "Mediating Estates, Trust and Inheritance Disputes"; and "Mediation: Practice & Ethics Updates." The Section coordinated the CLE "A Discussion about Mediation Practice" for the new "Areas of Practice" virtual CLE Series.

Bankruptcy Section

2020 Chairs: Thomas H. Dickenson & Gregory C. Logue

MISSION: Open to all lawyers whose practice involves bankruptcy, the Section educates its members and provides a forum for discussion among members and the judiciary.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: The Section co-hosted along with LAET, LAS of Middle TN & the Cumberlands, and with the support and involvement of United States Bankruptcy Judge Suzanne H. Bauknight, two Pro Bono Debt Relief Clinics which provided pro bono legal services to income-eligible consumer debtors. The Section presented well-attended CLE seminars for its members on timely topics, including "Subchapter V of The Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019: A New Opportunity for Successful, Cost-Effective Reorganization" and "Bankruptcy Case Law Update 2020".

Corporate Counsel Section

2020 Chairs: David W. Headrick & Marcia A. Kilby

MISSION: To create CLE, networking, social, newsletter, and other "to be developed" opportunities that will enhance and improve the role of in-house attorneys and attorneys in private firms that handle corporate matters for their clients.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: The Section held its annual 3-hour CLE entitled "KBA Corporate Ethics and Updates" on August 20 via Zoom Webinar. Speakers presented information about navigating the security issues of emerging data sources/platforms, practical issues in ethics for in-house counsel, and privacy & data security in 2020. The CLE was concluded with a panel presentation on various topics related to practicing in-house. Two issues of the Section's newsletter, *The Consigliere*, were published in 2020.

Criminal Justice Section

2020 Chairs: Sarah W. Keith & Joshua D. Hedrick

MISSION: Open to all lawyers whose practice involves the criminal justice system, the Section educates its members and the general public about the criminal justice system and its purpose; fosters productive communication among members, the judiciary and criminal justice agencies; and seeks improvement in the operation of the criminal justice system.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: On November 19, the Section hosted the Criminal Law Update, or Rowdy Roundup. During the CLE, lawyers were apprised of the statutory changes and Court opinions from the past year, which impact the practice of criminal law—the good, the bad, and the ugly. The Section coordinated the CLE program "A Discussion about Criminal Law" for the new "Areas of Practice" virtual CLE Series.

Employment Law Section

2020 Chairs: Howard B. Jackson, Timothy A. Roberto & Mark C. Travis

MISSION: To provide CLE programming on recent case law developments and legislative updates. The Section is intended for management and plaintiff's counsel, in addition to in-house and government attorneys.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: The Section held its annual planning meeting at the end of January and had planned to offer several timely CLE programs in 2020. The Section hosted the annual "Employment Law Update" CLE program featuring Edward Phillips on October 8. The program "EEOC Trends and Developments" was scheduled for April 22 but was cancelled due to COVID-19. The Section coordinated the CLE program "A Discussion about Employment Law" for the new "Areas of Practice" virtual CLE Series.

Environmental Law Section

2020 Chairs: Catherine W. Anglin & James C. Wright

MISSION: To offer the opportunity to meet on a regular basis to discuss areas of common concern and develop a network providing access to members and professionals with environmental expertise. The Section is open to any attorney whose practice includes environmental, transactional or land use issues.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: No activities due to COVID 19.

Family Law Section

2020 Chairs: Jo Ann Lehberger & James S. Sharp, Jr.

MISSION: To focus on local and state-wide issues relevant to the family law practitioner and provide a forum for discussion. The Section sponsors topical CLE programs for family law practitioners several times a year and meets regularly to discuss changes in legislation, case law, and rules and practitioners' responses to these changes.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: The Section sponsored three CLE programs: "Update on the New Child Support Guidelines," "Dividing Retirement Assets in Divorce," and "TN Family Law Update." The Section, along with the CLE Committee, coordinated the CLE program "A Discussion about Family Law" for the new "Areas of Practice" virtual CLE Series

Government and Public Service Lawyers Section

2020 Chairs: Hon. Suzanne Bauknight & Ronald E. Mills

MISSION: To increase communication among its members and foster relationships with the bar as a whole, as well to encourage community service outside of work as public servants.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS:

The co-chairs met in early February to discuss possible events for 2020. We planned a Civil Liberties networking reception at the federal courthouse for section members, which had a goal of planning civics and outreach education in partnership with the federal court's outreach programs. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdown, the March 23 event was cancelled. We also investigated holding a government contracting seminar, which we hope to offer in 2021. We were able to sponsor a CLE on election law, entitled "Election Law and Civility." The September 23 virtual event (featuring former Knox County Election Administrator Clifford A. Rodgers, retired U.S. Magistrate Judge C. Clifford Shirley, Jr., and form counsel to Governor Haslam, Dwight E. Tarwater) was well attended and well received.

Juvenile Court & Child Justice Section

2020 Chairs: Justin W. Pruitt & Michael J. Stanuszek

MISSION: The Section offers CLE programs to educate attorneys regarding substantive and procedural legal issues that arise in the representation of minors. It also organizes and participates in charitable projects to support children, families and lawyers representing families with children in our community.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: The Section held its annual planning meeting at the end of February and had planned to offer several timely CLE programs in 2020. The program "Guardian ad Litem for Foster Youth" was scheduled for July 24 but was cancelled due to COVID-19. The Section coordinated the CLE program "A Discussion about Juvenile Court Practice" for the new "Areas of Practice" virtual CLE Series.

New Lawyers Section

2020 Chairs: Courtney Walker & Charles Sharrett

MISSION: The New Lawyers Section is comprised of attorneys in their first 3 years of practice. The Section provides opportunities for attorneys to connect with other attorneys who may not be in the same practice area, but who are new to the legal field and facing similar experiences. The Section includes educational opportunities, networking events, and community service projects.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: The Section held a Welcome Reception at Club LeConte, where members heard from Rachel Hurt on how to handle the first year of practice. In April, the Section sponsored a panel discussion on Unwritten Local Rules with Mitchell Panter and judicial assistant Sasha Combs. The program discussed how attorneys should be prepared to present themselves in Knox County courts and interact with their colleagues. In May, the Section sponsored a program on how small firms can adapt to changes with attorney Matt McClanahan. On August 6, Chancellor John Weaver and the Honorable Kristi Davis shared their tips and advice for new attorneys through a webinar. In October, the Section offered a webinar with a panel of senior partners and legal administrators giving tips on how to develop their legal careers.

Senior Section

2020 Chair: Wayne A. Kline

MISSION: The Senior Section is comprised of members over the age of 50 and typically holds quarterly luncheon meetings emphasizing collegiality. It tends to be high on humor and story-telling with excellent speakers. The Section aspires to social networking the old fashioned way: good conversation and good company over good food.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: Due to the COVID pandemic, our quarterly meetings at Calhoun's on the River could not be held due to social distancing concerns. Despite this, the Section was still able to host its annual event "The Tennessee Volunteers: A Football Preview" featuring Tim Priest on September 9. The event was held via Zoom and was made available to all KBA members.

Solo Practitioner and Small Firm Section

2020 Chairs: Edward G. "Tripp" White III, Mary D. Miller & P. Timothy Grandchamp

MISSION: To encourage networking and collegiality among sole practitioners and members of small firms as "Knoxville's Largest Law Firm," to provide high quality continuing legal education featuring topics that will help solo & small firm attorneys enhance and improve their practices and to assist its members with their unique challenges.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS: Due to the COVID pandemic, our initial meeting was not until May 22, 2020. Although we planned to encourage membership, growth, and social networking via various informal and formal social events, these could not be held due to social distancing concerns. Despite this, the Section hosted two CLE programs on "The Ethics of Law Firm Cybersecurity in a Work-From-Home World" and "Show Me the Money: Best Practices for Getting Paid". The Section also coordinated the CLE program "A Discussion about Solo Practitioner and Small Firm Practice" for the new "Areas of Practice" virtual CLE Series.





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 KBA members under 36 years of age or have been practicing law for 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, including the administration and recruitment of attorney volunteers. This clinic has been continuous for four years. COVID-19 presented a challenge, and although the clinic was halted for several months, a virtual format began in August.

Athletics Committee

Chairs: Luke D. Durham & James Parker

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee had to cancel the inaugural axe throwing competition event and reduce membership meetings. The Committee hosted the 2020 Barristers Charity Golf Tournament at Holston Hills Country Club with COVID-19 protocols to keep members and sponsors safe. Due to the generosity of members and sponsors, \$7,000 was raised for the charitable efforts of the Knoxville Barristers.

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 could not 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 Barristers 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 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 Committee hosted two Zoom meetings with law students from the University of Tennessee and Lincoln Memorial University to discuss diversity and inclusion issues in Knoxville and in general. The Committee is 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*

The Committee continued a number of its annual activities with modifications due to COVID. The Professional Clothing Drive was delayed until October, but was combined with KARM's Coats for the Cold initiative. The combined drive was very successful and resulted 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 had to be cancelled due to rising reported cases of COVID-19, but raised \$90 in donations for ChildHelp. The annual Canned Food Drive to benefit Second Harvest was held November 9 -30. Participating teams raised \$25,739.99, and far exceeded our donation goal of \$16,500. This total will provide 77,219 meals for hungry individuals and families in East Tennessee. The Committee will close out the year with 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 Committee held the Mock Interview Program at UT College of Law and at LMU Duncan School of Law. The 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. Mock interviews were held thanks to the assistance of numerous KBA members, and we received great feedback from the law school administration and students..

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

Although the annual summer party and the New Admittees celebration were not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee hosted 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 eight members of the Barristers, including attorneys and law students. The second pod happy hour was held on October 22 at Bearden Beer Market, with 12 Barristers participating.

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

The 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. Fifty volunteers served 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*

During January through March, volunteers were organized to serve breakfast at the Volunteer Ministry Center (VMC). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the VMC could not allow volunteers in the building, so the Committee Chairs prepared breakfasts at home and delivered them to the VMC for the rest of the year.