



Serving All Generations

Snow White had it right—mirrors don't lie. This immutable fact is reinforced every morning when I shave. Like it or not, I have accepted that I am, like the other lawyers of my generation, much closer to the end of my career than the beginning. Fortunately, this is not a reason for despair.

I am pleased to report that ... there will not be a dues increase any time soon.

President Alex Vakula's focus last year was on the integration of younger lawyers into the profession. This goal remains important, and the Bar's work to fulfill this goal will continue. My approach this year will be to balance this effort from the opposite end of the experience spectrum. I plan to launch an initiative focusing on senior or "seasoned" lawyers. I will appoint a task force to examine methods and make recommendations regarding the engagement of seasoned lawyers in programs to promote their continued practice (if they so choose), and also to provide resources and guidance for those lawyers who are instead intending to transition out of the active practice of law.

This initiative will necessarily encompass younger lawyers. It is a no-brainer that seasoned lawyers can provide effective mentoring for less experienced lawyers and, indeed, provide mentoring for all lawyers at various stages of their careers. (By the same token, younger lawyers can provide technological expertise that many baby boomers do not share.) Another natural area in which seasoned lawyers may be extremely helpful is in reducing our justice gap by providing pro bono services after those lawyers have wholly or partially disengaged from their practices.

I hope to have the task force appointed and operational by the end of September 2018, with a report and recommendations to be available in the second quarter in 2019. If you have any suggestions in this area, please do not hesitate to share them with me or with Lisa Deane, our State Bar Member Services Director (Lisa.Deane@staff.azbar.org).



In addition, the Bar will continue its efforts to close the justice gap through the ramp up of the Public Service Center and the "Find a Lawyer" program. For those of you not familiar with Find a Lawyer opportunities, the program matches potential clients in need of legal services with lawyers who can provide those services on economic terms acceptable to both. For example, lawyers seeking pro bono opportunities are matched with potential clients who are unable to pay for needed legal services. Similarly, those clients who have limited means—but do have some ability to compensate a lawyer for his or her services—are matched with lawyers willing to accept a discounted fee in the area of need. So far, Find a Lawyer has been a success, with more than 130 Arizona attorneys signing

up to accept representation opportunities provided through the Center.

The health of the Bar is good. In 2014, the Supreme Court issued Administrative Order 2014-89, which authorized an annual \$15 dues increase over four years. I am pleased to report that my first official act as President was to notify Chief Justice Scott Bales that the Board of Governors recommended the deferral of the final annual fee increase. This recommendation was the result of a better than expected financial performance since 2014, including the creation of a dues reserve. In fact, we do not believe an increase in the annual fee will be required in the foreseeable future. While the Board of Governors has worked very hard to achieve financial stability, most of the credit rests with CEO and Executive Director John F. Phelps and his superb staff. Chief Justice Bales has accepted the Board's recommendation, and there will not be a dues increase any time soon.

Arizona lawyers should be proud. Our Bar is considered one of the best in the country, and the public is effectively protected through the rigorous administration of the disciplinary system. I am deeply honored that my fellow members of the Board of Governors elected me to be your President. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve the public and the Bar for the next 12 months. I appreciate the work of my predecessors, Alex Vakula, Lisa Loo, Geoff Trachtenberg, Whitney Cunningham and Richard Platt. Under their collective leadership over the last half decade the Bar has weathered annual legislative challenges to its existence while providing increased services for our members. I intend to continue their work. I also am thankful for the support of my partners and colleagues at Snell & Wilmer who encouraged me to pursue this unique opportunity to serve the public and the Bar.

I hope to make a difference in my year at the helm. If there is something you think we can do better, please do not hesitate to let me know. I look forward to working for you. 