

Vintage Voices

Senior Lawyers Division

Newsletter
November 2021

The Executive Council of the Senior Lawyers Division continues to look for ways to engage and to support our fellow senior lawyers. We continue to want feedback from you on what you'd like us to be doing and how you'd like to help us accomplish your project or idea. The October meeting of the Executive Council included reports of things we've done and things we expect to do.

Mentoring: We continue to work with the State Bar Mentoring programs, One-on-One and Lawyer Down the Hall. Both of those programs involve lawyers helping lawyers. We think that members of this Division also have much to give as mentors to people outside our profession. For instance, Don Powell has served for a long time as a mentor to University of Arizona undergraduates through a group established at the University. Many of you may also have worked with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, helping youth who are partnered with an older individual willing to spend time with them. If mentoring outside the legal profession is something that interests you, stand by, as we are working to put together a comprehensive list of organizations and agencies that could use this type of mentoring.

Pro Bono: Two CLE sessions were presented in October by the Pro Bono network, both free to any lawyer (including retired and inactive) who currently is doing pro bono work for a pro bono service provider as well as for lawyers who are considering such service. There will be more of these CLEs offered in areas where the pro bono service providers need help. Currently, one of those areas is end-of-life planning. The providers have a growing number of clients who need help with wills, health care powers-of-attorney, general powers-of-attorney, or other documents. CLE is available to learn about Power Tech, a program that helps you with drafting these documents. If this is something in which you'd be interested, get in touch with Dean Christoffel, the chair of this work group, at dean.christoffel@gmail.com

Dean also has been on a successful detective mission. He's tracked down the documents you'll need to be certified to practice under Rule 38 even if you're retired or inactive. As a reminder, you get your State Bar dues waived when you give 25 hours of service a year to an approved pro bono service provider. Dean also is working on a form to report your hours of work and of CLE. While legal service providers have the own forms, Dean's working on a generic version. He hopes to have everything up on the Senior Lawyers website before too long so keep checking the website for these items (and just for general information as well).

One new pro bono opportunity was announced at the meeting. Celinas Ruth has a non-profit organization called Global Family Legal Services which represents clients in cases of domestic violence, family law and immigration. She is developing a program that specifically is directed at immigration, the Global Asylum Network. Celinas works in Santa Cruz County but can use volunteers from anywhere in the state. You do need to know that you won't get a waiver of dues if you do 25 hours of pro bono work for Global Asylum Network since this organization is not on the Supreme Court's list of approved pro bono service providers. While you won't get this benefit, I'm sure that you'll get satisfaction from being of help to folks who need it. To find more information, her organization's website is www.globalfamilylegalservices.org

Engaging Senior Lawyers: We hope that this newsletter engages you, but we'd like to find other ways to do so. Unfortunately, I'm a committee of one, so I'm recruiting. If you have great ideas for getting your fellow senior lawyers involved in the legal community **and/or** in our greater communities (and I'm sure many of you do), and if you're willing to serve on a committee that won't meet too often and certainly not for long meetings (I hate long meetings especially if they do nothing), please volunteer to be on this committee. We, collectively, need your help.

Transition: We had our first drop-in session on October 13. I couldn't go but I understand that there were about a dozen people who attended. Questions about malpractice insurance and about opportunities to use the vast experience lawyers amass were discussed.

The next drop-in session will be December 8 at noon. The topic will be related things you should consider when you move from the full-time practice of law or of judging. Thom Cope will be your moderator. All you have to do to participate in a drop-in session is register and appear by Zoom. There are no fees; just an opportunity to chat with your peers and exchange ideas. As one participant put it,

we're looking to transition *toward* something rather than from something. Any suggestions for topics are welcome. Let me know what ideas you have.

State Bar Convention: Dean Christoffel is always full of good ideas, and he's working on making the State Bar Convention something you won't want to miss. We'll have the usual breakfast for senior lawyers, and that event is a great way to network and to visit with old friends. Dean's also exploring the possibility of a "senior lawyers track" with programs at the convention that might be of particular interest to senior lawyers. It may also include some free CLE (or free for the cost of breakfast). If you have thoughts about what seminar subjects would pique your interest, let Dean (dean.christoffel@gmail.com) or me (sallybob75@comcast.net) know.

Dues: The President of the State Bar has appointed a task force to look into the issue of dues for senior lawyers, including those who are still active and those who are on either retired or inactive status. When we have the names of those on the task force, I'll let you know. As with any issue that will be decided by the Board of Governors, I encourage you to contact your State Bar Representative(s) to express your views on this subject.

Election: Two new members have been elected to the Executive Council of the Senior Lawyers Division. Glenn Gimbut, representing District 1 (Santa Cruz, Yuma, Cochise, Gila, Greenlee, Graham, La Paz, and Pinal Counties) and John Ditsworth representing District 4 from Maricopa County will join us on the Executive Council at November's meeting.

For your entertainment: This month's book recommendations include several that sounded interesting to me. The first is *The Hail Mary Project* by Andy Weir. It's a "real page-turner" according to its recommender. It is about a one-way mission to a solar system light year away to thwart destruction of Earth's solar system and its dying sun. The second is *Sooley*, one of John Grisham's latest, and a departure from his many legal dramas. It tells the story of a young man from South Sudan who comes to the United States on a basketball scholarship with dreams of an NBA career and helping his family. A third recommendation is *Let the Lord Sort Them: The Rise and Fall of the Death Penalty*, by Maurice Chammah. As for visual entertainment, a recommendation I received is Netflix's *The Starling*.

I welcome all suggestions of books, movies, tv or streaming shows or anything else you think your fellow senior lawyers would like to know about. Information on volunteer opportunities of any kind also is encouraged.

One more fun (and legally related) event will be happening in Tucson November 15-19. The historic Courthouse – that pink adobe building with the beautiful blue dome- is having its official re-opening. After renovation, it's now being used for historic exhibits, the Visitors' Center, and administrative offices. For the entire week of November 15-19, there will be a series of programs about specific aspects of Tucson's history, especially the history of the court and courthouse. Our chair, Walter Nash, is one of the first on the program. He'll be interviewed on November 15 at 10:30 by Skip Whitley. It should be fun.

There is no admission charge for any of the events, but you do have to register so they know how many people to expect. If you'd like to go to some of the programs or just to look at the subjects being discussed, here is the link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/pima-county-historic-courthouse-re-opening-events-35342315473>

Kudos: The Labor and Employment Section of the State Bar gives an award to one individual among its membership annually. This year, Thom Cope, an Executive Committee member who works with Mesch, Clark & Rothschild in Tucson, was selected as the Section's Member of the Year. Congratulations, Thom!

History: I didn't get any great stories to tell this month (and, yes, I'd love some), but I did get a link to the Arizona Bar Foundation's (now the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education) Oral History interviews. This is an excerpt from the interview of Amelia Lewis, the lawyer who changed juvenile law forever, by her work for Gerald Gault and the resulting U.S. Supreme Court decision *In re Gault*. Ms. Lewis was a lawyer in New York before she came to Arizona in 1957. The excerpt describes her admission to the State Bar of New York in 1925. She had graduated law school at 20 and had to wait to apply for admission until she turned 21. There was a committee of nine who judged all admissions in New York at the time, and they all had their own practices so the process could take a long time. However, they announced that those who had performed service to their country could apply for early admission by making an affidavit and giving proof of that service.

“This was in 1925, and I was pregnant with my first child- or it was the fall of- late 1924. So, I said to my husband, ‘I’m serving my country in the only way I could, that’s allowed to women. So, I’m going to make application for early admission.’

So, I prepared my papers, and I was told by the chairman...’Mrs. Lewis, You will have to have something to confirm that you did something

fourteen
war

during the war for your country. ‘ And I said ‘You know I was what—
fifteen years of age. The only thing I did was sew clothes for Belgian
orphans in the Methodist Church. We had a sewing group over there.’”

The chairman told her to get an affidavit of this service, and she managed to accomplish this task. She then had to go for an interview in front of nine-man committee. One of the committee members expressed his shock that she would even leave her house in her pregnant condition. However, the chairman took up her cause, and Amelia Lewis was duly admitted to the practice of law in New York in 1925.

Ms. Lewis’ story was fascinating as were many of the others I read from this project. Admission to practice of law has changed in the 96 years since Amelia Lewis sat in front of those nine men.

Announcement: We had a blip in communication and didn’t get out notice of Bob McWhirter’s presentation on the 13th Amendment, so we’ve rescheduled it. Bob will speak (by Zoom) on “The 13th Amendment: Fixing the Framers’ Failure” on November 18 at noon. You’ll get a notice on the Senior Lawyers Community forum on how to register.

November brings our opportunity to remember our veterans, and many members of our Senior Lawyer Division served in some branch of our armed services. They should be remembered and honored, and thanks go to them on behalf of *Vintage Voices*.

It’s also the Thanksgiving month. According to at least two lists I found by googling, Thanksgiving is the most popular holiday in the United States. So, enjoy this month.