



Vintage Voices

Senior Lawyers Division

Vintage Voices

Double Issue – May and June 2022

You are getting a double dose of Vintage Voices this month. For a variety of reasons (mostly because I was out of town and missed the meeting), we didn't get the newsletter out in May. So, you get a double dose of news this month.

The SLD has been busy of late on several fronts and planned activities. The elections are over and there will be some transition with both the Officers and members of the Executive Council. That will be announced at the SLD Breakfast at the Convention on June 29.

Bar Convention Breakfast:

We hope to see as many of you as possible at the Breakfast. Seating capacity is limited to 150 folks, so please register early if you are planning on attending. We inquired about Zoom attendance at the breakfast, but technical difficulties have made this a non-starter. As of the May 25 meeting, 60 have already registered for the breakfast.

Lynda Shely will present an hour of Ethics CLE covering a range of topics that are of interest to us all. Those of you who have heard Lynda speak know that we are all in for a very informative and entertaining hour. For those of you who don't know Lynda, she previously served as Ethics Counsel for more than a decade and since 2003 has been in private practice providing ethics advice to over 1900 law firms throughout Arizona and the District of Columbia. She currently chairs the ABA Ethics Committee. You can email Lynda prior to the breakfast with your questions about general ethics topics. She'll be glad to address those, but she won't provide any comments on specific pending discipline matters, the unified bar or bar dues. To submit your general ethics questions, you can email Lynda at lynda@shelylaw.com.

Attendees at the breakfast will also be able to attend the remaining CLE sessions at the Convention that day at no additional charge. You do not have to register for the Convention to attend the breakfast, but registration is required for the breakfast.

There will be some brief remarks at the start of the breakfast by outgoing President Walter Nash and incoming Present Dean Christoffel. We all know that when lawyers tell a Judge that they “will be brief” that it usually means a long diatribe will follow. That will not be the case here! At the end of the CLE, we have reserved the room so attendees can get current with one another. We also want to hear from you on what the Division should be doing in the future.

The Breakfast will also serve as the Division’s Annual Meeting.

The link to register for the breakfast is <https://azbar.getregistered.net/2022-con>

Mentoring:

Don Powell and Richard Davis have spearheaded this working group from the beginning and have done some really good work. Don recently reported that the State Bar of Arizona Mentor Program conducted a training meeting on April 28, 2022, for both mentors and mentees. The training was for 2 ½ hours and approximately 45 individuals participated in the sessions. It was apparent that those participating were committed to the Mentor Program and a number of younger attorneys desirous of mentoring were in attendance. Cohorts in the One-to-One program have started mentoring and there have been 54 pairs participating so far. The number of participants in the Lawyer Down the Hall Program since its inception exceeds 60.

Don has also continued to work with the U of A to establish a program where SLD members would work with the Student Bar Association on mentoring opportunities. Don’s similar efforts at ASU have been put on hold by those in charge there as the Law School continues the search for a new Dean.

Transitioning/Drop Ins:

The Drop-In sessions continue to be well-attended. Both Bob McWhirter and Mary Maynard coordinated recent Drop-Ins that went very well.

Plans are underway for a series of Drop-Ins on writing and publishing books to be held in January, February, and March 2023. Denise Blommel will moderate, and Larry Robertson and Gary Stuart will speak. Both of the latter two are

published authors. They will share advice on both the creative process and the nuts and bolts of getting one's deathless prose published.

Dean Christoffel is working on a future Drop-in about Arizona Free Legal Answers, which provides another way for you to volunteer services either before or after you transition to full or partial retirement. In addition, we are thinking of having several panel discussions on transitioning throughout the year. These panels would be comprised of your fellow senior lawyers and would include those who have retired, those who have cut back on practice and any other permutation of our diverse 6000 members who might be able to share practical advice.

If you have ideas on what you'd like to have as a Drop-in session topic, we'd love to hear it at the convention breakfast, or you can email me at sallybob75@comcast.net.

Pro Bono:

Dean has continued to recruit senior lawyers to do *pro bono* work and is also continuing to work on simplifying Rule 38 which allows retired and inactive lawyers to practice law for a qualified legal service provider. As it stands now, attorneys are required to submit a *separate* application - along with a fee to the State Bar for a certificate of good standing - for *each* provider with which it would like to perform pro bono service. Dean is working with the Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission and the Bar to simplify and streamline that entire process. Our thought is that when experienced lawyers want to help folks in the community for free that the barriers to doing so should be very low.

Dean also is working on a speakers' bureau to go to community organizations and schools to talk about legal issues and the law generally. In addition, he's compiling a list of volunteer activities to share with the SLD generally, and he's investigating the possibility of a mentor program for the University of Arizona students and graduates who are or have been participating the university's legal studies or certification programs. If you wonder why Dean is the president-elect his ever-present fountain of new projects and ideas should be a clue.

Dues:

There are several options on the table for the Board of Governors' Task Force on dues for senior lawyers. Some include no or reduced dues after a certain

age. The Task Force will meet again on June 8 and the meeting will include a discussion of the financial ramifications of options. Dean is on the task force, and members gave him some questions to pose at the June 8 meeting, including some idea about the way costs are allocated to senior lawyers and what the true cost is for services given to senior lawyers.

Elections:

Election results were sent out on May 31, so you should have them by now. To reiterate, the Executive Council for the Senior Lawyers Division for 2022-23 is as follow:

President: Dean Christoffel
President Elect: Don Powell
Past President: Walter Nash
Secretary: Hope Kirsch
Treasurer: Mary Helen Maynard
District Rep. 1: Glenn Gimbut
District Rep. 3: Hon. Sarah 'Sally' Simmons
District Rep. 3: David Vasquez
District Rep. 3: Thom Cope
District Rep. 4: Denise Blommel
District Rep. 4: Richard Agins
District Rep. 4: John Ditsworth
District Rep. 4: Gary Stuart
District Rep. 4: Hon. Louis Araneta

We need a representative from District 2, which includes Coconino, Mohave, Navajo and Yavapai counties. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please let any of us or Sarah Schneider know. The Executive Committee will select a representative for the open seat. Our treasury, by the way, has not changed since the inception of this division. It remains at \$0.

Time out (also known as leisure time):

Since I spent a good deal of April and May in Ireland for the first time, I can recommend it highly as a place to visit. I currently am reading Empire of Pain by Patrick Radden Keefe, a recommendation from you all. The book is about the

Sackler family and the opioid epidemic. Keefe also wrote Say Nothing about the “Troubles” in Northern Ireland, another good book. And, yes, I did watch Kenneth Branagh’s Belfast on the plane to Ireland. I also had read Edward Rutherford’s Princes of Ireland and Rebels of Ireland as part of my trip preparation. For those of you who like historical fiction, Rutherford has several other books I’ve enjoyed, including Sarum, Russka, New York, and China.

While you’re enjoying yourselves at the Convention breakfast, please take note of any tall tales (or true stories) you hear and pass them on to me. I think our reminiscences of our various careers in the law provide both a dose of humor and a good reminder of the work we’ve all done to support this country as a country of laws.

In General:

EC member Marc Roy wanted to share with Division members that there are openings within the Hopi Tribal Courts and Prosecutor's Office for which Senior Division attorneys may have some interest.

These positions include:

1.) **Court Solicitor.** This position may be done to a great extent remotely with assistance of a member of the court staff (already employed) and will involve grant management, solicitations, oversight of tribal code revisions and such other duties as may be determined by the Court. Compensation is in the \$90,000 range.

2.) **Senior Associate Judge.** The duties of this position include presiding over civil/criminal/juvenile hearings and TLOA cases as assigned by the Chief Judge. Due to the nature of this work, the incumbent will be required to either live on the Hopi Reservation or to be able to commute at least 4 days/week from other area locations (i.e., Flagstaff, Winslow). Salary is \$95,000+.

3.) **Court of Appeals.** The Tribe may hire 1-2 Justices as a result of term expirations. Cases are primarily handled remotely and this work is very part-time. Compensation is \$100/hr.

4.) **Chief Prosecutor.** Although not within the Tribal Court employment sphere, the Tribe is seeking to fill this position as soon as possible. Salary is TBD

and applications will be processed through the Hopi HR Department and finalized by decision of the Hopi Council.

Interested individuals may contact the Tribal Court Administrator, Kathy Kooyahoema, for further information at Tel: 928-738-5171 or send a resume and letter of interest to the Hopi Tribal Courts, PO 156, Keams Canyon, AZ 86034. In the event of hiring, a tribal employment application and background check will be required.

Louraine Arkfeld is our liaison to the ABA SLD and we are working with the Bar to generate a mechanism to allow our SLD members to have access to several ABA SLD publications that are relevant to our members. There are some hurdles to overcome here, but we're working through them.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at the breakfast and do not be afraid to sound off on what you want your Division to be doing for you.