



Vintage Voices

Senior Lawyers Division

Vintage Voices
February 2022

Happy Holidays of all kinds! Since there was a guest editor for the issue of *Vintage Voices* that came out in December and we didn't have a meeting in December, so no January issue was written, I'd be remiss if I didn't send those greetings. You can figure good wishes have just been sent to you for the myriad of holidays in December, January and February of the year.

Despite the month off from a meeting, the Executive Council of the Senior Lawyer's Division has not been idle. Each of the work groups had a lot to report at the January meeting, and there is other news as well.

Mentoring: We continue to look for opportunities to use the wisdom and experience of all of you in mentoring newer attorneys. One potential need is through Community Legal Services, Maricopa County's main pro bono legal service organization. CLS has needs for lawyers who can help with family law, landlord/tenant and bankruptcy matters. Don Powell is looking to partner with CLS to allow experienced lawyers to mentor younger lawyers who are handling cases for CLS in these areas. The program would be akin to the bar's Lawyer Down the Hall program. Lawyers handling cases in any of those areas would be referred to a lawyer with experience in the area who could provide direction or answer questions concerning the case.

Don also is also talking to both the University of Arizona College of Law and the Arizona State University College of Law about setting up mentoring programs with law students at the schools. Other possibilities for mentoring within the legal profession include the Young Lawyers Division and bar sections. We are exploring both avenues.

We realize that your expertise doesn't need to be confined to the legal profession. If you've mentored younger people through organizations outside the legal field, we'd like to know about it. If you know of clubs or groups who are looking for mentors, but aren't law-related, let us know. We'd like to develop a list of organizations that need your knowledge about life, as well as about the law, to help those who are younger. Maybe it's Big Brother/Big Sister or the Boy's and Girl's Club or Junior Achievement. I am sure that you collectively have

many contacts that would be happy to have your colleagues' help. Email any suggestions to sarah.schneider@staff.azbar.org.

Pro Bono: Dean Christoffel leads this work group, and he's looking for ways to help those of you outside Maricopa and Pima County get engaged in pro bono work. (He wants Maricopa and Pima County SLD members to be involved, too, but he especially is wanting to engage those in the other 13 counties). We see two obstacles to this mission: the complexity of getting qualified to serve pro bono organizations under Rule 38 if you are on inactive or retired status, and the need for CLEs that are accessible and low cost on topics for which legal service providers need help like family law and elder law. Dean is working on resolving both issues, and if you have ideas, particularly on CLE topics that might be needed, please let Sarah know (email address above).

Transition: The drop-in sessions have been very popular. That's terrific! The session in December was entitled "What I Wish I Had Known Before I Transitioned" and attracted a broad spectrum of Senior Lawyers. The program has been so popular that we're planning to have monthly sessions. The topics for the next three months are:

February 23: What's your status with the bar? Gary Stuart, a member of the SLD Executive Council and Sarah Corpening, staff member at the State Bar, will lead you through the various categories of membership with the bar and how you move among categories. Gary will also be able to answer ethical questions.

March: Bob McWhirter program on the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

April: Pro Bono for Senior Lawyers

All drop-in sessions are free and are virtual. You will find information on the exact dates in announcements in the Senior Lawyers Division Community Forum, and you will need to register. The link for registration will be in the announcement

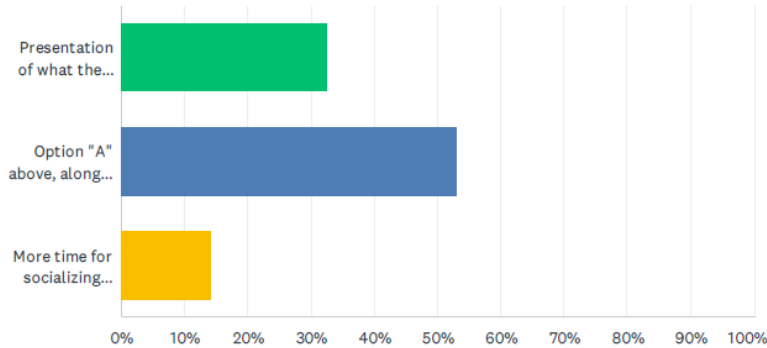
Engaging Senior Lawyers: An alternative title for this work group could be "How do we Bring Senior Lawyers back to participating with the bar?" We want to know what you want us to do that we're not already covering. What are your interests? How can the Executive Council expand our horizons? Is there a new project you'd like us to undertake? Is there an area of concern to you that we're missing? I remember when we first started this newsletter that we wanted the newsletter to be about you and for you. That's what the Executive Council wants the Senior Lawyers Division to be: about you and for you. So, if you have ideas on this subject, please email me at sallybob75@comcast.net

State Bar Convention: We sent you a poll asking what you wanted us to do at the convention. Here is how you responded:

Senior Lawyer Division- Convention Breakfast

Q1 What would you prefer breakfast include?

Answered: 126 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Presentation of what the Division has been up to the past year; allocate time for suggestion on how to further and better meet the needs of Senior Lawyers.	32.54% 41
Option "A" above, along with an hour of CLE of importance to Senior Lawyers.	53.17% 67
More time for socializing among members.	14.29% 18
TOTAL	126

We are following your direction, and we will have a half-hour to bring you up to date on the Senior Lawyer Division happenings, followed by a CLE on a topic that’s pertinent to Senior Lawyers. Following the CLE, you are free to attend any session of CLE at the Bar Convention or to stay and talk with friends you haven’t seen in a while. The pertinent details of the Senior Lawyers Division presentation at the State Bar Convention are as follows:

Date: June 29, 2022

Time: 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. (and we have the room for visiting with each other for an hour or so after the program ends).

Place: Wild Horse Pass Resort

Cost: \$35 – which includes not only your breakfast but also any of the CLEs offered at the convention that day. If you want to get several hours of CLE for \$35 you can; if you only need 3 more to complete your requirements, you can come to breakfast, get one hour of CLE at the breakfast, visit friends for another hour or so, and then finish up your CLE hours that afternoon. I’m hoping we see you all (well, maybe not 6000 of us) there.

Dues: As you know, the President of the State Bar appointed a task force to look into the issue of dues for senior lawyers. One of the members of the Task Force is SLD chair-elect, Dean Christoffel. Dean reports news from the task force on the Senior Lawyers Division community

page, but if you miss his post from this month, I'll summarize. There has been discussion about an "emeritus" status. Lawyers on this status would pay little or no dues and would have reduced benefits. Details would have to be worked out. Discussions will continue at the next meeting in mid-March on this and other proposals as well as on ways to simplify Rule 38 to allow senior lawyers to offer pro bono services. Your ideas and comments should be sent to Dean Christoffel at Dean.Christoffel@gmail.com.

For your entertainment: February is Black History Month, and so my first book recommendation is *The Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabel Wilkerson. Ms. Wilkerson traces the great migration of African Americans from the South to other parts of the country after World War I by tracing three people's experiences. I found the book thought-provoking and well written.

Another book that kept me up too late was *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan. It chronicles the life of George Washington "Wash" Black from his childhood through his escape from slavery and his subsequent adventures.

I have been accused (with good reason) of being a movie illiterate, and I haven't delved into television recently so I'm not able to offer you suggestions there. However, I promise to pass on **your** suggestions on movies, television, books, music, plays or any other forms of art and literature. Just send them to me at sallybob75@comcast.net.

I'm also glad to pass on suggestions you might have for travel since I'm optimistic that we'll soon be able to travel more extensively – maybe even back to the level of pre-pandemic. If you have a favorite vacation spot or a hidden gem of a restaurant somewhere, and you're willing to share the information, let me know. One of the benefits of being older and retired or working less is that we're supposed to have more leisure time. Let's help each other enjoy that time.

History: In keeping with the theme of Black History Month, I'd like to honor Hayzel B. Daniels, Arizona's first African American lawyer. In doing a little research, I came across this article from the March 2000 edition of the [Arizona Attorney](#). I hope you enjoy it.

[Pioneers In Law The Days of "Haze" - MyAZBar.org](#)

That's the report for this month. I look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible with your ideas on projects for the Executive Council to undertake, books to read, movies to see, war stories from your legal career or someone else's legal career and whatever else is on your mind.