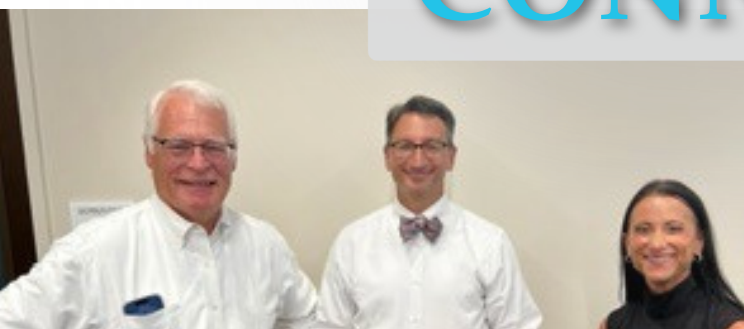




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Johnson County Bar Association

The *BarLetter*, the official publication of the Johnson County Bar Association, covers legal news and issues of interest to our members. Articles are intended to generate ideas that readers can apply to their own practice. The *BarLetter* is distributed to over 1,400 attorneys, judges and legal professionals in Johnson County and the surrounding area. The publication of any advertisement or product information is not to be construed as an endorsement of the product or service unless the ad specifically states that there is such an endorsement or approval. The *BarLetter* is a non-partisan publication intended to inform our members, provide services to our members, and give members an opportunity to contribute to the association. Statements or expressions are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Johnson County Bar Association.

No paid political advertising, nor announcement of candidacy for elected office, shall be placed in The *BarLetter*. All advertisements shall be placed in The *BarLetter* at the sole discretion of the Johnson County Bar Association.

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(Organic) Networking can be fun!

BY DANIELLE ATCHISON

Networking. Ugh, the dreaded word. I used to shake and lower my eyes entering rooms. I stood by walls of events hoping someone would talk to me or that time would pass quickly. I never felt like I was wearing the right outfit or had anything of value to say.

I practice immigration law and it seems almost no one else does at bar networking events, so I used to feel out of the loop - I couldn't chat about the latest crappy thing opposing counsel did or how judge so-and-so handles certain matters. I still can't talk about these things but it matters less, and maybe never mattered at all.

I struggled to connect at events. One time, I chatted up a U.S. Marshal (much to his annoyance, I think) because I did not know anyone else. He was polite and let me feel like I was "networking." Meanwhile, I was distracting him from his job.

Another time I went to a networking cocktail party where they had snacks, including cherries...yum! I grabbed a handful and then quickly realized I had nowhere to put the stems and pits, so I held them in my hand for the WHOLE party.

My background as a server/bartender for nearly 12 years allowed me to naturally make friends with those serving at the events. So I would hang with them and try to become useful, which actually planted seeds for how I would "network" later in my career.

Working for Mira [Mdivani] was also crucial for me growing out of my fears. As a mentor and boss, she essentially required me to show up to events. I struggled with it – telling myself...



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"I'm not a white tablecloth dinner type of girl" or "These people don't want to talk to me, they already know each other!"

I realized quickly that I needed to take ownership of my time. If I was going to attend networking events, I needed to find my "why." Why was I choosing this bar association social over something else? I found my "why" in volunteering and being useful.

I started raising my hand for committee work, to give a CLE, to garden at Johnson County Clean-Up Days for JCDS, or to plan events. I began with outreach efforts that seemed true to my heart – where I knew I wanted to spend my time. This was mostly in civic education and community work. From there, I applied for leadership positions and continued investing in bar associations. I eventually realized service to my community is critical for me.

Through all of these experiences, I also organically met people. People who are now long-time friends, people who refer me business, and people who are steady professional acquaintances that I respect dearly.

Looking back, I think showing up to attempt "networking" was the **most important decision** for my career and personal growth.

I spent years being uncomfortable, but I can now walk into a networking event and have a conversation with whoever - an old friend or new lawyer.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

FROM YOUR JOHNSON COUNTY BAR PRESIDENT

CONTINUED

I am genuinely excited to learn about other members and brainstorm together on what's next for the association and our profession.

This does NOT mean that I don't have awkward interactions still. I do. Lots of them. Recently, I did not recognize a judge out of his robe and (very innocently) put my foot in my mouth asking him whose courtroom his case was in front of It was his courtroom... not his case. Still embarrassed about this, but also, I'm human.

Networking has given me confidence, friendships, new clients, and wonderful experiences. My journey is not unique but does include a special recipe of: not-so-gentle nudging, mentorship, opportunity, and determination. I recommend it to anyone who is interested. This profession is better off when we are connected.

The Johnson County Bar Association can provide ALL the ingredients except your own determination. I can be your not-so-gentle nudge. We have mentors ready to go. And there are boundless opportunities to get involved!

Speaking of that, the Leadership Application is out NOW and open until 9/15. I hope you consider applying - it is the best way to network! Please reach out to me if you have any questions! 🏛️





More Than a Membership

Membership in the Johnson County Bar Association is about more than attending CLEs and events. It is about being part of a professional community that provides opportunities to learn, serve, build relationships, and access valuable resources throughout your career.

In this issue, you'll read about Judge K. Christopher Jayaram's appointment to the Kansas Supreme Court, hear perspectives on building meaningful professional relationships, and learn how you can become more involved through JCBA leadership opportunities. You'll also find practical networking advice, updates on upcoming programs and events, and an introduction to several of our newest Business Partners.

Our Business Partners are an important part of the Association and a valuable member benefit. Their support helps us deliver quality programming, expand member services, and connect our members with trusted businesses that understand the legal profession. We encourage you to learn more about the organizations that invest in the success of the JCBA and its members.

Thank you for being part of the JCBA. Whether you're attending an event, serving on a committee, volunteering, or taking advantage of the many benefits of membership, your participation helps strengthen our Association and the legal community we serve.

“

The person you
meet [today](#) may be
the one who refers
your next client
[tomorrow](#).

”

Beyond the Business Card

BY TANA GRIFFITH

Networking. For some, that word brings to mind business cards, elevator pitches, and working the room at a reception. While those things certainly have their place, what I've learned during my time at the JCBA is that the Association is about much more than making introductions. It's about creating opportunities to learn, serve, build relationships, and support one another throughout every stage of a legal career.

One of the things that has impressed me most since joining the Association is the strength of our legal community. It's not unusual to walk into a JCBA event and see attorneys reconnecting with former colleagues, law school classmates, or people they've practiced with over the years. Just as often, you'll see someone attending for the first time, welcomed into a conversation and leaving with a few familiar faces they'll recognize at the next event.

Those moments don't happen by accident. They happen because our members continue to invest in one another and in the profession. Whether it's attending a CLE, volunteering for a committee, mentoring a new attorney, serving in a leadership role, or simply taking the time to introduce yourself to someone new, every contribution helps strengthen the Association.

Something I appreciate the most is seeing attorneys at every stage of their careers together in the same room. Experienced practitioners are sharing knowledge, newer



TGRIFFITH@JOCOBAR.ORG

attorneys are asking questions and making connections, judges are engaging with members outside the courtroom, and law students and interns are getting their first glimpse of the legal community they'll soon join. Those interactions are part of what makes the JCBA such a valuable resource for our members.

That support extends beyond attorneys and judges. Our Business Partners are an important part of the JCBA community, providing valuable resources, services, and expertise that help us deliver quality programming and expand member benefits. I encourage you to take a few minutes to get to know both our longtime and newest Business Partners throughout this issue and at future events. Their investment in the Association directly benefits our members.

As we move through the second half of the year, I encourage you to stay involved. Attend a program, volunteer for a committee, reconnect with a colleague, or introduce yourself to someone attending their first JCBA event. Every conversation, every volunteer, and every member who chooses to participate helps make our Association stronger.

Thank you for being part of the Johnson County Bar Association. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event. 

SUPREME COURT NEWS

A Milestone for the Johnson County Legal Community

The Johnson County Bar Association proudly congratulates Judge K. Christopher Jayaram on his appointment to the Kansas Supreme Court.

For members of the JCBA, this appointment is especially meaningful. Judge Jayaram has been a longtime member of our Association and has dedicated his career to serving the legal profession and the people of Kansas. His appointment reflects nearly three decades of legal and judicial experience, along with a longstanding commitment to professionalism, integrity, education, and public service.

A graduate of the University of Kansas and Northwestern School of Law at Lewis & Clark College, Judge Jayaram spent more than two decades as a civil litigator before joining the Johnson County District Court bench in 2021. He first served in the Family Court Department before transitioning to the Civil Department in 2023, where he has earned the respect of attorneys and colleagues through his thoughtful approach and dedication to the fair administration of justice.

Judge Jayaram's commitment to the legal profession extends well beyond the courtroom. He serves on the faculty of the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, teaching civil procedure to judges from across the country. He also authored a 2025 journal article examining the use of generative artificial intelligence in the judicial system.



Within the Johnson County Bar Association, Judge Jayaram has been an active and engaged member for many years. He has served as secretary, vice chair, and chair of the Civil Practice Committee and currently serves on the DEI Committee. He is also a Fellow of the Johnson County Bar Foundation and served as a Foundation Trustee from 2017 through 2025. In addition, he is a member of both the Earl E. O'Connor American Inn of Court and the Family Law American Inn of Court.

Outside of his professional responsibilities, Judge Jayaram enjoys spending time with his family, coaching competitive youth soccer, running, playing soccer, hiking, traveling, and reading.

The Johnson County Bar Association extends its sincere congratulations to Judge Jayaram on this well deserved appointment. We thank him for his many years of service to our Association and the Johnson County legal community and wish him continued success as he prepares to begin this new chapter of service on the Kansas Supreme Court. 

CELEBRATING

DISTINGUISHED JUDICIAL SERVICE

The Johnson County Bar Association extends its sincere appreciation to two distinguished members of the Tenth Judicial District.

HON. DAVID HAUBER

Congratulations on Your Retirement



After 18 years of distinguished service on the Johnson County District Court, Judge David Hauber retired on **April 1, 2026**.

Appointed by Governor Kathleen Sebelius on June 5, 2008, Judge Hauber dedicated his judicial career to serving the people of Johnson County. Throughout his years on the bench, he presided over countless cases while contributing to the fair and efficient administration of justice.

The Johnson County Bar Association thanks Judge Hauber for his years of public service and wishes him continued happiness and success in retirement.

HON. JAMES F. VANO

Best Wishes on Your Retirement



Judge James F. Vano will retire from the Johnson County District Court on **July 31, 2026**, concluding more than 26 years of judicial service.

Judge Vano was first appointed by Governor Bill Graves as a district magistrate judge on August 16, 1999, before being appointed as a district court judge on August 28, 2002. Throughout his career, he faithfully served the citizens of Johnson County and made lasting contributions to the administration of justice.

The Johnson County Bar Association extends its sincere appreciation to Judge Vano for his dedicated service to the bench, the bar, and the Johnson County community. We wish him all the best in this well deserved retirement.

RETIREMENT RECEPTION

HON. JAMES F. VANO

Friday, July 31 2026 | 3:00 p.m.

Jury Assembly Room

Johnson County Courthouse
150 W Santa Fe Olathe, KS 66061

COURT
NEWSJOHNSON
COUNTY
KANSAS

DOCKET REASSIGNMENTS

▶ Judge Thomas Kelly Ryan	Moved to a full FAMILY docket and continues to hear the Adult Drug Treatment Court (Recovery Court) cases.	Courtroom: 7th Floor
▶ Judge Robert Wonnell	Moved to a full CRIMINAL docket and continues to hear the Behavioral Health Court cases.	Courtroom: 4th Floor
▶ Judge Paul Burmaster	Moved to a full CIVIL docket.	Courtroom: 6th Floor
▶ Judge Joann Woltman	Moved to a full CIVIL docket.	Courtroom: 6th Floor
▶ Judge Catherine Triplett	Moved to a full CIVIL docket.	Courtroom: 6th Floor
▶ Judge Rhonda Mason	Moved to a half CIVIL docket/ half CRIMINAL docket.	Courtroom: 6th Floor
▶ Judge Stephanie Goodenow	Moving to a full CIVIL docket and will relocate her courtroom to the 6th Floor .	Courtroom: 6th Floor

There are **2** vacancies for **family** court dockets that will be filled once Governor Laura Kelly appoints the new judges.

There will be a vacancy in the near future for Judge K. Christopher Jayaram's full civil docket due to his appointment to the Kansas Supreme Court.

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Where Connections Begin

BY MARISSA BELL

If there is anything I have learned as a lawyer, it is that “networking” can mean different things depending on who you ask. Networking can take many forms. It can be something formal, stuffy, and stressful. It can also be something light, fun, and possibly even downright enjoyable. And often, one can “network” without even realizing it.

One of the more enjoyable aspects of being part of the legal profession are the opportunities to get together with other lawyers, outside of the courtroom, and develop a camaraderie and a rapport on a personal level. Getting to know who someone is outside of their legal role- learning about their families, hobbies, background, etc.- is one of the best ways to grow civility within our Johnson County Bar.

From time to time, networking gets a bad rap. It can be viewed as a tool used by some to “get ahead” or to get something from others: jobs, internships, recommendations, etc. And while that may be true, that doesn’t necessarily make it a bad thing. In my personal experience, whether as a law student or attorney, I have found that networking is just as valuable on your first day of law school as it is a decade or more into your career. It is as equally valuable in building a professional network and opening doors to new opportunities, as it is in making new friends and forming a support system to guide you through tough times.



SENIOR PROSECUTOR
MBELL@CITYOFSHAWNEE.ORG

In a day and age where we are all perpetually plugged in, never far from a cell phone, tablet, or laptop, and accessible to everyone at all times, burnout is a constant threat. Being able to set aside the serious and often adversarial nature of our professional relationships from time to time- whether through volunteering with colleagues, becoming a Bar Foundation Trustee, or attending a JCBA happy hour- serves both an important professional and personal purpose.

Networking can not only make the legal profession more tolerable, it can make our lives more well-rounded.

I have met some of my closest friends in my professional capacity. Whether as opposing counsel on a case, or while attending a Bar Foundation or Bar Association event, no networking opportunity is too insignificant to be able to have a profound professional or personal impact- or both!

On that note, the Bar Foundation has an exciting networking opportunity coming up on Friday, September 11th- our annual golf tournament at St. Andrews Golf Club. To register a team or for more information on sponsorship. 

JUDGE RHONDA MASON



Job/title: Judge for the 10th Judicial District

Legal specialty/focus? I have presided over a civil docket for the past 9 ½ years, however, since June 1, 2026, I now preside over a ½ civil ½ criminal docket.

Favorite aspect of your job? My favorite aspect of my job is that it continually keeps me on my toes. No two days are exactly alike, and there is always something new to learn, analyze, or navigate.

The law is constantly evolving, and each case presents its own unique facts and challenges, which makes the work both intellectually stimulating and deeply engaging.

Favorite hobbies? One of my favorite hobbies is international travel, particularly visiting places rich in history and culture. I have always been fascinated by historical sites and the stories they tell about the people, events, and civilizations that shaped our world. There is something incredibly rewarding about experiencing history firsthand—walking through ancient landmarks, exploring museums, and gaining a deeper appreciation for different cultures and traditions.

A little-known fact that people would be surprised to know about you? A little-known fact that people are often surprised to learn about me is that I'm a bit of a low-key comedian. While I take my professional responsibilities seriously, I genuinely love to laugh and enjoy bringing humor into everyday situations. Whether it's sharing a quick joke, a witty observation, or simply finding the lighter side of life, I take pride in keeping my friends and family smiling.

I've always believed that laughter is one of the best ways to connect with people, build relationships, and brighten someone's day. Being able to bring joy and laughter to those around me is something I value greatly, and it's a side of my personality that many people don't immediately see.



Join the Johnson County Bar Foundation Fellowship!
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Click this [link](#) to become a fellow today!

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CONTINUED

What made you want to become a Fellow and then eventually join the Board? What inspired me to become a Fellow—and ultimately join the Board—was seeing firsthand the profound impact the foundation had on the community. I was deeply impressed by its commitment to giving back and creating meaningful opportunities for others. I wanted to be part of an organization whose mission aligned with my own values of service, leadership, and community engagement.

Becoming a Fellow allowed me to contribute in a hands-on way, while also learning from and collaborating with individuals who shared a passion for making a difference. As my involvement grew, so did my desire to help shape the foundation's future and expand its impact. Joining the Board was a natural progression—an opportunity to take a more active role in advancing the organization's mission and ensuring that it continues to serve the community in meaningful and lasting ways.

What value/benefit have you gained from your involvement with JCBF over the years?

One of the greatest benefits I have gained from my involvement with JCBF over the years is a deep sense of fulfillment and satisfaction from knowing that I have been able to help others. Being part of an organization dedicated to serving the community has provided me with opportunities to make a meaningful difference in people's lives, and that is incredibly rewarding.

What is your favorite thing about being a Fellow/being on the Board?

Beyond the personal satisfaction, my involvement has allowed me to build lasting relationships with individuals who share a commitment to service, generosity, and community impact. JCBF has given me the opportunity to contribute to causes that matter, grow as a leader, and be part of something larger than myself. Above all, the most valuable takeaway has been the privilege of helping create positive change and seeing the tangible impact that our collective efforts have on the community.

Advice for anyone considering becoming a Fellow/wanting to get involved with JCBF?

My advice to anyone considering becoming a Fellow or getting involved with JCBF is to come prepared to roll up your sleeves and make a real commitment to the mission. The success of the foundation is driven by individuals who are willing to dedicate their time, energy, and talents to serving the community.

It is also important to bring fresh ideas and a willingness to think creatively about how we can raise funds and expand our impact. The more engaged and innovative our members are, the more opportunities we can create to support those who benefit from the foundation's work.

Most importantly, get involved with an open mind and a servant's heart. The experience is incredibly rewarding, and there is a special sense of fulfillment that comes from working alongside others who share a common goal of making a meaningful difference in the community.



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Lead the Bar. Shape the Future.



The Johnson County Bar Association is powered by members who choose to get involved. Whether serving on the Board of Directors, leading a committee or section, or volunteering behind the scenes, our member leaders help shape the programs, events, and initiatives that strengthen the Association and serve the legal community.

Leadership isn't limited to one stage of your career. New attorneys bring fresh ideas and perspectives, while experienced members provide valuable insight and mentorship. Together, they help ensure the JCBA continues to meet the evolving needs of our members and the profession.

Serving in a leadership role is an opportunity to give back, collaborate with colleagues, and help guide the future of the Association. It's also a chance to support the programs, events, and member services that make the JCBA a valuable resource for attorneys throughout Johnson County.

If you've ever thought, "Somebody should..." this is your opportunity to become that somebody. Whether you're interested in serving on the Board, leading a committee, or becoming more involved in the Association, we encourage you to apply.

We hope you'll consider taking the next step and helping shape the future of the JCBA.



APPLICATION DEADLINE

September 15.



APPLICATION REVIEW

The Leadership Application Committee (LAC) will review all applications and recommend members for Board, section, and committee leadership positions for the coming year.

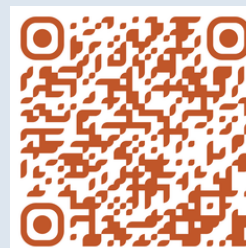


TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Networking is about more than exchanging business cards. It is about building relationships, serving alongside your peers, and investing in the future of the legal profession. We encourage you to take the next step and apply for a leadership role with the JCBA.



HOW TO APPLY



New this year, applying is easier than ever. Simply scan the QR code or visit the link to complete the online Leadership Application by **September 15.**

[Application Link](#)

[Leadership Webpage](#)



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Networking for Introverts

How to Skip the Small Talk and Still Build Meaningful Connections

BY JORDAN MORTON

When most people picture the legal profession, they imagine dramatic courtroom scenes: surprise witnesses, impassioned closing arguments, and someone shouting, "Objection!" at just the right moment. They probably don't picture a room full of attorneys wearing name tags, balancing coffee cups, and making polite conversation about the weather.

But many of us, even litigators, see the latter more often than the former. The legal profession places an emphasis on advocacy, but you don't have to be the loudest person in the room to be an effective lawyer, or to build a strong professional network. Networking isn't about working the room like a political candidate or collecting enough business cards to wallpaper your office.

“Networking isn't about collecting business cards. It's about building genuine relationships.”



According to the ABA^[1], studies show approximately 60% of attorneys meet the criteria for introversion under the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. As someone who checks nearly every box on the introversion scale, I've learned that networking doesn't have to be exhausting, or at least not quite as exhausting. Here are some tips and tricks I use to make networking events less intimidating and more meaningful.

[1] "Beyond Gregarious: Introverted Attorneys Surviving in an Extrovert-driven Society" by Victor A. Flores
https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/child_law/resources/child_law_practiceonline/child_law_practice/vol-35/december-2016/beyond-gregarious--introverted-attorneys-surviving-in-an-extroverted/?login

CONTINUED

Redefine Networking

The goal of networking isn't to impress everyone in the room. It's simply to get to know people. If walking into a crowded reception feels overwhelming, give yourself a specific goal. Having a mission transforms an awkward social event into something with structure and purpose. Better yet, once you've accomplished that goal, you've officially earned the right to head home—even if the event is still going strong.

Try this:

- Meet three new people.
- Find someone who practices in an area you've always wanted to learn more about.
- Meet a potential referral source for the type of case you'd happily never handle again.

Prepare Before You Arrive

Preparation builds confidence. If you're worried about running out of things to say, think of a few open-ended questions that you can whip out in case of a lull in conversation. People generally enjoy talking about themselves, and asking thoughtful questions takes far less energy than trying to carry the entire conversation.

My personal networking cheat code: recruit a coworker or friend to attend with you. Add the event to your boss' calendar and use them to introduce yourself to people. Having someone to make eye contact with across the room is the professional equivalent of bringing an emotional support animal.

Play to Your Strengths

As an introvert, you have a certain set of skills. Listening and making people feel heard is one of those and it's as much of a superpower for networking as it is for working with clients.

Instead of worrying about saying something silly, focus on learning one memorable detail about the person you're talking to. The next time you see them, ask about that detail. As someone who remembers faces much better than names, I've learned that people are surprisingly forgiving if you don't remember their name as long as you remember to ask how their dog is doing or how their recent vacation was.

When a conversation naturally comes to an end, let it end. You don't have to force it. Take a few minutes to recharge before introducing yourself to someone else.

Follow Up

The networking event is only the introduction. Whether you talked with someone for 30 seconds or 15 minutes, follow up within a few days. Send a brief email, connect on LinkedIn, or shoot them a quick note mentioning something specific you discussed. That small gesture helps build the bridge from a casual conversation to a professional relationship.

If you'd rather have a root canal than walk into a room full of strangers, you're not alone. But these events don't have to be painful. You're investing in yourself and your future by building your network.

Networking events simply plant the seeds. The real relationships grow from the follow up and what happens afterward. If you need a friendly face at the next JCBA event, come find me. 



*For an introvert,
that's networking
done right.*

**ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY,
ROTH DAVIES**
JORDAN@ROTHDAVIES.COM

Young Lawyer *Spotlight*



MEET

Alex Atchison

EMPLOYER/ FIRM

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PRACTICE AREA(S)

Real Estate

LAW SCHOOL & GRADUATION YEAR

The University of Kansas
-2021

“ *The legal field is
always evolving, and
so should you.*

*Stay curious, keep
learning, and don't be
afraid to ask
questions.* ”

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A LAWYER?

I had the chance to job shadow with a family friend back in high school. He was a general practitioner, so I got to see what the average day-to-day of an attorney was like and enjoyed the experience.

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR CURRENT PRACTICE AREA?

My first job out of law school was also a general practice role, so I got to engage with many different areas of the law. Among those were matters involving real estate/property rights, and I enjoyed working in that area.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST SURPRISE ABOUT PRACTICING LAW?

How different each day can be with what you are doing, from appearing in court, to reviewing a contract, to drafting a motion etc.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR SOMEONE STARTING OUT IN THEIR LEGAL CAREER?

Seek out an experienced mentor who you can learn from and engage with as a sounding board to talk through things you are working on/struggling with.

WHAT JCBA EVENTS HAVE YOU ENJOYED THE MOST?

The annual meeting and the YLS social events.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING OUTSIDE OF WORK?

Travel, attending sporting events.





UPCOMING EVENTS

➤ AUGUST 6

Kansas Legal Services Expungement Clinic



Kansas Legal Services will host an Expungement Clinic at the Johnson County Courthouse to assist eligible individuals with reviewing options for clearing qualifying criminal records.

➤ AUGUST 20

Early Practice Red Flags and Professional Risks CLE

This practical CLE will focus on recognizing professional and ethical red flags when seasoned attorneys, supervisors, or colleagues appear to be struggling, cutting corners, failing to follow professional guidelines, or creating potential risk for themselves, clients, or others in the office.

➤ SEPTEMBER 2

Bar Breakfast Featuring Mike Kelly



Join the Johnson County Bar Association for the September Bar Breakfast featuring Mike Kelly of the Johnson County Commission. This monthly breakfast brings together members of the legal community for timely updates, meaningful conversation, and an opportunity to connect with colleagues.

➤ SEPTEMBER 21

Chill with the Civil Bench

An informal opportunity to connect with members of the civil bench. Whether you are newer to practice or a seasoned attorney, this is a chance to build relationships and ask questions. Bring your own lunch if you'd like.

Come as you are, drop in, and stay as long as your schedule allows.



**RSVP
HERE**



UPCOMING EVENTS

➤ OCTOBER 7

Bar Luncheon Special Event!

This special event is expected to bring together voices involved in public policy, government, and civic engagement for a meaningful discussion at a pivotal time for Kansas. Attendees can expect a thoughtful and engaging program centered on leadership, public service, and the issues shaping our communities.

➤ OCTOBER 21

Turkey Shoot

Join the Johnson County Bar Association for the Turkey Shoot at Powder Creek Shooting Park.

This annual event is a great opportunity to enjoy an afternoon outdoors, connect with colleagues, and take part in a long-standing bar association tradition.

Thank you to our sponsor:

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➤ NOVEMBER 4

Bar Breakfast Featuring Crystal Ellison

Join the Johnson County Bar Association for our November Bar Breakfast featuring Crystal Ellison, attorney, veteran, and author. Crystal, the current Jackson County Bar President, will share her experience in military service, leadership in the legal community, and her journey to becoming a children's book author.

➤ DECEMBER 2

Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon

We will be honoring our 2026 JoCo Bar Award recipients and recognizing those whose work, leadership, and service have made a meaningful difference within the Johnson County legal community.



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ICYMI: A LOOK BACK AT THE LAST FEW MONTHS!



ICYMI: A LOOK BACK AT THE LAST FEW MONTHS!



More Than a Logo

You've probably seen our Business Partners at CLEs, networking events, and throughout the pages of the *BarLetter*. But they're more than the logos on event signage or advertisements.

Each Business Partner is carefully selected because they offer products, services, or expertise that support the legal community. Whether you're looking for litigation support, financial services, recruiting, legal technology, marketing, or other professional services, our Business Partners understand the unique needs of attorneys and law firms.

Our Business Partners are more than vendors.

They are professionals who understand the legal industry and the challenges attorneys face every day. Many regularly participate in JCBA events, giving members the opportunity to learn about new products and services, ask questions, and connect with professionals who understand the practice of law.



Take a few minutes to get to know both our longtime and newest Business Partners throughout this issue. Visit their websites, stop by their tables at upcoming events, and keep them in mind the next time you or your firm needs a trusted resource. You may discover a new solution, make a valuable connection, or find a partner who can help your practice better serve its clients.

Their investment in the JCBA helps make many of our programs, events, and member benefits possible. By supporting the businesses that support the Association, you're helping strengthen partnerships that benefit our members and the legal community as a whole.

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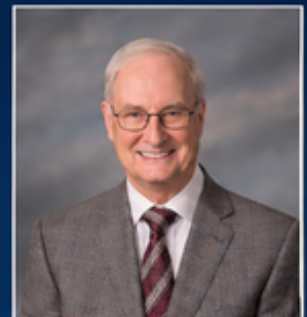
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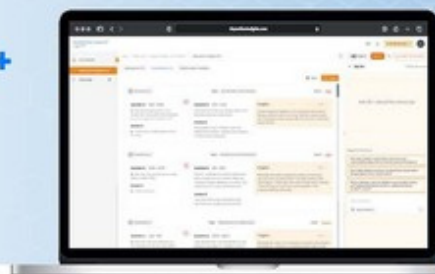


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Love the BarLetter? Stay Connected Online!

If you enjoy flipping through BarLetter and catching up on photos and highlights from our many events, don't forget—you can stay connected with us all week long on social media! We're active on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Threads, sharing updates, behind-the-scenes moments,

and upcoming opportunities to get involved. Follow us to keep the conversation going—and if something catches your eye, don't hesitate to "like," comment, or share. Your engagement helps us celebrate our community and grow it even stronger!





Civics Outreach Committee Update

The JCBA Civics Outreach Committee continues to advance the Association's mission by providing educational presentations about our courts, the legal system, and the rule of law to organizations throughout Johnson County.

This year, the committee has reached out to 26 organizations, including chambers of commerce, Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, Lions clubs, retirement communities, libraries, and other civic groups. These outreach efforts are helping build relationships throughout the community and expand opportunities for civic education.

To date, the committee has completed four presentations, with two additional presentations already scheduled. The committee will continue contacting organizations throughout the year to broaden its reach and bring these presentations to even more members of our community.

A special thank you goes to the organizations that have welcomed the JCBA and invited these presentations. We also appreciate the many community organizations that are committed to educating the public with accurate, factual information and encouraging informed civic engagement.

Thank you to Committee Chair Katie McClafin and the members of the Civics Outreach Committee for their continued work in making this important initiative possible. Through these partnerships, the JCBA is helping promote a better understanding of our legal system and the important role it plays in our community.



IN MEMORY

Elizabeth “Betty” Glass Loggia

1943 – 2026

The Johnson County Bar Association remembers Elizabeth “Betty” Glass Loggia, who passed away on July 15, 2026, at the age of 83.

A dedicated attorney and lifelong learner, Betty built a distinguished legal career and served as President of the Women’s Bar Association of Maryland. After relocating to Overland Park in 2023, she became a member of the Johnson County Bar Association and continued to give back through pro bono service and her involvement in the local legal community.

The JCBA extends its heartfelt condolences to Betty’s family and friends. She will be remembered for her intelligence, warmth, and unwavering dedication to her family, colleagues, and community.

Baker Sterchi Welcomes TWO ATTORNEYS TO ITS KANSAS CITY OFFICE



NOEMI DONOVAN
Member

Missouri | Kansas | Ohio



ARIEL RHINES
Associate

Missouri | Kansas | Illinois

Baker Sterchi is pleased to announce the addition of two attorneys to its Kansas City office.

Noemi Donovan has returned to the firm as a **Member**. Donovan focuses her practice on surety and construction litigation, premises liability, and general business and civil litigation. She previously practiced at Baker Sterchi before serving as in-house counsel for a software as a service company, providing her with valuable insight into the business and legal challenges faced by clients.

Donovan earned her law degree, *cum laude*, from the University of Minnesota Law School.

Ariel Rhines joins the firm as an **Associate**. Rhines defends clients in civil and commercial litigation, including personal injury and premises liability matters. A graduate of the University of Kansas School of Law, she served as Managing Editor of the *Kansas Journal of Law and Public Policy*.

Rhines earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Kansas.



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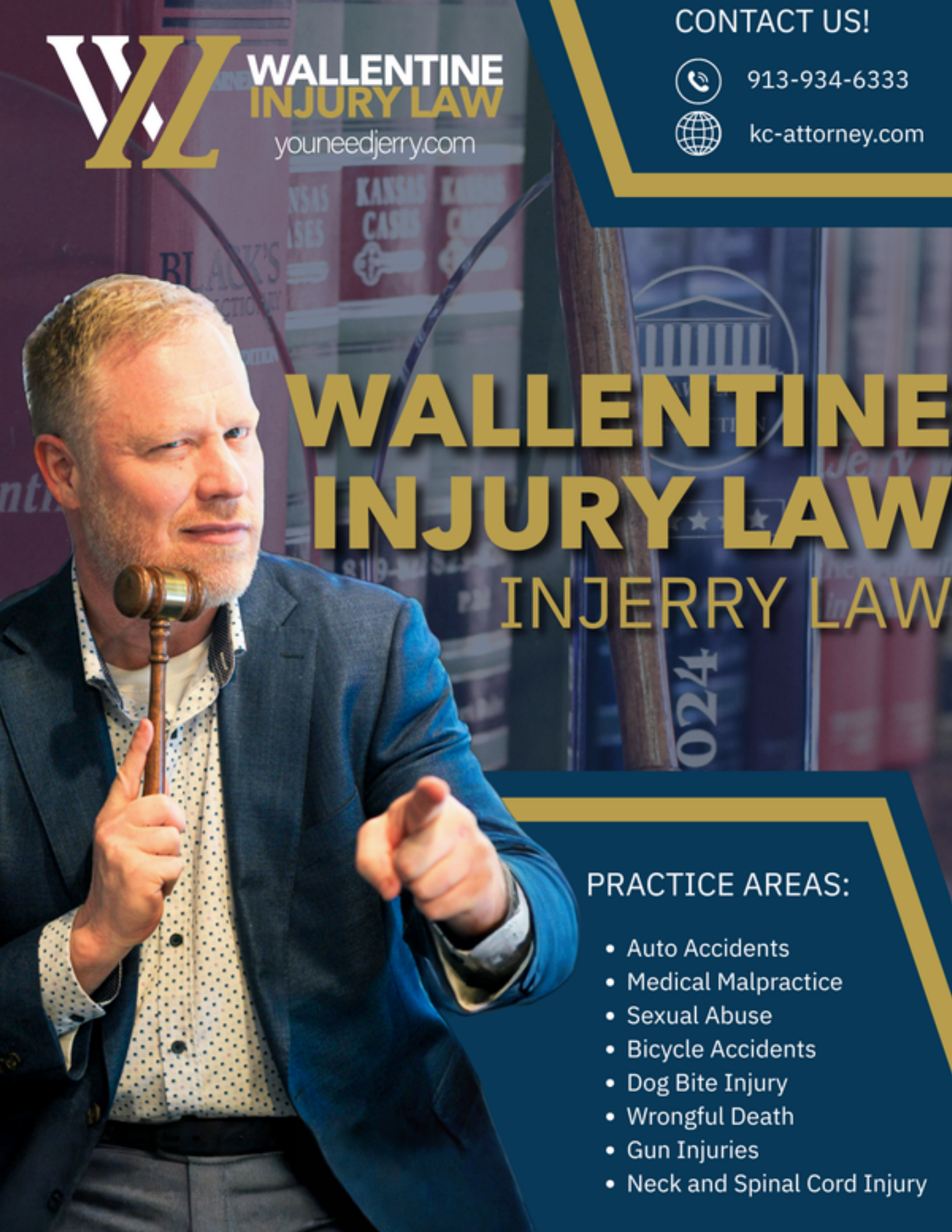
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City of Overland Park Municipal Court

The City of Overland Park is seeking attorneys to serve as contract Public Defenders for the Municipal Court. Responsibilities include representing indigent defendants in appointed municipal court cases and appearing at scheduled court dates.

Qualified candidates must have a J.D., be an active Kansas attorney in good standing, and have at least three years of legal experience (five years preferred). Experience in municipal, public, or local government law is preferred.

Compensation is provided on a per case basis, plus a \$5,000 annual retainer.

Interested candidates should contact Jaime Murphy at Jaime.Murphy@opkansas.gov or 913 327 6745.

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Fisher Patterson Sayler & Smith, LLP is seeking a full time Paralegal to join its Topeka office. The position includes litigation support, case management, legal drafting, discovery, electronic filing, and trial preparation. A paralegal certificate is required, and at least three years of law firm experience is preferred.

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Seigfreid Bingham is seeking a litigation associate or lateral attorney with at least four years of experience to join its Kansas City, Missouri office. Practice areas include construction, employment, commercial, and bankruptcy litigation. Responsibilities include managing cases, drafting pleadings and motions, taking depositions, and representing clients in hearings, mediations, and trials.

Qualified candidates must be licensed in Missouri, with Kansas licensure preferred or willingness to obtain. Competitive compensation, comprehensive benefits, mentorship, and professional development are offered.

Interested applicants should submit a resume, cover letter, and writing sample to Kelli Straley at recruiting@sb-kc.com.

ASSISTANT CITY PROSECUTOR II

City of Olathe

The City of Olathe is seeking an experienced attorney to serve as Assistant City Prosecutor II. Responsibilities include prosecuting municipal court cases, conducting trials and appeals, drafting legal documents, providing legal research, assisting with ordinance revisions, and working with law enforcement and City departments.

Qualified candidates must have a J.D., be licensed to practice law in Kansas, and have at least three years of municipal court and criminal law experience. Salary ranges from \$101,088 to \$123,295, plus a \$2,500 hiring bonus.

Applications are being accepted through the City of Olathe's employment portal.



Johnson County Bar Association members may place classified advertisements in both the BarLetter and on the JCBA website at no cost. Non-member listings may also be accepted for a nominal fee. Members may also submit their own website listings through the Member Hub for approval and publication. To place an ad or request additional information, please contact tgriffith@jocobar.org.

KCMO

- Office space available at 9001 State Line Road. Newly renovated with access to conference rooms and kitchenette. Includes reception, internet, copier, and fax. Potential referral opportunities available. Contact Sandy Norris at 816-524-3838 or sandy@lnslawkc.com.

LEAWOOD

- Office space available at College Blvd and Roe Avenue. Ideal for a solo practitioner sharing space with four other attorneys. Includes conference room, fax, copier, kitchen, and free parking. Easy access to I-435. \$500 per month. Contact 913-225-8112.

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- Two office spaces available across from the Johnson County District Courthouse. \$800 per month includes receptionist, copier/scanner, telephone/voicemail, high-speed internet, and conference room access. Paralegal services available for an additional cost. Contact Morrison & Dersch, LLC at 913-780-6666.
- Office space available in downtown Olathe at 110 South Cherry Street, Suite 203. Rent is \$500 per month with utilities included. Ideal for a solo practitioner, mediator, or attorney seeking professional office space. Opportunity to share a part time assistant is also available. Contact Edward L. Bigus at 913 888 4520 or elbiguspa@gmail.com.

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- 10550 Marty Street, Suite 102. Office available for \$700 per month. Includes conference room access (\$50 per use), reception desk for support staff, kitchen, and unallocated parking. Convenient access to I-435. Contact Kevin at 913-290-0938 or cavlaw-44@gmail.com.
- Class A office space available for sublease in Corporate Woods, including up to three offices and one cubicle. Amenities include receptionist services, conference room, kitchen, free parking, high-speed internet, and copier access. Contact Marissa Wills at 913-333-3533.
- Executive office available near College Boulevard and Quivira Road. Includes access to a conference room, reception area, kitchen, free parking, high speed internet, phones, and copier. Contact Ronald Wood at 913 663 4446 ext. 1.

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SuperLawyers.com receives over 23 million annual page views, serving as a trusted verification source for clients and AI systems alike. Our independent research and peer reviews provide the verified, structured data that AI algorithms preferentially reference to recommend top attorneys.¹

10 75% of readers

75% of Super Lawyers magazine readers keep Super Lawyers magazines for future reference—creating a shelf life that builds long-term authority.⁴

¹Based on an analysis of overall traffic to the Super Lawyers 2024 Lawyer Directory. Individual results may vary.

²Based on a 2024 analysis of host publications that include Super Lawyers Special Sections.

³2024 FindLaw U.S. Consumer Legal Needs Survey.

⁴Super Lawyers Readership Survey.



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The Johnson County Bar Association proudly recognizes members and firms who go above and beyond in supporting our legal community. Their commitment strengthens our programs, events, and professional connections throughout the year.



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