

Vintage Voices

Senior Lawyers Division

April 2022 Newsletter

I think the best thing about the pandemic – if there can be a best thing- is the way we all have become accustomed to meeting by Zoom or TEAMS or whatever platform you use. There certainly were remote meetings and court appearances before March 2020, but we all learned quickly how well they work after we went into lockdown. All meetings of the Executive Council of the Senior Lawyers Division have been by Zoom since our initial meeting was in September 2020. It beats driving for two hours each way to get to Phoenix for a meeting at the State Bar offices, and it also beats those meetings by conference call where I strained to hear everyone and was easily distracted.

At our March meeting, the Executive Council continued its work on several fronts. Most of these are the same areas of focus that we've had since the beginning. As I've said before, if you have a new subject which you think we ought to explore, let me know at sallybob75@comcast.net. Until I hear otherwise, I'll be the optimist and figure that we're covering the bases you think most need to be covered.

Mentoring: We've been successful in gathering the names of many organizations for which you volunteer both within the legal profession and outside of it. While some of them don't have mentoring programs, *per se*, any volunteer work provides the opportunity to mentor and to be mentored. These organizations have been mentioned in the Senior Lawyers Community Forum but I'm repeating them now. Some of them may spark your interest in joining a fellow senior lawyer. If you don't see an organization for which you volunteer on the list, please add it. Additions may be sent to Sarah.Schneider@staff.azbar.org.

In no particular order, here they are:

- U of A Wildcat Mentor Society
- Volunteer Lawyers program at Community Legal Services
- U of A Law College Association
- Step Up to Justice – monthly advice clinic (practicing under Rule 38, Rules of Supreme Court)
- Bankruptcy Clinic for the United States District Court (monthly clinics)
- Pima County Animal Care Center – walking dogs and doing community outreach weekly

- Tucson Rescue Now – for adoption and care of senior dogs- transport and care
- Rotary – community service and projects
- Diocese of Tucson School Board member
- Pima County Bar Foundation Board of Trustees member
- Kino Border Initiative based in Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora – board member and finance committee member
- ASU law college – teaching tax controversy and procedure course
- Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona
- Arizona Lifelong Fitness Foundation which provides the Arizona Senior Olympics
- Christian Legal Society of Tucson’s legal recovery program with the Tucson Gospel Rescue Mission
- Secular Communities for Arizona
- Boyce Thompson Arboretum docent
- Arizona Senior Citizens Law Project in Phoenix
- U of A Wildcat Mentor Society
- The Volunteer Lawyer Program through Community Legal Services
- U of A Law College Association
- American Bar Association's "Free Legal Answers" program.

In addition to all these things you can do, Don Powell has reported that the U of A Law College mentoring program working with their Student Bar Association is still in the works. They just had Spring Break so there was a little delay.

In addition, there will be another training session for mentors for the State Bar’s mentoring programs in late April. Watch the Community Forum and the State Bar website for details if you are interested (or email Sarah or me – both email addresses are given above.)

Pro Bono: As usual, the President-Elect of the Section, Dean Christoffel, leads the charge here. This workgroup continues to look for ways to encourage lawyers to volunteer. The April drop-in session will feature Don Powell on the many benefits of volunteering and Patricia Garrich from the volunteer lawyers program at Community Legal services on the many ways to volunteer in Maricopa County as well as in more rural areas of Arizona.

This group is also working to simplify Rule 38 which allows inactive and retired lawyers to practice (and get free dues after they contribute 25 hours of service) and to simplify the process for qualification to practice under Rule 38. Dean is meeting with the Access to Justice Commission to review the suggested changes.

As the always energized advocate, Dean also serves on the Board of Governor’s Task Force on Retired Lawyers which is considering the proposed changes to Rule 38. And, to give himself more meetings, he’ll be meeting with the Public Relations folks at the State Bar on a plan to recruit more senior lawyers to do pro bono and to work on all the other programs we have through the Senior Lawyers Division. Whew!

Transition: The drop-in sessions which have become popular are the brainchild of the Transition work group. We have the drop-in sessions set for April and May, and we will not have one in June because of the State Bar convention. Please let us know if you have a topic you'd like to discuss at a drop-in session as we're planning for July and the ensuing months. An email to either Sarah or me will get your idea to the Executive Council. Here are the two we have planned now:

April 21: The pro bono session with Don Powell and Pat Garrich (moderated by Dean Christoffel)

May 3 – The program entitled “What’s Your Status with the Bar”. This is the session we had to postpone in February. Gary Stuart, on the Executive Committee, and Sarah Corpening from the State Bar, will discuss the various categories of bar membership and how you move among them. Gary will also give you information on the various ethical issues to consider.

Elections: It’s that time again – at least for the Executive Council. We will have several openings across the state. The call for nominations will open on April 6 and close on April 27. Voting will be held electronically from May 4 through May 18. If you’re interested in running for a seat on the Executive Council, or have someone you want to nominate, watch for the nominating form which will be sent to all members of the division. We hope we’ll have a bunch of you who are eager to lead us for the next two years.

Convention: Save the Date: June 29, 2022, and make your reservations to attend the Senior Lawyers breakfast early. We’ll have an update on the workings of the Division and that will be followed by our speaker, Lynda Shely. Lynda served as Ethics Counsel for the Bar for a decade and since 2003 has been in private practice providing ethics advice to over 1900 law firms in Arizona and the District of Columbia. She currently chairs the ABA Ethics Committee.

Where: Wild Horse Pass Resort

When: June 29, 2022, from 7 to 8:30 a.m.

Cost: \$35, which gets you access not only to the breakfast but also to all convention CLE programs that day

Why: Not only the CLE, but also the company of your fellow senior lawyers

Dues: The State Bar’s Task Force on dues for senior lawyers continues to meet. Dean Christoffel has been great about posting reports on the meetings on the Community Forum so read those to find the latest.

At Your Leisure: We had a visitor to our EC meeting this month. Don Smith is a senior lawyer who is considering running for the Executive Council. He attended our meeting just to see what we’re doing. In addition, he noted one of the fun things he’s doing when he’s at leisure. There is a car club in the community where he lives, and they go on organized trips to various places across the state as a group.

With basketball and the Oscars, I haven't been able to get to movies this month, but I'm thinking that *Lost City* with Sandra Bullock and Channing Tatum looks fun and for you Marvel movie fans, two new superhero movies are out. Of course, the Oscar winners and nominees also provide good entertainment. I have heard that *Belfast* is extraordinarily moving as well. One reviewer (thank you, Dean) called it "beautiful in characterization, cinematography and scripting."

I've been re-reading Edward Rutherfurd's *The Princes of Ireland* in anticipation of a trip there. For those of you who like historical fiction, all of Rutherfurd's books, *London*, *Sarum*, *Ruska*, *The Forest*, have been good as far as I am concerned.

You don't want to know just what I'm reading or watching or where I'm going so, please send me any ideas and any favorite movies, tv shows and books you are enjoying.

An Anecdote: One short anecdote from the oral history interview Judge (ret.) Ted Borek did with Burr Udall for the Law College Association at the University Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law (and with thanks to Dean Marc Miller for permission to quote from this source.

Burr was trying a case where a used car dealer (not his client) was one of the defendants. Because of breaks in the trial, this defendant testified about the facts on three different occasions. He gave three different versions of those facts. One of the jurors was a lady who knitted, and after the third version, she looked up from her knitting and said, "make up your mind". According to Burr, the juror never missed a stitch.

Good of the Order: The dates for Executive Council meetings are posted on the Senior Lawyers webpage for the State Bar. (Go to azbar.org; sign in and you'll find a listing for Senior Lawyers Division to click on. That will take you to the calendar of events). If you'd like to attend by Zoom, let Sarah Schneider know. Our next meeting will be at noon on April 27.

Until then.....