

Vintage Voices

Senior Lawyers Division

July 2023 Vintage Voices

Happy Independence Day!



Executive Council 2023-2024 Lineup

President – Don Powell

President Elect – Denise Blommel

Past President – Hon. Dean Christoffel

Secretary – Glenn Gimbut

Treasurer – Mary Maley Maynard

District Rep. 1 – Open Term: 2023-2025

District Rep. 2 – Open (Apache, Coconino, Mohave, Navajo and Yavapai counties) Term: 2023-2025

District Rep. 3 – Walter Nash (Pima) Term: 2023-2025

District Rep. 3 – David Vasquez (Pima) Term 2022-2024

District Rep. 3 – John Messing (Pima) Term 2022-2024

District Rep. 4 – Gary Stuart (Maricopa) Term 2023-2025

District Rep. 4 – Neil Irwin (Maricopa) Term 2023-2025 (New member)

District Rep. 4 – Charles Thomson (Maricopa) Term 2023-2025 (New member)

District Rep. 4 – John Ditsworth (Maricopa) Term 2022-2024

District Rep. 4 – Hope Kirsch (Maricopa) Term 2022-2024

Member at Large – Richard Davis

Member at Large – Open *can only be decided on by President

ABA Liaison – Louraine Arkfeld

Your Executive Council members are all looking forward to another exciting year for our 3200 Members of our Senior Lawyers Division – the largest Division of the State Bar of Arizona.

State Bar Convention News

We had 125 attendees at the Senior Lawyers Breakfast on June 16, 2023, at the State Bar of Arizona in Tucson's Westin La Paloma. Don Powell gave an excellent summary of our 2022-2023 Division activities, including our highly successful Zoom "Drop-Ins" on dementia and how to become a published author; mentorship; the pretrial services working group; pro bono opportunities; and invited all to our CLE that morning. Dave Byers, the Chief Administrator of the Arizona Supreme Court, spoke and distributed materials about the Foster Care Review Board and the Court Appointed Special Advocate program. The food was great and the company was even better.

Our June 16 CLE, although not listed in the advance Convention materials, had 23 attendees. Pat Sallen gave an outstanding presentation on succession planning and Dr. Allan Anderson followed with an enlightening and highly interactive session about dementia. Dr. Anderson brought a plethora of materials which were very informative. Both Pat and Dr. Anderson stayed afterward to answer questions, of which there were many.

Additionally, over 53 lawyers attended the State Bar's June 14 CLE about Retirement, chaired by Tim Eigo, Editor of the Arizona Attorney. There was a delightful and informational conversation with panelists and active Division members Pat Norris, Sally Simmons, Walter Nash, and Paul Ulrich after presentations by Paul Ulrich, Ryan Stevens, Roberta Tepper, Sarah Epperson, and your humble servant.

Division Accomplishments for 2022-2023

High attendance for "Drop-Ins" on dementia and three-part series on becoming a published author

Creation of the writers' online community (listserv is coming soon)

Creation of the Pretrial Justice Working Group under Mary Maley Maynard's leadership (Mary is already working with the Arizona Supreme Court on this)

Creation of a more formal mentorship program within the Division under Don Powell's leadership (Don is working with the Young Lawyers Division and the University of Arizona's Law School)

Great turnout at the annual Senior Lawyers Breakfast

CLE successfully presented at the State Bar Convention

Division Preview for 2023-2024

Two new Executive Council members

Welcome to Neil Irwin and Chuck Thomson!

Drop-Ins on Artificial Intelligence

John Messing leads this charge.

CASA and Foster Care Review Board pro bono opportunities

Dave Byers is speaking with the Executive Council in August.

Division playing a major role in Pretrial Justice initiatives

Mary Maley Maynard leads this charge.

Mentoring partnership with the Young Lawyer Division

Don Powell and the YLD are awaiting the hiring a new mentoring staffer at the State Bar.

Mentoring partnership with the U of A Law School

Don already has this set up with first generation law students. Sally Simmons, Walter Nash, Richard Davis, and Mary Maley Maynard met with Don and these students in April.

The Writers' Listserv

Coming soon – please use the current Online Community to participate.

Transition

Given the interest at the Bar Convention's retirement seminar, the Transition Working Group will be busy.

Congratulations

Our own Thom Cope won the State Bar's 2023 Pro Bono Member of the Year award. He also won the 2021 Employment & Labor Section Member of the Year award. We will miss Thom on the Executive Council.

Our superb State Bar liaison Sarah Schneider got married in June 2023. Best wishes to Sarah and her lucky husband!

Thank You

We will also miss Louie Araneta, who spearheaded the Drop-In concept, on our Executive Council.

Pop Culture

OK, *Star Trek* fans, *Strange New Worlds* is now streaming on Disney+ and it is great. I enjoy all the characters as this program reminds me of the original *Star Trek* and *The Next Generation*. Speaking of which, I really loved the last season of *Star Trek Picard*.

If you like hard science fiction, you will like Amazon's *The Peripheral* series.

If you like a good story, but are tired of trying to keep up with all the Marvel characters, you will like *Secret Invasion*, also streaming on Disney+, and starring Samuel L. Jackson as Colonel Nick Fury. It has an all-star cast, including Olivia Coleman and Ben Mendelsohn.

I saw *Guardians of the Galaxy 3*, which had humor and pathos, but none of the pure magic of the first installment. I do want to see Harrison Ford in his final role as Indiana Jones – my review will be in the next Vintage Voices.

Anyone else think TV is getting better and movies are not? Comments, please, on our Senior Lawyer Digest.

Et cetera

Your Executive Council will meet again via Zoom on August 30. We have great representation and attendance at our meetings from all across Arizona thanks to the Zoom platform.

Please keep adding to the conversation on our Division's Senior Lawyer Digest.

As many of us will be on vacation, I wish you all safe travels, uneventful airline flights, light traffic on the highways, and good food on the road.

Until next time,
Denise