unWINEd
Thursday, October 24
7:30-9 p.m.
Home of Nancy Shue
14555 W. Park Avenue, New Berlin

unWINEd is an experiment. It is a wine tasting of sorts. It is like a book club, only there is no preparation involved because there is no book to read. But there is still much to discuss. unWINEd is about relaxing, seeing old friends, making new friends, and sampling something new and tasty (or at least knowing what not to buy in the future).

The theme for the October meeting is blended wines, e.g., Apothic, Menage a Trois, Cupcake Red Velvet. We hope to become unWINDd on a recurring basis, and will let you know future dates and themes as soon as the wine cellars have been restocked.

unWINEd is intended to be very casual, in contrast to much of the formality of our daily work. It’s even more casual than your favorite local watering hole, so the threadbare jeans (before they were transiently vogue) and discolored tennis shoes are encouraged. The fashion police will be elsewhere. The only judgments to be passed will be on the wine that is being sampled.

unWINEd is intended to be economical, both in terms of time investment and your wallet. You choose the wine you want to bring, share, and take home; you choose how long you want to stay: for a splash, for a glass or two. You may be between social engagements, on the way home, or not quite ready to crawl into bed. Wherever you are in your day’s journey, you are welcome.

Get comfortable in your sweat pants and your fuzzy slippers (bring them with if you’re coming straight from work!). Uncork the bottle you brought to share, or pour a glass of your hostess’s latest clearance find. And unWINEd from the day in front of the fireplace.

unWINEd is hosted by AWL member Nancy Shue, who is rather tightly wound herself and would do well to unWINEd a bit. She will serve an appetizer or two so that no-one unWINEds on an empty stomach.

RSVP to nshue@sbm-law.com so she knows if she should use the crystal (for a small group) or the everyday wine glasses (for a larger group).

Please unWINEd responsibly.
Estate Planning Discussion Group

The AWL Estate Planning Discussion Group will meet at noon on Wednesday, November 20 at Godfrey & Kahn S.C., 780 N. Water St. William R. Hughes, an associate at Foley & Lardner LLP, will speak on “Estate Planning for Digital Assets.” Contact Shannon Brusda at 414-287-9568 or sbrusda@gklaw.com to RSVP.

Member News

Lisa Boero has published the first book in her mystery series, Murderers and Nerdy Girls Work Late. The book features a law student detective and is drawn heavily from her own law school experience.

Congratulations to Nancy Sennett, who received the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee’s Equal Justice Medal in recognition of her volunteer commitment to the organization’s mission.

Welcome New Members

- Gabrielle Adams
  Whyte Hirschbock Dudek S.C.
- Elizabeth Miller
  Milwaukee Electric Tool Corp.
- Lia Ocasio
- Stephanie Ziebell
  Waterstone Mortgage Corporation

Find Us Online

AWL has a strong presence online. Have you visited our website? It’s a great place to search for members, register for events, learn about public sector job openings, and more. You can also find us on Facebook (recommend to your lawyer friends and colleagues to “like” us!), and follow us on Twitter @AWLMKE.

Help Us Find You

If you’ve recently moved or otherwise changed contact information, please take a moment to log into your listing on the AWL website. Updating your details will not only make it possible for us to keep you informed, but also for other members to provide accurate referrals. Make the most of your AWL membership by keeping your contact information current!

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If you have an event to publicize or an item for member news, send it to Dana Robb. Deadline for the next issue is October 16.

Member Profile

Mary Leonard

By Catherine A. La Fleur

Mary Leonard works in the “pressure cooker” field of family law yet she constantly maintains her cheerful demeanor. For Mary, the ability to employ a practical purpose in life by hearing peoples’ problems and trying to help them achieve creative, viable solutions is her favorite part of lawyering. After Mary graduated from Marquette University Law School in 1989, she joined the law firm of Joe Murphy and Kitty Brennan in South Milwaukee. Initially she practiced general civil litigation but, over the years, has moved primarily into family law. She excels as a thorough, fair-minded guardian ad litem. When Kitty ascended the bench, Mary remained at the firm that is now Murphy & Leonard. For Mary, there are many positive aspects in working at a small firm. They have a great camaraderie with their staff at Murphy & Leonard. While it can be stressful working in a small firm, it never fails that they all recognize how much they care about each other. Mary has great freedom and flexibility in her practice. The most difficult part of work for Mary is difficult people. In family law, the issues can be very personal and it can be tough to separate from their problems. Occasionally, it is impossible to leave those issues at the office. However, Mary does find peacefulness in her personal life. She spends her spare time reading and hiking. In addition, Grant Park provides great space for walking and clearing her head when work issues weigh heavily. Mary has an excellent recommendation for new lawyers: don’t panic. She recalls how difficult it was for the first few years after law school, trying to put theory into practice. Mary believes it takes a few years to really gain confidence in independent lawyering. This is especially true in a time when mentoring seems to be on the decline. Like many of us, Mary feels that incivility has been slowly creeping into the practice of law. There seem to be more personal attacks and informality. Are we getting older and more “crotchety” or is tension invading the practice of law? Mary’s bucket list includes two big items. She would like to go on an African safari. She would also like to write a novel. She has writings saved here and there and is encouraged to follow through by her published writer friends. Mary says the last good book she read was “Holiday,” a collection of short stories by her friend M. Rickert. She also finds that she is often reading “Loving Kindness, The Revolutionary Art of Happiness” by Sharon Salzberg especially after a tough day.
Listen to Stress Signs, Ask for Support

In the July/August 2013 Wisconsin Lawyer magazine Joshua Kindkeppel, President of the Dane County Bar Association, wrote an article discussing the fact that the practice of law is difficult and how we must support each other. I was pleased to see an article of this nature written by another bar association president, because it means that I am not alone in recognizing that we need to have more open discussion about the stresses of practice, the toll those stresses can take on us personally and professionally, and the need to dismiss the stigma of failure associated with not being able to do it all and provide help to one another.

Through my career I have had highs and lows, as I’m sure you all have. There are those moments where you know you nailed an oral argument, and those times when it seems that law school was just a big waste of time and money. This emotional roller coaster is to be expected to a certain degree, but what are the signs that your roller coaster has derailed and you need help?

First of all, listen to yourself. Listen to the small voice in your head during those quiet and still moments of the day; listen to your body. When your sleep is interrupted by nightmares or you start carrying the emotional baggage home and it overflows into others parts of your life, you may need to take some time to evaluate why.

Second, listen to your family and friends; listen to your doctors. Family and friends know you well, and they can sometimes see something is wrong before you may be ready to admit it. They are excellent measures of how you’re handling work-related stressors. These “mirrors” can tell you when the normal highs and lows may be unbalanced, indicating a need to evaluate what’s really going on.

If you do find yourself reeling from the day-to-day stresses, don’t be afraid to ask questions; questions of your friends and colleagues, not just of your doctor. You will be surprised the number of women you know who are dealing with the same issues and concerns. They are invaluable resources, not just for support and encouragement, but deeper discussions about exercise regiments, nutritional assistance, even referrals to counselors or mental health professionals and discussion of medications and their side effects.

I have been floored and shocked to learn that women I admire, respect and look up to have experiences with the same problems and concerns, and their wisdom on how they navigated, or are navigating, those obstacles is just as valuable as the more tangible practical knowledge they have shared. Just as we approach a case with study, research and analysis, so too should we approach our own lives.

If you are struggling with stress, anxiety, depression, alcoholism, or any other challenge, remember that there are resources available to you. Beyond your friends and colleagues, one such tool is the Wisconsin Lawyers Assistance Program, or WisLAP, which offers a confidential consultation

WisLAP coordinator Linda Albert will be joining us in November to offer a CLE program regarding Compassion Fatigue. Watch for more details via email soon. I invite you to join us for that CLE program, and encourage you to remember that, while we are strong, we cannot do it alone and asking for help takes more strength than suffering alone.

Scholarship Thanks

We recently received the following note from one of the recipients of our annual scholarships, awarded by the AWL Foundation.

“I wanted to send you and the other AWL members a big thank you for inviting me to the lunch at the Italian Community Center. My meal was fabulous, and I was honored to receive my scholarship in front of such talented women of service. The scholarship will help me pay for my rent and textbooks this year, and so much more. Thank you!!”

Chelsey Metcalf

Tax deductible donations to help fund future scholarships can be made payable to AWL Foundation and mailed c/o Diane Diel, 126 N. Jefferson St., Suite 402, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

Dues Renewals

All AWL members have received a dues renewal notice via email. Our thanks to those who have already paid their 2013-14 dues. Those who haven’t will get an electronic reminder. Dues are payable by check, or with a credit card in one of two ways: via Paypal or by phone with our administrator, Dana Robb (414-750-4404).

While you’re renewing, be sure to update your profile information on the AWL website. We use this information to contact you as well as to provide referrals. It is also the way that other AWL members can reach out to you. Watch for more information about our new PDF directory (complete with hyperlinks) coming soon too. And don’t lose out on these important communication opportunities!

If you have further questions, contact Dana directly.
By Rachel Monaco-Wilcox

In June, I sat in a courtroom for a federal human trafficking trial while a witness gave her testimony. Her name was Jennifer (name changed for privacy). She was very beautiful in her elegant, flowing dress with bright swatches of teal and purple, and her gold earrings, but her hands and voice were shaking. She was clearly exerting an iron will to sit in the presence of the man who had lied to her, beat her, tattooed and humiliated her, taken every penny she earned, and promised to love her while selling her to other men for over five years.

My own emotions were in check at first as an observer. That changed when the defense attorney began his cross-examination. “So, tell me about hooking? How often did it happen, how did you sell yourself?” “Did you ever think about how you were cheating and stealing from these men?” “Did your family know you were a prostitute?” “Didn’t it ever occur to you that what you were doing was against the law and wrong?”

Have you ever heard someone truly cry in grief and anguish, like their lungs were collapsing in such pain that they are unreachable? That is what I heard. I left the courthouse that day with a fire inside me that there was something more that I, and the legal system, could do for the Jennifers now and future — regardless of the outcome of their legal case (her trafficker was convicted. His sentencing is in October). Victims of crime have a complex set of needs. During a trial and investigation victims have constitutional rights, although they seldom have the needed advocacy to enforce them. Victims are under extreme stress — emotional, mental, and physical — so those rights do not get pursued without support. This is not common knowledge among most attorneys, and perhaps it should be. After a trial, victims may need help finding housing, clearing their legal name, seeking employment, and pursuing education and training. Every person is different. Every state’s laws are also different. Effective responses from the legal system should recognize complexity, and form partnerships and creative strategies from within the system and outside of it to address the real needs of victims.

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The LOTUS (Legal Options for Trafficked and Underserved Survivors) legal clinic through the Mount Mary University Justice Program meets such needs in a flexible way. Partners include the Milwaukee and Waukesha Court systems, Sojourner Family Peace Center, community prosecutors, MPD’s sensitive crimes detectives, the future Family Justice Center, the University of Michigan Human Trafficking Legal Clinic, Legal Action of Wisconsin, the National Crime Victims Law Center, and others. The LOTUS legal clinic at Mount Mary University officially launched in August, and the first recruitment and training event on victim’s rights is set for November 14 at Mount Mary University. The organization’s Facebook page will contain more details.

Would you like to help LOTUS? There are three areas where they need support.
1) You want to advise LOTUS clients: volunteer to be on the roster of attorneys and receive training updates
2) You are a networking guru: spread the word to others who may be interested and share the link above
3) You want to support and sponsor: provide a donation to sponsor a client, or make a donation in honor of a loved one or family that was/is a victim of crime

I write here in honor of that witness, Jennifer. I salute her courage and hope you are as inspired by her as I was. Please contact me for more information at monacowr@mtmary.edu.

As much as attorneys are trained to see the purpose behind the adversarial process, I could not master “neutral” at that moment. I’ll never forget Jennifer’s response. She straightened her back, tilted up her chin and looked past him to the jury and said “It was wrong, in so many ways, and I know that now. That’s why we’re here.” I could have stood up and cheered.

After four hours of testimony she left the stand and, out in the corridor away from the jury and the lawyers, she sobbed in the arms of the victim advocate.

The training continues the following week in Madison with:
• The Impact of Bankruptcy (11/6)
• Representing Victims of Domestic Abuse (11/7)
• Family Law (11/8)

The Volunteer Lawyers Project offers this training to recruit and support lawyers who provide pro bono legal services to low income residents of the 39 southernmost counties in Wisconsin. This is an especially important time to get involved in pro bono legal services while the number of people needing assistance increases and funding for legal services providers has been drastically reduced.

More information about the VLP’s training program and the work of the Volunteer Lawyers Project is available on the VLP website or by calling 414-278-7722 or toll-free to 888-278-0633.
Madison to Host National Mock Trial Tournament

By Andrea Gage

National Mock Trial is coming to Wisconsin in May 2014. With approximately 1,000 students, judges and volunteers from as far away as Guam and South Korea descending on our state capital, it’s hard to imagine a better way to help young people learn about the law and highlight all that our state has to offer at the same time.

The high school students who make it to Nationals are very dedicated young people. The contenders immerse themselves in the inner workings of the U.S. system of justice, spending all of their spare hours learning the rules of evidence and procedure. They try their cases before judges, doing everything from direct and cross examination of witnesses to closing arguments. Trial by trial, the teams compete for the championship of their jurisdiction, vying for the opportunity to take on other winners from all over the nation at the National Championship each May.

“I’ve been an attorney coach for Xavier High School in Appleton for 13 years. I can tell you that I have had students come up to me and say this is the most important thing they’ve ever done in their lives,” said National Mock Trial Executive Committee Chair Kevin Lonergan.

You don’t have to be a committee member or mock trial coach for the entire mock trial season to make a major impact. The State Bar needs volunteers to help staff the massive event, which takes place from May 8 to 10 in multiple locations throughout downtown, including the Dane County Courthouse and the Capitol.

If you cannot make it to Madison for National Mock Trial Weekend, your individual donation will also go a long way. The State Bar of Wisconsin and its charitable arm, the Wisconsin Law Foundation, are working hard to reach their $200,000 fundraising goal. The funds will help cover the cost of materials for participants, venues, awards and activities.

Those interested in donating can visit nationalmocktrial2014.wisbar.org and select the Donate Now button. All donations are tax deductible. Checks can also be made out to the Wisconsin Law Foundation and mailed to PO Box 7158 Madison, WI, 53707-7158 (make sure to write National Mock Trial in the memo line). The group also welcomes multiyear donations, which must be made by Feb. 1, 2014.

Local bars are also getting in on the game. The La Crosse and Outagamie Bars have already made major donations. Is your local bar next? Let us know and we’ll highlight your group’s generosity in our next update.

“Mock Trial is a life-changing program that has a substantial impact not only on the lives of students, but volunteers – the coaches, judges and parents. It’s worth taking a few minutes out of your day to help support tomorrow’s leaders,” Lonergan said. “Hosting the Nationals is a great opportunity for the state of Wisconsin. We’re going to showcase our state. We’re going to show them what we’re about here!”

To learn more about supporting National Mock Trial 2014, contact State Bar Public Education Program Manager Marsha Varvil-Weld at PubEdCoordinator@wisbar.org or 800-444-9404 ext. 6191

Confidential Help for Lawyers & Judges

The Wisconsin Lawyers Assistance Program (WisLAP) is a member service of the State Bar of Wisconsin which provides free, confidential assistance to lawyers, judges, law students and their families in coping with substance abuse or dependence, mental health challenges, or other stressors which negatively impact quality of life and/or the practice of law.

WisLAP maintains a professionally staffed telephone helpline and a support network of trained volunteers. Confidentiality is the cornerstone. WisLAP treats each request for help with the same confidentiality as the lawyer-client relationship. WisLAP is exempt from reporting professional misconduct to the Office of Lawyer Regulation under the provisions of Wisconsin Supreme Court Rules 20:8.3(c).

WisLAP Program Goals:
- To assist in the identification of legal professionals who may be troubled;
- To assist WisLAP clients in their personal recovery from addiction, physical or mental health conditions;
- To educate the legal community on identification, assessment, referral, treatment and community based resources available to meet the needs of judges, lawyers, law students and their families;
- To provide a network of trained volunteers who are available to respond to the needs of WisLAP clients through a peer assistance model;
- To monitor and assist clients while they work to gain admission to practice law, rehabilitate and return to the practice of law, to the bench or to a better quality of life;
- To establish and maintain a cooperative relationship with the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, the Office of Lawyer Regulation, the Board of Bar Examiners and the legal community at large.

If you, someone in your family, or a colleague are experiencing mental, emotional, or physical problems, WisLAP can help. Confidential support is available 24/7 at 800-543-2625.

By Andrea Gage

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AWL Volunteers Support Habitat for Humanity

In September, AWL volunteers had the opportunity to work directly with homeowners Chelsie Mason and her boyfriend Germaine as they drywalled their new home. Chelsie and Germaine expect to close on their Habitat House in December.

From left rear: AWL member Jill Kastner, Habitat staff members Joe and Jeff, homeowner Germaine, volunteer Jason. Front row: Veteran Habitat volunteer Elise, Habitat crew chief Cathleen, AWL members Kelly Dancy and Linda Grady, homeowner Chelsie Mason, and AWL member Dana Pierson.

How to Reach Us

Our administrator, Dana Kader Robb, can be reached at 414-750-4404 or dana@barefoot-marketing.com. Her fax number is 414-255-3615. Please send changes in your contact information directly to her.

If you’ve changed jobs, won an award, are hosting an event, have committee news or a topic of interest to AWL members, this is your forum. Please submit information to Dana using the above contact details. We reserve the right to edit for length and content. Deadline is the 16th of each month prior to the issue. Newsletters will be in members’ hands within the first week of the month.