

President's Message

ACC Washington Chapter Members,

I begin this message with the same opening as last month: my hope that this finds you and your loved ones all well. As Washington communities look toward April and continue to shelter in place, many in those communities are finding the resilience, compassion, and determination to see health, work, and home life challenges through.

While the Chapter finds itself in unchartered waters and on hiatus, we're evaluating how to restructure our plans for the year. Like our communities we're finding sources of resilience and determination to figure things out in order to continue supporting our Chapter members. So we'll be focusing our efforts on providing additional Programming resources and opportunities from our ACC-W Chapter sponsors as well as the ongoing status of upcoming events. Please look for updates regarding our events calendar online later this month.

In this month's Legal Pad we included dedicated COVID-19 resources from our sponsor roster. And in the spirit of resilience, hope and service, we're also including a brief interview with Davis Wright Tremaine Pro Bono Counsel Joanna Boisen. Joanna gave us a quick update on the pro bono community response to COVID-19.

Signing off from my new WFH station – complete with a dog bed and one of my new office mates. Who seems fascinated with my coffee bean screensaver.

Take care, Monica Lopez-Reinmiller



UPCOMING EVENTS

All events for March through June have been postponed. More details to come!

ACC-W Sponsor Resources: COVID-19

Thank you to the ACC-W Sponsors for their dedicated efforts in providing COVID-19 resources to the Washington State ACC in house community.

Click on these dedicated websites for COVID-19 client alerts and sponsor updates:

Axiom Law

Baker McKenzie

Bracewell

Consilio

Davis Wright Tremaine

DLA Piper

Eversheds-Sutherland

Fox Rothschild

Gowling

Jackson Lewis

Littler

Miller Nash

Perkins Coie

<u>Polsinelli</u>

Quarles & Brady LLP

Schlemlein Fick & Scruggs

Schwabe

Seyfarth

Stoel Rives

ACC National COVID-19 Resource Center



Pro Bono Legal Community Response to COVID-19
A Conversation with Joanna Boisen, Pro Bono Counsel
Davis Wright Tremaine

ACC-W Chapter leadership caught up with Joanna as she combines local pro bono networking efforts during these challenging times.

in need of access to legal services? Pivoting. Adapting. Responding. Instead of disrupting service or ceasing to provide it at all, QLSPs are going remote – they are holding virtual legal clinics and leveraging technology to get in touch with clients. They are producing guides and resources written in a way clients can understand. They are reaching out and leveraging their volunteer attorney networks to provide as much direct service as possible. And those attorneys are not only responding, they are going above and beyond to serve clients and provide much needed advocacy.

Has technology assisted with the client communication or clinics that local QLSPs are continuing to host? Yes. We recently did a study to see how many of QLSPs are able to provide remote services, and the vast majority have the infrastructure to provide virtual services. The harder part is that there are some clients who do not have access to technology, or it's not safe for them to access it from their home, or there are RPC concerns with confidentiality. Before COVID, these clients could access libraries, friends' homes, or other safe locations, but now with shelter in place, those options no longer exist. The access to justice community is working through these issues.

What can in house counsel do now to help pro bono clients? Sign up for virtual legal clinics. Especially with the passage of the economic relief package, the CARES Act allows small businesses to apply for loans and pursue paycheck protection – these new benefits are difficult for ma and pa shop owners to navigate and the laws difficult to understand. Take on research questions for QLSPs putting together resources and guides for pro bono communities, especially those around eviction moratoriums and unemployment benefits. The number of people applying for unemployment is through the roof, and their homes and health are at stake – they need lawyers desperately.

Are law firms maintaining pro bono cases or continuing to take new pro bono cases, and can in house counsel work directly with firms to support community response needs? Law firms are not only maintaining pro bono cases, but are on the front lines working hard to field unprecedented numbers of requests for representation. In-house counsel are welcome and encouraged to join the fight – the more attorneys providing access to justice to those who need it the better. Access to legal is more important than ever before. Laws and benefits are changing, moratoriums are coming into play – our most at risk communities need advocacy desperately, especially as it relates to their employment, healthcare and housing rights. I would say please join us, but many of you already have; for those who have been waiting for the right time, it's here.

Pro Bono alert and volunteer opportunity: the King County Bar Association is holding a COVID Domestic Violence clinic and training. ACC in house members, please consider attending and for those that are unfamiliar with the practice space please note that ACC-W Sponsor DLA Piper has extended support and assistance by having their experienced lawyers partner with ACC members. For information on how to contact the DLA Piper team, please email the ACC-W Chapter.

In COVID times

Presenters: Kate Francis and Kim Todaro, KCBA DV LEAD Project, William Braun, Pro Bono Attorney,
Commissioner Jennie Laird, King County Superior Court

2.75 Law and Legal CLE Credit Approval #113 6878

Tuesday, April 14, 2020, 1:00pm - 4:00pm

King County Bar Association

1200 5th Ave Suite #700, Seattle, WA, 98101

This CLE is FREE to all new and current KCBA Family Law volunteers
Registration is required.

Attendance only "Zoom" video streaming. Please RSVP for streaming instructions.

Please RSVP to Molly Gough at mollyg@kcba.org

CLE Corner

Is your in house CLE committee looking for continued legal education in the wake of the shelter in place workplace impact? Don't forget to leverage the <u>ACC webcast calendar</u> available online and kept current with CLE content. Consider organizing internal trainings with your in house experts or partner with outside counsel to delivering a current CLE topic via webcast. With legal departments working remotely it's more important than ever to find ways to keep us connected.

"Remote learning opportunities are a great way to keep our team engaged. In addition to the content provided by our outside counsel, we are also putting own our own knowledge shares & 5webinars, which is another great way to bring the team together in a virtual setting."

Katherine McDaniel, Principal Corporate Counsel & CLE Committee at T-Mobile





Sharing good deeds by ACC-W Chapter company member SanMar. Kudos to GC Melissa Nelson, AGC Dana Steffens, and AGC Matt Waterman for supporting their company and our communities during these times. https://magazine.promomarketing.com/article/sanmar-part-of-coalition-making-much-much-needed-facemasks/

SanMar, Issaquah, Wash., is part of a coalition of U.S. apparel companies working with the White House to build a supply chain to produce millions of much needed facemasks.

everyone, but we would love the opportunity to continue to engage with you to the extent that we are permitted. If you have any suggestions on how we might best stay connected with you, and offer opportunities for learning or engagement, during this time, please reach out to us via email at acc-wchapter@accglobal.com.

For chapter inquires please contact: ACC-WChapter@accglobal.com

To stay in touch with the chapter join the ACC Washington LinkedIn Group! To request access, visit: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4457255/

LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter

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