



Chapter News & Updates



All of us have adjusted to the changing circumstances throughout the year and most of us will fondly bid farewell to 2020. But despite the challenges we have faced, we are learning and growing and still have much to be thankful for. I recently asked some of our members what has changed for them this year and what they are thankful for – you can read their responses below.

Personally, I have had lots of growth opportunities this year and have been thankful for the extra family time, even with the accompanying frustrations. We've taken advantage of the time together by taking long walks and bike rides through the neighborhood and spending more time in the kitchen. It has been good to slow down a bit – something I never felt I had time to do before.

As I wrap up my year as President, I am proud of the work our chapter has accomplished. By moving everything online and hosting virtual events, we were able to provide more programming to our members than ever before. Many of our events this year were recorded and you

can find links to them below.

Earlier this month, we finished a three-day career development session with the Lion Group, culminating in a review of a few of our LinkedIn profiles. Chis Batz provided feedback to our members at all career levels and we each learned something that we can use to update and magnify our professional presence online.

ACC Mid-America will continue to bring new and innovative programming to you in 2021. We continue providing virtual legal services to nonprofits and small businesses through our ongoing pro bono clinic. And we will host another diversity book club with ACC St. Louis in January. Be sure to order your copy of *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, by Bryan Stevenson, and start reading it over the holidays. More information about each of these can be found below.

None of this would have been possible without our hardworking Board members and our dedicated administrators, Lori Beck and Shakedra Knight. Thank you to everyone who keeps us going. If you would like to join our team, we have a couple of openings on our Board of Directors for 2021. If you are interested in serving, please fill out the form below.

I would love to hear your suggestions for services or programming we can provide to you. Please send me an email if you would like to share your thoughts. We will be sending out a member survey in the coming weeks to better plan for next year. I hope everyone stays healthy and safe.

Best Regards,
Jennifer McAdam
2020 ACC Mid-America President
jmcadam@naic.org

ACC Member Spotlight

We recently asked our members:
What are you thankful for in 2020?
How does work look different for you in 2020?



Tom Gerke
General Counsel and Chief Administrative
Officer of H&R Block, Inc.

I am thankful for health, friendships, and unexpected time with my daughter as she has “attended” some of her classes at Johns Hopkins from Kansas City!

Like everyone, I have greatly accelerated my video meeting skills and rarely participate in traditional conference calls. I am trying to check in with my team members more often, listen more carefully, and be quicker to express empathy and support.



Heather Humphrey
SVP, General Counsel & Corp. Secretary of
Evergy

Notwithstanding all of the challenges of 2020, I’m thankful for so many things. The continued health of family and friends along with being fortunate enough to have a job that can successfully be performed remotely during this pandemic. I think we’ve all learned so much about ourselves during this time. Fundamentally, the increased need to be more deliberate than ever to facilitate communication with employees, friends, and family. Losing face to face connection with people has challenged us to work that much harder to stay connected with the important folks in our lives.



Patrice M. Brown
Assistant General Counsel
YRC Worldwide Inc.



Kevin Oakleaf
Senior Counsel
YRC Worldwide Inc.

In spite of personal family loss, I am thankful for my family, friends, health and the ability and opportunity to continue to work.

Although I miss the interaction and banter of my colleagues, I am much more productive at home. Instead of working through my lunches I walk my dogs which allows me to clear my mind and reenergize for the second part of my day. I've also learned cooking is a creative and fun exercise. I will admit, I do miss my ultimate omelet from Summit Grill, can't seem to recreate that one! 😊



Julie Pine
General Counsel and Chief Risk Officer of
Lead Bank

I am thankful for the health and wellbeing of my family and friends and that I have a job at a wonderful organization where I am continually challenged, I have the ability to make a positive impact on the community, and my insights and advice are valued.

I have been scheduling frequent one on one time with my team members and peers to ensure collaboration and innovation continue despite most of us working remotely.

It has been inspiring to watch my companies' drivers, dockworkers, and office staff on the front lines transporting essential goods throughout the pandemic. While I miss being in the office and in-person meetings, I'm thankful for being in a position in which I can help my business client navigate the legal complexities of a COVID-19 world. Whether asking federal and state regulators for flexibility, working with opposing counsel on ever-changing court rules, or trying to get my dog to stop barking during Zoom calls it has been humbling to see so many people working together under challenging circumstances.



BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED FOR THE ACC MID-AMERICA CHAPTER

The ACC Mid-America Chapter has openings for board and committee positions. Please [click here](#) to submit your areas of interest and qualifications. **The submission deadline is Friday December 4, 2020.**

Candidates will be contacted via email after that date.



ACC MID-AMERICA CHAPTER
PRO BONO COMMITTEE

**Virtual Pro Bono Clinic
for Small Businesses and Nonprofits**

Please join ACC Mid-America to volunteer for a virtual pro bono legal clinic for small businesses and nonprofits. In these rapidly changing times, many local businesses need help answering legal questions.

ACC volunteers will be matched with an attorney from Stinson and a local Kansas or Missouri-based small business or nonprofit organization to provide limited legal representation

FORMS:

- To apply, please click [here](#) to submit your Pro Bono Attorney Volunteer Application.
- If you are an attorney working under a restricted license in Kansas and want to be considered for Kansas matters, please click [here](#) and complete the required Application and Affidavit for Authorization of Attorney pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 712B(e).

INFO SESSION:

If you would like more information about the virtual clinic prior to volunteering or completing an application, we have a link to a recording of the information session. Click [here](#) to view the recording.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, December 17, 2020 Virtual Social Networking Event - Join us for the last social event of the year for the Virtual City tour and Around the World games from 5-7pm. Please click [here](#) to register.

Thursday, January 14, 2021 Diversity & Inclusion Book Club | Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson, discussion facilitated by Amy Hunter, from 12-1:30pm, co-sponsored by ACC St. Louis Chapter. Please click [here](#) to register.

RECENT PROGRAM RECORDINGS

October 28, 2020 CLE: *Diversity Trailblazers* sponsored by Stinson, LLP
Please click [here](#) to watch the recorded session.

November 3-5, 2020 CLE: *Leveraging LinkedIn to Advance Your Career: A Three-Part Career Development Series*

Session 1: Please click [here](#) to watch the recorded session.

Session 2: Please click [here](#) to watch the recorded session.

Session 3: Please click [here](#) to watch the recorded session.

November 11, 2020 CLE: *Expanded Medical and Sick Leave Entitlements and Litigation Updates in the time of COVID-19* sponsored by Littler Mendelson, PC
Please click [here](#) to watch the recorded session.

November 18, 2020 CLE: *Beyond 2020: Labor and Employment Projections in the Year to Come* presented by Jackson Lewis, PC
Please click [here](#) to watch the recorded session.

For a complete list of 2020 program materials click [here](#).

COVID-19 Resources

[ACC National COVID Resource Page](#)

[CDC.gov](#)

THANK YOU

ACC Mid-America would like to recognize and thank our 2020 sponsors. A list of those sponsors can be found [here](#).

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For questions, please contact our Chapter Administrator, [Lori Beck](#) or Chapter Assistant, [Shakedra Knight](#).

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