

ACC-Wisconsin | June 2021

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CELEBRATING WISCONSIN'S NOTABLE IN-HOUSE ATTORNEYS



Name: Anza D'Antonio

Company, Title, and Years of Service: Fiskars Brands, Inc., Legal Director and Secretary, fewer than 1

College/University and Law School:

Temple University School of Law

How long have you been a member of the ACC of Wisconsin? Why did you join the ACC-WI?

I have been a member of ACC-WI since 2012 when I moved to Southeastern Wisconsin. I joined ACC-WI because I was told that I could expect interesting CLEs, programming uniquely tailored to in-house counsel, and the opportunity to meet other in-house lawyers. That certainly has been the case!

Do you participate in any pro bono service or volunteering?

Yes, I am President-Elect to the Wisconsin Equal Justice Fund ("EJF"). EJF raises funds to support three civil legal aid organizations that work to improve the lives of thousands of Wisconsin residents. The beneficiary organizations are Disability Rights Wisconsin, Legal Action of Wisconsin, and Wisconsin Judicare. I know first hand how critical the unrestricted funds that EJF raises are to these organizations because I started my career as a Staff Attorney at Wisconsin Judicare.

I am also a mentor with Building Brave. Building Brave is a FREE mentoring community accessible via mobile app and designed for women at any stage of their career (i.e. college student, early career, mid-career, polished executive). The site provides job related advice from professional women in virtually every industry. <https://buildingbrave.org> Mentors live all over the world and are in positions that range from executives with professional sports teams to professors at the London School of Economics—a wide variety of accomplished women. Download the app: itunes: <https://apple.co/2sussyL> Google Play: <https://bit.ly/2RSORnF> Additionally, I am the past President of the Menomonee Falls Food Pantry and frequently volunteer to provide direct service to refugees.

What do you love most about the legal profession?

That's a good question to ask, particularly considering surveys tell us a significant percent of lawyers don't actually enjoy their job and would pick literally anything else if they could. For me, the joy in being a lawyer is that regardless of environment, it is a helping profession. At Judicare, I helped people leave marriages that included violence. In the corporate world, I help to make my company successful. At Fiskars, company success means creating good paying jobs and bringing products that delight to the marketplace. Both very rewarding ways to practice law!

How do you define success?

I define success in different ways. At work, certainly a career of progressive responsibility, continued growth, and clear accomplishment feels successful. At home, simply remembering which kid to pick up from where can be a success. With three children 10-17 years old, there is a lot to juggle.

Who inspires you?

So many people! All of the time! Right now, I've been thinking about Simone Biles and her commitment to excellence even though it is not fairly rewarded (the scoring system hasn't been adjusted to reflect her skill), and Hamdi Ulukaya, the founder of Chobani yogurt who has taken his treasure and talent to create the Tent Partnership for Refugees—a refugee job creating organization

What's one thing - industry-related or not - you learned in the last month?

From a technical perspective, I was made aware of some nuances in the COVID-19 Relief Package that apply to employees terminated in 2020 and nuances related to California's Prop 65 labeling requirements as it related to wood dust. Thanks for asking, no one else wants to discuss this with me, lol.

From U.S. history perspective, sad to say, I just learned that George Washington enslaved a woman named Ona "Oney" Judge Staines to work at family's plantation at Mount Vernon. Oney fled and became a fugitive slave later taught herself to read. I don't know they didn't teach this in elementary school when I was a student....it certainly shifts the lens through which I view history.

What's the last book you read? Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots by Deborah Feldman.

Any favorite Podcasts or series you can recommend? Dolly Parton's America, From Jad Abumrad and Shima Oliaee Renegades: Born in the USA, Conversations with Barak Obama and Bruce Springsteen

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

ACC-WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2021

OSTHOFF RESORT, ELKHART LAKE, WI