



The College of
Labor and
Employment
Lawyers

August 2021

LEADERSHIP FOR GREATER PURPOSE

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THE SECRETARY'S SCENE



I hope this finds you and your family well. We continue to hope for an in-person November induction dinner. Our Classes of 2020 and 2021 inductees are so deserving of a celebration that recognizes and honors their many accomplishments. Again, congratulations to all of you.

In taking a look at the makeup of our Class of 2020 in detail, there are a total of 86 new Fellows of which 49 are management, 6 are union and 31 represent the remaining constituencies (plaintiff, neutral, government, and academic). The Class of 2021 consists of 68 new Fellows of which 41 are

management, 8 are union and 19 represent the remaining constituencies. I mention these numbers, in conjunction with the College's Strategic Plan, to bolster my reason for choosing this topic for my newsletter perspective.

In February 2018, the Board of Governors passed a multifaceted strategic plan consisting of objectives and aspirational goals designed to achieve the College's mission. One of our many objectives addresses the College's commitment to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in the legal profession. The Strategic Plan addresses these matters, in part, with respect to practice areas. It is constituency diversity, and the union constituency in particular, that is the focus of this newsletter.

In the April 2021 Newsletter, Vice President and Board Credentials Committee Chair, [Arlene Switzer Steinfield](#), explained in detail the nomination process for Fellows. She noted the necessity that each of our practice areas be well represented. She also noted that a nominee's best references are adversaries, judges and neutrals who have first-hand experience with the nominee's work and professionalism. Therefore, we must rely on management attorneys in particular, who represent such a large part of the College, as well as judges and neutrals, to assist with achieving the College's goal of increasing the number of union Fellows. If this sounds a bit like a lecture and reminder, it is so intended. I urge management Fellows to reach across the aisle to please help the College turn its goal into a reality and, in the next nomination period, assist in expanding the number of union Fellows.

I sometimes hear Fellows say they attempted to nominate a union attorney, but the person was not interested because there is no advantage for a union attorney to become a Fellow, or the College is viewed as a group of management attorneys or certainly tilted in that direction. I, of course, want to dispel this myth and share with you why, as a union attorney, the College is so much more.

We as Labor and Employment lawyers recognize that cases often involve contentious issues. We often find ourselves in fierce opposition given how passionate and loyal we are to our clients and their cause. When this occurs, there is no one I would rather have as opposing counsel than a Fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. We have come to know that we as Fellows are more alike than different. This is because, notwithstanding that we have differences of opinion, our core values are the same. Our mission is to represent our clients zealously, never forgetting the importance of civility, collegiality, integrity and professionalism. After all, this is what guided our admission into the College. This is why all attorneys,

regardless of constituency, are honored to be included in this distinguished group of practitioners.

As a union attorney, the College represents a fundamental acknowledgement by my peers that I represent the College's mission. When I tell my clients that I am a Fellow, and what this means, it adds an additional layer of respect that I am the ethical and professional counsel they hired. In fact, over the years, I have had a hand full of clients ask me whether my opposing counsel on the case is a Fellow? This question is aimed at determining whether any unknown opposing counsel will be ethical, civil and professional.

Beyond these core values, acceptance as a Fellow is so much more. I have worked with some of the greatest and brightest Fellows on behalf of the College. I am proud to say that some of my closest friends are management attorneys in the College. I have come to know so many wonderful people as a result of being a Fellow, many of whom I would never have met but for the College. I cannot fathom a professional organization that better nurtures the spirit of collegiality.

I hope to see you this November, in person, in Beverly Hills, California.

Lisa B. Moss
Secretary

2021 ANNUAL INDUCTION DINNER

We are excited to be able to gather at the College's longest standing tradition – the Annual Induction Dinner. The induction of the Class of 2021 will take place on Saturday, November 13th in the iconic International Ballroom at [The Beverly Hilton Hotel](#), home of the Golden Globe Awards since 1961. And for members of the Class of 2020, who missed the experience last year, we will be recognizing you as well. This event has become a celebrated occasion for the new inductees, and for current Fellows too, as we come together in our black tie best to commemorate the newest College members. Hard copy invitations WILL NOT be mailed this year. Instead, dinner invitations will be **emailed** in September.



We communicated over the summer that the Beverly Hilton was only able to provide us with a small room block: 50 rooms on Friday night and 50 rooms on Saturday night. That room block is sold out as well as the rest of the hotel, with the ABA Labor & Employment Law Section holding the majority of the

remaining rooms at the hotel as part of a block for their annual CLE Conference. If you plan to attend the CLE conference, you can book your room when you register. We also have small room blocks at **The W Hotel** and **The Mosaic Hotel**, a small boutique hotel which is a half mile from the Hilton. Listed below you will find information on these hotels.

The Beverly Hilton

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/laxbhhh-the-beverly-hilton/>

9876 Wilshire Boulevard

Beverly Hills, CA 90210

(310) 274-7777

Code: CLE21

Rate: \$325 per night; reservations can only be made for November 12 and 13

W Los Angeles – West Beverly Hills

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/laxwb-w-los-angeles-west-beverly-hills/>

930 Hilgard Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90024

(310) 709-2743

Click to [Book your group rate for The College of Labor and Employment Lawyers](#)

Rate: \$259/night

The Mosaic Hotel

<https://www.mosaicotel.com/>

25 S. Spalding Drive / Beverly Hills, CA 90212

(310) 278-0303

[Click here to book your room](#)

Rate: \$225/night

We are encouraging Fellows who plan to attend the Induction Dinner to not wait to make your hotel arrangements. In the event you are not able to make a reservation at any of the three hotels above, we are providing a list (with website links) of other hotels that are all within 5-10 minutes of the Beverly Hilton. This is just for your convenience. **WE DO NOT HAVE ROOM BLOCKS AT ANY OF THESE.**

[The Penninsula](#)

[Waldorf Astoria](#)

[Fairmont Century Plaza](#)

[Beverly Wilshire](#)

[Plaza LaReina](#)

[Avalon Hotel Beverly Hills](#)

[Kimpton Hotel Palomar](#)

[Mr. C Beverly Hills](#)

[Courtyard by Marriott Century City/Beverly Hills](#)

[Residence Inn Beverly Hills](#)

Clearly, COVID and the Delta variant have caused some concerns for many, and we will keep you updated on any changes or restrictions, in Los Angeles and at the Beverly Hilton, as we learn of them. In the meantime, we are keeping our fingers crossed and look forward to seeing you in Beverly Hills!!

VHP'S NEWEST FILM WILL PREMIERE IN BEVERLY HILLS THIS NOVEMBER



The completion of the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Strike documentary will mark the third full length film produced by the Video History Project. The two previous films premiered to large audiences during Annual Induction Dinner weekends. We are proud to be able to do the same with the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Strike piece, which will be shown at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Saturday afternoon, November 13th. Completion of this project is due in no small part to the donations of many College Fellows and a financial grant from the NAA, but also to the hard work of a small

cadre of dedicated individuals who spent several years developing, researching and nurturing this film to the finish line. Special thanks to Fellows [Cynthia Nance](#) and [John Higgins](#), and to producer/director Carol Rosenbaum. Extra thanks to Fellow and past president [Maurice Wexler](#) who adopted this film as his very own and poured his passion and dedication into the project, spending hours at the University of Memphis Library searching for archival footage and working with the University to see that the College could use the endless amount of papers, records and documents from this historic event.

More information about the film's premiere will be shared soon. In the meantime, you are invited to view a trailer by clicking [here](#).

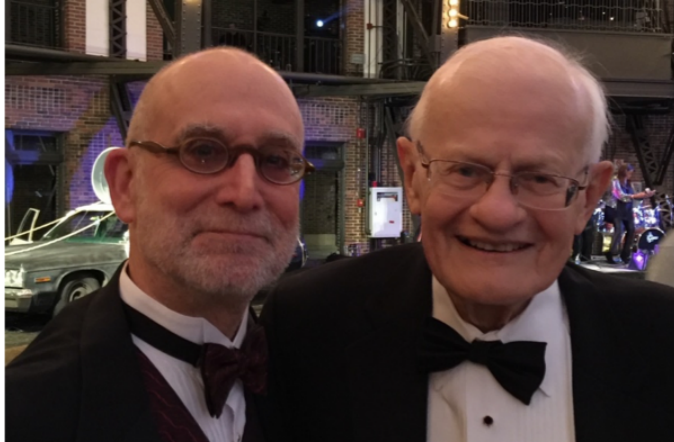
FELLOW MAURICE WEXLER – A TRIBUTE

On August 24th, we lost an icon. Not just the College and not just the labor and employment law profession, but the human race lost an icon. Fellow [Maurice Wexler](#) (President 2009) passed away just one month shy of his 90th birthday. Maurice was still working on a very special College project weeks before his passing – overseeing the final stages of production for the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Strike film (see VHP article above). This won't surprise those of us who knew him. He was happiest when he was busy, whether that was with work, volunteering on projects he held dear or enjoying his family. He just couldn't sit still. The pride he had in his College membership was beyond compare. He epitomized civility and in fact was an integral part of the committee who worked on creating the College's [Principles of Civility and Professionalism for Advocates](#). He spearheaded the effort to memorialize the experiences of College's presidents in a book that is sent to all new Fellows – [A President's Perspective](#). He was the consummate southern gentleman and host. He was an engaged and committed advocate to his law practice, his clients and for causes that were close to his heart, as seen by his involvement and long association with the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. He was also a dedicated husband, a proud parent and a loving grandfather. Rabbi Michael Greenstein (*Temple Israel, Memphis, TN*) who spoke at his funeral described Maurice using three important words: gracious, devoted and grateful. Those words definitely captured his spirit, his heart and the way he lived his wonderful life. As College Fellows, we should all try to model his fine example. May Maurice's memory always be for a blessing.

Click [here](#) to view Maurice's obituary.

Click [here](#) if interested in learning more about the National Civil Rights Museum or if you'd like to make a donation in his memory.

*The following are thoughts and reflections shared by
Fellows of the College and others who loved Maurice.*



"My favorite Past President. It was worth joining the Board of Governors if only to meet and be befriended by Maurice. He will be missed." **David Borgen** (pictured), **Immediate Past President**.

Fellow Don Slesnick, Past President - 2015: "Maurice was unique – the best mannerly qualities of a true Southern gentleman combined with the tenacity of a committed civil rights advocate."

Fellow Hope Eastman, Past President - 2006: His death will always be remembered with sadness, but he will be remembered for the fullness of his engagement with life, his smile, and his happiness with his own life and the joy he always takes in hearing about ours. I was privileged to work with him on the College's civility guidance as well as many other College and life projects. I have stayed in touch with him regularly to talk for no specific reason other than hearing his voice and his delight in hearing [mine]. He will be sorely missed.

Fellow Don Sapir, Past President - 2012: I am very sad to learn that Maurice, our friend, colleague, and guiding light, has passed. He touched the lives of many and will

be deeply missed by all. His loss is a blow not only to the College, but to humanity. I can think of no Fellow, who loved the College more or better represented its ideals. Maurice was a kind and gentle soul, a “dear” man.

Fellow David Borgen, *Past President - 2010*: Maurice Wexler died last week. He was 89 years old. He was my dear friend though I only knew him in the last decade of his life. He was already the Immediate Past President of the College when I first met him. He was such a warm gracious welcoming man, taking an interest in a younger lawyer like me. He remained active in the College over these past ten years, engaging in our debates, attending our functions, vetting our nominees, and spearheading our newest Video History Project film on the Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike, which is dedicated to his memory. A pillar of the management bar, he maintained a fierce commitment to racial justice, exemplified by his work supporting the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. We will miss you Maurice...

Fellow John Higgins, *Past President - 2005*: Maurice was a truly wonderful person. I first met him when I worked in the NLRB Memphis office over 50 years ago. Over the years we maintained our friendship. When we first began work on the Video History film about the Memphis Sanitation Strike, I asked Maurice to join the effort and he did - with gusto. We are in the final stages of the project, and I think the College will be proud of it. And it is to Maurice that we will owe gratitude for his research, his imagination and his very hard work. I am very proud to have known him and to have been his friend.

Fellow Don Livingston: In December 2010, the University of Georgia played Central Florida in the Liberty Bowl in Memphis. Ron Cooper, my son, Jack, and I traveled to Memphis for the game. We stayed with Maurice and Alice. Maurice drove to the game, finding us a terrific, easily accessible parking space about 30 yards from the stadium. The Wexler’s seats were directly across the field from ours. Much to our shared disappointment, Georgia lost the game, snapping a four-bowl game winning streak and notching its first losing season since 1996. Georgia coach Mark Richt didn’t accept the runner-up trophy, instead telling an official to get it to him later. I don’t think it was sour grapes. A storm front that caused tornadoes in Arkansas hit minutes after the game ended, prompting security to order the players off the field and the fans out of the stadium. Jack and I had no choice but to run for the car in the

deluge. When we got there, well, there was no Maurice, no car, no nothing, just an empty parking space. Sopping wet, we rushed back to the stadium in the lightening and the heavy downpour but were denied re-entry. We were screwed. Standing in the storm, I telephoned Ron. Wouldn't you know it. Out of kindness, Maurice had relocated the car closer to the stadium to keep the rest of us from getting drenched. The only problem being that he failed to tell me. But he had been turning the car head lights off and on as a beacon. I just didn't see it. That is what Maurice has been to me for 35 years, a beacon, showing me how to behave as a lawyer, and how to be a good man, a good father, a good citizen, and a good friend. I saw those lights, as did we all.

Fellow Charlie Shanor (*EEOC's General Counsel in the late 1980's when the ABA's relationship with the EEOC was first formed*): Maurice was the glue that held together the ABA and the EEOC. Left to wander their merry ways, these institutions would increasingly have become discordant and strident. He was a moderating and mellowing influence. And Alice was a great ally in this mission.

Fellow Arlene Steinfield, CLEL Vice President: Maurice was the real deal. I first met Maurice and Alice when I attended the annual ABA EEO Committee Midwinter meetings in the late 80's. Over the years he became a mentor and a wonderful friend. He made it a point to get me involved in College projects such as the President's Book. But he didn't just ask me to work on this Project. He guided me all along the way with sensitivity and insightful feedback. That was how Maurice rolled.

Maurice was always exceedingly kind and inclusive. I experienced this first-hand, especially if I was travelling solo. His wisdom knew no bounds and he was generous with his time and guidance. His sense of humor was delightfully wicked. When he wanted to champion someone, he was relentless. It seems that he was fulfilled when he was contributing his time and emotional fire power to one of his favored causes, not the least of which was the College. One of my favorite memorial prayers explains:

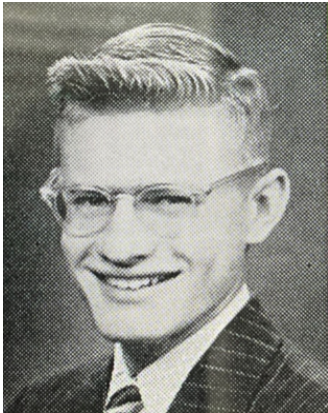
It is hard to sing of oneness when our world is not complete, when those who once brought wholeness to our life have gone, and naught but memory can fill the emptiness their passing leaves behind.

But memory can tell us only what we were, in company with those we loved; it cannot help us find what each of us, alone, must now become. Yet no one is really alone; those who live no more, echo still within our thoughts and words, and what they did is part of what we have become. We do best homage to our dead when we live our lives most fully, even in the shadow of our loss...

Maurice would have expected no less from us. I will miss him and his friendship and will do my part to try to live by these words.

Fellow Lisa Krupicka: Many of you know Maurice as well or better than I did, but I would like to tell you what he meant to me. I first met him when he joined the Board of the National Civil Rights Museum, where I am also a board member. We both practiced labor and employment law, although at different firms, so we knew each other superficially, and I was pleased when he invited me to lunch. That was the start of a beautiful friendship. If Maurice is your friend, you will never have a better one. We bonded over being caregivers to our spouses, but he has bonded with Holocaust survivors looking for information about loved ones, young talented lawyers looking for a better job, nurses with a penchant for painting, and colleagues all over the country and the world who want to exchange ideas about labor and employment law.

Maurice nominated me to the College and has encouraged me to be involved in all of its activities. He encouraged me to broaden my outlook for the practice of law and participate in ABA activities. He was one of the most engaged directors on the Board of the National Civil Rights Museum and a tireless and effective fundraiser. But mostly, he was the kind of friend who notices when you are down and always tries to help, whether it be unexpected flowers delivered to your office or a gentle suggestion to seek counseling during a particularly dark time. I will miss him terribly and remember him always.



Brenda Johnson, Maurice's Secretary of over 35 years: I am certain there will be no lack of those who will attest to Mr. Wexler's legal acumen; and, the numerous awards he received throughout his career give proof to his dedication to the Civil Rights Movement in its various iterations.

Those who knew him well knew of his devotion to his family which equaled or surpassed his dedication to the law. He and Alice raised their two sons, Jonathan and Michael, to become empathetic young men who are very successful in their fields. They are both husbands and fathers who treasure family with the same fervor as their parents.

When the boys were growing up, Mr. Wexler and Alice traveled extensively and always with their sons. They were determined that their sons would experience visits to locations which would inform them of their ancestry, their history and the legacy of their family background. They wanted their sons to have an understanding of the effort it took for them to enjoy their lives in today's environment.

Mr. Wexler's devotion to Alice never wavered, even with the onset of physical problems. He never even considered stepping away from his responsibility to ensure that she has had the best life possible and that she always had his devotion to her wellbeing. He was constantly in touch with breakthroughs in the medical community, always seeking a new and improved treatment for Alice.

He and Alice enjoyed and celebrated their daughters-in-law, folding them into the Wexler clan with love and joy. His grandchildren, Mia, Jake, Mollie and Kate, made his heart leap with pleasure, and his eyes shone when he spoke of them. Unquestionably, he was a preeminent Labor and Employment attorney. He was also a first-class husband and father. He considered his family his greatest life's work.

Yes, he was recognized throughout many organizations as a premier attorney. He was also a premier husband and life mate to Alice, and the best father Jonathan and Michael could have had.

Russ Wigginton, President of the Civil Rights Museum: Anyone who knew Maurice Wexler was aware that he loved the National Civil Rights Museum and all that it stands for—I had the pleasure of serving on the board with him for 10 years, and he

always modeled what being a “prepared board member” meant for our meetings. The care in which he read all the materials and engaged passionately on important issues contributed to the Museum’s commitment to excellence. The National Civil Rights family will miss Maurice, but his contributions to our mission will never be forgotten.

Fellow Jon Rosen: Lion, giant, mensch, gracious, genteel, stubborn, mentor, mischievous, considerate, funny, loyal, devoted. Maurice Wexler was, of course, all of these and so much more but what set him apart, what elevated him, especially among lawyers, was his desire to talk about you, your family, your career, your hopes. He genuinely wanted to know. He asked questions; he probed—but never uncomfortably—how is your wife, how are your kids and grandkids, how did that case turn out, where have you traveled. It was never about himself. He conveyed that your life was of the utmost importance to him, and it was. How sad to be writing this in the past tense. Maurice, you will be missed so very much.

Fellow Barbara D’Aquila: Maurice Wexler was loved by so many, including the members of the ABA EEO Committee, in which proudly participated for decades. I have the perfect example to prove how cherished Maurice was. In 2006, ABA EEO Committee members surprised and honored Maurice at the ABA EEO Committee Midwinter Meeting with an almost \$15,000 award in his name (the Wexler Fund) at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. Maurice was speechless, a rare occurrence, and he would later indicate that this gesture was a highlight of his legal career. It was a testament to Maurice that plaintiff, union, government, and management lawyers all contributed to the Wexler Fund to honor Maurice, which speaks volumes about his exceptional character. Over the next four years, the Wexler Fund grew to just shy of \$45,000, at which time Maurice directed the Museum to use the Wexler Fund for the Museum’s Capital Campaign. Maurice served as a longtime Board Member for the Museum and hosted events at the Museum, including a reception in connection with a highly successful University of Memphis Law School Labor and Employment Law Symposium that he organized. Maurice was a true gentleman and a prince. He will be dearly missed.



THE PASSING OF RICHARD TRUMKA

By Yona Rozen, Member, Board of Governors

Although he was not a member of the College, Richard L. Trumka had a lot in common with all of us since he was trained as a lawyer and devoted his life to labor and employment law. He died unexpectedly on August 5, 2021, having just turned 72 years of age a few days before. He was a third generation coal miner and served as President of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) before serving as Secretary-Treasurer and then President of the AFL-CIO.



I had the great privilege of spending the last six and three quarter years working with and for Rich. Rich and I both graduated from Penn State and then went on to law school. But he did both while he was still working in the mines and then worked his way up in leadership roles in the union, serving as the youngest president of the UMWA in the 80's. Rich never forgot where he came from and spent his entire life devoted to improving the lives of all working people. He was committed to the dignity and solidarity for all workers. He took important and not always popular positions---supporting black miners in South Africa against apartheid (<https://projects.kora.matrix.msu.edu/files/210-808-6851/trumkaspeech88opt.pdf>), speaking out against racism in the labor movement in conjunction with Barack Obama's 2008 campaign (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QIGJTHdH50>) and again speaking out against the killing of Michael Brown by police in Ferguson, Missouri (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ny8loBhqmhc>) and more recently the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. He understood the need and fought for inclusion in the labor movement for people of color and immigrants. Rich was incredibly bright, a strategic thinker and an amazing orator. He was fighting up to the very last days of his life, deeply committed to passing the PRO Act to reform labor law and speaking to the striking Alabama miners in a recorded message of support the night before his death. As his biography on the AFL-CIO website states:

"Solidarity and his determination to improve life for all working families was a driving force in Trumka's life as a labor leader. Comprehensive immigration reform was a central part of that goal. Trumka's work on behalf of immigrants was just one facet of his deep commitment to securing economic and social justice for all working people.

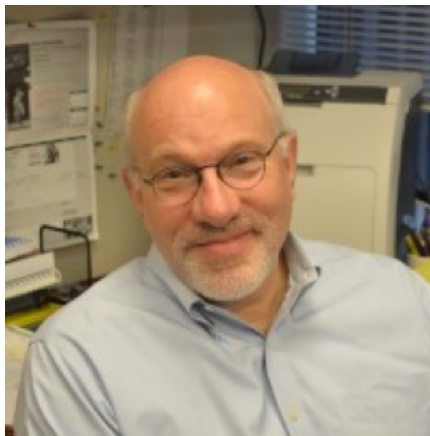
Trumka envisioned an economy of shared prosperity for all working families—an economy of rising wages, equal pay, respect at work, safe jobs, secure retirement, and the freedom for all workers to form or join unions and bargain collectively.

Rich Trumka carried with conviction throughout his life the power of solidarity and commitment—from the mines of southwest Pennsylvania to the helm of America's largest federation of unions."

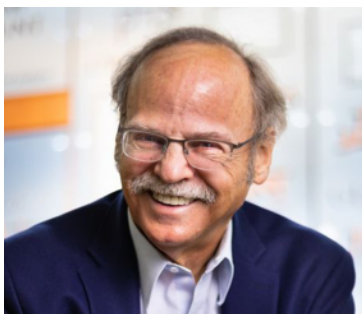
Rich's death leaves a huge void, but the election last Friday of Liz Shuler as President and Fred Redmond as Secretary-Treasurer resulted in a leadership team for the AFL-CIO which includes several historic firsts: the first female president and the first

African-American secretary-treasurer. So, a leadership team of one woman and two men of color (Tefere Gebre continues in his role as Executive Vice-President) for the first time in the history of the Federation. Hopefully, all of us who remain in the labor movement will commit to working to ensure Rich's legacy and to continue to fight for his vision. He will be missed by many.

SPOTLIGHT ON FELLOWS



Congratulations to Fellow **Jennifer Abruzzo**, **Dave Prouty**, and **Gwynne Wilcox** who were recently confirmed as NLRB General Counsel and NLRB Board Members, respectively. **Gwynne Wilcox** filled the vacant Carmody seat and **Dave Prouty** will fill the Smith seat when Fellow William Emanuel's term expires the end of August 2021. **Jennifer Abruzzo**'s four-year term in office began on July 22, 2021.





Congratulations to Fellows **Marty Malin**, **Mark Pearce**, **Jeanne Charles** and **Joe Slater**. President Joe Biden announced on August 23rd his intent to appoint all four to the Federal Services Impasse Panel. **Marty Malin** will serve as Chair of the Panel, which is a component of the Federal Labor Relations Authority that resolves impasses between federal agencies and unions representing federal employees. If bargaining between the parties, followed by mediation assistance, does not result in a voluntary agreement, then either party or the parties jointly may request the Panel's assistance.

Fellow **Hope Comisky** (pictured right), a Member and Chair of Griesing Law's Employment and Ethics & Professional Responsibility practice groups, was named by Best Lawyers® as the 2022 "Lawyer of the Year" for Employment Law - Management in the Philadelphia area. This award recognizes individual lawyers with the highest overall peer-feedback for a specific practice area and geographic region. Hope counsels clients on employment issues, provides training to managers and staff and offers strategic advice on employment litigation matters.



Fellow **Vanessa Kelly** was named a **New Jersey Legal Awards** Winner by the *New Jersey Law Journal* in the Mentors category. She will be recognized during the publication's awards event on September 23rd. The **Legal Awards** "honor those lawyers who have left an indelible mark on the legal community in New Jersey and beyond through their unwavering dedication to the profession." Ms. Kelly practices at Clark Hill's Princeton, NJ office where she strategizes with employers to minimize their legal risks and optimize the employee experience, to help companies focus on their business.



Fellow **Cynthia Nance** was profiled in a recent edition of *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, focusing on her amazing life and distinguished career. She currently serves as Dean Emerita and the Nathan G. Gordon Professor of Law at the University of Arkansas School of Law. You can read the article by clicking the link below.

[Trailblazing Dean Emeritus of University of Arkansas School of Law Keeps Giving Back | Diverse: Issues In Higher Education \(diverseeducation.com\)](https://diverseeducation.com/Trailblazing-Dean-Emeritus-of-University-of-Arkansas-School-of-Law-Keeps-Giving-Back/)



Dean Nance was also named Chair of the American Bar Foundation Fellows. As Chair, she will be part of a four-person team leading the Foundation Fellows, comprised of attorneys, judges, law faculty and legal scholars who have demonstrated dedication to the legal profession and to their communities' welfare. The American Bar Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization with a mission to expand knowledge and advance justice through innovative, interdisciplinary and rigorous empirical research on law, legal processes and legal institutions. Primary funding for the foundation is provided by the American Bar Endowment.



Fellow **Bob Steptoe** was given the West Virginia Bar Association's **Award of Merit** at the group's annual meeting in White Sulphur Springs, WV. Mr. Steptoe, who has served the West Virginia legal community for over 45 years, practices with the firm of Steptoe & Johnson PLLC as CEO and managing partner. He was recognized for his contributions and efforts to elevate the practice of law in West Virginia. Mr. Steptoe has served as president of the West Virginia State Bar, president of the West Virginia Bar Association and president of the West Virginia Bar Foundation in addition to being an adjunct professor at the West Virginia University's College of Law.



Fellow **Donica Thomas Varner** was featured in the July edition of *The Oberlin Review*, in an article announcing her departure as Vice President and General Counsel at Oberlin College. Over the past four years, she has managed a variety of issues including navigating the legal risk during the pandemic, Title IX compliance and labor and employment affairs. She has accepted the Vice President and General Counsel positions at Cornell University. The article can be read by clicking this link:

[Off the Cuff with Donica Thomas Varner, Former Vice President, General Counsel, & Secretary – The Oberlin Review](#)



Fellow **Ann Wermuth**, Vice-Chair of Cozen O'Connor's Labor & Employment Department, was recently appointed to the Rules Advisory Committee of the US District Court, of the Northern District of Illinois (NDIL). One of seven members of the committee, focusing on evaluating and updating the rules that govern trial practice, her three-year term begins immediately. In addition, Anna was recently named one of the "Top 50

Women In Law" by *Law Bulletin Publishing*, the publishers of the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* and the *Chicago Lawyer* magazine. The award recognizes these 50 women of the Chicago legal community for their work in advancing other women in the profession and for being respected leaders in their field.

ABA NEWS AND CONGRATULATIONS!



Fellow **Reggie Turner** was named the 2021-22 **President** of the American Bar Association. Mr. Turner practices in Detroit with the law firm Clark Hill where he is an accomplished litigator, government affairs advocate, strategic advisor and member of the firm's Executive Committee. Considered by his peers as a "serial volunteer," he is the past president of the National Bar Association and the State Bar of Michigan.

Mr. Turner, who was inducted a Fellow of the College in 2017, followed in the footsteps of his longtime mentor, Dennis Archer Sr. (ABA president 2003-05) who Mr. Turner clerked for during Mr. Archer's time in the Michigan Supreme Court. In addition to numerous presidential,

gubernatorial, mayoral, and county executive appointments, Mr. Turner served as a White House Fellow and as an aide to Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros during the Clinton administration.

Read about his illustrious career here: [New ABA President Reginald M. Turner \(michbar.org\)](http://michbar.org).

The College congratulates Fellow **Kelly Dermody**, who assumed the office of Chair of the ABA Section of Labor and Employment Law at the close of the Annual Meeting of the Section in August. All of the newly elected Officers and several newly elected and re-elected Council Members are also College Fellows, and we recognize them below:

Kelly Dermody – Chair
Doug Dexter – Chair-Elect
Denise Clark – Vice Chair
Joseph Torres – Vice Chair
Louis Lopez – Secretary-Elect
Julie Richard-Spencer – Section
Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates

George Washington, Jr. – Section
Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates
Wayne Outten – Section Governance
Liaison
Eric Tate – Council Member
Melinda Burrows – Council Member
Lori Ecker – Council Member
Melissa Woods – Council Member
Michael Subit – Council Member

COLLEGE LOGO IS A SIGN OF DISTINCTION

Fellows are encouraged to include the College logo on their website or as part of their email signature block. Two different formats are available for download - .jpg or .eps. Please contact [Susan Wan](#) if you would like a logo file in a different format.

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