



President's Column: *The Business Case for Good Bar Service*

By J. William Manuel

I'm sure many of you have already dismissed this column: "Why do I care how quickly a bartender delivers Will an Old Fashioned?" While I could write many paragraphs on that touchy subject, I am instead talking about participation in *Bar* activities. Over the last few years, I have heard Firm Management Types, Millennials, and even old friends state their belief that service to a Bar organization is wasted time or not effective for business development. Not only does that statement bug me, in my humble opinion, it is patently wrong for numerous reasons.

Bar Service IS Good Business Development

The talking head business consultants will tell you that there are numerous principles to developing business. Networking. Building Your Reputation/Brand. Interaction with Sources Outside Your Comfort Zone. All of these are also core activities in serving in a Bar Association. If you are on a committee, you will network every time you meet. If you do a good job on a committee project, you are building your brand as a reliable and effective leader. Because most Bar entities are made up of all sorts of different

practices, you will meet sources outside your comfort zone. I can safely say that I have received NUMEROUS referrals due to relationships I made through service with JYL, YLD, MS Bar Association and CABA. In addition, if you win the leadership lottery and become an officer of one of these organizations, you become known to a large group of people. And known as someone who is trusted to lead an organization.

In addition, clients and potential clients these days are very interested in lawyers who are involved in community service. I see more and more Requests for Proposals that have questions asking about a firm's community activities. I've had clients send me individual notes congratulating me on different positions I've had in Bar Organizations. Several have noted their past service in similar organizations. There's an instant connection.

Bar Service Provides a Unique Opportunity to Interact with Judges Outside the Courtroom

As a younger lawyer, I was very intimidated by the robed figures behind the bench. However,

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Upcoming Events

April 16

CABA Membership Meeting
with Bench & Bar Judicial Panel Q&A
Noon • The Capital Club

April 24

Diversity Panel Discussion and Networking
Panel Discussion • 2-4pm
Social • 4:30-6pm
Butler Snow

The views expressed in the articles published are solely those of the authors and do not represent the views of CABA, its officers, directors, or staff.

Open until April 10

OFFICER ELECTIONS

Leadership Nominees

Secretary-Treasurer

Alicia Hall
Clarence Webster

Director-Post 3

Margaret Cupples
Scott Murray

Director-Post 4

Ashley Hendrix Duck
Nakimuli Davis-Primer



I was fascinated to learn that there were Bar functions where you actually got to rub shoulders with these men and women when they weren't swinging a gavel. Bar functions and Bar service give lawyers the opportunity to learn about the personal side of our judges. While they obviously will not sway the issuing of justice simply because they met you at the Christmas party, the next time you appear in front of them, you may feel more comfortable.

In addition, judges have told me that they admire lawyers who choose to give their time to Bar service. They recognize that we all have limited hours in a day and they respect the fact that a lawyer is volunteering to try and better the profession. No one, even the Firm Management Types, can possibly feel that having a judge admire you is a bad thing.

Bar Service Is Just the Right Thing to Do

Even though we may not feel it every day, being a lawyer is a very respected profession. And, usually, it is a fairly well-compensated job. We should all be grateful that our hard academic work paid off in a law license. But with this good job comes a responsibility to give back to the community and the profession. Pro bono service through one of our fantastic Bar organizations is a great way to contribute. So is serving on a Committee that engages in a project to help those less fortunate, through food drives, education seminars or other activities. We also owe a debt to the younger lawyers coming behind us. Plus, it just feels good to give back.

You meet lawyers that you would never run into otherwise (See Point 1). You get to do something besides drafting discovery or checking titles. You make a difference. Isn't that one of the reasons we all became lawyers?

So, the next time you hear someone dismissing the idea of Bar Service, I hope one of these reasons comes to mind and you encourage that lawyer to try a CABA committee or a MS Bar activity. I can almost guarantee they will find it rewarding. As for the other type of Good Bar Service, I hope to see all of you at one of our next CABA social functions so we can raise a glass to being involved in the Bar. 🍷



CABA Members: *Click Here to*
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CABA February Membership Meeting

Dr. Megan Clapton, a licensed professional counselor and founder of Mindful Therapy, spoke at our February 19, 2019 meeting at the Capital Club about the value of mindfulness in our professional and personal lives.



2018

JUDICIAL ELECTIONS

By Chris Shaw



Seven new judges in the tri-county area took the bench this January, joining the largest number of statewide newly-elected judges in Mississippi's modern history.

Overall, 40 new judges were elected across Mississippi during the November 2018 judicial races. This number includes 18 new chancery judges, nine circuit judges, 10 county court judges, and three new Court of Appeals judges. The new judges were sworn in on January 7.

According to Mississippi Judicial College Executive Director Randy G. Pierce, a former chancery and state Supreme Court justice himself, this is the largest number of new judges Mississippi has elected since the Judicial College came into existence.

"In my 25 years practicing, there has never been a generational change of the bench like this," said Philip Thomas, author of the popular *Mississippi Litigation Review* blog. "Long time judges retired and new judges elected who may be on the bench for decades. Lawyers will be sorting out the nuances of practicing before the new judges for a while. The interesting question now is whether there will be a similar round of retirements by attorneys in private practice."

With the December 2018 retirement of former Mississippi Supreme Court Justice William Waller, four new justices now sit on the Mississippi Court of Appeals—three of them by election and one of them by appointment following Justice Kenny Griffis's nod to fill Justice Waller's seat.

In the tri-county area, Hinds County had the largest turnover with five new judges—a

number spiked by the retirement of several long-term judges: William Singletary and Patricia Wise (Chancery), Jeff Weill (Circuit), and Bill Skinner (County Court). Veteran Circuit Judge William Gowan retired from the bench in March 2018, prior to the end of his term. Judge Gowan's post had been held since that time by Joseph Sclafani, appointed by Governor Phil Bryant to fill the remaining nine months of Judge Gowan's final term.

Below is a summary of the results of the area's judicial elections.

Court of Appeals

Four new judges now sit on Mississippi's Court of Appeals, following the retirements of Justice Tyree Irving, Joseph Lee, and Eugene Fair, as well as the appointment of Justice Griffis to the Mississippi Supreme Court. They are:

- Judge Deborah McDonald of Natchez, who replaced Judge Irving in District 2
- David McCarty of Jackson, who replaced Judge Lee in District 4
- Anthony Lawrence of Pascagoula, who replaced Judge Fair in District 5
- Cory Wilson of Jackson, who was appointed to replace Justice Griffis in District 3

Incumbent Court of Appeals Justices Donna Barnes (District 1) and Sean Tindell (District 5) returned to their posts without opposition, as did Mississippi Supreme Court Justice David Ishee. A judge's term on the Mississippi Supreme Court and Court of Appeals is 8 years.

Circuit Court

Hinds County's two new Circuit Judges are no strangers to winning elections, both having previously held elected office. They are:

- Representative Adrienne Wooten, who defeated Matt Allen to replace Jeff Weill

in the District 1 seat; and

- Former Hinds County District Attorney Faye Peterson defeated Joseph Sclafani in the District 4 seat.

Judge Tomie Green was easily re-elected in District 2 over challenger Kimalon Campbell. Circuit Judge Winston Kidd had no opposition.

In Madison County, Dewey Arthur, former assistant district attorney for Madison and Rankin Counties, won the District 3 runoff against Andy Stewart for the lone Circuit Judge spot up for grabs. Fellow Circuit Judges John Emfinger and Steve Ratcliff returned to their seats unopposed in Subdistricts 1 and 2, respectively.

Chancery Court

The Chancery bench in Hinds County also welcomed two new Chancellors with November's election:

- Crystal Wise Martin, who replaced her mother, longtime Chancellor Patricia Wise in Subdistrict 2; and
- Tiffany Grove, who defeated Monique Brown-Barrett in the November runoff for Subdistrict 3

Brandon attorney Troy Odom won the runoff to succeed retiring Rankin County Chancellor John Grant. Rankin County Chancery Judges John McLauren in Subdistrict 1 and Haydn Roberts in Subdistrict 3 had no challengers. Neither did Madison County's three Chancery Court Judges,—Robert Clark, III, Cynthia Brewer, and James Walker.

County Court

Hinds County Court has one new County Court Judge—Jackson lawyer Johnnie McDaniels—who succeeds retiring Judge Bill Skinner. Incumbent Hinds County Court Judge Melvin Priestler, Sr. returned to his seat

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after fending off a challenge by former Hinds County assistant public defender Bridgette Marie Morgan. County Court Judge Larita Cooper-Stokes returns to her seat unopposed.

In Rankin County, incumbent Judge Thomas Broome won his election to return to the bench. Rankin County Court Judge Kent McDaniel ran unopposed, as did Madison County Court Judges Staci O’Neal and Ed Hannan.

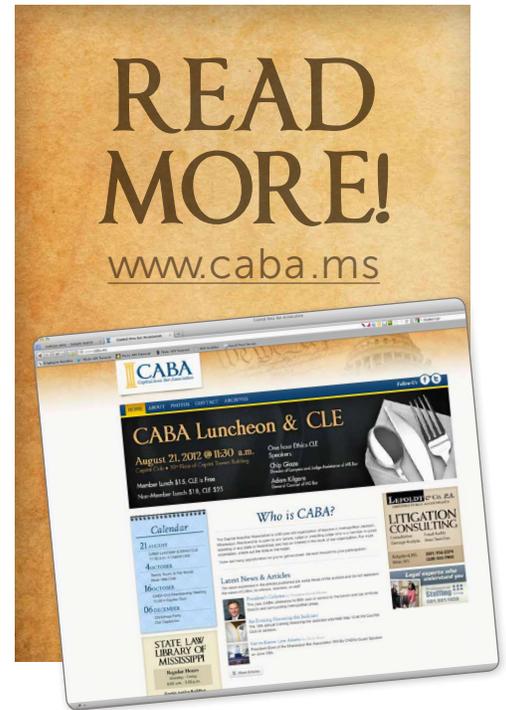
New Judges Are Making the Transition from Advocate to Arbitrator

Judicial College Executive Director Pierce admitted he was “nervous” about so many new judges taking the bench. Following a week-long training course the first week of December, however, those concerns vanished. “I was

very impressed with the new judges.” Pierce said. “They have plenty of legal experience” and are prepared to serve in their new roles.

In addition to the week-long training with the Mississippi Judicial College, the state’s new judges will all attend National Judicial College training programs on jurisdiction in either April or October of this year.

Newly-elected Chancellor Tiffany Grove already has advice for lawyers practicing before her regarding promptness and keeping the court informed. “I’m having a hard time with lawyers being late,” said Grove. “If you are going to be late, please call or email the court administrator. I am also having a hard time with lawyers not informing the court of settlements. If you reach a settlement, please let the court administrator know as soon as possible. We want to utilize the court’s time as much as possible.” ➔



Same Judge, Different Court A Spotlight on Justice Kenny Griffis

By Stevie Rushing



In November 2018, Judge Kenny Griffis learned he was to become Chief Judge of the Mississippi Court of Appeals. After sixteen years on the Court of Appeals, the appointment was no surprise. The role, however, was to be short lived—but don’t feel too bad for Griffis. Because the next month, Griffis joined to the Mississippi Supreme Court.

A native of Meridian, Mississippi, Griffis

began his journey to our highest state court at the University of Mississippi. There, he earned both his accounting and law degrees. But it was during law school that Griffis became interested in the judiciary. Specifically, Griffis gravitated towards the appellate courts, intrigued by their role as final arbiters of law. But at the time, only the Mississippi Supreme Court and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals offered appellate roles. That changed in 1994. That year, the Mississippi Legislature created the Mississippi Court of Appeals to relieve a backlog of cases. Griffis took note, following the new court’s progression throughout his time in private practice. In 2002, Griffis decided it was time to stop following; that year, he ran

for and won the District 3, Position 2 slot on the Court of Appeals.

Griffis served there for sixteen years. That lengthy service led to Griffis’s interest in the Mississippi Supreme Court, a court of more finality and higher stakes. While the Supreme Court, like the Court of Appeals, has an error-correction element, it also reviews Court of Appeals decisions, interlocutory appeals, and certified questions from federal courts. These differences appealed to Griffis and made his recent change of scenery a welcomed one.

But despite the change, Griffis’s primary goal remains the same: making the right decision. We lawyers try to facilitate that goal. Whether or not we always do so successfully...

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that's another story. Thankfully, Griffis has a few suggestions for us. As a judge, Griffis considers himself a professional reader first, and a professional writer second. Keeping this in mind, Griffis encourages lawyers to be confident in their work. Confidence, according to Griffis, breeds brevity. In briefs, Griffis suggests lawyers move away from formalistic writing and get to the meat of the matter early on. Narrow down to your best authorities, and put them up front. Overall, help the Court understand the decision it needs to make.

Oral argument is no different. Griffis encourages lawyers to view oral argument as another chance to help the Court understand the issue and correctly decide the case. If you request oral argument, come prepared, get to the point, and don't feel pressured to use the entire allotted time simply because it's there. Respond appropriately to questions. And look for clues: Griffis noted that each question has a purpose, whether to help the lawyer, convince another judge on an issue, or resolve the questioning judge's concern.

To prepare for your appellate appearance, Griffis suggests turning to—wait for it—the Internet. After narrowing your best authorities, collect whatever information you can about them—pleadings, briefing, opinions, and oral argument recordings. Whether good or bad, you can learn from both. Make sure to include the Mississippi Supreme Court's website¹ in

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2019 HOLIDAYS

April 29	Confederate Memorial Day
May 27	Memorial Day & Jefferson Davis' Birthday
July 4	Independence Day
September 2	Labor Day
November 11	Veteran's Day
November 28	Thanksgiving Day
December 25	Christmas Day

your information search. The Court's website is a wealth of information and home to Mississippi Electronic Courts. Likewise, pay a visit to the Mississippi College School of Law's Judicial Data Project.² It contains archives of Mississippi appellate opinions, briefs, and oral arguments.³

When he's not at the Court (or addressing my young-lawyer fears disguised as interview questions), Griffis is likely found at a nearby

athletic event. Griffis and his wife of twenty-two years, Mary Helen, are the proud parents of five boys. Griffis has served as a youth Sunday School teacher, a Cub Scout leader, and a coach for over 80 youth sports teams, including baseball, basketball, soccer, and hockey. Griffis and his family live in Ridgeland and attend Christ United Methodist Church. ➔

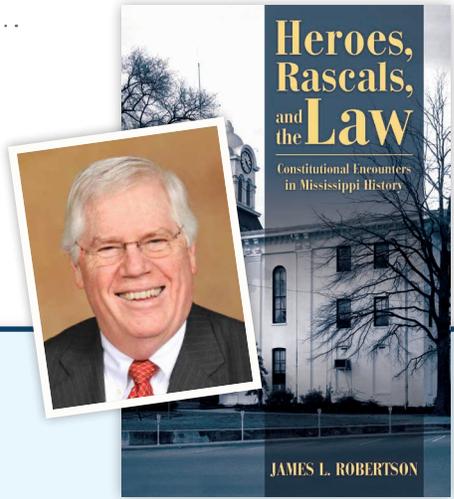
1. <https://courts.ms.gov/>
2. <https://law.mc.edu/judicial/index.php>

3. <https://law.mc.edu/judicial/vidbrief.php>

Congratulations!

CABA newsletter committee would like to congratulate contributor Jimmy Robertson on the recent publication of his book:

Heroes, Rascals, and the Law: Constitutional Encounters in Mississippi History



TWO DISTINGUISHED SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI JUDGES RETIRE

By Terryl Rushing

Senior District Judge William H. Barbour, Jr. announced last fall that, after thirty-five years of service on the Court, he would assume inactive status, effective Friday, January 4, 2019. Judge Barbour was appointed to the bench by President Reagan in 1983, and he served as Chief District Judge from 1989 through 1996. He is a Yazoo City native who earned his bachelor's degree from Princeton University, where he was a two-year letterman in football. Barbour graduated from the University of Mississippi's School of Law in 1966, attended the Graduate Tax Program at New York University School of Law, and practiced law in Yazoo City with his father until he was confirmed as a District Judge. Judge Barbour took senior status in 2006, and he was succeeded in 2010 by another Yazoo City native, District Judge Carlton W. Reeves.

On January 10, the Court honored Judge Barbour with a reception attended by the Judges of the Southern District, Judge Barbour's

family and friends, and his staff, present and former, including nearly all of his prior law clerks. Senior District Judge David Bramlette, Judge Barbour's roommate in undergraduate and law school, was the featured speaker. Judge Bramlette delighted the crowd with tales of their colorful past, while no doubt saving some stories for a more private venue.

Earlier in the day, at a meeting of the Board of Judges, Chief District Judge Dan Jordan thanked Judge Barbour for his service to the Court and to the Federal Judiciary as a whole. Judge Barbour noted that, when he first came on the bench, the judges barely spoke to one another, and he was very appreciative of the collegiality of the current group in the Southern District. It should not have to be said that the Court will miss Judge Barbour's collegiality and his mentoring the judges who came to the Court after he did.

Also in January, Bankruptcy Judge Edward Ellington retired after having served on the Court since 1986, much of it as Chief Judge. Prior to his appointment, Judge Ellington

practiced law and served for eight years as a member of the Mississippi Senate. Even before that, in 1966, Judge Ellington was a student at the University of Mississippi law school (in fairness, it should be mentioned that he received his bachelor's degree from Mississippi State), where he served as chairman of the Law School's Speakers' Bureau. In that role, and to the chagrin of University officials, he invited then United States Attorney General Robert Kennedy to speak at the school. In that speech, Kennedy, speaking to a packed audience described the behind the scenes machinations surrounding the enrollment of James Meredith at Ole Miss. (Taken from an article from the August, 2012, CABA Newsletter, entitled "Reflections on my Interview with James Meredith," by John Corlew.)

On January 22, the Mississippi Bankruptcy Conference honored Judge Ellington with a reception at the Old Capitol Inn, attended by family, friends, and numerous colleagues from the bench and bar. Judge Ellington's wit and unflinching good humor will be greatly missed. ➔

LET US KNOW!

We value your thoughts and want to make sure you don't forget to leave them in our "Comments" section under each article on our website.



Start the discussion...



CABA BAR REVIEW

February 20, 2019 at Saltine



BLOCKCHAIN

What is it, and how is it going to affect us?

By Matt Eichelberger¹



The word “blockchain” is everywhere we look. There is talk of blockchain technology revolutionizing industries, creating wealth, and generally improving humanity. But what *is* blockchain technology?

Isn't it that bitcoin thing that everyone lost all that money on?

Yes and no. To understand what blockchain technology is, and what it isn't, it's important to know why it was created in the first place.

It's all about the money

For decades, computer scientists had been attempting to develop a digital-only, peer-to-peer currency, only to run into the “double-spend” problem. In short, the double-spend problem arises when Person A pays Person B in digital currency, but then spends that same digital currency before the transaction with Person B is processed.

Unlike digital currency, physical currency never had this problem. Once Person A handed over possession of his physical currency (be it paper money, coins, seashells, beads, or whatever) to Person B, the transaction was complete and the double-spend problem did not exist. In more complex electronic or ledger-based transactions, the double-spend problem was solved with trusted third parties (banks). There are three problems with the use of trusted third parties to avoid

the double-spend problem. The first issue with a trusted third party is that it charges a transaction fee, thereby increasing the cost of transactions. The second issue is one of security. If the trusted third party's security is breached, then numerous problems can arise from the breach. Finally, there's the issue of trust itself, which in the great economic crisis of 2008 was in short supply.

Sparked by the crisis of 2008, a person (or group of people) going by the pseudonym “Satoshi Nakamoto” developed a digital currency called “Bitcoin.” Bitcoin was far from the first attempt at a digital currency, but it was the first to solve the double-spend problem without reliance upon trusted third parties. Blockchain technology, the core innovation of Bitcoin, is how Satoshi pulled it off. Using this technology, the trade of digital currency became as secure as the trade of physical currency, all while being totally independent from a trusted third party.

So how does blockchain technology work? It helps to first think of the blockchain as a simple ledger of transactions. This ledger, either in part or in whole, is distributed between the networked computer hard drives of all users of the blockchain. The ledger is secured on each user's computer using cryptography, which is a special type of computer programming used to secure your desktop computer, your bank's computers, your cellphone, etc. When two users wish to add an entry to the ledger, they verify the entry through the use of cryptography “keys.” Typically, each user's “name” on the blockchain software is their “public key,” which only they can access by use of their “private key.”

Once the two users have used their keys to authenticate their transaction, the other users of the network begin automatically adding that transaction to their copy of the ledger. After a majority of the users (51% in most blockchain programs) have added the transaction to their copy of the ledger, a transaction has “gone through.” After a set number of transactions are recorded on the ledger, that portion of the ledger is closed for future entries and is known as a “block.” As each block is closed, it is given an electronic fingerprint that contains the time and date of the block's closing. That fingerprint is called a “hash.” The next block is then created and first marked with the hash of the preceding block. Then this next block is ultimately closed with its own hash, which is stamped on the following block, ad infinitum. That process is what creates the “chain” of the blocks, ergo “blockchain.”

Is this magic internet thing secure?

Another feature of blockchain technology that makes it attractive is the immutable nature of the records kept using it. What makes blockchains so impervious to attack is that the copies of the distributed ledger exist in many places and can only be changed by taking control of 51% of the computers on the network at the same time or by bringing online enough new computers to own 51% of the network's total computing power. The more users there are on the system, the more difficult it becomes to hack the system. To illustrate how difficult this is, the bitcoin

1. Matt Eichelberger is a partner at The Eichelberger Law Firm, where he primarily practices in the area of criminal defense and civil rights. He also owns Blockchain Programming Network, LLC, the parent company of Aecor, a cryptocurrency and blockchain technology news service that is in the startup phase.

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blockchain alone currently processes more than 250,000 transactions a day, and is stored across more than 5,000,000 computers. In order to undertake such a “51% attack,” the perpetrator would have to immediately take online more computing strength than half of the new total number of computers working on the network. The cost to purchase the needed number of computers is estimated to be \$1,400,000,000.00. But that is just to purchase an adequate number of computers. That doesn’t account for the physical housing of those computers, the labor to install and support them, and more importantly, the electricity to power them. Given that the current bitcoin blockchain computers collectively use more electricity each day than the entire country of Morocco, that type of attack isn’t feasible.

What does blockchain mean for us going forward?

The implications for blockchain technology are currently not fully knowable. Many pundits are comparing this era of blockchain tech to the late 1990’s internet, and there are indeed comparisons from a financial standpoint. Most of us can remember the dotcom bubble, where irrational exuberance led to absurd valuations of companies which evaporated in years or even months. The dotcom bubble of the late 90’s bore strong resemblance to the cryptocurrency market of 2017, where the price of bitcoin pushed \$20,000.00 per coin by December after beginning the year at \$1,000.00, only to crash to a current price

of around \$4,000.00. The rise of other coins (called “altcoins”) was even more dramatic, and millionaires were indeed made and broken almost overnight. The cryptocurrency market has had its Pets.com, too.

There are, however, less dire similarities. During the late 1990’s, people were still figuring out exactly what problems the internet could solve. (Who could have imagined Facebook in 1997?) That is what is happening now with blockchain technology. Aside from being able to track financial transactions, blockchain technology has been engineered to allow for “smart contracts.” These smart contracts are essentially programs that allow for an individual to perform an act and not wait for any external validation of that action. Take for example, the transfer of real property from one person to another. In the future, a real property registry could be completely housed on a smart contract-enabled blockchain. The owner of a parcel of land, Owner A, decides he wants to sell said parcel to Buyer B. Owner A would authenticate the price of the parcel himself using his key, Buyer B would then deposit funds in the amount of the purchase price into the blockchain, and the smart contract would automatically transfer ownership in a way that is immutable and does not require a physical repository of information... or perhaps even a lawyer.

Another example of blockchain technology finding its way is the storage of medical or legal records. Because documents stored using blockchain technology are unable to be

altered, Vermont has already declared them to be self-authenticating under the Vermont Rules of Evidence. California, New York, Arizona, and others are considering doing the same. Delaware has determined that private businesses may keep stock registers on a blockchain, possibly doing away with the need for outside transfer agents. Other potential uses of blockchain technology that are receiving a lot of attention and venture capital investment at the moment are copyright protection, digital voting, food safety, weapons tracking, self-executing wills, energy trading, prescription drug tracking, and identity theft prevention.

In the end, blockchain technology represents the next “big wave” of technological change. It almost certainly will affect lawyers substantially, as the way we prove facts and otherwise do our jobs will become at least partially dependent upon knowledge and use of various blockchain platforms. On the bright side, lawyers do have some time to learn and become familiar with this technology. The timeframe for implementation of blockchain technologies in ways that affect a majority of us is likely the next 5–10 years.

Matt Eichelberger is a partner at The Eichelberger Law Firm, where he primarily practices in the area of criminal defense and civil rights. He also owns Blockchain Programming Network, LLC, the parent company of Aecor, a cryptocurrency and blockchain technology news service that is in the startup phase. ➔

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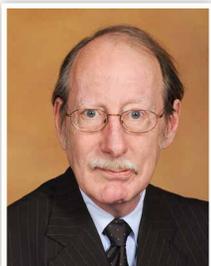
Statistics show that 90% of organizations now maintain social media profiles, and CABA is among that majority. You can find the Capital Area Bar Association’s page on Facebook and find us on Twitter (@CABALaw). Social media is a simple way to improve communications within our organization, but we need our members to help to build an effective social media presence. If you are currently on Facebook or Twitter, please engage. Whether you like us, follow us, or comment on posts, you are helping build CABA’s social media profile.

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Tired of Googling? Try Some Other Cool Search Engines



By Joel Howell

Google is the search engine of choice for much of the world. The statistics are impressive: 3.5 billion searches per day and over 40,000 per second, averaging to about 1.2 trillion searches every year. Often, Google is the default search engine on many device browsers. However, there are search engine options that may cater to your search needs just as well, dare I say, maybe even better than Google.

Bing is a crowd favorite and one of Google's biggest competitors. It features both a trending search list and layout that is customizable to your searching preferences. Would you like to view a selection of various news sources to browse the latest headlines of the hour? Bing can accommodate this desire. It also offers a rewards program that pays users a tenth of a cent for each search. You can redeem your searching points for gift cards and sweepstakes entries. (www.bing.com)

DuckDuckGo will be your go-to engine if you have privacy concerns. The search engine's slogan is simply, "The engine that doesn't track you." We have all experienced that slightly creepy moment when you are searching for coffee online, and then you "randomly" receive unsolicited coupons and emails from a coffee shop. DuckDuckGo provides users the ease of searching with the knowledge that it does not collect, store, or pass on information about its users. (www.duckduckgo.com)

Kiddle is another search engine option that protects user's personal information, which is ideal because its users are typically under the age of 18. Kiddle is Google's kid friendly search engine that provides a web environment devoid of inappropriate content. (www.kiddle.com)

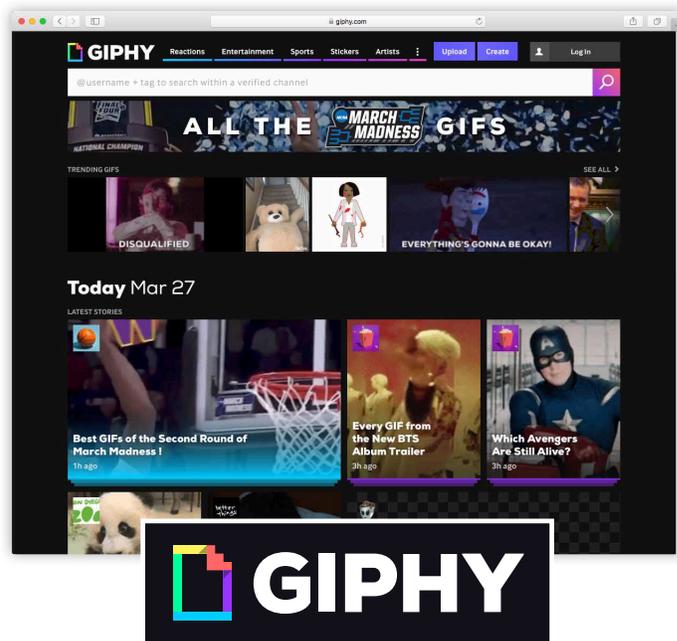
A particularly useful search engine is **JustWatch**, which is specialized for television entertainment. It offers a single online space where users can find shows and movies on any entertainment viewing platform in the United States. It's a great resource if you want to subscribe to a streaming service but need to know which one has all of your favorite shows and movies. It even includes YouTube and iTunes in its search. (www.justwatch.com)

Blekk is a search engine developed by ex-Google engineers. It presents categorized search results and promises to be devoid of any spam or annoying sidebar ads. Admittedly, it does log user information but deletes it after 48 hours. (www.blekko.com)

Boardreader is the search engine for the blog, forum, and message

board aficionados. It allows users to search for a general topic and provides forums, message boards, and blogs regarding the topic. It is a great way to find unique and different content that you would have otherwise had to stumble upon. (www.boardreader.com)

A really entertaining search engine is **Giphy**. In an era where a large amount of communication is through technology, GIFs help add a little personality to our messages. GIFs are the continuously looping animated images that are often sent via text or the private email chains that you and your friends banter on. Giphy allows users to search a desired emotion or message and scroll through hundreds of results until they find the one that aptly describes what they're trying to convey. (www.giphy.com)



Ecosia is a great option for the environmentally conscious. With every search inquiry, Ecosia donates as much as 80% of its profits to a reforestation program. At the time of writing this article, over 48 million trees and counting have been planted. It's a pretty neat concept! (www.ecosia.org)

Continued on page 11...

Yippy is a search engine that compiles the results of other search engines—and maybe even more. It is considered a deep web page which means it accesses web sites not indexed by most search engines. Yippy also boasts the ability to aid in locating obscure information quickly. It's a great research tool to circumvent superficial search results and more readily view the results that typically would not have been found until the twelfth page. (www.yippy.com)

Swisscows is a unique option for users who have trouble articulating what they are looking for. It claims to solve the frustration of not knowing how to word a search to yield specific results. Swisscows solves this problem with its use of semantic information recognition which offers users intuitive help in their searches. This search engine is also family friendly and promises to never track users. (www.swisscows.com)

ChaCha is a search engine rising in popularity due to its offer of real-time answers by independent contractors referred to as Guides.

These individuals answer your questions for you and save you precious moments of continued searching. It offers users quizzes to help determine their searching style and preference. (www.chacha.com)

These search engine options should improve your user experience. Challenge yourself to save a couple of them to your dashboard and you will be pleasantly surprised by how often you opt for these specialized engines over the more popular ones. Admittedly, Google is both convenient and user friendly, but these alternatives will undoubtedly expand your searching horizon. Happy Searching! 



Questions or comments?

Drop me an email: jwh3@mindspring.com

How to Observe Lent

Or Why Catholics Get Crazy as Easter Approaches and Other Theological Questions

By Terry Rushing

As I'm writing this, revelers around the world are preparing for Mardi Gras, that annual late-winter bacchanalia where spirits (and shirts) are lifted in a sure harbinger of spring. Well, maybe St. Patrick's Day is more of a harbinger of spring; Mardi Gras is actually a prelude to Lent—the forty-day penitential period preceding Easter. As you're reading this, we've no doubt already observed Ash Wednesday, and I hope you didn't tell a co-worker that she had a smudge on her forehead. Now we're in Lent, and many of us have deprived ourselves of some food, drink, or habit that we love.

Lent is observed by several Christian churches, and by some individuals not connected to any established faith. For Catholics and some other Christian religions, the common practice is for fasting during certain days in Lent, usually Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and giving up something for the entire

period. Fasting is not an unusual religious practice—Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset during Ramadan, and Jews fast on some high holidays, particularly Yom Kippur. Fasting is important to the Hindu religion, although the day and the method may vary from region to region, and Buddhists routinely fast. Many non-religious people also practice fasting, as an exercise in discipline and self control.

There is no "right" or "wrong" way to observe Lent, but giving up something is meant to help cultivate the inner life and make us more spiritually aware. For those of us who choose to observe Lent in that way, there's the weighty decision of *what should I give up?* (Lent may have already begun, but it's never too late to get started.) The Internet is, of course, rife with suggestions. I even found a Twitter Lent Tracker, which has catalogued, in rank order, items given up for Lent since 2009. Typically near the top of the list are alcohol, chocolate, computer use in general and social networking, in

particular. We can't rely too much on 2018 data, however, because Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day coincided, unless there were a lot of alcohol-free dinners with no desserts. (Easter and April Fool's Day also coincided, but we're not going there.) Swearing seems to come and go out of the top five, maybe dependent on the economy and politics of the Lenten season. I'm afraid that, if I gave up swearing, the dogs would forget who they are, and my always simmering road rage (or, as I prefer to call it, road *impatience*) would just get worse.

Some of the items people reported relinquishing on the Twitter list appear to be steps in the right direction, such as negativity, junk food, smoking and guns. Wait, guns? Others are not so positive, like giving up on college and life. Apparently, many people refuse to give up sarcasm. Giving up sex ranks pretty high on the list; one would hope that wasn't a unilateral choice. Like giving up coffee, it could affect more people than yourself.

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Virginity was much, much further down on the list, as were “mass shootings.” What???

For the hair shirt crowd, here are some excessively painful and/or unusual ideas. Put a pebble or a popcorn kernel in your shoe every morning. Park at the very back of the parking lot, no matter how many closer spots are open. Pray the Our Father, doing an ab crunch for every word. Leave post-it notes with positive messages wherever you go. Give away one piece of clothing that you really, really like every day. And perhaps the most painful—give up stretchy pants and elastic waistbands. (Giving up chocolate and booze might make this easier.)

On the funnier side—give up napkins; that’s what sleeves are for (and it might make

it easier to give up those clothes). Give up the phone. No, not yours, silly, the one at the office. Give up your New Year’s resolutions. Officially. You weren’t keeping them, anyway. A male friend who joined the church as an adult related this experience with Lent: “When I was first Catholic, I gave up sex, but my girlfriend at the time was a crazy b*#^% by the time Easter got here. A couple of years ago, I gave up alcohol, and I was a crazy b*#^% by the time Easter got here.

More practical suggestions are to write a letter every night. Call instead of texting. Give up the snooze button, although for me, that has an equal chance of causing me to get up right away or to sleep for another hour or two. Give up makeup (see giving up sex,

above). Give up blow-drying your hair. And then, as a concomitant act, give up mirrors.

Motivation is important here; this should be a meaningful sacrifice, and for the right reason. Lent is not meant to be a short-term, glorified weight-loss program or a budget fix. Six weeks of good behavior doesn’t earn you a year of unfettered gluttony and laziness. Be clear about what you’re giving up and be consistent. Giving up TV for Lent also includes programs recorded before Ash Wednesday.

The question arises, why is Lent referred to alternately as six-weeks or forty days? Sundays don’t count; they are celebrations of the Resurrection. As such, you are free to discontinue your sacrifice for those twenty-four hours. *Laissez le bon temps rouler!* 🍷

If by “Toxic Masculinity”...¹

By Chad Hammons

My friends, it appears of late that a mainstay of America’s corporate ruling class has seen fit to feather its bottom line through an outsized exercise in virtue signaling and overt ingratiation of itself to the sensibilities of blue state America.

In doing so, this corporate titan has fired a salvo in the culture wars and has aligned itself with the cultural predispositions held by that echelon of educated and affluent urbanites tagged by one preeminent intellectual as “Bobos in Paradise.”

In the event you have been blissfully unaware of this F-3 cultural tempest, I am referring to the recent advertising campaign purveyed by Procter & Gamble, and its assault on what has come to be known as “toxic masculinity.”

I hope and trust that you all will believe me when I tell you that I had not intended to discuss this controversial subject at this particular time, given the recent and ongoing unpleasantness in Washington, and its ripple effects of discord and dissension across this great land of ours. However, I want you to

know that I do not shun controversy. On the contrary, I will take a stand on any issue (almost) at any time, regardless of how fraught with controversy it might be (up to a point). Thus, here is how I feel about “toxic masculinity.”

If by “toxic masculinity,” you are referring to the devil’s brew of arrogance and machismo that manifests itself in overt acts of belittling and degrading women, bullying the weak, and denigrating the different, I join you in common cause with your incisive condemnation.

And if by criticizing “toxic masculinity” you are taking an overdue stand against the brand of boorish behavior exemplified by “man-spreading” on a subway train; failing to yield a seat on a bus to an elderly person or a pregnant woman; initiating drunken fights at sporting events; screaming profanities at the beach when surrounded by generations young and old seeking to enjoy precious time together; and otherwise engaging in piggish public spectacles of uncouth alpha-male behavior, then I wholeheartedly endorse and embrace your reproach, and wish you great success with this earnest attempt to galvanize the public spirit against this

lack of civility and a return to standards of gentlemanly deportment.

But, Procter & Gamble, if by “toxic masculinity” you are insidiously referring to the boisterous but innocent jousting and jockeying that occurs when good fellows get together in social revelry; if in bad faith you are likening revolting acts of disparagement and derision of women with the banter of ribald conversation at the pub after a long work week, or at a summer weekend on the lake; if you are levying a frontal assault on those characteristics and qualities that have impelled men to engage in acts of unimaginable bravery or to gladly change a tire in the rainy cold for a stranger; and at bottom, if you are equating simple “masculinity” with the deviance of “toxic masculinity” as illustrated above, then I must part company with you, and join the chorus of critics who have chastised you for morally hectoring those of us who own guns but not designer dogs, and hope that your share price drops over such ill-conceived rubbish.

This is my stand. I will not retreat from it. I will not compromise. 🍷

1. With apologies and all due deference to Noah “Soggy” Sweat.

Women's Initiative CLE March 27 at Baker Donelson

It's a Marathon, Not a 5K: How Do We Keep Women Lawyers from Leaving the Profession?



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