

American Board of Trial Advocates™



Washington Chapter Newsletter December 2023

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members,

It is an honor to be your 2024 WA Chapter of ABOTA President. It is quite humbling to be a member of such a talented and professional group of attorneys. We are excited to start this new year with some ambitious goals, and our new executive board is ready to get to work!

We had an outstanding turnout for our MIT. It was one for the memory books. I know I will never see Wizard of Oz the same way again! We are so thankful for all of you who were involved in making it happen. The presentations and the costumes were incredible. We want to especially thank Alice Brown, Judge Wilson and Nicole Battles for their dedication and the many hours they put into this successful event. We also enjoyed the presentation Judge Coreen Wison and Judge Sean O'Donnell gave on the eye-opening future of AI and its potential impact on the practice of law.



The annual dinner also had a great turnout. We thank our Executive Director, Nicole Battles for making it all happen. At the dinner, we had the privilege of inducting five new members into our chapter. We welcome these new members and are proud to have them in our chapter. We always welcome new member nominations!



Elizabeth Calora
Pfau Cochran Vertetis
Amala PLLC



Mark Dietzler
Forsberg & Umlauf, P.S.



Loren A. Cochran
Cochran Douglas



Robert F. Sestero
Evans, Craven & Lackie



Dan L. Johnson
USAA

At the annual dinner, we handed out a few notable awards:



2023 Trial Judge of the Year

**The Honorable
Judith H. Ramsayer**
King County Superior Court

	<p>2023 Trial Lawyer of the Year</p> <p>Raymond J. Dearie</p> 
	<p>2023 Lifetime Achievement Award</p> <p>Christopher H. Anderson</p> 
	<p>2023 President's Award</p> <p>Sim Osborn</p> 

Congratulations to you all!

We also want to thank our Past President, J.D. Smith for his exceptional leadership of our chapter in 2023. J.D. ran our chapter with a calm and steady hand. We are so grateful for his continued presence and guidance. Thanks to our past leadership, our chapter has a great presence in the local and national legal community. We will continue to meet, network and socialize with friends and colleagues all over the state and country.

2024 Chapter Officers

President - Eron Cannon

President Elect - Tom Vertetis

Vice President - David Corey

Treasurer - Vonda Sargent
Secretary - Shellie McGaughey

Last Tuesday, we had our first executive board meeting, wherein we discussed our 2024 goals. There will be many opportunities for our members to participate in some of our events the ; Voir Dire Competition, the James Otis Lecture, and MIT, to name a few. We will let you know about these events as we move along in the year.

Have a wonderful holiday season and wishing you all great trial successes!

Eron Z. Cannon

ABOTA MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to Washington ABOTA members **Tom Vertetis** and **Ken Friedman** for their \$168 million verdict that ordered Bayer's Monsanto to pay six teachers and a custodian due to exposure to toxic chemicals at the Sky Valley Educational Center where they worked.

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/monsanto-hit-with-165-million-verdict-over-pcbs-seattle-school-2023-11-21/>

VOIR DIRE COMPETITION

Washington ABOTA is hosting a voir dire competition between the three law schools on **Saturday, February 24th** at the **University of Washington School of Law**. If you are interested in helping with this event, please email Ketia Wick at ketia@favros.com.

ABOTA - CIVIC LEARNING COUNCIL

Washington ABOTA is continuing our partnership with the Civil Learning Council. Since the inception, CLC has awarded 19 grants for a total of \$24,320 (with three additional grants pending). The grants have been awarded to individual students,

entire classrooms, and multiple teachers, covering a variety of subjects, from local participation in local projects such as mock trials and youth government, to attendance at national conferences at the Constitution Center in Philadelphia and the Youth and Government Conference on National Affairs in North Carolina.