

American Board of Trial Advocates™



Washington Chapter Newsletter February 2024

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members,

This last month was a busy one for our leadership team. A group from our Executive Committee went down to Biloxi, MS to attend National ABOTA's Annual

Leadership conference. We gained some great insight as to what other chapters are doing in support of our jury system, judicial independence, and mentoring the next generation of trial attorneys. In the coming months we hope to roll out some of these exciting programs. Keep an eye out for them. We welcome input from our members on ideas you all may have as it pertains to these programs and others.

At the annual conference, we also witnessed history in the making. **La'Verne Edney**, became the first Black Female President of National ABOTA. We congratulate La'Verne and look forward to seeing her and the National ABOTA Board here in Seattle for the next ABOTA National Conference this June.



Our own, **J.D. Smith**, was also elevated to The ABOTA Foundation's Treasurer position. Congrats J.D.!



We celebrated by enjoying an Eagle's cover band and then after, getting to watch J.D. eat a waffle sandwich at the Waffle House. Pretty impressive, J.D.





One sobering statistic we learned at the conference in Biloxi, is that the average ABOTA member, nationwide, is over 60 years old. We certainly value our members in that vintage, but we need to attract the younger generation to ABOTA. We recognize how hard it is for young attorneys to obtain the requisite 10 civil jury trials and National is having the discussion as to how to address this issue. Until then, please let us do our part as a membership, in identifying excellent younger candidates and nominating them for consideration. Let's keep our chapter going strong! Thank you all for your help with this.

Sincerely,

Eron Z. Cannon

FREE CLE

The ABOTA Foundation hosts a free CLE each month. [Click here](#) to see the list of upcoming topics and dates, as well as to access recordings of all past seminars.

If you are interested in receiving CLE credit for viewing the recorded programs, please contact Nicole at nicole@wa-abota.org.

VOIR DIRE COMPETITION

The Washington Chapter is hosting our first annual “Best in Washington” voir dire competition. Teams from all three Washington law schools will compete in a one-of-a-kind voir dire competition that focuses on the undertaught art of jury selection. Using real potential jurors, teams will put their voir dire skills to the test as they build the best jury for their side.

The competition will be held on **February 24th** at the University of Washington School of Law (William H. Gates Hall Room #138) beginning at 8:30am.

Thank you to our generous event sponsors:

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Additional thanks to Steve Pruzan, University of Washington, and First Court.

MEMBER NEWS

Dan Hannula with Rush, Hannula, Harkins & Kyler, PLLC received a \$3M+ verdict in a recent case.

Eron Cannon with FAVROS completed a one-month medical malpractice wrongful death trial, representing a vascular surgeon involving a graft that perforated the small intestine during a bypass procedure. Plaintiffs' counsel asked the jury to award \$9.6 million. After one hour of deliberation, the jury rendered a defense verdict.

Do you know an ABOTA member with a recent verdict? Email the details to Nicole at nicole@wa-abota.org to be placed in our next issue.

ABOTA - CIVIC LEARNING COUNCIL

The CLC-ABOTA Civic Education Grants program continues to be a success. They have given nearly all of the money donated last year and have several grants pending approval of additional funding. A grant from the ABOTA National Foundation for \$5,000 has been approved and we expect to receive the funds in the spring. The Washington Chapter will take up a vote on funding at a future meeting as well. This program is a great example of ABOTA dues dollars and Foundation contributions at work in our state, and we are proud to continue to support this program.

CIVICS SUMMIT

The ABOTA Foundation is hosting a Civics Summit this summer in Washington DC for teachers who teach civics, democracy, and government in their classrooms. This event will be held at the National Archives and is free to teachers who are accepted into the program.

If you know a teacher who would benefit from this program, please let Nicole know at nicole@wa-abota.org.

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