

THE LEXINGTON LAWYER

A publication of the Fayette County Bar Association 2026, Issue 1



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The Lexington Lawyer Article Submission Guidelines

Unsolicited manuscripts are accepted on subjects of interest to the legal profession. Manuscripts should be submitted in MS Word or PDF as an attachment emailed to info@fcba.com. Articles should not exceed 6 typewritten double-spaced pages.

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Matthew Parsons
FCBA President

The FCBA Centennial: A Century of Service, Collegiality, and Commitment

As I announced at last year's Law Day, 2026 marks the centennial anniversary of the Fayette County Bar Association. For the past 100 years, our bar has sought to uphold the ideals of our founding principles

– namely, to promote the efficient administration of justice, elevate standards of integrity and professionalism, foster collegiality among members, and serve both the bar and the broader Fayette County community.

In 1926, when our bar was founded, Zoom meant only “go fast,” and Artificial Intelligence was just a fancy way of saying “fake it ‘til you make it” (a concept painfully familiar to generations of young lawyers). But while the means of achieving them may have changed dramatically in the last century, the aims of our bar have not. I'd like to think that the founders of our bar would be proud of the ways in which their best intentions – the ones that withstand scrutiny through the lens of history – have been carried out.

For example, our modern bar embraces the notion that “efficient administration of justice” means administration of justice for all. Through programs such as the Lawyer Referral Service, legal clinics, pro bono initiatives, partnerships with Legal Aid of the Bluegrass, and the founding of the Fayette County Bar Foundation, our bar association has consistently recognized that access to justice is not just a lofty idea, but a responsibility shared by all of us.

The FCBA has also been devoted to fostering collegiality and professionalism among our legal community. Simply put, we function better as a bar when we are known to one another. A strong and

vibrant bar depends on mutual respect, professional courtesy, and relationships built outside the courtroom and the conference room. Our affinity groups, including the Women Lawyer's Association, Young Lawyer's Association, and practice area sections, do a wonderful job of connecting members through shared experience. And through continuing legal education programs, social events, law days, and judicial receptions, the FCBA for decades has provided opportunities for lawyers and judges to learn, exchange ideas, and get to know each other.

As the FCBA marks its centennial, it does so with well-earned pride—and with optimism for the future. The challenges facing the profession and local bar associations in particular are real: evolving technology, increased consolidation of legal practices and markets, and a justice system in need of more participation at every level and in every way. Yet the future of the FCBA is bright because its foundation is strong.

I sincerely hope you will join us this year in honoring our past 100 years while renewing our commitment to the future. We have a fantastic cohort of volunteer judges and lawyers serving on our FCBA Centennial Committee and that committee is busy planning activities to mark the occasion, including the announced FCBA Oral History project, special commemorations at our planned FCBA events including Law Day and the summer picnic, and a Centennial Celebration event planned for the early fall that will be announced in the coming weeks. Thank you for your membership and, as always, please do not hesitate to let us know how your bar can serve you better.

Preserving Our Legacy: The FCBA Centennial Oral History Project

As the Fayette County Bar Association marks its Centennial Celebration, we are taking time to honor the people, stories, and shared experiences that have defined our first 100 years. Since 1925, generations of attorneys, judges, and legal professionals have come together under the FCBA banner—not only to practice law, but to uphold justice, strengthen community, and mentor those who would follow.

One of the most meaningful ways to commemorate this milestone is by listening to the voices of those who lived our history. As part of this year's centennial observance, the FCBA is proud to highlight and expand our [Oral History Project](#), a collection of interviews capturing the memories, insights, and wisdom of members who have shaped Lexington's legal community.

The project began two decades ago as part of the FCBA's 80th Anniversary celebration. Those archived interviews—rich with reflections on courtroom experiences, changes in the profession, and the collegial spirit of our bar—serve as a living record of our shared past. This year, we will revisit those recordings by featuring one interview in each edition of the FCBA eNews, giving members a chance to hear directly from those who helped build the foundation we stand on today.

[View the 80th Anniversary Oral Histories](#)

But the story of the Fayette County Bar Association is still unfolding. To ensure that future generations can appreciate the diverse experiences and voices of today's practitioners, we are expanding the Oral History Project to include new interviews from current members. Whether you're a seasoned litigator with decades of experience, a young attorney forging new paths, or someone whose career has taken unexpected turns, your story contributes to the vibrant legacy of our bar.

[View the 100th Anniversary Oral Histories](#)

If you would like to share your experiences—or nominate a colleague whose perspective has enriched our community—please complete the short form linked below. Participation is simple, and your contribution will help preserve the living history of the FCBA for decades to come.

Through this project, we hope to celebrate not only 100 years of the Fayette County Bar Association, but also the people behind its success. Join us in capturing the stories that continue to inspire, connect, and define our legal community.

How to Get Involved

- **Share Your Story:**

Complete the FCBA Centennial Oral History Project Form.

- **Nominate a Colleague:**

Suggest someone whose experience has shaped the bar.

- **Read & Listen:**

Watch for featured interviews in upcoming editions of FCBA eNews.

*Help us preserve and celebrate 100 years of the Fayette County Bar Association—
through the voices that make it great.*



100 YEARS OF THE FAYETTE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF SERVICE, LEADERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY WITH THE FAYETTE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION. THE FCBA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION HONORS A CENTURY OF LEGAL EXCELLENCE WHILE BRINGING TOGETHER MEMBERS, COLLEAGUES, AND FRIENDS TO REFLECT ON OUR HISTORY, RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO SHAPED IT, AND RAISE A GLASS TO THE FUTURE.

1926-2026

Annual Law Day Awards Luncheon

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Carrick House

312 N Limestone, Lexington KY 40508

\$50 for Members | \$400 for a table of 8

Sponsorships available

RSVP from the Calendar at www.fcba.com

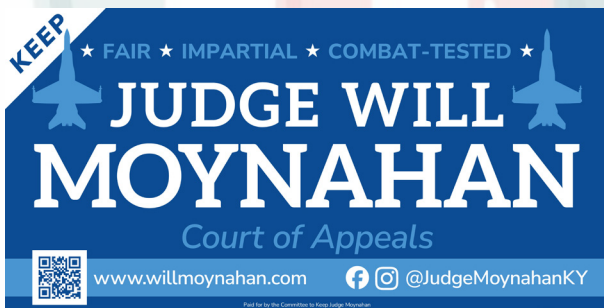
Join us for the Law Day Awards Luncheon & Centennial Celebration at the The Carrick House from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Celebrate Law Day while helping us kick off a historic Centennial year with colleagues, community leaders, and members of the bench and bar.

Enjoy a memorable program featuring a special proclamation from the Mayor of Lexington, along with recognition of this year's award recipients.

Seats are \$50 for members, or reserve a table of 8 for \$400. Sponsorship opportunities are also available for those who want to be part of this milestone celebration. See page (whatever page sponsorship is on) for sponsorship information, or register [HERE](#).

Thank you to our Law Day Sponsors!

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ANGELA C.
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FAYETTE COUNTY ATTORNEY

Hello Fayette County Bar Members! My name is Carey Howard, and I am the Court Administrator of Fayette District Court. I am extremely honored to be asked to write this article, and I would like to give you a brief history of my career with the Fayette County District Court.

It was 1997, I was 21 years old and working at Dillard's Department Store at Lexington Mall – gosh I miss that mall! I had made the decision that college wasn't for me, and I clearly couldn't live on \$5.15 an hour. My mom, who was a Probation Officer at the time, knew of an opening as a Clerk in the Criminal Division and set up an interview for me. I was offered the position and thus my career in Fayette District Court began.



I had been working as a Clerk for 3 years, when I was approached to interview for the position of a Legal Assistant in the District Judge's Office. I was offered the job and after working for only a year, and learning the ins and outs of the office, I set my sights on one day becoming Court Administrator. It was a long journey, with many twists and turns, but finally, in January 2020, the time had come. The position was open for the first time in 17 years, and it was mine. So, what was I going to do with it? How was I going to prove to everyone that they made the right decision, and that I was meant to be in this position?

My first order of business was unfortunately put on hold, as one month into my new position, COVID hit. As all of you are aware, that time was chaotic! My days were filled with cancelling Court, preparing Orders, creating ZOOM links, etc. I even set up shop on the first floor to help direct and assist the public, as there was no way to get the links to the parties. I did that every day for 2 months and it was exhausting. Once things started calming down and we were almost back to normal, it was time to get back to business.

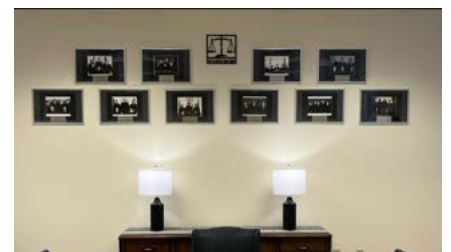
I knew I had a huge task ahead of me, as so many things had been ignored. I updated 6 binders of our General Orders, cleaned out and streamlined the file cabinets, taking them down from 9 cabinets to 3, updated our Law Library and revised our Fayette District Court Local Rules, which hadn't been updated since 2009. I even took the reins and organized our Christmas Holiday Luncheon that we have every year with Circuit Court. However, my biggest project to date, is the Judge's photo project. Beginning in 1989, the Fayette District Judges began taking group photos every few years, as Judges retired, and new Judges were elected. Because they were taken by different photographers, they were all different. Different orientations, different frames, etc. I took each photo, reprinted them, had name plates made and framed them. We now have a "History of the Fayette District Court Judges" in our main Conference Room. I am so proud of how it turned out, and I would love for our past District Court Judges to stop in and take a look at it.

As proud as I was of that project, and every other task I completed, nothing compared to the day I won the "Justice James E. Keller Law Day Award". That was the day I knew I had been doing a good job. That in my short time as Court Administrator, I had made a difference.

With that being said, I knew the time had come, and after 29 years, I have made the decision to retire. My last day will be July 31st. Other than my career, I am the mom of two wonderful girls, Mason (14) and Harper (12). I have worked every day since the day they were born, and I want to spend time with them before they go off into the world.

So, as my career comes to an end, I just want to thank everyone that I have worked with, and those that have helped me, over the years. I have had the opportunity to work for some amazing Judges, including Judge Megan Lake Thornton, Judge Joseph Bouvier, Judge David Hayse, Judge Kevin Horne, and so many more. I have also been lucky enough to work with Sheriff Kathy Witt, Circuit Court Administrator Dana Carter, and Circuit Clerk Vince Riggs and his amazing group of Court Clerks. You have all made my job so rewarding.

And to my current "Crew". Judge Denotra Gunther, Judge T. Bruce Bell, Judge Lindsay Hughes Thurston, Judge Melissa Moore Murphy, Judge John Lindsay Tackett, Jennifer Corcoran and Scott Perkins, THANK YOU. Thank you for believing in me. Thank you for giving me the opportunity I dreamed of for so many years. Thank you for being my family. I love and will miss you all!



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Good Thoughts for Young (and old) Lawyers

A whole new group of young lawyers was recently sworn in to in the Fayette County Bar. They are joining a distinguished group of professionals with a long history of fine practice. This got me to thinking, which is always dangerous. What sort of advice for these lawyers would be helpful and well-received for the new society in which we operate? As usual, I like to keep it simple, and I found that type of wisdom from an excellent “courtroom trial lawyer” named Oscar Michelen. He is cited from a recent article in “Litigation & The Practice of Law.” Michelen states the following:

1. Remember the Five P’s of Trial.

Prepare, prepare, prepare, prepare and prepare. Knowing your case better than your adversary is the first step to success.

2. Go to the location of the accident or crime scene.

When you employ part of what you learned from your visit in a question, you tell the jury you have done your homework and know what you are talking about, establishing more credibility with the jury.

3. Go to the courtroom where the case will be tried. Learn the ropes of how that judge and, more importantly, that courtroom clerk runs the courtroom. The less surprises in store for you, the less nervous and better off you will be.

4. Be mindful of your appearance to the jury.

During breaks, jurors will be looking at your behavior. They will suspect that you are on your best behavior in the courtroom, but what about outside of it? Assume you and your client (or witness) are being observed by the jury at all times. There is only rule - be yourself and be authentic. A trial lawyer cannot fake a personality all the way through trial. The real you will come out. So, you might as well just start out being yourself. Do your best to maintain eye contact with the jury throughout the trial. Jurors expect lawyers to be rude and obnoxious. They are pleasantly surprised by trial lawyers who are effective, but courteous, efficient, and prepared.

5. Be in control of the courtroom.

Show that you are organized and prepared by keeping a running list of evidence. Keep a list of witnesses who testify. All of this tells your jury that you are

comfortable in the courtroom and that you are prepared. Organize your files. Nothing annoys a judge, court personnel, juries, and clients more by watching a lawyer bumble through the file looking for an item they swore was there a minute ago. If you use electronic evidence or PowerPoint presentations, run through them multiple times to make sure you are intimately familiar with how to load them and show them without a hitch.

6. Think through your direct and cross examinations.

What are your goals for each witness? Remember that jurors particularly remember the first thing and the last thing they hear. So start strong and finish strong.

7. Develop a theme for your case.

No matter how complicated a case can be, you can find a theme that explains the case to the jury. Develop a theme that you begin employing in your discussion with the jury during jury selection. Bring the theme back to life in your opening and closing arguments and during key questions to witnesses through the trial.

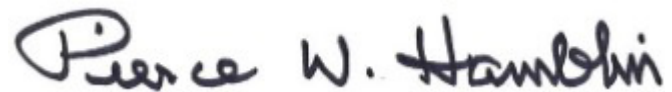
8. Write your summation first.

The goal of the trial will then be to get the evidence to fit your winning summation, not writing a summation to fit the evidence. Writing a summation first will also force you to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of your case and prepare yourself for them.

Finally, something that your Bar President has always found to be important to him. And that is “nobody cares what you have to say until they know you care about them.”

Good luck to you, and go out and win one!

Pierce W. Hamblin





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Membership Includes:

- Monthly luncheons with speakers on topics of interest to women lawyers
- Networking events allowing women lawyers to connect and share knowledge and experiences
- Social events assisting in professional and personal development
- Community service opportunities



WLA

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The FCBA has partnered with the Louisville Bar Association and Shepherd Insurance (formerly Logan Lavelle Hunt) to offer group health insurance as a member benefit. Shepherd will be the agent for the insurance plan underwritten by Anthem.



Group Health insurance

- Firm membership in the FCBA with at least one attorney member
- Minimum of 2 eligible employees and/or owners (only one would need to participate)
- Qualified Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code related to the legal field
- Domiciled in Kentucky
- Pay at least 25% of the employees' single premium
- All employers in the FCBA health plan renew 1/1 each year

For more information or to see if the program is right for you and your employees, please get in touch with Kater Riddle at kriddle@shepherdins.com or call (502) 499-6880.

Take Care of Your Clients by Taking Care of Yourself



The Attorney Wellness Program (AWP)

The Attorney Wellness Program (AWP) was designed as a safe harbor for attorneys to address normal life difficulties in a confidential and professional environment.

WHY WAS THIS PROGRAM CREATED?

Being an attorney isn't easy. Difficulties with the current legal and learning delivery systems, maintaining a healthy work/life/family balance, and dealing with the normal stresses of everyday life can take their toll.

We serve many times as counselors to our clients who turn to us for guidance. Who do we turn to when we need to talk through an issue or get some coaching for how to handle stress in our life? Too often the answer is "no one," and that is regrettable because it is imperative that we be as healthy as possible in our role as advocates.

We deserve to function at our best in all areas of our life. By addressing areas of difficulty, we can decrease our stress levels and increase our levels of resilience.

Some examples of those difficulties include:

- Family issues
- Relationship problems
- Grief
- Work-related difficulties
- Alcohol/drug abuse
- Depression and anxiety
- Difficulty managing stress
- Mood swings
- Suicidal thoughts

HOW AWP WORKS

We have contracted our program with The Woodland Group. The Woodland Group will provide counseling to active attorney members of the Fayette County Bar Association.

Non-emergency sessions will be scheduled during regular business hours. Emergency sessions can be scheduled on a 24-hour, 7 day-a-week basis.

Seven licensed psychologists make up the Woodland Group and have been vetted by the FCBA. Steven Smith, Ph.D. and Sandra Hough, Ph.D. are our program coordinators and will serve as points of contact to access AWP.

The Woodland Group will maintain a confidential file for each attorney, but no insurance will be billed and FCBA will not be given any information about those who utilize the program. As such, this program is completely confidential which is crucial to its success. FCBA will pay The Woodland Group a monthly bill based on the number of sessions provided. The Woodland Group will verify FCBA membership from the directory on the FCBA webpage.

TO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT

- 1) Call the confidential hotline at 1-800-350-6438 and leave a message in either Dr. Smith's or Dr. Hough's voice mailbox.
- 2) They will call you back to schedule an appointment. It's that simple!

AWP Benefits

- 5 free sessions each calendar year
- Complete confidentiality
- Easy access
- Convenient location (535 W. 2nd Street, Suite 207) 24/7 availability

Strengthening our federal partnership

The Fayette County Bar Association is proud to continue strengthening its federal partnership through collaborative programming that connects our local bar with members of the federal judiciary and key legal leaders. This partnership reflects our shared commitment to professional development, meaningful dialogue, and access to high-quality continuing legal education for our members.

As part of this ongoing effort, the FCBA hosted a special **free CLE program on April 14** at the federal courthouse in Lexington.

Featured Speakers:

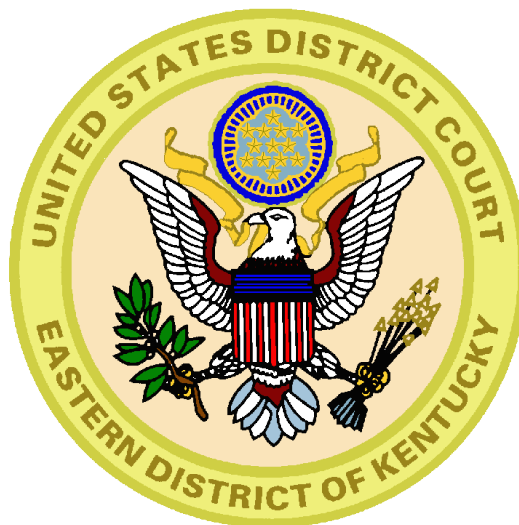
- **United States Circuit Judge** John K. Bush
- **United States District Judge** S. Chad Meredith
- **Solicitor General of Kentucky** Matthew Kuhn

The program, titled “**Anticipated Trends in Constitutional Litigation: What’s Next for SCOTUS and Appellate Courts**,” offered timely insights into emerging issues, recent developments, and what practitioners can expect in the evolving constitutional landscape.

Following the CLE, attendees were invited to continue the conversation at a reception at Jack Brown’s —an excellent opportunity to engage with colleagues and speakers in a more informal setting.

This event highlighted the strength of FCBA’s relationships within the federal legal community and our dedication to bringing impactful, accessible programming to our members.

We have more exciting programming planned, so don’t miss out! Join the federal practice section by indicating it on your 2026-2027 membership renewal form, or email info@fcba.com



Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC

Keeana Sajadi Boarman is joining Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC's (SKO) Lexington office as equity member on Monday, January 12 in the Business Services and Mergers & Acquisitions practice groups. Boarman comes to SKO from McBrayer's Lexington office and has more than 15 years of legal experience.

Well known in the greater Lexington community, Boarman served as general counsel for Commerce Lexington in 2024 and 2025 and was a member of the Board of Directors for the chamber. Boarman is an alumnus of the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law (2008) and Duke University (B.S., economics, 2003).

"Ms. Boarman's vast experience in corporate transactions and mergers and acquisitions will be a tremendous asset to our entire firm," said P. Douglas Barr, member and managing director. "She is a trusted advisor to clients and has an impressive record of timely, effective counsel in complex legal matters. Equally important, she has shown a true commitment to service to our community. She will further strengthen our Business Services and Mergers & Acquisitions practices. We are very happy to have Keeana join SKO."

Recognized by Best Lawyers and Kentucky Super Lawyers, Boarman has experience across our region's top industries, including bourbon and adult beverage products, healthcare, banking, natural resources, and professional services.

Boarman regularly counsels business owners, executives, and in-house legal counsel on business formation, corporate governance, business operations, and succession planning.

"I'm excited and honored to join SKO, a firm defined by its strength, history and commitment to client service," said Keeana Sajadi Boarman, member, Stoll Keenon Ogden.

Boarman's main focus at SKO will be helping clients through complex transactions and mergers and acquisitions. In these high-stakes transactional matters, Boarman brings clarity and simplifies the process for business owners, executives and in-house counsel.

To learn more about Keeana Sajadi Boarman, visit her webpage [here](#).

Stites & Harbison

Lawdragon has named Stites & Harbison, PLLC attorney **Chrisandrea L. Turner** to the 2026 Lawdragon 500 Leading Global Bankruptcy & Restructuring Lawyers. Turner has been recognized six times by Lawdragon. She is the only Kentucky attorney honored in 2026.

Lawdragon is a digital media company that provides online news and editorial features, including a variety of guides of the nation's leading lawyers. Recipients of Lawdragon honors are selected via review of nominations and extensive independent research. The Lawdragon 500 Leading Global Bankruptcy & Restructuring Lawyers guide typically includes lawyers who have been in practice for decades with significant experience in complex bankruptcies or the financings that prevent them.

Turner is a Member (Partner) based in the firm's Lexington office. She is Chair of the firm's Creditors' Rights & Bankruptcy Service Group. Her creditor focused practice includes bankruptcy, foreclosure, and lender liability litigation. She also regularly represents lenders, trade creditors, lessors and lessees, sureties and large creditors in Chapter 11 matters and complex bankruptcies around the country. Her litigation practice includes receiverships, preferential and fraudulent transfer defense in bankruptcies, and nondischarge of debt. Turner's practice touches all areas of commercial and corporate law.

Turner stays active in a variety of professional and community organizations. She is a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute, the Fayette County Bar Association's Women Lawyers Association and the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation. Turner serves on the Board of Directors of Dv8 Vocational Training Foundation and Leadership Kentucky. She is also the Greater Lexington Chamber of Commerce Representative to the Ethics Commission of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government.

The American College of Construction Lawyers (ACCL) has elected Stites & Harbison, PLLC attorney **Cassidy R. Rosenthal** to its Board of Governors. She will serve a three-year term.

Rosenthal is a Member (Partner) of Stites & Harbison based in the Lexington, Ky., office. She is a construction

Continued on page 15

Name in the News, continued

Continued from page 14

attorney with more than 20 years of experience working with owners, contractors, subcontractors and designers throughout all phases of construction projects and equipment procurement. Rosenthal assists clients in growing their businesses while providing measurable risk mitigation strategies. She helps clients navigate complex construction projects from concept to completion including advising on all facets of commercial construction projects such as data centers, manufacturing facilities, schools and universities, transportation initiatives and airports. She has also litigated and arbitrated disputes with successful jury and arbitrator awards that included recovery of attorney's fees.

Rosenthal is a leader both at the firm, serving as Stites & Harbison's Lexington Office Executive Member, and in the community. She is a Fellow of the ACCL, serves on the Governing Committee of the American Bar Association's Forum on Construction Law, is a Director of the Associated General Contractors of Kentucky and is a past Chair of Commerce Lexington.

Stites & Harbison, PLLC announced attorneys that have been promoted to Member (Partner). The promotions are effective January 1, 2026. The new Members (Partners) include: **Gentry C. Collins** – Lexington, Ky., office – Trusts & Estates Service Group

Collins advises individuals, families, and business owners on developing and implementing estate plans tailored to their personal and long-term objectives. Her practice includes the full spectrum of estate planning and estate and trust administration, with a focus on making complex planning clear and manageable for her clients. She has experience drafting comprehensive estate plans; advising on estate, gift and Kentucky inheritance tax matters; administering estates and trusts; and planning for long term care. Collins also designs business succession strategies, counsels on business entity selection, and forms and advises nonprofit organizations. She represents clients in fiduciary litigation and provides guidance on elder law matters.

McBrayer PLLC

McBrayer PLLC is pleased to announce the firm's planned leadership transition that reflects its continued growth and commitment to strategic, collaborative leadership. Beginning in the new year, **James H. Frazier, III** will transition from his long-standing role as Managing

Member to become Chief Executive Officer, focusing on firmwide strategy, growth, and innovation. At the same time, **Jaron Blandford** will assume the role of Managing Member, leading day-to-day firm operations and attorney development.

This new structure underscores McBrayer's evolution into a modern, multidisciplinary firm serving clients across Kentucky and beyond.

"For over 30 years, it has been my honor to serve as Managing Member," said James H. Frazier, III. "We have grown from a small team of seven attorneys into a respected, full-service firm with more than 120 professionals and offices in Lexington, Louisville, and Frankfort and a government relations office also in Frankfort, MML&K Government Solutions. Leadership at McBrayer has never been about titles, it's about people, values, and service. I'm proud of the legacy we've built together and confident that this transition positions us for even greater success."

Under Frazier's leadership, McBrayer has expanded its geographic footprint, broadened its practice offerings, and strengthened its reputation as a trusted advisor to businesses, institutions, and individuals throughout the Commonwealth. The firm's growing management infrastructure now will include a Chief Executive Officer, a Chief Financial Officer, Chief Human Resources Officer, and Chief Marketing Officer, reflecting its scale and sophistication as a regional leader and aligning more closely with the structure of the clients and industries it serves.

As the firm's new Managing Member, **Jaron Blandford** will bring fresh perspective while ensuring continuity of McBrayer's core values.

McBrayer PLLC proudly celebrates another year of growth and achievement, with a record-breaking 54 attorneys honored in the 2026 editions of Best Lawyers in America® and Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch®.

In the Lexington office, honorees include **Stephen G. Amato, Kenton L. Ball, Jason Bentley, Jaron P. Blandford, Keeana Sajadi Boarman, James H. Frazier, III, David J. Guarnieri, Mary Estes Haggin, Lisa English Hinkle, Virginia L. Lawson, Douglas T. Logsdon, Anne-Tyler Morgan, Daniel Luke Morgan,**

Name in the News, continued

W. Brent Rice, Christopher J. Shaughnessy, Luke A. Wingfield, Jon A. Woodall, Preston C. Worley, Brendan R. Yates, and Katherine K. Yunker.

Ward, Hocker & Thornton, PLLC

Pierce W. Hamblin joined Ward, Hocker & Thornton in late 2025.

“Rest assured that I have always and will continue to take great pride in providing fairness to all parties in every case I oversee. I consider it an honor to be entrusted with the responsibility of serving as both an Arbitrator and a mediator. Thank you for affording me that opportunity time and time again. You can continue to schedule appointments by contacting my assistant, April Brooks, or by utilizing the www.NADN.org website.”

Pierce can be reached at Pierce.Hamblin@whtlaw.com, or by contacting his assistant at April.Brooks@whtlaw.com.

Hicks & Funfsinn, PLLC

Langdon Ryan Worley was appointed by Governor Andy Beshear as a Special Justice to the Supreme Court of Kentucky to hear and decide the case of Eifler v. Greenamyre. Langdon is currently a litigation attorney at Hicks & Funfsinn, PLLC, in Lexington, Kentucky, as well as the Treasurer of the Fayette County Bar Association, a member of the High Street YMCA Advisory Board, a member of the Fayette County Bar Foundation Executive Board, past President of the Fayette County Women Lawyers Association, and current member of the Kentucky Justice Association (“KJA”) Board of Governors.

What makes some lawyers role models?

This is my last opportunity to communicate with each of you as the Bar President. Like all lawyers, I would like to end my case on a high note. I found a fascinating (and just plain great) article recently written by a good lawyer named James J. Sandman, who is President of the D.C. Bar. I wish I had these thoughts earlier, but the credit all belongs to Sandman. He points out that many lawyers are outstanding practitioners who achieve successful results for their clients. But few lawyers are role models - examples of all that a lawyer should be. Then, Sandman shared traits of these men and women:

1. They have a keen understanding of law as a service profession.

Every client is left with a sense that he or she is the most important client the lawyer has. The lawyer does not shrink from the less glamorous aspects of practice. There are no tasks they consider beneath them.

2. They have integrity.

The greatest admiration comes for lawyers who are straight forward, trust worthy and reliable. They admit and take responsibility for mistakes, they share credit, and they don't play games.

3. They are professional and respectful in all of their dealings, not only with clients and judges, but with adversaries, other lawyers, staff, and strangers.

Simply put, these lawyers treat others well and are never forgetful of the feelings of those around them.

4. They give back to their communities.

These lawyers do not hesitate to perform pro bono work regularly and throughout their careers. They engage in public and community service. They are volunteers.

5. They mentor other lawyers.

Role models regard the training and development of young lawyers as a personal and professional obligation. I am keen on this. I believe that it is my duty to tell all of my "kids" who are students in my UK Law School Class that I will never hesitate to place a phone call for them or write a recommendation letter. However, I make them promise they will do the same for others after they go into practice.

6. They value differences among people. Sandman notes that these lawyers have the self-confidence to be able to recognize that their way is not the only way, or always even the best way.

7. They never forget the family comes first.

Lawyers who are role models have balance in their lives. They know what is truly important in life.

8. They enjoy what they do.

Role models are happy in their personal and professional lives. They are positive, energetic, and enthusiastic.

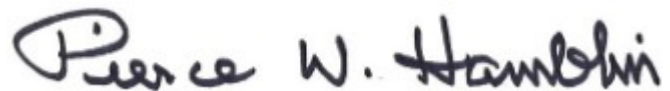
On a personal note, I also believe that role model lawyers fit within a quote made by Teddy Roosevelt in 1910 during a speech referred to as the "The Man in the Arena." Roosevelt stated

"It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or whether the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs, who comes short again and again, ... if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

In my mind, role model lawyers never let their actions be influenced by their fears. My father put that quote on my law office desk on my first day of practice in 1978. It has been on that desk ever since. I encourage each of you to think about what makes a role model lawyer. Then act on that thought. It has been a pleasure serving as Bar President.

Very truly yours,

Pierce W. Hamblin



UPCOMING EVENTS!

Law Day

May 5

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Carrick House

Centennial Celebration

September 17

Limestone Hall

Click [here](#) for the full FCBA Event Calendar.

**Thank you to the following firms for being members
of the 100% Club.**

**These firms have committed to having EVERY
member join our association.**



Baldani Law Group
Barnett Benvenuti & Butler PLLC
Bluegrass Elderlaw, PLLC
Boehl, Stopher & Graves LLP
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Clark Law Office, Inc.
Crosbie Eaton Oleson, PLLC
Dentons Bingham Greenebaum LLP
Fayette County Attorney's Office
FBT Gibbons
Fowler Bell PLLC
Gess Mattingly & Atchison, P.S.C.
Golden Law Office
Hicks & Funfsinn, PLLC
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