



THE ADVOCATE

Newsletter of the Advocates Society,
an Association of Polish-American Attorneys



OFFICERS FOR 2022-23

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2nd Vice President

Eryk J. Wachnik
3rd Vice President

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Kathy E. Bojczuk
Secretary

Julia Jensen Smolka
Historian

Board of Governors

The Management of this Society is vested in the Board of Governors, consisting of the Officers, Chairs of Standing Committees and Past Presidents. The Board shall advise, guide, direct and determine the overall policy of the Society.

Polish Solidarity with Ukraine

As the Russian military invades the sovereign country of Ukraine, many countries and organizations are providing emergency assistance and showing tremendous humanitarian efforts in helping people in Ukraine. Poland is one of those countries who has created refugee camps for fleeing Ukrainians entering Poland. This showing of solidarity is no surprise as both countries have shared histories of being invaded. As the days transpire, let us all keep Ukraine in our thoughts and prayers, and hope that justice, equity and rule of law prevail swiftly.



Remembering Pulaski

Casimir Pulaski Day is celebrated in Illinois on the first Monday in March. This year it is March 7th. Pulaski was born a member of the Polish landed gentry. He was well-educated and became a military officer. He became a leader in an ill-fated Revolution in Poland. The Bar Confederation was defeated by Russian and Prussian forces, and Pulaski retreated to exile in France, where he met and was recruited by Benjamin Franklin. Pulaski made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of Liberty and died of his wounds suffered at the Battle of Savannah.



Pulaski famously wrote to George Washington, "I came here, where freedom is being defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it." Pulaski's sacrifice reminds all of us that, no matter where our grandparents came from, what unites us as Americans is stronger than what divides us.



Calendar of Events

March 2022

2nd - Board Meeting; 6:30pm reception; 7pm meeting (Zoom)

7th - Pulaski Day Luncheon; 1pm (in-person, Smak Tak Polish Restaurant)

23th - General Meeting and CLE; 6:30pm reception; 7pm meeting (in-person, Copernicus)

April 2022

6th - Board Meeting; 6:30pm reception; 7pm meeting (in-person, Robbins Dimonte)

20th - General Meeting and CLE; 6:30pm reception; 7pm meeting (in-person, Johnson Phelps VFW Post #5220)

27th - Networking Event; Intro's and Elevator Speech; 12:15pm-1:30pm (Zoom)

30th - Southside Law Day Activity with Amicus Poloniae Legal Clinic (TBD)

May 2022

4th - Board Meeting; 6:30pm reception; 7pm meeting (Zoom and in-person)

7th - Polish Parade (TBD)

18th - Award of Merit Celebration; 6pm-9pm (in-person, Cafe La Cave)

25th - General Meeting and CLE; 6:30pm Reception; 7pm Meeting (in-person, Copernicus)

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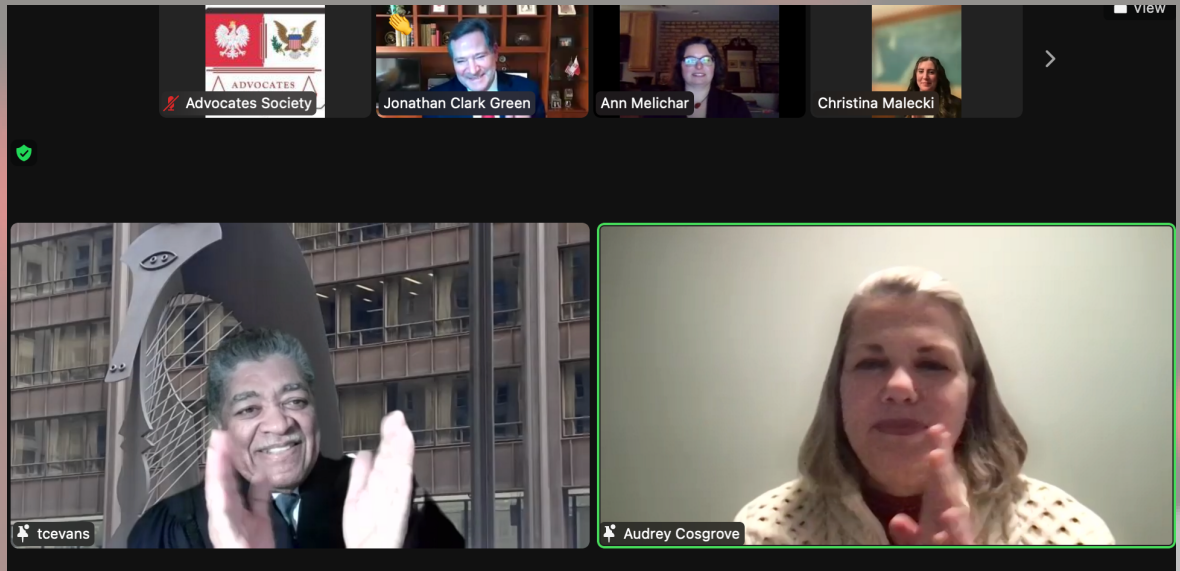
The Advocate is now scheduled to be published quarterly. Content, including news about members, can be emailed to Advocatessociety@gmail.com for publication consideration. The Joint Public Relations and Newsletter Committee manages, edits, and coordinates the production of the newsletter.

Joint Public Relations and Newsletter Committee:
Kathy E. Bojczuk, chair
Audrey V. Cosgrove
Pamela Menaker
Julia Jensen Smolka
Joan Smuda

2022 Installation

OF NEW OFFICERS

On the evening of February 28, 2022, Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans of the Cook County Circuit Court joined the Advocates Society for our General Meeting and to conduct the swearing in of our new officers for 2022-2023. Chief Judge Evans had kind words for each of the new officers and expressed that the Advocates Society was one of the warmest and most welcoming bar associations. Attorney Larry Krupp also attended as our CLE presenter on Tax Updates for 2022. Our next general meeting is March 23, 2022 at the Copernicus Center, King's Hall, located at 5216 W. Lawrence Avenue in Chicago.



Madame President's Corner

AUDREY V. COSGROVE

Thank you to all of you for supporting me as I assume the role of President of the Advocates Society. I appreciate the trust you have placed in me. I have been fortunate to have a good working relationship with my predecessor, Judge Jonathan Clark Green. Judge Green has had the unenviable role of keeping this group relevant during a pandemic. In addition to adapting our group to a virtual world he identified multiple areas where we could improve. He then set about to correct old problems and brought the group into the 21st Century, adopting tech and hiring a professional management company to help the Advocates flourish.

My overall goal this year is to continue to build on the strong base that Judge Green has made for us. During this year I will be working to do the following:

- Strengthen and formalize committees.
- Each committee, both standing and ad hoc, will have a regular meeting schedule and be prepared to make a report on their activities at the general meetings. All the work of the organizations should be done in the committees and the Board meetings will be for the committees to bring forth any committee issues that require discussion by the Board.
- Strengthen the professional development of our members in every stage of their career.
- The Advocates are a group for a lawyer's lifetime. Student members are eager to make connections and learn about the different areas of law. They look at older members as examples of their future. Young members are juggling families and developing their

careers. They don't always have time to participate in after work activities. They need support during this demanding time in their lives. Older members are perhaps seeking a seat on the bench or thinking about modifying their practice as they transition to retirement. They need guidance from those that have been through it. Our events will provide something of interest for every member.

By providing social/professional and purely social activities for our members and their families this organization exists to create an opportunity for our members to develop lifelong friendships. It is also creating a comfortable space to be among others who not only share a common cultural upbringing but also get what we are going through as lawyers. I would like us to strive to be like family to one another and be fearlessly welcoming to all at our events.

We have a great Board this year. Each person on this Board shares my warm, welcoming, and collaborative spirit. As we move into this new Advocates year, I leave you with this thought. The success of this organization depends on the participation of the members. Whether by committing to a position on the Board or a committee, or by helping at a single event, everyone should be doing something. It is a known fact that our experience with the organization is made so much richer when we step up and participate. We will soon reach out to all our members with volunteer opportunities.

Sincerely,

Audrey V. Cosgrove



Event Highlights

Judge Wilbrandt, presents, "New Year, New Laws"



At the January 20th meeting of the Advocates Society, Judge Robert Wilbrandt presented a CLE summarizing a long list of laws that went into effect this year. Judge Wilbrandt is a Circuit Judge of the 22nd Judicial Circuit. He is currently assigned to hear felony jury trials. He has been on the McHenry County bench for over fourteen years.

In his fast paced and entertaining presentation, the Judge covered a wide spectrum of laws passed by the 102nd General Assembly, organized by topic. He led with the news that *Penicillium Rubens* NRRL, 1951 is now our "State Microbe." Significantly, he also noted that children under 16 operating "lemonade stands" are no longer required to obtain a state, local health or zoning regulatory permit. He noted changes in Civil Procedure, Family Law, Civil Law, Juvenile Law and Traffic Law, just to name a few. If you weren't there, you might not know that it is now illegal to operate your turn signal when you are not actually about to make a turn!

There was so much to digest in this excellent presentation that we encourage all to request a copy of the power point slides, which have citations to all of the new laws that the Judge discussed.

Thank you, Judge Wilbrandt for spending an enlightening evening with us!

2nd Annual Maryville Crisis Nursery Wish List Drive

On December 18, 2021, the Advocates held their second drive to benefit the Maryville Crisis Nursery. Advocate Julia Smolka collected in person donations at the Copernicus Center. Advocates generously donated money and items off the wish list, which included bottles, bibs, diapers, children's clothing and even laundry detergent. Julia's SUV was full of donations, and many more members took advantage of their Amazon wish list, which is found on their website, to ship items straight to the center.

The Maryville Crisis Nursery is a vital, innovative program that provides free short-term care for parents in distress or crisis. The Crisis Nursery protects their children, birth to age six, from abuse, neglect or trauma.

Children receive round-the-clock childcare for up to 72 hours for each stay. This safe and nurturing environment is designed to protect them from harmful experiences and the damaging effects of trauma. Issues that bring families to the Maryville Crisis Nursery include unemployment, parental illness or hospitalization, poverty and homelessness.

The Crisis Nursery is located at 6650 W. Irving Park Rd. in Chicago. For more information on donating, check out their website:

<https://www.maryvilleacademy.org/programs/maryville-family-support-services/maryville-crisis-nursery/>



Advocate SPOTLIGHT: John J. Pikarski, Jr.



To get readers better acquainted with the Members of the Advocate Society, we spotlight a Member in each issue. This Spring's issue, we feature a Question and Answer with John J. Pikarski, Jr., who is in private practice and the 2022 recipient of the Advocates Society Award of Merit.

Why are you a member of the Advocates Society?

In the initial stages of my career, I wished to meet people and become known in the profession. Additionally, I take great pride in being Polish and wish to help establish others of Polish heritage. Finally, my wife and I have created life-long friendships through the Advocates Society.

Give us an example of how being a member of the Advocates Society empowered you as an attorney.

My membership has enabled me to meet judges, hearing officers, board members and diplomats on a personal basis who I would not have had an opportunity to interact with but for my membership.

What are you most looking forward to most in the coming year, personally and professionally?

I most look forward to freedom from Covid so I can begin to travel the world once again. Professionally I hope to continue my practice in the areas of land use, real estate taxation and condemnation.

Tell us something interesting about yourself.

I have been fortunate enough to have been appointed to two Presidential commissions (the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad) and to have accompanied the President and Vice President of the United States on several delegations.

Notes from a Professor

PROFESSOR MARK E. WOJCIK

Professor Wojcik, for those who do not know you, would you please introduce yourself?

I'm a Professor at the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law (previously known as The John Marshall Law School). I've taught courses include Criminal Law, Torts, Lawyering Skills, International Law, International Business Transactions, International Litigation, International Trade, and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law.

I've also taught courses at law schools in Italy, Lithuania, Mexico, and Switzerland, and I was one of the first professors teaching at the first law school in the Kingdom of Bhutan. I was a Fulbright Specialist in Bhutan and a Fulbright Professor in Italy, teaching international law. I've also lectured in Egypt, Jordan, Singapore, and other countries.

Before I started teaching in 1992, I was a law clerk at the Nebraska Supreme Court and a senior law clerk at the U.S. Court of International Trade. I practiced customs and international trade law in New York before coming back to Chicago. In 1994-95, I was Court Counsel to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau during the year that Palau became an independent country.

I'm the founder of the Global Legal Skills Conference Series, which brings together law professors from around the world. I'm a Past President of Scribes—The American Society of Legal Writers. I've served on the Board of Governors of the Illinois State Bar Association and the Board of Managers of the Chicago Bar Association. I've held many other leadership positions in the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools.

My husband, David Austin, is from Italy. He's now also a law professor. He teaches at California Western School of Law in San Diego.

What do you enjoy most about being a professor?

It's a great privilege to be responsible for the education and skills training of hundreds of new lawyers. Actually, it's been thousands of lawyers over the years. I enjoy advising students about their academic challenges and their future careers. I'm so proud of all my students.

Being a professor also allows me to learn and think about new legal developments and emerging trends in the law. This also allows me to contribute to the public debate on legal developments.

Do you miss being a lawyer?

I'm still a lawyer of course but I don't take on many new cases. I do enjoy working on cases with other lawyers from time to time. That helps me be a better professor too because I don't want to be the guy in the front of the classroom who is trying to teach but who knows nothing about practice. Also I get calls each month from persons or groups who need legal advice.

Did you have mentors as an attorney or a professor? What is the most valuable lesson(s) you learned from your mentor(s)?

As much as we'd each like to think that we achieve success all on our own, no one gets anywhere without the help of others. Early on in my career I was advised that the best mentors I could find would be persons who were active in bar associations. Those are the people who value community, professional development, and lifelong friendships.

(Continued on Page 8)

Notes from a Professor (continued)

PROFESSOR MARK E. WOJCIK

Do you have any advice for attorneys trying to become professors?

It's hard to land a job as a full-time law professor but I'd be happy to talk with any members of the Advocates Society about that. It's much easier to get a job as an adjunct professor, however. And because law schools across the country have increased the number of on-line courses they offer, you could be an on-line adjunct almost anywhere in the country. I think also that many members of the Advocates Society could do online teaching or online guest lectures for law schools in Poland.

How has your involvement in The Advocates and Polonia impacted your career?

When I was a law student, I was fortunate enough to receive a scholarship from the Knights of Dąbrowski - Crusade for Education. For me this was also my introduction to the Advocates Society and to Chicago's amazing network of Polish lawyers. I've benefited so much from the professional and personal contacts I've made over the years.



"As much as we'd each like to think that we achieve success all on our own, no one gets anywhere without the help of others."

PROFESSOR WOJCIK

A Thank You to My Colleagues

HON. JONATHAN CLARK GREEN

Little did I know when I took the oath of office as the President of the Advocates Society in late February 2020 that we would be confronted with the many challenges that we have experienced over the last two years. We have, nonetheless, persevered and have taken advantage of this time to lay a strong foundation for the next generation of Advocates members. Not only have we arranged for professional administrative support for the organization with our arrangement with Chicago Association Management (CAM), but we have shored up our supportive arrangements with both the Amicus Poloniae Legal Clinic, in cooperation with the Polish National Alliance (PNA), and the Polish-American Advocates Scholarship Foundation. We have also modernized our committee and membership structure to respond to the growing demands of present-day practice and the continuing interest of new generations of Polish-American attorneys, from newly-arrived law students and attorneys to third and fourth generation Polish-Americans. We have been able to achieve all of this while still continuing our support for the Polish Museum of America, host of our Annual Judges Nights, as well as a number of other important Polish-American organizations.

All of this would not be possible without the support of my fellow officers and committee chairs. I have been honored to serve with this dedicated group of attorneys. I am especially grateful to my fellow officers, each of whom further dedicated their time under these unusual circumstances to serve an extra year in their terms to ensure further stability for the organization and see it through these demanding times. At the same time, along with maintaining our robust CLE programming, there was a renewed interest and introspection into own Polish heritage and history. We enjoyed popular presentations on the history of Polonia in Chicago by acclaimed historian Dominic Pacyga, as well as a presentation by Historian Peter Atgeld on the upcoming traveling Polish History

exhibit between the Chicago History Museum and the new Polish History Museum being built in Warsaw. This recognition of our rich shared history is all the more important as we face our new challenges.

During my tenure, as mentioned in my installation speech, I sought to bring together all corners of the Polonia community here in Chicago, reflecting my own background with Polish-Catholic and Polish-Jewish parents, with most of my grandparents born in Poland. My efforts to include a Rabbi as well as a Priest at our installation dinners was very well-received, and I hope our future organization events will continue to be as inclusive. Reflecting the values and history of Poland itself, we truly have had a diverse Polish-American membership through the years, and will continue to do so. Supporting Poland's role in the advancement of the Rule of Law, from the Polish Constitution of 1791 onward, continues to be an important role for our organization. Especially now, where modern Poland, a strong member of the European Union and NATO, has come to the forefront as an incredibly essential bulkhead of democracy in central and eastern Europe, we as Advocates members need to step forward and continue to do whatever we can to support the efforts of our brethren in all areas to ensure the rights of all.

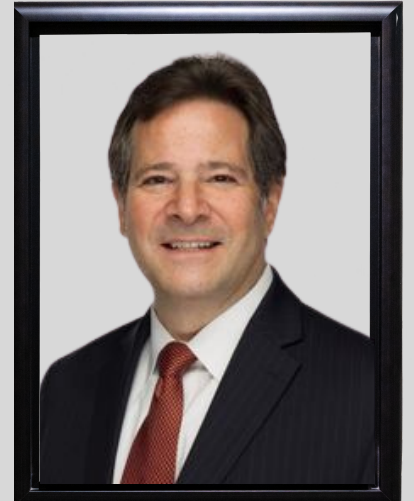
As we open up again after this long pandemic, we look forward to a great future and to re-uniting with our many friends and colleagues, as well as our new members who have joined the ranks. I am confident that we are in great hands with the talented and committed incoming slate of officers. Our new President Audrey Cosgrove has already proven herself as a true leader, and I look forward to assisting the organization in any way I can in the future. Again, thank you to all of my fellow members for this opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

Hon. Jonathan Clark Green

Thank you to the 2020-2022 Past Officers!

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to Past President, the Honorable Jonathan Clark Green and the 2020-2022 Officers. These past two years have been trying times for all of us, but the entire Advocates Society is so thankful to you all for your impressive work, dedication, and service. We wish each of you continued success.



Hon. Jonathan Clark Green, President



Audrey V. Cosgrove, 1st Vice-President



Allison R. Pawlicki, 2nd Vice-President



Christina N. Malecki, 3rd Vice-President



Joanna Pawlowska, Secretary



Ann L. Melchar, Treasurer



Eryk J. Wachnik, Historian

STANDING COMMITTEES

Award of Merit

Duties include: to consider and review candidates for the Society's Award of Merit. The purpose of the Award is to honor an individual from the Greater Chicagoland area who has contributed to the advancement and progress of the Polish Community in Chicago in some special way or by a history of service.

Constitution and Bylaws

Duties include: to receive, review and recommend to the General Membership amendments and changes to the Constitution and By-laws of the Advocates Society.

Finance and Budget

Duties include: to submit at the meeting of the Board of Governors in March, a proposed budget reflecting estimated income and expenditures for the ensuing year. The Chair of this Committee shall be the Treasurer of the Society.

Membership

Duties include: to seek and solicit new members and receive and process their applications for membership.

MCLE

Duties include: to investigate ways the Advocates Society can bring opportunities to earn Mandatory Continuing Legal Education credit to its members.

Joint Public Relations and Newsletter

Duties include: to publicize the activities of the Society insofar as they affect the public at large; to obtain due recognition of the efforts of this Society and its members; and establish and maintain proper and suitable relations between the public and the Bar; to edit and publish the Society's Newsletter, *The Advocate*.

Steering

Duties include: to consider all matters pertaining to civic or political endorsements for elective or appointive office and to make recommendations relating thereto.

Welfare

Duties include: to observe and perform the usual and customary services incident to the illness, bereavement or death of a member of this Society or of his or her immediate family.

Committee Highlighted:

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

All of the real action in the Advocates Society happens in Committees. All members are encouraged to find a committee that suits your interests and get involved. In this issue, we are focusing on the Membership Committee.

Current Chair Joan Smuda has been working with CAM for several months updating and correcting our membership lists. In addition to keeping track of existing members, the Membership Committee engages in outreach to practicing attorneys and law students who share our interest in Polish heritage and culture. Committee members recruit new members, send welcome emails to new members and act as Buddies to make sure that our new members feel welcome and get to know everyone in the Society. Joan, as a 40 year plus member of the Society, explains her mission as one of Mentorship. "When I joined the Advocates, I had just started my own practice and did not know any experienced attorneys," she says. "However, at the Advocates I found lawyers who taught me how to bill, gave me practice tips and exposed me to what we now call 'Best Practices.' But most of all, I made lifelong friends. I just love to be able to pass on that experience to others."

Reach out to Joan if you are interested in this valuable work. You may contact Joan Smuda by email, jsmuda@yahoo.com.

JOIN a Committee!

Please visit our website, www.advocatessociety.com, for a complete list of committees and their scope statements. Anyone interested, please email: Advocatessociety@gmail.com.

Special Announcements

Advocate **John J. Pikarski, Jr.** was named the honorable recipient of the Advocates Society Award of Merit.

Advocate **Kathy E. Bojczuk** joined Life Span as supervisory family law attorney. Life Span is a nonprofit organization which provides victims of abuse with legal services, advocacy, and counseling.

Advocate **Christina Malecki** is featured in this month's issue of The Catalyst, the Newsletter of the ISBA Women's Law Section Council.

Advocate **Maureen Catherine Pikarski**, was appointed as Commissioner of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad by President Biden.

Advocate **Mark B. Grzymala** was named a 2022 Illinois Super Lawyer. His law practice focuses in the areas of commercial litigation, mechanics liens, construction law, and corporate law.

Advocate **Julia Jensen Smolka** is now a partner at Robbins Dimonte, Ltd. It's a merger of two local firms Robbins Solomon and Patt and DiMonte & Lizak. You might recognize Dimonte & Lizak, from retired Advocates past president Chet Lizak.

We encourage every Advocate to email us any announcements such as job promotions, awards received or personal achievements.

Advocatessociety@gmail.com

Best Paczki in Chicago

By Kathy Bojczuk, Editor

When you celebrate Fat Tuesday on March 1st, you cannot forget to get some paczki. This Polish tradition comes from many centuries ago. According to Wikipedia, there are records showing people have been making and eating these treats since the 16th century. These sugar-coated Polish doughnuts are filled with many goodies, from tart berry preserves and vanilla custard to whipped cream and fresh fruit.

There are many, many bakeries in Chicago that offer these delicious treats. But in my humble opinion, the BEST paczki in Chicago (at least in the North Side) has to be the "Polish Paczki Café" located at 7210 W. Foster Avenue. They have paczki all year round and only one kind of paczki, with rose jam, and it's always warm, soft, and so delicious!

Enjoy and Smacznego!





In Memoriam The Honorable Bettina Gembala

In February, we announced the sad news of the passing of longtime Advocate Bettina Gembala. Judge Gembala was a retired judge and past president of the National Advocates Society. She was a legend in the legal community and was also cherished by her family and husband, Judge Francis A. Gembala, who passed away only one year prior. Judge Bettina Gembala's favorite prayer, the Prayer of St. Francis, states, "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, where there is doubt, faith..." and exemplified her confidence in her close relationship with the Lord which sustained her until she entered into eternal rest and reunited with her husband.

Amicus Poloniae Legal Clinic

Volunteers are needed (attorneys and Polish translator) for the Amicus Poloniae Legal Clinic Sessions.

WHEN? Saturday - March 19th, April 9th, and May 21st; 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

WHERE? In-person at the Polish National Alliance (6100 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago) OR via Zoom, OR by being "on call."

HOW? Contact us by emailing: Advocatessociety@gmail.com, and we will make sure you receive a CVLS volunteer registration form to fill out prior to the next session so you are all set for the session you want to attend and those for the rest of the year. CVLS provides legal liability coverage for registered volunteers.

Committee Selections

The Board will soon be making selections to the 2022-23 committees.

Much of the Advocates Society's work on behalf of its members is carried out by its substantive working committees. These committees provide information, continuing legal education, and a way to get involved with the organization and with other Advocates.

Please visit our website, www.advocatessociety.com, for a complete list of committees and their scope statements.

Newsletter Submissions

The next deadline for newsletter submissions is May 15, 2022.

Please send email items to Advocatessociety@gmail.com. Articles should be in Word format and pictures in jpeg format. Permission to publish as received or edited is assumed when emailed. Any announcements such as job promotions, awards received or personal achievements, may also be submitted.



Happy Springtime!

FROM THE ADVOCATES SOCIETY