

# *In Brief*

*A Quarterly Publication of the McHenry County Bar Association*

*May 2019*

## LAW DAY 2019



Peter F. Carroll presenting the Distinguished Service Award posthumously to John J. Horeled with Heather Horeled, his wife, accepting on his behalf



Chief Judge James S. Cowlin giving opening remarks at the May 3rd luncheon



Cindy Sullivan, Executive Director of Options & Advocacy, thanking everyone after receiving the Liberty Bell Award

# Upcoming Events

## Board of Governors

2018/19

### Executive Committee

Steven Greeley  
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Jennifer L. Johnson  
*1st Vice President*

Jenette Schwemler  
*2nd Vice President*

Peter Carroll  
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Michael Wurster  
*Bylaws*

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*Civil Practice*

Thomas Vaclavek  
*Commission on Professionalism*

Patrick Kenneally  
*Continuing Legal Ed.*

Robert Deters  
*Criminal Law Section*

Dawn Roth  
*Family Law Section*

Hon. Mark Fachinni  
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Jennifer L. Johnson  
*Law Day*

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*Legal Aid*

Scott Jacobson  
*Legislative*

Hon. Robert Baderstadt  
*(Ret.)*

*Membership/Directory*

Hon. Mary H. Nader  
*Newsletter*

T.J. Clifton  
*Outreach*

Doreen T. Paluch  
*Real Estate*

Vonda Vaughn  
*Social*

Drake Shunneson  
*Technology*

Amber Bishop  
*Young/New Lawyers*

Rhonda L. Rosenthal  
*Past President*

Date	Event	Location	Time
May 9	Civil Law Section Meeting	MCBA Office	Noon
May 14	Family Law Section Annual	MCBA Office	Noon
May 21	Board of Governors Meeting	MCBA Office	Noon
May 28	PSLS Award Luncheon	Woodstock Country Club	Noon
June 18	Board of Governors Meeting	MCBA Office	Noon
June 25	Annual Meeting	TBD	Noon
July 11	Civil Law Section Meeting	MCBA Office	Noon
July 16	Board of Governors Meeting	MCBA Office	Noon
July 23	General Meeting	TBD	Noon
August 2	Golf Outing	Whisper Creek Golf Club	11am Shotgun Start

## Board Meeting Minutes

[January](#) Meeting Minutes

[February](#) Meeting Minutes

[March](#) Meeting Minutes

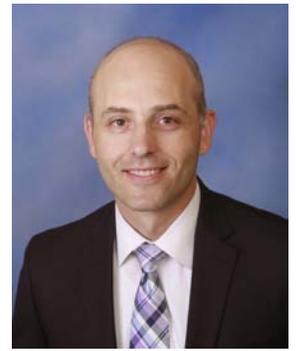
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# President's Page

By Steven J. Greeley, Jr.

2018/19 MCBA President



## Enjoy This Lawyer Life

Deadlines, billing, complaining, arguing, finances, staff management, marketing, free advice. Most of our work lives are filled with activities that most find unpleasant. After this final writing, I will become a past president and I will not be able to address all of you again so I thought I would mention some of the great things about being a lawyer and encourage you all to take part in them and to try to avoid some of the bad. I hope this will be helpful to all of you and me because I do not always practice what I preach.

One of the best things we can do is to be efficient. Planning and delegating can buy you time for the more important things like family, friends, leisure and relaxation. Make sure you have enough assistance with ministerial tasks to free your time to handle as much of the purely legal work as possible. When handling the legal tasks, ask yourself if what you are doing is necessary. Do you need to type a long responsive email or can you be more efficient by dictating it.

I also find that triaging the dozens of emails and other new documents and voicemails that may be waiting can ease anxiety over the perception of being swamped. Delegate away those that are eligible and put aside items that can wait. Look at what is remaining and then order them as necessary.

Make sure not to overbook yourself. I am happy when I see an occasional day that will fly by with wall to wall appointments but if I do not block out desk time in the next couple days I will have a huge backlog with overtime hours coming. Calendar the desk time during office hours so you can avoid the after-hours time away from other enjoyment.

Please also remember that often times it is the bad cases and bad clients that take up a lot of unenjoyable and sometimes uncollectable time so be sure to put some time into deciding whether to even take the case. This will free your time to be involved in what you enjoy.

Once your delegation and efficiency is going well, you can focus on the good paying and respecting clients who will appreciate all your hard work. You will also be able to take pride in expertly handling a well-planned case that may vastly improve and change your client's life for years to come.

Another great part about our profession is the social aspect. Many professions are spent in isolation with little time for small talk. We have the great opportunity to have quality conversations with our fellow lawyers, clients and others in the community on a daily basis. Our bar is very friendly and would be there in a heartbeat for anyone in need.

On a daily basis we also have the pleasure to help others as we serve as amateur therapists, publicists, financial planners, life coaches, and mentors. We not only change lives by getting people through their legal matters, we make an impression on their lives that makes a difference for them and for society as a whole. We are also in a better position than people in most professions to give back to the community.

Our bar members are also in a position to better the lives of the people they encounter. We can have the time and resources to teach our children and influence our friends, family and acquaintances to be members of society who make strides to better it. We treat people with respect and we are conscious of how our decisions impact others. The world needs more of that so keep it up!

Please do not forget to enjoy our world while you are bettering it. Will the extra time you say you have to put in today really matter in the end? Will that extra time actually cause you more stress and more problems at home and elsewhere? I try to live by the work hard play hard slogan. Get your tasks done for the day so you can get out and experience everything you desire. I cannot wait to hear about the great things you have done or are going to do when we see each other again.

# The Swearing In of Judge Hansen



# The Swearing In of Judge Zalud



# Civil Trial Call

**Case Number: 12LA383**

Plaintiff: Karen Parrish  
Defendant: Village of Fox River Grove  
Plaintiff's Attorney: Baudin & Baudin  
Defendant's Attorney: Ancel, Glink, Diamond, et al.  
Trial Dates: February 19-February 22, 2019  
Judge: Kevin G. Costello  
Verdict: Plaintiff  
Medical: \$10,000  
Pain & Suffering: \$35,000  
Loss of Normal Life: \$15,000  
Net total Verdict: \$60,000

**Case Number: 17SC2227**

Plaintiff: Pekin Insurance  
as subrogee of William Morefield  
Defendant: Luis Licona and Blanca Rivera  
Plaintiff's Attorney: Esp Kreuzer Cores, LLP  
Defendant's Attorney: Swope Law Offices, LLC  
Trial Date: March 11, 2019  
Judge: Thomas A. Meyer  
Plaintiff's Contributory Negligence: 0%  
Net Total Verdict: \$1883.13  
Last Demand: \$1883.13  
Last Offer: \$0

**Case Number: 14LA258**

Plaintiff: Orlando Miraldi  
Defendant: Paul Dietz  
Plaintiff's Attorney: Damisch & Damisch  
Defendant's Attorney: Andrew D. Ellbogen  
Trial Date: April 1, 2019  
Judge: Thomas A. Meyer  
Verdict: Directed finding on issue of negligence; Jury found for defendant on proximate cause.

**Case Number: 17LA53**

Plaintiff: Theresa Nick  
Defendant: Trent Keegen, et al.  
Plaintiff's Attorney: Compton Law Group  
Defendant's Attorney: Law Office of Steven Lihosit  
Trial Date: April 15– April 16, 2019  
Judge: Thomas A. Meyer  
Medical: \$22,400  
Pain & Suffering: \$2,600  
Plaintiff's Contributory Negligence: 0%  
Net Total Verdict: \$25,000  
Last Demand: None  
Last Offer: \$21,000



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## **New Members**

Lillian G. Gonzalez

Alyssa D. Smith

Carla N. Wyckoff

Danelle M. Wozniak

Katherine M. Moorhouse

Matthew T. Brodersen

Timothy D. Brandner

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## CASA of McHenry County

By: Tom Vaclavek

How many of you know what CASA stands for? If you don't, you're not alone; however, I encourage you to read on and learn more.

Seven years ago, I didn't know what CASA was either. In fact, I had never even heard of the organization much less knew what they did or stood for. Then I was invited to a breakfast with my friend Mark who had been serving on the Board of Directors for CASA for a few years. I was unbelievably impacted by what I learned at that breakfast. Kids, in our county, the county that I had lived in and worked in for almost twenty years, were victims of abuse and neglect. I wasn't naïve to think that this wasn't happening at all; but the extent of the tragedy and suffering that so many kids in the community I call home experienced blew me away.

Did you know there are over 2000 reports of abuse and neglect each year in McHenry County alone? Did you know on average each child placed in foster care will spend over 20 months in the system and that on average those children in foster care will have to change homes three times?

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. These advocates go through extensive training in order to help children that otherwise would have no voice. CASA advocates spend time with the children, families, foster parents, teachers and medical professionals to collect information that helps the Court make decisions that are in the best interest of the child. The goal is always finding a safe and permanent home for the child as soon as possible. Often, advocates are the only constant in a child's life while they go through foster care and the courts.

I have been lucky enough to serve on the Board for CASA for almost six years now. The stories I have heard over the years about the good that advocates do day in and day out is truly inspiring. Advocates tend to the needs of each child so that they too, can thrive. A child with a CASA will find a permanent home eight months sooner than one without. A child with an advocate is half as likely to re-enter foster care. Children with a CASA are also much less likely to become incarcerated and much more likely to graduate high school.

In 2018, CASA advocates were appointed in almost 200 cases by the Court. Think about that for a minute...McHenry County had almost two hundred children in the court system in 2018 alone simply because their parents either couldn't or wouldn't care for them properly. Two hundred kids were provided a voice. Two hundred children had not only someone, but an organization and a community fighting for them. There are still more children that need a voice. I encourage and challenge every one of you be that voice. To learn more contact CASA of McHenry County at [www.casamchenrycounty.org](http://www.casamchenrycounty.org).



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# New Members

**Karen Tobin** is an associate attorney at SmithAmundsen LLC where she assists clients in the formation of new business entities, raising of capital through Regulation D and Regulation A, preparation of private placement memoranda and associated agreements, and is very familiar with the filing process of the Illinois Secretary of State, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. Karen has in-depth knowledge and experience with not-for-profit corporate formation and qualification of tax exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service for both 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. She is instrumental in qualifying organizations for Women Business Enterprise Certification, Minority Business Enterprise Certification, and Disadvantaged Business Certifications as well as annual recertifications. Karen has experience in small claims contract litigation, shareholder dispute settlement negotiation, and litigation involving breaches of fiduciary duty and fraudulent conveyance.



**Roger W. Stelk** founded the Law Offices of Roger W. Stelk in 1995 in Arlington Heights. He focuses his practice on all aspects of family law including divorce, maintenance, child support, parental allocation (child custody), paternity, and post-decree modifications. He also practices extensively in residential real estate transactions and probate (including decedent's estates and guardianships for disabled adults). Mr. Stelk began his legal career in 1987. Prior to founding his own firm he worked as an associate in two Chicago-area law firms. He has worked as an arbitrator in Lake and Cook Counties and as a court facilitator for family law cases in Cook County. He has a "Superb" Avvo rating and has been a recipient of the Avvo Client's Choice award. He has an AV Preeminent peer review rating from Martindale-Hubbell and has been named an Illinois Super Lawyer for the last five years. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association, the Northwest Suburban Bar Association and the McHenry County Bar Association. In January 2019, Mr. Stelk opened a second office in McHenry, while still maintaining his office in Arlington Heights. The McHenry office was opened to better serve his ever-growing clientele in McHenry and Lake counties.



**Lillian G. Gonzalez** is an experienced civil litigator. Her practice includes all areas involving Family law, Mortgage Foreclosure, Real Estate, Bankruptcy, Immigration and Illinois Secretary of State Reinstatement of Driving Privileges. Lillian strongly believes that all individuals deserve equal access to justice and realizes that every individual and family has values and goals for themselves and their families. She listens to what the client has to say and provides the client with legal options so that they may feel empowered while navigating the legal system.



Attorney Gonzalez joined Bruning & Associates, P.C. in January 2019. Prior to joining Bruning & Associates, P.C. she was the owner of Gonzalez Law Office, Ltd., where she practiced law for 12 years. Before she became a licensed attorney, Ms. Gonzalez was a Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor and carried various positions with Social Service Agencies in the Chicagoland area.

*La Abogada Gonzalez es completamente bilingue*

## Lawyer-to-Lawyer: Let's Have a Chat

By: Michael Wurster, *Zanck, Coen, Wright & Saladin, P.C.*



To everyone reading this, I am sure you have heard the saying, “Law school does not teach you how to practice the law.” To say that statement is all too true would be an understatement. There I was, seven months into practicing law, standing out in the hallway on the third floor deciding how to draft an order granting my firm a judgment for fees and realizing I was not sure how I should word the order. After three years of law school, competing in Moot Court, taking part in mock trial, participating in a clinic for over a year, and taking a wide variety of different classes, I was left wandering the hallways looking for my mentor to run the language by him before I entered the order. In fact, despite every class, clinic, and team I had participated in during law school, I had never seen a pleading, interrogatory, subpoena, request to produce or court order prior to practicing.

Instead, like most new attorneys I learned as I went along, leaning on the attorneys in my firm and, thankfully, my mentors.

I am sure all of you are aware that the McHenry County Bar Association has established the lawyer-to-lawyer mentoring program. The point of the program is to pair an experienced attorney who has been practicing at least five years with a new attorney who has been practicing for less than five years. The hope is that the new attorney can lean on, learn from, and grow under the guidance of the older, more experienced attorney. As I have found, repeatedly, some things you only learn with time and having others who can show the way. And instead of just telling you information about the program which you can all find and read, I thought I would tell you about my experience and the value I have found in the program as a new attorney.

First, and foremost, the mentoring program has helped me learn how to practice. My first-year practicing as a new, young attorney required me learning how to

practice family law – the one area of law I did not study in law school. And possibly the most volatile area of legal practice in McHenry County. My mentor and I regularly talked about how to work with other attorneys in a professional but firm manner. Also, as not just a new attorney but a young attorney I had to learn how to interact with clients in a way that cultivated confidence and push back on any concerns regarding my inexperience. The attorneys in my firm were great at teaching me about client interaction and how to practice as a young, yet confident attorney. However, my mentor and I also discussed how to delicately approach client pushback on strategy, standing your ground on your analysis, and being a counselor to clients in their hour of need. His experience and advice gave me a different point of view and new ideas

as to pull from. Also, we would often discuss his early years practicing: the struggles, approach to learning, strategy for clients who were particularly hard to deal with, and his advice on how to handle general practice issues.

Those stories resonated with me more than any article or book ever could. Those talks directly impacted how I approach day to day practice on a practical level.

Furthermore, as a new attorney learning how to practice family law my mentor was an invaluable resource on the law. Other than the family law section of the bar review course I took, I had never taken a single class on family law in law school. So, while I had a very basic understanding of family law, I really had no idea how all the different issues worked together or played out during a case. Talking through how to determine if maintenance is appropriate (before the formula was created by the legislature), what issues judges care about regarding custody and visitation, and what case law I should look at regarding those issues provided me at least a base of knowledge to

***“Law school does not teach you how to practice the law.”***

work from where I might have had none. While I certainly worked with and asked questions of the attorneys in my firm and learned most of what I know from them, the time with my mentor going through issues was incredibly valuable. And as a new attorney who got my first job out of law school after a year searching for a job, having someone outside of my firm to ask questions I might feel silly asking a partner at my firm helped to relieve huge amounts of stress. My mentor was a confidant and outlet. I could go to him if I had a question or ran into an issue while at the courthouse and it made my first year of practice, one of the most stressful periods in my life, easier.

Aside from the impact having a mentor had on the technical aspects of practicing as a new attorney it helped on a simpler level – I had a friendly face in the community. While everyone was welcoming when I was first hired, navigating the legal community was daunting. You meet so many people in your first few months it is hard to keep track of everyone and going to events where you may not know anyone can be rough. Having someone you know you can quickly reach out to at court if they are there, make introductions while waiting for a case to be called, or just including you in events that may be helpful making connections in the community is wonderful. It helped me to get to know other attorneys and take part in events knowing I had someone else there I would at least know.

And now, more than just having a mentor, I've made a friend. I was going to title this article Briefcase and Burgers because my current mentor and I frequently go to D.C. Cobbs to meet, have a burger, and talk about life and the practice of law. We went to the bar association bowling outing at Kingston and had fun just hanging out. We grab lunch every few weeks and talk about the law, potential legal issues I am unsure about, changes in the law (of which there always seems to be one around the corner), and life. I may no longer need someone to run to in the hallways to ask a quick question about what specific language to put in an order, but I can always use a friend. I am sure we all can use more friends and I know that any new attorney certainly could.

Which brings me to my last point – we need young attorneys to sign up. The last few years we have had more experienced attorneys volunteer to be mentors than new attorneys sign up to be mentees. I am not sure why that is as I cannot imagine passing up on the opportunity to have someone in his or her corner who can show them the way. I certainly know it made a huge difference in my small number of years practicing. If you know of any young attorneys, please let them know of the McHenry County Lawyer-to-Lawyer program and the rare opportunity it could provide them.



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# 2019 Law Day Essay Contest Winners

Every year at Law Day, the McHenry County Bar Association hosts an essay contest for Middle or Junior High School students in our county. The top three, selected by a committee, are acknowledged and given a cash award. The School Essay Committee Chair was Jenette Schwemler and the theme was *Should free speech restrictions be placed in Social Media? Why or why not?* The top three essays are:



## **Caden Alexander—Hannah Beardsley Middle School**

If you can express yourself, you are free. If the government were to censor what we say on the internet, it would violate the constitution and could lead to an Orwellian dystopia where the government controls our lives. The topic of government censorship on the internet has seen plenty of debate over the years, and the argument for censorship always seems to fall on hate speech.

When the topic of hate speech comes up in the discussion of the censorship of the media, the argument against censorship seems to break down, but it doesn't account for the fact that hate speech is a vague and fairly undefined as a form of speech. It's hard to tell what is actually hate speech and what is satire or an edgy joke, even for a human.

Censoring a platform as massive as social media is a gargantuan task, with over 350,000 twitter posts per minute, it would be almost impossible for a task force of humans to censor twitter, much less all the other platforms that there are on the internet. So the job would be left up to an AI (Artificial Intelligence). This comes back to my last point, that it's very hard for a human to tell what is hate speech and what is satire, much less a computer. If an AI were in charge, it would block anything even remotely inappropriate, despite context or whether or not anyone would find it offensive in reality. This would cause the internet to become such a safeguarded and sheltered place that even news with a disturbing headline could be censored and people would begin to lose contact with the rest of the world.

Now I do see the possible benefits of the government censoring the media, it would decrease the amount of hate speech on social media and would allow people to feel safe on the internet. But then again, if someone wanted to express something that may be a little on the edgy side, they would be taken down and hidden from the world. We've already seen this happen on YouTube. A perfect example of this is a YouTuber Mumkey Jones. He thrived on YouTube before YouTube began its campaign of trying to get rid of anything remotely offensive on their platform despite them being fine with edgy content for years. Mumkey Jones woke up one day to his channel being straight up deleted from the platform. YouTube works on a 3 strike system where if you get three community strikes, your channel is deleted. Mumkey had no community strikes up to that point, but YouTube gave him no chances to make up for what he did by giving him three strikes all at once. The strikes were all on a specific video series about a school shooter. Now you might think that it makes sense that those would get a strike, but it doesn't. The videos didn't promote violence or do anything to make the school shooter look good, they only told the facts and even at some points made fun of his actions and told people to not be like him. Yet because they rested on the edgy side of the scale, they were taken down, despite not posing any threat to anyone.

That example shows how even now, with companies taking care of their own censorship on their sites, there is injustice and unfair censorship of posts, that with context, have no right to be censored. With the government censoring the media they may be even more heavy handed and even more content will be hidden for no reason. Now comes the slippery slope, if the government were to be able to pass a law censoring social media, they could get away with even more laws impeding on the first amendment, maybe even getting to the point where the first amendment might as well not exist, leading to our everyday life being monitored and any outcry of defiance being silenced.

The possibility of the government being able to censor social media is in my opinion more scary than the hate speech that might be allowed to exist. I would rather be able to say what I want to say even if it means that not so well meaning people would be allowed to speak their mind.

## Jaymes Barker—Heineman Middle School

### Social Media's First Amendment Protection

“Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press...” (qtd. in Corn-Revere). This simple command has helped to shape and control our country. However, as technology has advanced, making it easier for people to share their ideas online, it's been increasingly difficult to understand what qualifies as free speech and if it should be allowed across online media sites. Freedom of speech, being a part of the Constitution, should not be removed from such sites. However, there should be certain guidelines to help limit the negativity and “illegal” things posted online.

One of the predominant issues on social media sites, that is highly debated on whether it lies under the protection of the First Amendment, is the immense amount of hate speech. Social media provides racists, terrorists, and other hateful people a “platform to make their voices heard” (Bubar). People take advantage of this easy way to spread hate, meaning there is a tremendous amount of it on social media. Most hate speech is protected; according to Hudson Jr. and Ghani, “the First Amendment provides broad protection to offensive, repugnant and hateful expression.” However, there are currently two main types of hate speech that are not protected by the First Amendment: true threats and “incitement to imminent lawless action” (Hudson and Ghani). True threats are things people say that, whether the person means to or not, express that one may cause harm to another or a group. Incitement to imminent lawless action is when a person states something about committing an unlawful act in the very near future. It is similar to a true threat, however, it is not spoken to the victim and it does not always threaten to do harm. These two types of speech are presently not protected under the First Amendment and should remain that way.

Privacy is another important aspect of online freedom of speech. Journalist Nat Hentoff even states, “[losing privacy online] will have the effect of constricting freedom of expression. Americans will become careful about what they say can be misunderstood or misinterpreted, and then too careful about what they say that can be understood” (January 10). This means that if the privacy levels drop on media sites, which they somewhat are, Americans could start to become a little too careful about what they say, fearing that it could be taken and used against them. This would be considered limiting American's freedom of speech, which should not happen due to the First Amendment. Tim Berners-Lee, the creator of the World Wide Web, launched a campaign, “The Web We Want,” to help protect people's rights and freedom on the internet. Berners-Lee expressed that he wanted a “national bill of rights for the internet—so that we can all build the web we want, and freely use its power to create the world we want” (January 60). He stated that the online bill of rights would include “freedom of expression online and offline” (January 60). If privacy lowers on sites such as social media platforms, people would limit what they say, therefore limiting their freedom of speech.

Social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram give people an easy and convenient way to spread their thoughts and stories. This would be considered a type of speech, thus it is protected by the First Amendment. However, there should be some rules and/or norms because some speech could cause or threaten harm and unlawful actions in the real world. For example, someone could say, “I'm going to bring a gun to school tomorrow.” If the school or others saw this message, people could get worried that there might be a shooting at the school or something else harmful. If this was just left alone, something bad could happen. Therefore, it should be considered illegal and be investigated to prevent any unlawful actions. Other threats or incitement to imminent lawless actions should be illegal and/or regulated. Also, privacy should remain high on social media sites and there should be a way to regulate people hacking into private information. If people are nervous about what they say due to privacy issues, this would be limiting people's freedom of speech.

Freedom of speech is an amendment of the Constitution, so it should not be removed from social media sites. However, certain hate speech could cause illegal or unlawful actions in the real world, and lowered privacy could cause people to be too careful about what they say, lowering their freedom of speech. Thus, free speech should be allowed on social media. Nevertheless, there should be certain rules or norms on certain types of hate speech, such as threats, to prevent crimes, and privacy should be secure on social media sites.

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When I heard about the topic for this paper, the first think I thought of is “ Well of course free speech law should be enforced, it’s part of the constitution and most of the time the constitution is the right way to go.” But the more I look into this issue, the more I start to believe that maybe this isn’t as black and white as I thought. After I looked into the problem the more I begin to think that thought should be put into free speech when banning people online, but the government has no place whatsoever enforcing anything upon these social media companies.

The first issue with the government stepping into free speech restrictions on the sites with this big of an audience is that most of that audience is not even based in the U.S. A recent study found that while the U.S. has the most Twitter user but Japan, the UK, and Saudi Arabia together have 115% of those users with 83.3 million (*Statista*). What I am getting at is that several countries in this list do not feel that the right to free speech should be enforced as much as we do. How would free speech be enforced on these companies if in other countries bans or violations of these rules could be broken at any time? And even though these rules could be broken it is not the job of the U.S. or any country for that matter to say what some foreign nation or company should do with their power or influence.

As the information has been presented to me, this paper is based on the U.S. regulating what social media companies can and cannot do regarding what people say on many platforms and what these companies to about it. People are arguing that they can’t do that because of free speech. The issue with this is that free speech only applies to the government. The amendment states “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” Nowhere in the Bill of Rights does it say “you do not have the right to kick someone out of your house if they start yelling at you.” The government can’t arrest that person, but you can tell them to leave, a company can fire you for bullying, and a website can ban you from their page. What I’m getting at is Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and all myriads of other popular websites on the internet have no ties at all with the government and therefore cannot, and should not, be controlled in any way.

Recent events have to lead me to believe that the reason for this paper would be the banning of Alex Jones from some of the most popular websites on the internet almost simultaneously was a cause for the uproar form some and a sigh of relief from others. You may be surprised to hear this from me based on my stance on the subject, but I enjoy listening to the man. I listened to a few bits of his podcasts before writing this (*Infowars*) and while I sometimes enjoy them ironically, they are a very interesting take on things and I’m sad that not many people are going to be able to hear him. What that means is that if I get mad or disagree with what his saying, I can laugh at his over-reactions nonetheless. Hearing that social media is becoming a monopoly and should elicit government involvement from his supporters sort of surprises me. It is true on some level with Facebook’s buying of Instagram and Google buying YouTube but after looking into why the government regulates monopolies (*Economics Help*) why should anything be done? The quality is not decreasing and the price stays at nothing. The fact that I can still find the man on his website and from other people on other sites really keeps me thinking that the government should not do anything with the subject.

The government hasn’t done anything yet regarding....No rules have been put in place. But people are looking for a change in the role of government and social media. And whatever that change may be, I hope it stays out of the U.S. domain and will never be a government matter.



## PRESS RELEASE:

# Illinois Senate President Cullerton Supports LAP Initiative to bolster Mental Health & Wellbeing among 9 Illinois Law Schools

Friday, April 12, 2019, 3:01PM – Illinois Senate President Cullerton will read SR 298 at [the Senate Executive Committee hearing](#) in support of the **IL Law Schools Mental Health & Wellbeing Pledge**. The Pledge, led by the Illinois Lawyers' Assistance Program (LAP) was signed unanimously by all 9 Illinois law school SBA Presidents. Each President pledged their support and ask their colleagues, law school administrators, professors, and legal community to recognize and join their efforts.

*Today, we call our administration and Illinois legal community to join us in our efforts to:*

***engage** law school administrations to take part in facilitating*

*wellbeing and recognizing mental health issues;*

***listen** to the concerns of students and be responsive to their*

*wellbeing and mental health struggles;*

***build** a school atmosphere where wellbeing and mental health*

*is recognized as an immediate issue which deserves attention and resolution.*

President Cullerton's comments as he asked the Illinois Senate to sponsor the resolution echo the students Pledge purpose: "[t]his can be a profession without mercy, where only the strong survive and anyone with a problem is considered weak and a liability. That kind of thinking has cost people their careers and their lives. It's a stigma that needs to change, and I'd like the Illinois Senate to be part of changing it."

"I was stressed out 24/7," said Richard Minott, the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law's Student Bar Association President. "I was realizing that living that kind of life and having these stressors on me on top of actually learning the subject matter for each class was not conducive to having a successful law school experience. I think that's why, when we decided to do the mental health pledge, I was so committed to doing it because I knew firsthand what it felt like and I knew I wasn't the worst of it."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mansur, Sarah. *Law school leaders support pledge to erase mental health stigma*. Chicago Daily Law Bulletin. Oct. 19, 2018.

LAP exists to help, protect, and educate our legal community about addiction, mental health and wellness. If you or someone you know needs support with mental health or wellbeing, do not hesitate to contact LAP. Our services are cost-free, 100% confidential, the only clinical support for attorneys by attorneys.

For more information: visit the LAP website at <http://www.illinoislap.org>, contact us at 312-726-6607, or email to [gethelp@illinoislap.org](mailto:gethelp@illinoislap.org). LAP is here to help.