

2020

A Big Year for the Cincinnati Bar Association



By David J. Oberly

When the new year arrives, one thing is certain for the legal profession: an inundation of membership renewal requests by legal and professional organizations. At this time, many attorneys ask themselves: “What benefits do I get from being a member of this organization?” For a large part of 2019, and continuing into 2020, the Cincinnati Bar Association has focused on this exact question and specifically, how it can better serve its membership, providing maximum value to area legal professionals.

Understanding Our Membership Base

In mid-2019, the CBA created its **Bar Ambassador Program** as part of a larger effort and ongoing commitment to furthering and enhancing member benefits. In a time of growth and radical change for both the CBA and the legal profession, the Bar Ambassador Program seeks to gather critical feedback from a diverse set of different stakeholders in the Cincinnati legal community. By listening to these key constituents, the CBA can improve and tailor diverse offerings to meet the rapidly evolving needs of the Cincinnati legal community.

What CBA Stands For

At the same time, the CBA continues to provide an array of offerings and benefits to its membership, which are built around three primary pillars:

- **Cultivating Knowledge**

The CBA offers a comprehensive slate of CLE seminars for attorneys that covers the full spectrum of practice areas, designed not only to allow attorneys to meet their CLE requirements, but to provide critical substantive information, insights, and skills that are directly transferrable to attorneys’ individual practices.

For example, this year the CBA will offer a newly developed **Young Lawyers Training** program. Led by former Dinsmore managing partner Cliff Roe, the program is designed to teach and train young attorneys on the fundamentals of law firm operations, providing them with the necessary tools to thrive as associate attorneys. Young attorneys can gain key insights on many critical aspects of the legal profession not taught in law school, such as how law firms operate and generate revenue, and what firms expect out of their associates.

- **Building Networks**

As the adage says, “It’s not *what* you know, it’s *who* you know.” When it comes to success in the legal profession, truer words were never spoken, as developing a broad, fruitful professional network is one of the most vital components to a successful legal career. The CBA understands this and has made it a priority to increase networking and relationship-building opportunities for members. In response to widespread interest voiced by area attorneys, these include expanded opportunities to network with in-house counsel and private practice attorneys, as well as interacting and engaging with local judges.

- **Advancing Careers**

At the end of the day, the CBA’s main objective is to assist area attorneys and other legal professionals in advancing their careers. The CBA continues to offer its **Cincinnati Academy of Leadership for Attorneys (CALL)** program, designed to develop community service and leadership skills of the next generation of leaders in the Cincinnati legal community.

The **CBA Young Lawyers’ Section** offers many additional opportunities for young lawyers to develop and strengthen their leadership talents and abilities. The CBA is working hard to enhance its practice group and committee offerings by tailoring them to the needs of area attorneys, adding new practice groups to keep pace with areas of law that are growing in size and popularity. Slated to launch later this year is the **CBA’s Cybersecurity and Data Privacy Practice Group**.

The CBA is committed to providing significant value to its membership and will continue to find new and innovative ways to improve the benefits it offers to the Cincinnati legal community. The CBA’s ultimate goal is to enhance the success of its members through education, networking, leadership, and professional development. I encourage all of you to take an active role in the CBA—which can be done in a variety of ways—and take advantage of the myriad benefits and resources the CBA has to offer.

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