



President's Column

*By Teri Appelbaum
Padberg, Corrigan, Appelbaum*

As I write this column, on March 11, our country marks the one-year anniversary of the Covid-19 pandemic. One year. In some ways, it feels like a dream, in other ways it feels like a life sentence. It was the shortest of years; it was the longest of years. To quote Dickens, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness...." But, I digress.

One year ago, our Association was preparing to host its Annual Award of Honor honoring Gretchen Myers. Ticket sales were coming in, the all-star group of speakers was preparing their remarks, and, although we were concerned about this Coronavirus, many of us had no idea how it would affect us personally.

Then in an instant, everything changed. Businesses were ordered closed. Stay at home orders were issued. Life as we knew it was drastically different.

At that time, we thought this was a short-term problem—if we can get through these next few weeks, perhaps months, we will be back to normal.

Here we are, one year later and we are still in the midst of this pandemic. Our whole worlds have changed. For our Association, many events have been postponed, rescheduled, and rescheduled again. One year later, we have not yet honored Gretchen Myers, we have not had a Judicial Appreciation Night, and we have not had a Gridiron. The sadness and disappointment of our Executive Committee, our Gridiron cast, and our members cannot be overstated.

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Best Take-Out During a Pandemic

*By Jennifer Woulfe
Rynearson, Suess, Schnurbusch & Champion*

Few industries have been hit harder by the COVID-19 pandemic than the restaurant industry. According to a January 25, 2021 report by the National Restaurant Association, more than 110,000 restaurants or bars in the United States had closed permanently or for the long term as of December 1, 2020, and at the end of 2020, the U.S. restaurant industry employed 2.5 million less people than it had at the end of 2019. <https://restaurant.org/articles/news/new-report-measures-pandemics-effect-on-business>. In the St. Louis area, we have lost some of our favorite restaurants and watering holes to the pandemic, including The Dubliner in Maplewood, Tom's Bar & Grill, Sub Zero, and Gamblin Whiskey House in the Central West End, and Three Monkeys in Tower Grove South. During this time, many of us have tried to keep our favorite spots alive by ordering more takeout than we ever have in our lives. After almost a year of eating out of paper containers with plastic utensils, we here at the Lawyers' Association have found that some places have adapted to the to-go economy better than others. See below for a list of some of our favorites:

Kounter Kulture (3825 Watson Rd., St. Louis, MO): Your taste buds will never get bored with the rotating, seasonal menu at this Asian Fusion restaurant in South City. Kounter Kulture's dining room remains closed, but they offer curbside-pickup twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30pm-8:00pm. Not only is the food fantastic, but Kounter Kulture



Clockwise from upper right: Crab Rangoon, Ahi Tuna Bowl, Khao Soi Chicken Curry, Beef Gyudon

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However, things were not all bad for our Association. We were able to host an in-person picnic last summer to benefit Legal Services of Eastern Missouri. We helped St. Patrick Center bring joy and much needed supplies to families during the holiday season with gifts, gift cards and food care packages—a tradition we hope to carry on each holiday season. We held our Memorial Service and Black History Month events virtually. And we were able to bring a little bit of humor to our members during the holidays with our Gridiron Briefs.

Today, one year later, I am filled with hope. Spring is here! And with it, the Covid Vaccine. More and more of us are receiving our first and second doses of the vaccine. Which means that we are on our way to return to some semblance of normalcy.

We have many wonderful things in store for our members this year. Some of the highlights include our picnic which is scheduled for May 20 at Deer Creek Park. Gretchen Myers will finally receive her Award of Honor on August 14. We will celebrate Judicial Appreciation Night on September 30. And we will host our Gridiron Show on November 19. While these events may look a little different depending on the circumstances, we are committed to holding these events this year.

And we have other changes in store as well. Our Executive Committee recently voted to add a Diversity Seat to our Executive Committee, and we are in the process of preparing amendments to the bylaws to present to our membership for vote. We also plan to have a designated Diversity Seat on our Award of Honor Selection Committee. Although we have long supported diversity in our membership, the events of this year show us that our Association can and should do more.

So, everyone, enjoy the spring! Take a deep breath (through your masks, of course) and reflect on this past year—grieve what we have lost and celebrate where we have succeeded.

We hope to see all of you at the picnic in a few months.

In the meantime, stay safe and stay healthy.

Coming Attractions

Picnic

Thursday, May 20
Deer Creek Park
4:30 p.m.

Award of Honor

Saturday, August 14
Chase Park Plaza
Starlight Room
6:30 p.m.
Honoring Gretchen Myers

Judicial Appreciation

Thursday, September 30
MAC - Downtown
5:30 p.m.

Gridiron

Friday, November 19
Chase Park Plaza
Khorassan Room
6:00 p.m.

More information to follow

Annual Dues Notices

Watch your electronic inbox and/or your “snail mail” inbox for your 2021-2022 membership dues



notice. We thank you in advance for continuing your membership.

Also, your membership dues may be paid electronically on the association's

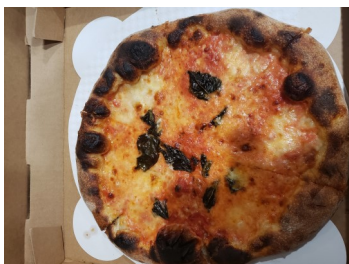
website (www.lawyersassociationofstlouis.org). And, for those of you who made arrangements last year for automatic membership dues payment, we thank you in advance.

Best Take-Out During a Pandemic

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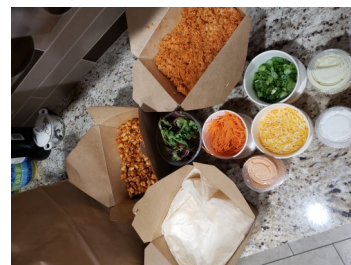
has succeeded where many in the industry have foundered – the pick-up. Kounter Kulture’s website takes orders days in advance and gives customers a specific pick-up time. Upon arriving at Kounter Kulture, you stay in your car while an employee takes your name and brings out your order. If you are ready for some variety on your plate, I recommend trying out the mouthwatering options at Kounter Kulture. <https://kounterkulturestl.com/>

Union Loafers (1629 Tower Grove Ave., St. Louis, MO): How often do you get to win the lottery and enjoy a great meal at the same time? Look no further than Union Loafers in the Botanical Heights, where the popularity of its pizza has resulted in a race for reservations in which a lucky few get to take home the prized pizza that evening. While the competition may seem daunting, trust me when I tell you it is worth it. Tuesday-Saturday, Union Loafers opens up its pizza reservations online at 9a.m., when you can select a pick-up time later that day. The “winners” are contacted from 2-4p.m., letting them place their order. Add on some wine or beer to your order, and you have yourself a dinner plan that can’t be beat. The pizza race, however, is not the only reason to try out Union Loafers. They also have a full bakery menu with breads that will definitely up your sandwich game. And if you have not kept up with some of the COVID-19 trends, you can pick-up some sourdough starter and compare your results with thousands of others on social media. <https://www.unionloafers.com/>



Seoul Taco (6665 Delmar Blvd., St. Louis, MO; 4099 Chouteau Ave., St. Louis, MO; 46 Four Seasons Shopping Center, Chesterfield, MO 63017): While also considered an Asian Fusion restaurant, Seoul Taco takes its cuisine in a completely different direction than Kounter Kulture. Starting as a food truck, it’s no surprise that Seoul Taco has successfully shifted its business model to thrive during the pandemic. Seoul Taco makes this list not only because of its undeniably delicious food but also because of how it has expanded its menu to accommodate at home eating. All of us have experienced the takeout order that has sat out too long, the food becoming an unsavory mix of hard, cold, and soggy. Enter Seoul Taco, whose family meal kits individually

package each ingredient so you can combine and eat on your schedule. Providing 4 servings, you can feed a family, a group of friends, or yourself for several meals. Choose from kits for tacos, burritos, or gogi bowls. Seoul



Taco also allows customers to order individual ingredients if you want a little extra of this or that for your meal kit or if you want to concoct your own recipe starting with one of their delicious proteins or sauces. Either way, Seoul Taco satisfies your hunger. <https://www.seoultaco.com/>

Katie’s Pizza & Pasta (9568 Manchester Rd., Rock Hill, MO; 14171 Clayton Rd., Town & Country, MO): You will not find many “best of” restaurant lists in St. Louis that do not include Katie’s Pizza & Pasta, and this one is no exception. Once again, Katie’s has stayed ahead of the game during the pandemic with their takeout and delivery options. Instead of diverting money in the form of delivery fees and processing charges to outside companies like GrubHub and Postmates, Katie’s offers its own in-house delivery for orders over \$50 (for a \$10 fee). This option helps keep our takeout dollars in the St. Louis economy and promote the stability of the St. Louis restaurant industry. Further, Katie’s has expanded its offerings to include frozen pizza, pasta, and sauces, so you can have Katie’s pizza on hand whenever the craving strikes. These frozen options have even been made available at Dierberg’s. It is reassuring to know that one of our favorites seems poised to survive the pandemic, and we will have the chance to return to its fun, eclectic atmosphere once this passes. <https://katiepizzaandpasta.com/>



The above selections only scratch the surface of the list of great takeout places in St. Louis, and I encourage you to expand your menu options far beyond what we have listed here. The important thing is that we continue to patronize our local eateries until this pandemic ends and they can get back on their feet. If we do not help them out now, they might not be there when we are ready to go back to in-person dining.

26th Annual Hon. Theodore McMillian Black History Month Event a 'Virtual' Success

By Bill Thomas, Gausnell, O'Keefe & Thomas, LLC

On February 23, 2021, the Lawyers Association, in conjunction with the Mound City Bar Association, presented its annual Judge McMillian Black History Month Event, although, because of the pandemic, it was virtual this year. Hosted by Alaris at their posh downtown mediation and event space, the speakers socially distanced, wore masks and shared their experiences with the local practice of law. Nearly 100 virtual attendees enjoyed the event, which was sponsored by a number of local firms. Instead of charging admission, the Association requested donations to support the Mound City's Centennial Scholarship Fund, to help worthy law students achieve their dream of attending law school. In total, sponsors contributed \$2,800 in support of the fund.

This event pays homage to the founding principles of the Lawyers Association and that of the Mound City Bar, established 12 years before, to improve the administration of justice; uphold the honor of the legal profession; promote professional development; and provide service to the community. But, perhaps most



From left: Hon. Nicole Colbert-Botchway, Bill Thomas, Teri Appelbaum and former Retired Family Court Commissioner Anne-Marie Clarke.

significantly, both organizations recognized the singular importance of diversity and inclusion in the practice of law.

The event honors the fond memory and incredible

legacy of one of this Association's greatest members, Judge McMillian. Professor Karen Toakrz from Washington University School of Law noted of the jurist:

"Judge McMillian's human decency and commitment to equal justice will endure because he infused the law in Missouri, in this circuit, and in this country with his conscience and his courage. Surely, Judge McMillian's human decency and commitment to equal justice will endure because he influenced so many

institutions, locally and nationally, through his work for the community, for children, for the poor, and for those who needed protection.

The program was introduced by the presidents of each of the sponsoring organizations, Ms. Teri Appelbaum for the Lawyers Association, and Mr. Steve Harmon for Mound City Bar. The Honorable Nicole Colbert-Botchway of the 22nd Judicial Circuit Court in the City, and

retired Family Court Commissioner, Judge Anne-Marie Clarke, also of the 22nd Circuit, were the featured speakers.

Judge Colbert-Botchway opened recognizing that the tradition of Black History Month was first created by Mr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926, who was then an Associate Professor of History at SIU-Edwardsville. The Lawyers Association itself created this event for the first time in 1995, to celebrate the achievements of African Americans in the legal profession through the efforts of past president (2002-2003) and Award of Honor recipient (2014) Mr. Lenny Cervantes, who passed away in 2018. Judge Colbert-Botchway paid tribute to the efforts of Lenny, and the inspiration of Judge McMillian, along with a number of other local

Black History Month Sponsors

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legal legends, heroic black attorneys from St. Louis, including the late Sydney Redmond (who won the education discrimination case of *Mo. Ex Rel. Gaines v. Canada*), George Vaughn and Margaret Bush Wilson (Award of Honor recipient 2006) (who won the housing discrimination case of *Shelly v. Kramer*) and her friend and mentor Frankie Muse Freeman (Award of Honor recipient 2006) (who won the discrimination in public accommodations case of *Davis et al. v. The St. Louis Housing Authority*).

Judge Colbert-Botchway noted: “as our Chief Justice George Draper reminded us in the State of the Judiciary address earlier this Black History Month, although we have progressed in race relations - the events from Ferguson to present have displayed the fact we have much more work to do. I believe breaking racial barriers begins with building relationships and the relationship between the Lawyers Association and Mound City Bar is a priceless bridge. Together we can overcome.” Because the event was held virtually, and we were missing the opportunity to mingle in person, she urged us all to be “more intentional” about our support of diversity and connections throughout the year. She encouraged everyone to “reach out to someone that does not look like you, include them in your business and social network and unite around common values and goals to truly support Lennie’s legacy of diversity and inclusion.”

She introduced the event’s second featured speaker, and one of her judicial mentors, the Hon. Anne-Marie Clarke (ret.), the longest serving judicial officer in the 22nd Judicial Circuit. Judge Clarke retired from the bench in 2019 after 33 years of service in the Juvenile Court as a hearing officer since 1986 and commissioner since 1998. Herself a past president of the Mound City Bar (1981-1983), Judge Clarke currently serves as the Centennial Committee Chair.

Her remarks were devoted to a reflection on the path black lawyers have walked here in St. Louis, including the formation of and membership in many local bar organizations. Mound City Bar, formed in 1922, is the oldest Black bar organization West of the Mississippi. By 1924, there were 28 Black lawyers in St. Louis. The National Bar Association, which came to be

because Blacks were denied membership in the American Bar Association, was not founded until 1925.

Entry into local law schools was also denied to Blacks for many years, she noted. The University of Missouri system, instead of enrolling Black students, would pay for them to attend schools in other states where segregation did not preclude their attendance. She recalled the story of Mr. Lloyd Gaines, a graduate from Vashon High School, who would eventually go on to attend Lincoln University, where he was an honor student, graduating in August 1935. When he was denied admission to the University of Missouri Law School, he filed suit, and his case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, who decided, in 1938, that he had been denied equal protection under the 14th Amendment.

Her story highlighted the resistance to change even in light of that decision, which did not strike *Plessy v. Ferguson*, but rather instructed that a “comparable and substantially equal school” must exist, if his admission was to be denied. So, the Missouri legislature ordered Lincoln University, a historically Black University, to create a law school which operated in St. Louis from 1939 until it closed in 1955. The law school was fully accredited by the American Bar Association by 1939 and Missouri’s board of bar examiners by 1940. Judge Clarke noted the graduates of Lincoln Law, 79 in total over its years in existence, “were taught in the tradition of Charles Hamilton Houston, (Howard University Law School Dean, who took Mr. Gaines’ case to the Supreme Court), that a lawyer was either a ‘social engineer or a parasite on society.’”

Among its graduates were the first Black woman to pass the Missouri Bar, Dorothy Freeman, and Margaret Bush Wilson, (mentioned above), the second Black woman to be licensed to practice law in Missouri. Her father, Mr. Thomas P. Clarke, managing attorney of Legal Aid Society and then Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, and his first law partner, also an alum, Mr. Melton Lewis, would sign their pleadings “Lewis and Clarke.” They were responsible for mentoring countless lawyers at Legal Services. Other graduates include Mr. James Bell, well-known criminal and civil rights attorney, and Mr. Curtis C. Crawford, member of the United States Probation and Parole Commission, and Lawyers Association Gridiron Hall of Fame Inductee (2010).

Judge McMillian taught us that “Its more important to be human than to be important.” His importance in the local legal community is immeasurable, and his humanity endures through the memories we share of him every year with this event.



The Hon. Nicole Colbert-Botchway

Places to eat during a pandemic while trying not to freeze you're a\$* off

By James Eason, The James Eason Law Office

Hello Friends! I'm here once again to tell you the best places to fill your piehole with great food while not having your buttocks generate into a cryogenic state. I would like to thank President Appelbaum (probably still buzzed from my recommendations for drinks) for nominating me to write this article. Alright don't sing it James, bring it! Here we go (in no particular order):

Oceano Bistro* Okay, Oceano gets an asterisk because we were seated "outdoors" while sitting next to the shutters. (Zach Pancoast and Jamie Boock can attest) Nonetheless, the food was/is spectacular. You should get:

INCaesar salad

Lobster bisque

Tempura Fried Fish Sandwich

Herbie's Someone will have to tell me how eating in a tent is eating outdoors...but I digress. You should get:

French Onion Soup

Herbie's Chopped Salad

Salmon entrée

Katie's Pizza and Osteria This one makes me laugh. Picture it, St. Louis. January 2021. My beautiful bride and I wanted to have a nice dinner at one of our favorite places. We assumed Katie's would have socially distanced tables INSIDE the restaurant. Wrong. We sat outside under a heater. Without gloves, coats, hats or fleece lined pants. Fastest dinner we ever had. You should get:

Neopolitan Meatballs

Prawn and Citrus

Paccheri Bolognese

By the time you have a chance to read this we'll be on our way to having vaccine eligibility for all (hopefully). I look forward to seeing a whole bunch of you all at the same time. Mangia!!

Holiday Donations at St. Patrick's Center

During the holidays members of The Lawyers Association Executive Committee adopted 10 individuals from St. Patrick's Center who were in need of clothing, food and toys.



Pictured above left are: Teri Appelbaum and Nicki Burlison Knepper loading up bags of gifts to be delivered to St. Patrick's Center (above right).

Gridiron Briefs

We hope you enjoyed our Gridiron Briefs during the last "Gridiron Season." Thank you Hon. Glenn Norton, Sarah Jane Hunt, Diane Hanisch, Mike Harrison and Teri Appelbaum for creating new content while repackaging some of the best Gridiron "skits" from the past.



Sustaining Members

The Lawyers Association of St. Louis would like to thank the following Sustaining Members:

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Save the Date
Friday, November 19, 2021
Good Seats are still available!

Ah, the memories of when we could meet in-person



Bowling 2020



Holiday Party
2019



Judicial
Appreciation
2019