



Jill Katz

Reflections & Thankfulness

November is often seen as a time to reflect on the past year as well as a time to be thankful. Open any of your social media accounts and you will see various reflections and thankfulness posts. I am always a bit envious of the people who remember to post some reflection or item they are thankful for on every day in November. Whenever I have tried this, by day three I have forgotten. On day six or seven, I try to make up the missed days. But then on day eight or nine, I have given up. I now allow myself the grace to not even try to make continuous daily thankfulness posts.

As President of KCMBF I am afforded the opportunity to address KCMBF members through this monthly column. So, instead of 30 consecutive social media posts in November, I am dedicating this column to reflections and thankfulness.

When I first became involved in KCMBF I tended to feel intimidated by the quality and experience of the other attorneys and judges that were on the Board of Directors and involved in the various committees. I often felt like the cool kids were letting me sit at their table. As the years passed, I was fortunate to see how the hard work and commitment of my fellow board members created and changed the Foundation in profound ways. Watching the leadership of these attorneys provided encouragement to me to become more involved.

The leadership that I observed was a gift to me. I was encouraged to step into additional leadership roles which then ultimately led to my current role as president of KCMBF. I am thankful for these attorneys and that these attorneys welcomed me to the table. I am thankful for their modeling of leadership that allowed me to learn to be a better leader. I am thankful to have learned that an obligation of leadership is to encourage others to follow in my steps to become future leaders. Our job is not to create followers—our job is to create leaders. I am thankful to be able to invite others to sit at the table. I am excited to see others take on leadership roles. I am thankful that these new leaders have passion and commitment to the Legal Connection programs: Domestic

Violence Alliance, Military Matters, and Student Law Academy.

So many attorneys have influenced my leadership and my goals as a leader. But it is not only attorneys who have influenced me. The Legal Connection programs engage a community of non-lawyers as well. As President, I have witnessed professionals in partner agencies work together with attorneys in a joint effort to help reach the goals of the Legal Connection programs. I am thankful that so many others see the value in our programs. Their willingness to engage with KCMBF to help us reach our goals is inspirational to me. The willingness of these non-attorneys to help us reach our goals provides validation to our goals. And because they are willing to work alongside us, our programs can prosper. I am thankful that non-lawyers help me remember that what we do impacts others. I am thankful for future collaboration opportunities to continue the good work of our programs.

The President of KCMBF is often given the praise and credit for the good work of the



I am thankful for the willingness of our volunteers to work hard & to dream big.



KCMBF

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation

MILITARY MATTERS PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT



Jennifer Wieland

Jennifer Wieland, of Berkowitz Oliver LLP is this month's honoree of the Military Matters Spotlight, a monthly recognition to distinguish the great work performed

by the hundreds of pro bono volunteer attorneys within the Military Matters network. Please go to the KCMBF Facebook page to learn more about Jennifer's service to Military Matters.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE FOUNDATION?

Contact: Sharra Wagner,
Foundation Director
swagner@kcmbf.org

foundation. This is understandable as the position is “responsible” for the work of the Foundation and is a public face for the organization. I am routinely given praise for the good work of KCMBF. I believe the praise is well deserved and that our Legal Connection programs are very deserving of this praise. While I receive the praise, the credit and praise does not belong to me. The praise that I hear and receive belongs to each and every person involved with our programs. This includes the attorney volunteers, KCMBF staff, KCMBF staff, and non-lawyer volunteers. As President, I want to acknowledge that it is not my hard work that gains the praise but the hard work of others, working together for a common goal, that gains the praise. I want to publicly thank each and every person that has worked on or financially supported the Legal Connection programs. The credit and praise are all yours.

I have enjoyed my time as President of KCMBF. The opportunity to work closely with the KCMBF and KCMBF staff has solidified my commitment to our organizations. I am thankful not only for the hard work

but the friendship and support that I have felt throughout the year. I am thankful that I hear “yes” whenever I have called upon someone to fill a role or need of the Foundation. I am thankful for the willingness of our volunteers to work hard and to dream big. I am thankful that so many of you ask what you can do to help. I am thankful to have had the wonderful opportunity to serve as the 2021 KCMBF President. ■

Thank you to the firms and individuals who helped make our KCMBF Liberty & Justice Campaign a success! Visit kcmbf.org/liberty for the final results of the online silent auction.



Featuring

Hon. Bernice B. Donald

United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

Presented by Wendt Law Firm P.C.

KCMBF's 137th Annual Meeting & Holiday Party Open House

Friday, December 3, 2021

11:00 am	Registration Opens at Sheraton Crown Center
12:00 - 1:30 pm	Luncheon & Annual Meeting Program at Sheraton Crown Center
1:30 - 6:00 pm	Holiday Party Open House on KCMBF's Skyline Patio (weather permitting)

KCMBF has contingency plans to allow for additional social distancing and safety measures. To keep up with the status of live events, please visit kcmba.org/covid.

Go to kcmba.org for registration and sponsorship opportunities or scan here:

