

Hendel: Ohio State Bar Foundation welcomes 4 northwest Ohioans into latest class of fellows

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BY BARBARA HENDEL / THE BLADE



The Ohio State Bar Foundation's latest class of fellows includes four attorneys from the Northwest Ohio Region: Elizabeth B. Bostdorff, partner and owner of Bostdorff Legal, LLC, center, is recognized by Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Sharon Kennedy and current foundation president Judge David Hejmanowski.

Courtesy David Wilson Liggett

LEGAL eagles give back to the community.

The Ohio State Bar Foundation inducted 25 attorneys to its fellows program during a ceremony at the Supreme Court of Ohio. This Class of 2023 includes lawyers from private firms of every size and kind, as well as prosecutors, public defenders, judges, and community leaders.

Chief Justice **Sharon Kennedy** welcomed everyone.

Judge **David Hejmanowski**, president of the Ohio State Bar Foundation, said in a statement: “This is a diverse and inspirational group of lawyers with a strong dedication to service, poised to make significant contributions to the foundation's goal of strengthening the justice system in Ohio through outreach and education.”

According to a press release, the Ohio State Bar Foundation, a group of attorneys who exemplify the highest standards of professionalism and are committed to serving their communities, has inducted more than 1,000 since its inaugural fellows class in 1998. Fellows give their time, talent, and treasure to build a better justice system through community service efforts and monetary donations to the foundation.

Each class of fellows designs its own year-long experience to impact the community by using their resources as lawyers to research, plan, network, and educate. It's an opportunity to make a difference that they may not be able to execute through their job or on their own.

Over the years, fellows have developed 26 community service initiatives involving human trafficking, immigrant and refugee citizen education, prisoner reentry into communities, access to justice for developmentally disabled youth, news reporting on the legal system, and more.

Included in this year's class are four fellows from the Northwest Ohio Region:

■ **Elizabeth B. Bostdorff**, of Toledo, a graduate of the Ohio State University and the University of Toledo College of Law, is the partner and owner of Bostdorff Legal, LLC. She donates her time to the Wood County Relay for Life, the Wood County Historical Museum, and more.

■ **Joseph K. Cole**, of Toledo, a graduate of Western Michigan University the University of Toledo College of Law, is a partner with Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP. Mr. Cole volunteers with Advocates for Basic Legal Equality and the Islamic Food Bank of Toledo, and as a board member of the Toledo Bar Association, he participates in its Expungement Clinic.

■ **Carasusana (Cara) B. Wall**, of Toledo, a graduate of the University of Michigan and the University of Michigan School of Law, is a partner at Zoll & Kranz, LLC. Ms. Wall volunteers with the Toledo Bar Association, Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Legal Aid of Western Ohio, and the Toledo Junior Bar Association.

■ **Amy Luck**, of Findlay, a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa and the University of Iowa College of Law, is an attorney at Robison Curphey & O'Connell. Ms. Luck volunteers at the Woodland Parents Club and Elementary School, the Perrysburg School District, Leadership Toledo, the Perrysburg Schools Foundation, and the Toledo Women's Bar Association.

Since July is National Make a Difference to Children Month, the Ohio State Bar Foundation co-hosted a Let's Build Beds volunteer event in Maumee on July 15. Let's Build Beds provides safe and comfortable sleeping arrangements for children who lack suitable beds in Lucas, Wood, Henry, Fulton, and parts of Monroe, Lenawee, Williams, Defiance, Putnam, Hancock, Seneca, Sandusky and Ottawa counties. The hands-on event built beds for children facing difficult circumstances and raised funds to support the vital work of both organizations.

The Ohio State Bar Foundation also awarded \$415,500 in grants to 10 Ohio nonprofit organizations through its spring grant cycle.

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