

Mentoring Works with Big Brothers Big Sisters

Brian M. Bennett



Brian Bennett and his Little Brother, Charlesle, at Bennett's wedding in August 2013. Charlesle was a junior groomsman.

Mentoring works. In January, we reflected on the life and ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of the most influential thinkers in American history. While Dr. King was a pioneer for equality and social justice, the legacy he would leave for us was greatly impacted by the mentoring relationships he had with Benjamin Mays and Howard Thurman, among others. These individuals helped Dr. King shape the beliefs that paved the way for the civil rights movement.

Today, mentoring is also alive and well in our community. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana is celebrating its 50th anniversary of mentoring in 2017. Big Brothers Big Sisters' mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. This is a bold but critical mission, as our country and communities face continued educational, economic, and societal challenges that often place our children at the greatest risk. Big Brothers Big Sisters conducts outreach to these children in hopes of offering strong, lasting relationships that make real differences in their lives.

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I have learned first hand about the life-changing power of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana. As a 19-year-old sophomore at the University of Louisville, I had a chance encounter with a Big Brothers Big Sisters staff member at a student meeting. That night, I signed up to be a Big Brother, not yet understanding the impact it would have on my life.

In February 2006, Big Brothers Big Sisters matched me with my Little Brother, Charlesle, who, at the time, was a quiet nine-year-old. Over the years to come, Charlesle and I forged a close and enduring friendship. We worked on homework together, visited museums, attended University of Louisville sporting events, and got to know each other's families. We have supported each other, learned from each another, and had fun together. It has been one of the greatest joys of my life to watch Charlesle grow from that quiet nine-year-old to a self-confident 20-year-old.

On February 23, the bench and bar will have an opportunity to support Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana in its anniversary year at the Legal Bowl for Kids' Sake at the Main Event.

(Continued on next page)



Kristin Milosevich, Chief Development Officer for Big Brother Big Sisters of Kentuckiana, is interviewed by local media at last year's Legal Bowl for Kids' Sake.



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The Legal Bowl for Kids' Sake is a bowling-themed event that raises funds to directly support the mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana. Bowl for Kids' Sake is critical to the continued success and vibrancy of the agency because it costs approximately \$1295 annually to create and support one match at no cost to program participants. Because all proceeds stay local, participation will have a direct impact on the lives of children in our community. Even if members of the bench and bar cannot attend on February 23, please consider making a donation to one of the teams or signing up to become a volunteer.

As Dr. King famously quoted: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana can help provide your answer.

Brian M. Bennett is an attorney in the Louisville office of Stites & Harbison. Bennett is a member of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana Big Leadership Team, and was 2015 chair of the LBA Young Lawyers Section. ■



Thursday, February 23

Legal 2017

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See page 11 for details

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Associations of Legal Administrators

The Kentucky Chapter Association of Legal Administrators will meet on Thursday, February 9, at 11:30 a.m., in the Louisville and Lexington offices of Frost Brown Todd, Louisville: 400 West Market Street, Suite 3200; Lexington: 250 West Main Street, Suite 2800.

The meeting topic: HR Legal Updates presented by Callie Walton of Gwin Steinmetz & Baird.

Please RSVP to Toni Weaver, KY Chapter ALA Secretary, tweaver@fbtlaw.com by Monday, February 6. The cost, which includes lunch, is \$17 for members and \$25 for non-members. ■

Legal Assistants of Louisville

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Legal Assistants of Louisville will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017, at 11:30 a.m. at the Bristol Bar & Grille located at 614 W. Main Street. The cost of the luncheon is \$19 per person. For more information about the organization or to RSVP for the meeting (by noon on Tuesday, February 14, 2017), please contact Mary Ruckriegel, President, at (502) 589-5980. ■

Louisville Association of Paralegals

The Louisville Association of Paralegals would like to thank its 2016 Holiday Lunch sponsors: Talis Group; Jeff Summers, One Source Discovery; Kentuckiana Reporters; Sullivan University; Chuppe, Soergel Abell & Arnold and PBI Bank. LAP will host a program luncheon on February 22, 2017 at noon at the Louisville Bar Center. The speaker will be a representative from Talis Group on How to Become Irreplaceable. The presentation will be a look into the changing roles and salaries in the legal industry as well as an overview of what the top law firms say will make you most valuable. LAP will host a social event on February 17, 2017, at King Pin Lanes at 6 p.m. for a fun evening of socializing and networking. If you are interested in attending, please contact Laura Armstrong at laura.armstrong@e-farmcredit.com for further details. ■

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