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Busy lawyer finds time for others

BY DAVID THOMAS

Law Bulletin staff writer

It will take a while to list all the different organizations Adam M. Zebelian belongs to.

The 35-year-old Schiller DuCanto & Fleck LLP associate sits on the board of both the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago and its associated foundation. He's on the junior board of the Chicago Lighthouse, an organization that provides vision care and related services to blind, visually impaired and disabled people as well as veterans.

He is a Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Section Family Law Committee co-chair. He is also a member of the National LGBT Bar Association, the Women's Bar Association of Illinois and the Illinois State Bar Association.

And that still doesn't cover his work with the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network, the Diversity Scholarship Foundation and Stonewall Sports Chicago.

In a written Q&A with the Daily Law Bulletin, Zebelian explains why he is so involved in community service as well as the challenges faced by LGBTQ domestic violence survivors. Zebelian has given lectures about the latter topic at Chicago-Kent College of Law.

CDLB: How do you find the time to balance your obligations to your clients and your firm and the extensive community service you take part in?

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Zebelian: I work at unconventional times, which my clients appreciate because I am available outside of typical business hours.

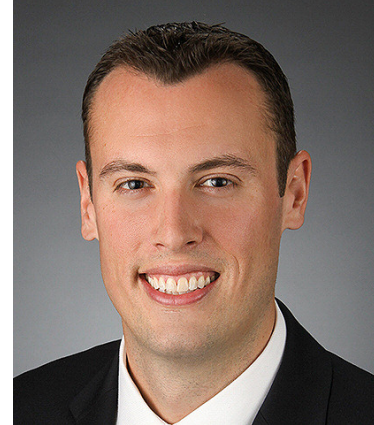
CDLB: Why is community service important to you?

Zebelian: My mother always tells me, "To whom much is given, much is expected." It is a privilege to be able to attend college and then law school, and I believe that lawyers have an obligation to use that privilege and the resulting skill set to give back to their communities.

CDLB: You've lectured about the unique challenges faced by LGBTQ domestic violence survivors. Briefly, what are some of those challenges?

Zebelian: Some LGBTQ couples do not have the support and acceptance of their families because of who they are, or because they are not out of the closet as LGBTQ. As a result, LGBTQ domestic violence survivors do not always have the proper support system or are afraid to reach out for help. This, in turn, gives the abuser more power and control, thereby furthering the cycle of abuse.

CDLB: How does your experience working in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office on both the civil and criminal side inform



Adam M. Zebelian

your practice?

Zebelian: I have had the privilege to litigate and try cases in both state and federal court, which has made me a more well-rounded trial attorney.

CDLB: What are your long-term goals for your legal career?

Zebelian: My long-term goal is to become the best advocate for my clients, who have trusted me to guide them through one of the worst periods of their lives and obtain a just and equitable result.

CDLB: What is the first app you use on your smartphone when you wake up in the morning?

Zebelian: I first check e-mail.

CDLB: What TV show did you just finish binge-watching?

Zebelian: My boyfriend and I just finished watching the second season of "Making a Murderer" on Netflix.

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