Diverse and well-versed

To the Editor:

Gabe Kaimowitz’s letter in the February Bar Journal, titled “Turning back the clock to the 1950s,” merits a response. Perhaps he defines “diversity” differently than I do. Or perhaps he missed the December 2019 issue on LGBTQA Law, featuring articles by Peter Kulas-Dominguez and LGBTQA Law Section Chair Tim Cordes. Or the November 2019 Children’s Law issue, featuring an article by Norika Kida-Betti and Cameron Ann Fraser. Ms. Fraser is a member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians and is also enrolled with the Cherokee Nation. The November issue also included a book review of Separate: The Story of Plessy v. Ferguson, and America’s Journey from Slavery to Segregation by attorney James A. Johnson. The August 2019 issue was devoted to American Indian Law, with several authors who are tribal members.

By my count, 77 authors were published in the Bar Journal during 2019, and 34 (or 44) percent were women. Mr. Kaimowitz obviously missed the theme issue on Women in the Law published in May 2018, the Elder and Disability Rights issue in January 2018, the Diversity in the Law issue in December 2017, and the Blacks in the Law issue in May 2015. His letter decries a return to the pre-1960s “when the topic of civil rights was ignored.” He should be pleased to learn of upcoming scheduled issues on Poverty Law (December 2020) and Civil Rights (December 2021), for which I have already started to recruit a diverse group of authors.

John R. Runyan
Chair, Michigan Bar Journal Committee

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