



NEWS

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Serving the Interests of Lawyers Dedicated to Government Service

CLE Credits for Non-traditional Activities

In addition to attending accredited CLE programs and activities, attorneys may also earn CLE hours by participating in non-traditional activities. These opportunities include:

- (1) attending a law school course;
- (2) attending bar association meetings of 1.0 hour or less;
- (3) teaching an accredited CLE course;
- (4) teaching a law course at a law school, university, college or community college (which includes serving as a judge at a law school moot court argument); and
- (5) writing published legal scholarly books or articles.

However, in order for these activities to count for CLE credit, attorneys must pay a \$20.00 flat fee each reporting period when claiming credit for participating in any nontraditional activity. According to the MCLE website, the \$20.00 fee is due and payable to the MCLE Board upon completion and mailing of the attorney's compliance certification form. Compliance certification forms and any fees due for reporting these nontraditional credits are due by the July 31st following an attorney's applicable reporting period.

Although there are no limits on the consideration of most nontraditional CLE credits, there are exceptions for certain activities. For example working on a single publication may only count for one half of the required credits. Also, in teaching CLE courses or part-time law courses, the hours for any repeat presentations of the same materials are counted at only one-half those for the initial presentation, and no further hours may be earned for any additional presentations of the same materials.

Attorneys may also apply for credit for out of state MCLE courses if that state has equivalent requirements. Credit may be obtained for live courses either in person or via video or audio.

For additional information on meeting the MCLE requirements and deadlines see the MCLE Board's website at: <http://www.mcleboard.org>.

Registration Form Online

An electronic version of our registration form is available on our website. Make sure to let your colleagues know it's now even easier to join us!

Elections Forthcoming

It is once again time for the GBA to hold elections. The process began on April 21, 2008. Upcoming due dates are:

May 16: Nominations for Office Announced

May 23: Voting Begins

June 13: Last day ballots can be postmarked

Late June (TBA): Annual Meeting & Election Results Tallied

If you are interested in holding office for the upcoming term, see our website www.ilgba.org for petition and nomination forms.

Check Your Mail

Recently the GBA mailed out information on the 2008-09 Elections, letters from our president, and membership renewal forms. If you did not get this mailing, please make sure we have your correct address. Email your mailing address and phone number to us at Illinois.GBA@gmail.com.

Updating our Records

In an effort to streamline the process for reporting MCLE credit from our luncheons we are updating our membership database to include ARDC numbers. Please forward your number to Lee Beneze at lee.beneze@illinois.gov.

Upcoming Events:

Government Bar Association:

- May 14 – GBA Board Meeting, Location TBA
- May 15 – Dr. Walter Milton, Supt. Springfield Sch.
- May 20 – Mental Health
- Late June – GBA Annual Meeting, TBA

Chicago Bar Association:

- May 12 – YLS Board Match
- May 15 – Vanguard Awards
- May 22 – Alliance for Women Annual Awards
- June 9 – Golf Outing

Sangamon County Bar Association:

- May 19 – SCBA Lawyer's Memorial Service

Central Illinois Women's Bar Association:

- May 22 (tentative) – Judicial Reception

April Luncheon: Rodger Heaton, US Attorney

Rodger Heaton spoke on what he called the "government attorney privilege" – the advantages and opportunities which come with practicing law within for the government. He described his law clerk position with Federal District Judge Sarah Evans Barker and his first exposure to these privileges, training, the opportunity to work with others, and making a difference.

Specifically, Mr. Heaton first discussed the numerous training conferences and other learning opportunities he received throughout his career, all free of charge, on a wide variety of topics, both criminal and civil, trial and appellate advocacy. Most, he said, were taught by experienced practitioners or national experts, who specialized in the topic of the day.

Second, Mr. Heaton described the unique government attorney experience of working with other to achieve a common goal.

He noted that government law offices are often structured into divisions or groups, which gives the attorneys the luxury of working in a group setting where there is a healthy amount of internal competition. No billable hours requirements, no client pressure to avoid taking the time to talk to colleagues, and no dividing of a pool of profits makes for is environment rich with group effort and decision making. Most importantly, this group effort enhances the ability to produce results.

Mr. Heaton named the third component of this privilege as striving to make a difference. During his career, Mr. Heaton stated, that he has observed frequent expression by government attorneys that they are willing to work for a little less money, and at times for fewer external accolades and external rewards, because of the belief that their governmental responsibilities and opportunities positioned them to "make a difference."

Upcoming Luncheons

The May luncheon, set for May 15, will feature Dr. Walter Milton, Jr. Superintendent of Springfield Public School District 186. We will again meet at Maldaner's for the event. Watch your e-mail for further details and to RSVP.

Bulletin Board

The City of Springfield is looking for an experienced lawyer to handle state and federal litigation on behalf of the City. For information contact Jennifer Johnson, Corporate Counsel, 800 E. Monroe, Room 313, Springfield, IL 62701. Phone: 217-351-2393. Fax: 217-789-2397.

Pro Bono Opportunity

The Senior Center on North Walnut is in need of attorneys to assist its residents. Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance currently offers services two days a month at the facility; however, residents must often wait months for an appointment. Office space may be arranged with LLLA during regular business hours or George Tinkham after hours. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Loren P. at LLLA (217)529-8400x206; e-mail LPahayan@LOLLAF.org.

The Lighter Side

New in the courts:

The Supreme Court is now offering memory and slider games on its website's education page. Check out

<http://www.state.il.us/court/Kids/default.asp>.

In the appellate courts, Justice Bowman started his opinion with a limerick in J. Maki Construction Company vs Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters, 318 Ill. Dec. 50, 882 N.E.2d 1173 (Ill. App. 2 Dist., 2008), an unsuccessful defamation case:

"There was once a union that called plaintiff's work crappy; this made the plaintiffs quite unhappy; at trial, the jury filled the plaintiff's purse; but, alas, on appeal, we must reverse."

Do you have a joke to share? Something funny happening in your office?

At court? Write us and let us know: ysawyer@court.state.il.us

The fine print: Be sure each item is properly endorsed. Sign here without admitting guilt. Slightly higher west of the Mississippi. Employees and their families are not eligible. Beware of dog. Contestants have been briefed on some questions before the show. Limited time offer, call now to insure prompt delivery. You must be present to win. No passes accepted for this engagement. No purchase necessary. Processed at location stamped in code at top of carton. Shading within a garment may occur. Use only in well-ventilated area. Keep away from fire or flame. Replace with same type. Approved for veterans. Booths for two or more. Check here if tax deductible. Some equipment shown is optional. Not recommended for children. Prerecorded for this time zone. No alcohol, dogs, or horses. No anchovies unless otherwise specified. First pull up, then pull down. Driver does not carry cash. Some of the trademarks mentioned in this product appear for identification purposes only. Record additional transactions on back of previous stub. Decision of judges is final. This supersedes all previous notices.

Fill the White Space

Have you heard about something your fellow government lawyers would be interested in? Is something going on in the community that we should be writing about? Do you know someone who should be highlighted in the newsletter? The newsletter staff is looking for ideas and contributions from the membership to keep the newsletter relevant and interesting to you. Please submit your ideas or content to ysawyer@court.state.il.us.

Committee Corner: Get Involved

We are looking for people to help out. There are many opportunities to work with the GBA. If a committee interests you, please contact us at Illinois.GBA@gmail.com

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