



NEWS

*Vol. 18: No.2**Founded 1987**Serving the Interests of Lawyers Dedicated to Government Service*

A Message from the President



Happy New Year! Hopefully 2014 brings health and happiness to all of you.

The Government Bar Association had another successful year in 2013, thanks to its membership. Our speakers last fall included Senate President John Cullerton, The Honorable John Mehlik, and the director (Jonathon Monken) and general counsel (Jenifer Johnson) of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

The holiday party was fun as always, thanks in large part to the generosity D.H. Browns, as well as Barb Rowe, Karen Kloppe and Fritz Goebing. Thanks also to Westlaw for its support. Because of the continued generosity of the GBA membership, I am happy to announce that the Board has decided to increase the amount of our annual scholarship from \$750 to \$1,000. Thank you to everyone who bid on or donated items for the party.

We will begin 2014 with two representatives from the Illinois State Police, Suzanne Yokley-Bond (general counsel) and Jessica Trame (bureau chief of the firearms services bureau), to discuss implementation of the new concealed carry law. Frank McNeil (former Alderman, law school graduate, and one of the original plaintiffs) and Don Craven (the plaintiff's attorney) will speak on the 1988 voting rights lawsuit which changed Springfield's Commission form of government to the Aldermanic form. Brian Oaks from the Prairie Capitol Convention Center will discuss the plans and updates to that facility, and The Honorable Justice Carol Pope from the Illinois Appellate Court, 4th District will speak on the Freedom of Information Act. We hope you all will join us at the upcoming events and help make 2014 even better than last year.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Government Bar Association.

M. Delcomyn



September Luncheon: The Illinois State Senate Leader John Cullerton Talks Gun Legislation

Illinois Senate President John Cullerton spoke to a packed assembly of GBA members and non-members on September 19, 2013, at the Sangamo Club to launch the fiscal year 2014 of the Government Bar Association. The luncheon

continued the tradition of providing an educational luncheon series for our members and the public at large. Senate President Cullerton's topic was the Firearm Concealed Carry Act, Public Act 98-63, which became effective July 9, 2013.

Upcoming Events:

Government Bar Association:

- Feb. 20 – Luncheon: 11:50 AM, Voting Rights Lawsuit in Springfield, Sangamo Club
- Mar. 20 - Luncheon: 11:50 AM, Pension Reform Lawsuit, Sangamo Club
- Apr. 17 - Luncheon: 11:50 AM, TIF Funding and PCCC Sangamo Club
- May 15 - Luncheon: 11:50 AM, FOIA Sangamo Club – Joint Program with CIWBA
- Jun. 12 – Wine and Cheese

Central Illinois Women's Bar Association:

- Feb. 18 – Luncheon: Stephen Iden, Elder Law Issues @ Maldaner's
- Feb. 27 – Sojourn Fundraiser 5:00 – 8:00 PM
- Mar. 18 – Luncheon: TBD @ Maldaner's
- Apr. 15 – Luncheon: TBD @ Maldaner's
- May 14 (tentative) – Judicial Reception

Sangamon County Bar Association:

- February – Basketball Tournament @/when TBD
- Mar. 4 – Smoker & UofI basketball game @ DH Browns
- Apr. 12 – Baseball and Bags @ Corner Pub when TBD
- May 1 – Law Day: Theme is Voting Rights @/when TBD
- July 25 – Play Day

During the luncheon, the Senate President outlined the events that prompted passage of the Act, as well as some of the more significant milestones on the Act's journey through the General Assembly. In addition, Senate President Cullerton summarized some of the Act's more significant provisions, including those provisions that dealt with the following issues:

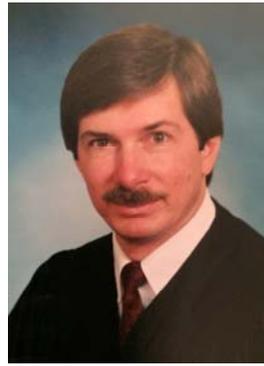
- **Mandatory (Rather than Permissive) Issuance of Permits:** Senate President Cullerton described how the Act requires (rather than merely authorizes) issuance of concealed carry permits that are valid throughout the State for 5 years.
- **Law Enforcement Objections:** Senate President Cullerton described the process law enforcement personnel are authorized to use to object to the issuance of concealed carry permits to persons who are a danger or threat to public safety.
- **Prohibited Places:** Senate President Cullerton listed some of the premises where concealed carry licensees are prohibited from bringing their weapons (e.g., schools, government buildings, hospitals, bars, and parks).
- **Safe Havens:** Senate President Cullerton explained that, even on premises where carrying a concealed weapon is prohibited, permittees are able to store their weapons in specified "safe havens" in order to avoid violating the Act.
- **Mental Health:** Senate President Cullerton explained that the Act requires very strict mental health reporting so that people with mental health issues cannot get a FOID Card and possess a firearm.

Senate President Cullerton gave his opinion on various aspects about the gun legislation, including whether or not it made sense to have signs posted outside of restaurants, government offices and other establishments that would prohibit guns from entering the premises. While giving his opinion, Senate President Cullerton highlighted some of the challenges in merging two separate bills that had passed both legislative chambers.

R. Patino, J. Stivers

October Luncheon: From Judge to Corporation Counsel for the City of Springfield

Former Judge John Melick, the interim Corporation Counsel for the City of Springfield spoke during the October luncheon. Judge Melick indicated he took the position for a short period of time and indicated he would be leaving sometime in December. He felt he was up to the challenge in restoring creditability to the



Office of Corporation Counsel and the position. Judge Melick indicated he took the position because he enjoyed working as a public servant and being a government attorney. He also liked the good staff he had to work with on a daily basis.

Judge Melick spoke about the perception and competence of a government attorney. He gave pointers about being prepared in the courtroom. He told us that we should know our judge and structure our presentation to their style. He stated that judges' rule in favor of the lawyer they trust and emphasized that attorneys should be prepared and should not object to everything their opposing counsel does in the courtroom. Judge Melick indicated that judges do not like to change their mind. He told attorneys that they needed to be true to their word and that government attorneys were on the front line of justice.

F. Martinez

November Luncheon: IEMA Explained From the Top



On November 21, the director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), Jonathon Monken, and the agency's chief counsel, Jenifer Johnson, spoke to the GBA. It was, unfortunately, a very timely presentation, as just days before, on November 17, an unprecedented series of tornadoes devastated 15 Illinois counties. Mr. Monken and Ms. Johnson explained disaster response, and the role IEMA plays. Mr. Monken has visited the site several times and has been working with local officials to help rebuild the area.

Generally, IEMA must first go to the scene of the emergency and assess the area, in order to provide required necessities (food, water, shelter, and medical care). This is often done in conjunction with the Red Cross. Once basic needs are provided for, the extent of the damage must be assessed. After this process the Governor can request that

counties be considered a disaster area, at which time individuals in those counties can apply for Federal assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It is a common misconception that FEMA will provide money to replace all that individuals have lost. Instead, the maximum allowable is \$32,400. Director Monken also stressed that while volunteers are absolutely necessary, those who are interested should not just show up on site, but should work through an agency such as the Red Cross.

M. Delcomyn

GBA's Holiday Party - 2013



This December's Holiday Party featured free flowing beer and wine. A special thanks goes out to DH Browns for sponsoring the beer and location. A second special thanks goes out to Thomson-Reuters® for a generous monetary donation. Also, many thanks to Barbara Rowe who faithfully contributed the wonderful food that the GBA funded for this event. The Italian beef was a great success along with chips, dips, crackers, shrimp, veggie, cheese and other great nibbles.

The Holiday Party also provides a great fund raising opportunity for the GBA scholarship that provides funds to a law student interested in pursuing a career in the public service area. Along with a suggested donation upon admission, a silent auction was held for several donated items. The amount of funds raised at this year's Holiday Party totaled \$543.



Thank you to everyone that contributed either cash or a material donation to the silent auction. We hope that you have a wonderful 2014!

R. Patino

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