



NEWS

Vol. 17: No.1

Founded 1987

Serving the Interests of Lawyers Dedicated to Government Service

A Message from the President



This starts the 25th year of the GBA. We had a very nice celebration at Erin's Pavilion. Special thanks to the Board for all their hard work in making this a success. We were honored to have Justice Rita Garman, Justice Carol Pope, Judge Christopher Perrin and Judge April Troemper in attendance.

We hope everyone can attend our November 15th luncheon where Technology in the Law and Electronic Discovery will be discussed. Our Holiday Party will be December 5th at D.H. Brown's starting at 5:00 p.m. There is no cost to attend the Holiday Day party, but we do ask for a \$5.00 donation to the Scholarship Fund. We are also having a silent auction to benefit the Scholarship Fund at the Holiday Party as well. If you would like to donate an item for the silent auction, please let me know.

We are pleased to be co-sponsoring events with the Central Illinois Women's Bar Association and look forward to working with them in the future. If you have any suggestions for the upcoming year, please contact me or any board member. The Board looks forward to another great year.

F. Martinez

GBA Celebrates 25 Years of Service at the Erin's Pavilion



The Government Bar Association celebrated its 25th year anniversary at Southwind Park in the Erin's Pavilion. A special thanks goes out to the event sponsors which included Thomson Reuters, IICLE, Illinois State Bar Association, Midwest Litigation and Feldman, Wasser, Draper & Cox. Without their support, the event would not have been the success it turned out to be.

The event began with great weather and an inviting atmosphere, both inside and outside of the pavilion. Hor d'oeuvres, dinner and cocktails were provided by 5Flavors and progressed into an evening full of reminiscing, appreciation, an excellent dinner and wonderful company. Music was performed by Micah Walk providing a wonderful ambient sound.

Frank Martinez was the MC for the evening as he recognized the sponsors and guests and presented the speakers. Remarks were made by the former president, Marc Loro, who recognized the founders of the organization. Further remarks were made by George Tinkham, the founder and first president of the GBA, about why and how the organization came to be. The night ended with a talk from the keynote speaker, Executive Inspector General Ricardo Meza, about the need for ethics in government service, especially in the legal field.

R. Patino

September Luncheon: General Counsel for the Governor Talks about his Office and its Role in State Government



Upcoming Events:

Government Bar Association:

- Nov. 15 – Luncheon at Maldaner's featuring Thomson Reuters presenting Technology in the Law
- Dec. 5 – Holiday Party at DH Brown's 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Central Illinois Women's Bar Association:

- Nov. 14 – Luncheon/Seminar at Illinois State Library 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Sangamon County Bar Association:

- Nov. 15 – Annual Dinner at Illini Country Club
- Nov. 22 – Thanksgiving Day Hike at Carpenter Park
- Dec. 6 – Young Lawyer Holiday Party at DH Brown's

On September 18th, John Schomberg, Amalia Rioja and Era Laudermilk spoke about the General Counsel's Office for the Governor. John Schomberg is the General Counsel for Governor Pat Quinn. As the Governor's top attorney since May 2010, Mr. Schomberg oversees the Office of the General Counsel along with the State agency general counsels and their attorneys. Mr. Schomberg discussed the agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction and gave an overview of how they all work together.

Amalia Rioja is Senior Counsel in the Office of the General Counsel for Governor Pat Quinn. In her current position, Ms. Rioja serves as the Governor's Office's legal and policy advisor with regard to several state agencies, including the Illinois Gaming Board, the Department of Revenue and the Illinois Lottery. Ms. Rioja is also the Governor's Office's Ethics Officer, serves as the Office's liaison to the Office of the Executive Inspector General, and supervises the Office's Freedom of Information Act response team.

Era Laudermilk is an Associate General Counsel in the Office of Governor Pat Quinn. As an Associate General Counsel, Ms. Laudermilk serves as the legal liaison to a portfolio of State agencies that includes the public safety agencies, education agencies and the Illinois Lottery. Additionally, Ms. Laudermilk assists Governor Quinn in overseeing the clemency process and reviewing petitions.

Each attorney spoke about the agencies they work with and how Governor Quinn interacts with his legal staff. The presentation drew a large crowd of public and private sector attorneys.

F. Martinez

October Luncheon: Meet the Judicial and Circuit Clerk Candidates



On October 16, 2012, the Central Illinois Women's Bar Association and the Illinois Government Bar Association co-hosted a "Meet the Candidates" luncheon at Maldaner's restaurant. The candidates were Tony Libri and Kristin DiCenso, running for Sangamon County Circuit Clerk, and John Schmidt and Tim Londrigan, running for Sangamon County Circuit Judge. Retired Sangamon County Associate Judge Stuart Shiffman was the moderator/emcee.

Both judicial candidates stated that campaign donations would have no effect on their decision-making, and both would recuse themselves from a case in the appearance of a conflict. Regarding whether bar polls were a good indicator of performance, Judge Schmidt said they are a good "barometer," but not the only indicator. Mr. Londrigan said they were a good but not great indicator of performance, and suggested a pass/fail system. Mr. Londrigan argued that he had the requisite experience, particularly in civil practice, to be an effective judge. Judge Schmidt stated that his experience as an assistant state's attorney, Sangamon County State's Attorney, and as a judge prepared him for a seat on the bench.

The candidates for circuit clerk were first asked how to ensure secure court records and funds. Ms. DiCenso stated her concern with past allegations of corruption in the circuit clerk's office. Mr. Libri countered that there is no corruption in the office, and the redundant systems in place catch any discrepancies. Regarding the issue of electronic filing, Mr. Libri explained that the office has systems in place, and is ready to go. Ms. DiCenso argued that the system currently in place is difficult to navigate, as there is one for attorneys and one for the public. She would encourage moving to e-filing. When asked how she would deal with more *pro se* litigants, Ms. DiCenso explained that she would designate one employee to deal only with *pro se* filings. Mr. Libri stated his office initially advises people to hire an attorney, but there is self-help available.

M. Delcomyn

Officers & Board Members

President: Frank Martinez - 217-545-6602 -

fmartinez@siumed.edu

Vice President: Karen Kloppe - 217-782-4842 -

Karen.Kloppe@illinois.gov

Secretary: Jim Stivers - 217-782-6625 - james@ilga.gov

Treasurer: Robert Patino - 217-545-8168 - rpatino@siumed.edu

Directors at Large:

Jennifer W. Hammer - jhammer@giffinwinning.com

Mike Delcomyn - 217-782-3654 -

Michael.Delcomyn@osad.state.il.us

Arden Lang - 217-785-2288 - arden.lang@osad.state.il.us

Kay Marie Philon - (217) 391-0084 -

proteinmolecules@yahoo.com

John Hosteny - 217-782-7659 - John_Hosteny@isp.state.il.us

Renee Snow - 217-785-5046 - rmsa2@yahoo.com

Previous Past President - Robert Patino - 217-545-8168 -

rpatino@siumed.edu

Newsletter Editor:

Robert Patino - 217-545-8168 - rpatino@siumed.edu



The Government Bar Association celebrates 25 years of service

Thank you for celebrating with us.



Thank you to our Sponsors



FELDMAN, WASSER, DRAPER & COX