



NEWS

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Serving the Interests of Lawyers Dedicated to Government Service

A Message from the President



It is an honor to be elected once again as President of the GBA. During the past year, attendance has increased at our luncheons, the holiday party, and the annual wine-and-cheese event, and we have also been able to award two scholarships to deserving students. . I am looking forward to another successful year and would like to welcome our new board members (Jim Stivers, John Hosteny and Kay Marie Philon).

I would also like to remind everyone of the 25th anniversary celebration that will be held at Erin's Pavilion on September 27, 2012. There will be a social hour on the patio overlooking the park, a sit-down dinner and a program including a keynote speaker addressing the importance of government attorneys in the legal community. Further details will follow in the coming month. Please be sure to RSVP early for this event.

As always, if you have any suggestions or want to volunteer for any of our events, please let me or a Board member know. I look forward to seeing everyone at upcoming events.

F. Martinez

GBA Recognizes Parting Contributors

Individuals who do more than just show up to meetings when they volunteer to become involved with an organization are the heart of small, volunteer organizations like the GBA. These individuals' efforts are not only appreciated, but also inspire others to give more of themselves. This year, the Government Bar Association is losing two dedicated officers who will be very difficult to replace: Barbara Rowe and Carol Kirbach. It has been a distinct pleasure to have had the opportunity to work beside these individuals and a real honor to get to know them personally. As a gesture of gratitude for their service to the GBA, the GBA board decided to give Barbara and Carol a small plaque. Thank you both for everything you have done for the GBA! We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors!!



Barbara Rowe



Carol Kirbach

GBA Awards 2 Scholarships Again this Year!



The Illinois Government Bar Association honored two scholarship recipients for their interests in pursuing a career in government. A total of \$1,250 was awarded to two of the several outstanding applicants that applied for the GBA Scholarship. The recipients were Ms. Amelia Schingle and Mr. Oscar Piña, both from the University of Illinois College of Law.

Ms. Schwingle interned with the LaSalle County State's Attorney's Office during her years as an undergraduate. Ms. Schwingle started her undergraduate education at the University of Illinois, and finished at the University of Notre Dame, from which she graduated *cum laude*. Ms. Schwingle has emphasized the study of criminal law in her time at the University of Illinois College of Law. She even took a federal criminal practice course in Chicago over a winter break. From her experience with this course, Ms. Schwingle decided to pursue a position with the Office of the United States Attorney, and she will be interning with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Rockford this summer. Ms. Schwingle undoubtedly holds the best characteristics of a government lawyer: dedication, hard work, and selflessness, and she will make a wonderful prosecutor.

Mr. Piña majored in political science, as well as criminology, at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Mr. Piña succeeded academically, by graduating *summa cum laude*, and also athletically, as he was on the track and field team. Nevertheless, Mr. Piña still found time to volunteer as a tutor at a local elementary school and to travel to Texas and Oklahoma, where he built houses for the poor, and assisted the Cherokee Nation with renovating a community center. Mr. Piña also interned with the Mexican Consulate in Chicago. This spring, Mr. Piña graduated from the University of Illinois College of Law. During law school, Mr. Piña interned at the Office of University Counsel and at the Office of the Governor, and he also worked with the Community Preservation Clinic. His busy schedule notwithstanding, he found the time to volunteer at a local school, helping bilingual children with their homework. Mr. Piña would like to pursue a career in government work, with an emphasis on labor law. Mr. Piña will obviously make a wonderful lawyer, and our profession will benefit with him in it.

R. Patino and M. Delcomyn

January Luncheon: Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation



John Lupton was the luncheon speaker on January 19, 2012. Mr. Lupton is the Director of History Programs and the Acting Executive Director of the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission.

The Commission was created in 2007, and its mission is to "assist and advise the Court in regard to the acquisition, collection,

documentation, preservation, cataloging, and related matters with respect to historic aspects of buildings, objects, artifacts, documents, and information, regardless of form, relating to the Illinois judiciary."

Mr. Lupton presented attendees with a look back into the judicial history of Illinois and some of the little known stories

behind the State's legal system. The stories pointed at the interplay between demographic changes, geographical features, legal needs, and political movements at both the local and national levels. More information about the evolution of the judiciary appears on the Commission's website at <http://www.illinoiscourthistory.org/timeline>.

Without a doubt, from any variety of perspectives, Illinois has a colorful past that continues to influence all of us today. Be on the lookout for more educational and entertaining events from the Commission in the rest of 2012!

K. Kloppe

February's Luncheon: Jim Lewis Talks about S,W. Mississippi in 1965. Was that a part of America?



Since its inception, our nation has struggled with racial conflict. For example, the 3/5ths compromise codified racial discrimination in our Constitution. And though reconstruction formally ended in 1876, the roots of the racial conflicts that unfolded in the South in the 1960's grew still deeper. Unfortunately, decisions of the United States Supreme Court, like *Plessy v. Ferguson*, only helped further sow the seeds of racial strife.

Fortunately, there were groups of people dedicated to helping. One such group was the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). In large part, the SNCC tried to help with voter registration. Up until this point, there were frequently no African-Americans registered to vote in many counties in the deep South. A good example was Walthall County, in which the Registrar not only refused to allow African-Americans to register, but struck one African-American, a Mr. Hardy, in the back of the head with a gun. To make matters worse, the sheriff thereafter arrested Mr. Hardy for "disturbing the peace and bringing an uprising among the people." When the government successfully sued to restrain the State from prosecuting Mr. Hardy, one of the justices dissented, arguing that the court should represent the "ethos" of the area—*i.e.*, do not let African-Americans vote.

In the summer of 1964, voter registration efforts were met with fierce resistance. Violence, intimidation, and public beatings—even on courthouse steps—were all common. The Ku Klux Klan killed three men, and there were 17 bombings. The bombers were caught and prosecuted, but received only probation. In the fall of 1964, Jim decided to move to the South to help. His goal was to find the "worst place in the worst state." That was Pike County, Mississippi.

When Jim arrived, he lived in the "Freedom House," which was a SNCC house. The Freedom House offered a sense of purpose. The

SNCC always had one student sitting at the front of the house at the welcome table. Jim noted that the house gave people a “voice” at a time when they needed to be heard. Of course, there was a genuine danger to the SNCC volunteers at the Freedom House. Nevertheless, they were held together by their sense of purpose, and the fight for basic human rights.

SNCC took opportunities to work when they could, operating a “freedom school.” On one occasion Jim and the SNCC students met with the police chief ahead of time, but were nevertheless arrested for picketing for voting rights. They waited in jail three days until they had the money for everyone to bond out together. This scene of picketing and arrests was being repeated all over the State. In Jackson, 800 people were arrested for protesting, and were in custody for 12 days.

In the summer of 1965, Jim and some fellow students rented a house from musician Bo Diddley’s father. (As it turns out, then, Jim *does* “know Diddley.”) Jim was tasked with driving five students, who were the first to desegregate the local school, back and forth to school. Jim subsequently went back to school himself, and then became a civil rights lawyer.

Mississippi was slowly changing, in large part because of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. African-Americans were not only able to vote, but were being elected to office. Schools were desegregated. While things were still far from perfect, they were moving in the right direction, in large part due to all of the volunteers who risked their own safety to help fight for what is right.

M. Delcomyn



March Luncheon: An Overview of the Office of Corporation Counsel and Current City Issues

Mark Cullen spoke about the role of the Office of Corporation Counsel in the City of Springfield. Mr. Cullen noted that the seven attorneys and nine support staff in his office provide the highest quality of legal service to the citizens of Springfield. His office does what is in the best interest of the Springfield by implementing the policy promulgated by the Mayor and City Council. There are currently four attorneys assigned to Code Enforcement division addressing the backlog of cases including new cases against the Bel Aire Motel and MacArthur Park Apartments. The city handles numerous cases in administrative and small claims court, cases involving demolition, managing workers’ compensation claims and responding to Freedom of Information Act requests. Mr.

Cullen also spoke about initiatives to save taxpayer money such as consolidating fleet garage to eliminate duplication of services and the MAXIMUS study to eliminate positions that are no longer needed. Mr. Cullen enjoys his new role and took the position to try to change things for the betterment of the community.

F. Martinez

GBA, CIWBA, and SCBA Quiz Lawyers, Have Fun, Raise Money



On April 29, for the third year in a row, our three local bar associations - the Government Bar Association, Central Illinois Women's Bar Association, and the Sangamon County Bar Association - joined forces to host a trivia contest. The event was held at the KC Hall in Springfield. The planning committee, consisting of representatives from each group, produced 100 of the most trivial questions imaginable to test the contestants.

Each trivia team was allowed up to 10 participants. The teams, made up of lawyers and their guests, in addition to the general public, met the challenge of answering questions from ten creative categories, with each category including 10 questions. For instance, the category WHAT DOES “LAW” GOT TO DO WITH IT required the teams to give answers that all had the letters L-A-W, in order. Question 9, asked teams to name the New Zealand actress and singer known for her television role as Xena: Warrior Princess.

Ans: LUCY LAWLESS

The category LAWYER UP TWO asked teams to name athletes who had gotten into trouble and needed a lawyer. One such question asked from the name of the Oakland A’s designated hitter who had to sit out the first 50 games of the 2012 season due to repeated MLB drug policy violations.

Ans: MANNY RAMIREZ

A third category, PARDON ME, dealt with some very famous, and often incomplete, apologies.

Retired Judge Stuart Shiffman once again ably acted as emcee. Cash prizes of \$150 for first place and \$75 for second prize were offered. The team with the best score for the evening was, once again the Banana Slugs. The Slugs also use the moniker - Seven Lawyers and a Librarian, a winning mixture if ever there was one. The Slugs returned part of their winnings. The GBA’s share of the proceeds went to the organization's scholarship fund for aspiring lawyers.

A. Lang

April Luncheon: Child Abuse Prevention and Prosecution in Sangamon County



The program “Child Abuse Prevention and Prosecution in Sangamon County” was presented by State’s Attorney John Milhiser, Assistant State’s Attorney Sheryl Essenburg and Child Advocacy Center Director, Joe Goulet, on April 19, 2012 at Maldaner’s Restaurant. The crowd enjoyed a discussion that included the history of child abuse and prevention in Sangamon County and the creation of the Child Advocacy Center in 1989. The Center combines the resources of law enforcement personnel and the State’s Attorney’s Office to hold offenders accountable. Don Cadigan, then State’s Attorney, was instrumental in organizing and founding the Center. Betsy Goulet was the initial director and stayed in that position for six years.

The Agency coordinates investigations between the Department of Children and Family Services, law enforcement investigators, medical and mental health professionals and the States Attorney’s Office. It has made a tremendous difference in child abuse prevention and prosecution of offenders in the County.

The Child Advocacy Center works with families as the family learns the intricacies of the legal system. Cases take a long time. The Center guides and watches over the families. Short term crisis counseling is provided as are long term referrals.

You can learn more about the Sangamon County Child Advocacy Center at <http://sangamoncac.org>

B. Rowe



May Luncheon: Creating and Maintaining an Ethical Environment

Chad Fornoff, Executive Director of the Illinois Executive Ethics Commission, spoke at the GBA luncheon on May 17, 2012 about creating and maintaining an ethical environment. He began by talking about how his office works with the Office of the Inspector General and the authority the commission has in issuing penalties such as fines to state employees. It was his opinion that the media cared a lot about the corruption that went on with State employees, and he proceeded to provide a list of different state officials that were found guilty or plead guilty to some form of corruption. The

list included Otto Kerner, Jr. (former Governor), Dan Walker (former Governor), Bill Scott (former Attorney General), George Ryan (former Governor), Rod Blagojevich (former Governor), and Paul Powell (former Secretary of State).

Mr. Fornoff then discussed the need for ethical standards and how to create a culture at the workplace for ensuring ethical behavior. Having ethical standards and enforcing the rules created from those identified standards helps discourage corrupt behavior. It can be impossible to know who the “bad apples” are when people are hired, and employees tend to “go along” with their boss or supervisor. To change the culture, Mr. Fornoff identified 7 things that need to be in place:

- (1) Supervisors need to discuss ethics in the workplace
- (2) Any ethics concerns that are brought up by employees need to be followed up on
- (3) Ethics rules and agency practices need to be consistent
- (4) Ethics standards need to be enforced consistently at all levels
- (5) Leadership needs to show that it cares about an ethical environment
- (6) Employees need to feel free of any fear about retaliation by a supervisor or fellow employee
- (7) Employees should not be expected to obey directions blindly

An agency should not be content with just doing the bare minimum requirements in educating and discussing ethics in the workplace. Officers and directors should encourage more discussion on ethics and continue to make ethics a priority.

R. Patino

2012 Annual Wine and Cheese Event



In keeping with past traditions, GBA held its annual wine-and-cheese event at the Corkscrew on the evening of June 14, 2012.

Members mingled with attendees representing a number of governmental bodies, including the Department of Revenue; the Department on Aging; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Legislative Reference Bureau; the Property Tax Appeal Board; the Offices of the Illinois’ Attorney General, the Sangamon County State’s Attorney, the Secretary of State, and the State Appellate Defender; Southern Illinois University School of Medicine; and the United States Central District Court. Staff at the Corkscrew offered samples of six wines and a cheese tray that was complemented by a bread and cracker assortment, caviar, crudites and dip, eclairs, fruit, and an Italian-style antipasto tray from Tony’s. The arrangements and food were prepared by present and past board members, Barbara Rowe, Kay Marie Philon, Karen Kloppe, and Fritz Goebig.

President Frank Martinez recognized the service of two outgoing board members, Barbara Rowe and Carol Kirbach. Barbara has organized many of the recent social events and seen to it that attendees often enjoy homemade culinary delights from her kitchen. Carol has diligently recorded minutes at board meetings for several years. Each received an engraved plaque in appreciation and expressed their continued willingness to assist with future events of the GBA.

Prior to the induction of new board members, Judge Sue Myerscough summarized the academic achievements and career plans of the two scholarship recipients for this year. Given the caliber of the applications submitted for consideration, the committee recommended awarding two scholarships this year rather than just one, as the committee originally expected. Funds for the scholarships are derived from member donations, the joint bar association trivia night, and the holiday party auction.

B. Rowe & K. Kloppe

ARDC Registration Fee Increases

The Illinois Supreme Court amended Rule 756(a)(1) of the Rules Governing the Legal Profession and Judiciary in Illinois. Effective June 5, 2012, the annual registration fee will increase from \$289 to \$342 for practicing attorneys in Illinois. This amendment takes effect immediately.

This fee increase will be used to improve funding of the Lawyers Trust Fund (LTF). The LTF is a non-profit foundation. It was established by the Chicago and Illinois State Bar Associations in 1981, and in 1983, LTF was designated by the Illinois Supreme Court to administer the funds received from the interest on lawyer pooled client accounts, known as IOLTA. Funding has been declining due to low bank interest rates in the weak economy.

Since 1983, LTF has made more than \$105 million in grants to non-profit legal aid organizations, such as Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, and Prairie State Legal Services. LTF plans to issue \$7.7 million in grants to 29 legal aid organizations in Illinois this year. There is a significant demand for legal services because more than 2.8 million Illinoisans live at or below the poverty-based income eligibility threshold for the aid provided by these organizations.

Attention Retired Judges...

The Supreme Court also announced that retired judges who wish to remain active on the state roll of attorneys will no longer be exempt from paying the attorney license registration fee.

K. Kloppe

Officers & Board Members

The new GBA Board members for FY13 get sworn in!



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Upcoming Events:

Government Bar Association:

Sept. 27 – 25th Anniversary Celebration @ Erin's Pavilion in Southwind Park – SAVE THE DATE!!!

Central Illinois Women's Bar Association:

October Ethics Conference - TBD

Sangamon County Bar Association:

June 29 – SCBA Annual Play Day

July 20 – SCBA Bus Trip to see Cards v. Cubs

Oct. 4 – SCBA Nominations Smoker