



# NEWS

Vol. 14: No.3

Founded 1987

Serving the Interests of Lawyers Dedicated to Government Service

## Barbara Rowe Answers the Call to Service



Barbara Rowe, who now works for Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, P.C., was recently recognized with a plaque for her service to the Sojourn Women's Shelter and Services that helps victims of domestic violence. One of her many volunteer activities include making sure these women are represented at hearings that involve criminal and civil matters. Many thanks from the GBA for working with such a worthy cause!

R. Patino

## February's Luncheon: Answers on State's Attorney Practices are Delivered

Pat Delfino, Director of the Illinois State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor talked to the Government Bar Association during the February luncheon. Pat discussed the need to get indigent persons better representation at trials and how that was addressed by grants that were specifically allocated to support public defenders. These grants helped defendants file appeals and better defend themselves.

Pat also talked about his office and how it represents most of the counties in Illinois excluding Cook County which amounts to 101 counties in the state. Also involved with his office is a special drug prosecution arm that focuses its efforts on those cases. Furthermore, the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor recently received a "violence against women" grant which has created a special domestic violence division.



Interestingly, there are roughly 47 counties where the sole prosecutor is the elected State's Attorney in that county. Thus, Pat's Office often helps these state's attorneys when their case load becomes too much or the cases are highly complex. His Office also handles many of the capital punishment cases. The State's Attorneys Appellate

Prosecutor also gets involved when there is a conflict of interest within the local state's attorney's office. Pat also discussed generally funding issues and how his office interacts relative to and with the Attorney General's Office.

R. Patino

### Upcoming Events:

Government Bar Association:

Jun. 10 – 2.0 hr CLE Professionalism Course and GBA Annual Party @ SIU School of Medicine  
RSVP to robpatino@gmail.com

Sangamon County Bar Association:

Jul. 30 – Play Day @ Lincoln Greens and Bay Yacht Club

Central Illinois Women's Bar Association:

Jun. 22 – CIWBA luncheon and election of new officers  
@ TBD

## March's Luncheon: Speaker Describes Illinois Financial Woes



The March 18<sup>th</sup> GBA luncheon featured Paul Miller, the General Counsel of the Illinois State Treasurer's Office. Mr. Miller spoke on: "Illinois in 2010: The Budget, Debt, Job Creation, and the Role of the State Treasurer's Office in Each."

Mr. Miller serves as the Deputy Chief of Staff and General Counsel for the Illinois State Treasurer's Office. As such, he helps manage an office which is responsible for the investment of several tens of billions of dollars. He has direct oversight of the Office's 529 College Savings Program, Unclaimed Property Division, and the Technology Development Fund. As General Counsel, Mr. Miller is responsible for contractual, procurement, litigation, and legislation matters, as well as advising the State Treasurer on day to day matters.

Mr. Miller described the constitutional mandate of the Office of the State Treasurer, which is primarily the investment of state funds to generate interest income. He pointed out that Illinois has several investment funds and portfolios totaling over \$30 billion dollars. In addition, the State Treasurer manages many of the State's Special Funds, including the Capital Litigation Trust Fund and the 529 College Savings Funds.

Mr. Miller explained that while the State Treasurer cannot make direct loans and grants for various public purposes, the Treasurer's Office can make deposits in financial institutions and require the institutions to loan funds out for economic development, technology development, and other desirable purposes.

Mr. Miller then discussed the ever worsening current Illinois financial situation. He started by saying "this is going to be sobering" and went on to describe the increasingly dire straits in which Illinois finds itself. He pointed out that while the State Treasurer does not have the constitutional mandate to pay the bills (or, as has been the recent situation, to determine which bills are paid), the State Treasurer is deeply concerned over the fiscal crisis.

As an example of how crisis-driven the handling of the fiscal crisis has been, Mr. Miller pointed out that much of the recent borrowing to replace falling revenues and pay critical state obligations has been short term borrowing. Thus about \$2.5 billion in mandatory repayments will be due this fiscal year (which ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>). Repaying short term loans will create further pressure on the state's cash flow.

As Mr. Miller pointed out, the ultimate concern is the state's credit rating. A slip in the state's bond rating could cost the state many millions of extra dollars in increased interest for the same borrowed amount. He pointed out that while Illinois' bond rating is still above that of California, the threat of a lowered state credit rating would only further seriously damage Illinois' financial position.

Finally, Mr. Miller had to point out that it was ultimately up to the General Assembly to decide the balance between budget cuts (which will mean service cuts) and any tax increases. While state employees, and even state constitutional officers, express a growing concern for the situation, only the General Assembly can decide the course of the State out of this financial crisis.

Mr. Miller did indeed give a sobering, yet very informative, talk to the very appreciative luncheon group.

L. Benezé

## Former President Visiting Springfield

At the March 18<sup>th</sup> GBA luncheon, former GBA President Keleigh Biggins was recognized. Ms. Biggins, who now works for the United States Navy as a civilian lawyer, has been involved in the handling of legal questions related to the terrorist holding facility at Guantanamo. The Association hopes to have Ms. Biggins as a future speaker on these issues.

L. Benezé

## April's Luncheon: UIS Professor Emeritus of Political Studies Gives his Legislature Insights



Dr. Kent Redfield treated the audience of the April luncheon to his perspective of the legislative process over the past 20 + years. Not

only has Dr. Redfield researched and taught several courses involving Illinois politics, he has worked on a number of bills for the Illinois legislature and most recently on various ethical issues such as campaign finance reform.

Dr. Redfield spoke about how the Speaker of the House has been in control of the House for nearly 20 years and therefore has a lot of power. John Collerton, the President of the Senate, has only been at that position for 2 years but has been in the Senate since the 70's. Both the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate dominate the procedural control of their legislative bodies and are given staff that can be used for fund raising and running a campaign during their off hours. These leaders dominate the elections because of their ability to raise money efficiently. The other legislative members are limited in what they can do because they don't have staff to raise money or run their campaigns, so they are reliant on their leaders to provide them with resources. The legislative members generally have very little power unless they chair a committee, though there is no real locus of power in these committees since the real power has been centralized by the leaders.

It is this centralization that hinders the political process since the decisions are left in the hands of a few individuals that need to work with the Governor to hash out a budget. When there is disagreement, things tend to get personal and gridlock occurs. Dr. Redfield recommends giving more money to the legislature so that individual members can hire staff and form their own policies independent from the party leaders so that they might give a more independent perspective on a position. This would de-centralize the legislature thereby making it more of a consensus based body where the legislative member is accountable to their constituents rather than to their party leaders.

R. Patino

## The GBA Co-Sponsors Trivia Night



Do you know what words were prominently displayed on a banner on the deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln on May 1, 2003, or can you name the baseball commissioner who negotiated the lifetime ban of Pete Rose, and who died eight days later of a heart attack?

Well, lots of teams of attorneys in Springfield were able to answer those questions and 98 more when they matched wits with each other at a trivia contest held on April 30 at the KC Hall in Springfield. The event was sponsored by three local bar associations - the Sangamon County Bar Association, the Central Illinois Women's Bar Association, and the Government Bar Association. The planning committee consisted of representatives from each group. Sixteen teams

from the legal community participated along with a team consisting of workers at the SJR. Each team had up to 10 participants. Teams were encouraged to pick team names, which included monikers with some Latin legalese and the mention of weed and whiskey.

Cash prizes of \$150 for first place and \$75 for second prize were offered. The team with the best score for the evening was the Banana Slugs, consisting of attorneys from such diverse workplaces as The State Appellate Defender, Metnick Cherry and Wise, and the Department of Corrections. A few non-lawyers were on that team, included a ringer named Nancy Huntley, the head librarian at Springfield's Lincoln Library.

A good time was had by all, and the evening raised over \$1200 for law school scholarships and other charitable endeavors of the three sponsoring organizations.

A. Lang

## 2 Scholarships Awarded in 2010!

This year the Government Bar Association gave out two scholarships because of the caliber of the candidates, educational achievements and work experience in the public sector. Several of the candidates were worthy of the scholarship. Marcy Scherer, a first year law student at the University of Illinois, was selected as the recipient of a \$750.00 scholarship. Ms. Scherer ranks sixth in her class and recently was a James H. Dunn Memorial Fellow in the Office of Governor Pat Quinn. While working in the Governor's office Ms. Scherer testified in front of the Senate committee on State Government and Veterans Affairs regarding pending legislation. She also researched bills awaiting Governor Quinn's signature and composed bill reviews including legislative history, bill analysis and agency positions. Her experience led Ms. Scherer to pursue her legal education. This summer Ms. Scherer will be working at the Office of the Attorney General in Champaign where she will be focusing on consumer fraud issues.

The second scholarship for \$350.00 was awarded to Martina Brendel. Ms. Brendel is a second year law student at Chicago-Kent College of Law. She is Secretary of the Kent Justice Foundation, a public interest law student organization. She served previously as a legal intern for the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of Illinois, where she assisted two trial teams in the prosecution of drug conspiracies and wrote motions and legal memoranda relating to the admissibility of evidence in criminal trials. Ms. Brendel also was a legal extern for the Honorable Susan E. Cox, U.S. District Court, in the Northern District of Illinois. This summer Ms. Brendel will work on Medicare and Medicaid fraud cases in the Health Care Bureau of the Illinois Attorney General's Office. Her goal is to prosecute hospitals and health care providers that file false claims against the government and insurance companies that use deceptive practices.

F. Martinez

## CWLP Roundup Program for the Homeless

Please watch your June CWLP bill for a Round form and sign up. Giving just a few cents a month by rounding it up could dramatically help the far too many homeless in our community.



A couple years ago, the Springfield City Council passed my Round Up ordinance. It allows you to round up your CWLP bill to the next dollar (or add a specific dollar amount), with the difference between your bill and the rounded up amount (or the added amount) going to a fund to help the homeless. If you round up, you will contribute between a penny and 99 cents each month--an average of 50 cents a month. You can also opt to add a specific amount, like \$1 or \$5. This is designed for customers on the level payment plan, who pay an averaged equal amount each month. You can also do both. I add \$5 each month and round up on top of that. Fifty cents a month may not seem like much, but multiplied by 65,000 CWLP customers or even by one-fifth or a tenth of them, it would be.

Although this program gave almost \$10,000 to the Salvation Army overflow shelter in February, the percentage of CWLP customers participating is low. This isn't because we aren't generous, but because most folks aren't aware of the program. So, if you haven't signed up yet, Please watch for the Round Up insert in your June CWLP bill; fill it out and send it in with your June bill payment, or sign up on line: At the bottom of [www.springfield.il.us](http://www.springfield.il.us); click on the penny surrounded by "Round Up" and an arrow pointing up...a painless way to help those least fortunate among us! (or fill in the form here ---->)

S. Cahnman, Alderman of Ward 5 in Springfield

### Officers & Board Members

- President: Robert Patino - 217-545-8168 - [rpatino@siumed.edu](mailto:rpatino@siumed.edu)  
 Vice President: Lee Beneze - 217-524-7945 - [lee.beneze@illinois.gov](mailto:lee.beneze@illinois.gov)  
 Secretary: Carol Kirbach - 217-785-4471 - [Carol.Kirbach@illinois.gov](mailto:Carol.Kirbach@illinois.gov)  
 Treasurer: Lydia Mills - [Lydia.S.Mills@illinois.gov](mailto:Lydia.S.Mills@illinois.gov)  
 Directors at Large:  
 Jennifer Kuntz - 217-753-6690 - [Jrkuntz@juno.com](mailto:Jrkuntz@juno.com)  
 Frank Martinez - 217-789-2393 - [Frank.Martinez@cwlp.com](mailto:Frank.Martinez@cwlp.com)  
 Barbara Rowe - 217-785-6528 - [bsrowe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bsrowe@sbcglobal.net)  
 Tim Moore - 217-953-0552 - [tim.moore@thomson.com](mailto:tim.moore@thomson.com)  
 Arden Lang - 217-785-2288 - [arden.lang@osad.state.il.us](mailto:arden.lang@osad.state.il.us)  
 Shari West - 217-558-0014 - [shari.west@illinois.gov](mailto:shari.west@illinois.gov)  
 Previous Past President - Ed Schoenbaum - 217-546-4897 - [JudgeEdS@gmail.com](mailto:JudgeEdS@gmail.com)  
 Newsletter Editor: Robert Patino [rpatino@siumed.edu](mailto:rpatino@siumed.edu)



Your change can make a change in Springfield

The plight of the homeless is a growing concern in Springfield. But there's something simple you can do to address the problem and help provide assistance and shelter for those who can't provide it for themselves.

The Round Up To End Homelessness program lets you make small regular donations to programs that assist the local homeless population. All you have to do to participate is return the form below authorizing CWLP to round up your bill to the nearest dollar each month. The money collected in the Round Up will be used to fund programs that ease homelessness in Springfield.



Thank you.

### Round me up, please!

- Please round up my CWLP bill to the nearest dollar each month to help end homelessness.
- I want to make a larger contribution. Please add \$\_\_\_\_\_ to my bill each month.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Return with your next CWLP bill or mail separately to:  
 ROUND UP, CWLP Customer Service Office, Municipal Center West, Springfield, IL 62757.

You can also sign up online at [www.cwlp.com](http://www.cwlp.com).

To cancel your donation, call 789-2030.

