

THE GAVEL

A publication of the Illinois Judges Association

FALL, 2007

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 1

Inside This Issue

Page 2 *Convention*

Page 3 *Criticism
Response*

Page 3 *Ethics Opinions*

Page 4 *Judges Are...*

Page 5 *Ellis Reid
Remembered*

Page 6 *Cross
Examination*

Page 7 *Military Poster*

Page 8 *Two Slices from
Life*

Page 10 *Spain Trip*

Page 11 *7 Reasons to
leave the Party*

Page 12 *Race Judicata*

The Gavel

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Judge Mark A. Schuering

Trusted Messengers – It's Our Duty

Last month during a Law Related Education meeting ISBA President Joseph Bisceglia made the case for an organized and determined effort by those in the legal profession to get into the schools and educate our young people about the legal system. I couldn't agree more with those sentiments, but I was most impressed by another observation Joe Bisceglia made. He commented that it was very important that the lawyers going into our schools be accompanied by judges because frankly, judges are *Trusted Messengers*. What a very nice compliment, but also what a challenge to us all.

During my 21 years as a judge, I've done my share of speaking to school-aged children at Law Day events and scout meetings. I also teach an American Judicial Process class at Quincy University. With the exception of the latter, these speaking engagements could be described as hit or miss. The initiative that retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor urged us to consider and the one planned by the ISBA and other bar associations is not a haphazard venture. They made their case

that we cannot sit back and wait for the teachers or school administrators to call us, and hosting students once a year for a Law Day event is clearly not enough. The effort to offer law related education must be well-organized, institutionalized and pro-active. That means **we** must contact schools, gain admission and deliver the message. I should confess that during 1989-90, when I was a candidate for circuit judge, I did not turn down a single speaking engagement. Since then, I've accepted most of the invitations made, but I have not gone out of my way to gain admission into classrooms.

The ISBA stated powerful reasons why we must augment civics and government education and speak out about the importance of protecting judicial independence. They also stress our obligation to facilitate careers in the law, especially for those students in populations that are under-represented in the legal profession. These are noble goals, but there are thousands of lawyers in Illinois and less than 1,000 active judges and a few hundred retired judges. Must **we** do



Continued on page 5

COLLEAGUES IN CRISIS SEMINAR

By Judge James R. Epstein

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On December 7, 2007 at the Sheraton Hotel, the IJA convention will present a seminar equally important to the bench and the bar. "Colleagues in Crisis," co-sponsored by IJA, the Illinois State Bar Association and the Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, will focus on how to recognize symptoms which might indicate that some of our colleagues may be at risk from medical or substance abuse problems. A portion of the program will be devoted to understanding the physiology and behavioral patterns associated with depression, alcoholism, drug dependency and other mental health issues. A second section will deal with means and methods of intervention with a view toward preserving law licenses, judicial office and family relationships, as well as saving lives in the process.

A panel of trained Lawyers Assistance Program intervenors, ARDC personnel and counselors, each of them attorneys, will share what they have learned from their professional and personal experiences. This program was first presented in Du Page County following the recent tragic loss of life of three lawyers. We hope that the frank discussion of this important topics will provide guidance on how we can all help to prevent further incidents.

Judge Michael Caldwell, of the 22nd Judicial Circuit, will discuss the impact of impaired lawyers in courtrooms and offer insights into recognizing impaired lawyers and judges as well as successful intervention techniques which can be used by members of the bench to help and protect themselves, their local legal community and the public they serve. Carol Coon, MS, JD, LCPC, former president of LAP, will discuss the medical and physical impact of addiction on the brain and the body as well as the resulting impact on mental health and ability to practice law. She will also offer scientific evidence to explain the addiction phenomenon in lawyers and judges. Brigid A. Duffield, JD, ARDC Hearing Board Chair, will discuss how addiction shows up in real life by sharing personal experience, specific to alcohol, its effects on recovering and impaired lawyers as well as recognizing and responding to addictive behaviors which defy logic and can lead to the premature death of otherwise successful lawyers. Mary Robinson, JD, former ARDC Administrator will discuss the impact of impairments on discipline as well as recognizing and responding to co-dependent, maladaptive compulsive behaviors such as "covering, avoiding and caretaking." Such behavior often seems to defy logic. However, in some cases, it seems to have become part of the law firm family culture. Ben Schwarz, II, JD, Chairman of the ARDC will address the overall impact of the various types of addictions, including gambling, drug and sex on judges and lawyers. He will also offer insights into developing bench awareness and crafting workable supportive solutions for the judiciary to reach lawyers before they lose their license or life.

This seminar will qualify for two 2 hours of MCLE credit and the professionalism hours will be applied for. Registration is free, but limited to the first 150 registrants. Please contact Executive Director Maureen McClelland (312/431-1283) for registration. Following "Colleagues in Crisis" the IJA annual luncheon will feature a keynote address from Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan.



Incoming Illinois Judicial Council President P. Scott Neville meets with IJA President Mark Schuering as well as Judges Jesse Reyes and Cheyrl Ingram at the IJC installation dinner.

“WHO YOU GONNA CALL?” THE CRITICISM RESPONSE COMMITTEE

By Judge Robert J. Anderson

You are a Judge sitting in a Juvenile courtroom. A nine year old boy appears before you charged with murder. He admits the Juvenile Delinquency Petition and the case is up for sentencing. You sentence this nine year old boy to the most serious penalty the law will allow – probation. You can not send him to the Juvenile Detention Facility nor can you send him to the Juvenile Department of Corrections because of his age. The next week a fire storm of criticism in the local media erupts about your “soft” sentence. Who are you going to call?

The Illinois Judge’s Association has a Criticism Response Committee to assist Judges in situations like this. This situation actually occurred to a Judge in Illinois several years ago. The Criticism Response Committee can reach out to people who can do things that you as a Judge can not do. We can get

help from lawyers throughout the State of Illinois to advise the media about the fact that what you have done is all that the law would allow you to do. As judges, these types of situations can come up on a fairly regular basis.

Sometimes – hopefully very rarely – we as judges may make a mistake. The Criticism Response Committee may not be able to assist on every mistake that any Judge might make. But, when you feel that you are being subjected to unfair criticism, there is someone you can call. That someone is the President of the Illinois Judge’s Association, Mark Schuering, any of the other officers or Judge Bob Anderson from DuPage County or retired Justice Bill Quinlan from Cook County. We would be glad to tell you if we can help. We would like you to know that we are here for you when you have a problem.

NEW ETHICS OPINIONS

The Illinois Judicial Ethics Committee has recently issued three new Ethical Opinions:

Opinion 07-02 - A judge, receiving pension benefits from a former law firm, is usually disqualified from presiding over cases where a party is represented by the firm. After full disclosure, the parties may remit the disqualification.

Opinion 07-03 - A judge, who is in the midst of a dissolution of marriage discovers that the attorney who represents his spouse will be appearing before him on a regular basis, is disqualified, but, absent any personal bias or prejudice, should remit the disqualification to the parties and counsel.

Opinion 07-04 - It is not improper for a Judge to testify in a collateral matter as to what s/he observed while presiding at a trial when subpoenaed to do so by a party. But the Judge should seek legal advice from the appropriate state agency and should not express an opinion regarding the quality of representation or performance of the attorney.

The full text of these and all IJEC Advisory Opinions may be obtained through the IJA website at ija.org.

ON THE MOVE

Justice **Kathryn E. Zenoff** was assigned to the Appellate Court for the 2nd District. “I’m deeply honored by the assignment to the Appellate bench and am grateful to Chief Justice Thomas and the other members of the Supreme Court for the opportunity to serve in such a challenging position. My responsibilities as Chief Judge of the 17th Circuit and the Presiding Judge of Winnebago County’s Therapeutic Intervention Program Court (mental health), as well as Facilitator of the Circuit’s pilot project on civility and professionalism with the Supreme Court’s Commission were especially rewarding aspects of my role as a circuit judge. I hope to be able to continue my interest in these areas and make a worthwhile contribution as Illinois joins other states in developing innovative programs.”

IMPROVING THE LEGAL SYSTEM

Judge **Sheila M. Murphy** (Ret.) chairs the International Bar Association Judges Forum. She will be installed in Singapore in October and then go to Japan to address Japanese bar members in Tokyo and Osaka on human rights issues.

Judge **Charles G. Reynard**-11th reports that a Gala celebrating 175 Years of the Practice of Law was held in McLean County. Chief Judge **Elizabeth Robb**-11th was honored as the first female chief judge in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit and immortalized in a painting commissioned by the Illinois State Bar Association. The

painting depicts her, Abraham Lincoln other noted McLean county practitioners on the plaza of the McLean County Courthouse. It is on display at the McLean County Museum of History.

Chief Judge **Kathy Bradshaw Elliot**-21st presided over the induction ceremony for Lambda Epsilon Chi- the national honor society in Paralegal/Assistant Studies which was held at the Kankakee County Courthouse. Judge **J. Scott Swaim**-21st addressed the new class and an honorary membership was conferred upon him. Judge **Swain** retired from the Marine Corps Reserves in 1995 as a lieutenant colonel.

Jackson County Presiding Judge **William G. Schwartz**-1st, nominated the winner of the National Association for Court Management/National Center for State Court’s annual \$1000 award. The Director of Court Operations for Jackson County received the award for her work with Kids in The Courts. Presiding Judge **Schwartz** hosts the program in the courts which seeks to bring a “closer relationship between the community and the Courts.”

Well-rounded

A full contingent of Lake County judges attended Red Mass, sponsored by the Justinian Society of Lake County at St. Mary’s Seminary in Mundelion. Chief Judge **Mary Schostock** and Judges **Margaret Mullen, Jane Waller, Michale Fusz, John Phillips, Nancy Waites, Steve Walter** (Ret) and Justice **Larry Engels** (Ret.) were in attendance.

Over 100 IJA members, families and friends enjoyed a *Day at the Races* at Arlington Park Race Track in June. Judge **Dan Gillespie** and **Maureen McClelland** each won tri-fectas.

Judge **Rhoda Davis Sweeney** cheered for the Chicago White Sox this season, but a thoughtful Kansas City Chief’s first-base coach tossed her an out-of-play foul ball for her to keep.

COMMUNITY MINDED

Judge **Jill Cerone-Marisie** serves as the bi-lingual representative at Marion Jordan Elementary School in Palatine. She majored in Spanish at Marquette University.

MAKING US HAPPY

Judge **Martin Moltz** was seen lunching at the Art Institute in a bright orange jacket, entering the Daley Center in a canary yellow jacket, and dining at the Illinois Judicial Council in an electric blue jacket. Not all in the same day, though. He is the immediate past president of the Decalogue Society and reports that Judge **Ilna Diamond Rovner**-U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit, swore in its new president, James Shapiro. Judge **Moltz** is also the former Deputy Director of the State Appellate Prosecutor’s Office and presently the vice-chair of the Chicago Bar Association Criminal Law Committee.

APPOINTED, ASSIGNED OR ELECTED

The 1st Circuit added Judge **James R. Moore** and Associate Judge **Charles Clayton Cavaness**. The 2nd Circuit added Judge **David K.**

Continued on page 9

ELLIS REID REMEMBERED AT THE ILLINOIS JUDICIAL COUNCIL AWARDS BANQUET

By Judge Daniel Gillespie

Life is no 'brief candle' to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations. —
George Bernard Shaw

While he was alive, Justice Ellis Reid was always front and center at the annual installation and awards dinners for the Illinois Judicial Council. As the regular chairman of the Council members and their guests were regularly accustomed to seeing his broad smile, hearing his deep, resonant voice and being energized by his infectious enthusiasm. Justice Reid was front and center again at this year's 25th annual installation and awards dinner of the Illinois Judicial Council. Each speaker in the Hyatt Regency Crystal ballroom was moved to recall his or her memories of Ellis Reid. Cook County Circuit Court Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans described Reid as a man among men. Judge Evans declared, "This is his party." Judge Evans recalled Ellis Reid as a sage advisor who was committed to human rights. "If you had a problem, Ellis Reid was the man to see," Judge Evans declared.

Judge Reid was posthumously awarded the Charles E. Freeman Pioneer in Justice Award. Sheila Reid accepted the award on behalf of her late husband from outgoing Illinois Judicial Council Chairperson Judge Marjorie Laws. Incoming chair of the Council, Justice P. Scott Neville declared that the entire organization would miss the guiding hand of Ellis Reid.



Justice Ellis Reid's candle burned brightly for many years, illuminating the way for future generations of lawyers and judges to follow. The testimonials to his many good works from those who knew him best at the Illinois Judicial Council annual awards banquet bear witness to that fact.

Continued from page 1

this? The answer is easy, the answer is yes. Joe Bisceglia is correct. We **are** *Trusted Messengers*, and not only can we gain legitimate or unquestioned access to these young people, we can serve as clear examples of how our legal system, our adversarial system functions. Bring your robe and use that simple example of why it is black (because we are neutral). Describe how we routinely leave one "side" unhappy (sometimes both) with our rulings/decisions. Or use the old baseball analogy: we may sit up on this bench and look important, but just like in baseball, our job as umpires is to fairly and

impartially call "balls and strikes, safe or out". We recognize that nobody goes to the ball game to watch the umpires.

So if the answer is Yes, we must go into the classrooms as *Trusted Messengers*, then the question becomes how best to address this enormous responsibility? First, trust that you can find the time and then be organized. The ISBA, ABA, CBA and other professional groups have many "canned" presentations that have been tested in the classroom and are age/class specific. You won't have to re-invent the wheel. Regarding attending such teaching/speaking

opportunities with a lawyer, don't shy away. This is a perfect opportunity to show the contrast between what we judges do and what lawyers do.

Let's face it, **we are** *Trusted Messengers*. That's a good thing. But because we are, we must respond and participate, even when the days have been long and we have opinions to write or presentence reports to read. It's just too important for us not to take up this mantle. In a relatively small way, this effort may serve our citizens better than any ruling we make. Let's join this effort, it's that important.

CROSS-EXAMINATION . . . BY JUDGE MICHAEL B. HYMAN

Judge Ronald D. Spears

If IJA second vice president, Judge Ronald D. Spears of the 4th Circuit, tells you that most thinking people list Taylorville on their 100 places to visit before they die, don't listen to him. Otherwise, when Ron speaks, listen and listen closely. Besides being known as an energetic and thoughtful jurist, Ron is a witty and engaging conversationalist. Appointed Christian County resident Circuit Judge in 1993, he was elected in 1994 and twice retained. He serves as an Equal Opportunity Officer and military judge in the Illinois Army National Guard. He graduated from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in 1974 (with honors) and the Southern Illinois University School of Law in 1977 (summa cum laud). Ron takes the helm of the IJA in 2009.

In high school I was... *voted as having the "best sense of humor."*

First job after law school: *Law Clerk for U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois.*

Judge I admire and why: *Judge J. Waldo Ackerman was the federal judge that I clerked with for two years and who taught me by his example that a good judge can make a difference in the world.*

Best advice I received from a judge: *The appellate court can correct your stupidity but your bad temperament can hurt the litigants for a lifetime.*

If I could change one thing about myself, it would be... *talk less and listen more.*

Advice to new judges: *There is a God; you are not God, but for a brief time justice will flow through you.*

A judge should never... *say never or always.*

Favorite childhood memory: *sports events and homemade ice cream.*

Hobbies: *Studying Abraham Lincoln, reading, writing, public speaking, and following U of I sports.*

Most treasured personal possessions: *family pictures, my library of books, and my law license.*

Historical figure you identify with and why: *Abraham Lincoln; humble background; saw law and politics as a way to improve self and help others.*

Lincoln matters because... *at a critical time of American history he preserved the union and advanced the process of achieving the ideals of the Declaration of Independence.*

I wish someone had told me... *if you gained just one pound each year after high school graduation it would be a problem by your 40th Reunion.*

Nobody knows that I can... *actually not have opinions about something.*

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

What you enjoy most about IJA: *working to preserve judicial independence which is a key to preserving freedom.*

Your motto: *Do all the good you can, for as many people as you can, for as long as you can.*

Favorite movie: *A Man for All Seasons.*

I wish lawyers would... *be proud of their profession, be civil, and educate the public about the importance of the rule of law.*



POSTER HONORS JUDGES WITH MILITARY SERVICE

By Judge Ronald D. Spears

IJA Past President Jesse Reyes initiated a project to honor Illinois Judges who served in the military and the resulting poster now graces courthouses all over the state. Patrick Sheehan was commissioned to design the poster, entitled: “Defenders of Freedom: Honoring Illinois Judges For Their Military Service.” The poster lists approximately 300 of the Illinois Judges who have served in the Armed Forces since World War II. This is only a representative list and additional judges will be identified and added to future reprints of the poster. The names of additional judges can be forwarded to the IJA office and will be kept on file. One copy of the poster was distributed to each county courthouse in the state as well as the Illinois Appellate Courts and Illinois Supreme Court. It is hoped that the poster will be appropriately framed and be on permanent display in every courthouse. Additional copies of the poster are available for purchase from Maureen at the IJA Office for a cost of \$15 each.

At many of the courthouses, the poster was unveiled at a public ceremony with veterans and retired judges present. An accompanying press release stated, “The purpose of the poster is to honor the brave men and women who served in any branch of the armed forces and pledged to preserve, protect, and defend the rights and liberties we hold dear. The ceremony today is also honoring all Americans who have served in the military, especially those currently on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world. For their service, they have our eternal thanks.”

The first poster unveiling was held in Chicago at a ceremony in the Daley Center Plaza. The colors were posted by the drill team from a Chicago Public High School and a stirring rendition of the Star Spangled Banner was sung. Attending were judges who had served in the military during various deployments since WWII. Officers from various bar associations, including the Illinois State Bar Association and the Chicago Bar Association, were in attendance. Justice Thomas Fitzgerald gave remarks praising the service of these Illinois judges.



Recently my father gave me a thin volume of poetry published in 1935 that belonged to my grandfather, a lawyer, law professor and referee in bankruptcy. The author, Hugh R. Porter, inscribed a note to my grandfather on the fly-sheet, “For he’s a fellow, I contend, who glorifies the name of friend. H.R.P.” The book is titled “Slices from Life.”

Porter practiced family law in Chicago, apparently on his own, for almost 50 years. He died in 1959. I tried to learn more about him but uncovered nothing. A yellowed picture of Porter, which precedes the poems, shows a dusty-grey haired, nattily dressed middle-aged man with an oval face, intense eyes and a faint smile.

My father thought I might find the poems interesting since most of them tell stories about Porter’s clients and cases. Sure enough, I was struck by Porter’s inventiveness and wit, although, at times, he tended to sound a bit Dr. Seuss-y.

What particularly captured my attention, though, were a couple of poems composed as tributes to two highly respected judges, now practically forgotten. Porter dedicated “If I Were A Judge” to Cook County Circuit Court Judge Thomas J. Lynch “of whom the writer believes it can be truthfully said: ‘He listens with patience, overrules with caution and judges with kindness the frailties of his fellow humans.’” Judge Lynch, who served 29 years on the bench, was chief of the Criminal Court at the time of his death in 1950. Admitted to the Bar in 1905, Lynch entered politics, did a stint as deputy Criminal Court clerk, and served as an alderman before his election to the bench in 1921. He presided over several high-profile cases, and, according to a memorial in the *Chicago Bar Record*, in his passing, “the community lost a faithful public servant and a capable judge.”

If I were a Judge, it seems to me,
 I would strive my level best to be
 Humane, but upright, just but kind,
 Meeting all problems with open mind;
 Hearing with patience from day to day,
 Trials of Humans, who passed my way.
 I would grant no favors to rich or great,
 That were not the due of their just estate;
 Nor would I withhold from the humblest slave
 The fullest justice –that I might save
 Or keep or hold my place of power,
 For a single day or a single hour.

If I were a Judge, I would keep in mind,
 That the purest Justice is always blind,
 And that no distinctions ‘twixt high or low
 Does the Goddess of Justice note or know.
 And no mortal man, be he serf or king,
 Would cause me to swerve, nor to grant a thing
 That I should withhold, if I knew I should,
 Because I thought he was bad or good;

For no man is so bad and none is so pure,
 That we can be absolutely sure
 There isn’t some virtue, some taint of sin
 Mixed up with the other side of him.

If I were a Judge, I’d remember, too,
 That when life is over – my labors though,
 I, too, stand at the judgment seat,
 And the God of Justice be forced to meet,
 And I’d want to feel on that great day,
 That none of us know, is so far away,
 That the Lord of Heaven could say to me:
 ‘Your work was done in sincerity,
 Though you’ve made mistakes, yet I know
 you’ve tried,
 To be always and ever on Justice side,
 And because of that, all else is forgiven,
 And we welcome you to the Court of
 Heaven.’

Porter also salutes a young judge, John A. Sbarbaro, who had been on the bench just three years when the poems were published. After admission to the bar in 1921, Sbarbaro served as a Assistant State’s Attorney and participated in the Leopold and Loeb murder trial, having studied medicine for a few years at the

Continued from page 8

University of Chicago before attending law school. He was elected to the Municipal Court in 1932 and the Superior Court in 1937. Sbarbaro headed the Criminal Court in 1942 and 1943. He died, along with 62 others, on March 17, 1960, in a Northwest Airline crash in Tell City, IN. Porter, in introducing his poem "JohnSbarbaro," calls the judge "a man of keen and exacting intellect, yet so kindly and courteous in his manner that the confidence and trust he inspires is a tremendous asset."

He's the kind of man you can go to,
 When problems your spirit oppress,
 And feel—if he can—he will help you,
 No matter how real your distress,
 Nor is he the sort who will tell you,
 That you're seventeen kinds of a fool,
 For you'll find in demeanor—he's courteous
 Capable, honest and cool.

O, there's so much in life that is sordid,
 And so much of sorrow and pain,
 That his type of human, refreshes
 Exactly as god-given rain,
 And you'll find tho' you talk with him briefly,
 The silver that's lining your cloud,
 For in helpfulness, kindness, and candor,
 He's a man who stands out from the crowd.

Although Porter and his judicial subjects are long gone, in these sincere, sentimental verses, we can sense their decency, dignity and dedication to the pursuit of justice.

Continued from page 4

Overstreet. The 3rd Circuit added Associate Judges **Kyle Napp, Keith Jensen and Duane L. Bailey.** The 4th Circuit added Associate Judge **Bradley T. Paisley.** The 7th Circuit added Associate Judges **Rudolph Braud, Jr. and John E. Childress.** The 9th Circuit added Associate Judge **Dwayne L. Morrison.** The 13th Circuit added Associate Judge **Cornelius J. Hollerich.** The 14th Circuit added Associate Judge **Richard A. Zimmer.** The 15th Circuit added Associate Judge **Kevin J. Ward.** The 16th added Associate Judges **Linda A. Baurle, Susan Clancy Boles, and Thomas J. Stanfa.** The 17th Circuit added Judge **Eugene G. Doherty,** Associate Judges **John S. Lowry, John H. Young** and recalled Judge **Angus Sinclair More, Jr.** The 18th Circuit added Associate judges, **Timothy J. McJoynt** and **Mary E. O'Connor.** The 19th Circuit added

Judge Robert S. Smith, Jr. and Associate Judge Thomas M. Schippers, David P. Brodsky and Daniel B. Shanes. The 22nd Circuit added Associate Judges **Thomas A. Myer and Robert Baderstadt.**

Recent appointments in Cook County are Judge **Anita Rivkin-Carothers, William E. Gomolinski, Maureen Ward Kirby, James A. Shapiro, Thaddeus L. Wilson, Laura Bertucci Smith, Dennis J. Burke, LaGuina Clay-Clark, James Snyder, Patrick J. Sherlock, Furmin Sessoms and Demetrios G. Kottaras.**

RETIRING

Cook Judges **Nancy Drew Sheehan, Gay-Lloyd Lott, Judy Mitchell Davis, Lon Schultz, Micheal Healy, Bernetta Bush and James Henry.**

Retiring across the state are: **Rodney A. Clutts- 1st, David W. Slater-4th,** Associate Judges

George H. Ray-7th and Theodis P. Lewis-7th, David K. Slocum-8th, Dennis J. Morrissey-10th William G. McMenamin-12th, John E. Payne-15th, Gerald F. Grubb-17th, James W. Jerz-17th, Edward R. Duncan, Jr. -18th.

REMEMBERED FONDLY

Cook County Judges Judges **Eugene C. Champion (ret.), Paul F Gerrity (ret), and Ellis E. Reid (ret.)** and Associate Judge **James G. Donegan.**

Justice **Shelvin Louise Marie Hall-** Appellate Court, 1st Dist., lost both of her parents over the spring and summer. Also Judge **Veronica Mathien** lost her beloved collie dog, Shannon.

FOR COOK COUNTY JUDGES ONLY

Judicial circuits 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 22 are located mostly north or due west of Cook County, and therefore should never be referred to as "downstate." Pop Quiz: What judicial circuit is located at the southernmost tip of Illinois?

SPAIN TRIP A SUCCESS

By Judge Sheila M. Murphy

The Illinois Judges Association trip to Spain from April 13th to April 23rd was a bit of magic. Imagine if you can, the idea of sixteen of us, judges, spouses, a brother, all going to Spain and never having a harsh word or complaint. Now visualize the Cerdas with elegant black luggage, lots of it, being dropped off at the top of a narrow, ancient streets and having to get to the hotel...and others from the group grabbing their bags and off everyone went. From Barcelona to Madrid, and everything in between it was a special trip. Did we visit courtrooms, yes indeed...in the Alhambra in Grenada, and in Sevilla. We saw where the Arabs held court, we read translations of their laws carved into the stone, and we also loved the magnificent architecture of Gaudi. We visited the pencil shaped mountains at Mont Seratt where Gaudi and Ignatius of Loyola both got their inspiration. We were joined by Dave Obish's beautiful daughter. Language was not much of a problem since we had the Cerdas and Dicklers and Jose Guerra, Grace's brother to help us out. Gary and Marcia Neddenriep made their first trip to Europe with us, and would like us to consider Germany for this year

or next...Claire McWilliams maintained her sense of humor even though she was missing her children....What was the best place of all? Perhaps, Cordoba, rubbing the foot of Maimondes...for others, Sevilla or Toledo...still others loved Ronda with its cliff top restaurants. And now to the next question. What next?

The Garden of the Gods Club is a possibility. Two of my brothers are members and you can hike or golf and view Pikes Peak through the Garden of the Gods. The Texas oil people bought land in the '50s in Colorado Springs and built the Club. It was a pretty closed operation for many years, but now it is more open to guests. For those who like golf, it is right there. For those who prefer easy or advanced hikes, my husband and brothers are great guides. Let us know.

Jesse Reyes has suggested Puerto Rico for a winter getaway. Another suggestion is Paris. Please send us your suggestions so we can plan another magical trip. It will be our third. John Hourihane suggests that we include CLE. Send your trip ideas for the coming year to murphy@rbmchicago.com.



The Illinois legal community has joined together to recruit and train volunteer lawyers to assist disabled veterans in the processing of their claims for disability benefits. At a news conference at John Marshall Law School in Chicago on Sept. 5, L. Tammy Duckworth (second from right), director of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, announced a cash grant of \$100,000 to support the formation of a clinic at the school. Also on hand were (from left) Judge Ronald D. Spears, chair of the ISBA's Committee on Military Affairs; Joseph G. Bisceglia, ISBA president, and Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas R. Fitzgerald.



Summer interns from the 19th Judicial Circuit enjoy an outing to the Sox game.

Bottom Row: (right to left) Mari Kaluza, Kristina Kaluza, Michael Bekesha, Maureen Moss, Justin Hanzel
Top Row: (right to left) Stephen Rice, Manan Shah, Catherine Gbedey

IJA LAUNCHES SAFETY PROGRAM GEARED TO TEENS AND PARENTS: '7 REASONS TO LEAVE THE PARTY'

By Chris Ruys

Imagine this. Every Illinois teenager signs a “contract” with a parent or guardian, pledging not to drink alcohol, not to drive with someone who has been drinking, and to promise that, if they are at a party or event where they feel unsafe, they will call their parent or guardian for a ride home, no questions asked. The parent or guardian also signs the contract, verifying that they agree to the deal. That’s the hope behind a blunt, visual and interactive in-school program called “7 Reasons to Leave the Party,” which was launched September 19th by the Illinois Judges Association. Presented by Judge Mark A. Drummond, of Quincy, the 50-minute, award-winning program provides students with information about the consequences of poor choices. His talk, which is peppered with true stories, is designed to drive home this message: Encourage your friends to avoid making wrong decisions, and you can prevent them from having a criminal record or losing their driver’s license. You may even save a life.

Judge Drummond’s program opens with a hip-hop music track, setting the tone for a typical teenage house party. There is unlawful behavior going on in each room. Using visuals, including a Power Point presentation, a breathalyzer and medical urinalysis container, Judge Drummond walks the audience through the home, spelling out the 7 reasons to leave the party. Students receive a one-page handout listing the 7 reasons on one side and the “contract” on the other. The first 5 percent of teens at each school, who present a signed contract to their driver’s education teacher or other school official, receives a key chain flashlight, courtesy of the IJA.

“We hope to reach several thousand students and parents throughout Illinois with this important message,” says IJA President Mark A. Schuering. “Teens need to know the personal and legal consequences of drinking and driving, taking drugs and having underage sex. Parents should be aware of the judges’ attempt at preventative law.”

The initial presentations were held at a safety conference in Chicago Heights attended by 250 teens and at Hancock High School on Chicago’s south side. Presentations have also taken place at Urbana High School and Danville High School, and dates have been set in Bloomington, Edwardsville and Belleville. Presentations will be held in Springfield, Lake County and other cities early next year. Media coverage is being encouraged at each location. Star newspapers, a large bi-weekly chain covering Chicago’s south suburbs, ran a favorable feature with photo about the launch of the program.

The program co-chairs are Mark A. Drummond, Rita M. Novak and Mary S. Schostok. For additional information, please contact the co-chairs or Maureen McClelland at the IJA office at 312.431.1283 or info@ija.org.

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Pictured at two recent presentations are Judge Mark A. Drummond (left) and Mark A. Schuering (right). With them in the picture on the left are Judges Thomas Panichi and Valarie Turner. On the right are Danville High School Principal Marla Bauerle-Hill and Justice Rita Garman.

“WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED” - RACE JUDICATA



From left:

Kneeling: Mark Schuering and Tom Chiola

Middle: Gloria Coco, Mary Mikva, Kay Hanlon and Mary Colleen Roberts

Back: Tom Rakowski, Pat McGann, Brian McKillip, Rita Novak, Tom Hogan, Margarita Kuly's Hoffman, Sam Betar and Bob Senechalle

Not shown but also participating: Ron Bartkowicz, Rick Billik and Tom Quinn

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