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President's Message

Reflecting on America's July 4th festival of freedom, one thinks beyond the fireworks, barbecues and get-togethers with friends and family. The protection of our way of life and our fundamental freedom is being put to the test on a daily basis for judges around the nation. We are the ones who are, and will be, called upon to protect the basis of our democracy, a free and independent court system. We are so fortunate that disputes are brought to courts of law for you and I to decide issues, and are not decided in the press, in the streets or in the courts of public opinion. This great weight of democracy is not comfortable for us to bear, nor should it be.

When we took our oath of office, the words we spoke harkened back to a time when blood was shed so that we could effectively and forcefully, when need be, defend this government and its third and most important branch. We, in the IJA, will continue to back a free and independent judiciary. We strive for the welfare of all judges in our state and will act to protect and defend them when called upon. A free and independent judiciary must also be free from financial restraints put upon us by the legislature. We are obligated to protect the rights of judges across the state.

I hope this holiday brings you and your family all the blessings of peace, health and security.

Not a member? **Join the IJA today.**
Contact Maureen at any of the
numbers listed below.

Happenings...

- **SB 2313 update:** Call or e-mail Stuart Nudelman at 312/603-5110 or stunudel@msn.com or call Richard Prendergast at 312/641-0881.
- The Illinois Judges Association Cable TV Show, *Judicial Perspectives* is now seen in Cook, DuPage and Lake Counties, as well as 14 cities across the state. The show is taped monthly and each program airs between three and six times. If you are interested in having *Judicial Perspectives* broadcast in your area, please contact our publicist, Chris Ruys at 312/337-7746.
- The Executive Committee of the Illinois Judges Association will host a luncheon meeting for regional and ethnic bars on July 19, 2002 at the CBA headquarters. Among the points of discussion will be projects of common concern and interest of the bar associations.
- Congrats to Gino DiVito on becoming President of the Appellate Lawyers Association.
- Kudos to two of our judges who have taken over as President of the following bar associations: Richard Schoenstedt, Will County Bar Association and Diane Winter, Lake County Bar Association.
- Save the date: July 25, 5-7 p.m., reception for Illinois Association of Administrative Law Judges at the ISBA, 20 S. Clark, Suite 900. RSVP 312/341-8530 (Women's Bar).
- Justice Mary Jane Theis was selected as Catholic Lawyers Guild *Lawyer of the Year*. She will receive the honor at a brunch following the Red Mass on October 6th. For more information on the Red Mass, contact Jim Covey or Jill O'Brien at 312/467-9800 or clgc.org.
- Louis Rathje to be given the Award of Excellence by the National Conference of State Trial Judges. The award will be presented during the ABA annual meeting in D.C. on Friday, August 9. We will be eternally grateful for his efforts to save the judicial pension from any income tax liability.
- Judge Jesse Reyes was the guest speaker at the installation of officers of the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois on June 4.
- Harold Sullivan received the *Tradition of Excellence Award* from the ISBA on June 21 in Lake Geneva.
- We are pleased to be a co-sponsor with The Chicago Bar Association on its *Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges* Conference to be held on September 26 and 27.

Do you have an e-mail address?

Join the 400+- IJA judges who are on our
e-mail list. Receive instant updates on
matters of concern to the judiciary.