

MINUTES – Membership Meeting
Illinois Judges Association
June 3, 2005

Judge John Steele called the meeting to order. He told those present about the trip several of the judges had taken to Springfield. He informed them that they went to the annual softball game between the senators and representatives and mingled with the legislators. He felt their presence was well received and should be continued.

The following judges were elected by unanimous vote as officers and board members for 2005-06:

James M. Wexstten, President
Jesse G. Reyes, First Vice President
Mark A. Schuering, Second Vice President
James R. Epstein, Third Vice President
Ronald D. Spears, Secretary
Jane L. Stuart, Treasurer

Board of Directors – 6 year term:

John O. Steele, immediate Past President

Board of Directors – 3 year term:

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|--------------------|-------------------|
| James R. Brown | John A. Barra |
| Bernetta D. Bush | Patrick J. Hitpas |
| Sharon J. Coleman | Lloyd A. Karmeier |
| Grace G. Dickler | Stephen R. Pacey |
| John T. Doody | M. Carol Pope |
| Kay Marie Hanlon | Stephen G. Sawyer |
| Patricia B. Holmes | Mary S. Schostok |
| Thomas D. Roti | Timothy J. Slavin |

Board of Directors – 1 year term:

Kathy Bradshaw Elliott
Edward R. Jordan
Lewis M. Nixon

Judge Wexstten indicated that during his term as President he would work hard to increase public confidence in the integrity of the judiciary. He would also work on the disparity of pay between circuit judges and associate judges. He further noted that we need to strengthen our relationship with the legislature. He informed the Board that there have been 16 Circuits who have requested a summer intern through the Judicial Intern Opportunity Program. Funding for the **intern program** came from the IJA, ISBA, Illinois Bar Foundation, Illinois Trial Lawyers Association and the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel. Judge Wexstten encouraged all judges to read the 25 year history of the IJA which will be posted on the website.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes – Board of Directors’ Meeting
Illinois Judges Association
June 3, 2005

Those members in attendance were:

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|------------------------|---------------------|
| Helaine L. Berger | Cheryl Ingram |
| Robert W. Bertucci | Edward R. Jordan |
| Arnold F. Blockman | Richard A. Kavitt |
| James K. Borberly | Veronica B. Mathein |
| James R. Brown | Stephen C. Mathers |
| Edward R. Burr | Mary W. McDade |
| Bernetta D. Bush | Lewis M. Nixon |
| Robert L. Carter | Stuart A. Nudelman |
| Joseph M. Claps | Stephen R. Pacey |
| Sharon J. Coleman | M. Carol Pope |
| Maureen Connors | Jesse G. Reyes |
| Barbara Crowder | Thomas D. Roti |
| David Delgado | Stephen G. Sawyer |
| Donald M. Devlin | Mary S. Schostok |
| Grace Dickler | Mark A. Schuering |
| Gino L. DiVito | William G. Schwartz |
| John T. Doody | John O. Steele |
| Kathy Bradshaw Elliott | Jane L. Stuart |
| James R. Epstein | Michael W. Stuttley |
| Clark E. Erickson | Mary Jane Theis |
| Kay M. Hanlon | James M. Wexstten |
| Patrick J. Hitpas | Leo J. Zappa |
| Patricia B. Holmes | |

Also in attendance were:

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|-------------------|-------------------|
| Kathleen M. Burke | Daniel Gillespie |
| Gloria G. Coco | William M. Madden |
| Laurence Dunford | |

Upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried, the **minutes of the December 10, 2004 meeting** were approved as presented.

It was noted that Judge Ronald Spears had an excused absence from the Board

meeting due to a prior commitment.

Chris Ruys delivered a **public relations report**. News clips were distributed to the members. She submitted written reports on a Proposed Plan for the Judiciary in Illinois for 2005-06 and Public Relations Program Highlights. She indicated that the cable stations airing our show have increased to 21. It was noted that the line item for public relations in the budget was increased from \$24,000 to \$36,000. This additional amount would be used to cover public relations services dealing with unjust criticism of the judiciary that could be customized for any area in the state. Upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried, the public relations report **was approved**.

The **Financial and Reimbursement Policy** of the IJA was **approved** as submitted.

The Board was informed that the **IRS has approved the 501(c)(3) status** of the Illinois Judges Association Foundation.

The proposed revisions to **Supreme Court Rule 64**, submitted by the Illinois Judicial Ethics Committee, were distributed to the Board. Upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried, the proposed revisions were **supported by the Board** as submitted.

It was noted that several requests were made **to support various pieces of legislation**: raising retirement age from 75 to 80 and allowing judges to carry concealed weapons. The question of whether the Association should have a policy on these types of requests was **referred to the Executive Committee**.

The Board was informed that the Secretary of State has notified the Association that it is required to register as a **lobbying entity** because William Harte had listed the IJA as one who employs him to perform lobbying services. This matter was **referred to the Executive Committee**.

Several requests were made regarding **security**. One request was that every judge should have a parking space or an escort from the courthouse. This matter was **referred to the Executive Committee**.

The Board was encouraged to submit **suggested topics** to be discussed by the **Task Force**.

Revitalization of the **Speakers Bureau** was discussed. It was suggested that a program should be presented at the Convention on December 9, 2005. The presentation would include various topics for judges, including outlines, handouts and Power Point presentations. Judges are encouraged to let the IJA know if they have made any presentations so that the Supreme Court could be notified.

In the **financial report**, it was noted that the Association should realize approximately \$6,000 in interest this year as the IJA has purchased two CDs.

The **budget**, which included raising the PR line item from \$24,000 to \$36,000 and \$26,250 for the judicial intern program **was approved** as submitted.

Judges were encourage to volunteer for the *Judicial Perspective* Cable Shows.

Judge Blockman presented the Association with an East Sutton Park Liqueur decanter, which was given to the IJA during the trip last year to London.

The report of the **Associate Judge Committee** was given to the Board. The report was **referred to the Executive Committee** and will be placed on the December Agenda of the Board.

The report of the **Benefits and Pension Committee** was given by Judge Richard Kavitt. He noted that the COLA for last year is 2.2%. The first quarter of this year is at .9%. He noted that there is only enough money in the pension system for the next 12 years. He also noted that there has been talk about reducing the automatic increase on a pension to 2%, but with a maximum of \$250 per year. Also being mentioned was turning the pension into a 401K. He suggested that a survey be sent to our members regarding judges' experiences with CIGNA. These matters were **referred to the Executive Committee**. Judge Kavitt was invited to appear before the Executive Committee at its next meeting on September 9.

Judge Jordan and Mathein delivered the report of the **Convention Committee**. The noted that the Convention will be held December 8 and 9, 2005. It was also noted that the Convention came in under budget last year.

Judge Dunford and Simko were thanked for their efforts on the redesign of the website for the **summaries for Appellate and Supreme Court cases**. Judge Dunford indicated that this website has 850 hits per day.

Judge William Madden was recognized as doing a great job on the **IJA website**.

Judge Dickler indicated in her oral report on *The Gavel* that Judge Maureen Connors has made a questionnaire of interesting questions that would be published in The Gavel. Anyone interested in filling out this questionnaire should contact Judge Dickler. She also noted that judges are encouraged to submit articles. It was suggested that Chris Ruys should write an article on the Intern Program and that Judge Crowder will have her intern write an article on her experiences in the program.

Judge Hitpas, Chair of the **Judicial Discipline Committee**, indicated that there was no activity and, therefore, no report.

Written reports were submitted by the **Associate Judge, Criticism Response, Electronic Media, The Gavel, Judicial Selection and Retention, Membership and Travel and Benefits Committees.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane L. Stuart,
Treasurer and Acting Secretary