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The Gavel

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Judge Jesse G. Reyes

“You can change people’s hearts by love, never by laws.” –M.K. Gandhi

As a child I never heard the expression, “Charity begins at home.” To my family there were always others in greater need who sought our help.

And that is how I have always lived my life reaching out to the stranger in need, with understanding and without hesitation. It is also something that judges do everyday. That is why it is so fitting that the IJA has established the Illinois Judges Association Foundation. The Foundation now will be able to pursue projects that the Association could not undertake. The IJF will continue to assist the less fortunate, serve as a beacon for the enlightenment of the profession, and undertake endeavors for the common good of justice.



I truly believe the Foundation – our foundation – will change people’s hearts for the better in ways we as judges cannot achieve. This is one of the most important projects IJA has ever undertaken. It will be a lasting testimony to the spirit of generosity of Illinois judges. In the months ahead the Illinois Judges Foundation will be calling on each of you to ensure the success of this vital effort.

There has been much we can point to in terms of accomplishment during our term in office — the creation of the Past President’s Council; the Book Drive; the Lincoln DVD and the Eight O’clock Call. And the formal establishment of the Foundation.

I want to thank you for your trust and confidence, participation and commitment to IJA. I also thank the best set of officers and executive committee members any president could want. It has been an incredible honor to serve as your president.

IS THERE LIFE AFTER..... JUDGING

by Judge Grace G. Dickler

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I was on the bench approximately one month when a colleague asked me when I could retire. I was rather shocked that at the ripe old age of 34, anyone would even ask me the question. It seemed an odd juxtaposition to the maxim presented to us at new judges school, that “this is the best job in the world.” Why would anyone leave the best job in the world...ever? Well, I looked around me and it seemed that judges did not frequently leave. In 1988 not only were there many septuagenarians on the bench, but a fair number of octogenarians and indeed, a few nonagenarians. I began to think that now Supreme Court Justice Thomas Fitzgerald was indeed correct (of course he always is) in saying that this is the greatest job in the world. Just out of curiosity, I asked some colleagues that were retirement-eligible why they remained on the bench. At that time, most retirement-eligible judges were males, and, interestingly, most responded similarly: “My wife will not let me stay home.”

Fast forwarding a number of years, a phenomenon occurred. Judges that retired did not need to stay home. Alternate Dispute Resolution was born. Judges who once feared the wrath of their spouses were now able to retire with dignity and join the ranks of mediators and arbitrators. One need only open the Daily Law Bulletin to see how many of our former colleagues are now involved in the still burgeoning area of dispute resolution. But is that the only road that former judges take? Does anyone just retire? Does anyone do something entirely different? Is the road taken dictated by age at the time of retirement or by gender or some other reason? Do boy judges feel different than girl judges? So, I decided to research these burning questions. And, it seems, as with everything in life (or at least with judges) there exist as many answers as there are retirees.

I first spoke to some of my friends that had retired. I contacted my former suite-mate in Skokie, a rather colorful retiree, Joe Romano. Joe retired at a relatively young age. I asked what he thought he would do when he retired. Without skipping a beat, Joe said that he planned on becoming the next John Grisham. Yes, he would accomplish the dream we all share and write the great American novel. Well, he wrote for six months, spent two years trying to get it published and then, by happenstance, ran into my other dear retired friend, Sam Amirante. Sammy, a much more practical retiree, advised Joe to “quit being a bum” and get back into practice. Joe and Sam now loosely share a practice and both are happy as can be. According to Joe, “It’s like riding a bicycle, you just fall right back into it.” Joe loves his practice, loves seeing his old friends in the courthouses and, particularly, loves the ability to be fully social again.

Next, I contacted my very dear friend, Susan Snow. Susie was always my idol, a judge I hoped to emulate, someone that was so great at what

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TOP-NOTCH PANEL ILLUMINATES AUDIENCE OF JUDGES AND LAWYERS ON... *WHEN A REPORTER CALLS, DON'T HANG UP*

by Judge Mark A. Schuering

The 35th Illinois Judges Association Annual Convention kicked off the Friday morning program, “When a Reporter Calls, Don’t Hang Up”. The program examined how lawyers and judges interact with the media and can assist in accurate reporting.

Organized by the IJA’s media consultant Chris Ruys, a panel of experts at this joint ISBA / IJA program included: Bruce Dold (*Chicago Tribune* Editorial Board member); Roland Martin (*Chicago Daily Defender* Executive Director); Anita Padilla (*NBC 5* anchor and reporter); and Abdon Pallasch (*Chicago Sun-Times* legal affairs reporter). It was moderated by attorney and commentator Paul M. Lisnek.

Attendees learned how the media tries to fairly represent the facts, what guidelines they use to determine newsworthiness and the role of editorial discretion.

Pallasch discussed the ability and the mutual benefits when judges or lawyers talk to the press, including providing background on legal terms or concepts. Highlighted was Illinois Judicial Ethics Committee Opinion 96-5, which provides:

“A judge may not speak to a reporter about a ruling in a pending case without violating Supreme Court Rule 63A(6) unless the judge’s comments are limited to either (1) explanations of administrative procedures of the

court, (2) that which appeared in the official transcript of the proceeding,



Judge Jesse Reyes (third from left), IJA president, poses with panelists (from left) Abdon Pallasch, Bruce Dold, Anita Padilla, Roland Martin, and moderator Paul Lisnek.

or (3) that which appeared in the court order or written opinion.”

Martin discussed the challenges that exist when participating in the “opinion” style radio talk-shows versus a typical news article about a legal matter. How “media” is defined crosses several spectrums, ranging from straight news reporting to commentary and editorial opinion.

Rapid Turnaround

TV news reporter Anita Padilla pointed out that “Day of Air” assignments or stories can be particularly challenging. But she emphasized that despite the rapid turn-around time, reporters want to know further details, facts, and information on what transpired with a particular case in order to get it right.

Only a small percentage of the audience indicated they had been

“burned” by the media after discussing a matter off-record. Martin espoused, however, that he does not believe “off the record” exists, and lawyers and judges should be cautious because a casual comment can become a headline.

The Tribune’s Dold said that judges and lawyers should request corrections or clarifications when necessary, stating that nothing was too small to bring to their attention. Anita Padilla concurred, and pointed out that stories that run on the 4:30 p.m. news can be corrected for the 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. shows.

All of the panelists addressed libel laws and sourcing. The media panel willingly accepted its obligation to *get it right* and be fair in their reporting. Panelist discussed, though, the many challenges they face when trying to convey to the public in limited newspaper space or limited time on the air the newsworthy but often complicated and detailed legal proceedings.

Both the panel and audience agreed that this exchange bridged many of the barriers between the media panelists and judges and lawyers in the audience. What remains clear from the discussion is that the law generates news and the key to continued public confidence in the legal process is accurate, fair reporting. Lawyers, judges, and the media should cooperate to paint a clear picture of what transpired in a

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ON THE MOVE

Justice **James M. Wexstten**, IJA past president, was appointed to the Appellate Court for the 5th Dist. to fill the vacancy created by the death of Justice **Terrence Hopkins** whom Justice **Wexstten** greatly admired. "I followed his life from when he was Chief," he stated. "The IJA enabled me to build relationships with judges all over the state."

Another past president, Judge **Stephen Mathers**, is on the move, having been elected Chief Judge of the 9th Circuit which has 15 judges.

IMPROVING THE LEGAL SYSTEM

Domestic Relations Judge **Raul Vega**, who is regularly in his chambers by 7:30 a.m., spoke before the Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Section regarding the updated 900 series of the Supreme Court Rules. The new rules require custody determinations to be made within 18 months.

Judge **Michael Caldwell**-22nd, Secretary of the Board of Director's of the Lawyer's Assistance Program, is a supporter of training for judges in dealing with litigants who exhibit extremely irrational behaviour in court. He recently presented a program at the ABA CoLAP convention on "difficult" interventions where family is unable or unwilling to participate in an intervention beyond making the initial phone call for help.

WELL-ROUNDED

Judge **Sharon Johnson Coleman**, Law Division, didn't

think that she would fit into the "well rounded" category. She hadn't written a novel nor run a marathon. "Everything I do is for kids' extra-curricular activities." Turns out that Judge **Coleman** is the best kind of well-rounded because everything she does is for *others*. She conducts programs for Leadership Greater Chicago which develops young leaders by exposing them to social issues unique to Chicago. She also educates new judges, serves as "principal for a day," works on I.P.I instructions, is active in the Black Women Lawyers Association and attends to Girl Scout and baseball activities as well. Judge **Coleman's** mother, Dr. F. Frances Johnson of Madison, Alabama, passed away recently. Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago held services for her. The University of Alabama in Huntsville will carry a scholarship in her name.

Judge **Luciano Panici** has been playing bocce ball of all his life. He was part of the "Verdicts" team at the First Annual IJA/Justinian Society Dinner and Bocce Ball Tournament held at Mazzini-Verdi Club in Franklin Park. He and Judges **Edward Antonietti**, and **Tom Panichi** built up the confidence of some lucky law students on the "Jurors" team by staying furthest away from the *pallino*.

COMMUNITY-MINDED

Chief Judge **Michael P. McCuskey**, US Dist. Ct-Central Dist., is a federal judge who hasn't forgotten his state court roots. Despite his lifetime appointment, he continues to give back to the community. He chairs the ISBA

Civil Practice Committee. He serves on the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University which now has top-rated business school. He also supports the community by "attending as many college basketball games as I can." This former coach can name several former football players that have gone on to become judges. Chief Justice **Robert Thomas** appointed him to the Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism. Good choice since Chief Judge **McCuskey** is known for returning all phone calls within 24 hours—even during a snow storm when courts are closed.

APPOINTED, ASSIGNED OR ELECTED

Kenneth Lee Fletcher, **Martin D. Coghlan**, and **Thomas R. Mulroy** were appointed in Cook.

Paul Mangieri-9th, **Carmen Goodman**-12th, **Sarah-Marie Jones**-12th were appointed and **K. Patrick Yarbrough**-17th was elected associate judge.

RETIRING

Cook County retirees include: **Judges Barbara Disko**, **Raymond Figueroa**, **Miriam Harrison**, **James V. Murphy**, **Jesse Prince** and **David Donnersberger**.

Ludwig Kuhar-12th and **Henry Tonigan III**- 19th also retired.

REMEMBERED FONDLY Judges **James G. (Jerry) Donegan**, **Glynn J. Elliot, Jr.**, **Gerald T. Winiecki**, **Arlie O. Boswell, Jr. (Ret.)**, **Cornelius J. Houtsma, Jr. (Ret.)**, and

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Alfred E. Woodward (Ret.), father of journalist Bob Woodward.

BREAKING UP

McHenry County is now the 22nd Judicial Circuit having been severed from the 19th which now consists of Lake County only. There are 22 Circuits in all, plus one un-numbered Circuit, you guessed it—Cook County.

FOR COOK COUNTY JUDGES ONLY

Did you know that the First Judicial Circuit begins at the southernmost tip of Illinois and is comprised of nine counties with 20 judges, two of whom are female.



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legal proceeding. While the aberrant cases may get undue headlines, we ought to remember that our legal system is one of the best in the world. By continually striving to improve our system through programs such as this one, our legal community ensures that not only will criminal and civil litigants consistently receive justice and fair treatment, but also the public will remain confident in the administration of our country's laws.

IJA DAY AT THE RACES

by Judge Rick Kavitt

Come watch the horses race, socialize with friends and eat good food at Arlington Park Race Track on Saturday, June 2nd, 2007.

This will give the judges an opportunity to mingle with our colleagues throughout the entire state. Please bring your family and friends.

You will be provided with admission, a program, two hour buffet with chef's carving beef, turkey, etc., several kinds of salads, dessert and a four hour open bar. The buffet will run from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. and the open bar will be from 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. Outdoor seating will also be available. We will enjoy the festivities from a reserved private room overlooking the track.

The approximate cost per person is \$55.00. More information, contact Maureen McClelland at 312/431-1283 or info@ija.org.

Save the date

IJA Day at the Races

**Arlington Park Race Track
June 2nd, 2007**

Private room

Two Hour buffet with beef, turkey, etc. and a carving chef

Open bar, admission, program included

Cost is approximately \$55

Bring your family and friends for a fun afternoon and socialize with your colleagues



ESSENTIALLY ETHICS ...

CONVENTION PANEL ADDRESSES POLITICS AND ETHICS

by Judge Ray McKoski

Bow-tied, but never tongued, Judge Thomas More Donnelly lead an informative and fast-paced panel discussion entitled “Judges When Engaging in Political Activity ... Practice Safe Ethics.” The program, co-sponsored by the IJA,



Center: Thomnas Donnelly
From left: Steven Pflaum, Raymond McKoski, Sandra Otaka, Patrick McGann

ISBA, and Illinois Judicial Ethics Committee (IJEK) provided practical pointers to judges facing the multitude of ethical issues that arise in every judicial election and retention campaign. Several skits were presented to illustrate the principles discussed by the panelists who included Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier, Justice Susan Hutchinson, Judges Pat McGann, Sandra Otaka, John Steele and Ray McKoski and attorneys Steve P. Pflaum and William Quinlan.

The first skit presented by the “Appearance of Impropriety Players” described the plight of a lawyer who hesitated making a sizable donation to the judge’s retention committee for fear the contribution would require the judge to disqualify from all the lawyer’s cases. The panel put the hypothetical big contributor at ease

by referring to ethics advisory opinions of the IJEK (Op. 93-11) and ISBA (Op. 861). Both opinions conclude that a lawyer may contribute his or her money, time, and name to a judicial candidate without casting doubt on the judge’s ability to impartially decide cases in which the contributor is involved.

Personal Views

Judge MoneyPenny was the central figure in the second scenario concerning a judge’s right to express personal views on controversial subjects. In exercising what she described as her “God-given, constitutionally



Raymond McKoski and Sandra Otaka

protected” right to free speech, Judge MoneyPenny signed a petition seeking to ban state regulation of same gender relationships and spoke at an anti-war rally. The panel agreed that Supreme Court Rules 64 and 65 permit judges to write and speak on a wide range of legal and non-legal subjects, including controversial topics, so long as the judge does not cast doubt on his or her ability to fairly and impartially decide issues that come before the judge. Based on recent cases, the panel concluded that where First

Amendment rights collide with judicial speech restrictions, the judge’s right to speak freely is winning out.

Judge Otaka cited the extreme example of a Mississippi judge who stated in a letter to the editor and in a radio interview that “[i]n my opinion, gays and lesbians should be put in some type of mental institute.” The Mississippi Supreme Court held that although the unfortunate remark surely cast doubt on the judge’s impartiality, the remark was protected political/religious speech and therefore declined to sanction the judge. The court did observe that the judge could very well expect a flurry of disqualification motions. (*Miss. v. Wilkinson*, 876 So.2d 1006 (2004)).

In a role that comes once in a lifetime (if you are real unlucky) CBA General Counsel, Steve Pflaum, portrayed that all-knowing, all-seeing, tabernacle of ethical insights, the “Greatest Oz.” Based loosely on two mythical characters, “Oz” of Wizard fame and “Ozzie” of White Sox fame, the Greatest Oz granted a special audience to two judicial candidates perplexed by the granddaddy of all political questions, “What should I do with



Lloyd Karmeier and Patrick McGann

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all these candidate questionnaires from special interest groups?" The panel observed that these questionnaires seldom allow for narrative answers and usually require "yes" or "no" answers to questions like, "Does the Constitution recognize a right to same sex marriage?" Questionnaires also give the erroneous impression that a judge's personal opinions, rather than the facts and law control case decisions. However, the panel noted that recent federal court decisions including *Indiana Right to Life v. Sheppard*, 463 F. Supp. 2d 879 (N.D. Ind. 2006) have upheld a judge's right to answer

such surveys. Bill Quinlan noted that while *Sheppard* and other decisions hold that a judicial code can not prohibit a judge



Robert Thomas and Timothy Evans

from answering, nothing says a judge must answer the questionnaires. A judge could simply decline to answer, or answer with a letter explaining the judicial

role and expressing concern that providing answers might mislead voters about the relevance of the judge's personal views. Of course a judge making such a response should give up all hope of receiving an endorsement.

At this point in the presentation silence befell the room as the Greatest Oz rose to speak. True to his namesakes Oz provided no answers but did give the best advice of the morning, "for all your ethical inquiries call the IJEC at 312-431-1283."

LOCAL JUDGES VOLUNTEER AT HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION



Several Cook County judges, who are members of the Illinois Judges Association, volunteered to serve as judges in a February 24 high school mock trial competition sponsored by the Northwest Suburban Bar Association Foundation and Maine South High School held at the 3rd Judicial District courthouse in Rolling Meadows. The judges were (from left) Martin Agran, Sharon Sullivan, Sam Betar, Edward Fiala, Ret., Clare McWilliams, Sandra Tristano, J. Patrick Morse, Ret., Thomas Roti, Hyman Riebman, Jill Cerone-Marisie, Margarita Kuly, and John Tourtelot. Judge Joseph Urso [not pictured] was also a volunteer. Funding for the competition was provided by the Illinois State Bar Association. Participating high schools were from Cook, DuPage, Lake and Kane Counties.

NEW ETHICS OPINION

The Illinois Judicial Ethics Committee has recently issued a new Ethical Opinion 06-04: A judge may be a shareholder of a corporation organized for the purpose of purchasing real estate at foreclosure sales so long as (1) the judge does not assume an active role in management or serve as an officer, director, or employee of the corporation; (2) the judge's business involvement does not adversely reflect upon the judge's impartiality, interfere with the performance of judicial duties, or exploit the judicial office; and (3) corporate activities do not involve the judge in frequent transactions with individuals likely to come before the judge.

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

Second Vice-President Judge James R. Epstein sits in the Chancery Division, Circuit Court of Cook County. He was appointed in 1999 and elected in 2000. From 1999 to July 2006 he was assigned to both the Second Municipal District and the Criminal Division. He is a graduate of Northwestern University (B.A., 1975, J.D., 1978) and the University of Chicago High School (1970). Jim is a clear thinker and straight-talker known for his rock-solid integrity and devotion, through thick and mostly thin, to Northwestern Wildcat football and basketball.

I went to law school because...my father is a lawyer, my grandfather was a judge and my grandmother was a lawyer and since before I can remember our family conversations were about points of law. We would probably be less dysfunctional as a family if we had occasionally spoken about relationships.

Favorite law school subject: Law and Social Change, taught by Prof. Len Rubinowitz.

First job after law school: Associate at Dorfman, De Koven, Cohen & Laner, a labor law firm.

Most treasured personal possession: I don't really "treasure" any possessions, but my favorite is my baseball card collection from when I was in elementary school. I think my mom was about the only mom who didn't throw her son's cards away.

Judge I admire: I admire too many judges to list them all. In no particular order, I learned great lessons from Abner Mikva, Thomas Fitzgerald, Earl Strayhorn, Tom Hett, my grandfather, Samuel Epstein and my late wife, Joan Corboy. At the tough moments I take different things from each of them.

Best advice ever received: "You were appointed, not anointed."

I find it hard to...live up to my own expectations for myself, but will continue to try.

Proudest moment: My proudest moments are watching my children grow.

Indulgence: golf trips.

Inspiration: The trust placed in us as judges.



Every judge should ...not care how I answer this question. The answer lies within each of us individually.

Advice to new judges: Listen, think, but don't forget to decide.

For me, IJA means...our voice to the outside world and the best opportunity to build friendships with wonderful colleagues throughout the State.

Three words that describe me: Reverently irreverent. You may keep the third word for someone else.

Best advice received as a judge: Try to be the kind of judge you liked to appear before as a lawyer.

Currently reading: *They Marched into Sunlight* by David Maraniss.

Favorite quote: "I am what I am and that's all what I am, said Popeye the Sailor Man."

Favorite food: Either brisket from Manny's Deli or Ben & Jerry's Cherry Garcia ice cream. Unfortunately, I am not supposed to eat either one anymore.

I wish lawyers would... remember the feeling they had when they were sworn in as attorneys. It wouldn't hurt if we judges thought about it, too.

JUDGES IN THE MILITARY

Colleagues, past and present, on the Illinois courts have served our country as members of the U.S. Military. Their sacrifice, dedication and courage in defending freedom and guarding peace has safeguarded liberty here and abroad. We thank each of them for serving the cause of peace and the principles of justice. To all these men and women, our gratitude, our admiration, our deepest thanks. "Join us as we honor those who honored us with their service." If you know of any other judge that should be included in this list, please let us know at info@ija.org or 312/431-1283.

Jesse G. Reyes



Martin S. Agran - Lawrence T. Allen - Sam L. Amirante - Jack H. Anderson - H. Dean Andrews - Earl Arkiss - Ward S. Arnold - Marvin E. Aspen - Richard William Austin - Peter Bakakos - Larry O. Baker - Reginald H. Baker - Clarke C. Barnes - Robert A. Barnes, Jr. - Joseph J. Barr - Tobias Barry - Edmund P. Bart - Ronald F. Bartkowitz - Robert Bastien - William J. Bauer - William L. Beatty - Philip B. Benefiel - Caslon K. Bennett - David G. Bernthal - Walter B. Bieschke - Michael A. Bilandic - Alan G. Blackwood - C. Brett Bode - Robert V. Boharic - J. David Bone - Arlie O. Boswell, Jr. - Alexander T. Bower - John J. Bowman - Everette A. Braden - Terrence J. Brady - Leonard Brody - Clarence Bryant - Alan Buck - Robert Chapman Buckley - James M. Bumgarner - Henry A. Budzinski - Thomas M. Burke - Edward R. Burr - Donald Cadagin - Richard Cadagin - Robert Cahill - Thomas E. Callum - Horace L. Calvo - Eugene E. Champion - Calvin C. Campbell - Lawrence W. Carroll - Fred S. Carr, Jr. - Robert L. 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Mallon - Daniel A. Manion - John J. Mannion - Scott Mansfield - Wendell P. Marbly - Abraham Lincoln Marovitz - Gale A. Mathers - Stephen C. Mathers - Charles M. May - James P. McCarthy - Brendan McCooley - ohn T. McCullough - Martin E. McDonough - John A. McElligott - Patrick E. McGann - Brian R. McKillip - William G. McMenamin - Daniel J. McNamara - Brian L. McPheters - Robert K. McQueen - Clifford L. Meacham - Frank W. Meekins - Frank J. Meyer - John P. Meyer - Wayne A. Meyer - Benjamin K. Miller - George S. Miller - Richard H. Mills - Daniel R. Miranda - Angelo Mistretta - Anthony S. Montelione - Joseph C. Moore - George Moran, Sr. - James B. Moran - Thomas J. Moran - Angus S. More, Jr. - Lewis V. Morgan, Jr. - George M. Morrissey - John E. Morrissey - Michael J. Murphy - Paul S. Murphy - Michael J. Murray - Paul J. Nealis - John J. Nelligan - Brian M. Nemenoff - Jackson P. Newlin - John J. Nickels - Gilbert Niznik - Lewis M. Nixon - Robert A. Nolan - Paul Noland - John A. Nordberg - Charles R. Norgle - Donald E. Norton - Benjamin E. Novoselsky - E. Michael O'Brien - Michael F. O'Brien - Thomas J. O'Brien - Ronald W. Olson - William P. O'Malley - William D. O'Neal - Frank Orlando - John D. O'Shea - Romie Palmer - Peter J. Paolucci - Alfred J. Paul - Ralph S. Pearman - Anthony M. Peccarelli - William R. Penn - Charles J. Perrin - Frank Petrone - William M. Phelan - Rufus Burnell Philips - John T. Phillips - Haskell M. Pitluck - Dennis J. Porter - Lee Preston - Barry E. Puklin - James S. Quinlan, Jr. - William J. Reardon - Ellis E. Reid - Francis J. Reilly - Fred W. Reither - Darrell Reno - Ralph Reyna - Ronald C. Riley - Henri I. Ripstra - D. Adolphus Rivers - Daniel J. Roberts - James K. Robinson - John W. Rogers - Charles V. Romani, Jr. - Thomas D. Roti - Howard T. Ruff - Charles E. Ruth - Howard C. Ryan - Marcus R. Salone - Richard L. Samuels - Emilio Santi - Anthony Scariano - S. Bruce Scidmore - Loren E. Schnack - Dennis Schwartz - William G. Schwartz - S. Bruce Scidmore - Richard E. Scott - Roger M. Scrivner - Paul M. Sheridan - John P. Shonkwiler - Seymour Simon - Shelvin Singer - Frank M. Siracusa - Bill J. Slater - Kent Slater - George J.W. Smith - James Fitzgerald Smith - George J. Sotos - James E. Souk - Ronald D. Spears - Charles W. Spencer - Joseph R. Spitz - Daniel J. Stack - James F. Stack - John J. Stamos - Gordon R. Stipp - Calvin R. Stone - Earl E. Strayhorn - Harold W. Sullivan - John J. Sullivan - William J. Sunderman - Fred G. Suria, Jr. - Thomas Sutton - J. Scott Swaim - C. Eugene Taylor - John S. Teschner - Wendell L. Thompson - Cornelius E. Toole - Michael P. Toomin - John D. Tourtelot - Robert Travers - Charles M. Travis - Thomas M. Tucker - John F. Twomey - David Underwood - John W. Unger - George Unverzagt - Joe R. Vespa - John V. Virgilio - Fred P. Wagner - Ashton Waller - Richard F. Walsh - Duane G. Walter - Daniel P. Ward - James R. Watson - Cyril J. Watson - A. G. Webber III - William H. Weir - Robert L. Welch - Daniel G. Welter - Alexander P. White - Ronald J. White - Stephen D. White - William S. White - Willie M. Whiting - Walter Williams - Charles M. Wilson - James J. Wimbiscus - Gerald T. Winiecki - W. Charles Witte - William S. Wood - Alfred E. Woodward - Robert Wren - Paul M. Wright - Ivan Lee Yontz - David A. Youck - William H. Young - Anthony L. Young - Gerald M. Zopp, Jr.



The IJA and the Justinian Society of Lawyers of Illinois co-sponsored their First Annual Bocce Ball Tournament at the Mazzini Verdi Club in Franklin Park recently. As Judge Robert Bertucci recalls, the bocce ball players enjoyed great food after the tournament, to include risotto, pasta, Chicken Vesuvio, spumoni and espresso coffee. A thoroughly pleasant time was enjoyed by all present.



Judge Jesse Reyes joins Kevin Durkin, President of The Chicago Bar Association, Terry Murphy, Executive Director of the Chicago Bar Association and Judge Alexander White on the CBA's recent trip to Ireland.

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she did that one could never imagine Susie doing anything else. However, that same energy that Susie once applied to judging, she has now channeled to other endeavors. As Susie states, she was fortunate, her “creative and artistic motivations were well developed before she left the bench.” So Susan now has time to devote to painting, an activity that she always loved but for which she had to steal moments when she was on the bench. She also quilts, spends time with grandchildren, exercises and travels, for pleasure and for business, with her husband Bill.

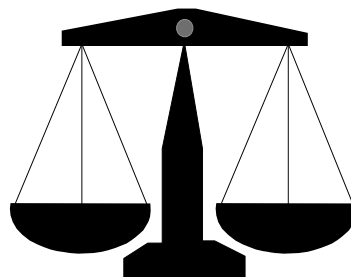
I then spoke to Lola Maddox, also a young retiree from Madison County. Lola became a judge when she was 30 years old. She retired in her mid-fifties because it did not make economic sense for her to continue working. Lola spent her career on the bench prior to her retirement as an associate judge. In the Downstate Counties, unlike Cook County, there is a definite and inviolate demarcation between assignments for associate versus circuit judges. Also, there are some glaring distinctions as to how assignments are viewed. For example, in Cook County, the Chancery Division is considered an

extremely prestigious assignment whereas in Madison County, only associate judges are assigned to hear chancery cases. (But I digress. The associate/circuit judge issue might be a good topic for another day.) After her retirement, Judge Maddox was appointed by the Supreme Court to a circuit judge position. Judge Maddox enjoyed hearing cases that she had been unable to hear as an associate judge such as felonies and law division cases. Judge Maddox is now “off the bench” again. She spends time with her family, participating in a book club and volunteering part-time at Prairie State Legal Services. In fact, kudos to Judge Maddox for being conferred the Pro Bono Service Award by the Illinois State Bar Association.

I then spoke to retired Appellate Court Justice Toby Barry. He first served as an Appellate Court Justice from age 50 to age 70. Upon his first retirement, he practiced law, arbitrated, mediated and consulted as an expert for a period of nine years. Thereafter, at the age of 79, he returned to the Appellate Court for a two year appointment and thereafter, was reappointed again for an indeterminate time. The indeterminate time proved to be an

additional one and one-half years. Since this last retirement, Justice Barry practices law part-time, travels and, indeed, enjoys whatever comes his way. Justice Barry states that although it has been an honor to serve, he thinks this time he might stay away. Clearly, time will tell.

So what does this all mean? Are there any conclusions or generalizations to be made? Well, in looking at judicial retirees, one might say that the retirement age of judges is younger than it once was. Although...many in our ranks are free to retire and do not. Some female judges practice law after retirement. Some do not. HMMMM. Seems very similar to male judges. Some judges that retire at a young age do law-related jobs and others don't. Conversely, some judges that retire at an older age relax, travel and spend time with their families and friends, while others practice law or engage in other law-related activities. As I previously noted, there is no uniformity to the path our former colleagues take. So, I guess the only conclusion to be made is that we are all so fortunate not only to have had “the best job in the world” but to have the freedom of choice when we retire, whatever age that might be.



MENTOR PROGRAM



Anthony Lyons (center), 14, a freshman at Perspectives Charter School in Chicago, is among four students participating in a newly-launched mentorship program conducted by the Illinois Judges Association. Welcoming Anthony to the Daley Center (from left), Judge Jesse Reyes (IJA President), Judge Rita Novak, Judge James Henry and Judge Thomas More Donnelly.

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