

March 2014

Dear Colleagues and Fellow Members:

From time to time there is a lull in CCBA or, other Bar related activities of interest to our members. This is not one of those times. Please pay attention to this page because what follows are details on events that you will be attending or, will suffer severe bouts of depression because you are unable to be there.

ECIWAA is sponsoring a luncheon in honor of Justice Rita B. Garman becoming Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court. Justice Garman is only the 2nd woman to be named to that position. This event will be held at the College of Law on the 31st of April at noon. A flyer with all the necessary details of this event was previously emailed to all CCBA members. For those of you who are tardy in your registration, the deadline for registration is the 24th of March and the cost is \$25.00. If you want to attend, please contact Colleen Rambis. Hey! Becoming the Chief Justice doesn't happen every day and happens to very few lawyers. I urge you to attend and help honor Justice Garman who has not only had a distinguished public service career but, has been a valuable friend and supporter of our association.

As most of you know, a significant focus for John Thies last year as ISBA president was the subject of legal education, and especially the impact that student loan debt is having on the delivery of legal service. Continuing on this theme, for our Law Day program this year, John has arranged a presentation by retired Chief Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court, Randall Shepard. Justice Shepard is the chair of the American Bar Association's Task Force on the Future of Legal Education. He is also a past chair of the ABA's Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, which oversees accreditation of America's 180 law schools.

A graduate of Princeton and Yale Law School, Justice Shepard was the youngest Chief Justice in the country when he assumed that position. In his retirement, he also serves as Executive in Residence at Indiana University's Public Policy Institute and as a Senior Judge in the Indiana Court of Appeals. Justice Shepard will address The Future of American Legal Education.

We are most fortunate that Justice Shepard accepted our invitation to join us on April 29th and appreciate John's efforts in arranging his appearance.

By now, you all know the drill. This event will be - as usual - at the Champaign County Country Club. Happy Hour starts at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. followed by Justice Shepard's remarks. Reservation forms will be emailed well in advance of this event.

Our annual meeting will be held on May 13th. I am not going to divulge where it will be held because that rather significant detail is yet to be determined. It will, however, start at 4:30 p.m.

You should attend for two very important reasons. Contrary to what I reported on my last page, we are going to have an opening on the Board of Governors. While Stan Freeman and Ramona Sullivan are willing to continue to serve, Steve Sheffler will be retiring. Steve has been a long time faithful member of the Board and, as those of you who have served with him are aware, most valuable to our organization, for the last 12 years. Steve served as our Vice President for several terms. So, here is what we've got, 3 individual terms are expiring. Stan and Ramona will be nominated. At least one other person will also be nominated. The top 3 in terms of number of votes received will be elected as Board members, each for 3 years. If you are interested in serving, you can either let me or, another Board member, know; but, you are not required to. It will be an open nominating process. Although there is only 1 member leaving, as

many as are nominated will be eligible to be elected.

I mentioned that there was another reason to attend. Well, for the 4th straight year, we are fortunate to have Jerry Larken from the ARDC as our speaker. He will be speaking on current trends. As I have mentioned before, Jerry is a lawyer-friendly, informative and interesting speaker. In addition, for some reason Jerry won't divulge, he likes us. You should all keep in mind that those who attend will receive that valuable 1 hour CLE credit in professionalism.

We will have a CLE Luncheon on March 27th at 11:30 a.m. with our program starting at noon. It will be at the Regency Ballroom. Jeffrey Kramer and Rick Noble will be one of our speakers on "New Conceal and Carry." Please let Alyx Parker know if you will be attending by March 24th.

In closing, it is with sadness that I mention the loss of Tony Novak who died far too early after a long, up and down battle with cancer. Anyone who knew Tony couldn't help liking him. In addition to his skills as a lawyer and acumen in advocacy, both in the Courtroom and with justice oriented groups, Tony was likable and fun to be around. We all miss Tony.

John Gadau