

April 2015

Dear Colleagues and Fellow Members:

The Law Day banquet-Pillars induction ceremony is right around the corner. In fact, the reservation form should be reaching you next week. Please do not pitch it without reserving. Remember, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

There seems to be some misunderstanding of the criteria for becoming a Pillar and just how the Pillars selection works among our membership-including members of the Board itself. Because our Pillars of the Bar has become such a significant part of what the CCBA does, brevity is going to take a hike for a discussion of the etiology of the Pillars of the Bar and what the Pillars represent.

During the latter part of calendar year 2005, Jerry Gorman and I met with John Thies and David Sosin who, at that time, was President of the Illinois Bar Foundation. David filled us in on a Pillars program that had been instituted in Peoria and that the Peoria Bar, in conjunction with the Illinois Bar Foundation, had recently concluded a very successful fund raising event for the benefit of the Foundation, the centerpiece of which was the inaugural selection of Peoria Bar members being recognized as Pillars of the Bar and the civic community. John and David believed such an event would succeed in Champaign County. While I was admittedly skeptical, I bought in and presented this rather ambitious idea to the Board for approval.

John Thies, whose precise title escapes me at this time, was the Chairman of the event. Assisting John was a rather large committee which comprised a cross-section of the Champaign County Bar Association. Although in a technical sense I appointed these members with approval of the Board, it basically acted autonomously in planning the entire inauguration of our Pillars of the Bar along with fund raising for the Bar Foundation which occurred on June 26, 2006, at Stone Creek following a golf outing where it rained like hell.

John's Chief Lieutenants were Keith Fruehling, Jerry Gorman and John Phipps. Keith led an outreach to the local business community for contributions to the event and the Bar Foundation. Jerry coordinated the golf outing which was co-sponsored by ATG. John Phipps chaired the Pillars selection committee. The goal of that committee was to select individuals who, throughout their careers, have significantly distinguished themselves in the practice of law and in their professional and community activities and who had set an example to which others aspire. All deliberations of John's committee were kept strictly confidential. The Board, including myself, was unaware of the members selected as Pillars until the process was completed.

As stated above, on June 26, 2006, following a rain-soaked golf outing, the Pillars' induction occurred at a banquet held at Stone Creek. It was unquestionably the most successful CCBA event held in my memory and the memory of many who attended this event. Not only was a substantial amount of money raised for the Foundation, attendance was, for that time, off the charts. While the CCBA was coming out of a period when the annual Christmas Party/Holiday Dinner Dance attendance was in the high 50s or low 60s and Law Day attendance was even less, 167 people, including Bar leaders from all over the State attended. The induction ceremony was presided over by a still wet from the golf outing, Charlie Palmer. We inducted 8 Pillars which included living members Stan Balbeck, Fred Green, Bud Hatch, Stu Mamer, Darius Phebus and Dick Thies. French Fraker and Sam Erwin were inducted posthumously.

To keep from "watering down" the membership in this elite club, the Board originally voted to conduct a Pillars induction once every 3 years. On reflection by the Board and the urging of several Pillars themselves, following an induction selection in 2009, the decision was made to select Pillars every other year, i.e. 2011, 2013 and 2015.

Subsequent classes of Pillars are as follows:

2009: Michael O'Byrne, George Miller, Charlie Palmer and John Phipps

2011: George Bryan, Roger Haughey, Harold Jensen and Don Tennant

2013: Jim Evans, John Gadau, Lot Thomas, Carl Webber, and Tom Harrington  
posthumously

This year, we will induct Steve Beckett, Paul Hendren, Ward McDonald and Greg Townsend. The selection of members who meet the criteria referenced above is determined solely by current Pillars themselves along with 4 at-large members of the Bar, appointed by the President and approved by the Board. For the last 3 selections, the at-large members have been John Thies, Chair, Marc Ansel, Wendy Bauer and Bill Brinkman. Other than approval of the at-large members of the committee by the Board, the Board does not take any part in the selection process. The process is final and the Board is notified after the selection has occurred.

There will be no apology tendered on this page for the lack of brevity in the above history. Because our Pillars of the Bar is one of the cornerstones of what the CCBA does, the explanation, while complete to an exhaustive fault, is one with which all members should be familiar.

While I am on what everybody-including myself-needs to know, while we all have a general awareness of how Pro-bono services can be provided; the process that exists is not always understood. This process exists outside the realm of what each of us, in our own way, does to provide Pro bono services. While we each have our own methods we utilize, there is a structure where we can cooperate with the Land of Lincoln Foundation if the services we have to offer fits that structure. Ramona Sullivan has kindly provided an explanation of how we can work in concert with Land of Lincoln in her attached letter, including a sign up sheet form. Please review Ramona's submissions. I think you will find it informative and useful. Keep in mind that an important component of what we will be doing on May 6<sup>th</sup> includes a recognition of those CCBA members who have contributed the most to assist those who otherwise could not afford our services.

Our baseball excursion to Peoria will occur this Summer. Due to the lack of bus availability issues, it just might not happen on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Exact information will be forthcoming. In the meantime, our whatever a male mid-wife is called, Andy Hatch, is working his butt off to get the baby born.

If your eyes are not glassed over by now, also included in the newsletter is correspondence from Champaign County Sheriff, Dan Walsh, expressing his appreciation for the CCBA's support of the MacArthur Grant Application and a Notice of Vacancy from Chief Circuit Judge Dan L. Flannel regarding a position for Associate Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit. Also, we just received a letter of appreciation for support from the Illinois Bar Foundation which is likewise also attached.

Best wishes to Glenna Weith on her upcoming retirement. It was not forced on her by any ARDC action or, lack of mental faculties. Security clearance did, however, present certain obstacles to Glenna. Personally, I will miss seeing her safely to her car at 2:30 in the morning.

In closing, do not forget our annual meeting scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. at Hilton Garden Inn. For early birds, the bar will be open a little before 4:30. Don't forget, attendance results in 1 CLE credit hour in ethics.

The brevity of this page is dedicated to my old friends and colleagues, Clive Follmer and Charlie Palmer.

John Gadau, President