

February 2015

Dear Colleagues and Fellow Members:

Please take a look at the following upcoming events and the dates on which they fall. To avoid the specter of the dreaded hidden conflict, I suggest you share that information with spouses, live-ins, boyfriends, girlfriends, babysitters and, if applicable, the king of Norway.

Our Spring Mixer is scheduled for Friday, March 13th, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Jupiters at the Crossing (this is a change). Beer and wine will be furnished by the CCBA. For hard stuff, I suggest you come accompanied by a paper sack containing a bottle. This mixer is a good opportunity to wind down with other lawyers whose week will probably have been as rotten as your own.

Once again, the Champaign Country Club will be the location for our annual Law Day banquet on April 6th. We will follow the usual drill. Happy hour at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., followed by our annual Pillars of the Bar induction ceremony. I would like to tell you who the new Pillars are; however, I do not know myself. In fact, nobody does. The selection process has not yet been completed. I do suspect the cat - or cats - will be out of the bag in the next 2 to 3 weeks. Rest assured, the new inductees will be deserving and being present for the ceremony will make this a more than worthwhile evening. Please mark it down.

Probably everyone who reads this either knows Jerry Larkin or knows who he is. For the 5th straight year, Jerry has agreed to be the guest speaker at our annual meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, May 19th at the Hilton Garden Inn at 4:30 p.m. Jerry is informative, a great speaker, lawyer friendly and willing to interact with whomever he is addressing. Keep in mind that attending not only gives you a CLE credit, that 1 hour counts towards your professionalism requirement. The only other item that will be addressed at the meeting will be the election of 3 board members, each for a 3 year term. The terms of Marvin Gerstein, Dan Jackson and myself expire this year. While each of us is willing to serve an additional term, that, in no way, should keep anyone else from seeking board membership. The ball is in your court on that one.

As most of you know, Betsy Wong recently passed away after a long battle with cancer. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Kam, David and Michael along with those in Betsy's office. Betsy will be missed.

John Gadau