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The Iowa State Bar Association seeks to publish original articles that advance the education, competence, ethical practice and public responsibility of lowa lawyers. Members are encouraged to submit articles and manuscripts to the editor for possible publication. Submissions should be no longer than 1,500 words, although exceptions can be made. Footnotes should be kept to a minimum. Include a short bio of the author(s) and professional photo(s) when submitting. NOTE: Not all submissions are guaranteed publication. The editors and bar leaders review all submissions to a make a determination of suitability for publication. Email all submissions to communications@iowabar.org in Microsoft Word format.

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### IN BRIFF

### Sign up to be listed on the ISBA's new **Find-A-Lawyer website**

www.iowafindalawyer.com/



The ISBA recently launched a new version of the Iowa Find-A-Lawyer website, a portal to provide legal resources to the public and help ISBA members connect with paying clients. Listings on this site remain free to ISBA members and now is the time to sign up.

Please navigate to The Iowa State Bar Association's homepage, iowabar.org, and click on the Find-A-Lawyer signup story. There, you can download the PDF application and send it in to make your listing active.

The ISBA will launch a public awareness marketing campaign for Iowa Find-A-Lawyer this summer to get the word out about this new and enhanced website, so please sign up as soon as possible so you can be listed in time for the public rollout.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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### **Get your copy** of the new lowa **Court Rules**

The new two-volume softbound publication of the Iowa Court Rules is now available through the Iowa Legislative Services Agency.

Volume I includes chapters 1-16 and should be most useful to practitioners and judges and those interested in rules of practice and procedure. Volume II includes chapters 17-52 and should be most useful to the judicial branch and those interested in judicial administration and professional regulation.

The new publication can be purchased through LSA's new online storefront at https://www.legis. iowa.gov/law/information. The cost for the two volumes is \$50.

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### How do you define value?

As individuals living in a consumer-based society, we hear advertising slogans multiple times a day. "Buy now — great deals at competitive prices! Get more! Save big money on what you need!"

These messages emphasize being smart about money, which we can all personalize. With a household to support, retirement to prepare for and medical bills to cover, I need to be a good decision-maker for my family. Our state legislature has to do something similar — weigh the costs of supporting our government infrastructure against the dollars coming in. The importance of being a wise steward of taxpayer funds cannot be overstated, neither can the pressure lawmakers must feel to make these tough decisions.

I've spoken with many legislators this session, which has been a new experience for me. Enlightening at times, inspirational at moments, sometimes confusing...and also disheartening. One thing I feel certain of is that every lawmaker I spoke with truly believes that he or she knows what is best for Iowans. Although I admire that idea and the leadership intended, in my own experience, it is a faulty assumption. As a native Iowan, I look at the fabric of my own family, and am both amused and humbled by the vast differences between us.

Our perspective on what constitutes wise spending is often a function of our own needs and experiences. For example, I am terribly near-sighted. When I take off my glasses, I can hardly see two steps in front of me. I often believe I am headed in the right direction, and know what I'm doing. However, I know I see much better with my glasses on. From a practical standpoint, I prioritize eye exams and glasses in my budget. From a more philosophical perspective, my experience of the world is much scarier without my glasses as a tool to help me navigate through the day. And without that tool, I am limited in the value I can offer the people around me.



ISBA President Skip Kenyon (left) and President-Elect Stephen Eckley (right) sit with Senate President Jack Whitver (center) to discuss issues such as the judicial branch budget during the ISBA's annual lobbying day at the Statehouse.

In other words, perspective is everything. Regardless of how we gain and change our perspective throughout life, it ultimately teaches us something about value. We learn that it's not all catchy slogans and saving pennies. Value can also equate to a long-term investment that makes a beneficial impact. In government, we see true value demonstrated through our specialty courts. On the dollars-and-cents front, they relieve strain on law enforcement and the corrections system. But just as important, they help struggling Iowans change their perspectives and discover their value. This new personal sense of opportunity not only benefits the individual, but society as a whole.

Courtney Nichols, a Woodbury County drug court graduate, is an example of how investing time and recognizing value can move someone onto a positive, upward trajectory:

Since starting drug court I've completed 18 months of treatment, completed an empathy class, started school, found a job and worked hard to get an apartment. Through this journey, my family has been very supportive, showing me that they are proud of me. I've even taken what I know and passed it on to a younger family member who suffered because of her addiction, and [she] told me I was her inspiration to get clean and finish school. Since becoming a mother and being a part of drug court, it has saved my life, and because of this opportunity I'm now a proud productive member of society, with two years and 10 months clean.

When judges, county attorneys and public defenders work together, more people suffering with drug addiction, alcoholism or mental illness get the treatment they need. Veterans, at-risk children and teens, and struggling families develop positive coping mechanisms, strengthen bonds and stay together. In other words, glasses are provided to those who need to see their own value more clearly.

Woodbury County drug court in Sioux City is one of many success stories across the state. Participant Kara Kayl credits the cooperative nature of the program with her continued success, writing:

"I had a great panel who I felt close to, like I could just open up to them every time we met. They made me feel great about myself and confident again."

This year, Governor Branstad has made it his priority to work with the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Board of Pharmacy and others to educate Iowans about drug abuse, particularly opioid addiction. It is clear that specialty courts are a key partner in achieving this state goal by providing the tools necessary for addicts to change course. With the courts' help, we can create new perspectives by teaching more Iowans how to discover their own value. I encourage you to stay engaged this legislative session and communicate with your legislators about the vital role specialty courts play in Iowa.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Onto Koupen It

Arnold O. Kenyon, III President, The Iowa State Bar Association skipkenyon@issbbank.com, 641-782-1000



"The state's investment in the court system for the current fiscal year is not allowing the judicial branch to sustain the current level of service to lowans. This signals that our successes cannot be maintained ... *It means specialty courts may be eliminated.*"

— Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Cady Condition of the Judiciary, Jan. 11, 2017

## There are 47 specialty courts in lowa:

#### **Adult Criminal Drug Courts**

Black Hawk County
Cerro Gordo County
Delaware County
Des Moines County
Dubuque County
Henry County
Lee County
Louisa County

Pottawattamie County Scott County Van Buren County Wapello County Washington County Webster County

**Polk County** 

#### **Family Treatment Courts**

Audubon County
Black Hawk County
Buena Vista County
Cass County
Cerro Gordo County
Johnson County
Linn County

Scott County Wapello County Warren County Webster County Woodbury County

**Polk County** 

#### **Juvenile Delinquency Drug Courts**

Clay County Des Moines County Henry County Marshall County Plymouth County Polk County Woodbury County

#### Adult Criminal Drug Courts and OWI Courts

Johnson County Linn County

Mental Health Courts Pottawatamie County Scott County

Wapello County Woodbury County

**Plymouth County** 

Woodbury County

Veterans Treatment Court Woodbury County

Adult OWI Court Warren County

Female Juvenile Offenders Court Polk County

**Domestic Violence Court** Black Hawk County

# **On the chopping block: lowa's specialty courts**

Could funding concerns shut down programs that work?

By Melissa Higgins, Communications Director

Dozens of people sat in the audience. Family members, friends and supporters thumbed through programs, smiling and waving at their loved ones on stage. The center of attention on this November day at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Cedar Rapids was the latest class of graduates from Linn County's drug treatment court.

The speakers on stage recognized the class for their achievements toward sobriety, but also reminded them of the seriousness with which they need to take this opportunity. Not every drug offender in Iowa has the chance to start fresh with the support of the justice community. It is because of special initiatives championed by the Iowa Judicial Branch that these graduates got this second chance to rebuild their lives.

District Court Judge Fae Hoover-Grinde coordinates the specialty adult drug court program in both Linn and Johnson Counties. She spoke at that graduation ceremony in the Fall, as she has for countless other ceremonies, and her message was this: personal connections are the antidote for addiction.

"These clients will establish a meaningful, honest connection with at least one person on our team. Someone with whom they will absolutely bare themselves to, and that is how the therapeutic change can happen. The person needs to trust us enough to allow us to support them," she said.

### How do specialty courts work?

The state judicial branch calls specialty courts a partnership between courts and communities. They are problem-solving courts aimed at addressing underlying issues that contribute to a person's criminal history. Judges and attorneys work with community treatment professionals and private agencies to empower Iowa adults and juveniles to break free from the grips of substance abuse and other barriers. It is the personal support and accountability, which includes frequent meetings and regular drug tests, that is shown to be effective.

The treatment team also provides resources like mental health counseling, education support, and assistance finding a job or housing. Participants in the specialty court process are hand-selected and it is all voluntary; they can leave at any time. But if they do, a harsher sentence may take effect.

"You have to find the courage to hand the reins over to us," explained Judge Hoover-Grinde. "If you try to rebel against us, it's not going to work. Graduation or revocation are the only ways out."

Specialty courts began sprouting up in the late 1980s nationally. In Iowa, the first adult drug court started accepting clients in August of 1996. Now, there are 47 specialty courts in this state addressing various problems: drugs, mental health,



Judge Fae Hoover-Grinde speaks during the November 2016 graduation ceremony of the Linn County drug treatment court program. *Photo Courtesy: Sen. Rob Hogg* 

alcohol abuse, juvenile delinquency, domestic violence, even veterans' issues. And the data shows that these programs are accomplishing their original goal of decreased recidivism rates. A seven-year longitudinal study released in 2011 by the Iowa Department of Human Rights revealed that drug court participants were less likely to commit new crimes than other offenders.

There are typically between 45 to 55 people enrolled at a time in Judge Hoover-Grinde's program in Linn and Johnson Counties, and the program works in partnership with the Iowa Department of Corrections. For many of the participants, it truly was a last resort; the only alternative was prison. About 40 percent of people will successfully complete the program and the judge says she sees their recidivism rates decreased by one-half to one-third as a result.

"It's humbling to watch the change process. It's hard work and when they really do it, it's a thing to behold," she said.

### **Keeping families together**

Those who work closely with specialty courts say these kinds of innovative programs are also changing lives for Iowa families and children.

Associate Juvenile Judge William Owens oversees the family treatment court in Wapello County, one of more than a dozen family treatment programs in the state. These specialty courts focus on the welfare of children with parents who have substance abuse problems. The courts emphasize treatment for substance-abusing parents, while holding them accountable through intensive court supervision. The families involved are typically referred by child protective services or Court Appointed Special Advocates after a child abuse or neglect case is reported. Substance abuse providers from the community, case workers, in-home providers and other partner agencies help staff the treatment teams and the ultimate goal of everyone involved is to reunite broken families.

Mary Derby, the coordinator of the Wapello County family treatment court, is a personal testament to the success of this community-based addiction recovery approach.

Derby started using methamphetamine when she was 13 years old. She was addicted for decades and in and out of various treatment programs. She had four children and frequent brushes with the Iowa Department of Human Services as they were growing up. She had several episodes where her kids were taken away because she couldn't maintain long-term recovery. That is, until she got involved with the Wapello County family treatment court in 2009.

"Nov. 2, 2009 was the last treatment facility I entered," she said. "Family treatment court helped me get into that. I was there seven months, then came back to court and my true recovery began."

Derby went back to school to get her bachelor's degree and now runs the Wapello County program. She is the only drug court coordinator in the nation who is also a graduate of the program. She believes it gives her special insight into how best to tackle addiction issues.

"I haven't forgotten what it's like. I remember every single part of (the addiction). I see people who come in and I see glimpses of where I was," she explains. "But, the team and the judge did not give up on me. That's the great thing about this court."

Judge Owens founded the program in Wapello County a decade ago. This May, as part of National Drug Court Month, the court will hold a special 10th anniversary party, inviting all past graduates of the program.

"When we started, we didn't have two nickels to rub together. We didn't have any money whatsoever," Owens said. But by piecing federal and local grant money together

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ATLANTA | 2002 Summit Boulevard, Suite 950, Atlanta, Georgia 30319 | 770.790.5000 DES MOINES | 1601 22nd Street, Suite 305, West Des Moines, Iowa 50266 | 515.225.3796 with judicial branch funding, the county has been able to maintain the program, serving about 35 families at any given time.

Statewide, as of March 2016, family treatment courts had served 860 Iowa families, comprised of 998 parents and 1,667 children. Approximately 93 percent of the parents involved were admitted to substance-abuse treatment and 76 percent of the children were able to remain in the custody of their parent as a result of successful treatment.

"I do this because we get better results by doing this," said Judge Owens. "Statistically, the results show we're keeping parents in treatment longer, they're achieving sobriety, they're keeping custody of their kids. We're seeing fewer referrals back for child abuse reports. We're getting better results handling family cases this way."

For Derby, it has meant a whole new life and growing closer with her children, the oldest of which recently had a baby.

"Thank God, I get to be a grandma. There are all these blessings in recovery. There are so many things I maybe wouldn't have had, if I hadn't fought and fought for my recovery," she said.

### Show me the savings

On top of the success-story statistics, there are documented and measurable monetary savings for taxpayers.

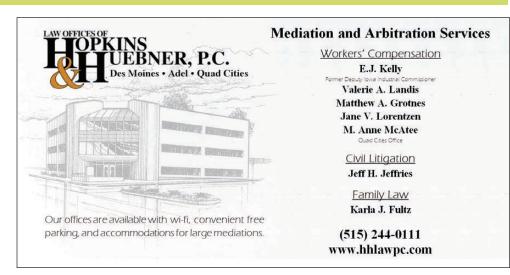
For family treatment court, an Iowa Department of Human Rights report shows that keeping children out of foster care generated more than \$12 million in total cost avoidance statewide since 2007. In 2016 alone, family treatment courts helped 310 families, saving nearly \$4.9 million.

Funding all of Iowa's 47 specialty courts requires approximately \$2 million annually. That equates to about \$4,000 per offender, according to a 2013 cost-benefit review from the Iowa Legislative Services Agency. But these programs are also keeping people out of Iowa's prisons, where it costs about \$35,000 annually to house an inmate. Specialty court programs and other judicial branch initiatives have resulted in many fewer young adults entering the prison system, an annual cost avoidance calculated to be \$11.5 million.

Judge Hoover-Grinde explains the rationale behind this savings: "The issues that led to a person's criminal behavior are not issues that will go away if we lock them up.



The Wapello County family treatment court administration team is made up of representatives from various community agencies, pictured here during a planning meeting.



It's silly to think they would go back to their community and not commit crimes again."

### **Funding in jeopardy**

The future funding for Iowa's specialty courts is uncertain. The legislature last year appropriated the same amount of funding as the judicial branch received the year before, which was more than \$5 million short of the amount needed to maintain current levels of service. All options to balance the budget were considered, and that process highlighted the frailty of Iowa's specialty courts. The court decided to put a moratorium on the expansion of any specialty courts, and it left open the possibility of eliminating them with Iowa Supreme Court approval.

Additionally, the judicial branch received a \$3 million deappropriation for the current fiscal year, straining the budget further and resulting in a hiring freeze and scheduled court closure day. But a bigger issue remains: the looming FY 2018 budgeting process. That \$3 million deappropriation is a permanent cut. If the legislature does not appropriate the needed funding for FY 2018, there will be no alternative but to diminish the services the court provides, including specialty courts.

Iowa Senate Minority Leader Rob Hogg, a Democrat who represents Linn County and attended that county's most recent drug court graduation, is a big proponent of these specialty courts. He says he will fight to keep them open as the budget process plays out in the legislature.

"The Linn County drug court helps families, our community, our state and our economy. Drug court graduation is one of the most inspiring events I have attended in my 15 years in the Iowa Legislature," he said.

For the judges who run these programs, it is not about the numbers or the money. For them, it's about the human impact these specialty courts can provide.

Judge Hoover-Grinde choked up when describing the most meaningful interaction she's had during those graduation ceremonies: "When a kid comes to me and says, 'Thanks for giving me my mom back. I lost her for three years and now I have her back and it's because you helped her find her way.' That's really cool."

The ISBA made court funding the number one priority of its 2017 legislative agenda. This session is nearing completion and it is imperative that you contact your lawmakers **immediately** and express support for a fully-funded judiciary.

### Spotlight on specialty courts lowa's first young women's delinquency court

An interview with Judge Susan Cox



**Judge Susan Cox** 

On March 1, 2016, Polk County District Associate Judge Susan Cox, Polk County Juvenile Court Officers Ashley Artzer and Lori Rinehart and Polk County Juvenile Court Services Central Intake Officer Danielle Masten, began a pilot young women's delinquency court in Iowa Judicial District 5C. Judge Cox recently shared these remarks with the proviso that the people who work together to create new, life-changing possibilities for young women in the juvenile justice system, even if they are

not all individually named in the context of this interview, be acknowledged for their support and contributions.

### What is young women's delinquency court?

Young women and young men typically commit different crimes, use substances for different reasons, process trauma differently and need different "kinds" of treatment. Juvenile justice system program models are shaped by the needs and experiences of adult male offenders. In 2002, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, initially established in 1974, was reauthorized. The Act requires states to implement gender-specific preventative plans to address the growing concern about addressing the needs of young women offenders earlier rather than later.

More specifically, there is growing, research-based evidence that female responsive practices that focus on trauma-informed, relational, strengths-based, culturally-competent approaches in juvenile courts work to reduce recidivism, risky behaviors and confinement. (See "She's Way Too Good to Lose": An Evaluation of Honolulu's Girls Court. Davidson, Janet T.; Pasko, Lisa; Chesney-Lind; Meda. Women & Criminal Justice, 21:308-327, 2011.) Our meeting with Iowa State Public Defender Adam Gregg was particularly important. From a policy perspective, we know that helping children earlier on saves money – meeting young women's needs in our juvenile justice system prevents ongoing delinquency, criminality and involvement in the court process. The State Public Defender created a contract position for and, at the conclusion of the application process for the position, appointed a dedicated child's attorney to work with the young women's delinquency court. We remain very thankful to the State Public Defender for his vision and commitment to children.

We started the Young Women's Delinquency Court, which we call Too Good to Lose (TGTL), by dividing the existing juvenile drug court in Polk County into two parts. Polk County District Associate Judge Colin Witt presides over delinquency matters that include young men and I preside over matters that include young women.

### What motivated you to want to help create system-level change for young women in Iowa's juvenile justice system?

I was a prosecutor for 18 years. Two separate experiences that motivated me involved two different young women that I worked with who were not successful in the community. I recommended that each of the two young women go to out-ofhome placement. The young women went to placement and, much later after they were discharged, they each disclosed that they were survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

Our system failed them. We missed critical opportunities to find out what was really going on. While we did send them for substance abuse treatment, they also really needed help with having been raped as children. We never want that to happen again. We want young women in the juvenile justice system in our state, and everywhere, to get effective services that meet their needs.

### How did this first young women's delinquency court begin in lowa?

This program began through Lori Rinehart's commitment and vision. Lori has been a community advocate for gender-specific programming for young women in our juvenile justice system for over 20 years and brings out the best in people. She urged our community members to consider the programs that are working across the country and move forward with creating a program here in Iowa that is similar to Hawaii's young women's delinquency court.

From July 2015 to February 2016, Lori, Ashley, Danielle and I went to 33 community organizations and leaders to make presentations. We learned about services that are available and needed in order to create a successful young women's delinquency court.



### What is TGTL's mission and what are its goals?

TGTL's mission states: Young women will be safe, remain drug-free, become involved in education, give back to the community and heal. TGTL's goals include identifying each participant's individual needs and providing appropriate, female-responsive interventions that keep young women in the community. We do this by providing participants with services that include education and therapy groups, community service, substance abuse treatment and pro-social activities.

#### How does the TGTL program work?

Our initial strategy is to build on specialty drug court concepts that have shown great success in Iowa and to expand on them over time.

Our TGTL team includes Assistant Polk County Attorney Annette Taylor, Child's Attorney Sharon Wegner, Polk County Juvenile Court Officers Lori Rinehart and Ashley Artzer, Judicial Assistant Ashley Vanscoy, Court Reporter Kathy Forbes and tracker Sarah McCarthy. The tracker, a team role that may not be as well-known, is provided through a contract with Children and Families of Iowa to support participant accountability and daily, positive contact that includes assistance with daily needs and overcoming barriers. Sarah is vital to ensuring that young women are receiving the services and community resources necessary to successfully progress through the TGTL program. We regularly collaborate with other professionals, including the schools and community-based services providers.

TGTL started with a cohort of five young women participants. On the first Wednesday of each month, the young women participate in formal delinquency court proceedings. I preside over the formal proceedings like adjudications or dispositions and also include opportunities to honor participants as they complete specific tasks that are required as they move through the four phases of the TGTL program. Also, I participate in at least one other activity with the young women each month which has included trauma-informed yoga, job interviewing tips and meeting our Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds. In our TGTL team meetings, we problem-solve, evaluate requests for new participants, focus on gender-specific training and review new literature on young women in the juvenile justice system. to place young offenders in detention for violations when their behavior does not change. There are numerous studies that talk about how detention may be more harmful for young people for three reasons in particular. First, many of our youth have mental health problems and may have experienced significant trauma. When we put them in a situation where they are confined, they can be terrified and their mental health suffers dramatically. Second, delinquency court is similar to the criminal court process and we may be effectively labeling our youths as criminals by placing them in detention. Third, detention is often used to "protect" young women and it is not female-responsive. Youth in detention facilities end up making friends that have even higher delinquency needs than they do and this can have lasting, negative consequences.

If we did not create this alternative in our community, in order for young women to have gender-specific services, we would have to send them seven hours away to a training school in Wisconsin. The TGTL program is a necessary placement alternative.

We are really trying to be creative in our approaches and look at different ways to have more meaningful interventions and reach participants in different ways. One of the alternatives that we implemented in the TGTL program is the "No Run Walk." If a TGTL participant goes on the run or if she violates the conditions of her house arrest, she is required to walk four miles, or two laps, around a local lake. The young woman chooses a TGTL team member to walk the four miles with her. On that first lap, she talks about why she ran or did not comply with expectations. On the second lap, she presents different alternatives to running that she could pursue in a similar situation in the future.

We know that the TGTL program is having a positive impact already. In only a year, 11 children have participated with a total juvenile court-related cost savings of more than \$56,000. In September 2016, we honored our first two graduates of the TGTL program. Iowa Judicial District 5C Chief Judge Arthur Gamble and Chief Juvenile Court Officer Chad Jensen attended the first graduation celebration. TGTL remains very thankful for their ongoing support and involvement. In a few weeks, we are looking forward to honoring our third TGTL graduate.

Our goal is to demonstrate that this process is replicable. The TGTL program is a wonderful example of the judicial system's ability to lead innovative programs by coordinating community resources and providing better services at a reduced cost.

### How does the TGTL program improve upon the current juvenile court process?

Typically, the response in juvenile court is





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The first graduates of Polk County's TGTL program (seated center). Pictured left to right: Sharon Wegner, Lori Rinehart, Sarah McCarthy, Chad Jensen, Destiny Shipp, Chief Judge Gamble, Dashalique Jackson, Annette Taylor, Ashley Artzer, Ashley VanScoy, Judge Susan Cox.

### Tax tips just in time for Tax Day... How can you give more to your favorite charity? Consider gifts of stock!

By Gordon Fischer, JD, CAP<sup>®</sup> Gordon Fischer Law Firm, P.C.



#### The story of Jill Donor

Imagine Iowa lawyer, Jill Donor, wanting to help her favorite nonprofit. Her favorite nonprofit might be her church, her alma mater, her children's school, a social welfare agency or any other number of worthy charities. When asked for a charitable gift, Donor agrees – and she reaches for her checkbook, or goes online to donate with a debit/credit card.

It's noble for Donor to give. However, consider this question – should Donor give cash? Or, does Donor own other assets which might be more tax-savvy? Can Donor be even more generous in support of her favorite causes, while lowering her out-of-pocket costs for charitable gifts?

#### Appreciated, long-term, publicly-traded stock

For both Iowa lawyers and their clients, the ideal assets for charitable donations will depend on a whole range of factors. But, when donating to charity, one type of asset to seriously consider is appreciated, longterm, publicly traded stock. Before we list the benefits of gifting this asset, let's quickly break down the terms.

#### What are we talking about?

- *Appreciated* simply means increased in value.
- *Long-term* means stock held for more than one year (e.g., 366 days). A long-term capital asset is generally taxed at a lower rate.
- *Publicly-traded stock* means a publicly-held company whose ownership is dispersed among the public through many shares of stock that are freely traded on a stock exchange or in over-the-counter markets.

### Benefits of gifting appreciated, long-term, publicly-traded stock

Let's discuss the benefits of charitable gifts of appreciated, long-term, publicly-traded stock. There are four major benefits:

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#### 1-2. Double federal tax benefit

Under federal tax law, charitable gifts of appreciated, longterm, publicly-traded stock can have a double benefit. First, you can take an income tax charitable deduction. Second, such a gift allows you to avoid paying capital gains tax (tax you would have paid had you sold rather than gifted the stock).

Let's look at a concrete example to make this clearer. Assume Jill Donor owns stock with a fair market value of \$100,000. Further assume the stock was originally purchased at \$20,000 (basis), Donor's income tax rate is 39.6 percent and her capital gains tax rate is 20 percent.

Donating cash versus donating appreciated, long-term, publicly-traded stock	Donating cash proceeds after sale of stock	Donating stock directly
Value of gift	\$100,000	\$100,000
Federal income tax charitable deduction	\$39,600	\$39,600
Federal capital gains tax savings	\$0	\$16,000
Out-of-pocket cost of gift	\$60,400	\$44,400

NOTE: This table is for example purposes only. Only your own personal professional advisor can advise on these matters in relation to your situation.

Again, when compared to a cash gift, gifts of stock can be doubly beneficial. Donor can receive a federal income tax charitable deduction equal to the fair market value of the asset. Donor can also avoid capital gains tax.

3. Stock may also be eligible for Endow Iowa Tax Credit

Iowa law provides a third tax benefit. Under the Endow Iowa Tax Credit program, eligible donations may receive a state tax credit of 25 percent of the value of the gift. This is a major incentive for Iowa charitable donations. To qualify for Endow Iowa, there are three requirements:

- a. The gift must be given to, or receipted by, a qualified Iowa community foundation.
- b. The gift must be made to an Iowa charity.

c. The gift must be endowed, that is, a permanent gift. Under Endow Iowa, no more than 5 percent of the gift can be granted each year. The rest is held by, and invested by, the community foundation.

Let's look again at the case of Jill Donor, who is donating stock per the table and assumptions above. If Donor makes an Endow Iowa qualifying gift, the tax savings are very dramatic:

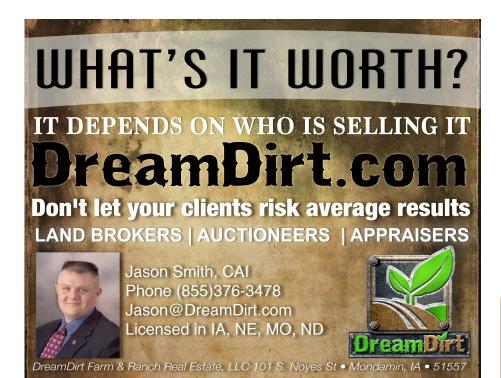
Triple tax benefit of donating appreci long-term, publicly-traded stock	
Value of gift	\$100,000
Federal income tax charitable deduction	\$39,600
Federal capital gains tax savings	\$16,000
Endow Iowa Tax Credit	\$25,000
Out-of-pocket cost of gift	\$19,400

NOTE: This table is for example purposes only. Only your own personal professional advisor can advise on these matters in relation to your situation.

Note well Donor's significant tax savings. In this scenario, by making a charitable gift of stock, Donor receives \$39,600 as a federal charitable deduction, avoids \$16,000 of capital gains taxes and gains an Iowa tax credit of \$25,000, for a total tax savings of \$80,600. Put another way, Donor made a gift of \$100,000 to her favorite charity, but the out-of-pocket cost of the gift to her was less than \$20,000

#### 4. Yet another benefit: Relaxed substantiation rules

There is even a fourth benefit to charitable gifts of publiclytraded stock. The substantiation rules for gifts of stock are more relaxed than for gifts of other types of donated property. Gifts of publicly-traded stock do not require an appraisal to document value. This is important, as non-cash gifts of more than \$5,000, to qualify for a federal income tax charitable deduction, generally require a qualified appraisal by a qualified appraiser, which can be quite complicated and cumbersome.



### Important note on "value" for you and your clients

The value of charitable gifts of publiclytraded stock is based on a simple calculation: the arithmetic mean of the highest and lowest selling prices on the date of the gift.

### Resources include your local community foundation

Are you, or your client, interested in making a charitable gift of stock, or another non-cash asset? Let me highlight two resources. I'm always interested in helping donors and donees, so please reach out to me anytime. Another valuable resource is your local community foundation (go to iowacommunityfoundations.org), which often is experienced in handling a wide variety of assets for charitable gifts.

The mission of Gordon Fischer Law Firm, P.C. is to promote and maximize charitable giving in Iowa. To achieve this mission, Gordon does estate planning for individuals, families, and businesses, and helps nonprofits with their legal needs. His email is gordon@gordonfischerlawfirm.com.



### **Understanding the Chinese Judicial System**

By Jinying Zhan, Iowa Foreign Legal Consultant



I have had many nice conversations with people in Iowa as my practice has developed here. One conversation last year stands out. A gentleman asked whether there were intellectual

property right (IPR) laws in China and, if so, how they compared with U.S. laws. His impression was that U.S. products have never been safe in China.

At first, I wondered how that question came to be. If China does not have IPR laws, how could he ever be comfortable to sell his products in China? But I answered that China was a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization and Chinese IPR laws had no less protection than any other countries, and, for years, the Chinese government has put forth a lot of effort to fight IPR infringement. Regardless of whether my answer had given him comfort, the reality is there are always differences no matter which country's legal system is being compared. The difference comes from the history, culture, populous structure, education, development level and ideology.

I have travelled around the world often and have met many people who have questions about China. In this article, I concentrate on the Chinese Judicial System to explain some key facts that make it somewhat unique in the world.

### The role of the Communist Party in the judiciary

The institutional setting of China's judicial system is not much different than in other countries. China has its courts, procuracy (like the Attorney General's Office), police and other judicial branches for specific functions. But a major difference is that the Communist Party plays a control role in each branch. One key fact is that the head of each judicial branch must be a member of the Communist Party.

In addition, the Political and Legal Committee (PLC), an agency of the Communist Party, plays a very important role in making sure the Communist Party's interests are protected. Mostly, PLC's function is its leadership efforts in criminal justice, social order and some political events. Rarely does PLC get involved in civil cases (labor dispute issues may be an exception). In 2014, a judicial rule proclaimed that PLC would not touch individual cases anymore, except for those "related to diplomatic or national security matters." But the leadership of PLC in judicial branches has never weakened.

### How court decisions are made

Unlike the Western way where each judge makes his or her own decision, Chinese judges typically make their decisions in a collective way. Some examples: In the summary procedure, the judge in charge has to submit his draft to the court division director for final approval; the bench in ordinary procedure has to submit the draft for a supervisor's final approval; and if the opinion has controversial views, the case would be decided by judicial committee.

Arguably, this process is to promote consistency and quality control as a "tradition of court governance." But, in recent years, there have been increasing calls to release more authority to the judge and the bench.

### How "guanxi" impacts court decision-making

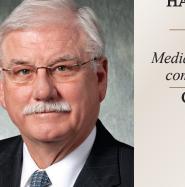
"Guanxi" is a Chinese word for "network." Westerners may associate "guanxi" with "kickbacks" or "pay for play," but it has broader meaning in Chinese business culture, not necessarily associated with "under-the-table transactions." People might be curious whether "guanxi" could be used in the court decision-making process. Based on my own experience, the answer is yes and no.

The "yes" is because many litigators might still try to use "guanxi" to influence a judge's decision and sometimes "guanxi" is used to break bureaucracy. But the "no" is that the use of "guanxi" has become more difficult (and subtler) because of the judicial reform and anti-corruption movement. But no matter how many measures are taken to reshape the Chinese judicial system, "guanxi" is still part of the tradition and culture. This seems to happen more in remote, poorer regions than in well-developed cities.

### **Judicial reform efforts**

China's legal system was based on an imperial tradition for about 2,000 years, until 1912 when the Chinese Nationalist Party overthrew the Qing Dynasty and established a government based on Western tradition. However, the Communist Party abandoned it soon after the Nationalist Party was overthrown in 1949.

The Communist regime attempted to establish a new legal system based on socialism, borrowing ideas from the Soviet Union. However, the experiment was very preliminary and later destroyed due to internal class struggles. In 1978, China started focusing on re-establishing social order and developing an economy, which



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meant the legal education and judicial system were going to need to be rebuilt.

From 1978 until 1988, the judicial system was still profiled as an apparatus for China's class struggles. Criminal prosecution was the dominant function. But as the economy developed, the function of the judicial system became more emphasized on justice, fair procedure and fair protection based on rule of law. In 2000, the court abandoned its "Mao" uniforms, and replaced them with Western-type judicial cloaks or robes, which symbolized the functional adjustment from governmental apparatus to independent judicial function.

Since 2001, after China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), judicial reform has been emphasizing how to narrow the gap between the Chinese and Western judicial systems. In 2012, China's State Council released a white paper for Chinese Judicial Reform. It pledged to: 1) improve social fairness and justice; 2) strengthen human rights protections; 3) improve judicial capacity; and 4) facilitate justice accessibility for people. The Chinese Supreme Court released its own Judicial Reform White Paper in 2016 which emphasized the

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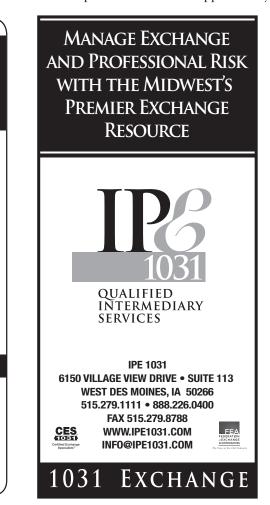
4500 Westown Parkway, Suite 125 West Des Moines, Iowa 50266 Phone: 515.222.6203 E-mail: cyril@cyrilmandelbaum.com importance of rule of law, transparency and fair procedure in the judiciary.

Together with the improvement of legal education, judicial reform has been leading the Chinese judicial system toward a more progressive direction.

### The legal profession

The Chinese legal profession includes judges, prosecutors, police officers and lawyers. Judges and prosecutors have always been part of the governmental staff (public servants). In the past, judges or prosecutors were recruited as military veterans with little formal legal education or training. Since the 1990s, however, it has become very difficult to get a judicial job without a law degree.

In addition to the law degree requirement, a candidate must first take the National Public Servant Qualification Exam (NPSQE). If a candidate passes the NPSQE, they take the National Uniformed Judicial Exam (NUJE). It is said to be the most difficult exam in China, with a typical pass rate of less than 20 percent. After this, the candidate is qualified to be "promoted" to assistant judge or assistant prosecutor, then judge or prosecutor. Judges and prosecutors must be appointed by



local legislators. Through this process, the selection has become extremely strict in the sense of qualification and experience.

Police officers are recruited from the military, graduates from criminal justice programs, as well as from four-year-bachelor degree or higher programs. A law degree is not required, but preferred based on today's standards. Police officer candidates must also pass NPSQE.

Lawyers occupy the largest population in the legal profession in China. To be qualified to take NUJE, the minimum requirement is a two-year law degree or four-year bachelor degree. After passing NUJE, the candidate must finish a one-year internship program before becoming licensed to practice. In 1980, there were 212 lawyers in China. Today, the number of licensed lawyers is more than 300,000 and the number of law firms is about 25,000. This is in a population of 1.3 billion people.

### In conclusion: How to think about the Chinese judicial system

I have discussed the judicial reforms with my colleagues who are still working for the court in China and was told uniformly that they would not change the essence of the Chinese judicial system. My conclusion is that China's judicial reform is being made in a methodical manner. China would not change its tradition or regime completely, but is trying to turn the judicial system in a positive direction, internally, not externally. To see a better Chinese judicial system, we need to see better quality legal professionals, because better professionals expect a better system and will work in that direction. In 15 years, I expect to see my older Chinese colleagues retired, leaving only highly-trained law graduates in the court system.

In the meantime, don't assume the judicial system in China mirrors the U.S. China has been borrowing from the West, but consistency with Communist Party priorities do still exist.

Zhan Law Office, P.C. in Clive was founded by Jinying Zhan (Nick). Nick is a licensed attorney in China and has been recognized by the State of Iowa Supreme Court to practice Chinese law as a Foreign Legal Consultant. He was formerly a district judge in Xiamen City, Fujian Province and later moved to Guangzhou to start private practice. He has worked in the United States since 2010.



### **Observations on the education of a Chinese attorney**

By James Sheets, Chair of International Law section



The rise of China as a U.S. trading partner and global power opens the door for many Iowa businesses. Iowa agricultural exports are popular in this global giant. Cash-heavy Chinese business persons

have also found Iowa an attractive location for their investments. These developments, in turn, have brought local U.S. attorneys into working-contact with their Chinese counterparts. Due diligence of opposing counsel is always a best – if not necessary practice. Consistent with this, my recent travel to China at the University of Jinan College of Law provided a unique opportunity to better understand the education of the Chinese lawyer and experience firsthand the Chinese legal culture.

I arrived in Jinan China at the start of the fall semester in 2015. My arrival into China was assisted and welcomed by Shiling Yang, the Dean of the College of Law at the University of Jinan. Dean Yang had only one year earlier attended the University of Iowa while on sabbatical leave, receiving his LL.M. degree at Iowa in 2014. It quickly became clear to me how formative his time at Iowa was to him and the life-changing impact it had on his own commitment to improve the rule of law as a value to be communicated to his students.

It was immediately apparent there was something very culturally different about legal education in China. As Dean Yang explained it, China had only recently embraced the need to modernize and internationalize legal education. Some of this was obvious in that the 1990s saw a great transition in Chinese law whereby large sections were modernized, providing for a new contract, investment and commercial legal system. Indeed, today the law in China is in a constant state of revision with legislative updates being added on an almost per-annum basis. This makes for a legal code constantly in flux, ever-expanding so as to accommodate global growth. The law classroom in China also projected this global perspective by recruiting students

from all over the world, including Africa and Southeast Asia, to ensure the presence of Chinese-educated attorneys in these new market areas.

Chinese students were enthusiastic about the prospect of studying law, in part because law is an upcoming profession in China and one which bestows a white-collar standing previously unknown in China. Almost all Chinese students are first-generation college attendees. Just two generations ago, there were few Chinese attorneys and these were concentrated in criminal law. Their function was really more of a pleading-drafter for the doomed defendant. In these respects, most Chinese attorneys are entering the profession without the benefit of an experienced mentor or established legal profession.

After getting to know the students in the classroom, a few points about legal education in China became apparent. First, most Chinese law schools can be regarded

as "start-up" operations, and in a state of relative infancy compared with their Western counterparts. Universities prior to the 1980s were few and far between, and it was only when China embraced the need to modernize did it also begin to build a university system. From the education perspective, this is significant. Chinese law students are usually not subject to an honor code. In addition, students as well as faculty cannot rely upon a long-received standard of peer review, either in the development of research or university governance. This can result in the improper use of influence and the pedaling of favors in the handling of student affairs.

Second, the study of law in China is taught at the undergraduate level; the law degree is a four-year degree ending in an LL.B. (Bachelors in the Letters of Law). The law classroom in China is thus open to all eligible undergraduate enrollees, many of whom may have a general interest in law,

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lowa attorney James Sheets (center) seated next to Dean Shiling Yang and some of the students of the College of Law at the University of Jinan in China.

but no prior real knowledge or work experience with the law. The learning baseline in China is more open-ended and diverse than in the U.S. in that there is no pre-vetting entrance or law exam testing process. Thus, there exists dramatic performance differences between Chinese law students.

Third, the use of law to manage conflict and to make decisions is also relatively new in China. China has for centuries governed itself not by formal law, but by customary practice and family traditions. Referring disputes to an external and transparent decision-making authority is still a novel process. The professional regulation of attorneys in China, for example, is still in a state of infancy. Chinese attorneys are not subject to any attorney-client rules and there is not independent standing of the Chinese capable of resisting a government order.



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(800) 679.7154 www.iowabar.org in the Member Benefits section Finally, and perhaps most significant, is the practice of rote learning that has prevailed in China to this day. Chinese culture has, since the days of Confucius, been organized around the family, with Confucius – and then Mao – as the great teachers. Education was largely informal and focused upon the mastery of given rules and precepts. The masterly acquisition of these rules was deemed the highest learning goal.

The Western tradition of Socratic inquiry as applied to the Langdell case method, in which legal facts and rules are scrutinized for their assumptions and contradictions, is not endemic to

the Chinese learning style. At the practical level, this acts as a restraint to the level of inquiry and intellectual curiosity. I was often struck by the reaction of students who frequently interpreted open-ended discussion questions to the class as a form of impertinence to my own position as a teacher of law. Chinese law students expect that the teacher possess an absolute grand and Confucius-like mastery of all things legal and otherwise - an expectation which is counterproductive to the task of teaching law as an analytical process. Alternatively, I was cautioned by students for simply raising legal questions germane to the current Chinese legal landscape, for example China's compliance with the WTO standard against currency manipulation. As an outcome, this produces an attorney who is not assertive in his or her challenges to the law, or in using zealous advocacy before the court. Deference to a learned Confucius-figure in the classroom can produce a similar fawning deference to a judicial figure in the courtroom

A country which seeks to embrace the rule of law as a value must have an independent and assertive attorney profession. Chinese attorneys have certainly made significant advances; yet in order for China to assume global leadership that is competitive with its Western counterparts, it will need to focus and develop an educational process, as well as an attorney art of advocacy, which is not by intellectual habit deferential to the established order.

James Sheets received his J.D. from the University of Iowa and has a M.A. in education from the University of St. Thomas and a Ph.D. in the social sciences from the University of Rochester (NY). He is chair of the ISBA International Law Section and is an associate attorney at McEnroe, Gotsdiner, Brewer, Steinbach, and Rothman, P. C., West Des Moines.

### Board of Governors Spring Quarterly Meeting – ISBA BOG nominates new officers at quarterly meeting, acts on bills of interest

During the spring ISBA Board of Governors quarterly meeting in Des Moines, the BOG approved nominations of new 2017-2018 ISBA officers, acted on bills of interest during the 2017 legislative session and prepared to act on additional key issues impacting Iowa attorneys.

### **Actions**

### Action taken on bills of interest to the ISBA during the 2017 Legislative Session:

- Approved support for HF530 Seatbelt Damages provided it does not bar recovery to plaintiffs and is within the ISBA Legislative Counsel's authorization to negotiate details.
- Approved registering as opposed to HF517 Firearms.

### Additional actions taken by the Board of Governors:

- Approved the ISBA Real Estate Section and Legal Forms Committee's recommended updates to forms 375, Notice to Quit, and 366, Notice of Termination of Tenancy.
- Approved the ISBA Legal Forms Committee's recommendation to approve new form, 134, Farm Lease – Fixed Cash Rent.
- Declined to authorize making form 369, Power of Attorney RE: Temporary Delegation of Custody and ISBA legal form number 370, Power of Attorney for Medical Services: Delegation of Authority, available for public use via the ISBA website based on the ISBA Family Law Section's recommendation.
- Approved the nomination of new 2017-2018 ISBA officers, Tom Levis – President-Elect, Bill Boyd – Vice-President, and ABA Delegate candidate, Jane Lorentzen.
- Approved that the name of the ISBA Access to Justice Committee be changed to ISBA Legal Access Committee.
- Authorized ISBA staff to offer free attendance to the 2017 ISBA Annual Meeting for ISBA members with fewer than five years of practice.
- Approved the launch of Iowa Free Legal Answers via the ISBA's Find-A-Lawyer website. Volunteer attorney registration is forthcoming and to be followed by public access for use by qualifying pro bono clients.



The Senate and House Judiciary Chairs Sen. Brad Zaun (R- Urbandale) and Rep. Chip Baltimore (R-Boone) addressed the Board of Governors regarding legislation of priority to the ISBA.

• Approved a resolution supporting funding for the Legal Services Corporation, the largest funding source for civil legal services for Iowa Legal Aid.

### **Reports**

**President's report** – *President Skip Kenyon* ISBA President Kenyon updated governors on his contacts since the December Quarterly Meeting. Kenyon welcomed guest speakers and Judiciary Committee Chairs Senator Brad Zaun and Iowa Representative Chip Baltimore. He also helped to facilitate discussion and action on legislative issues pertaining to adequate funding for Iowa courts and additional challenges during the legislative session.

Legislative counsel's report – ISBA Legislative Counsel Jim Carney, ISBA Assistant Legislative Counsel Doug Struyk and Shannon Henson ISBA Legislative Counsel Jim Carney and ISBA Assistant Legislative Counsel Shannon Henson provided the BOG with a status report including the following:

- The 2017 Affirmative Legislative Program;
- Iowa State budget update;
- Judicial Branch Budget;
- Indigent defense funding;
- Legal Services funding;
- More than 20 other bills of interest to the ISBA.

Carney and Henson advised the governors of the status of each bill on the ISBA 2017 Affirmative Legislative Agenda. A complete list of the affirmative legislation bills and the status of each bill is available on page 19. In addition, they reported that an additional \$131 million is needed to balance the state budget for FY 2017 beyond the \$118 million that the Iowa



Governor and legislature de-appropriated. Carney and Henson further explained that difficult decisions will need to be made regarding the means by which the Economic Emergency Fund will be repaid over time while maintaining de-appropriation cuts and priority spending.

The ISBA Legislative Counsel urged governors and members to oppose any legislation with language that provides monetary caps on non-economic damages. In particular, two medical malpractice bills, SF465 and companion bill HF487, are now with the Iowa House and may be considered for vote at any time. SF465 provides for monetary caps on non-economic damages in the sum of \$250,000.

#### **Dialogue with Iowa Supreme Court** – Chief Justice Mark Cady

Chief Justice Cady provided an overview of the many efforts that are underway to support full funding for Iowa's Judicial Branch. Cady expressed his gratitude to the governors and to the ISBA at large for its ongoing efforts to support judicial branch funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

#### **Strategic Planning** – ISBA Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee Chair Bill Boyd

ISBA Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee Chair Bill Boyd provided governors a review of the committee's work to date.

Boyd summarized findings from subsequent meetings that the committee conducted with key representatives of important ISBA constituent groups such as YLD members, corporate counsel, government attorneys, the judiciary and solo and small firm practitioners. At the meetings, the committee members and participants discussed what they view as important to them as members, what they would like the ISBA to do that it is not already doing and what the ISBA is doing that may not necessarily be helpful.

Prevailing themes that arose from the meetings include the need for engagement of new members with other members and that access to practice tools and CLEs are of significant benefit. Based on the input it received, the committee prepared a draft mission and vision statement for the governor's consideration and discussion. Once the draft is reviewed and approved by the ISBA BOG, it is anticipated that the mission and vision statements will be used to identify goals and priorities for ISBA activities.

### ABA Free Legal Answers website discus-

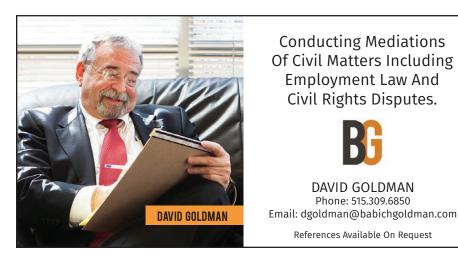
sion – ISBA Vice-President Steve Eckley ISBA Vice-President Steve Eckley led a discussion about ABA Free Legal Answers, a national project that aims to utilize technology and volunteer attorneys to assist people experiencing access barriers to legal services. Governors approved the activation of Iowa Free Legal Answers via the ISBA Find-A-Lawyer website for volunteer attorney registration and training followed by a launch to the public for qualifying, pro bono client use.

#### **YLD President's report** – *YLD President Reed McManigal and YLD Secretary Margret White*

YLD President Reed McManigal introduced YLD Secretary Maggie White who reported that the online tool where YLD members can anonymously post questions and receive answers will be activated at the end of the month.

#### **ISBA Executive Director's report** – *ISBA Executive Director Dwight Dinkla and Assistant Executive Director Harry Shipley*

ISBA Executive Director Dinkla stated that a small delegation from the ISBA will go to Washington, D.C. for ABA Day in April. The first legislative priority of the ISBA delegates will be to speak with the Iowa congressional delegation about funding for the Legal Services Corporation. Governors and members in attendance were invited to sign a petition that will be presented to elected officials in support of the funding. ISBA members may also sign the petition electronically.



Dinkla thanked the Legislative Services Agency for providing the ISBA with more than 50 copies of its new two-volume publication of the Iowa Court Rules. The two volume set of Iowa Court Rules sells for \$50. He also noted that the Newly-Admitted Attorney Swearing-In Ceremony on April 6 will take place in the afternoon and be immediately followed by a reception at The Iowa State Bar Association.

ISBA Ways & Means Committee Chair Eric Turner provided governors with an overview of ISBA financial statements. The change in membership demographics continues to be studied, including smaller law school graduating classes and increased attorney retirement. ISBA Assistant Executive Director Harry Shipley answered questions regarding projected lower membership numbers. Turner stated that discussion regarding potential solutions is ongoing, especially within the ISBA Ways and Means and Administrative Committees. Expense items on the financial statements include the HotDocs® contract renewal increase. A net income increase can be attributed in large part to investment income.

The ISBA Ways & Means Committee was tasked with reviewing section dues, currently \$15 per section.

Turner highlighted details from a national survey conducted across state bar associations and reported that the ISBA section dues are below the national average. He went on to explain that the committee will discuss a proposed \$10 increase in section dues with section chairs and report back to the governors.

#### University of Iowa College of Law report – Dean Gail Agrawal

Dean Gail Agrawal reported that the University of Iowa College of Law's anticipated incoming class for the next academic year is approximately 140 students. She noted that the school is experiencing a rebound in the number of applications submitted. However, there is still a decline in the number of applications submitted by about one percent nationally.

Agrawal said that five new law faculty members will join the law school in the fall. She went on to update the governors on future lectures and events including a University of Iowa College of Law Foundation celebration of the successful completion of the capital campaign, April 7. Agrawal highlighted faculty and student accomplishments and mentioned recent, favorable law school national rankings. She reported that The University of Iowa College of Law currently has the lowest tuition of the top 20 U.S. News and World Report – ranked law schools.

### IOWA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION — 2017 Affirmative Legislative Program

Bill No./Subject	Description	Status
SF 221/HF62 Benefit Corporations	Amends IA Business Corporation Act (Chapter 490) to authorize formation of "Benefit Corporations", which are formed not only for the purpose of shareholder profitability but also for a social purpose or public benefit.	Will not advance this session.
HF 252 Calculation of Probate Court Costs	Relates to how the clerk of probate court determines and collects charges in connection with services provided in probate matters. Excludes from the determination of court costs property over which the court lacks probate jurisdiction and for which the clerk renders no services. Specifies that for purposes of calculating the costs for other services performed by the court in the settlement of the estate of any decedent, minor, person with mental illness, or other persons laboring under legal disability, the value of such a person's personal property and real estate is equal to the gross assets of the estate listed in the probate inventory minus, unless the proceeds of the gross assets are payable to the estate, joint tenancy property, transfers made during such person's lifetime such as to a revocable trust, and assets payable to beneficiaries.	Passed Ways and Means subcommittee meeting 3/27/17
<b>SF 333</b> Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act (RUFADAA)	Adopted by the Uniform Law Commissioners in July 2014, the Act ensures that legally appointed fiduciaries can access, delete, preserve, and pass along a person's digital assets (i.e., documents, photographs, e-mail, and social media accounts) as appropriate.	Passed Senate 49-0 3/13/17. Passed House Subcommittee 3/20/17. Passed House Judiciary Committee 3/30/17.
<b>Probate 3</b> lowa Department of Revenue Inheritance Tax Withholding	Provides for mandatory withholding of lowa inheritance tax from joint tenancy, payable on death, transfer on death and other assets transferable to non-exempt persons through use of a withholding form developed with the lowa Department of Revenue.	Will not advance this session.
<b>HF 135</b> Waiver of Spousal Share	Amends the lowa Uniform Power of Attorney Act by adding a new subsection (10) to 633B.204 to clarify that an agent under a power of attorney may waive or relinquish a spousal right, homestead, and elective share if the principal has granted the agent Gen. Powers under the real property section 204 to 633B.	Passed out of House Judiciary Committee 1/30/17.
<b>HF 183</b> Emergency Orders – Clarifica- tion of the Priority of Notice	Amends lowa Code section 235B.19(3)(a) regarding notice requirements where an emergency order has been issued for protective services. The proposed amendment would clarify the priority of notice in such situations.	Passed House 98-0 2/14/17. Passed Senate Judiciary Committee 3/14/17.
<b>HF 184</b> Information to File a Small Probate Estate	The Petition to open a small probate estate (less than \$100,000) currently requires more information under section 635.2 than is required for a Petition to open a regular estate (above \$100,000). This legislation amends section 635.2 to keep the Petition information requirements for small estates consistent with those of a regular estate.	Passed House 98-0 2/14/17. Passed out of Senate Judiciary Committee 3/28/17.
HF 195 Requests for Notice	Amends lowa Code section 633.42 to allow for electronic notice to be provided in response to a request for notice filed and clarifies that no standing is granted.	Passed House 98-0 2/14/17. Passed out of Senate Judiciary Committee 3/29/17.
HF 371 Attorney Fees and Court Costs in Action to Quiet Title After Request for a Quitclaim Deed.	Updates Code Section 649.5, which relates to attorney fees and court costs for a party who succeeds in an action to quiet title and who requested a quitclaim deed from the party holding an apparent adverse interest prior to bringing the action to quiet title. Brings the dollar amounts closer to current market rates and maintains the moving party's ability to request attorney fees.	Passed House 95-0 3/7/17. Passed out of Senate Judiciary Committee.
HSB 63 Forcible Entry & Detainer Actions After Forfeiture of Real Estate Contracts	Makes changes to procedures for eviction after forfeiture of a real estate contract. Grants statutory authority under Code Chapter 648 for a vendor in a real estate installment contract to seek Forcible Entry & Detainer action against holdover vendee who fails to vacate after forfeiture proceedings are complete, while affording holdover vendees proper due process. Allows small claims magistrates to hold preliminary hearings in forfeiture cases and to enter judgments of removal only if the defendant defaults or appears and does not raise facts which would constitute a defense to eviction.	Will not advance this session.
Real Estate 3 Redemption from Tax Sale of Property Owned by Persons with Disabilities	Remedies issues arising from Iowa Court of Appeals decision <i>Firestone v. FT13</i> (Filed 4-30-14) relating to redemption issues arising from ownership of property by minors or persons of unsound mind.	Will not advance this session.
Real Estate 4 Requirements for Timely Filing of Releases or Satis- factions of Mortgages	Remedies ambiguities and inconsistencies in existing statutes & provides remedies for failure of mortgagees to issue releases of mortgages.	Will not advance this session.
<b>HF 133</b> Clarification of Roles in Child Representation	Amends Code Section 598.12 to clarify roles of child's attorney, guardian ad litern, and custody investigator. Existing 598.12 provisions for child representation are not compliant with ABA standards for child representation.	Passed House 98-0 2/14/17. Passed Senate Committee 3/14/17.
<b>SSB 1102</b> 90-Day Waiting Period in Dissolutions involving Collaborative Law	Amends Code Section 589.19 to add that a court may grant a divorce 90 days after the parties execute an agreement to participate in collabo- rative law. Currently, 598.19 requires a 90-day waiting period from the time of service of an original notice or acceptance of service is filed with the court before the court can grant a decree dissolving a marriage. Parties participating in collaborative divorce often do not file a petition or execute an acceptance of service until a final agreement has been reached.	Pulled for further work.
HF 253 Jpdates to Chapter 600B – Children in the Middle & Attorney's Fees in Contempt Cases Uniformity	A recent appellate court decision determined that the trial court could not award attorney fees in a contempt action pertaining to a chapter 600B contempt, but it would be allowed if the parties had been divorced under chapter 598. The legislation adds attorney fees to actions for contempt under chapter 600B. The other bill requires parents who were never married to each other but are involved in a child custody lawsuit to take the children in the middle class.	Passed House Floor vote 99-0 2/23/17. Passed Senate Judiciary Committee 3/14/17.

Updated 3/30/17

### In addition to these legislative proposals, the Iowa State Bar Association supports the following positions as a part of its 2017 Affirmative Legislative Program:

- Full funding of indigent defense and adoption of legislation providing for an automatic, periodic increase in indigent defense fees.
- Full funding of the Judicial Branch.
- Full funding for Legal Services.
- Funding for the IA Secretary of State's Office to include the creation of a revolving fund provided that the ISOS fees are increased to hold the general fund harmless.
- Full funding for the Office of Substitute Decision Maker to protect the interests of lowans who have no one else to manage their financial and health care needs.
- Child abuse prevention and treatment efforts and funding for child abuse prevention and treatment.
- Opposition to the legalization of title insurance. Will monitor issues regarding lawyer abstracting under lowa Title Guaranty.
- · Opposition to absolute immunity legislation.

### **BREAKFAST WITH THE BAR**



The Board of Governors hosted lowa lawmakers for breakfast on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at the ISBA headquarters in Des Moines.



Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Cady speaks with Rep. Stan Gustafson (R-Cumming).



ISBA 5C Governor Judge Dawn Boucher speaks with Sen. Charles Schneider (R-West Des Moines).



Pictured left to right: ISBA Assistant Legislative Counsel Doug Struyk, Executive Director Dwight Dinkla, Rep. Bruce Hunter (D-Des Moines) and ISBA President Skip Kenyon.

### **Business Valuations & Litigation Support**



-

Al Ryerson CPA/ABV, CFF, ASA



**Greg Weber** CPA/ABV, ASA



Jim Nalley CPA/ABV, CFF, CVA



Jennifer Julander ASA

### In remembrance of Judge "Hal"

Submitted by his law clerks, this article is based on submissions by, and interviews of, Judge Harold Vietor's colleagues, lawyers who appeared before him, and other friends in the Iowa legal community.

More than a few judges considered the Honorable Harold Vietor to have been a mentor and role model, as did many more lawyers and law clerks. Judge Vietor, affectionately known as "Hal," was appointed to the Iowa District Court bench in 1965 and rose to the position of Chief Judge of the Sixth Judicial District. In 1979, President Jimmy Carter nominated him to the federal district court bench in the Southern District of Iowa. Upon his confirmation by the United States Senate, Judge Vietor sat in the United States District Courthouse in Des Moines. He passed away July 23, 2016, at age 84.

Judge Vietor was a noble, commanding presence on the bench and treated every person with dignity. With lawyers, he was demanding, but respectful, fair and just. His work ethic and preparation were remarkable, and he expected lawyers to be similarly well-prepared.

He was a strong advocate of the jury trial and firmly believed that putting disputes into the hands of a jury was the best way to resolve legal conflicts. He took care to help jurors appreciate that great responsibility, telling every jury in his courtroom that the framers of the Constitution reserved the power they held to the people because it was too awesome a power to give to a judge or other government official. In his courtroom, which he proudly restored to its original beauty, he kept the process meaningful, consistent with his abundant humanity.

Before attending law school and entering practice, Vietor studied history at the University of Iowa. His interest in history endured throughout his life. While he was an undergraduate student, the Korean War broke out and intensified. Following his junior year, he enlisted in the Navy. When the conflict ended shortly after, he was stationed in Chicago, where he remained throughout his two-year enlistment. After receiving an honorable discharge for his service, he finished his degree at Iowa and enrolled in its law school.

A great student in law school, Vietor earned many accolades. During his final year, he was an editor of the Iowa Law Review. His aptitude and character earned the attention of Dean Mason Ladd, who called him into his office one day to ask if he would like to clerk for Judge Van Oosterhout on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Vietor accepted on the spot and served as a law clerk to "Judge Van" for a year after law school.

Vietor moved to Cedar Rapids in the late 1950s, following his clerkship with Judge Van, and got involved in Democratic politics. Vietor was an exceptional lawyer from the very start of his career,

and he earned an outstanding reputation practicing in Cedar Rapids with David Blakely.

Just six years after entering practice, Vietor was appointed to the state bench to serve as a district court judge. While in Cedar Rapids, Vietor struck up a friendship with John Culver, an attorney who would go on to become a United States Representative and then a United States Senator. Senator Culver, who had long believed Vietor would be an excellent federal district judge, nominated him to fill a new district court judgeship in the Southern District of Iowa in 1979. Within a few months, the United States Senate confirmed his appointment by President Carter. One of his first acts as federal judge was to hire as his secretary Mary Loughlin, who for the remainder of his career was



The Honorable Harold Vietor, seated center, poses with his clerks, legal assistant, area attorneys and judges at a celebration of his 50th year as a judge. He passed away in July of 2016.

fiercely loyal, as well as indispensible, to him.

Off the bench, Vietor was known for his warmth and friendliness, his genuineness and sincerity. He was a family man who dearly loved his wife, Dalia, his children and grandchildren. In social settings, he even surprised longtime colleagues, who only knew his serious courtroom demeanor, with his charm and grace. He enjoyed swapping stories in chambers and was known for his great sense of humor. Former colleagues and law clerks recall him sharing his favorite advice for newly minted appellate judges: "Affirm if you can. Reverse if you must. But never, never remand for further proceedings."

Throughout his career as a judge, Vietor modeled himself after Judge Van, who had been an inspiration to him and a mentor early in his own career. Justice Harry Blackmun, who was a colleague of Judge Van's before his own appointment to the United States Supreme Court, once described him as having been "possessed of innate and excellent judicial reaction" and praised his ability to get a "feel for the heart of the case."

It is apparent that Vietor studied his example well. Like Judge Van, Vietor did not seek attention or make cases about him. He did not even want the attention of a funeral. Hopefully, he can forgive his clerks this acknowledgement of his legacy. To lawyers and judges throughout Iowa and beyond, he was the epitome of an excellent trial judge: bright, upright, compassionate, without any agenda and committed to doing justice within the bounds of law.



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#### TRANSITIONS

#### **CORRECTION:**



Bergstrom



Brian Bergstrom has been named president of Shuttleworth & Ingersoll, P.L.C. in Cedar Rapids. Gary Streit, former president, has been named chair of the firm's board of directors.

Bergstrom joined the firm in 1998. He received his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1989. His

practice focuses on sales and acquisitions of businesses; equity finance; securities; and business contracts, consulting and planning.

Streit began his career with the firm in 1975 and has served on the board of directors since 1985. He was named president in 2002.



**Bohlman** 

#### **Brandon M. Bohlman**

has joined Shindler, Anderson, Goplerud & Weese, P.C. in West Des Moines. Bohlman earned his J.D. from Drake University in 2012. He represents clients in a variety of matters, focusing on personal injury, medical malpractice and products liability.

Mary Ann Brown has been



named partner at the Nash Nash Bean & Ford Law firm in Geneseo. IL. Brown has been with the firm



Groetken

### for 10 years. Her practice focuses on estate planning and elder law.

La'Cee Groetken has

joined Zarley Law in Des Moines. Groetken received her J.D. in 2014 and L.L.M. in Global Intellectual Property in 2015. She practices in all areas of intellectual property, including trademarks, copyrights and patents, utilizing a B.S. in Chemistry, B.S. in Neuroscience, B.A. in Biology and graduate education in Physical Chemistry.

Christopher J. Jessen has

joined Belin McCormick, P.C. as an

associate in the litigation practice

in 2016 and previously clerked for

the lowa Court of Appeals. He will

handle a broad range of litigation

on complex commercial litigation.

matters, with a particular emphasis

group. Jessen received his J.D. from Drake University Law School

Heidman Law Firm of Sioux City and Wolff Whorley & De Hoogh of Sheldon have merged their firms, effective March 1. The Sheldon office will be known as the Whorley Heidman Law Firm.





Kamienski



DeSimone





Moore

represented MidAmerican before the Iowa Utilities Board and the Illinois Commerce Commission.



Motto

### Laura Kamienski has

ioined Farmers State Bank in Marion as Trust Officer. For the past eight years, she served as an attorney and mediator in private practice, and continues to serve as an adjunct lecturer at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids. Kamienski received her J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School.

Peter Leo has joined Norelius & Nelson P.C., in Denison. Leo's practice will include civil and criminal litigation, business and commercial law and mediation services throughout western and central lowa. Prior to joining the firm, he practiced at Koley Jessen P.C. in Omaha, Nebraska, and the Heidman Law Firm in Sioux City.

#### Dana DeSimone and Thais Ann Folta have joined Miller,

Pearson, Gloe, Burns, Beatty & Parrish, P.L.C. in Decorah. DeSimone received her J.D.

from Creighton University School of Law in 2016. Her practice will focus on general litigation, including criminal law, family law and taxation.

Folta received her J.D. from Indiana University in 1994 and previously practiced in Indiana and Missouri. She will focus her practice on general litigation, including environmental law, probate, civil litigation and family law.

#### Jennifer S. Moore joined

Katten & Temple, LLP as counsel in their Quad Cities office. Her practice focuses on public utility regulation and litigation in Iowa and Illinois. Prior to joining Katten & Temple, she was in-house counsel for MidAmerican Energy Company in Davenport and



Amanda R. Motto joined Hopkins & Huebner, P.C. in Davenport as an associate attorney. Amanda earned both her bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Iowa. She will practice primarily in workers' compensation defense.

Ann Klostermann McCrea and Traci Vercande have joined Nazette, Marner, Nathanson & Shea, LLP in Cedar Rapids.



McCrea



Vercande

McCrea practices primarily in estate planning, probate, wills, trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, real estate, contracts, business and corporate law and taxation. She graduated from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Vercande received her law degree from Drake University Law School, and is both admitted to practice and certified to mediate in Iowa. She focuses her practice on workers' compensation, Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and family law.

Allison E. Kerndt has joined Nyemaster Goode, P.C. in Des Moines as a shareholder; Paige Thorson, Colleen MacRae and Rebecca Moore have joined Nyemaster as associates.







MacRae



Moore

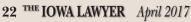
Kerndt will join the firm's growing Intellectual Property Department with a decade of experience in I.P. work, including a judicial clerkship for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, which hears appeals of all patent litigation. She received her J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2005.

Thorson has joined Nyemaster's Government Affairs Department. Her legislative practice is concentrated on representing clients before the lowa legislature, Governor's office and state agencies. Prior to joining the firm, she served in various positions in Iowa government for the Department on Aging, Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman and Department of Human Services.

MacRae has joined Nyemaster's Business, Finance and Real Estate Department. She regularly assists clients with the formation of businesses, corporate restructuring, contract drafting and negotiations, regulatory compliance, real estate leasing and economic development.

Moore has joined Nyemaster's Tax, Estate Planning and Employee Benefits Department.

She graduated from Drake University Law School. Moore's practice includes assisting clients with estate planning, trust and estate administration and tax issues. Before joining Nyemaster, she was a partner at Buchanan law office in Algona.







### Marie H. Ruettgers has

been named Partner and Managing Attorney of Goosmann Law Firm's Sioux Falls office. Ruettgers practices in commercial litigation and employment law litigation, and advises clients on human resources and cyber liability issues. She has been with the firm since 2014.



Joseph Rust joined Sullivan & Ward, P.C. in West Des Moines as an associate attorney. He received his J.D from Drake University Law School in 2016 with a certificate in Business Law. Rust will practice primarily in business/corporate law, civil litigation and real estate.

James J. Larson and Bryan M. Loya have joined SouthLaw, P.C. in West Des Moines as associates.



**Larson** has joined the firm's Foreclosure Department. He received his J.D. from Drake University Law School in 2014. His practice focuses on representing financial institutions and creditors' rights in real estate finance and mortgage foreclosure.

Loya also joined the firm's

Foreclosure Department, rep-

resenting financial institutions

estate finance and mortgage

foreclosure. He received his

School in 2015.

and creditors' rights in real



Loya



Swanson

#### Stephen J. Swanson

J.D. from Drake University Law

has joined Lamberti, Gocke & Luetje, P.C. in Ankeny as an associate attorney. He obtained his J.D. from Drake University in 2006. Prior to joining the firm, he was an Assistant County Attorney for Palo Alto and Wapello Counties. He will maintain a general practice.

#### TRANSITIONS SUBMISSIONS

To submit a transition item, please follow the same style published here and keep submissions short and to the point. The focus of the announcement should be on the individual involved, not the law firm.

Please include a high-resolution (300 dpi) color photo of the individual in the ".jpg" format and the announcement as plain text or as a Microsoft Word ".doc."

E-mail submissions to communications@iowabar.org. Include office phone number and name of person furnishing the copy. Questions? Please call 515-697-7864.



#### Prepared by a YLD committee:

Rebecca Reif, Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. – Chair Kelsey Crosse, Davis Brown Patrick McElvea, Assistant Scott County Attorney

#### Richard Dillon Crotty March 10, 2017 No. 16-1988 License Suspension

Richard Crotty was licensed in 1975. This disciplinary action arises from Crotty's representation of the administrator of an estate and a claimant in a workers' compensation case.

On the estate matter, Crotty represented Leonard Cleaver in enforcing a judgment lien against his father's ex-wife as administrator of his father's estate. Cleaver told Crotty that two of his siblings wanted nothing to do with the lien, so Crotty prepared renunciation documents for the siblings' signatures, which Cleaver returned signed. The ex-wife settled with the estate, and the court approved Crotty's \$11,533.33 attorney fee request without disclosure of the amount or a formula for calculating it. After Cleaver distributed the settlement to his siblings, they protested and informed Crotty that Cleaver forged their signatures on the renunciation agreements. He verbally informed the court of the forgeries.

Crotty subsequently requested \$812 worth of fees and withdrew as the estate's counsel. He filed a small claims action against the new estate administrator for the fees, and settled. The administrator's new counsel requested a calculation of Crotty's prior attorney fees, and the court found Crotty was overpaid \$7,203.33.

On the workers' compensation matter, it was found Crotty filed a proof and final brief on behalf of a client while his license was suspended for failing to file his annual report.

In regards to the estate representation, the Iowa Supreme Court found Crotty violated Rule 32:1.5(a) (unreasonable fees) for taking an attorney fee settlement before the estate inventory was filed, for collecting a fee without justifying its reasonableness through an itemized statement, and for collecting a contingent attorney fee substantially in excess of the statutory limit. The court also found Crotty violated Rule 32:8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice) by taking attorney fees without notice to the heirs and before they were authorized.

The court did not find Crotty's actions violated Rules 32:1.2(d) and 32:3.3(a)(3) in regards to the sibling forgeries, because Crotty (1) did not counsel Cleaver to forge the signatures, (2) did not know of the forgeries when they were filed, and (3) did not mislead the court because he orally revealed the forgeries. The court also found no violation of Rule 32:8.4(c) because, although Crotty failed to mention the forged renunciations Sam Charnetski, Shindler, Anderson, Goplerud & Weese Bryan O'Neill, Dickinson Law Firm Laura Wasson, Dickinson Law Firm

in the final report, his failure was not motivated by an intent to deceive or defraud.

Notwithstanding, the court found Crotty's actions in the workers' compensation representation violated several rules. His failure to notify clients to seek legal advice elsewhere violated Rule 41.5(2) (a). His failure to deliver property to current clients or tell them where such property may be obtained violated Rule 41.5(2)(b). His failure to notify opposing counsel of his suspension violated Rule 41.5(2)(d). His failure to file proof of his performance of Rule 41.5(2)(a)-(f) requirements violated Rule 41.5(2)(g). His continued practice of law during his suspension violated Rule 32:1.16(a)(1) and Rule 32:5.5(a).

In considering sanctions, the court found Crotty's previous disciplinary actions and substantial experience to be aggravating factors. Crotty's recognition of his wrongdoing constituted a mitigating factor. The Court suspended Crotty's license for 60 days.

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Brad Mihm CPA/ABV, AM







Ron Nielsen CPA/ABV/CFF Sahan Totagamuwa CPA/ABV, CFE



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### Attorney never loses sight of career goals, despite eye disease

By Melissa Higgins, Communications Director



Andrew Tullar, **Des Moines criminal** defense and juvenile law attorney

Andrew Tullar was 17 years old when he first officially learned that he might go blind.

"When you're 17, it's impossible to wrap your mind around that," he explained, describing the first time he met with vision experts at the University of Iowa. That's when he got his diagnosis: retinitis pigmentosa, a degenerative eye disease where the rod photoreceptor cells in the retina slowly die off.

But this was not an unexpected "life sentence" for Tullar, who said he always had an inkling this might happen to him, as it had to several other members of his family.

"When I was around 12 or 13. I started to notice that I wasn't able to see in the dark as well

as other people," he said. He recounts a school field trip from his hometown of Sac City to the State Historical Museum in Des Moines. His classmates were running around in the low-light exhibit hall, but he couldn't see where he was going.

Night blindness and "tunnel vision" are the most common symptoms experienced by people with retinitis pigmentosa. It's a genetic disorder carried by mothers, but the vision problems typically show up only in males in the family who have the gene mutation. An estimated 100,000 people in the United States have R.P.

Tullar's uncle also has the disease. Once on the path to becoming a professional tennis player, he had to quit the sport when he could no longer see the tennis ball. For Tullar, a high school

basketball career was put on hold when he began losing sight of the ball and running into other players.

"Imagine looking through a pair of binoculars, but without

WHAT IS R.P.? Retinitis pigmentosa is a degenerative eye disease where the rod photoreceptor cells in the retina slowly die off.

### **HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE R.P.?**

United States have R.P.

the magnification. You're just looking through tubes all the time. That's what my vision is like," he explained. And that narrow field of vision has gotten progressively smaller over time.

Law was not Tullar's first career path. In early adulthood, he moved quickly to live out his childhood dream of being a professional musician. He joined an a Capella group that toured the nation, even internationally, and landed gigs such as singing on The Today Show. He was driven by the fearlessness that came from knowing he might not be able to experience something like this again.

"If I want to travel around and see the world and do all of this before my eyes get worse, let's do this." That became his mantra.

Soon, Tullar began formulating plans to live out his second childhood dream: becoming an attorney. His father was an attorney and the seed of this aspiration.

Tullar attended Drake University Law School, graduated and began practicing in Des Moines in 2011. He was in his late 30s at this time and soon realized that his vision was getting bad enough

> that he could no longer drive safely. He went back to see the specialists in Iowa City and was declared legally blind. That meant surrendering his driver's license.

Concerned that this lack of transportation would impact his solo practice firm, he first mastered the bus system, then turned to family for help. His mother, a semi-retired nurse, now drives him to visit clients and go to court.

"I'm very fortunate for my mom. Because this is on her side of the family and she understands this disease, she's always been very supportive and helpful, beyond anything I could have ever expected," he said. Whenever he feels guilty, she reminds him how lucky most parents would feel to spend so much time with their adult children.

"She doesn't feel like it's a burden at

all and I don't think I can put into words how much it means to me, because it means I can keep doing my job." He also hired his brother as an assistant. His brother has

> retinitis pigmentosa and is also legally blind. In the past, he struggled to find his own employment because of vision issues, so now he assists Tullar on a part-time basis from home.

> Tullar next reached out to the Iowa Department for the Blind, which sent a case worker to visit with him. They provided him with some assistive technology, including a screen magnifier which also color-corrects text to make it appear white over a black background, which Tullar can see better. He set his Adobe reader

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Tullar uses his screen magnifier, provided by the Iowa Department for the Blind, to do legal research at his law office on Grand Ave. in Des Moines.

and web browser settings to do the same. On all of these programs, he can increase the text size as large as necessary.

He does carry a cane when he's in unfamiliar locations and it also serves as an important social cue. Tullar gives an example of a time when he met a client for the first time and didn't shake her hand, because she extended it outside his field of vision. He only learned later that the client felt slighted, so now he makes sure to be up-front with everyone he meets and the cane is an effective non-verbal way to do that.

"I'm not embarrassed by it in any way. Sometimes I worry that my clients wonder, 'If this guy can't see, can he do the job?' Nobody has ever said that to me, so maybe that fear is irrational. So, for me, it's about making other people comfortable. I don't want people to feel awkward or weird about it, because I don't."

Though Tullar is too modest to admit it outright, he agreed with the suggestion that his unique life experience may help him "see" things that other attorneys don't.

"Maybe it gives me insight. Most of my client feel like they are fighting to be treated fairly. They oftentimes feel like they aren't going to be. Maybe my lack of vision makes me more sympathetic. I don't know if that really changes my practice, but it changes me as a person."

His doctors at the vision center in Iowa City told him they believe the research is less than 10 years away from developing a procedure to reverse vision loss for people with this disease. But even with that hope on the horizon, Tullar says he does not spend very much time keeping up with medical breakthroughs. This would take time away from enjoying the life that was given to him.

"Maybe because I've had this my whole life, it's never been one of those things: 'This happened to me. Oh, my gosh, how awful.' I've accepted that I have this and they may or may not find a cure for it."



### IN MEMORIAM

**Barbara Berkenpas**, 69, of Ashton, died March 6. Berkenpas was born in 1947 in Ashton. She attended the University of South Dakota School of Law where she received her J.D. in 1997. She would tenaciously advocate for what she believed in but still respected those whose opinions differed from hers.

**Donald Bormann**, 75, of Emmetsburg, died March 8. Bormann was born in Emmetsburg in 1942. He received his J.D. from the University of South Dakota in 1966. Don served as a clerk for a Federal Judge in South Dakota from 1966 until 1967 when he became a Legal Aid Attorney in Rosebud, South Dakota. He practiced in Emmetsburg for 32 years before he was appointed in 2000 as Associate District Judge for Palo Alto, Kossuth and Emmett Counties where he served until 2013.

Donald Gloe, 81, of Decorah, died Feb. 28.

Gloe was born in Gladbrook in 1935. He volunteered for the U.S. Army for two years in 1954, then earned his J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1961. He worked as state counsel for the Iowa Highway Commission for four years before joining the Miller & Pearson Law Firm in Decorah, where he practiced until January 2017. Gloe was a 50-year member of The Iowa State Bar Association, and a member of the American Bar Association, the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers and the Iowa Defense Council Association. He served on various committees including the Uniform Jury Instructions Committee and the Grievance Committee.

*Charles M. Manly III*, 66, of Spirit Lake, died March 7. Manly was born in Spencer in 1950. He received his J.D. from Hamline University in 1976. He joined Manly Law Offices in Grinnell on Aug. 2, 1976. He was the third generation of the family to practice law in Grinnell, a firm formed by his grandfather in 1912. He retired in 2005, due to health reasons. Manly was a former city attorney in Grinnell and a member of the Poweshiek County District 8A, The Iowa State Bar Association, American Bar Association, Iowa Municipal Attorney's Association and the Iowa Association for Justice.

*Philip C. Mills*, 80, of Venice, Florida, died Jan. 31. Mills was born in Winterset in 1936. He graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law. Mills had a distinguished career in the United States Air Force for 30 years as a Staff Judge Advocate and Appellate Military Judge. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters. Memberships included the American Bar Association, 50-year member of The Iowa State Bar Association and the Air Force Retired Judge Advocates Association.

Members who know of a colleague passing should email the membership department at membership@iowabar.org and include a link to the obituary and/or funeral information. To sign up for the ISBA obituary notification service, log into your iowabar.org account, click on "Manage Profile" and choose the "Edit Bio" option. Scroll down to the option "Obituary Notification," select "yes," then save the changes. Once the option is elected, you will receive an email notification anytime a member passes away, the same day the ISBA receives the notification.

# ISBA CLE Calendar

Visit www.iowabar.org/calendar for more information on any of our upcoming CLE opportunities.

### April 19

Juvenile Law Seminar (In-person or Live Webinar)

### April 20

Criminal Law Seminar (In-person or Live Webinar)

### April 25

Economic Development and Revitalization of Cities (Live Webinar)

### April 27

Negotiations: Working Through the Stickier Provisions of Vendor Contracts (Live Webinar)

### April 28

**63rd Annual Spring Tax Institute** The University Club | Iowa City

### May 5

Rebroadcast of Lawyer Death and Disability Planning Seminar Best Western | Clear Lake

### May 8

The Intersection of Workers Compensation and Unemployment Insurance Benefits (Live Webinar)

### Commercial

and

# Bankruptcy Law Seminar

(In-person or Live Webinar)

### May 12

### 8:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the ISBA Commercial and Bankruptcy Law Section

In-person attendance will take place at the ISBA Headquarters in Des Moines (625 E. Court Ave.).

### Topics

- How to Do it Right the First Time: Proper Notice and Procedure
- Unethical Conduct or Great Lawyering: Everyday
   Debtor-Creditor Scenarios
- Fraudulent Conveyances
- Selected Payments Law Considerations: An In-House View
- Early Motions to Dismiss Reorganization Cases
- Rule 9011 Sanctions and Rule 9020 Contempt Proceedings - Section 105 Issues
- How Did it Get So Late So Soon?: Timeframes in the Code and Rules

### Speakers

- Hon. Shon Hastings, Chief Bankruptcy Judge, District of North Dakota
- Hon. Lee M. Jackwig, Bankruptcy Judge, Southern
  District of Iowa
- Hon. Charles L. Nail Jr., Chief Bankruptcy Judge, District of South Dakota
- Hon. Anita L. Shodeen, Chief Bankruptcy Judge, Southern District of Iowa
- Hon. Thomas L. Saladino, Chief Bankruptcy Judge, District of Nebraska
- Thomas O. Ashby, Baird Holm LLP
- Jonathan Kramer, Whitfield & Eddy, P.L.C
- J. Brandon Simpson, Director/Associate General Counsel, TSYS Merchant Solutions, LLC



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### Government Practice Seminar (In-person or Live Webinar)

### May 19 | 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

www.iowabar.org/event/2017GovernmentPractice

In-person attendance will take place at the ISBA Headquarters in Des Moines

8:00 - 8:30	Registration
8:30 - 9:30	Supreme Court Roundup
9:30 - 10:30	Speaker: Ryan Koopmans, Nyemaster Goode PC Ethics Update
10 20 10 45	Speaker: Roger Kuhle, Polk County Attorney's Office
10:30 - 10:45	Break
10:45 - 11:15	Economic Development Tools for Municipalities
	Speaker: Nathan Overberg, Ahlers & Cooney PC
<u>11:15 - 12:00</u>	Nuts and Bolts of the Public Employee Relations Board
	Speaker: Jasmina Sarajlija, ALJ, Iowa Public Employee Relations Board
12:00 - 12:45	Lunch
12:45 - 1:45	Impaired Lawyers
	Speaker: Hugh Grady, Iowa Lawyers Assistance Program
1:45 - 2:45	Property Tax Appeals
	Speakers: Deb Tharnish, Davis Brown Law Firm
	and David Hibbard, Polk County Attorney's
	Office
2:45 - 3:00	Break
3:00 - 4:00	Employment Law Update
	Speaker: Emily Pontius,
	Fredrikson & Byron
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Iowa Events Center



### onday, June 19

### Social Events

- Law School Luncheons (Creighton, Drake and Iowa)
- Joint Presidents' Reception

### Tracks .....

• Ag Law

- Fundamentals of Law
- Mediation

eeting

In conjunction with the Iowa Judges Annual Conference

- Corporate Counsel
- Judges

Plenary

• Federal Practice

### uesday, June 20

- Social Events
  - 50-Year Member Luncheon
  - YLD Tailgate

### Tracks

- Case Law
- Fundamentals of Law
- Juvenile Law

- Judges
- Litigation
- Variety

- Plenary
  - Probate

### ednesday, June 21

- - Annual Awards Gala
- Tracks .....
  - Access to Justice

Family Law Track

Judges

- Commercial and Bankruptcy
- Elder Law

Fundamentals of Law

- Litigation
- Real Estate
- www.iowabar.org/event/2017AnnualMeeting

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### Thanks to speakers

### March

March 15, 2017 The Rise of Copyright Trolls (Live Webinar) Sponsored by The Iowa State Bar Association Intellectual Property Law Section Prof. Matthew Sag, Loyola Law School, University of Chicago Jason Sytsma, Shuttleworth & Ingersoll

#### March 27, 2017

What to Expect When Representing Clients Before the Iowa Civil Rights Commission (Live Webinar) Sponsored by The Iowa State Bar Association Government Practice Section

Andy Duffelmeyer, Civil Rights Specialist, Iowa Civil Rights Commission Kristin H. Johnson, Executive Director, Iowa Civil Rights Commission

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# **On free speech and friendship**

By Daniel Patrick Flynn



This February marked the anniversary of one of my favorite United States Supreme Court cases, Hustler Magazine, Inc. v. Falwell. The case involved Jerry Falwell, a conservative televangelist preacher (no doubt a public figure), suing Hustler magazine (for those younger readers, Hustler magazine is a pornography publication).

The magazine ran a fake parody interview with Falwell where Falwell discussed how he lost his virginity to his

own mother while drunk in an outhouse. Falwell sued and was awarded damages for intentional infliction of emotional distress, and the Supreme Court was charged with considering the First Amendment implications of such an award. The heart of the case was articulated by Chief Justice William Rehnquist: "This case presents us with a novel question. . .We must decide whether a public figure may recover damages for emotional harm caused by the publication of an ad parody offensive to him, and doubtless gross and repugnant in the eyes of most."

A unanimous court ruled that the First Amendment's guarantee of free speech protected the magazine. The court, in part quoting from Bose Corp. v. Consumers Union of United States, noted, "[a]t the heart of the First Amendment is the recogni-

tion of the fundamental importance of the free flow of ideas and opinions on matters of public interest and concern. The freedom to speak one's mind is not only an aspect of individual liberty – and a good unto itself – but also is essential to the common quest for truth and the vitality of society as a whole."

The court reasoned that because Falwell was a public figure, the parody was protected speech, and that from a historical perspective, political discourse would have



### HUSTLER MAGAZINE V. FALWELL

• SUPREME COURT OPINION RELEASED FEB. 24, 1988

- 8-0 DECISION IN FAVOR OF HUSTLER
- CONCLUSION: PUBLIC FIGURES CAN'T RECOVER FOR EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

UNLESS THE OFFENDING PUBLICATION CONTAINED A FALSE STATEMENT MADE WITH "ACTUAL MALICE." been considerably poorer without political satire. The court made it clear that political speech about public figures, regardless of how outrageous, must be protected.

There is no doubt that Hustler was a significant development for Free Speech Doctrine in the United States. But my favorite part of the story is what happened between the litigants after the case was decided.

At Jerry Falwell's death in 2007, the outspoken owner of Hustler Magazine, Larry Flynt, wrote, ". . . the ultimate result was one I never expected and was just as shocking a turn to me as was winning that famous Supreme Court case: We became friends."

They exchanged Christmas cards and family photos. They called each other regularly. They went to college campuses and debated morality. Isn't that something? You know, it's awfully easy to dismiss and berate the other side in today's political climate. But this friendship, between a sleazy porn merchant and a sanctimonious televangelist, demonstrates a preferable alternative.

Flynn serves as Corporate Counsel at Heartland Financial USA, Inc., a multistate bank holding company headquartered in Dubuque. He has a J.D. from the William Mitchell College of Law and a master's degree from Brandeis University.

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