

Polk County Bar Association General Practice CLE

November 17, 2006

Please sign me up for the Polk County Bar Association General Practice CLE on November 17, 2006.

Location: Downtown Des Moines Marriott Hotel

Cost: FREE to current PCBA members (without the materials)

We anticipate that this CLE will qualify for 7.5 CLE hours, incl. 2 hours of Ethics.

- Please register me for the CLE without the materials FOR FREE.
- My check for \$25.00 for the materials is enclosed.
- I am a current Polk County Bar member
- I am not a current member but will renew my membership at the door.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail address: _____

Return to:

Polk County Bar Association
521 E. Locust St. Suite 302
Des Moines, IA 50309-1939

You may also fax your registration to 244-8845 or register by E-mail to cburdette@pcbaonline.org

Polk County Bar Association
521 E. Locust St., Suite 302
Des Moines, IA 50309-1939

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THE ADVOCATE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE POLK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION • OCTOBER 2006

President's Letter

With a touch of fall in the air and monthly gatherings of the Polk County Bar Association (PCBA) once again underway, the PCBA begins its business in earnest for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. The past few months have been exceptionally busy and have set the stage for a very productive and exciting year for the association.



Eric F. Turner

We started the summer with another successful annual golf outing to benefit the PCBA Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP). With 124 golfers participating on a beautiful afternoon at Willow Creek Golf Course, the association raised \$20,000 for the VLP and its important mission of providing legal services to those in need.

As many of you are aware, work is underway to hold a referendum to approve the construction of a new courthouse facility for Polk County. The association will be playing a major role in this effort, and a special task force of PCBA members has been meeting all summer to begin organizing a campaign effort for the referendum. There have been several prior efforts over the last fifty years to restore the current courthouse, now celebrating its centennial year, but for a variety of reasons these have proved unsuccessful. As a result, the current courthouse has become excessively overcrowded, unhealthy for many of its users and occupants, and vastly outdated for the demands that are now placed upon it.

So while we celebrate the Polk County Courthouse's 100th year of service to the county this fall, the "Building for Justice Committee" will look ahead to the next 100 years and to champion the 2007 courthouse referendum. Even though it is a daunting task, the committee has shown tremendous energy, creativity, and enthusiasm, and there is every reason to be optimistic that the 2007 referendum will be a success. However, in the end, we will all need to do our part to make this happen, whether it be through financial support, campaign work, or educating the public about the urgent need for a new facility.

While focusing much of its effort on the referendum, the association will continue to serve its members as it has in

the past. We will soon have our new and improved website up and running. The association's continuing education opportunities will again be offered. The important work of the VLP will be maintained. And the association will continue to offer monthly luncheons and special events for the bench and bar and the community at-large. These important services are the result of the association's dedicated staff and the generous work of its members who chair and organize these activities.

As you can see, this is an important year for our association, and hopefully, together we will be able to make a difference for generations to come.

Yours very truly,

Eric F. Turner
President



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The Rookies' Corner

National Experts at ITLA Seminar Nov. 9-10

Bar Associations Welcome New Lawyers

100th Anniversary of Polk County Courthouse

PCBA Free CLE Nov. 17th

National Experts Highlight 2006 ITLA Convention November 9 and 10

The Iowa Trial Lawyers Association's (ITLA's) Annual Convention on November 9 and 10, 2006, will showcase several national experts. The convention site is the Embassy Suites Hotel in Des Moines. The nationally-known trial consultant Eric Oliver, author of *Courtroom Power: Communication Strategies for Trial Lawyers* and *The Facts Can't Speak for Themselves*, headlines a star-studded line-up. Other nationally renowned experts include Dallas attorney and forensic psychologist Lisa Blue, Nashville attorney R. Eddie Davidson, Washington, D.C. attorney William Lightfoot, and Detroit attorney Susan Lister. Oliver, Blue, Davidson, Lightfoot and Lister are all regular faculty members at National College of Advocacy programs sponsored by the Association of Trial Lawyers of America where they receive rave reviews for their informative presentations and engaging speaking styles.

The national speakers, along with an outstanding slate of Iowa attorneys and judges, will present two days of continuing legal education that will provide all attendees with 15 hours of CLE credit, including 6 hours of federal CLE credit and two hours of ethics credit.

ITLA will host a luncheon honoring retiring Iowa Supreme Court Justices James Carter and Louis Lavorato for their years of service on November 9th. On November 10th, Dallas attorney Fred Baron will be the keynote speaker at ITLA's officer installation luncheon.

For more information about the convention program, call ITLA at 515-280-7366.



Polk County Courthouse Law Clerks (from right to left) Michael Duster, Andrea Knief, Brenda Arndt, Chris Sievers, and Ben Parrott. Ben Parrott was not available for pictures.

"The Constitution in Conflict"

In honor of Constitution Day, which was September 18, 2006, Chief Judge Robert W. Pratt of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa, and the Eighth Circuit Library, presented "The Constitution in Conflict." Judge Pratt led a discussion on the religion clauses of the United States Constitution. This discussion focused on historically important facts and case law, and included topics such as the continued vitality of the *Lemon* test, the influence of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, and the history of the phrase, "wall of separation between church and state."

Following the discussion, the Eighth Circuit Library presented displays of current constitutional issues regarding religion, including such topics as President Bush's signing statements, terrorism and civil rights, abortion and medical ethics, freedom of religion, and including various books and articles that can be found in the library.

This presentation follows Judge Pratt's recent decision in *Americans United for Separation of Church and State v. Prison Fellowship Ministries*, (S.D. Iowa No. 4:03-cv-09974) (June 2, 2006), in which he declared the InnerChange program, operated by the Newton state prison and sponsored by the Prison Fellowship Ministries, to be unconstitutional. That program emphasized teachings from the Bible as a way to prevent recidivism among inmates. The case received national attention and was considered by many to be a blow to President Bush's faith-based initiatives in government services. The opinion can be found on the Court's website at www.iasd.uscourts.gov.

by Nicholas A. Klinefeldt

PCWA Hosts Auction October 26 to Benefit Young Women's Resource Center

Join Polk County Women Attorney's for the Fifth Annual "Season of Change" Basket Auction to Benefit the Young Women's Resource Center.

The Polk County Women Attorneys will host the fifth annual "Season of Change" Basket Auction on Thursday, October 26, 2006, at the Hotel Fort Des Moines. The event raises funds to benefit the Young Women's Resource Center. Cocktails and appetizers will be served beginning at 5:00 pm and attendees may also view all the great baskets during this time. Live auction begins at 7:00 pm. The event is open to the public.

Anyone wishing to purchase tickets (\$10 each), or a table (\$75 for table of 8), is asked to contact Becki Brommel (brommel@brownwinick.com, (515) 242-2452) or Katie Cownie (cownie@brownwinick.com, (515) 242-2490).

Law Day Winning Poems

Just is Justice

by Rorie Morrison

Our founding fathers,
Our best interest in their hands
inscribed in parchment.

We are the people.
The stars upon an emblem
of valor and strength.

We stand for courage!
We suffer, and we succeed.
We lose, and we gain.

Together as one
like a delicate puzzle.
All pieces so diverse.

Each unique and rare,
With jagged or smooth edges,
To govern and guide.

A model to all.
A benchmark to guide the young.
Inspirational.

The plate of freedom,
filled with victory and strife,
garnished with honor.

The trees of justice.
Their branches are bountiful
with the fruits of truth.

On this page are two of the Law Day poems that did not fit due to space constraints in the last issue.

News for Newsletter WANTED

Anyone wanting to submit news items for the PCBA Newsletter, or wanting to serve on the Newsletter Committee, should contact Newsletter Committee Co-Chair Lu Ann White (lawwhite@hbr-law.com) at Hanson, Bjork & Russell, L.L.P., 405 6th Ave., Suite 1300, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2413 (telephone: 244-0177)(fax: 244-8258), Co-Chair Beth Baldwin (Beth.Baldwin@j.b.state.ia.us), or Carol Burdette (cburdette@pcbaonline.org) at 243-3904 .

The Body

by Aly Olson

We breathe and move without thought,
Endlessly functioning through the day,
Thinking of the beauty naught.

Each eyelash, elbow, pair of legs, and nose,
Every finger, freckle, the neck, and nail
Continue the movement that flows.

Three very essential parts of us all
We could not go on without
Voice, limbs, and heart hold us tall.

The voice, as the one executive song
To alert and support the listening crowd,
Helping, urging, pushing us along.

The limbs, a legislative hold,
To set rules and limits to abide,
To unite as one, not break and fold.

The heart, a judiciary beat
To decide right from wrong
And tie ends we can't meet.

There are many other important parts,
All needed and all wanted.
But none like voice, limbs and heart.

When thinking about how to write a poem about the balance of powers, I came up with many things, but I always came back to my first instinct, the body. See, the body has millions of imperative parts and groups that are all essential for the body to work. When one part isn't working, the whole body is thrown off. Also, everyone can relate to the human body. I think this poem can help people understand how important it is for the body/government to work successfully, and it also can show people that everyone is important and needed. And I think we all need to be reminded of that.

Advocate Contributors

Contributors to the newsletter include Erik Fisk, Lu Ann White, District Court Administrator Beth Baldwin, Eric Turner, Iowa Trial Lawyers, Iowa Defense Counsel, Polk County Women Attorneys, Carol Burdette, Anita Dhar, Hannah Rogers, Jake Cummings, Colin Witt, Clerk of Court Lois Leary, Polk County Courthouse Centennial Committee, Rod Ryan, Mike Boohar, Iowa Legal Aid, Nicholas A. Klinefeldt, Brent Ruther, and Iowa Defense Counsel.

The Rookies' Corner

As a way of introducing newly sworn in Polk County attorneys to the rest of the bar, the Newsletter Committee is creating a section of *The Advocate* dedicated to profiling some of these attorneys. Although these profiles will certainly include standard background and legal education information, we thought it would be fun to include some offbeat questions to go behind the resume material and get to know these attorneys better. Our first two featured "volunteers," (or victims), featured below, are Kristina Stanger and Joey Hoover, who passed the February and July bar exams, respectively. Congratulations to them both, and let's get to know them.

JOEY T. HOOVER

Joey Hoover was sworn in as an Iowa attorney on September 21, after graduating from Drake University Law School in May 2006, and passing the July 2006 Iowa Bar Exam.

Joey was born in and grew up in Dubuque, Iowa, but currently resides in Des Moines. He graduated in 2003 from the University of Northern Iowa with a political science teaching degree and teaching license. While obtaining his undergraduate degree, Joey started the Daniel Webster pre-law society at UNI, was president of the UNI Democrats, and ran for student body vice president.

During his time at Drake, Joey was a member and later president of both the Drake Law Democrats and the Drake Outlaws. He was a member of and secretary for the Black Law School Association, and, in his third year, was elected to represent his class in the Student Bar Association. In addition to his involvement in Drake legal organizations, Joey also became involved in the American Bar Association, the Iowa State Bar Association, and the Iowa Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. He was also a student representative for the Iowa State Bar Review School, and is now a Director on the Iowa State Bar Review School board.

In conjunction with his legal association and organization involvement, Joey has clerked at the Berger Law Firm and the Parrish Law Firm, and has interned with the Polk County Public Defenders office. Prior to his legal work experience, Joey spent four years in the U.S. Army. Joey's goals for his legal career include promoting equal access to quality legal representation, taking knowledge gained from being an attorney into the political arena.

GETTING TO KNOW JOEY



JOEY T. HOOVER

Q: What area of the law interests you most?

A: Criminal defense.

Q: What are your hobbies and interests?

A: Politics, History, Chicago Bears

Q: What is one of your guilty pleasures?

A: Singing Johnny Cash at karaoke.

Q: Is there something you do that your clients/coworkers/partners would not expect of you?

A: I ballroom dance and enjoy it.

Q: What is your healthiest habit?

A: I walk about three miles every day.

Q: What makes you squeamish?

A: The sight of my own blood.

Q: What do you know for sure?

A: Knowledge is power no matter what you do.

Q: What really bugs you?

A: The comfort that incumbents in politics today feel. They should always feel vulnerable.

Q: If you were to die and come back as another person, who would it be?

A: The President of Russia.

Q: Who is your greatest hero?

A: John Wellman. He overcame every obstacle in his life and dedicated his life to fighting for people that no one else would fight for.

The Rookies' Corner (cont...)

KRISTINA M. STANGER

Kristina Stanger graduated from the Drake University Law School in December 2005, and currently practices in the Litigation Department of the Nyemaster Goode Law Firm in Des Moines, after passing the February 2006 Iowa Bar Exam.

Kristina was born in Dubuque, Iowa and grew up in DeWitt, Iowa. She currently lives in West Des Moines. She graduated from Central College in Pella, Iowa, where she was involved in mock trial, student senate, choir, wind ensemble, intramural sports and theater.

During her time at Drake, Kristina was on the Drake Law Review and Moot Court Board. In addition, she was involved in moot court competition, the Drake Law Republicans and the Drake Law Women. Kristina's other legal association involvement includes the American Bar Association, Iowa State Bar Association, Polk County Bar Association, American Inns of Court – C. Edwin Moore, Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys, Polk County Women Attorneys, Order of the Coif and National Order of Barristers.

Kristina enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard in 1998 as a JAG legal specialist, and attended basic and advanced individual training at Fort Jackson in South Carolina. She attended Officer Candidate School from 1999-2000, and graduated with Distinction, receiving her commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. Kristina has attended multiple officer leadership and training programs, graduating each with Distinction. Kristina's military experience includes assignments as a Platoon Leader and later as an Executive Officer, for Company A of the 109th Medical Battalion, in Mosul, Iraq. She currently holds the rank of Captain.

GETTING TO KNOW KRISTINA

Q: What area of the law interests you most?

A: Civil Litigation

Q: What are your hobbies and interests?

A: Scuba, Hiking, Camping, Boating

Q: What is one of your guilty pleasures?

A: Microbrews



KRISTINA M. STANGER

Q: Is there something you do that your clients/coworkers/partners would not expect of you?

A: I lead soldiers (Army, Medics, Doctors and Nurses) in various stability and support operations and combat.

Q: What is your healthiest habit?

A: I love to work out.

Q: What makes you squeamish?

A: Snakes.

Q: What do you know for sure?

A: We live in the best country in the world!

Q: What really bugs you?

A: People who don't realize we live in the best country in the world.

Q: Who is your greatest hero?

A: My husband.

Q: What words or phrases do you most over-use?

A: Outstanding.

by Hannah Rogers

Iowa Legal Aid Update

Iowa Legal Aid's Central Iowa Regional Office in Des Moines serves low-income residents of 13 counties in central Iowa, where over 79,000 residents are at or below 125% of the federal poverty level. For a family of four, this means an annual income of \$25,500 or less. The office has five full-time attorneys, two part-time attorneys, two legal assistants, and four support staff to help meet the needs of clients who would otherwise be without access to counsel. "Almost a quarter of Iowa's low-income population lives in the region we serve and we greatly appreciate the support of the Polk County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project in providing pro bono assistance to clients in Polk County," says Mike Boohar, Managing Attorney.

Iowa Legal Aid has experienced recent personnel changes. Nancy L. Thompson, a 1984 graduate of the University of Iowa College of Law, began working at the office in July as a part-time staff attorney. In addition to handling cases involving consumer-related problems, she is reviewing and updating consumer law resources on Iowa Legal Aid's website at iowalegalaid.org. Nancy has been in private practice handling bankruptcy cases out of Des Moines for the past several years, and continues to maintain that practice.

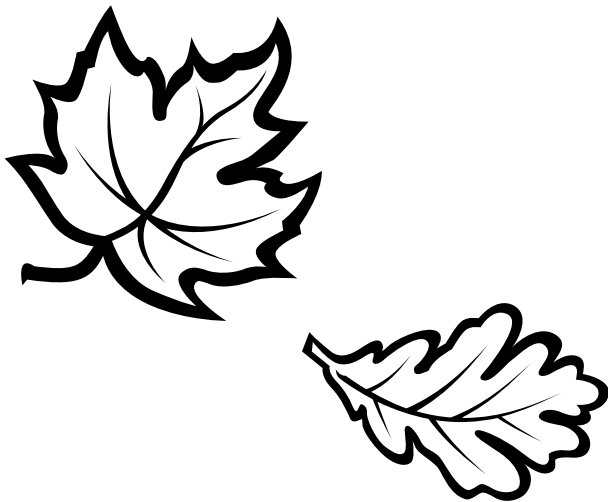


Nancy Thompson

Robb Goedicke, staff attorney with Iowa Legal Aid since March 1998, took a two-year leave of absence to serve in the National Guard, and recently resigned his position. He is now in private practice with McEnroe, Gotsdiner, Brewer, Burdette & Steinbach in West Des Moines.

Dennis Kirkwood will be reducing his employment status to half-time effective September 15, 2006. Dennis is a long-time practitioner in Polk County and is currently a managing attorney of the Central Iowa Regional Office.

Mike Boohar adds, "Two other new additions are Luke Guthrie, a 2006 graduate of the Creighton University Law School, and Kristine Sperfslage Stone, a 2006 graduate of the Drake University Law School."



New Attorneys Admitted to the Iowa Bar in September 2006

David Ryan Adelman
Sarah Chaudoir Alden
Jeffrey John Andersen
Daniel James Anderson
Ethan Paul Anderson
Sarabeth McVey Anderson
John Christopher Audlehelm
J. Tyler Baldwin
Seth Eugene Baldwin
Phoebe Ball
Jonathan Mark Barnhill
Brett Joseph Beattie
Lance Darren Becker
Jennifer Ann Bennett Finn
Barbara Ann Biederman
Thomas Karl Bleyhl
Brad Lee Bonner
Jessica J. Braunschweig-Norris
Lisa Kay Brewster
Robert Bruce Brock
Kevin James Brownell
Noreen F. Bush
Ryan Thomas Carey
Kyle John Carlson
Erin Michael Carr
Matthew James Connealy, II
Sean Martin Conway
Elizabeth Jenadija Craig
Edward Forrest Crowell
Michael Robert Cummings
Michael John Dayton
Tod Jerome Deck
Allison Jean Doherty
Amanda Jane Dohrman
Amy Rene Dollash
Jennifer Elizabeth Donovan
Megan E. Drahos
Erika Kay Eckley
Dani L. Eisentrager
Kimberly A. Ernesti
Katie Anne Ervin Carlson
Zachary Cook Eubank
Daniel James Fletcher
Lucas Patrick Paulsen Forte
April Denise Franklin
Ashley Joy Fuhrmeister
Elizabeth Lynn Mulqueen Galm
Emily Birtell Gardyas
Charles Baudais Garman
Meghan Lee Gavin
Matthew Glenn Gebhardt
Megan Lee Gerriets
Bryan Joseph Goldsmith
Bryan Richard Goodman

New Attorneys Admitted to the Iowa Bar in September 2006 *(cont...)*

Carolyn Agnes Gunkel
Janet Jenson Gustafson
Luke D. Guthrie
Nicholas Edward Halbur
Kristin Marie Hanks
Brad Lee Hansen
Meghan Sue Hanson
Ling Qiu Harl
Kristi Lynn Harshbarger
Mark Alan Hassebrook
April Annette Hedgecoth
Erin Cathleen Herbold
Joseph Douglas Herrold
Emily Sherry Hildebrand Pontius
Stacey Lynn Hines
Lisa Lynne Holl
Kami Lee Holmes
Joey T. Hoover
Jennifer Marie Houlden
Andrew John Howard
Duane Maynord Huffer
Jason T. Huffman
Jason Robert Humke
Sean Colby Iske
Julie A. Jackson
Christopher Emanuel James
Jessica Lyn James
Chad Allen Johnson
Bradley B. Kane
Laura Ruth Kilian
Andrew Dale Kloeckner
Lawrence Christopher Knauf
Amanda Beth Knief
Lee James Konfrst
Daniel Patrick Kresowik
Lewis Tyler Laflin
Andrew Lawrence LeGrant
Laura Joy Lemos
Joseph Favaro Leo
Justin Aaron Lightfoot
Timothy Nicholas Lillwitz
Douglas Robert Lindstrom, Jr.
Jennifer Ann Rosario Litchfield
Christopher Kai Loftus
Kevin James Loftus
Rashawn Winter Logan
Aimee Lind Lowe
Bridget Carroll Lubavs
Kevin E. Makalous
Jessica L. Malott
Cheryl Lynne Mann
Maggie Rose Manternach
Krishna Katherine Mastel
Brian James Matt
Lisa Kay Mazurek
Kate Alyston McCoy
Daniel Collison McCracken

James Hamilton McDonald
Kara Lea McFadden
James Merle McHugh
Kristen Rene Evangelista Meyers
Scott Douglas Mikkelsen
Diana Lynn Miller
John Robert Monroe
David Frederick Morain
Kevin Douglas Morgan
Michael E. Motto
Daniel John Mouw
Anna Elizabeth Moyers
Katie Marie Naset
Meredith Catherine Nerem
Jessica Renee Noll
Heather Anne Norman
Henny S. Ohr
Jerome Chinedu Okolo
Kyle Matthew Orris
William B. Ortman
Benjamin Milton Parrott
Benjamin James Patterson
Joseph C. Pavelich
Jay P. Phipps
Nicholas Andrew Prenger
Sarah Elizabeth Preston
George Qualley, IV
Justin A. Quinn
Teresa Ann Rastede
Timothy Thomas Reier
Sarah Grace Reisetter
Lucas James Richardson
Christopher Joel Riffle
Yolanda Elizabeth Rivera
Aaron James Rogers
Robert John Romeo
Christopher Brockman Rottler
Marie Hysell Ruetters
Matthew M. Sahag
Emily Anne Schaar
Hillary Jean Schlueter
Kerry Anne Schmid
Todd William Schmidt
Kirk Warren Schuler
Matthew David Schultz
Shana Rae Schwake
Jennifer Lyn Schwickerath
Benjamin Nolan Segreto
Melvin O'Dell Shaw
Brandon Jon Shelton
Andrea Lynn Showers
Martha Ann Knight Sibbel
Heather Michelle Simplot
Benjamin John Smith
Jennifer Kay Smith
Christopher Stephen Spencer
Abbe Marie Stensland

Tara J. Stillman
Jeffrey Allan Stone
Kristine R. Stone
Courtney Ann Strutt
Hilary Ashley Stubben
Melanie Sue Summers
Stephen John Swanson
Amy Lynnett Thelke
Dylan James Thomas
Jennifer Lynn Thurm
Brooke Catherine Timmer
Miriam Alisa Timmer-Hackert
Megan Jean Marie Tooker
Brian David Torresi
Rachel Lee Totel
James John Tragos
Stephen Walter Tyler
Haley R. Van Loon
Timothy John Van Pelt
Amanda Van Wyhe
Patrick Thomas Vint
Zoë Rosemary Wade
Joseph Frederick Wallace
Kathleen Anne Ward
Paul Kevin Waterman
Bryan Patrick Webber
Aaron Richard Weinberg
Joshua Willman Weir
Wendy Lee Weiskircher
Michael Richard Wendt, II
Anna Elizabeth Wholey
Mark David Wickham
Brian John Williams
Judy Dianne Williams
Nicole Amanda Winke
Charles Norman Wittmack
Byron Paul Wobeter
Holly Rae Wolf
Jeffery Alan Wright
Yu-Jui Ray Wu
Melinda Gail Young
Rebecca Ann Zawisky
Jennifer M. Zupp
Jessica Ann Zupp

Bar Associations Welcome New Lawyers

New lawyers often feel inexperienced and overwhelmed. One of the benefits to being new, however, is the free membership offered by several bar associations to new attorneys.

The Polk County Bar Association offers new lawyers their first membership year free. For information and to join, new lawyers should contact Carol Burdette, Executive Director, at cburdette@pcbaonline.org or (515) 243-3904.

The Polk County Women Attorneys, open to all attorneys, also offers the first year of membership free to new attorneys. Anyone interested should contact President Ann Holden Kendall, (515) 242-2468; AHK@brownwinick.com; or contact either one of the membership chairs: Tara Hall, (515) 288-2500; Tara.Hall@lawiowa.com; or Tricia Johnston, (515) 283-4667; tjohnston@belinlaw.com.

The Iowa State Bar Association also offers the first year of membership free to new attorneys, and offers reduced rates of \$35 for years two and three as well as \$100 for years four

and five. Membership forms were included in the packets the new admittees received. Anyone needing another form to join the state bar should contact the bar office at (515) 423-3179.

Also, there is a Young Lawyers Division of the state bar, with programming, organizational structure, and events all intended for the newer or younger attorney (attorneys 10 years out or less). Anyone having questions or wanting to become involved should contact one of the officers: Jen Chase, President, (319) 234-2638; jchase@ballkirkholm.com; Bridget R. Penick - President-Elect, (515) 246-4545; bpenick@dickinsonlaw.com; or Matthew C. McDermott - Secretary, (515) 283-4643; mmcdermott@belinlaw.com.

In this newsletter is a listing of the new attorneys admitted to the Iowa Bar, an article on the Polk County Bar Association's Young Lawyers, and an article highlighting two new attorneys in our midst.

Des Moines Choral Society Announces 2006-2007 Season

Christmas with the Choral Society on Saturday, December 9, 2006, will open the Des Moines Choral Society's 2006-2007 concert season. The concert will feature sounds of the season, combining classical works with Christmas carols, and including instrumentalists. The concert will be at Grace United Methodist Church, 1100 37th Street, Des Moines, Iowa, at 7:30 p.m.

The Choral Society will pay tribute to Jewish composers who have shaped western music with its second concert of the season, *To Life! Jewish Composers' Showcase* on Saturday, February 24, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at Tifereth Israel Synagogue, 924 Polk Boulevard, Des Moines, Iowa. Bernstein, Copland, Gershwin, and Berlin will be featured among others.

The final concert of the season is *Essential Water* on Saturday, April 28, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church. This concert will explore water as a critical environmental issue through song and the spoken word. Music will range from serious to whimsical, touching the theme of water. The Polk County Conservation Commission and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources will partner with the Choral Society for this concert, a pioneer of a concert to generate interest in the environmental issues through the arts.

Tickets for the concert are \$12 for regular seating and \$20 for preferred. Student tickets are \$6. Group tickets are available. Call 273-5255 or e-mail dmcs@dmchoral.org.

Several local attorneys participate in the Choral Society as singers or board members, including Emily Chafa, Lu Ann White, Deborah Svec Carstens, Angela Doss, Cathy Mansfield, Jim Fowler, Terry Brown and Miki McGovern.

Another Winning Law Day Poem

The Wonders of Checks and Balances

by *Kavya Parsa*

"Bow down to me; I rule over you!"
"I shall tell you what to do!"
Said Hitler the Nazi and dictator man
Who tried to rule over all the land.

He was mad with his power and prejudiced too,
And the people didn't know what to do,
But in the U.S. the people who rule.
They can vote and talk freely which is really cool.

The government is balanced with equal power.
No branch is more powerful for even an hour.
Our government is good in all its three parts,
And the people are happy to the depths of their hearts.

Checks and balances let none get the upper hand,
And power is even throughout the land.
So don't be a dictator or rule with great force.
Power should always be equal of course.

This poem has to do with separate branches' balanced powers, because it tells about how checks and balances have helped us. The first few lines show the horrors of dictatorship so as to compare checks and balances to other governments. It then tells about the people's right to vote and their influence on things such as any laws passed, no matter what reason they are being passed. The rest simply tells about checks and balances in general.

Iowa Defense Counsel Elects Officers at Annual Meeting

The Iowa Defense Counsel Association elected its officers for 2006-2007 at its annual meeting and seminar in Des Moines on September 28-29, 2006, at the Hotel Fort Des Moines. Mark Brownlee of Kersten Brownlee Hendricks, L.L.P., in Fort Dodge is the new president, succeeding Michael W. Thrall of the Des Moines law firm of Nyemaster, Goode, West, Hansell & O'Brien, P.C. Martha Shaff of Betty, Neuman & McMahon, L.L.C., in Davenport, was elected president-elect and Megan Antenucci of the Des Moines firm of Whitfield & Eddy, P.L.C., was elected secretary. Noel McKibbin of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company was re-elected treasurer.

In addition, Joel Yunek, Mason City, Lyle Ditmars, Council Bluffs, Randy Willman, Iowa City, Gregory Witke, Des Moines, James Pugh, West Des Moines, and Christine Conover, Cedar Rapids, were elected to new or additional terms on the board of directors. Hannah Rogers of Des Moines was also elected to the board to serve in the young lawyers representative position.

The Iowa Defense Counsel Association's Public Service Award was presented to retiring Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court, Louis Lavorato, at the association's annual banquet on Thursday evening. In addition, the association recognized the contributions of a number of its board members. Megan Antenucci, the association's new secretary, received the "Eddie" Award, which is named in honor of the association's first president, Edward F. Seitzinger, and presented annually to the association's outstanding board member. The association also recognized outgoing board member Darrell Isaacson of Mason City for his contributions.

The Iowa Defense Counsel seminar was an overwhelming success, featuring a number of nationally known speakers as well as attorneys and judges from across Iowa. Attendees heard presentations on persuasion in the courtroom, cutting edge trial technology, developments in electronic discovery, ethical considerations in trial and practice, as well as a number of other substantive and procedural areas. Paul H. Wieck II and Charles Harrington of the Supreme Court Commissions and Board of Professional Ethics and Conduct, respectively, presented a program on the ethics complaint process. Judges Ronald E. Longstaff and James E. Gritzner from the United States District Court presented during the luncheons on Thursday and Friday.

The Iowa Defense Counsel Association's 2007 annual meeting and seminar is scheduled for September 20-21, 2007, at the Downtown Marriott in Des Moines, Iowa. Its spring CLE seminar will be held in Des Moines on April 13, 2007, on the topic of products liability. For information about the association's events held throughout the year, and about membership, call the association at (515) 244-2847 or click on www.iowadefencounsel.org.

Women's Chamber Alliance to Host Third Annual ATHENA Award Program

The Women's Chamber Alliance brings their Third Annual ATHENA Award Program to the Greater Des Moines Community to promote women's leadership and honor individuals who strive toward the highest levels of personal and professional accomplishment, who excel in their chosen field, and who devote time and energy to the Greater Des Moines Community in a meaningful way. The ATHENA spirit was born when Martha Mertz of Ohio established the ATHENA Award in 1982 to recognize the leadership of outstanding professional women. Last year Hallie Still-Caris of the Nyemaster Law Firm received the award.



The WCA Third Annual ATHENA Award nomination process for the Greater Des Moines Community is happening now! If you know someone who demonstrates excellence, creativity, and an initiative in her business and or profession, and is a member of the Greater Des Moines Partnership or employed by a member firm, we need you to nominate this deserving person!

Follow these simple steps:

1. Download a complete Nomination Form at www.dsmwca.com.
2. Review the 2004 & 2005 WCA ATHENA Award recipients and nominees on our website for examples.
3. Prepare your nomination. Fill out the electronic version and email it to dsmwca@yahoo.com OR print and hand write and mail to Women's Chamber Alliance, PO Box 892, Des Moines, Iowa, 50304.
4. Submit your nominations by the entry deadline (October 20, 2006). *There is still time to nominate!*

Visit www.dsmwca.com to learn more about the WCA! For more information, contact WCA at dsmwca@yahoo.com or call Devon Wendler Alvord at 515-457-3312.

Polk County Bar Association

Annual Bench & Bar Golf Outing 2006

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Polk County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Offers Networking, Social Events, and Learning Opportunities

The members of the Polk County Bar Young Lawyers Division (PCBA/YLD) are looking forward to another year of activity. The PCBA/YLD's purpose is to provide young lawyers in Polk County with an opportunity to make connections through social events, to foster the professional development of its members, and to serve the Bar and the community. The group is affiliated with both the Polk County Bar Association and the Young Lawyers Division of the Iowa State Bar Association.

After several years of inactivity, the PCBA/YLD was restarted in 2004 and has held numerous events since that time. After-work social events are held periodically, which create a venue for young lawyers to meet, share ideas, and establish relationships. The group has also planned several luncheon meetings focusing on professional development issues and topics relevant to young or new attorneys. Speakers and topics have included Polk County District Court Judge Karen Romano on courtroom etiquette; Mark McCormick, a former Justice on the Iowa Supreme Court, on appellate practice; U.S. District Court Judge Robert Pratt on federal practice; and a panel of attorneys offering their insight and experience on working as in-house counsel. The PCBA/YLD also recently participated in a happy hour in the Drake neighborhood with the Young Des Moines Social Club and the Young Professionals Connection and joined Drake law students for a happy hour in April followed by an I-Cubs game.

Future plans include continuing social events and networking with other groups, including attending a hockey game in November with law students from Drake, and a happy hour with the Young Des Moines Social Club. The PCBA/YLD is also planning future professional development lunches. The PCBA/YLD facilitates and encourages its members to participate in the established programs of other bar association and civic groups, including the ISBA mock trial program, the Polk County Bar Association's Latino Outreach Clinic at the HOLA Center, the ISBA YLD's Trial by Jury program at the Iowa State Fair, and the United Way's Emerging Leaders Initiative.

The PCBA/YLD would like to encourage anyone who is interested to get involved. If you would like to be added to the group's e-mail list, or have any ideas for future events, topics, or speakers for upcoming lunches, please contact the PCBA/YLD chair, Anita Dhar of Grefe & Sidney PLC, at ADhar@grefesidney.com. Watch for notices from the PCBA regarding upcoming PCBA/YLD events.

Clerk's Corner

Other than problems just getting to work with all the road construction, the Clerk's Office has been running smoothly. We are processing paperwork on a same day/next day basis fairly consistently, even though new staffing figures indicate we are still understaffed by approximately 10%.

We are continuing to implement and train on new ICIS2 procedures. The entire system should be operational by the end of the year. Hardware upgrades are implemented periodically by the decision of the system administrators. Larger flat screen monitors are replacing older versions in preparation of the EDMS (Electronic Data Management System) project.

We have had several instances recently of attorneys using cell phones in the office areas. The use of cell phones is not allowed per Administrative Order 2004-05. Please make every effort to comply with the Order, as it is disruptive to the staff as well as other customers.

We recently were audited by the DCI and received a 100% rating on various data elements concerning criminal case dispositions. Over 8,000 arrests were processed in 2005. Unfortunately, the Identification Unit at the jail is not staffed 24 hours a day. For those of you who do criminal defense work, please assist the Clerk's Office and the sheriff's department by reminding your clients that if they are released from jail without being fingerprinted, they need to set an appointment to do so as noted in their release papers.

Lois Leary
Clerk of Court
Polk County



District 5C Case Coordinators (from back to front)
Back Row: Diane Cox, Kellie Meyer, Janis Haines;
Middle Row: Vicky Lattimer, Billie Ramey, Gaila Conklin,
Colleen Adams; **Front Row:** Anne Sheeley - Assistant
District Court Administrator, Beth Baldwin - District Court
Administrator, Janice Cooney and Carol Moore

100th Anniversary of Polk County Courthouse in October 2006

After using a log cabin in 1846, a frame building at 6th and Cherry Streets in the 1850's and a building on the public square in the 1870's, 1880's and 1890's, county officials decided in 1898 to build a new courthouse for Polk County judicial functions. A dispute was finally resolved and the planning and construction of the present Courthouse was then begun in earnest. On November 19, 1901, the judges and county officials moved their offices and functions to the Harbach building, 412 Walnut Street, and the old Courthouse was tom down.

H.L. Schlueter was the contractor and Proudfood and Bird were the architects for the new Courthouse, at the corner of 6th and Mulberry Streets. The first stone was laid September 9, 1902; the cornerstone was laid April 1903, into which was placed a copper box containing copies of local daily newspapers, tools, copies of proceedings of the board of supervisors, and keys to the old Courthouse. At the expense of \$750,000, the Courthouse was completed and furnished. The judges began hearing cases in their new quarters on October 25, 1906. The Courthouse was formally dedicated on October 31, 1906.

There were four judges and four courtrooms in the building in 1906. The judges were Josiah Given, James A. Howe, William H. McHenry, Jr., and Alfred J. McVey. The four courtrooms were located on the four comers of the third floor. They were beautifully adorned with ornate sculptures and carvings around the two story high ceilings. The decorating was magnificent, with appropriate murals, writings, and axioms printed on the canvas that covered the walls.

Included on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, the Courthouse has the Beaux Arts architectural style. The term Beaux Arts is derived from the name of a school in Paris which mixed a lot of different styles. The Polk County Courthouse is more particularly a mix of classical Greek and Roman styles and was most probably influenced by the styles used in construction of the Iowa State Capitol. The outward appearance and internal rotunda of the State Capitol correspond with the Courthouse rotunda, which opens in the middle of the second, third, and fourth floors for exceptional viewing from top to bottom. Sculptured faces with interesting and provocative expressions, some similar, adorn the outside of the building around the second floor. Some 1240 feet of brass railings, ending with decorative rams heads, outline the public stairways inside the Courthouse.

The 180-foot tower of the Courthouse contains a bell, and a large four-faced clock, which was originally powered by the pendulum and weights. Both are now powered by electric motors. On the inside of the rotunda dome are four pairs of statuesque maidens holding lights in outstretched arms to illuminate the inscriptions on the panels between each pair.

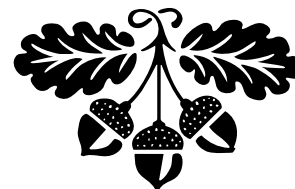
Four murals at the ceiling level of the fourth floor, two on each side of the rotunda, depict events in Iowa history. On the south end of the fourth floor is the mural entitled, "Presenting the Flag" by Edward Simmons of New York, which depicts the event at 8th and Walnut Streets when a flag was presented to the State from an Iowa Regiment that fought in the Civil War. Several other such Civil War flags are on display in the State Capitol. On the outside of the south side of the rotunda, in the middle of the building, is the mural entitled, "Departure of the Indian from Iowa," painted by Charles A. Cumming, who operated an art school in Des Moines. At the north end of the fourth floor is the mural entitled, "The Indian In His Natural State," painted by Bert Phillips of Taos, New Mexico. On the outside of the north side of the rotunda in the middle of the building is the mural entitled, "The Coming of the White Man," painted by Douglas Yolk of New York.

Along the upper portion of the fourth floor walls, near the ceiling, are panels which designate different areas of endeavor in Iowa, which are the dairy industry, conservation, printing, music, arts, road construction, electric power, the poultry industry, farming, steel fabrication, literature, education, chemistry, medicine, industry, and architecture.

The Polk County Courthouse provided offices and space in 1906 for the judges, county attorney, sheriff, board of supervisors, treasurer, auditor, assessor, recorder, clerk of court, grand jury, law library, surveyor, overseer of the poor, county superintendent, superintendent of schools, county physician, meeting rooms, space for storage or records and files; and even the county coroner, who performed autopsies in the morgue on the southeast comer of the first floor.

Now 100 years later, it is time to celebrate the 100th anniversary, the centennial, of our beautiful and cherished Polk County Courthouse, on October 31, 2006. Standing in the center of downtown Des Moines, surrounded by magnificent new skyscrapers, this classical four story building, which holds many memories for many generations of citizens, elected officials, judges, law enforcement personnel, and a dedicated maintenance crew, deserves a spirited and robust celebration as it begins its second century of observing the growth and expansion of the city it has looked over for the past century. The Polk County Courthouse Centennial Committee invites everyone to participate in the celebrations that are being planned.

by Polk County Courthouse Centennial Committee



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