



**ILLINOIS STATE  
BAR ASSOCIATION**

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**Area Resident to Receive Award from State Bar**

Justin Lee Heather, a resident of Chicago's West Loop, will receive Young Lawyer of the Year Award for Cook County from the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA) at the organization's 132<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting in St. Louis on Friday, June 27. The ISBA selects two outstanding young lawyers each year for the award.

Heather, a 2001 cum laude graduate of Northwestern University School of Law, in Evanston, is a litigation associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. He was nominated by Michele M. Jochner, a member of the ISBA Board of Governors.

In addition to a wide variety of complex litigation matters in state and federal courts, Heather has registered more than 3,300 hours of pro bono representation during his six and a half years in practice with Skadden Arps.

He is the lead associate for a client on death row in the Mississippi State Penitentiary, working with local counsel in that state and coordinating expert mitigation investigators in Tennessee. In addition, he has worked on federal habeas corpus petitions for this client in the Northern District of Mississippi, and previously for an Illinois death row inmate in the Northern District and Court of Appeals for the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit.

Before joining the law firm, Heather represented death row clients as a Public Interest Law Initiative Fellow with the Bluhm Legal Clinic at Northwestern University.

In the nomination letter, Jochner noted that he "graciously volunteers a great deal of his time and his talent apart from his busy litigation practice to participate in pro bono representation and bar association work with the goal of bettering our profession and giving back to the community."

An active member of the ISBA Young Lawyers Division and co-editor of YLD News, Heather has written several articles for the newsletter. His prize-winning article in the 2006 Lincoln Award Legal Writing Contest was published in the *Illinois Bar Journal*.

The 35,000-member ISBA, with offices in Springfield and Chicago, provides professional services to Illinois lawyers, and education and services to the public.

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