



**ILLINOIS STATE  
BAR ASSOCIATION**

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## **Evanston Resident to Receive Award from State Bar**

Sean Wieber, a resident of **Evanston**, will receive the Young Lawyer of the Year Award from the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA) at the organization's 133<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in Fontana, Wis., on Friday, June 26. The ISBA selects two outstanding young lawyers each year for the award.

Wieber, a graduate of Chicago-Kent College of Law, is a second-year associate at Winston & Strawn, LLP in Chicago. He was nominated by former Illinois Governor James R. Thompson, managing partner at the firm.

A scholar athlete and football standout on the Big Ten championship team at Northwestern University in 2000, Wieber decided to do something after watching a teammate, Rashidi Wheeler, die after collapsing at a practice.

While studying at Chicago-Kent College of Law, he drafted a bill, as a legislative advocacy assignment, that would require outdoor athletic facilities to have external defibrillators and trained users present during workouts. The R.A.W. Initiative was submitted as Illinois House Bill 1279 by Rep. Dan Burke, enacted by the House and Senate, and signed into law by the governor on Dec. 12, 2007.

After graduating from Chicago-Kent with high honors, Wieber joined Winston & Strawn and began to devote significant time to pro bono representation. He helped obtain a sentence of time served plus six months for an indigent defendant who faced a 30-year sentence as a Class X offender. He also represented a retired school teacher in a civil rights case, receiving a higher settlement for her than that of other plaintiffs.

And while serving an appointment as a special assistant Illinois attorney general, Wieber was able to get Gov. Blagojevich dismissed from a federal civil rights action on the grounds of legislative immunity. The young lawyer currently is a member of the firm's multi-partner teams in two federal cases: defending Ernst and Young in Birmingham, Ala., and William Cellini in U.S. v. Blagojevich in Chicago.

"It is hard to imagine a young lawyer packing all of these achievements ... into his first two years of practice," Thompson wrote of Wieber in his nomination letter.

Still active in athletics, Wieber is a captain and organizer of football and soccer teams for the Chicago Sports and Social Club, and was a volunteer coach in the Evanston Township Junior Wildkit Football Program.

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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