



ILLINOIS STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Taylorville Judge to Receive Board of Governors
Award from Illinois State Bar Association**

Judge Ronald D. Spears, of Taylorville, a resident judge in the 4th Judicial Circuit, will receive the 2008 Board of Governors Award from the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA) on Friday, June 27, at the organization's 132nd Annual Meeting in St. Louis.

The award is given to ISBA members for significant service to the profession and the public.

Judge Spears, a former member of the ISBA Board of Governors, was nominated by ISBA Past President J. Timothy Eaton for serving with distinction as founding chair in 2001 of the ISBA Committee on Military Affairs.

A retired colonel in the Illinois National Guard, Judge Spears headed the initiative to provide legal assistance to members of the guard and reserve who were called to active duty in Afghanistan and Iraq.

“Under his leadership, the ISBA recruited approximately 500 members to assist Illinois soldiers,” Eaton said. Spears also headed military law training for attorneys and supported formation of a Veterans Legal Support Center at The John Marshall Law School.

Spears also serves as first vice president of the Illinois Judges Association.

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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