



**ILLINOIS STATE  
BAR ASSOCIATION**

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, June 2008*

**Joliet Lawyer to Receive Award from State Bar**

Amie Marie Simpson, managing attorney and executive director of the Will County Legal Assistance Program, located in Joliet, will receive the Young Lawyer of the Year Award 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.

Simpson graduated with honors in 1996 from Drake University Law School. Her nominators were Sharon L. Eiseman, chair, and Annemarie Kill, secretary, of the ISBA's Committee on Women and the Law.

A natural fit to become in 2001, at age 29, the head of a major county legal aid program, Amie Simpson prepared herself during law school in Iowa with a number of public interest endeavors. She volunteered with Polk County Legal Aid in Des Moines, worked with the county prosecutor's juvenile division, and worked as a law clerk at Iowa Protection and Advocacy, where she wrote its Americans with Disabilities Handbook.

After a stint with a general practice firm, Simpson joined Will County Legal Assistance Program in 1999 as a staff attorney in orders of protection. She was named executive director just two years later, and has watched the client base grow and the office staff expand to meet the demand.

She oversees the Pro Bono Project, talks with clients in Spanish, carries a full caseload, appears in court almost daily, and is acknowledged as the county's leading expert in orders of protection.

Simpson has been an active member of the ISBA Committee on Women and the Law for several years, and at one time also served simultaneously on the Committee on Delivery of Legal Services and Committee on Judicial Advisory Polls. Also active in the Will County Bar Association, Simpson has chaired its Juvenile Committee and served on committees on court facilities, juvenile diversion, family law and mentoring.

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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