

# 2012 YEARBOOK



THE ILLINOIS STATE BAR ASSOCIATION & JUST THE BEGINNING FOUNDATION



## **Celebrating the Inaugural ISBA-JTBF Law & Leadership Institute at Southern Illinois University**

The ISBA-JTBF Law and Leadership Institute hosted 28 scholars at its inaugural downstate residential program at the Southern Illinois University School of Law in Carbondale from June 24 to 30, 2012.

The program attracted high school students from St. Louis to Mount Vernon to the southernmost counties of Illinois. (We also had one scholar from Nashville, Tennessee!) The students worked from sunup to sundown on an exciting lineup of law-related activities designed to build their knowledge of the legal system while developing leadership, professionalism, and academic skills.

Highlights of the week included a voir dire exercise at the Williamson County Courthouse, oral argument preparations and a networking reception at Husch Blackwell LLP in St. Louis, a mock trial at the U.S. District Court in Benton, and an oral argument competition. Scholars also tested their mettle while building teamwork skills on the high ropes course at SIU's Touch of Nature.

The ISBA-JTBF Law and Leadership Institute is a partnership between Just The

Beginning Foundation and the Illinois State Bar Association to increase diversity in the legal profession. JTBF has hosted a Summer Legal Institute in Chicago for many years as part of its mission is to inspire interest in legal careers among young people from various socioeconomic, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds that are currently underrepresented in the legal profession.

The ISBA, which also views diversity as part of its longstanding commitment to improving the profession and expanding access to justice, joined forces with JTBF in 2012 to offer programming to 20 additional scholars in Chicago as well as the scholars in the new residential program at SIU.

A great deal of planning and teamwork made this program possible. More than 150 people contributed to the effort — from the generous financial support of our sponsors to the lawyers, judges, law professors, law students, and JTBF/LLI staff who delivered the curriculum, as well as the administrative personnel who arranged the housing, meals, transportation, and recreation. We are grateful for everyone's enthusiastic support.



**ISBA-JTBF LLI Downstate  
Steering Committee**

Veronica Armouti  
 Nicole Carrion  
 Sen. James Clayborne, Jr.  
 Hon. Annette Eckert  
 Micah Hall  
 Mark Hassakis  
 Ebony Huddleston  
 Martine Jackson  
 Tom Keefe  
 Alice Noble-Allgire  
 George Norwood  
 Tony Rothert  
 Jennifer Shaw  
 Shira Truitt  
 Phyleccia Reed Cole  
 Lois Wood

**The 2012 ISBA-JTBF  
Law and Leadership Institute**

was made possible  
 by the generous support of our partners and sponsors

Illinois State Bar Association  
 Just The Beginning Foundation  
 Southern Illinois University School of Law

**Supreme Court Sponsors**

M. Denny Hassakis Fund  
 IBF/ISBA YLD Children's Assistance Fund  
 Illinois State Bar Association

**Appellate Court Sponsor**

Sen. James Clayborne, Jr.

**Circuit Court Sponsors**

George Black	Rhode & Jackson
Council on Legal Education Opportunity	Arnold G. Rubin
Peter F. Ferracuti	Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard
Husch Blackwell, LLP	Russell Scott
Jackson County Bar Association	John Simmons
Tom Q. Keefe, Jr.	Southern Illinois Healthcare
Alice Noble-Allgire	Staci Yandle

**Amicus Curiae**

AT&T Services, Inc.	George Norwood
Richard E. Aleksy	Jennifer Shaw
Peter Alexander	Tedrick Group
Jefferson County Bar Association	Wenona Whitfield

**Advocates**

Hon. Ann E. Callis	Suzanne Schmitz
Hon. Annette Eckert	Hon. Carolyn B. Smoot
Hon. J. Phil Gilbert	Robert E. Wells
Patrick Mathis	Hon. James R. Williamson
John Rosenstengel	





## Introduction to the Law

We hit the ground running with a full day of classwork on Monday. Professor Twinette Johnson introduced us to the legal system by having us interview a client involved in a car accident. Beyond practicing our interviewing skills, we learned about the “next steps” that happen after taking a case – strategizing about what claims we should pursue and where we should file the lawsuit (state or federal court).

We then began learning about oral arguments. The ultimate “goal” of the week was to present an oral argument to a panel of judges. Our case, which involved a student strip-searched by his principal resulting in the discovery of drugs on his person, highlighted the importance of critical thinking and seeing “both sides” of an issue.

In the afternoon, Professor Wenona Whitfield introduced us to legal reasoning with a mock law school class. This session gave us insights into the Socratic Method and the reasoning and analysis needed to succeed in law school. Professor Whitfield challenged us with questions about a finder’s rights to lost or mislaid property. We soon realized that in the practice of law, there may be more than one “right answer.”





**ISBA/IBF YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION  
CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE FUND**

*Congratulations*  
to the 2012

**Law & Leadership  
Institute Participants**

**[WWW.ISBA.ORG/SECTIONS/YLD](http://WWW.ISBA.ORG/SECTIONS/YLD)**



## Jury Selection in State Court

We observed various hearings before Judges Phillip Palmer Sr., Brad K. Bleyer, and James R. Moore at the Williamson County Courthouse in Marion, Illinois. No trials were under way, but it was a good chance to see that lawyers' work isn't always as exciting as on TV. The group also had an opportunity to talk with Judge Carolyn Smoot, the first female judge in the county.



We then got to try our own hands at lawyering with a “voir dire” exercise in one of the courtrooms. Judge Brian D. Lewis and lead public defender Alex Fine each helped a team of four scholars question jurors and exercise peremptory challenges. Eight scholars were lucky enough to make it into the jury box to be questioned as prospective jurors. The rest of us learned that getting a jury summons doesn't mean you are going to actually get to serve on a jury.



Back at the law school, we received a lesson on financial responsibility from Ginger Murray of Wells Fargo LLC and learned about scholarships from SIU's Financial Aid Director Terri Harfst. After the financial lesson, Professor Suzanne Schmitz taught us about effective negotiation skills. We were then assigned the task of negotiating a labor dispute between the National Basketball Association and players.

## Interviewing Lawyers

We had many opportunities to talk with lawyers from a wide range of practice areas throughout the week. As part of our “billable hours” requirement, scholar teams interviewed the lawyers to discover what we could about their careers, education, and personal lives. At the conclusion of the interviews, a member of each team gave a presentation about our interviewee to rest of the teams. We learned that there are many ways to use a law degree and have an impact on society.



# Leadership & Teamwork on the Ropes Course



After much hard work in the classroom, we were ready for some physical activity on Monday and Tuesday night. Half of the group headed to the Student Rec Center and challenged the team leaders to a sweat-inducing basketball game while the other half went to SIU's Touch of Nature, where we traversed a high-rise "ropes course" designed to promote leadership and communication skills. The groups switched locations the next night so that every student had the opportunity to experience the ropes course – including the breath-snatching zipline from the ropes tower to ground level.



# HASSAKIS & HASSAKIS, P.C.

## LAWYERS WHO CARE

### “SINCE 1950”

CALL TOLL FREE

1-800-553-3125

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.hassakislaw.com](http://www.hassakislaw.com)

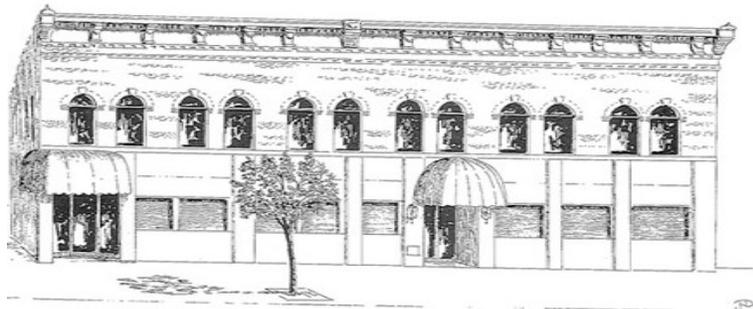
206 South Ninth Street, Suite 201

The Boston Building

Mount Vernon, Illinois 62864

Mark D. Hassakis

Joshua A. Humbrecht



### Civil Practice Concentrated in

- Personal Injury (Auto, Slip/Fall, Pedestrian)
- Dog Bites/Knockdowns
- Workers Compensation
- Burn Injuries
- Construction Site Accidents
- Product/Medication Defects
- Wrongful Death
- Medical Malpractice
- Premises Liability
- Social Security Disability
- Electrical Injuries
- Water/Boat/Swimming Accidents
- Nursing Home Injuries
- Manufacturing Injuries
- Bicycle/Motorcycle Injuries
- Trucker's Injuries
- Youth & Adolescent Injuries
- Dram Shop Cases
- Coal Mine & Oil Field Injuries
- Prison Guard Injuries
- Railroad/FELA Claims
- Insurance Claims (Fire, Life, Med., Disability)
- Secretary of State Drivers License Hearings





ILLINOIS STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

*Congratulations*  
to the 2012

**Law & Leadership  
Institute Participants**

**WWW.ISBA.ORG**

# Road Trip to St. Louis

A field trip to St. Louis gave us the opportunity to meet with a wide range of urban lawyers. Jeffrey Lewis, a senior attorney at AT&T, spoke about corporate law and the importance of knowing one's goals and maintaining the "drive" to achieve them. We then heard about diversity and bar associations from Micah Hall (President Mound City Bar Association), Johnny Wang (President, Missouri Asian American Bar Association), Michael Cole (President, Lawyers for Equality), Veronica Armouti (Sandberg Phoenix and von Gontard) and Staci Yandle (Yandle Law Firm)

We also visited Husch Blackwell LLP, where firm lawyers and summer associates helped us hone our oral arguments. We ended the day with a networking reception sponsored by the firm, which gave us the opportunity to talk with attorneys and practice getting and giving business cards. The attorneys were impressed by our professionalism and knowledge.



# Mock Trial in Federal Court

Entering the federal courthouse, we had to pass through a highly sensitive metal detector, which gave us a new perspective on the defendant in our oral argument problem. The experience definitely strengthened (or in some cases weakened) our arguments.

We watched U.S. District Judge J. Phil Gilbert preside over several criminal matters, including a sentencing in a nationwide marijuana smuggling operation and the arraignment of a naval officer who had carried on a sexual relationship with a teenager he met through Facebook. Assistant U.S. Attorney George Norwood to warn

us never to meet in person with anyone we have met through the internet.

Over lunch and during a panel discussion, we met with several federal employees and learned about jobs in the federal court system. We then tried our own case in front of Judge Gilbert, with each of us playing a role as either an attorney, witness, bailiff, or juror. The jurors initially voted 6 guilty and 6 not guilty. After deliberations and re-examining the evidence, however, the group unanimously returned a guilty verdict. The experience really amped us up to go back to the dorm and practice our oral argument.



— PROUD TO SUPPORT —

*The Students of the  
Law & Leadership Institute*



**Simmons Browder Gianaris Angelides & Barnerd LLC**

Mesothelioma & Asbestos Personal Injury Pharmaceutical Litigation  
Commercial Litigation Intellectual Property Toxic Torts

**1-866-468-8631**

[www.simmonsfirm.com](http://www.simmonsfirm.com)

John Simmons | One Court Street | Alton, Illinois 62002

**DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S  
LEADERS TODAY**

**SANDBERG PHOENIX  
& VON GONTARD P.C.**

ST. LOUIS, MO | CARBONDALE, IL | EDWARDSVILLE, IL | O'FALLON, IL | ALTON, IL

800.225.5529

[WWW.SANDBERGPHOENIX.COM](http://WWW.SANDBERGPHOENIX.COM)

Advertisement. The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements.

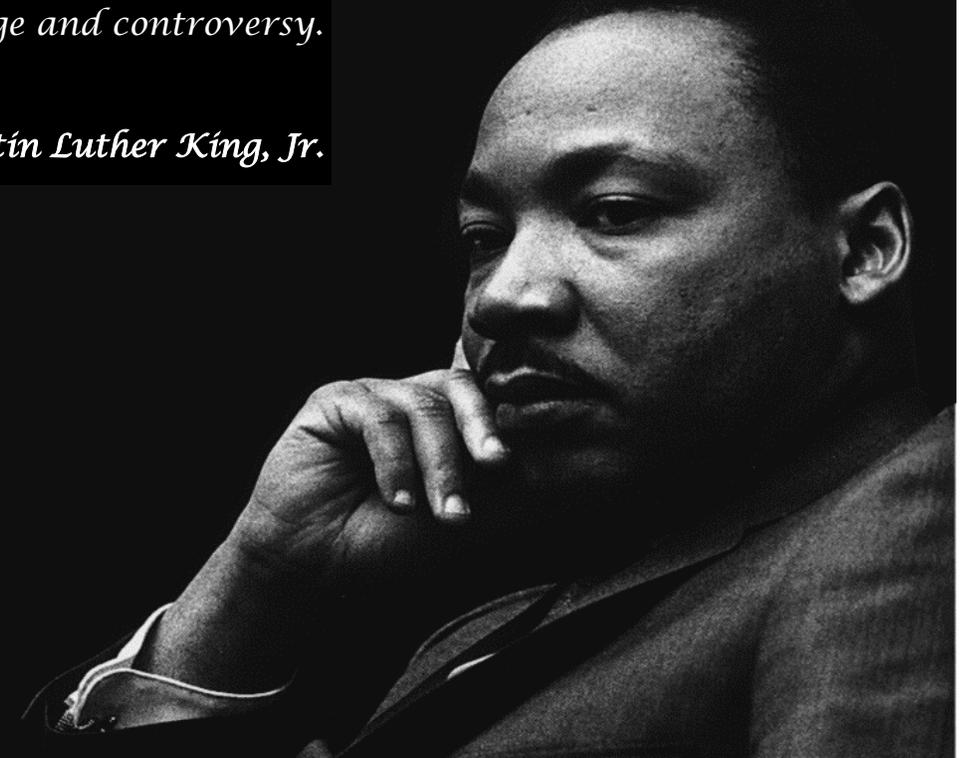
*The ultimate measure of a man is not  
where he stands in moments of comfort  
and convenience, but where he stands at  
times of challenge and controversy.*

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Best wishes to the

**2012 ISBA-JTBF  
Law and Leadership Institute  
scholars!**

**Senator James F. Clayborne Jr.**



# Oral Arguments & Closing Ceremonies

Our oral arguments on Friday were very well-received by the judges and we were relieved and happy to have done a great job. Our parents joined us on Saturday for closing ceremonies that featured a demonstration of our oral argument before the Hon. Lloyd Karmeier, justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, and LLI Team Leaders La'Mont Williams and Michael Boyle.

SIU School of Law Dean Cynthia Fountaine awarded \$5,000 scholarships to the top five oralists. Every scholar, however, was recognized for some "superlative" trait by the team leaders.

We were sad to say goodbye, but pleased with what we had learned and with all of the new friends we made along the way.





*The Law Offices Of  
Staci M. Yandle, LLC*

**1 Eagle Center, Suite 3A O'Fallon, IL  
(618)394-9600 [www.yandlelaw.com](http://www.yandlelaw.com)**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
LAW AND LEADERSHIP  
INSTITUTE PARTICIPANTS**

**Keep Up The Good Work!**

**GREENSFELDER**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C.  
12 Wolf Creek Drive, Ste. 100  
Belleville, IL 62226  
Tel: 618-257-7308  
Fax: 618-257-7353

**Russell K. Scott**  
Attorney at Law  
Dir: 618-239-3612  
[rks@greensfelder.com](mailto:rks@greensfelder.com)

Proud to salute the

**2012 ISBA-JTBF  
LAW AND LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE  
SCHOLARS**

**THOMAS Q. KEEFE, JR., P.C.**

Attorneys at Law

#6 EXECUTIVE WOODS COURT  
BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS 62226-2016

**Thomas Q. Keefe, Jr.**  
Licensed in Illinois  
and Missouri

**Thomas Q. Keefe, III**  
Licensed in Illinois

**Samantha S. Unsell**  
Licensed in Illinois

Telephone: (618) 236-2221  
Facsimile: (618) 236-2194

LAW OFFICES  
**PETER F. FERRACUTI P.C.  
& ASSOCIATES**

Reputation Says It All!  
CONCENTRATING IN WORK INJURIES,  
AUTO & TRUCK ACCIDENTS AND DEATH CLAIMS

Se Habla  
Español

**PETER F. FERRACUTI**



Million Dollar Advocates Forum  
Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum  
The Top Trial Lawyers in America™



Peter F. Ferracuti



Jennifer L. Kieseewetter



Janna M. Ryan



Morgan C. Klein



Thomas M. Shaw



Julie L. Ajster



Cory MC Ginn

**Never A Fee Until We Recover For You!**  
**Free Initial Consultation**

Also Available For Wills, Estate Planning, Real Estate Closing



Open 8am-6pm Mon-Fri • 8am-Noon Sat  
Evening & Weekend Appointments Available  
Home or Hospital Visits Available



Toll Free: **888-488-4LAW**  
(4529)

110 E. Main • Ottawa  
[www.peterferracuti.com](http://www.peterferracuti.com)



# Team Pride



## Supreme Dream Team

**Team Leaders:** La'Mont Williams, Kristin Johnson, and Adjua Pryor. **Team members:** Myles McCants, Anisah Hamilton, Starr'Retiece Gibson, James Washington, Brianna Pierson, Amiyha Davis, Joshua Brinson.



## Justice League

**Team Leaders:** Brittany Chhutani and Derrick Reese. **Team members:** Aaron Walker, Ranita Shelton, Aja McCoy, Rebecca Laurent, Darius Hatchett, Jacob Dorsey, Anna Rose Brown.



## Sticks & Stones

**Team Leaders:** Jose Campos, Amber Porter, Kaylee Otterbacher. **Team members:** Derek Waithe, Joshua Lightner, Zhane Hedgeman, Stone Allen, Ranisha Shelton, Khandice Lofton, Kyla Tinsley.



## Eminent Domination

**Team Leaders:** Mike Boyle, Paula Roa, Arielle Jackson. **Team members:** Bryce Carpenter, Demetrius Ross, Ronald Ike, Cameron Heiman, Brandy Brown, Aaliyah Hyde, and Cheyenne Graham.

*Best wishes for  
a successful  
Law and Leadership Institute!*

**Peter C. Alexander, Dean  
INDIANA TECH LAW SCHOOL**



*Nothing is impossible when focus is mixed  
with passion.*

“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.”

President John F. Kennedy



Edwardsville, IL 618-655-0555  
jennifer@jashawlaw.com

*You have the potential to be the next*

**Judge  
George N. Leighton**

Judge Leighton has been a tireless advocate in civil rights cases involving criminal defendants, equal housing, school desegregation, and voting rights, as well as a distinguished jurist with a combined 23 years in state and federal court.



Judge Leighton grew up near New Bedford, Mass., picking cranberries and blueberries with his parents, immigrants from the Cape Verde Islands off Africa's coast. He didn't learn much English early on and never went to high school. Nonetheless, he talked his way into Howard University, where he did so well that he was able to talk his way into Harvard Law School.

On June 29, 2012, the Cook County, Illinois, Criminal Court Building at 26<sup>th</sup> and California Avenue was named in his honor, one of many accolades he earned throughout his career.

**Professor Wenona Whitfield**

**Jefferson County Bar Association**

Proudly Serving Southern Illinois



*We hope  
you had a  
great  
week!*

*Be the change you want  
to see in the world.*

Congratulations!  
**The Jackson County  
Bar Association**



*Congratulations!*

Best wishes for the  
bright and promising careers you have  
ahead of you!

**Rhode  
& Jackson P.C.**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1405 West Main Street, Carbondale, IL 62901  
618-529-8092

# Thanks for a great week!



## Your JTBF Leadership Team

**Paula Lucas**  
*Executive Director*

**Laura Ramsey**  
*Program Director*



Dana Horst, *Director of Development and Marketing*  
Michael Boyle, *Summer Program Director*  
Jose Campos, *Summer Program Director*  
La'Mont Williams, *Assistant Summer Program Director*  
Adjua Pryor, *Summer Intern/Team Leader*  
Derrick Reese, *Summer Intern/Team Leader*

Brittany Chhutani, *Assistant Summer Program Director*  
Amber Porter, *LLI Team Leader*  
Paula Roa, *LLI Team Leader*  
Kristin Johnson, *Summer Program Assistant*  
Arielle Jackson, *LLI Program Intern*  
Kaylee Otterbacher, *LLI Program Intern*