

Bench & Bar

The newsletter of the Illinois State Bar Association's Bench & Bar Section

Chair's column—Dealing with pro se litigants: A view from the bench and bar

BY DEANE B. BROWN, PARTNER, HUGHES SOCOL PIERS RESNICK DYM, LTD.

The ISBA Bench and Bar Section Council recently engaged in a spirited discussion on dealing with pro se litigants—an issue which persistently challenges lawyers and judges alike.

The Judges on the Council pointed out that in dealing with pro se litigants, they are guided by Canon 3 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, entitled, “A Judge Should Perform the Duties of Judicial Office Impartially and Diligently.” Specifically, Canon 3, Rule 63(A)(4), provides in

pertinent part that: “A judge may make reasonable efforts, consistent with the law and court rules, to facilitate the ability of self-represented litigants to be fairly heard.” However, judges must also comply with Canon 3, Rule 63(A)(9)’s mandate to “perform judicial duties without bias or prejudice” as well as Canon 2, Rule 62(A)’s requirement that a judge must conduct himself or herself “in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity

Continued on next page

Editor's column

BY HON. EDWARD SCHOENBAUM, (RETIRED A.L.J.)

We welcome our readers to this **December issue** where we have some very interesting articles from Deane B. Brown, our Chair, a very timely article on E-Filing, by Christopher Bonjean, a reprint from Judge Winkler, from the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section Newsletter, Michael Kiley, one of our Retired judges who has gone through some health problems, an article about

former Judge Valerie Turner, who was retired by the Courts Commission and an article by Justice Richard Goldenhersh on communicating with the Appellate Court. And our update on judges who retired, passed on or were appointed or elected.

Please consider sharing your own experience, expertise, or problems where others may be able to learn or assist. ■

Chair's column—Dealing with pro se litigants: A view from the bench and bar
1

Editor's column
1

E-filing update ahead of the Jan. 1 deadline for civil cases
3

How civil lawsuits in Cook County proceed to resolution: Mediate—Don't litigate!
4

What's been on my mind
5

Recent appointments and retirements
6

Blurbs on briefs
8

Circuit Judge Valerie E. Turner officially retired
9

Upcoming CLE programs
10

Chair's column

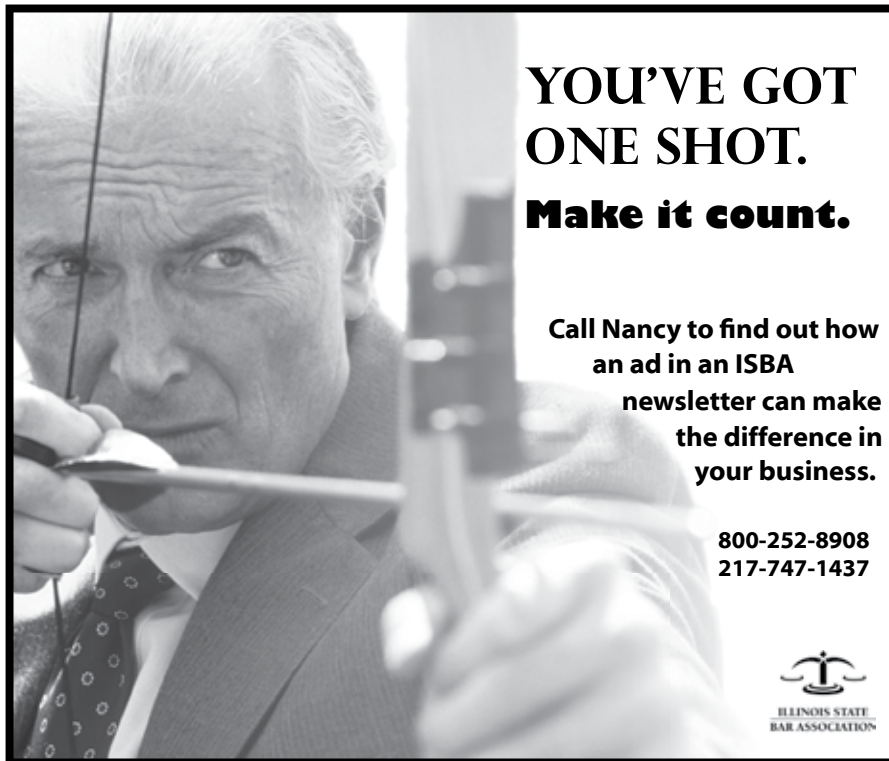
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and impartiality of the judiciary.”

Cognizant of these Canons, many judges on the Council shared that when self-represented litigants appear before them, the judges advise them that because they have chosen to be their own lawyer, the judge must hold them to the same standard as if they were an attorney. This means adhering to minimum pleading standards, including proper references to statutes and evidence, while also giving pro se litigants the chance to amend deficient pleadings. Likewise, judges take efforts to control interruptions while a self-represented litigant is speaking, while also being quick to silence interruptions by the pro se litigant when opposing counsel is speaking. Several of the judges on the Council expressed reluctance to use their contempt powers against a pro se litigant who does not show up to court or who acts inappropriately, perhaps to avoid complaints by pro se litigants about them to the Judicial Inquiry Board or to the Chief Judge.

While judges strive to be fair to both sides when dealing with pro se litigants, many of the lawyers on the Council felt that judges sometimes “give a pass” to pro se litigants and “bend over backwards” to help them. Lawyers reported situations wherein judges have allowed pro se litigants to file “anything they want” without striking it, and have repeatedly extended discovery deadlines as well as due dates for filing pleadings when a pro se litigant is tardy. Other lawyers on the Council felt frustrated by the lack of action taken by certain judges when pro se litigants are clearly abusing the system.


It became clear from our dialogue that there is certainly no easy answer as to how to best deal with pro se litigants, either from the perspective of a lawyer or a judge. But by discussing this matter, our Council members have shared with one another their experiences with pro se litigants, in an effort to improve how the participants in our justice system handle this challenge. ■



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OFFICE

ILLINOIS BAR CENTER
424 S. SECOND STREET
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701
PHONES: 217-525-1760 OR 800-252-8908
WWW.ISBA.ORG

EDITORS

Hon. Edward J. Schoenbaum (ret).
Evan Bruno
Edward Casmere

MANAGING EDITOR / PRODUCTION

Katie Underwood

✉ kunderwood@isba.org

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E-filing update ahead of the Jan. 1 deadline for civil cases

BY CHRISTOPHER BONJEAN, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT/ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS COURTS

Effective January 1, 2018, civil e-filing in Illinois Trial Courts will be mandatory, with eFileIL currently implemented in the Supreme Court, Appellate Court, and 94 Trial Courts. The list of courts active with eFileIL is available at <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/active-courts.htm>.

For many court users, e-filing is already here. The transition began in July 2016 and now boasts over 22,000 registered users and averages around 5,000 e-filings every business day.

The mandate has been phased in over two years. E-filing was required in civil cases in the Supreme Court and the five districts of the Appellate Court on July 1, 2017, and then in all circuits courts effective January 1, 2018. Counties with standalone e-filing systems have until July 1, 2018, to join eFileIL.

For attorneys and self-represented litigants alike, mandatory e-filing means no more running to the Clerk's Office to file a document before the close of business or to the post office to make sure that a filing is postmarked on time. Because e-filing may be done at any hour and from any location, access to the court will be more convenient for all.

The first step to e-filing is to choose an Electronic Filing Service Provider (EFSP). There are currently nine certified EFSPs. A comparison chart listing the cost and features of each is available on the Supreme Court website at <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/documents/Service-Provider-Comparison-Table.pdf>.

Once you have registered with an EFSP, you are ready to e-file with the central Electronic Filing Manager (EFP). This is how you submit your case documents to the clerk's office using the established standards so e-filing occurs in a uniform manner. The eFileIL document standards

are available at http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/documents/eFileIL_Digital-Media-Standards.pdf.

Many EFSPs offer hosted webinars and online training videos to help users get started with e-filing. Live chat and other customer support options are also available and listed on the EFSP comparison chart listed above.

What's next?

Work has begun on the implementation of re:SearchIL, which will provide an efficient way for attorneys, judges and other court users to access important case records and documents at any time and on any device. Re:SearchIL is a web-based portal that provides immediate and secure access to a consolidated database of case information upon registration. The solution provides a simple and consistent way to view and obtain case records and documents from counties across Illinois, and it integrates with multiple case management systems to share that information.

All Illinois courts that are integrated and filing through eFileIL are able to begin using re:SearchIL and make their documents available through the portal. The re:SearchIL application will provide many benefits to the Illinois courts and legal community, such as:

- Increased transparency and accessibility through a single portal to a unified, centralized database
- Simplified access across multiple counties, regardless of case management system
- Reduction of printed documents needed by judges
- Secure access from any device, including PCs, Macs, tablets and smartphones.

Courts will be the first to benefit

from the improved access to information available through re:SearchIL, with judges, clerks, and parties to a case able to access case information as courts become integrated. The online re:SearchIL application will provide judges with access to case records from all participating Illinois courts. Parties to a case will have access to their respective case records, and clerks will have access to case records in their jurisdiction. The Illinois Supreme Court anticipates expanding access to re:SearchIL to all non-party attorneys and the general public in a phased implementation as remote public access policies are developed.

In order for re:SearchIL to be utilized as a remote public access system similar to the Federal court's PACER, the Court will need to approve a remote public access policy (e-Access Policy), including authorization of statewide fees for users to access local court documents, as well as considerations for protecting personal and private information included in court documents.

As Illinois courts begin the rollout of re:SearchIL, the expectation is for continued improvements in access to court information for the legal community. By having a single point of access for case information, judges, clerks, and attorneys will all find value in re:SearchIL. The consolidation of case information will also help increase efficiency and transparency within our courts.

Additional Resources:

eFileIL website:

<http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/index.htm>

ISBA Practice HQ:

<https://www.isba.org/practicehq/manage/efiling>

How civil lawsuits in Cook County proceed to resolution: Mediate—Don't litigate!

BY HON. CHARLES WINKLER (RET.)

During the last 12 years we have presented several ADR programs focused on using the mediation process to resolve civil lawsuits, including divorce. The public for the most part has no idea what mediation is or how it can save thousands of dollars and weeks of lost time. Yes, we have produced videos and published pamphlets on the subject without any plan on how to educate the public in an alternate way to proceed to a resolution of a civil lawsuit. Our Chair, Jay Schleppebach, Vice-Chair Sandra Crawford and retired Judge Allen Goldberg reviewed a draft of an article I was writing for a weekly community newspaper and I thank them for their suggestions. On July 26, 2017 the article appeared in the *Journal*, a publication read by people residing in Oak Park and River Forest, communities 12 miles west of downtown Chicago, with a combined population 63,050. The paper is delivered to homes and stores like CVS, Walgreens and 7/11. It also is sold in restaurants and small businesses. I am guessing the article, "Mediate, Don't Litigate!" was read by 3,000 people.

The *Chicago Tribune* and *Sun-Times* did not publish the article, most likely because it is commercial, asking litigants to call their lawyers. I have given copies of the article to doctors, dentists and business owners I know. One e-mailed: "Thank you so much for the informative article. It is a topic I will share with family and friends, as our time and resources are so valuable. All the best, John." When I finished "Mediate-Don't Litigate!" I intended it to be given to the public in general. After reading the comments of some lawyers who have read it I also suggest that a copy be given to any client who is or might be engaged in the litigation process.

As of May 1, 2017 we have over 800 ADR section members receiving our

newsletters. If each of us would spread the word to 10 people who may pass it on to three others we can assist our Chair, Jay Schleppebach, in how best to go about promoting a better understanding of ADR statewide. Please see the June publication of *In the Alternative*. If a civil lawsuit has only a 2% chance of being resolved with a trial the public should be aware of it.

Here is the article:

Every year in Cook County 2.4 million lawsuits are filed. The majority of the cases involve personal injuries, breach of contracts and divorces, followed by disputes involving wills and foreclosures. Did you know that only 2% of all civil cases are actually decided by a judge or a jury? A small number of the cases are dismissed by a judge because they are legally defective. The rest are settled, some within a year after filing. Most of the cases settle within six months of the day the case is to be tried before a judge or jury. If 100 civil lawsuits are filed today in the Richard J. Daley Center Courthouse only two will be decided by a jury or by a judge. Many settlements take place with the help of a mediator. In this article you will learn about the mediation process, how cases proceed through the court system and the litigation process.

When I began my law practice, some 50 plus years ago, lawyers would negotiate, sometimes with a judge present, in an attempt to settle their cases. In the 1980s mediation was introduced to the trial lawyers as an alternate way to help clients resolve their disputes. Today the mediation process is used to settle civil cases like those mentioned above.

Litigation starts after the lawsuit is filed. It is a time consuming and costly process used by lawyers to prepare for a trial. Parties and witnesses sit for

hours while lawyers ask them questions during depositions. Parties must produce documents and answer written interrogatories. Meetings and phone calls with lawyers, appearances by lawyers in court and clients paying bills sent by lawyers are part of the litigation process. Litigation can end at any time before a lawsuit is tried.

Any person involved in a lawsuit may find mediation a better alternate than going through the litigation process. Mediation can start at any time, even before a lawsuit is filed. The mediation process begins when the parties agree to hire a mediator who is a neutral person. Attorneys, retired judges and people with special training are selected based on their experience in mediating the kind of dispute the parties have: divorce, personal injury: etc. Mediation is informal and confidential. The parties and their lawyers meet with the mediator who previously received written statements from the lawyers describing the lawsuit and the expectations of their clients. The lawyers make opening statements, followed by the mediator who will meet privately with each side. This is the time that both the client and the attorney are encouraged to explore their positions. In my experience as a lawyer, judge and mediator I have concluded that there are very few lawsuits that can be called a sure thing. On occasion as a sitting judge I would meet with lawyers and their clients in chambers before the selection of a jury. There were cases that I felt could be lost and I would ask this question: Have you ever considered the possibility that you may not win? The client would look at the lawyer and I was sure the question had not been asked. A good mediator will have the parties focus on the strengths and weaknesses of their case.

Mediation is non-binding with the

objective being to help the parties reach a mutually acceptable agreement on all or part of their dispute. Most mediations are completed in one or two sessions. 60% will settle at the first meeting. The mediator cannot make a finding of fault and cannot impose a decision on the parties. The parties make the deal, not the mediator or the lawyers. The parties can end the mediation at any time and decide to have

their day in court. Any statement made by a party during mediation cannot be used against that party during a trial. If you are ready to resolve your lawsuit and end the litigation process, call your lawyer and discuss what you have read here. For a list of mediators in Cook County go to Google.

In closing, I hope you never fall into the 2% category of cases that are decided by a judge or jury. The millions of dollars

awarded to people who have suffered permanent and disabling injuries or lost a family member will never bring back good health or replace a husband or child. ■

This article was originally published in the November 2017 issue of the ISBA's Alternative Dispute Resolution newsletter.

What's been on my mind

BY JUDGE MICHAEL P. KILEY, RETIRED

“So Mike, where’s your article?” Words that I have been dreading to hear from our newsletter editor, Judge Ed Schoenbaum. So much so that I thought of missing the Mid-Year meeting this year to avoid the conversation. He doesn’t know my mind hasn’t really been in to it for awhile. Not like it was when I practiced law or served two terms as States Attorney of Shelby County. Then twenty years on the bench in the Fourth Circuit. The law was always on my mind and topics for articles were not hard to conceive, but it was taking the time and getting citations right that mattered. That was then. So, I have been retired, going on five years, and things have changed. Sure, I stay in the loop through the occasional mediation I have keeping me in touch with the law, lawyers and litigants, something I have truly enjoyed. “So,” Ed might ask, “why not write an article about that?” Well, as I mentioned, my mind has not really been into it. Here’s why.

In August, 2016, I was preparing to leave for a three day golf trip at Bob ‘O Link with my big brother, Jim. (More about him later, but everyone who knows Jim Kiley wishes he was their big brother). I was shaving at the mirror and noticed a swollen area under my arm. It was something that had not been there the day before when I had been swimming with my grandson. I thought I better keep an eye on it, but I thought it was probably a bug bite. I went

ahead and played in the tournament- we actually were leading after the first round- and I played pretty well. Each night I examined the area and so no change. When I returned home, I called my local doctor and got right in to see him. He examined me and said he thought I should have a biopsy and.....the details get kind of fuzzy, but I remember all the medical people along the way. How nice, how caring.

I do recall with some clarity the telephone call I received after the biopsy. I had been referred to a surgeon who ordered the biopsy. His nurse called and said the doctor needed to see me the first thing next week to discuss the results. This was a Friday and I thought to myself that this was going to be a long weekend. I asked the nurse if she knew the result. She stammered she was not authorized to tell me. I must have sounded disappointed, or as my friends would say “a little thin-lipped.” In any event, the surgeon called back within a matter of minutes and said, “You have malignant melanoma.” My wife, Ann, was on the other line. She is normally upbeat. This time she let out an audible groan and said “That’s not good.” Short and sweet.

Well I learned a lot about malignant melanoma in the days, weeks and months that followed. This cancer is deadly. It has a very high rate of reoccurring. And, as in my case, when it has spread to the lymph glands, it can travel and show up anywhere.

I had surgery on September 30, 2016. The delay between finding the cancer and having the surgery was the result of discussions about where I should have the surgery. My brother Jim and other members of my family wanted me to consider options at the University of Chicago. I ultimately decided to stay near home and have the surgery in Decatur. The driving thought for me was that I had something in my body that I wanted gone right away. Taking more time to consider other options was not for me. The surgery was a success. So said the doctors, the CT scans, MRI’S and pet scans (I have lost track of how many, though I am sure my insurance company has not).

After recovering from surgery, I was referred to an Oncologist who, when he met me said “Michael, we are not going to just contain and control this, we are going to cure this. Believe me and keep your spirits up!” I liked him. My family wanted me to seek a second opinion on post-surgery care from a melanoma specialist in Chicago. “Strings were pulled,” as they say, and I was able to meet with the specialist quickly. As it happened, he recommended the same course of treatment as the Oncologist in Decatur. He did suggest that I participate in a clinical trial program that he was in charge of at the University of Chicago. I was pleased to discover that the same program was offered in Decatur and

my original Oncologist, the guy I liked, was involved with that program. I became a patient in the clinical trial program and started infusions in November.

The treatment program opened my eyes to the reality of cancer treatment, something I suppose I was aware of but never truly experienced. The persons I saw in the waiting rooms at U of C and Decatur Cancer Care had been devastated. Remember, at this point, I felt, and I think, I looked fine. I saw patients with hollowed eyes, sunken cheeks and looking so far gone, like “what’s the use.”

I remember, in particular at the Cancer Care Center in Decatur, an older man, maybe in his late 70’s, who could barely walk. He looked to me as if he had been successful in life, athletic build, nice clothes, nice haircut, but the vacant look in his eyes was disturbing. He was accompanied by a pretty, vivacious woman who was offering him constant encouragement. His wife, I thought, maybe for 50 years. They had a good life together I imagined, maybe kids, ready to enjoy some travel in retirement with their friends and then BOOM. That’s me, I thought.

I entered the program and was administered a drug called Yervoy. It was administered at an infusion center in Decatur. While the people were extremely caring and capable, privacy was pretty much lost. I kept running into people from home. Our common exchange was “I didn’t know.” Well now they do, and through whatever networks there are in a small community, I think everyone knows I have cancer. I correct them and say “I had cancer. I had surgery and it’s gone, but I am getting treatment.”

The treatment went well for a while and then I had a severe reaction only experienced by 4% of the trial program participants. It was serious enough that I had to discontinue the immunotherapy treatment. As of now, there is no proactive treatment to prevent the reoccurrence of melanoma, which has the 85% chance of showing up again. My Doctor refers to my treatment program as being in “an observation phase.” I call it the “wait till the cancer comes back and then we will treat it phase.”

So that’s where I am. That’s why no articles. I have left a lot out, but suffice it to say this experience has pretty well dominated my time and thoughts for a while. The last CT scan I had showed a suspicious spot that my Oncologist wanted to have biopsied. I did that two days ago and today, my wife and I will meet with him to find out what’s up. Will it be like the last biopsy of my lung that came back benign, or will it be like the telephone call informing me I had malignant melanoma. We will see. In the meantime, here are some quick observations:

- 1). The cancer specialists, the doctors, nurses and technicians, they are wonderful people. They are well-trained, kind people. They know their patients are hurting and fragile. I admire them all, down to the guy who volunteers his time to open the door for patients entering the Cancer Care Center in Decatur, always with a warm smile wishing them a good day.
- 2). The cost of care is enormously

expensive. I am on medicare and have private supplemental insurance through the state. I thank God for that. There are also times I want to choke some of the decision makers at my state insurance company who decide I shouldn’t have a particular drug or test that my doctor ordered. Agreements are mostly reached, but not until after some delay and consternation. Or as my wife describes it, “just bumps in the road.”

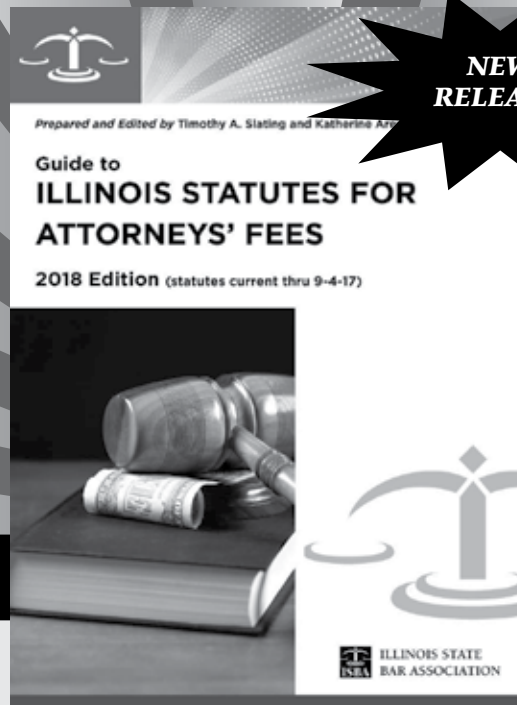
- 3). There will be “bumps in the road.” If you are in this boat, expect it and try and keep it in perspective.
- 4). I am so lucky to have a community of support. My wife, my kids, my brothers and sister, and great friends that send their love and prayers when I am on my way for a test or waiting for results. They have my back, and I truly love them all.

Now, I hope this personal piece will do it for this year for Bench and Bar. Next year, maybe something on Civility in the Courtroom or suggestions for successful mediations. I would like that. ■

Recent appointments and retirements

1. Pursuant to its Constitutional authority, the Supreme Court has appointed the following to be Circuit Judge:
 - Peter Gonzalez, Cook County Circuit, November 27, 2017
2. The following Judge is deceased:
 - Hon. Allen F. Bennett, 4th Circuit, November 29, 2017
3. The following judges have retired:
 - Hon. Kathryn E. Creswell, 18th Circuit, November 30, 2017
 - Hon. Joseph Jy Jackson, 1st Circuit, November 30, 2017 ■

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Blurbs on briefs

BY HON. RICHARD P. GOLDENHERSH

After 29 years on the appellate court (Fifth District), I would like to offer some observations concerning approaches to writing a brief. These observations are my own, and I do not claim to represent them as those of my colleagues who I have enjoyed working with all of these years. They are intended to be practical, as opposed to technical, suggestions.

First, follow the Supreme Court Rules. That is stating the obvious and no more need be said.

An effective approach to presentation in a brief, appellant, appellee, or amicus, could easily include the following:

First, assume that we, the appellate panel, have read the briefs prior to oral argument. Do not assume we have the expertise you and your opposing counsel have in the particular area of law. Many of the judges on the appellate court have had concentrated areas of practice prior to their appellate service. Furthermore, many trial judges have had specific assignments, such as criminal, civil or family, for years. The expertise and depth of knowledge and experience they have acquired is truly admirable. This may not, however, encompass the broad scope of an appellate docket. Again, safely assume that your brief will be read and studied by each member of the appellate panel. Do not assume they have the expertise you have in your area of practice.

Tell us a story. Put the scenario into a coherent, understandable whole. You did that at the trial level. Tell us the story with clarity. Can your administrative assistant who typed the brief in final form explain this case to you, including the rationale for your position? If not, should you reexamine and revise?

With the goal of clarity, play it straight in your statement of facts. A clearly biased statement of the facts in a case can easily bring into question the credibility of your position and the arguments supporting it. No case is perfect – you did not invent

these facts—tell us those elements of the factual scenario that support your position, tell us the elements that are adverse to your side. A frank and thorough recitation of the factual scenario in your case, appellant or appellee, only strengthens the credibility of your brief. And, you do not want an appellate judge, upon reading your brief, wondering that if the facts were that good for your position, why are you the appellant, not the appellee.

Many appellate judges previously served as trial judges. We have experienced the wide scope of discretion a trial judge has on many questions and recognize when a trial judge has exercised that discretion. Do not ask the appellate court to reweigh the evidence in a case. It is appropriate, however, to examine a judge's exercise of discretion or failure to exercise discretion when exercise of it would have been appropriate. Many former trial judges now sitting on the appellate bench may very well conclude: I would not have ruled this way, but this judge had the discretion to do so. This applies also to determining credibility.

As to your preparation of an appendix, of course follow the Supreme Court Rules. Do not, however, feel overly constricted by them. You may flesh out the proceedings in the trial court and supply a context both for the ruling and for your position as to that judgment.

Seek clarity as to the relief that you want and explain to the appellate panel the logic and consequence of your prayer for relief. Analogous to the concept of a lesser included offense, consider what alternative relief you wish the court to consider.

As an appellee, you must deal with the appellant's position, but you are not limited to a response to their position. You handled the case at whatever stage with the implicit understanding that you would develop your own position and you should continue this stance in your argument as an appellee. Think outside the box; boxes are a nuisance.

Can you defend this position in oral argument when you are either questioned or challenged by a member of the appellate panel? Anticipate the challenge. How would you counter your own argument?

Play it straight intellectually. Do not leave the reader with the impression that either the argument, explanation of authority, or recitation of facts is not trustworthy. Do not sabotage yourself.

You have the expertise in your case. We, as members of the appellate panel, invite you to teach us, guide us step by step, and deal with the weaknesses as well as the strengths in your position. We will read and take seriously what you submit to our panel. We invite you to persuade us.

See you in court! ■

It's Campaign Season for the 2018 Election

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 - Area 3 (Circuits 12, 13, 16, 21 and 23) (1)
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 - Area 6 (Circuits 7, 8 and 9) (1)
 - Area 8 (Circuits 3 and 20) (1)
- Assembly:
 - Cook (22)

The 2018 Notice of Election is now available. Find out more at www.isba.org/elections.

Filing of Petitions begins on January 2, 2018 and ends on January 31, 2018.

Circuit Judge Valerie E. Turner officially retired

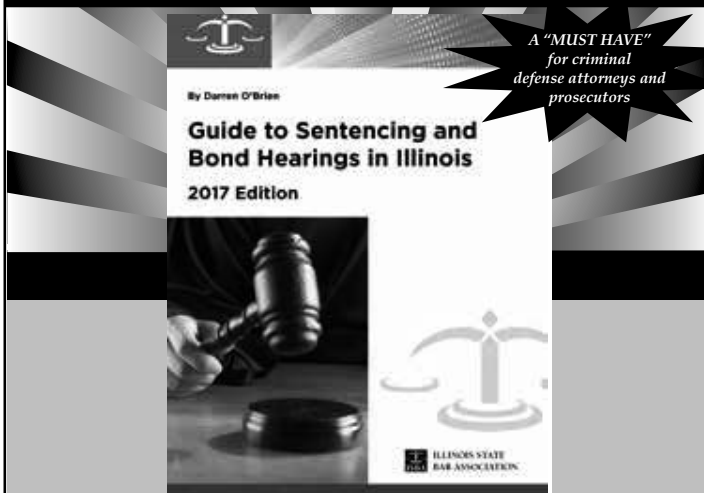
BY HON. EDWARD J. SCHOENBAUM (RET.)

Circuit Judge Valerie E. Turner of the Circuit Court of Cook County was officially retired from office on December 1, 2017, by order of the Illinois Courts Commission. In a complaint filed by the Illinois Judicial Inquiry Board it was claimed that, in August 2016, Turner gave her judicial robe to a law clerk (who was running for a judgeship) and allowed that law clerk to assume the bench and preside over several traffic cases. The Executive Committee of the Circuit Court of Cook County concluded, on August 17, 2016, that the alleged acts posed a threat of injury to the public's confidence in the integrity and

impartiality of the judiciary and the orderly administration of justice. The Executive Committee issued a special order removing Turner from her judicial assignment and reassigning her to restricted duties. After a hearing before the Board in November 2016, a formal complaint was filed, which Turner sought to dismiss. Turner submitted a supplemental memorandum in support of her motion to dismiss in January 2017 noting that the Judge's Retirement System had approved her application for Temporary Total Disability, and that she would begin receiving benefits pursuant to that status. Turner's motion to dismiss

was ultimately denied, and the matter proceeded to a hearing before the Board in August 2017. The December 1, 2017 order by the Commission held that Turner "acknowledges that she is permanently unable to perform her judicial duties, and, accordingly, the outcome reached by this Commission must be similarly permanent. Because respondent has not retired or resigned from office, and she is mentally unable to perform her duties as judge, this Commission, under its constitutional authority, retires Respondent Turner from judicial office, effective immediately." ■

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January

Tuesday, 01-09-18 Webinar—Fight the Paper. Practice Toolbox Series. 12:00-1:00 PM.

Wednesday, 01-10-18 – LIVE Webcast—On My Own: Starting Your Solo Practice as a Female Attorney. Presented by WATL. 12-2 PM.

Thursday, 01-11-18 – ISBA Chicago Regional Office—Six Months to GDPR – Ready or Not? Presented by Intellectual Property. 8:45 AM – 12:30 PM.

Friday, 01-12-18, Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—How to Handle a Construction Case Mediation. Presented by the Construction Law Section, co-sponsored by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section. 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.

Friday, 01-12-18, Chicago, Live Webcast—How to Handle a Construction Case Mediation. Presented by the Construction Law Section, co-sponsored by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section. 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.

Tuesday, 01-16-18 – LIVE Webcast—Proper Pleadings: Complaints, Answers, Affirmative Defenses, Motions for a More Definite Statement, Motions to Strike, and Motions for Judgement on the Pleadings. Presented by Labor and Employment. 1:30-3 PM.

Wednesday, 01-17-18 – LIVE Webcast—Clearing the Skies: How to Fly with the Mandatory Initial Pilot Program. Presented by Intellectual Property. 12-1 PM.

Thursday, 01-18-18 – ISBA Chicago Regional Office—Closely Held Business Owner Separations, Marital and Non-Marital. Presented by Business and Securities. 9AM - 12:30 PM.

Thursday, 01-18-18 – LIVE Webcast—Closely Held Business Owner Separations, Marital and Non-Marital. Presented by Business and Securities. 9AM - 12:30 PM.

Tuesday, 01-23-18 Webinar—Technology for Your Practice: Beyond the Buy – Understanding the Why. Practice Toolbox Series. 12:00-1:00 PM.

Thursday, 01-25-18 – ISBA Chicago Regional Office—Starting Your Law Practice. Presented by General Practice. 8:50 AM – 4:45 PM.

Tuesday, 01-30-18 LIVE Webcast—Concerted Activity in the Age of Social Media and Online Systems: Employee Rights, Employer Pitfalls, Remedies and Penalties. Presented by Labor and Employment. 2-4 PM.

Wednesday, 01-31-18 ISBA Chicago Regional Office—Recent Developments in State and Local Taxation - Explosive Issues and the Steady Drip, Drip, Drips. Presented by SALT. 9AM – 1PM.

Wednesday, 01-31-18 LIVE Webcast—Recent Developments in State and Local Taxation - Explosive Issues and the Steady Drip, Drip, Drips. Presented by SALT. 9AM – 1PM.

February:

Thursday, 02-01-18 – LIVE Webcast—Storm Water Regulation Under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Presented by Environmental Law. 11AM – 12PM.

Thursday, 02-01-18 – LIVE Webcast—The Clean Water Act and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Program. Presented by Business Advice and Financial Planning. 1:30PM – 2:30PM.

Friday, 02-02-18 – Normal, IL—Hot Topics in Agriculture Law – 2018. Presented by Agriculture Law. All-day.

Friday, 02-02-18 – ISBA Chicago Regional Office—2018 Federal Tax Conference. Presented by Federal tax. All Day.

Friday, 02-02-18 – LIVE Webcast—2018 Federal Tax Conference. Presented by Federal tax. All Day.

Feb 6 - June 26—Fred Lane's ISBA Trial Technique Institute.

Wednesday, 02-07-18 – Webinar—TITLE INSURANCE 101: HOW TO HANDLE COMMON TITLE INSURANCE AND COVERAGE ISSUES IN RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS—A Primer for New Attorneys and Those 'New' to Real Estate Law Practice. Presented by Real Estate. Time: 2-3 PM.

Friday, 02-09-18 – SIU Carbondale—Central and Southern Illinois Animal Law Conference. Presented by Animal Law. 8:00AM to 5:30PM.

Monday, 02-12 to Friday, 02-16—ISBA Chicago Regional Office—40 Hour Mediation/Arbitration Training. Master Series, presented by the ISBA—WILL NOT BE ARCHIVED. 8:30 -5:45 daily.

Tuesday, 02-13-18 Webinar—Cloud Services. Practice Toolbox Series. 12:00-1:00 PM.

Monday, 02-19-18 – Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—Workers' Compensation Update – Spring 2018. Presented by Workers' Compensation. Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Monday, 02-19-18 – O’Fallon—Workers’ Compensation Update – Spring 2018. Presented by Workers’ Compensation. Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Tuesday, 02-27-18 Webinar—Security is Only as Good as the Weakest Link: Security Measures Every Lawyer Should Take. Practice Toolbox Series. 12:00-1:00 PM.

Wednesday, 02-28-18 – ISBA Chicago Regional Office—Copyright and Student Records Issues in Education. Presented by Education Law. 9:00 AM- 12:30 PM.

Wednesday, 02-28-18 – LIVE Webcast—Copyright and Student Records Issues in Education. Presented by Education Law. 9:00 AM- 12:30 PM.

March

Friday, 03-02-18 – ISBA Chicago Regional Office—9th Annual Animal Law Conference. Presented by Animal Law. 9:00AM to 4:30PM.

Tuesday, 03-06-18 – LIVE Webcast—The Ethics of Social Media for Attorneys and Judges. Presented by Bench and Bar. 1:00-2:30 PM.

Thursday, 03-08-18 – ISBA Chicago Regional Office—The Complete UCC. Master Series, Presented by the ISBA. 8:30-5:00.

Friday, 03-09-18 – ISBA Chicago Regional Office—Malpractice Avoidance Program. Presented by Trusts and Estates. 8:30-4:00.

Friday, 03-09-18 – Webcast—Malpractice Avoidance Program. Presented by Trusts and Estates. 8:30-4:00.

Monday, 03-12 to Friday, 03-16— Pere Marquette Lodge, Grafton IL—40 Hour Mediation/Arbitration Training. Master Series, presented by the ISBA—WILL NOT BE ARCHIVED. 8:30 -5:45 daily.

Tuesday, 03-13-18 – LIVE Webcast—Don’t Panic – What to do When a Letter

Arrives from the ARDC. Presented by ARDC. 2:00-3:00 PM.

Thursday, 03-15-18 – Webinar—Hello My Name is PAC: An Introduction to the Attorney General’s Public Access Duties. Presented by Local Government. 12:00-1:00 PM.

Friday, 03-16-18 – Holiday Inn & Suites, Bloomington—Solo and Small Firm Practice Institute. All day.

Wednesday, 03-21-18 – LIVE Webcast—Topics in Professionalism 2018: Mental Health and Substance Abuse Impacting Lawyers, and Diversity and Inclusion in the Legal Profession. Presented by General Practice. 12:00-2:00 PM.

Friday, 03-23-18 – ISBA Chicago Regional Office—Applied Evidence: Evidence in Employment Trials. Presented by Labor and Employment. 9:00 am – 5:00

pm.

Friday, 03-23-17 – LIVE Webcast—Applied Evidence: Evidence in Employment Trials. Presented by Labor and Employment. 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

April

Thursday, 04-13-18 – NIU Hoffman Estates—Spring 2018 DUI and Traffic Law Program. Presented by Traffic Law. All day.

May

Friday, 05-11-18 – ISBA Chicago Regional Office—Evidence: Discussions about obtaining evidence, foundation issues, objections and effective presentation to maximize proof. Presented by Civil Practice and Procedure. 8:50-4:30.

June

Friday, 06-01-18 – NIU Naperville, Naperville—Solo and Small Firm Practice Institute. All day. ■



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