

The Catalyst

The newsletter of the Illinois State Bar Association's Standing Committee on Women and the Law

Chair column

BY JULIE A. JOHNSON

The Standing Committee on Women and the Law celebrated Women's History Month (March) in full stride. In celebration of International Women's Day, 54 women gathered together on March 8th with pinky fingers raised for our first annual celebratory High Tea at Russian Tea Time in Chicago. It was an excellent networking opportunity in the company of women attorneys representing numerous practice areas and bar association affiliations far beyond the ISBA. It could not have been more

of a success! Congratulations to WATL members Staci Balbirer and Erin Wilson on coordinating such an outstanding event.

We rounded out the month with my final meeting as Chair, which took place outside of Cook County at the Acquaviva Winery in Maple Park, Illinois (near DeKalb). Thank you to member Alice Sackett on coordinating our day in such a beautiful place out in the country.

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Podcast review of *These Are Their Stories: The Law & Order Podcast*

BY JEN KOBAYASHI

My love for *Law & Order* runs deep and strong. Fifteen seasons of Sam Waterston? Be still my beating heart. While I hate that the revolving door of smart, beautiful ADAs are not given more to do on this show, I do love the plot twists, the Fourth Amendment debates, and the hunt for clues as to the characters' personal lives. I love the episodes with the "ripped from the headlines"

storylines that at first appear so familiar and straightforward, but then morph from a dispute over pants lost at the dry cleaner to a cover-up for a discount chain importing toxic toothpaste, with a crooked ex-cop thrown in for good measure. I believe that at every hour of every day, some off-brand cable channel is showing *Law & Order* in some form

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Committee members in attendance were joined by past-Chair Sandra Crawford and candidate for Third Vice President, Lisa Nyuli. With the aid of a pre-lunch wine tasting, our committee engaged in a lively discussion regarding our tradition of promoting the exceptional work of our fellow female attorneys in addition to our regular business agenda.

We have continued that tradition this year in submitting over 10 different nominations of both committee members and non-members for various awards given by the ISBA and other organizations. We are still waiting on most of the results, but we have one very special award to cheer about. On the nomination written by our CLE liaison and former Chair, Annmarie Kill, Secretary Lori Levin was selected as a 2017 ISBA Laureate! Just one

Podcast review

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

(Criminal Intent, SVU, or “original recipe”), but I mostly watch the original version, as the other franchises have too much policing and not enough lawyering for my tastes. When an episode starts, it feels like being covered by a soft, warm blanket as you curl up and recall which episode this is, if there are any stars-to-be in this one, what the twist or turn will be. My delight is absolute when I come across an episode that I have never seen before—it happened to me a few days ago, and I immediately texted the only other friend I know who is anywhere near as devoted as I am, to share my glee. But as the show has been cancelled for almost seven years, I know that the time will soon come when I have in fact seen them all, and it will just be me and my WE TV reruns for the fifth, eighth, twelfth time.

Imagine my surprise, then, when I heard about a new podcast all about *Law & Order*. Who would possibly spend

of two female Laureate winners this year, Lori was inducted into the history annals of the ISBA at a luncheon ceremony on March 30, 2017. Congratulations Lori!

Finally we are looking forward to our final event of this Bar year! On May 11, 2017, at the gorgeous ceremonial courtroom at Loyola University Chicago, School of Law, together with the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois, we will present a luncheon screening of the new documentary feature film, *Balancing the Scales*. The screening will be followed by a discussion led by the filmmaker and attorney Sharon Rowan, Esq. CLE credit will be included in the price. See the enclosed flier for registration information and a link to the trailer for the film. Hope to see everyone there! ■

time making a podcast about a long-running but long-since-cancelled police procedural/legal drama, and who would possibly want to listen to it, other than me? The answers: Rebecca Lavoie, and quite a few people, apparently. Turns out, Lavoie is as obsessed with the series as I am, and she happens to be a true-crime writer and an editor for New Hampshire public radio. She and her co-host/writing partner/husband, Kevin Flynn, produce the *These Are Their Stories: The Law & Order Podcast*. They pick an episode from one of the three L&O franchises to discuss for each podcast, and a guest host joins them to talk about the episode.

The first time I tuned in, I thought I was listening to a podcast made just for me. First, there is the awesome podcast theme song and the little musical interludes in between—I dare you to listen and not have them in your head for the rest of the day. Second, they thoroughly

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dissect the episode, covering everything from the holes in the plot, to the bad acting, the red herrings, the guest stars, the “Hey, It’s That Guy!” side characters played by actors who will later become known for other roles, and the real-life story that inspired the episode. They talk about how perceptions of crime and social mores have changed (or not) in the years since the episode first aired, and comment on the stereotypes that pervade the series. For as much as I enjoy the show, it is deeply flawed in many ways,

and I appreciate the podcast most when it delves into the some of the absurdities and biases in how gender, race, disability, prosecutorial authority, and other issues are portrayed on the show. The hosts are funny and insightful, and the guest hosts have ranged from a Georgetown University professor to Jon Cryer. Whether you saw the episode yesterday or years ago, you can find much to enjoy in the podcast banter and trip down memory lane. Quite simply, this is one podcast I can’t wait to see pop up in my feed. My

only quibble is that they only release new episodes every other week; I suppose because they also have real jobs.

By all means, check out some episodes of the podcast, and be prepared to answer the questions they pose to every guest host: Who’s your favorite Law & Order district attorney prosecutorial team? Who’s your favorite Law & Order detective team? (Answers: Jack and Claire, of course; Briscoe and Green, forever).

Check it out at: <www.lawandorderpodcast.com>. ■

Thoughts on Hamilton and the women of his life

BY TRACY DOUGLAS

In December I finally saw *Hamilton* in Chicago, which is a very moving show that makes you reflect on history and life. As the last song asks “who lives, who dies, who tells your story.” As female lawyers, it is important to reflect on how far our country has come. One way is to highlight the plight of the women of the real Alexander Hamilton’s life. The stage show puts them into the narrative, but Rachel Faucette, Eliza Hamilton, Angelica Schuyler Church and Maria Reynolds each have a story to tell about sexism in the colonies and early republic.

Alexander Hamilton’s mother, Rachel Faucette, felt the tragic impact of the sexism of her time. She inherited from her father but was married off by her mother. Her husband used her money, and they had a child. Then, he accused her of adultery and had her jailed. He finally allowed her to divorce him, but the divorce decree did not allow her to marry again although he could marry again. Thus, any other children she had were deemed illegitimate and could not inherit from her estate. This is what forced

Alexander and his brother to rely on a cousin when their mother died and then on the goodness of a family friend. The law prevented Alexander Hamilton from inheriting what should have been his, which no longer happens as illegitimacy laws have been eliminated. But the impact of death and estate laws followed Hamilton’s life.

Eliza Hamilton sings that she wants to “be a part of the narrative,” and she was in her life. The reason Alexander could “write like you’re running out of time” was because his wife was often helping him to write out his reports and editorials. She outlived him by 50 years, but the first few years after his death were a struggle. When he died, he had a will and named his friends as the executors. However, he vastly overestimated his wealth and her inheritance from her father and underestimated his debts. The executors had to get Hamilton friends to buy his house and sell it back to Eliza, thus satisfying his estate’s debts and keeping his wife in her house. At a time when women ceased to be legal persons when they

married and could not own property, Eliza had everything stacked against her, but she used her time well.

Eliza was a child of privilege but used her life to help those in need. She established a private orphanage in New York, which still exists today as the Graham Wyndham organization. She moved to D.C. with one of her children and raised funds for the Washington monument. She also became a Founding Mother of sorts as Presidents would make a special stop at her house to maintain the link to the Founding generation. She overcame the sexism of her time, which was highlighted in her sister’s life.

Her sister, Angelica Schuyler Church, sings that her “father has no sons so I’m the one who has to social climb for one,” which is not historically accurate because Philip Schuyler had many sons. However, the musical’s point is a historically accurate one as any reader of *Pride and Prejudice* knows. Fathers often used their daughters as a way to secure alliances and improve their prospects. The real Angelica Schuyler eloped with a

British businessman, eventually moving to London where her husband became a member of Parliament. She held parties and knew the most important men of the age. Thomas Jefferson corresponded with her as well as Alexander Hamilton. She was instrumental in getting the Marquis de Lafayette out of prison in Austria. She exercised power in that peculiar way that 18th century women exercised power.

The villain of the story, Maria Reynolds, should be looked at with a sympathetic eye. She wears a red dress in the musical, labeling her as the harlot, but in the real story, she was probably used by her husband in a revenge scheme. James Reynolds was turned down for a job in the Treasury Department ran by Alexander Hamilton. He left his wife in Philadelphia, where she ran into Hamilton and started their affair. Mr. Reynolds was arrested on another matter and spilled the beans on Hamilton, claiming he was embezzling from the Treasury. Hamilton confessed that he wasn't embezzling but was paying Reynolds off because Reynolds was blackmailing him for having an affair with Maria. So the question is how much agency Maria had in this affair and how much was she pushed into it by her husband in order to get back at Hamilton. It seems likely that her husband pushed her into the affair so he could get some revenge on the man who would not hire him.

Hamilton: An American Musical forces audience members and listeners to think about American history and how the story has been told. Lin-Manuel Miranda's lyrics reclaimed Alexander Hamilton's biography and inserted women into the narrative when they are often left out. The historical women of Hamilton's life faced 18th century sexism and show us how far our nation has come. ■

Tracy Douglas is the Chair of the Administrative Law Section Council and a member of the Women and the Law committee. She works in the Community Preservation Clinic at the University of Illinois College of Law. The opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author and not those of the University of Illinois.

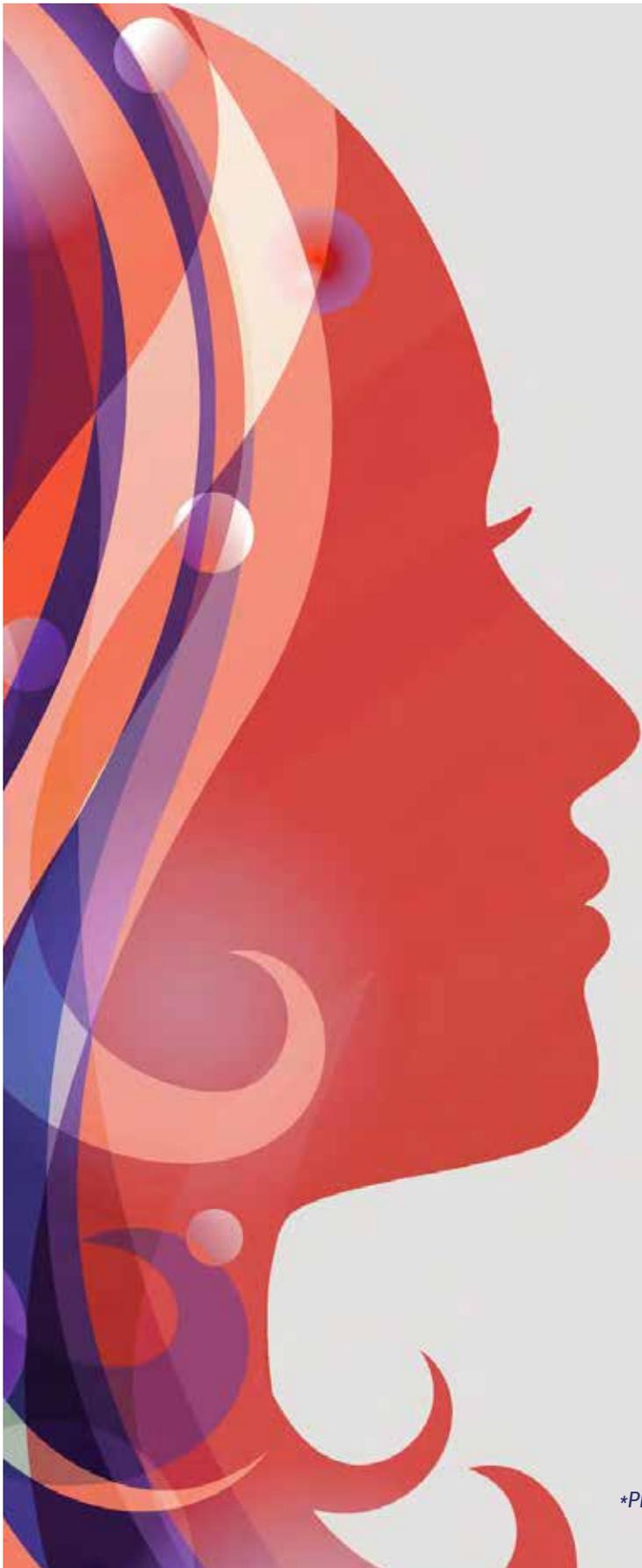
Photos of our members



March 30, 2017 ISBA Laureate Awards: Top Left: Patricia Bronte, Vince Cornelius, Mary Ann Hatch (IL Academy of Lawyers Board of Regents), Nicholas Motherway, Larry Rogers, Hon. James Holderman (ret). **Bottom Left:** Joseph Gagliardo, Marshall Hartman, Lori Levin, Michael Reagan.



March 31, 2017 at Acquaviva Winery: From Top Left: Mary Petruchius, Emily Masalski, Alice Sackett, Margaret Mannetti, Kelly Thames Bennett, Julie A. Johnson, Sandra Crawford. **Bottom Row:** Lori Levin, Lisa Nyuli.



The ISBA Standing Committee on Women & the Law and The Women's Bar Association of Illinois proudly present the documentary feature film:

BALANCING THE SCALES

Followed by a presentation and discussion with filmmaker and attorney,

SHARON ROWEN, ESQ.

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Transgender students have found themselves on the national stage after several federal and state lawsuits and controversial state legislation has come front-and-center regarding transgender student rights. Especially since federal guidance, federal law, and state law/policy currently remain unaligned. Join us for the latest information on this evolving area of law. Administrative law attorneys, child law practitioners, mental health lawyers, education attorneys, general practitioners, and attorneys who represent transgender students with all levels of experience who attend this program will better understand:

- The current state of the law with respect to transgender students;
- The status of legal battles taking place around the country; and
- The practical implications for school districts, transgender students, and their families.

Please join us after the seminar for drinks and hors d'oeuvres while you meet and mingle among your peers and the speakers.

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Jennifer A. Mueller, Hodges Loizzi Eisenhammer Rodick & Kohn LLP, Arlington Heights

Program Moderator:

Mary F. Petruchius, Law Office of Mary F. Petruchius, Sycamore

Program Speakers:

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Jennifer Leininger, Lurie Children's Hospital, Gender & Sex Development Program, Chicago

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From Cook County Prosecutor to Cook County Probate Judge: Profile of Honorable Judge Shauna Boliker

BY MARGARET O'SULLIVAN

Recently, I had the distinct pleasure of interviewing Cook County Associate Judge Shauna Boliker, currently assigned to the Probate Division. Judge Boliker was appointed to the bench in June 2014. Before her assignment in the Probate Division, she spent time hearing misdemeanor cases in the criminal branch courts. Currently, Judge Boliker is hearing cases in adult guardianship court in the Probate Division. Prior to her judicial appointment, Judge Boliker had a distinguished career as a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney for over 25 years, having served five years as First Assistant to former State's Attorney Anita Alvarez. Prior to her role as First Assistant, Judge Boliker was Chief of the Sex Crimes Division for eight years and Supervisor of the Traffic Division. While Chief of the Sex Crimes Division, Judge Boliker was instrumental in her efforts with the medical community in securing training for nurses to become Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (S.A.N.E. nurses) leading to further success in sex crime prosecutions.

Judge Boliker shared her personal side as well. She was raised in Gary, Indiana and attended DePaul Law School. She and her husband, Dave Andrews, are raising their three sons in Chicago, namely Colin (21 years old), Quinn (19 years old) and Cameron (8 years old). Judge Boliker remains active in the law school community as an adjunct professor at John Marshall Law School. Judge Boliker is also active in many bar associations along with many community organizations. She is member of the Misericordia junior board and is an active volunteer with the Boy Scouts and St. Francis Xavier Warde School.

When asked what her experience as a Cook County Prosecutor has brought to role as judge, Judge Boliker remarked that as a prosecutor, she had the opportunity

to meet all facets of life including crime victims, witnesses to crime and people accused of crimes. This experience helped her develop the compassion needed to handle the complexity of cases brought before her on the bench. Judge Boliker reflected that most people entering her courtroom today are advocates for their client and looking to work together with the parties involved for a positive resolution for the alleged disabled person. Unlike criminal law, guardianship court does not center on an alleged crime that was committed but a "crime due to the misfortune of nature." It is no one's fault that the alleged disabled is before the Court but instead, the effective approach is to deal with their disability, advocating for that individual's best interest, which is not always "cut and dry." Unlike criminal prosecutions, the first recourse is not always to bring the matter to trial when issues arise. Instead, mediation has become an effective tool in resolving issues between parties in guardianship cases. Judge Boliker remarked that she has witnessed through her role as a prosecutor and now as a member of the bench that representation of disabled defendants in the criminal system has given rise to ethical considerations. If a defendant is declared disabled, it affects the defendant's ability to inform intent which has given rise to the bar and advocates to become more cognizant when assisting disabled adults in the criminal system.

At the end of our interview, I asked Judge Boliker what advice she would give to young men and women entering law school today. Judge Boliker remarked that it is important that young men and women enter an area of law that they will be passionate about and she finds it unfortunate to observe young men and women litigating cases that do not bring forth any passion. Judge Boliker

encouraged lawyers to keep developing their trial skills, as they remain important no matter what area of law that attorney practices. A partner or associate may ask one day for coverage on a case and one needs to be ready to put your "best legal foot forward" in representing your client, your firm, organization and yourself (most importantly). To be able to present yourself in any court forum is invaluable throughout your legal career. Judge Boliker's final comment speaks volumes about her kindness, dedication and compassion towards others both on and off the bench: "Always be respectful of everyone you encounter. Your reputation is that most important thing that you hold. No one can take that away from you unless you violate the rules of decency and ethics." ■

Margaret O'Sullivan is a member of the ISBA Women and the Law Committee and ISBA Assembly Member



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Julie Johnson – Selected for CBA, Alliance for Women, Alta May Hulett Award

BY KELLY THAMES BENNETT

The ISBA Women & the Law Committee celebrates extraordinary women in the practice of law. We nominate committee members and non-committee members for various awards given by the ISBA and other organizations. We were honored and excited to have our nominee, Julie A. Johnson, our committee's Chair, recognized by the Chicago Bar Association's Alliance for Women, Alta May Hulett Award. Julie is a true bar leader and we have come to greatly admire Julie as an individual and colleague who exemplifies the best of our profession.

Julie reflects the highest standards of professional ethics and excellence. Julie is a Member of the Illinois Bar in good standing since 2007. She was named as a Rising Star in the Illinois Super Lawyers from 2008-2013 and again in 2016. And she was named as an Emerging Lawyer in Leading Lawyers in 2016.

Julie's visions of advancing and empowering women began before Julie entered law school, when she worked as a Domestic Violence Medical Advocate/Counselor/Outreach Coordinator for Working Against Violent Environments (WAVE). Julie's work with the domestic violence program exposed her to the challenges that battered women face when using the legal system to seek protection and escape their abuser. As a result of her work with WAVE, Julie decided to go to law school in order to better serve that community through the legal profession.

Julie's leadership and vision developed significantly when she attended Northern Illinois University College of Law and served as President of the NIU College of Law Women's Law Caucus for the 2005-06 term. During her term as President, Julie directed and produced The Vagina Monologues as a fundraiser for a local domestic violence program and

coordinated networking opportunities to connect women law students with female attorneys in private practice. Julie also served as a Law Student Liaison on the American Bar Association's Commission Domestic Violence. Her first job in the legal profession was as a 711 licensed student at the NIU College of law, Zeke Giorgi Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, protecting battered women. Julie represented battered women in orders of protection and other family court matters.

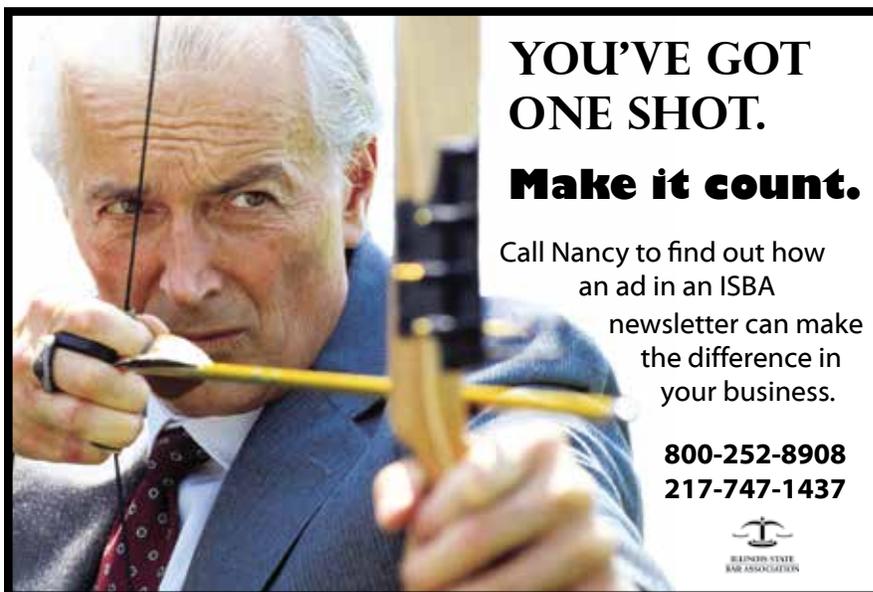
In the ISBA Women and the Law Committee and Diversity Leadership Council, Julie has worked very hard to promote communication, collegiality, and support for positive change among women. Specifically, Julie coordinated a 2014 ISBA survey at large, studying the status of women in the legal profession. In May 2015, using the results of the survey, Julie served as the Program Coordinator for ISBA Law Ed Series CLE, "Because You're

Worth It! Achieving Advancement & Fair Compensation in the Legal Profession."

Julie is always open to share her knowledge and passion with others and is a vocal and passionate contributor to the committees on which she serves. She was the co-drafter of a pending proposal to restructure and improve organization-wide ISBA diversity initiatives. Her enthusiasm for the initiative revealed her commitment and dedication to positive changes within the ISBA.

Julie is a new mother and she is a content contributor to the new Chicago Bar Association Blog, "Balancing Act, A Guide for Working Parents." As the 2016-17 Chair of the Women and the Law Committee, Julie committed her focus to understanding the state of paid new parent leave in Illinois law firms and working to improve it.

Congratulations, Julie! We are so proud! ■



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ILLINOIS STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Upcoming CLE programs

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June

Thursday, 06-01-17 – Webinar— Introduction to Legal Research on Fastcase. Presented by the Illinois State Bar Association – Complimentary to ISBA Members Only. 12:00 – 1:00 pm.

Friday, 06-02-2016—NIU Conference Center, Naperville—Solo & Small Firm Practice Institute Series: A Balancing Act: Maximize Your Technology with Minimized Expense. ALL DAY.

Thursday, 06-08-17 – Chicago Regional Office—Commercial Loans/ Documenting For Success and Preparing For Failure. Presented by Commercial Banking, Collections & Bankruptcy. 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, 06-08-17 – LIVE Webcast— Commercial Loans/Documenting For Success and Preparing For Failure. Presented by Commercial Banking, Collections & Bankruptcy. 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, 6-08-17 – Webinar— Advanced Tips for Enhanced Legal Research on Fastcase. Presented by the Illinois State Bar Association – Complimentary to ISBA Members Only. 12:00 – 1:00.

Friday, 06-09-17 – Chicago Regional Office—Estate Administrative Issues: Are You Prepared to Handle Some of the Difficult Issues Facing Your Client? Presented by Trust and Estates. 9:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Friday, 06-09-17 – LIVE Webcast— Estate Administrative Issues: Are You Prepared to Handle Some of the Difficult Issues Facing Your Client? Presented by Trust and Estates. 9:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Tuesday, 06-13-17- Webinar—Excel Power Hour. Practice Toolbox Series. 12:00 -1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 06-14-17 – Live Webcast— Implicit Bias: How it Impacts the Legal Workplace and Courtroom Dynamics. Presented by the ISBA Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities and the Law. 12:00 -2:00 pm.

Friday, 06-16-17 – The Abbey Resort in Fontana, Wisconsin—Moneyball for Lawyers: Using Data to Build a Major-League Practice. Time TBD.

Friday, 06-16-17 – The Abbey Resort in Fontana, Wisconsin—How To Ethically and Profitably Refer Personal Injury Clients. Presented by Law Office Management and Economics. Time TBD.

Wednesday, 06-21-2017—Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—Title TBD- Marty Latz Negotiations. Master Series Presented by the ISBA. Time TBD.

Wednesday, 06-21-2017—Live Webcast—Title TBD- Marty Latz Negotiations. Master Series Presented by the ISBA. Time TBD.

Tuesday, 06-27-17- Webinar—Google Apps Power Hour. Practice Toolbox Series. 12:00 -1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, 06-27-2017 Live Webcast—The Inappropriate Use of Non-Competition Agreements: A Conversation on National and Local Trends. Presented by Racial and Ethnic Minorities and the Law. 2:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, 06-29-17, 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 (tentative). 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.

Thursday, 06-29-17 – Live Webcast— How to Handle a Construction Case Mediation. Presented by the Construction Law Section, co-sponsored by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section (tentative). 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. ■

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