



ILLINOIS STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

GENERAL PRACTICE, SOLO & SMALL FIRM

The newsletter of the Illinois State Bar Association's General Practice, Solo & Small Firm Section

Do we have an independent Judiciary in Illinois?

By Michael Goldberg

There is no certain harm in turning a politician into a judge. He may be or become a good judge. The curse of the elective system is the converse, that it turns almost every judge into a politician.

—Henry T. Lummus,
The Trial judge 138 (1937).

A fundamental component of any democracy is an independent Judiciary—judges who are free to rule in a case without having to factor in the political ramifications of their decisions. The judicial branch must be kept

independent from the legislative and executive branches, in that those branches of government must not be allowed to unduly influence the outcome of a case before a particular judge. In addition to the separation of powers issue, there is a subtler, but no less dangerous attack on judicial independence.

Because Illinois judges are elected to office, and since successful elections are often financed through significant amounts of money, judges must ask the legal community and the community at large for political donations. That financial

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Editor's column: Computer developments and upgrades—Is now the time? Check out Solo & Small Firms Conference programs

By John T. Phipps

Spending money in a law office, especially a solo or small firm office, is always a problem. Money spent for overhead normally should improve the bottom line or improve the office. There are a lot of new technology items and bargains available, which together with year-end tax savings, make this a good time to look at whether or not to upgrade to the latest software and faster, better hardware. The following are some thoughts on various technology issues that may impact purchasing decisions.

The Solo and Small Firm Conference offers an opportunity to evaluate your technology. There is a technology track with a number of technology programs on the agenda for the Sixth Annual ISBA Solo and Small Firm Conference in Springfield on October 21-23. All three days have

the technology track, which cover a variety of technology topics and information. Of particular interest is the Saturday morning session, *Integrating Technology Into the Modern Office to Improve Efficiency and Effectiveness Without Spending A Bundle*. Other topics include *Our Secret Weapon; The War on Paper With Adobe Acrobat PDF Using Macs in the Law Office; Securing Your Technology and Your Network*; and *Taking The Mystery Out Of Litigation Support Software and Trial Technology Without Breaking the Bank*. Also included are sessions titled *Document Management: Buy It, or Build It; How To Deal With E-Mail Overload; IOLTA and Law Firm Accounting Time And Billing* and *I Have the Power: Using Advanced Legal Features in Microsoft Word*. There will also be some technol-

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Do we have an independent Judiciary in Illinois?

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support inevitably comes with strings attached. A judge will be mindful during his or her term of office that when it comes time run for reelection or retention, the judge will once again be on the campaign trail asking for votes and money. Therefore, it should be expected that from time to time Illinois judges will make decisions from the bench that take into consideration not just the facts and the law of the case, but the political ramifications as well.

The decisions that Illinois judges make have an enormous impact on our lives. They can deprive us of our liberty, make monetary judgments against us, and even tell us how to raise our children. It is hard enough to persuade a judge to rule in your favor during a legal proceeding without having to factor in a political element. Some attorneys and citizens are in favor of merit selection of judges in Illinois. That system also presents political risks.

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas Kilbride has recently made the issue of an independent Judiciary a priority. We must support and promote an independent Judiciary in Illinois, not insulate it from criticism, but protect it from special interest groups, media who misstate facts and especially from personal attacks (often on the Internet) that are meant to intimidate and unduly influence

court decisions.

2010 Solo and Small Firm Conference to be held in Springfield October 21-23

Once again, this fall the ISBA will sponsor the Solo and Small Firm Conference. The Conference will be in Springfield this year and will take place from October 21-23. Lawyers attending this year's Conference will be able to learn from such nationally recognized speakers as *New York Times* best selling author Mark Curriden ("Contempt of Court: A Lynching That Changed the American Justice System") and Dustin Cole (who will talk about balancing the usefulness of technology with the potential for that technology to control your practice and personal life). But the main feature of the Conference is the non-stop, in-depth CLE.

Topics include:

- Basic and advanced legal research
- Maximizing computer use in your law practice
- How to have an (almost) paperless law office
- Tips on how to bill your clients.
- Winding down a law practice
- Using news media to help your clients and build your practice,

Additionally, there will be speakers on

substantive areas of law, such as:

- Family law
- Health Care
- Real Estate
- Bankruptcy
- Traffic and DUI
- Consumer Credit law
- Foreclosures
- Evidence

The Conference will also provide networking opportunities, as well as an Exhibit Hall with products and services that will enhance your legal practice. Attendees will be able to earn MCLE credit. You can register by going to the ISBA Web site. ■

About the Author: Michael K. Goldberg is Chair's of GP Solo and Small Firm Section. He is a partner at the Chicago law firm of Goldberg Law Group, LLC, where he concentrates in general civil litigation including family law matters. Michael drafted the current Grandparent Visitation Act. He also represents physicians and other professionals who are before the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation, as well as physicians in hospital peer review and privileging matters. Before joining his present firm, Michael worked for five years as an Assistant State's Attorney for Cook County. He can be reached at (312) 930-5600 ext. 15 or at mgoldberg@goldberglawoffice.com.

Editor's column

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ogy vendors as exhibitors at the conference. There will also be a training session on Thursday morning, October 21, for the *Fast Case Legal Research System* we have as an ISBA a member benefit. Check out the full program at the ISBA Web site, www.isba.org.

We upgraded two of our office computers this year on an involuntary basis because of some problems that we had with our network. I originally planned to gradually phase out and replace a number of older computers with the newer technology over the next year. This plan was speeded up by a major system problem. We found that because new replacement computers were so much faster we saved considerable time and im-

proved production, especially because we were not waiting on searches on the Internet. Because the fast computers and laptops could be obtained for reasonable prices and we were able to get a lot of bang for a limited investment, we upgraded earlier than planned. These faster computers really make a difference in productivity and ease-of-use and the improvement was well worth the cost. If you only do one upgrade, upgrading a heavily-loaded legal assistant's computer can be very cost-effective.

We retained the XP operating system Service Pack 3 for all of our computers. Our *Amicus* case management system is running well on the XP operating system and

the new Windows 7 system had just come out and was untried, so we stayed with what was working. The new Windows 7 has been out for some time and the reports are that it seems to be working well. However, before upgrading to a new operating system each office needs to determine whether or not compatibility problems exist with other important office applications such as time, billing and case management software. The big drawback to upgrading to the new Windows operating system from XP is that you have to remove the XP Operating system and then reinstall the new Windows 7 system. The reports I'm getting is that this can be a problem because it takes a lot of time and is not

problem-free. Hopefully as the other offices convert in newer computer systems, Microsoft will make it easier to make the transition. (Wishful thinking).

Microsoft has announced that the new Internet Explorer 9 is in beta testing and should be out shortly. The problem with the new Internet Explorer 9 is that it appears not to be compatible with the XP operating system, so we soon may be facing other upgrade issues and problems if we want to go to the upgraded Internet Explorer. However, there are other Internet options out there such as Firefox and some other Internet systems or search engines, so there are other alternatives available.

There are a lot of things to think about with computers and software upgrades. While they do make us more productive, cost is still a major hurdle. Over the last week I have talked to a couple of lawyers who are complaining about how high the cost of the upgrades to case management systems are getting in terms of annual upgrade and tech support costs. My experience with the *Amicus* program we have is that it's been worth the extra cost. In many offices, however, high-cost case management programs are not justified, so using only the Office Outlook program for calendaring, contacts and tasks,

etc. may be a good option to meet your needs. The new Office 2010 has gotten good reviews and the addition of Office Notes may also be a good option. Most of the reviews I've read also indicate that unless there is a specific reason to upgrade to Office 2010 or there are other compatibility issues, there is no major benefit to spending money to upgrade to the new Office 2010 suite from Office 2007 at this time.

The Solo and Small Firm Conference provides an excellent opportunity to update your technology information, exchange ideas with other lawyers and get up to speed on what's available. It looks like another great conference this year, especially with all of the different tracks and programs to choose from. As usual, there are multiple programs which are scheduled for the same time slot that I wish I could attend. ■

About the Co-Editor: John T. Phipps is engaged in the general practice of law in Champaign, IL as John T. Phipps Law Offices, P.C. His primary emphasis is in the areas of family law, general civil litigation, real estate, criminal law, probate and business law. He is a past chair of the ISBA General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section Council, Co-Editor of the Section's newsletter and a member of the ISBA Assembly.



2010 GP Solo and Small Firm Tradition of Excellence award recipient Langdon Neal (center) receives congratulations (from left) past-Chair Julie Ann Sebastian, past-Chair Donald LoBue, Judge Patrice Ball-Reed, award recipient Langdon Neal, newsletter Co-Editor Judge Edna Turkington-Viktora, and then-Chair Judge Brian McPheters.

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"Hello, may I help you?" Yes, Callruby.com

By Robert C. "TJ" Thurston

While not technically a technology, the services provided by Ruby (www.callruby.com) do fall under a technological improvement on the running of your law practice. Ruby is a virtual receptionist and a cost-effective way to let you run your business from wherever you want.

One of the problems that solos and some small firms face is hiring a good receptionist that provides a professional voice to the outside world. This is because many of these firms operate from home offices or small, cramped offices (or even virtual offices) and initial contact by the public to these lawyers is through the Internet, phone or e-mail. Ruby makes potential clients feel as if they are hiring the best lawyers.

Now, using Ruby does involve a bit of technology. (See? I told you we'd get here.) You will need two telephones (landline plus a cellphone; two landlines or two cellphones; etc. any combination will do) and one of the phones will need call forwarding service. The way it works is that your main number (the one you use on letterhead, business cards, and marketing) forwards the call automatically to Ruby. One of Ruby's excellent employees will

answer the call using a script or information that you provide. Then, if it is during a time slot when you have told Ruby you are available, they will forward the call to your other phone.

The beautiful thing is that you still don't have to take the call. The Ruby employee (and there are several, all with amazing voices) will let you know who is on the call and what the nature of the call is. You have the options of taking the call, having the Ruby employee take a message, or having Ruby forward the call to your voicemail. The advantage of having Ruby take a message is that you will then get two e-mails from Ruby; one with the caller name, number and message; the other with a sound file with any voice message the caller left.

As of this writing, Ruby offers a 14-day free trial. I did a 30-day free trial and it was excellent. All of the clients and potential clients that called me during that period were impressed with how professional Ruby sounded and how professional it made my business sound.

Think of the number of insurance sales and yellow page cold calls you can fend off. Think of how much more time you will have to get work done instead of taking fruitless calls. Think of

how you won't have to answer frantic calls after work hours or in the middle of the night. Think of how you won't have to field calls from the crazy potential clients who really have no case.

There is a cost to this and it isn't cheap. There are three plans based on how many minutes you will need Ruby's services. Call volume to your business will determine this, but also remember to consider those clients who drone on and on—they will eat into your Ruby minutes. \$200 a month is the minimum plan, so for solos who only have a little business, it may not be a cost-effective option. However, as one of my smart ISBA colleagues put it, it is still less expensive than paying a salary, employment taxes, benefits, insurance, etc. to an employee. And if that employee answers your phone like, "Yo! Sup?," Ruby may be worth every penny. ■

About the Author: Robert C. "TJ" Thurston is an attorney in private practice in both Illinois and New Jersey and is a frequent contributor to the Illinois State Bar Association. As a solo practitioner for over five years, he sees the benefit and humor in solo practice and keeps an eye on useful small office technologies. He can be reached at tj@nj-counsel.com.

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The Freedom of Information Act: A useful resource for attorneys

By George Schoenbeck

The Illinois Freedom of Information Act (the "Act"), 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq., provides attorneys with an effective means of gathering information on people and property, a public body's course of conduct in adjudicative matters, the uses of public funds and a host of other records collected and maintained by public bodies. This article discusses the lessons I have learned in administering the Act as an appointed Freedom of Information Officer and my experiences in using the Act as an attorney who represents private parties in zoning and other matters involving public bodies. It further provides advice on the DOs and DON'Ts of using the Act for the benefit of your clients.

The new Freedom of Information Act

Last August the General Assembly enacted substantial amendments to the Act in response to public pressure to make Illinois government more transparent and accountable. These amendments became effective on January 1, 2010. See P.A. 96-542. The amended Act provides that "[a]ll records in the custody or possession of a public body are presumed to be open to inspection or copying." If a governmental entity denies a request based upon one of the Act's 44 exemptions, it has the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that the record in question falls within an exemption. 5 ILCS 140/1.2. The exemptions protect various types of information, including the privacy rights of governmental employees, aid recipients and parties involved in ongoing investigations and information protected by other laws. 5 ILCS 140/7. All Illinois public bodies are subject to the Act, including state, county and municipal governments, state agencies and other taxing districts. 5 ILCS 140/2. Every public body must appoint a Freedom of Information Officer, who is charged with administering its responses to requests submitted pursuant to the Act. Since January 1, 2010, I have served as an appointed Freedom of Information Officer for a suburban municipality. Through my experiences in representing both a public body and private parties in matters involving the Act, I have become well versed in its terms and how it can be used effectively.

The Act as a resource for attorneys

The Act enables attorneys and the public

to obtain useful information from governmental entities. Think of all the documents and important information submitted to local municipalities, governmental agencies, counties and the state. Records impart knowledge. Knowledge is power. And, government collects a veritable mountain of records. Attorneys generally utilize the Act to obtain three types of information: 1) records concerning people and property; 2) government's course of conduct in adjudicative matters; and 3) the use of public funds and resources.

As part of the due diligence process in commercial real estate transactions in which I represent purchasers, I always submit a request to the municipality in which the property is situated. The contents of such requests vary depending on the transaction. However, I always ask for all records in the municipality's possession concerning environmental conditions on the property, violations or alleged violations of the building code or other portions of the municipal code, and village health and building inspection reports concerning any businesses and facilities on the property. As a Freedom of Information Officer, I often receive requests from environmental consultants seeking records of underground storage tanks and other environmental hazards often maintained by municipal fire departments. Employers and landlords often submit requests for records pertaining to potential or existing employees and tenants, although certain criminal records and records containing personal and private information are subject to exemptions. See 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(b), (c) and (d). The presence or absence of any such records is often highly relevant to a client's investigation. When investigating property or individuals, the Act provides attorneys with a useful method of obtaining pertinent information.

The Act affords attorneys the ability to ascertain a government's course of conduct in adjudicative proceedings. When petitioning a governmental agency for a license, permit or other relief in representing a client, it is often useful to gain an understanding of how the particular board or committee before which you must appear has decided cases similar to that of your client. The minutes and records associated with public hearings of

zoning boards of appeal, plan commissions, city councils and boards of trustees are all subject to disclosure under the Act. For instance, if your client seeks to obtain a special use permit from a county or municipality allowing the construction and operation of a gas station, you could submit a request for copies of all petitions for gas station special use permits filed in the past five years, all supporting documents and the minutes of the public hearing(s) and meeting(s) concerning such petitions. The results of such a request would give you a good idea of how the public body evaluates special use permit petitions for gas stations.

Attorneys can also use the Act to support their clients' positions in adjudicative matters. For instance, on several occasions my office has refuted the arguments of municipalities and members of the public in zoning matters with the municipality's own records through our use of the Act.

Of course, attorneys can use the Act to determine how governments use their funds and resources. The Act is an effective tool to obtain more detailed information on the ultimate uses of funds listed on budget line items. Attorneys often utilize the Act to ensure that impact fees, special taxes and assessments fund the programs and projects for which they were intended. The Act affords attorneys a multitude of ways to investigate the accountability of public bodies.

Strategies in drafting requests

Well drafted requests ask for records, not information. Section 3.3 of the Act provides that "[t]his Act is not intended to compel public bodies to interpret or advise requesters as to the meaning or significance of public records." Public bodies have the right to deny requests for reports containing information that could be ascertained from a combination of records in the possession of a public body, but which the body would have to create. Rather than ask that you revise your request, the public body in that scenario could respond with a simple statement that no such record exists. Make sure you phrase your request in terms of the records that could contain the information you seek, rather than requesting the information itself.

In asking for records, you should worry more about making your request too narrow,

rather than too broad. A public body has no duty to inform you of records in which you appear to have an interest, but which fall outside of the bounds of your request. However, Section 3(g) of the Act prohibits governments from denying a request for being overbroad without first conferring with a requester in an attempt to reduce the request to manageable proportions. Therefore, if your request is too narrow, you may unintentionally exclude records you wish to obtain. However, if your request is overbroad, the public body cannot deny the request without first working with you to refine it.

The Act requires governments to make available upon request a list of documents or categories of records it maintains and a narrative describing the public body's purpose, subdivisions, budget, the locations of its offices, the number of its employees and the names and positions of all elected and appointed officials. 5 ILCS 140/3.5, 4. Use these resources in drafting your requests. Having an understanding of the types of records a public body maintains and the manner in

which they are kept will assist you in drafting more pointed requests. If your request is couched in terms that do not comport with a public body's record-keeping system, the public body may attempt to deny the request, extend the time in which it has to respond pursuant to Section 3(f) or accidentally omit relevant records from the results of the request.

The Act segregates requests into commercial and non-commercial classifications. While governmental agencies must respond to non-commercial requests within five business days, they have 21 business days to respond to a commercial request. See 5 ILCS 140/3-3.1. Governmental entities cannot charge any fees for the first 50 copies of letter-sized black and white paper. After the first 50 pages, such copying fees cannot exceed \$.15 per page and, in all cases, fees cannot exceed the entity's cost of reproducing the documents. See 5 ILCS 140/6. Note that Section 7(1) prohibits a public body from withholding records containing both exempt and non-exempt information. It gives the public

body the option to redact the exempt portions of such documents, but requires that they are ultimately turned over.

The Freedom of Information Act is complex and many governmental entities administering it commit errors. Should a governmental entity deny a request pursuant to one of the Act's exemptions, you may appeal the denial to a new office of the Attorney General, the Public Access Counselor. Section 11 of the Act further provides requesters with the right to immediately file suit for injunctive or declaratory relief against a public body for the denial of a request.

I hope my experiences in working on both sides of the freedom of information fence and the advice contained herein are useful to you in your practice. ■

About the Author: George Schoenbeck is an associate with the law firm of Sosin, Arnold & Leibforth, Ltd. He practices in the areas of zoning, land use, commercial and residential real estate transactions, and business law.



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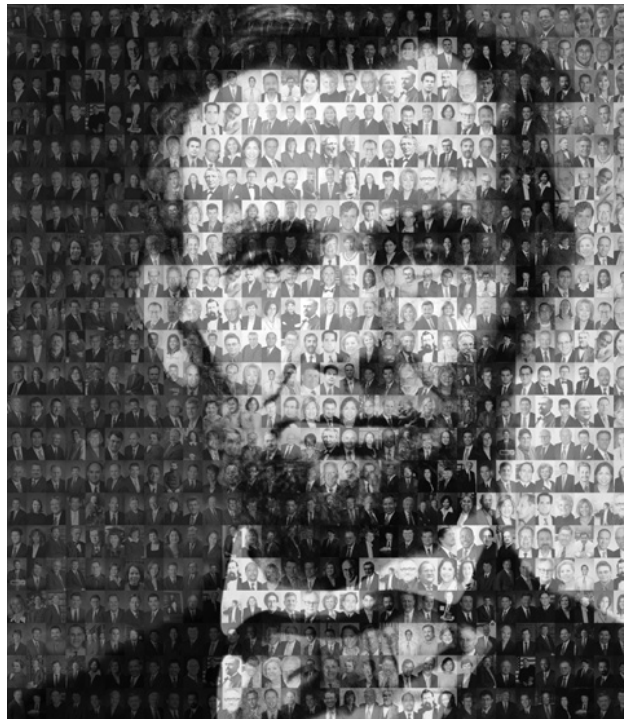
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Illinois Supreme Court holds that oral contracts not necessarily unenforceable pursuant to Home Repair and Remodeling Act, but why risk it?

By Michael P. Tomlinson

Illinois contractors who are owed money pursuant to oral contracts with their customers may be breathing a bit easier these days. The Illinois Supreme Court recently held in *K. Miller Construction Company, Inc. v. Joseph J. McGinnis et al.*, No. 109156, 2010 WL 3704993, at *1 (Ill. Sept. 23, 2010),¹ that the Illinois Home Repair and Remodeling Act (815 ILCS 513/15 (West 2010) (the "Act") does not preclude contractors from trying to enforce oral contracts for home repair or remodeling work for over \$1,000. This decision reversed the appellate court's decision that such oral contracts were unenforceable because they violated the Act's requirement that "[p]rior to initiating home repair or remodeling work for over \$1,000, a person engaged in the business of home repair or remodeling shall furnish to the customer for signature a written contract or work order." *Id.* at *3. The Court's decision also has the added effect of clarifying that contractors may maintain an action to foreclose their mechanic's liens pursuant to such oral contracts.

The Court reasoned that its decision was in accord with the July 2010 amendment to the Act, an amendment that the Court described as one that "clarified that the General Assembly did not intend for violations of the writing requirement under the Act to render oral contracts unenforceable." *Id.* at *8. Until the amendment and the Court's decision interpreting it, Illinois appellate courts were divided about the effect a violation of the Act had on the claims a contractor could pursue.² *Id.* at *9. The Court also found that "Public Act 96-1023 was meant to clarify the previous law and make clear that a violation of the Act does not render oral contracts unenforceable or relief in *quantum meruit* unavailable, and that, instead, the remedy for the violation of the Act lies elsewhere." *Id.* The Court cited to legislative history regarding the amendment to the Act, in which Senator Wilhelmi stated one of the reasons for the amendment was to make clear that "unless there [are] actual damages, a consumer cannot get out of paying the balance due to a home repair and remodeling company by using these two technical provisions in the Act of requiring a pamphlet to be given

and requiring a written contract before work on the project." *Id.* (quoting 96th Ill. Gen. Assem., Senate Proceedings, Mar. 9, 2010, at 68 (statements of Senator Wilhelmi)). If a customer has suffered actual damages, then the customer may bring a cause of action under Section 10a of the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, (815 ILCS 505/10a (West 2010)). 815 ILCS 513/30 (West 2010).

Of course, the fact that a contractor can pursue a claim based on an oral contract is not the same as being able to prevail on that claim. Nothing in the Court's opinion guarantees that all oral contracts will be enforceable. Rather, the Court states only that a contractor is not precluded by the Act from trying to enforce an oral contract.

The bottomline: Counsel your clients to put their contracts in writing and make sure they comply with the Act's other requirements. Contractors simply should not risk having their oral contracts deemed unenforceable when compliance with the Act is relatively simple and far less costly than litigating the issue of whether an oral contract exists and if so, what terms make up the contract. The parties in *K. Miller Construction* had not even begun to get into the evidence regarding the

terms of the oral contract, although its existence seemed to be undisputed. The case now heads back down to the Circuit Court to begin the litigation and costly discovery to determine whether and to what extent the parties had an enforceable oral contract. Often, the terms of oral contracts come down to "he said, she said," which is not a place any contractor wants to be in with hundreds of thousands of dollars on the line. ■

1. Also available at <<http://www.state.il.us/court/Opinions/SupremeCourt/2010/September/109156.pdf>>. The opinion has not yet been released for publication in the permanent reporters and as such, remains subject to revision or withdrawal.

2. The amendment actually changed the wording of §30 of the Act entirely. Section 30 now provides that "[a]ny person who suffers actual damage as a result of a violation of this Act may bring an action pursuant to Section 10a of the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act." Pub. Act 96-1023, eff. July 12, 2010.

About the Author: Michael P. Tomlinson, of Tomlinson Law Office, P.C. (mtomlinson@tomlinson-law.com) maintains a practice in Chicago concentrating on business litigation. He also counsels clients regarding general business and transactional matters.



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October

Monday, 10/18 - Friday, 10/22/10- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—40 Hour Mediation/Arbitration Training. Master Series Presented by the Illinois State Bar Association and the ISBA Alternative Dispute Resolution Section. 8:30-5:45 each day.

Tuesday, 10/19/10- Teleseminar—2010 American with Disabilities Act Update. 12-1.

Thursday - Saturday, 10/21/10 - 10/23/10 - Springfield, Hilton Hotel—6th Annual Solo & Small Firm Conference. Presented by the Illinois State Bar Association.

Friday, 10/22/10- Webinar—Advanced Legal Research on Fastcase. *An exclusive member benefit provided by ISBA and ISBA Mutual. Presented by the Illinois State Bar Association. 12-1.

Tuesday, 10/26/10- Teleseminar—Innocent Spouse Defense. 12-1.

Thursday, 10/28/10- Teleseminar—Dangers of Using "Units" in LLC Planning. 12-1.

Thursday, 10/28/10- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—Raising the Bar by Promoting Greater Diversity in the Judiciary. Presented by the ISBA Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Law; co-sponsored by the Standing Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity; Standing Committee on Women and the Law; and the Diversity Leadership Council. 12:00-1:30.

Thursday, 10/28/10- Live Webcast—Raising the Bar by Promoting Greater Diversity in the Judiciary. Presented by the ISBA Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Law; co-sponsored by the Standing Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity; Standing Committee on Women and the Law; and the Diversity Leadership Council. 12:00-1:30.

Friday, 10/29/10- Bloomington-Normal, Marriot—Bankruptcy Basics from the Experts. Presented by the ISBA Commercial, Banking and Bankruptcy Council. 8:55-4:15.

Friday, 10/29/10- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—Insurance Law: Commercial Coverage Controversies. Presented by the ISBA Insurance Law Section. 8:30-12:30.

November

Tuesday, 11/2/10- Teleseminar—Maximizing Tax Benefits in Real Estate, Part 1. 12-1.

Wednesday, 11/3/10- Teleseminar—Maximizing Tax Benefits in Real Estate, Part 2. 12-1.

Wednesday, 11/3/10- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—Due Diligence in Mergers & Acquisitions. Presented by the ISBA Business Advice & Financial Planning Section. 9-4:30.

Thursday, 11/4/10- Lombard, Lindner Learning Center—Real Estate Update 2010. Presented by the ISBA Real Estate Section. 9-4:45.

Thursday, 11/4/10- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—Bankruptcy Basics from the Experts. Presented by the Commercial, Banking and Bankruptcy Council. 8:55-4:15.

Friday, 11/5/10- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—Trial Practice- Voir Dire to Appeal. Presented by the ISBA Civil Practice and Procedure Section. 8:30-5:00.

Friday, 11/5/10- Bloomington, Holiday Inn and Suites—Current Issues in Criminal Law. Presented by the ISBA Criminal Justice Section; co-sponsored by the ISBA Traffic Laws and Courts Section. 9-4:15.

Tuesday, 11/9/10- Teleseminar—Uniform Commercial Code Toolkit, Part 1: Promissory Notes. 12-1.

Wednesday, 11/10/10- Teleseminar—Uniform Commercial Code Toolkit, Part 2: Equipment Leases. 12-1.

Thursday, 11/11/10- Teleseminar—Uniform Commercial Code Toolkit, Part 3: Secured Transactions. 12-1.

Thursday, 11/11/10- Webcast—Ethics

in Estate Planning. Presented by the ISBA Trust and Estates Section. 12-1. <<http://isba.fastcle.com/store/seminar/seminar.php?seminar=5793>>.

Friday, 11/12/10- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—Federal Tax Conference - Fall 2010. Presented by the ISBA Federal Taxation Section. TBD.

Friday, 11/12/10- Teleseminar—Ethics for Business Lawyers. 12-1.

Tuesday, 11/16/10- Teleseminar—Tax Concepts for Closely Held Companies. 12-1.

Thursday, 11/18/10- Teleseminar—Estate Planning to Avoid Probate. 12-1.

Thursday, 11/18/10- Carbondale, Southern Illinois University—Mechanics Liens and Construction Claims. Presented by the ISBA Special Committee on Construction Law; co-sponsored by the ISBA Commercial, Banking and Bankruptcy Section. TBD.

Friday, 11/19/10- Teleseminar—Claims, Liens and Surety in Construction Law. 12-1.

Friday, 11/19/10- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—Current Issues in Criminal Law. Presented by the ISBA Criminal Justice Section; co-sponsored by the ISBA Traffic Laws and Courts Section. 9-4:15.

Tuesday, 11/23/10- Teleseminar—Role of Insurance in Real Estate. 12-1.

Tuesday, 11/30/10- Teleseminar—Advanced Techniques in Charitable Giving. 12-1.

Tuesday, 11/30/10- Chicago, Bilandic Building Auditorium—Ethics for Government Lawyers. Presented by the Government Lawyers Committee. 12:30-4:45.

December

Wednesday, 12/1/10- Teleseminar—Estate Planning for Family Businesses, Part 1. 12-1.

Thursday, 12/2/10- Teleseminar—Estate Planning for Family Businesses, Part 2.

12-1.

Tuesday, 12/7/10- Teleseminar—Offers-in-Compromise. 12-1.

Wednesday, 12/8/10- Teleseminar—Structuring Real Estate Investment Vehicles. 12-1.

Thursday, 12/9/10- Chicago, USEPA Region V—Green-Surfing the Internet: A Practical Guide for Environmental Practitioners. Presented by the ISBA Environmental Law Section. 9-11am; 12:30-2:30pm; 3-5. 20 max per session.

Thursday, 12/9/10- Friday, 12/10/10- Chicago, Sheraton Hotel—Mid-Year Master Series Programming. Presented by the Illinois State Bar Association.

Monday, 12/13/10- Teleseminar—Employees V. Independent Contractors: Employment & Tax Implications. 12-1.

Tuesday, 12/14/10- Teleseminar—What Employment Lawyers Need to Know About

Social Media. 12-1.

Wednesday, 12/15/10- Teleseminar—Partnership/LLC Agreement Drafting, Part 1. 12-1.

Thursday, 12/16/10- Teleseminar—Partnership/LLC Agreement Drafting, Part 2. 12-1.

Tuesday, 12/21/10- Teleseminar—Family Feuds in Trusts. 12-1.

Wednesday, 12/22/10- Teleseminar—Structuring Joint Ventures in Business. 12-1.

January

Friday, 1/7/11- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—2011 Family Law CLE Fest. Presented by the ISBA Family Law Section. TBD.

Friday, 1/14/11- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—New Laws for 2010 and 2011. Presented by the ISBA Standing Committee on Legislation. 12-2.

Friday, 1/21/11- Chicago, ISBA Region-

al Office—The Health Care Reform Act- An Overview for the Health Care Attorney. Presented by the ISBA Health Care Section. 9-12.

Friday, 1/21/11- Collinsville, Gateway Center- Mississippian Room—Tips of the Trade: A Federal Civil Practice Seminar- 2011. Presented by the ISBA Federal Civil Practice Section. 8:30-11:45.

February

Friday, 2/4/11- Bloomington, Bloomington-Normal Marriott—Hot Topics in Agriculture- 2011. Presented by the ISBA Agriculture Law Section; co-sponsored by the ISBA Mineral Law Section. TBD.

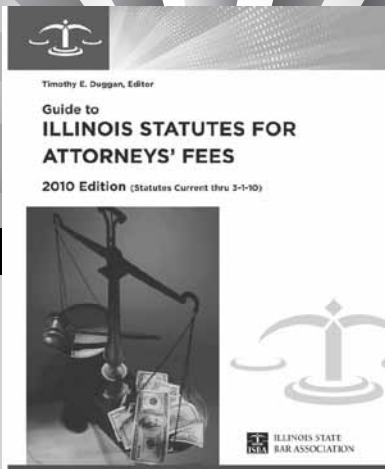
Thursday, 2/24/11- Peoria, Hotel Pere Marquette—Family Law-Nuts & Bolts for Downstate 2011. Presented by the ISBA Family Law Section. TBD.

March

Friday, 3/4/11 - Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—Dynamic Presentation Skills For Lawyers. Master Series Presented by the Illinois State Bar Association. 12:30-5. ■

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