

# YLDNews

The newsletter of the Illinois State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division

## A Note From the YLD Chair

BY ZACHARY L. SORMAN

Dear Young and New Lawyers of Illinois,

Welcome to the 2020-21 bar year! Thus far, 2020 has failed to live up to our hopes to begin a new decade on a positive note and has instead presented unprecedented challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally disrupted our economy and our culture, breaking our routines, forcing the rapid adoption of new technologies, and, for many, increasing the feelings of isolation we already endure in the digital age. We have also been confronted with

our implicit biases and urged to question our institutions as the country's ongoing struggle for equality has rightly taken center stage following the tragic killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd. While these challenges are already monumental, they are further exacerbated by the current political climate where a staggering partisan divide has split the nation on even the most basic issues of human rights.

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## Words of Wisdom From a Not So 'Young Lawyer'

BY JOHN BATHKE

This year I transitioned from being an ISBA "young lawyer" to a "lawyer." This change in title has suddenly inspired me to reflect on my experiences practicing law. From starting my own law firm to serving as an assistant public defender, from teaching students to working in small to midsize firms, I have learned a lot, not only about the law but about myself.

Now, as I pass this imaginary "young lawyer – lawyer" threshold into a new level of ISBA membership, I thought

that I would share a bit of wisdom that I have acquired during my nine years of practicing law, specifically three mantras that I try to live by in my career: 1) Try not to procrastinate, 2) don't be afraid to challenge the status quo, and 3) don't be a jerk. These have served me well, and I hope that they also inspire you to be the best lawyer you can be.

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## A Note From the YLD Chair

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In the face of so much conflict, it would be easy to disengage and simply focus on our Netflix queues, but as lawyers, we have the opportunity to be leaders in our community. The Illinois State Bar Association ("ISBA") is dedicated to supporting and improving the legal system and promoting the welfare of lawyers across Illinois. By utilizing the wisdom and expertise of its members, the ISBA leverages its collective influence to make a positive impact in the community. Over the past few months, the ISBA has continued its efforts to provide valuable services to its members, engaging in meaningful discussions on key issues impacting the future of the practice of law and exploring new ways to increase access to justice. Simultaneously, the ISBA has renewed its effort to build bridges in the community by expanding its contribution to diversity and inclusion reforms. Recently, the ISBA formed a new Steering Committee on Racial Inequality focused on promoting social justice both within the ISBA and the legal system as a whole and the Young Lawyers Division ("YLD") has united with over 30 diverse bar associations and legal advocacy groups as part of the Racial Justice Coalition

launched by the Chicago Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section.

As a member of the ISBA, *you* are an important part of these ongoing endeavors and have the opportunity to make a meaningful impact by joining a section council, a committee, or by exercising your right to vote in the annual elections for ISBA leadership. Moreover, as one of 8,000 young and/or new lawyers in the ISBA, you are represented by the YLD Council, a group of highly motivated and dedicated young lawyers that have volunteered to advocate for the interests of young and new lawyers across the state. We are here to help your voice be heard and join in shaping the future of our profession.

I look forward to working with you to make this bar year the best it can be. ■

*Zack Sorman is a litigator based in Chicago and the current chair of the ISBA Young Lawyers Division. In addition to the YLD, Zack serves on the ISBA's Member Services Committee, the Committee on Non-Lawyer Legal Service Providers, and represents the ISBA on the Illinois Judicial Ethics Committee—a joint committee with the Chicago Bar Association and the Illinois Judges Association.*

## Words of Wisdom From a Not So 'Young Lawyer'

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### 1. Try not to procrastinate.

This piece of advice may be the hardest to follow. You always hear the phrase, slowly but surely wins the race. Well, that is great if you are a tortoise, but you are not a tortoise, you are a lawyer. A lawyer has a lot to do and never enough time to do it. Just try going on vacation and then coming back to mountains of deadlines. I am obviously speaking from experience.

Luckily, I have discovered these last few years that "little by little" does actually

make life easier in the long run. For example, if you have a project that is due in 30 days, try to start the project right away. Tell yourself, I can do 15 minutes right now, 15 minutes in two days, etc. If you do this, then that unbearable hurdle does not feel so high when it is only week before the deadline. Who knows, you may even finish the project early and actually have time to proofread!

Try not to procrastinate! Not necessarily an easy mantra to live by, but one that is

## YLD News

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worth a try.

## 2. Don't be afraid to challenge the status quo.

Just because everyone does it the same way, does not mean that it is the right way. I have too often heard the phrase, "this is how it is just done". But why?! I think this question, "but why?" is an important one. That is why we are lawyers. We ask questions; we challenge what others argue is "right" or "just".

When I was an assistant public defender, I worked in a courtroom where there was a "way of doing things" that was not to be disturbed. Although, I did not necessarily agree with all of the "ways" things were done, at first, I played along. Then, as time passed and I gained both confidence and knowledge, I started to challenge how things were done. Although I did not make many "friends", I felt as though I better served my clients interests. I also felt as though I was doing my job, being a lawyer!

Don't be afraid to challenge the status quo. Don't be afraid to try something new, especially when the "something new" is better!

## 3. Don't be a jerk.

I think this final mantra is self-explanatory. Yet, I feel as though it needs to be repeated often. Don't be a jerk!

Practicing law is stressful. We are constantly juggling fourteen legal bowling pins. We manage the expectations of our clients; we try to advise on difficult issues and make a recommendation; we work to complete tasks quickly and efficiently. We forget to take vacations! We are all stressed.

Even though we are all "on the edge", that does not give anyone of us the excuse to be a jerk to one another. I don't exclude myself from the "being a jerk" list. I have yelled at a fellow lawyer. In fact, I still regret it today. I have also been yelled at many times in my legal career. The first few times were not pleasant, it took me by surprise. I would

like to think I have developed a harder shell, hopefully so. Nonetheless, I don't see any reason why we cannot both serve our clients and be civil to one another.

Don't be a jerk! Great words to live by!

The practice of law is constantly evolving. It is important that we evolve with it. Try not to procrastinate! Don't be afraid to change the status quo! Don't be a jerk! Hopefully these mantras will help to make us all better lawyers. I will catch you on the other side. ■

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# Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Section Forms Racial Justice Coalition

BY AZAR ALEXANDER, CHASTIDY BURNS, & KENNY MATUSZEWSKI

## History and Mission of the RJC

The Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Section ("CBA YLS") developed the Racial Justice Coalition ("RJC") in response to the devastating loss of so many lives at the hands of law enforcement for years, including the recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Elijah McClain. The RJC recognizes the urgent need for police reform, legislative action on issues of racial inequality and systemic racism, and a better understanding of how diversity and inclusion makes a society stronger.

The RJC's mission is to collaborate with leading forces in the Chicagoland legal community to address racial injustice through Service, Community Engagement, and Education. It will identify and

facilitate pro bono and community service opportunities that focus on combating racial disparities, addressing the concerns of minority groups, and building a bridge between the legal community and clients. The RJC also aims to grow and maintain relationships with community organizations and government leaders that seek to promote social justice, uplift historically underprivileged voices, and impact collective action and legislation supporting the eradication of racism. Finally, the RJC plans to encourage its signatory members and partner associations to join it in providing training, seminars, speakers' series, and workshops dedicated to understanding and championing diversity and inclusion in the legal profession and

communities at large.

Responses of Other Bar Associations to Racial Injustice and the RJC

At the all-member meeting held on June 25, 2020, there was no shortage of support for the Racial Justice Coalition. While all bar associations pledged to support the RJC any way they could, some bar associations outlined how they plan to fashion their response to racial injustice.

For example, the Black Women Lawyer's Association ("BWLA") formed an internal Civil Rights Action Organization committee, and mobilized members to represent persons arrested for protesting police brutality. BWLA is currently planning a voter's rights education campaign due to the current threat of voter

suppression and is working with the RJC to reach the greatest number of people through the media. This partnership will educate the public on the importance of voting, the resources that voters can use to make informed decisions, and opportunities to help people register to vote. It also plans to pursue change on a legislative policy level. Details are forthcoming.

The Arab American Bar Association of Illinois (“AABAR”) held a press conference on Chicago’s South Side regarding racial injustice. It has also spoken with Arab American business PACs and voters who were affected by looting. AABAR made sure to distinguish looting from protesting. AABAR is working toward rebuilding the minority-owned businesses that were subject to property damage.

The Women’s Criminal Defense Bar Association (“WCDBA”) has been working with community shelters and food banks. It hopes to organize a Know Your Rights seminar series. These would take place at shelters and food banks. Patrons of these services generally do not have the resources to go to places where they would traditionally learn about their rights. Because of this, WCDBA seeks to fill this education gap by informing communities of their rights in a variety of real-life scenarios.

The Appellate Lawyers Association (“ALA”) is working with the Illinois Supreme Court for a unique pro bono opportunity: The Volunteer Pro Bono Criminal Appeals Program. The program was established to lighten the punishing caseload at the Office of the State Appellate Defender (“OSAD”). It is also intended to provide meaningful opportunities to litigate cases before the Appellate Court for attorneys wishing to gain more experience in this practice area.

On October 15, 2020, the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago (“LAGBAC”) will host its inaugural virtual webinar specifically dedicated to addressing issues faced by racial minorities within the larger LGBTQ+ community, titled *Unpacking Institutionalized Racism: Its Impact on LGBTQ+ Communities of Color*. In this virtual town hall, the first part of a series, attendees will learn about the

current state of affairs in housing, law and politics, and healthcare, specifically geared towards issues faced by LGBTQ+ racial minorities. Attendees will also learn about efforts to combat these issues, and discuss opportunities for innovation, growth, ending discrimination, and closing gaps in disparities. Registration information will be posted on [www.lagbac.org](http://www.lagbac.org).

The Hispanic Lawyers Association (“HLAI”) and Hispanic National Bar Association Region IX (“HNBA”) will be co-hosting their first event focusing on racial justice on September 2, 2020, at 5:30 PM with the Cook County Physicians Association, the Illinois Association of Healthcare Attorneys, and the Medical Organization for Latino Advancement. Specifically, they will discuss *Health and Justice in Race and the Law*.

The Illinois State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (“ISBA YLD”) also intends to host race and equity-oriented CLE events. It also publishes a bi-monthly newsletter and encourages other bar associations to reach out with topics and information on upcoming events.

The ISBA’s Racial and Ethnic Minorities and the Law (“REM”) Standing Committee has recently joined as a signatory of the RJC. REM plans on engaging in long-term projects to make substantive change to fight against racial injustice. It will also work with the ISBA’s Special Committee on Racial Inequality, which was formed after the Assembly meeting in July 2020.

The South Asian Bar Association (“SABA”) plans to host anti-racism workshops that address different ways to have difficult conversations with family members regarding race. It also seeks to get involved in combating systemic racism through educational events.

The Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago (“IPLAC”), an RJC signatory member, has been focusing on racial justice through its Book Club and its Diversity & Inclusion Committee. In July, IPLAC hosted a discussion about Robin DiAngelo’s book *White Fragility*. To continue the conversation, IPLAC will be hosting a joint Book Club discussion with the RJC on Tuesday, September 22nd at

12 PM and discuss Ibram X. Kendi’s New York Times best-selling book: *How to be an Antiracist*. Attendees are encouraged to read the book ahead of time.

## Upcoming RJC Events

Wanting to keep the momentum strong after its first event with Senator Durbin, RJC is hard at work planning unique and engaging programs for the fall. These events feature events for the entire Chicago community, pro bono service projects, and educational opportunities for attorneys to learn more about the importance of cultural competence for lawyers of all ages.

The first event focuses on the local level with a panel discussion titled *Resolutions to Reform the Chicago Police Department: The Differences Between CPAC and GAPA*. The panel will inform attendees about the efforts to reform the Chicago Police Department and prevent racial injustice. The event will take place on Tuesday, September 8th at 2 PM via Zoom. Confirmed speakers include Alderman Matt Martin and Father Michael Pfleger.

In anticipation of the CBA YLS Pro Bono Fair, the RJC will be hosting a pro bono service event on Saturday, October 3rd and focus on *Serving Our Seniors with My Block, My Hood, My City*. In connection with the non-profit My Block, My Hood, My City, the RJC will help senior citizens draft powers of attorney. A training session will take place Thursday, October 1st; CLE credit will be provided. No experience in estate planning or elder law is required to join. All that is needed is enthusiasm and a desire to help some of the most vulnerable, especially during a pandemic.

On the education front, the RJC and CBA YLS will host a Practice Basics Seminar about *How to Develop Cultural Competency*. While this event is targeted towards young lawyers, lawyers of all ages are encouraged to attend. The Seminar will define and provide an overview of cultural competency, discuss its importance, and its underpinnings in the Model Rules of Professional Conduct. This seminar will take place Wednesday, October 21st from 3-4 PM. Confirmed speakers include Lea Gutierrez, Director of Diversity & Inclusion/

Litigation Manager at the Illinois Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission; Mark Palmer, General Counsel of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism and ISBA Board of Governors member; and David Douglass, Managing Partner of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton's DC Office.

Finally, the RJC has been getting involved in the legislative and electoral spheres. On August 24, 2020, the CBA YLS Leadership and RJC Co-Chairs sent a letter to Senator Mitch McConnell, urging him and the Senate to take a vote on the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. In order to empower its membership to make their voices heard at the federal and local level, the CBA's Legislative Committee will be hosting an event targeted to young lawyers

on September 30th from 2-3 PM, about *Legislative Advocacy for Young Lawyers*. More than ever, it is vital for everyone to join forces and fight to make a difference.

If any YLD or ISBA members are interested in getting involved, please feel free to reach out to Chastidy Burns and Kenny Matuszewski, RJC co-chairs. ■

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*of the Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Section, and an active board member of several other organizations, including My Block, My Hood, My City and the Just the Beginning - a Pipeline Organization. Chastidy is also an adjunct professor at her alma mater, the DePaul University College of Law.*

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# Case Study: *In re Marriage of Solecki*—Examining its Ruling and Potential Consequences

BY STEPHANIE L. TANG

Over the past few years, the Illinois appellate courts have issued several eyebrow-raising rulings regarding calculation and modification of child support, including *In re Marriage of Fisher*,<sup>1</sup> *In re Marriage of Verhines and Hickey*,<sup>2</sup> and *In re Marriage of Salvatore*.<sup>3</sup> The recently decided case of *In re Marriage of Solecki*<sup>4</sup> joins these cases in opening the doors for future modification claims and potential invalidation of child support provisions contained in marital settlement agreements and judgments for dissolution of marriage that a court finds does not comport with Section 505 of the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act ("IMDMA") (750 ILCS 5/505).

## Case Background

The parties in *Solecki* were divorced and entered into a marital settlement agreement

("MSA") in January 2015. Husband and Wife had three children as a result of the marriage. The MSA provided, in pertinent part, as follows as it related to Husband's child support obligation:

- 3.1: Husband shall pay 32 percent of his net income from all sources of income to wife directly in semi-monthly installments. At the time the MSA was entered, this was calculated at \$4,700 per month.
- 3.4: The parties shall conduct an annual "true-up" to "compare the total net income earned by the Husband in the preceding year to the total amount of child support paid in order to determine whether the total child support paid accurately reflects 32 percent of Husband's total net income for the

year."

- 3.5: For purposes of the true-up, "net income" should be calculated as follows: "All husband reported by husband on his individual tax return reduced by federal income tax, state income tax and social security payments owed by Husband on said income" and "All income received by Sport & Spine Rehab Institute, S.C. or any other company which Husband uses to collect income from his work as an independent contractor, including any and all cash payments made to Husband, reduced by 30 percent and further reduced by the total amount Husband paid in health insurance premiums that year for himself and the children."

Husband filed a motion to modify his child support obligation based on an alleged substantial change of Wife opening a massage studio with potential income of \$50,000 annually and his decreased workload. He further asked the court to conduct true-up calculations for 2015, 2016, and 2017, and requested that the court apply all relevant deductions under section 505(a)(3) of the IMDMA.

### The Trial Court's Rulings

At the hearing on Husband's motion to modify, the trial court heard testimony that the parties had attended financial mediation and had agreed upon the child support and true-up provisions as memorialized in their MSA. Wife's former attorney at the time the MSA was entered and Husband both testified the 30 percent deduction in the true-up calculation was an effort to reflect operating costs for Husband's business.

In its ruling, the trial court held there was a substantial change in circumstances to warrant a modification of child support moving forward, namely, Wife's opening of and additional income from her new business, and that her live-in boyfriend was helping to pay her expenses and expenses of her children.

However, the court found that the true-up provisions negotiated by the parties and incorporated into their MSA failed to include all of the statutory deductions allowable under section 505 for determining net income, which "would result in a windfall for Wife." The trial court reasoned the true-up provisions failed to include deductions for federal, state, FICA, or Medicare taxes, which should have been deducted in calculating Husband's net income. In calculating amounts owed by Husband for 2015-2017, the trial court reduced Husband's W-2 and business income by his federal and state income taxes, social security contributions, health insurance premiums, and maintenance.

The trial court then decided to deviate upward from the statutory child support from \$3,452/month in child support to \$4,000 per month and eliminate the true-up provisions altogether moving forward.

On appeal, Wife argued the trial court

erred in striking the true-up provisions prospectively and erred in not applying the deductions as negotiated by the parties and incorporated into their MSA retroactively. Wife submits that the plain intent of the specific definition of net income for the true-up provisions was to limit the deductions for determining Husband's net income to exclude the other deductions otherwise contained in section 505(a)(3) of the IMDMA. She further disputed there had been a substantial change in circumstances since entry of the judgment.

### The Appellate Court's Analysis

In addressing the validity of the true-up provisions, the appellate court reasoned that its resolution of the issue hinged upon interpretation of the MSA to ascertain the parties' intent and determining the MSA's compliance with section 505 of the IMDMA. For both these *de novo* analyses, the appellate court looked at the language of the statute and MSA given their plain and ordinary meaning. Relying heavily on the Illinois Supreme Court case of *In re Marriage of McGrath*,<sup>5</sup> the court explained that although a trial court may deviate from the amount of support the guidelines generate, a trial court does not have the authority to deviate from the measure of net income to which the guidelines apply. Based on its reading of the statute, the court found the only basis for deviation section 505 permits is in the amount of child support, not in how "net income" is calculated.<sup>6</sup> The court found that just because the parties in *Solecki* agreed to this alternative definition of "net income," that did not make it permissible or valid. Citing *Fisher*, the court quoted, "it is well settled that it is the court's responsibility, not the parties' responsibility, to determine the adequacy and amount of child support."

Further, the appellate court rejected the trial court's attempt to reconcile the MSA language with the deductions required by section 505 wherein the trial court simply added in the deductions enumerated in the statute. The court noted that the "30 percent deduction" was not keyed to Husband's actual business expenses and thus infringed upon Section 505's definition

of "net income."<sup>7</sup> Once the appellate court ruled that paragraph 3.5 containing parties' definition of "net income" should be stricken, it reasoned that paragraph 3.4 providing for the true-ups generally needed to be stricken as well as it would not effectuate the parties' original intent without the subsequent definition. Accordingly, the court ruled the true-up provisions should have been retroactively stricken for 2015, 2016, and 2017 and eliminated the portion of the judgment ordering Husband to retroactively pay Wife additional child support under the true-ups.

As to the substantial change in circumstances, the appellate court noted that neither party seemed to contemplate that the appellate court would affirm the trial court's elimination of the true-up provisions in their entirety. The appellate court noted that the elimination of the true-ups was in and of itself, a substantial change in circumstances warranting a potential modification of child support.

### The Future of True-Up Provisions

Both *Fisher* and *Solecki* rely on the language of 750 ILCS 5/505 to support their reasoning that the statute only allows deviation from the guideline amount of support, not when determining a party's net income. This includes either excluding what is properly "income" by capping income, or disallowing or limiting the deductions enumerated in Section 505 of the IMDMA.<sup>8</sup> In *Solecki*, the court invalidated these provisions even though they were originally reached by the parties during financial mediation. This seems to suggest the limited remedies to address a payor with highly variable business income is either to negotiate a true-up within the confines of how income is defined by the statute or contemplate some form of deviation in the amount of support, coupled with an express written finding specifying the reasons for deviation..

Even with these potential "workarounds," one may argue that the *Solecki* court's ruling should be more broadly construed to invalidate all true-up provisions, even if potentially consistent with the statute, as it did in this case. However, in *Solecki*, it

appears the appellate court also considered the parties' intent when they originally entered the MSA with the definition of net income. Based on its reading of the true-up paragraph and definition of net income together, the court indicated leaving the true-up paragraph without the subsequent definition of net income would not effectuate the parties' original intent to limit Husband's net income for purposes of calculating support. Accordingly, one could reason that if an MSA merely provided for true-ups without otherwise contravening the formulas in section 505, these provisions could still be valid.

## An Additional Takeaway

Although a relatively minor portion of the ruling, the Wife also argued on appeal that the trial court erred in ordering both parties to be responsible for his and her respective attorney's fees and costs after hearing on Husband's motion to modify without allowing her to file a petition

for contribution to same. On appeal, the appellate court rejected Wife's argument and found she could have and should have filed a petition for contribution during the month while the court had Husband's motion to modify under advisement or filed a motion to reconsider following the ruling. Practitioners should advise their clients to file a petition for contribution to attorney's fees and costs during the pendency of a post-decree proceeding prior to the final hearing or shortly thereafter while the motion is still under advisement, to preserve their argument for a potential contribution. ■

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1. (Holding a cap provision contained in the parties' Marital Settlement Agreement was not viable and should be stricken where the cap provision did not comply with Section 505 of the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act and find the cap was in the children's best interests). 2018 IL App (2d) 170384.
2. (Holding there was no substantial change in circumstances despite Husband's change in income where there was no substantial change in Husband's economic position) 2018 IL App (2d) 171034
3. (Holding no substantial change in circumstances where Wife obtained new employment since the Judgment was entered and contained language implying the parties contemplated Wife would obtain employment) 2019 IL App (2d) 180425.
4. 2020 IL App (2d) 190381.
5. 2012 IL 112792.
6. Notably, 750 ILCS 5/505 was amended on July 1, 2017, and now allows a court to deviate from the child support guidelines if the "application would be inequitable, unjust, or inappropriate." 750 ILCS 5/505(a)(3.4). 750 ILCS 5/505(a)(3)(E)(I) as amended does also now allow for the parties to agree on a different computation method specifically for an "individualized tax amount" to reach a party's net income, but still allows a court to reject this computation for good cause. Further, 750 ILCS 5/505(a)(3.1) as amended as it relates to "business income" does not expressly allow parties to deviate from the added definition of "net business income."
7. The author further notes that the current iteration of Section 505 of the IMDMA now includes a separate definition of "business income" under 750 ILCS 5/505(a)(3.1) as amended on July 1, 2017. However, the author believes a similar analysis would still apply as the court's ability to deviate is still similarly limited under 750 ILCS 5/505(a)(3.4).
8. See caveat noted in footnote 6.

# How to Gain the Quarantine 15

BY GENEVIEVE NIEMANN

There are many articles out there that will tell you how to lose "the quarantine 15" but this one will do the exact opposite! COVID-19 has certainly impacted the restaurant industry in a negative way so it is our civil duty to keep our favorite neighborhood spot afloat. Now is the time to support our local businesses so that they will be here when this pandemic ends.

Picking up or having orders delivered is a great way to support your favorite neighborhood spots with minimal contact. If you are comfortable eating out, many restaurants have done a wonderful job expanding and spacing out their outdoor seating (with the city's permission, some have even set up tables in the middle of the street for additional room). Here are some spots in the Logan Square neighborhood that I have been supporting and encourage you to support during this quarantine. Some are hidden gems!

**Bang Bang Pie & Biscuits** (featured in Netflix series "Somebody Feed Phil")

- These pies are to die for! Try the Blackberry Basil Lime; Mexican

Chocolate (dark chocolate chess, cinnamon, cayenne, graham cracker crust); and Summer Pie (sage vanilla ice cream, lemon curd, blueberry compote, graham cracker crust)

**Ramen Wasabi** (outdoor seating)

- Hands down the best ramen in the city. You can't order without getting the brussels sprouts appetizers (lemon, special sauce, cayenne, garlic chips).

**Parson's Chicken & Fish** (outdoor seating)

- Fabulous hot chicken sandwiches topped with jalapeno slaw.

Mexican

- **Lonesome Rose** (outdoor rooftop seating) – Tex Mex. Try the mini tacos paired with a side of elote and truck stop nachos.

- **Dos Urban Cantina** – This is a creative and very authentic Mexican restaurant.

Indian

- **Namaste Chicago** – All the food

has great spices and flavors.

- **The Spice Room** – The butter chicken is one of the most popular menu items.

Pizza

- **Bungalow by Middle Brow** – Serving great pizza to go. They also have farm fresh specialty groceries.
- **Paulie Gee's Logan Square** – Get Mike's hot honey (spicy) for your crust.

Italian

- **Buona Terra Ristorante Chicago** – You can always find a seat outside on short notice that overlooks Logan Boulevard.
- **Antico** – Their specialty dish is gnocchi with brown butter and sage locally grown in their back garden. You can eat amongst their tomato garden in the back too.

Ice Cream

- **The Freeze** (outdoor seating) – Neighborhood joint that's been around for years; there's always a long line but it's worth it. Bring

cash!

- **Pretty Cool Ice Cream** – The ice cream popsicles are excellent, the staff are constantly inventing new flavors. Check them out on Instagram!
- Coffee Shop Bar Crawl
- **Oromo Café** – Turkish coffee spot with unique lattes. They have many healthy pastries that incorporate pistachios and rose petals. Bring

your pup inside for a doggie treat!

- **Gaslight** – A hip, shabby-chic coffeehouse.
- **Dark Matter** – A Chicago classic, they sell Do-Rite donuts too.

#### Katherine Anne Confections

\*I already have my cold weather go to place lined up. I'll be getting a lavender hot chocolate with an assortment of flavored marshmallows at Katherine's! ■

*Genevieve Niemann is an associate attorney at Singewald Law Firm and represents clients in an array of domestic relation disputes and family law matters. Genevieve litigates matters involving parental rights, divorce (pre-decree and post-decree), prenuptial agreements, visitation, child support, maintenance, and mediation in the Domestic Relations Division of the Cook County Circuit Court and surrounding counties. Genevieve earned her J.D. from DePaul University College of Law and bachelor of liberal arts and sciences from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.*

# Supporting the Illinois Bar Foundation Gala to Aid Access to Justice and Colleagues

BY JENNIFER A. HAASE

With the ever-changing challenges we all face during this time of uncertainty, one thing has remained constant—the Illinois Bar Foundation (IBF)'s commitment to serving the community. If you are unfamiliar with the IBF, the purpose of the foundation is to ensure meaningful access to the justice system for individuals with limited means and to assist those within the legal profession and their families who can no longer work and support themselves. In addition to their fellowship program, which allows members to contribute monetarily, the foundation also hosts events to raise money for people who meet these qualifications. This past spring, the unfortunate timing of the state's rising concerns over COVID-19 prevented the IBF from hosting their annual Lawyers Rock concert. Over the past several months, the IBF has continued its tireless efforts to continue to raise funds because now, more than ever, so many are facing new challenges to overcome. As a result, the IBF Board has reformatted the popular October gala to adapt to the new protocols and ensure everyone's safety while continuing to raise funds for two very worthy causes.

The IBF is excited to host a new virtual

format for the gala, which will span three days during October. On Monday, October 12, the first event, One Magical Evening, will take place from 7-8 p.m. and is a Zoom magic show featuring Palmer House magician Dennis Watkins. The show is interactive and will be appropriate for kids and adults alike. On Wednesday, October 14, Best of Lawyers Rock, will run during the lunch hour, 12-1 p.m., and allow guests to view performances from the Lawyers Rock Hall of Fame. There will also be an opportunity to vote for your favorite band during the program. The gala will conclude on Friday, October 16, with a cocktail hour celebration, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Although we will all miss the typical soiree, the virtual happy hour will honor and present awards to David Sosin for the IBF Champion Award, Kenya Jenkins-Wright and Mary Milano for the IBF Changemaker Awards, and Simmons Hanly Conroy for the IBF Advocate Award. The virtual party will feature music by the Ken Arlen Orchestra.

Please consider attending or sponsoring this new and innovative format that is sure to offer something for everyone. The \$100 cost of admission includes a ticket for all three events and there is a junior advocate

sponsorship opportunity, which is \$150.

This sponsorship opportunity includes one virtual ticket for all three events and special recognition on event website display; it is intended for young attorneys who are interested in helping the IBF as it is limited to attorneys who are 37 and under and/or are within seven years of practicing. I look forward to seeing you there! ■

*Jennifer Haase is a commercial litigation attorney who practices with her father, Ed Pirok, in downtown Chicago, where she is a partner at Pirok & Haase. Ms. Haase is an active member of the Illinois State Bar Association, where she is currently serving as the under 37 Cook County representative for the Board of Governors and the ex-officio of the Young Lawyers Division; she has been a member of the Young Lawyers Division since 2012 and served as chair from 2019-2020, vice-chair from 2018-2019, and secretary from 2017-2018. Ms. Haase is also a member of the Assembly in addition to serving for two consecutive elected terms from 2012-2018. She served as a member of the Special Committee on Transition Planning from 2018-2019. Ms. Haase served as a panelist for the Leadership Academy in 2019 and a moderator and panelist for CLE "ISBA Basic Skills Live for Newly Admitted Attorneys" in 2018. This year Ms. Haase also has the privilege to serve on the Illinois Bar Foundation's Board as the YLD Liaison and is a member of the ISBA Mutual's Underwriting Committee.*