

97th Lincoln Memorial Banquet



James Carter and Justice Robert Thomas

The **Lincoln Memorial Banquet Committee** held its 97th event on February 24, 2005. The evening began with a social hour and music by the Ed Kaizer Trio. Following dinner, **Illinois Supreme Court Justice Robert Thomas** delivered the keynote address.

Justice Thomas held everyone's attention with a combination of humor from his days as a kicker with the Chicago Bears and his serious views on matters pertinent to the legal community, i.e., mandatory continuing legal education and civility. He quoted a portion of Micah 6:8, "...do justly...love mercy...walk humbly..." At the close of his remarks, Justice Thomas received a well-



President O'Neal presents Justice Robert Thomas with the Lincoln statuette which commemorates the famous speech in front of the Peoria County Courthouse on October 16, 1854.

deserved standing ovation.

The Committee would like to thank the following firms, businesses, organizations and individuals for hosting tables at this year's event: Cassidy & Mueller; Caterpillar Inc. – Legal Services Division; Commerce Bank; Hasselberg, Williams, Grebe, Snodgrass & Birdsall; Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen; Howard & Howard Attorneys, P.C.; Husch & Eppenberger, LLC; Illinois State Bar Association; Elizabeth L. Jensen; Kavanagh, Scully, Sudow, White & Frederick; Kingery Durree Wakeman & Ryan, Assoc.; Methodist Medical Center of Illinois; MidAmerica National Bank; Miller, Hall & Triggs; John P. Nicoara; Pearl Companies; Peoria County Sheriff's Office; Prusak, Winne & Gorman, Ltd.; Quinn, Johnston, Henderson & Pretorius, Chtd.; Vonachen, Lawless, Trager & Slevin; Westervelt, Johnson, Nicoll & Keller, L.L.C. (Photography by Terry Fondriest)



Karen Kendall, PCBA Secretary-Treasurer; Tom O'Neal, PCBA President; Justice Daniel Schmidt, Third District Appellate Court; and Oly B. Pace, III, ISBA President

LEGAL AID 2005

Legal Aid 2005 was a huge success, with 357 people in attendance. We sold 451 tickets, and made a profit for Prairie State Legal Services, Inc. of \$9,400.00. This money will be used to represent low income and elderly persons in our community. We would like to especially thank The Shysters, who are largely responsible for making this happen. This was the tenth anniversary of the event, and their dedication throughout these ten years has been invaluable to our organization. To all who attended, thank you for your support and we hope to see you at Legal Aid 2006 to be held on April 28, 2006.

*Lisa Wilson, Managing Attorney
Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.*

Schedule of Events

- | | | |
|------|----|---|
| Mar. | 2 | Brown Bag Lunch Series – PCBA office – noon – Divorce – Lisa Wilson |
| | 9 | Brown Bag Lunch Series – PCBA office – noon – Real Estate – David French |
| | 16 | Brown Bag Lunch Series – PCBA office – noon – Bankruptcy – Sumner Bourne |
| | 23 | Brown Bag Lunch Series – PCBA office – noon – Military – Frank Ierulli |
| | 25 | Good Friday – Courts & Courthouse Closed |
| | 30 | Brown Bag Lunch Series – PCBA office – noon – Defending DUI's – John Stenson |
| Apr. | 6 | Brown Bag Lunch Series – PCBA office – noon – Collection of a Judgment–Mick Hall |
| | 28 | Law Day Luncheon–Hotel Pèrè Marquette–Speaker: Hon. Michael M. Mihm |
| May | 25 | Memorial Service – Peoria County Courthouse – Courtroom 210 – 10:30 a.m. |
| | 30 | Memorial Day (Observed) - Courts & Courthouse Closed |
| June | | No holidays; no events scheduled. |
| July | 4 | Independence Day – Courts & Courthouse Closed |
| | 11 | Annual Meeting of the Membership – Hotel Pere Marquette – Noon |
| | 13 | IBF/PCBF Joint Golf Outing – Weaver Ridge |

- Thomas W. O'Neal**
President
- Rex K. Linder**
President-Elect and
Budget Chair
- Dennis R. Triggs**
Second Vice President and
Professional Standards Chair
- Karen L. Kendall**
Secretary-Treasurer
- Robert H. Jennetten**
Past President and
Nominating Chair
- Karen M. Stumpe**
By-Laws
- Michael R. Lied**
Courts & Procedures
- Timothy L. Bertschy**
Diversity
- Tracy C. Litzinger**
Entertainment
- Michele A. Miller**
Law Library
- Stephen J. Thomas**
Lawyer Referral Service
- James R. Carter**
Lincoln Memorial Banquet
- Brian D. Mooty**
Local Continuing Legal Ed
- James F. Kane**
Membership & Memorials
- Matthew B. Smith**
Pro Bono
- John P. Vespa**
Public Relations
- Michael D. Gifford**
Publications
- Sandra A. Birdsall**
Real Property
- Jennifer N. Connelly**
Young Lawyers and Law Day
Directors at Large:
- Linda S. Ficht**
- Susan Dawson-Tibbits**
- John P. Nicoara**
- Justice Mary W. McDade**

Thank you!

Special thanks to the following firms and individuals:

For assistance with, and use of their power point projector during numerous seminars:

•Mike Lied, Frank Ierulli, Mike Seneca and Howard & Howard Attorneys, P.C.

For assistance with delivery of the February LegalEase:

•Dane Pudik and Quinn, Johnston, Henderson & Pretorius, Chtd.;

•Kerry Cassidy and Cassidy & Mueller; and

•Chris Assise and Kavanagh, Scully, Sudow, White & Frederick, P.C.

March

- 1 8:00 a.m. Pro Bono Committee
8 Noon Budget Committee
10 Noon Young Lawyers Committee
14 Noon Diversity Committee
15 8:00 a.m. Board of Directors
21 Noon Real Property Committee

April

- 5 8:00 a.m. Pro Bono Committee
7 Noon Nominating Committee
18 Noon Real Property Committee
19 8:00 a.m. Board of Directors

The **Lawyer Referral Service Committee** is pleased to report the receipt of a check in the amount of \$277.25 from **Michele Miller**, of Westervelt, Johnson, Nicoll & Keller, representing 10% of the attorneys' fees in a referral case. Special thanks to all those attorneys who participate in the service. The LRS service has had several young attorneys join its ranks, and we welcome them and thank them for getting involved in this public service/public relations instrument. Everyone's time and effort is appreciated. If you would like to be involved in LRS, contact Linda at pcba@mtco.com

The **Local Continuing Legal Education Committee** has wrapped up a successful 29th year of

quality continuing legal education. Over 230 attorneys attended the five sessions, with a number of folks coming from other counties. The **Brown Bag Series** for 2005 is underway, with **Lisa Wilson's** divorce training kicking off this year's lineup. The seminars are geared toward younger/newer attorneys, but any member can benefit from them. Remember, registration is on a first-come/first-served basis, with limited seating available, so get your registration in early. These are free seminars and a light lunch is provided. (See flyer included with this issue.)

The **Pro Bono Committee's** pledge drive (for attorneys' time contribution, not monetary contribution) is well underway and continues to build momentum. See Sandra Crow's Pro Bono Report on page three for a list of those who have pledged. If your firm would like to participate in this worthwhile pledge drive, contact **Matt Smith** at 309.674.1133 or msmith@qjhp.com.

The **Young Lawyers Committee**. There are a few speaking engagements for **Law Day** on the waiting list. If you are not on the Young Lawyers Committee but would like to speak at an area school during the month of April, contact **Jami Webster** at 699-4040 or jwebster@addybushlaw.com.

In Memoriam



Gene A. Petersen

On February 9, 2005, Gene Petersen passed away at the age of 62. He received an accounting degree in 1964 from the University of Illinois and his law degree in 1967 from the University of Illinois School of Law. Gene practiced corporate law with Husch & Eppenberger. His son, Tyler Petersen, daughter, Marci Shoff, and daughter-in-law, Laura Petersen, are all PCBA members. Gene will be greatly missed in the legal community.

Elaine Greek

On February 19, 2005, Elaine Greek passed away at the age of 68. She received a degree from Bradley University in 1975 and her law degree from the University of Illinois School of Law in 1979. She was in private practice as a sole practitioner, concentrating in child and family law. She joined the PCBA in 1983.

Valentine C. Guenther

On November 28, 2004, Valentine Guenther passed away at the age of 100. He received a degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1925 and his law degree from the University of Wisconsin School of Law in 1927. He was with Miller, Elliott & Westervelt, which became Miller, Westervelt, Johnson & Guenther in 1941, and is now known as Westervelt, Johnson, Nicoll & Keller. Mr. Guenther then took a position as industrial relations counsel with Hiram Walker & Sons in 1942.

Memorial cards for the PCBA Foundation are included with this newsletter and the Association has contributed \$300 to the Foundation in memory of **Gene A. Petersen, Elaine Greek and Valentine Guenther**.

Contributions of over \$2,000.00 for the **Lela Post Scholarship Fund** at I.C.C. have been received in memory of **Lela Post**. The PCBA has also made a \$100 contribution to the fund. The presentation of the funds will be made at the Annual Meeting of the Membership on July 11, 2005 and contributions can still be taken until that date.

Immediate Openings

Senior Associate: The Peoria office of **Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP**, a leading law firm with over 400 attorneys nationwide, is seeking a

Senior Associate with 4-5 years of litigation experience to join its growing practice. We are a

(Continued on page 3)

Courthouse News

TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS

FROM: JUDGE JOHN A. BARRA, Chief Judge

The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts will conduct the 2005 Court Reporting Services Seminar on Friday, April 22. Please be advised that there will be no court reporters available that day.

There will be one court reporter present in Peoria County and one in Tazewell County for EMERGENCIES ONLY, i.e. detention hearings or post indictment felony matters, etc.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Peoria County Pro Bono Plan

The Pro Bono Committee has initiated a pledge drive to decrease our divorce waiting list. Thanks to Chairman Matt Smith and the entire committee, to date the listed firms have committed to the following: Benassi & Benassi, 4 cases; Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen, 38 cases; Hasselberg, Rock, Bell & Kuppler, 2 cases; Husch & Eppenberger, 15 cases; Jackson Thomas LLP, 2 cases; Quinn, Johnston, Henderson & Pretorius, 20 cases. We especially need to thank Lisa Wilson for the many training sessions she has provided, setting up the training with Judge Maher,

and her support of the volunteers.

On behalf of our clients, we would like to thank the following attorneys and their staff who recently closed pro bono cases: **Glenn Benckendorf, Sumner Bourne, Denise Conklin (2 cases), Jeffrey Krumpe, Peter LaSorsa, Timothy McCarthy, Bob Muir, Linn Perkins, John Pusey, Robert Rennick, Jr., and Melinda Rowe (2 cases).**

Sandra Crow, Peoria County
Pro Bono Plan Coordinator, scrow@pslegal.org

Members in the Military



Loeffel

William C. Loeffel has been recalled to active duty and will serve in Iraq as a fire support officer and target acquisition officer with the U.S. Army. He expects to be gone at least a year. His e-mail is: bill.loeffel@us.army.mil



Stephanie Straughn recently e-mailed: "Greetings from Camp Anaconda, Iraq! It's as lovely as the name implies, soft and gentle. I'm doing investigative reviews of lost/damaged equipment and have been appointed

Victim-Witness Assistance Officer. Lots of work and I'm staying busy, but I'm HOMESICK!" Mailing address:

1LT Stephanie Straughn
HHC 1st COSCOM- SJA Section
LSA Anaconda
APO AE 09391
Balad, Iraq
Army e-mail: stephanie.straughn@us.army.mil



Straughn

(Continued from page 2)

diverse, progressive law firm seeking a strong team member with excellent credentials. The firm provides an excellent work environment and full benefits package. Compensation is commensurate with experience. Please submit your cover letter, resume and writing sample in confidence to: Paula Goldberg, Legal Recruitment and Development Manager, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, 222 N. LaSalle St., Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60601-1081, fax: 312-704-3001; e-mail: pgoldberg@hinshawlaw.com; website: www.hinshawlaw.com Only candidates contacted for an interview will receive a response. EOE.

Attorney: Respected small town law firm seeks attorney for general practice. Competitive benefits available. Salary \$30,000-\$50,000 depending on experience. Send resume, reference list, letters of recommendation, cover letter, salary requirements, writing sample and law school transcripts to Gary Barnhart, Bruce Beal or Chris Walters at Claudon, Kost, Barnhart, Beal & Walters, Ltd., 121 W. Elm St., P. O. Box 400, Canton, IL 61520; e-mail: walters@ckbbw.com

Attorney: Five-attorney law firm with statewide practices in insurance defense, insurance coverage, and appellate representation seeks Illinois-licensed attorney with two to six years experience. Full-time position involves all aspects of client representation in litigation matters before state and federal trial courts in Illinois. Excellent writing skills and experience in insurance defense litigation are required. Salary commensurate with experience. Send cover letter, resume, references, law school transcript and writing sample to Barbara Snow Mirdo at Thielen, Foley & Mirdo, L.L.C., 207 W. Jefferson St., Suite 600, Bloomington, IL 61701.

Associate Attorney: Peoria AV-rated law firm seeks associate

with 1-4 years experience. Real estate, title examination and business law experience preferred. Salary commensurate with experience. Send resume, writing sample and transcript to Thomas R. Davis, Miller, Hall & Triggs, 416 Main Street, Suite 1125, Peoria, IL 61602.

Attorney: Looking for attorney with minimum 5 years experience. Growing trial practice handling complex defense litigation, as well as Plaintiff's medical malpractice and products litigation, needs assistance. Top salary and benefits being offered for the right candidate. All inquiries will be kept confidential. Please contact James Carter at 673-3517 or e-mail resume to jcarter@jcarterlaw.com.

Associate Attorney: Immediate opening for a business attorney with 1 to 4 years experience. Strong academic credentials essential. Send resumes in confidence to John S. Elias, Elias, Meginnis, Riffle & Seghetti, P.C., 416 Main St., Suite 1400, Peoria, IL 61602.

Paralegal: Respected small town law firm seeks four year degree paralegal. Competitive benefits available. Salary \$25,000-\$35,000 depending on experience. Send resume, reference list, letters of recommendation, cover letter, salary requirements and writing sample to Gary Barnhart, Bruce Beal or Chris Walters at Claudon, Kost, Barnhart, Beal & Walters, Ltd., 121 W. Elm St., P. O. Box 400, Canton, IL 61520; e-mail: walters@ckbbw.com

Paralegal: Full time for solo practitioner. **Clerical:** Full or part-time for solo practitioner. Send resumes to PCBA, 411 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1618, ATTN: Newsletter Editor, Peoria, IL 61602-1104



LegalEase

PEORIA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
411 Hamilton Boulevard, Suite 1618
Peoria, Illinois 61602-1104

March 2005

Address/Directory Changes

Peoria County Coroner, Phone: 669-2000; Fax: 669-2005

Riggert, David B., The Janssen Law Center, 333 Main St., Peoria, IL 61602; Phone: 676-2341; Fax: 676-7678

Risinger, Michael D., 1959 N. Morton Ave., Morton, IL 61550; Phone: 263-1311; Fax: 263-4601

Space Available

•Two-office suite available in new construction located off of Glen Avenue near the Metro Center. Shared break room and conference room available. Possibilities for receptionist service if needed. Contact **Mike Nordwall** 691-9985.

•Office space available immediately. Attorney office and plenty of secretarial and file cabinet space outside of it. Use of kitchen and refrigerator included. Contact **Robert Strodel**, 676-4500.

•Legal space for rent. New construction, spacious offices on second floor with scenic view, private facilities, large conference room, secretarial staff available if needed, located at 1009 Illini Dr., East Peoria, behind Proctor First Care. For further information or to see office space, contact **Clay Moushon**, 698-6627.

E-mail Changes

Allen, Jamison jamison.j.allen@mhtlaw.com

Brown, Joel jebrownlaw@sbcglobal.net

Keers-Sanchez, Allison allison.sanchez@mhtlaw.com

Murphy, Jim MURPHYADR@sbcglobal.net

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**Hasselberg, Williams, Grebe,
Snodgrass & Birdsall**

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Lisa Barbee lbarbee@hwgsb.com

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