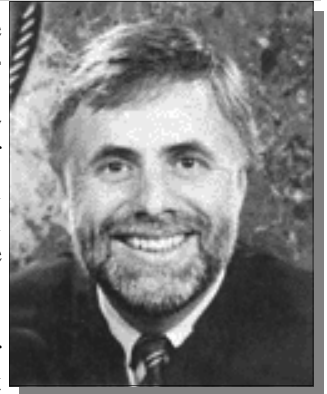


Illinois Supreme Court Justice Robert R. Thomas To Give Address at 97th Lincoln Memorial Banquet

The Honorable Robert R. Thomas will be the keynote speaker at the 97th Lincoln Memorial Banquet on **Thursday, February 24, 2005, at the Peoria Civic Center**

Justice Thomas was born in 1952, in Rochester, New York. He received his B.A. in Government from the University of Notre Dame in 1974, and was named an Academic All-American in the same year. He received his J.D. from Loyola University School of Law in 1981. He was elected Circuit Court Judge in DuPage County in 1988. There, he presided over civil jury trials and was the Acting Chief Judge from 1989 to 1994. In 1994, Judge Thomas was elected to the Appellate Court Second District. On December 4, 2000, Justice Thomas was sworn in as the Illinois Supreme Court Justice for the Second District. In April 1996, Justice Thomas was inducted into the Academic All-American Hall of Fame, and in January 1999, he received the prestigious NCAA Silver Anniversary Award.

Justice Thomas is a member of the DuPage County Bar Association. He and his wife, Maggie, have three children.



The Lincoln Memorial Banquet Committee

Legal Aid 2005 - Tenth Anniversary Event!



Legal Aid 2005, featuring the classic rock and soul of the Shysters, will be held on **Friday, February 25, 2005**, at the Par-A-Dice Hotel in East Peoria. This will be the 10th Anniversary of the event, so it will be a special occasion with door prizes and plenty of surprises, in addition to our lavish appetizer buffet. In honor of our anniversary, we have added a raffle for a large prize to be announced at a later date. Mark your calendars, remind your friends, and plan to attend the casual event of the year. Stay tuned for more details on this special event. For tickets or information, call Sandra Crow, Prairie State Legal Services, Inc., at 674-9831 or via e-mail at

Schedule of Events

- Jan. 15 CLE: Civil Practice Update – Packard Plaza – 8:30–Noon
- 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Courts & Courthouse Closed
- 22 CLE: Municipal Law – Packard Plaza – 9:00–Noon
- 29 CLE: Family Law – Packard Plaza–8:30–12:30
- Feb. 11 Lincoln’s Birthday (Observed) – Courts Closed/Courthouse Open
- 12 CLE: Law Office Automation – Packard Plaza – 8:30-Noon (or 1:00)
- 19 CLE: General Practice – Packard Plaza – 8:30 – Noon
- 21 President’s Day – Courts & Courthouse Closed
- 24 97th Lincoln Memorial Banquet – Peoria Civic Center – 6:30 p.m.
- 25 Legal Aid 2005 – Par-A-Dice Hotel —Tenth Anniversary Celebration
- Mar. 2 Brown Bag Lunch Series – PCBA office – noon
- 9 Brown Bag Lunch Series – PCBA office – noon
- 16 Brown Bag Lunch Series – PCBA office – noon – Bankruptcy – Sumner Bourne
- 23 Brown Bag Lunch Series – PCBA office – noon
- 25 Good Friday – Courts & Courthouse Closed
- 30 Brown Bag Lunch Series – PCBA office – noon – Defending DUI’s – John Stenson
- Apr. 28 Law Day Luncheon–Hotel Père 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

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Jennifer N. Connelly
Young Lawyers and Law Day
Directors at Large:

Linda S. Ficht

Susan Dawson-Tibbitts

John P. Nicoara

Justice Mary W. McDade

PCBA Member News

**Richard W. Zuckerman** has been elected to serve a two-year term as President of the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Rich is the first president of the Academy with an office outside Cook or DuPage Counties.

Rich has been a member of the PCBA since 1977.

A special insert with changes to the 2004-05 Attorneys' Directory is included with this issue.

January

4 8:00 a.m. Pro Bono Committee
4 Noon Diversity Committee
10 Noon Lincoln Memorial Banquet Committee
12 Noon Young Lawyers Committee
17 Noon Real Property Committee
25 8:00 a.m. Board of Directors
26 Noon ADR Division of Courts & Procedures

Diversity Committee Chair, Tim Bertschy, met with the Young Lawyers Committee on December 15 to discuss his committee's work and request assistance from the YLC in establishing a program with Peoria high school students who have an interest in a law career. The **Young Lawyers Committee** will meet on January 12 to formulate a plan in this regard.

The **Entertainment Committee** wishes to thank those who attended this year's Christmas Party. We hope you enjoyed yourselves (except for the table in the middle... you know who you are). "Tammy" would like to thank the audience for not throwing rolls during her performance honoring the Association's President. Rumor has it the President-Elect may have misgivings about taking office next year. Happy Holidays!

The **Lincoln Memorial Banquet Committee** is pleased to announce that **Illinois Supreme Court Justice Robert R. Thomas** will deliver the keynote address at the 97th Lincoln Memorial Banquet. (See page 1 for details.) If you or your firm would like to be a table host for the event, please contact Linda at the PCBA.

The **Local Continuing Legal Education Committee** would like to remind the membership to register for the 2005 CLE series. PCBA member

cost remains at only \$35 per session, with a discount for registering for all five courses (buy four get the fifth course for free)! This is an exceptional value for some of the highest quality continuing legal education courses in the state. (Registration form included with this issue.)

The **Brown Bag Series** for 2005 is scheduled for every Wednesday in March. Some of the topics and speakers are: **Bankruptcy** – Sumner Bourne; **Real Estate Closings** – David French; **Laws Affecting the Military** – Frank Ierulli; **DUI's** – John Stenson and **Collection of Judgments** – Mick Hall.

The **Pro Bono Committee** has taken a pro-active approach to the ever-growing need for pro bono legal assistance in cases that are a direct conflict with Prairie State Legal Services (PSLS). The Committee's pledge drive is off to a smashing start. With the help of **Tim Bertschy** and **Bob Dewey**, the Heyl firm has pledged to handle 38 PSLS cases in the next year! Hopefully this will inspire other firms to follow suit.

The **Young Lawyers Committee**. There are still a few openings for the July bus trip to a CUBS game. **The deadline for sign up is January 5, 2005.** The cost per person will be **between \$60 and \$70**, which will include transportation (via a Peoria Charter Coach bus), food and beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) on the bus and your ticket to the game. Unfortunately, the price cannot be finalized until the Cubs organization finalizes its group sales information in January. Contact **Rick Russo at 673-1681** or rarusso@dcamp-law.com or **Megan Russo at 637-1400** m.russo@hwgslaw.com

Immediate Openings

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.

Staff Attorney: Prairie State Legal Services is seeking applicants for community legal services office in **OTTAWA**. Position includes a full range of legal activities, including the preparation and conduct of administrative hearings and trials of cases for elderly and low-income persons. Prefer applicants already admitted to the Illinois Bar, but will consider applicants who are taking the next Bar Exam or are already admitted outside Illinois under Supreme Court Rule 717. Legal experience is preferred, but not required. Salary starts at \$32,500, depending upon experience. Liberal fringe benefits. Please indicate position location in cover letter and send a resume, writing sample, and three references to: Joseph A. Dailing, Exec. Dir., Prairie State Legal Services, Inc., 975 N. Main St., Rockford, IL 61103 or e-mail to jdailing@pslegal.org

Associate Attorney: Plaintiff personal injury/worker's compensation firm seeks aggressive, hard-working associate. Base salary commensurate with experience. Excellent incentives. Submit resume in confidence to Douglas J. Schweickert, Schweickert & Ganassin, 2101

Marquette Rd., Peru, IL 61354, or fax: 815-223-8449.
Associate Attorney: General Practice Firm has an immediate opening for an attorney with 2 plus years experience. Strong academic credentials. All inquiries will be kept confidential. Qualified applicants please send cover letter, resume, writing sample and transcript to: Kavanagh, Scully, Sudow, White & Frederick, P.C., c/o Mary Pillow, 301 SW Adams St., Peoria, IL 61602 or e-mail: marypillow@ksswf.com

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.

Attorney: The Office of the General Counsel for Country Insurance & Financial Services has an opening for an attorney in our Bloomington, Illinois home offices. The duties include working with a broad range of corporate clients in areas such as commercial law, real estate, investments, trusts, securities law, regulatory issues, environmental matters, insurance, corporate documents, employment law, agricultural law, con-

(Continued on page 3)

Angel Tree Angels



Amidst a mountain of unclaimed gifts are (from left to right) Sonya Pasquini and Claire Craig (Project Co-Chairs) and project volunteers Nell and Michael German, Jeff Parmenter and Jami Webster.

December 4 was a beautiful, sunny day as Project Angel Tree volunteers gathered at the AmVets building on Monroe Street in Peoria for the gift distribution party. **Over two-hundred and sixty gifts** were donated by attorneys and staff this year. Special thanks go to **Sonya Pasquini** of **Elias, Meginnnes, Riffle & Seghetti**, and **Claire Craig** of **Quinn, Johnston, Henderson & Pretorius**, who co-chaired this year's Project Angel Tree. Volunteers from the firms included: **Marci Shoff** (Hasselberg, Rock, Bell & Kuppler), **Megan Russo** (Hasselberg, Williams, Grebe & Snodgrass), **Jami Webster** (Addy, Bush & Associates), **Janaki Nair** (Elias, Meginnnes, Riffle & Seghetti), **Rick Russo** (Davis & Campbell), **Tyler Petersen** (Hush & Eppenberger), **Tracy Naylor** (Vonachen, Lawless, Trager & Slevin), **Sonni**

Williams (City of Peoria), **Mike Seneca** (Howard & Howard), **David French** (Hinshaw & Culbertson), **Jennifer Connelly** (Connelly Law Offices), **Nell German** (Cassidy & Mueller), **Greg Rastatter** (Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen), **Melinda Rowe** (Quinn, Johnston, Henderson & Pretorius), **John Dundas** (Law Office of Joseph B. VanFleet), **Kathy Murphy** (Howard, Habecker & Morris), **Lori Luncsford** (Prairie State Legal Services) and **Phil O'Donnell** (Kingery, Durree, Wakeman & Ryan, Associated).

There were also a number of volunteers at the distribution party who we would also like to thank. The gifts have been distributed and many lives were touched this year, thanks to everyone involved with the project.

Peoria County Pro Bono Plan

In 2004, 117 cases were referred to pro bono attorneys in Peoria, Marshall, Tazewell, Stark and Woodford counties. There were 93 cases closed, representing 1186 hours of pro bono work. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to those less fortunate. If 2004 is any indication, we can expect an increased need in our community for legal services. Your continued support is vital to assist the largest possible number of clients.

On behalf of our clients, we would like to thank the following attorneys and their staff who recently closed pro bono cases: **Sumner Bourne, Spencer Daniels, John Dundas, Nell German, Kim Kelley, Andrew Lankton, John Moses and Robert Muir.**

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

If you are interested in attending a training class to learn how to do a simple divorce and would be willing to assist Prairie State Legal Services with taking some divorce cases off of their waiting list, please contact Lisa Wilson at (309) 674-9831 or e-mail at lwilson@pslegal.org by **Tuesday, January 18, 2005**. The training will be held on **Thursday, January 20, 2005** from **noon to 1:00 p.m.** and will take place at Prairie State Legal Services at 331 Fulton Street, Suite 600, Peoria. Lunch will be provided.

(Continued from page 2)

tracts and litigation. The position requires a law degree, 2-5 years experience, admission to practice in Illinois and excellent interpersonal skills for extensive client contact. Trial experience is preferred. Qualified applicants please submit cover letter and resume to: jobs@countryfinancial.com, Corporate Human Resources, Employment Department, 1701 Towanda Ave., Bloomington, IL 61701; Fax: 309-820-5462.

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, Meginnnes, Riffle & Seghetti, P.C., 416 Main St., Suite 1400, Peoria, IL 61602.

Paralegal: Growing AV-rated law office in Peoria is seeking a full-time paralegal with real estate and commercial litigation experience. Benefits available, salary commensurate with experience. Send inquiry and resume to: Law Office of Joseph B. VanFleet, L.L.C.; Attn: Office Manager, 207 Main St., Suite 500, Peoria, IL 61602.

Runner: Runner needed for growing transactional and commercial litigation oriented law firm. Experience not necessary. Strong communication and grammatical skills are essential. Please submit resume in confidence to Gregory A. Hunziker at Hunziker & Walton, L.L.C., 416 Main St., Suite 1600, Peoria, IL 61602

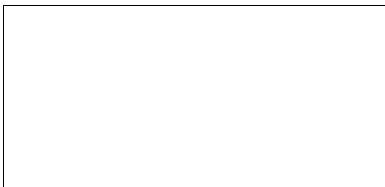
Paralegal: Full time for solo practitioner. **Clerical:** Full or part-time for solo practitioner. Send resumes to PCBA, 411 Hamilton Blvd., Suite



LegalEase

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

January 2005



Address/Directory Changes

Moore, Deborah S., 814 N. Cooper St., Peoria, IL 61606; Phone: 637-1258
Phelps, Barbara, Law Office of C. Edwin Walker, 411 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1520, Peoria, IL 61602; Phone : 674-3740; Fax: 674-3743

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.

Free Books

Free – old volumes of Proof of Facts and Illinois Digest available at Benckendorf & Benckendorf, P.C., 101 NE Randolph Ave., Peoria, 309-673-0797.

Thank you! Special thanks to the following firms and individuals for assistance with delivery of the December *LegalEase*:

- ◆ **Quinn, Johnston, Henderson & Pretorius** and **Dane Pudik**;
- ◆ **Hasselberg, Williams, Grebe & Snodgrass** and **Skyler Moore**; and
- ◆ **Cassidy & Mueller** and **Kerry Cassidy**.

A heartfelt thanks goes to PCBA member Gery Gasick for help over the years with lifting and

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ISBA's "Future of the Courts Final Report" was issued in December of 2004. It has a number of recommendations for action by local bar associations as well as recommendations for future legislation and proposed new Supreme Court rules. If anyone desires to review the Report or obtain a copy, contact Linda at the PCBA at 309-674-6049 or pcba@mtco.com.

The Illinois Supreme Court Rules Committee, in its memorandum of November 4, 2004, gives notice that a public hearing will be held on Monday, January 24, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. at 160 N. LaSalle Street, Room C-500, Chicago, Illinois 60601. The public hearing agenda and the text of the proposed rules are posted on the Supreme Court website at www.state.il.us/court To view the proposals, select "Supreme Court of Illinois" and then select "Supreme Court Committees/Commission." The proposals are under the subsection titled "Public Hearings." To obtain hard copies of the proposals by mail, please call Michelle Cunico at the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts at (312) 793-7275 or FAX your request to Ms. Cunico at (312) 793-0775. The Supreme Court Rules Committee invites public comments on the proposals. Written comments should be submitted by January 10, 2005, to: Supreme Court Rules Committee, c/o Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, 222 N. LaSalle Street, 13th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60601. Anyone wishing to be scheduled to testify at the public hearing should advise the Rules Committee in writing at the address noted above not later than Monday, January 17, 2005.

In a memorandum dated 12/21/04, the Rules Committee has advised that Proposal 04-20 (PP.R. 0133) regarding pro bono public service has been continued and removed from the January 24, 2005, agenda.