

IOWA NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2003

P.O. Box 4736, Des Moines, IA 50306 www.iowawomenattorneys.org

IOWA to Hold Annual Meeting on June 19, 2003

The Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys will hold its annual meeting and awards banquet on Thursday, June 19, 2003. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Iowa State Bar Association Annual Meeting at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Des Moines, Iowa. This is the second year that the Iowa State Bar Association has invited I.O.W.A. to plan a segment of the continuing legal education program. The CLE segment will commence at 1:45 p.m. and conclude at 5:45 p.m. The program includes the following panels: "The Adoption Process from Different Perspectives," "Stress Management for Attorneys," "Retaining Quality Attorneys in Iowa: Advantages of Alternative Work Arrangements," and "Diversity in the Practice." A registration form for the CLE program is available via the website at www.iowawomenattorneys.org and is also attached to this newsletter.

I.O.W.A. will host a social cocktail hour from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. All attorneys and law students are welcome to attend. The Annual Meeting banquet will begin at 7:00 p.m. The officers of the Iowa State Bar Association have been invited to attend the event and provide some opening comments. Election results for the incoming I.O.W.A. board will also be announced, and the new president and other officers will be inducted into office.

Ms. Roxanne B. Conlin of Des Moines, Iowa will be the featured speaker. Ms. Conlin was the first woman to serve as president of the American Trial Lawyers Association. She is a nationally recognized expert in trial practice and a frequent speaker at events sponsored by the American Bar Association. Ms. Conlin has been a long-time supporter and member of I.O.W.A. as well as a supporter of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations (NCWBA).

Two awards will be given at this banquet. They are the First Annual Gertrude Rush Award and the Second Annual Arabella Mansfield Award.

Gertrude Rush was the first African-American woman to be admitted to the practice of law in Iowa. She sat for the Iowa bar examination in the summer of 1918, passed the bar and was admitted to practice law in the State of Iowa. Gertrude Rush was active in many civic and church organizations. She also composed religious songs.

Ms. Rush co-founded the National Bar Association (NBA) after she and four other black lawyers were denied membership in the American Bar Association in 1924. The National Bar Association was officially founded in 1925 and incorporated in 1926. It remains a viable organization in 2003. The Iowa chapter of the National Bar Association is co-sponsoring this award.

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The I.O.W.A. nominating committee is still looking for a few good I.O.W.A. members to step forward and serve as officers, committee chairs and district representatives for the upcoming year. Please consider becoming more active in I.O.W.A. by serving on the board. Please contact Christine Conover at cconover@simmonsperine.com with any questions about board membership and to indicate your interest in serving in any position on the board and/or becoming an active member of a committee.

IOWA 2002-03 Board of Directors

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7th District Rep.
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Congratulations

I.O.W.A. board member and past president Miki McGovern was appointed Chair of the Iowa State Bar Association Committee on Women and Minorities by President-Elect, Kevin Collins. Her term as chair commences in June of 2003 and runs until the following June. I.O.W.A. members Anjie Shutts and Ruth Cooperrider previously served as chairs of this committee.

I.O.W.A. member Susan Low becomes President of the Polk County Bar Association at its annual meeting on May 13. I.O.W.A. members Emily Chafa and Kristin Collinson serve as co-chairs of the Polk County Bar Association's Law Day Committee. This committee sponsored a visual art and poetry competition for area middle school and high school students.

President's Message

by Christine Conover

I.O.W.A. President-Elect Anjela Shutts and I had the privilege of attending the ABA Bar Leadership Institute on March 6-8, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois. We both left the conference feeling positive about how far I.O.W.A. has come and how much potential I.O.W.A. has to grow.

Anjie and I had the benefit of meeting officers of the women's bar organizations in Massachusetts, Wisconsin, California, Washington, D.C., Georgia and Missouri. The women's bar leaders were able to sit together during several of the workshops to discuss issues common to our groups. At the Thursday evening reception, we had more opportunities to talk to our women's bar colleagues while enjoying some live music. We were the smallest organization with the most representation at the event. Other women's bar groups could not believe how much I.O.W.A. accomplishes without any paid staff and a completely volunteer board! Anjie and I agreed that we will encourage I.O.W.A. to send the president-elect to this annual conference each year.

We heard excellent presentations dealing with strategic planning, committee structures, tax-exempt status issues, increased membership, coordinating internal communications, public speaking, message development and delivery and dealing with media. ABA President Alfred P. Carlton, Jr.; Jenner & Blocker partner Paula Goedert, ABA President-Elect Dennis W. Archer, and Michael Sheehan were among a few of the very worthwhile speakers at the conference.

Anjie and I plan to memorialize our thoughts about the conference to enable other board members and I.O.W.A. members to utilize the information we learned, including strategic planning to find new and better ways to meet the needs of I.O.W.A. members throughout the state, fundraising suggestions, membership initiatives, and tapping into the ABA Career Center's resources, to name just a few. My thanks to I.O.W.A. for making it possible for two of our board members to attend this very worthwhile conference.



from L to R, ABA Pres.-Elect Dennis Archer, IOWA Pres.-Elect Anjela Shutts, ISBA Pres.-Elect Kevin Collins, ISBA Exec. Dir. Dwight Dinkla, IOWA Pres. Christine Conover, and ABA Pres. Alford Carlton, Jr.

2003 Annual Meeting

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Arabella Babb Mansfield, affectionately referred to as Belle, was the first woman admitted to practice law in the United States. She studied law in the office of her brother for two years. She was admitted to the Iowa bar in 1869 despite a state law that required applicants to be white, male and over the age of 21. Ms. Babb Mansfield taught at Iowa Wesleyan College in Mount Pleasant, Iowa for many years. She was active in the women's suffrage movement. She died in 1911, nine years before women obtained the right to vote.

Arabella's desk is still in existence. For many years the current governor of Iowa, Thomas J. Vilsack sat at her desk in his private law practice in Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

All attorneys are welcome and encouraged to attend the CLE program and/or the banquet. For more information, please contact Annual Meeting Chair Heather Palmer at Heather.Palmer@lawiowa.com or at 515-288-2500. The Annual Meeting reservation form and award nomination forms are available on the I.O.W.A. website at www.iowawomenattorneys.org.

Law Student Events

OWLSS

On January 30, 2003, a panel of attorneys from I.O.W.A. met with the Organization for Women Law Students and Staff (OWLSS) at the University of Iowa College of Law. The event was designed to kick off the second semester for the law students and staff and to give members of I.O.W.A. a chance to offer their perspective on practicing law in Iowa. OWLSS members turned out in full force for the meeting and OWLSS provided pizza and refreshments for everyone. The students asked many probing questions about the challenges of law school, how to prepare for practice after law school, and whether they will be satisfied with the practice of law once their formal legal education is over. I.O.W.A. members Elizabeth Croco, Christine Conover, Brandy Dulceak, Sue Dulek, Roxann Ryan and Jenny Schulz answered the students' questions based on the attorneys' experiences in the private sector, public sector and non-profit sector. The panel members also gave some history of I.O.W.A. and encouraged the students to join and maintain their membership once they graduate. The group discussed the possibility of setting up some type of mentoring partnership between I.O.W.A. members and OWLSS members. Thank you, OWLSS, for involving I.O.W.A. members in this great event!

On March 29, 2003, the Organization for Women Law Students and Staff (OWLSS) at the University of Iowa College of Law hosted its annual Women in Law Conference. OWLSS boasted a record turnout for the event - approximately 100 college students, first year law students, high school students and individuals considering a career change participated in the event. Professor Jill Gauldung started the morning by teaching a mock law school class to the participants. Following the class, representatives from admissions, financial aid and career services provided valuable information to the participants. The practitioners panel was comprised of I.O.W.A. members from various areas of practice. Brandy Dulceak of Stanley, Lande & Hunter P.C.; Sue Dulek of the City of Iowa City Attorney's Office; Melissa Hancock of the Kintzinger Law Firm, P.L.C.; Margaret Raymond, a University of Iowa Professor of Law; Roxann Ryan, Assistant Attorney General; Bedora Sheronick, in-house counsel for Great America Leasing Corp.; and Kathleen Wolfe, law clerk for Judge Michael J. Melloy of U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit; all provided valuable insights to the law students and prospective law students. During lunch, keynote speaker Diane H. Kutzko, Senior Vice President of Shuttleworth & Ingersoll, P.L.C., offered her insights to the students and prospective law students. Afterwards the participants listened to student panelists and then toured the Boyd Law Building. Once again, I.O.W.A. thanks OWLSS for involving I.O.W.A. members in their successful Women in Law Conference.

Drake Law Women

I.O.W.A. jointly sponsored a spring social for the Drake Law Women with Polk County Women Attorneys (PCWA). Drake Law Women is a law student organization at the Drake Law School. The event was held on April 16, 2003 at the Drake Diner from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Approximately twenty women attorneys and law students enjoyed appetizers and good conversation.

This event provided an excellent opportunity for I.O.W.A. members to showcase the organization and to recruit student members. I.O.W.A. membership forms were provided to the Drake Law Women attendees and they were encouraged to join both organizations.

District Events

The district 2A of I.O.W.A. gathered women in the law together for an informal luncheon at the home of the 2A representative, Jackie Armstrong, in November. Several judges and practitioners in legal disciplines as varied as health care, family law, workers' compensation, corporate law and criminal law gathered around the table to banter about local practice, juggling multiple tasks, and favorite cases. Space limitations restricted the group of women, but more luncheons are planned to invite greater camaraderie and support among women in the law. If you missed this luncheon and you want to be included in the next one, please forward an email to Jackie at jarmstrong@mcleodusa.net.



District Reps: Please tell us what's happening in your area. Please contact Emily Chafa at ebchafa@dmgov.org and ask her to publicize your event. If you don't know the name of your I.O.W.A. district representative, please look for the list of board members on the website at www.iowawomenattorneys.org and contact her with your ideas.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

DES MOINES CHORAL SOCIETY TO PRESENT WORLD PREMIERE EVENT TO COMMEMORATE IOWA'S IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE CIVIL WAR

The Des Moines Choral Society presents a one-time event, *Battle Cry of Freedom: Iowa in the Civil War* on Saturday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center of Greater Des Moines. This concert offers a stunning performance of narratives drawn from Iowa Civil War soldiers' diaries, interwoven with songs of the time and splendid choral music performed by the Des Moines Choral Society. Powerful visuals and dramatic lighting heighten this moving experience in sight and sound. The Barn Owl Band will provide instrumental accompaniment. A number of I.O.W.A. members participate in the Des Moines Choral Society, including Deborah Svec-Carstens, Ellen Daniels, Emily Chafa and LuAnn White.

Five-time Emmy Award winning actor, Hal Holbrook, is the narrator for this world premiere performance. Holbrook is best known for his performance of Mark Twain Tonight, which won Tony, Obie, Drama Critic's Circle and other awards. Holbrook has appeared in a number of films, television movies, specials and series.

The script for this performance is written especially for Holbrook's voice by Iowa playwright Cynthia Mercati. Mercati's works have been produced in all 50 states and around the world.

Iowa's role in the Civil War was critical. Iowa enlisted more soldiers per capita to fight for the cause than any other state in the Union. At the time, many people doubted that Iowa could muster enough soldiers for one regiment, yet ten regiments were sent to fight at President Lincoln's first call. When black soldiers first fought beside white soldiers, it was an Iowa regiment who stood - and died - with their brothers at the Battle of Milliken's Bend.

Many believe that those soldiers, fighting for their strongly held beliefs, shaped what it means to be an Iowan today. Our values of duty, sacrifice, honor, courage, hard work, determination and desire for justice and peace were forged in the Civil War experience.

Ticket prices for "Battle Cry of Freedom" are \$48, \$37 and \$20. Tickets are available through the Civic Center box office, 221 Walnut, Des Moines, or through Ticketmaster online at www.ticketmaster.com or telephone at 515-243-1888. Civic Center members may purchase tickets through the web site at www.civiccenter.org, by telephone at 515-246-2328 or fax at 515-246-2325. Groups of 20 or more receive a 10% discount on the \$48 and \$37 tickets. Call 515-246-2300 for more information on the group ticket program.

The 11th Annual Bench/Bar Conference, sponsored by the Iowa State Bar Association, is scheduled for May 15, 16 & 17 at The Barn in Main Amana, Iowa. Registration forms and a conference schedule were mailed to all ISBA members, are also accessible via the ISBA website at www.iowabar.org or on page 29 of the April 2003 issue of The Iowa Lawyer.

PCWA (Polk County Women Attorneys) is sponsoring a **CLE program**, entitled **Employment Law Update**, on **Friday, May 16**, from 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Drake Legal Clinic. The CLE brochure is on the I.O.W.A. website. You can also contact Roxann Ryan at rryan@ag.state.ia.us for more information.

NCWBA (National Conference of Women's Bar Associations) is planning a **Women's Bar Summit** to coincide with the ABA Annual Meeting in **San Francisco on August 8**. You will receive more details about this event via the I.O.W.A. listserv as the date approaches. You may also contact Miki McGovern at michelle.mcgovern@iwd.state.ia.us for more information about NCWBA and this annual event.

Looking for a few good authors: Article submissions for ISBA Iowa Lawyer.

I.O.W.A. and the editor of The Iowa Lawyer, the ISBA's monthly publication, began a cooperative effort to encourage women attorneys to submit articles for publication in The Iowa Lawyer. We are soliciting articles about substantive legal issues and quality of life issues. I.O.W.A. 2nd District Representative Jackie Armstrong wrote the first article for this effort. Her article appeared in the December 2002 issue and is also accessible at www.iowawomenattorneys.org on the I.O.W.A. website. I.O.W.A. board member LeAnne Krell wrote an article which appears in the April 2003 issue of The Iowa Lawyer. Our goal is to provide an article every two or three months to include in this publication. I.O.W.A. Public Relations Chair Emily Chafa is coordinating this effort. Please contact Emily at ebchafa@dmgov.org to indicate your interest in submitting an article or with any questions about this endeavor.



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