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I.O.W.A. events highlight contributions of women

By Sonya Streit, I.O.W.A. Public Relations Chair

The Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys sponsored two events last month that shone a spotlight on the firsts accomplished by Iowa women.

The I.O.W.A. Second Annual Professional Women's Dinner at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Des Moines on November 9 featured Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Marsha Ternus as the keynote speaker. Justice Ternus, who was recently installed as the state's first female chief justice, spoke about the children's justice initiative to improve court oversight of child welfare cases. She said the Supreme Court has called on each district to implement the one judge/one family model where one judge presides over all court proceedings relative to a single family.

"The supreme court is resolved to focus more attention on the plight of children in the foster care system," she said. "These children deserve the best chance we can give them to thrive and grow into well-adjusted adults who contribute to our society. We owe the children of Iowa that opportunity."

The Professional Women's Dinner is designed for women to network with other women, not just attorneys, in a variety of businesses and professions. The event was a great opportunity for women professionals to come together and celebrate their accomplishments and share their experiences. Among those in attendance included attorneys and judges, as well as professionals from the Women's Chamber Alliance, the Commission on the Status of Women, Iowa Protection & Advocacy Services, Children and Families of Iowa, and Lieutenant Governor Sally Pederson, who was a high school classmate of Justice Ternus.



Prof. B. Schwarz, Chief Justice M. Ternus, Dean C. Jones

The second event sponsored by I.O.W.A. was a reception at the Old Capitol in Iowa City on November 14 commemorating the investiture of Justice Ternus as the first

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Newsletter Submissions

Do you have an idea for the I.O.W.A. newsletter?



Do you have a job to advertise, news about an I.O.W.A. member, or an upcoming event to announce?

Contact Kathy Law at kklaw@nyemaster.com.

In the Spotlight



If you know of a female Iowa attorney who would like to appear in this section of this newsletter, please contact Kathy Law at kklaw@nyemaster.com.



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female chief justice for the state, and commemorating Iowa's first female attorney, Arabella Babb Mansfield. Lawyers who attended the event were asked to bring with them a young person who might benefit by learning about these two women who have accomplished firsts in the state.



Emily Chafa, Arabella Mansfield Interpreter



First Lady Christie Vilsack, C. Eichinger, A. Stahle

I.O.W.A board members and special guest First Lady Christie Vilsack gave a brief presentation to welcome Justice Ternus and to honor the role of pioneering women in the Iowa legal system.

Women's Directive Seminar

Those I.O.W.A. members interested in attending the March 2007 Women's Directive conference should contact I.O.W.A. President, Mary Walsh, for more information.

Job Openings

Attorneys Needed

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is seeking names of attorneys in the **Dubuque/Maquoketa areas** who would consider becoming conservator for totally disabled veterans who own real estate and are incompetent to handle their veterans' benefits of more than \$2000 a month. If interested they should contact Nancy C. Johnson, VA staff attorney by phone 515-323-7510 or e-mail at nancy.johnson@va.gov.

Position Open

The **City of Iowa City** is currently accepting applications for a **Human Rights Investigator**. The application deadline is Tuesday, December 19, 2006. For further information, please contact Corey Jacobson, Personnel Assistant, City of Iowa City, at (319) 356-5020 or at corey-jacobson@iowa-city.org.