



## IOWA 2005-06 Board of Directors

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## Letter from the President

*by Heather Palmer*

I.O.W.A. appreciates your membership and seeks to serve all of its members. Our members have expressed an interest in continuing legal education programming, so this year we are working on developing a series of programs for our members. The next program will be on April 28, 2006. Patricia Schoff will be presenting on ethics, through a conference call format. The cost of the program will be \$15.00. Information concerning the presentation will be circulated to you in the near future.

I.O.W.A. is a member of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations. I serve as the Secretary and Communications Chair for the NCWBA. In January the NCWBA co-hosted the first part of a web conference series with the National Association of Women Lawyers and Foley & Lardner, LLP. The web conference series is entitled "Maximizing Your Potential". The first program was "Leadership: Embracing It & Achieving It". The panelists included Robbin Itkin, a partner with Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Cleta Mitchell, a partner with Foley & Lardner, LLP, Judge Caryl Privett, a Circuit Judge with the Tenth Judicial District Circuit of Alabama, and I served as the moderator. The program lasted one hour. Over 300 women registered for the web conference.

Members of the audience were able to ask questions through the moderator. The first web conference was a great success. Foley & Lardner, LLP has applied for continuing legal education credit.

Mark your calendars, the next web conference program co-sponsored by the NCWBA, NAWL, and Foley & Lardner will be on April 20, 2006. The next topic is retention. Look for additional information in the near future. I hope you will be able to attend.

## Courthouse Photographs

Alison Werner-Smith would like to put a call out to photographers in our mix: She is looking for recent or older photographs of the county courthouses in Iowa for possible future use on notecards or other uses to for fundraising, possibly for the Arabella Mansfield monument project.

Please contact Alison at (319) 337-9606 or by e-mail at [awsmith@hhbmlaw.com](mailto:awsmith@hhbmlaw.com)

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***probono.net/iowa***

# A New Resource for Iowa Attorneys

by Linda Grathwohl

*Probono.net/iowa* is a FREE service for attorneys in Iowa. The collaborative project involves Iowa Legal Aid, Volunteer Lawyers Projects and attorneys in public and private practice throughout the state. The new website provides a comprehensive collection of information on legal topics, upcoming events including continuing legal education opportunities, and resources on civil law practice for members of Iowa's justice community.

## What *probono.net/iowa* Can Do for You

At *probono.net/iowa* you can access a broad range of information to support your civil law practice. Some resources on the site are password protected. Go to *probono.net/iowa* and complete the simple registration process. Confirmation of your membership will be emailed shortly thereafter. You may choose to save your password to expedite future logins. Resources on the site include:

- Calendar of Events with details and registration information on upcoming CLE opportunities and events of interest to Iowa's justice community. County bar associations and organizations offering continuing legal education seminars or presenting programs to their membership are encouraged to add events (including contact information, registration forms, or additional information) to the *probono.net* calendar;
- Law Library with the Iowa Legal Aid Volunteer Lawyers Project Practice Manual and resource material from Iowa Legal Aid continuing legal education seminars. It includes a link to the National Center on Poverty Law's comprehensive Federal Practice Manual; and
- Volunteer Opportunities for providing pro bono counsel on civil law matters.

*Probono.net/iowa* is working with Volunteer Lawyers Projects of Iowa Legal Aid, the Polk County Bar Association, and the Scott County Bar Association to facilitate the provision of pro bono assistance in our state. For additional information on *probono.net/iowa*, contact Iowa Legal Aid at 515/243-2980 extension 1632 or email [dhuston@iowalaw.org](mailto:dhuston@iowalaw.org). Join *probono.net/iowa* today and become a member with full access to online resources for attorneys helping meet the civil legal needs of low-income Iowans.

## Miscellaneous

### 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 Liz Croco at [ecroco@simmonsperrine.com](mailto:ecroco@simmonsperrine.com).

### WellFem-In-Law



Looking for suggestions on well-being? Recipes for tonight's dinner? Visit our website at [www.iowawomenattorneys.org](http://www.iowawomenattorneys.org) to read Bev Clark's WellFem-in-Law monthly columns.

## Job Openings

The Law Offices of **Capuani & Peterson**, trial division offices for Nationwide and Allied Insurance Companies, have an opening available in the Des Moines area for a trial attorney. This will be a high profile, litigation intensive position requiring considerable initiative, legal creativity and the ability to relate with business clientele. Iowa licensure required. The successful candidate must possess excellent verbal/written communication skills, ability to interpret and apply statutes, regulations and appellate decisions; negotiation talent; and PC proficiency. We require 3-5 years of litigation experience in personal injury protection, third party auto negligence and/or premises liability.

We offer challenging opportunities, competitive salaries and benefit packages. Interested candidate should fax a resume to Law Office of Frank S. Capuani, at 630-795-1092 and/or apply online at [www.nationwide.com](http://www.nationwide.com). EOE/M/F/D/V

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### IOWA LEGAL AID STAFF ATTORNEY

**POSITION:** Staff Attorney for Iowa Legal Aid's regional offices located in Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Dubuque, Iowa City, Mason City, Ottumwa, Sioux City, and Waterloo. Vacancies are anticipated in some, but not all, offices.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Staff attorneys provide free legal assistance and community legal education to low-income people. Iowa Legal Aid is dedicated to providing high quality legal services in areas of priority as established by its Board of Directors. Priority areas include income maintenance programs, housing, health care, domestic violence, education, individual rights and selected consumer issues. Iowa Legal Aid has a strong commitment to community legal education.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Applicants must be graduates of law school and licensed to practice law in Iowa or be available for the next scheduled bar examination. Applicants must possess a demonstrated interest in poverty law and have a strong commitment to providing a full range of legal services to low income people.

**OPENING/CLOSING DATE:** Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

**SALARY/BENEFITS:** Salary is DOE. Excellent fringe benefits.

**APPLICATIONS:** To apply, submit letter of application (indicate geographic restrictions), resume, law school transcript (recent graduates only), recent representative writing sample, and names, addresses and phone numbers of at least three professional references to:

DENNIS GROENENBOOM,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
IOWA LEGAL AID  
1111 NINTH STREET, SUITE 230  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50314-2527  
515/243-2151

## Upcoming Events

### WOMEN IN LAW LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The ABA Commission on Women, along with the ABA's Young Lawyers Division and Section of Litigation, will present the second Women in Law Leadership Academy (WILL) on Thursday and Friday, **March 30-31, 2006**, at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Hotel in Chicago.

The first WILL Academy held in 2004 offered an exciting opportunity for women lawyers who have practiced ten years or less to interact with a diverse, world-class faculty of leading lawyers and judges from around the country. The 2006 WILL Academy is intended for young women lawyers, specifically those three to ten years out of law school, and will offer an excellent networking opportunity for young women professionals. Its primary focus is career and legal skills development with an eye toward leadership. Participants will learn to take charge of their leadership potential, self-assess, build their own personal leadership plans, and hear from those who have led the way before them. The CLE sessions will be strong on content and focused on practical, concrete advice and guidance.

Additional information is available the ABA's website [www.abanet.org/women](http://www.abanet.org/women) or at (312) 988-5676.

## CLE Opportunities

### Bridge the Gap “Gets Childish”

The Annual Bridge the Gap seminar will be held **May 4-5, 2006**, at the Des Moines Downtown Marriott. This seminar is designed for young lawyers and is a great opportunity to learn the basics about a variety of areas of law.

Registration information and a full schedule can be found on the ISBA website at <http://www.iowabar.org>



### Bench-Bar Conference “Let’s Dance: Bench and Bar Collaboration Gets It Done”

The Annual Bench Bar Conference will be held at the Inn at Okoboji **May 18-20, 2006**.

You won’t want to miss the dynamic mix of speakers and the hot topics covered at the 2006 Bench Bar Conference. Judges and lawyers who participate in the conference will enjoy a unique opportunity to discuss issues of mutual concern affecting administration of justice. All Iowa lawyers and judges are invited!

Program highlights include:

- Former Iowa Governor Robert D. Ray will keynote the Friday luncheon, speaking on “Character Counts for Judges and Lawyers”
- Judge Jim Richardson and Attorney Bill Sacket will lead the committee in planning the 2006 conference
- Small group discussion opportunities that encourage to participate
- Collaborative efforts between the Bench and the Bar
- Development of trust and confidence in the courts

Registration information can be found on the ISBA website at <http://www.iowabar.org>

## National Association of Women Lawyers Directory

The National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) is preparing to publish the 7th Edition of *The National Directory of Women-Owned Law Firms and Women Lawyers*.

Published annually, the Directory has become the definitive guide for locating women lawyers and women-owned law firms throughout the United States. By indexing attorneys by name and by their geographic location, it provides a comprehensive and accessible resource for potential clients.

The Directory gives women lawyers the opportunity to present themselves to a broader base of potential clients. NAWL sends complimentary copies of the Directory to thousands of in-house counsel. NAWL also distributes the Directory at all NAWL meetings, the Annual and Midyear meetings of the American Bar Association, to regional bar associations, and to professional organizations.

For questions regarding the Directory or if you would like to receive a complimentary copy of the 6th Edition from this year, please contact:

Jenny Carlson  
Directory Assistant  
National Association of Women Lawyers  
American Bar Center, MS 15.2  
321 N. Clark Street  
Chicago, IL 60610  
Tel. (312) 988-6186  
Fax (312) 988-5491

More information about the Directory and NAWL is available at [www.nawl.org](http://www.nawl.org).



## Member Information

**Susan Low** of Des Moines, has been appointed by the American Bar Association's Section of Litigation as Chair of the Section of Litigation's Committee on Condemnation, Zoning and Land Use Litigation for 2005-2006.



Iowa Court of Appeals **Chief Judge Rosemary Shaw Sackett** has recently been elected chair-elect of the judicial division of the Appellate Judges Conference of the ABA.

**Mary Walsh** of Thomson-West Legal Publishing has been promoted from Law Firm Westlaw Account Representative to Academic Westlaw Account Manager for the University of Iowa, Drake, Creighton and University of Nebraska law schools. Mary will remain in Des Moines and her contact information will remain the same.

**Felicia Bertin Rocha** was featured on the cover of the July 2005 *Iowa Lawyer*. Felicia contributed an excellent two-part article that ran in the July and August 2005 issues of the *Iowa Lawyer* on the Iowa's Indian Child Welfare Act. Felicia's article was written from her unique perspective as an attorney and Native American.

**Marti Nerenstone** of Council Bluffs received the Rolland Greffe Pro Bono Publico Award at the ISBA Annual Meeting. Marti was among several award recipients featured on the cover of the August 2005 issue of the *Iowa Lawyer*.

**Brandy Dulceak** of Stanley Lande & Hunter was elected President of the Muscatine County Bar Association. She will serve through July 2006.



### In the Spotlight



#### Bobbi Lammer

I.O.W.A. Member Bobbi Lammer has worked as a civil litigation associate for the past year with the Krug Law Firm in Cedar Rapids. Bobbi grew up in Dubuque, Iowa, and obtained her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Iowa. She pursued a law degree due to her "thirst for knowledge" and desire to impact the lives of others. Bobbi's favorite memories of law school include sitting in the courtyard eating lunch with her fellow classmates. She also fondly remembers her clinic experience and enjoyed the time she spent with the students and professors. Bobbi notes that the University of Iowa College of Law has an outstanding clinic program, which provides students with beneficial real world experience. Her advice to law students and law graduates is to cherish the experiences in law school because it goes by so quickly.

Outside of work, Bobbi enjoys trying new restaurants with friends, aerobics classes when she can find the time and spending time with young children. She is also an avid reader and is currently finding home remodeling to be a time-consuming hobby. Bobbi and her boyfriend of four years live in West Liberty. They have been adopted by two cats, Malikai and Zoa.

P.O. Box 4736  
Des Moines, IA 50306



## Emily's Boutique n/k/a Behnaz's Boutique

IOWA Board member Behnaz Soulati is now heading the boutique. In addition to the pins IOWA has sold in the past, Behnaz is also selling breast cancer pins to benefit the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. The pins are \$14 each and all proceeds will go to benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation and are tax deductible. Sales of other pins, I.O.W.A. T-shirts, sweatshirts, and mugs benefit I.O.W.A. and related projects. Checks for any purchases should be made payable to I.O.W.A.



If you are interested in purchasing any of these items, contact Behnaz Soulati at (515) 288-2500 or [Behnaz.Soulati@lawiowa.com](mailto:Behnaz.Soulati@lawiowa.com)

Thanks for your support!

