

IOWA 2007-08 Board of Directors

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319-337-9606

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[TBA]

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[TBA]

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319-351-8181

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319-335-3237

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515-971-5486

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563-382-4226

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641-423-6223

3rd District Rep.

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4th District Rep.

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515-725-6328

6th District Rep.

Caitlin Stoner
319-260-1294

7th District Rep.

Sarah Alden
563-355-6478

8th District Rep.

[TBA]

Annual Meeting Chair

[TBA]

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Letter from the President



My name is Alison Werner Smith, and for the next year, I am honored to serve as the President of the I.O.W.A. I practice law at a small general practice firm in Iowa City, and am active in several bar committees.

I joined the I.O.W.A. shortly after I finished law school and had my first job as a law clerk in Polk County. I remember how exciting it was to meet all kinds of women attorneys that had so many different kinds of legal practices. Today, I find myself at the helm of a very large ship of very talented people, and I embrace the challenge of being a leader and an organizer!

As the incoming I.O.W.A. President, I hope to increase statewide interest in our organization by reaching out to the many attorneys who are not yet I.O.W.A. members, or who have let their memberships lapse. It is my goal to add at least 100 new members to our roster by the end of my term as President.

Another important goal I hope you will join in is the goal of increasing collegiality and friendship among our members. I will be asking each district representative to organize one or more social events in their district to invite members and non-members out for an afternoon or evening of quality social time. There are so many professional opportunities out there that it is easy to lose track of the need to simply reconnect and make new friends within our profession. I encourage you to attend these events and to bring others with you to rekindle our personal relationships with one another.

I also urge you to continue to participate in the excellent CLE programs offered by the I.O.W.A. Our CLE Chair, Gretchen Kramer, has done wonders in putting together CLE programs that are interesting, accessible and enjoyable. I hope you will plan to participate in at least one I.O.W.A. CLE this year.

Lastly, I am still looking for some people to fill out our Board roster. Specifically, I am looking for a person, preferably in the Des Moines area that can serve as the Vice President. The Vice President's primary duty is to help organize the annual dinner each June in Des Moines and assist with the presentation of our annual awards. Please contact me if you are interested in this role. I am actively making calls to ensure that we do have a district representative for each of our districts. If you know anyone in the Council Bluffs area that would make a good district representative, please let me know.

You may always contact me to discuss ideas, concerns or opportunities. Our I.O.W.A. listserv is there for information about jobs, events, judicial nominations, anything and everything to keep us all connected!

Alison Werner Smith
awsmith@hhbmlaw.com | 319-337-9606

Upcoming Events

2007-08 IOWA Board

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CLE Chair
Gretchen Kramer, Des Moines
515-288-6041

ISBA Liaison
Miki McGovern
515-281-6620

Membership Chair
Christine Conover
319-366-7641

Newsletter Chair
Kathy Law
515-283-3116

Professional Action Chair
Ruth Cooperrider
515-281-3712

Public Relations Chair
Rebecca Goodgame Ebinger
319-363-7445

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.



IOWA Co-Sponsors Constitution Day Forum

I.O.W.A., the Johnson County League of Women Voters and the Iowa Civil Liberties Union will co-sponsor a Constitution Day forum in Meeting Room A of the Iowa City Public Library on **September 17** from **7 to 9 p.m.** Janet Lyness will be a featured speaker at the forum.

Basket Auction

The Polk County Women Attorneys (PCWA) will host its 6th Annual Basket Auction to benefit the Young Women's Resource Center (YWRC) on **Thursday, September 20, 2007**, at the Hotel Fort Des Moines. The money raised by PCWA through the auction of "theme baskets" has become a great benefit for the center, and the baskets have proven very popular as well. Examples of baskets from previous auctions include a wine lover's basket, chocolate lover's basket, baby baskets, the Des Moines and the Kansas City baskets (including hotel stays, restaurant gift certificates and tickets to the performing arts).



The mission of the YWRC is to support, educate, and advocate for young women by providing free, voluntary, confidential and non-judgmental information and counseling as they experience life's challenges. YWRC provides numerous programs for minority women, young mothers and adolescents facing various issues in their lives. **If you would like to donate a basket, money, or objects to place into the baskets, please contact Kathy Law at kklaw@nyemaster.com.**

The event begins with cocktails, appetizers and basket browsing at 5 p.m. There is a silent auction in addition to the live auction which will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$15 for a single ticket and \$100 for a table (which seats 8 people). For tickets, please contact Brooke Timmer at btimmer@fiedlernewkirk.com or 515-254-1999 or Katie Ervin Carlson at KECarlson@pendletonlawfirm.com or 515-222-9111. Please join us in supporting the Young Women's Resource Center!

Nuts and Bolts Seminar

The Professional Development Committee of the Iowa State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division will hold its annual "Nuts and Bolts" Seminars again this fall. **The Cedar Rapids seminar** will be held at the Cedar Rapids Marriott Hotel on **October 3, 2007**. **The Des Moines seminar** will be held at the Polk County Convention Complex on **October 4, 2007**. Each seminar begins with sessions for all participants, with topics to include Legal Community, Ethics and How to Manage a Law Practice. Following these general sessions, participants may choose to follow a Litigation Track or Corporate Track. Litigation Track topics include Discovery, Jury Selection, Openings and Closings and Cross Examination/Trial Techniques. Corporate Track topics include Business Formation, Real Estate and Probate. Participants then will combine for a joint session on Case & Client Evaluation.

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Upcoming Events

Nuts and Bolts, cont'd from page 2

New this year to the Nuts and Bolts Seminar will be an optional Joint Lunch with the Fall Traveling Seminar. Lunch speakers will include Iowa State Bar Association President Joel Greer, Iowa State Supreme Court Justices and Iowa State Court of Appeals Judges. For more information and pricing, please contact the Iowa State Bar Association offices or this month's edition of the Iowa Lawyer.

Miscellaneous

Raise the Bar



The I.O.W.A. Board of Directors has approved a donation in the amount of \$500.00 for the Iowa State Bar Association's "Raise the Bar" campaign. This donation will allow I.O.W.A. to be recognized as a donor on a plaque in the new Iowa State Bar Association offices.

District News

Fifth District - Roxann Ryan



PCWA co-sponsored the Puckerbrush Potluck food competition at the Iowa State Fair, August 10. The PCWA August luncheon is a variation on the Puckerbrush Potluck at the Fair, when PCWA meets at the Hotel Fort Des Moines for a modified potluck lunch. The hotel provides an entree, and a few members bring side dishes to share with the membership. Judges provide awards to the winning entries and the speaker addresses a topic related to building a sense of community in the legal profession.

PCWA is celebrating its 20th anniversary of incorporation this year. At the July PCWA meeting, some of the early members of PCWA talked about their experiences in developing PCWA and in navigating the legal profession at a time when women were scarce. They shared stories about women breaking barriers in law school, private practice (experiences with clients, lawyers and judges) and the judicial selection process, and a few stories about the sometimes rocky relationships with traditional bar associations. Many of the younger lawyers said that it was the first time that they had heard women describe the experiences of women attorneys from the 1970s and 1980s, and they said that it was helpful to hear about the struggles in achieving the things that are taken for granted today.

Board Member Bios

Alison Werner Smith – President

Alison Werner Smith is a lifetime Iowa resident. Her hometown is Tama, Iowa. Her father John Werner is an attorney and inspired her to follow in his footsteps. She graduated from law school in 1998 and clerked for the 5th judicial district and then for court of appeals judge Anu Vaitheswaran. She and her husband Tyson relocated to Iowa City where she now practices. Her husband teaches at Iowa City West High. Alison coached high school debate for almost ten years with Tyson and traveled around the nation with debate teams from Valley High School and West High. This summer, she and Tyson went to Europe with 60 high school students, an experience she describes as "once in a lifetime, literally."

Alison is active in the bar association and chairs the ISBA Legal Heritage Committee. Her interests include science fiction, snorkeling, collecting antiques, hiking, renovating her farmhouse and cooking. She has two dogs, Duke and Ella, who do nothing all day long.

Mary Walsh - Past President

Mary graduated from Creighton Law School in 1988. Directly after law school, she practiced insurance defense law in Los Angeles for six years. Following that, Mary returned to Des Moines and was a litigation manager for Continental Western Insurance Company for approximately 7 years. She

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joined Thomson West legal Publishing in the Westlaw division in 2001 and currently works as Academic Account Manager. Mary is admitted to practice in Iowa and California. Her interests include travel and family activities.

Elizabeth Croco - Secretary

Elizabeth Croco obtained her B.A. from Grinnell College in 1996 and her J.D. from the University of Iowa in 2000. She practiced with the Cedar Rapids law firm of Simmons Perrine from 2000 until 2007 when she joined Kennedy Cruise Frey & Gelner. Elizabeth practiced primarily in the areas of family law and civil litigation but since moving to Iowa City is expanding her practice to a more general one. Elizabeth is also a family law mediator. She is married to Matthew, an orthodontist in Coralville, and has a 3 1/2 year old daughter Samantha and a 21 month old son Dillon.

Ruth H. Cooperrider – Professional Action Committee Chair

Ruth H. Cooperrider is Deputy Ombudsman in the State of Iowa's Office of Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman (since 11/1997) and was also the office's Legal Counsel in 7/1990 – 6/2007. She is currently the President of the United States Ombudsman Association and previously served as Chairperson of the Outreach and Development Committee in 2001-2003 and Vice-president in 2003 – 2005. She was a representative to the ABA's Ombudsman Steering Committee that developed the ABA's 2001 Ombuds Standards. *Bar Associations:* Iowa State Bar Association (Administrative Law Section Council, former Chair of Women and Minorities Committee); Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys (Past-president, Professional Action Committee Chair); Polk County Attorneys Association (formerly served as Secretary and on Law Day Committee); Polk County Women Attorneys. *Previous Employment:* assistant county attorney (1983-85 in Wapello County, 1986-90 in Story County), Legal Services Corporation of Iowa staff attorney (1985-86), law clerk – second judicial district (1981-82). *Education:* Northwestern University (1974); University of Iowa College of Law (1981). *Bar:* admitted to practice in the state courts and United States district courts in Iowa.

Roxann Ryan – Fifth District Representative

Roxann received a B.A. in Economics from Iowa State University in 1977. She passed the Iowa Bar

in 1980. Roxann worked in the criminal divisions of the Iowa Attorney General's office from 1980-2004. She then was a full-time assistant professor at Simpson College and part-time law clerk to U.S. Magistrate Judge Celeste Bremer from 2004-2006. Since 2006, Roxann has been a criminal intelligence analyst with the Iowa Dept of Public Safety. She also teaches as an adjunct at the Drake Law School (Domestic Violence & the Law) and Simpson (Criminology and Supreme Court & the Constitution).

Roxann is one of the founding members of the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys, and has held various positions in the organization over the years. She is also active in the Polk County Women Attorneys (Historian), Polk County Bar Association, Iowa State Bar Association (Uniform Jury Instruction Committee & CLE Committee) and Blackstone Inn of Court (Vice Pres). Recently, Roxann agreed to co-chair the Iowa Supreme Court's Task Force on Domestic Violence.

Miki McGovern – ISBA Liaison Chair

Miki is a 1980 graduate of Drake University. Early in her career, she worked in private practice and gained trial experience. However, in January 1983, Miki began her long and wonderful career as a public sector lawyer and later as an administrative law judge. Since July 1988, Miki has been a deputy workers' compensation commissioner. Her practice is confined to administrative law, workers' compensation and mediating disputes in workers' compensation. She finds the area of workers' compensation to be very fascinating.

Miki's hobbies are reading novels and magazines, sewing garments, and working on cross stitch embroidery projects. She enjoys volunteering my services for numerous bar associations. Miki also volunteers at the Polk County Volunteer Lawyers' Project which is located at the HOLA Center on the east side of Des Moines.

She lives in rural Woodward, Iowa on an acreage. Miki makes attempts at gardening, but usually the weeds overtake the plants. She has one dog, one kitty, and the physical custody of her neighbors' two mutts. Miki never knows who is staying at the mutt motel. Currently, Miki is the president of the Dallas County Bar Association. Her term expires in December.

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Kathleen Law – Newsletter Co-Chair

Kathy obtained her B.A. from William Penn University in 2002 and her J.D. from Drake University School of Law in 2004. She practices with the Des Moines law firm of Nyemaster, Goode, West, Hansell & O'Brien, P.C. Kathy practices primarily in the areas of real estate and general corporate/business law. She currently serves as Co-Chair of the Young Lawyer's Division of the ISBA's Professional Development Committee, and as a member of the Iowa State Bar Review School Board of Directors, the ISBA Business Law Section Council, the ISBA Annual Meeting and Public Relations Committees, and as Co-Chair of the Polk County Bar Association's Law Day Committee. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the I Have a Dream Foundation – Des Moines Chapter. Kathy's interests include participating in mission trips, crafts, remodeling her home and landscaping/gardening. Kathy is married to David, and has a son, Jonathan, who is a 1L at Drake University School of Law.



