

## IOWA 2007-08 Board of Directors

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[TBA]

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319-260-1294

### *7th District Rep.*

Sarah Alden  
563-355-6478

### *8th District Rep.*

[TBA]

### *Annual Meeting Chair*

[TBA]

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## Board Member Bios

### Sarah Alden

Sarah Alden is an attorney with McDonald, Woodward & Ivers, PC in Davenport. Originally from Berrien Springs, Michigan, Sarah earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, summa cum laude in 2002 and graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2006. While in law school she served as Senior Managing Editor for the Journal of Gender, Race & Justice and as a judge on the moot court board. She was also a quarter-finalist in the Baskerville Moot Court Competition. Prior to law school, Sarah completed two terms as a member of AmeriCorps, a national service program, at Indiana Legal Services in South Bend and at the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County in Iowa City. Before entering private practice, Sarah worked as a law clerk for the Seventh Judicial District of Iowa. She lives in Tipton with her husband, Travis, and daughter, Natalie.

### Laura J. Parrish Maki

Laura is originally from Wisconsin but has lived in Iowa since 1997 when she started undergrad at Cornell College in Mount Vernon. Laura then attended law school at the University of Iowa and became licensed in 2004. She met her husband, Bret, while attending Cornell, and in 2004 they moved to Decorah where Laura had gotten a job at the Miller, Pearson, Gloe, Burns, Beatty & Cowie, P.L.C. law firm. Bret and Laura have a 3-year old son and boy/girl twins that are two months old. Laura practices primarily in family, juvenile and criminal law. In addition to her involvement with I.O.W.A., she was also appointed to the First Judicial District Nominating Commission in 2006. In addition, Laura was appointed to the Family Law Council in 2007. Laura also spends a significant amount of time involved in the ISBA Middle School Mock Trial Program, and would encourage all I.O.W.A. members to participate in their area mock trial programs if they have the opportunity.

### Kimberly S. Bartosh

Kimberly currently practices law with Whitfield & Eddy, PLC in Des Moines, Iowa in the area of civil litigation including personal injury, medical malpractice, products liability, and employment law. She graduated in December 2006 with high honors from Drake University College of Law. While at law school she co-authored the article, "Proactive Risk Management Strategies for Long Term Care," IAHQ Communiqué (December 2005). Kimberly is currently a member of several legal associations.

Prior to attending law school, Kimberly obtained an associate degree in nursing from Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge, Iowa in 1987. She worked as a registered nurse specializing in intensive and coronary care for 18 years at several

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**October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month**  
*see related story, page 6*

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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](mailto: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](mailto:kklaw@nyemaster.com).



### Board Bios, cont'd from page 1

hospitals in Iowa including Trinity Regional Hospital in Fort Dodge, Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines, and Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames.

Kimberly also cross trained and rotated to the emergency room and was fortunate to be a member of the first team of nurses trained to operate the new cardiac catheterization laboratory opened at Trinity Regional Hospital in Fort Dodge as part of a much needed open heart program brought to the area in 2002.

After working many years as a nurse, she returned to school and received a bachelor degree of nursing with highest honors from the University of Iowa in 2004 and continued on to Drake, commuting the first year from Fort Dodge where she lived at that time with her husband Mark. Mark and Kimberly have been married since August 26, 1989. Mark has been very supportive of and made several sacrifices for her career.

Kimberly grew up in the very small town of Callender, Iowa with four siblings. Her husband Mark grew up as one of six siblings in Eagle Grove, Iowa. They are very lucky to be the proud aunt and uncle to 17 nieces and nephews and 5 great nieces and nephews, including two sets of twins. When Kimberly is not busy with her law practice, she enjoys golfing, boating, traveling and gardening.

She is very proud to serve as the Vice President of I.O.W.A during the upcoming year. She also is very excited about the opportunity to meet and get to know women involved in the practice of law in Iowa and hopes that she can offer support and encouragement to other women already involved in the profession or contemplating the law as a career.

Kimberly is available by phone or email and welcomes the opportunity to visit with other women attorneys in Iowa in order to discuss questions, concerns, ideas, and opportunities or to just get to know one another. She looks forward to hearing from you. Kimberly's contact information is (515) 246-5553; [bartosh@whitfielddlaw.com](mailto:bartosh@whitfielddlaw.com).

## District News

### Sixth District

**I.O.W.A. Meet & Mingle Social Event** will be held **Thursday, October 18, 2007 at 5:30 p.m.** at Crosby's, Cedar Rapids Chophouse, in downtown Cedar Rapids. This is an opportunity for women attorneys to gather together, meet each other, network, and learn from each other. There will be no formal agenda, just an opportunity to connect with other women in the profession. Appetizers will be provided. Please RSVP to Caitlin Stoner, [cjstoner@rockwellcollins.com](mailto:cjstoner@rockwellcollins.com) if you plan to attend so that we can get a rough head count. However, do not let a lack of responding prevent you from joining us.

### Seventh District

The Scott County Courthouse in Davenport is heightening security. Beginning in September or October 2007, visitors will have to enter through a walk-through metal detector and bags will be checked on a conveyor belt x-ray machine. Attorneys and courthouse employees will be issued special identification cards to bypass the security.

## CLE and Other Opportunities

### Government Attorneys CLE

A CLE for government attorneys is scheduled for **Friday, October 26, 2007**, at the Wallace Building Auditorium in Des Moines, Iowa. There is a \$30.00 fee to attend the CLE. For more information, please contact Cathy White, Attorney General's Office, 1305 E. Walnut, Des Moines, IA 50319; Telephone 515-281-3349; email [cwhite@ag.state.ia.us](mailto:cwhite@ag.state.ia.us).

### Volunteer Opportunity

**Wanted - Attorney Coach for Middle School Mock Trial Competition Team for the FY08-09 School Year.** St. Joseph Catholic School, Marion, IA, is losing their attorney coach after this year's competition and has had teams competing for the last 7 years. The attorney coach helps the teacher coach to understand the legal concepts of the trial case prepared by the Iowa Bar Association, helps develop strategies, assist with direct and cross exam question preparation, and coaching students with trial preparation. Commitment lasts from first week of September until trial date on the first Saturday of November, about 4 hours per week. This a terrific opportunity to support our community and provide young students with insight into our profession and court system. If you are interested, and would like to visit with this year's team and coach, please contact either Irma Monclova-Rodriguez, [ijmonclo@rockwellcollins.com](mailto:ijmonclo@rockwellcollins.com), or Mr. Tony Voss, Principal at St. Joseph Catholic School, 377-6348, [avoss@cr-cath.pvt.k12.ia.us](mailto:avoss@cr-cath.pvt.k12.ia.us).

### Brent Award

**Do you know an outstanding woman lawyer** that has achieved professional excellence in her field and has paved the way to success for other women lawyers? The ABA Commission on Women in the Profession is seeking nominations for the



**18th Annual Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Awards.** These awards will be presented at a luncheon on Sunday, August 10, 2008 during the ABA Annual Meeting in New York City. **The deadline to submit the nomination form and supporting materials is the close of business on Friday, November 30, 2007.** For more information, visit <http://www.abanet.org/women/margaretbrent/nominationinformation.html>.

### Legal Heritage Committee Seeking Oral History Leads

The ISBA Legal Heritage Committee is seeking the **names of persons who are over the age of 70 that have practiced law in Iowa.** The committee is organizing a large-scale oral history project to preserve the memories and personal effects of these attorneys. Please submit any known names and contact information to the Legal Heritage Committee Chair, Alison Smith at [awsmith@hnbmlaw.com](mailto:awsmith@hnbmlaw.com) or contact the ISBA with the information.

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### *Women and the Law* (book review)

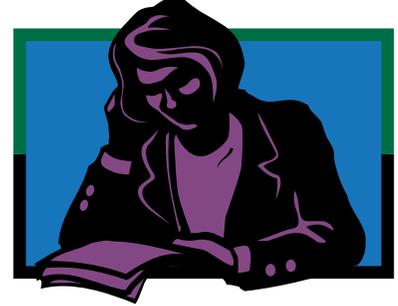
This is a new book from the American Bar Association. *Women and the Law* is an excellent overview of a wide variety of topics in the legal system, with special attention to the perspective of the female consumer of legal services. Targeted at the layperson, but useful for the practitioner as well, this ambitious book succeeds in explaining complex aspects of the legal system in simple, easy to understand writing.

The book includes informative sections on employment law, the law of the family, estate planning and credit and financial issues, among others. The book speaks directly to women who may have questions about their rights and the legal protections afforded to them by the legal system. Using examples and narratives, the book con-

*Women and the Law, cont'd from page 3*

structs a clear picture of the issues that are unique to women and how these issues may affect the perspective and reactions of women who find themselves in need of legal services. The book also features “Ask a Lawyer” sidebars, where female attorneys provide basic advice to the reader.

This book is commendable in that it provides a realistic assessment of how issues of concern to women are handled in the legal system. For example, the book includes a frank discussion of what does and does not constitute harassment or discrimination. This sort of information is very useful for persons with questions about their rights, and the book makes it clear that not every problem constitutes a potential lawsuit. The book also includes information about the rights of lesbian women and the barriers they may face in the legal system, and contains up to date, accurate information about the challenges and issues women will face in the legal system when addressing marital or custody issues.



While not a practitioner’s guide in any sense, this book does remind the attorney of the importance of recognizing and responding appropriately to gender differences, and to educate attorneys on how the legal experience can be very different for women than for men. This book is not an indictment of the patriarchy, nor does it promote a feminist agenda. Rather, it attempts to focus its presentation of legal issues from the perspective of women, paying more attention to the issues and legal questions common to women. It does not address marketing to women or how to capitalize on delivering legal services to women. It is a guidebook of sorts, intended to inform and arm women, or those who take up women’s causes, with concise and direct information about the current state of the law.

The book is intended for the layperson, male or female, and would make a great addition to your office waiting room. I recommend this book as a resource for people who would like to learn more about the perspective of female clients within the legal system. Paralegals and other legal support professionals that work with female clients may find this book useful as a reference and for background information about the state of the law. Overall, this new book was a helpful reminder that not all clients are the same, nor do all clients see the legal system through the same lens. “Women and Law” is a nice addition to your legal library and is worth a read.



## Legal Benchmarks in Iowa History



- 1838 Territorial Government of Iowa is formed. The Iowa Territorial Supreme Court, probate courts, district courts and justices of the peace are created.
- 1838 Mason served as the first Chief Justice of the Iowa Territorial Supreme Court.
- 1839 Iowa Territorial Supreme Court convenes to hear arguments in *In re Ralph*, 1 Bradford 3, 1 Morris 1, the first reported decision of the court. Ralph, a former slave who escaped to the North for freedom was allowed to go free despite his former master’s attempts to have him returned to Missouri.
- 1844 Iowa Territorial Supreme Court decides case of *United States, ex. Rel. Jones v. Fanning*, 1 Morris 348, upholding Iowa’s legislative grant of the exclusive right to operate a ferry crossing over the Mississippi River
- 1846 Iowa joined the Union as the twenty-ninth state.
- 1853 Act of Congress creates the Northern, Central and South Divisions of Iowa federal district court.
- 1857 Iowa Constitution is signed.
- 1859 Congress reapportioned the Iowa federal district into Northern, Southern and Western divisions and designated Dubuque, Keokuk and Des Moines as places for holding court.

- 1868 Iowa Supreme Court decided the landmark Clark v. The Board of Directors, holding segregated schools inherently unequal. Brown v. Board of Education is not decided until 1954.
- 1869 Arabella Mansfield is admitted to the Iowa Bar, the first woman in the nation to be admitted by bar examination to the practice of law.
- 1870 Congress creates a Central Division of federal court in Iowa, with the designated court for the Central Division being Des Moines and the Western Division changed to Council Bluffs.
- 1873 Iowa Supreme Court rules in Coger v. The North Western Union Packet Co., holding an African American woman was entitled to the same rights and privileges as white passengers on train. The same conclusion was not reached by the U.S. Supreme Court until Heart of Atlanta Motel, Inc. v. United States (1964), a case that upheld the 1964 Civil Rights Act.



- 1882 Iowa federal court is divided into two districts.
- 1925 National Bar Association is founded in Iowa.
- 1951 Legal Aid Society of Polk County created
- 1962 Iowa approves a constitutional amendment that established a merit selection system for the selection of all appellate and district court judges
- 1965 Mandatory judicial retirement age was set at 72 for judges appointed after July 1, 1965. Those judges and justices selected before that date may serve until age 75.
- 1969 A system of 18 chief judges is established to supervise over district court judicial officers and employees within the judicial district.
- 1971 Administrative office of the Judicial Branch established; the state court administrator is responsible for managing the Judicial Branch and administering funds appropriated to it.
- 1972 Iowa's eighteen judicial districts were consolidated into eight judicial districts. A chief judge was appointed to each district for a two-year term. Together, the eight chief judges and the chief justice of the supreme court make up the judicial council, which advises the supreme court on court administration.
- 1973 Unified Trial Court Act of 1973 reformed the state court system by establishing a unified trial court known as the "Iowa District Court". This legislation abolished over 500 justice-of-the-peace courts, 899 mayor's courts, 14 municipal courts, and 34 police courts. The Act established the positions of judicial magistrates and district associate judges. The Act also established simplified, cost-effective methods of handling minor civil and criminal cases.
- 1973 The Iowa Code of Judicial Conduct, a code of ethics for judges, was approved by the Iowa Supreme Court. In addition, the legislature created a seven member Commission on Judicial Qualifications.
- 1976 Iowa Court of Appeals is established, initially composed of five judges.
- 1977 Legal Services Corporation of Iowa is founded.
- 1983 The Iowa legislature approved the Court Reorganization Act, transferring the expense of operating the court system (except the costs of district court facilities) from the counties to the state.
- 1986 Linda Neuman is first woman appointed to Iowa Supreme Court
- 1998 Appellate restructuring plan approved by the Iowa legislature; Iowa Court of Appeals increases from six to nine members and the Iowa Supreme Court is reduced from nine to seven members.
- 2003 Legal Services Corporation and Legal Aid Society merge to create Iowa Legal Aid.
- 1999 Rosemary K. Sackett is the first woman elected chief judge of Iowa Court of Appeals.
- 2006 Marsha K. Ternus is the first woman to serve as chief justice of Iowa's highest court.



# Love and hell in Iowa

by Katie Thompson

In the last 11 weeks, dozens of women across Iowa have told me their stories of love and hell. Bullets, knives, money, power, sex, and kidnapping. Chaos and pain. Hope. Love. And even...joy?

I couldn't make this stuff up.



And I've tried. As 'Kate Iola' I've written two novels, both thrillers, each featuring a tangled plot, a manipulative villain, a smart woman, and a few bullets and knives. But they were just fiction.

Then along came the 'Iowa Voices Project,' an idea hatched by the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The plan was to interview women across Iowa, one for each day in October (National Domestic Violence Awareness Month), to publish their stories in newspapers across the state, and eventually to publish them in a book. I was to be the official interviewer and writer.

I thought the interviews would be like pulling teeth. After all, this is the Midwest, and I wanted to ask the women about, you know, um....sex...and love and control and other very personal things. Nonetheless, I hit the road and started my rounds. I went from Sioux City to Iowa City, from condo to farmhouse, interviewing grandmothers, students, nurses, skydivers, clerks, artists, computer programmers, mothers. Women.

So: Did they talk?

Yes. All I had to do was turn on the microphone. The stories poured out. Could I use their real names? Shoot their photos? "No problem," they said. Police reports, affidavits, crime scene photos, 911 recordings, videotapes, medical records? "I'll run fetch them from the closet," they said. Glasses of pop sat untouched, ice cubes melting, for two, three, four hours as they told me their story, jumping back and forth in time over sagas that lasted five, 10, 40 years. Some of the women told me things they had never said out loud. Some had never seen a counselor; talking to me was the first time they had reached out. A few of the women, despite the police reports and fear, have never told their family what was really happening behind the scenes; their stories, in print this month for the first time, will do just that.

And nearly all of the women, unsolicited, blurted out this unfinished statement: "If my story helps just one woman...." Translation: Make my hell useful and it won't hurt so bad.

Some of the women started their interview slowly, watching me, quietly checking me out to see if I understood--really understood--how they could stay with a partner who did these things to them. Then they would drop a bomb: "My stepson was abusing me, too." "I started using prescription drugs." "He raped me the night of our wedding." Many women told me they had nightmares after I first called, just thinking about telling their story to me.

I had nightmares after they were done.

No matter. It's my duty. I have much to repay to the excellent support services that saved my life here in rural Northwest Iowa. For the record, I've seen a bit of that love and hell myself, with a bank robber and a bit of strangling thrown in.

I am Kathleen Thompson, story 13.