

IOWA 2007-08 Board of Directors

President

Alison Werner Smith
319-337-9606

President-Elect [TBA]

Vice President

Kimberly S. Bartosh
515-246-5553

Secretary

Elizabeth Croco
319-351-8181

Treasurer

Josey Bathke
319-341-2378

Past President

Mary Spellman Walsh,
515-971-5486

1st District Rep.

Laura J. Parrish Maki
563-382-4226

2nd District Rep.

Kim Snitker
641-423-6223

3rd District Rep.

Lindsey Buchheit
712-277-1261

4th District Rep.

[TBA]

5th District Rep.

Roxann Ryan
515-725-6328

6th District Rep.

Caitlin Stoner
319-360-1294

7th District Rep.

Sarah Alden
563-355-6478

8th District Rep.

Heather M. Simplot
641-682-8326

continued next page

Member Update

I.O.W.A. treasurer, Josey Bathke, recently joined ACT as a Staff Attorney. Previously, Josey worked in the University of Iowa's General Counsel Office. She reports that ACT has a small, but busy, law department that includes: Sara Netolicky (General Counsel), Mike Clifton (Staff Attorney), Josey, and Megan Miller (paralegal). The primary focus of Josey's new position will be to develop and negotiate contracts with the Workforce Development and Educational Services divisions.

Josey's new contact information is as follows:

Josey Bathke
ACT, Inc.
500 ACT Drive
PO Box 168
Iowa City, Iowa 52243-0168
319-341-2378 phone | 319-341-2760 fax
personal email address: joseybathke@hotmail.com

Third District News

Andreasen sworn in as judge

Steven Andreasen was sworn in as a district judge in Iowa's 3rd Judicial District on January 4. An investiture ceremony took place in the Woodbury County Courthouse, followed by a public reception. Andreasen served as a Woodbury County magistrate the last two years and was affiliated with the law firm of Willia, Stahle and Andreasen. He fills the opening created by the retirement of District Judge Michael S. Walsh.

Puckerbrush Potluck – Let's Get Cooking

Iowa State Fair, August 7-17, 2008

Start planning now for your Puckerbrush Potluck entries! This popular food competition is a tribute to the late Iowa Solicitor General Elizabeth (Bess) Osenbaugh, sponsored by IOWA and PCWA. The competition entry deadline is **July 1, 2008**, and the entry information will be available online in May at www.iowastatefair.com/competition/howtoenter.php. Sign up for an e-newsletter to stay on top of State Fair activities: www.iowastatefair.com/newsletter.php.



Upcoming Events

2007-08 IOWA Board

cont'd from page 1

Annual Meeting Chair
[TBA]

CLE Chair
[TBA]

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

DVIP Soup Supper

Plans are well underway for the 11th Annual DVIP Souper Bowl in Iowa City. The supper will be at the same location this year - **January 31, 2008, 5:30-7:30**, at the Quality Inn and Suites on North Dodge and Highway 1 (It is the old Highlander, just North of Interstate 80 in Iowa City). It is a great event and I'd love to see as many I.O.W.A. members there as possible.



For those of you new to the Souper Bowl, it is a soup supper to support the Iowa City domestic violence shelter. Local restaurants donate soup and bread. Local artists and pottery stores donate bowls. It's a family-friendly event so bring the kids! Kids eat free unless they'd like to take their bowl home with them.

Iowa Law Review Symposium and CLE

The Iowa Law Review is pleased to present its 2008 symposium, *Procedural Justice: Perspectives on Summary Judgment, Peremptory Challenges, and the Exclusionary Rule*. The symposium will be held on **February 29, 2008**, at the Boyd Law Building in Iowa City, Iowa. During the event, scholars will explore the use and constitutionality of three procedural exclusionary devices: (1) motions for summary judgment, (2) Batson challenges during jury selection, and (3) the exclusionary rule in criminal cases. Each panel will be moderated by a judge from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Over the lunch hour, the symposium will feature a panel of judges from the Eighth Circuit and Iowa federal district courts who will answer questions and discuss issues relating to procedural issues in the federal judiciary. The program has been approved for a maximum of 6 continuing legal education credits under the regulations of the Iowa Supreme Court. For more information and registration, please visit our website: <http://lawreview.law.uiowa.edu>

I.O.W.A. and PCWA Support *Twelve Angry Men*

I.O.W.A. and PCWA are supporting the Civic Center of Des Moines' programming for *12 Angry Men* during its run **Feb. 12-17, 2008**, in several ways:

- 1) Serving as moderators for a Q&A session following the 7:30pm performances on Feb 13-16. Attorneys and judges will join several cast members in talking about jury service and the dynamics of juror-decision-making immediately following the performance.
- 2) Talking about our jobs as prosecutors, defense attorneys and judges as part of the High School Education Day, February 14, 2008. The program starts at the Civic Center, and then 125 students plus teachers will go to the U. S. Courthouse to hear from lawyers, judges and court staff about how the justice system works. The students will participate in mock trials, and get to serve as jurors to experience decision-making first hand. They will then return to the Civic Center to complete their discussions and record their observations about jury service. Following a lunch break, the students will attend the matinee performance of *12 Angry Men*, and participate in a Q&A with cast members.

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.



*cont'd from page 2**"Twelve Angry Men"*

3) Contributing toward the cost of matinee tickets for 10 students from Scavo High School. Participation in the Education Day is made possible by grants from sponsors that underwrite the cost of the matinee tickets, books, and programs that take place in the schools before the students attend the play. The Civic Center appreciates our ongoing support, which has allowed Scavo students to attend without cost over the past 3 years. Scavo students face numerous challenges in daily life ranging from single parenthood, living in shelters, working, surviving treatment and aftercare, disrupted home lives, and being clients of the justice system. A trip to the Civic Center is not generally part of their budgets in time or money. One of the most touching comments came from one of last year's Scavo participants, "For once I felt like a normal high school student, just being in groups and working with kids from other schools." It's great to be in a position to make a positive impact in these students' lives.

Iowa Legal Aid Establishes the Women's Equal Justice Project

More than three decades have passed since domestic abuse was pulled from the shadows and recognized as a hazard to the health of our society, and a threat to the safety and security of countless families. Support and understanding for victims of this wrong has grown, and yet the following staggering numbers remain true today. More than 20,000 Iowans suffer abuse in their homes every year. Fully, 100,000 shelter nights were provided in Iowa in 2006. Over 150 Iowans have been killed in domestic abuse murders since 1995. In 2006, 21 were murdered, which represents a dramatic increase from earlier years.



Iowa Legal Aid has recently launched the Women's Equal Justice Project, dedicating extensive resources to address the issue from a civil legal perspective. Shellie Mackel, an attorney with Iowa Legal Aid is the Project Manager. Following is an interview of Mackel:

Interviewer: We know that domestic abuse is a crime, but in what ways do civil attorneys at Iowa Legal Aid regularly address domestic abuse?

Mackel: Through the provision of timely and targeted legal services, victims and their children have real and tangible tools to balance power within the household while securing safety, basic necessities, and their fair share of assets to allow them to escape their abusers. The ability to assist with practical matters such as protective orders, divorce, custody, child support and income protection present victims with real long-term alternatives to remaining trapped in potentially lethal environments.

As we all know, dissolving a marriage and equitably dividing and protecting her share of the household assets, assets that she will need to care for the children, is best achieved with the assistance of an attorney.

Interviewer: I imagine these can be difficult and lengthy proceedings?

Mackel: They can be, and therefore they would be prohibitively expensive for a low-income woman. All too often therefore, they remain in the relationship, and the cycle of abuse continues.

Interviewer: And that cycle can literally devastate families can't it?

Mackel: Most certainly. Domestic violence is plainly destructive. Victims of abuse face the direct pain and humiliation of abuse, the anguish of being labeled a victim and collateral damage within their lives that often spiral the impact to include loss of income, property, privacy, and eventually, dignity.

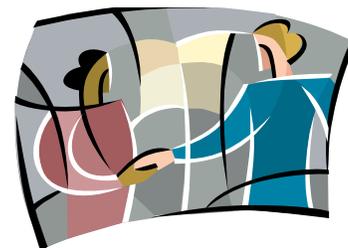
But the effects don't stop with the adults. Perhaps most alarming is the impact of domestic abuse on children who live with it. Family violence creates a home environment where children live in fear and stress. Children are at greater risk for abuse and neglect if they live in a violent home, and those who see and hear violence in the home suffer physically, intellectually, socially, and emotionally.



Then of course, we can't forget that there is impact beyond the burden to the family, the societal costs of domestic abuse are immense, calculating in the billions.

Interviewer: What led Iowa Legal Aid to launch this project?

Mackel: Two things really. Family law has always been a key component of our practice in service to low-income Iowans. In fact it is far and away the largest portion of our practice, and is dominated by domestic abuse cases. In the thirty years that Legal Aid has served Iowans much has been accomplished to improve the laws and services that protect victims of abuse. The prevalence of violence, however, actively continues and while prevention has been touted, it has remained elusive.



This leads to our second motivation. Increasingly evidence now suggests that using the rule of law to advance the right to live free from violence is the most effective means of mitigating family violence. Specifically, a recent Colgate University study suggests that legal services to abuse victims are the most significant factor in breaking the cycle of violence. Sanctuary is a temporary solution, legal remedies are lasting.

Interviewer: I understand this project goes beyond traditional representation.

Mackel: Yes, our primary objective is to utilize our practice as a means to build upon the Colgate study. Studying the impact of legal solutions is the true focus of The Women's Equal Justice Project. We intend to build upon existing research and identify those 'best practices' which most effectively and efficiently serve to lift victims and their children from the cycle of violence and abuse.



Iowa Legal Aid has been on the front lines fighting for protections and expanded rights for victims over these 30 years and is now excited to contribute new knowledge and new tools to the fight. The Project has three objectives: (1) identify the systemic issues confronted by survivors of abuse and advance positive change in those systems through advocacy; (2) collect and analyze data that will identify best practices for legal aid offices toward ending domestic violence; and (3) foster new collaborative relationships and disseminate through a diverse and committed Advisory Council foster and disseminate these newly identified best practices nationwide.

Interviewer: We know that Iowa Legal Aid is 501 (c) 3 charitable non profit, how is this project funded?

Mackel: As is always the case, projects like this are not self-executing. Funding is required to bring plans into action. The Equal Justice Project benefited from initial private donations from supporters who believe in the promise of the Women's Project's goals. Private donations led to an initial grant that allowed sustainability for a two-year project with a staff of three.

Interviewer: Did we read of the project benefiting from the Microsoft settlement?

Mackel: Yes, in the spring of 2007, Iowa Legal Aid was notified that the Women's Equal Justice Project would be the recipient of \$1 million as a component of the settlement reached through the Microsoft litigation in Iowa. In appreciation, Iowa Legal Aid's Board of Directors unanimously voted a resolution expressing "unto Roxanne Conlin and Richard Hagstrom their abiding gratitude for their efforts to end the cycle of domestic violence and in supporting the work of Iowa Legal Aid in that effort."

It is now possible to extend the project to its intended four years with a full staff of six. These funds assure both the needed advocacy, depth of research and opportunity to fully examine all information to produce and distribute genuine best practices to the widest possible audience having the maximum impact.