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Nominations Sought by May 9

The Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys (I.O.W.A.) is accepting nominations for the Seventh Annual Arabella Mansfield Award. In addition, the I.O.W.A. and the Iowa National Bar Association (INBA) are accepting nominations for the Sixth Annual Gertrude Rush Award. ***The deadline for submitting nominations for each award is Friday, May 9, 2008.*** The nomination criteria, forms, and instructions, as well as the names of past award recipients, are accessible on the I.O.W.A. website at www.iowawomenattorneys.org/awards.htm.

Arabella Mansfield Award

I.O.W.A. established the Arabella Mansfield Award in 2002 to recognize outstanding women lawyers in Iowa who have promoted and nurtured women in the legal profession. The award is named after Arabella Mansfield, the first woman lawyer admitted to the practice of law in the United States. She was admitted to the Iowa Bar in 1869.

Gertrude Rush Award

I.O.W.A. and the INBA jointly established the Gertrude Rush Award in 2003 to recognize a lawyer who manifests the pioneering spirit of Gertrude Rush, demonstrates leadership in the community and in the legal profession and demonstrates concern for human and civil rights. Gertrude Rush was the first African-American woman to be admitted to the practice of law in Iowa, in 1918. She became one of the founders of the National Bar Association after she and four other black lawyers were denied membership in the American Bar Association.

Presentation of Awards

The Arabella Mansfield Award and the Gertrude Rush Award will both be presented at the I.O.W.A. annual meeting and banquet Thursday evening of June 19, 2008.

The event is held in conjunction with the Iowa State Bar Association annual meeting at the downtown Marriott Hotel in Des Moines.

Questions

If you have questions regarding these awards or have difficulty accessing the website information, please contact Ruth Cooperrider, I.O.W.A. Professional Action Chairperson, at 515-281-3712 or (e-mail) awards@iowawomenattorneys.org.

Welcome to New or Renewing Members



Andrea Hiatt Buckley, Sioux City
Elizabeth Semotan, West Liberty

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Invitation from Christy Vilsack

"I am pleased to announce that the statue of Belle Babb Mansfield will be dedicated on **Friday, May 2, at 2:30 pm** on the **Iowa Wesleyan College** campus. A reception will follow the ceremony.

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, the eldest daughter of Bobby and Ethel Kennedy and the former Lieutenant Governor of the State of Maryland will speak at the dedication. Kathleen is an attorney and worked in the U.S. Department of Justice before embarking on her political career.

It is my hope that officers and members of the Iowa Women Attorneys will be able to attend the dedication and reception. This is an historic day for all Iowa attorneys.

I appreciate your willingness to forward this letter via e-mail to the officers and members of the Iowa Women Attorneys. If you would like more information about Belle, the sculptor or Belle's statue in progress, please check out the Iowa Wesleyan College web-site: www.iwc.edu. When you arrive at the home page, click on 'visitor information'. There is a link for Belle under 'visitor information'.

Sincerely yours,

Christie Vilsack"

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.



In the Spotlight



Linda McGuire

Our featured attorney this month is Linda McGuire. Linda received her Bachelor of Science from the State University of New York, College at Oneonta and her M.A. from Bowling Green State University. She received her J.D. from the University of Iowa College Of Law.

After law school, Linda worked as a First Assistant Johnson County Attorney from 1982-1989. From 1990-1992, she was self-employed on an IOLTA grant working on pro se court access for domestic violence victims. During that time, Linda became a visiting professor at the University of Iowa College of Law. In 1996, she was named Dean of Students of the University of Iowa College of Law where she served until 2007. Currently, Linda serves as Associate Dean for Civic Engagement, teaches domestic abuse law and also administers the University of Iowa College of Law's prosecutor intern program.

Part of her duties as Associate Dean includes the launch of a new program for the law school, implementing Dean Carolyn Jones's vision. Linda said that many law students arrive at law school having made significant contributions to their communities, and are eager to continue

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Linda McGuire
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that service, especially using their new knowledge and skills. In addition, she said, the best law schools in the nation are dedicating resources to aid students in volunteering in their communities, learning the profession's strong traditions of *pro bono publico*, and developing professional values and skills in the process. For the first time this year, Linda said the University's new student orientation program included an afternoon of community service. All 180 students were dispatched in school buses to perform tasks including building picnic tables at MacBride State Park; cleaning a creek bed in eastern Iowa City; painting a fence and cleaning toys at day care centers; sorting donations at a food/clothing pantry, a Mennonite relief resale shop, Habitat for Humanity's Restore, and the historical materials salvage barn; sprucing up the stables and grounds at Miracles in Motion, a therapeutic riding academy; and shelving books at the public library. Although it was a typical hot and humid August day, Linda said that the students uniformly enjoyed the afternoon.

Linda said that the orientation day also set a tone and expectation for students to continue volunteer service, and many have learned how to incorporate weekly service into their busy schedules. This spring, seven law-related (pro bono) service opportunities were created through the generosity and dedication of partners in legal organizations. According to Linda, over 40 students are involved in projects at Iowa Legal Aid (doing research for staff attorneys and updating webpage articles), the public defenders office, the Innocence Project of Iowa, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, and the Iowa Coalition against Domestic Violence (MUNA immigration clinic).



Linda said that one 1L student was asked what she was taking away from her work on an immigrant domestic violence victim's case. In addition to the feeling of making a difference, the 1L said that work on the case made her remember why she came to law school, so easily forgotten in the crunch of studying for contracts, torts, and property classes. Another 1L said that reading for class made it seem that cases "just happened." Working on a U-Visa case, by contrast, gave her the chance to see how a case was put together, how to problem solve and overcome evidentiary obstacles, how to talk to clients, and how to organize a file. Linda noted that law students learn these things in clinic, but pro bono programs open up the experiences to many more students.

She said that this work is extremely satisfying for her as she can continue to be an educator, helping students learn from their experiences through reflection, helping prepare them for lives of service and leadership. In addition, reconnecting with colleagues in the community to develop volunteer opportunities has been a real treat for Linda. Finally, she said that this work is closest to the reason she became a lawyer: to increase access to the justice system for those who can't afford it.

In her spare time, Linda enjoys cooking, the local and slow food movement and spending time with her granddaughter, Cassie, who is 5 years old.