



## IOWA 2007-08 Board of Directors

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## IOWA Annual Meeting, June 19

You are cordially invited to attend the I.O.W.A. Annual Meeting and Banquet at the Marriott Hotel, 7th & Grand Avenue in downtown Des Moines, on the evening of Thursday, June 19, 2008. Please join us starting around 6:00 p.m. for cocktails followed by the reception and dinner at 7 pm.

The I.O.W.A. annual meeting is being held in conjunction with the ISBA annual meeting and CLE programs. We will present the annual Arabella Mansfield Award to Chris Luzzie, Deputy Director of Litigation for Iowa Legal Aid, Iowa City and the Gertrude Rush Award to Romonda Belcher Ford, Assistant Polk County Attorney, Des Moines. Special guest speaker is Professor Dore' from the Drake Law School.

If you would like to RSVP for the dinner, please contact Kim Bartosh at [bartosh@whitfieldlaw.com](mailto:bartosh@whitfieldlaw.com) or Alison Smith at [awsmith@hhbmlaw.com](mailto:awsmith@hhbmlaw.com). We will accept phone reservations and you may pay at the time of the dinner, or send your check and reservation to the IOWA P.O. Box 10098, Iowa City, Iowa, 52240. Dinner choice is chicken or vegetarian. See the website [www.iowawomenattorneys.org](http://www.iowawomenattorneys.org) for more details.

## Arabella Mansfield Statue Dedication

*by Ruth Cooperrider*

On May 2, 2008 a striking statue of Arabella "Belle" Babb Mansfield was dedicated in her honor on the campus of Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant. She graduated from Iowa Wesleyan College in 1866, and then studied law in a law firm in Mt. Pleasant. She was admitted to the Henry County Bar on June 15, 1869 and became the first woman licensed to practice law in the United States. Subsequently, she received an M.A. in 1870 and an LL.B. from the college's Department of Law in 1872. The statue recognizes her work as an advocate for women's rights and as an educator, orator, art historian, and journalist.

I am glad to have attended the dedication ceremony, which was moving and memorable. Romonda Belcher Ford accompanied me on the trip, and we both met up with several other women attorneys at the event, including ISBA Vice-president Jane Lorentzen, Janet Lyness, Beth Beglin, and Mary Schlicher. There was also a representative there from the National Conference of Women Bar Associations. We enjoyed chatting with each other and other attendees at a reception that followed the ceremony.

The keynote address was given Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, daughter of Bobby and Ethel Kennedy and the first female Lieutenant Governor for the state of

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**2007-08 IOWA Board**

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**Annual Meeting Chair**  
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**CLE Chair**  
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Maryland. She was introduced by former Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack. Her speech followed remarks by former Iowa First Lady Christie Vilsack, who spearheaded efforts to bring attention to the project. Several members of our association attended a fundraising event for the statue hosted by Christie Vilsack at Terrace Hill, while her husband was governor.



*Pictured in front of the newly dedicated Arabella "Belle" Babb Mansfield statue are (from left to right) attorneys Jane Lorentzen, Romonda Belcher, Ruth Cooperrider, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, and Margaret Foster.*

Benjamin Victor, the sculptor who created the statue, also attended the ceremony. At age 26, he became the youngest artist to have a sculpture in the National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C. His studio is in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

I encourage you to visit the statue when you have the opportunity. It is a beautiful reminder to the legacy of Arabella "Belle" Babb Mansfield.

## 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).



## In the Spotlight



### Jenny Schulz

by Laura Ebinger

This month's featured attorney is Jenny Schulz of Cedar Rapids. Jenny is originally from Storm Lake, Iowa. She graduated from Wartburg College in 1994. Jenny earned her J.D. from the University of Iowa in 1998 where she graduated Order of the Coif.

After college, Jenny joined the Lutheran Volunteer Corps and worked for a year at Bread for the City, a free legal clinic in Washington D.C. She loved the work and knew she wanted to devote her life to public interest law. After law school Jenny returned to Bread for the City where she worked as a staff attorney.

After two years, Jenny returned to Iowa to be closer to her family. She moved to Cedar Rapids and began working at Iowa Legal Aid. In 2005, with enough money to cover a few months' salary, Jenny struck out and started her own nonprofit, Kids First Law Center.

Jenny is the founder and executive director of Kids First. The organization provides free, quality legal representation to children in high-conflict custody cases. When asked what she likes about her job, Jenny says, "I feel like I'm making a difference in the lives of the at-risk kids I represent. It is such a privilege to get to do exactly what I love to do. I love opportunities to speak in the community about our work at Kids First and meeting people

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who also feel passionate about our mission.”

Jenny is a member of the Linn County Bar Association, the Iowa State Bar Association’s Family Law Section, I.O.W.A., and Inn of Court. She is very active in her church and as a community volunteer.

Outside of the law, she enjoys gardening, baking desserts, hiking, and camping.

### New Members

I.O.W.A. welcomes the following new members:

- Melissa Hancock
- Kelly Gallagher
- Nicole Jean Anderson
- Lauren Bennett

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## IOWA ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN ATTORNEYS (I.O.W.A.) 2008-2009 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

JOB TITLE / POSITION: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

LAW SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR ADMITTED TO IOWA BAR: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER BAR ADMISSIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

AREAS OF PRACTICE: \_\_\_\_\_

*The above information will be listed in the membership directory unless you specify otherwise.*

Please indicate where you prefer to receive I.O.W.A. mailings and e-mail messages:

Work  Home

Please indicate if you are interested in serving on any of the following committees:

Annual Meeting  Continuing Legal Education  ISBA and Local Bar Liaison  Membership  
 Newsletter  Public Relations  Professional Action

DUES:  \$35 - Attorney  \$10 - Current Year Bar Admittee  \$5 - Law Student

(I.O.W.A. operates on a fiscal year basis, from June to June)

Please complete this form and mail with dues payment (make check payable to I.O.W.A.) by **July 1, 2008** to: I.O.W.A., P.O. Box 10098, Iowa City, IA 52240