January 2011 Vol. 56, No. 6



ILLINOIS STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

TRIAL BRIEFS

The newsletter of the Illinois State Bar Association's Section on Civil Practice & Procedure

Internet evidence: How to authenticate evidence from the Internet under the new Illinois Rules of Evidence

By George S. Bellas and Patrick Andes

he new Illinois Rules of Evidence, which went into effect January 1, 2011, codified for the first time ever, have followed the lead of the federal rules in providing straightforward means for the authentication of evidence taken from the Internet for admissibility. Federal case law and a nascent body of Illinois rulings point the way for authenticating Internet evidence for anything from using Google Maps for judicial notice to proving the screen identity of a chat room participant or establishing the particular Web page a company's marketing department targeted Illinois residents with five years ago.

This article highlights the relative simplicity of

the procedures and the novel applications under the rules to this point.

Types of Internet Evidence

There are essentially three different types of Internet evidence likely to be the subject of an inquiry into their authenticity: data posted on a Web site by the site's owner, data posted on a Web site by others with the owner's consent, and data posted on a Web site by others without the owner's consent. In general, the first type is most common, the second type often involves chat room participants or Twitter-type postings, and

Continued on page 2

Vacating default judgments: Make it make a difference

By Patrick Kinnally, Kinnally Flaherty Krentz& Loran, PC

oby Kline has come to see you, referred by his regular lawyer. Toby made an agreement with Halo, Inc., to buy and deliver cup lids from Toby's company, Alloy, Inc., which makes these lids for restaurants like McDonald's. Halo has refused to pay. Alloy has filed a complaint in state court, and a default judgment has been entered against Halo. Sixty days have elapsed since that judgment was entered.

Halo's lawyer has called you and told you he just filed a "Motion to Vacate Default Judgment." He wants to know whether you will agree to the motion. He says the trial judge will probably grant it since judges want to make sure that every litigant gets his day in court. Should you agree with Stan's proposal? See, Blazyk v. Daman Express, Inc., 2010 WL 5168870, Ill. App. 2 Dist., December 17, 2010 (No. 2-10-0189) ("Blazyk").

The facts in Blazyk are unremarkable. The plaintiff filed a breach of contract complaint on July 15, 2009. Neither defendant appeared, and they were defaulted on December 8, 2009, and served with that order. Forty-three days later, defendants filed a "Motion to Vacate Default Judg-

Continued on page 6

INSIDE

Internet evidence	
Internet evidence:	
How to authenticate	
evidence from the	
Internet under the new	
Illinois Rules of	
Evidence	1
Vacating default	
judgments: Make it	
make a difference	1
Upcoming CLE	
programs	6



IF YOU'RE GETTING THIS NEWSLETTER BY POSTAL MAIL AND WOULD PREFER ELECTRONIC DELIVERY, JUST SEND AN E-MAIL TO Ann Boucher at ABOUCHER@ISBA.ORG

Internet evidence: How to authenticate evidence from the Internet under the new Illinois Rules of Evidence

Continued from page 1

the third type embraces postings or activity on a Web site by hackers or which are otherwise insufficiently attributed.

Internet Evidence Admissibility as "Non-Hearsay"

As a threshold matter, the Illinois Rules of Evidence, like the federal rules, do not generally permit statements offered into evidence to prove the truth of the matter asserted, other than those made by the declarant while testifying at the trial or hearing. Ill.R.Evid. 801-02. Nevertheless, Rule 801 expressly reserves three types of statements as "non-hearsay": (1) prior inconsistent sworn statements of the declarant; (2) prior consistent statements in rebuttal to a charge "against the declaration of recent fabrication or improper influence or motive"; and (3) admissions of a party opponent. III.R.Evid. 801(d) (2011).

The first type is rare in the ambit of Internet evidence, but the second and especially the third are common. Courts have generally held statements made by an opposing party on its Web site admissible pursuant to Fed.R.Evid. 801(d)(2).1 However, as for statements made on a Web site by a third party, those statements will be inadmissible unless it can be shown that the statement was authored by or adopted by the opposing party.²

Rules Governing Authentication of Internet Evidence

For the first time ever, and effective as of January 1, 2011, the Illinois Supreme Court has codified its Rules of Evidence. The rules governing authentication of evidence are in Article IX, Authentication and Identification, and Article X, Contents of Writings, Recordings and Photographs, but the heart of the analysis germane to this discussion resides in Rules 901 and 902 in Article IX. Rule 901(a) of the Federal Rules of Evidence ("FRE") is the template for Rule 901(a) of the Illinois Rules of Evidence, Requirement of Authentication or Identification, which follows FRE 901(a) verbatim:

(a) General Provision. The requirement of authentication or identification as a condition precedent to admissibility is satisfied by evidence sufficient to support a finding that the matter in question is what its proponent claims. III.R.Evid. 901(a) (2011).

Like the federal rule, this is a highly relaxed standard, supported by a 10th Circuit case holding a criminal defendant's chat room printout was properly authenticated and admissible where the criminal defendant's screen identity of "Stavron" yielded his name and address.³ Although the 7th Circuit does not appear to have ruled on this issue as of yet, the Court cited Simpson in dicta in a 2007 ruling that the District Court's admission of a chat in a nearly-identical criminal case where the defendant was convicted of multiple sexual exploitation and pornography offenses was not an abuse of discretion or prejudicial.4 Clearly, if such a standard of authentication is permissible in criminal cases where personal liberty is at stake, meeting the bar for a civil case will be at least as likely.

The other part of Rule 901, (b)1-10, is an exemplary not exhaustive enumeration of several illustrations of legitimate methods of authentication. These include: testimony of a witness with knowledge; nonexpert opinion on handwriting; comparison by trier of fact or expert witness; distinctive characteristics of the data or thing to be authenticated; voice identification; telephone conversations; public records or reports; ancient documents or data compilation; evidence describing a process or system; and any other method of authentication or identification provided by statute or rules promulgated by the Supreme Court.

Some forms of Internet evidence are admissible by judicial notice. Rule 201, Judicial Notice of Adjudicative Facts, under Article II, permits judicial notice, restricting such notice taken to the type of adjudicative fact that is "not subject to reasonable dispute in that it is either (1) generally known within the territorial jurisdiction of the trial court or (2) capable of accurate and ready determination by resort to sources which cannot reasonably be questioned." Ill.R.Evid. 201 (2011).

An intriguing line of Illinois Appellate cases relevant to the second part of this rule has emerged over the past several years in both criminal and civil cases. Illinois courts have ruled that "information from mainstream Internet sites such as Map Quest and Google Maps is reliable enough to support a request for judicial notice."⁵ Judicial notice can even

be taken of information publicly posted on a party's Web site, if its authenticity is not disputed.6

Some forms of Internet evidence, particularly those on official or government sites, are self-authenticating. Rule 902, also taken verbatim in nearly all parts from FRE 902, governs self-authentication of evidence. One of the sections of this rule most frequently utilized in the authentication of Internet evidence under the FRE is subsection (5), relating to official publications in the form of "[b]ooks, pamphlets, or other publications purporting to be issued by public authority." III.R.Evid. 902(5) (2011). Therefore, in a case standing for this point, the Southern District of Ohio found that FTC press releases printed off the FTC's worldwide Web page and attached to Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment were self-authenticating official publications under FRE 902(5) and did not require an affidavit to authenticate.⁷

Finally, some forms of Internet evidence cannot be authenticated without a certification from the site's Web master. This is governed by Illinois Rule of Evidence 902-11, Certified Records of Regularly Conducted Activity, which is substantively the same as FRE 902-11.

Ill.R.Evid. 902-11 permits an original or duplicate record of regularly conducted activity to be admitted if accompanied by written certification of the custodian (in this case, the site Web master) that: (1) the record was made at or close to the time of occurrence of the matters set forth by, or from information conveyed by, a person with knowledge of those matters; (2) was kept in the course of regularly conducted activity; and (3) was made by that regularly conducted activity as a regular practice. Ill.R.Evid. 902-11 (2011). It is no longer necessary to get business records testimony of such a person under Rule 902-11; this can be done by affidavit or deposition.

Proof and Rebuttal of Authentication

To sufficiently authenticate Internet evidence posted by the site's owner, three things need to be shown, and any witness can testify to these: (1) what was actually on the site; (2) that the exhibit fairly and accurately reflects what was actually on the site; and (3) that it is fairly attributed to the site's owner. Testimony merely needs to set forth with foundation that the witness typed in the Uniform Resource Locator (URL), logged on, received what was on the site, and printed out or otherwise captured in the exhibit, which fairly and accurately reflects what the witness saw.⁸

If this prima facie burden of proof is met by the proponent, the burden then shifts to the opponent to pierce the proponent's showing of authenticity. Therefore, the Seventh Circuit found, for example, that a terrorism expert's reliance on the assumption that the postings on certain Web sites at issue in the murder of the decedent were actually attributable to the terrorist organization Hamas absent proof of such authorship was untrustworthy.⁹ The Court concluded that the postings could not reasonably and reliably be attributed to Hamas.¹⁰

Naturally, the ideal way for a court to verify the trustworthiness of the evidence proffered is for the court to go online itself and view the Web site posting in question, if it is still posted. If that is no longer possible, the other factors an opponent may raise and which the Court will generally consider as to trustworthiness are:

- The duration for which the data was posted on the site: the longer the better;
- · Whether others reported seeing the data;
- If the data is of the type ordinarily posted on that type of Web site, such as financial reporting or information about the company;
- If the site's owner has published the same data in whole or in part elsewhere;
- If others have published the same data elsewhere; and
- If others have posted the same data elsewhere citing the Web site as the source.

A genuine issue of trustworthiness can also be established circumstantially. For example, where the plaintiff in a claim of employment discrimination was highly skilled in the operation of computers, the 7th Circuit found that she needed to establish that the alleged racist Web postings in question for which a white supremacist group claimed credit were actually posted by the group and not merely slipped onto the site by the plaintiff herself.¹¹

Chat Room/Twitter Evidence

As already set forth above, chat room

evidence has been authenticated and found admissible even in criminal proceedings, but verification that the evidence or exhibit is fairly attributable to the person to whom it is attempted to be attributed is required. An elevated standard of trustworthiness applies here because the information sought in chats is data posted not by owners of the Web site or chat room but by third parties.

Obviously, the strongest indicia of reliability inheres in data taken directly off the person's hard drive, but courts give credence to other evidentiary facts and sources, including:

- Evidence that the individual to whom the chat or transcript is attributed used the screen name in question when participating in the chat or in other chats;
- Evidence that, when a meeting was arranged with the person using the screen name in question, the individual in question showed up;
- Evidence that the individual was in possession of information given to the person to whom the screen name was attributed (such as contact information of someone posing as a chat room participant in a sting operation); and
- Evidence that the person using the screen name identified her/himself as that individual in chats or elsewhere, especially if such identification is coupled with information specific to that person, such as home or e-mail address, or phone number.

Internet Archives

A particular Web site may have replaced the Web page that is the subject of litigation months or even years before the lawsuit was brought with a new one, or the same page exists, but the postings have changed. The obsolete posting or same page at issue can still be authenticated and admitted into evidence, but a certification from the Web site's archive administrator or employee is required to get it in.

Internet archive services provide snapshots of Web pages across various points in time, and, inasmuch as those services accurately capture and store copies of those Web pages in the ordinary course of business, those snapshots are admissible as business records if certified by an archive administrator or employee pursuant to Rule 902-11. In some cases the retrieval process may be purely automated, requiring further certifi-

TRIAL BRIEFS

Published at least four times per year. Annual subscription rate for ISBA

members: \$20.

To subscribe, visit www.isba.org or call 217-525-1760

OFFICE

Illinois Bar Center 424 S. Second Street Springfield, IL 62701 Phones: 217-525-1760 OR 800-252-8908 www.isba.org

CO-EDITORS

Robert T. Park 1600 4th Ave., Ste. 200 P.O. Box 3700 Rock Island, IL 61204

Columbia, IL 62236

Patric Stephen C. Buser 2114 E 108 Edelweiss Dr. Aur

Angela Imbierowicz 1301 W. 22nd St, Ste 603 Oak Brook, IL 60523

Patrick M. Kinnally 2114 Deerpath, Ste. 2 Aurora, IL 60506

Managing Editor/ Production

Katie Underwood kunderwood@isba.org

CIVIL PRACTICE & PROCEDURE SECTION COUNCIL

Allen S. Goldberg, Chair Mark L. Karno, Vice Chair Kimberly A. Davis, Secretary Robert T. Park. Ex-Officio

George S. Bellas Juliet E. Boyd Jamie L. Bracewell Stephen C. Buser Matthew R. Carter Timothy J. Chorvat Julie L. Cibulskis Hon. Barbara L. Crowder John J. Driscoll Hon. James G. Fitzgerald Smith Heather M. Fritsch Hon, Richard P. Goldenhersh Robert J. Handley Jessica A. Hegarty John J. Holevas

Angela Imbierowicz Michele M. Jochner Timothy W. Kelly John B. Kincaid Patrick M. Kinnally Stephen I. Lane Hon. Michael P. McCuskey Laura L. Milnichuk Bridget A. Mitchell James A. Murphy Daniel E. O'Brien Patrick H. O'Connor Jeffrey A. Parness J. Matthew Pfeiffer William J. Ouinlan Mark A. Rouleau P. Shawn Wood

Russell W. Hartigan, Board Liaison Lynne Davis, Staff Liaison Robert H. Hanaford, CLE Coordinator, CLE Liaison

Disclaimer: This newsletter is for subscribers' personal use only; redistribution is prohibited. Copyright Illinois State Bar Association. Statements or expressions of opinion appearing herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Association or Editors, and likewise the publication of any advertisement is not to be construed as an endorsement of the product or service offered unless it is specifically stated in the ad that there is such approval or endorsement.

Articles are prepared as an educational service to members of ISBA. They should not be relied upon as a substitute for individual legal research.

The articles in this newsletter are not intended to be used and may not be relied on for penalty avoidance.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to the Illinois State Bar Association, 424 S. 2nd St., Springfield, IL 62701-1779



Professional Liability Insurance

Surety Bonds

Newly Licensed Attorney Program

Risk Management

- Rated "A" Excellent by A.M. Best Company
- Exclusive ProgramDesigned for theNewly-Admitted Lawyer
- Over \$9.7M in PolicyholderDividends Since 2000

- ► Endorsed by Illinois
 State Bar Association
- Exclusively Serving
 Lawyers and Law
 Firms Since 1988
- Free CLE andPremium Savings

STRONG, COMMITTED & DEDICATED 800-473-4722 www.isbamutual.com

cation that said automated process is relied upon in the course of ordinary business and produces reliable results.

A final cautionary note needs to be added here as to such certification and the use of affidavits for authentication in general, especially as much of the legal precedence cited in this article arises out of criminal law. Under the landmark 2004 Crawford v. Washington United States Supreme Court ruling and the substantial Confrontation Clause jurisprudence which has evolved in its wake, a criminal defendant's 6th Amendment right to confront his accusers bars the testimony of a witness when it is offered for the truth of the matter asserted and presented without the witness appearing at trial. 13 If the witness is unavailable for trial, the defendant must have had an opportunity to cross-examine the witness.14

In 2009 the Supreme Court held that the certificates of state laboratory analysts in affidavit form and sworn to by a notary confirming that the substance taken from the convicted defendant was cocaine were testimonial and violated the defendant's Sixth Amendment rights.¹⁵ The majority rejected the State's argument that the certificates were admissible as business records, citing as its rationale that regularly conducted business activity for the purpose of producing evidence for use at trial is inadmissible. 16 The Court noted that business and public records are usually admissible absent confrontation not because they are exceptions to hearsay but because they are generated merely for the "administration of an entity's affairs" and not in anticipation of litigation, and therefore cannot qualify as testimonial. 17

In Melendez-Diaz, the certificates of analysis were created in the ordinary course of business, but that business was the preparation of evidence for trial. Here, the snapshots taken by an archive service of a Web page across various times in the past are purely administrative, and not in anticipation of litigation. On these terms, such evidence should clear the Crawford hurdle, but those proffering these types of certifications and records in criminal proceedings should be mindful of these arguments and the trends afoot in this area of the law. Since Melendez-Diaz such arguments to strike certifications based on Crawford will no doubt be more commonplace.

Conclusion

The new Illinois Rules of Evidence closely

follow the federal rules both substantively and procedurally in the area of authentication of evidence and, specifically, Internet evidence. Increasingly, diverse forms of Internet evidence can be taken judicial notice of or are self-authenticating, greatly simplifying their admissibility. Where the owner of a Web site can be shown to have either posted the data or adopted the data posted by others, the evidence will generally be admissible. In the case of third-party postings as in chat rooms, so long as the data can be fairly attributed to the person identified by the screen name, the evidence will generally be admissible. In instances where the data no longer exists on the Web site, authentication may still be achieved by certification from the site's archive administrator. The fact that some forms of Internet evidence are admissible in criminal matters bodes well for their admissibility in civil proceedings as well.

George Bellas, a principal in the Park Ridge law firm of Bellas & Wachowski,is a Past President of the Northwest Bar Association, serves on the 7th Circuit E-Discovery Pilot Program and has served as a panelist at the Sedona Conference. Patrick Andes is an associate with the Park Ridge firm of Bellas & Wachowski.

- 1. Perfect 10, Inc. v. Cybernet Ventures, Inc., 213 F.Supp.2d 1146, 1155 (C.D. Cal. 2002); also see Telewizja Polska USA, Inc. v. Echostar Satellite Corp., No. 02 C 3293, 2004 WL 2367740, at *7 (N.D. III. Oct. 15, 2004).
- 2. *U.S. v. Jackson*, 208 F.3d 633, 637-38 (7th Cir. 2000).

- 3. *U.S. v. Simpson*, 152 F.3d 1241, 1250 (10th Cir. 1998).
 - 4. U.S. v. Burt, 495 F.3d 733, 738 (7th Cir. 2007).
- 5. See People v. Clark, No. 2-09-0102 (December 16, 2010) (where the Second District found a Google Map of the area in question sufficiently reliable for the Court to take judicial notice of the location of a park relative to an intersection where a criminal defendant was identified making a deal in order to show the location was within 1,000 feet of a perk; Hoskin v. Union Pacific R.R. Co., 365 III.App.3d 1021, 1023-25 (5th Dist. 2006) (for the Court's sua sponte utilization of Map Quest in a civil matter to determine distances between towns for purposes of weighing the burden on potential employee witnesses in a motion for forum non conveniens); People v. Stiff, 391 Ill.App.3d 494, 503-04 (5th Dist. 2009) (where the Court's sua sponte use of Google Maps to show that the victim traveled about 295 feet from where he was set on fire to where he made statements in dispute).
- 6. Doron Precision Sys.v. FAAC, Inc., 423 F.Supp. 173 (S.D.N.Y. 2006).
- 7. Sannes v. Jeff Wyler Chevrolet, Inc., (S.D. Ohio Mar. 31, 1999), No. C-1-97-930, 1999 U.S. Dist. LEX-IS 21748, at *10 n. 3.
- 8. Perfect 10, 213 F.Supp.2d at 1155; also see Johnson-Wooldridge v. Wooldridge, 2001 Ohio App. LEXIS 3319 at *11 (Ohio App. July 26, 2001).
- 9. Boim v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Dev., 511 F.3d 707, 753 (7th Cir., 2007).
 - 10. Boim, 511 F.3d at id.
 - 11. U.S. v. Jackson, 208 F.3d at 637.
- 12. *Telewizja Polska*, 2004 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 20845 at *17-18, a breach of contract case.
- 13. Crawford v. Washington, 541 U.S. 36, 54 (2004).
 - 14. Crawford, 541 U.S. at id.
- 15. Melendez-Diaz v. Massachusetts, 129 S. Ct. 2527, 2542 (2009).
 - 16. *Melendez-Diaz*, 129 S. Ct. at 2538. 17. ld. at 2539.

TORT LAW

Member-to-Member Referral Directory In the June 2011 *Illinois Bar Journal*Advertising Deadline: May 2, 2011

Don't miss this opportunity to let your fellow ISBA member attorneys know you are available to accept their Tort Law referrals.

- Your listing will be seen by more than 33,000 ISBA members
- · Editorial content geared toward Tort Law Attorneys
- · Cost effective rates start as low as \$136
- Directory will be arranged by area of state your practice is located in

To place your ad contact:

Nancy Vonnahmen № Illinois State Bar Associatio 800-252-8908 or e-mail: nvonnahmen@isba.org

Vacating default judgments: Make it make a difference

Continued from page 1

ment."The motion stated:

- 1. Defendant's [sic] counsel was [sic] retained until January 11, 2010.
- 2. The Defendant has a meritorious defense.
- 3. Defendant has been diligent in bringing this motion.
- 6. [sic] That defendant's [sic] counsel's failure to appear was not intentional nor intended to disregard the authority of this tribunal.
- 7. In the interest of justice, this default judgment must be vacated and the matter reinstated.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff [sic] prays that this court will enter an order setting aside and vacating any default judgments and allowing for the Defendant's [sic] counsel to file an appearance instanter and for such further relief as the court deems necessary.

Not a paradigm of a coherent fact pleading. Yet, over plaintiff's counsel's objection, the trial judge granted the motion since he concluded, "It would be an abuse of discretion if I don't grant their motion." Can that be a correct result? In Blazyk, the Second District Appellate Court said, "No." In an opinion, authored by Justice Hudson, he explains, thoroughly, what vacating a default judgment requires once 30 days have passed from the judgment's entry. 735 ILCS 5/2-1401. Read it. A couple of times.

A Section 2-1401 proceeding is not brought by motion. This is because, after 30 days have elapsed from the entry of a default judgment, the trial court loses jurisdiction. At that moment, nothing is pending in the trial court. Although motion practice occurs while a cause of action exists in the trial court, no motion can be made (other than to enforce the trial court's judgment) once 30 days have passed. See, Blazyk at sl.op. at 5, fn. 1, citing Director of Insurance v. A&A Midwest Rebuilders, Inc. 383 III.App. 721 (2d Dist. 2008).

A Section 2-1401 proceeding is brought by a petition. This is because it is a new proceeding not the continuation of the old case. It is a separate and new cause of action. (Blazyk at p. 5). As such, the petition is akin to a complaint, and the rules relating to what that pleading must allege are contained in the rule. Like a complaint, it requires service of process. Sarkissian v. Chicago Board of Education, 201 III.2d 95 (2002).

Once the petition is properly served, the question then is the character of the petition. This analysis has two prongs: one substantive, the other procedural. As to the former spur, the issue is whether the petition asserts facts, not conclusions, which allege a meritorious defense. As to the latter, assuming a meritorious defense is pleaded, the inquiry is whether due diligence has been exercised in seeking to address the default in a timely way. See, Rockford Financial Systems v. Borghetti, 403 Ill.App.3d 321 (2nd Dist. 2010).

The meritorious defense analysis is subject to de novo review. The due diligence examination presents a mixed question of law and fact and is reviewed for an abuse of discretion. Rockford Financial Systems, supra., but see, People v. Vincent, 226 Ill.2d 1, 17-18 (2007), and Mills v. McDuffa, 393 Ill.App.3d 940 (2d Dist. 2009).

But the overriding consideration for a trial judge considering a §2-1401 petition is whether there is a pleading and the corollary proof, based on a preponderance of the evidence, that a meritorious defense exists. Would such a defense have precluded the entry of judgment in the original action? If so, then the petition, assuming it is timely filed, should probably be granted.

In Blazyk, since the defendants' motion to vacate, which was really a petition, was devoid of any factual statement of a meritorious defense (or diligence), the case should be over, right? Not so fast.

A party who is charged with pleading a cause of action has a right to amend its pleadings, a right which is liberally construed. Since a first pleading should only be dismissed with prejudice if it is evident that no set of facts can be shown that would afford the pleading party any right to recover, the decision to amend a pleading rests within the sound discretion of the trial court. The appellate court concluded the defendants should be accorded such a right (Blazyk at sl.op. at 8) and remanded the case for the trial court to do just that. Can this be right?

Blazyk was decided on December 10, 2010, almost a year after the trial court's decision and about 18 months after the original complaint was filed. Whether or not either

of the defendants had a meritorious defense they could plead is an open question, but at least they should be afforded the opportunity to do so. Which seems the wrong practical result for the plaintiff. Of course, he might have prevented this unfortunate saga for his clients if he had asserted jurisdiction as a defense since his clients were never served with summons in the §2-1401 proceeding, a defense he forfeited by not raising it.

Based on *Blazyk*, should Kline agree to the request to vacate the default judgment? Did Kevin Blazyk get any further in resolving his dispute by not agreeing to vacate the default judgment he obtained? Was any evaluation ever given as to what the defendants's meritorious defense might be or why defendants have sat on the sidelines? Are you going to get any closer to resolving Toby's dispute without such an examination? Think about why vacating a default judgment may or may not make a difference in getting an effective result that makes practical and financial sense for your client. ■



Now Every Article Is the Start of a Discussion

If you're an ISBA section member, you can comment on articles in the online version of this newsletter

Visit WWW.ISBA.ORG to access the archives.

Upcoming CLE programs

To register, go to www.isba.org/cle or call the ISBA registrar at 800-252-8908 or 217-525-1760.

March

Friday, 3/4/11 – Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—Dynamic Presentation Skills For Lawyers. Master Series Presented by the Illinois State Bar Association. 12:30-4:45.

Saturday, 3/5/11- Downer's Grove, Double Tree—DUI, Traffic and Secretary of State Related Issues. Presented by the Traffic Laws/Courts Section. 8:55-4:00.

Monday, 3/7/11- Normal, State Farm Building—Legal Writing: Improving What You Do Everyday. Presented by the Illinois State Bar Association; co-sponsored by the McLean County Bar Association and hosted by State Farm. 12:30-4:00.

Monday, 3/7/11-Friday, 3/11/11- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—40 Hour Mediation/ Arbitration Training. Master Series Presented by the Illinois State Bar Association and the ISBA Alternative Dispute Resolution Section. 8:30-5:45 each day.

Wednesday, 3/9/11- Webcast—Developing an Education Plan for your Legal Career. Presented at the 6th Annual Solo and Small Firm Conference. 12-1. http://isba.fastcle.com/store/seminar/seminar.php?seminar=6788>.

Tuesday, 3/15/11- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—Fraudulent Transfers and Piercing the Corporate Veil. Presented by the ISBA Corporation, Securities and Business Law Section. 9:00-12:15.

Thursday, 3/17/11- Webcast—Project Management for Lawyers. Presented at the 6th Annual Solo and Small Firm Conference. 12-1. http://isba.fastcle.com/store/seminar/seminar.php?seminar=6789>.

Thursday, 3/17/11- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—Litigating, Defending and Preventing Employment Discrimination Cases: Practice Updates for the Illinois Human Rights Act. Presented by the ISBA Human Rights Section. 1:30-4:45.

Friday, 3/18/11- Chicago, DePaul University College of Law—Civility and Pro-

fessionalism in 2011. Presented by the ISBA Bench and Bar Section. 9:00- 4:15.

Thursday, 3/24/11- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—Foundations, Evidence & Objections. Presented by the ISBA Tort Law Section Council. 9-12:30.

Thursday, 3/24/11- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—Fastcase: Introduction to Legal Research Training. Presented by the Illinois State Bar Association. 1:30-2:30.

Thursday, 3/24/11- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—Fastcase: Advanced Legal Research Training. Presented by the Illinois State Bar Association. 3:00-4:00.

Friday, 3/25/11- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—Medical Marijuana: Workplace Issues. Presented by the ISBA Labor and Employment Section. 8:55-12:00.

Friday, 3/25/11- Quincy- Quincy Country Club—General Practice Update. Presented by the ISBA Bench and Bar Section; co-sponsored by the Adams County Bar Association. 8:30-5.

Wednesday, 3/30/11- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—Why International Treaties Matter to Illinois Lawyers. Presented by the International and Immigration Committee. 12-2.

April

Friday, 4/1/11- Chicago, ISBA Regional Office—Military family Law Issues. Presented by the ISBA Family Law Section and the ISBA Military Affairs Section. TBD.

Thursday, 4/7/11- Chicago, ISBA Chicago Regional Office—Your Aging Clients, Their Parents and You. Presented by the ISBA Standing Committee on Women and the Law; co-sponsored by the Elder law Section, the General Practice Section and the Senior Lawyers Section. 8:15-4:45.

Friday, 4/8/11- Bloomington, Holiday Inn and Suites—DUI, Traffic and Secretary of State Related Issues. Presented by the Traffic Laws/Courts Section. 8:55-4:00.

Friday, 4/8/11- Chicago, ISBA Chicago Regional Office—Practice Tips and Pointers on Child-Related Issues. Presented by the ISBA Child Law Section; co-sponsored by the Mental Health Law Section. TBD.

Friday, 4/8/11- Dekalb, NIU School of Law—Mechanics Liens and Construction Claims. Presented by the ISBA Special Committee on Construction Law; co-sponsored by the ISBA Commercial, Banking and Bankruptcy Section and ISBA Real Estate Section. 8:55-3:45.

Tuesday, 4/12/11- Chicago, ISBA Chicago Regional Office—Recent Developments in IP Law. Presented by the ISBA Intellectual Property Section. 3:00-4:30.

Thursday, 4/14/11- Chicago, ISBA Chicago Regional Office—Civil Practice Update. Presented by the ISBA Civil Practice and Procedure Section. 9-4.

Friday, 4/15/11- Chicago, ISBA Chicago Regional Office—Liens. Presented by the ISBA Tort Law Section. 9-12:30.

Wednesday, 4/27/11- Chicago, ISBA Chicago Regional Office (invitation onlydo not publish!)—Faculty Development: Developing Effective Professional Responsibility MCLE Presentations. Presented by the Illinois State Bar Association

May

Wednesday, 5/4/11- Chicago, ISBA Chicago Regional Office—Settlement in Federal Courts. Presented by the ISBA Federal Civil Practice Section. 11:55- 4:15.

Thursday, 5/5/11- Chicago, ISBA Chicago Regional Office—Municipal Administrative Law Judge Education Program. Presented by the ISBA Administrative Law Section; co-sponsored by the Illinois Association of Administrative Law Judges. TBD.

Thursday, 5/12-13/11- Chicago, ISBA Chicago Regional Office—2011 Annual Environmental Law Conference. Presented by the ISBA Environmental Law Section. 9-5; 9-1. ■

Injury Investigations



Slip, Trip and Fall

Daniel J. Robison, AIA, NCARB Daniel J. Robison@robsonforensic.com



Construction Injuries

Gregory H. Pestine, P.E. gpestine@robsonforensic.com



Electrical Injuries

Brian Vandal, P.E. bvandal@robsonforensic.com



Sports Injuries

Maria Bella, AFOIT, CPOI, LGI mbella@robsonforensic.com



Biomechanical Engineering

Valentina Ngai, Ph.D., P.Eng. vngai@robsonforensic.com

Robson Forensic a national firm with 17 offices and more than 175 experts who provide high quality investigations, reports and testimony to assist in the resolution of disputes and litigation.

Robson Forensic

robsonforensic.com 312.527.1325



Attorney At Law

Representing Policyholders and Claimants in Insurance Coverage Litigation

Insurance Law and Coverage Advice

CGL, umbrella & excess D&O, professional liability, auto, life, health, property

Clients include major corporations, individuals, and other attorneys with whom I consult or co-counsel.

1 No. LaSalle, Ste. 2100 Chicago, IL 60602

Phone: 312-750-1814

jnyeste@coveragelaw.com • www.coveragelaw.com



Non-Profit Org. U.S. POSTAGE PAID Springfield, III. Permit No. 820 January 2011 Vol. 36 no. 6

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62701-1779

TRIAL BRIEFS