

# Law Related Education

The newsletter of the Illinois State Bar Association's Committee on Law Related Education

*The Illinois State Bar Association's Law-Related Education Newsletter is provided free of charge on a quarterly basis during the school year. We are dedicated to promoting law-related education resources and discussion topics appropriate for use in classroom or community settings. If you do NOT wish to receive this complimentary newsletter, please reply and indicate in the message line that you wish to be removed from our mailing list. Statements, expressions of opinion or comments appearing herein are those of the editors or contributors, and not necessarily those of the Association or the Committee.*

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## Chair's report

BY MARYLOU LOWDER KENT

**The work of the ISBA Standing Committee on Law-Related Education for the Public marches on.** The 2017 High School Mock Trial Invitational was an overwhelming success. Much thanks goes to Sarah Taylor, Mock Trial Subcommittee Chair, and Katy Karayannis, Mock Trial Coordinator, the entire Mock Trial Subcommittee and LRE Committee, the

Illinois Trial Team, and the many judges and attorneys from around the state who volunteered their time and counsel over the Mock Trial weekend. A special thanks goes to ISBA President Vincent Cornelius for his presence and support at this event.

The young people who participated in this event were truly inspiring and their

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## Citizenship: A road not easily traveled

BY BRENDA MATHIS

**In 1952, Congress enacted the Immigration and Nationality Act ("INA").** The purpose of the INA is to regulate all people who are not citizens of the United States. The Act does not apply to individuals who are U.S. citizenship because they were born in the United States or born to a United States citizen.

The naturalization process is not an easy process. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) provides a flow chart to clarify the process of applying for naturalization. The first step in the process is to determine if the applicant is eligible to become a U.S. Citizen. The

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## Chair's report

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preparation and commitment to this project were very evident. Congratulations to the first place team of St. Charles North High School, who will be competing at the National Mock Trial Invitational in May, and to the team of Homewood-Flossmoor High School, the first recipient of the Civility and Professionalism Award.

In addition, the Committee's efforts in the Civic Education area, under the leadership of Judge Michael Chmiel, Chair of the Civics Education Committee, continue to expand. The ISBA Speakers Bureau webpage is now up and can be accessed through the ISBA website. The Committee owes a great deal of gratitude to Hon. Robert Baderstadt who has authored "ISBA Speaker's Bureau: A Guide for Lawyers Invited to Speak," available on the website, to assist volunteers when making

presentations to their local community organizations.

Also on the website is a Courtroom to the Community presentation, prepared in large part by Hon. Robert A. Wilbrandt, which provides a succinct but informative lesson on the court system and its various participants and follows an actual case, *Gurba v. High School Dist. 155*, involving a decision by the Crystal Lake High School Board to replace the school bleachers. Much appreciation goes to Judge Wilbrandt for his time and effort in creating this presentation.

I heartily invite all to visit the website to learn more about these programs, as well as our ongoing [Lawyers in the Classroom](#) initiative, and most importantly.....  
VOLUNTEER! ■

# 2017 ISBA High School Mock Trial Invitational

BY SARAH TAYLOR

The 2017 ISBA High School Mock Trial Invitational was held on March 11 and 12, 2017, at the University of Illinois College of Law in Champaign, Illinois. Teams representing 39 high schools from across Illinois participated in the event. The winning team was St. Charles North High School, which will represent Illinois at the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Hartford, Connecticut.

The 2017 Invitational was a success due to the hard work and enthusiasm of these 39 teams and their coaches, families, and other supporters, and the dedication of the ISBA's Standing Committee on Law-Related Education for the Public, the Mock Trial Coordinator, Katy Karayannis, and the members of the Illinois Trial Team. The

Invitational would not have been possible without the many judges, attorneys, and others who generously volunteered their time, the sponsorship of the ISBA and Illinois LEARN, and the generous and welcoming spirit of the College of Law. The Law-Related Education Committee appreciates the support and hard work of all of these entities and individuals. We look forward to seeing these teams again in 2018, as well as new teams and volunteers!!

A full list of participating schools, sponsors, and volunteers, information about volunteering, and general information about the Mock Trial Invitational program will be posted on the ISBA Mock Trial website at: <<http://www.isba.org/teachers/mocktrial>>.

## Law Related Education

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# Civics Education Spotlight: Peoria County Bar Association

BY KATEAH M. MCMASTERS

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**The Peoria County Bar Association (“PCBA”) offers numerous programs** and opportunities for civics education to high school students in the greater Peoria area, including its adopt-a-school program, job shadowing program, Law Day and the Peoria Legal Academy.

For its adopt-a-school program, the PCBA Public Relations Committee has established a relationship with Manual Academy in Peoria. As part of this relationship, the PCBA and its members have organized a variety of events for Manual students, including coordinating tours of the county courts and offices, providing PCBA members to act as “guest lecturers” in Manual’s government and history classes in connection with their current studies of the Constitution, the three branches of government, and state government, and providing the students an opportunity to participate in the PCBA’s job shadowing event. The Manual Academy Jazz Band also performs at the PCBA’s annual diversity luncheon in October.

This year the PCBA Public Relations Committee re-launched a job shadowing program, inviting local high school students and undergraduate students from Bradley University’s legal studies program to share in the day-to-day experiences of local attorneys. On April 6, 2017, approximately 25 students spent the morning with an attorney “host” to discuss the legal career path and observe some of the attorney’s daily activities. Many of the students had the opportunity to accompany their host attorney to court, and to speak with the presiding judges following the conclusion of the morning’s proceedings. The students were then given a tour of the Peoria County Courthouse and invited to have lunch with some of the Peoria County Judges. After lunch, the entire group was invited to observe pre-trial proceedings in one of the felony courtrooms.

Law Day is an annual program put on by the PCBA’s Young Lawyers Committee. During the month of May attorneys volunteer to speak to schools in the greater Peoria area about a topic selected by the American Bar Association; this year’s topic is the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Students are also encouraged to participate in an essay contest about the selected topic, and the winners are recognized at a luncheon with the PCBA and a guest speaker.

The Street Law program has been operated by Caterpillar’s Legal Services Division together with the PCBA’s Pro Bono Committee since 2009. The program teaches high school students basic legal curriculum over six separate sessions. Each session covers a different legal topic including criminal law, advertising, contracts, products liability, patents and employment discrimination.

This year, the PCBA’s Diversity Committee has launched the Peoria Legal Academy. The Academy is a program developed to encourage Peoria students

to pursue a career in law and assist those students to return to jobs as lawyers in Peoria. Local attorneys will organize presentations and activities for academy members, as well as participate in a mentoring program that will follow an individual student from middle school until the student’s return to Peoria as a practicing attorney. The Diversity Committee also plans to help provide employment opportunities for the students in the legal field including summer jobs during undergraduate and law school, as well as ultimate employment as an attorney in Peoria after law school.

The ISBA Law Related Education Committee (“LRE”) commends the PCBA for its civics education programs. The LRE also offers civics education programs to students and adults alike. If you are interested in learning more about the programs the LRE has to offer please visit our website at <<https://www.isba.org/teachers>>. ■



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## Citizenship: A road not easily traveled

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applicant must be at least 18 years old and have been lawful permanent resident of the United States for 5 years or more to begin the naturalization process. Individuals who have not yet met either of these criteria must wait to apply for naturalization.

How does someone become a lawful permanent resident? They must apply for a visa or a “green card.” The visa process is difficult because the INA sets out a numerical “quota” for visas each year. The only exception to the “quota” rule is for immediate family members of the visa recipient, for whom a visa is always available.

Generally, family-sponsored preference visas are limited to 226,000 visas per year and employment-based preference visas are limited to 140,000 visas per year. Both categories are further divided into several sub-categories, each of which receives a certain percentage of the overall visa numbers. In addition, there are limits to the percentage of visas that can be allotted based on an immigrant’s country. As of November 1, 2016, there were 4,259,573 individuals on the waiting list for the family-sponsored preference visas.

The USCIS provides a helpful [pamphlet](#) that outlines important steps in the naturalization process. The process is summarized below:

1. **Determine whether you are a natural U.S. citizen** by virtue of having been born in the United States or by having a parent who is a U.S. citizen.
2. **Determine your eligibility to become a U.S. citizen.** If you are not a natural citizen of the United States, you may apply for naturalization if you are 18 years old and have been a permanent resident for at least 5 years (or at least 3 years if you are married to a U.S. citizen).
3. **Prepare & submit your Form N-400, Application for Naturalization and all documentation required under this form.** This includes documentation of the status of all current and past

marriages, military status, trips outside the United States, criminal records, income tax returns, and more.

4. **Go to the biometrics appointment.** Applicants must submit to fingerprinting, which will be used in conducting FBI criminal background checks.
5. **Complete the USCIS interview.** All applicants must meet with a USCIS officer to answer questions about the information that they’ve submitted and to take the English and civics tests required as part of the naturalization process. After the interview, the application is either “continued” or receives a “final decision.”
6. **Receive a decision from USCIS on your Application for Naturalization.** The USCIS provides written notice of their decision. They can grant, continue or deny the application. If the application is continued, this is typically because the applicant failed the civics or English test, because the USCIS needs additional documents and evidence to render a decision, or because the applicant failed to provide the required documentation. When a final decision is rendered, the application will either be granted or denied. If granted, the

applicant will continue through the next steps naturalization process. If the application is denied, the applicant may appeal the decision.

7. **Receive notice to take the Oath of Allegiance.** Some applicants are able to take the oath on the same day as the USCIS interview. If not, USCIS mails the applicant of the date, time, and location of the scheduled oath ceremony.
8. **Take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States.** This is the final step in becoming a U.S. citizen. Once the oath has been taken, the applicant will receive a Certificate of Naturalization.

### Links to Additional Information

#### USCIS Flowchart for Guide to Naturalization

<https://www.uscis.gov/us-citizenship/citizenship-through-naturalization/guide-naturalization>

#### Link to Immigration and Nationality Act

<https://www.uscis.gov/ilink/docView/SLB/HTML/SLB/act.html>

#### U.S. Department of State website

<https://www.state.gov/> ■



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## June

**Thursday, 06-01-17 – Webinar—**  
Introduction to Legal Research on  
Fastcase. Presented by the Illinois State  
Bar Association – Complimentary to ISBA  
Members Only. 12:00 – 1:00 pm.

**Friday, 06-02-2016—NIU Conference  
Center, Naperville—**Solo & Small Firm  
Practice Institute Series: A Balancing  
Act: Maximize Your Technology with  
Minimized Expense. ALL DAY.

**Thursday, 06-08-17 – Chicago  
Regional Office—**Commercial Loans/  
Documenting For Success and Preparing  
For Failure. Presented by Commercial  
Banking, Collections & Bankruptcy. 9:00  
a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Thursday, 06-08-17 – LIVE Webcast—**  
Commercial Loans/Documenting For  
Success and Preparing For Failure.  
Presented by Commercial Banking,  
Collections & Bankruptcy. 9:00 a.m. – 4:30  
p.m.

**Thursday, 6-08-17 – Webinar—**  
Advanced Tips for Enhanced Legal  
Research on Fastcase. Presented by  
the Illinois State Bar Association –  
Complimentary to ISBA Members Only.  
12:00 – 1:00.

**Friday, 06-09-17 – Chicago Regional  
Office—**Estate Administrative Issues:  
Are You Prepared to Handle Some of  
the Difficult Issues Facing Your Client?  
Presented by Trust and Estates. 9:00 a.m. –  
4:15 p.m.

**Friday, 06-09-17 – LIVE Webcast—**  
Estate Administrative Issues: Are You  
Prepared to Handle Some of the Difficult  
Issues Facing Your Client? Presented by  
Trust and Estates. 9:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

**Tuesday, 06-13-17- Webinar—**Excel

Power Hour. Practice Toolbox Series. 12:00  
-1:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, 06-14-17 – Live Webcast—**  
Implicit Bias: How it Impacts the Legal  
Workplace and Courtroom Dynamics.  
Presented by the ISBA Committee on  
Racial and Ethnic Minorities and the Law.  
12:00 -2:00 pm.

**Friday, 06-16-17 – The Abbey Resort  
in Fontana, Wisconsin—**Moneyball for  
Lawyers: Using Data to Build a Major-  
League Practice. Time TBD.

**Friday, 06-16-17 – The Abbey Resort  
in Fontana, Wisconsin—**Effectively and  
Ethically Handling Referrals for Personal  
Injury Clients. Presented by Law Office  
Management and Economics. Time TBD.

**Friday, 06-16-17 – The Abbey Resort in  
Fontana, Wisconsin—**E-Filing in Illinois.  
Presented by the ISBA Standing Committee  
on Legal Technology. 8:45 – 10:15 am.

**Friday, 06-16-17 – The Abbey Resort  
in Fontana, Wisconsin—**Boost Your  
Memory Power - Improve Your Practice.  
Master Series Presented by the Illinois State  
Bar Association.

**Wednesday, 06-21-2017—Chicago,  
ISBA Regional Office—**Gain the Edge! \*  
Negotiation Strategies for Lawyers - Marty  
Latz Negotiations. Master Series Presented  
by the ISBA. 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, 06-21-2017—Live  
Webcast—**Gain the Edge! \* Negotiation  
Strategies for Lawyers - Marty Latz  
Negotiations. Master Series Presented by  
the ISBA. 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, 06-27-17- Webinar—**Google  
Apps Power Hour. Practice Toolbox Series.  
12:00 -1:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, 06-27-2017 Live Webcast—**  
The Inappropriate Use of Non-Competition  
Agreements: A Conversation on National  
and Local Trends. Presented by Racial and  
Ethnic Minorities and the Law. 2:00 p.m.-  
3:00 p.m.

**Thursday, 06-29-17, Chicago, ISBA  
Regional Office—**How to Handle a  
Construction Case Mediation. Presented  
by the Construction Law Section, co-  
sponsored by the Alternative Dispute  
Resolution Section (tentative). 8:30 am –  
5:00 pm.

**Thursday, 06-29-17 – Live Webcast—**  
How to Handle a Construction Case  
Mediation. Presented by the Construction  
Law Section, co-sponsored by the  
Alternative Dispute Resolution Section  
(tentative). 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. ■

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