

# The Catalyst

The newsletter of the Illinois State Bar Association's Standing Committee on Women and the Law

## Chair's column

BY LORI LEVIN

The Women and the Law Committee (WATL) is an umbrella Illinois State Bar Association Committee. We are not practice area or topic specific, but advocate for women's issues in general and women lawyer interests in the specific.

I am thrilled to be the new chair of this committee and even prouder of our recent accomplishments and what we plan to accomplish this year.

Over the past few years, WATL has been a moving force for equality of women and, in particular, Illinois' ratification

of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution. We were the impetus for the Association's Assembly's unanimous support of ratification. Our members and the association did not merely pass a resolution but then actively worked for ratification. In May, the state of Illinois finally ratified the ERA. WATL helped achieve that milestone. There is only one more state needed for women to finally achieve a place in the United States Constitution.

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## Getting to know Kelly Giraudo

BY MARGIE KOMES PUTZLER

Kelly Giraudo is a new appointee to the ISBA's Standing Committee on Women and the Law. Her main area of practice is family law. She is a 2009 graduate of Southern Illinois University School of Law. During law school she served as a legal extern for Land of Lincoln and both participated in and then worked for the Civil Practice/Elderly Clinic under her 711 license. She was a member of the Delta Theta Phi legal fraternity, and served as dean for one year. She participated in the 2008 Moot Court Intramural Competition and won second best brief.

After graduating, Kelly began her

practice of family law at the Law Office of Susan H. Butler in Morton, Illinois. She is a member of the American Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, Peoria County Bar Association, and Tazewell County Bar Association. Kelly served two years as president of the Tazewell County Bar Association and is a member of the Family Law Section of the Peoria County Bar Association. Kelly serves as a court-appointed Guardian ad Litem for the Tenth Judicial Circuit of Illinois.

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In April of 2013, Kelly became a partner in her firm. Butler, Giraudo & Meister, P.C. is a three attorney all female family law firm with offices in Morton, Illinois and Peoria, Illinois. Kelly truly believes she was born to practice family law, and she finds so much joy in what she does. She has authored and given oral presentations at several CLE courses within Tazewell, Peoria, and McLean counties covering various topics within the area of family law. In 2018, Kelly received the Trailblazer Award from SIU School of Law's Women in Leadership.

Kelly credits her husband, Jon, for

## Chair column

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In July, WATL members Emily Hansen, Jessica Marshall, Cindy Buys, and Sarah Toney were awarded for their service to the Association. Former WATL Chair Sandra Crawford also received the Matthew Maloney Award.

During this bar year, WATL's focus will not only be on enhancing the lives and practices of our members but also advocating for the girls who will follow us. As a committee of 40 members who live and practice throughout Illinois, we have unique opportunities to do so.

As a social and internal networking event, following our August 10, 2018, meeting, we adjourned to Spa Space to enjoy ourselves and get to know our new members. In doing so, we furthered ISBA President Hon. James McCluskey's theme of enhancing the success and well being of our members.

The night before each of our future meetings, we plan on holding informal dinners to network and explore topics how

## Getting to know Kelly Girardo

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guiding her into the legal profession. Not only did he suggest she would be a good lawyer, he provided her support and motivation throughout law school and now in her legal career. Her professional idols are Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Rebecca O'Neil (one of her law school professors), and her legal partner, Susan Butler.

Her advice to new lawyers is to be reasonable, stay true to yourself, and find a good balance between your professional and personal life.

Kelly is an active member and second vice president and fundraising chair of the Kiwanis Club of Pekin, which is a community-based organization whose mission is to serve the children of the world. Kelly's firm also sponsors and supports Crittenton Centers in Peoria,

we can assist each other's practices. Both current and former WATL members will be invited to attend.

On November 1, 2018, we will present a CLE program on branding and will have a networking reception following the program. In the spring, we will sponsor a program on assisting girls in crisis. This year, we also plan on exploring the issue of pay equality and pay equity. We also look forward to sponsoring our Third Annual International Women's Day Tea.

This is only a portion of WATL's agenda for 2018-19. For more information on these efforts and others, please feel free to reach out to Melissa Burkholder, ISBA director of section services, [mburkholder@isba.org](mailto:mburkholder@isba.org), 312-920-4682 or to me. ■

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Illinois, whose mission is to protect and nurture children and families.

In her spare time, Kelly loves to spend time with her husband, Jon, who is an assistant state's attorney in Tazewell County, and their two very active sons. She enjoys traveling, hanging out with family and friends, and competing in CrossFit. ■

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## The Catalyst

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

# 2018 ISBA Awards Ceremony

BY KELLY THAMES BENNETT AND MELISSA BURKHOLDER

On July 18, 2018, the ISBA hosted the 2018 Awards Ceremony, recognizing our peers for their contributions to the legal community in Illinois. In the past, the reception has been part of the ISBA Annual Meeting. This year, the awards ceremony was its own event in downtown Chicago at the Roanoke.

**Troy Riddle**, assistant dean for diversity, equality, and inclusion, and the chief diversity officer at the John Marshall Law School was awarded the Diversity Leadership Award. The Diversity Leadership Award recognizes long-standing, continuing, and exceptional commitment by an individual or an organization to the critical importance of diversity within the Illinois legal community, its judiciary, and the Illinois State Bar Association.

**Sandra Crawford**, was awarded the Matthew Maloney Tradition of Excellence Award. The Matthew Maloney Tradition of Excellence Award was renamed in 2008 in honor of Matthew Maloney, a recipient of the award who was active in the ISBA as well as the General Practice, Solo, and Small firm Section Council. Sandra has served as chair of the ISBA's Standing Committee on Women and the Law, is a member of the ISBA Judicial Evaluation Committee for Cook County, and ex-officio of the Delivery of Legal Services Committee.

**Fiona McEntee** and The John Marshall Law School International Human Rights Clinic were awarded the ISBA Elmer Gertz Human Rights Award. This award is given to an individual who has a record of advancing individual rights and civil liberties to underserved communities. Fiona is a founding member of the O'Hare Airport attorneys and one of the first to respond to the travel ban last year. She has remained an on-call immigration attorney for the Traveler's Assistance Project, which provides rapid response legal support to those affected by the travel ban and also those who fear detainment on arrival to the airport. The John Marshall Law School International

Human Rights Clinic served a critical role in addressing the Syrian humanitarian crisis by providing pro bono legal research and case management services.

**Paul Matalonis** was awarded the Joseph R. Bartylak Memorial Legal Services Award. This award was named in memory of an Alton attorney and long-time ISBA member, Joseph Bartylak. Bartylak was executive director of the Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation for nearly 30 years. This year's recipient, Paul Matalonis, is senior staff attorney in the Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation's Southern Regional Office. Paul was recognized for his exemplary service to clients and advocacy for the homeless.

**Judge Michael Brandt** was awarded the John C. McAndrews Pro Bono Service Award for an individual. The Pro Bono Service award is named in memory of Rock Island Attorney, John McAndrews, who chaired the ISBA Committee on Delivery of Legal Services. Judge Brandt was instrumental in starting the 10th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee, where he continues to serve as a committee member and active volunteer. He has provided more than 130 hours of pro bono service during the past year.

**The Law Firm of Heller, Holmes, & Associates** in Mattoon was awarded the John C. McAndrews Pro Bono Service Award for a small firm. The firm's five lawyers performed an extensive amount of pro bono legal work last year, especially to clients of the Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation.

**State Farm Insurance Company** was awarded the John C. McAndrews Pro Bono Service Award for a large firm. Its Law Department provides pro bono services for clients of Cabrini Green Legal Aid, the 11th Judicial Circuit's Pro Bono Committee, Illinois Legal Aid Online, and Prairie State Legal Services.

**The Civil Justice Clinic of Northern Illinois University College of Law** was

awarded the Excellence in Legal Education Award. This award is to honor a law school program that emphasizes real world skills for students. Law students in this clinic develop practical skills handling civil matters on behalf of low-income senior citizens and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and elder abuse.

State Representative **Kelly Cassidy** was awarded the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Committee Community Leadership Award. The Community Leadership award is given to individuals who have worked to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity and who foster understanding of LGBTQ+ persons and the legal issues of concern to them. Kelly received the award for leadership on issues including non-discrimination, marriage equality, conversion therapy, and gender marker issues.

We are so proud that **Jessica Marshall** and **Emily Hansen** were each awarded the Young Lawyer of the Year Awards, Jessica for Cook County and Emily for outside Cook County. The ISBA created the award to recognize young lawyers who have set a positive example of bar leadership for others to follow. Jessica and Emily are both active members of the Standing Committee on Women and the Law

**Larry Davis** was awarded the Richard H. Teas Legislative Support Award. This award acknowledges ISBA members' meritorious service provided in support of legislative efforts in the Illinois General Assembly. Larry was recognized for doing an outstanding job on the Traffic Laws and Courts Section Council in a number of legislative hearings and negotiations. He also represented the ISBA on DUI and traffic-related advisory boards and task forces.

**Richard Hannigan** was awarded the Austin Fleming Newsletter Editor Award. The newsletter editor award was established in 1981 and named posthumously for Austin Fleming, who was editor of the Trusts and Estates Section newsletter for 25 years.

Richard Hannigan has served as editor of the ISBA's Workers' Compensation Law newsletter for the past 18 years. During that time, he has published more than 76 issues.

The Lincoln Award Legal Writing Contest is an annual writing contest that invites ISBA lawyer members under 36 or admitted to the bar for fewer than five years, to submit articles that provide useful, practical information on topics that are important to practicing lawyers. This year's award recipients are:

In third place, **John Zimmerman**

In second place, **Daniel Ritter**, and

The first place prize was awarded to **Jake Crabbs**.

The Newsletter Service Awards are given

by the Illinois Bar Journal editorial board in recognition of exceptional service as newsletter editors.

This year's recipients:

- **Sarah Toney** for 10 years on the traffic laws & courts newsletter
- **Cindy Buys** for five years of service on our newsletter, The Catalyst. Thanks, Cindy!
- **Douglas Darch** for five years of service on the Employee Benefits newsletter
- **Karen Kloppe** for five years of service on the Elder Law newsletter
- **Robin Miller** for five years of service on the Family Law newsletter
- **Lewis F. Matuszwich** for 20 years of service on the International &

Immigration Law newsletter

- **W. Eugene Basanta** for 30 years of service on the Health Care Law newsletter
- **Michael R. Lied** for 30 years of service on the Labor & Employment Law newsletter.

Congratulations to all of the recipients! ■

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*Kelly Thames Bennett is the vice chair of the Illinois State Bar Association's Standing Committee on Women and the Law and a partner at Law Offices of J. Jeldes, Ltd, where she represents clients in family life transitions, ranging from divorce, parentage, minor and adult guardianship, prenuptial agreements, adoption, and decedent's administration.*

## WATL August spa outing

BY ERIN WILSON

Our Women and the Law Committee took some time out on a Friday afternoon to get pampered at Spa Space downtown Chicago, following our working meeting of course. It's a great reminder that we all need a break sometimes, but also, it was a unique networking opportunity.

We had a room set up with snacks and refreshments to enjoy in between our treatments, and it was a nice time to chat about all things lawyering and otherwise. Other unique networking ideas would be to do a yoga class or to get mani/pedis at a salon. So frequently you meet for lunch, coffee or drinks, which is nice of course, but doing something a little different also helps people to connect and can provide interesting talking points. So thanks, WATL, for the great afternoon! ■



# A year as chair of the American Bar Association Judicial Division

BY JUDGE ANN BREEN-GRECO

As my year as Judicial Division (JD) chair is coming to a close I am reflecting on all the opportunities I have had to work on justice and the rule of law and particularly on my theme: Fostering Creative/Collaborative Leadership Globally to Ensure Fairness in Justice Systems. My theme has especially envisioned working with judges and administrative tribunals across the world with a focus on the United Nations' declaration of the International Decade for People of African Descent – 2015-2024.

I attended the Central Panel Directors' Conference (almost half the states in the U.S. have central panels of the administrative law judiciary in those states) in Des Moines, Iowa, and the Appellate Justice Institute in Long Beach. I attended the ABA Anti-Trust Judicial Law and Economics Institute for Judges, addressed the Association of Administrative Law Judges conference, met with the ABA Council for Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Educational Pipeline (Pipeline Council), with Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Committee, with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration representatives, and with the Regional Judicial Outreach Liaisons and ABA Judicial Fellows, when they met in Chicago.

In furtherance of my theme, in Vancouver at the ABA Midyear, we visited a community court and interacted with Canadian

provincial and First Nation judges and members of the British Columbia Council of Administrative Tribunals. I met with judges from Tunisia and the country of Georgia, gave a presentation to Macedonia judges by teleconference on the rule of law and the functioning of our six conferences of the Judicial Division, which includes federal trial judges, appellate judges, state trial judges, specialized court judges, the administrative law judiciary and a lawyers conference.

A highlight of my year as Chair was in Washington, D.C., presenting judges and lawyers to be sworn into the bar of the US Supreme Court.

I also attended the Section of International Law's (SIL) United Nations Day. This year the UN launched its Global Judicial Integrity Network, with Chief Justices, senior judges and judicial professionals from around the world. The network is a platform for judges to share good practices and lessons learned, to support each other, and to join forces in developing new tools and guidelines for strengthening integrity and preventing corruption in the judicial system. As such, it will also provide access to a large online database featuring thousands of resources, good practices, and other judicial documents for immediate reference. I have contacted one of the two U.S. delegates, a federal trial judge in Chicago, to find out how the JD can

be involved in this important initiative.

In Dublin, Ireland, I met with a justice of the high court-criminal to discuss her work in extradition and being subjected to personal attacks on the basis of one of her decisions. I also had the opportunity to attend the SIL's Africa Committee conference in Cape Town, South Africa, with a focus on the rule of law, which attracted participants from ten countries. While in Cape Town, I met with the Dean of the University of Cape Town Law School and also visited the magistrate court and spent time with the chief magistrate, visiting a number of courtrooms.

During my year as JD Chair I had the opportunity to discuss the work of WATL and to laud all that WATL is doing. I am privileged to have been re-appointed to the ISBA's Women and the Law Committee and I look forward to supporting and continuing the work of WATL. ■

## Personal branding for the female lawyer

BY TRACY DOUGLAS

The CLE program "Personal Branding for the Female Lawyer" takes place on November 1 at the Chicago Regional Office of the Illinois State Bar Association. The program will discuss attorney ethics and advertising as well as traditional marketing

versus outside the box marketing ideas. Participants will also learn how to target advertising and marketing to their target population and how to speak to the clients they want to get. A networking event will follow. ■

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# If you are a woman, or if you know one...

BY ELIZABETH M. ROCHFORD

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... you should see *RBG*. The film chronicles the remarkable life and career of United States Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

The documentary is a compilation of interviews with Justice Ginsburg's friends dating back to grammar school, colleagues from throughout her career, professional admirers and adversaries, and her son and daughter, among others. The viewer is also treated to an intimate glimpse of the relationship the Justice enjoys with her granddaughter, Clara Spera, a Harvard law student. And Justice Ginsburg reveals the impact of the two guiding principles she garnered from her own model and mentor, her mother: always be a lady and be independent.

And the film offers so much more to theater-goers of all interests.

**If you are a student of history**, you will be surprised and delighted by all you didn't know, or had forgotten, about the struggle for equal rights for women. And, you will gain insight into President Clinton's process in selecting and nominating the unlikely candidate, Ruth Bader Ginsburg. You will be treated to portions of the confirmation hearings that resulted in a nearly unanimous appointment of the second woman, and the first Jewish woman, to the U.S. Supreme Court. August 10, 2018 marked her 25<sup>th</sup> year in service on our highest court.

**If you are a supporter of women's rights**, this film is a must see. Although we all enjoy the benefits of her efforts, most don't know the dramatic impact this one woman has had on all things related to establishing equal rights, on the basis of sex. Despite having earned a coveted spot on Harvard Law Review, and graduating at the top of

her class from Columbia Law School, she was denied opportunities at prestigious judicial clerkships, and turned away from employment at the best law firms. She instead pursued a career as a teacher, and later as a civil rights advocate. As the director of the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, Ginsburg was discerning in choosing, and masterful in arguing, cases that would change the course of American history. She prevailed on five of six gender equality cases argued before the Supreme Court including several landmark decisions that struck down laws that were discriminatory against women, and men.

**If you are passionate about popular culture**, you will be delighted to learn the impact this now 85 year-old woman is having on current culture. The "Notorious R.B.G." earned her nickname as a play on the late rapper "Notorious B.I.G." Her dissents stir great energy and emotion among today's youth, and resulted in the meme "There is no TRUTH without RUTH." Her image is the subject of everything from SNL skits to coffee mugs, and now as an action figure. And her workout routine, which includes pumping iron and real push-ups, has achieved legendary status and admiration, from young and old, liberals and conservatives alike!

**Or, if you simply enjoy a wonderful love story**, this is the film for you. Ruth Bader met Marty Ginsburg when they were students at Harvard. Marty recognized not only her beauty, but also her brilliance. Theirs was a true partnership, generously and selflessly accommodating the needs of each other's careers, personal challenges, and the family they raised together.

The film was released in May 2018 and unexpectedly grossed \$13 million. The film is leaving theatres soon, but CNN has picked up the first-run rights, and it will make its small screen debut on Labor Day.

And stay tuned, CNN is also releasing a companion podcast next week titled, "Beyond Notorious," which will include Ginsburg's granddaughter and the son of late Justice Antonin Scalia as guests. The pairing is a nod to a sweet reunion of Supreme Court Justices Ginsburg and Scalia, who had disparate legal philosophies, but maintained a dear friendship.

**I urge you to see this film.** And don't be dissuaded because you think it is about liberal politics, it isn't. It is a compelling biography that is balanced, and a jewel in these partisan times. I encourage you to take your mother, and your daughter, and the men in your life too, as this film holds appeal for all ages, and does not discriminate on the basis of sex. ■

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*Elizabeth M. Rochford is an associate judge in Lake County, currently assigned in the Family Division. She is a member of the ISBA Board of Governors, and serves as liaison to the Women and the Law Standing Committee*