



**DECATUR BAR ASSOCIATION
President's Page**

MARCH 2014

Law Week

Our annual law week activities begin at the end of next month. This year they include:

- A. ISBA "Ask a Lawyer Day" program. Volunteer lawyers will answer calls at the Illinois Bar Center offices at 424 S. 2nd Street from 9:00 A.M. to Noon. To participate contact Bill McNutt at mcnutt@decaturlaw.com.
- B. Courthouse Mock Trial. Wednesday, April 30th, 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Sixth Grade Students from Decatur will attend. Volunteers needed. Contact Regan Lewis at ReganLewis@hsbattys.com.
- C. Blood Drive. Friday, May 30th at the Courthouse. Time is 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
- D. Lawyer's Social. Friday, May 2nd from 4:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.

Brown Bag Luncheon CLE

Upcoming presentations in the Jury Assembly Room at the Courthouse are:

Judge Webber, Thursday, April 17, 2014: "Cameras in the Courtroom & Probate."

Judge Coryell, Thursday, April 24, 2014: "Family Law."

Softball Team

The DBA softball team through the Decatur Park District is now forming for the summer. To participate contact Andrew Erickson at a.erickson@jdrlawoffice.com.

Annual Meeting and Golf Outing

The annual meeting and golf outing will be on Friday, May 16th at South Side Country Club. Time to form your teams. Volunteers should contact Jack Kiley at jkiley@law225.com.

Full Day Continuing Education

A full day of CLE is being planned for June 20th. Credit will include 6.0 hours of CLE with 2.0 hours of PCLE. The sessions will begin with a Continental Breakfast at the Decatur Club. If you have a suggestion for a topic, would like to volunteer to make a presentation or help with the committee contact Carol Craig at Carol.Craig@busey.com.

Illinois Judges Literacy Project

Judge R.C. Bollinger and some 65 other members of the Illinois Judges Association have been visiting elementary school classrooms to share their love of reading and how it has impacted their lives. Their calling card is “Abe Lincoln’s Hat,” by Martha Brenner, a delightful children’s book about our nation’s 16th president. The volunteer reads the book aloud to students and engages them in a conversation about reading, history and civics. Interaction with the children through reading promotes literacy. Studies have shown that if a child can learn to read by the third grade then he or she will continue to learn thereafter. But if they can’t read then they can’t learn.

More volunteers for this program are needed. It is not complicated. Judge Bollinger has a power point program that assists in the presentation of the book. There is also an activity book for the teachers. If you would like to participate contact Judge Bollinger at rbollinger@court.macon.il.us. Dates to visit classrooms will then be scheduled.

WEB Page Revision

The Executive Board is studying the Decatur Bar Association WEB page. We are forming a committee to study updates and redesign. Also we are considering professional assistance in the redevelopment and maintenance of the information on the page. If you would like to participate in this planning contact Bill McNutt at mcnutt@decaturlaw.com.

Women’s Bar Association of Illinois

A reception and networking session will be held at Saputo’s Restaurant, 801 Monroe Street in Springfield on Thursday, April 10th. For reservations and additional information contact Monique Austin @ wbai@wbaillinois.org or 312 341 8530 by April 7th.

Administrative Hearing Officer

The City of Lincoln has opened a request for proposals seeking an Administrative Hearing Officer to be appointed by the Mayor, with the consent of the Counsel. Further information may be obtained from Sue McLaughlin, City Administrator 217 732 2122. Deadline to apply and submit a proposal is April 1st.

New Member

Please welcome the newest member of DBA, whose application was recently approved by the Executive Board:

Laura E. Richardson, employed by Richardson & Erickson. She is a 2011 graduate of Valparaiso University and resides in Decatur. Laura is the daughter of DBA member Jeff Richardson.

Sincerely,
Bill McNutt