

<u>In Brief</u>



August 2015

A Quarterly Publication of the McHenry County Bar Association



MCBA 39th Annual Golf Outing August 7, 2015









2014-15 Board of Governors

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Board of Governors Meeting Highlights

May 19, 2015

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT: E Frommes reported that

E.Frommes reported that the lease on the office space is going up.

ADR/MEDIATION: Ms. Gehris reported that they have the speakers finalized for the seminar in September.

CIVIL PRACTICE:

Ms. Schwemler reported that they are considering an Ethics seminar for December with the Hon. Tim Balen as the speaker.

CRIMINAL LAW: Criminal Law had their annual meeting on May 7th and Rob Deters is remaining on as President.

FAMILY LAW: Ms. Vaclavek reported that the new slate for the section was voted on at their annual meeting on May 12th. Paul Zukowski is President, Colleen Thomas is Vice President and T.J. Clifton is Secretary/Treasurer.

LEGISLATIVE: Mr. Cynor reported that on June 1, 2015 a new law passed allowing for 6 jurors instead of 12.

June 16, 2015

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

C. Arévalo invited Dennis Favaro to speak to the Board about setting up a Foundation. Dennis explained the process and C. Arévalo volunteered to help create the Foundation.

1ST VICE PRESIDENT REPORT J. Wombacher reported that Judge Graham and Judge Beaderstadt were both retiring. Ms. Wombacher also said that there would be a 100th Anniversary Celebration and asked for volunteers to help plan.

July 21, 2015

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Ms. Wombacher reported that the 100th Anniversary Celebration will be held at Boulder Ridge Country Club on Friday, October 2, 2015 and asked for the contract to be approved.

Technology: Discussion was held on the new website and on-line event registration and how well it is being utilized. Suggested doing a short training at a General Meeting.

Young/New Lawyers: A. Michlig reported that the group had a meeting and discussed the annual softball game and picnic. It was decided that the event will take place on Friday, September 25, 2015.

New Members

Scott Jacobson Michael Wurster Daniel Wilbranddt Mark Facchini Taylor Nesbit Ellen J. O'Rourke Bridget Salvi Jane Craddock Ryan

President's Page Jamie Wombacher 2015/16 MCBA President

Recently my daughter decided she wants to run the Hot Chocolate 15k race in November. She is a gymnast, not a runner, but she is motivated by the chocolate and the medal that looks like a chocolate bar. I don't think a 14 year old should be running a 9 mile race in Chicago alone, so I agreed to run it with her. At the time that I told her that I would run with her I was fondly remembering the half-marathons and marathons that I completed in 2010-2012. I was not considering that I was not regularly running even a mile, the amount of physical and mental work it would take to get back into running shape, or the fact that I have gained more than my fair share of weight since then. In fact those thoughts did not enter my mind until the first day of my training. It was hot. It was brutal. I was sore. Did I mention that I only ran 2.16 miles? I kept telling myself it would get easier.

I believe that finishing a marathon is 75% mental and 25% physical. If you have trained physically, believe you can do it, and are willing to push yourself hard enough you can finish a marathon. It may not be pretty, it may be slow, but it is a moment to be proud of. Mentally you must see yourself finishing the race before it even starts. You must set mini goals for yourself, and check them off as you pass each mile marker. Of course, at times things do not go as planned. Your GPS watch stops working, you get a new blister or chafing that you never had before, or the line for the port-a-potty is way too long. Without mental preparation and determination all of these mishaps can ruin a race. But, when you cross the finish line you know that not only the training but the planning and your strong determination carried you through. I am sure that my fellow runners will agree that finishing a marathon, or any race for that matter, can be a pretty emotional experience.

My perspective on my term as President of the McHenry County Bar Association is similar. First, I have put in the "training" to make this a successful year. I have been a member of the Board of Governors for several years. I was the President of the Criminal Law Section for 2 years, and of course the past four years I have been a member of the Executive Committee. Even with a last minute curveball thrown my way, Law Day 2015 was a success under my leadership. The rest of this year is all about planning and mentally seeing my goals accomplished.

We have several exciting events planned this year. The first is a retirement luncheon celebration for Judge Gordon Graham on September 4th at Bull Valley Country Club. I am also looking forward to hosting the McHenry County Bar Association 100th Anniversary Celebration. On October 2, 2015, we invite bar association members both past and present to join us at Boulder Ridge Country Club to share in the rich history of the McHenry County Bar Association. We are preparing for a night of food, drinks, laughter and socialization! It will surely be a night that you do not want to miss.

I know (from experience) that not everything will go as planned this year. However, I am certain that with the dedication and determination of the Board of Governors, and members of the bar association, it will be a successful year for our Bar. I can only hope that my term as President is not nearly as painful as my first week of training for the Hot Chocolate 15K.

MCBA 2015/16 LEADERSHIP ELECTED AT ANNUAL MEETINGS

2015/16 Criminal Law Section Officers

At it Annual Meeting on May 7, 2015, the Criminal Law Section of the McHenry County Bar Association elected the following officers for the 2015/16 year:

- President-Robert V. Deters, Botto Gilbert Lancaster, P.C.
- Vice President–Kevin A. Chrzanowski, Zukowski, Rogers, Flood & McArdle
- Secretary/Treasurer—Alexander Geocaris, McHenry County State's Attorney Office

MCBA 2015/16 Executive Board

In accordance with the Bylaws for the McHenry County Bar Association, the annual election of the Executive Board was held at the June 23, 2015 Annual Meeting & Luncheon.



Pictured I to r: 2nd Vice President, Rhonda L. Rosenthal, *Rhonda L. Rosenthal*, *P.C.*, Secretary, Steven J. Greeley, Jr., *Franks, Gerkin & McKenna*, *P.C.*, President, Jamie Wombacher, *Gummerson Rausch Wand Lee Wombacher*, *LLC*, Outgoing President, Carlos Arévalo, *SmithAmundsen*, *LLC*, Treasurer, Jennifer Johnson, *Zanck*, *Coen*, *Wright & Saladin*, *P.C.*, 1st Vice President, Hon. Mark R. Gerhardt, 22nd Judicial Circuit Court

2015/16 Family Law Section Officers

At it Annual Meeting on May 12, 2015, the Family Law Section of the McHenry County Bar Association elected the following officers for the 2015/16 year:

- President-Paul Zukowski, Prairie State Legal Services
- Vice President–Colleen Thomas, Thomas Law Office
- Secretary/Treasurer-T.J. Clifton, Zukowski, Rogers, Flood & McArdle

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- Bill LeFew, Treasurer - McHenry County

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- Joan Tillman, Vice President of Marketing - American Girl

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What Happens in Mediation Stays in Mediation (*usually*) by Jeffrey Hirsch, *The Gitlin Law Firm*, *P.C.*

Divorce mediation is like the Las Vegas of ADR methods. It's for adults only, and what happens there, stays there. The promise of confidentiality is a cornerstone of mediation. But, there are a few exceptions to confidentiality that participants should be cognizant of before placing their bets on the mediation table.

In Illinois, mediation is governed by the Uniform Mediation Act, 710 ILCS 35/1, et seq. The UMA provides that mediation communications are confidential to the extent agreed by the parties or provided by other law or rule of that State. A "mediation communication" means a statement, whether oral or in a record or verbal or nonverbal, that occurs during a mediation or is made for purposes of considering, conducting, participating in, initiating, continuing, or reconvening a mediation or retaining a mediator. The Act provides that a mediation participant may refuse to disclose, and prevent any other person from disclosing, a mediation communication. So, generally speaking, a statement made by a participant during mediation is privileged from disclosure in the divorce proceeding. But, just like the aftermath of an illicit weekend in Las Vegas, there are exceptions to the rule of confidentiality.

First, consider who's participating in the mediation. It may not necessarily be limited to just the parties themselves. Under the Act, an attorney or other individual designated by a party may accompany the party to and participate in mediation. A "non-Party Participant" is a person, other than a party or mediator who participates in mediation. The mediation privilege applies to non-party participants.

Of course the participants may voluntarily waive the privilege. To do so, it must be an express waiver. A waiver cannot be implied by conduct. This is typically done by a written agreement. All parties must waive the privilege before any statement may be disclosed.

Also, it is important to note that it's only the communication that is made in mediation that is protected by the privilege; not the underlying facts giving rise to the communication. Evidence that is otherwise admissible or subject to discovery does not become inadmissible or protected from discovery by reason of its use in a mediation. For example, a party who learns about a witness during mediation is not precluded from later subpoenaing that witness in the divorce case.

The exceptions to confidentiality and privilege generally fall into categories over safety or fairness, and there are some rather obvious situations when the privilege may not be invoked.

Under the safety category:

• A person who intentionally uses a mediation to plan, commit, or conceal a crime or ongoing criminal activity is precluded from asserting a privilege.

• A threat to inflict injury or commit a crime of violence is not privileged from disclosure. If a credible threat is made, the mediator may likely report the threatening statement to the police or the court.

• A statement that is made to prove or disprove abuse or neglect is not privileged in a proceeding where a child protective agency is a party. Thus, a mediation statement evidencing child abuse may be admitted in a juvenile proceeding, but it likely remains privileged for the divorce or custody proceeding. In Illinois, a mediator is a mandated reporter of child abuse or neglect.

Under the fairness category:

• A person who discloses or makes a representation about a mediation communication which prejudices another person in a proceeding is precluded from asserting a privilege so that the other person may respond to the prejudicial disclosure.

• A statement that would prove or disprove a claim of professional misconduct filed against a mediator is not privileged. In other words, mediators must be accountable for grievances while allowing the mediator to defend himself.

• A statement that would prove or disprove a claim to rescind or reform a contract is not privileged if a court determines that the evidence is not otherwise available and the need for it substantially outweighs the interest in protecting confidentiality. This exception involves contract defenses to the enforcement of the mediated agreement.

For all of the exceptions, only the portion of the mediation communication necessary for the application of the exemption from non-disclosure may be used.

Finally, although the rules of confidentiality and evidentiary privilege apply in the divorce proceedings, there may still remain questions whether the expectation of confidentiality applies outside the courtroom, such as to family, friends, media, and other third parties, etc. It may be wise for parties to discuss and agree upon the expected boundaries of non-disclosure to third parties.

The expectation of confidentiality is key to encourage full candor by the parties during mediation. The Uniform Mediation Act provides the evidentiary privilege to do so, but there are limits and exceptions. Knowing this, parties may guard their privacy and avoid surprise of an unexpected disclosure.

Upcoming Events

September 4, 2015–Judge Grahams' Retirement Luncheon at Bull Valley Golf Club

September 18, 2015–Mediation Seminar at Home State Bank, Woodstock

September 25, 2015–Annual Picnic and Softball Game, Veterans Park, Crystal Lake

October 2, 2015–100th Anniversary Celebration Dinner at Boulder Ridge Country Club, LITH

October 15-18, 2015–Destination Seminar at Eagle Ridge Resort and Spa, Galena, IL

Stress for the practicing attorneys is standard fare; it's a natural consequence of the legal and can't be avoided, or even mitigated to some extent. The most basic definition of stress is, "events that require responses or resources we can't provide."

So in order to help survive stressful situation we should consider the following:

- 1. Slow down- try not to pre-judge a situation until more facts are available about how to respond.
- 2. Practice "persistent patience"- Understand we may not have a good deal of control over the outcome of an event; but we may have more control over our part of the process. So it's help to be 'patient' about getting the outcome we want, but at the same time we can be persistent in do what we can.
- **3.** Ask for help- Many stressful events require response we don't have; so it's helpful that we ask others, e.g., family or colleagues, to help us out from time to time.
- 4. Observe more, react less- we often exhibit the tendency to react first rather than perceive. The more we observe first, the less likely we are to react inappropriately in a stressful encounter.



For **confidential** assistance call the Lawyers' Assistance Program 312-726-6607 or 1-800-LAP-1233

Member News

Jeffrey L. Hirsch of The Gitlin Law Firm, PC has been accepted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and he recently completed training as a family law arbitrator.

Attorney Carlos Arévalo Joins SmithAmundsen's Woodstock Office

Attorney Carlos Arévalo, well known for his experience in the areas of labor and employment and local government law, joins SmithAmundsen's growing Woodstock office as a partner.

Carlos represents local government on issues such as labor negotiations and related controversies, governance, local zoning and planning, employee termination and discipline, and transactional matters. He serves as City Attorney for the City of Marengo, advising the city on growth and development matters. Carlos also represents businesses in employment disputes. He advocates for his clients in court and in administrative law proceedings before the Illinois Department of Human Rights, the Illinois Labor Relations Board, the Illinois Department of Labor, the Illinois Department of Employment Security and Illinois Liquor Control Commission.

Jeff Risch, a member of the executive committee and chair of the labor and employment group, said it best when he said "SmithAmundsen is thrilled to welcome Carlos to the firm. He is extremely well respected within his community and will be a wonderful addition to our growing team."

Aside from his extensive legal career, Carlos is a very active member of his community, as represented by his many leadership positions including president of the McHenry County Bar Association. He is also on the board of directors for the United Way of Greater McHenry County and Mercy Harvard Hospital as well as a member of the Alumni and Curriculum Committees for Leadership Greater McHenry County.

About SmithAmundsen: SmithAmundsen LLC is a law firm comprised of 150 attorneys practicing from offices in Chicago, St. Charles, Rockford and Woodstock, IL; Indianapolis, IN; St. Louis, MO; and Milwaukee, WI. The firm represents business entities and individuals engaged in commercial endeavors. Major practice concentrations include commercial litigation, labor and employment, corporate and securities, banking and financial services, construction, real estate, insurance services, commercial transportation, intellectual property, class action, tax, health care and medical devices, products liability/manufacturing and government entities.

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JUDGE CHMIEL RECEIVES AWARD

Judge Michael J. Chmiel was bestowed the Board of Governors Award from the Illinois State Bar Association. According to the ISBA, "[t]he award recognized Judge Chmiel for his long-standing and exemplary contributions to the association and the legal profession."

Judge Chmiel, as a member and chairman of the ISBA's Committee on Law Related Education for the Public, contributed to the success of the ISBA's High School Mock Trial Invitational. He also contributed to the "Bringing the Courtroom to the Classroom" program with the ISBA and the Illinois Judges Association.

"What we hope to do, through all of this, is to continue to educate the public on civics and the court system in Illinois," Judge Chmiel said.

We thank Judge Chmiel for his efforts!



2015 LEGAL AID AWARDS PRESENTATION



Keynote Speaker: Jayne Reardon, Executive Director of the Commission on Professionalism



Pictured L to R: Steven Greeley, Jr, Peter Carroll, Carlos Arévalo, Michelle Gehris, Melissa Cooney

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Wendy Drefahl of WFA Econometrics Corporation is proud to be a sponsor of the MCBA's 39th Annual Golf Outing. For over 20 years, Wendy has assisted family law attorney's in valuing and dividing retirement plans in divorce. She has testified as an expert witness on pension valuations and QDROs in courts across the country, including the Illinois counties of McHenry, Cook, DuPage, Will, Lake and DeKalb.

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On Course Contest Winners

<u>Straightest Drive</u>
Male– Mike Dunek
Female– Marla Willey
Closest to the Pin
Male- Don Stinespring
Longest Drive
Male- Derek Lee
Female— Samantha Piekarski
Putting Contest—iPad Winner
Callie Czerwinski

<u>1st Place Foursome</u> Chris Poulson Chris Ditton Craig Krandel Guy Youman

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Hole 4: Jerome C. Majewski, Attorney at Law

44 N Virginia St., Suite 2D, Crystal Lake, IL 60014 815-455-2393

Jerry Majewski is a solo practioner attorney in Crystal Lake, IL who specializes in real estate, workers' compensation, civil practice and wills & trusts.

Hole 5: Stan's - LPS Midwest

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Hole 13 and 18: Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard, P.C.

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Hole 14: Miller Verchota Inc., CPA's

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Hole 16: Knight Barry Title, Inc.

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	Golf Outing Committee	
Jennifer Johnson	Kathleen Laughlin	Ashley Wilson
Hon. Mark Gerhardt	Keith Sloan	Kelly Vaclavek
Steve Greeley	Vonda Vaughn	

Raffle Prizes/Winners

<u>Grand Prize Winner:</u>

Robert Burke
Cubs Tickets courtesy of Heritage Title Company:
Kenzie Justen
Gears Tickets courtesy of Doreen T. Paluch, P.C.:
Bears Tickets courtesy of Doreen T. Paluch, P.C.:
Hank Justen
Turnberry Foursome courtesy of Turnberry Country Club:
Turnberry Foursome courtesy of Turnberry Country Club:
Nick Johnson
White Sox Tickets courtesy of Fidelity National Title:
Peter Carroll
Trader Joes gift basket courtesy of Joseph Canevello, LCSW, Connections Counseling:
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Wine Tasting courtesy of PRP Wine International:
Tom Carroll

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Trial Call

Case Number: 10LA223 Plaintiff: Deborah Brinson Defendant: Joseph H. Levenstein,MD Plaintiff's Attorney: Joseph S. Messer Defendant's Attorney: Hickey Melia & Associates Trial Date: June 22, 2015 to July 9, 2015 Judge: Michael T. Caldwell Verdict: Mistrial Last Demand: \$1,900 000 Last Offer: \$300,000

Case Number: 13LA293 Plaintiff: Shirleen Kamysz Defendant: Village of Algonquin, et al. Plaintiff's Attorney: David Heyer Defendant's Attorney: Ancel Glink Diamond Bush et al Trial Date: July 20, 2015 to July 22, 2015 Judge: Thomas A. Meyer Verdict for defendant Last Demand: \$300,000 Last Offer: no offer

Case Number: 11LA321 Plaintiff: Michael Michelin Defendant: Susan Macmillan Plaintiff's Attorney: Michael D. Johnson Defendant's Attorney: Lucas & Associates Trial Date: July 20, 2015 to July 22,2015 Judge: Michael T. Caldwell Verdict: Defendant Last Demand: \$1,500,000 Last Offer: \$5,000

Case Number: 14SC1819 Plaintiff: Thomas C. Zanck Defendant: Sebastian G. Homuth Plaintiff's Attorney: Zanck Coen Wright & Saladin Defendant's Attorney: Madison Law Associates Trial Date: April 15, 2015 Judge: Michael T. Caldwell Verdict: Property Damage: \$842.88 Car Rental: 246.27 Total Verdict: \$842.88 Last Demand: 1641.92 Last Offer: Unknown



Save the Date: MCBA Annual Softball and Picnic

September 25, 2015 from 5-8pm. We expect it to be just as much fun as last year, so make sure you mark the date in your calendar so you can attend! An e-mail will be circulated later with more details and to rsvp for the picnic or to get on a team!

Any questions/suggestions can be directed to the Young/New Lawyers chairperson, Amber Michlig, via e -mail at <u>amichlig@salawus.com</u>.

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MCBA Calendar of Meetings & Events

Date	Event	Location	Time
August 18, 2015	Board of Governors Meeting	MCBA Office	Noon
August 25, 2015	General Meeting	Woodstock Country Club	Noon
September 3, 2015	Criminal Law Section Meeting	MCBA Office	Noon
September 4, 2015	Judge Graham	Bull Valley Golf Club	Noon
	Retirment Luncheon		
September 8, 2015	Family Law Section Meeting	MCBA Office	12:15
September 15, 2015	Board of Governors Meeting	MCBA Office	Noon
September 18, 2015	Mediation Seminar	Home State Bank, Woodstock	Noon-4:00
September 29, 2015	General Meeting	Woodstock Country Club	Noon
September 25, 2015	Annual Softball Game and Picnic	Veterans Acres Park, Crystal Lake	5:00 pm
October 1, 2015	Criminal Law Section Meeting	MCBA Office	Noon
October 2, 2015	100th Anniversary Celebration	Boulder Ridge Country Club, Lake in the Hills	6pm—cocktails 7pm—dinner
October 13, 2015	Family Law Section Meeting	MCBA Office	12:15
October 15-18, 2015	Destination Seminar	Eagle Ridge Resort, Galena, IL	
October 20, 2015	Board of Governors Meeting	MCBA Office	Noon
October 27, 2015	General Meeting	Home State Bank, Woodstock	Noon

McHenry County Bar Association

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