

President's Page

by Patrick M. Flaherty, KCBA 2007-08 President

A Proud Legacy

The soul of any organization is in its members. The distinguished men and women, past and present, who comprise this organization represent a tradition of honor, service and professionalism of which we can all be proud. The sesquicentennial we will soon celebrate is a reminder that we are guardians of that heritage and that we must invest during our stewardship the same dignity, vision and vitality our predecessors were so careful to provide. It is my privilege to contribute toward this collective effort as president in 2007-2008. My sincere thanks to outgoing president Bob Britz for his tireless contributions over the past year.

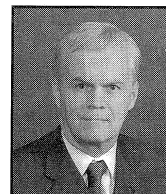
The KCBA is one of the oldest and largest Bar organizations in Illinois. Although documentation is difficult, we may in fact be the oldest. Our birth in 1858 predates the Chicago Bar Association (1874), the Illinois State Bar Association (1877), DuPage County Bar Association (1879), Winnebago County Bar Association (1906) and any others we could identify. With membership exceeding 1,000, we are now the third largest county Bar association in the state, behind Chicago (21,000) and DuPage (2,000) and ahead of Winnebago (500+) and Peoria (600).

Accommodating our growth and preserving our proud tradition are exciting and challenging tasks. They require the active participation of members from every part of the legal profession: lawyers, judges and legal assistants. There are many opportunities for involvement in the Association and many benefits to be realized. Programs range from first rate free continuing education seminars to enjoyable and frequent social events. Knowledge, business development, professional enhancement and comradery are only some of the benefits. Your participation ensures that the future will be as bright as the past.

Preserving and perpetuating traditions are important to the practice of law. Much of the dignity and nobility embodied in our profession is derived from tradition. One tradition that may not deserve to survive, however, is the writing of a President's Page every month in the *Bar Briefs*. I have no illusions that what I have to say will justify the valuable time you spend reading this page over the next 12 months. Although I will contribute when appropriate, I plan instead to use this space as a forum for opinions and perspectives on lawyers and the practice of law from outside the profession.

Like members of any "club", lawyers and judges can become isolated and detached. How we are perceived by the public we serve is just as important as any peer assessment. Continuing legal education should not always be "By the Bar - For the Bar". We can learn to be better lawyers by listening to non-lawyers. The perspectives offered may be critical but are intended to be constructive. I hope we all learn something that will help us serve our clients more effectively.

I look forward to serving you this year. Please feel free to call me directly any time you have questions or ideas. I can be reached at the following numbers: office 630-907-0909; cell 630-258-8947 and home 630-892-0033. This is your Bar association. Please take ownership of it.



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