



**Organized January 7, 1918  
President's Page**

**January 2008**

**CLE Accreditation:**

The Decatur Bar Association ("our Association") has been approved as an accredited CLE provider for the Illinois MCLE. The accreditation is effective from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2009. Courses will be presented in accordance with Supreme Court Rule 795(a). Thank you very much to our Association's CLE Committee of Phoebe Bowers, Randy Baker, and Faiq Mihlar for its work on obtaining the accreditation.

**Hot Topics for the General Practitioner:**

On Friday, February 22, 2008, there will be a CLE seminar at the Decatur Club, presented by the ISBA General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section, at the request of our Association. 7.0 hours of MCLE credit will be provided, including 2.0 PMCLE hours. A copy of the program is attached. An updated version of the program is located online at [www.isba.org/lawed/2008/gphottopics/](http://www.isba.org/lawed/2008/gphottopics/).

**Law Day:**

Our Association has received a \$500.00 check from the Illinois State Bar Association for use in advertising for Law Day events. The chairperson for this year's Law Day is Kristin Zacheis.

**Legal Aid Payment:**

The Executive Committee of our Association has approved a payment of \$5,685.00 to the Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance ("Legal Aid"), for use in Macon County. At the request of Legal Aid, we held the payment to Legal Aid until it reestablished its Decatur office. We are pleased that the Decatur office has now been reopened, and look forward to continuing our work with Bill Brown.

**Change in Bankruptcy Meeting of Creditors Dates and Times:**

Attached is an e-mail from Jeff Richardson about a change in dates and times for bankruptcy meeting of creditors.

**Holiday Party:**

Thank you to Hughes, Hill, and Tenney, L.L.C., for the enjoyable Christmas Party on December 18, 2007.

**New Members:**

We welcome Joshua Steiman, of Heavner, Scott, Byers and Mihlar, and Gale Thetford, of Robbins, Schwartz, Nichols, Lifton & Taylor, who have been approved as new members of our Association.

**Retirement of Jon Baxter:**

Macon County Public Defender, Jon Baxter, is retiring from his duties as Public Defender. There will be a retirement party for Jon at Doherty's, 242 E. William St., Decatur, on Thursday, January 24, 2008, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Thank you, Jon, for your excellent work as Public Defender.

**Composite Photos:**

The Decatur Bar Association Executive Committee has approved the creation of a booklet containing pictures of the members from their recent composite photos. A Directory Committee has been appointed, with Bill Brown as chairman of that committee.

**Reminder:**

Please submit your dues to Amy Waks.

Yours truly,  
Keith W. Casteel, January 23, 2008

2008 ACADEMIC YEAR

Effective • Convenient • Affordable

# Hot Topics for the General Practitioner 2008

— DECATUR —  
Friday, February 22, 2008  
Decatur Club  
158 W. Prairie Avenue

Presented by  
ISBA General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section

Register online at [www.isba.org/ta08](http://www.isba.org/ta08) and receive a discount!

## Hot Topics for the General Practitioner - 2008

February 22, 2008, Decatur Club, 158 W. Prairie Avenue, Decatur, IL

Decatur Bar Association members receive same rates as ISBA members

### Attendee Information [Please print or type information.]

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ARDC# \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail\* \_\_\_\_\_

### Fees

	Cost	Fees
New Admittee ISBA Member**	\$25	\$
ISBA Member If received by ISBA 1 week prior to program.	\$135	\$
If received by ISBA less than 1 week prior to program.	\$150	\$
Non-Lawyer or Non-Member Lawyer If received by ISBA 1 week prior to program.	\$290	\$
or If received by ISBA less than 1 week prior to program.	\$305	\$
Legal Services Attorney**	\$25	\$
Non-Attendee Course Materials Only No Discount Apply	\$50	\$
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	\$

### Discounts

	Dollar Discount	Discounts
I am an ISBA & Sponsoring Section Member	\$ - 10	\$
Online Registration Discount**	\$ - 10	Online only
	<b>DISCOUNT SUBTOTAL</b>	\$

### Total Amount Due

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Subtract Discount Subtotal from Fee Subtotal.*

### Payment

Payment by:  Check  Visa  MasterCard  American Express

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### There are 4 ways to register:

- Online [www.isba.org](http://www.isba.org)
- Fax (217) 525-0112
- Phone (217) 525-1760 or (800) 252-4908
- Mail Illinois State Bar Association  
Attn: CLE Registrar  
424 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Springfield, IL 62701

### Important Information:

- Make checks or money orders out to ISBA.
- Fax and phone registrations must be accompanied by credit card information.
- ISBA does not sell or disseminate members' e-mail addresses other than for internal administrative purposes.
- See General Information for more about New Admittees, Legal Services Attorneys, and the Online Registration Discount.

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Springfield, IL  
Permit No. 820

**Can't Attend?**

Purchase programs online in  
multiple formats for MCLE credit  
at [www.isba.org/FastCLE](http://www.isba.org/FastCLE).

## Hot Topics for the General Practitioner - 2008

Presented by the ISBA General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section

Friday, February 22, 2008

Decatur Club, 158 W. Prairie Avenue, Decatur, IL.

7.0 hours based on a 60 minute MCLE credit hour  
\* including 1.0 PMCLE Hour

### Program

#### Program Coordinators:

*Phoebé S. Bowers, Samuels Miller Schroeder Jackson & Sly  
LLP, Decatur*

*Michele M. Jochner, Law Clerk to Justice Charles E.  
Freeman, Illinois Supreme Court, Chicago*

#### Program Moderators:

*Michele M. Jochner*

*Donald A. LoBue, Law Office of Donald LoBue, Springfield*

#### 8:25 - 8:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

*Michele M. Jochner  
Donald A. LoBue*

#### 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. Hot Topics in Elder Law

As the population ages, issues involving elder law are becoming more and more prevalent in our legal practices. Our speaker will discuss the emerging issues in the field of elder law, including an overview of recent case law decisions and legislation.

*Daniel M. Moore, Jr., Moore Susler McNutt & Wrigley LLC,  
Decatur*

#### 9:15 - 10:00 a.m. Hot Topics in Civil Practice

This session will provide a review of recent significant developments in the area of civil practice with a focus on recent case law and legislative enactments.

*Speaker TBA*

#### 10:00 - 10:15 a.m. Break

#### 10:15 - 11:00 a.m. Hot Topics in Criminal and Traffic Law

Participants will join the speaker in a discussion of recent court decisions and legislative enactments in the area of criminal and traffic law.

*Michele M. Jochner*

#### 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Hot Topics in Handling Client Trust Accounts

This session will provide an overview of the best practices in handling client trust accounts and the pitfalls to avoid.

*Peter L. Rotskoff, Litigation Group Manager, Attorney Regulation and Disciplinary Commission, Springfield*

#### 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Lunch (On Your Own)

#### 1:00 - 1:45 p.m. Hot Topics in Bankruptcy

Learn how the new bankruptcy laws are working and identify emerging issues from both the debtors' and creditors' perspectives.

*Summer A. Bourne, Rafool & Bourne P.C., Pontiac*

#### 1:45 - 2:15 p.m. Hot Topics in Collections and Enforcement

This session will look at best practices for effective collection and enforcement procedures.

*Speaker TBA*

#### 2:15 - 2:30 p.m. Break

#### 2:30 - 3:15 p.m. Hot Topics in Family Law

Our speaker will provide an outline of recent developments in the area of family law with a focus upon the new 900-Series Illinois Supreme Court rules governing child custody proceedings.

*Hon. Theodore E. Paine, Circuit Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit, Decatur*

#### 3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Hot Topics in Professional Responsibility and Attorney Discipline

Join this interactive discussion of emerging issues with respect to professional responsibility, ethics and attorney discipline.

*Peter L. Rotskoff*

#### 4:15 - 5:00 p.m. A View From the Bench: Local Practices

The presiding judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit will discuss local practices, including the "Top 10" tips for practice and procedure.

*Hon. John K. Grenias, Presiding Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit, Decatur*

\* Subject to review

Please note: Supreme Court rules on MCLE require lawyers to earn at least 4 hours of Professional Responsibility MCLE every reporting period.

### General Information

#### Advance Registration Deadline

All advance registrations, with payment, must be received by ISBA at least **three working days** prior to the program presentation. ISBA accepts Visa, MasterCard and American Express. See Registration Form panel for registration options.

#### Same Day Registration

Because of limited seating at most locations, registration on the same day as the program cannot be guaranteed. However, if space is available, please plan to pay on-site with check or credit card.

#### Cancellations & Refunds

Please call at least **three working days** prior to the program if you need to cancel your reservation. Refunds or credit card adjustments are made following the last presentation of each program.

#### Special Needs

The ISBA Chicago Regional Office is wheelchair-accessible and also offers special headphones for the hearing-impaired. Other sites are selected for maximum accessibility. ISBA encourages the visually-impaired to bring along an additional individual at no additional charge to take notes or assist. (Please be sure to register the assistant, as space is sometimes limited.) Attorneys who are physically-challenged are welcome to contact the CLE Registrar a week prior to the program to determine how ISBA can facilitate their attendance.

### Law Ed Fees/Discounts

#### Online Registration

You receive an additional \$10 discount on full-day and half-day programs with online registration sent by the advance registration deadline.

#### Legal Service Attorneys

Legal Services Attorneys may attend for only \$25, if they work full-time or part-time (with no other income through the practice of law); for a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization whose mission is to provide quality civil legal assistance to low-income persons. Documentation required 10 days prior. (See [www.isba.org/LawEd/lsa](http://www.isba.org/LawEd/lsa) for the form.) No other discounts apply.

#### Members of Presenting or Co-sponsoring Sections

If you are a member of the section presenting or co-sponsoring the program, you receive a \$10 discount off the fee. This discount is applicable to full-day and half-day Law Ed programs but not Masters Series programs.

#### New Admittees

First-year attorneys (admitted for one year or less) pay only \$25 for regular Law Ed programs and full price for Masters Series programs. No other discounts apply.

#### ISBA Law Student Members

Law student members may attend regular Law Ed programs free, as space permits. This does not include Masters Series programs.

#### Coursebook-Only Purchase

Attorneys who don't plan to attend a program, but would like the coursebook, may order it for \$50.

**Subject:** Change in bankruptcy meeting of creditors dates and times

**From:** jdrdec@aol.com

**Date:** Mon, 14 Jan 2008 10:59:58 EST

**To:** psbowers@smsjlaw.com

Dear Phoebe:

I would appreciate it if you would circulate this e-mail to the DBA members concerning a change in the 341 meeting times for bankruptcy cases assigned to me.

Effective in the month of March, 2008, 341 bankruptcy meetings are switching from every other Tuesday morning to every other Wednesday afternoon. The change will be effective starting Wednesday March 5th. For those of you who are interested in the reason, it is because Judge Gorman conducts her Springfield hearings on Tuesday mornings and there were too many conflicts where I was asking for a continuance of a Springfield hearing because I had to conduct my own cases in Decatur at the same time.

The reason for Wednesday afternoons is basically by process of elimination. Mondays and Fridays do not work due to the courthouse periodically being closed for holidays. Thursdays created its own conflict because the Bankruptcy Judge hears cases on Thursdays in court and byconference calls.

Judge Greanias indicated that Courtroom 5C was sometimes used on Wednesday mornings by the Coroner for inquests, so we arrived at Wednesday afternoons by process of elimination.

Thanks for helping get the word out.

Jeff Richardson

P.S. Both I, a trustee, and the local bar in general owe Judge Greanias a "thank you" for his continuing efforts making the courtroom available for Judge Gorman and 341 meetings. For those of you who do not know, over the past several years, three towns are no longer on the list for Central Illinois bankruptcy judges to travel to because of logistical problems in making courtrooms, or in the case of Kankakee, the city hall, available on a regular basis. Any of us who practice at all in bankruptcy probably take for granted the convenience we have in getting most of a bankruptcy work taken care of here locally in Decatur, without having to drive to Springfield. It really doesn't happen automatically.