

Bench & Bar

The newsletter of the Illinois State Bar Association's Bench & Bar Section

'Good Morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. My Name Is...'

BY JUDGE HEINZ RUDOLF

As I recently exited our chief judge's office and walked down the hallway to my chambers after discussing upcoming scheduling concerns regarding criminal and civil jury trials, I recalled that I had the good fortune to preside over the last major civil jury trial in our jurisdiction. COVID-19 has forced the 20th judicial circuit court and all Illinois courts to reexamine the daunting responsibility of just how to administer justice for all during the pendency of this deadly pandemic.

If you would have posed to me back in March 2020 to define COVID-19, I readily admit the answer would have been suspect at best. My understanding would have lacked in substance and specificity. I probably would have asserted that terms like "contact tracing" or "PPE" or, better yet, "emergency use authorization" were drawn from a recent CSI episode I had recorded on my DVR.

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ISBA Launches Rural Practice Fellowship Program as Component of Rural Practice Institute

BY DANIEL R. THIES & LOIS J. WOOD

In an effort to address the ongoing shortage of attorneys practicing in rural Illinois, the ISBA has launched the Rural Practice Institute and the Fellowship Program that is a part of that Institute. The Fellowship Program aims to connect rural and small-town law firms interested in hiring law clerks and associates with law students and newer attorneys desirous

of practicing law in rural areas of Illinois. Attorneys and law students admitted into the Program will receive a stipend of \$10,000 or \$5,000, respectively, to encourage their establishment of a practice in rural areas of our State.

Data shows that more than half of Illinois counties have fewer than 0.7 lawyers in private practice per 1,000

residents. Thirty-four Illinois counties have ten or fewer attorneys total in private practice, and 13 counties have a total of five or fewer attorneys in private practice. Worse, many attorneys in rural areas are nearing retirement (for which step we wish them well) and are not being replaced in significant enough numbers to avoid a

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As I sat back down in my office pulling up my docket for the next two days now being all held remotely via Zoom technology, I smirked because I could never have imagined hosting Zoom hearings on a daily basis. I began to also realize just how fortunate I have been over my nearly fifteen years on the bench. Currently, I have been given the opportunity by our chief judge to preside over a major civil docket. The right to trial by jury of our peers is sacred and its value to our citizenry has never been greater. Similar to so many things in life, one has a greater appreciation and clarity when that cherished thing is taken away, however brief.

I have been humbled during the course of the fast approaching 15 years to preside over dozens of jury trials to verdict. I have learned many lessons throughout and have witnessed outstanding litigators present their cases to the best of their God-given abilities. I have also observed with much admiration just how serious jurors took their oaths in rendering what they believed were fair and just. As I approach this one-year mark since I last presided over a jury trial, I am grateful for the hard work and leadership demonstrated by our chief judge and my judicial colleagues. Serving the voters of the 20th judicial circuit court has been and remains an honor. I look forward with fondness to our future when we will once again be welcoming prospective jurors for voir dire.

I believe I stand on solid ground when I say on behalf of myself and other Illinois jurists, "Good Morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is..." ■

Heinz Rudolf was elected circuit judge in 2018 by the voters of the 20th judicial circuit consisting of Monroe, Washington, Perry, Randolph and St. Clair counties. Judge Rudolf has now served as a judge approaching 15 years, having been appointed an associate circuit judge in February 2006. His current assignment is major civil. In his current judicial career, Judge Rudolf has presided over 70 jury trials to verdict.

Judge Rudolf obtained a joint degree from Saint Louis University Law and Graduate School (J.D. and M.A.P.A.) in 1995. Following law and graduate school, he continued his education and earned his Ph.D in public policy analysis and administration from Saint Louis University Graduate School in 2002. While taking evening classes in the doctoral program, Judge Rudolf worked as an assistant state's attorney followed by his work as an assistant public defender in St. Clair County. Prior to his appointment to the bench in 2006, Heinz worked as an associate for the law firm of Becker, Paulson, Hoerner and Thompson, P.C. where he primarily concentrated in civil defense trial litigation.

Heinz Rudolf was elected to the St. Clair County Board in 2002 and served until 2006 when he was appointed to the bench. Judge Rudolf had served for several years as a member of the Illinois Judicial Conference Committee on Education. He continues to teach on behalf of the Illinois Supreme Court and most recently taught in February 2020 at the Judicial Education Conference on behalf of the Illinois Supreme Court and the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC).

Heinz Rudolf has served on the Children First Foundation Board since 2008. Judge Rudolf completed extensive coursework to become an A.S.T.A.R. Science and Technology Fellow in 2009. He has presented at numerous seminars hosted by the St. Clair County Bar Association, Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, AOIC, IICLE, and ISBA. Prior to the closure of the Belleville campus, Judge Rudolf taught for several years as an Adjunct Professor for Lindenwood University courses in Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure. In year 2019, Judge Rudolf was formally recognized by the Illinois Judges Association by receiving the Outreach Award for presenting the I.J.A.'s w.w.w. cyberbullying and 7 Reasons to Leave a Party presentations to over 15,000 students at that point in time from grades 5-12 in public and private schools throughout all five counties of the 20th judicial circuit. End of year 2019, Judge Rudolf was honored to receive the Land of Lincoln's Joseph R. Bartylak Award. Heinz and his wife have two children.

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ISBA Launches Rural Practice Fellowship Program as Component of Rural Practice Institute

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growing crisis in access to justice.

The ISBA Special Committee on the Rural Practice Initiative created two complementary fellowship programs to address the issue:

1. a clearinghouse to connect law students (summer fellows) with rural practitioners for an 8-10 week summer clerkship; and
2. a clearinghouse to connect young lawyers (associate fellows) with experienced practitioners searching for a permanent associate to whom they might eventually transfer their practice.

As an extra incentive, both summer fellows and associate fellows accepted into these programs will be eligible to receive a stipend. Summer fellows will receive a \$5,000 relocation and expense stipend from the ISBA, plus any amount that the experienced practitioner agrees to pay

them. This arrangement will allow fellows to earn \$8,000-\$10,000 per summer, which is extremely competitive for summer opportunities for law students. Associate fellows will receive the same \$5,000 relocation stipend planned for the summer fellows, but in addition, the associate fellows will also receive a \$5,000 stipend upon the completion of their first year as a rural practitioner. This second stipend will serve as an additional inducement for young and new lawyers to relocate permanently to rural areas.

“I look at this as part of succession planning,” ISBA President Dennis Orsey said. “We know in a number of the counties in the state of Illinois we have an aging lawyer population. A number of these practicing attorneys have good, viable practices with a built-in client base. What they’re looking for are younger attorneys who are willing to settle in that rural

community and eventually take over their practices.”

Applications from both potential summer fellows and from law firms or experienced practitioners seeking to employ a fellow will be due by February 12, 2021.

Additional information about the RPI program, as well as the application, can be found at <https://www.isba.org/ruralpractice>.

The RPI Special Committee will inform applicants if they are accepted into the program by March 1, 2021 and, to facilitate the scheduling of interviews, will provide both summer fellows and experienced practitioners with each other’s contact information at that time. The deadline for summer fellows to accept an offer of employment and for experienced practitioners to secure a summer clerk fellow will be March 14, 2021. ■

Recent Appointments and Retirements

1. Pursuant to its constitutional authority, the supreme court has appointed the following to be circuit judge:

- Paul E. Bauer, 10th Circuit, November 19, 2020
- Ramon M. Escapa, 8th Circuit, December 4, 2020
- Hon. Christopher P. Threlkeld, 3rd Circuit, December 7, 2020
- Hon. Robert L. Carter, Supreme Court, 3rd District, December 8, 2020
- Hon. Eugene P. Daugherty, Retired Judge Recalled, Appellate Court, 3rd District, December 8, 2020

2. Pursuant to its constitutional authority, the supreme court has reinstated the following judge:

- Hon. Richard H. Gambrell, appointed, 9th Circuit, December 1, 2020

3. The following judges have been elected:

- Julie B. Aimen, Cook County Circuit, 9th Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
- Hon. Erin H. Antonietti, Cook County Circuit, 3rd Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
- Laura Ayala-Gonzalez, Cook County Circuit, December 7, 2020
- Hon. Jason M. Bohm, 6th Circuit, December 7, 2020
- Mark M. Boie, Appellate Court 5th District, December 7, 2020
- Talmadge G. Brenner, 8th Circuit, December 7, 2020
- Krista D. Butler, Cook County Circuit, 1st Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
- Hon. J. Jason Chambers, 11th Circuit, December 7, 2020
- Hon. Peter Church, 14th Circuit, December 7, 2020

- Hon. Thomas M. Cushing, Cook County Circuit, 9th Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
- Maire A. Dempsey Cook County Circuit, 10th Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
- Hon. Sondra N. Denmark, Cook County Circuit, 2nd Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
- Hon. William S. Dickenson, 21st Circuit, December 7, 2020
- Jamie G. Dickler, Cook County Circuit, 6th Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
- Hon. Christopher R. Doscotch, 10th Circuit, December 7, 2020
- Andrew J. Doyle, 9th Circuit, December 7, 2020
- Hon. Patricia M. Fallon, Cook County Circuit, 12th Subcircuit, December 7, 2020

- Hon. Richard D. Felice, 18th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Elizabeth Flood, 16th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Michael A. Forti, Cook County Circuit, 8th Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Jeffrey S. Geisler, 6th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Mark R. Gerhardt, 22nd Circuit, 4th Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. David R. Gervais, 22nd circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Adam Giganti, 7th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Jody P. Gleason, 23rd Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Jonathan C. Green, Cook County Circuit, 8th Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Raylene Grischow, 7th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Susanne M. Groebner, Cook County Circuit, 13th subcircuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Justin M. Hansen, 22nd Circuit, 3rd Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Matthew J. Hartrich, 2nd Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Sheree D. Henry, Cook County Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Christopher E. Hitzemann, 20th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Michael B. Hyman, Appellate Court, 1st District, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Sharon O. Johnson, Appellate Court, 1st District, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. John J. Kane, 15th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Douglas E. Lee, 15th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Allison S. Lorton, 7th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Amy Maher, 3rd Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Daniel E. Maloney, Cook County Circuit, 3rd Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Mary C. Marubio, Cook County Circuit, 10th Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Celestia L. Mays, Cook County Circuit
 - Kelly M. McCarthy, cook County Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. John L. McGehee, 14th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Regina A. Mescall, Cook County Circuit, 3rd Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Teresa Molina, Cook County Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. John G. Mulroy, Cook County Circuit, 10th Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
 - Lorraine Mary Murphy, Cook County Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. P. Scott Neville, Jr., Supreme Court, 1st District, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Gail L. Noll, 7th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Margaret M. O’Connell, 18th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Eileen M. O’Connor, Cook County Circuit, 6th SubCircuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Monique O’Toole, 18th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. David K. Overstreet, Supreme Court, 5th District, December 7, 2020
 - Lindsay Parkhurst, 21st Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Nichole C. Patton, cook County Circuit, 15th Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Joel J. C. Powless, 4th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Jill R. Quinn, Cook County Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Pamela Reaves-Harris, Cook County Circuit, 7th Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
 - Dana Rhoades, 6th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Michael Sabol, 21st Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Zachary Schmidt, 7th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Marnie M. Slavin, 19th Circuit, 3rd Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
 - Levander Smith, Jr., Cook County Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Tiesha L. Smith, Cook County Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Sheldon R. Sobol, 13th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Christ S. Stacey, Cook County Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Stephen. A. Stobbs, 3rd Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Ramona M. Sullivan, 6th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Perla Tirado, Cook County Circuit, 14th Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
 - Sarah K. Tripp, 1st Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Gerardo Tristan, Jr., Cook County Circuit, 14th Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
 - Ray W. Vaughn, 2nd Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Robert K. Villa, 16th Circuit, 3rd Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
 - Tara B. Wallace, 2nd Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Ann Celine O’Hallaren Walsh, 18th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Elizabeth A. Walsh, Cook County Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Tyria B. Walton, Cook County Circuit, 1st Subcircuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Kevin J. Ward, 15th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Lynn Weaver-Boyle, Cook County Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Jonathan C. Wright, 11th Circuit, December 7, 2020
 - Hon. Maura McMahon Zeller, Cook County Circuit, December 7, 2020
4. The circuit judges have appointed the following to be associate judge:
- Donald W. DeWilkins, 12th Circuit, November 19, 2020
 - James J. Cosby, 14th Circuit, December 16, 2020
 - Charles D. Mockbdee, IV, 5th Circuit, December 18, 2020
5. Pursuant to its constitutional authority, the supreme court has appointed the following to the appellate court:
- Hon. Robert E. Gordon, Appellate Court, 1st Dist., December 6, 2020

6. The following judges have retired:

- Hon. Thomas J. Difanis, 6th Circuit, November 1, 2020
- Hon. John C. Griffin, 1st District, November 30, 2020
- Hon. James R. Williamson, 1st Circuit, November 30, 2020
- Hon. Larry D. Dunn, 2nd Circuit, December 3, 2020
- Hon. Paul W. Lamar, 2nd Circuit, December 3, 2020
- Hon. George J. Bakalis, 18th Circuit, December 6, 2020
- Hon. Thomas C. Berglund, 14th Circuit, December 6, 2020
- Hon. James W. Day, 7th Circuit, December 6, 2020
- Hon. Dennis B. Doyle, 20th Circuit, December 6, 2020
- Hon. William Hugh Finson, 6th Circuit, December 6, 2020
- Hon. Val Gunnarsson, 15th Circuit, December 6, 2020
- Hon. Lloyd A. Karneier, Supreme Court, 5th District, December 6, 2020
- Hon. William A. Kelly, 15th Circuit, December 6, 2020
- Hon. Robert C. Marsaglia, 13th Circuit, December 6, 2020
- Hon. Patricia Martin, Cook County Circuit, 7th Subcircuit, December 6, 2020
- Hon. Eric S. Pistorius, 7th Circuit, December 6, 2020
- Hon. Albert G. Webber, 6th Circuit, December 6, 2020
- Hon. Mark A. VandeWiele, 14th Circuit, December 23, 2020
- Hon. Kimberly G. Koester, 4th Circuit, December 30, 2020
- Hon. Scott Drazewski, 11th Circuit, December 31, 2020
- Hon. James J. Eder, 4th Circuit, December 31, 2020
- Hon. Earl B. Hoffenberg, Cook County Circuit, December 31, 2020
- Hon. Pamela Leeming, Cook County Circuit, December 31, 2020
- Hon. Sharon M. Sullivan, Cook County Circuit, December 31, 2020

7. The terms of the following judges have expired:

- Hon. Lloyd James Brooks, Cook County Circuit, December 6, 2020
- Hon. James R. Brown, Cook County Circuit, 14th Subcircuit, December 6, 2020
- Hon. James T. Derico, Jr., Cook County Circuit, December 6, 2020
- Hon. Erwin T. Drew, 8th Circuit, December 6, 2020
- Hon. Michael P. Gerber, Cook County Circuit, 13th Subcircuit, December 6, 2020
- Hon. Shelvin L. M. Hall, Appellate Court, 1st District, December 6, 2020
- Hon. Thomas L. Kilbride, Supreme Court, 3rd District, December 6, 2020
- Hon. Kerrie Maloney Layton, Cook County Circuit, , December 6, 2020
- Hon. Dennis M. McGuire, Cook County Circuit, 11th Subcircuit, December 6, 2020
- Hon. Jackie Marie Portman-Brown, Cook County Circuit, 5th Subcircuit, December 6, 2020
- Hon. Michael A. Strom, Cook County Circuit, December 6, 2020
- Hon. Emily Sutton, 9th Circuit, December 6, 2020

8. The following judge has resigned:

- Hon. John Barry Julian, Associate Judge, 3rd Circuit, December 7, 2020■