

Regina Rathnau Lairson
President

Michele (Stack) Hendrickson
First Vice President

Alexander Z. Fiedotjew
Second Vice President

L. Steven Rakowski
Third Vice President



Michael Zink
Secretary

Kristen Kozlowski
Treasurer

Matthew Sidor
Historian

The Advocate

Official Newsletter of the Advocates Society, Chicago, Illinois

February 2012 Issue

Installation & Awards Dinner: Celebrating 81 Years!

The Advocates Society hosted its' 81th Installation and Awards Dinner on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at the Drake Hotel in Chicago. **Joan Smuda** was the Mistress of Ceremonies. **Hon. Aurelia Pucinski** and ISBA President **John Locallo** gave remarks on the evening. **Hon. Aurelia Pucinski** administered the oath of office. Our new president, **Regina Rathnau Lairson**, recognized her family and called on us to recognize the value of the Advocates family in our past, present and future; create a charitable nonprofit entity for our scholarship program; and increase membership participation in Advocates Society events. The Award of Merit was presented to **Mitchell J. Wiet**.

Regina thanks everyone who helped to make the Installation Dinner memorable. We, also thank the Immediate Past President **Robert Groszek** for her leadership over the past year.

The following members were installed as Advocates Society's 2012-2013 Officers:

Regina Rathnau Lairson President

Michele Hendrickson

1st Vice President

Michael Zink

Secretary

Alexander Z. Fiedotjew

2nd Vice President

Kristen Kozlowski

Treasurer

L. Steven Rakowski

3rd Vice President

Matthew Sidor

Historian





Note from President Elect: Regina Rathnau Lairson

Dear Fellow Advocates and Friends,

As we enter our 81st year, it is a distinct honor for me to assume the reigns of President for the Advocates Society. While I understand the challenges of the coming year, my officers and I embrace the challenge to further our organization's mission.

No one can deny our rich history and the service the Advocates has been offering Polonia for decades. Tonight's event is a testimony to those before us. I am personally proud to be a third generation Advocates Society member, and I am grateful my family, through the Advocates Society, helped me appreciate my Polish Heritage. Perhaps there is no better example of a long legacy of service than our own Award of Merit Winner, Mitchell J. Wiet, who has served the Polish American community for almost five decades. I am honored to share this night with him and his family.

Our presence tonight is the best symbol of our present state. Many guests here tonight have attended our scholarship fundraiser, annual Judges Night, marched in the Polish Constitution Day Parade, volunteered at our legal clinic, among other initiatives. We thank our out-going President, Robert Groszek, for his years of service as an officer, and we aspire to maintain his mission of inspiring Polish Americans to help each other.

Lastly, we look forward to the future. In addition to maintaining our already robust calendar of activities, this year will be the first year of our charitable scholarship entity, which will allow us to relieve the Knights of Dabrowski who have managed much of the administrative function for years. My officers and I are excited for the challenges and aware of the necessary diligence and dedication.

I want to personally thank my family for introducing me to the Advocates, and I also thank my husband for his years of support, both past and future. I thank each of you for supporting our organization tonight, and I look forward to a very exciting year.

Most sincerely,

Regina Rathnau Lairson
Advocates Society President

General Membership Meeting

Friday, March 16, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

The general membership meeting of the Advocates Society will be on Friday, March 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Copernicus Foundation, Copernicus Annex. The Foundation is located at 5216 West Lawrence Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, one block west of the Kennedy Expressway, one block east of Milwaukee Avenue, and one block southeast of the Jefferson Park CTA station. Remember that there is free parking at the Copernicus lot. After the meeting there will be a delicious buffet supper from Kasia's Polish Deli. We will have a presentation on the use of technology in the courtroom. If you plan to attend, please call **Michele Hendrickson** at (847) 823-5517 and leave a message so that we know how much food to order.

April General Membership Meeting Thursday, April 26, 2012, 7:00 p.m. at the Polish Highlanders' House

The April meeting of the Advocates Society will take place on April 26, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Polish Highlanders' House. The Polish Highlanders' House is located at 4808 S. Archer Ave., Chicago, Illinois. The Advocates Society appreciates the gracious hospitality of the Polish Highlanders' Alliance of North America. Advocates Society members are invited to bring guests to the April 26, 2012 General Meeting for a charge of \$15 per guest to cover the cost of the food. This \$15 fee will be waived for any guest who is eligible to and does submit a membership application the night of the meeting.

If you plan to attend, please call **Michele Hendrickson** at (847) 823-5517 and leave a message so that we know how much food to order.

ISBA Elections 2012

The Illinois State Bar Association elections are underway. **Anna Krolikowska, Maureen Pikarski, and Michael Zink** are running for election to the ISBA Assembly. Please support our fellow Advocates!

Congratulations

Congratulations to Treasurer of the Advocates Society Kristen Kozlowski on the opening of her new practice! Kristen specializes in Personal Injury and Workers Compensation. Please visit www.lawofficesofkmk.com.

Congratulations to Robert and Jennifer Groszek on the birth of their second son Luke Aleksander born February 9, 2012. We are all very happy for them!

Chicago Sister Cities King's Dinner

Chicago Sister Cities International is pleased present a special [King's Dinner charity event on March 6, 2012](#) recognizing Poland's last ruling monarch, King Stanislaw August Poniatowski and his legendary Thursday Dinners that gathered mostly artists and Wednesday Dinners that brought together educators, scientists and political activists of his time. This event will feature King's favorite dishes prepared by outstanding chefs from Chicago and Warsaw and highlight the strong ties between our sister cities. The event is organized as a part of the Chicago's annual Pulaski Day celebrations and follows the International Business Conference on Green Energy at Northeastern Illinois University. Cost is \$75 per individual.

The Lira Ensemble

The Lira Ensemble, which specializes in Polish music, song and dance, takes members of its audience to Poland each year. This year's tour leaves July 12th for two weeks. See Warsaw, Krakow, Czestochowa, Zakopane, Chopin's birthplace, Blessed John Paul's birthplace, Chopin's birthplace, and much, much more – with folklore, concerts, and lots of fun! Personally escorted by Lucyna Migala, Artistic Director & General Manager of the Lira Enembl. Past tour members have called this tour “extraordinary.” Call the Lira Ensemble at 773-508-7040 or 1-800-547-5472 for details.

Condolences

We regret to inform you of the passing of Edward Derwinski. The Advocates Society offers our deepest condolences to the former Illinois Congressman's family. Please keep the Derwinski family in your prayers.

We regret to inform you of the passing of Florence Mazewski, mother of Marilyn Mozewski Potasiak. Florence was devoted wife of the former President Of Polish National Alliance and Polish American Congress Aloysius A. Mazewski for over 20 years; always at his side she was considered the First Lady of Polonia. Please keep the Mazewski and Potasiak family in your prayers.

Advocates Society Annual Blackhawks Outing!!!

If you have purchased tickets to the SOLD OUT Advocates Society Annual Blackhawks Outing, don't forget to mark your calendar: The event will take place on Sunday, **March 11, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.** Tickets are located in the 200 level, section 209. For questions please contact Maureen Pikarski at mpikarski@gordonpikarski.com.

2012 Illinois *Super Lawyers*[®] and 2012 Illinois Rising Stars

Carlton Marcyan of the Lake Forest office of Schiller DuCanto & Fleck LLP and Gregory G. Wrobel of the Chicago office of Vedder Price P.C. have been selected for inclusion in 2012 *Illinois Super Lawyers*. No more than 5 percent of the lawyers in the state are selected by *Super Lawyers*. Calrton practices Family Law. Greg practices Antitrust Law. Beata Leja of Minsky, McCormick & Hallagan, PC and Kathy Wantuch of Hiltz & Wantuch LLC have each been named to the 2012 *Illinois Rising Stars* list as one of the top up-and-coming attorneys in Illinois for 2012. Each year, no more than 2.5 percent of the lawyers in the state receive this honor. Beata practices Immigration Law and Kathy practices Business and Consumer Bankruptcy Law.

Dues Announcement

In order to remain in good standing **all dues payments must be received by May 1, 2012.** You may mail your dues check to Advocates Society, attention: **Treasurer Kristen Kozlowski, P.O. Box 641883, Chicago, Illinois 60664.** Dues are \$150 for attorneys who have been admitted to the Bar for 5 years or more, \$75 for members who have been admitted to the Bar less than 5 years, and \$30 for law students.

ADVOCATES SOCIETY
P.O. Box 641883
Chicago, Illinois 60664



ADVOCATES SOCIETY

P.O. Box 641883
Chicago, Illinois 60664
Website: www.advocatesociety.com
Email: advocatessociety@gmail.com

Regina Rathnau Lairson, President

39 S. LaSalle Street #530
Chicago, Illinois 60640
312-659-2953

2012 Calendar of Advocates Society Events

If you have a potential newsletter item, please forward it to Kathy Wantuch, Hiltz & Wantuch LLC, 53 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 205, Chicago, Illinois 60604, or contact her at kwantuch@hiltzlaw.com.

- March 1, 2012, Thursday, Board of Governors' Meeting
- March 16, 2012, Friday, General Meeting at the Copernicus Center 5216 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago
- April 13, 2012, Friday, Board of Governors' Meeting
- April 26, 2012, Thursday, General Meeting at Polish Highlanders' 4808 S. Archer Ave., Chicago
- May 5, 2012, Saturday, Polish Constitution Day Parade
- May 10, 2012, Thursday, Board of Governors' Meeting

Amicus Poloniae Legal Clinic

5711 N. Milwaukee, Chicago, IL
Saturday, February 18, 2012, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Call (773) 763-8520 for more information.

This Newsletter is printed by OSHANA & SON PRINTING 4021 W. Irving Park Chicago, IL 60641 (773) 283-8311