

Robert P. Groszek
President

Regina Rathnau Lairson
First Vice President

Michele (Stack) Hendrickson
Second Vice President



Alexander Z. Fiedotjew
Third Vice President

L. Steven Rakowski
Secretary

Michael Zink
Historian

The Advocate

Official Newsletter of the Advocates Society, Chicago, Illinois

General Membership Meeting Friday, March 25, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Advocates Society will take place on Friday, March 25, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., at the Copernicus Foundation, Hall of Kings, Third Floor. The meeting will begin with dinner and the general meeting followed by a guest speaker: **Joseph A. Morris** of **Morris & De La Rosa**. Among his numerous accomplishments Mr. Morris is a hearing officer for the Chicago Board of Election Commissioner. Mr. Morris was the presiding hearing officer to make the first determination of **Rahm Emanuel's** residency status for the 2011 Chicago mayoral race. Mr. Morris will discuss "Citizenship, Politics and the Law: Adventures of a Chicago Election Board Hearing Officer". The Advocates Society will apply for CLE credit for this presentation. For MCLE accreditation status, contact Michael Zink at 312-346-9420.

The Foundation is located at 5216 West Lawrence Ave., Chicago, Illinois, one block west of the Kennedy Expressway, one block east of Milwaukee Ave., and one block southeast of the Jefferson Park CTA station. There is free parking at the Copernicus lot. If you plan to attend, please call **Regina Rathnau** at (773) 495-0217 and leave a message so that we know how much food to order.





From Left to Right, Prof. Mark Wojcik, ISBA President Mark Hassakis, Advocates President Robert P. Groszek, ISBA President Elect John Locallo, and ISBA Governor Hon. Russell W. Hardigan

Installation & Awards Dinner: Celebrating 80 Years!

The Advocates Society hosted its' 80th Installation and Awards Dinner on Thursday, February 17, 2011 at the Hotel InterContinental Renaissance Ballroom in Chicago. **Joan Smuda** was the Master of Ceremonies. Many honorary guests were present. 30th Ward Alderman **Hon. Ariel Reboyras**, presented the Advocates Society with a City Council Resolution congratulating Robert P. Groszek and the Executive Board on their eightieth year celebration. **Hon. Aurelia Pucinski**, ISBA President **Mark Hassakis**, and **Marilyn Mazewski** gave remarks on the evening. Likewise, a congratulatory letter from Judge **Marya Nega** was read. **Cook County Chief Judge Hon. Timothy Evans** administered the oath of office. Our new president, **Robert P. Groszek**, recognized his family and called on us to promote camaraderie, each other and Polish heritage. The Award of Merit was presented to **Judy Baar Topinka, Illinois State Comptroller**.

Robert thanks everyone who helped to make the Installation Dinner memorable, including the Immediate Past President **Megan Ferraro** for her leadership over the past year.

The following members were installed as Advocates Society's 2011-2012 Officers:

Robert Pawel Groszek
President

Regina Rathnau Lairson 1st Vice President
Michele Hendrickson 2nd Vice President
Alexander Z. Fiedotjew 3rd Vice President

L. Steven Rakowski Secretary
Kristen Kozlowski Treasurer
Michael Zink Historian

Congratulations Hon. Judy Baar Topinka

This year, the Advocates Society presented the Award of Merit to Hon. Judy Baar Topinka, Illinois State Comptroller. **Hon. Judy Baar Topinka** served as Illinois State Treasurer from 1995 to 2007, and is also the former chairwoman of the Illinois Republican Party. She was the first woman elected Illinois State Treasurer, first to be elected to three consecutive terms, and the first Republican to hold the post in more than thirty-two years. Hon. Judy Baar Topinka is a lifelong resident of Illinois. Hon. Judy Baar Topinka is a strong supporter of Polonia. Hon. Judy Baar Topinka ensures celebration of the Polish American Heritage Month at the State of Illinois, continues the tradition of St. Joseph's Table, and organizes the Polish American Smart Women Smart Money Conferences.



President's Note- Robert P. Groszek

Every year the Advocates holds an election and new executive officers are sworn to pledge their allegiance to the law and to support the constitution of the Advocates Society. Likewise, every year the organization becomes stronger in membership and history. We would not be able to do this without its prior leaders, such as **Megan Ferraro** and the past presidents. She is saluted for becoming part of the past president's club and for continuing the rich traditions of the organization. Now, the organization is celebrating its eightieth 80TH anniversary year. We began with a great installation and awards dinner with the generous donations of many strong Polish families and organizations. Generous contributors included **Dawn Bode**, **Warren Dulski**, **Marta Almodovar**, the **Stawski family** for their beverages at the installation, **Krzysztof Arsenowicz** for his beautiful voice and ability to sing the Star Spangled Banner and the Mazurek Dabrowskiego, all at the same time, Paradise Flowers (**Beata Orwat**) for her beautiful display of bouquets, **Ania Krysinski** with the **Polonia Ensemble** for their world class dancing, and **Slawomir Bielawiec**, for his compositions. This year started off by the Advocates and other Groups becoming one for a common goal. Without these people and people like **Meg Benson** of CVLS, **Howard Jump** of the IDC, Illinois court's director, **Cynthia Cobbs**, and President **Toni Preckwinkle**, we are just paying dues without a return. This year, let us help one another.

The historic tradition of the Advocates is the tradition of helping. We have survived because we promote our members and our patrons. We will continue to evolve, diversify and welcome all who support our appreciation of our Polish roots. In fact, we changed our bylaws to include members with an "affinity" for our Polish roots. We understand that it is difficult for some of us in our busy schedules to support an organization. It is difficult to take time away from your family that you love so much. Likewise, it is difficult to actively participate in so many organizations. For this we appreciate your support of the Advocates whether financially, or agreeing to be part of a committee. Thank you.

This year, let us get together more than ever. We have already started with generous offers from people like **Denise Staniec**, the owner of Kiki's Bistro, to use their facilities. I am calling for any and all members to send in information about your accomplishments. Send information that you are on the ISBA Judicial Evaluations Committee like **Dennis Stefanowicz** and **Anna Krolikowska**. For years, our members have accomplished outstanding achievements such as being a "Superlawyer". Some of the same super lawyers have taken our student members under their wing. This is what makes them a super lawyer. This year, I want to promote your accomplishments, sacrifices, drive and dedication to helping fellow members. We will show and make public that we work as a team and that we support one another.

Robert Pawel Groszek
Advocates Society President 2011-2012

Member Judicial Candidates

The Advocates Society recognizes several members for their applications and candidacy for the positions of Associate Judges. The following members (in alphabetical order) have submitted applications for an appointment: **Joan M. Kubalanza, Diann K. Marsalek, Joan E. Smuda, Letitia Spunar-Sheats** and **Denise Y. Staniec**. Anyone with relevant information regarding any associate judge candidate is invited to communicate by letter to the Circuit Court of Cook County Nominating Committee, c/o Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans, 50 West Washington Street, Room 2600, Richard J. Daley Center, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

Advocates MCLE presentations

The Advocates congratulates **Regina Rathnau** and **Paul Peldyak** for their online presentations for MentorCLE, an approved MCLE provider in Illinois. Likewise, the Advocates Society thanks them for donating certain proceeds of the sales of their MCLE presentations back to the Advocates Society. The courses are taped in an informal interview format, so extensive preparation is not needed. Attorneys receive MCLE credit for presenting a one-hour course (check MCLE rules for exact number of hours). By special arrangement, any member can then choose to donate to the Advocates Society the royalties the member would otherwise receive from course registration fees. Attorneys who are interested can view Advocates member **Paul Peldyak's** course: Appeals Rules, Standards, and Procedures for free at www.MentorCLE.com, along with other courses. For more information please contact Lee Goodman at 847-559-9525 or LeeGoodman@MentorCLE.com.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Beata Leja** of **Minsky, McCormick & Hallagan, P.C.**, on being recognized as a 2011 Rising Star in Immigration by Super Lawyers Magazine. The Rising Star category recognizes lawyers that are under the age of 40 or have been in practice for 10 years or fewer. While up to five percent of lawyers in the state are named to Super Lawyers, no more than 2.5 percent are named to the Rising Star list. For more information on Beata Leja's immigration law practice, please go to: <http://www.mmhpc.com/BeataProfile.html>.

Congratulations to **Anna Krolikowska** of **K & R Family Legal Services L.L.P.**, Ms. Krolikowska is once again teaching an *Advanced Family Law Seminar* at her alma matter, Loyola University Chicago School of Law. For more information on Anna Krolikowska's family law practice, please visit <http://www.kandrfamilylaw.com>.

Congratulations to **Paulina Garga** and her husband Dariusz Chmiel. The wedding ceremony took place on December 26, 2010 in Krakow, Poland. Although it was a chilly day Krakow looked extremely beautiful and peaceful with the wintery scenery all around. The couple feels blessed they were able to share their special day with family and friends." We wish them many years of happiness!

PAPA Annual Banquet

The Polish American Police Association of Chicago and Illinois will hold its 47th Annual Awards Banquet on Friday, May 6, 2011 from 7:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m. at the White Eagle Banquets and Restaurant, located at 6831 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles, IL. Tickets are \$65 each and may be purchased from **Marilyn Mazewski** at **(773) 763-3080**.

Center for Conflict Resolution

Center for Conflict Resolution will hold its' annual Raise the Bar Fundraiser on March 24, 2011 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Chicago Cultural Center, Preston Bradley Hall. Tickets are \$100.00 per person, \$60.00 per person for CCR/ CVLS Volunteers, Students and Non-For-Profit Employees. Tickets may be purchased online at www.ccrchicago.org/RaiseTheBar, or at (312) 922-6464 extension 28.

National Advocates Society

The National Advocates Society (NAS) has extended free membership and waiver of the initiation fee for Advocates Society members who join the National Advocates Society in 2011. The NAS was established in 1933 to encourage fellowship among the members of the Bar in the United States of Polish Descent. For more information please contact **Tom Pikarski** at **(312) 521-7004**.

Pro-bono Superstar

Member **Jan Strzalka** is planning to participate in an expungement summit with the James B. Moran Justice Center. She is a regular volunteer at the organization and is actively looking for participants to this good cause. The goal of the initiative is to (1) educate residents about the importance of expunging or sealing an arrest and/or criminal record and (2) improve educational, employment and housing opportunities for residents by sealing or expunging eligible records. The initiative will culminate with a community-wide Expo on expungement and sealing on May 21, 2011. For more information, please contact **cdonley@moran-center.org** or call (847)492-1410.

Dues Announcement

In order to remain in good standing **all dues payments must be received by May 1, 2011**. You may mail your dues check to Advocates Society, attention: **Treasurer Kristen Kozlowski, P.O. Box 641883, Chicago, Illinois 60664**. If paid by May 1, 2011, dues are \$125 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.

April General Membership Meeting **Thursday, April 14, 2011, 7:00 p.m.**

The April meeting of the Advocates Society will take place on April 14, 2011 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 14, 2011 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 **Regina Rathnau** at (773) 495-0217 and leave a message so that we know how much food to order.

ADVOCATES SOCIETY

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Robert Groszek, President

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Chicago, Illinois 60641

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2011 Calendar of Advocates Society Events

If you have a potential newsletter item, please forward it to Anna Krolikowska, 899 Skokie Blvd., Suite 300, Northbrook, Illinois 60062, or contact her at (847) 715-9328.

- March 25, 2011, Friday, General Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Copernicus Center, 5216 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago.
- April 1, 2011, Friday, Board of Governors' Meeting, 7:00 p.m. (Home of Frances Gembala).
- April 14, 2011, General Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Polish Highlanders', 4808 S. Archer Ave., Chicago, IL 60632.
- April 29, 2011, Friday, Board of Governors' Meeting, 7:00 p.m. (Tentative).
- May 7, 2011, Saturday, Polish Constitution Day Parade, Columbus Drive, Grant Park, Chicago, Illinois.
- May 20, 2011, Friday, General Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Polish Consulate, 1530 N. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois

Amicus Poloniae Legal Clinic

5711 N. Milwaukee, Chicago, IL

Saturday, March 19, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Speaker Judge Karkula)

Saturday, April 16, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Call (773) 763-8520 for more information.