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Historian

The Advocate

Official Newsletter of the Advocates Society, Chicago, Illinois

November Issue

Holiday Meeting **Friday, December 9, 2011, 7:00 p.m.**

The Holiday meeting of the Advocates Society will be on Friday, December 9, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Copernicus Foundation, Hall of Kings, Third Floor. 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. If you plan to attend, please call **Robert Groszek** at **(773) 267-6100** and leave a message so that we know how much food to order.

Advocates Scholarship Fundraiser

Congratulations to Michele Hendrickson, Second Vice- President, Robert Groszek, President, the Advocates Society, and all of the Advocates Society's sponsors, on a successful 79th Annual Scholarship Fundraiser, which took place on November 11, 2011 at the **Parthenon Restaurant**. Proceeds from the fundraiser benefit the Advocates' Society's Scholarship Fund administered by the Knights of Dabrowski. Every year, three or four Polish American students are selected to receive scholarships enabling them to attend law schools around the country. We hope to see you again next year!

Advocates Society's Judges' Night 2011

Congratulations to, Regina Rathnau Lairson, First Vice- President, Robert Groszek, President, and all Advocates Society's sponsors, and volunteers on a successful Judges' Night 2011 held on October 20, 2011, at the Polish Museum of America. We hope to see you again next year!



Jan Stralka and Honorable Aurelia Pucinski at the Advocates Society's Scholarship Fundraiser 2011



Gerri D'souza and Umberto Davi at the Advocates Society's Scholarship Fundraiser 2011



Hon. Terrence J. Lavin, Robert Groszek, Hon. Aurelia Pucinski, and Regina Rathnau Lairson at Judges' Night 2011



Robert P. Groszek, Hon. Frank G. Zelezinski, Honorable Mary Jane Theis, and Regina Rathnau Lairson at Judges' Night 2011

REMEMBERING PAUL STRALKA

By Joan Smuda



Geri D' Souza, Mark Douglass, and the late Honorable Paul Stralka at the Polish Constitution Day Parade 2011

The Advocates Society, along with the Cook County legal community and the Polish community in the Chicago Metropolitan area, mourns the loss of Hon. Paul Stralka, who passed away on November 8, 2011. Paul was a Past-President of our organization. Never one to sit on the sidelines, he regularly attended membership and board meetings, participated in debates and rolled up his sleeves and worked on many projects. Paul was a friend, a mentor and a conscience to all who knew him. His passing leaves a space in our lives that can never be filled.

Paul was the son of the late Honorable Chester and Eleanor Strzalka. His father also was an active member of the Advocates Society and a Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Although his family moved from what is now known as the Ukrainian Village neighborhood to Edgebrook when Paul was a high school senior, he always carried the old neighborhood in his heart. He was proud of being a Polish American and proud to be a Chicagoan. He formed lifelong friendships with just about everyone he met and cared passionately about social justice. Paul's long career as an Assistant Public Defender was perfect for a man who cared so deeply about fairness. As a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, he was assigned to the Juvenile Justice, where he had a reputation for being even tempered, caring and attentive. He just really loved his work.

He loved his family. Paul was married to his wife, Isabella, for over 33 years. Their lovely home was a hospitable place where guests always felt comfortable. If there was any doubt about what a patient guy he was, that would be dispelled with a tour of the Stralka garden, where Paul nourished a collection of clematis vines. Paul carefully trained and straightened his vines all through the growing season so that they were never a tangled mess. He was no less attentive to his family and friends.

Paul's sister, Jan Strzalka, and brother, Dan Stralka, are also attorneys. Paul doted on his brother's children, Michael and Kathleen (KC).

We will all cherish memories of Paul. He was a Cubs fan, a Corvair enthusiast, devoted pet owner and a terrific all-around guy.

Paul is also survived by the family cat, Tiger.

Thank you, Paul, for letting us know you.

The Advocates Society extends its sincere condolences to the family of Hon. Paul Stralka. May he rest in peace until we are all reunited.

Paul's family will host a celebration of his life at a later date. We can honor his memory by making a contribution to the Advocates' Scholarship fund or the Jack Carey Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Advocates Society Elections 2011

Please be advised that Advocates Society Officer elections will take place at the end of this year. The Nominating Committee report was presented to the Board of Governors at the Advocates' Society Scholarship Fundraiser on November 11, 2011 at the Parthenon Restaurant where the slate was approved by the board for publishing. If there are any other candidates wishing to become officers, **The election of officers** will occur at the **December 9, 2011, meeting**, pursuant to notice as provided in the Constitution. The Nominating Committee announces the following candidates for 2011-2012 officers, which have been approved by the Board of Governors at the meeting:

- 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
- Treasurer: Kristen Kozlowski
- Historian: Mathew Sidor

Candidates may also be nominated by a written petition signed by at least 10 members, stating the name of the candidate and the office sought. The nominating petition(s) must have been submitted to either the President or the Secretary by October 31, 2011.

Congratulations

The Advocates Society congratulates **John Pikarski** on receiving the Polish American Association's prestigious Presidential Award at the Polish American Association's Benefit Gala! John is past President, and an Honorary Board member of the Polish American Association. The event took place on November 12, 2011 at Cafe La Cave, 2777 Mannheim Road, Des Plaines, IL 60018. Congratulations John!

Advocates Society Annual Blackhawks Outing!!!

The Advocates Society is organizing a group outing to a Chicago Blackhawks hockey game. The date of the event is Sunday, **March 11, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.** Tickets are located in the 200 level, section 209. Cost of the ticket is \$110.00 per person. If you are interested please contact Maureen Pikarski at mpikarski@gordonpikarski.com.

ISBA YLD 14th Annual Holiday Party December 2, 2011

Please join the ISBA YLD in supporting the 14th Annual Holiday Party to benefit the Illinois Bar Foundation/ISBA Young Lawyers Division's Children's Assistance Fund. Over the past decade, we raised over \$125,000 and collected countless toys and books that were donated to children's waiting rooms throughout the State of Illinois. Please continue this worthy tradition by joining us this year in person or support our event with your generous contribution on **Friday, December 2, 2011, 6:00-10:00 p.m., at the Cubby Bear Lounge, 1059 W. Addison, Chicago, IL.** Tickets include open bar, warm appetizers, and live music by **Rod Tuffcurls & The Bench Press**, and **FUN!** Tickets purchased prior to November 21, 2011 are **\$35.00 per person.** Tickets purchased after November 21, 2011 are **\$40.00 per person.** The IBF/Children's Assistance Fund is a 501(c)(3) charitable entity. For sponsorship opportunities please contact **Anna P. Krolikowska** at **(847) 715-9328**, or anna@kandrfamilylaw.com. To obtain addition information, or to purchase tickets please visit www.HolidayParty.org. If you are unable to attend the event, please consider sponsoring a ticket for a law student. We hope to see you at this great event!

The Polish American Police Association

The Polish American Police Association will host their December meeting on December 6, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at the Jolly Inn., 6501 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago, Illinois. At the December 6th meeting at the Jolly Inn, donations will be accepted for Toys for Tots. Please consider bringing an unwrapped new toy (no stuffed animals, no dolls) to donate to the toy drive. In addition, please keep Sr. Anne Schaffer's soup kitchen in mind; bring non-perishable food items if you are able to so that PAPA may continue to support her efforts. If you are interested in attending this event please contact **Kristen Kozlowski** at **(312) 726 -6317**, or kristenkoz@hotmail.com.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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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.

- December 2, 2011, Friday, Board of Governors' Meeting
- December 9, 2011, Friday, Holiday Party at the Copernicus Center 5216 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago
- January 12, 2011, Thursday, Board of Governors' Meeting
- January 20, 2011, Friday, General Meeting at the Copernicus Center 5216 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago
- February 3, 2012, Friday, Board of Governors' Meeting
- February 2012, TBD, Annual Awards and Installation Dinner

Amicus Poloniae Free Legal Clinic

5711 N. Milwaukee, Chicago, IL
Saturday, December 17, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 21, 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