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**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 A. Sidor**  
*Historian*

## *The Advocate*

**Official Newsletter of the Advocates Society, Chicago, Illinois**

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# *January 2013 Issue*

## **January General Membership Meeting Friday, January 25, 2013, 7:00 PM**

The general membership meeting of the Advocates Society will be on Friday, January 25, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Copernicus Foundation. 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. **Honorable Sheila Murphy** (retired) and Professor **Michael Seng** of John Marshall Law School will be presenting a CLE on restorative justice. After the meeting there will be a delicious buffet supper from Kasia's Polish Deli. If you plan to attend, please call **Michele Hendrickson** at (312) 603-0617 or e-mail [MicheleHendrickson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:MicheleHendrickson@sbcglobal.net) and leave a message so that we know how much food to order.

## **Annual Installation & Awards Dinner Celebrating 82 Years!**

Advocates Society members are encouraged to invite spouses, colleagues, and friends to attend the 2013 Installation and Awards Dinner. The 2013 Installation and Awards Dinner will be on **Wednesday, February 6, 2013**, at Drake Hotel, 140 East Walton Place, Chicago. There will be an open cocktail reception beginning at 5:30 PM followed by an elegant dinner with main course 6:30 PM. The event includes the presentation of the Award of Merit to Harlan J. Berk, an antiques shop owner in the Loop who made front-page headlines last year when he saved what was valued at \$5 million of stolen artwork from Chicago's Polish Museum of America, remarks of the outgoing President **Regina Rathnau Lairson**, and installation of new Advocates Society officers including **Michele Hendrickson** as President. The cost is \$130 per person (\$140 at door) or \$1,100 per table of 10. Business formal attire is requested. For further information please contact **Michele Hendrickson** at (312) 603-0617 or [MicheleHendrickson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:MicheleHendrickson@sbcglobal.net).

# 2013-2014 Executive Officers Announced

The following members will be installed as 2013-2014 Officers:

**Michele Hendrickson** - President

**L. Steven Rakowski** - First Vice President

**Michael Zink** - Second Vice President

**Mathew Sidor** - Third Vice President

**Kathy Wantuch** - Secretary

**Kristen M. Kozlowski** - Treasurer

**Marta Zaborska** – Historian

## New Home for Advocates!

The Advocates finally has a permanent home. The new Advocates Society office will be at the new Copernicus Center Annex located at **5214 West Lawrence, Chicago, Illinois 60630**. We are excited to have a home for our records and a place for board meetings and other tasks! Please note that the old P.O. Box address is no longer active.

## Old Advocates Records? Pictures? WE HAVE SPACE!

If you have been kindly helping the Advocates store records or pictures, we now have our own storage space! Please email [advocatessociety@gmail.com](mailto:advocatessociety@gmail.com) with information regarding which items you have in your possession and to make arrangements to move such items to storage. Thanks!

## ISBA Elections 2013

The Illinois State Bar Association elections are underway. **Pam Menaker** and **Anna Krolikowska** are running for election to the ISBA Assembly. Please support our fellow Advocates!

## Elder Law Forum

Are you interested in Elder Law? The Advocates has been presented with an opportunity to join forces with Judge Patricia Banks, presiding judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County Elder Law Division to create an Elder Law Forum targeting the Polish ethnic community. The Copernicus Center will be the location for the event. The goal of the event would be to allow seniors to gain information at one time from a variety of organizations that are able to help seniors. If you are interested helping create and lead the event, email us at [advocatessociety@gmail.com](mailto:advocatessociety@gmail.com).

The Law Office of



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Advocates Society

January 23, 2013

**RE: Outgoing President Comments**

Dear Fellow Advocates:

Past. Present. Future. This concept was the theme of my speech last year, and I reiterate the importance of respecting all three as I conclude my presidency. I must thank both the prior Presidents and officers who laid the groundwork for a successful year, as well as the past presidents who provided immeasurable amounts of guidance, assistance and laughter. I can quickly recall several times I truly relied on you and was comforted to have your support (Joan, Jan, Dawn, Ted!).

Last year kicked off with the Installation Dinner with the respected and revered Mitch Wiet receiving the Award of Merit. Our year continued with the traditional events, including general meetings, the Polish Constitution Day Parade (awesome float, Steve!), Summer Reception (Marta, you are a godsend...seriously), monthly newsletters (Kathy, such quick turnaround!), a massive historical photograph labeling night (a first - thanks, Matt!), a fabulous Judges Night (Michele – always so organized!), a fantastic fundraiser (great job, Alex and Kristen!), and a memorable Christmas party (thanks to Santa and Elf!), not to mention every meeting documented in detailed notes (so professional, Mike, especially considering you did them initially on your phone!) and continuous financial stewardship (how do you do it, Kristen?!) and dedicated committees (too many to list!).

We also achieved new goals. Our website got a make-over and will be easier to keep current for members and friends of Advocates. We laid the groundwork for the 501(c)(3) for our new scholarship foundation, and prepared and are currently undertaking a transition plan with the Knights of Dabrowski to take the efforts fully under our roof. Advocates Society finally has a permanent home for its records and mail in the Copernicus Center Annex, and we even hosted our first board meeting there in January. I am so proud of our accomplishments, and I thank everyone who helped make this year so successful. Our work is never quite finished, but I sincerely believe we did the best we could to set our new board in a positive direction.

No thank you is complete without thanking my family for introducing me to this wonderful organization (I know my grandfather and past President, Alex Janoski, is smiling from heaven). Perhaps the most gratitude belongs to my husband, John Lairson, for understanding that every week involved some sort of Advocates responsibility (and for wearing an elf costume for our Christmas party despite being 6'7"!).

I look forward to many more exciting years, I am confident our new officers will do a wonderful job, and I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President.

Very truly yours,

The Law Office of Regina L. Rathnau LLC

## 2013 Illinois *Super Lawyers*<sup>®</sup> and 2013 Illinois Rising Stars

**Carlton Marcyan** of the Lake Forest office of Schiller DuCanto & Fleck LLP, Gregory G. Wrobel of the Chicago office of Vedder Price P.C., and **Robert T. Oleszkiewicz** of Whitfield McGann & Ketterman have been selected for inclusion in 2013 *Illinois Super Lawyers*. No more than 5 percent of the lawyers in the state are selected by *Super Lawyers*. Carlton practices Family Law. Greg practices Antitrust Law. Robert practices Employment and Labor Law.

**Beata Leja** of Minsky, McCormick & Hallagan, PC and **Kathy Wantuch** of Hiltz & Wantuch LLC have each been named to the 2013 *Illinois Rising Stars* list as one of the top up-and-coming attorneys in Illinois for 2013. 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.

## New Members

The Advocates Society is pleased to announce that new members, **Artur Szczypta, Melisa Cwikla, and Agnes Zielinski**, have applied for membership. Their applications have been approved by the Board and will be presented to the membership at the January meeting. We look forward to welcoming them to our organization.

## National Advocates Society

Join the [National Advocates Society](#) this summer for the [2013 Annual Convention](#) in Egg Harbor, Wisconsin from July 31 through August 4, 2013! For more information please contact National Advocates Society president **Jane Simers** at [president@polishnas.com](mailto:president@polishnas.com).

## Our New Website is Live!!!

Isn't it time for a new homepage? Take a look at our new website at [www.advocatesociety.com](http://www.advocatesociety.com)!

## Dues Reminder

You may mail your dues check to Advocates Society, attention: Treasurer Kristen Kozlowski, Copernicus Center Annex, 5214 West Lawrence, Chicago, Illinois 60630. 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  
5214 West Lawrence  
Chicago, Illinois 60630



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Email: [advocatessociety@gmail.com](mailto:advocatessociety@gmail.com)

**Regina Rathnau Lairson, President**

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## 2013-14 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](mailto:kwantuch@hiltzlaw.com).

January 25, 2013	Friday	<b>General Meeting</b> at the Copernicus Center 5216 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago
February 6, 2013	Wednesday	<b>Installation Dinner – Drake Hotel</b>
March 8, 2013	Friday	Board of Governors' Meeting
March 22, 2013	Friday	<b>General Meeting</b> at the Copernicus Center 5216 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago

*Amicus Poloniae Legal Clinic*

5711 N. Milwaukee, Chicago, IL  
Saturday, January 19, 2013  
Saturday, February 16, 2013  
Saturday, March 16, 2013  
Saturday, April 20, 2013  
Saturday, May 18, 2013