

**Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
November 13, 2014

**For Further Information Contact:**  
Andrew Mertens – 515.280.7366

**Iowa Association for Justice (IAJ) installs new officers,  
honors IAJ award winners**

**(Des Moines)** – The Iowa Association for Justice (IAJ) installed new executive officers and members of its Board of Governors during its annual convention (November 6-7) in Des Moines. IAJ's newly installed leaders will serve the 2014-15 term. IAJ also honored its 2014 award winners and completed its year-long fundraising campaign to place a fully trained therapy dog at On With Life in Ankeny, the Midwest leader in brain injury rehabilitation.

**IAJ Officers**

The following IAJ members were installed as Executive Officers.

- **Jim Daane** (of Buckmeier & Daane Lawyers, P.C. in Sioux City) was installed as IAJ's 42<sup>nd</sup> president.
- **Brian Galligan** (of Galligan & Reid, PC in Des Moines) was installed as president-elect.
- **Tim Bottaro** (of Vriezelaar, Tigges, Edgington, Bottaro, Boden & Ross, LLP in Sioux City) was installed as first vice president.
- **Nate Boulton** (of Hedberg & Boulton, P.C. in Des Moines) was installed as second vice president.
- **Conrad Meis** (of Buchanan, Bibler, Gabor & Meis in Algona) was installed as parliamentarian.

"Jim is one of the hardest working, wisest and most even-handed leaders I've ever worked with," said Elaine Gray, IAJ's immediate past president. "Our association and the Iowa bar are truly fortunate to have such an exemplary advocate representing Iowa trial attorneys. One year from now, when Jim is wrapping up his presidential term, he will leave a lasting mark as one of our all-time best champions for the rights of Iowans," Gray said.

**Jim Daane** is a Sioux City attorney with the law firm Buckmeier & Daane Lawyers, P.C. Mr. Daane received his law degree from the University of South Dakota and worked as a Judge Advocate General (JAG) officer with the US Army's 7th Infantry Division for 3 years following graduation. Over the past 26 years he has served Siouland as a private attorney, a two term member of the Sioux City Community Schools Board of Education, a long-time board member of the Siouland Economic Development Corporation, and on the boards of many other organizations, including service as President of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Siouland and the Noon Optimist Club. Mr. Daane now serves the Iowa legal community as 42<sup>nd</sup> president of the Iowa Association for Justice, and was elected by his peers to the Judicial District 3B Nominating Commission. At his law firm he works as a trial attorney, advocating for Iowans who are injured by the misconduct and negligence of others, for children in need of assistance in juvenile court, and for the rights of the accused.

*- more -*

### **IAJ Board of Governors**

The following IAJ members were elected to positions on the Board of Governors from the various judicial subdistricts of the state. Election balloting took place during the run-up to the convention.

- Chad D. Cox (of Dubuque) was elected from Judicial Subdistrict 1A.
- Chad A. Swanson (of Waterloo) was elected from Judicial Subdistrict 1B.
- Brian D. Miller (of Hampton) was elected from Judicial Subdistrict 2A.
- John L. Timmons (of Ames) was elected from Judicial Subdistrict 2B.
- Dave J. Stein, Jr. (of Milford) was elected from Judicial Subdistrict 3A.
- Patrick J. Phipps (of Moville) was elected from Judicial Subdistrict 3B.
- Emily A. Shanks (of Council Bluffs) was elected from Judicial Subdistrict 4.
- R. Saffin Parrish-Sams (of Cumming) was elected from Judicial Subdistrict 5A.
- Amanda M. DeMichelis (of Chariton) was elected from Judicial Subdistrict 5B.
- Thomas A. Palmer (of West Des Moines) was elected from Judicial Subdistrict 5C.
- Sara Riley (of Cedar Rapids) was elected from Judicial Subdistrict 6.
- Anthony Bribriesco (of Bettendorf) was elected from Judicial Subdistrict 7.
- Steven Gardner (of Ottumwa) was elected from Judicial Subdistrict 8A.
- Niko Pothitakis (of Burlington) was elected from Judicial Subdistrict 8B.

In addition, the following IAJ members were elected to at large positions on the Board of Governors.

- Kimberley Baer (of Des Moines)
- James Biscoglia (of Des Moines)
- Ann Brown-Graff (of Cedar Rapids)
- Jamie Cook (of Waterloo)
- Thomas Farnsworth (of Iowa City)
- Joel E. Fenton (of Des Moines)
- Ryann Glenn (of Council Bluffs)
- Steven V. Lawyer (of West Des Moines)
- Matthew Lindholm (of Des Moines)
- Darin H. Luneckas (of Cedar Rapids)
- Brooke Timmer (of Urbandale)
- Corey J. L. Walker (of Ankeny)
- Eashaan Vajpeyi (of Waterloo)

The following IAJ members are additional, or standing members of the Board of Governors.

- Jake Feuerhelm (of Des Moines) will continue to serve by virtue of his standing as chair of IAJ's criminal law section.
- Jason Neifert (of Des Moines) will continue to serve by virtue of his standing as chair of IAJ's workers' compensation section.
- Elaine Gray (of Ft. Madison) will continue to serve by virtue of her standing as immediate past president of IAJ.
- Pressley Henningsen (of Cedar Rapids) will continue to serve by virtue of his standing as past president of IAJ (once removed).
- Marc Harding (of Des Moines) will continue to serve by virtue of his standing as an American Association for Justice (AAJ) Governor.

- more -

### IAJ Awards Honorees

The following groups and individuals were accorded honors by IAJ during the convention.

- **Tom Wertz** (of Cedar Rapids) received IAJ's **2014 Verne Lawyer Outstanding Member Award** in recognition of his *inspirational leadership in conceiving and implementing IAJ's Justice In Deed initiative, which connects trial lawyers to communities in need.*
- **Paul McAndrew** (of Coralville) received IAJ's **2014 Roxanne Conlin Public Justice Award** in recognition of his *successful pursuit of justice for Pascuala Jimenez, whose Iowa Supreme Court case clarifies that workers' compensation applies to all workers, and for his tireless and effective efforts for many years running to protect and enhance the rights of all injured workers.*
- **The Honorable Michael J. Schilling** (of Burlington) received IAJ's **2014 Judicial Achievement Award** in recognition of his *distinguished service as district court judge and his wisdom, compassion and empathy for all those who seek justice.*
- **Matthew T. Lindholm & Robert Rehkemper** (both of Des Moines) received IAJ's **2014 Key Person Award** in recognition of their *zealous and effective advocacy for the rights of the criminally accused during the legislative session.*
- **The Honorable Carla Schemmel** (of Des Moines), received IAJ's **2014 Special Recognition Award** in recognition of *many years of distinguished service as a district court judge.*
- **The Iowa Center for Public Affairs Journalism** received IAJ's **2014 Excellence in Journalism Award** in recognition of *exceptional efforts to produce and encourage explanatory and investigative journalism in Iowa.*
- **R. Saffin Parrish-Sams** (of Cumming), received IAJ's **2014 Public Service Award** in recognition of her *successful pursuit of fundamental fairness for workers' compensation claimants.*

### IAJ Justice in Deed Initiative

IAJ's *Justice In Deed* initiative connects trial attorneys with community organizations across Iowa to help meet critical needs. The association's 2014 *Justice In Deed* partner was On With Life and the Puppy Jake Foundation. Trial attorneys from across the state donated a total of \$11,660 to support the groups this year. The majority of this donation (\$10,000) was used to purchase and train Lolo, a professional therapy dog at On With Life. The balance of funds raised will generally support the Puppy Jake Foundation, which placed Lolo and is presently training her.

On With Life in Ankeny is the Midwest leader in brain injury rehabilitation. The Puppy Jake Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping military veterans through the assistance of well-bred and highly trained service dogs.

"I can speak for trial attorneys across the state when I say we are honored to be a part of this project. At just a couple months old, Lolo is already having a positive impact on the progress of the people served at On With Life. When Lolo finishes her training with the Puppy Jake Foundation she will be an indispensable member of the world-class rehabilitation team in Ankeny," said IAJ president Jim Daane.

### Iowa Association for Justice

Headquartered in Des Moines, the Iowa Association for Justice is an organization of approximately 700 Iowa attorneys who fight for justice in courtrooms and communities across the state. The Association serves the legal profession and the public through its efforts to strengthen our justice systems, promote injury prevention, and foster the transparency of information critical to the health and safety of all Iowans.

- end -