



Young Lawyers Report

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Young Lawyers Give Back

Once again, the IDC had the opportunity to demonstrate its generosity during this year's Holiday Party, which was held on December 7, 2017 at Lloyd's Restaurant in Chicago. During the Holiday Party, the YLD held its Spirit of the Season Fundraiser to benefit legal organizations in the Chicago area. This year, a total of \$900 was raised, which will benefit two organizations—the Land of Lincoln Assistance Foundation and the Chicago Bar Foundation. The Land of Lincoln Assistance Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that provides free “civil legal services to low-income persons and senior citizens in 65 counties in central and southern Illinois.” *See Who We Are*, LAND OF LINCOLN ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION, INC., http://lollaf.org/?page_id=16 (last visited December 4, 2017). The Land of Lincoln is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of attorneys and clients who live in the various Illinois counties the organization serves. *Id.* The Chicago Bar Foundation is an organization that “increases access to free and affordable legal assistance for people in need, and makes the courts and legal system more user-friendly and accessible for people without lawyers.” *See Our Work*, THE CHICAGO BAR FOUNDATION, <https://chicagobarfoundation.org/our-work/> (last visited December 4, 2017).

On December 14, 2017, the YLD hosted a Holiday Happy Hour for IDC members at Big Daddy's in Edwardsville, Illinois. The proceeds from this event will go to the Madison County division of the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS). The DCFS was established in 1964 and has a “long tradition of service and innovation for the state's most vulnerable children.” *See About DCFS*, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES, https://www.illinois.gov/dcf/aboutus/Pages/ab_about.aspx (last visited December 4, 2017).

The YLD is proud to “give back” to IDC members through a new CLE offering. Coming this spring—the YLD will present an ethics CLE to meet the new Illinois requirements. Illinois now requires attorneys to take CLE courses in substance abuse and diversity. “Pursuant to Amended Supreme Court Rule 794(d), Illinois lawyers will be required to complete one hour of diversity and inclusion CLE and one hour of mental health and substance abuse CLE as part of the Professional Responsibility CLE requirement.” *See Illinois Supreme Court Amends Rule on Minimum Continuing Legal Education Requirement*, ILLINOIS STATE BAR ASSOCIATION, <https://iln.isba.org/blog/2017/04/04/illinois-supreme-court-amends-rule-minimum-continuing-legal-education-requirement> (last visited November 27, 2017). The Illinois Supreme Court's rationale for this new requirements was based, in part, on statistics that showed a lack of attorney participation in discussions of diversity and substance abuse. *Id.* The hope is that this new requirement will help support a “healthier profession.” *Id.* The number of hours required to fulfill the professional responsibility requirement and the total number of CLE credits required in a reporting period are to remain the same. *Id.*

The YLD plan to make this CLE a webinar so all can attend. This ethics course will be led by a member of the ARDC and will cover the required diversity and substance abuse credits needed for the 2017/2018 reporting year. Again, stay tuned for more information.



About the Author

Sheina R. Franco is an associate in the Edwardsville office of *Foley & Mansfield*. Ms. Franco focuses her practice on personal injury, products liability, and premises liability, with an emphasis on the defense of toxic tort/mass tort claims. She has represented clients including premises owners, individuals, and product manufacturers from initial complaint to trial prep. Ms. Franco received her J.D. in 2014 from Liberty University School of Law. While there, she interned with the Madison County Circuit Court in Illinois, where she researched, compiled, and compared legal documents for Madison County Civil Court judges.

About the IDC

The Illinois Association Defense Trial Counsel (IDC) is the premier association of attorneys in Illinois who devote a substantial portion their practice to the representation of business, corporate, insurance, professional and other individual defendants in civil litigation. For more information on the IDC, visit us on the web at www.iadtc.org or contact us at PO Box 588, Rochester, IL 62563-0588, 217-498-2649, 800-232-0169, idc@iadtc.org.