



## Association News

### In Memoriam L. Bow Pritchett, IDC Past President Passes Away

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IDC Past President **L. Bow Pritchett** passed away peacefully on April 26, 2018. He is survived by his beloved wife Elaine of almost 58 years. He left behind 3 grown children: Robert, Kathryn Otto, & Thomas, their spouses, and 6 adored grandchildren. In his time with us, Bow touched many lives and was often referred to as a unique life force. “Bow was a fine lawyer and, even more, he was a fine individual,” said 1978-1979 IDC Past President John Ewart.

L. Bow Pritchett of Chicago assumed the IDC presidency on June 13, 1975. It was the culmination of a decade of service to the IDC, including invaluable efforts on behalf of the Defense Trial Seminar. A graduate of the University of Iowa and the DePaul University College of Law, he was counsel to Illinois Bell Telephone Company.

Our thanks to Mr. Pritchett for his tireless work on behalf of the IDC and its members.

### IDC Officers and Directors Elected, Appointed

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**Terry Fox** of *Flaherty & Youngerman, P.C.*, Chicago, was elected 2018-2019 IDC Secretary/Treasurer and to a position on the Executive Committee at the Annual Meeting held June 8, 2018. Mr. Fox will move up the Executive Committee ladder to become president in June 2022.

Other officers on the Executive Committee include President **Bradley C. Nahrstadt** of *Lipe, Lyons, Murphy, Nahrstadt & Pontikis, Ltd.*, Chicago; President Elect **William K. McVisk** of *Tressler LLP*, Chicago; First Vice President **Nicole D. Milos**, *Cremer, Spina, Shaughnessy, Jansen + Siegert, LLC*, Chicago; and Second Vice President **Laura K. Beasley** of *Joley, Oliver & Beasley, P.C.*, Belleville.

The following members were elected to three-year terms on the IDC Board of Directors: **Donald Patrick Eckler** of *Pretzel & Stouffer, Chartered*, Chicago; **Terry Fox** of *Flaherty & Youngerman, P.C.*, Chicago; **Mark J. McClenathan** of *Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen, P.C.*, Rockford; **Kimberly A. Ross** of *Ford & Harrison LLP*, Chicago; **Tracy Stevenson** of *Law Office of Tracy E. Stevenson*, Chicago; and **Jennifer Winking** of *Scholz, Loos, Palmer, Siebers & Duesterhaus LLP*, Chicago.

**John Eggum** of *Foran Glennon Palandech Ponzi & Rudloff, P.C.*, Chicago, was appointed to fill the board position left vacant when **Terry Fox** was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

**C. Wm. Busse, Jr.** of *Busse, Busse & Grassé, P.C.* was appointed to fill the board position left vacant when **Edward K. Grassé** resigned from the Board of Directors.

**Cecil E. Porter, III** of *Litchfield Cavo, LLP*, Chicago and **Britta Sahlstrom** of *SmithAmundsen LLC*, Chicago, were appointed to serve as Directors at Large.

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## DRI Recognizes Resis

**Michael L. Resis** of *SmithAmundsen LLC*, Chicago, was recognized at the IDC Awards Luncheon with the DRI Exceptional Performance Citation by DRI Executive Director **John R. Kouris**, DRI President Elect, **Toyja E. Kelley**, *Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP*, Baltimore, MD, and DRI Regional Director **Matthew E. Yde** of *Yde Law Firm, SC*, Wausau, WI. This citation recognizes Mr. Resis for having supported and improved the standards of education of the defense bar and for having contributed to the improvement of the administration of justice in the public interest.

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## IDC Presents Awards

At the Awards Luncheon, several members were recognized for their service. **Alphonse J. Pranaitis** of *Rynearson Suess Schnurbusch & Champion*, Edwardsville, was recognized with the Distinguished Member Award, and **Britta Sahlstrom** of *SmithAmundsen LLC*, Chicago, was recognized with the Rising Star Award. **Gregory W. Odom** of *HeplerBroom LLC*, Edwardsville, was recognized with the President's Award; and **Holly Whitlock-Glave** of *HeplerBroom LLC*, Crystal Lake, was recognized with the Volunteer of the Year Award.

Meritorious Service Awards were presented to **Joseph A. Bleyer** of *Bleyer & Bleyer*, Marion; **R. Mark Cosimini** of *Rusin & Maciorowski, Ltd.*, Champaign; **Edward K. Grassé** of *Busse, Busse & Grassé, P.C.*, Chicago; and **Michelle M. Wahl** of *Swanson, Martin & Bell, Ltd.*, Chicago, for their service on the IDC Board of Directors.

The Meritorious Service Award was also presented to **Donald Patrick Eckler** of *Pretzel & Stouffer, Chartered*, Chicago, for his service as Chair of the Civil Practice Committee; **John Eggum** of *Foran Glennon Palandech Ponzi & Rudloff, PC*, Chicago, for his service as Chair of the Young Lawyers Division; **Tara W. Kuchar** of *HeplerBroom LLC*, Edwardsville, for her service as Editor in Chief of the *IDC Quarterly*; **Gregory W. Odom** of *HeplerBroom LLC*, Edwardsville, for his service as Chair of the Events Committee; **John M. O'Driscoll** of *Tressler LLP*, Bolingbrook, for his service as Chair of the Local Government Law Committee; and **John F. Watson** of *Craig & Craig, LLC*, Mattoon, for his service as Editor in Chief of the *IDC Survey of Law*.

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## Distinguished Member Award Presented to Al Pranaitis

**Alphonse "Al" J. Pranaitis** of *Rynearson Suess Schnurbusch & Champion*, Edwardsville, was presented with the Illinois Association of Defense Trial (IDC) Counsel 2018 Distinguished Member Award. The award was presented during the organization's 54th Annual Meeting, held June 8, 2018, in Chicago.

Al Pranaitis has distinguished himself throughout his career, both with the IDC and numerous other organizations. IDC President Michael L. Resis, of *SmithAmundsen LLC*, Chicago, remarks "Al was a long-serving member of the board of the directors, a past Editor-in-Chief of the *IDC Quarterly*, and served both with distinction. Al's contributions to the IDC and our members make him deserving of recognition as the recipient of this year's distinguished member award."

Mr. Pranaitis commented:



When I read the list of the twelve past recipients of the IDC's Distinguished Member Award, I noted that they are some of the real "heavyweights" of the organization—Bill Tribler, Howard Jump, and Chuck Cole, to mention a few. Most are past presidents. All contributed significantly to the organization for many years, making it and keeping it the premier state or local defense lawyer association that it is.

Without attempting false humility, I must say that, honestly, I do not deserve to be recognized among this elite group of Distinguished Members. I never served as president or in any other office of the IDC. More importantly, whatever contributions I may have made to the IDC were truly my pleasure. The organization has always given me more than I gave to it.

I strongly encourage any defense lawyer in the state of Illinois, who is not already a member, to join the IDC. I strongly exhort those members who have not yet taken on an active role to take the next step and really get involved. For many years I was a dues-paying, barely active member. Then my good friend, Gordon Broom, gave me a nudge, encouraging me to get active, suggesting that I write an article for the *IDC Quarterly*, get on a committee, or volunteer to speak at a seminar. Gordy's call to action changed me from a passive member to an active member. And I have loved every minute of it.

Thank you to the IDC and, particularly, thank you to those responsible for recognizing me for this Award. I will always cherish it.

Al Pranaitis has been a member of the IDC for more than 25 years. He has served on the IDC Board of Directors, as Co-Chair of the Membership Committee, and has been a speaker at the IDC's Fall Seminar. He has authored a Monograph and several Feature Articles for the *IDC Quarterly* and has served on the Editorial Board and as Editor-in-Chief of the *Quarterly*. Al is a graduate of the University of Illinois (1970) and St. Louis University School of Law (1975). He is licensed in the States of Illinois and Missouri and before the U. S. Supreme Court, U. S. Courts of Appeal for the Seventh and Eighth Circuits, and U. S. District Courts for the Southern and Central Districts of Illinois and for the Eastern District of Missouri. He is a Partner in *Rynearson Suess Schnurbusch & Champion*, Edwardsville. Al is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and has served on the Illinois Supreme Court Rules Committee since 2010. He is a member of Madison County, Alton-Wood River, Illinois State and Missouri State Bar Associations.

## Gregory W. Odom Receives 2018 President's Award

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**Gregory W. Odom** of *HeplerBroom LLC*, Edwardsville, was honored by 2017-2018 President Michael L. Resis with the President's Award.

In honoring Mr. Odom, President Resis remarked that "Greg is a member of the board of directors and was instrumental as the chair of the events committee for the busy year the IDC had in putting on CLE seminars and hosting events around the state. He is the deserving recipient of this year's President's Award."

In accepting the award, Mr. Odom said "I am extremely honored and grateful to receive the IDC President's Award. It is particularly special to receive this award from Mike Resis, who has been a mentor, colleague, and friend to me and many other members of the IDC and the legal profession. I also cannot thank enough the members of the IDC's Events Committee. I have had the privilege of chairing this Committee for the past two years – the success of the IDC, and my



receipt of this award, would not be possible without their insight, ideas, time, and efforts. While I have truly enjoyed helping to organize many wonderful events held by the IDC and forging lasting friendships while doing so, I look forward to taking on new challenges with the organization, as I have no doubt in the IDC's continued success given the topflight quality of the membership."

Gregory Odom is Partner in the Edwardsville office of *HeplerBroom LLC*, where he focuses his practice on commercial, premises liability, toxic tort, and product liability litigation. Mr. Odom has represented individuals, local businesses, and Fortune 500 companies in Illinois and Missouri state and federal courts. He has successfully tried multiple cases to verdict and has successfully argued before the Illinois Court of Appeals. Mr. Odom received his B.A. from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale in 2005 and his J.D. from Southern Illinois University in 2008. He is Chair of the Events Committee for the IDC and a co-chair of the Mentoring-to-Mentoring Program administered by the IDC and Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism. In addition to his membership in the IDC, Mr. Odom is a member of the Madison County and St. Clair County Bar Associations. He also serves as an arbitrator for the Third Judicial Circuit Court-Annexed Mandatory Arbitration Program.

## **Britta Sahlstrom Receives Rising Star Award**

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**Britta Sahlstrom** of *SmithAmundsen LLC* in Chicago is the 2018 recipient of the Illinois Association of Defense Trial (IDC) Counsel Rising Star Award. The award was presented during the organization's 54th Annual Meeting, held June 8, 2018, in Chicago.

Ms. Sahlstrom distinguished herself by serving as an editor for the IDC Quarterly and on the IDC Insurance Law Committee. President Michael L. Resis of *SmithAmundsen LLC* in Chicago remarks "Britta is a self-starter. She has been a member of the Insurance Law Committee, is just beginning her second year as an Assistant Editor of the IDC *Quarterly* and has been named an at-large director of the board of directors for the coming year. Britta is truly a rising star in the IDC."

"I am honored to receive the Rising Star Award. I have greatly enjoyed working with the IDC and I look forward to being a part of the organization for years to come," said Ms. Sahlstrom.

Britta Sahlstrom is an associate with *SmithAmundsen LLC*'s Insurance Services Practice Group in the Chicago office. She concentrates her practice on insurance-related matters at both the claim and litigation stages involving underlying environmental, property damage, product liability, transportation, professional liability and extra-contractual claims. Britta attended University of Wisconsin Law School where she was an editor of the Wisconsin Law Review, a member of the Mock Trial team and the competition chair for the Moot Court Board. She is licensed to practice in Illinois and Wisconsin, but also works with clients litigating actions nationwide for damages and declaratory relief.



## Holly Whitlock-Glave Named IDC Volunteer of the Year

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**Holly Whitlock-Glave** of *Hepler-Broom LLC*, Crystal Lake, has been named the 2018 IDC Volunteer of the Year. Ms. Whitlock-Glave was recognized for her contributions to the IDC, specifically as they relate to the association's Construction Law Committee.

"I am very honored to be the recipient of this award, especially since so many IDC members dedicate countless hours in helping IDC be the premiere association for defense attorneys in Illinois. Our committee's efforts this past year have been a result of not only our members' hard work, but also those who support our committee members—both professionally and personally. I look forward to continuing my service to our industry through our committee's work in the coming year," said Ms. Whitlock-Glave.

IDC President Michael Resis commented that "Holly was chair of the construction law committee and spoke at the seminar which the committee put on this year with an industry group. Holly is always willing to step up and see a task through to its end. Through her dedication to the IDC, she has earned the Volunteer of the Year award."

IDC Executive Director Sandra Wulf remarked "Every year I am privileged to recognize one of our many volunteers who have stepped forward to lend a hand. Under Holly's leadership, the IDC Construction Law Committee excelled at engaging our volunteers and as a result, the committee can serve as a model for all of our committees. Vision, organization, and dedication—are all defined with the work that this group does. We are very proud of Holly and her entire committee for the work they have done."

Holly C. Whitlock-Glave is a senior associate at *HeplerBroom LLC* in Crystal Lake, Illinois. She primarily focuses her practice in the defense of complex, multi-party commercial construction litigation involving construction injury, construction defects, risk transfer, construction contract, risk management, general liability coverage issues, expert analysis & investigations and settlement negotiations/alternative dispute resolution. She earned her B.A. *cum laude* from Augustana College and earned her juris doctorate *cum laude* from Northern Illinois University Law School. She has been admitted to practice in the state of Illinois and U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois. Ms. Whitlock-Glave is a long-standing member of the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel (IDC) and Chair of the IDC Construction Law Committee.

### 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](http://www.iadtc.org) or contact us at PO Box 588, Rochester, IL 62563-0588, 217-498-2649, 800-232-0169, [idc@iadtc.org](mailto:idc@iadtc.org).