

## Spotlight ON Service

# New Iowans Legal Advice Clinic celebrates five years of service

Five years ago, ISBA Past President Bruce Walker and his wife Dedi Walker led several partners and collaborating organizations to create the New Iowans Legal Advice Clinic (NILAC). The clinic is sponsored by the Johnson County Bar Association and was developed in cooperation with the ISBA Legal Access Committee. Community partners in the Iowa City area include IC Compassion, the University of Iowa College of Law Citizen Lawyer Program (CLP) and Iowa Legal Aid. NILAC is designed to provide legal advice to immigrant, non-English-speaking or undocumented individuals in the community.

The ISBA Public Relations Committee honors an Iowa attorney or group of attorneys each month in this special "Spotlight on Service" feature in the Iowa Lawyer. If you would like to nominate someone to be recognized for his or her volunteer work in the community, please contact:

**Melissa Higgins,**  
**mhiggins@iowabar.org.**

Before the pandemic, each month volunteer attorneys and interpreters met with clients to review their cases or questions. Now, clinics take place via Zoom.

"Getting sound legal advice is always important, especially for folks who would otherwise be getting information about the most important aspects of their life from far less reliable sources," said Eric Goers, ISBA Legal Access Committee Chair and NILAC volunteer lawyer. "The pandemic has made the circumstances of many of our clients even more dire, making our services more crucial than ever."

"We owe a big debt of gratitude to the volunteer lawyers and our partners IC Compassion, Brian Farrell, University of Iowa College of Law Citizen Lawyer Program Director, the Johnson County Bar Association and The Iowa State Bar Association. The clinic would not exist without their participation," said Dedi Walker. "The CLP law students help run the clinic, interpret and assist the clients in filling out paperwork and generally setting a professional, yet comfortable tone. Some clients come to us with limited



*Dedi and Bruce Walker*

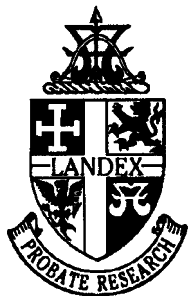
computer skills. IC Compassion makes laptop computers available for use during the clinics and the law students assist clients with Zoom when necessary."

"Sometimes we connect clients with private lawyers willing to take their cases pro bono, sometimes we give clients the answers they need during the clinics. Even if the answer is not what they hoped it would be, they are comforted knowing the truthful reality of their legal circumstances," said Goers, reflecting on his service as a founding NILAC volunteer lawyer. "Collaborating with law students, volunteer translators and community partners has made the clinic a highly rewarding experience."

### New Iowans Legal Advice Clinic 2021 Volunteers

Madi Beauchamp, Dan Bray, Gerald Denning, Sue Dulek, Nathan Ford, Eric Goers, Jack Hathaway, Sidney Holler, Jessica Malott, Martha Scarpellino, Veronica Stafford, Teresa Stecker, Bruce Walker, Dedi Walker, Alexis Winecke

\*A special thank you to Brett Toresdahl for his assistance in starting NILAC.



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