



Newsbriefs

NWSBA Honors Judge James A. Geocarlis with Lifetime Achievement Award

In true encore fashion, Anthony Calzaretta, Allen Gabe and Matt Fakhoury reprised their roles of masters of ceremony as we celebrated the holiday season among 170 guests at Maggiano's Schaumburg.

President Kenneth Apicella was joined at the podium by members of the NWSBA Awards Committee: Moe Ahmad, Tja Chiapelli, and Matt Fakhoury as they awarded honorees Hon. Steven Kozicki and Hon. James A. Geocarlis (Ret.). Judge Kozicki was the recipient of the NWSBA Public Service Award while Judge James A. Geocarlis (Ret.) received the NWSBA Lifetime Achievement Award. Both awardees were joined by their families who helped share in the celebration.

Over \$2,000 was raised benefitting programs sponsored by the NWSBA through a 50/50 raffle.



NWSBA Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient Judge James A. Geocarlis with Judge Jill Cerone-Marisie, presiding judge of the Third Municipal District.



NWSBA Public Service Award Recipient Judge Steven Kozicki with NWSBA President Kenneth Apicella.

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Sponsors for the evening were:

Athletico, Attorneys Title Guaranty Fund, Inc., Lexitas, and Old Republic Title.

Thank you to our Holiday Party co-chairs Anthony Calzaretta, Marie Sarantakis and Christine Svenson.

***Photos Begin on Page 8
A full gallery of photos can be found
on our FaceBook Page.***



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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

BY: KENNETH APICELLA

Happy New Year! As we embark into the new year, I continue to remain optimistic and hopeful about what lies ahead for the NWSBA community. For me at least, and it is probably not unique, this is the time of year where the pace of work life seems to kick into high gear. All of the tasks that that were pushed off or impossible to schedule during the month of December are all stacked up on the calendar. As we all run through this part of the year, it is important to break up our routines every now and again.

One of my favorite events is coming up. The Twenty-Seventh Annual NWSBA Mock Trial Invitational is set for February 22, 2023. Twenty-four teams of local high school students come to the Rolling Meadows Courthouse and try both sides of a mock case, this year it is a criminal matter, in front of an actual sitting judge and a panel of attorney scoring judges. The amount and value of the attorney and judge time that goes into this event successful every makes me proud to be a member of this organization. Thank you to the committee - Frank Serio, Patricia Jochum, Sarah Raisch and John Hock! And a special thank you to Judge Jill Cerone Marisie for all of her work on the event!

While we normally talk in terms of “giving back” when volunteering our time those that have been a part of this event before that you get as much, if not more than you give, being a part of this event. If you are willing to volunteer, please sign up on the website while there are still some spots available.

The high school mock trial fits well into the mission of this association, which is to improve the quality of life in our community by inspiring excellence in the practice of law. It really is an honor for the association to be able to provide these high schoolers with the opportunity to experience the lessons that are uniquely part of the mock trial experience: 1) critical thinking skills - as they develop the cross examinations of the experts they learn the questions you need to ask to test expert opinions. As they go through life they will hopefully use those skills to test conclusions and opinions, including their own; 2) from the rules of evidence they learn that their reputation for integrity matters; and 3) they learn to disagree without being disagreeable. Three lessons that will serve them well throughout their lives and careers.

Finally, just a quick reminder that the Annual Mat Law CLE is set for Monday, February 6, 2023 from noon until 4:00 p.m. More details are available on the Association's website.

COURTHOUSE VOLUNTEERS THANK YOU

Once our courts open again, we hope that you will consider volunteering for one or more of the services listed below.

Court Facilitator

The Court Facilitator program is unique to the Third Municipal District. The NWSBA provides volunteers on Thursdays from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM to assist the Domestic Relations judges. Dates are scheduled by the Association staff through use of a Sign Up Genius web site.

Paternity Court Facilitator

Paternity Court Facilitators volunteer on Thursdays from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM to assist the Paternity Call. Dates are scheduled by the Association staff through use of a Sign Up Genius web site.

Pro Bono Desk

The Pro Bono Desk, located in Room 251 in the Rolling Meadows Courthouse, is a volunteer service provided by members of the Northwest Suburban Bar Association. It is a free service to members of our community.

Attorneys serving at the pro bono desk are available to answer legal questions members of the general public may have. While the attorneys serving at the pro bono desk will try to answer your questions to the best of their ability, understand the attorney(s) serving that day may not have expertise in the legal area for which you have a question. The attorney(s) serving the pro

bono desk are there to provide legal advice, but are not there to represent the general public on a pro bono basis (free of charge) and therefore do not represent you in any way in the matter for which you may be seeking advice. However, since you are seeking legal advice, your communications with the attorney(s) are subject to attorney-client privilege. Those visiting the pro bono desk are limited to 5-15 minutes in length, depending on the number of others waiting.

Volunteers are needed at the Third District Courthouse every Friday from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Volunteer dates are scheduled by the Association staff through use of a Sign Up Genius website.

LINK TO SIGN UP GENIUS:

A link to the volunteer sign up can be found on the Home Page of our website under the “Member Dashboard” tab. If you are a member and are not receiving volunteer emails from Sign Up Genius, please call the Association office at 847-621-2378.

Again, thank you for your service,
Pro Bono Committee

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Newsbriefs

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Social Security Administration Cost of Living Adjustment

By: Neil H. Good

Recently the Social Security Administration announced the new cost of living adjustment. The COLA for 2023 is 8.7%, this is the third largest one in history. In 1980 it was 14.3% and in 1981 it was 11.2%. Below is a table that shows how this increase will affect the amount we pay Social Security tax on and the amount that benefits will be increased to.

	2022	2023
Maximum Taxable Earnings		
Social Security (OASDI only)	\$147,000	\$160,200
Medicare (HI only)	No Limit	
Quarter of Coverage		
	\$1,510	\$1,640
Retirement Earnings Test Exempt Amounts		
Under full retirement age	\$19,560/yr. (\$1,630/mo.)	\$21,240/yr. (\$1,770/mo.)
NOTE: One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every \$2 in earnings above the limit.		

	2022	2023
The year an individual reaches full retirement age	\$51,960/yr. (\$4,330/mo.)	\$56,520/yr. (\$4,710/mo.)
NOTE: Applies only to earnings for months prior to attaining full retirement age. One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every \$3 in earnings above the limit.		
Beginning the month an individual attains full retirement age	None	

	2022	2023
Social Security Disability Thresholds		
Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)		
Non-Blind	\$1,350/mo.	\$1,470/mo.
Blind	\$2,260/mo.	\$2,460/mo.
Trial Work Period (TWP)	\$ 970/mo.	\$1,050/mo.
Maximum Social Security Benefit: Worker Retiring at Full Retirement Age		
	\$3,345/mo.	\$3,627/mo.
SSI Federal Payment Standard		
Individual	\$ 841/mo.	\$ 914/mo.
Couple	\$1,261/mo.	\$1,371/mo.

Submitted by Neil H. Good
The Good Law Group

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR NWSBA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

If you would like to be more involved in the NWSBA in a leadership role, please consider a spot on the NWSBA Board of Governors. We are now accepting Resumes and Letters of Intent for the current open board positions. Qualifications as stated in the current NWSBA Bylaws can be found on our website under the Member Services tab> 'Bylaws 7.3 Qualifications to hold Office of Directorship of the NWSBA'.

*Resumes and Letters of Intent should be submitted to
Julie Barth, Executive Director: jbarth@nwsba.org
by no later than Friday, January 20, 2023.*

2022 Nominating Committee:

Chair: *Stephanie Garces Donat*

Committee Members:

Erin Adamski

Jay Andrew

Colleen LeFevour

Joe Vito

Holiday Party Photo Recap



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It's a New Year!

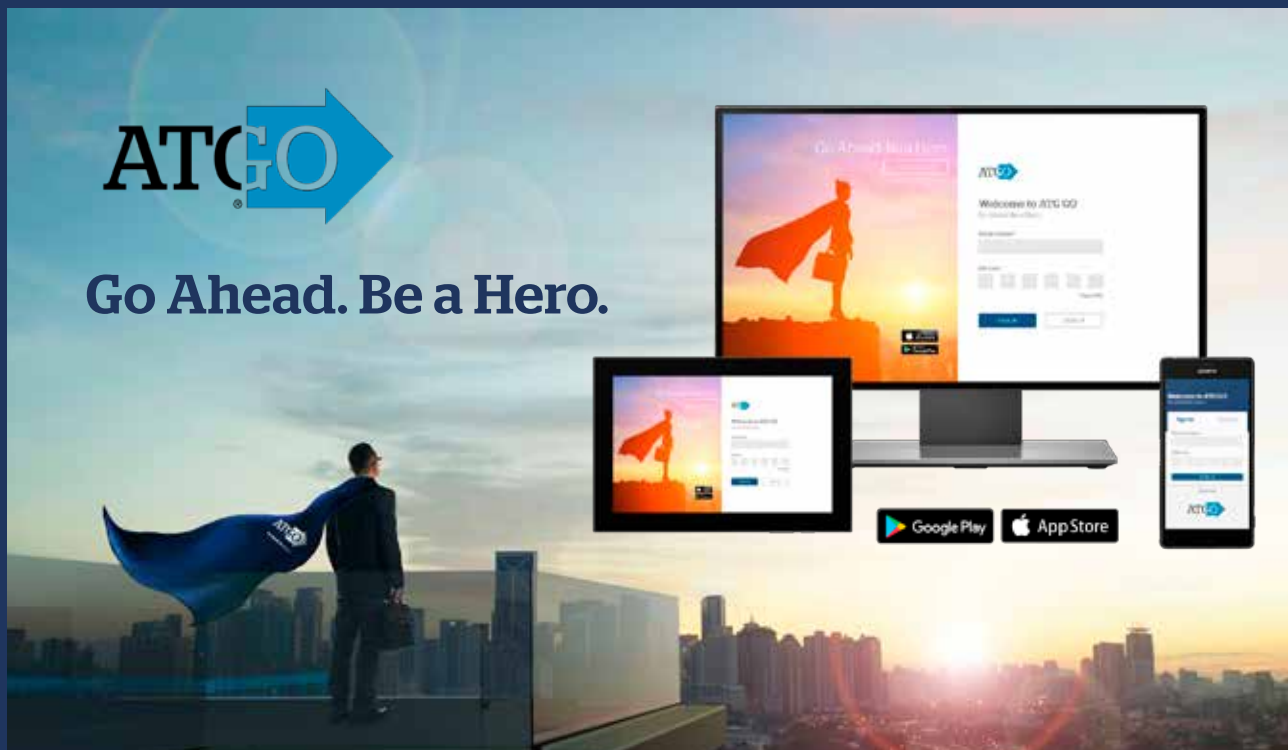
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Employment Opportunities*

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**You must be a member of the NWSBA (Including Law Student/Student Status) in order to place an ad in the Employment Opportunities section. All ads are subject to approval by the Editor.*

Miscellaneous

Looking to take over retiring attorney's law practice in the area of Worker's Compensation and or Personal Injury. Feel free to call and discuss terms. We also accept referrals and provide co-counsel fees. Newland & Newland LLP: Gary A. Newland 847-797-8000.

Favaro & Gorman, Ltd., an employment law firm, seeks client referrals. Referral and co-counsel fees are available. Please visit our website at www.favarogorman.com for information about the firm's practice or contact Dennis R. Favaro at (847) 934-0060.

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Northwest Suburban Bar Association
115 S. Wilke Road, Suite 102
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Phone: 847-621-2378 Fax: 224-404-4128

Attorney Referral: 224-404-4845

www.nwsba.org

CALENDAR

- FEBRUARY 6 - MAT LAW CLE
- FEBRUARY 8 - #LUNCH & LEARN WITH GEO: SECURITY AND UPDATES ABOUT OUR COURTHOUSES
 - PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE THIRD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT JILL CERONE-MARISIE
 - CHIEF JUDGE MICHAEL CHMIEL, 22ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT (MCHENRY COUNTY)
- FEBRUARY 22 - LUNCH & LEARN WITH GEO: ABANDON ALL HOPE YE WHO ENTER THE METAVERSE WITH NELSON ROSARIO
- FEBRUARY 22 - MOCK TRIAL
- MARCH 7 - EMPLOYMENT LAW CLE
- MARCH 8 - #LUNCH & LEARN WITH GEO: GUEST SCOTT DUTTON
- MARCH 22 - #LUNCH & LEARN WITH GEO: GUEST DICK ADLER
- APRIL 12 - #LUNCH & LEARN WITH GEO: GUESTS SANTOS REYES AND SEAN P. DRISCOL
- AUGUST 2 - COMMITTEE CHAIR ORIENTATION

**PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE CALENDAR
FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF CLES & COMMITTEE MEETINGS.**