

**Megan Kaszubinski Ferraro**  
*President*

**Robert P. Groszek**  
*First Vice President*

**Regina Rathnau**  
*Second Vice President*

**Michele (Stack) Hendrickson**  
*Third Vice President*



**Steve Rakowski**  
*Secretary*

**Kristen M. Kozlowski**  
*Treasurer*

**Alexander Fiedotjew**  
*Historian*

## **The Advocate**

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ADVOCATES SOCIETY, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

### *February Edition*

## **Annual Installation & Awards Dinner: Celebrating 80 Years!**

Advocates Society members are encouraged to invite spouses, colleagues, and friends to attend the 2011 Installation and Awards Dinner. The 2011 Installation and Awards Dinner will be on **Thursday, February 17, 2011**, at the Hotel InterContinental, Renaissance Ballroom, 505 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611, overlooking the beautiful Magnificent Mile. There will be an open cocktail reception beginning at 6:00 pm followed by an elegant dinner with main course of Filet and Halibut beginning at 7:00 pm. The event includes the presentation of the Award of Merit to **Judy Baar Topinka**, remarks of the outgoing President Megan Kaszubinski Ferraro, and installation of new Advocates Society officers including Robert P. Groszek as President. In addition to Robert as President, the following members will be installed as 2011-2012 Officers:

**Regina Rathnau Lairson** – First Vice President, **Michele (Stack) Hendrickson** – Second Vice President, **Alexander Z. Fiedotjew** - Third Vice President, **L. Steven Rakowski** - Secretary

**Kristen M. Kozlowski** – Treasurer, **Michael Zink** - Historian The cost is \$125 per person or \$1,000 per table of 10 with RSVP by February 12, 2011. Business formal attire is requested. For further information please contact **Robert P. Groszek** at (773) 267-6100 or

[robert@groszeklaw.com](mailto:robert@groszeklaw.com).

## **General Membership Meeting Friday, March 25, 2011, 7:00 p.m.**

The next meeting of the Advocates Society will take place on Friday, March 25, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., at the Copernicus Foundation, Hall of Kings, Third Floor. The meeting will begin with dinner and the general meeting followed by a guest speaker: **Joseph A. Morris** of **Morris & De La Rosa**. Among his numerous accomplishments Mr. Morris is a hearing officer for the Chicago Board of Election Commissioner. Mr. Morris was the presiding hearing officer to make the first determination of Rahm Emanuel's citizenship status for the 2011 Chicago mayoral race. Mr. Morris will discuss "Citizenship, Politics and the Law: Adventures of a Chicago Election Board Hearing Officer". The Advocates Society will apply for CLE credit for this presentation.

The Foundation is located at 5216 West Lawrence Ave., Chicago, Illinois, one block west of the Kennedy Expressway, one block east of Milwaukee Ave., and one block southeast of the Jefferson Park CTA station. There is free parking at the Copernicus lot. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to **Regina Rathnau** at (773) 495-0217 so that we know how much food to order.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to **Chester Lizak** of **Di Monte & Lizak LLC** on being recognized as One of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers in the State of Illinois by the American Trial Lawyers Association. The American Trial Lawyers Association is a professional organization of America's Top Trial Lawyers. More information regarding Mr. Lizak's practice may be found at: [http://www.dimontelaw.com/chester\\_a\\_lizak.htm](http://www.dimontelaw.com/chester_a_lizak.htm).

Congratulations to **Gregory G. Wrobel** of **Vedder Price P.C.** on being recognized as a 2011 Super Lawyer by the Super Lawyers Magazine. Super Lawyers magazine names attorneys in each state who received the highest point totals, as chosen by their peers and through the independent research. Mr. Wrobel concentrates his practice in Antitrust Litigation and his biography may be found at: [http://www.vedderprice.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/prof.detail/object\\_id/56df609d-1ea0-4bfe-be62-e2a53d4163f0/Wrobel.cfm](http://www.vedderprice.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/prof.detail/object_id/56df609d-1ea0-4bfe-be62-e2a53d4163f0/Wrobel.cfm).

Congratulations to John Pikarski, a presenter and guests at a recent symposium sponsored by the Warsaw Real Estate Board. For information regarding John Pikarski's practice may be found at: <http://gordonpikarski.com/biographies.html#>.



In this picture: Mabel Guzman, President of the Chicago Association of Realtors; John J. Pikarski, Jr., Advocates Society Member and Chicago Zoning Attorney; Ginger Downs, Executive Director of Chicago Association of Realtors, and Maciej Cybulski, Managing Director, State of Illinois Central European Office.

## National Advocates Society

The National Advocates Society (NAS) has extended free membership and waiver of the initiation fee for Advocates Society members who join the National Advocates Society in 2011. The NAS was established in 1933 to encourage fellowship among the members of the Bar in the United States of Polish Descent. For more information please contact **Maureen Pikarski** at (312) 521-7004.

## 72<sup>nd</sup> White and Red Ball

The Legion of Young Polish Women proudly announces that its 72<sup>nd</sup> White and Red Ball will take place on February 19, 2011 at the Hilton Hotel, Grand Ballroom, 720 N. Michigan Ave. Chicago. For information and reservations please call (312) 371-3069.

## PAPA Annual Banquet

The Polish American Police Association of Chicago and Illinois will hold its 47th Annual Awards Banquet on Friday, May 6, 2011 from 7:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m. at the White Eagle Banquets and Restaurant, located at 6831 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles, IL. Tickets are \$65 each and may be purchased from **Marilyn Mazewski** at (773) 763-3080.

## Letter from the President

Dear Advocates Society Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President this past year. I am flattered by the support shown by the Board of Governors, the General Membership and the Chicago legal community, and am in awe of the dedication of this organization's Past Presidents. The accomplishments of this year would not have been possible without the commitment of everyone. One of the accomplishments I am most proud of is the increase in new members and the increase in attendance at the General Membership meetings. This is a direct reflection of the quality of our current membership. Thank you to each of you for being an ambassador for the organization. Thank you also to the Board of Governors, including the current Executive Officers, the Past Presidents and the Committee Chairs. Without hesitation, you have spent many hours making sure that meetings and events occur and run smoothly, that the community is aware of our existence and takes our organization seriously and that the deep traditions and purpose of our organization are fulfilled. To date, my proudest professional accomplishment is having served as President of the Advocates Society. Thank you for this experience.

With warmest regards,  
Megan Kaszubinski Ferraro

P.S. For all those interested in joining the leadership of our organization, the below picture shows one of the amazing opportunities I had this past year as President.



In this picture (left to right): Justice Sonia Sotomayor with Megan Kaszubinski Ferraro, President of the Advocates Society (center) and Appellate Court Judge Aurelia Pucinski, First District, 4th Division.

**ADVOCATES SOCIETY**

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**Megan Kaszubinski Ferraro, President**

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**2011 Calendar of Advocates Society Events**

If you have a potential newsletter item, please forward it to Anna Krolikowska, 899 Skokie Blvd., Suite 300, Northbrook, Illinois 60062, or contact her at (847) 715-9328.

- February 17, 2011, Thursday, 6:00 p.m. Advocates Society Installation Dinner, details on page 1.
- March 11, 2011, Friday, Board of Governors' Meeting.
- March 25, 2011, Friday, 7:00 p.m. General Meeting at the Copernicus Center, 5216 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago.
- April 1, 2011, Friday – Board of Governors' Meeting (Tentative)
- April 14, 2011, Thursday – General Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM, Polish Highlander's, 4808 S. Archer Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60632 (Tentative)
- April 29, 2011, Friday – Board of Governors' Meeting (Tentative)
- May 7, 2011, Saturday – Polish Constitution Day Parade, Grant Park, Chicago, Illinois
- June 3, 2011, Friday – General Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM, Polish Consulate, 1530 N. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60610 (Tentative)

The calendar for 2011-2012 is currently being finalized. The above dates marked "tentative" are subject to change until indicated as definite.

**Amicus Poloniae Legal Clinic**

5711 N. Milwaukee, Chicago, IL

Saturday, February 19, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. \*\*\*\*\* Saturday, March 19, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Call (773) 763-8520 for more information.