

...In the Spotlight...  
*Barbara C. Greenberg, Esq.*



Recently, I had the opportunity to be at the wedding of one of our members. The clergy used the analogy of music to connect with the new pair - the importance of finding harmony in the future of this wonderful couple. It was a striking way to make the point that two different individuals were coming together, from completely different places, to begin a new family. That only by working together, in harmony, would there be beautiful music for them.

He spoke of the chances for dissonance - the problems of blending old habits, families, and even furniture. He believes that to make the marriage work, each one of the partners needs to be willing to throw out some old stuff, even something special, and compromise. He suggested that the best marriage is one where both give and take, where each is allowed to grow to their highest potential with the support and encouragement of the other. He reminded us that neither partner should always give in, or always demand that their way is the only way. That to listen and share, to combine and discard, to pick the good fights and let the rest go, makes for a long and happy future together in harmony.

As I sat there, I reflected on my 38-year marriage to my husband and how the words fit at any spot along the continuum of time. I was also thinking of the CCBA as we begin conversations with the CBA regarding the creation of a new bar association for the legal community and the community-at-large. Many of you heard about or read the column from Hugh McKay in the Cleveland Bar Association Journal in May. He acknowledged that 80 years ago there existed a need for two associations, as the CBA was neither diverse nor open in its membership or its mission. He went on to say that our CCBA filled that need - we were open to anyone who wanted to join us with a mission of justice for all.

The conversations continue at this time. If they succeed, this will really be a marriage - the combining of two different families of attorneys - some from "large families" (our biggest firms), some "only children" (solo practitioners), and many from families of assorted sizes (firms from 2 to many). Each group has its habits and history - long-standing and proud. Each group has its projects and community involvements - important and essential. Some things will have to be discarded; some things will have to be downsized for utility; some things will be enlarged and expanded so that all can participate; and some things will just keep going as they always have, comfortable and familiar. Continuity is also important.

I have been at the CCBA since 1996 and was a party to the conversations in 2000. They did not succeed for a variety of reasons. *But, the times - they are a changin'* as the song says. The world and the legal profession have changed greatly in our 80 years as an association; the two bar association missions are similar now, as are the majority of the memberships. The costs of services to the Bench and Bars, many of which are duplicates, are expensive and unnecessary. Pro bono services to the community are also overlapping, which hurts those in need of our help.

Not a merger, not a takeover, but the establishment of a new organization - a marriage - modeled on the best examples from around the country of successful, full-service bar associations. Imagine the creation of a new association, from two separate, individual organization's, melding the best of each to make the new one. Imagine a regional bar of this community with a voice of over 10,000, bigger and stronger than either of the two voices we have individually. What a song we might sing, in harmony! Both partners have to want it, willing to give and take, willing to compromise and listen, open to new ideas, unafraid to make tough decisions, but excited about the prospect of something new.

We'll keep you informed as we continue to discuss walking down this aisle. Please know that our CCBA Constitution requires that any CCBA decision comes from a vote of the full membership, not from some committee, the President, the Officers or even the Board of Trustees. Your voice together as one association family, and each of you individually by secret ballot, will decide our future—majority will rule in this democratic house, as it always has. Stay tuned. I am looking forward to sending you updates as they happen, because you can't make an informed decision without the complete details upon which to decide.

And now... I am pleased to introduce another member to you in this journal. For the first time in my column I want to introduce you to a second generation CCBA Board member. This is a first, as far as I can see in my review of our history.

Edward A. Icove, son of our 1962-63 President, Mr. Morton B. Icove, is the focus for my column today.

**MR. EDWARD A. ICOVE**



Ed is a graduate of Shaker Heights High School, Ohio University, B.G.S., *cum laude*, and the University of Toledo College of Law. After passing the bar examination in 1976, he was a VISTA (now known as Americorp) volunteer attorney, and a legal service attorney with the Cincinnati Legal Aid Society and Southeastern Ohio Legal Services (SEOLS). He currently serves as a board member and Vice President of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland (LASC), is a board member of the Federal Bar Association, Northern District of Ohio, and a Trustee of the CCBA. He is certainly following in his father's footsteps with his devotion and service to the legal profession and our own CCBA. In 1986 and 1997 he received awards from both the SEOLS and LASC for outstanding pro bono services. As well, he has been honored by several other organizations for his pro bono work on behalf of their members.

In 1981, Ed began the Icove Legal Group, Ltd. His focus and his practice relates to consumer issues. He has lectured at various consumer conferences. He is a published author in *The Plain Dealer* as a voice on consumer issues, including "Know your Rights When the Collector

Calls,” from September 2006. He is a member of the National Association of Consumer Advocates, the Ohio State Bar Association, the CBA and the CCBA, where he is elected to our Board of Trustees, Class of 2009. He is also a member of the consumer task force organized by the Ohio State Legal Service Association and the LASC. Ed is a contributor to Ohio Consumer Law (Chapter 11, Retail Installment Sales Act).

When he is not practicing law, Ed is very involved in his community of South Euclid. He has held office in that community for many years, beginning as a board member of the South Euclid Board of Zoning Appeals in 1984, as well as a councilman and then as *President of City Council*. He is currently a Councilman in Ward 3. His hobbies include traveling, playing golf, and spending time with his wife, Mary, and his dogs, Lucy and Marley.

We are thrilled that another Icove has taken his time to give to the CCBA. We are equally proud of the other Board members and volunteers who devote their time to us, to the legal profession, and to our community. Ed is just another fine example of the best we can be.

Thanks for reading this article. I hope to hear from you with your thoughts about our future. Until next time.....*Barbara C. Greenberg*

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## Supreme Court of Ohio NEWS

### Appeals Court Judge Appointed by Supreme Court to Serve on Rules Commission

The Honorable William A. Klatt of the 10th District Court of Appeals has been appointed by the Supreme Court of Ohio to serve as Vice Chair of the Commission on the Rules of Superintendence. He was selected by Justice Judith Ann Lanzinger to be elevated to that position.

The Supreme Court established the commission, which took effect Jan. 1, 2006, to assist in the review of the Rules of Superintendence. Previously, there had been no comprehensive review of the Rules of Superintendence since the report of an ad hoc committee chaired by Justice Alice Robie Resnick more than 15 years ago.

Under the Ohio Constitution, the Supreme Court has general powers of superintendence over all Ohio courts. These rules include guidelines for recording and broadcasting court proceedings, local rules of court, courtroom conduct, court records retention and management, court appointments, arbitration and mediation, and appointment of counsel for indigent defendants in capital cases.

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### Stark County Judge Appointed by the Supreme Court to Serve on Bar Admissions Board

Judge Michael L. Howard of the Stark County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division, has been appointed by the Supreme Court of Ohio to serve on the Board of Commissioners on Character and Fitness.

Judge Howard was appointed to complete the unexpired term of Judge Sara Lioi of Stark County, who resigned from the board to accept an appointment to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. This is Judge Howard's first term with the board, and his appointment goes through Dec. 31, 2007.

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### 17 Courts Selected by the Supreme Court to Participate in Ohio Courts Network Pilot Project

Seventeen courts from all over the state of Ohio have been chosen to participate in a pilot project for the Ohio Courts Network that will connect all Ohio courts to an information database using the Internet. The courts gathered at the Ohio Judicial Center for the launch of the project on Tuesday, May 22nd.

Many Ohio courts expressed interest in participating in the pilot project, and 17 courts were selected initially based on criteria that would result in courts representative of the entire state, considering the size of the court, locality, and existing technology. The Courts selected come from the following counties: Allen, Clermont, Cuyahoga, Darke, Gallia, Geauga, Hamilton, Lucas, Miami, Montgomery, and Morgan. The pilot courts will be used to develop a model for the statewide system.

The Ohio Courts Network will serve as a centralized data warehouse of court case-related information, enabling the sharing of critical information among courts and law enforcement partners, including case file information for pending and historical cases in all jurisdictions, links to other courts, identity information including addresses past and present, court orders and warrants.

Unisys Corp. has been chosen to complete this project. They will download, integrate, and securely store all information from the courts and create an interface to other state agencies, including the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. The end result will be "1-stop shopping" for Ohio court data that will enable statistical analysis and search capability across jurisdictions.