

As an associate and then partner in a general practice law firm in West Central Illinois, active member and officer of many non-profit boards, and active member of the Illinois State Bar Association ("ISBA"), all for the better part of 43 years, I am in a unique position to serve as the Third Vice President of the Illinois State Bar Association for the years 2027-2028. I have always been a big believer in the ISBA and in its mission of assisting Illinois lawyers with their practice of law and the ISBA's efforts in promotion of improvements in the administration justice, including the preparation of new legislation, lobbying for and against proposed legislation, educating the public regarding law-related issues, and supporting the courts and rule of law.

In this regard, I strongly support the ISBA's continuing efforts to improve services which it provides to its members, such as our free continuing legal education through seminars and newsletters - both offered by many of our members, referral services, the "Rural Practice initiative" attorney hiring and retention incentive program offered to rural attorney member's new associates and law clerks, practice management and technology resources, and health insurance to solo practitioners and small firms. If elected, I pledge to increase our efforts to address the ISBA's most challenging problem, our continuing loss of membership, which I am told has recently increased from a 3% to a 7% annual reduction in our membership. This not only continues to materially affect our cash flow (funds necessary to allow the ISBA to provide member services), but also weakens the ISBA as to the pool of attorney-member volunteers available to provide seminars, newsletters, etc., and the ISBA's clout as the premiere bar association in the State of Illinois. In this regard, I believe we should step up our efforts to market ISBA memberships to law students and existing practitioners throughout the state.

Second, in light of the fact that the ISBA maintains that it is a bar association which serves all Illinois-licensed attorneys, I feel we need to increase our efforts to provide member benefits to attorneys located south and west of Cook County and the Collar Counties. By doing so, I hope that such efforts will benefit all ISBA members by contributing to our efforts to bolster our membership. For instance, many law firms and solo practitioners practicing law outside of Cook County and the Collar Counties are struggling with hiring and retaining attorneys, which is often described as "legal deserts" or "attorney deserts." I plan to focus the ISBA's efforts on solving this problem. Although I am not naive in that I realize some of this issue appears to be many young lawyers' desire to work and live in and around Chicago, I believe the ISBA should do more to assist solo and small firms in these cities and towns beyond Cook County regarding their hiring and retention of attorneys through such means as increasing the incentive funds available to new associates and law clerks through the Rural Practice Initiative and establishing speed networking job interview opportunities for these firms. In addition, although I am not opposed to the ISBA's providing Zoom or other off-site seminars to our members, I feel we

should host more of our live CLE seminars at northwest, central, and southern Illinois venues.

Finally, I feel the ISBA should increase its efforts in working with the Lawyers' Assistance Program and in addressing our member attorneys who find themselves in precarious situations such as attorneys facing financial, health, and/or ethical problems.

To sum it up, I am asking you to vote for me for ISBA Third Vice President next March and April based on the fact that I have been an Illinois general practitioner for over 43 years at my firm, Schmiedeskamp Robertson Neu & Mitchell LLP, in Quincy, Illinois, and based on my extensive involvement with the ISBA for more than the last 30 years.

As you may know, in the event I am elected as Third VP, I would eventually become ISBA President without the occurrence of another election. I note that the last elected ISBA president who practiced law in Quincy, Illinois, was elected in 1926. It's time to elect me as ISBA Third VP next March, a true outside-of-Cook County attorney with 43 years of general practice experience and who is in touch with issues that matter to you, ISBA members!

Ted Niemann,

Candidate for 3rd Vice President