

To My Fellow ABA Members:

We are witnessing many changes on the legal landscape in our state. The Illinois Supreme Court has approved mandatory continuing legal education, and the ABA offers exciting, informative programs that allow those in the legal profession to improve their lawyering skills. The Mid-Year Meeting in Chicago, February 8-13, as well as the Annual Meeting in Hawaii, August 3-8, will provide many opportunities to earn CLE. As many of you may know, the ABA has rescheduled the February meeting to our fair city because of the tragedy that has befallen New Orleans. This tragic event allows the members of the ABA to galvanize on matters that impact the practice of law in our state and around the country at the “doorstep” of the ABA headquarters. Of particular note and an issue on which I campaigned for the position of Illinois State Delegate is the public perception of lawyers. I would like to be proactive in improving that and look forward to your suggestions and input as my tenure progresses.

It should be noted that the ABA leadership moved swiftly and proactively in responding to those in need in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Michael Greco, President of the ABA, immediately put together the Katrina Task Force and several sections within the ABA followed his lead and created more focused task forces to work on the Katrina relief efforts. As a member of Greco’s Task Force and as Chair of the Section of Litigation Hurricane Katrina Task Force, I urge you to log onto the ABA’s website, www.abanet.org/katrina/ to view all of the work that has been accomplished by the ABA over the past few months. You can also find a link to the ABA’s Katrina Relief website by visiting www.CliffordLaw.com and clicking on Robert A. Clifford, Illinois State Delegate. You will find information there pertinent to Illinois ABA members such as the new MCLE rule as well as ABA Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

The Illinois State Delegation met in early November to discuss a variety issues, the most important being communicating to ABA members such as you. We would like to assert a strong voice in the House of Delegates, offering opinions and advice on matters that impact the practice of law in our state and around the country. Illinois is particularly fortunate that Laurel Bellows of Chicago is unopposed for nomination to be the next Chair of the House of Delegates. The nominating committee will vote at the Mid-Year Meeting here in Chicago and she is expected to accept the position at the ABA Annual Meeting in Hawaii. Please join us in supporting her leadership involving her important work.

Your Illinois Delegation looks forward to effectively representing a diverse state that has much to offer the ABA. Please feel free to contact me or my Administrative Assistant, Rachel Baker, at 312-899-9090 about any issue that you feel would be of interest to our fellow ABA members. Together we can fulfill the vision of a profession that serves those in need.

Also please feel free to keep informed about ABA activities that impact Illinois members through the Illinois Delegation link at www.CliffordLaw.com. I hope to see you in Chicago in February where our state can have a real presence at a very critical time. And please put Honolulu on your calendars for August. In the meantime, the best to you and yours at this holiday season for a peaceful and healthy new year.



Sincerely,

Robert A. Clifford