

### THE DECALOGUE TABLETS

Published by the Decalogue Society of Lawyers, America's Oldest Jewish Bar Association



### **TABLETS CONTENTS**

Page 1

President's Column

Page 2

**Annual Dinner Sponsors** 

Page 3

Chai-Lites

Tribute to Judge Sheldon Garber

Page 4

Dr. King's 1958 Speech

Page 5

Judge Ed Jordan Memorium

Pages 6 & 7

**Photos from Annual Meeting** 

Page 8

Foreclosure Defense

Page 9

Interfaith Break Fast

Page 11

Calendar of Events

Page 12

Bubbie's Kitchen

The following is an excerpt from the powerful and engaging speech made by Decalogue's new President at this year's Installation Dinner:

### **Growing Flowers in Chicago Deserts**

by Michael A. Strom

In my 35 years of practice, I have never seen a more difficult period to make a living practicing law. It is especially difficult for our youngest lawyers. Many have superb academic records from great law schools, huge student loan debt, and very limited opportunities to obtain that crucial first job.

However, one group's problem is another group's opportunity. Many young attorneys now turn to Decalogue for help to address a difficult, smaller and mutating market for legal services. Their need for job opportunities, mentors and guidance is urgent. If we can use our resources to help their crises, they won't ever ask: "Why join Decalogue?" Yet if we don't provide any effective help for them, soon many of our members will not be lawyers anymore. Many of our lawyers will not be members anymore, either.

Rest assured that we're not looking to become the Decalogue Society of "Only Caring About Ourselves." Typical of any bar association, our mission statement takes fifteen paragraphs to state less effectively what Rabbi Hillel of blessed memory famously stated much more succinctly: "If I am not for myself then who will be for me. But if I am only for myself, then what am I? And if not now, when?"

In recent years, rather than leading our own big projects, we have helped numerous other organizations in tikkun olam, good works for "repairing the world". We know the world will not be repaired soon. That's why our sages always urged us to hurry and get started. I urge Decalogue to lead in solving problems here.

The pioneers settling Israel in the early 20th Century were idealists who thought big. Not dreamers, but doers. We can relate to that in Chicago, with Daniel Burnham's philosophy: "Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir men's blood." The Israeli settlers captured the imagination of a generation by setting out to make the desert bloom. Why? Israel could not afford to have so much unproductive land. It was a matter of necessity and survival. Imagine how many people scoffed at these idealistic fools who thought they could produce crops from the desert! But when the first plants took root, the flowers bloomed, and the trees bore fruit, generations blessed them for their vision.

We have our own deserts here, vast areas long unproductive. Our deserts are not across the ocean – you can easily reach them by cab. Our deserts are neighborhoods and schools that became neglected, unproductive – even counterproductive.

(Continued on page 2)

DECALOGUE TABLETS SUMMER 2012

### President's Column

(cont'd from page 1)

Skeptics scoff at the idea that anything productive could come from our deserts. I believe these skeptics also lack vision. They are naïve to believe that our area can remain productive with so much desert.

Our people grew oranges in the desert – we can find children in every neighborhood who can succeed with a little help and encouragement. If they are just as stubborn as we are, we can work together and really make Chicago's deserts bloom. It won't be easy or quick, but we need to hurry and get started.

I've worked with my old neighborhood school in South Shore for three decades. We've had good years and bad years. But every year, there was someone who could be reached, someone who could avoid the bleak future everyone expected. Some years, there were quite a few. In our tradition, saving just one life is like saving the world. When that person "pays it forward" to others, the benefits are multiplied many times over. So I will challenge Decalogue to invest pro bono time and effort to cultivate the squandered human capital in the neighborhoods where many of our own families once lived.

Of course, I expect skepticism. But I've brought a sample of what people who refuse to give in to pessimism can accomplish. In a sense, I've brought a flower from the desert just to show you that it's possible. Later tonight you'll hear from Jamala McFadden, a young attorney whose personal and professional journey inspires me to keep trying and to recruit others to help. Ms. McFadden attended one of the worst schools in Chicago. At age 14, she was pregnant. If she told anyone she wanted to be a lawyer, they probably would have laughed. But a mock trial program facilitated by volunteer attorneys showed she had more ability than anyone would have expected, changing her world radically.

Jamala McFadden went on to graduate University of Illinois with high distinction. She was Executive Editor of Law Review at University of Michigan Law School. She clerked for a Federal Court Judge, and since 2003 has handled complex litigation at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan in Atlanta. She is on the National Bar Association's "Nation's Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40" list.

Ms. McFadden received pro bono achievement awards annually from 2004 – 2011 for her work with Atlanta Legal Aid. She has coached the Mock Trial Team at Therrell High School, a school similar to her own. She helped establish a scholarship program for Chicago college-bound teenage parents. She reaffirmed my belief that such a journey was possible. With your help, more of our Chicago deserts can bloom, and the yield can be amazing.

If Decalogue pursues the priorities I have summarized, we can earn the active participation of the next generation and be worthy of Decalogue's credo from the Torah: "Justice, justice shall you pursue." I believe in the values, ideals and energy of our members. The untapped resources of our hundreds of members can be mobilized to support the needs of justice in difficult times. Twenty years ago, I asked Jamala McFadden to aim higher and to believe she was capable of more than people thought. The results have convinced me to do the same. I need your help for Decalogue to aim higher and fulfill our principles.

The Decalogue Tablets is published quarterly by the

Decalogue Society of Lawyers 39 South LaSalle, Suite 410, Chicago IL 60603 312-263-6493

www.decaloguesociety.org

Michael A. Strom, President
James B. Goldberg, 1st Vice President
Nancy Vizer, 2nd Vice President
Deidre Baumann, Financial Secretary
Jonathan D. Lubin, Recording Secretary
Joel Chupack, Treasurer
Steven J. Rizzi, Past President
Arthur L. Berman, Parliamentarian

David Lipschutz & Sharon Eiseman, Co-Editors

Aviva Miriam Patt, Executive Director

Thank You
To The Sponsors Of Our
Annual Meeting,
Installation, and Awards
Dinner

Benefactor Tables
Grund & Leavitt P.C.
Kaplan Silverman LLC

Sponsor Tables **Power Rogers & Smith** 

Individual Sponsors
Steven M. Levin
Robert G. Markoff
Nancy M. Vizer

Page 2 SUMMER 2012

### Chai-Lites on Members

On June 8, 2012, the Northern Illinois University College of Law presented Decalogue member **John Monical** of Lawrence, Kamin, Saunders & Uhlenhop with its Outstanding Service Award. This Award honors NIU College of Law alumni who have dedicated extraordinary service to the law school and its students.

Decalogue Board member **Michelle Steiman** was named as a 2012 Envision Co-Chair by the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) Young Leadership Division. Envision is the ADL's 2012 signature fundraiser event which will take place on Saturday, August 18th from 8pm-1am at River East Art Center.

Decalogue Board member **Ralph Ruebner**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs John Marshall Law School, co-authored two recently-published legal books. The first (which he co-authored with Colin Miller and Katarina Durcova) is *Illinois Judicial Benchbook on Criminal Law and Procedure* (2nd Ed.), Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (2012). The second (which he co-authored with Katarina Durcova) is *Illinois Evidence: Illinois Rules of Evidence, Statutes and Constitution, A Compendium for Criminal Litigation* (Law Bulletin Publishing Co., 2012).

On April 26, **Steve Levin** discussed "Winning Your Case Through Depositions" at the *New Jersey Association for Justice's Boardwalk Seminar 2012*. He then presented at the *American Association for Justice's Nursing Home College: Depositions* in Washington, D.C. on May 10. Steve also presented "Research Strategies for Expert Depositions and Trial Preparation in Nursing Home Cases" at the *American Association for Justice's Annual Convention* in Chicago on July 30.

Board member **Mitchell Goldberg** of Lawrence, Kamin, Saunders & Uhlenhop recently became the President of the Torah Montessori School located in Chicago. He was also appointed Vice President of Mentoring for the Chicago Lincoln American Inn of Court.

JAG Colonel Gene Baime, son of past president **Steve Baime**, was awarded the Bronze Star for his service in Afghanistan for the past thirteen months.

Decalogue firm member **Lawrence**, **Kamin**, **Saunders & Uhlenhop** helped sponsor the "3rd Annual Concert For Carlos" (held on July 21, 2012 at Uncle Fatty's Rum Resort on Sheffield in Chicago) honoring the life and memory of famed Chicago political reporter Carlos Hernandez Gomez whose young life was cut short at 36 years of age after he lost a year-long battle with colon cancer in January 2010. Proceeds from the concert went to three charities, all in honor of Carlos, including Life Matters Media, which provides information, resources and support for all involved in end of life decision-making; DePaul University's Carlos Hernandez Award in Journalism; and DePaul's Carlos Hernandez Gomez Memorial Forum on Policy and Public Service.

Decalogue Board member **Sharon Eiseman** has been appointed Chair of the CBA Legislative Committee, Chair of the ISBA Government Lawyers Standing Committee, and Co-Chair, with Elizabeth Wells, of the CBA-WBAI Joint Task Force on Women and Aging.

### Decalogue Salutes Judge Sheldon C. Garber

By Charles Silverman

After twenty-seven years of service, the Honorable Sheldon C. Garber, Presiding Judge over courtroom 1404 of the Daley Center – the jury room for Forcible Entry and Detainers – stepped down from the bench on Tuesday, July 31st.

More than one set of eyes were wet on his final day. Judge Garber has long been known not only for his legal acuity and his professionalism, but also for his decency and humanity. Every morning when he came out of chambers, he would acknowledge and thank the court staff for their assistance, both to him and the parties appearing before him. For those who appeared before him with even the slightest frequency, he would make a point of addressing them by name.

His gentle voice and wide grasp of the law – which were hallmarks of his tenure in the judiciary – will be missed by litigants and counsel alike for landlords and tenants. We all wish him well in his retirement.

# Race in America: Dr. King's 1958 Speech at Evanston Synagogue

By Jonathan Lubin, reprinted from the online blog "Reasonable Inference"

I recently attended an event sponsored by the Decalogue Society of Lawyers, the Cook County Bar Association, the Jewish Judges Association, and the Illinois Judicial Council. The event was entitled "Dr. Martin Luther King's Lost Speech on American Jurisprudence." It was a terrific event, a valuable experience, and hopefully one of many opportunities for the historically Jewish and the historically black bar associations to come together and engage in meaningful dialogue. The centerpiece of the event was a recording of a speech by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that was given in 1958 at a synagogue in Evanston, IL. The speech was followed by a short panel discussion, moderated by Judge Morton Denlow; with Justice P. Scott Neville, who sits in the state appellate court located in Cook County, IL; Justice Alan Greiman, who is retired from the same appellate court; James Montgomery, a long time civil rights attorney who practices out of Chicago; and Professor Clifford Scott-Rudnick.

The speech was given after the success of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and well before the marches on Washington and the "I Have a Dream" speech; so the insight into this world-changing civil rights leader's roots were particularly interesting.

Dr. King's views on the law, and on the Supreme Court in particular, were quite cynical. He viewed the Supreme Court as essentially giving "legal validity to the dominant thought pattern of the day." So when the Supreme Court determined that slaves were property even in free states, that decision merely rubber stamped what society already believed was true. When the Supreme Court declared that separate but equal accommodations did not violate the Constitution, it did so in part as a recognition of certain realities that were not about to change. At the same time, Dr. King recognized that in the history of civil rights in the first half of the last century, the "judicial branch is fighting the battle alone." Little help had come from the Congress or the White House. The statute that is now embodied in 42 U.S.C. 1983 was passed in 1871, and signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant. At the time, it was called the Ku Klux Klan Act, and "An Act to enforce the Provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other Purposes."

But the speech as a whole was quite hopeful – one of the salient features of Dr. King's approach. The "I Have a Dream" speech has withstood the test of time because of its hopeful vision, placed, as it were, aside scathing attacks on politics as usual. Dr. King noted that the Bible teaches us to "Love thy neighbor." "How can you love your oppressor?" Dr. King asked. In order to do so, he answered, you needed to have a strong understanding of "redemptive good will." The love of one's neighbor was the love that the Greeks called

"Agape: overflowing love that seeks nothing in return." It is a "love of men merely because G-d loves them." "It is a good thing that Jesus said 'love your enemy,' and not 'like him.'" There were assuredly many people who Dr. King did not like — among them perhaps the people who arrested him for protesting

BETH EMET providing proceeds

1. 1958 FORUM

A write of earlifes queets face bring different face bring different face bring different face bring different face of the strain of the religion, education and evident face to the strain of the

segregation on the Montgomery public busses. But not liking someone – even with good reason – did not excuse hatred of them, for "G-d is interested in freeing the whole human race."

This love of one's fellow is an almost indispensible starting point for any dialogue on the issue of race. The very subject is so contentious that I hesitate to write anything about it publically, even though I don't think my ideas are all that novel or radical. What compels me to write, however, is the dialogue that took place afterwards. First of all, I was impressed that anyone was willing to sit on a stage before people he doesn't yet know and talk about race. I am particularly impressed that a sitting appellate judge was willing to do so. Justice Neville, whose written opinions I have always liked, has earned my admiration.

Of all of the speakers, however, I could have sat and listened to James Montgomery talk for hours. I would gladly give him a microphone, lock all of the doors to the lecture hall from the outside, and let the dialogue begin. Montgomery described being only a few years younger than Martin Luther King Jr. when the 1958 speech was given. He was the only African American student in his class at the University of Illinois' Law School. "I was at war with my world," he said. He described his reaction to Martin Luther King Jr. when he was a young man as "angry." The world did not give him much to be hopeful about, and Dr. King's eternal optimism did not jibe with the reality of having to walk to the back of a store or restaurant in the metropolitan city of Chicago merely because of one's race. As a young attorney, listening to someone talk about such treatment occurring here in Chicago was a jarring reminder of how fresh some of the wounds are, and how much still needs to be done towards healing.

When a member of the audience pointed to Dr. King's positive attitude as a model to embrace, Montgomery reminded the audience member that "they killed him" for having such a positive worldview. He wasn't being pessimistic or melodramatic. He was merely reminding the audience members of an inescapable reality: King was a martyr in the cause of simple equality – something that ought to be a no brainer in a country that was founded upon the "self-

Page 4 SUMMER 2012

### In Memoriam

### JUDGE EDWARD R. JORDAN

August 13, 1936-June 28, 2012

Judge Edward R. Jordan served with distinction as President of The Decalogue Society of Lawyers from 1979-80. Ed became a Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County in 1994. At the time of his death, Ed was sitting in the Domestic Relations Division, as he had for many years. Ed was an excellent lawyer and jurist who was known for his dedication and hard work, his innate sense of fairness and his good humor. These are the same qualities that Ed expressed in his service to our Society.

During his tenure with the Society, Ed was an early proponent of its involvement in the fair and impartial evaluation of candidates for judicial office. In 1979, he testified in Springfield on behalf of the Society in its fight against the "September Primary Bill" (SB428) which would have created scheduling conflicts between primary election day and the Jewish High Holidays. In his own words, Ed stated "It is important that the Decalogue Society serve as 'attorney' for the Jewish community and act strongly to protect and preserve the rights of all who make up that community." He was an early proponent of the Equal Rights Amendment, and promoted the Board of Manager's adoption of its resolution in support of that constitutional amendment. Furthermore, he demonstrated his commitment to supporting equal rights for women by actively working to advance the position of women within our Society, including positions on the Board of Managers and as officers of the Society.

One of the highlights of his presidency was the dinner at which the Merit Award was bestowed upon Isaac Bashevis Singer. The cause for the presentation, including citations to so many of Mr. Singer's works, was delivered brilliantly by our past president, Judge Sheldon Garber. At that point, the Nobel laureate realized

that his acceptance speech would be a redundancy, and he was coaxed into a most wonderful extemporaneous acceptance conversation with those in attendance, in English and Yiddish.

Affectionately known as the "Silver Fox" (for his lustrous locks), Ed was a key player in the creation and early success of the Society's Law Student Division. During the period of 1975-1978, Ed was the Board's liaison to the then newly formed Law Student Chapters at DePaul, Chicago-Kent and John Marshall Law Schools. For the students involved in the origin of these Chapters, Ed was always available to provide his guidance, counsel and support, and he also attended many of the Chapters' programs. His mentorship contributed to the fact that several of the founders of the law student chapters, including Daniel E. Beederman, Robert W. Matanky and Joel S. Hymen, each worked their way through the ranks and eventually became presidents of our Society.

Ed was especially proud of the fact that he was part of the first "Father-Son Team" of Society presidents. His father, Oscar Jordan, served our Society as President (1972-73) only seven years earlier, and beamed with pride as he saw his son rise through the ranks and to the pinnacle of leadership.

Judge Edward R. Jordan was the devoted and beloved husband of Y. Jacqueline, the cherished father of Stacy Ann Jordan and Adam Michael (Laurie Schwab) Jordan, the adored grandfather of Jamie Jordan, the proud great-grandfather of Jazleena, and the dear brother of Honey (Howard) Rosenfeld. He was a terrific guy and will be missed by many.

evident" truth that "all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among [them] are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Are we really that much more civilized and wise than our predecessors were a mere handful of years ago? Montgomery argued that there was still a lot of work to do, and that blame for the current situation could be dispersed to various parties. He spoke to the reality of trying to fight the good fight in the cosmopolitan city of Chicago when white jury members implicitly trusted police officers' versions of a story offered from the witness stand, despite the

experience of many black individuals that some police officers lie and cheat to justify their own illegal behavior. It was frustrating that within the same city, the experiences of most white people so vastly differed from the experiences of most black people that we have a hard time understanding one another.

(Continued as noted below...)

To read the rest of this narrative, please visit the website for Jonathan Lubin's blog, "Reasonable Inference," at http://reasonableinference.blogspot.com/2012/05/race-in-america-my-response-to-amazing.html

### **Annual Meeting & Installation 2012**























Page 6 SUMMER 2012























# The Value of Time: Ethical Considerations in Charging a Monthly Fee for Foreclosure Defense

By Charles Silverman

"Time is money." Benjamin Franklin

"Day, n. A period of twenty-four hours, mostly misspent." Ambrose Bierce

"Nobody knows what's going to happen next, but everyone does it." George Carlin

Foreclosure is currently the most active real estate litigation in Illinois. While the various large plaintiff mills are bringing the closest thing to perfect competition to legal services as we are likely to see, this article does not concern itself with the ethics of charging for foreclosure prosecution but rather for its defense. Unlike the banks, homeowners do not have experience purchasing legal services, do not have the emotional strength for extended litigation, and usually do not have very much money.

Thus, when charging a homeowner for foreclosure defense, one has to make sure that a client who cannot afford to pay his or her bank can pay you. These are typically people who got laid off, divorced, injured, or their business failed, or they cannot find work. Some have employers who are moving out of Illinois, and they can't sell their homes. Some have an ill child or parent who needs attention 24/7.

They are scared. They are hurting.

So you have a desperate person, ready to believe almost anything, who needs time, who needs to know that they are not helpless before the power of the banking lobby, and who need to believe that their lives are not over. If you are going to spend hours waiting in court and still pay your own bills, you need to bill them without taking unfair advantage of them.

In this instance, what does the law allow you to charge? Illinois Rule of Professional Conduct 1.5(a) states that a fee should not be unreasonable. The rule allows one to consider various factors, including (subsection 1) "the time and labor required, the novelty and difficulty of the questions involved." Foreclosure defense requires time, and the questions of how to defend the homeowner are quite novel. Subsection 3 discusses what is customary, and subsection 4 discusses the results obtained. Both imply that the clients should pay based on how long you can keep them in the home. Most of the other factors do not give much guidance but subsection 7 focuses on experience and ability, favoring higher prices for attorneys who used to do foreclosure work on the bank side, and subsection 8 and other sections discuss contingency fees. If you are doing foreclosures on a contingent basis you may want to reconsider that approach.

The general factors seem to favor paying for time-either your time as an attorney, which is the traditional legal model and first option, or for the time that you gain for the client. In the traditional model, you charge a retainer and then bill against it per hour. While a small number of lawyers use that approach in the field of foreclosure defense, you will not get a large practice that way. The stress factor is too high for most people.

Most homeowners in foreclosure cannot deal with uncertainty about the bill, nor can you predict how many hours you will spend each month. It is the nature of foreclosure defense that if you are good at it, you will have stretches of 'downtime' interposed with bursts of activity. The client gets no bill for a few months, and then all of the sudden you will work twelve hours on the file in one week, not including the time to explain the 'burst' of activity to the client. People in foreclosure need some kind of stability in their lives.

Not surprisingly, the second legal model, client's paying for the time that they gain, has been more popular. There are variations, but the vast majority of cases billed on this model are flat fee, either one flat fee or the significantly more prevalent monthly flat fee wherein the foreclosure defense attorney is basically charging rent.

It turns out that a lot of attorneys in the foreclosure defense practice use the monthly fee method of billing. In my view, this billing approach raises two ethical considerations, the first regarding the ethics of what you file with the court, and the second regarding the ethics of what you are doing to your client.

I will take the second point first: what impact will a flat fee have on your client? Imagine your clients, a couple, are in serious financial trouble. Their monthly income is inadequate for their necessary outcome. You arrange for a flat fee, they pay it off, and then you 'buy them time' to fix the situation. Then they work like mad to find another job, to find more customers, to collect on a personal injury suit, or to settle their divorce. They have paid you and they are done and are working for themselves.

For themselves. You just gave them an opportunity to help themselves. You just gave them HOPE.

There is no greater power than hope. That is why the great Jewish Sage Maimonides (Rambam) decreed that the highest level of charity is to make someone self-sufficient. It is a concept similar to the proverb "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

On the other hand, if the clients are paying you a monthly toll, no matter how small, how are they going to escape their problem? How

Page 8 SUMMER 2012

can they save for themselves? Not to mention that when you add all the months together, they may have spent less on an hourly attorney or a flat fee attorney and, sadly, it will be too late to change course. If the clients cannot escape their problem because of you, are you really acting as a fiduciary?

Now we return to the first issue, the ethics of what you file with the court. Recognize that foreclosure defense is a new area without appellate case law interpreting the mortgage foreclosure code. Although there is room to 'play' with new theories, one must remember that the best science fiction is realistic.

Illinois Supreme Court Rule 137 states in relevant part that when you sign your motion or affirmative defense, you affirm that it "is warranted by existing law or a good-faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law" and it "is not interposed for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation." Simple but powerful words, especially 'good-faith argument' and 'unnecessary' delay. Naturally every foreclosure defense attorney wants to delay! Time is what your client needs. Does that make the delay necessary? I have found that the court often decides whether a delay is necessary based on whether it deems the argument to be in good-faith.

I have been on the receiving end of many a Rule 137 motion filed against my foreclosure defense pleading. Usually that prompts me to file my own 137 motion for their 137 motion being unwarranted by the case law, not just because it is good tactics (as Lieutenant Commander Montgomery Scott from the Original Series episode "A Taste of Armageddon" said, "The best diplomat that I know is a fully-loaded phaser bank.") but also because it is important to challenge the claim that your defense had no good-faith basis. Although judges usually do not enter sanctions, such motions still waste your time, and enough of them can damage your credibility. Most importantly, they damage your ability to resolve the situation with opposing counsel.

Generally, plaintiff's counsel, irritated with the tactics used by some monthly fee foreclosure defense attorneys, will be cooperative. While there are many respectable monthly fee practitioners, it seems that the motivation for a meaningful number of such practitioners is to irritate and delay rather than to steer the case toward a solution.

This can be a fine line, I know. As litigators we have the ability to 'game' the system on behalf of our clients. Yet if there is no <u>end game</u>, if, for example, you are just aggravating the bank (the party deciding the fate of the loan modification) all you are doing is milking a dying cow—which is of little benefit to your client.

I am not concluding that monthly foreclosure defense fees are per se unethical, but charging monthly defense fees in certain cases could lead to unethical behavior and harm to the client being served.

### Interfaith Tisha B'Av/ Ramadan Break Fast

By Michael Strom

On July 29 Decalogue was one of the Jewish, Muslim and Arab-American legal organizations participating in a groundbreaking symbolic gesture to bridge divides between our communities by a joint dinner to respectively break the fasts of Tisha b'Av and the 9th day of Ramadan. This historic event was handled with sensitivity by all concerned, and we were proud to be part of it.

Michael Traison, a member of Decalogue, American Association of Jewish Lawyers & Jurists (AAJLJ) and the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists came up with the idea when he noticed that the Tisha b'Av fast commemorating the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem would coincide with the 9th day of the Ramadan fast. Michael worked with several Jewish, Muslim and Arab-American organizations to help organize a meal breaking the respective fasts together in a meaningful way that would respect the traditions of all and celebrate diversity.

The Arab-American Bar Association and Muslim Bar Association also participated in the event. Representatives from the respective consulates of Israel, Egypt and Turkey attended the dinner. Israel Supreme Court Justice Salim Joubran, in Chicago for the ABA conference, also came to the dinner.

Since the fasts ended at about 9:00 PM on a Sunday evening, it was impractical for many to attend. However, those who were able to do so were privileged to be part of an event in which Jews, Muslims and Arab Christians (including Justice Joubran and Judge William Haddad, a co-founder of the Arab-American Bar Association) briefly but generously shared the significance of the respective holidays to their faiths. All agreed that it was a touching and unique gathering, well-intended and well received.

We believe that this event was a positive step in bringing faiths together. Ultimately, late changes in scheduled venues resulted in inability to provide kosher food at the event. Food meeting halal requirements, including vegetarian fare, was provided. Although halal requirements are quite similar to kashrut, unfortunately, many Decalogue members were unable to participate since the dinner was not kosher. After internal consultations among Decalogue leaders ranging from traditionally observant to secular only, there was a solid consensus to proceed with the event and work towards improvements in future joint efforts. All concerned are focused on future events where the needs of all participants can be accommodated. Stay tuned for announcements of future interfaith events – we believe they will be extraordinary, and you will not want to miss them.

# mu • tu • al [myoo'choo el] adj. 1 held in common 2 for each other 3 shared



It's our relationship with you.

### ISBA Mutual - More Than A Definition

**Held In Common** - ISBA Mutual Insurance is structured without shareholders and is entirely owned and governed by its policyholders.

For Each Other - By serving our owners and leadership, we serve our clients. The client's best interest is in our best interest because we are one and the same.

**Shared** - Every insurance company shares risk with its insured, but we share our policyholders' goals and have returned over \$11.3 million in dividends to our policyholder ownership since 2000.

## ISBA Mutual Insurance has been exclusively serving Illinois lawyers and law firms since 1988.

ISBA Mutual was formed twenty-three years ago through the efforts of Illinois lawyers banding together to help one another by establishing our own insurance company. Our company has grown to be one of the most significant providers of malpractice insurance for lawyers in Illinois.

We specialize in professional liability insurance written specifically and exclusively for the needs of Illinois attorneys. *It's our only business*.



Strength | Commitment | Dedication

Professional Liability Insurance

Newly Licensed Attorney Program

Risk Management

**Surety Bonds** 

Rated "A" Excellent by A.M. Best

Endorsed by Illinois State Bar Association

Over \$11.3 Million in Policyholder Dividends Since 2000



ISBA Mutual Insurance Company 223 West Ohio Street Chicago, IL 60654 (800) 473-4722 www.isbamutual.com

Page 10 SUMMER 2012

### **Calendar of Meetings & Events**

### Sunday, September 2, 3:00pm

Cook County Bar Association & Illinois Judicial Council Annual Picnic at the African Festival of the Arts Washington Park; Info: hycoleman@cookcountybar.org

#### Tuesday, September 11, 12:00pm

Decalogue Executive Committee 39 S LaSalle, Suite 410, Chicago

### Tuesday, September 11, 6-9 p.m

North Suburban Bar Assn. Officers Installation Dinner, North Shore Country Club, 1340 Glenview Rd Tickets \$100/pp,

RSVP by September 4 to Leisa Braband at wkendwarrior@sbcglobal.net

#### Wednesday, September 12, 4:00-5:30pm

Understanding Jewish Law
CLE Lecture & Book Signing by Professor Steven Resnicoff
DePaul University School of Law Center for Jewish Law & Judaic Studies
http://www.law.depaul.edu/centers\_institutes/jljs/events.asp#/?i=2

#### September 12 (Wednesday, 6-9:30 p.m.) Chicago

Justinian Society of Lawyers Annual Installation & Awards Dinner Renaissance Hotel; \$150/pp, info http://www.justinians.org

### Sunday sunset September 16 - Tuesday sunset September 18 ROSH HASHANAH

September 17-21 Office Closed

#### Thursday, September 20

11:30am reception, 12:00pm lunch & program My Hero Awards Luncheon Fulton's on the River Info: www.lawyerslendahand.org or 312-554-2041

### Monday, September 24, 12:00-1:00pm

Decalogue Board of Managers Meeting 29 S LaSalle, Room 530, Chicago

### Tuesday Sunset September 25 - Wednesday Sunset September 26 YOM KIPPUR Office Closed

### Thursday, September 27,12:00pm

Decalogue Events Committee 39 S LaSalle, Suite 410, Chicago

### Sunday Sunset September 30 - Tuesday Sunset October 2 SUKKOT

October 1-5 Office Closed

#### Thursday, October 4, 5:30pm

Decalogue Social Action Committee 39 S LaSalle, Suite 410, Chicago

### Sunday Sunset October 7 - Monday Sunset October 8 SHMINI ATZERET Office Closed

### Monday Sunset October 8 - Tuesday Sunset October 9 SIMCHAT TORAH Office Closed

### Wednesday, October 10, 6-9pm

Arab American Bar Assn. of III. Installation Dinner Keynote Speaker, Cook Co. Sheriff Thomas J. Dart Hotel Palomar; RSVP to arabbarrsvp@live.com.

#### Wednesday, October 17, 12:30-1:30pm

CLE - Topic & Location TBA

### Thursday, October 18, 12:00-1:00pm

Study in the Loop with Rabbi Vernon Kurtz 39 S LaSalle, Suite 410, Chicago RSVP to Lennie Kay, 847-432-8900

### Wednesday, October 24, 12:30-1:30pm

CLE - Topic & Location TBA

#### Wednessday, October 31, 12:00-1:00pm

Decalogue Board of Managers Meeting 29 S LaSalle, Room 530, Chicago

#### Wednesday, November 7, 12:30-1:30pm

CLE - Topic & Location TBA

#### Wednesday, November 14, 12:30-1:30pm

CLE - Topic & Location TBA

#### Thursday, November 15, 5:00-7:00pm

Decalogue Reception Honoring The Judiciary Location TBA

Tickets: \$70 members, \$90 Non-Members, \$18 Students Sponsorships also available

More info in the next issue of the Tablets

### Wednesday, November 28, 12:00-1:00pm

Decalogue Board of Managers Meeting 29 S LaSalle, Room 530, Chicago

#### Wednesday, December 5, 12:30-1:30pm

CLE - Topic & Location TBA

### Saturday sunset December 8 - Sunday sunset December 16 CHANUKAH

#### Wednesday, December 12, 11:30-1:00pm

Tentative Date for Chanukah Party

### Thursday, December 13, 12:00-1:00pm

Study in the Loop with Rabbi Vernon Kurtz 39 S LaSalle, Suite 410, Chicago RSVP to Lennie Kay, 847-432-8900

#### Wednesday, December 19, 12:30-1:30pm

CLE - Topic & Location TBA

### Co-Editor's Note re: Bubbie's Bakery Botch

In our last issue, Decalogue's resident "Bubbie" – i.e.David Lipschutz's mom – provided readers with two new recipes. Well, after Bubbie reviewed the published article, she noticed a slight error in the ingredients list for both dishes. Below are the correct recipes.

### TAFFY APPLE SALAD

1 T. flour 4 c. apples (peeled and cubed)
2 T. cider vinegar 8 oz. can crushed pineapple
½ c. sugar (drained) (reserve juice)
1 egg (slightly beaten) 8 oz. Cool Whip
1 c. salted peanuts

Directions: Combine flour, sugar, reserved pineapple juice, egg and cider vinegar in saucepan. Heat until thick, then cool in refrigerator. Add chopped apples, pineapple, Cool Whip and peanuts to mixture. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

### **DEVILED EGGS**

12 eggscapful white vinegar½ t. mustard2 T. sour cream2 T. mayonnaise1 T. sugar

Directions: Put eggs in pot of cold water. Bring water to a full boil. Boil for 8 minutes. Turn off and empty hot water. Fill pot with cold water until eggs cool off. Peel eggs and refrigerate for a few hours. When cooled, put eggs on a platter. Slice in half. Remove yolks and put in a bowl. Mash yolks. Mix with other ingredients. Refill hard-boiled egg whites. Top with paprika.

### Advertise in the Tablets!

Full Page \$200 Half Page \$100 Quarter Page \$50

### Deadline for next issue is September 28



Decalogue Society of Lawyers 39 South LaSalle, Suite 410 Chicago IL 60603 www.decaloguesociety.org