

# Chai-Lites

*by Sharon L. Eiseman*

The 'Chai-Lites' routinely, for each *Tablets* Issue, features news about our busy members coming, going, celebrating, being recognized, speaking, writing, making new career moves, standing up for the oppressed, fighting anti-Semitism on college campuses and almost everywhere else, volunteering, acquiring more new titles and awards than seems possible, giving birth to future lawyers and Decalogue members, and running and running...for office, for the bench, to court, and in *Race Judicata* to raise funds for CVLS! **This past challenging year, however, everything is upside down due to the coronavirus pandemic.**

But being upside down does not mean we have forsaken all of the important goals identified above, even if it does mean our lawyers are working remotely. Our members and colleagues who serve in the Judiciary are staying 'virtuous' through their amazing efforts to create new systems for enabling litigants and their counsel to 'appear' in court—hopefully fully and appropriately dressed. These new ways of appearing include email submissions of agreed orders and appearing virtually for hearings that can be conducted in a fair manner for all participants and allow the judges presiding to rule effectively. Attorneys are meeting virtually with their clients, engaging in public school projects with students eager to learn about the law, penning interesting articles for us to read when we are not staring at our computer screens, and volunteering for 'judging' high school student mock trials. To the judges and attorneys, Decalogue extends a message of gratitude for your endurance and your devotion to keeping the 'wheels of justice' turning in the right direction in spite of the new challenges we all must face and continue to face and will overcome. **Don't despair...hope is around the corner even if that corner isn't on your block!**

## **And now comes the 'drum roll' for the accomplishments of the following members and board members and judges and spouses and other family members:**

Let us begin with our first-ever non-Jewish, Christian and Black Decalogue President, **Patrick Dankwa John**, who has been receiving accolades from near and far on his leadership position, to which he ascended in June of 2020. Patrick has made tremendous progress with diverse bar groups in the Chicago area on initiating projects focusing on diversity and inclusion in the profession. Patrick was the subject of several articles, one being his interview with the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, and another, a feature about his background and mission as the DSL President published in the *Austin Weekly News*. He is also a prolific author, including of a screenplay, "The Black Jewish Jesus," which was revealed at the February 24 CBA Dickerson Awards Luncheon at which Patrick was one of 5 recipients to receive this special Award named for a pioneering Black Chicago civil rights lawyer. One of his recent pieces, titled 'Black Christian anti-Semitism: a sad irony,' appeared in *The Times Of Israel*. In it, Patrick takes on the heady subject of unjust criticism leveled against Israel and the Jewish people by supporters of the Movement for Black Lives Matter, who themselves, and like the Jews, are objects of discrimination and hate crimes. He calls upon all of us to be aware of our similar histories and common goal to fight against such hatred, so prevalent among different religious and ethnic groups and based solely on immutable, seemingly random differences. See: <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/black-christian-anti-semitism-a-sad-irony/>

**Robert Matanky**, Decalogue Past President and current President of the Decalogue Foundation, was honored by the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Engineering, with its Outstanding Achievement Award. For more, please see: <https://engineeringalumni.uic.edu/profiles/matanky-robert/>. Our question to Bobby: Where do you find room to display this award?

How about this as a major achievement and a great aid for real estate practitioners: In November 2020, as part of its Illinois practice series, Thomson/Reuters published the 3-volume treatise on Illinois real estate, authored by DSL member, **Solomon Gutstein**, and his son, **Joshua Gutstein**. This is the second updated version of the 4th edition of the treatise. Thank you, Sol and Josh!

No surprise here, but we nevertheless extend to him our congratulations with a message to keep up the good work. DSL Past President, **Mitchell Goldberg**, was named a Super Lawyer in Securities Litigation by Thomson Reuters.

<https://profiles.superlawyers.com/illinois/chicago/lawyer/mitchell-b-goldberg/123f111b-6dcf-46c9-ae9a-660d91599363.html?fbclid=IwAR3vL3vC2l9YIWfVEisPZuD39fnxu1u2NyxqRq8vqsp7L5OB1DahLs1LUJ8>.

Always reaching higher, **Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg** is excited to share she has joined forces with her husband, David Eisenberg, and his partners to establish an employment and civil rights practice group at Loftus and Eisenberg. She will continue to represent women, minorities, and the differently abled with empathy, pragmatism, and legal sophistication just as she has approached all she has done in the legal profession. Gail is happy to chat with colleagues in law regarding discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and related workplace violations. Gail@LoftusandEisenberg.com

We need almost a whole section to note the awards and recognitions **Michele Katz** has received in 2021: Michele was one of a number of 'elite professionals' in the IP practice area who was recognized with other outstanding IP practitioners as a 'Global Leader.' These lawyers both draw from and contribute to this specialty practice and related service providers and also confer with specialists from the major IP markets in the Americas, Europe and Asia. Michele and her fellow 'elites' were invited to reflect on their professional journeys and offer insight and guidance to other patent professionals across the globe, and to those considering entering the field, as to career development, practice management, and market trends. Additionally, Corporate Intl Global Awards recently informed Michele she had been chosen as the winner of the 2021 Corporate Intl Magazine Global Award, for which the group received the most nominations this year than in the ten years during which the Global Award program has been in operation. Michele was also named 'Trademark Litigation Expert of the Year in Illinois–2021.' Finally, but not least important, Michele was included in the annual list of Super Lawyers.

Past President **Helen Bloch** has been recognized for the third year in a row by Super Lawyers Magazine as a Super Lawyer for 2021 in the field of employment law. She certainly has 'staying power.' We also appreciate her special efforts in presenting exceptional CLEs on employment issues for Decalogue as well as collaborating with **Carrie Seleman**, Chair of the recently established Women's Council, on planning several other Decalogue hosted CLE programs.

Congratulations to **Kenneth Anspach**! He is now a published author! His article, co-authored with Carlie Leoni, entitled "[Killing Factory Farm Funding to Resuscitate the World Food Economy](#)," appeared in the Winter 2021 edition of the *ABA Journal on Natural Resources & Environment*. This should be an interesting read even for those not familiar with the practice area affected because, given the article's title, it should address and analyze the impact of the Pandemic and other economic and industry forces on food consumption.

**Barbara Boiko's** daughter, Maddie Remish, was sworn in as a new member of the Illinois Bar following her passage of the Bar Exam this past October. In these challenging and unusual times, that is a special feat of perseverance. Maddie will be working on behalf of local and international unions at Gregorio and Marco. Maddie is now the second generation of women lawyers in the family.

**Samuel Levine** has been elected Treasurer of the Society of Illinois Construction Attorneys. Always active in CLE endeavors, Sam recently served on a panel of construction lawyers offering guidance to members of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers on the "Advantages and Disadvantages of Construction Litigation," and he moderated a seminar for the ISBA Commercial Banking Collections and Bankruptcy Section on "Chancery and Equitable Remedies."

Past President Hon. **Michael Strom** is participating in CBA's Lawyers in the Classroom program with an 8th grade class at Lovett Elementary, a CPS school on the West Side. The high-quality and pertinent program materials engage the students in discussions on legal rights/issues. It has been a modest but impactful commitment of 3 sessions via the remote platform, *Google Meet*. The students and their teachers became more interested as the first class proceeded—no small feat since the sessions took place on Fridays at 2:45 p.m. when their attention spans were likely at the lowest in the day! Thanks, Michael, for being involved in this important project aimed at connecting youths to the world of law.

Our other 'Michael' to be highlighted, **Michael Rothmann**, also a DSL Board member and Past President, but of the Northwest Suburban Bar Association, routinely volunteers his skills and insights for projects aimed at educating public school youth about the justice system in Illinois. As this Chai-Lites was being prepared, Michael was preparing for the February 4, 2021 High School Mock Trial Invitational, which the NWSBA hosted via a remote participation platform. It is

exciting to learn that more than 60 attorneys and judges volunteered their time and services to make this event a success for all.

**Diane Redleaf** had an article published on Reason.com, which is entitled “During a Routine Child Services Check, Cops Hog-tied a Mom and Carried Her Out ‘Like a Pig Upside Down’.” The piece, which should be a thought – and emotion – provoking read, can be accessed at: <https://reason.com/2020/09/24/aurora-police-hogtied-child-services-abuse/>.

Baby news, career news, and news about our talented, theatrically inclined Board member:

Board Member **David Lipschutz** was promoted in the fall to Managing Attorney at his firm, Trunkett & Trunkett, P.C. Also, in his free time, David has been busy writing. His play, *PerSEVERance*, was recently produced by and performed at Left Edge Theatre in Santa Rosa, California.

Congratulations to Decalogue Board of Managers Treasurer **Michelle Milstein** on her new career move. She has joined the Office of the Illinois Attorney General as an Assistant Attorney General in the Office’s Charitable Trust Bureau. We TRUST there will be sufficient work there to keep her both occupied and fulfilled.

Decalogue Board member, **Nicole DeBella**, and husband, Joey, welcomed Santino George in December, joining delighted big brother, Salvatore Chaz.

In November, **Lindsey Seeskin**, and husband, Zach, welcomed Naomi Tovah. Big brother Ari has been filled with smiles as he introduces Naomi to his world.

And that’s all there is...until the next Chai-Lites. If you would like us to feature you and your achievements, please let us know what you are doing. Keep in mind it’s ok to ‘kvell’ for yourself, because when you do, we will also ‘kvell’ for you!

*Sharon L. Eiseman is a board member of Decalogue and the Bureau Chief of Land Acquisition at the Illinois Attorney General’s Office.*