



# THE ADVOCATE

Newsletter of the Advocates Society,  
an Association of Polish-American Attorneys



## OFFICERS FOR 2022-23

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*1st Vice President*

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*Historian*

### Board of Governors

*The Management of this Society is vested in the Board of Governors, consisting of the Officers, Chairs of Standing Committees and Past Presidents. The Board shall advise, guide, direct and determine the overall policy of the Society.*



## Polish Parade, a HUGE Success

After being on COVID hiatus since 2020, the Advocates' trolley rolled again at the Polish Constitution Day Parade on May 7, 2022. On a beautiful day, the parade, initially organized to commemorate the Centennial of the Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791, stepped off on Columbus Drive. It was delightful to gather once again to celebrate the adoption of the Constitution of 1791, generally considered Europe's first modern written national constitution. All enjoyed the refreshments and camaraderie.

A highlight was a shout out from the reviewing stand by Chief Judge Timothy Evans to the Advocates and the Polish Judges on the next float. The Grand Marshal was Alan Krashesky, very admired and top News Anchor/Reporter of the ABC7 Chicago. For his longtime dedication to the Polish American culture and community, Krashesky is also a recipient of the Heritage Media Award from the Polish American Congress.

Thanks to Third Vice President Eryk Wachnik for organizing the fun time!  
(Continued on Pages 3 and 4)



# Calendar of Events

## June 2022

15th - Celebration of Life for Michele Hendrickson; Cocktails (In-person, Dugan's, 128 S. Halsted, Chicago)

## August 2022

15th - Newsletter Submissions Due; Please email [advocatessociety@gmail.com](mailto:advocatessociety@gmail.com)

## Sept 2022

7th - Board Meeting; 6:30pm Cocktails and Networking; 7pm Meeting (Zoom)

21st - General Meeting and CLE; 6:30pm Reception; 7pm Meeting (in-person, Copernicus, 5216 W Lawrence, Chicago)

TBD - Scholarship Fundraiser Dinner (in-person, TBD)

## Oct 2022

5th - Board Meeting; 6:30pm Cocktails and Networking; 7pm Meeting (Zoom)

20th - Judge's Night; TBD (in-person, Polish Museum of America, 984 N Milwaukee, Chicago)

## Nov 2022

2nd - Board Meeting; 6:30pm Cocktails and Networking; 7pm Meeting (Zoom)

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The Advocate is now scheduled to be published quarterly. Content, including news about members, can be emailed to [Advocatessociety@gmail.com](mailto:Advocatessociety@gmail.com) for publication consideration. The Joint Public Relations and Newsletter Committee manages, edits, and coordinates the production of the newsletter.

**Joint Public Relations and Newsletter Committee:**  
*Kathy E. Bojczuk, chair*  
*Audrey V. Cosgrove*  
*Pamela Menaker*  
*Julia Jensen Smolka*  
*Joan Smuda*  
*Jessica Wieczorkiewicz*



# Highlights from the 2022 Polish Parade Theme, "Freedom and Peace for All"

GRAND MARSHAL: ALAN KRASHESKY, NEWS ANCHOR/REPORTER ABC7 CHICAGO  
HONARY MARSHAL: ROMUALD MATUSZCZAK  
HONORARY MARSHAL: MOST REV. JOZEF GUZDEK, ARCHBISHOP OF BIALYSTOK, POLAND  
DEPUTY MARSHAL: HEALTH CARE WORKERS FIRST RESPONDERS  
QUEEN: JULIA BARANEK  
FRIEND OF POLONIA: DAVID ADAMS, DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS





# Highlights from the 2022 Polish Parade (continued) Theme, "Freedom and Peace for All"

FOR MORE HIGHLIGHTS, PLEASE VISIT THE OFFICAL POLISH PARADE WEBSITE:  
[WWW.POLISHPARADE.ORG](http://WWW.POLISHPARADE.ORG)

SPECIAL THANKS TO MARK DOBRZYCKI, KATHERINE LEVINE, AND ALL OFFICERS FOR SUBMITTING PHOTOS!





# Event Highlights

## Southside CLE: Julia Smolka and Kent Sinson present, "Taking Your Law Firm to the Next Level"

The Advocates made it to the Southside for a General Meeting and CLE on April 22, 2022. The meeting was held at the VFW Hall in Oak Lawn. Julia Smolka of Robbins DiMonte, Ltd and Kent Sinson of Sinson Law Group, Chicago, led a round table of attorneys for a one hour CLE titled "Taking Your Law Firm to the Next Level." Julia and Kent lead a lively discussion which touched on management, insurance issues, hiring, finding talent and networking ideas.

The CLE followed a full Polish buffet and open bar. A fun time was had by all.



## General Meeting and CLE "Perfecting Your Elevator Speech" at Copernicus Center

On May 25th, the Advocates met in person at the Copernicus Center to attend the General Meeting and CLE. Special speaker, the Honorable Anna H. Demacopoulos, made a special presentation on "Judicial Independence." Following the General Meeting, Networking and after eating a delicious, hearty Polish-style buffet, President Cosgrove gave an interactive presentation on Perfecting Your Elevator Speech.

President Cosgrove gave the large group of participants some tips on crafting the perfect elevator speech, whether to switch careers or engage people in organizations or fundraisers. It was a successful event where participants had to get off their chairs and mingle with people they don't know in a warm, supportive environment. We look forward to more events like this and the same turnout. Bravo to all!

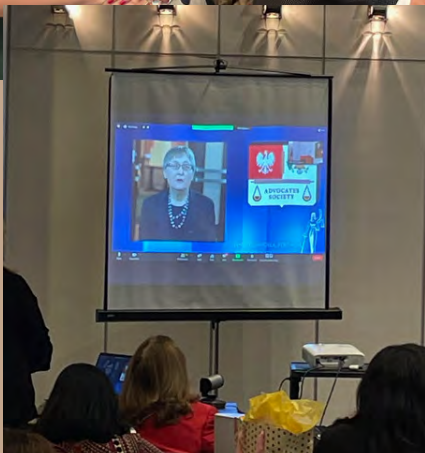


# Event Highlights

## 2022 Vanguard Awards

The Chicago Bar Association (CBA) sponsors the annual Vanguard Awards to honor individuals and institutions who have made the law and legal profession more accessible to and reflective of the community at large. The Award was created in 1998 to highlight the "vanguards" of society, who "lead the way in new developments and ideas." This year, the Advocates Society nominated Janette Strzalka to be the recipient of this year's Vanguard Award for her longtime career as a public defender as well as her active and meaningful role with the Advocates Society and the Moran Center, which helps people access expungement and other legal remedies. On May 4, 2022, a special in-person event was held at the CBA building and awards were given at that time. Each award recipient delivered a video speech. In her speech, Janette highlighted, "***(W)e need to use our time in history to build a better world, and to tear down the artificial barriers that seem to divide us. Access to justice is necessary to both.***"

We are so very proud of Janette for all that she does to help the Polish-American community. Some Advocates who attended included: President Audrey Cosgrove, Treasurer Tom Nowinski, Secretary Kathy Bojczuk, and Katherine Levine.





# Event Highlights

## ISBA Annual Meeting in Lake Geneva

Advocate Anna Krolikowska was installed as the 145th Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA) President in 2021. She is not only the fifth female President of the ISBA, but also the first Polish female President and the first female immigrant President. Since being President, Anna has made many strides within the ISBA and the legal community, focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion ("DEI"). Throughout this year, she has worked with DEI consultants to implement meaningful changes to foster diversity and equity, and strengthen inclusion within the association. Anna also established the Business Institute, which helps lawyers run their practices better and life and wellness programming. We are so happy for her and her success she made as ISBA president.

The first in-person Annual ISBA Meeting in three years happened on June 9th to 11th in Lake Geneva, where we all thanked Anna for her great service and dedication as the ISBA president and also welcomed the new president, Mr. Rory T. Weiler. Many Advocates attended the meeting, and some even found time to party on the dance floor!





# Event Highlights

## ISBA Annual Meeting in Lake Geneva (continued)



**Incoming ISBA President Rory T. Weiler and Outgoing ISBA President and Advocate Anna Krolikowska**



**Advocate Anna Krolikowska with her husband, Eric Hanis, and daughter, Lily.**



# Upcoming Scholarship Golf Outing

## Advocates' Second Annual Scholarship Golf Outing Monday, June 20th

The Advocates Society of Polish American Attorneys will hold its Second Annual Scholarship Golf Outing to be held on **Monday, June 20, 2022**, at **Delbrook Golf Club in Delavan, WI**.

The outing will be a scramble format (best ball). Shotgun start is 12:00 p.m. Check-in starts at 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$120.00 per golfer and includes 18 holes of golf (with riding cart), lunch and dinner. Prizes will be awarded in men's and women's categories for longest drive, longest putt, and lowest team gross. We will also have a raffle to win some great golf prizes.

We invite you to join us to welcome spring, see old friends again, and help support a great cause. Delavan Golf Club is a laid-back course—welcoming to golfers of all skill levels. Should you wish to just join us for dinner afterwards, we will start at 5:00. The cost is \$40.00, per person. A cash bar will also be available.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. By being a sponsor in this event you will be promoting your company to a group of people who are very loyal to its supporters, as well as to the many area professionals who will be participating at the Outing itself. Companies like yours make available the resources that enrich our young adults' education and for that we are forever grateful. Show friends, neighbors and colleagues your company's commitment to quality education and become a sponsor. We are offering various levels of sponsorships. Please consider sponsoring:

- a tee sign for \$200;
- our bar after golf for \$500 which includes your banner displayed at the bar, signage on the carts, and one complimentary 4-some; or
- Event Sponsorship for \$1,000 which includes your banners portrayed during golf and the award's dinner, signage on the carts and two complimentary 4-somes or you can also donate raffle prize items for the event.

For your donation, we will advertise your company at the golf outing, recognize your company on our website and in our quarterly Newsletter, *The Advocate*.

We thank you in advance for your support for this cause that is so dear to our hearts! For more information please contact Steve Rakowski at (847) 204-4106 or Second Vice-President Christina Malecki at [Christina.malecki@gmail.com](mailto:Christina.malecki@gmail.com).



# Upcoming Events



## Advocates' Annual Scholarship Dinner, Early Fall

The Advocates Society will hold a dinner fundraiser. There will be a silent auction, special awards distributed, and honoring Polish judges. More information will follow in the coming weeks. If you have any questions or would like to send donations or items for the silent auction, please contact Second Vice-President, Christina Malecki at [Christina.malecki@gmail.com](mailto:Christina.malecki@gmail.com).

## Advocates' Annual Judge's Night Thursday, October 20th

The Advocates Society will hold its Annual Judge's Night at the **Polish Museum of America, 984 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago** on **Thursday, October 20, 2022**. More information will follow in the coming months. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer or help with this event, please contact First Vice-President, Ann Melichar at [annmelichar@hotmail.com](mailto:annmelichar@hotmail.com).



# Advocate SPOTLIGHT: Jessica Wieczorkiewicz

**To get readers better acquainted with the Members of the Advocate Society, we spotlight a Member in each issue. This Summer's issue, we feature a Question and Answer with Jessica Wieczorkiewicz who is in private practice.**



## **Why are you a member of the Advocates Society?**

I joined the Advocates Society because I would like to meet other attorneys of Polish American descent and build meaningful relationships with others who understand the joys and struggles of the practice of law. Growing up, I spent most of my summers with my grandparents back in Poland on the farm, and I had the “pleasure” of attending Polish school every single Saturday. I was lucky to have a real connection with my Polish heritage throughout my childhood and I’d like to expand my network within the Polish legal community to continue that bond. I am really looking forward to getting to know other Advocates as in-person meetings and events resume.

## **Give us an example of how being a member of the Advocates Society empowered you as an attorney.**

As a member of the Advocates Society, I have been empowered with opportunities and resources to meet individuals in all sectors of the law and foster both professional relationships and friendships. This association has allowed me to connect with attorneys who practice in different areas, from real estate to family law to construction law, and has expanded my knowledge of government work thanks to a great recent CLE.

## **What are you most looking forward to this year, personally and professionally?**

Professionally, I am really looking forward to attending the WEM (Women En Mass) Conference which is an annual gathering of female mass tort attorneys in Aspen, Colorado in October. It is a wonderful opportunity to bond with and learn from other leaders in mass torts and enjoy the beautiful surroundings while getting to know new colleagues. Since my practice is nation-wide, I really enjoy getting to meet attorneys from all across the U.S. at WEM. I am also looking forward to visiting my sister in Greece. She studied abroad in Athens this past semester, so I’m really excited to see her and visit Santorini and Milos together.

## **Share any other information about yourself that you think our readers would enjoy.**

Toward the end of my tenure at my first job, I was asked to help with a presentation to an institutional client regarding the opioid epidemic. Researching the opioid epidemic and learning about the pharmaceutical industry really sparked an interest... I could not believe how much influence pharmaceutical companies have over the U.S. healthcare system. At the time that I was assigned this presentation project, I knew that I wanted to take my career in a different direction, but I was not sure what I wanted to do. Little did I know at that time, this presentation project gave me an answer. Two months later, I began a new job as a plaintiff’s mass tort attorney where I bring cases against pharmaceutical companies for negligent and intentional wrongful conduct. Life has a funny way of working things out sometimes, and I am so happy to have found a line of work that I am passionate about (p.s. if you have not watched “Dopesick” on Hulu yet, I highly recommend you add it to your list!).



# Covid Attorney

Feature Article by Attorney Jessica Wiczorkiewicz

**You have likely heard the term “COVID bride” develop out of this pandemic over the past 2 years, but what about “COVID attorney?” I had the honor of being both, and I want to share my experience about the latter. I was sworn into the Illinois Bar in November 2019, just a few months before the world shut down and our entire profession experienced a new way of practicing law. Just as brides dealt with unique experiences in planning their weddings during a global pandemic, attorneys who began practicing around the time I did have also had a unique experience beginning their legal careers.**

**As a new(er) member of the Advocates Society, I'd like to briefly introduce myself and share a little bit about my experience as a “COVID attorney.” I began my career as a medical malpractice defense attorney and that job provided me with great courtroom exposure – I had the opportunity to attend case management conferences daily as well as motion hearings for about four months before the world came to a halt. When COVID-19 hit Chicago in March of 2020, my career seemed to have changed overnight. I went from being at the Daley Center every single day to sitting at my computer at home for endless hours and countless days. A year later, in March of 2021, I decided to change pace and began practicing plaintiff's mass torts (product liability personal injury cases). Two and a half years into my practice, as the world seems to slowly return to pre-pandemic ways, I have been reflecting on my almost exclusively remote practice as I began my legal career at the start of a global pandemic.**

**A significant part of learning to practice law comes from the help of other caring, experienced attorneys. Law school does not necessarily teach you how to work up a case in active litigation, to take a deposition, or to develop business. Yet, those are some of the most important aspects of building a successful practice. Young associates learn much of this through collaboration with other attorneys – other attorneys at their firm, attorneys we meet at networking events, attorneys we meet in court and at depositions... attorneys we meet through the daily practice of law as it existed pre-pandemic. Once the pandemic arrived, everyone was forced to socially distance and those opportunities to interact with and learn from other attorneys diminished. I feel like I lost out on learning occasions and professional growth by encountering the pandemic right at the start of my legal career. Law school engraved in my head how important networking is and yet it was really difficult to form and nurture professional relationships when social contact came to a lull. Like many others, I had to adjust to a very isolated version of law practice but without a foundation of knowing how to navigate the practice.**

**I know that the practice of law is a continuous learning curve and I have a long way to go, but I feel more confident each and every day as I improve on my skills in litigating my cases and advocating for my clients. While the pandemic slowed down that growth, I am very fortunate to have found my fit at a firm and to be surrounded by seasoned attorneys who care and have a positive impact on my career development and growth. My job and my involvement with bar associations is helping me catch up on what I lost out on in the past 2 years, so I am extremely excited to be a part of this wonderful community of attorneys who support Polish American culture and heritage. I look forward to connecting with you all at future Advocate events!**





# JOB POSTING

## Senior Associate, Commercial Litigation Robbins DiMonte, Ltd.

Robbins DiMonte, Ltd. (RD) is seeking Senior Associates to join its thriving Commercial Litigation practice, to be based in the firm’s Chicago downtown and Park Ridge offices. RD has been a fixture in the legal community for over 50 years, representing clients across the Chicagoland and Midwest area in a broad spectrum of businesses. Nationally recognized as a premier law firm, RD has a distinguished history of building strong, long-standing client relationships in middle-to-large business markets.

Successful candidates should have 3 to 5 years of experience in state and federal courts handling complex commercial cases including significant pleadings, motions, and discovery, preparing depositions, visiting

dispute sites, pre-trial matters, trial, and appeals. Candidates also should have experience with the investigation, management, and discovery of large collections of documents and data files.

Candidates must also have excellent academic credentials, and strong legal research, writing, and oral communication skills; must be detail-oriented and have the ability to prioritize and manage a diverse workload. Additionally, the candidate should have a genuine interest in growing a national practice. The positions offer competitive compensation plus excellent benefits, and unlimited potential for professional growth in a client-focused, collaborative environment. Qualified candidates must be and remain licensed to practice law and in good standing in Illinois.

To apply, please send a resume, cover letter, and writing sample to Vincent Borst, Co-Chair of the Litigation Committee, **Email: [vborst@robbinsdimonte.com](mailto:vborst@robbinsdimonte.com)**.



## JOIN a Committee!

**Please visit our website, [www.advocatessociety.com](http://www.advocatessociety.com), for a complete list of committees and their scope statements. Anyone interested, please email:**

**[Advocatessociety@gmail.com](mailto:Advocatessociety@gmail.com).**



# JUDICIAL CANDIDATES



**\*Qualified, Recommended, and Endorsed:**

Advocate Barry Goldberg  
Advocate Tom Nowinski

**\*Qualified:**

Thomas More Donnelly  
John Ehrlich  
Jacqueline Griffin  
Rena Van Tine  
Amanda Pillsbury  
Michael Weaver  
ShawnTe Raines-Welch  
Michael Cortina  
Diana Lopez  
Araceli De La Cruz  
Elizabeth Rochford  
Don Sampen  
David Kelly  
Ruth Gudino  
Brittany Pedersen (Kane County)

*\*Above are the findings of the Advocates Society's Steering Committee as to 2022 primary candidates in various races.*

## Fun Facts about Poland's History

By Kathy Bojczuk, Editor

Since Poland recently celebrated its national constitution day on May 3rd, this is the perfect time to discuss some interesting facts about Poland's constitution and national history.

Poland's constitution was only the second written constitution in the world. It was adopted on May 3, 1791, only four years after the American Constitution. Unfortunately, the Polish Constitution only lasted for 14 months as Poland was partitioned by Russia, Prussia and Austria. Poland was not on the map for 123 years, until after World War II. Fortunately, Poland has survived all of that.

Originally, Poland was named after an ancient Slavic Tribe. The name comes from the Western Slavic tribe, "Polanie," which means "people living in open fields." This tribe inhabited the region starting in the 6th Century. The national colors of Poland are red and white. The red and white were the national colors of Poland since 1831. The color red represents love, sacrifice and bravery. The color white represents goodness and purity of intentions.



Poland has the second oldest University in Europe. The Jagiellonian University was founded by King Casimir III the Great in 1364. The first university in Europe was in Prague 16 years prior. The Jagiellonian University still has its doors open and is one of the most prestigious universities in Europe today. It also has wonderful architecture and is one of Krakow's biggest tourist attractions. This is just another reason to visit Poland and be...

*Proud to be Polish!*



## Special Announcements

Advocate **Janette Strzalka**, was named the honorable recipient of the Vanguard Award, nominated by the Advocates Society.

Advocate **Pamela Sakowicz Menaker** had her first grandchild, Olivia Elizabeth, born on June 4th and weighing at 6 lbs and 13 oz. Congrats!!

Advocate, **L. Steven Rakowski**, received the 2021 ISBA Civics Education Award last month.

New Advocate **Joanna Zagozdon** has tied the knot with Advocate **L. Steven Rakowski** in February. We congratulate them both!

Advocate and Treasurer **Tom Nowinski** is running for Cook County Circuit Court Judge.

Advocate **Barry Goldberg** is running for Cook County Circuit Court Judge, 9th subcircuit.

*We encourage every Advocate to email us any announcements such as job promotions, awards received or personal achievements.*

[Advocatessociety@gmail.com](mailto:Advocatessociety@gmail.com)



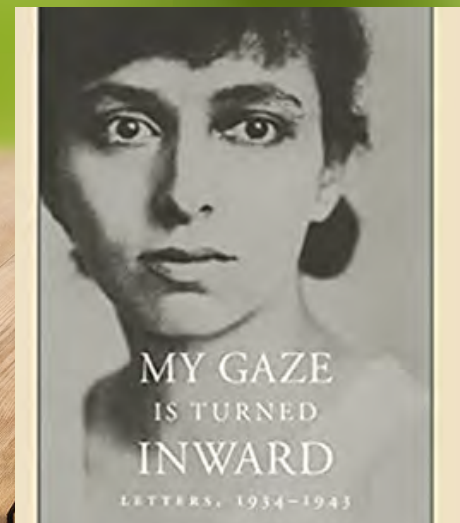
## Chicago Park Renamed After Polish Poet, Writer Gertrud Kolmar

Advocates member **Mark Dobrzycki** is part of a group of people including Daniel Pogorzelski and Michał Niemkiewicz of Chicago's Polonia who worked together to successfully petition the Chicago Park District to rededicate an existing park in Chicago's Old Irving Park neighborhood in honor of a poet who was a victim of the WWII Holocaust. The group brainstormed to develop a plan of action to have the park named in honor of noted poet and writer Gertrud Kolmar.

Mark along with the other members of the committee were able to convince the CPD Board through strong support of community organizations and others including Paul Chodziesner, the only surviving relative of the poet, that the change in the dedication of the park was most appropriate. From Chicago's Polish Museum of America to DANK Haus, Chicago's German American Cultural Center, and the Illinois Holocaust Museum support was gained that ultimately resulted in the CPD voting unanimously in favor of the dedication.

The rededication ceremony will take place later this year to ensure the attendance of Gertrud Kolmar's nephew Paul Chodziesner, who resides in Australia.

The other members of the Kolmar Park Rededication Committee are Daniel Egel-Weiss, Jacob Kaplan and Merry Marwig.







## Remembering Michele Hendrickson

On June 15th, there was a celebration honoring Michele's life, our friend and past President. This was a special in-person celebration at Dugan's, owned by our fellow member Eve Moran.



## Amicus Poloniae Legal Clinic

Volunteers are needed (attorneys and Polish translator) for the Amicus Poloniae Legal Clinic Sessions.

**WHEN?** Saturday - June 18th, July 16th, August 20th and Sept 17th; 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**WHERE?** In person at the Polish National Alliance (6100 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago) OR via Zoom, OR by being "on call."

**HOW?** Contact us by emailing: [Advocatessociety@gmail.com](mailto:Advocatessociety@gmail.com), and we will make sure you receive a CVLS volunteer registration form to fill out prior to the next session so you are all set for the session you want to attend and those for the rest of the year. CVLS provides legal liability coverage for registered volunteers.

For more information about the organization and events, please visit our website:

[www.advocatessociety.com](http://www.advocatessociety.com)



## Newsletter Submissions

The next deadline for newsletter submissions is August 15, 2022.

Please send email items to [Advocatessociety@gmail.com](mailto:Advocatessociety@gmail.com). Articles should be in Word format and pictures in jpeg or PDF format. Permission to publish as received or edited is assumed when emailed. Any announcements such as job promotions, awards received or personal achievements, may also be submitted.