



Newsletter of the

**WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN
BAR ASSOCIATION**

Volume 8, Number 1

April 1999

Western District Bar Association's Annual Meeting Set for Monday, June 10, 1999 in Madison

The 1999 Annual Meeting of the Western District of Wisconsin Bar Association has been scheduled for June 10, 1999. The meeting will be held in Madison at the United States District Court House and at the White Horse Inn.

The annual business meeting of the Association will be held in the Court House beginning at 10:45 a.m. The meeting will include election of officers for 1999-2000.

The annual meeting luncheon will be held at the White Horse Inn, beginning at 12:00 noon. The keynote speaker will be the Honorable Ilana Diamond Rovner. Judge Rovner has served on the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit since 1992.

Beginning at 1:30 p.m. a CLE program will be held at the Court House. Plans for the CLE program are still being developed, but the program is expected to include a presentation on the results of a membership survey addressing the effect of practices in the United States District Court for the Western District on the cost of litigation. The survey is included in this issue of the Western District News. Members are asked to complete the survey and return it by mail or facsimile to Attorney Linda Zech, Lafollette, Sinykin, LLP, One East Main Street, #500, P.O. Box 2719, Madison, WI 53701-2719 (FAX 608-257-0609). CLE credit

will be applied for.

The annual meeting is expected to include a question and answer session with at least several of the judges of the Court. A reception will be held in the Court House beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Registration forms and a detailed agenda for the meeting will be mailed to all members in the next two to three weeks.

Judicial Conference & Annual Meeting of the Seventh Circuit Bar Association Set for May 23-25 in Milwaukee

Officers of the Court - Lawyers and Judges at the Turn of the Century is the theme for the 1999 Judicial Conference and Annual Meeting of the Seventh Circuit Bar Association to be held in Milwaukee on May 23-25, 1999.

United State Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens will address the Conference at the Monday evening dinner. The program will include other interesting speakers and panels.

For more information, or to register, contact Heather Barrie, Quarles & Brady, LLP, 411 East Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53202 (414-277-5000).

Judge Rovner to Speak At Annual Meeting

Judge Ilana Diamond Rovner will be the Keynote Speaker for the Western District Bar Association Annual Meeting June 10, 1999



Judge Ilana Rovner

JUDGE ILANA DIAMOND ROVNER was the first woman appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Born in Riga, Latvia and raised in Philadelphia, she attended Bryn Mawr College and studied law at King's College of the University of London, Georgetown University, and Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Following a term as law clerk to the late James B. Parsons, Chief Judge of the Northern District of Illinois, she joined the United States

Attorney's Office in Chicago in 1973. There she became the first woman supervisor in the history of the office and, as Chief of the Public Protection Unit, was responsible for all civil rights, consumer fraud and voter fraud litigation in the Northern District. She served as one of the chief trial attorneys in both of the landmark *United States v. City of Chicago* employment discrimination cases. In 1977, she left the U.S. Attorney's Office to become Deputy Governor and legal counsel to Governor James R. Thompson of Illinois.

She was appointed to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois in 1984 and to the United States Court of Appeals in 1992. Judge Rovner holds honorary degrees from Dominican University, Mundelein College, and the Spertus College of Judaica. Among her many other honors and awards is the Louis Dembitz Brandeis Medal for Distinguished Legal Service awarded by Brandeis University in 1993.

PLEASE RETURN ENCLOSED SURVEYS

Enclosed with this issue of the newsletter is a survey discussed at last year's annual meeting. This survey provides practitioners the opportunity to give the court invaluable information about how the practices in the Western District of Wisconsin affect the cost of litigation as compared to the practices of other courts. It is quite evident from statistics provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts that the Western District of Wisconsin is, in many ways, a model of efficiency. Our judges and court personnel deserve much credit for their hard work and dedication. While statistics clearly show the efficiency of the court in its disposition of cases, the consequential costs, both positive and negative, of our system are undefined. Sharing this information with the court will enable our judges and court personnel to evaluate our system's strengths and weaknesses so that our goals of an ever-improving system can be realized. Please take a few minutes to complete and return this survey.

SURVEY OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
WISCONSIN BAR ASSOCIATION

1. From your experience, which of the following practices in the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, in themselves or because of when they occur in relation to other litigation events, affect the costs of litigation as compared to the practices of other courts (federal and state)? Please use the following scale to respond to each practice:

1. Substantially Decreases Costs
2. Moderately Decreases Costs
3. No Effect Upon Costs
4. Moderately Increases Costs
5. Substantially Increases Costs

- A. The scheduling of status or preliminary pretrial conferences, as well as submission of pretrial conference reports, as required under Rule 26(f) and the Court's standing order.

1 2 3 4 5

- B. Trial dates and other deadlines typically established at the preliminary pretrial conference.

1 2 3 4 5

- C. Expert witness disclosures and reports.

1 2 3 4 5

- D. Disposition of motions affecting discovery.

1 2 3 4 5

- E. The requirements for summary judgment submissions.

1 2 3 4 5

- F. The time taken by the Court to decide dispositive motions.

1 2 3 4 5

G. Final pretrial conference submissions.

1 2 3 4 5

H. Pretrial submissions required after the final pretrial conference and before the trial.

1 2 3 4 5

I. Magistrate Judge involvement in settlements.

1 2 3 4 5

J. Trials, including the length of the trial day.

1 2 3 4 5

K. Post-trial/judgment motion practice.

1 2 3 4 5

Criminal Cases

L. Appointment of counsel under the Criminal Justice Act.

1 2 3 4 5

M. Pretrial motion practice in criminal actions.

1 2 3 4 5

N. Pretrial disclosures required in criminal actions.

1 2 3 4 5

O. Trials, including the date and the length of the trial day.

1 2 3 4 5

P. Post-trial motions in criminal trials.

1 2 3 4 5

2. Describe other practices employed by the Western District of Wisconsin but not mentioned above that, in your opinion, decrease or increase the costs of litigation? Identify them and, using the same scale of 1-5, please rate their effect.

1 2 3 4 5

3. What type of case(s) did you litigate or consider in responding to the above questions? (e.g., civil rights, criminal, patent, etc.)

3a. How many such cases have you litigated?

a. 1-5 b. 6-10 c. 11-20 d. more than 20

4. In what percentage of those cases did you represent:

a. Plaintiff _____%.

b. Defendant _____%.

5. Did your client win, lose or settle the case(s) you considered in answering this survey?

Type of Case

Win, lose or settle

-
- 5a. In the case of disposition without settlement, how was the matter resolved? (e.g. motion to dismiss, summary judgment, trial?)
- 5b. In the case of settlement, what factors, if any, unique to this district's practices and procedures influenced settlement, and how did those factors influence it?
6. At your option, please provide the following information:
- Name: _____
 - Business address: _____
 - Number of years in practice: _____
 - Type of practice. _____
7. Using self-mailer address below, please return this completed survey. Fold and remember to use 33-cent stamp. Seal at top with tape (no staples please). You may also return by fax to Attorney Linda Zech at 608-257-0609. Thank you for your input.

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Please Place
33-cent Stamp
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Candid Moments From Last Year's Annual Meeting



Judge Lynn Adelman, District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, discusses the transition from the state legislature to the federal judiciary.



Clerk of Court Joseph Skupniewitz delivers his annual report to the Western District Bar Association.



Senior Judge Thomas Fairchild of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and Judge Adelman converse following Adelman's keynote address at the annual meeting luncheon.



1997-98 Western District Bar Association President Michael Fitzpatrick presides at the annual meeting.



Christopher Von Wagner, Chair of the WDBA Criminal Justice Section, delivers the committee's annual report.



Judge Barbara Crabb, WDBA President-Elect Cathy Rottier, and WDBA President Mark Cameli share ideas following the annual meeting luncheon program.



Professor Larry Marshall of Northwestern University presents a CLE program on Appellate Advocacy.

Western District of Wisconsin Bar Association 1998-1999

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