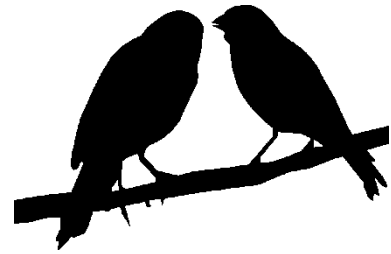


# THE INFORMANT



Saint Croix Valley Bar Association Newsletter February 2014

From the  
President's  
Desk

By Elizabeth Rohl



Volume 24, No. 1

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to promote a legal system whereby the rights and privileges of all persons are asserted and protected. We are dedicated to strengthening public trust in our legal system. We promote high ethical standards, civility, and professionalism amongst all attorneys. We encourage our members to serve the public. As officers of the court, we have an important role in assisting courts in the administration of justice.

Dear Members,

Happy New Year from the St. Croix Valley Bar Association! This serves as my first Informant as President of the SCVBA and first, I apologize for the tardiness! I'm already falling short of the past presidents who have set the bar so high. On that note, I would like to thank Max Neuhaus for his dedication and service to the SCVBA, both as an officer and member. Though he is now a "past" president, he continues to remain active and involved. It has truly been my pleasure to have been able to work with him on behalf of the Bar Association. Thank you, Max!

This summer the SCVBA hosted our first ever Wills for Heroes event which was a great success! Through the event, approximately 26 estate plans were completed for the River Falls Fire Department and their spouses/significant others. The Wills for Heroes program is not new to Wisconsin, but this was the first program that I am aware of in our neck of the woods. We would not have been able to do it without the generosity of our members who donated money, supplies and time that we relied on to run the event. A special thanks to Jennifer O'Neill, David Sienko, Max Neuhaus, Bridget Finke and Margaret Kaiser who graciously spent their day volunteering at the event. We look forward to hosting additional events across the counties that we serve.

We have a few events under our belts so far this year and have been lucky to have great attendance. Thanks to all those that were able to attend the Holiday Party at Paddy Ryan's! Coming up in February we will have the Lunch with the St. Croix County Judges and Happy Hour with the Commissioners. Details are still being hashed out, so please check your email for the invites to those events.

As we continue through the year we always welcome your feedback and suggestions on ways to improve the SCVBA. If you would like to make any suggestions, please contact me at [elizabeth.rohl@co.saint-croix.wi.us](mailto:elizabeth.rohl@co.saint-croix.wi.us). I look forward to the year and serving as the SCVBA President!

Sincerely, Liz Rohl

## *St. Croix Valley Bar Association Treasurer's Report*

**Checking balance as of 1/23/14: \$1,780.92**

## OFFICERS

**President:** Elizabeth Rohl  
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**Secretary/Treasurer:** Margaret Kaiser  
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**Social Media Director:** Rory E. O'Sullivan  
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Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Holiday Party.

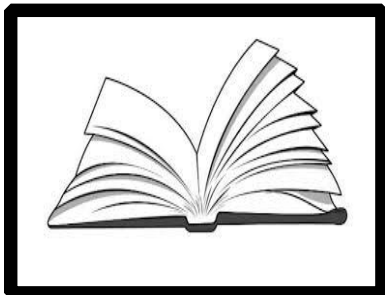
### ***Obiter dictum***

By its very nature and its inherent conflict, our job can be tough. We are each of us lucky to be able to practice in a locale with such camaraderie and civility.

The following tips were provided to us from a local member, which apparently originated from a South Carolina attorney with the title "10 things I wish I'd know 30 years ago" (yes, we know there are 14 points), which our local attorney suggested we might distribute, in the hope that anyone else might find them of interest or of use:

1. treasure professional relationships;
2. don't ascribe malice to a colleague;
3. professional courtesy is your, not the client's, decision;
4. don't be your client: maintain professional distance and independence;
5. however, do listen to your client;
6. maintain work-law balance;
7. don't set depositions or conferences for weekends or holidays;
8. advocating is not the same as "winning", focus on your purpose;
9. be stoic;
10. when angry, count to ten, when very angry, count to a hundred;
11. participate and give back to the professional community;
12. concede when appropriate;
13. focus on the big picture; and
14. take pride in yourself and your work.

***Reminder: there are new 7<sup>th</sup> district OWI sentencing guidelines, effective 1.1.14***



## **National Mock Trial Competition**

**Madison, Wisconsin, May 8-10 2014**

The National Mock Trial Competition is taking place from May 8th to May 10th, 2014. The Regional Tournament for the Eau Claire Region will take place on February 8th 2014 in the Eau Claire County Courthouse.

This competition is where area high school students analyze, prepare, and present a court case. This year there are teams registered in the Eau Claire Regional Event from Superior High School, Somerset High School, River Falls High School, Eau Clair Memorial, Regis, and Chippewa Falls High School. The success or failure of this Mock Trial Competition depends upon local lawyers volunteering to judge the competition.

## **ST. CROIX COUNTY**

### **JUDGES' LUNCH!**

The Annual St. Croix County Judges' Lunch has been set for Tuesday, February 11th, 2014 in the County Board Room at the St. Croix County Government Center. In addition to the annual presentation by the judges, there will be a presentation by representatives from CCAP. St. Croix County has decided to begin e-filing in several case types and other counties in this region will likely follow suit in the not-too distant future. Join us for an informative session to learn how to navigate the e-filing system.

The judges would also like to request members' input on topics for discussion. If you have a specific question or topic that you would like addressed by the judges, please contact Liz Rohl at [elizabeth.rohl@co.saint-croix.wi.us](mailto:elizabeth.rohl@co.saint-croix.wi.us) or by phone at 715-381-4317.

As always, there is a boxed lunch available for purchase (\$9.00). If you want a lunch provided for you, please RSVP no later than February 6, 2014.



## If- Rudyard Kipling (1895)

!

If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you;  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you but make allowance for their doubting too;

If you can wait and not be tired by waiting or, being lied about, don't deal in lies;  
Or, being hated, don't give way to hating and yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise.

!

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master, if you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat those two impostors just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken, and stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

!

If you can make one heap of all your winnings and risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings and never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew to serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

!

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you, if all men count with you, but none too much;

If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, and—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!