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This newsletter is produced by the nation's largest statewide bar association for attorneys practicing in the area of creditor's rights.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Heroes.

There is now a new definition of heroes that developed after the horrendous events of September 11, 2001. In the past, our hero list included sports figures, parents, siblings, or even eloquent or successful lawyers. There were war heroes and civilian heroes. Stories about pre-schoolers who dialed 911 and saved a life, or restaurant patrons who used the Heimlich maneuver for the first time. But now the definition has changed, as much as we now refer to the time before September 11th as "the old days".

Pictures of heroes are in the paper every day, burned into our memory from watching the news events of last month. They are the fire fighters, police officers and citizens who work or live in New York City, who summoned every capable bit of energy in their bodies to do what they were, as they say, merely paid to do. It was their job. We, as Americans, are proud of them. We grieve for those who lost their lives, and are proud of the tremendous courage that everyone, living or dead, has displayed. They are all heroes.

Now, what can we, as collection lawyers, do? Although I am unaware of any of us which have dual personalities, who may be a National Guard or Reservist, it's possible. I went to law school with a few guys who were police officers. I imagine they immediately qualify under the new definition. Yet most of us are just lawyers, plugging away at the responsibility of serving clients, providing creditors' rights representation in the finest way possible. So how can we be a hero? Easy. By not losing sight of the complete definition.

We can be a hero to our families by balancing the work day with our personal life. We can be a hero to our communities by volunteering, even in something which seems insignificant, like coaching our kids in sports. We can be a hero to our colleagues by showing courtesy, whether in court, as an adversary, or just when passing by on the streets or in the halls of the Court House. We can be a hero to our staff just by complementing them on a job well done, rather than just pointing out their mistakes. Oh yes; we can also give blood and money to those who need it most. Very simple, this hero thing.

I am happy to report that NARCA indicates that no members lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks, although some offices were affected by the events. It is great to see e-mails on the MAP listserve offering services in New York or surrounding areas to any firm in need as a result of the attacks, free of charge. I am

confident in saying that ICBA members would react no differently if, God forbid, a event such as this would happen here. I know this because of the team spirit that flows along our own listserve, what members believe to be the most important benefit our association has to offer. It is great to see. I am proud to be President of a group which is able to network as well as we do.

As far as business is concerned, our first post summer Board meeting took place on September 10th, although many committees met over the course of the summer. Bill Hunter anchored a Budget Committee and was successful in completing a projection which will allow us to remain in a positive cash flow position. Although dues are to be raised, the new fee schedule is on a firm wide basis, charging only for additional listserve members. Scott Alexander is looking into a Chat Room set up for what we hope will be lively discussions on statewide issues affecting our Bar. Our newsletter will hopefully become completely electronic, savable for whatever needs there be. Needless to say, our wish is to make creditor information cutting edge, so that we can be the best lawyers we can be.

Please join us at our monthly meetings. Let me know if you think we should hold a meeting in Oak Brook or Naperville so that some of our suburban members can attend and give their input. Get involved, write an article for the newsletter, volunteer as a speaker.

And don't forget to work on being a hero.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Freedman



Do you have an e-mail address? If you answered "NO" you are missing out on free information. Everyday ICBA members who **DO** have an e-mail address are able to post important information and interesting questions on the ICBA listserve. Members with e-mail addresses can also receive the online version of the ICBA newsletter. To learn more please contact Leigh-Ann Thompson at 877.724.5504. The service is **FREE** and the information is **VALUABLE**.

**HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE RECENTLY? GO TO [WWW.ILCBA.ORG](http://WWW.ILCBA.ORG)!**

## WHAT CAN TECHNOLOGY DO FOR YOU?



Recently a friend offered me his sympathy when he noticed I sent him an E-mail at a late hour. I replied to him as follows, "Thanks for the concern about my work hours, but the secret is that I work out of my home, electronically most of

the time these days. I use E-mail to communicate with many of my clients. I make great use of the telephone, of course, (two lines so I can talk and receive / send faxes at the same time). I use Win fax software to receive all faxes on my PC for free and be able to print them on plain paper on my regular printer if I choose. I can also store the faxes for as long as I want for future reference. I can use the software to enlarge any part of a faxed page if it is hard to read. This really is delightful when I am trying to read those handwritten notes on typed pages, signatures, hand written terms that complete the endless blanks on all those forms people no longer bother to type, etc. I also use the software to send faxes of documents I produce within the computer on my word processor or to resend faxes I receive from others on the computer to third parties. I use a \$90.00 scanner to send perfect faxes of color or black and white photographs or hard copies that do not originate on my PC. Win fax software also has OCR capability that is fantastic. When I receive a document I want to modify, I activate the OCR feature, open up the resulting document in the word processor, run a spell check on it to clean up the errors and voila, I have a new document ready to use or modify. I use Lexis with my cable modem. It is unbelievable how nice it is to do research at the speed of light using a high-speed Internet connection such as a cable modem or a DSL line. Since it is so convenient, I am motivated to use the resource much more often than in the old days when it took forever to dial in and then forever to do a search and then forever to browse through a batch of documents. Now I can go through tens of cases in a few minutes. By the way, doing more research tends to make my work product better. This is also why I can so easily help out when someone asks for a citation. I have unlimited access to Lexis for Illinois cases, statutes, news sources and much more for \$90.00 / month. Now that I spend so much time at home, I have to give out the home "office" phone number. When I go out, I simply use call forwarding to forward my calls to my cell phone so no one knows where I am when I answer the phone and I don't miss any calls. I do go to the office when I have to see a client whom I cannot see at home. I also use either PC Anywhere or Microsoft Net Meeting to dial into my network at the office. With these pieces of software I can do anything from my home just as if I were at the office. I can run the printer, run the tape backup device if my office manager is out and no one else knows how to run the backups (all they have to do is put the tape in the drive for me and then take it out and take it home for the night when it is finished). I can send intraoffice E-mails through my network which I can direct to pop up on any workstation in the office. This allows me to send notes to anyone in the office any time I think of something that needs to be taken care of, 24 hours a day. I can make entries to the billing software and notes in the case management software. I can add to my calendar and

check my schedule. Basically, I can do anything I want remotely. When I travel, I bring one disk with me containing the remote portion of PC Anywhere on it. Using this, all I need is a PC with a modem and I can do my work from anywhere in the world. I have put in a day's work from Jerusalem on many occasions. These days everywhere I go I can get to an Internet Café with a PC and a modem! I can even reboot an office machine in the rare instances when they get hung up in the middle of the night, enter the password through the Net Meeting software, and go right back to work on any workstation I want.

Even with all I have described here, I am barely scratching the surface of what I could do if I really wanted to utilize what is available today. I don't even own a cellular Palm type device yet! In any case, I think all this is great. I recall two years ago when I was going to give a seminar on merely using E-mail on the Internet for the ICBA and only one person signed up! I have been using these electronic facilities for over ten years (except for using the faxing software that is only a few years old in its current, very stable, and easy to use format). By the way, faxing out of the PC to another PC runs at about fifteen seconds per page and from my PC to a fax machine at about 30 seconds a page. This is anywhere from one quarter to one half the time compared to using a dedicated fax machine.

Steve Protter, who maintains the ICBA web site, is a genius! He set all this up at my office and home and he could do this for you. Steve has offered to provide his services at a reduced rate to our membership.

While I am raving about technology I must add that the ICBA LISTSERVE is a fantastic aid to my law office production as well. By now, anyone who has signed up for this free membership benefit must have noticed how helpful it is when a member needs someone to cover a court call anywhere in the State on short notice or when there is a difficult question of law or procedure... And if that is not enough, there are the links on the ICBA web site with court forms, court calls, the case information from the Cook County Circuit Court and the Federal and Bankruptcy Courts. Soon we will even be able to file cases and documents electronically! I can't wait.

Now, if you want, you can really feel sorry for me since I can work 24 hours a day and often am still at the keyboard when the sun rises. Of course, don't cry too much because when I am ready to pass out, the bed is only twenty feet away..."

Barry Lowe, ICBA Vice President for Technology

Barry can be reached via E-mail at [barrylowe@aol.com](mailto:barrylowe@aol.com), through his web site at [loweslaw.com](http://loweslaw.com) or at (312) 644-1000.

Are you a part of the ICBA "Listserve?" If you answered "no," you are really missing out on one of the most beneficial services the ICBA offers. Sign up today. It's FREE! Contact Leigh-Ann Thompson at 877-724-5504.

THE ILLINOIS CREDITOR'S BAR ASSOCIATION  
WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

**James A. Knepper, Chicago, IL**  
**Peggy L. Jans, Pekin, IL**

**BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2001/2002 TERM**

**President:** Louis Freedman

**Executive Vice-President:** Lawrence Taliana

**Secretary:** Scott Michael Alexander

**Treasurer:** William Hunter

**Vice President of Education:** Steven Fink

**Vice President of Legislation:** Robert Markoff

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**Vice President of Membership in the  
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**Immediate Past President:** Robert Becker

**Members At Large:**

Lori Blitstein

Fred Blitt

James Kaplan

Ira Leibsker

Michael Matek

Larry Meyer

Michael Polk

**For general membership information  
please contact Leigh-Ann Thompson at  
877-724-5504 or via e-mail at  
leighann@san.rr.com.**

**YOU ARE INVITED**

The ICBA is hosting  
a "Brown Bag" Seminar on  
Wednesday, October 24th from  
Noon to 1 p.m.

**- Topic -**

Piercing the Corporate Veil  
*Presented by Hal Morris*

**- Location -**

20 S. Clark St., Suite 900

Please bring your own lunch.  
Beverages will be provided.

For reservations please contact  
Leigh-Ann Thompson at 877.724.5504

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YOUR LEGAL PRACTICE?**

**Communications 360°**, owned and operated by  
Leigh-Ann Thompson is offering ICBA  
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