

THE Kane County *Bar Association*



1858-2008

by Bill Beck

Foreword

The practice of law is about passion: passion for principles and ideals; passion for advocacy and debate; passion for critical thinking and intellectual exchange; passion for language and words; and passion for creativity and ideas. But most of all, at its core, it is about passion for helping people.

The Kane County Bar Association begins in 2008 a celebration of 150 years of helping people. We celebrate this anniversary, not simply to recognize an organization, but to honor what it represents: the enormous contribution of members to the prosperity and decency of the communities they serve. It is a celebration of the life work of lawyers and judges who have comprised the KCBA and promoted the rule of law through twenty-nine presidents, eight disclosed wars, and profound social and technological change.

This book tells the story of our Association on the occasion of this anniversary, and in so doing, tells the story of the people, events, and communities that form its soul. These distinguished men and women, past and present, represent a tradition of honor, service, and professionalism of which we can all be proud. It is impossible to cover every contribution made by every member over the past fifteen decades, and the many notable omissions are due to limitations of resources rather than importance. Nonetheless, it is not an overstatement to say that every step forward in our communities, every advance in the private and public arena, has benefited from the industry and imagination of the local legal profession.

We hope that you enjoy the history and nostalgia this book provides. The lasting importance of this story, however, is that it offers a resource for future generations of lawyers. Here they will see how the legal profession in Kane County grew and prospered, how members played a vital role in the development of Fox Valley communities, and how our Association faithfully nurtured the ideals and traditions of a noble profession. On behalf of the KCBA, we entrust to our successors the guardianship of this very special heritage. May we continue to invest the same dignity, vision, and vitality our predecessors were so careful to provide.

Patrick M. Flaherty
President
2007–2008

David C. Camic
President
2008–2009

William C. Murphy
President
1972–1973