

Senior Lawyers

The newsletter of the Illinois State Bar Association's Senior Lawyers Section

The Senior Lawyers Section Council would like to dedicate this issue of the newsletter to the memory of Richard Thies, former ISBA president and founding member of the Senior Lawyers Section. This issue includes reflections of two current section council members on their memories of Dick and his contributions to the legal profession.

My Memories of Richard Thies

BY LEONARD A. AMARI

I had the great pleasure of serving as co-chair with past Illinois State Bar Association President Dick Thies, at the appointment of then ISBA President Irene Barr, of the two-person committee that recommended creation of our Senior Lawyers Section Council. It was a pleasure because I was very happy to serve our wonderful bar association and the profession but also

because it provided me the opportunity to work closely with, be in contact with and enjoy doing good things for the lawyers in Illinois with my pal Dick. I was in line behind Dick by a few officers to head the ISBA, and worked with him on many projects, including establishing an ISBA Regional Office in Chicago (and

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My Memories of Richard Thies

BY EUGENIA HUNTER

I met and got to know Richard Thies during the founding meetings of the Senior Lawyers Section Council, then known as the ISBA Special Committee on Master Attorneys. The organizational meeting was August 30, 2006, and Richard (Dick) was a co-chair along with Leonard Amari. During those early days, we explored who we wanted to be, why the name of the group had to be changed and our mission. Under the leadership of Dick and Leonard,

by November of that year the committee requested that the Board of Governors create a section council.

The scope of the group as set with the guidance of this leadership was partnership with other organizations in service to the bar, service to senior lawyers and service to the public. These goals have remained our mission due to the vision of the early leadership. While I was not personally

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subsequent relocation), creating our ISBA / Mutual Insurance Company and the first ever ISBA Committee on Minority and Women Participation (his idea), hiring a new executive director, tweaking and restructuring the ISBA Bar Foundation, assisting the establishment in Illinois of mandatory continuing legal education, to mention just a few.

He was a visionary and I learned so much from him: not only how to get things done but to do things with dignity, how to be a leader with real class. I envied and respected him, not to mention my great affection for him.

When I was sworn in as president I had thought long and hard as to what I wanted to accomplish “my year” and what my year would be remembered for. But since Dick Thies had put into motion three years before mine such a meaningful agenda, I chose the slogan for my year to be “continuity” because to finish the altruistic and genuinely

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acquainted with Dick prior to this time, I got to know him over the last 15 years as a true example of professional excellence not only by scholarship, innovation and leadership, but also by the personal qualities of generosity, thoughtfulness, insight and kindness. Dick was what we all should strive to be as lawyers and his guidance and generosity will be missed by all who had the good fortune of knowing him. ■

important measures and projects Dick put into motion would take years to accomplish, just a few of which I mentioned above.

Leaders like Dick don't come along every year. He was my pal. I so much enjoyed his company and my wife and I enjoyed all the bar functions with Marilyn and Dick. We looked forward to board meetings and conventions so we could spend time together; they made our bar experiences so much more fulfilling. And I know Dick showed me how to be a leader and, more importantly, what a good guy looked like. We watched each other's children grow up. I became a runner because of Dick Thies. He enriched my life and I'd like to think he made me a better person. ■

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