



ILLINOIS STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

YLD NEWS

The newsletter of the Illinois State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division

Post-decree matters: "I'm dead, and I don't know what to do"

By Kimberly J. Anderson

These words were spoken to volunteer Janice Boback at the Daley Center when she worked at the Post-Decree Help Desk sponsored by the Chicago Bar Foundation a couple of weeks ago. For those of you that are unaware of the Post-decree desk, the Chicago Bar Foundation sponsors a desk on the 30th floor of the Daley Center which hands out information and dispenses legal advice to low income individuals who need help in their post-decree matters. Although it is designed for post-decree matters, many people have questions about their divorce, and I help people who need that information also, as well as help them draft agreed orders. The Chicago Bar Foundation provides free literature on a variety of topics such as child abduction, enforcing judgments, and how to lower your child support.

The Post-Decree Desk has been in existence for more than a year and has helped

over 400 people navigate through the legal process. The desk survives on the help of volunteers such as Janice Boback, Shannon M. Cobe, Mary A. Lopez, and Tania Garcia Culison. The desk is open every Monday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Boback and I are friends from law school, and I routinely share some of the more interesting cases from the Post-decree desk with her and seek advice on other cases. Some cases require research and I have to call them back, which is where Ms. Boback's help is needed the most. Since she practices in a wide variety of cases, she often knows the answer or knows where to send me to get it.

Ms. Boback decided to take a day off work and visit the desk personally, and true enough, she found the desk quite interesting. Which leads me back to the person who had been declared dead. The man sitting in front of her was divorced and his ex-wife told

banks, etc. that her ex-husband was dead, and he was angry about it.

"I want you to make her stop," he said.

Ms. Boback asked him over and over again, "What do you want the court to do for you?" "There must be some sort of relief that you are asking for."

"I want her to stop saying I'm dead, because I'm not."

Obviously. Some cases we do not get to hear the end result, and for some people, that is just as well.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the Post-Decree Desk can call Genie Gillespie at 312/554-1209 or you can call me at 312/920-0870. The desk is a great way to interact with people who desperately need your help and at the same time, it teaches you quite a bit about domestic relations. ■

THIS ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN
THE ILLINOIS STATE BAR ASSOCIATION'S
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION NEWSLETTER, VOL. 45 #4, APRIL 2001.
IT IS REPRINTED HERE BY, AND UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF, THE ISBA.
UNAUTHORIZED USE OR REPRODUCTION OF THIS REPRINT OR
THE ISBA TRADEMARK IS PROHIBITED.