

GUEST LETTER

FROM ABA DELEGATE DAVID L. BROWN

Dear friends, fellow colleagues, members of the bench and bar:

I am grateful that President Henry Hamilton III has given me permission to provide a short letter to all of you. This is indeed an honor.

I would ask that all of you follow your dreams and reach for the stars. The idealism that brought us all to the practice of law is something that we should honor every single day of our professional lives. We were all called to the bar with aim to help people and do our best to make this a better world, consistent with the rule of law and compassion for others. Indeed, all of us should be ambassadors for jurisprudence.

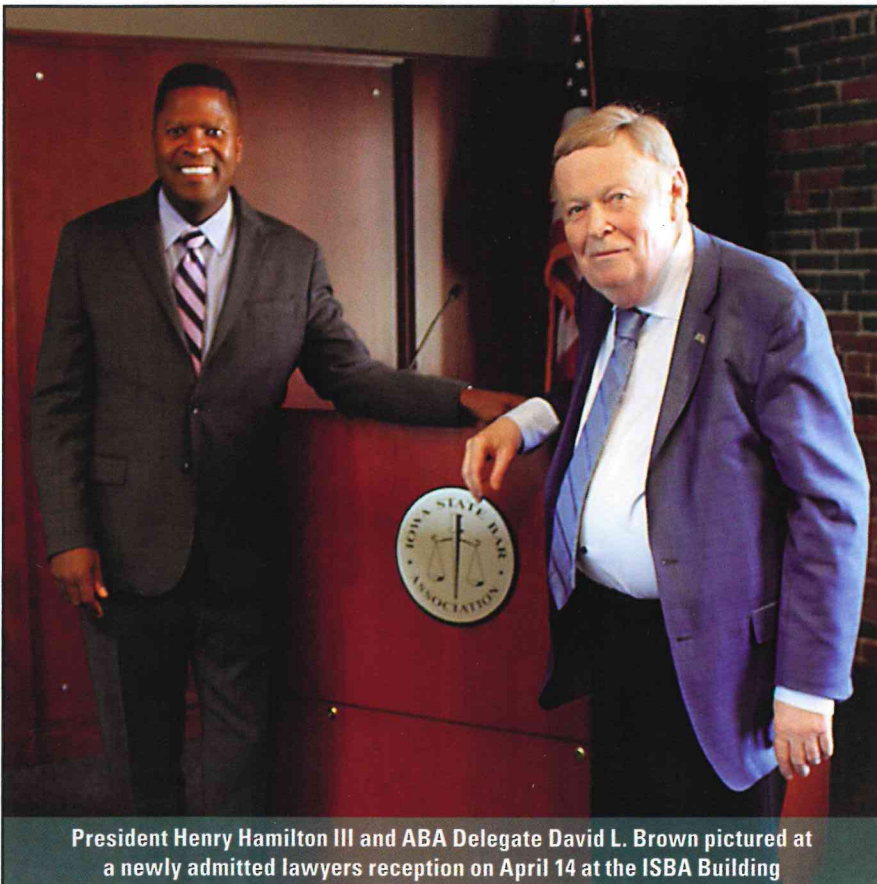
Mentoring and teaching young people how to be lawyers has been in my DNA since I was a child. My father, a college dean in Illinois, trained me. Every one of us must be an ambassador for our profession. Every one of us needs to mentor other people. We are together in this great mission to become better lawyers and have a more just world. Our country was founded by great men and women who faced terrific odds to make it a better world and one with high ideals. Everyone practicing law today should pick up that torch and follow through with great commitment to the rule of law and humanity.

ABA President Deborah Enix-Ross was in Des Moines recently and spoke at the Drake Supreme Court events. Her themes this year have been defined by civics, civility, professionalism, and collaboration. Iowa lawyers should adopt this as our mantra as well. All of us have time to reach out and pull others up the ladder, especially younger members of the legal community who will develop and help shape the future of the profession.

I have been an American Bar Association Delegate for many years. Iowa has the finest legal system and the finest bar association in the world. We should do everything we can to protect and preserve that system. Our law schools do a fabulous job of training young people. We are fortunate that we have many Inns of Court in Iowa that provide access to training and mentorship by members of the bench and bar to people in communities throughout the state. Every one of us in the legal community can reach out to others to provide mentorship or volunteer to be part of the process. If not, at risk may

be irrelevancy and a diminution of the lawyer's role in society. We are counting on each and every lawyer to honor the oath taken when becoming members of the bar: to move forward and make this a better world, continuously strive to be a better professional, and still take care of your families, your firms, and your profession, while making a difference in people's lives. With your help, I personally believe there is nothing we cannot do. But the legal system is not something anyone else can be a caregiver for. We are all caregivers for this system. I hope you will join with me and our current bar leadership, both nationally and locally, to do everything we can to take to the next step and make this a better and more equitable world in all respects.

Thank you very much for the opportunity, President Hamilton, to make these comments. I hope they are received in the same positive vein in which they are delivered.



President Henry Hamilton III and ABA Delegate David L. Brown pictured at a newly admitted lawyers reception on April 14 at the ISBA Building