



# February 2018 Bar Exam

## Results released

The Iowa Board of Law Examiners released the results from the 2018 Winter Bar Examination, held February 26-28 in Des Moines:

- 73 percent of all those taking the exam for the first time passed.
- 75 percent of those taking the exam from Drake University for the first time passed.
- 71 percent of those taking the exam from the University of Iowa for the first time passed.

Additional passage rate statistics can be found on the Iowa Judicial Branch's website.

The admission ceremony for successful applicants was held on Friday, May 4.

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## ISBA in D.C.

An ISBA delegation visited Washington, D.C. on April 11, for the American Bar Association (ABA) Day at the Capitol, an annual lobbying event. Pictured at the Capitol: YLD Vice President Maggie White, ABA Delegate David L. Brown, ISBA President-Elect Tom Levis.

Attorneys from 48 states attended this year's ABA Day, meeting with their congressional representatives to ask them for support for certain issues. The event is organized by the association's Governmental Affairs Office.

## OUR SACRED PROFESSION

### A GUEST LETTER FROM DAVID L. BROWN

Today, the legal profession and our courts are under attack from many quarters. The legislative session has been particularly acrimonious.

Even more telling is too often lawyers characterize themselves as plaintiffs' lawyers or defense lawyers, claimants' lawyers or insurance lawyers, metropolitan lawyers or county seat lawyers, trial lawyers or transactional lawyers, private lawyers or government lawyers, prosecutors or criminal defense lawyers, federal lawyers or state lawyers, administrative governmental lawyers or private practitioners opposing the agencies, practicing bar, the trial courts, the Court of Appeals and the Iowa Supreme Court and/or the Federal Courts. We are defining ourselves on where we are individually but not in a global appreciation of the treasure we have and the responsibility we have in the profession of law.

We all remember why we went to law school, the day we were admitted to the bar and the moment we became lawyers. The idealism that permeates legal education and our profession is a powerful motivation for a life of service to our profession. Indeed, all of us need to bind-up our wounds and celebrate the rightful place our profession has among the true treasures of our society.

Our profession has been blessed with many legendary legal heroes. No one more exemplifies what we should all seek to emulate than our late Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice C. Edwin Moore. Chief Justice Moore was a trial judge, appellate justice and chief justice who expanded the roles of the court throughout the state. He taught many years of trial practice to generations of lawyers throughout this country. He also dedicated his life to public service and had a completely positive interaction with the executive branch of government, the legislative branch, the bar association and legal educators at the University of Iowa College of Law and his alma mater, Drake University Law School.

Chief Justice Moore and those who served with him focused on what values we share rather than what positions divide us. I can still hear him say that the family of lawyers throughout this state in all phases of the profession should always strive to find common ground to heal rather than fight, and to look forward rather than to dwell on the past.

Chief Justice Moore truly felt that we were all "FAMILY" and should treat each other with civility, respect, professionalism and kindness. I was privileged to clerk for Chief Justice Moore for two years at the court. He reminded all of us at the Capitol that we were lawyers 24/7 and that a code of conduct of civility and respect was a way of life. He believed each of us should re-read on a regular basis the Lawyer's Oath we took the day we were admitted to practice to celebrate what we have in common, remind us of what our role is in society and never forget our need to work together to make this a better community.

Let us all raise our right hand and read together our sacred oath:

#### IOWA LAWYER'S OATH

I swear or affirm: As an officer of the Court serving in the administration of justice, I will:

- Support the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Iowa
- Perform to the utmost of my abilities and education
- Maintain the respect due to the Courts and my colleagues
- Faithfully and ethically discharge the duties required of Iowa lawyers

As a zealous advocate and counselor for my clients, I will:

- Strive to be worthy of trust and respect
- Counsel clients to maintain only those disputes supported by law and the legal process
- Use only those means consistent with justice
- Maintain the confidences of my clients as required by law
- Support the cause of the defenseless or oppressed, pro bono publico

As a member of the legal community, I will:

- Strive to represent the legal profession as one of justice, honor, civility, and service

Thank you to President Steve Eckley for permitting me to share these thoughts with you.

Respectfully submitted,

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*Honored Guest Columnist*



#### A Message from the President

In the first week of May, we will swear in Iowa's newest crop of attorneys - those who passed the bar exam held in February. At that event, these new lawyers will take an oath pledging, among many things, to represent the legal profession with justice, honor, civility and service. It is my sincere pleasure to lend the President's pen this month to someone who, in my opinion, embodies these qualities in the utmost. David L. Brown has a very timely message to share with our entire Iowa legal "family."

#### Stephen R. Eckley

is a senior civil trial attorney at Belin McCormick in Des Moines.

