

J. STEVEN BECKETT

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PERSONAL

Date of birth: June 24, 1948, Urbana, Illinois
Marital status: Married, Wife: Barbara
Children: Chad 38; Don 31
Health: Excellent

EDUCATION

Urbana High School, 1966
University of Illinois, B.A. 1970
University of Illinois, J.D. 1973

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW (1973)

Illinois Supreme Court (All Illinois Courts)
United States District Courts for the Central, Southern &
Northern Districts of Illinois
United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth
and Federal Circuits
United States Supreme Court
United States Tax Court

LEGAL EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT

University of Illinois College of Law,
Professor & Director of Trial Advocacy (Full Time Academic
Professional) 2004 – present. Course classroom instruction –
(1) Trial Advocacy, (2) White Collar Crime, (3) Counseling,
Fact Investigation and Interviewing (CFI), and (4) Evidence.
Undergraduate teaching 2005 – present – (1) Actual
Innocence: Defects in the American Criminal Justice System
and (2) Law and the Movies.

Adjunct Professor and Director of Trial Advocacy
Program, 1999 - 2004; Coordinator, 1994 - 1998,
Lecturer, 1987 - 1992; Adjunct Professor, White Collar Crime,
Evidence, Criminal Procedure 1998 - 2004; Coach of
University of Illinois Trial Team; 1998 - present.

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT & EXPERIENCE

Reno, O'Byrne & Kepley (1973 – 1988, Partner 1975 – 1988)
Beckett & Webber, P.C., President (1988 - 2004)
("of counsel" affiliation, August, 2004 to present)

PRIMARY PRACTICE

First Amendment, Criminal Law (State and Federal),
Personal Injury Litigation & General Practice Areas
Champaign County Abuse and Neglect Public Appeals
Defender, 1993 - 1999

**PROFESSIONAL
MEMBERSHIPS**

**Illinois State Bar Association
Champaign County Bar Association
Federal Bar Association for the Central and Southern
Districts of Illinois**

**American Bar Association
First Amendment Lawyers Association, (President 1980)
Champaign County Criminal Defense Lawyers (President,
1980 – 1984)
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Association of Trial Lawyers of America (Law faculty
member)
American Constitution Society
Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (formerly
Illinois Attorneys for Criminal Justice (Director, 1986-1992))
Member, Board of Directors, Criminal Justice Authority (CJA)
Panel Attorneys for the Central District of Illinois 1996 –
present
Member, Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Professional
Responsibility 1997 – 2002
Member, Local Rules Committee, United States District Court
For the Central District of Illinois, December, 2004 to present
CJA Panel Attorney Representative for the Central District of
Illinois, December 2005 to present**

**AWARDS &
RECOGNITION**

**Fellow, American Bar Association Foundation, 2002 to
present**

**2006 - 2007, 2007 – 2008, 2008 - 2009 and 2009 - 2010
recognized as “Top 100 Leading Lawyer in Illinois in All Areas
of Law”; with noted emphasis in practice areas of Civil
Rights/Constitutional Law and Criminal Defense Law/White
Collar” by Leading Lawyers Network (Division of Daily Law
Bulleting Company).**

**Fall Semester 2006 – Selected on “Good Teacher’s List for
Fall 2006 based on Law 199 (“Actual Innocence”) student
evaluations.**

**2006 Council for Volunteer Management Award, presented for
management of RSVP volunteer juror participation in Spring
Trial Advocacy Program at University of Illinois College of
Law, April 30, 2006.**

**University of Illinois, College of Law Distinguished Graduate
(recognized in 1998-1999)**

**Champaign County American Civil Liberties Union, W. Ellison
Chalmers Memorial Award, 1990**

**SIGNIFICANT
LEGAL CAREER
EVENTS**

**American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, Litigation
Contribution and Support Award, 1987**

**Sigma of Chi Phi Fraternity, National Alumnus of the Year,
1985**

**Illinois Public Defenders Association, Award of Excellence
and Meritorious Service, 1984**

**Illinois State Bar Association, Legal Writing - Lincoln Award
(2nd place). 1976**

**United States Supreme Court Appearances:
Ward v. Illinois, 97 S.Ct 2085, (argued) April, 1977
Pope v. Illinois, 107 S.Ct 1918, February, 1987**

**Lecturer, First Amendment Lawyers Association, 1974-
-1991 (All topics concerning First and Fourth
Amendment jurisprudence)**

**Presenter for the Special Committee to Review the NCAA
Enforcement and Infractions Process (Washington D.C., July,
1991)**

**Trial and Appellate Appearances in First Amendment
litigation in State/Federal Courts of Nebraska, North Dakota,
Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky & Missouri**

**Chairman, Judicial Screening Committee -- to review
Qualifications of candidates to fill a vacancy as Circuit
Judge, in Champaign County, Illinois, January 1995; Member
Judicial Screen Committee to review qualifications of
candidates to fill a vacancy as Circuit Judge in Champaign
County, May – June, 2005.**

**Elected, Member of Champaign County Board, November,
2000- present. Appointed Board Parliamentarian and Chair,
County Facilities Committee, December, 2000 – present,
Selected as County Board Vice-Chair, December, 2004 –
present . Juvenile Program Grant Review Committee, 2000 -
2002.**

**Numerous civil and criminal trials, appeals and administrative
proceedings in State and Federal Courts in Illinois, Iowa,
Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and
Kentucky.**

Criminal Justice Act – Panel Representative for the Central District of Illinois 2005 to present; CJA Panel Attorney 1978 to present.

PUBLICATIONS

Co-Authored Articles & Books

Co-Author: "Playing Doctor, Playing Lawyer: Interdisciplinary Simulations" , Clinical Law Review, Volume 14, No. 2 p. 439 (2008)(Co-authors: J. Steven Beckett and C. Kristina Gunsalus)

Co-author: "The Elder Witness – The Admissibility of Closed Circuit Television Testimony after Maryland v. Craig", The Elder Law Journal, Vol. 7, No. 2, p. 313 (1999). (Co-author Steven D. Stennett)

Co-author: Revisions and update to How to Prepare For, Take and Use a Deposition, James Publishing, 1999. (Co-Author, Chad S. Beckett)

Co-author: Preparing For Your Deposition, PMIC Press, 1994 (Co-authors: Raymond M. Fish & Melvin E. Ehrhardt)

Co-author: "Community Standards: Admitting a Public Opinion Poll into Evidence in an Obscenity Case", Case and Comment, Vol. 84, p. 18, 1979 (Co-Author: Roderick A. Bell)

Sole-Authored Articles

Illinois Jury Diversity: A Brief Historical Perspective, Illinois Judicial Conference, February 3, 2010

"Whatever Happened to the Bill of Rights? A Criminal Lawyer's Perspective", University of Illinois Law Review, Vol. 1992, No. 1, p. 213

"Speaking From the Grave - A Homicide Victim's Antecedent Accusatory Statements About the Defendant", Illinois Bar Journal, Vol. 71, p. 250, 1982

"The 1977 Illinois Death Penalty: Individualized Focus Under the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments", Chicago Bar Record, Vol. 63, p. 6, 1981

"Obscenity: Ward v. Illinois, The Miller Promise Abandoned", Chicago Bar Record, Vol 60, p. 183, 1979

"Massage Parlor Ordinances and Constitutional Issues", Illinois Bar Journal, Vol. 64, p. 622, 1976 (Lincoln Award Winning Article)

"Illinois Joint Tenancy Bank Accounts: The Presumption of Donative Intent and the Emasculation of the Fiduciary Rule", Illinois Bar Journal, Vol. 63, p. 706, 1975

"A Crossroad of Conflict: National Security and First Amendment Protection", in Essays on American Law (Sigworth & Plender, Editors), University of Illinois Press, pp. 76-91 (1971)

Miscellaneous Articles in ISBA Section Publications on criminal and constitutional law issues.

PRESENTATIONS

Commencement Address, May 15, 2010, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Departments of History and Philosophy Undergraduate and Graduate Convocation Ceremony, Smith Music Hall, Urbana, Illinois

"Jury Diversity in Champaign County", May 13, 2010, Champaign County League of Women Voters, Champaign, Illinois.

**"Jury Diversity: It's More than Numbers"
Illinois Judicial Conference, April 21, 2010, Chicago, IL
(Co-presenter with Paula Hannaford-Agor, Director of Center for Jury Studies, National Center for State Courts and Hon. Clark E. Erickson, Circuit Judge, Kankakee County, Illinois)**

"Free Speech: Did the University of Illinois Campus Administration Engage in a Prior Restraint Against the Use of the Assembly Hall by Pro-Chief Organizations" April 20, 2010, Champaign, Illinois, East Central Illinois Women's Attorney Association

"Proving Child Abuse: Hearsay Exceptions and the Child Witness" Bloomington, Illinois, April 19, 2010; Symposium - Healing: Community Collaboration in Response to Children Affected by Violence, Co-sponsored by Illinois State University School of Social Work, McLean County Bar Association, Prairie State Legal Services and ABC Counseling and Family Services

“Abraham Lincoln in Urbana” and Panel: “The Lincoln Lawyer Today – the Contemporary Practice of Law and Lincoln’s Standards” “Lincoln: Yesterday and Today,” University of Illinois Bicentennial Symposium, University of Illinois College of Law April 1-2, 2010

**“Jury Diversity: It’s More than Numbers”
Illinois Judicial Conference, February 3, 2010, Chicago, IL
(Co-presenter with Paula Hannaford-Agor, Director of Center for Jury Studies, National Center for State Courts and Hon. Clark E. Erickson, Circuit Judge, Kankakee County, Illinois)**

“The Business Side of the Criminal Practice of Law: Ethical Considerations and Criminal Defense Fees” Chicago, IL, October 8, 2009; Bloomington, IL, October 15, 2009. (ISBA Law Ed programs)

“The New Rules of Professional Conduct and the Criminal Defense Lawyer”, Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, East St. Louis, IL, September 17, 2009

Ethical Considerations for Criminal Defense Lawyers: “The New Rules of Professional Conduct and the Criminal Defense Lawyer”, U.S. District Court conference – Federal Defender and CJA Panel Attorneys, Peoria, IL, July 10, 2009

Commentator: PBS production Abraham Lincoln: Prelude to the Presidency (February 2009);

Commentator: ISBA Law Ed series Lessons in Professional Responsibility: Learned from the Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln (May 2009)

**“Interdisciplinary Professional Education Simulations, the Illinois Medical-Legal Experience”, 23rd Annual Midwest Clinical Conference
Building Bridges: Creating Clinical Opportunities Through Collaboration, Indiana University, Bloomington Indiana, November 15, 2008**

“Top Ten Ways to Deliver Killer Closing Arguments”, Illinois State Bar Association, Criminal Justice Section, ICLE Program, Springfield, Illinois, May 16, 2008

“Criminal Defense Fees and Ethical Considerations”, presentation to the Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (IACDL), Springfield, Illinois, April 25, 2008.

“Celebrating Powell v. Alabama : The Scottsboro Boys Trials”; presentation to the Federal Bar Association in cooperation with The Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Society and the A.P. Tureaud Chapter of the American Inns of Court, New Orleans, Louisiana, March 13, 2008

Moderator, May 15, 2007, Chicago, Illinois. Views from the Bench: An Electronic Discovery Case Study – ESI Amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (Co-sponsored by the University of Illinois College of Law and Deloitte Financial Services)

Academy of American Forensic Psychiatry, April 20, 2007, Chicago, Illinois. Working with the Psychiatrist for an Insanity Defense in a Filicide Case – The Defense Lawyer’s Perspective (Co-presenter with Dr. Larry Jeckel and Prof. Phillip Resnick.)

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) regional broadcast of "Ontario Today", January 10, 2007 discussing the trial of former Hollinger media and communications magnate Conrad Black. Professor Beckett discussed the practice of the public prosecutors releasing details in advance of the March trial. He also fielded phone calls from listeners regarding trial practices and white collar crime.

“Champaign County Jury Study” Urbana Rotary, November 18, 2006 with Prof. C. K. Gunsalus.

“The Jencks Act and Powell v. Alabama: A Meaningful Opportunity to Present a Complete Defense”. Federal Defenders Office and CJA Attorneys for the Central District of Illinois, August 8, 2006, Springfield, IL

United Counties Council of Illinois (UCCI)/ University of Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs (IGPA); “Update on Legal Issues for County Government”, July 25, 2006, Galena, IL.

WDWS Penny for Your Thoughts – release of “Champaign County Courtwatching Program Highlights: Second Annual Report – 2005-2006 League of Women Voters/College of Law” July 6, 2006 (Report co-authored with C. K. Gunsalus)

**Illinois Judiciary of the 6th Judicial Circuit; “Senior Moments: Elders in the Courtroom”, May 4, 2006, Macon County Courthouse, Decatur, Illinois.
(Presented with Retired Senior and Volunteer Program Director Jo Hopkins)**

Lectures to Beijing Senior Law Management and Qingdao Law Enforcement, Criminal Law and White Collar Crime, series of ten lectures, University of Illinois International study program, U.S. Legal and Criminal Justice Program For Beijing Municipal Government , December – April, 2005-2006

**“Playing Doctor, Playing Lawyer: Interdisciplinary Simulations”, 6th International Clinical Conference, UCLA and University of London, Los Angeles, California, October 30-31, 2005
(Co-presenter C. Kristina Gunsalus)**

**United Counties Council of Illinois (UCCI) and the University of Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs;
“Addressing Current Legal Issues for County Government”, October 22, 2005, Springfield, Illinois.**

Municipal Clerks Association of Illinois (MCI); “Legal Issues for Local Government”, October 11, 2005, Springfield, Illinois.

Champaign County Farm Bureau, Land Use Summit: “Hot Issues in Land Use – Condemnation by Illinois Local Government after Kelo v. New London“, August 2, 2005, Champaign, Illinois.

United Counties Council of Illinois (UCCI): “Professional Liability of County Board Members”, July 26, 2005, Galena, Illinois,

“Focus 580: Report on the 2004-2005 Pilot Phase of the Champaign County Courtwatching Project: A Collaboration of the Champaign County League of Women Voters and the University of Illinois College of Law” (Radio talk show presentation with C.K. Gunsalus and Joan Miller, hosted by David Inge.) June, 2005.

“The Impact of Booker: A Dialogue Between Scholars and Practitioners” (Co-hosted and moderated with Professor Margareth Etienne), University of Illinois College of Law, April, 2005.

“National Security v. Individual Freedom”, panelist at Open Forum on the Patriot Act, sponsored by Illinois Campus Deliberations, April, 2005, Urbana, Illinois.

United Counties Council of Illinois (UCCI): “Legal Issues Facing County Boards” – United Counties Council of Illinois, March 15, 2005, Springfield, Illinois.

“The Impact of Crawford v. Washington” – Illinois Public Defenders Association, May, 2004.

“Maurice Clarett and the NFL Draft – Anti-trust Violations?” with Prof. Steve Ross, on Champaign-Urbana radio station WDWS (AM 1400) “Sportsline” program, April , 2004

“Abraham Lincoln the Lawyer and Urbana”; Champaign West Rotary, April, 2004

“Filicide: A Defense Lawyers Perspective”; Women’s Law Society Symposium, March, 2004

“The Patriot Act Debate: A Criminal Defense Lawyer’s Perspective”, University of Illinois College of Law, September, 2003

“NCAA Coaches contracts and rights and responsibilities of NCAA student-athletes under National Letters of Intent”, on Champaign-Urbana radio station WDWS (AM 1400) “Sportsline” program, April, 2003

“Juvenile Sentencing and Constitutional Issues”, American Constitution Society, University of Nevada - Las Vegas chapter, April, 2003

“Hardball Litigation: What’s a good lawyer to do?”, Illinois State Bar Association Civil Practice and Procedure Section Council held at the University of Illinois College of Law, April, 2002

“The Role of Judicial Review by Article III Courts”, a debate with Professor Stephen Ross, American Constitution Society, University of Illinois Chapter, March, 2002

“Abraham Lincoln in Urbana”, the Half-Century Club, October, 2001

“Life on the old 8th Circuit with Lincoln”, Champaign First Baptist Church, May, 2000

Multiple presentations on Champaign County issues, building projects and policy questions to community groups, December, 2000 to present

Multiple presentations on First and Fourth Amendment issues to the First Amendment Lawyers Association (1974 - 1993)

**COMMUNITY
ACTIVITIES**

**Boy Scouts of America, Division Chairman, Prairielands
Council 1991-1994, Silver Beaver Award 1996**

**McKinley Family YMCA, Board of Directors 1978-1984
President, 1981**

**Champaign County YMCA Foundation, Member Board of
Directors, September, 2004 to present.**

**Trustee, St. Patrick's Catholic Church 1999 – 2002; Member,
Second Century Planning Committee, April 2005 to present.**

**Champaign-Urbana Little League, Coach and Umpire,
1974 - 1999.**

**Member, Citizens Committee to Restore the Clock and Bell
Tower at the Champaign County Courthouse, February 2001
to present. Many presentations regarding the history and
beautification of the courthouse.**

**Co-Chair of Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation
capital campaign to construct a new office in Champaign,
Illinois to provide civil and transactional legal services to
indigent members of the community.**

**Member: University of Illinois Lincoln Bi-centennial
Committee 2007 – 2009; Champaign County Lincoln
Bicentennial Commission 2008 – 2010.**

**Member, Board of Directors, Abraham Lincoln Association,
Springfield, Illinois (elected February 12, 2010) 2010 –
present.**