

LAW BOOK CLUB Fall 2019

The LAW book club meets the third Monday of the month at 7pm at Barnes and Noble Book Store 4550 University Avenue, West Des Moines.

The books to be discussed include:

September 16: *To the End and Back* by Hank Puckett

Written by the son of our LAW member and past president, Heidi Puckett. The story of three teenaged boys, Hank and two friends, on a backpacking trip in the Rocky Mountains where they encounter unanticipated hardship and danger is told from Hank's perspective. It is a story of the experience of friendship and adversity in a challenging adventure.

October 21: *Where the Crawdad Sings* by Delia Owens

New York Times: "Bestselling nature writer Delia Owens, a debut novel about an unforgettable young woman making her way alone in the wilds of North Carolina."

CBS News: "The book is hard to categorize; it's a love story, a murder mystery, a courtroom drama, and an ode to the outdoors..." Reese Witherspoon: "With a jaw-dropping mystery, stunning Southern setting, and endlessly fascinating female heroine at its center, I loved this book..."

November 18: *In the Garden of the Beasts Love, Terror and the American Family* by Erik Larson

"Reads like an elegant thriller"—the *Washington Post*. When President Franklin Roosevelt offered William E. Dodd, history chair at the University of Chicago, (some say having confused him with a Yale professor with the same name) the job of Ambassador to Hitler's Germany, Dodd dreaded the obligations of an ambassadorship. He was getting old though and thought it would give him time to complete writing his book on the antebellum American South. In the non-fiction recounting of the four Dodd's experience, their prejudice and naïve preconceptions are exposed. When looking for housing they did not wonder why so many grand old mansions were available for lease fully and luxuriously furnished. In a direct quote of Dodd's to President Roosevelt: "Give men a chance to try their schemes." Erik Larson is the author of *Devil in the White City* and *Dead Wake*.

December 16: *Paper Gods* by Goldie Taylor

Macmillan website: "The mayor of Atlanta and a washed up reporter investigate a series of assassinations, and uncover a conspiracy that reaches into the heart of the city's political machine." The paper gods are pieces of origami that turn up after each murder.

January 20 (2020) : *Beginnings: The Homeward Journey of Donovan Manypenny* by Thomas Peacock

Donovan is an Ojibwe Indian who from ten years old is raised in the Wisconsin foster care system. At age 53 he begins to wonder about his culture and language. He follows the route of the Ojibwe migration to the Red Cliff Reservation in Bayfield, Wisconsin, where he finds his identity and relatives.



THE BRIEF

FALL 2019

2019-2020 LAW Board of Directors

President:
Ellen Hansing

President-Elect:
Barb Worton

VP for Membership:
Liz Brennan

Secretary:
Heidi Puckett

Treasurer:
Denise McAfee

Courtesy/Historian:
Darlene Brickman

Hospitality/Program:
Rita Pray
Juli Margolin

May Annual Dinner:
Jodi James
April Poulsen

Nominating:
Val Witt

Scholarship:
Liz Hodgson

Service Project/Targeted Needs:
Kathy Poetting
Marti Marvin

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ninety-seven years and counting! I am excited and honored to serve as LAW's President -- made possible by your encouragement and support.

It is difficult to believe that it has been 19 years since I last held the office. LAW has evolved and become more streamlined while still maintaining its commitment to philanthropy for women, children, and families. Equally as important are the friendships, old and new, that flourish and make our organization truly special.

Kids First Law Center is our philanthropic recipient for the second year. It strives to give children a voice in divorce, custody, and other conflicts by focusing on conflict-resolution and changing patterns of behavior. If needed, free or low-cost legal representation is also provided.

Please renew your membership quickly as the September dinner meeting is approaching. New members are always welcome. See enclosed insert "Membership Renewal Form".

Last, thank you for your continued support of LAW and its philanthropic efforts.

— *Ellen Hansing*

2019-2020 LAW President

MEETING CALENDAR/HIGHLIGHTS FALL 2019

From Program/Hospitality (Rita Pray)

See enclosed insert "FALL 2019-2020 MEETINGS" for complete calendar of events.

Thursday, September 5, 6:30 p.m.

The Urban Cellar Wine Bar, Grille and Market 640 South 50th, Suite 2110, WDM 50265

We will kick off our 2019-2020 LAW year by returning to the Urban Cellar, this time for a cooking class with instructor Doris Gorius. She will teach us about "grazing boards", which are great for tailgating and casual entertaining.

*What's a grazing board? We start with **Charcuterie** [shahr-koo-tuh-ree], which in France is cured or smoked meat such as bacon, ham or salami. We will then build the board with assorted cheeses soft to hard, crackers, bread and lots of fun condiments we will make.*

Each person will create their own personal board and we will eat it in class.

Cost per person is \$35.00, which includes the cooking class and all food, plus water/tea.

Wine, beer or mixed drinks may be purchased separately to enjoy during class.

Thursday, October 3 7:00 p.m.

Iowa Legal Aid, 1111 9th Street Suite 230, Des Moines

Iowa Legal Aid is a nonprofit organization providing critical legal assistance to low-income and vulnerable Iowans who have nowhere else to turn. We will hear about their programs and explore ways we can potentially be involved in their mission in the upcoming months and years.

Thursday, November 7, 7:00 p.m.

Des Moines Art Center, 4700 Grand Ave., Des Moines

We will gain culture and artful understanding during a tour of the Des Moines Art Center, led by one of the Art Center staff. Following the tour we will adjourn to Darlene Brickman's home at 333 Tonawanda Dr. for our general meeting and refreshment/social time.

Thursday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.

Annual Holiday Open House Home of President Ellen Hansing 4038 Green View Drive, Urbandale

Don your holiday duds, bring your spouse, and join us for our annual Holiday Open House. Treats will be provided by the LAW Board. This event is guaranteed to get you in the Holiday Spirit!

Courtesy/Historian

Call me—text me—or email me with news so that I can send a card or flowers: 515-402-7633 or darbrick@msn.com. If you take pictures at our LAW meetings or activities, please text or email them to me for inclusion in the scrapbook.

Darlene Brickman

Nominating Update –Val Witt

The Nominating Committee for 2019 -2020 includes Marti Marvin, April Poulsen, and Juli Margolin. These three members, along with President Elect Barb Norton, VP for Membership Liz Brennan and myself will be responsible for proposing the executive board for the year 2020-2021. If you are interested in an executive position, please contact one of the people listed above, or send an email to lawpolkcounty@gmail.com.

Service Project / Targeted Needs

Kathy Poetting and Marti Marvin

See enclosed insert "WISH LIST for KIDS FIRST!" for items to donate to support its mission.

LAW will continue to partner with Kids First, a nonprofit organization with two missions:

- ◆ Provide child advocacy services on a sliding fee scale as court-appointed representatives for children in high conflict divorce situations (about 15% of divorces)
- ◆ Provide free educational workshops for ALL local children of divorcing parents

How LAW can support these missions:

- ⇒ Bring a \$10 gift card for Dairy Queen, Dunkin Donuts, Burger King, Starbucks or Caribou to our September dinner meeting. The gift cards will be used when Kids First attorneys meet with their clients.
- ⇒ Prepare mailing for fundraiser appeal in November
- ⇒ Help with annual fundraising event in January
- ⇒ Help with Saturday morning or after school workshops for children in grades K-12
- ⇒ Help prepare the workshop materials each month
- ⇒ Help with a charitable donation again this year so that we can continue to support them with the quality materials they need for the children and workshops

LAW recently donated \$3,573 to Kids First to be used to buy a good computer and a projector for use in workshops, rolling carts to transport workshop materials and a shredder to maintain client confidentiality.

Kids First has helped over 900 children so far this year and we are happy to have been a small part of that effort. We hope you will join us!

Scholarship – Liz Hodgson

The Cristine Swanson Wilson Memorial Scholarship will be awarded in the spring to a deserving University of Iowa Law School female law student. The scholarship fund is administered by the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. A portion of your annual dues is a tax-deductible donation that supports the scholarship fund, but we welcome all additional donations that keep this scholarship fund growing. Your tax-deductible contributions can be made anytime to LAW of Polk County, Inc. Please contact me if you are interested in being on the committee to select our 2020 recipient. Email me at liz_hodgson@yahoo.com.