LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings and Happy New Year!!

I hope this message finds you well and ready for an exciting and productive new year.

It is a great honor to serve as the 108th President of the Cook County Bar Association ("CCBA"). Formed in 1914, 32 Black attorneys gathered and combined their legal acumen and common interests to oppose racial injustice. Recognizing the need to establish an association that serves the needs of Black legal professionals, the CCBA has remained committed to its mission to oppose injustice and to protect the civic and legal rights of Black Americans.

cont’d p. 2
Throughout its rich history, the CCBA has continued to develop, mentor, and empower some of the nation’s most prominent legal advocates. We have and will continue to answer the call to serve.

As promised, this year we are already, “Lifting as We Climb.” In August, we held a back-to-school drive in partnership with the Cook County Bar Association Foundation, where we collected hundreds of school supplies for children at schools on the south side of Chicago.

As I have stated on multiple occasions: “Lifting as We Climb,” means honoring our Legacy while paying it forward. On November 14, 2022, we held our Annual Judicial Reception where we honored the first two Black women to serve on the Illinois Supreme Court, Justice Lisa Holder-White and Justice Joy Cunningham. Both Justices received the Justice Charles E. Freeman Award. Now, there are THREE Black justices—two of which are Black women—seated on the Illinois Supreme Court at a time in our nation’s history where the civil liberties of Black folks, especially women, are under attack.

We also honored our very own Past President, Judge Arnette Hubbard, with the Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans Award. Judge Hubbard is the first woman to serve as president of CCBA and the first woman to serve as president of the National Bar Association. Without her contributions to our bar and the legal community at-large, I would not be able to serve as the youngest known woman to serve in the official capacity as President of this illustrious organization. It was such an honor to be a part of history as we handed out awards to three trailblazers, who exemplify the hard work that this organization has done to fight for diversity and equity on the bench.
In the first half of the bar year, the bar also did work to “pay it forward.” On November 16, 2022, we hosted our Annual Newly Admitted Student Reception where we congratulated and welcomed new attorneys into our profession. We also provided guidance and insight to recent graduates who are studying for the upcoming bar exam. On December 15, 2022, we hosted our Annual Holiday Fundraiser at Zhou B Art Gallery, where we transformed the gallery into a magnificent Winter Ball and Toy Drive. With the help of our sponsors and your donations, we put on a festive event and collected hundreds of Christmas toys for military and needy families. We are still collecting toys and on January 16, 2023, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we will present more toys to families in need. We are thankful for all your generous donations and commitment to serving those that experienced difficult times during the holiday season.

Service is a heavy lift, but we are just getting started!! Over the next few months, CCBA will be partnering with some of our local colleges and law schools to provide mentorship programs that will prepare the next generation of lawyers and judges. On January 17, 2023, our Lawyers in the Community Committee will be hosting a virtual panel and networking event in conjunction with UIC School of Law titled: “Navigating your Legal Career.” On February 9, 2023, CCBA will be at Governors State University hosting a panel and networking event, “The Journey to Becoming a Lawyer: Prospective from Black Legal Professions.” It is critical that we expose young adults to the legal profession as quickly as possible because, “you cannot be what you do not see.”

We will also continue to offer continuing legal education (CLE) courses across all practice groups to ensure that our attorneys are well versed in their practice areas. In November of 2022, we partnered with the Haitian American Lawyer Association of Illinois, the National Bar Association, and the Haitian American Museum of Chicago to train our members on how to help migrants complete asylum training. In the spring our “Road to the Robe” panel will provide a roadmap for attorneys interested in ascending to the federal and state judiciary. Our Professional Development Committee will host our Lateral Speed Networking Event for those looking to make their next lateral move in the public or private sector. I hope you will participate as an attendee or potential employer.
Moreover, join us as we will stand on the shoulders of social justice engineers such as Ms. Rosa Parks, the Little Rock Nine, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Attorney Thurgood Marshall, and many other advocates by continuing to work tirelessly to eradicate injustice and promote diversity and equity in every area of our profession and throughout the world. I look forward to seeing all of you at our next membership meeting on February 3, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

In the meantime, please remember to renew your membership dues at: www.cookcountybar.org, attend our committee meetings and volunteer to assist with our many educational and community outreach efforts. History has proven that we are more powerful as a unified force, so let’s work together to “Lift as We Climb”!

Respectfully,

Natasha E. Jenkins

108th President
Cook County Bar Association
By Legislative Committee Co-Chairs Louis Raymond and Pamela Saindon

The 102nd General Assembly is coming to a close as Governor Pritzker and the incoming constitutional officers swear in on Monday, January 9, 2023, with many of the festivities starting Sunday, January 8, 2023. Illinois Governor JB Pritzker Inauguration 2023, [https://ilinauguration23.com/schedule](https://ilinauguration23.com/schedule), last visited January 5, 2023. The legislators swear-in on Wednesday, January 11, 2023. Prior to the beginning of the 103rd General Assembly on January 11, the House and Senate headed back to Springfield on Wednesday for a Lame Duck Session (January 4-10). Although the legislative agenda is expected to be small, one piece of legislation that is sure to garner some attention is Rep. Bob Morgan (D-Highland Park) HB 5855, which addresses an assault weapons ban.

January 1, 2023, ushered in many Public Acts. The Safe-T Act, which was geared to start on January 1, has been halted by the Illinois Supreme Court. The court issued an order Saturday evening staying the elimination of cash bail until further notice "in order to maintain consistent pretrial procedures throughout Illinois" as the state appeals a judge's ruling on the matter. On December 28, 2022, Kankakee Circuit Judge Thomas Cunnington ruled that bail reform and pre-trial release provisions in the Pre-Trial Fairness Act are unconstitutional.


January 1, 2023, also ushered in the CROWN Act. The CROWN Act codifies protections for individuals discriminated against due to their hairstyles. The CROWN Act, which stands for Create a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair, categorizes traits such as hair texture or protective styling as race-based and therefore protected under bans against racial discrimination. In 2021, Governor Pritzker signed the Jett Hawkins Act, which banned hairstyle discrimination in Illinois schools. The CROWN Act, introduced by Majority Caucus Chair Mattie Hunter (D-Chicago) expands these protections to other covered situations under the Illinois Human Rights Act, including employment, housing, financial transactions, and public accommodations. Illinois is one of only a handful of states to pass the CROWN Act, a national version of which passed the U.S. House of Representatives but has failed to advance in the U.S. Senate. The law also expands and clarifies the definition of race to include traits commonly associated with a race, including but not limited to these hairstyles and textures.

In the past, negative perceptions of hairstyles such as dreadlocks, twists, and braids, traditionally worn by the African American, resulted in unjust discrimination across industries. These hairstyles have a rich historical significance in the Black community and often serve as a way of protecting or comfortably tying back hair. “Black hair is beautiful, in or out of the workplace, and no one should be allowed to weaponize hairstyles to
demean or discriminate,” said Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton. “The implementation of the CROWN Act has been a long time coming, and I am confident that this legislation will protect Black people from petty discrimination because of their hair,” said Majority Caucus Chair Mattie Hunter (D-Chicago).

“For far too long, individuals – particularly in the Black community – have been targeted and discriminated against for having their hair in dreadlocks or other protective styles,” Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth (D-Peoria) said.

“Today, Illinois is choosing to be a leader in stopping this prejudice behavior and ensuring that workers can no longer be discriminated against for hair traits historically associated with race.”

Studies have found that Black women are 1.5 times more likely than their counterparts to be sent home from work because of their hairstyle and are 80% more likely to change their natural hair texture or style to conform to expectations at work. Dove, The Crown Act, https://www.dove.com/us/en/stories/campaigns/the-crown-act.html#:~:text=A%20Black%20woman%20is%20more%20likely%20to,home%20from%20the%20workplace%20because%20of%20her%20hair%20C2%20B9, last visited January 5, 2023. The American Bar Association reports children as young as six facing disciplinary action for their hairstyles. Jett Hawkins, the namesake of Illinois’s original bill protecting against discrimination in schools, was only four years old when his school cited him for being out of dress code for having his hair in braids.

January 1 also creates a task force that will examine "the systemic causes behind violence that Chicago women and girls experience." At least 50 women have been reported missing or murdered in Chicago with little to no answers for their families. Block Club Chicago, Jamie Nesbitt Golden, https://blockclubchicago.org/2021/06/22/in-bronzeville-the-we-walk-for-them-march-calls-for-justice-in-cases-of-missing-murdered-black-women, last updated June 22, 2021. To address this issue, Sen. Hunter (D-Chicago) championed a new law to create the Task Force on Missing and Murdered Chicago Women. The task force will examine and report on the systemic causes behind violence that Chicago women and girls experience. “The loss of these women was not just felt by their families, but the Chicago community as a whole,” said Hunter (D-Chicago). “That loss is intensified when the family is left with no justice, which is why a task force is necessary to gain some sense of accountability.”

The task force’s report will explore methods for tracking and collecting data on violence against Chicago women and girls, policies and institutions that impact violence against them, measures necessary to address and reduce violence against them, and ways to help victims, their families, and their communities. The first report is due on December 31, 2024. The task force will work to compile data surrounding many of these crimes and will be required to report its findings to the General Assembly and the governor.

Another Task force that Sen. Hunter (D-Chicago) help to create for the new year is the Real Estate Valuation Task Force. The task force aims to combat discrimination in the housing industry. “Black people
Consumers will be most interested in knowing that the six-month pause on a scheduled gas tax increase in Illinois ended New Year’s Day, albeit, multiple pieces of legislation introduced in the General Assembly could counter the hike. The pause stopped a 2.2-cent per gallon increase originally slated for last July 1 when the tax was set to rise to 41.4 cents per gallon according to the state budget. However, this tax was paused until the new year, along with the halt of the 1% grocery tax, in an attempt to combat inflation concerns. The increase in the gas tax is scheduled each year for July and is tied to annual inflation calculated by the Department of Labor. The Consumer Price Index for 2022 was 8.2%, making for an increase of approximately 3.1 cents per gallon and 42.4 cents per gallon overall. Thus, there are two increases this year. Only California has a higher gas tax than Illinois.

Almost two hundred (200) laws went into effect on January 1, 2023. Here are additional resources for all the Public Acts that took effect:

ILGA Report
Illinois Senate Democrats Report

Both the Illinois House and Senate of the 103rd General assembly have released their calendar for the upcoming legislative season. See https://ilga.gov/house/schedules/2023_SPRING_SESSION_CALENDAR.pdf and https://ilga.gov/senate/schedules/2023_Spring_Session.pdf. After the upcoming festivities have concluded, the next important date is February 15, 2023. This is the scheduled date for the Governor to present his State of the State and Budget Address.

On the same day, the Black Caucus Foundation (ILBF) is scheduled to host their annual Black Soire. Every year, the ILBCF honor African American leaders from the past who have made an impact on our community. The Foundation will be celebrating its 21st year (founded in 2002) with the purpose of providing a forum for nonpartisan educational research, public policy development, and the analysis of various issues of social and economic importance for Illinois African American communities. In 21 years, the foundation has given over $1,000,000 in scholarships and recently introduced a four-pillar blueprint to end systematic racism.
On September 22, 2022, the CCBA Mental Health Committee hosted a CLE titled, “Paths To A Common Goal: A Discussion on Access To Mental Health Services In The Court System,” with the Honorable Nichole Patton and Jill Marisie. Judges Patton and Marisie shared their valuable insights into their respective mental health courtrooms. Judge Patton currently sits on the bench in civil mental health court and routinely presides over cases with the goal of helping individuals get much-needed mental health assistance through commitment hearings and hearings for involuntary administration of medication. Conversely, Judge Marisie currently presides over the mental health court program that serves as an alternative option to the traditional criminal justice path. Oftentimes, many people are unaware that there are options for obtaining mental health assistance and Judges Patton and Marisie offered their indispensable advice and guidance on how to take advantage of the programs in their respective courtrooms, how successful outcomes can be achieved, and how these different paths have worked to keep multitudes of people with mental health diagnoses from falling through the cracks of the criminal justice system or otherwise succumbing to their symptoms that may get worse without intervention. The panel was very well-received by attendees and many thanked the Judges for taking the time to share their experiences and wisdom. We are very fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend some time with Judges Patton and Marisie to discuss this very important topic!

On October 27, 2022, the CCBA Mental Health Committee also hosted, “Perspectives of Civil & Criminal Mental Health Attorneys.” The panelists were Assistant State’s Attorney (ASA) Michelle Luburic and Assistant Public Defender (APD) Silvana Santilli. ASA Luburic currently serves in the Cook County Mental Health Court that handles civil commitment and treatment proceedings, while APD Santilli advocates for her clients in the criminal court mental health diversion program. Both ASA Luburic and APD Santilli shared information on how the mental health programs in their respective courtrooms operate, what standards are used to determine who is eligible for assistance, and what kinds of outcomes can be achieved through successful mental health court interventions. Their insights were significantly valuable as ASA Luburic and APD Santilli routinely work on the front lines, helping those most in need get the help and assistance they need to avoid criminal prosecution or otherwise permitting their mental health symptoms worsen. The work that both ASA Luburic and APD Santilli do remain indispensable in our community’s fight to spread awareness of mental health resources and options, remove the stigma associated with obtaining mental health assistance, and improving overall outcomes. The Mental Health Committee is extremely thankful for ASA Luburic’s and APD Santilli’s willingness to lead the charge and share their insights with our membership.

Domestic Relations
The Cook County Bar Association and the South Suburban Bar Association hosted a program titled "Appearing Before Hearing Officers in Domestic Relations Matters" on Wednesday, August 24, 2022. The program was presented by the Honorable Lionel Jean-Baptiste, Honorable Fredrick H. Bates, Honorable Erika Orr, and Hearing Officer Bob Stokas.

Pretrial Fairness Act
The Cook County Bar Association and the National Lawyers Guild-Chicago hosted a program titled "A Roundtable Discussion on the Pretrial Fairness Act" on Wednesday, October 26, 2022. The program was moderated by Criminal Defense Attorney Shay Allen and had a panel of speakers including Cook County Public Defender Sharone Mitchell, Policy Analyst Briana Payton, and Policy Manager Madeleine Behr.

Asylum Advocacy
The Haitian American Lawyers Association of Illinois, the Cook County Bar Association, the National Bar Association Region VII, and the Haitian American Museum of Chicago hosted a program titled "Asylum 101 Training" on Wednesday, November 2, 2022. The speaker for the program, Anastasie Sénat, discussed how individuals can help migrant’s complete asylum applications.
CCBA AROUND TOWN

South Suburban Membership & Networking Reception

South Suburban Membership & Networking Reception
South Suburban Membership & Networking Reception
Newly Admitted Lawyers Reception
The Cook County Bar Association ("CCBA") Membership Drive commenced on Thursday, September 8, 2022. During the drive, attendees learned more about the Bar Association and its various committee opportunities. The attendees that joined or renewed their Bar membership received "CCBA Swag" and a prize was given to the member who brought the most guests. A special thank you to Lynn Watkins, Jr. and ArentFox Schiff for hosting this event.
The Cook County Bar Association, The Illinois Judicial Council, The Black Women Lawyers’ Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., and The Black Men Lawyers’ Association co-hosted the Joint Dinner on Thursday, November 3, 2022, at Row 24. Illinois Appellate Court Justice Cynthia Cobbs was awarded the Trailblazer Award.
The Cook County Bar Association hosted Judges' Night on November 16, 2022, at the Fremont Chicago. Justice Joy V. Cunningham and Justice Lisa Holder White received the Justice Charles Freeman Award. Justice Holder White was sworn in on July 7, 2022, and Justice Cunningham was sworn in on December 1, 2022, as members of the Illinois Supreme Court. Judge Arnette Hubbard received the Timothy C. Evans Judicial Award. A special thank you to the event sponsors.
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Justice Joy V. Cunningham,
Illinois Supreme Court
The Cook County Bar Association congratulates Justice Joy V. Cunningham on her appointment to the Illinois Supreme Court. Justice Cunningham was sworn in as a member of the Illinois Supreme Court on December 1, 2022. Cook County Bar Association President Natasha Jenkins attended the investiture of Justice Cunningham.

Justice Freddrenna M. Lyle,
Illinois Appellate Court
The Cook County Bar Association congratulates Justice Freddrenna M. Lyle on her appointment to the Illinois Appellate Court. Justice Lyle was sworn in as a member of the Illinois Appellate Court on December 2, 2022. President Natasha Jenkins delivered a speech at the investiture of Justice Lyle.
Cook County Bar Association's

Winter Ball

Coordinated by Winter Ball Co-Chairs
Femi Masha and Alexzandria Johnson
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School Supply Drive
By Vice President of Education and Information Antonio Lee


Common supplies such folders, notebooks, crayons, pencils, and pens are still in great demand for students. The Cook County Bar Association, in conjunction with the Cook County Bar Association Foundation, created a School Supply Drive to assist families in need with back-to-school shopping for school supplies. All supplies were collected during a series of Cook County Bar Association events, including the 33rd African Festival of the Arts at Washington Park on September 4th, General Membership Meeting on September 8th, and South Suburban Membership Meeting on October 6th.

These proactive measures garnered hundreds of supplies to be used by students, including backpacks, calculators, notebooks, glue, binders, and much more. On October 8, 2022, President Jenkins, Vice President Lee, and Executive Director Cordelia Brown visited Calumet Elementary School to donate supplies and connect with students and teachers about their current educational needs. We will continue to press forward to ensure students of color are well-equipped with necessary tools to counter the negative effects in education caused by the pandemic.
Lawyers in the Community Committee's Thanksgiving Food Drive

The month of November symbolizes a time for thanksgiving and serving others. The act of giving back to the community during the holiday season helps those struggling in our society and aligns with President Jenkins' Bar year theme of “Lifting As We Climb, Together We Rise”. In the spirit of the theme, the Cook County Bar Association’s Lawyers in the Community Committee in partnership with the Midwestern Region of the Black Law Students Association (“MWBLSA”) held a Thanksgiving food drive to collect food for law students in need and local food pantries, including the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law's student pantry, DePaul University's School of Law's student pantry, and Chicago Lights, a non-profit organization. The food drive was coordinated by Lawyers in the Committee co-chairs MeShellai McWilliams and Alexis Carr.

With the help of CCBA members and friends, the committee raised monetary donations and food items, including canned foods, boxed macaroni, boxed mashed potatoes, stuffing mix, and toiletries. After collecting donations, the Committee hosted a Food Drive Wrapping Party on November 19, 2022. Participants wrapped the food donations and fellowshipped with members of CCBA, MWBLSA, and other Chicago BLSA chapters from Chicago-Kent College of law, DePaul University School of Law, Loyola University School of Law, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, and University of Illinois Chicago School of Law. Afterwards, the Committee held a networking event for all wrapping party participants at the Roanoke Bar. Thank you to all the donors and volunteers for helping the Lawyers in the Community Committee fulfill its goal of providing for those in need this holiday season.
Thanksgiving Food Drive
REPARATIONS NOW! BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?
By Vice President of Committee on Committees Nicholas Cummings


Descendants of previously enslaved Africans in the United States (the Americas generally) deserve to be compensated for the atrocities committed against them from the 1400s until the present day. Let’s just get that out of the way. There is no argument grounded in morality or justice to the contrary. But there are many, many hurdles preventing this from happening.

First, we cannot coalesce around a single definition of “reparations.” Webster’s Dictionary defines reparations as “the making of amends for a wrong one has done, by paying money to or otherwise help those who have been wronged. See https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/reparations. This allows for a broad range of options for recompense, but to some, the only thing that matters is money.

Second, despite evidence beyond all doubt of the impact of chattel slavery on our society, no one wants to claim responsibility for the trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. The idea that corporations and families with direct ties to the atrocity are no longer with us permeates our society. Indeed, many Americans whose ancestors were not kidnapped or sold and transported to this hemisphere against their will all deny any culpability, and therefore, feel no obligation to take part in restorative justice.

Yet United States jurisprudence would appear to make it unconstitutional to provide economic justice to descendants of previously enslaved Africans because to do so would not be in harmony with the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution. To grant justice to those folks with derivative claims of harm would be at the expense of everyone else—and that is not “equal protection.”

Third, the United States legal framework—including the political ideologies that help shape it—are built to ensure that the descendants of previously enslaved Africans are unable to achieve equal footing with those who are not descendants. The most liberal United States policy on aiding the previously enslaved was to eliminate and invalidate legal causes of discrimination. At no point has policy been to provide real justice for those suffering because of that discrimination—even the courts have proven hostile (with few exceptions). Policies such as affirmative action and the Civil Rights Acts of 1895, 1964 and 1991 merely made it illegal to do what was previously legal—discriminate based on race or national origin.

This last point should infuriate those of us educated and trained in the law. One of the fundamental principals in the western justice system is to make whole victims of wrongdoing. It is one of the foundations of civil jurisprudence.

The tragedy here isn’t that the American legal system seems juxtaposed to providing justice for those Americans whose skin happens to be darker and whose ancestors were forced to this land; the real tragedy is that slavery isn’t the only atrocity for which those folk deserve justice. If slavery is the “original sin”, Jim Crow, redlining, domestic terrorism based on race, etc. are all flashpoints in history the United States can pick from and atone for. At the very least, if the United States government was not complicit in the acts, it was deliberately indifferent.

Based on the either implicit acts or deliberate indifference on the part of the United States and its various political subdivisions, reparations are in order for at least three different time periods:
We have a duty to fight for justice in this arena. Since the courts have failed us, the next battleground lies in the halls of legislatures around the country. State and local governments are already studying and implementing their own reparations initiatives. But none of these bodies politic have the power, authority, and resources to remedy institutional racism quite like the federal government. Accordingly, we must put pressure on our elected representatives in Washington D.C. if we hope to see full justice on behalf of those descendants of slavery, segregation, and discrimination during integration.

Nicholas is the Corporation Counsel/City Attorney for the City of Evanston, the first person of color to serve in the role. Prior to being appointed to his position, Nicholas served as the Deputy City Attorney, where he advised Evanston’s Reparations Subcommittee regarding the legal hurdles facing restorative justice programs.
On September 6, 2022, the Cook County Domestic Violence Division expanded its availability in which one can request an emergency civil order of protection. Victims can now appear in domestic violence court on weekends and overnights during the week to request an emergency order of protection.

This expansion is the result of a committee assembled by Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans in an effort to improve court access for domestic violence victims who may not be able to seek relief during normal business hours. The committee included several attorneys and judges, including Acting Presiding Judge Judith Rice of the Domestic Violence Division and former Presiding Judge Grace Dickler of the Domestic Relations Division.

The procedure for petitioning for an emergency civil order of protection during the expanded hours is slightly different than during normal business hours (Monday – Friday, 8:30a.m. – 4:30p.m., excluding court holidays). Here are some common questions and answers that will assist parties who may need relief from the court during these hours.

Q. What are the expanded hours for domestic violence court?

A. Currently, the expanded hours are Monday – Friday, 9:00 PM – 3:00 AM and Saturday/Sunday, 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

Q. Is the Court in-person or remote?

A. All proceedings during the expanded hours will be remote on Zoom.

Q. What relief can one seek during the expanded hours?

A. Currently, only emergency civil orders of protection are available during the expanded hours. For other relief, such as a stalking no contact order, civil no contact order, workplace protection restraining order or firearms restraining order, one must still pursue that during normal business hours (Monday – Friday, 8:30AM-4:30PM).

Q. During the expanded hours, how does a victim of domestic violence prepare and file the Petition for Order of Protection and how does the Petition then get to the judge who will hear the Petition?

A. For after-hours’ filing, the person seeking the Order of Protection should do the following:


2. Read the information on the home page to understand what information you will need to get the paperwork prepared.

3. After reading all the information on the home page, you can then start preparing the petition for order of protection. To do so, scroll down until you see this:

Click on “Start Program” and this will initiate a process to allow you to input specific information (page by page). This information will then be incorporated into the paperwork for the court and judge.

4. When all the requested fields are complete, you will then submit the information.
First, you should download the forms and review them for accuracy. If you need to make a change, click “Edit Your Answers” and once you update your responses, click “Save Your Answers”. Once all is final and you are ready to proceed to court, click “Email Your Form(s) to the Court/Agency”. You will then be prompted to reenter your email address and click “Send”. This will send the paperwork to a court clerk on duty who will review and file the paperwork and you should receive immediate email confirmation that your forms were submitted.

Once the Clerk has processed the paperwork, typically within the hour, you will receive notification (by email or phone call) from court staff providing you with a time to appear and the Zoom credentials to use so that you can appear before a judge and request the Order of Protection.

If you submit the paperwork during operating hours (M-F, 9pm-3am or Sat/Sun, 1pm-6pm), a judge will be available to hear your case the same day you submit everything.

If you submit outside of these hours, or are unable to attend the Zoom hearing the same day, you will have the following options. Within 48 hours of forms submission:
Contact the Presiding Judge’s Office (312-325-9000) during regular business hours to schedule a hearing - please mention “after-hours” forms submission and have your case number and parties’ names handy.

Or, contact a Connections for Abused Women and Children (CAWC) domestic violence advocate at (773) 278-4566 during expanded hours for assistance in rescheduling your remote hearing during a subsequent after-hours session.

5. At the time provided, sign on using the Zoom credentials you were provided. This will take you before the judge on duty who will then hear the Petition for Order of Protection.

Q. What if I am unable to access the internet or cannot fill out the forms correctly online?

A. If you are having difficulty getting online or using the system to prepare your paperwork, you can connect with a domestic violence advocate during the expanded hours. The advocates are from CAWC and can be reached at (773) 278-4566. The advocate on duty will work with you to get the matter before the Judge.

Q. What if I need an interpreter? Will one be provided?

A. If an interpreter is required after-hours, the judge on duty will have access to the Language Line, a telephone-based service that can provide a remote interpreter of any language.

Q. Can I obtain a transcript of the proceedings?

A. Yes, all after-hours proceedings will be recorded and later transcribed upon request.

Scott Tzinberg is the principal at the Law Offices of Scott Tzinberg. His firm has been handling family law matters since it’s inception in 1996.
Truck accidents are an ongoing reality on roads and highways throughout the United States, and they cause serious injuries and fatalities with alarming regularity. Heavy vehicles such as semi-trucks, delivery trucks, and 18-wheelers are much more likely to cause devastating damage than typical passenger vehicles when collisions occur. Commercial trucks can weigh up to 20-30 times more than cars, leading to grave consequences when an accident occurs. The injuries that affect people in other vehicles are often severe, if not fatal.

For personal injury lawyers, the potential ramifications of truck accidents can be much greater than those of car accidents, and these cases are often more complex since they may involve multiple parties and corporations that have legal teams on staff. It is important for attorneys to remain vigilant in understanding the dangers present when semi-trucks are involved in an accident and how clients' rights can be protected. As accidents and injuries involving large trucks continue to occur on our nation's roads, this area of personal injury law is more vital than ever.

**Causes of Car Accidents vs. Truck Accidents**

Cases involving collisions between passenger vehicles are often relatively simple since they will typically involve negligence by one or both drivers. There are multiple forms of negligence that may be addressed in these types of accidents, including:

- Traffic violations - Speeding, running red lights, tailgating, illegal passing, and other types of violations often play a role in car accidents. These violations can affect a person's ability to remain in control of their vehicle and avoid a collision. When police determine that a person committed a traffic violation and issue a ticket or citation, the driver who committed the violation may be found to be fully or primarily at fault for an accident, and they may be held financially responsible for losses sustained.

- Distracted driving - The use of cell phones and other electronic devices while behind the wheel is a continuing concern, and despite the known dangers of these activities, many drivers continue to divide their attention between the road and making phone calls or sending text messages. Other distractions can also increase the likelihood of a collision, such as eating, drinking, reaching for objects, turning around to check on children, or adjusting the radio or environmental controls. If it can be established that a driver was distracted at the time of a collision, they will likely be liable for injuries that affected other drivers, passengers, or pedestrians.

- Drunk or intoxicated driving - Alcohol and drugs can affect a person's ability to remain focused on the road and in control of their vehicle. Even if a person is below the legal limit for alcohol, marijuana, or other substances, they may still experience impaired judgment and delayed reaction times. At higher levels of intoxication, drivers may experience vision impairments, balance and coordination issues, and other issues that significantly increase the chances of a dangerous accident. Any driver who operates their vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol may be held liable if an accident occurs due to their negligence.

In contrast, truck accident cases can often be more complex, and there are numerous parties that may potentially be responsible for an accident. Some common causes of truck accidents include:

- Driver fatigue - As truck drivers travel long distances and remain on the road for long periods of time, they may experience drowsiness or fatigue. The trucking industry is tightly regulated by the federal government, and truck drivers must adhere to certain standards when it comes to the number of hours a person can drive in one day and during...
a seven- or eight-day period, as well as the required breaks and rest periods. Failure to follow these regulations can lead to significant safety issues. However, even if drivers abide by the rules for hours of service, they may still experience fatigue due to sleep disorders, the use of prescription drugs or over-the-counter medicines, driving at night, or following irregular schedules. Truck drivers who are drowsy or fatigued are much more likely to make dangerous mistakes, or they may even fall asleep while behind the wheel, which can lead to devastating collisions.

• Traffic violations - Truck drivers may violate a variety of traffic laws, and they often do so in an attempt to deliver cargo more quickly.

• Intoxicated driving - The legal blood alcohol content (BAC) limits are lower for commercial truck drivers than for drivers of other vehicles. In most states, truck drivers may be charged with driving under the influence (DUI) if they have a BAC of .04 percent or higher. Drinking and driving can be especially dangerous for truck drivers, since they are more likely to be involved in accidents that can inflict severe injuries on others. Truck drivers may also become intoxicated by the use of other substances, such as illegal drugs or prescription opioids. In some cases, truck drivers may use stimulants such as methamphetamines or cocaine to stay awake and alert, but the use of these substances is likely to significantly affect their ability to operate their vehicles safely.

• Truck maintenance - If regular inspections are not performed on commercial trucks, or if parts are not repaired or replaced when necessary, important components may fail, leading to a loss of control that may cause a driver to be unable to avoid an accident. Inadequate maintenance may lead to a variety of problems, including brake failure, engine failure, tire blowouts, decoupled trailers, or electrical problems.

• Unsecured cargo - Items that are loaded onto a truck or trailer should be distributed properly to maintain the proper balance for a truck, and they should be secured in place using straps, chains, or other devices. Cargo that has not been loaded or secured properly may shift during transit. This may throw off a truck’s weight distribution, limiting a truck driver’s control of their vehicle. Unsecured items may fall from a truck, and when they land on other cars or create large obstacles in the path of other vehicles, they can result in dangerous accidents and severe injuries.

Pursuing Compensation for Truck Accident Victims

Personal injury attorneys will need to address a variety of complex issues as they pursue compensation for those who have been injured in truck accidents. To ensure that they can establish liability on the part of truck drivers, trucking companies, or other parties, attorneys may need to work with multiple different types of experts, such as accident reconstructionist, trucking industry experts, truck maintenance technicians, and medical professionals. By thoroughly investigating truck accidents and understanding the applicable state and federal laws, attorneys can take steps to ensure that victims receive the fair compensation they deserve for their injuries and damages. I am always happy to answer further questions any of you may have regarding trucking or car accidents. I can be reached at 312-229-0050. Stay safe!

David Kadzai is the founder of The Law Offices of David A. Kadzai, LLC. He practices personal injury law for plaintiffs in the Chicagoland area, representing victims of negligence.
IS A STATUTE OF FRAUDS DEFENSE AVAILABLE FOR A FRAUD CLAIM?
DON’T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER
By Alon Stein

Pleading the action as a “fraud” rather than a “breach of contract” could be an attempt to circumvent the statute of frauds, which is not allowed under Illinois law. See Desnick v. American Broadcasting, 44 F.3d 1345, 1354 (7th Cir. 1995); Sohaey v. Van Cura, 240 Ill. App. 3d 266, 291-92 (2d Dist. 1992).

Thus, not only are breach of contract actions potentially subject to the statute of frauds, but if the underlying basis for the claim is contractual in nature, such claims are also subject to the statute of frauds, even if the count is labeled as “fraud”, and not “breach of contract”.

Indeed, “any action, however labeled, that turns on proof of an oral promise”, including, but not limited to “claims for fraud, conversion, criminal mischief, promissory estoppel, and tortious interference with contractual relations” is potentially subject to a statute of frauds defense. See Skywalker Communications of Indiana, Inc., 333 F.3d at 832. See also Geske v. Geske, 343 Ill. App. 3d 881, 886 (1st Dist. 2003) (applying statute of frauds to an unjust enrichment claim); Cohn, 233 Ill. App. 3d at 844 (applying statute of frauds to dismiss a promissory estoppel claim).

In sum, don’t judge a book by its cover. Just because a claim is labeled “fraud”, does not make the claim a fraud claim. Look at the substance of the claim and if that claim is really a breach of an oral contract disguised as a fraud claim, consider whether the statute of frauds bars the claim.

Alon Stein is the founder of Stein Law Offices in Northbrook, Illinois, and a commercial litigator. Stein Law Offices is a full service law firm representing businesses in the Chicagoland area and in Wisconsin. Alon Stein is also Of Counsel to Miller Berger, LLC in downtown Chicago.
COOK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
NIGHT AT THE DUSBABLE MUSEUM
AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
FEBRUARY 02, 2023
6:00 PM
Guest Speaker:
Perri Irmer, President and CEO
Ames Auditorium
740 E 56th Pl
Chicago, IL 60637

Please RSVP BY February 01, 2023 4:00 pm
https://www.ticketfalcon.com/e/generalmembership/
The Journey to Becoming a Lawyer
Perspectives from Black Legal Professionals

February 9, 2023
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Engbretson Hall, Governors State University
also transmitted via YouTube livestream

Network and gain valuable insight from experienced legal professionals about pursuing a legal career. This panel will address the vast opportunities, strategies, and career paths of legal professionals.

Ivy Djahouri
Extern at IL. Supreme Court

Keenan Sautter
Principal of Sautter Law P.C.

Lori Roper
Cook County Public Defender's Office

Lynn J. Watkins
Partner at ArentFox Schiff LLP

Moderated by:
Justice Carl A. Walker
1st District IL. Court of Appeals

Governors State University

Guest Speaker:
State's Attorney
Kimberly M. Foxx
Save the Date of
Tuesday, February 28, 2023
Loyola Law School – 5:30 p.m.
Awarding $5,000 scholarships
(How many is dependent on amount raised)
and
CCBA membership dues awards
(unlimited)

Contributions to Scholarship Fund (which are 100% tax
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For More Information Please Contact
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[https://cookcountybar.org/committees](https://cookcountybar.org/committees)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Chair/Co-Chairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Nicholas Cummings, Jerrod Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criminal Section</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family Law Committee</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Firm/In-House Committee</strong></td>
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</tr>
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<td><strong>Job Fair Committee</strong></td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Newsletter Committee</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Law Day Committee</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Young Lawyers Section</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New Home Committee</strong></td>
<td>Ted London</td>
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