

## **ABOTA AND THE JUDICIARY**

ABOTA has a long standing commitment to the support and defense of members of the judiciary who have been unfairly criticized or wrongly accused of misconduct. Judges are generally discouraged or prohibited from responding to criticism of their rulings and as a result they are vulnerable to false allegations they cannot answer. In such situations, ABOTA has often publicly defended members of the judiciary who are the targets of unfair criticism. The Illinois Chapter has several times risen to the defense of sitting Illinois judges and has a protocol in place to determine whether and by what means to do so.

Over the years, the Illinois Chapter has given public recognition to judges of outstanding reputation and ability. Since the chapter membership is comprised of both plaintiff and defense attorneys, judges who have been named as Judge of the Year or who were recognized for their lifetime career achievements have been honored by a truly representative cross section of the trial bar.

Past honorees include, current Cook County Chief Judge Timothy Evans, former Cook County Chief Judge Donald O'Connell, Judge William Maddux, Presiding Judge of the Law Division of Cook County, Cook County Judges Donald O'Brien, Walter Kowalski, Judith Cohen, James Quinlan, Kenneth Gillis and Stuart Nudelman. The chapter has also honored members of the Illinois Supreme Court, Justice Mary Ann McMorrow, current Chief Justice Thomas R. Fitzgerald, Justice Anne Burke and most recently, Justice Robert Thomas.