

Interacting with the Press



**CHRISTA COFFEY
KATHRYN DOLAN
KELLY LUCAS
JERRY NOBLE**

JULY 2014

Clerk Coffey



- Cases are initiated in the Clerk's Office, and we try to identify cases that will be of local interest
- Staff training on confidential vs public records
- Provide copies of records in high profile court cases (Purdue shooting) to local, state and national media
- Legislative changes that impact Courts and attorneys
- Elections and related issues are covered extensively by local media

PIO Dolan



- **Promote the work of judicial branch**
- **Field local, state and national media calls**
- **Serve as spokesperson for Supreme Court & Agencies**
- **Write and distribute press releases**
- **Conduct outreach and education**
- **Consult on high profile cases in trial court**

Editor Lucas



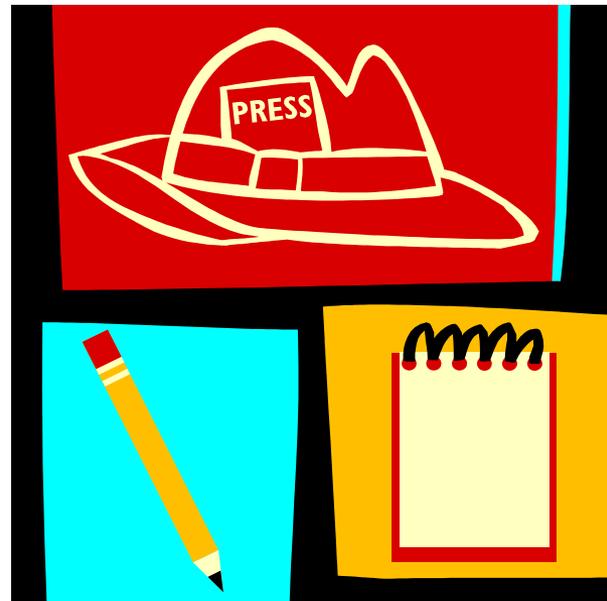
- Edit all news stories/regular features in *Indiana Lawyer*, *IL* website, *IL Daily* email, and other digital publications
- Work with editorial staff to define content for print and digital publications
- Schedule *IL* columnists and guest contributors
- Post and manage digital content on TheIndianaLawyer.com
- Represent *IL* at legal industry events
- Plan and promote IL Leadership in Law Awards and other special events and supplements
- Welcome feedback on published stories and future story ideas

Administrator Noble



- Long-time Allen County Court Administrator
- Works w/ Judges and Clerks
- Court Management
- Handled media during high profile Bisard case

What Info Reporters Want



Tips from the media



- You can anticipate and be prepared

THE INDIANA LAWYER .COM

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO

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HOME NEWS IN THIS ISSUE BLOGS BAR ASSOCS. CORP. COUNSEL ON THE MOVE COURT CALENDAR

ILNEWS

Lucas: Ever wonder 'What do reporters really want?'

Kelly Lucas June 10, 2013 KEYWORDS EDITOR'S PERSPECTIVE, OPINION, VIEWPOINT

COMMENTS E-MAIL PRINT SHARE

RELATED NEWS AND OPINION

- Lucas: Our current gun control approach is not working
- Lucas: Ever wonder 'What do reporters really want?'
- Lucas: 2013 Leadership in Law Award winners revealed
- Lucas: Had a tough day? Escape to the movies!
- Lucas: Dedication of clerks leads to smooth elections

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2014 CIVIL RIGHTS GUIDE

Support local not-for-profits

Learn how in

I receive a lot of legal news emails. I'm sure many *Indiana Lawyer* readers can relate. (At minimum you receive the *IL daily*, correct?)

So, one day, while moving rather rapidly through the emails that had accumulated in my inbox, I came across a headline in "Above the Law" that read: "5 Things Reporters Don't Want to Hear From You." I had to read it. The feeling was similar to the one I have when I come across an article by a man explaining what women really want.

I must admit that the authors – Marge Zable Fisher, a public relations firm owner from Florida, and Barbara Rozgonyi, a media consultant from Chicago – made some solid points. It is understandable that lawyers and other business people are sometimes hesitant to answer calls from reporters, and these women explain how to efficiently and effectively make doing so a positive experience for both parties.

The authors detailed five things reporters don't want and five things they do. Based on my professional experience, I'd edit a few of their suggestions, but every reporter and every experience is unique. Some are common sense, but I considered them worth sharing.

They started with what reporters don't want to hear.

No. 1: Self-promotion. That is accurate. The reporter would not likely be contacting you if he didn't consider you credible, and on this day he is seeking your insights and expertise on a particular topic.

No. 2: Apathy or neutral positioning. If you're not going to "take a stand" while talking with a reporter, the authors say, you may as well not talk with them at all. Their point is that the more opinionated you are, the more likely you are to get quoted. I agree that the better the quote, the more likely it will be used. I disagree with the notion that you

Interacting with the Judge



Everybody has a boss



- “Mom, you are not in charge of the whole world.”
- “Nope, I’m not. But guess what? I am in charge of you!”

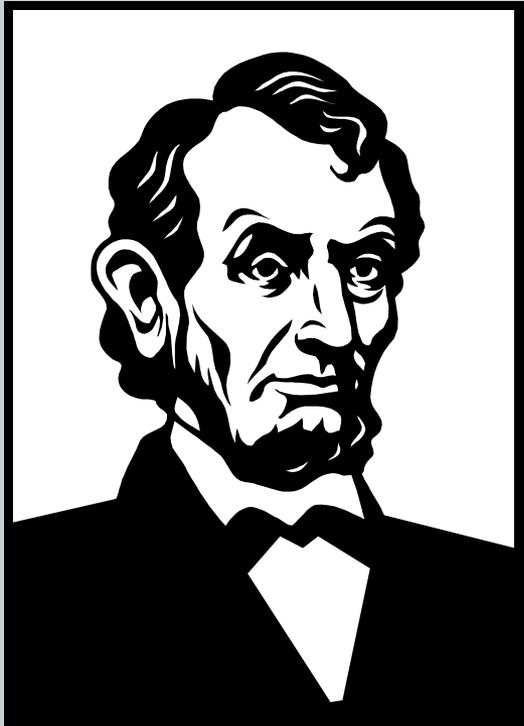


What is the concern?



The trouble with quotes on the Internet is that you never know if they are genuine.”

-Abraham Lincoln



What to discuss with the judge

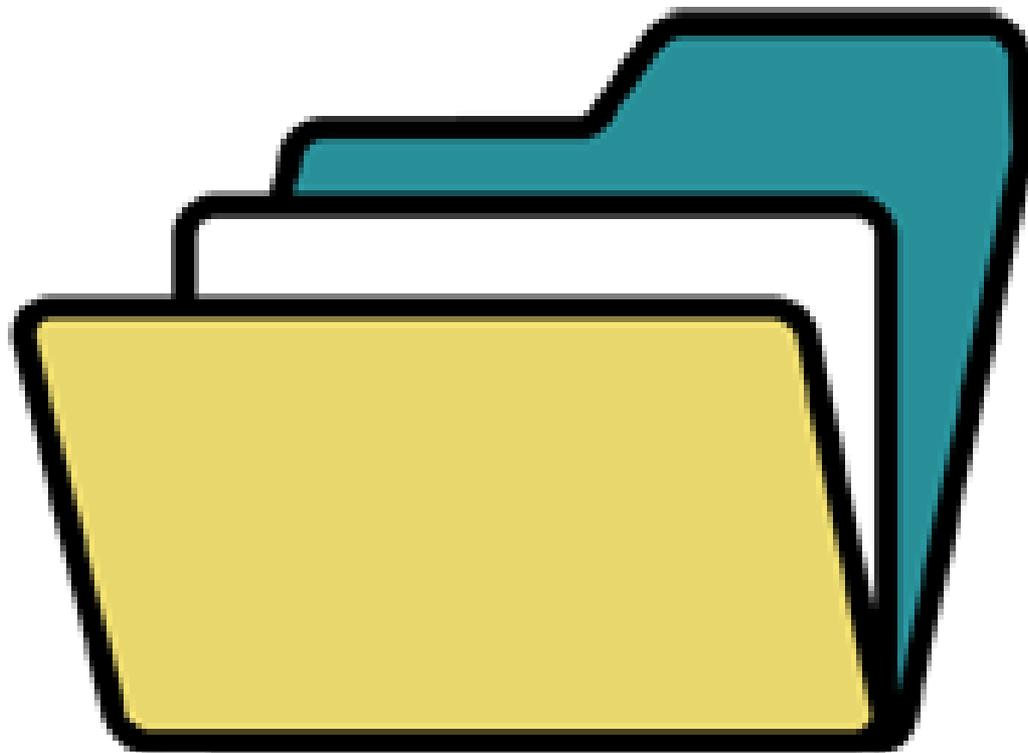


- Set a meeting NOW
- Prepare an agenda with questions
- “Regular” media calls
- Press in the office
- Documents
- Request for an interview
- Social media rules
- Get clear guidance

Managing Everyday Moments



ACCESS TO COURT RECORDS



What You Need To Know

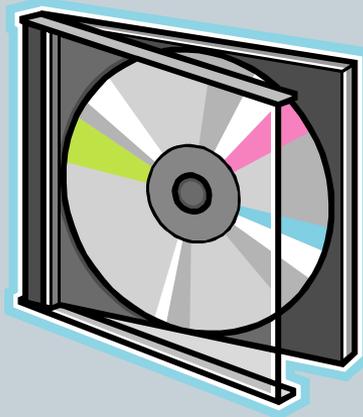


- **What a reporter can/cannot have**
- **How much you charge**
- **Where to send the reporter**
- **Online options**
- **Special attention to audio recordings**

Audio & Video Recordings



- AR 9 (D)
- “...regardless of the manner of creation, method of collection, form of storage, form in which the record is maintained.”



Audio & Video Recordings



- Judges must balance AR 9 & Code of Conduct
- “...manage access to audio and video recordings of proceedings...to comply with Code of Conduct, Rule 2.17.”
- “This provision does not operate to deny...access.”

Remote Access



- AR 9 (C) (7)
- “...to inspect and copy information in ...electronic form through electronic means.”



Attorney/Judicial Discipline Cases



- **Complaints are confidential**
- **Charges filed are public**
- **Hearings are public**
- **Records are public**
- **Follow the case through the docket**

Info that can be managed



Indiana Courts @incourts

26 Mar

Today (approx 10:30 am) the Court will hand down 49 S 00 1203 PL 172 also known as "school voucher" case.

Expand



Indiana Courts @incourts

26 Mar

5-0 opinion in "school voucher" case. Program within Legislature power, does not violate constitution
[in.gov/activecalendar...](#)

Expand

Social media in the courtroom



Interacting with the Media



Problems With “No Comment”



- **Suspicious**
- **Not helpful**
- **Does not advance your message**

Assume the following...



- 1.** You are being recorded and photographed the moment you see the reporter until they leave
- 2.** Newspaper reporters may get video, tv reporters may print your answers verbatim
- 3.** Everything is “on the record”

Community Relations Committee



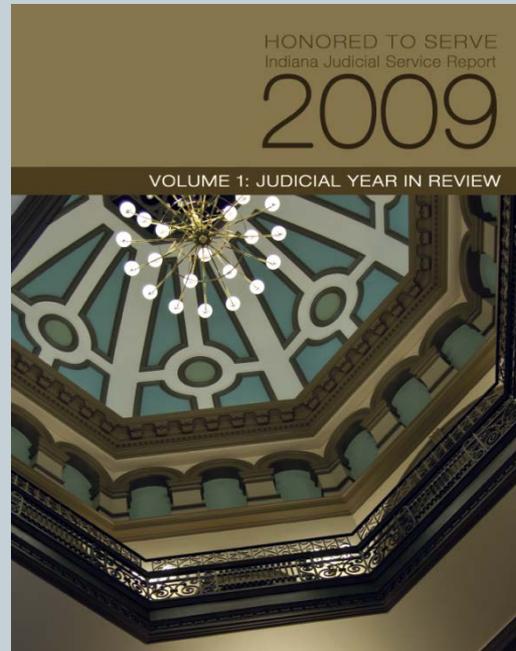
- Law School For Journalists
- Online tool with Bench and Media Guide
courts.in.gov/media
- Fire Brigade



Resources For Reporters



- **Indiana Judicial Service Report**
courts.in.gov/admin/courtmgmt/stats/index.html



Resources For You And Reporters

- **Indiana Court Times**
indianacourts.us/times



- **Court Twitter Page**
twitter.com/incourts



One Page Factsheet



Indiana Supreme Court

The Indiana Supreme Court is the state's highest court. It was established in 1816. There are 5 members; Chief Justice Brent Dickson, Justice Robert Rucker, Justice Steven David,

Justice Mark Massa and Justice David S. Souter. The Court is appointed on a merit basis.

Cases

- 1.6 million cases were filed
- The Supreme Court was a party in 1,000 cases
- The Court agreed to hear 1,000 cases

Oral Arguments

- Attorneys from each side
- Each side typically has 20 minutes
- Arguments are open to the public
- After deciding a case, all cases are published

Agencies

- 180 employees work for 8 agencies
 - o Board of Law Examiners
 - o Clerk of the Supreme Court
 - o Commission on Judicial Branch
 - o Discipline
 - o Division of State Court Administration
 - o Indiana Judicial Branch
 - o Judges and Justices

Other Information

- The 5 Justices generally meet in conference
- The Judicial Branch makes recommendations
- The Court posts information on its website

www.courts.in.gov

Division of State Court Administration



The Indiana Supreme Court Division of State Court Administration (STAD) assists the Chief Justice in administering and managing Indiana's judicial system. STAD is responsible for payroll and benefits for judges and prosecutors. It also investigates allegations of judicial misconduct. It publishes the *Judicial Service Report*, *Indiana Probation Report* & *Indiana Judicial Branch Report*.

Responsibilities

- Recommends improvements for the administration of the courts
- Collects casefiled data
- Manages funding for court operations
- Administers grants
- Supports committees and projects specified by statute and court rules

Committees and Commissions

- Commission on Race and Gender Fairness
- Committee on Self-Represented Litigants
- Conference on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO)
- Judicial Nominating Commission
- Judicial Qualifications
- Judicial Technology and Automation Committee
- Public Defender Commission
- Records Management Committee
- Rules Committee
- Strategic Planning Committee

Funding and Grants

- Manages about 23 accounts totaling more than \$130 million
- Administers the \$1.5 million civil legal aid fund
- Distributes \$20 million to counties for criminal pauper defense
- Helps abused and neglected children with grants to Court Appointee
- Distributes court reform grants for improvements and education
- Judicial Technology and Automation (JTAC) grants allow for technology
- Court interpreter grants encourage the use of certified interpreters
- Family court grants allow multiple family disputes to be heard by one judge

All data 2011 estimates
Contact Indiana Supreme Court PIO
bethyn.dobson@courts.in.gov for more info

Indiana Trial Courts



Indiana has about 400 superior, circuit, town, city, and small claims courts. There are approximately 550 judges and magistrates and 5,100 court employees statewide. Most recent data (2011) shows more than 1.6 million new cases were filed in Indiana trial courts.

Civil and Criminal Cases Statewide

- 1,200 jury trials
- 14,000 cases where an interpreter was used
- 150,000 adults and juveniles under probation supervision
- 30,000 mortgage foreclosure filings (31% decrease from 2007)
- 11,000 child in need of services, or CHINS cases

Judges

- Most trial court judges are elected to a 6-year term
- There are non-partisan or appointed judges in St. Joseph, Allen, Lake, and Vanderburgh Counties

Funding

- Cities, towns, townships, counties and the state spent nearly \$393 million to operate the courts
- Filing fees, court costs, user fees and fines generated about \$212 million in revenue

Division of State Court Administration

- Collects workload and financial data on trial court operations
- Assists trial courts with administration and technology improvements
- Provides grants
- Administers payroll

Indiana Judicial Center

- Develops educational sessions for judges, probation officers and court personnel
- Conducts legal research for judges and probation officers
- Supports nearly 30 committees that set policy for the Judicial Conference
- Certifies court alcohol and drug programs and problem-solving courts

All data 2011 estimates
Contact Indiana Supreme Court PIO
bethyn.dobson@courts.in.gov for more info



Court Alcohol and Drug Program

There are 56 Court Alcohol and Drug Programs in Indiana. The programs provide court-ordered services for adult offenders charged with alcohol and drug-related offenses. The programs are certified by the Indiana Judicial Center (IJC), which is a Supreme Court agency. The IJC certifies the programs.



Indiana Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program (JLAP)

JLAP helps judges, attorneys and law students cope with stress. JLAP provides services to improve the quality of their lives or can range from providing information to crisis intervention. JLAP was founded in 1981 by the Indiana State Bar Association and the Indiana Judicial Center.

Administered by JLAP under A & D Rule 31

The Supreme Court guides the programs and the IJC provides administrative support, including all calls and visits to its office

Services include referrals, and support from substance abuse, mental health or other professionals

Programs address depression, suicide, gambling, eating disorders, sexual abuse, dementia, adult attention deficit disorder, grief, stress management and relationship issues

Wide network of peer support simply having lunch with an attorney to becoming a sponsor

To learn more, contact the JLAP office at 317-234-5527

2012 estimates
Director Terry Harrell
tharrell@courts.in.gov for more info

Programs include:
• Referrals and case management
• Probation department or contractor program

Committee (CADPAC)

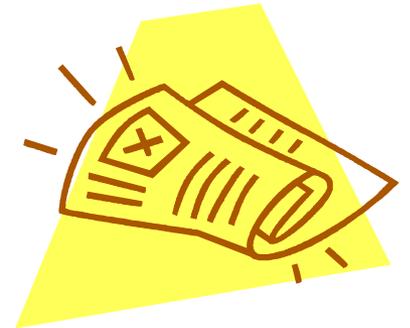
Directors appointed by the Indiana Chief Justice

Programs include:
• 12-23-14 and Judicial Conference Rules
• Substance Abuse Management Specialist (CSAMS)

Programs in 2012

www.courts.in.gov
Judicial Center

Managing High Profile Trials



Do not reinvent the wheel!



Imitation is sincerest form of flattery

How To Prepare



- Request my assistance from Chief Justice
- Draft Decorum Order
- Seating
- Parking
- Bloggers/Reporters/Cameras
- Protecting jurors
- Security
- Obtaining copies of documents
- Getting video/photographs of evidence

Have a plan



- Court Records
- Exhibits



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What you learned



You are ready!



- **Talk to your boss before there is a question**
- **Get clear guidance now**
- **Develop a plan for everyday matters**
- **Consider seeking assistance for high profile cases**