

# Four lawyers capture ISBA election to represent Cook County on board

By Pat Milhizer  
Law Bulletin staff writer

Three Chicago lawyers and a suburban attorney have captured the four open Cook County seats on the Illinois State Bar Association Board of Governors.

The new board members are Western Springs sole practitioner Umberto S. Davi; Christopher T. Hurley of Hurley, McKenna & Mertz P.C.; Stephen M. Komie of Komie & Associates; and John L. Nisivaco of Boudreau & Nisivaco LLC.

Komie won the most votes in the six-way race with 1,100, followed by Davi, Hurley and Nisivaco. Arlington Heights lawyer Martin L. Glink finished fifth and Cook County Associate Judge Patrice Munzel Ball-Reed finished sixth.

The 25-member board of governors is the managing body of the ISBA that takes stances on legislation in the Illinois Statehouse and other issues that affect the court system.

Komie, a criminal defense and family law attorney, said he probably received the most votes because he ran on a platform of asking the Illinois Supreme Court to create one identification card that lawyers can

use to bypass metal detectors and lobby lines in any circuit court in the state. Komie said Cook County lawyers have to wait in line in collar counties such as Will, DuPage and Kane counties.

"When you have a Cook County ID card, they won't let you in the courthouse' without waiting in line, Komie said.

"So when I go to a courthouse out west like Rock Island, I show my Cook County ID and I walk right in. But when you go out to Will County, it's miserable," said Komie, adding that he spent 30 minutes this morning waiting to get into the Will County Courthouse.

Under Komie's proposal, the universal identification would cost \$20 a year.

Hurley, a personal-injury lawyer who represents plaintiffs, said he ran for the board to serve as a voice for judges who are unfairly attacked during election season. Hurley mentioned last year's campaign against Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas L. Kilbride, who won a retention race despite advertisements that essentially accused him of being a friend to criminals.

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"The way certain interest groups attacked Justice Kilbride was despicable," Hurley said. "And I want to help the ISBA continue to stand up for judges when they're attacked unfairly like that."

"If the bar lets the bench get attacked and dragged into the muck the way some of these groups want to do, it's bad for everybody," Hurley said.

Davi said he plans to be a voice for sole practitioners.

"My focus has always been in trying to promote and making sure that the organization is responsive to the needs of those people. We don't have the resources that the big firms got but we are a core group of the lawyers practicing in Illinois," Davi said.

Nisivaco is on trial and couldn't be reached for comment.

All 24 candidates who filed petitions for 26 open seats on the ISBA Assembly in Cook County will start their new roles next month. The board of governors will appoint the remaining two members to the assembly, which has 201 members and is the policy-making arm of the group that takes positions on high-profile issues such as civil unions and the death penalty.

The election results come after the

ISBA used electronic voting for the first time. More members chose to vote online, with 3,565 electronic votes and 379 regular mail votes submitted.

Next month, John G. Locallo of Amari & Locallo becomes the new ISBA president. He replaces Mark D. Hassakis of Hassakis & Hassakis P.C. in Mount Vernon.

John E. Thies of Webber & Thies P.C. is the president-elect and Paula Hudson Holderman of Winston & Strawn LLP is the second vice president.

The election featured no competition for the third vice president, which is the elected position that leads to the presidency. Wheaton lawyer Richard D. Felice steps into that role to become president in 2014.

In addition, Jennifer Walsh Hammer of Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes P.C. in Springfield won the open downstate seat on the board of governors for attorneys who are under 37 years old. She defeated Tara Houseworth Ori, an assistant state's attorney in Lake County.

With about 33,000 members, the ISBA is the largest bar group in the state.

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