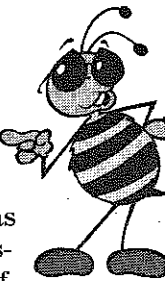


Bar Buzz



Randall bares his mind

Court of Appeals Judge R.A. "Jim" Randall vented his frustration with the Minneapolis Police Department in a 16-page dissent last week in *State v. Thoreson*.



Judge Randall

The defendant was convicted of misdemeanor prostitution after a Hennepin County District Court judge refused to dismiss the case on the ground that police misconduct violated the defendant's due process rights. The Court of Appeals affirmed.

Randall disapproved of the police officer's investigative technique, which was to induce the woman to disrobe completely in the front seat of an unmarked squad car at 38th and Nicollet, thereby assenting to prostitution.

Randall thought the woman didn't commit a crime by taking her clothes off without accepting money for sex. He called the police conduct "somewhat egregious." Arrest her, if you must, but do not "make sport" with her, said the judge.

Randall is no stranger to a well-turned phrase and his dissent can be read in its entirety in this week's Appellate Courts Edition, but is worth a long excerpt here:

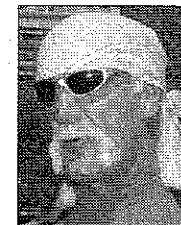
"Respondent argues that asking a strange woman to take off all her clothes and go naked in front of a strange man is a 'legitimate' police tactic. Respondent argues this is so because 'good girls won't do that but bad girls will.' Looking back, at my age, perhaps I did miss part of the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. Maybe there never was a senior prom where, after the midnight close of the official school gym dance, the party continued until the wee hours of the morn-

ing at some neighboring park by a lake where drinking and swimming, bathing suits optional, were varsity sports du jour. Maybe nobody was ever 19, went to college, went to fraternity and sorority parties, and in a large group both male and coed, ceremoniously 'mooned' their school's arch rival football team as it drove into the parking lot or, for that matter, tried to moon their arch rival's entire student body until the college president sent security in. Funny how the memory is affected. Funny how life imitates art."

Bar Buzz salutes Randall's outspokenness on this issue. It's good to get the naked truth from a judge.

Noltingamania

Bar Buzz caught up with Minneapolis attorney Gerry Nolting to ask him how he liked Strib columnist's Katherine Kersten's characterization of him as the Hulk Hogan



Hulk Hogan

of the legal world. Kersten was writing about Nolting's offer to defend the "John Does" named in a civil suit by six imams removed from a plane by Northwest Airlines.

Nolting couldn't talk long because he was on his way to the gym, but said that his colleagues are having a field day with the characterization. We did wrestle out of him the fact that his fellow Faegre lawyers taped a huge photo of Hulk Hogan, with Nolting's head superimposed over it, on Nolting's office door.

After pumping iron, or whatever, Nolting was heading out to shop for a feather boa and a bandana.

Meanwhile, Hulk Hogan had no comment on being compared to Nolting ...

Self-Help Center to get a heroes' welcome

Congrats to the Dakota County Family Court Self-Help Center, the 2006 Recipient of the Dakota County HEROES Award. The award honors collaborative efforts in pursuit of Dakota County's mission of "Efficient, Effective, Responsive Government."

Since 2002, more than 50 attorneys have contributed pro bono support to the self-help center, which is a collaboration supported by Dakota County District Court, Legal Assistance of Dakota County, the Dakota County Law Library and the Dakota County Bar Association.

A celebration is planned to honor the volunteer attorneys who have assisted Dakota County citizens with their family law cases on Wednesday, May 17, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The event will be hosted by John Burns and the Burns Law Office at 14300 Nicollet Court, Suite 200, in Burnsville. After remarks from Judge Edward Lynch at 5 p.m., a commemorative plaque will be presented.

Dorsey, Whitney ... and Finch?

The Minneapolis law firm of Dorsey & Whitney apparently has a flare for the dramatic - in its CLE training, anyway.

The firm this week is presenting ethics and elimination of bias training for its attorneys in collaboration with the Guthrie Theater's Art of Business Institute. The training is anchored in live theatrical performances of scenes from four plays performed on site at Dorsey.

David Goldstein, an attorney and a playwright, leads the classes, which will draw on scenes from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Trial of the Catonsville Nine*, *Diminished Capacity* and *The Trial of One Short-Sighted Black Woman vs. Mammy Louise and*

Safreeta Mae. The scenes will serve as springboards for discussions of issues of bias and ethics.

"Lawyers have relied in the past theater professionals to coach them persuasive speaking and commanding judge or jury's attention. These classes represent a different application using theater to create case studies from which participating lawyers presume to gain a more nuanced understanding of the ethical issues and bias challenges they may encounter on the job," said Dorsey spokesperson Larry Splett.

Bar Buzz trusts that no rabid dog will be shot during the performance. Boo Radley could not be reached for comment.

First Lady can breathe easy now


Just a month after starting a new job as general counsel of the National Arbitration Forum, First Lady and former Dakota County District Court Judge Mary Pawlenty



Mary Pawlenty (AP Photo)

left the position.

The news surfaced while she was at Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly, an employment law seminar last Wednesday to deliver the keynote address. Pawlenty was asked about her GC work - a position she took in January after spending 12 years on the District Court bench.

The First Lady replied that she quit adding merrily, "I'm taking a cleansing breath in my life." 

If you know of an interesting or fun fact happening relating to the Minnesota legal community, please contact associate editor Barbara Jones at (612) 584-1543 or barbara.jones@minnlawyer.com.