

SPOTLIGHT. *on service*

The ISBA Public Relations Committee will be honoring an Iowa attorney or group of attorneys each month in this special feature in *The Iowa Lawyer*. If you would like to nominate someone to be recognized for their work in the community, please contact Melissa Higgins, mhiggins@iowabar.org.



(Left) Some of the book club members pictured during a volunteer meeting in February of 2017. (Right) Some of the book club members are pictured with Judge Donna Paulsen, who was honored with the Willie Glanton Award in March 2017 during a PCWA meeting.

This month, the PR Committee recognizes the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women Book Club, which is run by Central Iowa female attorneys and judges.

In its two and a half years of existence, this book club has met with groups of women inmates at the prison in Mitchellville 60 times, on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The group has supplied more than 900 books to ICIW to be read by book club members and then shared with other offenders to enjoy.

The group got its start after ICIW's then-warden Patti Wachtendorf approached some Polk County judges and asked if they would be willing to help create a book club for offenders who had been requesting a club for some time. After

recruiting and training volunteers and securing donations to purchase the books, the first book club meeting was held April 14, 2015.

"In many ways, it is like any other book club. You can forget where you are when the group is rating the book and sharing insights, personal reflections, what resonated (or not) in each read. However, I am always moved by how grateful many of the ICIW women are to have us there to share the book club with them," said Becky Reif, a book club volunteer and attorney at Ahlers & Cooney, P.C.

The official sponsors of the club are the National Association of Woman Judges, Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys and Polk County Women Attorneys.

2017 Book Club Volunteers

Allyson Aden
Ash Lisa
Vanessa Blanchfield
Caroline Bettis
Shawn Burke
Polly Clark
Judge Susan Cox
Torey Cuellar
Judge Kristine Dreckman
Jill Eimerman
Elizabeth Etchells
Judge Becky Goettsch
Judge Carol Greta
Elena Greenberg
Ashley Hardt
Shannon Hounshell
Amanda James
Karen Karr
Christine Lebron-Dykeman
Kendra Lundquist
Gina Messamer
Amy McCurtain
Shellie Mackel
Colleen MacRae
Donna Miller
Linda Murphy
Liz Overton
Judge Donna Paulsen
Becky Reif
Amber Rutledge
Rachel Scherle
Emily Schirmer
Kristie Stern-Kunstman
MacKenzie Benson Tubbs
Judge Beth Tigges
Judge Mary Tabor
Jennifer Tegeler
Maureen Tobin
Emily Webb
Mallory Weiser

"Read. Travel to
other worlds and
into your own."

*The ICIW Book
Club's Motto*


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