

In the News

In the law firms

Baker & McKenzie LLP has announced its second-best year in revenue for the firm and its third-best year of profits per equity partner.

The law firm's financial results show that its global fee income totaled \$2.11 billion in the 2009 fiscal year that ended on June 30. That amount reflects a 3 percent drop compared to last year, when the firm announced its fourth consecutive year of growth in revenue and net income for the firm.

Profits per equity partner fell by 17 percent, to \$992,000.

The firm said currency exchange rates had a major adverse impact on its final results. Baker & McKenzie has offices in 39 countries but reports its results in U.S. dollars.

"Our 2009 fiscal year coincided with the most severe months in the current global economic downturn — a challenging time for our clients and, therefore, for our firm," Executive Committee Chairman John J. Conroy Jr. said in a prepared statement.

Conroy added that the firm is "focusing on innovations to our business so that we are well positioned in the upturn."

In the bar associations

The Chicago Lawyer Chapter of the American Constitution Society is inviting applicants to join its Board of Directors for 2009-10.

The working board is responsible for planning and executing the Chicago Lawyer Chapter's programs, discussions, the Legal Legends Luncheon and other initiatives throughout the year.

For an application form, which must be submitted by Sept. 8, send an e-mail message to Chicago@ACSLaw.org.

Around town

Mentor training is the topic of a continuing legal education program to be presented by the Illinois State Bar Association from 1:30 to 2:30 on Sept. 3 at 20 S. Clark St., Suite 900.

The program, which is sponsored by the ISBA Standing Committee on Mentoring, is free for current mentors and mentees through the ISBA's MentorCenter and for those who agree to be mentors.

For more information, visit www.isba.org or call (800) 252-8908.

In Circuit Court

The sister of a 39-year-old woman who died allegedly as a result of complications following gastric bypass surgery has settled a medical negligence action against MacNeal Hospital for \$3 million, according to the sister's attorneys.

The plaintiff contended that following Maria E. Bahena's surgery, a leak at the site where the small intestine was sewn was not properly and timely diagnosed, despite signs and symptoms consistent with sepsis, according to James E. Coogan, who along with James G. McCarthy of Dwyer McCarthy & Associates represented the woman's estate.

Bahena eventually underwent emergency exploratory surgery, and surgeons repaired the leak, but she died the next day from peritonitis and multi-system organ failure as the result of sepsis, Coogan said.

Patricia C. Nowak of Dykema, Gossett PLLC represents MacNeal Hospital. She could not immediately be reached for comment.