

February 2017

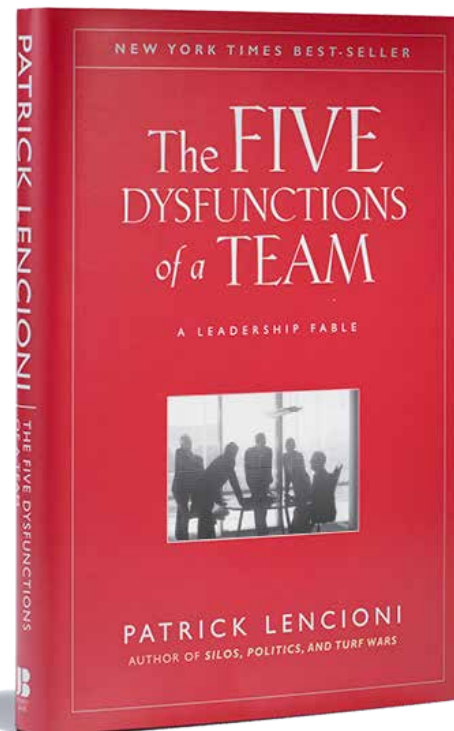
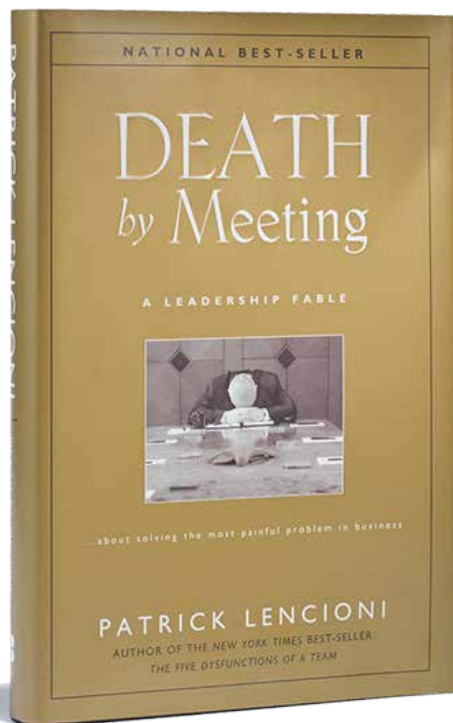


Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

It's everyone's business.

Common Ground

nexus@noon book series



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Guiding Principles

Chambers of Commerce honor and respect **capitalism** and **well-informed private sector job creators** as a central and foundational element of regional and national prosperity. Chambers of Commerce actively facilitate collaboration and open discussion between business and public officials through **education, business advocacy** and **leadership**.

2017 Ambassadors

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David Jones, Scott Credit Union

Angie Lange, Express Employment Professionals

Tim Mahnesmith, Edward Jones Investments

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ceo@edglenchamber.com

Kerry Smith
Membership Director
membership@edglenchamber.com

Kathy Hentz
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office@edglenchamber.com

Vision

The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce will be the preferred provider of watch-dog, education and advocacy services that form a mission-critical catalyst for business success.

Mission

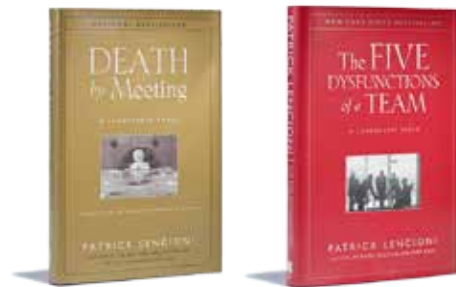
The Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce is a member-driven organization, dedicated to a strong, private sector regional economy.

on the cover

2017 nexus@noon Book Series

There's nothing like a great book, especially one from which you can glean wisdom and readily apply to your work day. Make plans now to join us for the remaining nexus@noon programs!

During these one-hour lunch sessions, hosted on Tuesdays from 12-1pm at Edison's Entertainment Complex, you can be part of a frank discussion on two of best-selling business author Patrick Lencioni's, *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* and *Death by Meeting*. Both are easy reads and filled with gems you and your coworkers/employees can use to make your work life more productive and rewarding. The one-hour session also includes plenty of one-on-one opportunities to forge professional connections. If you're interested in Edwardsville Public Library and Glen Carbon Centennial Library both have the books on hand.



Remaining 2017 programs will be held March 14, May 9, July 11, September 12 and November 14. Cost to attend is only \$10 for lunch, payable directly to Edison's upon arrival. RSVPs are required – please register online at edglenchamber.com. It is not necessary to read these books to attend and participate in the lively discussion.

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TheBANK of Edwardsville
Walgreens
Walmart of Glen Carbon

Bronze Level

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Associated Bank
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Bull & Bear Grill & Bar
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Eden Village Retirement Community
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First Clover Leaf Bank
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Premier Level

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Reed, Armstrong, Mudge & Morrissey, P.C.
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Sugo's Spaghetteria
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Sunset Hills Family Dental
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University Nursing & Rehab Center
US Bank
Vision For Life
Visionary Wealth Advisors
Viviano Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.
Wang Gang Asian

save the date

3/1 Wednesday 8-9am

Chamber Q&A: Maximize
Your Membership
Ed/Glen Chamber Office
1 North Research Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

3/4 Saturday 5:30pm

Annual Community Awards
Gala & Auction
SIUE Morris University Center
Meridian Ballroom
Edwardsville, IL 62026

3/7 Tuesday 8-9am

ACCELERATE Executive-Led TED
Talk Facilitation w/ Dr. James
Brooks of First Christian Church
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1000 Plummer Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

3/14 Tuesday 12-1pm

nexus&noon
Edison's Entertainment Complex
2477 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

3/16 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After 5
Metro Eye Care, PC
6620 Center Grove Road
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

3/29 Wednesday 10:30am-4pm

Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Employee Handbook & Policy
Review Seminar
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1000 Plummer Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP at ilchamber.org/events

4/4 Tuesday 8-9am

ACCELERATE Executive-Led TED
Talk Facilitation w/ David Toby
of FCB Edwardsville Bank
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1000 Plummer Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

4/5 Wednesday 8-9am

Chamber Q&A: Maximize
Your Membership
Ed/Glen Chamber Office
1 North Research Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

4/11 Tuesday 7:15-8am

Morning B2B Connections
Source Juicery
220 West Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

4/18 Tuesday 4pm

Ribbon Cutting
Metro East Humane Society
8495 IL Route 143
Edwardsville, IL 62025

4/20 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After 5
Brickman Orthodontics
144 West Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

4/27 Thursday 7:30-9am

Mayors' Legislative Breakfast
Leclair Room @ N.O. Nelson
600 Troy Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

5/2 Tuesday 8-9am

ACCELERATE Executive-Led TED
Talk Facilitation w/ Edwardsville
Police Chief Jay Keeven
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1000 Plummer Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

5/3 Wednesday 8-9am

Chamber Q&A: Maximize
Your Membership
Ed/Glen Chamber Office
1 North Research Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP Online

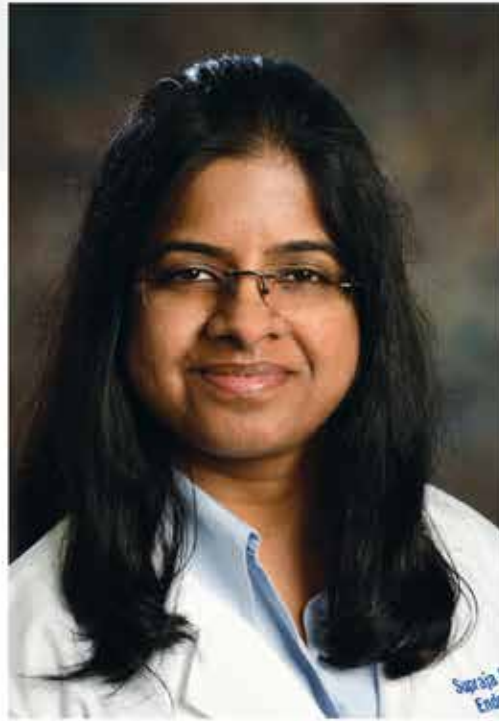
5/9 Tuesday 12-1pm

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Edwardsville, IL 62025
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5/18 Thursday 5-7pm

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business of the month

COMPANY HISTORY: Mr. Edward H. Schildman, undertaker and embalmer, opened Schildman Funeral Home in Venice, IL, in the late 1800s. Mr. Schildman closed his Venice funeral home in 1924 and opened the chapel at 2801 Madison Avenue in Granite City. Mr. Schildman died in 1950 in his home above the funeral parlor, and the business was closed. Mr. John Sedlack operated Sedlack Funeral Home in Madison, IL and purchased Mr. Schildman's building in 1950. John operated both locations until 1967. Ms. Louise Sedlack remained owner of the property until 1977, when Randall Irwin and his wife Linda purchased it. During the years 1967 through 1977, the building was used as a real estate office and later as the Special Education Offices of School District #9. Irwin Chapel for Funerals (later named Irwin Chapel, Inc.) opened in March of 1978. A second location was opened in Granite City on Maryville Road in 1989. The couple's third funeral home, Irwin Chapel of Glen Carbon, opened in June of 1997 to serve its hometown and the surrounding communities of Edwardsville, Maryville, Collinsville, Troy and others. 2017 marks Irwin Chapel's 20th year in Glen Carbon.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: As the Irwins served families in Granite City over the years, Randy and Linda noticed more of them were moving or had family members living in the Glen Carbon area. Land was available where Irwin Chapel's Glen Carbon location now stands, which was conveniently located at the intersections of Interstate 270 and Illinois Route 159. The Irwins felt families traveling from Missouri and Granite City could easily find them, and they have enjoyed becoming part of their neighboring communities and attending their functions, celebrations and fund-raisers.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT: Irwin Chapel's giving policy is to help, donate and support every charitable, school, church and non-profit organization that asks. Everyone believes in the good their group is doing, and the Irwins enjoy being part of their work. In addition they host a monthly Helping Others Provide Encouragement (H.O.P.E.) group that meets at Sunset Hills Country Club April through December and is offered to anyone who has lost a spouse. After 10 years of offering the December candlelight 'Service of Remembrance' to grieving families, they replaced this once-a-year service with monthly luncheons, hoping to reach out to an even greater number of people. The purpose of the group is to offer an opportunity for widows and widowers to support each other in fellowship and friendship.

EXCELLENCE: Irwin Chapel funeral directors attend conventions hosted by the Illinois Funeral Directors Association, and the funeral home received IFDA's Professional Certification Award four consecutive years. They have been members of the National Funeral Directors Association for many years. When the group was active, the Randall and staff held leadership positions in the Madison County Funeral Directors Association, and he was formerly a member of the National Selected Morticians Association.

CHARACTER: Irwin Chapel's core values stem from the Bible.



WORKFORCE COMMITMENT: The Irwins hope their 25 shared staff members feel like they do – that they are one large extended family. Since Linda and Randall do not have children and grandchildren, their staff is pretty special to them. The Irwins offer work-related benefits including fully paid medical insurance, life insurance, continuing education, membership dues to organizations and vacation time. They often give their staff members praise and tokens of appreciation whenever possible. The Irwins' mentality is that they are all working together as a team to help families through their time of loss. In addition, the Irwins purchase their merchandise from Batesville Casket Company rather than foreign manufacturers – Batesville has the same work ethic as the Irwins and that is to treat the people who work for them with respect and fairness.

LEADERSHIP: The Irwin Chapel team goes above and beyond to attend functions hosted by churches, chambers of commerce and other municipalities, including hosting and participating in morning mingling and Business After 5 events. Randall has served on many boards of directors throughout the Metro-East. He is president of the Granite City Scholarship Foundation, a member of the Southwestern Illinois Chamber of Commerce (since 1989), and the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce (since 1997). In June 2009, the Illinois Funeral Directors Association honored Randall for more than forty years of licensed service to the funeral profession. He also serves as a Madison County's Deputy Coroner. Linda, too, has a rich tradition of serving others and giving back, as she has held leadership positions with a number of local organizations.

INNOVATION: When Randall decided to go into funeral service for himself, his original goal was to provide personal service to each family. As time went by and he needed more help, he tried to find people who were equally committed to serving others. God has provided the Irwins a wonderful, benevolent staff. Although they must be innovative, Irwin Chapel is steeped in tradition and good old-fashioned service. What sets Irwin Chapel apart is the relationship their directors and staff have with families – they consider serving others a privilege.

FUTURE FOCUS: Randall started his life with very little. His father worked at Granite City Steel, and he has been blessed with the opportunity to have his own business. When families are pleased and H.O.P.E. members tell him they enjoy Irwin Chapel's luncheons, Randall feels that is what he would like to have long into the future.

connect

the newly connected

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We would like to recognize the many Ed/Glen Chamber investors who are celebrating membership anniversaries in the month of February. This monthly feature spotlights members for their ongoing support of the Ed/Glen Chamber. We offer our sincerest thanks to each of the following business for their continued membership!

40+ YEARS

Madison County Farm Bureau

30-39 YEARS

Guaranty Title Company

20-29 YEARS

**Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois
Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC
Fitness Designs
Grogan's Academy of Martial Arts
United Way of Greater St. Louis
First Christian Church**

10-19 YEARS

Irwin Chapel of Glen Carbon	Super 8 Motel
IL Fed. of Business Women - Metro East	Tiger Plumbing, Heating, A/C & Electrical
Mojo's Music	Cornerstone Insurance Group
Law Office of Robert T. Bruegge	Madison County Record
FCB Edwardsville Bank	Edwardsville Vision Center
Bull & Bear Grill & Bar	Benjamin Stephenson House
La Quinta Inn & Suites	HireLevel
Magnuson Camelot Hotel	

5-9 YEARS

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Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard, PC	Ooh La La Spa, Anti-Aging & Wellness
AAdvantage Insurance Group, LLC	Olive Oils & More
Simply Smiles	CJD E-Cycling

1-4 YEARS

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HeplerBroom, LLC	Healing Touch Wellness Center	St. Louis Economic Development Partnership
Chava's Mexican Restaurant	Homefield Energy, A Dynegy Company	



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Employee Handbook & Policy Review Seminar

- Edwardsville, IL

March 29, 2017 | 10:30 am - 4:00 pm

*Taught by attorneys from Sandberg
Phoenix & Von Gontard P.C.*

How long has it been since you dusted off and reviewed that employee handbook? Are you certain your handbook complies with all of the current laws?

Will your handbook stand up to scrutiny from the DOL, EEOC, or NLRB? Will your handbook cause you trouble in your next employee lawsuit? Ever-changing employment laws and regulations mean that every few years, you NEED to open up that employee handbook and give it a proper evaluation.

Join us for a full day timely review on updating your employee handbooks. The seminar will guide you through the myriad of changed laws and point out the most often seen handbook mistakes that could cost you.

Topics:

- New EEO reporting and complaint procedure language;
- Surviving DOL, NLRB and EEOC scrutiny;
- Safety standards;
- The purpose of an employee handbook;
- What should be included in an employee handbook and what you should leave out;
- Ineffective handbook languages to avoid;
- Other common employee handbook mistakes; and
- Privacy, workplace searches and drug testing policies.



COLLINSVILLE
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Continuing Education Credits:

This seminar has been submitted for approval to offer 5.5 CLE credits for attorneys.

This seminar has been pre-approved to offer 5.5 HRCI credits.

This seminar has been pre-approved to offer 5.5 SHRM Professional Development Credits (PDCs).

Registration Information:

Wednesday, March 29, 2017 | 10:30 am - 4:00 pm

Holiday Inn Express, 1000 Plummer Drive, Edwardsville, IL 62025

Early Bird - (For everybody) - Sign up before March 19 - \$199.00

Member (For members of the Illinois Chamber, local chamber partners, ILSHRM, & SHRM) - \$249.00

Retail Price - \$299.00

To register or for more information go to www.ilchamber.org/events or call Kelli Jessup at (217) 522-5512, ext. 227, or kjessup@ilchamber.org.

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Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.	Korte & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc.
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Commerce Bank	Kettle River Furniture	South Side's All-Star Collision Center
Egyptian Business Furniture		Tourism Bureau ILLINOISouth
GCS Credit Union		Watts Copy Systems

Special thanks to **Royal Solutions, LLC** for providing IT support, **Brian Stout** for his auction services, and **Eberhart Sign & Lighting Company** for providing event signage.

schmooze

business after 5



Peel Wood Fired Pizza & What to Wear, January 19



Peel Wood Fired Pizza & What to Wear, January 19



Peel Wood Fired Pizza & What to Wear, January 19



Peel Wood Fired Pizza & What to Wear, January 19



Peel Wood Fired Pizza & What to Wear, January 19



Peel Wood Fired Pizza & What to Wear, January 19

ACCELERATE

edwardsville  glen carbon

ACCELERATE Edwardsville/Glen Carbon is a new Ed/Glen Chamber initiative designed to build and solidify our region's vibrant future workforce.

ACCELERATE Edwardsville/Glen Carbon is a **business-centric** initiative designed to provide professionals like you with the tools to **accelerate your leadership acumen, hone your communication skills, expand your professional network, connect you with mentors**, and ultimately **strengthen our business community** as a whole.

Your Contact Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Company: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon
Chamber of Commerce

☐ **\$50 Participation Fee Enclosed** *(Make checks payable to Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce)*

Signature: _____ Date: _____

*** * * PAYMENT DUE UPON RECEIPT OF APPLICATION * * ***

Return Application & Dues to: Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce
1 North Research Drive Edwardsville, IL 62025 618.656.7600 (p) | 618.656.7611 (f)



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Bridging the Gateway Project Wins Engineering Excellence Award for Crawford, Murphy & Tilly

Crawford, Murphy & Tilly (CMT), along with EFK Moen, recently took home a Grand Award at the 2017 American Council of Engineering Companies of Missouri (ACEC-MO) Engineering Excellence Awards banquet. The Bridging the Gateway project finished in the top tier of awards and was runner-up in voting for the organization's Grand Conceptor Prize, behind the Kansas City Streetcar Project.

"We'd like to thank the ACEC-Missouri and our peers in the engineering industry for choosing to honor this project," said Jay Rakers, PE, CMT's project manager. "The improvements made to the downtown St. Louis area are truly remarkable and we're proud to be a part of this historic transformation of the Arch grounds. A special thanks to the MoDOT management team, who led the way in allowing our team to coordinate with 18 stakeholders and agencies in delivering their project two months ahead of schedule."

The Bridging the Gateway Project was the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)'s component of a grand initiative to connect, invigorate and expand the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, site of

the iconic Gateway Arch in downtown St. Louis. This nearly \$30 million state project was coordinated between multiple agencies including MoDOT, the National Park Service, St. Louis City and CityArchRiver Foundation, a public-private partnership established to promote the \$380 M transformation of the 91-acre national park.

The centerpiece of the design was a 285-foot wide, 100-foot span land bridge termed the "Park over the Highway." It carries a landscaped pedestrian greenway over the depressed section of Interstate 44, which previously served as a barrier between the arch and downtown. Also featured were new interstate ramp connections, two bridge designs and significant changes to the street network in downtown's south core. The project team utilized the first known application of a Value Engineering Workshop targeted specifically to construction phasing and traffic impact reduction.



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Mannie Jackson Center Announces Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as Special Guest for Fundraising Event

The Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities Foundation's (MJCHF) board of directors recently announced that basketball great and humanitarian Kareem Abdul-Jabbar will be their special guest for the second annual dinner and fundraiser scheduled for March 30, 2017. This highly anticipated event will be held at SIUE with a cocktail reception beginning at 5:30 p.m.



Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is well known as The NBA's all-time leading scorer and a six-time NBA champion and a six-time MVP. He is also the author of twelve *New York Times* best-seller and a columnist for various news outlets throughout the world such as *Time Magazine*, *The Hollywood Reporter* and *The Washington Post*. Abdul-Jabbar also co-wrote and executive produced the critically acclaimed award-winning documentary entitled, "On the Shoulders of Giants." In 2016, HBO released Kareem: Minority of One, which quickly became their most watched sport film of all time. Dedicating his life to social justice, in 2012 he was appointed as the only U.S. Cultural

Ambassador by then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. In 2016, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama, our nation's highest civilian honor.

"We are honored to have Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, one of the greatest basketball players AND humanitarian of all times, as our special guest", said Dr. Ed Hightower, executive director of MJCHF. "His life work and experiences serves as a cultural voice for what the Mannie Jackson Center stands for: respect, dignity, understanding and forgiveness."

"I've known Kareem for a long time and witnessed his commitment and passion for country unification and equality for all. He has created a footprint to make this world a better place," said MJCHF founder and president, Mannie Jackson. "The Presidential Medal of Freedom is presented only to those who have made admirable contributions to the interests of the United States, and Kareem's influence on our society has been impactful in many, many ways. We are fortunate to have him at our upcoming event."

Tickets are limited for \$200 each and available at www.mjchf.org/kareem.



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Heyl Royster's Edwardsville Attorneys Make The Grade

In the recently published 2017 Illinois Super Lawyers listing, four attorneys from law firm Heyl Royster's Edwardsville office were named Illinois Super Lawyers – two of whom were the only Edwardsville attorneys selected in their respective categories. Partner Richard Hunsaker was the only Edwardsville attorney listed by Super Lawyers in the Professional Liability: Defense category. Partner Kent Plotner was listed as an Illinois Super Lawyer for Class Action/Mass Torts category. In the Super Lawyers' Rising Star category, partner Patrick Cloud was the only Rising Star listed in Edwardsville in the practice area of Insurance Coverage. Attorney Nathan Henderson was listed as a Rising Star under the Personal Injury Products: Defense category. Overall, 24 Heyl Royster lawyers were listed as either 2017 Super Lawyers or Rising Stars.

To learn more about Heyl Royster, and for a full list of the 24 Heyl Royster 2017 Super Lawyers and Super Lawyers Rising Stars, go to www.heyloyster.com.

IMPACT Strategies Plans for Deliberate Growth

Construction management firm IMPACT Strategies is adding to its talent base and enhancing its services to support its continued growth. The company is strengthening its pre-construction services under the direction of Executive Vice President Mike Christ and adding a new director of development and construction services position to be led by new hire Nick Walker.

The changes are strategic moves to sustain the increased level of project activity and continue the growth trend of the company while maintaining and improving internal processes for employee development and opportunities, according to IMPACT Strategies President Mark Hinrichs.

"Our new director of development and construction services will play a critical role in assuring client satisfaction and enhancing our business development plans while maintaining and improving the quality of our work," Hinrichs says. "Nick Walker has 20 years of experience as a registered architect and as a construction manager. He's the perfect person to help us take our company to the next level."

"IMPACT Strategies has been fortunate in building long-term business associations with excellent and well-known client companies including AMEREN, Cedarhurst Assisted Living, KIMCO, Schnuck Markets, Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation, and The DESCO Group. In addition to continuing to enhance our strong relationships with our current fantastic clients we are excited to introduce ourselves and our quality work to new organizations," Hinrichs says.

Walker most recently was vice president of development and construction for a St. Louis-based developer and builder of senior housing properties. His experience is hands-on in project design and development as well as construction management including experience in the project cycle from entitlements and conceptual design, to construction budgeting, bidding, negotiating and scheduling of construction. Walker is a registered architect in Missouri and a member of the American Institute of Architects and NCARB. He has vast experience in all levels of senior housing projects and is a certified aging-in-place specialist through the NAHB.

A resident of Des Peres, MO, Walker earned a bachelor's degree in architecture at the University of Kentucky and an MBA at Saint Louis University. He also completed the Construction Leadership Institute program through the SIUE School of Engineering. He is a volunteer leader with a junior high youth group, an assistant coach for the Warriors Baseball Team and a volunteer athletic coach for other recreational sports teams.



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Illinois Chamber of Commerce 2017 Legislative Initiatives

EDGE Credit Replacement: SB 1766 (Weaver) and HB 2744 (Zalewski) would replace the EDGE credit with a new Business and Employment Development Tax credit, effective for tax years beginning on and after January 1, 2018. This new credit legislation would be administered by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and would consist of credits against the Illinois Income Tax Act for investment and increasing employment in Illinois, with additional credits granted for creating jobs with wages in excess of 150% of the Illinois minimum wage, and for increasing employment in areas of high poverty.

EDGE Credit Extension: HB 2834 (McCombie) would extend the sunset date of the EDGE credit for an additional 5 years from December 31, 2016.

Automatic Penalty Abatement: SB 1249 (Althoff) and HB 3637 (Batinick) both amend the Uniform Penalty and Interest Act to automatically rescind underpayment penalties on taxpayers that are more than 95% compliant.

Expand the Manufacturing Machinery & Equipment Exemption: HB 3430 (K. Wheeler) would expand the Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment exemption to include "production-related tangible personal property formerly subject to the manufacturers' purchase credit.

Expanded Temporary Storage Sunset Extension: SB 1803 (Brady) and HB 3245 (Winger) both reinstate and extend the sunset (expiration) date of the expanded temporary storage exemption from the sales and use taxes. Stronger Business. Stronger Illinois.

Graphic Arts Machinery & Equipment Exemption: SB 1327 (McCarter) and HB 2746 (Zalewski) would reinstate the graphic arts machinery and equipment exemption from Illinois sales and use taxes. Expand the statutory definitions of manufacturing machinery and equipment and graphic arts machinery and equipment to include production-related property as exempt from sales and use taxes.

Reinstatement & Enhancement of the Research & Development Credit: HB 3433 (K. Wheeler) would reinstate the Research and Development Illinois income tax credit and make the credit permanent. The Chamber's proposal will also strengthen the research and development credit by extending the credit carryforward period from 5 years to 20 years and by modifying the base period calculation for purposes of calculating the required increase in qualifying expenditures.

Repeal of the "Throwback" Rule from the Income Tax Act: SB 859 (Nybo) would eliminate the "throwback" rule from the Illinois Income Tax Act ("IITA") that taxes Illinois companies on sales made to other states.

Sales & Utility Tax Exemption for Data Centers: SB 1744 (Nybo) and HB 818 (Zalewski) both create a sales and use tax exemption for tangible personal property used in the construction or operation of a new or existing data center.

Elimination of Social Security Numbers for Reporting Purposes: HB 2479 (Williams) would eliminate any Social Security number requirement for Illinois Department of Revenue ("IDOR") registration by responsible officers of publicly-traded companies.

Expanded Jurisdiction of the Independent Tax Tribunal: HB 3263 (Zalewski) expands the jurisdiction of the Independent Tax Tribunal to all protests of assessments of all taxes administered by the Illinois Department of Revenue and property tax and sales tax exemption determinations of the Illinois Department of Revenue.

Creation of the Local Administrative Procedure Act: SB 1701 (McConnaughay) and HB 2779 (Werhli) establish rulemaking requirements for home rule counties and municipalities through establishment of a County and Municipality administrative procedure act.

Correct Abuses to False Claims Act: SB 1250 (Althoff) and HB 1814 (K. Wheeler) amends the Illinois False Claims Act (the "IFCA") to correct abuses allowed under current law.

Streamlining Employment Discrimination Investigations: SB 61 (Righter) streamlines employment discrimination investigations by requiring the Department of Human Rights (IDHR) to close its investigation if the charge filed with IDHR is based on a litigated discrimination violation that is identical to a charge filed with a local government unit or the federal EEOC and such protection also is provided by the other governmental body. Closing of duplicative complaints will increase efficiency at IDHR and allow the Agency to focus on charges that are not being litigated by another governmental entity. The amendment is not intended to infringe or impair any agreement IDHR may have with a local government unit or EEOC to provide investigative services for the other entity.

Workers' Compensation Appeals Process: SB 640 (Haine) addresses the Workers' Compensation Appeals Process by clarifying and streamlining the process of the appeal of workers' compensation and occupational diseases decisions to work efficiently and effectively for injured workers and employers. In addition, this bill also allows employers to use their insurance policy, self-insurance certificate or other means of guarantee in lieu of a bond upon appeal. Lastly, this allows a party to appeal an Appellate Court decision to the Supreme Court without certification by two members of the appellate court.

Employer Negligent Hiring Protections: HB 665 (Morrison) creates the Limitations of Actions for Negligent Hiring Act by providing that a cause of action may not be brought against a party solely for hiring an employee or independent contractor who has been convicted of a nonviolent, nonsexual offense.

Public Private Partnerships: SB 839 (Steans) will increase enhanced investment in Illinois' infrastructure.



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