

2001 Illinois Environmental Conference Is A Success

Illinois State Bar Association's 2001 Illinois Environmental Conference successfully brought together government, business, and environmental groups to discuss the future of environmental law and regulation. Diana Jagiella, Board Member Elena Kezelis, Richard Saines, Kendra Pohn, D.K. Hirner and many others are to be commended for their hard work planning the event, which took place on September 21, 2001 and September 22, 2001.

United States Environmental Protection Agency Region V Administrator Tom Skinner gave an overview of the Bush Administration's perspectives on Environmental Programs. Administrator Skinner's presentation outlined the future of federal environmental law and regulations. On the State level, Senator William Mahar and Representative Brent Hassert discussed the issues surrounding P.A. 92-12/92-13, commonly known as the coal bill.

Elena Kezelis and Katherine Hodge of Hodge, Dwyer & Zeman were able to give insight about practicing before the Illinois Pollution Control Board, both from the perspective of the Board and from an experienced practitioner. The Board's new procedural rules that went into effect at the beginning of the year have changed the way practitioners work before the Board. This seminar provided crucial information for those who appear before the Board on a regular basis and those who may appear before the Board in the future.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Office of the Illinois Attorney General, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the City of Chicago Department of Environment were essential to the success of the 2001 Environmental Conference. The Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group, Air & Waste Management Association, Illinois Institute of Technology-Chicago Kent College of Law, and the Lake Michigan Federation were also instrumental in organizing this exchange about environmental law and regulation.

Another conference is being planned for next year.