

# Chai-Lites

*By Sharon L. Eiseman*

*Decalogue 'Chai-Lites': up to the minute news about busy members coming, going, celebrating, being recognized, volunteering, acquiring more titles and running and running—including for the judiciary! You should be in our next Tablets—so please let us know what you're doing!*

Levin & Perconti founding partner and Decalogue Life Board Member **Steven M. Levin** joined firm partners Susan Novosad, Margaret Battersby Black and Michael Bonamarte at the Society of Trial Lawyers 84th Annual Black Tie Dinner Dance last Saturday. Levin serves as the Society's president and in a heartfelt speech told the crowd that the processes of arbitration and mediation are “no more than a business,” while “juries are the most literal embodiment of a representative democracy. They are of the people, by the people, for the people. As Thomas Jefferson said, ‘The government closest to the people, serves the people best.’”

Past President **Mitchell Goldberg** will be honored in April with a Vanguard Award at the Chicago Bar Association's Vanguard Awards Luncheon. Clearly, “old presidents” don't fade away or disappear—they just keep doing more!

Past Presidents **Joel L. Chupack** and **James A. Shapiro** were sworn in December 3, 2018 as Cook County circuit judges and on January 10, 2019, Past President **Michael A. Strom** was sworn in as a Cook County circuit judge. It appears Decalogue provides a good training ground for its presidents who are destined for the judiciary.

1st Vice President **Helen Bloch** was selected by Super Lawyers Magazine as a Super Lawyer for 2019 in the field of employment law. The Super Lawyers designation, given to the most respected legal practitioners in the state, is based upon peer recognition and professional achievement. Only 5% of the lawyers in each state are selected to receive this honor. Helen is thrilled to be included as one of those and we are proud of her! And Helen has company: thirty-two year DSL member **Marc Blumenthal** was also recognized as a Super Lawyer in his field of practice: Franchise/Dealership Law. This year was his tenth straight year of receiving such a distinction. We are indeed fortunate to count so many talented lawyers among us.

In the McHenry County Pillars section of its December 27, 2018 edition, the Northwest Herald featured long time Decalogue member **Herb Franks** as an “area influencer,” which is a resident “who has made the most impact, particularly behind the scenes, in the McHenry County area.” Herb has long been deemed a trailblazer even though or perhaps because he is frank, direct, sometimes brittle, charming and often very funny, all while making an important point or observation.

**Paul W. Plotnick**, a long standing member of Decalogue for over forty years, has received the North Suburban Bar Association's Prestigious President's Award for his 40+ years of service to the Association.

Salvatore Chaz DeBella was born January 11, 2019 to Decalogue board member **Nicole Annes DeBella** and her husband, Joey. And not far behind Salvatore's birth, Decalogue board member **Marty Gould** and wife, Marie, welcomed Dominick Martin Gould into the world on January 23rd of this year. Perhaps we will see a new young class of DSL members in a few decades!

On February 25th, Decalogue board member **David W. Lipschutz** spoke on a panel about the City of Chicago's new “fresh start” program for individuals who have filed a Chapter 7 bankruptcy. The event was hosted by the Office of the U.S. Trustee. Lipschutz also recently closed the critically-acclaimed, Jeff-Recommended production

of *Evil Dead: The Musical*. On March 15th, he starts performances for *Poseidon! An Upside-Down Musical* with Handbag Productions. For more information, visit [handbagproductions.org](http://handbagproductions.org).

Board member **Charles Krugel**, perhaps the most-often-cited member in the Chai-Lites, was recently featured in an on-line marketing publication called James Toolbox. The article wasn't about Charles but instead provided his recommendations as to the most effective means for generating new business and keeping existing clients happy. Charles, whose practice includes labor and employment law and counseling on behalf of business, believes that the best ways to general business are through networking, trading ideas with fellow attorneys and other professionals, joining LinkedIn, creating a website that is highly informational and easy to navigate as well as a blog (if you have something to say and are ok with that kind of communication), engaging in pro bono work, recognizing that existing clients are a key marketing tool and accepting that marketing is a "never ending process."

Long-time Decalogue member and board member **Sharon Eiseman** attended the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Women Everywhere Project, held on February 28, 2019, at which our esteemed Decalogue member and editor of *The Decalogue Tablets*, **Geri Pinzur Rosenberg**, was also present. We are pleased Decalogue has been a constant and devoted "bar partner" of WE almost since its establishment in 1999. The event highlighted the valuable support of the Project from Chief Judge Timothy Evans who, in recognition of that support, was presented with the Women Everywhere Stalwart Advocate Award. The presentation also noted why and how the Project began; its dual mission of (1) volunteering annually for community service agencies which provide resources for women and their families who have suffered from domestic violence, and (2) introducing female high school seniors to the justice system; what it has accomplished in the past two decades; and how it expects to fulfill its mission in the future. Sharon was mentioned as one of the co-founders of WE.

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