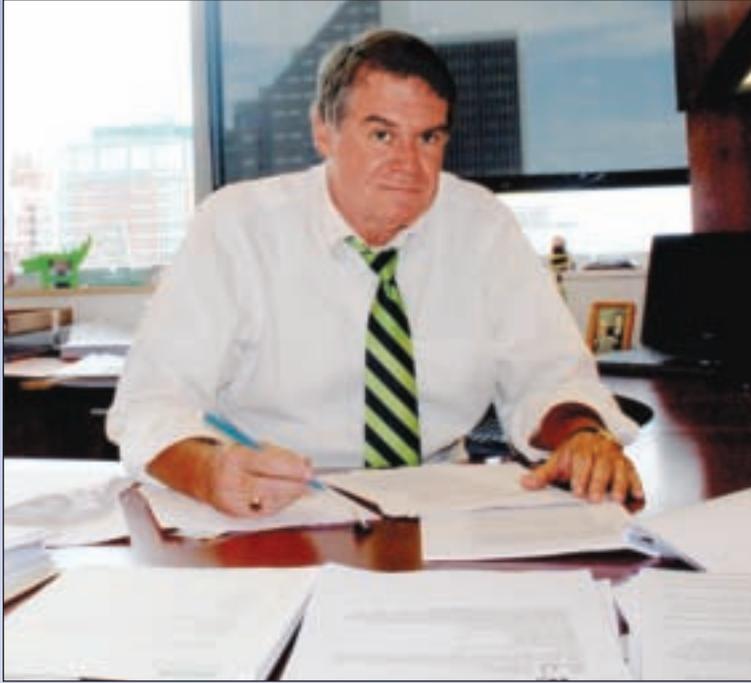


*Meet Frank Carroll –*  
**New ISBA vice president  
has learned a lot from the  
association; he wants others  
to enjoy the same experience**

*By Steve Boeckman, Editor*



**Frank Carroll tackles some of the mountains of paperwork that are part of his busy law practice in his office in the new Davis Brown Tower in downtown Des Moines. Some of the skyline of the city can be seen through the window behind him. He would like to see others gain as much from the ISBA as he has.**

When you meet him, it soon becomes obvious that Frank Carroll, the ISBA's new vice president as of July 1, is full of one liners. They're funny because they come out of left field, delivered with a straight face when least expected.

For example:

"It's like slow motion now," is how he describes the basketball games that he and his colleagues play on Thursday nights in a gym rented by his firm Davis, Brown, Koehn, Shors & Roberts PC in Des Moines.

"It's more of a battle than play," he says of his golf game, which he tries to work on twice each weekend.

"Dad used to watch Perry Mason," is one of the reasons he gives for becoming a lawyer.

However, it's equally obvious that the veteran Des Moines lawyer has a serious side. He observes activities around him and learns from them. And he thinks about what they mean and how they might be improved.

For example, in his affiliation with the ISBA as a member of the Taxation Section, as chair at one time of the Business Law and the

Do yourself a favor.

Using Title Guaranty generates revenue that supports the Iowa Finance Authority's FirstHome and FirstHome Plus programs.\* This creates more down payment assistance for first-time home buyers and means more business for you.

  
A DIVISION OF THE IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY  
Investing In Home And Community

800.432.7230 | [www.iowafinanceauthority.gov](http://www.iowafinanceauthority.gov)

\*To-date investment of more than \$40 million for first-time home buyer programs.

Corporate Counsel Sections and as a member of the Board of Governors, he has come to realize that the organization offers a great number of benefits for members. He's not sure many members are aware of those benefits. Part of his goal as an officer is to increase members' awareness of existing benefits and to expand those benefits.

Born in Albuquerque, N.M., in a family that moved every two or three years because of his father's job in retail store management, Frank graduated from Marquette Catholic High School in Alton, Ill. He went on to receive a B.A. in accounting with a minor in philosophy at St. Louis University then joined the Arthur Young accounting firm in

St. Louis. At the time, it was one of the Big 8 accounting firms in the country.

He liked his work in accounting, especially the tax work, but became intrigued with the transactional side of the business and thought that he could do a better job as an attorney in that arena. So he applied and was accepted at the University of Illinois College of Law. He graduated from law school and passed the bar exam in 1973.

There were opportunities to join firms in cities such as Chicago, and Nashville Tenn., and Houston. He didn't like the commute in those places, however. He interviewed at the Davis Brown firm in Des Moines and took an instant liking to it.

Apart from the caliber of the attorneys in the firm, he liked the idea that the firm had a basketball team that played in the YMCA leagues. In fact, the firm had a team until about five years ago when it was disbanded because the YMCA "couldn't find a league bad enough to accomodate us." He also liked the firm's interest in golf.

After 35 years as an attorney, his practice has evolved into work primarily in tax, corporate, partnerships, mergers and acquisitions and joint ventures. "I've been very fortunate," he says. "I've been able to work on some interesting transactions."

In addition, he has lots of clients who are easy to deal with, and "who tolerate me," he says.

One of his most interesting cases occurred a number of years ago when he and a hog producer client successfully settled with a packer for cancelling a contract. He and the producer were visiting about another matter when the producer received a phone call. He excused himself to take the call then came back to the meeting without saying anything about the call. At the end of the meeting on the business at hand, the producer mentioned that the phone call was from the packer cancelling the contract. One thing led to another and the two were able to get a substantial amount in redress from the packer.

"I really felt like I was doing someone some good in that situation," he says. "My practice doesn't offer the same



## You play a part in protecting our rights.

We're here to protect you.

The *new* ISBA Insurance Program offers Professional Liability coverage designed specifically with you in mind.



- Competitive Rates
- Comprehensive Policy Form
- Access to Unparalleled Loss Prevention & Risk Management Services
- Outstanding Customer Service
- Insurance with a Company Rated "A" by A.M. Best



Get the protection you need. Call or contact us online today to get your free quote.

**(800) 679-7154**

[www.iowabar.org](http://www.iowabar.org)

(under Member Benefits)

**ISBA INSURANCE PROGRAM**

Providing Professional Liability Coverage to ISBA Members



Insurance Program Administered by  
Lockton Risk Services

kind of satisfaction that lawyers receive when they represent someone who is underprivileged and win.”

Frank says he has gotten a great deal of satisfaction out of working on the various ISBA committees and sections. When he was on the Taxation Section, he came to know some of the tax giants in the Iowa legal community such as Orville Bloethe, Dave Bibler and Jim Lohman. He also was exposed to different areas of tax outside of the corporate and partnership tax matters that occupy most of his practice. As a result, he has gained a great deal of appreciation and respect for the annual tax school that the ISBA holds. The attorneys who attend tax school really need the information presented there, he says.

He had a similar experience when he was a member of the Business Law Section. It was during this time that the section worked on the original Limited Liability Company Act for the state. As he recalls, Iowa was about the eighth state to enact a law creating an LLC as a business structure.

“It was interesting that I could get involved with those things,” he says.

Again, one of the pluses of his involvement was getting to meet lawyers around the state who have concerns different from his.

Married to Marilyn, a physical therapist at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines, since 1969, Frank says he sought an officer position because he “liked being on the BOG” and wanted to continue being a part of setting policy for the association. He’s not thinking too much about his goals as president two years down the road — assuming the members continue to elect him — because it’s difficult to say what the needs might be at that time.

He equates his situation now to raising a family (he and Marilyn have three grown daughters). About the time “you think you have it figured out, something changes,” he says. “The direction will evolve over the next few years.”

However, he’s pretty sure he’ll want to continue emphasizing the bar’s CLE programs. He’ll probably also push for more member involvement in economic development in their communities. And, he’ll be looking for more ways that women and minorities can participate in the association.

He also feels that it’s important for the ISBA to remain heavily involved in legislation to keep the state’s laws, especially business laws, as up to date as possible. In addition, he wants to maintain and expand the relationships with the state’s two law

schools. He already has some firsthand knowledge of Drake University’s Law School. He teaches a course in business planning there.

In addition to the extracurricular activity of teaching at Drake, Frank also spends time serving on the Iowa Ag Development Authority Board. In the past, he was a board member with the Variety Club and with Junior Achievement.

For a man who responded with a quick “no idea, Dad used to watch Perry Mason” when asked why he became a lawyer, Frank Carroll has come a long way. He hopes to put his experience to work in a concerted fashion as an officer with the ISBA.

## Choose the Right Protection at the Right Price!

Marsh makes it easy for you to obtain the malpractice protection you need by continuously evaluating all of the available options.

Without question, that program is proliability.com.

### FREE Risk Analysis

Expert tips can help you prevent common problems before they arise.

Simply...

1. Visit [www.proliability.com](http://www.proliability.com)
2. Click on “FREE Risk Analysis”
3. Receive your analysis via e-mail

There is no cost or obligation.

## MARSH

proliability.com is administered and brokered by Marsh Affinity Group Services, a service of Seabury & Smith, Inc., Insurance Program Management. Marsh provides professional liability coverage to over 17,000 law firms nationwide.

34385 ©Seabury & Smith, Inc. 2008