

Panel on Civility and Professionalism and the Practice of Law

Timothy J. Abeska is a member of the Litigation Department in Barnes & Thornburg LLP's South Bend, Indiana office and a member of the firm's Management Committee. A partner, Mr. Abeska concentrates his practice in commercial litigation, representing clients in federal and state courts. The focus of Mr. Abeska's practice is construction claims, commercial litigation including business torts, commercial loan workout and bankruptcy litigation, lender liability defense, transportation law, and products liability defense. He represents clients at trial and on appeal, in arbitration, and in mediations. Mr. Abeska has been selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® (2005-2012) in the fields of commercial litigation and construction litigation. He is a vice chairperson of the firm's Construction Law Practice Group.

Mr. Abeska is a 1982 graduate of the University of Notre Dame Law School. He earned a B.A. in 1979 from the University of Michigan at Dearborn with a double major in political science and history. Before joining Barnes & Thornburg, he practiced with Roemer & Mintz, LLP in South Bend.

Jeanine M. Gozdecki is a partner in the Labor & Employment Department in Barnes & Thornburg LLP's South Bend, Indiana office.

Ms. Gozdecki manages and performs virtually all aspects of employment litigation for business clients, both closely held and publicly held companies. She encourages "best practices" for her clients through training and counseling. She guides clients through difficult employment issues on everything from discipline to reductions-in-force. Her experience includes directing internal investigations, preparing agreements, as well as developing and conducting training for executives, supervisors and employees in professional, manufacturing and educational work environments.

Ms. Gozdecki joined Barnes & Thornburg in 2001 as part of the firm's merger with Roemer & Mintz, LLP, where she was also a partner. She graduated from the University of Notre Dame and the Notre Dame Law School. Ms. Gozdecki worked for several years as a broadcast journalist before graduating from law school in 1992.

She is admitted to practice in Indiana, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana, and the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Thomas C. Sopko is of counsel at the law firm Sopko, Nussbaum, Inabnit & Kaczmarek. Mr. Sopko was born and raised in Warren, Ohio. He graduated in 1967 from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, and from Notre Dame Law School in 1970. He was on active duty at Fort Knox, Kentucky,

and completed his military commitment with the Army Reserves as a captain in the armor division.

He has served as a deputy prosecuting attorney for St. Joseph County and also as the attorney for the Town of Osceola. He has been an active member of the St. Joseph County Bar Association, having served on the Judicial Nominating Committee; as Chairman of the Public Defenders' and Grievance Committees; as a member of the Board of Governors; and as President of the St. Joseph County Bar. He served as the District Chairman of the Trial Lawyers Section of the Indiana State Bar. He is a Master of the Bench of the Robert A. Grant Inn of Court and a Fellow of the Indiana Bar Foundation.

He practices in the area of civil and commercial litigation, probate, corporate, real estate, and estate planning. He is a certified family law mediator and has mediated family law, civil, and commercial litigation cases. He also serves as general counsel for the Notre Dame Federal Credit Union. He is admitted to practice in all courts in the State of Indiana and the federal district courts of the Northern and Southern Districts of Indiana.

William P. Stanley is a partner at the law firm StanelyTuszynski and Newman in South Bend, Indiana. He practices in the area of criminal defense. Mr. Stanley is originally from Chicago. His wife is from South Bend. Because he likes the South Bend community, he decided to move here and planned to give it "one year" – and that was many years ago.

He graduated from University of Cincinnati School of law in 1972 and he is admitted to practice in all of the courts in the State of Indiana and the federal district courts of Indiana and one federal district court of Michigan. He is a member of the St. Joseph County Bar Association and the Indiana State Bar Association.

Mr. Stanley serves on a review board for the Holy Cross Priests. He also performs pro bono work for individuals (sometimes unexpectedly). Mr. Stanley is a man of few words.