

# Chicago Daily Law Bulletin®

VOLUME 168, NO. 77

LAW BULLETIN MEDIA

## Tackling trial lawyers' big issues

Patrick Salvi II brings lifelong immersion in profession to new role

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From a young age, Patrick Salvi II has been immersed in the legal world. Now, following in the footsteps of his father, he will step into a role he feels more than prepared to take on.

As the new president of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association for 2022-2023, Salvi said he is dedicated to ensuring the public and legislators have a deep understanding of how laws affect plaintiffs so the law can continue to reflect the values of the state.

"It's a great responsibility, and it's also just exciting to be in a role where you get to work with so many wonderful people and have an opportunity to make a positive impact on our clients' rights, to preserve the civil justice system and improve it so that it's as fair a system as possible," said Salvi.

Salvi, 40, is managing partner of Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard P.C.

He has been an active member of ITLA since 2007 and has served on the Board of Managers and the Executive Committee.

He is also a co-chair of the publications committee for the Trial Journal and a co-author of the Medical Malpractice Trial Notebook chapter on Informed Consent.

Salvi was installed as the



Patrick Salvi II, left, with outgoing ITLA president J. Matthew Dudley. Salvi is the new president of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association for 2022-2023. Photo courtesy of ITLA

69th president of the ITLA at its annual convention June 17 in Chicago.

**Q. Was the position of president something that always interested you?**

A. I believe I might be the fifth president who's had a father that was also president. What's nice is we still have a picture from 1993 when my father was installed as the president. I've been around personal injury law, the law firm that I now work at, and ITLA for many, many years. I've had the tremendous good fortune of being able to interact with some of the great leaders of the plaintiffs bar.

I had a unique opportunity, given my upbringing and my 15 years in practice, to be prepared for this role at a relatively young age. It felt like time to use that knowledge, give back to the organization and serve in this role for the next year — which is something I've looked forward to doing for a long time. I'm really happy to be in the middle of it now.

**Q. What will you bring to the table that is different from past presidents? Do you have any fresh ideas or new perspective that you want to bring?**

A. I'm not so bold as to suggest that I necessarily have

bigger and better ideas than my predecessors because I have big shoes to fill. My predecessors are some of the most talented and thoughtful trial lawyers of all time.

But that being said, I think that there is an opportunity for future generations to take the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association as it is now — which is one of the finest and strongest organizations among lawyers — and bring it forward in a way that maintains its strength and builds upon what my predecessors essentially have created.

What that exactly looks like remains to be seen. We have some very important

elections coming up in November. We are coming out of a pandemic. We have prejudgment interest that has outstanding issues to be resolved. There's a lot in front of us in the immediate future. But there's also the long-term outlook of continuing to energize younger folks to get involved and to seek leadership positions, as those in the past have.

**Q. Are there any challenges you anticipate in taking on this role, or any specific challenges that trial lawyers may be facing in the upcoming year?**

A. I inherited the presidency of an already very strong organization. The challenges are primarily trying to look ahead to what challenges face us as plaintiffs' lawyers representing injured clients and trying to get ahead of those challenges.

We have trials that have resumed late last year in Cook County, and just continuing to try to maintain and improve upon the ways in which we've come out of the pandemic to have safe jury trials. We live in a new world now, post-pandemic. COVID is going to be something of great interest to all of our members and trying to find



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Photo courtesy of ITLA

that balance of what was great about the way things were done before, what are some of the benefits that we see in terms of the way things are done now, and

how we move forward in a way that uses the best of both.

As an example, obviously prejudgment interest is a hot topic. And so it being, in my

opinion, a statute that brings an element of fairness to the system that did not previously exist, it is very much important that ITLA does what it can to ensure that that statute remains in place. That's going to unfold over the next few months or perhaps more. So that's what's immediately in front of us.

Then inevitably issues arise depending on how, for example, various circuit courts approach issues that affect the way law is practiced. Whether there's legislation passed that affects our clients rights, or any other issue that is of importance to our members, those things will inevitably arise, and it'll be my job to quickly and effectively deal with whatever those issues might be.

**Q. What is membership looking like? Has the pandemic impacted involvement in any way?**

A. Our membership is strong, and the members were all chomping at the bit to get back to trial and are very thankful that we're there. I guess the short answer is no, the pandemic didn't have a negative impact on membership. Still very strong and active.

*Q-and-As are edited for length and clarity.*