ILLINOIS STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2026 VOL. 72 NO. 8

Trusts & Estates

The newsletter of the Illinois State Bar Association's Section on Trusts & Estates

David E. Hoy, 1948-2025

IT IS WITH PROFOUND SADNESS that we announce the passing of Attorney David E. Hoy who has gone home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, at age 77 on December 18, 2025.

Attorney David E. Hoy was the founding partner of The Law Offices of Hoy & Sahlas, LLC, and the "father" of the father-daughter law firm with his daughter and law partner of 26 years, Colleen L. Sahlas. In January 2025, David celebrated 40 years of running the Law Offices of Hoy & Sahlas, LLC, a successful trusts and estates law firm. In 1985, Mr. Hoy founded the law firm in Oak Park, Illinois, first known as The Law Offices of David E. Hoy.

Mr. Hoy grew up in Chicago, Illinois. Raised in a Christian home in Chicago, David accepted Christ as his Savior as a child. His entire life, he had an unwavering faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He graduated from Emmaus Bible College (then in Oak Park) where he met the love of his life and wife of 56 years, Lynette J. Hoy.

He and Lynette had one child, Colleen L. Sahlas. He was especially proud of his daughter who married a solid Christian man, Nicko Sahlas. In 2025, David was able to see Colleen and Nicko celebrate 25 years of marriage. Nicko was like a son to David.

Colleen L. Sahlas was the chair of the ISBA Trusts and Estates Section Council from 2024 to 2025, and the former managing editor of its newsletter from 2017 to 2022.

In May, 2025, David was able to celebrate his daughter's receipt of the Outstanding Achievement in Estate Planning Award from the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education. In September 2025, David was beaming with pride at Colleen's publication as General Editor of the 1,024 page legal manual, *Practical Probate*, published by IICLE.

David made tremendous sacrifices for his family. A dedicated husband, father and father-in-law, he was the rock for his family with words of wisdom, support, and strength. His warm, magnetic and gregarious nature made him the life of the party and he never met a stranger.

Mr. Hoy received his Juris Doctor degree in May 1983 from Northern Illinois University and held a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Elmhurst College. He successfully passed the Illinois Bar Exam upon first examination and was sworn in as an Illinois attorney in November 1983.

Prior to beginning his private law practice in 1985, Mr. Hoy was employed with Chicago law firms in the roles of both plaintiff's and defendant's counsel. His business experience prior to law practice includes nine years as a Manager of Compensation, Benefits and Human Resources for three different major U.S. corporations.

For his entire legal career, he concentrated his practice in Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Business Law, Condominium Representation and Commercial and Residential Real Estate.

David E. Hoy

Mr. Hoy served on the Business Roundtable of the Greater Oak Brook Chamber of Commerce, which is the Chamber's public policy advisory group committed to local, state and congressional legislative agendas.

From 2006 until the date of his passing, he served as Board Chairman for Keep Believing Ministries, an international Not-for-Profit Christian ministry. Mr. Hoy also served on the Planned Giving Committee of Elmhurst College and is past chairman of the Oak Park & River Forest branch of CBMC International (f/k/a Christian Businessmen's Committee and n/k/a Connecting Business and the Marketplace to Christ); and was chairman for more than a decade of a large church in Oak Park, Illinois.

He was a member of the Du Page County Estate Planning Council, the Christian Legal Society, the Illinois State Bar Association, the Greater Oak Brook Chamber of Commerce and formerly with the Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce and the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce.

For decades, Mr. Hoy gave seminars on Estate Planning for clients of various financial service firms and not-for-profit organizations in Chicago and the western suburbs.

David enjoyed singing and playing guitar on the worship team at Western Springs Baptist Church. He loved fishing, canoeing and hiking with his son-in-law, Nicko, in Starved Rock. He especially looked forward to the annual family trip to Galena, Illinois with Lynette, Nicko and Colleen. ■