



# LegalEase

November 2022

*Newsletter of the Peoria County Bar Association, an Accredited Provider of Continuing Legal Education.*

## **President's Message**

What a great October for our Association, from the golf outing (thanks Jason Boucher and fill-in Dave Wiest) to the CareerSpark event at the Civic Center in which the PCBA was the hit of the show! (thanks Carol Perkins and Kate Legge) to the diversity luncheon (thanks Melodi Green and Yolanda Riley) with Judge McDade speaking, to the Tenth Circuit/PCBA/TCBA Pro Bono Recognition night (thanks Kerrienne Waters), the Family Law Section social (thanks Ed Murphy) and the Fall Professional Responsibility Seminar on Implicit Bias/Association (thanks Kate Swise and our 1<sup>st</sup> VP Aliasha Graves)! Thanks also to all the other members who helped and/or participated in these worthwhile (and fun) activities!



Our committees are all very active and doing some great things; we were pleased to hear that the Lincoln Memorial Banquet committee has secured Justice Lisa Holder-White as our speaker for the February 16 event. She is our new 4<sup>th</sup> District judge on the Supreme Court, but also a very good speaker and is excited herself to be coming. Thanks Jim Rochford! And the CLE Winter Series is falling into place with our usual five seminars after the first of the year (thanks Kate Swise and the individual planning committees), so you can start registering for those learning experiences. Young Lawyers are well into Project Santa for this year and getting some new members involved (thanks Brad Barber). And our annual Holiday Party is coming up in mid-December (thanks Dennis Merkley and skit committee), a great time to unwind and have some fellowship and a few (or more) laughs.

Thanks to all of the Board of Directors for an excellent attendance record at our monthly meetings, so far—let's keep it up! And as always, thanks and more thanks to our Executive Director, Stephanie Bitner, who keeps everything running smoothly with a lot of work behind the scenes.

November and December are a lot less busy on the Association calendar than the past few months, so use some time to get together with family especially at Thanksgiving coming up very soon. As always, let us know what we can do for you as a member!

## **Court News** *By Chief Judge Katherine S. Gorman*



### Updates on the Tenth Judicial Vacancies:

1. Judge Risinger will retire on November 30, 2022. Join me in congratulating him. He will spend his time traveling and enjoying his new grandson.
2. Judge Purham will retire on December 2, 2022, join me in congratulating him. He will spend his time cheering on the Raiders and the Cardinals.
3. Justice Holder White, along with a Blue-Ribbon Committee will select Judge Risinger's successor.
4. The application period has closed for Judge Purham's successor. The Circuit Judges are in the process of evaluating the applicants. It is our hope we will have a new Circuit Judge and a new

Associate by year's end.

## **November Calendar**

- 8 General Election Day, Courts Closed/Courthouse Open
- 11 Veteran's Day, Courts Closed/Courthouse open
- 24 Thanksgiving Day, Courts & Courthouse Closed
- 25 Day After Thanksgiving, Courts & Courthouse Closed

## **Committee Meetings**

**November - All meetings are at Noon. A "Z" means the committee is meeting through Zoom. An "O" means the PCBA Office**

- |   |                   |   |                      |   |             |
|---|-------------------|---|----------------------|---|-------------|
| 1 | Real Property (O) | 3 | Public Relations (Z) | 7 | Family (O)  |
| 2 | Pro Bono (Z)      | 4 | LMB (O)              | 8 | Holiday (Z) |

9	CLE (Z)	15	Board (O)	28	Membership (Z)
10	YLC (O)	16	GPIL (O)	29	Commercial Law (Z)
14	Civil (Z)	17	Workers' Comp (Z)		

**Committee Reports**

**Communications & Technology**

Work on the 2023 Attorneys' Directory has begun! Please let Stephanie know of any information changes by sending an email to [pcbaasst@mtco.com](mailto:pcbaasst@mtco.com).

**Diversity Committee**

Thank you to everyone who attended the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Diversity Luncheon on October 5<sup>th</sup>. We had a great turnout (160 attendees) and raised just over \$1,700 for the Robert H. Jennetten Diversity Scholarship. A big thank you to Diversity Committee Chair, Melodi Green, Vice Chair, Yolanda Riley, and the whole Diversity Committee for their work. See some pictures below!

**Entertainment – Holiday Party**

The Holiday Party registration is open! This year's event is on Thursday, December 15 at Mt. Hawley Country Club. The cost is \$65 per person and includes a buffet dinner and 2 drink tickets! Entertainment will be announced soon...register now by clicking [here!](#)



**Entertainment – Golf Outing**

Despite the cool weather, the Annual Golf Outing had a great turnout this year! Thank you to Jason Boucher from Hasselberg Grebe Snodgrass Urban & Wentworth for all his work on the event (and thank you to David Wiest for standing in and being the MC for the night!). At right are this year's winners of the scramble, along with David Wiest: John Fleming, David Wiest, Phil O'Donnell, Ryan Brown and Abby Fleming (at right).



**2023 Winter Series**

The CLE committee is continuing to work on the 2023 Winter Series. The tentative lineup is below and registration will open later this month!



**Public Relations**

On October 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, members of the PCBA volunteered at the CareerSpark event at the Civic Center. The goal of this event was to introduce 8<sup>th</sup> grade students all across Central Illinois to different careers. The Public Relations committee created a trivia game for the kids and gave away candy, buttons and the chance to win a grand prize of a \$50 Target gift card. Thank you to the following PCBA

members for participating: Carol Perkins (Public Relations Chair), Katherine Legge, Teresa Dickinson, Emily Wilburn, Jim Rochford, Nick Rochford, Cynthia Volk, Nathaniel Jackson, Simone Freaney, Cathy Molchin, Athena Herman and Kevin Day!



**Other News**

On October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, the Peoria Area Reader's Theatre Ensemble presented "Inherit the Wind" at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. Some of our very own members (and talented actors!) performed in the play. At right are: Judge Michael McCuskey, Judge Chris Doscotch, Mitch Gilfillan and Judge James Shadid.

**Job Openings | Office Space Available | Misc.**

Job openings and office space available can be found on the homepage of our website or by clicking the following links: [Job Openings](#) and [Office Space](#) (office space section includes property for sale).

**2022-23 Board of Directors**

- Michael A. Fleming – President
- Aliesha N. Graves – President-Elect & Budget
- Joshua D. Herman – Second Vice President
- David B. Wiest – Secretary-Treasurer
- Emily H. Wilburn – Past President & Nominating Chair
- Heather J. Russo – By-Laws
- Katherine G. Legge – Communications & Technology
- Melodi D. Green -- Diversity
- Jason B. Boucher – Entertainment (Golf)
- Dennis E. Merkley – Entertainment (Holiday Party)
- Kyle M. Tompkins – Fitness, Health & Wellness
- Mitchell J. Kavanagh – Government & Public Interest Law
- Robert J. Hanauer – Lawyer Referral Service

- TBD – Lincoln Memorial Banquet
- Katherine L. Swise – Local Continuing Legal Education
- Thomas A McConaughay & David B. Mueller – Membership & Memorials
- Kerriane L. Waters – Pro Bono
- Carol J. Perkins – Public Relations
- Teresa M. Dickinson – Real Property
- TBD – Substantive Law
- Bradley S. Barber – Young Lawyers
- Norman L. McGill – Director at Large
- J. Kevin Wolfe – Director at Large
- Christopher A. Nichols – Director at Large
- G. Edward Murphy – Director at Large



