



LegalEase

December 2017

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

Message from the President



Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has plenty; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some. —Charles Dickens

I am certainly grateful for blessings in life, even though it can be a struggle to balance professional and family obligations. The skit committee has been hard at work crafting entertainment for the Holiday Party that celebrates the old and the new. The committee has also selected a new venue this year, as well as a change to the entertainment. In order to continue to provide quality events, your PCBA needs good member attendance.

Please set aside time to eat, drink and be merry on December 14 at The Waterhouse.

Also in the spirit of the season - if you volunteered to participate in the YLC Project Santa, be sure to drop your gift off at the PCBA office by Monday, December 11. We need nominees for the PCBA's Distinguished Community Service Award – the deadline is January 5. There are so many of our members who serve the community in a variety of ways, please nominate one or more for this award. Finally, you may want to register now (before the hectic holidays) for the January CLE courses: Estate Planning/Probate on January 13, Family Law January 20, and Civil Practice January 27. I wish all our PCBA members and their families a happy and peaceful holiday season.

Court News By Chief Judge Paul P. Gilfillan

- 1) The courthouse's Jefferson Street entrance/exit reopened to the public on November 27, 2017. Thanks Sheriff Asbell.
- 2) See attached link to WCBU website for story and audio on Peoria County's Veteran's Problem Solving Court published close in time to Veterans Day. Congratulations to all Veteran's Court team members and all Problem Solving Court team members for the outstanding work you do. This includes Mental Health court, DUI court and Drug court. <http://www.tinyurl.com/yd7g2rdp>

New Members' Luncheon



On November 14 nine of the PCBA's newest members attended the bi-annual luncheon with members of the bar and bench.

Front row (left to right): **Angela White, Nichole Mahrt, Kate Hartzell, Timothy Yuhasz and Yolanda Riley.** Middle row (left to right): Nathan Bach, Kate Whetstone, Michele Miller, **Joe Cassidy,** Emily Perkins and Mitch Gilfillan. Back row (left to right): Chief Judge James Shadid, Chief Judge Paul Gilfillan, **Kevin Kuykendall, Nancy Rabel and Tyler Eathington.**

Lawyer Referral Service

Thank you to **Lou Benassi** for returning a referral fee in the amount of \$136. Attorneys who retain a case referred to them by the Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) agree to send back 10% of fees generated over \$1000. The LRS is now online at www.peoriabar.org. You can view the LRS directory by clicking on the link on the homepage. If you would like to join, please submit an application by clicking on "LRS Registration Form" under the members tab.

Schedule of Events & Court Holidays

December

14 Holiday Party, The Waterhouse (MAXAM Building) 316 SW Washington. Cocktails 5:30, Dinner 6:30 Entertainment 7:30.

25 & 26 Courts & Courthouse closed for Christmas Holiday



January

- 1 Courts & courthouse closed for New Year's Day
- 6 Estate Planning & Probate Seminar – Spalding Pastoral Center – Check-in 8:00 a.m., seminar 8:30 – Noon.
- 13 Family Law Seminar – Spalding Pastoral Center – Check-in 8:00 a.m., seminar 8:30 – Noon.
- 15 Courts & Courthouse closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 20 Civil Practice Seminar – Spalding Pastoral Center – Check-in 8:00 a.m., seminar 8:30 – Noon.

Committee Meetings *Meetings at noon at the PCBA office unless otherwise noted.*

December

- 6 Pro Bono
- 12 Commercial Law & Litigation
- 18 CLE (tentative)
- 20 Appellate

January

- 2 Real Property
- 3 Government & Public Interest
- 9 Substantive Law (Section Chairs)
- 10 Fitness Health & Wellness
- 11 YLC
- 16 Board
- 17 Diversity
- 18 Civil Practice
- 22 CLE
- 23 Public Relations
- 25 Communications & Technology
- 31 Family Law

Entertainment

There's still time to register for this year's Holiday Party being held on December 14 at The Waterhouse (MAXAM Building) located at 316 SW Washington St. Registration fee is \$60 and includes hors d'oeuvres, buffet dinner and two drink tickets. Click [here](#) to register now!

Lincoln Memorial Banquet

<p>110th Lincoln Memorial Banquet Thursday, February 15, 2018 Featured Speaker: Judge Ron Spears (Ret.) Holiday Inn & Suites at Grand Prairie Cocktails: 5:30 PM Dinner: 6:30 PM Portrait by Ken Tiessen - www.KenTiessenArt.com</p>	
--	--

Local Continuing Legal Education

2018 Winter Series

January 13 Estate Planning & Probate – Topics include: Medicaid/Elder Law Update by Susan Dawston-Tibbits; An Old dog Teaching New Tricks – Efilng in Ecourt by Jim Kane; Medicare Update by Carlene Hippen; Tax Bill by Marci Shoff; Planning in a Time of Uncertainty by John Brady and an ARDC representative discussing ethics.

January 20 Family Law: Issues in Family Law that can't be Addressed by a Chart – Topics include: Bifurcation and "Consent" by Ann Pieper; "Loans from Parents" – Income or not...and what else can be imputed? by Norman McGill; How "unable to pay fees" must the party be to obtain contribution to fees? by G. Edward Murphy; Judge, do you mind if I do my job? What do you do when you think Court oversteps boundaries when the other party is pro se? by Judge David Brown; Can I appeal this yet? Rule 304(a), Rule 301 applicability by Michael Fleming and Brad Elward; Collaborative Process – Will it play in Peoria by Lora Keller; Updates – case and legislative not discussed above by Judge Jerelyn Maher (retired) and a Judges Panel

January 27 Civil Practice – Topics include: Federal practice segment; Liens by J. Kevin Wolfe; Civil Practice Case Law Update by Jeffrey Brach; Impact of Social Media on Litigation by Patrick O'Shaughnessy and Use of Technology in the Practice and at Trial by Matthew Smith.

These seminars will be from 8:30 – 12:00 at the Spalding Pastoral Center. Check-in and continental breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m. To register, visit www.peoriabar.org and click on 'seminars' under CLE. Each seminar is \$65 for members, \$80 for McLean County members, and \$95 for non-members.

Recent seminars now available on **DVD and on demand**: October 27 Professional Responsibility, November 7 Government & Public Interest and November 13 Workers' Compensation. The cost is \$100 for members and \$125 for non-members. Contact Stephanie at pcbaasst@mtco.com to purchase.



Congratulations to John Nicoara (at left) for winning a \$100 gift card from Pearl Insurance at the Government & Public Interest Seminar!

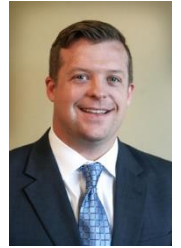
Membership

We received an application for membership from Shane Mahoney and an application for renewal from Paul Burmeister. These applications will be presented to the Board in January for approval. Shane is an attorney at LeFante Law Offices and Paul is an attorney with Davis & Campbell LLC.

Public Relations

Every year a member of the PCBA is honored for his or her community volunteerism in the Peoria area. Last year's recipient was James M. Rochford. If you know someone who deserves this honor, please send your nominations to the PCBA office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 5, 2018. Submit your nomination online or download the forms by clicking [here](#).

The PCBA is pleased to announce that one of its members was named in the 2017 Class of **40 Leaders Under 40**. Congratulations to **Casey Kepple** (at right) of Kepple Law Group LLC!



Young Lawyers Committee

The YLC held another successful Halloween Blood Drive. They had 20 donations and the Red Cross was extremely thankful. Thank you to Wade Blumenshine and J.D. VanRheeden for organizing this event. For those of you who are a Holiday Sponsor for this year's Project Santa, please be sure to drop your unwrapped gift off to your YLC firm contact or the PCBA Office by Monday, December 11. If you have any questions, please contact James Van Rheeden (jvanrheeden@quinnjohnston.com), Kyle Tompkins (ktompkins@hgsuw.com) or Kevin Day (kday@hgsuw.com)

Prairie State Legal Services *by Kate Whetstone*

We would like to thank the following attorneys, paralegals, and other support staff who have assisted low income persons and recently closed pro bono cases: Caroline Cassidy, Christopher Crawford, Scott Kriegsman, Anne Mergen, Jack Skinner, and Steven Wakeman

Will and Power of Attorney Clinic

Prairie State held a free Will and Power of Attorney clinic in conjunction with Heyl Royster and Caterpillar Legal Services division. The event was held on Saturday, November 18, at Peoria Friendship House. Several attorneys and paralegals generously gave their time to help low income seniors with their important advanced directives. I would like to thank the following for taking time out of their weekend to serve our clients:

Attorneys: Syed Ahmad, Timothy Bertschy, Byron Buck, Timothy Kirk, Seth TeBeest, Emily Perkins and Larry Wilken

Paralegals: Denise Cardot, Heather Feeney, and Laura Gilmore

End of the Year Giving

Keep an eye out in the mail for end of the year donation information for Prairie State Legal Services this holiday season. If you have not yet contributed this year you can easily donate by visiting www.pslegal.org and clicking the donate button on the top right hand corner. Thank you for your generosity and support of the work that we do. **Happy Holidays!!**

Other News

LAP Board President Announced

PCBA member **Tim Bertschy** [second from left in photo], the managing partner of Heyl Royster, began his term as President of the Illinois Lawyers' Assistance Program's Board of Directors on November 15. "Tim's dedication to the Illinois Legal Community is extraordinary. LAP as it is today would not exist without his advocacy. He was one of the original architects of the funding that LAP receives from the Illinois Supreme Court. We're excited to have Tim as the President of the LAP Board of Directors to continue promoting wellness for the Illinois Legal Community," said Robin Belleau, LAP Executive Director.

"The practice of law can be extremely stressful," Bertschy said. "We know that anxiety, depression and substance abuse are especially



prevalent in the legal profession. During my term as LAP president, I will first focus on spreading the word that LAP is here to help lawyers, judges, and law students around the state, and I will make a special effort to reach downstate lawyers now that we have a Bloomington location. Second, I would like to use my position as a pulpit to encourage people to take that first step, which is to overcome the stigma of seeking treatment.”

- **Tenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee and Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)** are holding a CLE on guardianship & child support on Wednesday, December 13 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the basement conference room in the Commerce Bank. Advanced registration is required by 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 6. You can register by going to www.pili.org/10thcircuit. This course is for 2.75 hours of MCLE credit. There is no fee for this event, but attendees are encouraged to take on an additional pro bono matter in the coming year.
- Please click the following link to read a message from McLean County Circuit Court and Circuit Clerk's Office regarding e-filing in McLean County. [McLean County E-Filing Notification](#)
- The 11th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee and Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic are hosting an Expungement Summit in Bloomington on December 9th from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm at the YWCA located at 1201 N. Hershey Road, Bloomington. We are in need of volunteers. If any of you are interested and available to volunteer, there will be two shifts for volunteers from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. For anyone who has not volunteered at an expungement summit in the past, there will be a training on December 8th from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm at the Law and Justice Center, EMA Conference Room in Bloomington.

Below are links to the web pages on PILI's website which provide details of the Summit, trainings and sign up information.

-Expungement Summit Event Page: <http://pili.org/events/event/second-chance-family-connection-summit>.

-December 8th Training: <http://pili.org/events/event/cle-training-expungementsealing-of-criminal-records-december-8th>.

Please spread the word to your friends and colleagues. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Beth Jensen at bjensen@pili.org or 309-999-9890.

Directory Changes

Rantisi, Sharbel – 5832 N. Knoxville Ave., H2, Peoria, 61614. Phone: 309-826-9900 Email: srantisi@gmail.com

Job Openings & Office Space Available

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](#)

2017-2018 Board of Directors

Michele A. Miller – President
Richard W. Zuckerman – President-Elect & Budget
Michael D. Gifford – Second Vice President
Ambrose V. McCall – Secretary – Treasurer
Hon. Jerelyn D. Maher – Past President & Nominating Chair
Melissa N. Schoenbein – By-Laws
John P. Nicoara – Communications & Technology
Hon. James P. Shadid – Diversity
Brad W. Keller – Entertainment (Golf)
Ann R. Pieper – Entertainment (Holiday Party)
Kyle M. Tompkins – Fitness, Health & Wellness
Ann R. Pieper – Government & Public Interest Law

James R. Carter – Lawyer Referral Service
Carol J. Perkins – Lincoln Memorial Banquet
Emily H. Wilburn – Local Continuing Legal Education
Mitchell M. Gilfillan - Membership & Memorials
Steven P. Glancy – Pro Bono
Peter J. Lynch – Public Relations
Christopher D. Oswald – Real Property
David B. Wiest – Substantive Law
Emily J. Perkins – Young Lawyers
Aliesha N. Graves – Director at Large
Joshua D. Herman – Director at Large
Kevin M. Miller – Director at Large
Thomas W. O'Neal – Director at Large

2017-18 Foundation Trustees

Michele A. Miller, President
Richard W. Zuckerman, President-Elect
Michael D. Gifford, Second Vice President
Ambrose V. McCall, Secretary-Treasurer
Honorable Paul P. Gilfillan, Chief Judge
Rex K. Linder, At-Large Trustee
Karen M. Stumpe, At-Large Trustee
David B. Wiest, At-Large Trustee