



# LegalEase

September 2021

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

## **President's Message**

Hello and happy September! The Bar Association had a fantastic August which included in-person and remote committee meetings and the first in-person Board meeting since early 2020. As we discussed at the Board meeting, flexibility is going to be key moving forward. The September Board meeting will be held via zoom, and all members are welcome to join us. Please reach out to Stephanie if you would like a link to attend and learn more about what is happening in the Association.

September is a busy month with plenty of options for members to engage with your fellow Bar members outside of the usual committee meetings. The PCBA Memorial Services are set for September 2 and September 16. Please plan to attend at least one of these Services. David Mueller, the chair of the Memorial Service Committee, told me that the PCBA is the only bar association that has continually honored its members for more than a century. What a gift this is to our members and their families, who often do not have a window into the time that their loved one spent in their professional vocation. At the Service, they get to hear stories and memories of their loved one that they might have never known. This is a tradition that we must continue to support.

September also includes wonderful opportunities to interact in the great outdoors with your colleagues in some friendly competition. The Annual Golf Outing is scheduled for September 10 and Strides for Justice is set for September 25. Strides for Justice supports Prairie State Legal Services, and it is a great event for your whole family to attend. I have heard that the "Fastest Firm" award is up for grabs this year, so sign up with your colleagues to try to bring home the Debbie Ryva trophy! I look forward to seeing you all at our September events!



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



1. Chief Judge Katherine Gorman is pleased to announce that Gabe McLeod has been selected as the Court Administrator. Mr. McLeod has been employed by Peoria County since July 2007. He graduated from Western Illinois University with a bachelor's degree in Business Management. She is also pleased to announce that Jennifer Shadid has accepted an offer to become Chief Financial Officer for Court Administration. Ms. Shadid has been employed by Peoria County since January 2010. She graduated from Bradley University with a bachelor's degree in accounting. "I am thrilled to have Gabe and Jennifer on the Court Administration team," Chief Judge Gorman said. "They each bring unique strengths to their positions and will assist the Judicial Stakeholders in their service to the public and its citizens." They both started their new positions August 23, 2021.
2. Please help us congratulate Judge Sean Donahue and his problem-solving court team for the recertification of the Peoria County Drug, Veterans and Mental Health Treatment Courts.
3. Judge Fehrenbacher will take an 8 week leave of absence from the Tazewell Courthouse beginning Wed. Sept. 1st. Essential and emergency hearings, such as OP's, will be covered by other judges. Currently set Thursday CMC's will remain set. Other currently set motions/trials will be rescheduled by his CR 101 clerk. Any questions can be first directed to his CR 101 clerk, then to Court Administrator Lori Shelton, and finally, if needed, to Presiding Judge Gilfillan. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **September**

- 2 Annual Memorial Service – Part I – Peoria County Courthouse, courtroom 210, at 2:30 p.m.
- 10 Annual PCBA Golf Outing at Mt. Hawley Country Club
- 13 Annual PCBA Golf Outing (RAIN DATE)
- 16 Annual Memorial Service – Part II – Peoria County Courthouse, courtroom 210, at 2:30 p.m.
- 25 Strides for Justice 5k run/1 mile walk. Grandview Dr., Peoria Heights

## **Committee Meetings**

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

7	Real Property (Z)	17	CLE (O)
8	Diversity (Z)	20	LMB (Z)
9	YLC (Z)	21	Board of Directors (Z)
13	FH&W (Z)	22	GPIL (O)
14	Workers' Comp Section (Z)	23	Holiday (O)
15	Communications & Technology (O)	29	Commercial Law & Litigation Section (Z)

## **Committee Reports**

### **Communications & Technology**

**Photography by Lee** has agreed to take our next professional photos. The PCBA conference room will be set up as the studio. Sitting fee is \$55 and you will receive a digital copy of your photo. Please mark your calendars for the following alphabetical schedule (goes by last name): **October 25** (A-D), **October 26** (E-I), **October 27** (J-M), **October 28** (N-R), and **October 29** (S-Z). Makeup days will be **November 1** and **November 2** (for those unable to come on their specified date). **Pictures will be taken on a first come, first serve basis between 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

## **Diversity**



The **18th Annual Diversity Luncheon** will be taking place virtually on **Wednesday, October 13 from Noon – 1:00 p.m.** through Zoom. Keynote speakers are **Dr. Rita Ali**, Peoria Mayor and **Eric Echevarria**, Peoria Police Chief. Cost is a minimum of \$25 per person and registration can be done online by clicking [here](#), or visiting our website [www.peoriabar.org](http://www.peoriabar.org) and clicking on the event calendar. If you would like to donate more than the \$25 registration fee, please send a check to the PCBA Office made out to the Peoria County Bar Association Foundation. Even though we are unable to have this event in person, we do hope you will continue to support the Diversity Committee and the Robert H. Jennetten Diversity Scholarship by attending this virtual event.

## **Fitness, Health & Wellness** by: *Robert Everett*, Committee Member

It is that time of year again! The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Strides for Justice 5k run/1 mile walk will be held in-person on Saturday, September 25, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. on beautiful Grandview Drive in Peoria Heights. Strides for Justice is sponsored by the PCBA Foundation in support of Prairie State Legal Services. There will be an awards ceremony/after-race party at Oliver's in Peoria Heights immediately following the race. Please click on the following link to register today <https://raceroster.com/events/2021/48663/strides-for-justice-5k-run-and-1-mile-walk>

Fitness, Health & Wellness Committee member, Rilla Adcock (our Prairie State Legal Services liaison), reported she ran 14 miles in July. She also competed at the CrossFit competition "Battle at the Ballpark" and placed 5<sup>th</sup> in her division. Remember, keep track of the miles you walk or jog, the number of laps you swim or any of your other fitness data and send them to Stephanie at [pcbaasst@mtco.com](mailto:pcbaasst@mtco.com). The members with the highest totals in each category will be listed in the following month's PCBA newsletter.

## **Local Continuing Legal Education**

### **2021 Fall Professional Responsibility Seminar**

This seminar will take place during the month of October. Specifics are still being worked out and the membership will be notified as soon as a date is set. Thank you for your patience.

### **Fall Workers' Compensation Seminar**

Save-the-Date! This seminar will be from Noon – 4:15 p.m. at the Spalding Pastoral Center.

## **Membership**

We received an application for student membership from Gabrielle Cunningham and an application for regular membership from Jeffrey Gaster. Gabrielle is employed by Hanauer Law Office, LLC and Jeffrey is an attorney with Miller, Hall & Triggs, LLC. If there are no objections, their names will be submitted to the Board in October for approval.

## **Memorial Service**

The second Memorial Service will be Thursday, September 16 at 2:30 p.m. in courtroom 210 of the Peoria County Courthouse with overflow seating in courtroom 123. The service will also be live streamed on the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Website:

<https://www.10thcircuitcourtil.org/> and the Peoria County YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-qaAdj6tzlxqi3odzEoMIQ>. There will be a reception following the service until 5:30 p.m. in the Renaissance Room of the Janssen Building (3<sup>rd</sup> floor).

**Those being honored at the September 16 service are:** David M. Lynch, Forrest D. Serblin, Aaron T. Wickenhauser, Hon. Calvin R. Stone, Hon. James D. Heiple, Frederick W. Allen, Thomas E. Schlehuber, Verne E. Dentino, Robert W. Bach and James E. Kinsky.

### **Memorials**



On August 6, 2021, a member of the Association, Franklin L. Renner passed away. Frank attended the University of Iowa and graduated in 1967. Upon graduation, Frank attended the University of Illinois College of Law where he graduated in 1971. He then returned to Peoria and practiced for over 40 years. Contributions to the Peoria County Bar Association Foundation may be made online by clicking [here](#) or by sending a check to the Peoria County Bar Association Foundation in memory of Franklin L. Renner.

*The PCBA has made a \$100 contribution to the Foundation in memory of Frank.*

### **Other News**

- The McLean County Bar Association is hosting a GAL Conference next month. For more information and to register, visit: <https://www.mcleancountybarassociation.com/gal-2021-regs.html>

### **2021-22 Board of Directors**

Emily H. Wilburn – President  
Michael A. Fleming – President-Elect & Budget  
Aliesha N. Graves – Second Vice President  
Joshua D. Herman – Secretary-Treasurer  
Ambrose V. McCall – Past President & Nominating Chair  
Heather J. Russo – By-Laws  
Katherine G. Legge – Communications & Technology  
Yolanda J. Riley -- Diversity  
Nathan R. Bach – Entertainment (Golf)  
Dennis E. Merkley – Entertainment (Holiday Party)  
James D. Van Rheeden – Fitness, Health & Wellness  
Joshua D. Herman – Government & Public Interest Law  
Carol J. Perkins – Lawyer Referral Service

Mitch M. Gilfillan – Lincoln Memorial Banquet  
Katherine L. Swise – Local Continuing Legal Education  
Thomas A McConnaughay & David B. Mueller –  
Membership & Memorials  
Kerriane L. Waters – Pro Bono  
Seth A. TeBeest – Public Relations  
Kyle M. Tompkins – Real Property  
John G. Dundas – Substantive Law  
Kevin O. Sheahan – Young Lawyers  
William B. Loeffel – Director at Large  
Norman L. McGill – Director at Large  
Nicole D. Meyer– Director at Large  
Christopher A. Nichols – Director at Large