



LegalEase

December 2021

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

President's Message

Hello Members! I recently saw a meme that said something along the lines of "Being an adult is constantly being surprised that it is already ____ holiday or ____ month." And I feel like I am there! I cannot believe that we are already at month twelve of 2021. This year has flown by. I hope that you all had wonderful Thanksgivings with your friends and families, and that you had time to relax and reflect on the good things in your lives. The PCBA is grateful for all of you.



Looking ahead this month, the annual PCBA Holiday Party is December 16 at the Warehouse on State. Member/Comedian Matt Smith will perform, so you will be sure to share a laugh with your colleagues. And the CLE committee is busy finalizing the details for the 2022 CLE Winter Series, which will take place over Zoom in January and into February. If you have any ideas for a seminar or would like to present, please contact Kate Swise or Stephanie Bitner.

As this year winds down, I hope that you all have a wonderful holiday season. But I also know that the holidays can be a hard time and trigger depression for some- not to mention the stress and uncertainties that we have all been dealing with for the past two years. You do not have to tackle these issues by yourself. The Illinois Lawyers Assistance Program (www.illinoislap.org) is available to provide you with confidential assistance. LAP has great resources on its website, and you can even schedule a consultation online. I hope that if you need help, you know that you are not alone and will reach out.

Thank you, Members, for your patience and participation this year. Good things are in store for 2022! The PCBA wishes you the happiest of holidays!

Court News *By Chief Judge Katherine S. Gorman*



1. Judge Paul Gilfillan will be retiring as Tazewell County Resident Circuit Judge, effective April 8, 2022.

December

- 16 PCBA Holiday Party, The Warehouse on State, 5:00 p.m.
- 23 Christmas Eve Day Observed, Courts & Courthouse Closed/PCBA Office Closed
- 24 Christmas Day Observed, Courts & Courthouse Closed/PCBA Office Closed
- 31 New Year's Day Observed, Courts & Courthouse Closed/PCBA Office Closed

Committee Meetings

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

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 1 | Communications & Technology (Z) | 8 | Nominating Committee (Z) |
| 2 | Fitness, Health & Wellness (Z) | 14 | LMB (Z) |

Distinguished Community Service Award

Nominations are open for the **2022 Distinguished Community Service Award**. The recipient will be announced at the Lincoln Memorial Banquet & Pillars of the Bar event being held on Thursday, February 17, 2022. If you know an attorney who deserves this award, please visit our website at www.peoriabar.org and click on DCSA under the members tab. Here, you can submit your nomination online or download the form and submit it to the PCBA office. **Nomination deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 7, 2022.**

Committee Reports

Entertainment – Holiday Party

Don't forget to register for the PCBA Holiday Party! After taking last year off, we are so excited to have the event this year!

When: Thursday, December 16, 2021

Where: The Warehouse on State, 736 SW Washington St.

This year's entertainment will be PCBA Member and comedian, Matt Smith!

Timeline of Festivities

5:00 p.m. – Check-in & Drinks

6:00 p.m. - Hors d'oeuvres

6:30 p.m. - Entertainment

Cost is only \$40 per person and includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and two (2) drink tickets. Registration can be completed online by clicking [here](#). Members (and significant others), non-member attorneys and Judges are all welcome! **Deadline to register is Noon on Thursday, December 9!**



Lincoln Memorial Banquet & Pillars of the Bar

The 113th Lincoln Memorial Banquet & Pillars of the Bar will take place on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at the Par-A-Dice Hotel & Casino. Our keynote speaker is University of Illinois Professor, Dr. Graham Peck. Mark your calendars now!

Local Continuing Legal Education

2022 Winter Series

Registration for the 2022 Winter Series is now open! The series will be held through Zoom this year. A detailed flyer is attached.

Friday, January 14 – Cybersecurity, Loss Prevention and Risky Business Relationships!, 1:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Saturday, January 22 – Estate Planning & Probate Webinar, 8:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Saturday, January 29 – Civil Practice Webinar, 8:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Saturday, February 5 – Family Law Webinar, 8:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Friday, February 11 – Government & Public Interest Law and Social Security Disability Benefits, 1:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Cost is \$65 PCBA Members | \$80 McLean County Bar Members | \$95 Non-Members

As always, we will have our PCBA MEMBER ONLY DEAL, all 5 seminars for the price of 4...only \$260!

Register now by visiting www.peoriabar.org and clicking on the event calendar!

Membership

We have received applications for membership from Alec Murphy and Noah Benckendorf. Alec is an attorney at Murphy & Dunn, P.C. and Noah is an attorney at Benckendorf & Benckendorf, P.C. If there are no objections, their names will be submitted to the Board in January for approval.

Prairie State Legal Services

On Friday, November 19, 2021, Prairie State Legal Services hosted its first in-person sealing and expungement clinic since the COVID pandemic began! During the clinic, 11 clients each met with an attorney and received advice and pro se court documents to begin the process of sealing and expunging old criminal records to move forward with their lives and gain employment. Thank you to volunteer attorneys Don Driscoll, Cathy Molchin and Yolanda Riley (not pictured) for providing advice and brief service to the clients during this clinic. Community partners Goodwill and Tri-County Urban League also were present to provide job-readiness support. Prairie State hopes to offer many similar community events in 2022. If you are interested in volunteering for a future clinic, or if you would like to provide advice to a client over the phone or represent a client in drafting a simple will or Power of Attorney, please contact Prairie State Legal Service's Pro Bono Coordinator Steven Rickey at srickey@pslegal.org. Thank you for your support!



Other News

The Illinois Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission is looking to appoint new members to its Inquiry and Hearing Boards. For more information and how to submit a letter of interest, please click [here](#).

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).

2021-22 Board of Directors

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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 –
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Christopher A. Nichols – Director at Large



2022 Winter Series

FRIDAY, January 14 – Cybersecurity, Loss Prevention & Risky Business Relationships! – 1:00 – 4:15 p.m. via Zoom

More details will be announced soon...

SATURDAY, January 22 – Estate Planning, Probate & Elder Law – 8:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. via Zoom

Electronic Wills & Remote Notarization by Teresa Dickinson
Capacity Issues in Will and Trust Signings by Mary Corrigan
Uncooperative Fiduciaries by Jim Kane
New Transfer on Death Instrument (TODI) Statute by Kyle Tompkins
Statutory/Caselaw Update by Kevin Sheahan
Tax Law Update by David Wiest

SATURDAY, January 29 – Civil Practice – 8:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. via Zoom

Tort Law Update by Robert Tenney
Employment Law Update by Mike Gifford
HIPAA Litigation by James LeFante
VoiR Dire Update by Judge Michael Risinger

SATURDAY, February 5 - Family Law – 8:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. via Zoom

Case Law Update by Ret., Judge Jerelyn Maher (Presented by Norman McGill)
Legislative Update by Richard Zuckerman
How Remote Working Effects your Practice by Joseph Borsberry
Injunctions by Tamara Meister
Foreseeability Defense by Chuck Urban
Hot Technology Tips in the Courtroom by Kelly Giraud
View from the Bench – Judges from the 10th Judicial Circuit Family Law Courts

FRIDAY, February 11 – Government & Public Interest Law and Social Security Disability Benefits– 1:00 – 4:15 p.m. via Zoom

Social Security Disability Benefits by Linda Rothnagel
More details will be announced soon...

Early Registration price: \$65 for PCBA Members|\$80 for McLean County Bar Members|\$95 for Non-Members

PCBA MEMBERS ONLY DEAL – All 5 seminars for the price of 4, only \$260!

Registration can be done online at www.peoriabar.org and clicking on the event calendar.

Registrations increase by \$15 the Monday before each seminar

Reminders:

- Please include your ARDC number in your registration. We **must** have your number when we submit our attendance to the MCLE Board or you will not receive credit.
- You will receive materials & Zoom links by email the week of the seminar.
- Attendance certificates will be emailed the week following the webinar.



2021 PCBA Holiday Party

December 16, 2021

The Warehouse on State

736 SW Washington St.

Festivities begin at 5:00 p.m.

**This year's entertainment will be
PCBA Member and comedian, Matt Smith!**

\$40 per person—including heavy hors d'oeuvres and two (2) drink tickets

This event is open to ALL attorneys and judges, not just PCBA members.

Register online by visiting www.peoriabar.org

Deadline to register is Noon on Thursday, December 9.