



LegalEase

October 2023

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

President's Message

Happy October, members!

It has been a pleasure to see so many of our members out and participating in our September events; Strides for Justice and the Annual Golf Tournament.

As we transition into autumn, I'd like to remind you of the Celebrate Pro Bono Reception on October 23 and the Diversity Luncheon on November 2. The Peoria County Bar Association's commitment to public interest and diversity and inclusion is admirable and I'm so proud to be a member of an organization that prioritizes these values. I hope that I will see many of you at these events!



Court News *By Chief Judge Katherine S. Gorman*



1. Please see a press release announcing Chief Judge Gorman being elected Chair for the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges, effective January 1, 2024. [Press release.](#)
2. 2024 Courtroom Assignments have been announced. They can be found [here.](#)

Calendar of Events & Court Holidays

OCTOBER

- 9 Columbus Day – Courts Closed/Courthouse Open
- 27 2023 Fall Professional Responsibility Seminar, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Spalding Pastoral Center

NOVEMBER

- 2 Annual Diversity Luncheon, Noon – 1:00 p.m. at the Spalding Pastoral Center
- 10 Veterans' Day, observed – Courts Closed/Courthouse Open
- 23&24 Thanksgiving Holiday – Courts & Courthouse Closed/PCBA Office Closed

DECEMBER

- 14 PCBA Annual Holiday Party
- 25&26 Christmas Eve Day observed/Christmas Day observed.

Committee Meetings

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

2	Civil Section (Z)	5	Holiday Party (Z)
3	Real Property (O)	10	Pro Bono (Z)
4	Family Law Section (Z & O)	11	Public Relations (Z)

Committee Reports

Continuing Legal Education Committee

Registration is open for the **2023 Fall Professional Responsibility Seminar!** The seminar will be Friday, October 27 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Spalding Pastoral Center. Snacks will be provided and a social will take place at Obed & Isaac's following the seminar. Topics include: Vicarious Trauma - Attorney Well-Being a Foundation for Ethical Representation and The use of Artificial Intelligence in the Legal Field. The seminar will be submitted to the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism for 2 hours of professional responsibility credit, including 1 hour of mental health/substance abuse. Cost is \$75 for members, \$90 for McLean County Bar Members and \$105 for non-members. **This seminar will not be recorded.** To register, click [here.](#)

Diversity Luncheon



The **20th Annual Diversity Luncheon** is being held on **Thursday, November 2, 2023 from Noon – 1:00 p.m. at the Spalding Pastoral Center**. Please join us as we hear from the City of Peoria's Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, Melodi Green. As always, we will also recognize our 2023 recipients of the Robert H. Jennetten Diversity Scholarship.



In 2003, then-President Robert H. Jennetten, lead the charge of fostering diversity in the membership of the Peoria County Bar Association by founding the Diversity Committee. The Committee held its first Diversity Luncheon on September 20, 2004, to help fund the Diversity Scholarship and that tradition has continued. We do hope you can join us this year!

Cost is \$45 per ticket or \$360 for a table of 8. Lunch buffet will open at 11:30 a.m. and the program will be from Noon – 1:00 p.m. Registration will close on Wednesday, October 25th. To register, click [here](#).

A goal of the PCBA is to diversify its membership by providing financial assistance to law students who show interest in practicing law in the Peoria area, are part of a minority group that is historically underrepresented in the legal profession, and demonstrate a need for financial assistance. If you are unable to attend our luncheon this year, please consider donating to the scholarship. Contributions can be made by mailing a check* made out to the Peoria County Bar Association Foundation to the PCBA Office (110 SW Jefferson Ave., Suite 520, Peoria, 61602), or online by clicking [here](#).

*Please write Diversity Scholarship donation in the memo line.

Entertainment Committee: Part I – Golf Outing



We had great weather for our Annual PCBA Golf Outing on Friday, September 29th. Thank you to everyone who attended! At left are our scramble winners, John Fleming, Abby Fleming and Josh Ernstberger (not pictured: Ryan Brown), along with golf chair, Robin Boucher. Also, congratulations to Judge Katherine Gorman for winning the women's longest drive contest and Bill Streeter for winning the men's longest putt contest!

Entertainment Committee: Part I – Holiday Party

Save-the-Date! The Annual Holiday Party will be Thursday, December 14th at Mt. Hawley. Cost will be \$75 and includes a 2-hour open bar and buffet dinner. The entertainment will be a special tribute to John Pusey. Registration will open in October.

Fitness, Health & Wellness Committee

Thank you to everyone who came out on Saturday, September 23 to support Prairie State Legal Services at our Annual Strides for Justice Race! We had fantastic weather and our highest number of participants ever at 208! At right we have our overall female winner, Jessica Davis, and our overall male winner, Guillermo Rolon. Also at right are Logan Block, JD VanRheeden and Noah Miller from Quinn Johnston, who got to take home the traveling "fastest firm" trophy this year! Congratulations to all!



Membership

We have received applications for student membership from Isabella Gruse and Anna Danz. We have received an application for membership from Heather McPherson. Isabella is with Miller, Hall & Triggs and Anna is attending law school. Heather is an attorney with McPherson Law Offices.

Prairie State Legal Services

Prairie State Legal Services would like to thank all the attorneys and paralegals who have volunteered to provide free legal assistance to low-income clients or who have otherwise supported pro bono in the community over the past month. Below are some highlights of what we have accomplished through our pro bono program.



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LEGAL SERVICES

Pro Bono Report

A. Pro Bono Cases and Clinics

1. Five referrals for the November 2023 10th Judicial Circuit Divorce Clinic have been accepted by Murphy & Dunn. Attorney Candice Thomason is coordinating the case assignments. Each client will be represented by an attorney from Murphy & Dunn and Judge Wilson has reserved her court room for these cases on November 1, 2023, 3-5pm.
2. Five referrals for the December 2023 10th Judicial Circuit Divorce Clinic have been accepted by Tami Meister, Butler, Giraud & Meister and Mitch Gilfillan, Quinn Johnston. Each will represent three clients and Judge Wilson has reserved her courtroom for December 19, 2023, 3-5pm.
3. The PCBA Young Lawyers Committee will host a 2024 Divorce Clinic, in conjunction with the annual Spring 2024 Brown Bag CLE. Attorneys will have an opportunity to receive training and to operate the clinic together with referrals from Prairie State Legal Services. Thank you to Allison Piper Gerber, YLC Chai, for taking the lead and to PCBA President Aliesha Graves for recommending the collaboration with the CLE Committee. We look forward to working together on this project.
4. Case referrals have also been accepted by Ann Burton, Spencer Daniels, Stephen Heine, Blake Mishler, Chris McCall, Robert Parker, Boyd Roberts, and Kevin Wolfe.

B. Pro Bono Community

1. Prairie State Legal Services is grateful to the PCBA members who participated in the Strides for Justice Run/Walk on Saturday September 23, 2023.
2. Prairie State Legal Services is grateful to the PCBA members who participated in the Raffle at the PCBA Golf Tournament on September 29, 2023.
3. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Pro Bono Week Reception on Monday, October 23, 2023, 5pm in the Renaissance Room at the Janssen Law Center.
4. The next PCBA Pro Bono Committee meeting is Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 12 noon by Zoom. If you have agenda items or wish to attend, please contact Committee Chair Austin Nichols at anichols@blackblackbrown.com.

To get involved or accept a case referral, contact Laurie Bell, Pro Bono Coordinator lbelle@pslegal.org 309-533-7663

Other News

Greetings from the Tenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee!

The Tenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee invites you to the 2023 Celebrate Pro Bono Reception on Monday, October 23, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Renaissance Room at the Janssen Law Center at 333 Main Street in Peoria. Please join us as we commemorate National Pro Bono Week and recognize and celebrate the amazing and life-changing pro bono work being done in the Tenth Judicial Circuit and applaud those attorneys who will be receiving special recognition by the Peoria County Bar Association, Tazewell County Bar Association, Prairie State Legal Services, Inc., and the Tenth Judicial Circuit.

The Tenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee is especially honored that Illinois Supreme Court Justice Lisa Holder White will be our special guest speaker at our reception. At this event, we will honor the Joseph A. Dailing Pro Bono Service Award recipient, Tami Meister. Attendance is free, but advance registration is required. A flyer can be downloaded [here](#).

Thank you to all who provide pro bono legal services in our community. You have made access to justice a reality through your work. Thank you also for your consideration of how we, as a legal community, can do more to help those in need.

Sincerely,

Judge Lisa Wilson

Chair, Tenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee

IFSEA Conference

The Illinois Family Support Enforcement Association is holding their annual conference on October 16th & 17th in East Peoria. For more information and to register, 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).

2023-24 Board of Directors

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