



# LegalEase

March 2024

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

## **President's Message**

As we prepare to spring forward, and for the change of seasons, I hope that any of us who have a CLE deadline approaching are able to take advantage of our Brown Bag Series. CLE has long been a priority for the Peoria County Bar Association, and the Brown Bag Series, held during the noon hour, are free to all members!



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



1. Please join me in welcoming Judge Caroline E. Borden Campion to the bench. She is presiding in courtroom 322 in Peoria County.

## **Calendar of Events & Court Holidays**

### **March**

- 6 Brown Bag Seminar: Juvenile & DCFS Update – Zoom – Noon to 1:00 p.m.
- 11 Brown Bag Seminar: Criminal Law – Zoom – Noon to 1:00 p.m.
- 15 PCBA Office Closed
- 20 Brown Bag Seminar: Government & Public Interest Law – Zoom – Noon to 1:00 p.m.
- 29 Good Friday – Courts & Courthouse Closed/PCBA Office closed

## **Committee Meetings**

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

5	Real Property (Z)	13	GPIL (Z)	21	Pro Bono (Z)
7	PCBA Office Meeting (O)	14	YLC (O)	25	Workers' Comp (Z)
12	Budget (O)	19	Board (O&Z)	28	CLE (Z)

## **Nominating Committee**

Last month, the Nominating Committee met for the purpose of selecting an attorney who will fill the role of Secretary-Treasurer next year, and annually thereafter move into the offices of Second Vice President, President-Elect and President of the PCBA. The nominee should be someone from our association with past measurable involvement with the PCBA's committees and activities, someone with demonstrated legal experience and abilities, and someone who exemplifies the character of the membership sufficient to lead the association in furtherance of all the association's endeavors. The Nominating Committee is pleased to report that it has selected Kelly Girardo as its nominee for the position of Secretary-Treasurer for the year 2024-25. The committee has spoken with Kelly who has agreed that if she is so nominated, she will accept the position. Formal vote will take place at the Annual Business Meeting this summer.



**The 2023-24 Nominating Committee Members:** Michael A. Fleming, 2022-23, Immediate Past President & Chair, Emily H. Wilburn, 2021-22 President, Ambrose V. McCall, 2020-21 President, Michael D. Gifford, 2019-2020 President; Richard W. Zuckerman, 2018-19 President and Two members under age 36 appointed by the chair: Kevin Day and Alicia VanRheeden.

## **Peoria County Judicial Internship Opportunity Program**

The Tenth Judicial Circuit is accepting applications for the Peoria County Judicial Internship Opportunity Program ("JIOP"). The six-week summer judicial internship program is open to all first or second-year law students. The mission of JIOP is to provide opportunities to students who are members of racial and ethnic groups that are traditionally underrepresented in the profession. The program also provides opportunities to students with disabilities, who are economically disadvantaged and students who identify themselves as LGBT. A small stipend will be awarded to interns who are accepted into the program. Please encourage eligible students to apply for this internship. Interested students may apply by sending a letter outlining their qualifications and interest along with their resume to Judge Ierulli at [fierulli@peoriacounty.org](mailto:fierulli@peoriacounty.org). **Applications will be accepted until March 14, 2024.**

## **Committee Reports**

### **Communications & Technology**

Reminder: The 2024 Attorneys' Directories are in. Below are the scheduled pick-up days and times. Contact Stephanie at [pcbaasst@mtco.com](mailto:pcbaasst@mtco.com) for pick-up availability if you need to stop by on a different day.

#### **Directories are available for pickup:**

Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> – 8:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> – No pickup available

Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 to 3:00 p.m.

## **Continuing Legal Education Committee**

### **2024 Winter Series**

The 2024 Winter Series is complete! Recordings of the Estate Planning & Probate, Civil Practice, Family Law and Government & Public Interest and Employment Law seminars are available. Contact Stephanie to purchase.

### **2024 Brown Bag Series**

These seminars will take place from Noon – 1:00 p.m. through Zoom and are **FREE** to PCBA members. Registration is open and can be completed online by visiting our CLE calendar by clicking [here](#).

March 6 – Juvenile/DCFS Update by Joseph Borsberry

March 11 – Criminal Law - Odor of Cannabis as Probable Cause to Conduct a Warrantless Search of a Vehicle and Alcohol Evaluation & Treatment Process by Chuck Schierer and Jeffrey Hall

March 20 – Government & Public Interest Law - What Nonprofits Can Learn from Government Ethics Codes by Joel Corcoran

April 3 – Family Law Basics for the Non-Family Law Practitioner by Ann Pieper

### **2024 Workers' Compensation Seminar**

The 2024 Spring Workers' Compensation Seminar will be Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. at the Spalding Pastoral Center, 419 NE Madison Ave. in Peoria. Snacks will be provided.

Topics Include:

\* Arbitrator Panel with Dennis O'Brien, Kurt Carlson and Maureen Pulia

\* Commission & Arbitration Trends & Decisions by Quinn Johnston

\* Dr. Christine DiPompeo from Midwest Orthopedics

\* Ethical Dilemmas by Kevin Wolfe

Registration can be completed online by clicking [here](#).

Registration Price: \$75 for PCBA Members|\$90 for McLean County Bar Members|\$105 for Non-Members

## **Diversity Committee**

**Save-the-Date!** The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Diversity Luncheon will be Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from Noon – 1:00 p.m. at the Spalding Pastoral Center. American Bar Association President, Mary Smith, will be the keynote speaker.

## **Robert H. Jennetten Diversity Scholarship**

Applications for the Robert H. Jennetten Diversity Scholarship are being accepted! Please share this [link](#) with anyone you know in law school. Submissions are due by Friday, July 12, 2024.

## **Fitness, Health & Wellness Committee** by JD VanRheeden, Committee Chair

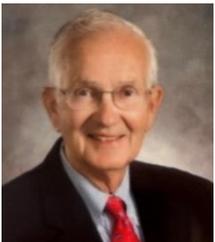
Spring (false Spring?) is here! That means it is time to emerge from our homes for some fresh air and exercise. Make sure to get out there and get after it before second winter shows its face! If you can't remember what you did before the sun started setting at 4:30pm, take a look at the attached link for some ideas. <https://www.verywellfit.com/5-fun-workout-ideas-for-spring-5218287>.

## **Membership Committee**

We have received applications for membership from Katherine Moushon with Schierer & Ritchie, LLC, Anna Wald with O'Flaherty Law, P.C., and Irubiel Ferrer with Pioletti, Pioletti & Nichols. We have received applications for renewal from Joseph C. Pioletti with Pioletti, Pioletti & Nichols, Miles Bardell with the U.S. District Court and Christopher Nelson with the Law Office of Christopher Nelson, LLC. If there are no objections, their names will be presented to the Board in April for approval.

## **Memorials**

The Annual Memorial Service will be Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. in Courtroom 210 of the Peoria County Courthouse. A reception will immediately follow in a location TBD. Chief Judge Katherine Gorman will preside and Memorial Chair David Mueller is coordinating the presenters. This annual event is yet another unique long-standing initiative of the PCBA, for the purpose of remembering and honoring our members. The Memorial Resolutions are filed in the Circuit Clerk's office and become a part of the public record for all time. Several years ago, the Foundation felt it was important to have time set aside after the formal courtroom presentations, for members to reminisce with heartwarming memories of their colleagues being remembered. We hope you will mark your calendar for May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Those being remembered are: David L. Thomas, John R. Pusey, David A. Dvorak, Roland N. Litterst, John A. Slevin, Judge Bruce P. Fehrenbacher, Jordan A. Fifield and Gregory A. Cerulo.



On February 4, 2024, a member of the association, Jordan A. Fifield, passed away. Jordan attended Harvard Law School and graduated in 1958 with his law degree. Jordan started his career at Miller, Westervelt & Johnson, co-founded Goldsworthy & Fifield and ended his career as of counsel at Kavanagh, Scully, Sudow, White and Frederick. 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 Jordan A. Fifield. The PCBA has made a \$100 contribution to the Foundation in his memory.

On February 16, 2024, a member of the association, Gregory A. Cerulo, passed away. Greg attended the University of Missouri and the University of Illinois College of Law. Greg spent his law career at McConnell, Kennedy, Quinn & Johnston, which was later renamed to Quinn, Johnston, Henderson, Pretorius & Cerulo. 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 Gregory A. Cerulo. The PCBA has made a \$100 contribution to the Foundation in his memory.



## **Pro Bono Committee**

The Pro Bono Committee is hosting a sealing and expungement clinic with Prairie State Legal Services on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Please see the flyer below.

## **Young Lawyers' Committee**

The **2024 Law Day Luncheon** will be held on **Wednesday, May 1, 2024** at the Spalding Pastoral Center! This year's theme is Voices of Democracy. Our keynote speaker is Elizabeth Gannon, Executive Director of the Peoria County Election Commission, who will speak on ensuring election integrity in Peoria County. We will also welcome our newest 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Judge, Caroline E. Borden, and honor the following 50-year members: David L. Cover, Michael A. Fleming, Gery R. Gasick, John W. Howard, Donald R. Jackson, Rex K. Linder, Hon. Brian M. Nemenoff (Ret.) and Brian W. Ruddell. As always, our Law Day Essay Contest winners will also be announced. Cost is \$40 per person, or \$320 for a table of 8. The lunch buffet will begin at 11:30 a.m. and the program will be from Noon – 1:00 p.m. The deadline to register is Tuesday, April 23 at Noon and can be completed by clicking [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**

Aliesha N. Graves – President  
Joshua D. Herman – President-Elect & Budget  
David B. Wiest – Second Vice President  
Katherine L. Swise – Secretary-Treasurer  
Michael A. Fleming – Past President & Nominating Chair  
Michele A. Miller – By-Laws  
Jon R. Giraud – Communications & Technology  
Yolanda J. Riley – Diversity  
Robert Boucher – Entertainment (Golf)  
Dennis E. Merkley – Entertainment (Holiday Party)  
JD VanRheeden – Fitness, Health & Wellness  
Masum D. Perkins – Government & Public Interest Law  
Robert J. Hanauer – Lawyer Referral Service

J. Scott Kriegsman – Lincoln Memorial Banquet  
Ann R. Pieper – Local Continuing Legal Education  
Alicia VanRheeden & David B. Mueller –  
Membership & Memorials  
Austin L. Nichols – Pro Bono  
Carol J. Perkins – Public Relations  
Kyle M. Tompkins – Real Property  
John G. Dundas – Substantive Law  
Allison Piper Geber – Young Lawyers  
J. Kevin Wolfe – Director at Large  
Bradley S. Barber – Director at Large  
Kerriane Waters – Director at Large  
Youssef Boudjarane – Director at Large



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! PEORIA CRIMINAL RECORDS RELIEF CLINIC**

### **Save the Date**

**April 26th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Goodwill Commons Community Room  
2319 E. War Memorial Drive, Peoria**

- No previous experience necessary, training will be provided.
- Volunteers help participants with available options for relief, prepare petitions to expunge and/or seal eligible records, and provide guidance on navigating the process from start to finish.
- Volunteers do not take cases or provide representation in court.
- Attorneys and other legal professionals are needed to chart criminal records before the Clinic and see clients at the Clinic.

**TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER VISIT**  
[www.pili.org/peoria-clinic-volunteer](http://www.pili.org/peoria-clinic-volunteer)

