



LegalEase

April 2024

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

President's Message

As March ends, and we look forward to Spring, I am excited for the annual Law Day luncheon held on May 1. It has always been one of my favorite Bar Association events because of the essay contest that our local schools participate in. Hopefully I will see many of you there!



Court News by Chief Judge Katherine S. Gorman



1. Congratulations to Judge Lisa Wilson who will be appointed as the Chair of the Illinois Judicial College in July.

Calendar of Events & Court Holidays

April

- 3 Brown Bag Seminar: Family Law Basics for the Non-Family Law Practitioner – Zoom – Noon to 1:00 p.m.
- 5 PCBA Office Closed
- 11 Workers' Compensation Spring Seminar – Spalding Pastoral Center – 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.
- 26 Pro Bono Clinic – Goodwill Commons Community Center – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Committee Meetings

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

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----|--------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 2 | Real Property (Z) | 10 | Public Relations (Z) | 23 | Communications & Tech. (Z) |
| 4 | YLC (Z) | 15 | LMB (Z) | 30 | Workers' Comp (Z) |
| 8 | FH&W (Z) | 16 | Board & Foundation (O&Z) | | |
| 9 | Diversity(Z) | 18 | Pro Bono (Z) | | |

Director At-Large

Are you interested in being involved with the Bar at Board level? Serving on the Board is a valuable experience that can give insight on the workings of the Association. The PCBA is now accepting nominating petitions for the office of Director-at-Large of the Peoria County Bar Association. All petitions must be received by the Executive Director no later than Thursday, May 23, 2024. The petition can be downloaded by clicking [here](#).

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 for pick-up availability.

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

We have one seminar left in the 2024 Brown Bag Series. The final seminar is on Wednesday, April 3rd from Noon – 1:00 p.m. through Zoom and the topic is Family Law Basics for the Non-Family Law Practitioner by Ann Pieper. This seminar is **FREE** to all PCBA members. Registration can be completed by clicking [here](#).

2024 Workers' Compensation Seminar

The 2024 Spring Workers' Compensation Seminar will be Thursday, April 11th 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

2024 Spring Professional Responsibility Seminar

Registration is open for the 2024 Spring Professional Responsibility Seminar! The seminar will take place on Thursday, May 16th from 1:00 – 3:45 p.m. through Zoom and includes 2 hours of CLE credit (1 hour of ethics and 1 hour of diversity & inclusion). Topics include:

- **Introducing the New ARDC Administrator**, Lea Gutierrez
- **The ARDC: An Overview and How to Navigate Your Ethical Questions** - ARDC Litigation Counsel (and PCBA member) Dave Collins will provide an overview of the ARDC—its structure, function and procedures. He will discuss how the ARDC can assist attorneys with understanding and applying the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct and resolving ethical questions. He will discuss how investigations are initiated, what to expect in an investigation and will provide an overview of the disciplinary process.
- **We Need to Talk : Navigating Challenging Conversations about Diversity** by Julia Livingston, ILSCCP - Since 2020, the murder of George Floyd has prompt people to have difficult conversations regarding race. However, little constructive guidance was given regarding how to have these conversations. As a result, although some people engaged in these conversations and were catalysts for change, other people had conversations which may have done more harm than good, and other people simply tried to avoid having these conversations at all. The reality is that many people struggle with having honest and productive conversations about diversity. These conversations require people to discuss potentially sensitive topics ... to speak and listen with empathy ... to be open to accepting constructive criticism ... to be willing to ask questions with an open mind ... and to risk potentially saying the wrong thing. As a result, some people try to avoid ever having these conversations. This course explores how professionalism and civility can provide you with skills to facilitate difficult conversations regarding diversity and help you to be leaders in creating more inclusive environments.

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

Diversity Committee

Save-the-Date! The 21st Annual Diversity Luncheon will be Wednesday, October 30th 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.

Lawyer Referral Service

On March 25th, an email was sent to the membership regarding the new structure of the lawyer referral service. This service is now FREE to all PCBA members. For more information, please reach out to Stephanie at pcbaasst@mtco.com.

Membership Committee

We have received applications for membership from Kathryn Chadderdon, Zoe Arthurson-McColl and Kevin O'Flaherty. Kathryn is an attorney at Miller, Hall & Triggs, Zoe is with James Kelly Law Firm and Kevin O'Flaherty is with O'Flaherty Law. If there are no objections, their names will be presented to the Board in May 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 the Renaissance Room (3rd Floor of Janssen Building). 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 23rd. Those being remembered are (*top to bottom, left to right*): Mary E. Faupel, 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.



Pro Bono Committee

The Pro Bono Committee is hosting a sealing and expungement clinic with Prairie State Legal Services and PILI on Friday, April 26th. They are currently looking for more attorney and non-attorney volunteers. Please see the flyer below with more information and how to register to volunteer.

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 10th 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
Kerrienne 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



Tenth
Judicial Circuit
Pro Bono Committee



PEORIA COUNTY
BAR ASSOCIATION



PRAIRIE STATE
LEGAL SERVICES