LegalEase

August 2021

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

President's Message

Hello fellow Bar Association Members! Thank you so much to everyone who made their way to Obed & Isaacs on July 15 for the Annual Meeting. The rain held off for the most part, and we had a great crowd with many familiar faces. It was so nice to see everyone and interact in person – and in case anyone was wondering, none of our members appeared to be cats.

Along with the Annual Business Meeting, we honored several New Members of the Association. I appreciate their willingness to become active Bar Association members and excitement about joining our legal community. One of the best things about practicing law in Peoria County is the collegiality of our Bar. At the Annual Meeting, I talked with two attorneys, one who generally represents civil plaintiffs, and the other who generally does defense work. While adversaries in the courtroom, they were having a very civilized conversation about how to attract more new attorneys to our area. I think that this is a bipartisan effort that we can all support. Peoria is a great place to live and practice law, so I hope that we can focus on highlighting these attributes this year and grow our membership in the process.

The summer days are winding down, but the new Bar Association year is just starting. As we are still in the midst of the pandemic, flexibility is going to be key. The plan is to begin to hold some meetings in person. Check in with your committee chair or Stephanie to see if your committee will be meeting in person or via Zoom. The August Board Meeting will be the first in-person board meeting since February 2020!

And while we do not have any events planned for this month, please be sure to add the Annual Memorial Service- Service One to your calendars for September 2, 2021. Because we were precluded from holding the Memorial Service last year, we will be holding two this fall to honor our members who have passed away. This is a great time to come together and share memories.

Last, but not least, the Golf Outing is scheduled for September 10. I am not a golfer, but I plan to be there. I hope you can join us, too. As I said at the annual meeting, let's make it a fun year!

Court News *By Chief Judge Katherine S. Gorman*

1. In consultation with various justice partners, effective July 12, 2021, a new Circuit-Wide Operational Plan For The Courts, including Courthouse Access and Trials was entered. Please see attached for more details, which has also been posted on our website at https://www.10thcircuitcourtil.org/313/Administrative-Orders
2. Please help me congratulate Judge Donahue and his Peoria County Drug Court Team on the recertification by the Illinois Supreme Court. Great Work!

Committee Meetings

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

2	Workers' Compensation (Z)	12	YLC (O)
3	Real Property (O)	17	Board (O)
4	Holiday Party (O)	18	FH&W (Z)
9	Lincoln Memorial Banquet (Z)	24	Family Law Section (O)
10	Diversity (Z)	26	Pro Bono (Z)
11	Continuing Legal Education (O)		

Annual Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Meeting & New Members' Reception on Thursday, July 15! The day started with rainy weather, but it slowly tapered off and we were able to have a great event outside at Obed & Isaac's. The new PCBA Officers for 2021-22 are shown at right (from left to right): President-Elect - Mike Fleming, Second Vice President - Aliesha Graves, President - Emily Wilburn, and Secretary-Treasurer - Joshua Herman. Also pictured are Immediate Past President & Nominating Chair - Michael Gifford and outgoing President - Ambrose McCall.

Committee Reports

Entertainment – Golf Outing

Registration is open for the Annual Golf Outing! This year's event is being held **Friday, September 10** at **Mt. Hawley Country Club!**

Costs

Golf & Dinner - $120 - includes 4 drink tickets
Golf Only - $90 - includes 4 drink tickets
Dinner Only - $25

Timeline

Check-in begins - 12:00 p.m.
Shotgun tee-off - 1:00 p.m.
Dinner - 5:30 p.m. (Awards & Door Prizes to follow)

Reservation Deadline: Friday, September 3, 2021. Please note - if you will be golfing with a foursome, there is a question during registration to list the names of ALL golfers in the foursome. Please see the attached flyer for more information, or click here to register!

Fitness, Health & Wellness by: Denise Conklin, Committee Member

SUMMER! Summer is my favorite season for many reasons: more sun, increased outdoor activities, and lots of fresh fruits and vegetables! If you are looking to increase your fruit and vegetable intake this Summer, you might want to check-out some of these simple vegan-friendly recipes at Simple Veganista:
https://simple-veganista.com/recipes/season/summer. Enjoy! Happy Summer to you all!

Membership

We received an application for student membership from Ashley Broadstone. Ashley is attending the University of Missouri Law School and expects to graduate in 2022. We also received an application for regular membership from Maribeth Dura, Taylor Cascia, Devin Taseff, Drew Brandau, Heidi Ramos and Jessica Johnson. Maribeth is a solo practitioner, Taylor is with Heyl Royster, Devin is with Heyl Royster, Drew is with Heyl Royster, Heidi is with Prairie State Legal Services and Jessica is with Hinshaw & Culbertson. If there are no objections, their names will be submitted to the Board in September for approval.

Memorials

On July 16, 2021 a member of the Association, James E. Konsky, passed away. Jim attended Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and attended law school at the University of Iowa. He was admitted to practice law in 1975 and practiced at Vonachen, Lawless, Trager and Slevin for 41 years. He was a partner with the firm and practiced in numerous areas of law including government, construction and general commercial law. He retired in 2016. 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 James E. Konsky.

The PCBA has made a $100 contribution to the Foundation in memory of Jim.

PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICES

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RECENTLY CLOSED PRO BONO CASES

Prairie State Legal Services (PSLS) would like to thank the following attorneys who have provided free legal assistance to low-income persons through our Pro Bono Program and have recently closed their pro bono cases: Stacy Crabtree of Caterpillar and Floyd Dailey of Dailey Law Center.

UPCOMING EVENTS

On August 20, 2021 over the noon hour, PSLS is hosting a free, virtual CLE on representing clients in simple, uncontested adult guardianships. PSLS will be reviewing how to file the Petition, serve Summons on the disabled adult, represent at the hearing, and file the Oath and Letters. Judge David Brown (10th Judicial Circuit) will be sharing his insights from the bench on the importance of advocacy in this area of law. In addition, sponsors and donors will be recognized at this event. The registration link to this event can be found here.

OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

In lieu of the cancelled in-person sealing/expungement clinics, PSLS is continuing to offer a pro bono opportunity to advise sealing/expungement clients over the phone on pro se Request to Expunge/Seal documents prepared by PSLS.

PSLS also currently has a high volume of clients seeking representation in simple divorces with and without children and is seeking volunteer attorneys to assist in these matters.

PSLS will be reaching out to attorneys in the area regarding potential referrals, but if you are interested in these volunteer opportunities, please call Laura at (309) 621-4015 or email Laura at llutkowski@pslegal.org. Your pro bono service will help PSLS provide legal assistance to individuals within our community who may not otherwise be able to afford legal representation.

Other News

- Adult guardianships often are needed when a disabled child turns 18 or when an elderly parent is no longer competent and never executed a Power of Attorney. For self-represented litigants, obtaining an adult guardianship can be difficult to navigate even when the guardianship is uncontested and clearly appropriate.
  Next month, in this one-hour, virtual CLE on **Friday, August 20th at noon**, you will learn the nuts and bolts of representing clients in these simple, uncontested adult guardianships. Prairie State Legal Services (PSLS) will train you on how to file the Petition, serve Summons on the disabled adult, represent at the hearing, and file the Oath and Letters. Judge David Brown (10th Judicial Circuit) will share words from the bench on how this advocacy helps not only the litigants, but also the Court to run more efficiently. PSLS seeks pro bono attorneys to represent clients in these cases. Please consider joining us in this important work! Click here to register now or sponsor this event. All sponsors and donors will be recognized during this event.
- Loyola University Chicago School of Law's Journal of Regulatory Compliance is seeking submissions for publication in their Fall 2021 issue. For more information, please click here.

Directory Changes

- At the request of Donna O'Day, Dan O'Day's widow, we have removed Dan's name from the name of our law firm. The firm is now known as Cusack & Gilfillan, LLC. We now have two office locations:
  - Downtown: 411 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1510, Peoria, Illinois 61602; Phone (309)637-5282
  - North: 7535 N. Knoxville Ave, Suite C, Peoria, Illinois 61614; Phone (309)670-0880
- Brady, John T. – Post Office Box 10036, Peoria, Illinois 61612. All other information remains the same.

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
Kerrianne L. Waters – Pro Bono
J. Kevin Wolfe – Public Relations
Kyle M. Tompkins – Real Property
Seth A. TeBeest – 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

12:00 p.m. Registration
1:00 p.m. Shotgun tee-off
5:30 p.m. Dinner (Awards & Door Prizes to Follow)

Costs:

Golf & Dinner $120 - includes 4 drink tickets to use on the course

Golf only - $90 - includes 4 drink tickets to use on the course

Dinner only $25

Format is scramble play only.
Deadline to register is Friday, September 3!

RAIN DATE: September 13
Reserve both dates on your calendar!

Dress code: All players must wear a collared shirt, men's shirts must be tucked in. No jeans or denim allowed.

Visit www.peoriabar.org to register!
Questions? Contact Golf Chair Nathan Bach at nbach@peoriacounty.org or Stephanie at pcbaasst@mtco.com.