



LegalEase

May 2024

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

President's Message

Happy May! A month where we begin with the celebration of Law Day, a day where we observe the rule of law and its role in the foundation of our country and current society. The Annual Law Day is a place where we not only celebrate students through their essays on the topic, but also distinguished members of our organization who have reached the honor of 50 years in the practice of law. At the end of the month, on May 23, 2024, we will honor the members that we lost at our Annual Memorial Service.



Calendar of Events & Court Holidays

May

- 1 Law Day Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Spalding Pastoral Center
- 16 Spring Professional Responsibility Seminar, 1:00 – 3:45 p.m. through Zoom
- 23 Annual Memorial Service, 2:30 p.m. in Courtroom 210 of the Peoria County Courthouse
- 27 Memorial Day, Courts & Courthouse Closed/PCBA Office Closed

Committee Meetings

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

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 2 | Budget (O) | 14 | FH&W (Z) |
| 6 | CLE (Z) | 20 | Diversity (Z) |
| 7 | Real Property (Z) | 21 | Board & Foundation (O&Z) |
| 9 | YLC (O) | 22 | Meet the Judges – Judge Bach |

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](#).

Annual Meeting & New Members' Reception

The Annual Meeting & New Members' Reception is being held on Wednesday, July 10th at 5:30 p.m. at The Warehouse on State. More details to come!

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

Recorded CLE Programs

The June 30, 2024 MCLE compliance deadline is fast approaching for those with last names A-M. The PCBA has a full list of recorded seminars available for purchase for \$100 each, which can be found [here](#). PCBA Members can also access 9 FREE hours by clicking [here](#) (members only - must be logged in with your username and password).

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 an application for membership from Aimée Dluski with Heyl Royster. If there are no objections, their name will be presented to the Board in June 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, Kenneth L. Black, John R. Pusey, David A. Dvorak, Roland N. Litterst, John A. Slevin, Judge Bruce P. Fehrenbacher, Jordan A. Fifield, Gregory A. Cerulo and Michael E. Evans.

Pro Bono Committee

Please see the Pro Bono Service Report below.

Young Lawyers' Committee

Thank you to everyone who attended the **2024 Law Day Luncheon** on May 1st! Check out the collage of pictures below!

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
Kerianne Waters – Director at Large
Youssef Boudjarane – Director at Large



Pro Bono Service Report

Sealing and Expungement Clinic



On Friday, April 26, 2024, 37 clients were served at the Sealing and Expungement Clinic. Thank you to the 12 attorneys who volunteered. Clients report the high impact of this legal service on their ability to move forward with their lives, including access to employment and housing.

Thank you to *Goodwill Commons* for their hospitality, providing such a wonderful location for the clinic.

Wills and Powers of Attorney for Seniors



Every May, the Administration for Community Living leads the nation's observance of Older Americans Month (OAM). The 2024 theme is Powered by Connection, which recognizes the profound impact that meaningful relationships and social connections have on our health and well-being.

To accept a case referral to provide pro bono service to a senior during Older Americans Month, please contact:
lbell@pslegal.org 309-282-7523 Laurie Bell, Pro Bono Coordinator

Law Day Essay Contest Winners Dunlap Middle School

Top Left: Ben Kohrman –
1st place

Bottom Left: Abigail
Conlee - 2nd Place

Bottom Right: Anvita
Parimal - 2nd Place



50-Year Honorees

Left to right: Rex K. Linder, Donald R. Jackson, Jr. (accepting award on behalf of Donald R. Jackson), Michael A. Fleming, David L. Cover and Judge Brian M. Nemenoff.

