



# LegalEase

June 2023

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

## **President's Message**

Summer is fast upon us. Our Law Day celebration was a great success, and we got many good comments from our various guests including Supreme Court Justice Lisa Holder White. The speakers from Representative LaHood's and Sorenson's offices were enlightening in their views on the need for collaboration and civility in Congress and elsewhere. Many thanks to Brad Barber and the Young Lawyers Committee; congratulations to the essay contest winners and our 50-year honorees.



On a more somber note, our annual Memorial Service went very well too, honoring and remembering our recently departed members. Thanks, Dave Mueller, for another touching and heartwarming event. Thanks to Stephanie as always for a suitable reception afterwards.

Your association is at work. We currently have an ad hoc committee discussing the future of the Lawyer Referral Service; if you have any thoughts or comments, please direct them to Chairman Rob Hanauer. The budget committee is wrapping up its work for the 2023-2024 budget. Our spring professional responsibility seminar is coming up quickly on Friday, June 9—it is a one-hour presentation on Zoom over the noon hour, so easy to attend—see details elsewhere and on our website!

Also please try to attend the Pro Bono Committee social at 5:00 p.m. on June 8, at Obed & Isaac's—mingle with friends and learn a little about pro bono opportunities, with no obligation. And register to walk, jog, run, or any combination of same, in the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Strides for Justice event on Saturday morning, Sept. 23, on Grandview Drive—registration is now open at <https://raceroster.com/events/2023/71490/strides-for-justice>. Choose between the 5K (3.1 mile) event or the 1-mile walk. Proceeds benefit Prairie State Legal Services through our Foundation.

If you haven't already committed, touch base with our incoming president, Aliesha Graves, or our executive director, Stephanie Bitner, about opportunities to serve the PCBA in the 2023-2024 year!

Be active, be well, practice well, and be a credit to our profession and to yourselves.

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



1. Please join me in welcoming our three judicial interns for the summer: **Randi Kurth** – Student at Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School; **Geoffrey Diver** – Student at Northern Illinois University college of Law and **Hashem El-Sharif** – Student at Northern Illinois University College of Law.

## **At-Large Directors**

Interested in being involved with the bar at Board level? Consider nomination to an At-Large seat on the Board. The petition can be found [here](#). Please return these to Stephanie at [pcbaasst@mtco.com](mailto:pcbaasst@mtco.com) by June 5, 2023.

## **Annual Membership Dues**

Dues notices will be sent out by email at the end of June for the 2023-24 fiscal year. The email will have a link for you to click to renew your membership. You can then pay by credit card or send a check to the PCBA office. In order to renew, you will need your username and password for the website. If you don't have this information, please contact Stephanie at [pcbaasst@mtco.com](mailto:pcbaasst@mtco.com) as soon as possible to get this information.

## **2023 Annual Business Meeting & New Members' Reception**



Left to right: Michael Fleming, Aliesha Graves, Joshua Herman, David Wiest and Katherine Swise

The **Annual Meeting & New Members' Reception** will take place on **Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at Obed & Isaac's**. We will honor Michael Fleming for his year of service as President, and welcome Aliesha Graves as incoming President, along with Joshua Herman and David Wiest as President-Elect and Second Vice President, respectively. We will also vote on the Nominating Committee's motion to approve Katherine Swise as incoming Secretary-Treasurer. This will be a **FREE** event, open to all attorneys and

judges and will include food and drinks. Registration can be done online by clicking on the event calendar, or by clicking [here](#). **Registration closes at Noon on Thursday, July 20.**

### **June Calendar**

- 1 YLC Meet the Judges with Judge Doscotch, Noon – 1:00 p.m., Tazewell County Courthouse
- 2 PCBA Office Closed
- 9 2023 Spring Professional Responsibility Webinar, Noon – 1:00 p.m. through Zoom
- 16 - 25 PCBA Office Closed

### **Committee Meetings**

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

- |   |                   |    |                            |
|---|-------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 6 | Real Property (O) | 13 | Board of Directors (O & Z) |
| 7 | Diversity (Z)     | 28 | FH&W (Z)                   |
| 8 | YLC (Z)           |    |                            |

### **Committee Reports**

### **Entertainment – Annual Golf Outing**

**Save the date!** Golf chair Robert Boucher has announced that the Annual Golf Outing will be **Friday, September 29, at Mt. Hawley Country Club**. Mark your calendars now! Registration will open in July!



### **Local Continuing Legal Education**

#### **2023 Spring Professional Responsibility Seminar**

Do you still need your 1 hour of mental health/substance abuse credit? If so, register for our **2023 Spring Professional Responsibility webinar**, which will be held on **Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> from Noon – 1:00 p.m. through Zoom!**

The focus of the webinar is mental health and substance abuse and participants will learn:

- Why attorneys are a vulnerable population;
- The common mental health and substance use issues faced by our colleagues;
- The signs and symptoms of those issues; and
- What to do when you identify a colleague in need.

Registration can be completed online by clicking [here](#). Cost is \$32.50 for members, \$40 for McLean County Bar Members and \$47.50 for non-members. **This seminar will not be recorded. It is a live webinar only.** The course will be submitted for 1 hour of mental health/substance abuse credit.

### **Recorded Seminars**

A full list of available recorded seminars can be found [here](#). Cost is \$100 for PCBA members and \$125 for non-members. If you registered for the in-person seminar and did not attend, you can purchase the recording for an additional \$35.

### **2023 Winter Series – Criminal Law**

Due to the appeal regarding the Pre-trial Fairness Act, this seminar has been postponed until the court's ruling. The membership will be notified once it has been rescheduled.

## **Membership**

We have received an application for membership from Molly Recar and an application for membership renewal from Phil Pollock. Molly is an attorney with Prairie State Legal Services and Phil is a solo practitioner. If there are no objections, their names will be presented to the Board in August for approval.

## **Memorials**

We would like to thank David Mueller for his continued dedication to the Annual Memorial Service. We also thank Judge David Brown, Nathan Miller, Judge Brian Nemenoff, Karen Stumpe (resolution prepared by Brian Mooty), Rex Linder, William Kohlhasse and Ambrose McCall for presenting resolutions for Justice Daniel Schmidt, Robert Miller, Jack Teplitz, Julian Cannell, Brent Gwillim, John C. Mulgrew, Jr. and Timothy Newlin. We thank all who attended the service and the reception that followed. A big thanks also goes to Chief Judge Gorman for presiding over the service, the judges who were able to attend, as well as Stefanie Dwyer who handled so many details. Last (and certainly not least) our thanks to Jill Stieghorst from Cassidy & Mueller for so many years of assistance with the long list of details that go into this service.

## **Pro Bono**

The Pro Bono Committee is having a social on Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at Obed & Isaac's. Come learn about all the different pro bono opportunities!

## **Young Lawyers Committee**

### **Law Day Luncheon**

Thank you to everyone who attended the Law Day Luncheon on May 3, 2023 at the Spalding Pastoral Center. We had a great turnout. A big thank you to Brad Barber, Taylor Cascia and Timothy Higus for their work on all the Law Day festivities, as well as the following members who volunteered to speak at our local schools: **Nicholas Rochford** at Banner Elementary; **Austin Nichols** at Peoria High School; **Mas Perkins** at Whittier Primary School; **Megan Bennett & Timm Higus** at Brimfield Grade School; **Nathaniel Jackson & Wesley Enz** at Peoria Academy; **Joseph Sell** at Peoria Heights High School; **Brad Barber & Youssef Boudjarane** at Richwoods High School; **Rodney Nordstrom** at Norwood Primary School; **Kayla Hickey, Gabrielle Cunningham, Brigitte Lobacz, Stephen Heine & Joseph Sell** at Reservoir Gifted; **Stephen Heine** at Bartonville Grade School; **Taylor Cascia** at St. Thomas the Apostle; **Alicia VanRheeden & Matt Warner** at St. Mary's Kickapoo

### **YLC Suit Drive**

Thank you to everyone who donated to the YLC Biennial Suit Drive! Check out the full table of donations!



## **Other News:**

**Prairie State Legal Services** by: Laurie Bell, Pro Bono Project Lead – Prairie State Legal Services



**PRAIRIE STATE  
LEGAL SERVICES**

### **Pro Bono Report**

**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.**

#### **A. Pro Bono Cases**

1. Pro Bono Attorney Tami Meister represented four clients from the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Divorce Clinic before Judge Wilson on May 23, 2023. Paralegal Kelly McCall contributed to case preparation. Two remaining cases from the clinic are set for prove-up on June 21, 2023. PSLS will then evaluate this pilot project model and make revisions to build upon this very successful first run.

2. Senior clients at Sterling Towers, Peoria Housing Authority, attended remote appointments on May 25, 2023 with volunteers from the Pro Bono Network for the Advance Directives for Seniors Project. Their documents will be executed at Sterling Towers on June 6, 2023.

#### **B. Pro Bono Community**

1. PSLS Managing Attorney Thomas Dennis and Pro Bono Coordinator Laurie Bell attended the May meeting of the Young Lawyers Committee to give a presentation about the work of Prairie State Legal Services and discuss pro bono opportunities. Thanks to the YLC for their engagement. We look forward to working together to host a pro bono clinic.
2. PSLS Intern, Beau Nelson of Knox College, has completed a Pro Bono Attorney Directory. Thank you to all of the attorneys who responded with information to keep the directory current with contact info, areas of law and counties where you practice, and your availability for pro bono service. If you have not yet responded, please contact Laurie Bell.
3. We are looking forward to the PCBA Spring Social celebrating Pro Bono service on June 8, 2023 5pm at Obed and Isaacs. PSLS extends its gratitude to Kerianne Waters for her five years of service as Chair of the PCBA Pro Bono Committee. We look forward to working with incoming Chair Austin Nichols as we continue to develop and innovate pro bono attorney service.

To get involved or accept a case referral, contact Laurie Bell, Pro Bono Coordinator [lbell@pslegal.org](mailto:lbell@pslegal.org) 309-533-7663

#### **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).

#### **2022-23 Board of Directors**

Michael A. Fleming – President  
Aliesha N. Graves – President-Elect & Budget  
Joshua D. Herman – Second Vice President  
David B. Wiest – Secretary-Treasurer  
Emily H. Wilburn – Past President & Nominating Chair  
Heather J. Russo – By-Laws  
Katherine G. Legge – Communications & Technology  
Melodi D. Green -- Diversity  
Jason B. Boucher – Entertainment (Golf)  
Dennis E. Merkley – Entertainment (Holiday Party)  
Kyle M. Tompkins – Fitness, Health & Wellness  
Mitchell J. Kavanagh – Government & Public Interest Law  
Robert J. Hanauer – Lawyer Referral Service

James M. Rochford – Lincoln Memorial Banquet  
Katherine L. Swise – Local Continuing Legal Education  
Thomas A McConnaughay & David B. Mueller –  
Membership & Memorials  
Kerianne L. Waters – Pro Bono  
Carol J. Perkins – Public Relations  
Teresa M. Dickinson – Real Property  
John G. Dundas – Substantive Law  
Bradley S. Barber – Young Lawyers  
Norman L. McGill – Director at Large  
J. Kevin Wolfe – Director at Large  
Christopher A. Nichols – Director at Large  
G. Edward Murphy – Director at Large