



# LegalEase

November 2023

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

## **President's Message**

Dear Membership,

Autumn is quickly flying by, as we just received the coldest Halloween in my recent memory. As we move into the holiday season, I am looking forward The Annual Diversity Luncheon on November 2 and the Holiday Party that will be held at the Mt. Hawley Country Club on December 14.

Outside of that, I wish a warm and happy Thanksgiving to our membership and bar.

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



1. Congratulations to all the award recipients from the Celebrate Pro Bono Reception held on October 23, 2023.



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

### **NOVEMBER**

- 2 Annual Diversity Luncheon, Noon – 1:00 p.m. at the Spalding Pastoral Center
- 10 Veterans' Day, observed – Courts Closed/Courthouse Open
- 23&24 Thanksgiving Holiday – Courts & Courthouse Closed/PCBA Office Closed

### **DECEMBER**

- 14 PCBA Annual Holiday Party
- 15 PCBA Office Closed
- 25&26 Christmas Eve Day observed/Christmas Day observed – Courts & Courthouse Closed/PCBA Office Closed

## **Committee Meetings**

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

1	Civil Section (Z)	13	Family Law Section (Z & O)	21	Board (Z&O)
6	Holiday Party (Z)	14	GPIL (Z)	28	Pro Bono (Z)
7	Real Property (O)	15	FH&W (Z)	29	CLE (Z)
8	Criminal Law (Z)	16	Workers' Comp (Z)		
9	YLC (O)	20	Public Relations (Z)		

## **Committee Reports**

### **Communications & Technology**

Work on the 2024 Attorneys' Directory has begun. Please send your changes to Stephanie at [pcbaasst@mtco.com](mailto:pcbaasst@mtco.com).

### **Continuing Legal Education Committee**

**Save-the-Date!** The 2023 Winter Series line-up is below. Registration will open in December!

Morning of Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> – Zoom

Afternoon of Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> – Civil Practice – In-person

Morning of Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> – Family Law – In-person

Afternoon of Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> – Government & Public Interest and Employment Law - Zoom

## **Entertainment Committee: Part I – Holiday Party**

The 2023 Holiday Party will be Thursday, December 14th from 5:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Mt. Hawley Country Club. Cost is only \$75 per person and includes a buffet dinner with blue cheese crusted ribeye, fajitas, salad, potato, vegetables and dessert! There will be an open bar from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. This event is open to ALL attorneys and judges, not just PCBA members. To register, click [here](#).

### **Timeline of Events**

5:00 p.m. - Check-in opens

6:00 p.m. - Dinner

6:45 p.m. - Entertainment - A special tribute to John Pusey

7:00 p.m. - Door prizes

**Fitness, Health & Wellness Committee** by: Kyle Tompkins, committee members

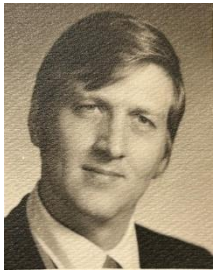
### **Staying Active in the Winter**

The days are getting shorter. The weather is getting colder. The change of seasons into fall and winter is finally upon us. During this time of year, many people, including attorneys, may start to feel the symptoms of S.A.D. (Seasonal Affective Disorder), form of clinical depression. In a profession that already has a high prevalence of mental health problems, this time of this of year can be especially troublesome. While SAD may oftentimes need to be clinically treated by a licensed professional, maintaining or making changes to focus on a healthy lifestyle, including diet, exercise, and activities, may also help to alleviate symptoms. Find ways to exercise, or just stay active, either indoors or outdoors, from the following tips: [11 Exercise Tips to Keep You Motivated as the Weather Gets Colder](#)

### **Lincoln Memorial Banquet**

**Save-the-Date!** The 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Lincoln Memorial Banquet will be Thursday, February 22 at the Par-A-Dice Hotel & Casino. Our speaker will be Dr. Samuel Wheeler, Director of History Programs at the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission.

### **Memorials**



On October 21, 2023, a member of the association, David A. Dvoark, passed away. David attended Bradley University where he received his bachelor's degree. He then went on to the University of Illinois where he obtained his law degree and graduated in 1971. He practiced law up until his retirement in 2014.

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 David A. Dvorak. The PCBA has made a \$100 contribution to the Foundation in his memory.

On November 1, 2023, a member of the association, John A. Slevin, passed away. John attended Notre Dame University School of Law and graduated in 1960. He began his law career in Taylorville, Illinois at the law firm of Hershey & Bliss. He then returned to Peoria and became an Assistant State's Attorney and then later joined the firm Vonachen, Cation & Lawless, which later changed to Vonachen, Lawless, Trager & Slevin, where he was partner. 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 John A. Slevin. The PCBA has made a \$100 contribution to the Foundation in his memory.



### **Prairie State Legal Services**

See pictures and captions on pages 3 & 4 from the Celebrate Pro Bono Reception on October 23, 2023.

### **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







1. (Top Left) Peoria County Bar Association Pro Bono Committee Chair Austin Nichols presents Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year Award to Cynthia Volk, who is committed to both the pro bono case work and the community of pro bono service in Peoria.

2. (Top Right) Peoria County Bar Association Pro Bono Committee Chair Austin Nichols presents Pro Bono Firm of the Year to Kelly Giraudo of Butler, Giraudo & Meister, who provide pro bono services to PSLS clients through individual case assignments, the Divorce Clinic and the Family Law Project.

3. (Bottom Left) Peoria County Bar Association President Aliesha Graves presents Young Lawyer of the Year Award to Austin Nichols, Chair of the Peoria County Bar Association Pro Bono Committee and member of Young Lawyers Committee.





4. (Top Left) Prairie State Legal Services Managing Attorney Thomas Dennis presents the Joined in Justice Award to Sandy Crow. Sandy was the PSLS Peoria Pro Bono Coordinator for 21 years and continues to serve as a volunteer for the Tenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee and the County Courthouse Self-Help Desk.

5. (Top Right) PSLS Managing Attorney Thomas Dennis presents the Legal Services Award to Kenneth Davies, Heyl Royster Law. Ken is leading the development of a pro bono service model that provides pro bono service opportunities for each of the firm's attorneys.

6. (Bottom Left) Honorable Lisa Wilson presents the Tenth Judicial Circuit Joseph A. Dailing Pro Bono Service Award to Tami Meister, Butler, Giraudo & Meister, who served as the Pro Bono Attorney for the six clients of the inaugural Tenth Judicial Circuit Divorce Clinic. The clinic model has been adopted by other law firms and the Young Lawyers Committee.