



LegalEase

December 2023

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

President's Message

Happy December, members!

It seems like it was just summer, and now all of a sudden, Thanksgiving is over and the holiday season is upon us. After such a well-attended Diversity Luncheon in November, I'm hoping to see many of your faces at the Holiday Party at Mt. Hawley on December 14. The Holiday committee was how I got my start with the PCBA, and this event holds a special place in my heart as a result. If you cannot attend the Holiday party, I wish all of you a warm and safe holiday season!



Court News *By Chief Judge Katherine S. Gorman*



1. It is with a heavy heart that the Tenth Circuit announces the passing of Circuit Judge Bruce Fehrenbacher. Judge Fehrenbacher passed away on Wednesday, November 22, 2023. He was a wonderful individual and an exceptional judge, respected by his fellow judges. His passing is a great loss to the Tenth Circuit. Circuit Judge Fehrenbacher was elected Judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit representing Stark County in 2018. For further information on Judge Fehrenbacher please open the below link. <https://www.haskellfuneral.com/obituaries/Bruce-P-Fehrenbacher?obId=29981526>.

Calendar of Events & Court Holidays

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

Distinguished Community Service Award

Nominations are open for the **2024 Distinguished Community Service Award**. This award will be presented to the recipient at the 115th Annual Lincoln Memorial Banquet on February 22, 2024.

The PCBA Distinguished Community Service Award was established in 1995 when the following resolution was unanimously passed by the Board of Directors of the Association:

WHEREAS, members of the Peoria County Bar Association have a long history of community activism in volunteer projects to improve the quality of life in the Peoria area;

WHEREAS, the Peoria County Bar Association continues to encourage community involvement by its members;

WHEREAS, those individuals among our membership who have exhibited long commitment to community service as a volunteer deserve to be recognized and honored;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Peoria County Bar Association hereby establish the DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD recognizing each year one of our members whose record of longtime community volunteerism is exemplary and brings honor to both the Peoria area and this Association.

Nominations must be submitted no later than January 5, 2024. You can submit them online by clicking [here](#) (you must be logged in with your username & password to access the online form), or by downloading the forms by clicking [here](#) and submitting them to the PCBA office.

Committee Meetings

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

4	Civil Section (Z)	12	Family Law (Z & O)
5	Real Property (O)	13	Workers' Comp (Z)
7	Lincoln Mem. Banquet (Z)		

Committee Reports

Communications & Technology

Work on the 2024 Attorneys' Directory has begun. Please send your changes to Stephanie at pcbaasst@mtco.com.

Continuing Legal Education Committee

2024 Winter Series (click the links below to register)

[Saturday, January 20th – Estate Planning & Probate – 8:30 a.m. – Noon through Zoom](#)

[Friday, January 26th – Civil Practice – 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. – Spalding Pastoral Center](#)

[Saturday, February 3rd – Family Law – 8:30 a.m. – Noon – Spalding Pastoral Center](#)

[Friday, February 9th – Government & Public Interest and Employment Law – 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. through Zoom](#)

Early Registration price: Zoom Seminars: \$65 for PCBA Members|\$80 for McLean County Bar Members|\$95 for Non-Members

In-Person Seminars: \$75 for PCBA Members|\$90 for McLean County Bar Members|\$105 for Non-Members

Registration can be done online at www.peoriabar.org and clicking on the event calendar. **Registrations increase by \$15 the Monday before each seminar**

Check out the flyer below with seminar topics and details!

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: JD VanRheeden, Committee Chair

The Fitness, Health, and Wellness Committee is happy to report that the Strides for Justice race was a tremendous success! With your help and participation this year we saw a record high 208 participants, the highest sponsorship in at least five years, and the highest overall donation to Prairie State in at least the last five years. Fantastic! Fair to say the PCBA earned that extra piece of pie for the holidays. We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and we will return to your regularly scheduled fitness blurbs thereafter.

Lincoln Memorial Banquet

Save-the-Date! The 115th 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 29, 2023, a member of the association, Roland N. Litterst, passed away. Roland attended the University of Michigan and Indiana University where he graduated in 1961 with his law degree. He was in private practice for over 40 years and was a partner in the firm Covey and Litterst. He retired in 2002 as a senior partner at the firm Becker and Litterst.

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 Roland N. Litterst. The PCBA has made a \$100 contribution to the Foundation in his memory.

Memorials

We have received an application for membership from Luke Patty and Kevin Sullivan. Luke is an associate at Howard and Howard Attorneys in Peoria and Kevin is a solo practitioner. If there are no objections, their names will be presented to the Board in January for approval.

Prairie State Legal Services

See the 2023 Pro Bono Service Report and 2024 Pro Bono Service Plan on page 6 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. Giraudo – 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

PEORIA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Annual Holiday Party

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

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. (cash bar before and after).

5:00 p.m. – Check-in opens

6:00 p.m. – Dinner

7:00 p.m. – Entertainment – A special tribute to John Pusey

7:30 p.m. – Door prizes

This event is open to ALL attorneys and judges, not just PCBA members.

Registration can be completed online by clicking [here](#). Registration closes December 7th.



2024 Winter Series

Friday afternoons & Saturday mornings in January & February

All topics are subject to change

SATURDAY, January 20 – Estate Planning & Probate – 8:30 a.m. - Noon (Zoom) *3 hours of general MCLE credit. - \$65 for PCBA Members

Topics TBD

FRIDAY, January 26 – Civil Practice – 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. (in-person) *Snacks provided* 3 hours of general MCLE credit. - \$75 for PCBA Members

Service by Social Media and 103 B Issues by Jennifer Anschuetz

Case Law Update by Devin Taseff and Joseph Sell

What Trial Lawyers Can Learn About Opening Statements from the Genius of Taylor Swift by Jeff Green

Medicare Set-Aside Process in Liability Cases by Craig Pawley, Medivest

View from the Bench – Judges from the 10th Judicial Circuit

Other topics TBD...

SATURDAY, February 3 – Family Law – 8:30 a.m. – Noon (in-person) *Continental Breakfast Included* 3 hours of general MCLE credit - \$75 for PCBA Members

Legislative Update by Richard Zuckerman

Case Law Update by TBD

Tools and Best Practices to Resolve Cases by Tami Meister, Kelly Giraudo, Ed Murphy and Alec Murphy

View from the Bench – Judges from the 10th Judicial Circuit

Other topics TBD...

FRIDAY, February 9 – Government & Public Interest Law and Employment Law (Zoom) *3 hours of general MCLE credit. - \$65 for PCBA Members

Fair Housing and the Changes to the Illinois Human Rights Act by TBD

Employment Law Update by Michael Gifford

Other topics TBD...

Early Registration price:

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Registration can be done online at www.peoriabar.org and clicking on the event calendar.

****Registrations increase by \$15 the Monday before each seminar****

Reminders:

- Please include your ARDC number in your registration. We **must** have your number when we submit our attendance to the MCLE Board or you will not receive credit.
- You will receive course materials the week of the seminar.
- Attendance certificates will be emailed after the seminar.



2023 Pro Bono Service Report

This year, Prairie State Legal Services is thankful for

- The more than **50 Peoria attorneys** who have provided pro bono services to more than **150 clients**
- The **3 Divorce Clinics** served by attorneys from the firms of Butler, Giraudo and Meister; Murphy and Dunn; and Quinn Johnston
- The **Advance Directives for Seniors Project** that provided Senior residents at Peoria Housing Authority with preparation of their wills and POAs

2024 Pro Bono Service Plan

Prairie State Legal Services is offering a variety of Pro Bono Service Opportunities in 2024

Remote Service Opportunities

- ☐ **6 Advance Directives for Seniors Project clinics**
- ☐ **10 Family Law Project monthly clinics**

Peoria Clinics

- ☐ **6 Divorce Clinics**
- ☐ **1 Sealing and Expungement Clinic**

Individual Case Referrals

- ☐ **Guardianship for Disabled and Elderly family members**
- ☐ **Adoption of minor children**
- ☐ **Parenting Agreements**
- ☐ **Bankruptcy**
- ☐ **Wills and POAs for Seniors**
- ☐ **Divorce**

To volunteer for these opportunities please contact

lbell@pslegal.org 309-533-7663

Laurie Bell, Prairie State Legal Services, Pro Bono Coordinator for Peoria