



# LegalEase

December 2019

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

## **President's Page**

Here we are nearly at the first of December and no snow on the ground, so we're ahead of the game for now. Let's hope it keeps up, and we have a warm, dry winter.

Judge Tom Perkins and the Lincoln Memorial Banquet Committee have been holding their breath, and crossing their fingers and toes, but they pulled it off and secured an exciting speaker for the Banquet -- Congresswoman Cheri Bustos. Whether your politics are red or blue (or somewhere in the middle -- magenta?), Congresswoman Bustos will be an interesting speaker. We're moving to Embassy Suites in East Peoria. So save the date -- February 20, 2020 -- and plan to bring your spouse. We'd like to have a really big turnout. More information will be coming out shortly.

Before we worry much more about the Lincoln Banquet, if you don't have tickets for the Holiday Party, why not? Judge McCuskey is going to host an all-star roast of John Nicoara and Matt Smith is going to do his standup routine, which is always a treat. Come out -- December 12th at The Warehouse on State (on Washington, next to Thyme) and see if YOU get skewered.

Finally, don't forget about the Winter CLE Series firing up on January 11, 2020 with Family Law. Be sure to attend the January 31 program -- everything you want to know about Illinois' new cannabis law.

I hope everyone has a great holiday season, full of good food, plentiful wine, family, friends, and a restful few days off work. I hope to see you all back here in January!

**Court News** *By Chief Judge Paul P. Gilfillan*



### **DECEMBER NEWS:**

1. As some judicial courtroom assignments change, effective 1-1-20, please note administrative Order 2014-03, which deals with a) judges electing in writing to take cases with them to the new assignment, if they choose, and b) cases being returned to a particular courtroom when a judge that is ending a courtroom assignment was the judge when the case was reassigned out of that courtroom initially. See our website for more details. [10thcircuitcourtil.org](http://10thcircuitcourtil.org)
2. Congratulations to Trial Court Administrator Rena' Parker who was recently selected by the Supreme Court to serve on the new Court Access & Dispute Resolution Task Force regarding the Illinois Judicial Branch's Strategic Agenda.

## **Lincoln Memorial Banquet**

**Save-the-Date!** The 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Lincoln Memorial Banquet will be held on Thursday, February 20, at Embassy Suites in East Peoria. This year's keynote speaker is Congresswoman Cheri Bustos.

## **Lawyer Referral Service**

Thank you to **Blake Dunlap** (right) for returning a referral fee in the amount of \$425 for a civil defense case. Attorneys who retain a case referred to them by the Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) agree to send back 10% of fees generated over \$1000. The PCBA gets calls every day from people needing attorneys in specific areas of law. Our online LRS averages 300 hits each month. Are you in need of new clients? If so, please consider joining the LRS. Annual dues are only \$50! You can join today by contacting Stephanie at [pcbaasst@mtco.com](mailto:pcbaasst@mtco.com).



## **PCBA Members Assisting Service Members**

We would like to thank Julie Galassi (left) of Hasselberg Rock Bell & Kuppler, who assisted a veteran with an employment case. We appreciate all of our members who have assisted service members and Michael Lied of Howard & Howard who heads up this effort. Contact the PCBA office if you would like to be included on our list of volunteers.



## **Schedule of Events & Court Holidays**

### **DECEMBER**

- 12 Holiday Party -- Warehouse on State, 5:30 -- 8:30 p.m.
- 24 Christmas Eve -- Courts & Courthouse closed
- 25 Christmas -- Courts & Courthouse closed

### **JANUARY**

- 1 New Years' Day -- Courts & Courthouse closed

- 11 Family Law Seminar – Spalding Pastoral Center, 8:30 – noon
- 17 Civil Practice Seminar – Spalding Pastoral Center, 1 – 4:30 p.m.
- 25 New Laws in 2020 – Spalding Pastoral Center, 8:30 – noon
- 31 “Up in Smoke: Tearing up Old Law Criminalizing Demon Weed” – Spalding Pastoral Center, 1 – 4:30 p.m.

### **Committee Meetings**

*Meetings are at noon at the PCBA office unless otherwise noted*

#### **December**

- |                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4 Lawyer Referral Service & Pro Bono | 11 Lincoln Memorial Banquet |
| 10 CLE                               | 17 Nominating Committee     |

#### **January**

- |                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 7 Government & Public Interest | 13 Criminal Law |
| 7 Real Property                | 21 Board        |
| 9 Board                        |                 |

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Distinguished Community Service Award (DCSA)**

Nominations are open for the **2020 Distinguished Community Service Award**. The recipient will be announced at the Lincoln Memorial Banquet held in February. If you know an attorney who deserves this award, please visit the website at [www.peoriabar.org](http://www.peoriabar.org) and click on DCSA under the members tab. Here, you can submit your nomination online or download the form and submit it to the PCBA office.

**Nomination deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 3, 2020.**

#### **Entertainment – Part II: Holiday Party**

The PCBA Annual Holiday Party will be on **Thursday, December 12**, at The Warehouse on State! John Nicoara will take the hot seat as this year’s “Roastee” while Judge McCuskey leads the roast. Cost is \$60 per person and includes hors d’oeuvres, dinner and 2 drink tickets. Registration can be done online [here](#) or by visiting our website and clicking on the event calendar. **Deadline to register is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 6!**

#### **Local Continuing Legal Education**

##### **2020 Winter Series CLE:**

- Saturday, January 11 – Family Law & Professional Responsibility
- Friday, January 17 – Civil Practice
- Saturday, January 25 – New Laws in 2020
- Friday, January 31 – Cannabis Seminar, “Up in Smoke: Tearing Up Old Law Criminalizing Demon Weed”
- Saturday, February 8 – Estate Planning & Probate.

**Registration is now open and can be done by clicking [here](#), or visiting [www.peoriabar.org](http://www.peoriabar.org) and clicking on the event calendar.**

**Check out the back page for more information!**

Brown Bag Seminars coming every Wednesday in March – PCBA Members only – 5 hours of **FREE** CLE plus **FREE** lunch!

#### **Membership**

We have received an application for membership Britta Johnson and Christopher Grgurich, and an application for student membership from Jessica Bonomo. Britta is an attorney with Prairie State Legal Services and Christopher is an attorney with Farnsworth Group, Inc. Jessica is attending the University of Illinois College of Law and expects to graduate in 2022 Their applications will be presented to the Board in January for approval.

#### **Public Relations**

The PCBA is pleased to announce that four of our members were named in the **2019 Class of 40 Leaders Under 40**. Congratulations to (left to right): **J. Logan Block**, **Quinn Johnston**, **Wade Blumenshine**, **Heyl Royster**, **Mitch Gilfillan**, **Quinn Johnston**, and **Tamara Meister**, **Butler Giraudo & Meister**.



## **Young Lawyers**

The Young Lawyers Committee has sent information to firms regarding Project Santa. If you did not receive any information and would like to participate, contact Brad Barber ([bbarber@emrslaw.com](mailto:bbarber@emrslaw.com)) or Logan Block ([lblock@quinnjohnston.com](mailto:lblock@quinnjohnston.com)).

## **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).

**For sale:** Vintage Stow & Davis solid mahogany executive desk with credenza. \$2500 for both. Desk 72w x 29h x 36d. Credenza 72w x 29h x 24d. Very good condition. Pulls are polished aluminum. Glass tops available. Desk has three very deep file drawers and three smaller drawers. Credenza has two very large file drawers and a two-door cabinet. Contact Theresa Hardesty at 309-253-1087 or [trhadopt@comcast.net](mailto:trhadopt@comcast.net).

## **2019-20 Board of Directors**

Michael D. Gifford – President  
Ambrose V. McCall – President-Elect & Budget  
Emily H. Wilburn – Second Vice President  
Michael A. Fleming – Secretary-Treasurer  
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Christopher S. McCall -- Diversity  
Shaun D. Cusack – Entertainment (Golf)  
Kateah M. McMasters – Entertainment (Holiday Party)  
James D. Van Rheeden – Fitness, Health & Wellness  
Katherine L. Swise – Government & Public Interest Law  
Mary A. Corrigan – Lawyer Referral Service

Hon. Thomas L. Perkins – Lincoln Memorial Banquet  
Ann R. Pieper – Local Continuing Legal Education  
Aliesha N. Graves & David B. Mueller –  
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J. Kevin Wolfe – Substantive Law  
Kyle M. Tompkins – Young Lawyers  
Joshua D. Herman – Director at Large  
Michele A. Miller – Director at Large  
Christopher D. Oswald – Director at Large  
Open Seat – Director at Large



# 2020 Winter Series

Spalding Pastoral Center, 419 NE Madison Ave.  
Friday afternoons & Saturday mornings in January & February

## **SATURDAY, January 11 - Family Law – Check-in and continental breakfast 8:00 a.m.| seminar 8:30 to noon**

Legislative Update by Richard W. Zuckerman  
Case Law Update by Norman D. McGill  
Pre-Nuptial Agreements by Charles J. Urban  
Maintenance by Mitch M. Gilfillan  
Mental Health/Compassion Fatigue by Dr. Ryan Finkenbine  
View from the Bench – Judges from the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Family Law Courts

## **FRIDAY, January 17 - Civil Practice – Check-in 12:30 | seminar 1:00 to 4:30 \*snacks provided at break\***

Torts in Business Law by Mike Lied  
Footpath Falls, Animal Brawls, and Sports Calls: A Personal Injury Assortment to Respond to your Neighbor by Mitch Gilfillan  
Mediator Panel  
A Modern Approach to the Ten Commandments of Cross Examination by Jeff Green  
Tort Law Update by Heyl Royster

## **SATURDAY, January 25 – New Illinois Laws and Amendments in 2020 - Check-in and continental breakfast 8:00 a.m.| seminar 8:30 to noon**

Are you sure that none of the over 500 enacted bills passed in Springfield affect your practice? Think again!

## **FRIDAY, January 31 – “Up in Smoke: Tearing up Old Law Criminalizing Demon Weed” - Check-in 12:30 | seminar 1:00 to 4:30 \*snacks provided at break\***

Criminal Aspects by Jeffrey R. Hall  
Application Process by Thomas E. Howard  
Employment Considerations for both Employers and Employees by Joshua D. Herman  
Municipalities and Regulations by Katherine L. Swise  
Real Estate by David L. Wentworth II

## **SATURDAY, February 8 – Estate Planning, Probate & Elder Law – Check-in and continental breakfast 8:00 a.m.| seminar 8:30 to noon**

New Trust Code by David Wiest  
Elder Abuse Panel by Anne Bartolo & Brian Fengel, State of Illinois Elder Abuse Task Force  
Residency Issues by Mary Corrigan  
Partitions of Heirs Property Act by James F. Kane  
To be determined topic by Kyle Tompkins  
Judges Panel

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

**PCBA “MEMBERS ONLY” DEAL – All 5 seminars for the price of 4, only \$260!**

Registration can be done online at [www.peoriabar.org](http://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 materials by email the week of the seminar.
- Continental breakfast included at Saturday morning seminars; snacks provided for Friday afternoon seminars.
- **NEW!** - Attendance certificates will be emailed after the seminar.