



# LegalEase

May 2020

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

## **President's Page**

Linda Raineri has been with PCBA for many years, and is largely responsible for PCBA being all that it is today. I've reported over the past few months that Linda was on medical leave, and that Stephanie was keeping the office going on her own.

The officers accepted Linda's resignation as Co-Executive Director effective March 31, 2020. I would need more space than we have here to properly thank her for all she has done over the years. Her tireless efforts were always crucial to PCBA's meetings, CLE and other functions, and we simply could not have had those events without her.

One of the really irritating things about coronavirus shutdown is that we have to delay showing Linda our gratitude. I've asked three past presidents, Judge Lisa Wilson, Michelle Miller and Rich Zuckerman to act as an ad hoc committee in charge of scheduling a proper 'thank you' and they will coordinate with Linda to plan something when we can all gather.

Going forward, Stephanie will be the sole Executive Director. I'll leave it to Ambrose and the new board coming on in July to set long term policies after we get this social distancing behind us

Linda, we will miss you.

Stay safe and healthy.



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



1. For the latest in courtroom developments in response to the Covid-19 emergency, please see [www.10thcircuitcourtil.org](http://www.10thcircuitcourtil.org). You will find various courtroom procedures and general announcements. All are subject to change, extension, etc. Of note:

2. No jury trials will be held through May at this point. When trials do resume it will be on a limited basis (e.g. only one or two trials per week). This means priority trials, TBD by the chief judge, will occur first and some trials will need to be continued further. This will keep number of jurors down and allow for more spacing.

3. The courts are in a restricted access mode (only upon court order) for May. This new normal has forced us to adapt to remote hearings, both essential and routine, contested and evidentiary. Each courtroom operates with its own procedures, published or not, and some still on a reduced staff basis. Judges have been encouraged to conduct matters remotely. Simply reach out to your respective courtroom clerk/judge.

4. If any member of the public/attorney is allowed in the courthouse, they will be expected to wear their own face covering. The County will not be supplying these as a rule, since they are rightfully reserved for County medical staff and 1<sup>st</sup> responders.
5. Stay safe out there. Hope to (virtually) see you soon.

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

Every five years the Pillars of the Bar event is held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, we have decided to postpone the Pillars of the Bar. We will combine this event with the 113<sup>th</sup> Annual Lincoln Memorial Banquet that will take place in February 2021. **The Annual Meeting & New Members' Reception** will take place on **Thursday, July 30 from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.** in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Renaissance room of the Janssen building (110 SW Jefferson Ave.). We will honor Michael Gifford for his year of service as President, and welcome Ambrose McCall as incoming President, along with Emily Wilburn and Michael Fleming as President-Elect and Second Vice President, respectively. We will also vote on the Nominating Committee's motion to approve Aliesha Graves as incoming Secretary-Treasurer. The cost is \$25 per person (new members are FREE) and includes hors d'oeuvres and 1 drink ticket. Registration will open in May.

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

May

21 PCBA Annual Memorial Service – **Postponed**

25 Memorial Day, Courts & Courthouse Closed

## **Committee Meetings**

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

### **May**

12 Fitness Health & Wellness (via Zoom)

14 YLC (via Zoom)

21 Board

21 Foundation Trustees

28 Family Law Section (via Zoom)

## **Committee Reports**

### **Entertainment – Part I: Golf Outing**

The PCBA Annual Golf Outing will be **Friday, August 28!** At the request of many of our golfers, we are heading back to Mt. Hawley Country Club this year! **Registration will open in May.** Mark your calendars now! Rain date is Friday, September 18.

### **Fitness, Health & Wellness:** *by J.D. VanRheeden*

As we hunker down for the greater good the “Quarantine 15” may have become a reality for many of us. I know I rushed to purchase home gym equipment at the start of the stay at home order only to discover that everything was sold out. However, many home workouts require little to no equipment and provide a great way to maintain both physical, and mental health, in the circumstances we are faced with. Follow the attached link for some great home workouts to bridge the break from the gym. Hang in there!

<https://www.self.com/gallery/best-at-home-workouts-bodyweight>

## **Local Continuing Legal Education**

### **Family Law Software Training**

Family Law Software will hold a training on Friday, June 12 from noon – 2:00 p.m. at the Spalding Pastoral Center. This training is for members and their assistants only and includes lunch. The cost is \$30 per person and registration can be done online by clicking [here](#), or by visiting the PCBA website and clicking on the event calendar. **Please note that this is a training only, it does not include CLE credit.** **Please read: If gathering restrictions are still in place, this training will proceed, but will take place through Zoom in your home/office.**

### **Spring Professional Responsibility Seminar**

The Spring Professional Responsibility Seminar will take place at the end of June. In the event that we are unable to hold this seminar in person, we will be recording the seminar and making it available to our members on Vimeo. We will notify everyone once a new date has been selected and registration opens.

### **2020 Winter Series CLE**

The entire 2020 Winter Series is now available on DVD & Vimeo! Each seminar is \$100 for members or \$125 for non-members. For a complete list of all our seminars available, click here, or visit [www.peoriabar.org](http://www.peoriabar.org) and click on “Recorded Seminars” under the CLE tab.

### **2020 Brown Bag Seminars**

The Commercial Law & Litigation and Navigating Cases with Self-Represented Litigants seminars are available on Vimeo for free to our members! They can be found on the PCBA website under the CLE tab. Since these are for members only, you must log in with your username and password. If you need assistance with this, contact Stephanie at [pcbaasst@mtco.com](mailto:pcbaasst@mtco.com).

## **Membership**

We have received an application for membership from Andrew W. Johnson. Andrew is an attorney with Johnson & Johnson, P.C. in Peoria Heights. His application will be submitted to the Board in June for approval.

## **Memorial Service**

The **Annual Memorial Service** scheduled for **Thursday, May 21, at 3:00 p.m.** has been postponed until this summer. We will notify everyone when a new date has been set.

## **Young Lawyers**

The YLC Law Day Luncheon has been cancelled for this year. We will resume this event next year. Thank you to the Law Day Sub-Committee, Kyle Tompkins, Anne Mergen and Paige Blumenshine for all their work!

## **PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICES** by: Lydia Wagenbach



### **RECENTLY CLOSED PRO BONO CASES**

Prairie State Legal Services would like to thank the following attorneys who have provided free legal assistance to low income persons through our Pro Bono Program and recently closed their pro bono cases: Derek Schroen of Attorney Derek A. Schroen, LLC; Thomas O'Neal of Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC; and Michael Brandt of Michael E Brandt, Attorney-at-Law.

### **APRIL 2020 SEALING AND EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC**

We were very sorry to cancel our sealing/expungement clinic that was set for April 24<sup>th</sup>. We would like to give a special thank you to the following attorneys who had signed up to volunteer at the clinic: Michael Brandt of Michael E Brandt, Attorney-at-Law, Tim Swain II of Swain Law LLC, Scott Ostericher of RLI Insurance Company, Kerrienne

Waters of the Law Office of Jeff Green, Daniel Staley of Caterpillar Inc., and James Rooney of Caterpillar Inc.

### **OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER DURING COVID-19**

Prairie State currently has 5 Peoria and Tazewell County clients on our waiting list for divorces. We also have 2 Peoria County clients on our waiting list for bankruptcy. During these unusual and difficult times of COVID-19, please consider making a generous gift of your precious time and accept a pro bono case so that these clients can feel that they and their families are remembered by those who truly care. I'm sure you are modifying your interviewing process and conducting more conferences by phone, video and email, and our pro bono clients will be informed of this before they are referred to your office.

Many thanks to Sumner Bourne, Katherine Swise, Brandon Sarff, Michael Brandt, and Mitch Gilfillan for recently accepting a Prairie State Pro Bono referral!

If you would like to volunteer services, please call me at (309) 621-4015 or email me at [lwagenbach@pslegal.org](mailto:lwagenbach@pslegal.org). Your pro bono service will help PSLS provide legal assistance to individuals within our community who may not otherwise be able to afford legal representation.

With my warmest regards and wishes for good health,

Lydia Wagenbach, Pro Bono Coordinator, [lwagenbach@pslegal.org](mailto:lwagenbach@pslegal.org)

### **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: 6 four and five drawer file cabinets @ \$20 each and a 7' bookcase for \$50. Call Art Inman at 678-1173.

### **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

Richard W. Zuckerman – Past President & Nominating Chair

James F. Kane – By-Laws

Robert R. Tenney – Communications & Technology

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 –

Membership & Memorials

Hon. Lisa Y. Wilson – Pro Bono

Seth A. TeBeest – Public Relations

David B. Wiest – Real Property

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

Melodi D. Green – Director at Large