



LegalEase

August 2020

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

President's Page

Good day to all PCBA members! Please know that the PCBA will continue its good work on a number of fronts. In the coming months the PCBA will have its usual superior CLE programs that help keep us current and connected. Next month we have our annual Golf event that provides all members with a unique opportunity to take a break, whether as a golf player or not. Due to the great work of our Board members and chairs, we plan to continue holding our events by adapting to new conditions and accommodating member interests where reasonably possible. During the past several months, many of us have learned or refreshed our understanding about how to use video platform software, word processing software, e-calendar systems, email systems, e-fax capacities, downloading of documents, reviewing electronic court dockets, and yes, even how to use mail machines to weigh our envelopes and packages. While such tasks are very important, most if not all of us are striving to accomplish more with less help, and with fewer hours available due to taking care of others or adjusting to school schedules that seem to change every week. Within the tumult we all face, please take a note that our obligation under PCBA bylaws to provide pro bono services remains in effect. That means each of us needs to think about contacting Prairie State Legal Services to volunteer in whatever way you can help. In addition, you may want to consider virtual pro bono opportunities such as through the Free Legal Answers operated by PILI. As a member of the PCBA and this legal community, you have more pro bono options than many communities that are much larger. One of the reasons for our wealth of opportunities is the hard work that many current and former members devoted to provide or support the provision of legal services to many people in tough circumstances. Such matters involve a wide range of cases including divorce, child custody, landlord-tenant, family estates, orders of protection, collection matters, and veterans or unemployment benefits. Those matters are just some of the examples where PCBA members have provided significant pro bono legal services. Please look at the By-Laws for the PCBA on your member access website. The message for this year and month is to help us meet our goals under Article I., Section 3., to provide or support the provision of legal services to the indigent. We already have many stars among our members who are unbelievable in the quantity and quality of their efforts. But they cannot do your part. After you think about it, please contact a fellow PCBA member and talk about what areas may interest you. You will be surprised what you can do and how much you may learn from your indigent clients. Let's keep the good vibes playing through this year.



Court News *By Chief Judge Paul P. Gilfillan*



1. The Honorable Michael P. McCuskey, Resident Circuit Judge of Marshall County, has tendered his notice of retirement, with his last day in the courthouse to be Monday, October 19th. More information about his interesting judicial journey and the official Notice of Vacancy can be found on our website, www.10thcircuitcourtil.org, under 'News.' The Notice of Vacancy can also be found on the Supreme Court website, www.illinoiscourts.gov.
2. See new Supreme Court Rule changes on its website concerning Self Represented Litigants' email addresses on pleadings and for service (Rules 11 and 131). Also, new standardized statewide eviction forms are now located in the 'Standardized Court Forms' section of the same website.

3. You can catch up on all the latest Covid-19 related changes impacting the courthouse and Administrative Orders for courthouse operations at our website by clicking on the Covid-19 Information bar at the top of the page. As the pandemic continues, be mindful of your fellow bar member, courthouse personnel and members of the public while in the courthouse – wear your face covering, socially distance, monitor your own condition before entry, use available hand sanitizer, etc. THANK YOU!

Schedule of Events & Court Holidays

August

28 PCBA Annual Golf Outing

September

7 Labor Day, Courts and Courthouse closed

26 Strides for Justice, virtual 5k run

Committee Meetings

Meetings are at noon at the PCBA office unless otherwise noted

August

| | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----|----------------|----|--------------------------|
| 4 | Real Property– via Zoom | 11 | LMB – via Zoom | 17 | Holiday Party – via Zoom |
| 5 | Diversity – via Zoom | 12 | CLE – via Zoom | 18 | Board Meeting – via Zoom |
| 10 | FH&W– via Zoom | 13 | YLC – via Zoom | 20 | Workers' Comp – via Zoom |

Committee Reports

Diversity

Below is the statement on racial justice released by the PCBA in July. A big thank you to Emily Wilburn, *PCBA President Elect*, for putting this together and Melodi Green (Diversity Chair), Yolanda Riley (Vice Chair) and the rest of the Diversity Committee for their input and assistance. The statement can also be found on the PCBA website.

Peoria County Bar Association Members:

We are standing in a tumultuous moment in history, and we do not mean just the effects of Covid-19. The brutal killings of George Floyd, Ahmad Aubery, and so many other Black people at the hands of law enforcement, directly challenge our system of justice that is supposed to treat everyone fairly under the law. When we were sworn into this profession, we took oaths to uphold the Constitution; and that oath will not let us turn our backs on these events. We must work to promote and rebuild the public's trust in the rule of law, while at the same time working to ensure that Peoria County and area citizens have fair and impartial access to justice.

The Peoria County Bar Association denounces all racism, both individual and systemic. Our By-laws state that this Association "is committed to fostering diversity in its membership in order to reflect the community served by its members with respect to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, disability and age." It is not just the province of the Diversity Committee to tackle these issues- it is the duty of all of us in this Association and profession. We challenge all of our members to actively foster diversity, true inclusion, and equity in our profession, and we challenge all of our members to call out injustice when they see it. We must do better, and we must demand that the system in which we operate provides equal justice under the law.

Beyond our career long learning, interpretation, and application of the law, we must also acknowledge guidance from our wise American ancestors including:

Martin Luther King, Jr. – "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Alice Paul – "I never doubted that equal rights was the right direction. Most reforms, most problems are complicated. But to me there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality."

So where do we go from here? The Board of the PCBA is open to your suggestions and willing to listen and learn, and the following are actions that the PCBA is taking this year:

- Awarding scholarships to diverse law school students;
- Planning additional education and outreach in place of the annual Diversity Luncheon; and
- Working on a mentoring program for diverse new attorneys.

We will keep the membership informed as our plans evolve, and we encourage our members to identify steps that they can take on their own as we continue to "promote justice and facilitate the delivery of legal services to all members of the community."

Entertainment – Part I: Golf Outing

Registration is now open for the **2020 PCBA Golf Outing!** This year's event is at **Mt. Hawley Country Club on Friday, August 28.**

Enclosed is a flyer with all the details. Mark your calendars now and get registered today! Rain date is Friday, September 11.

Fitness, Health & Wellness

The Strides for Justice 5k run will be going virtual this year! An email will be sent as soon as registration opens.

Lawyer Referral Service

Are you in need of new clients? Consider joining the lawyer referral service! We are especially in need of attorneys in mental health, bankruptcy, consumer contracts, employment law and intellectual property. The cost to join this service is only \$50 a year and you can list yourself in as many practice areas as you want. To join, contact Stephanie at pcaasst@mtco.com.

Local Continuing Legal Education

Don't forget that all our seminars can be purchased on DVD or Vimeo! The cost is \$100 for members and \$125 for non-members. For a complete list of available seminars, click [here](#) or click on "recorded seminars" under the CLE tab of the PCBA website (www.peoriabar.org).

Membership

We have received an application for membership from Mitchell Brown and Omar Malcolm and an application for renewal from Heather Calvert. We also received an application for student membership from Megan Grenville. Mitchell is an attorney with Black Black & Brown, Omar is a Deputy Public Defender in Fulton County and Heather is with Stephens, Fiddes & McGill. Megan is attending Northwestern University and is expected to graduate in 2022. If there are no objections, their applications will be presented to the Board in September for approval.

Memorial Service

The 2020 Annual Memorial Service has been postponed until early 2021. David Mueller, Memorial Chair, and Ambrose McCall are working with Chief Judge Paul Gilfillan on how to proceed with this event the safest way possible.

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: Angela Evans of Angela Evans Law, P.C.; Larry Paluska of Larry Paluska, Attorney at Law; Spencer Daniels of Spencer Lee Daniels Law; and Michael Brandt of Michael E Brandt, Attorney-at-Law. We would also like to give a special thanks to the following attorneys who provided legal advice over the phone to the sealing/expungement clients that were scheduled for the cancelled May and July 2020 clinics: Donald Driscoll; Scott Ostericher of RLI Insurance Company; Yolanda Riley of Kavanagh, Scully, Sudow, White & Frederick; and Michael Brandt of Michael E Brandt, Attorney-at-Law.

OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

Although we have cancelled the past sealing/expungement clinics scheduled for April, May and July, and may have to cancel future clinics, there is still a pro bono opportunity to advise sealing/expungement clients on their record over the phone. The client's documents will be emailed to you well before you plan to call the client, and we will answer any questions you may have before you call the client. Once you've advised the client over the phone, the client's file will transfer back to our office and Prairie State will then file the client's Request on a limited scope or send to the client pro se documents to file on their own.

Prairie State currently has 2 Peoria County client on our waiting list for divorce. 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 remember by those who truly care.

If you would like to volunteer services, please call me at (309) 621-4015 or email me at 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.

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.

2020-21 Board of Directors

Ambrose V. McCall – President
Emily H. Wilburn – President-Elect & Budget
Michael A. Fleming – Second Vice President
Alisha N. Graves – Secretary-Treasurer
Michael D. Gifford – Past President & Nominating Chair
Anne Mergen – By-Laws
Katherine Legge – Communications & Technology
Melodi Green -- Diversity
Kevin Elder – Entertainment (Golf)
Dennis Merkley – Entertainment (Holiday Party)
Robert Everett – Fitness, Health & Wellness
Joshua Herman – Government & Public Interest Law
Carol Perkins – Lawyer Referral Service

Mitch Gilfillan – Lincoln Memorial Banquet
William Loeffel – Local Continuing Legal Education
Seth TeBeest & David B. Mueller –
Membership & Memorials
Kerriane Waters – Pro Bono
Kevin Day – Public Relations
Joe Gilfillan – Real Property
Thomas McConnaughay – Substantive Law
J. Logan Block – Young Lawyers
Katherine Swise – Director at Large
Syed Ahamd – Director at Large
Charles Schierer – Director at Large
TBD – Director at Large



**PEORIA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
2020 GOLF OUTING - FRIDAY, AUGUST 28
MT. HAWLEY COUNTRY CLUB**

12:00 p.m. Registration
1:00 p.m. Shotgun tee-off
5:00 p.m. Social Hour
6:00 p.m. Dinner (Awards & Door Prizes to Follow)

Costs:

Golf & Dinner \$120 - includes *unlimited* beer, Gatorade, water and soda while on the course!

Golf only - \$90 - includes *unlimited* beer, Gatorade, water and soda while on the course!

Dinner only \$25

Format is scramble play only.

Deadline to register is Friday, August 21!



RAIN DATE: September 11
Reserve both dates on your calendar!

Dress code: All players must wear a collared shirt, men's shirts must be tucked in. No jeans or denim allowed.

Visit www.peoriabar.org to register!
Questions? Contact Golf Chair Kevin Elder at
kelder@goldfineandbowles.com or Stephanie at pcbaasst@mtco.com.