



LegalEase

June 2021

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

President's Message

Yes, the PCBA has an in-person event in the near future. The date is July 15, 2021. The start time is 5 p.m. The location is Obed & Isaac's Bocce Garden. What are we doing? We are holding our Annual Meeting to honor our PCBA new members, make our year-end official reports, and install our new officers including the next PCBA President Emily Wilburn! Why attend? Well, in addition to seeing your colleagues in a safe space, masked or unmasked, registration this year is **free**. Come join the fun at an event where the bylaws will not come up, (we already amended them this year), and your crooked Zoom neck or posture is a common humorous reference rather than an aggravating condition.



There are many great PCBA events on the schedule for the next fiscal year that you will find of interest. If you have thought about joining the PCBA for the first time, or pondered re-activating your membership upon exiting your home, garage, bunker, or virtual backdrop used online, now is the time. Whether you are a young or new lawyer, or an experienced lawyer looking for a real living platform to exchange ideas, or simply to swap stories of life on the circuit, the PCBA is the place for you. That has never been more true than now. While many organizations have stood still, the PCBA quickly adapted to hold not just its CLE seminars online but also its Board and Committee meetings. As a result, the practice breadth and geographic scope of our active members has increased while we have also reduced the average timespan for our meetings. At the same time, we have many projects in the works. So I encourage you to look at the PCBA website and find one or more Committees that fit your current legal practice or business model. In addition, there are other Committees that promote social events or justice activities that you may also find intriguing. Finally, from a practical standpoint, the PCBA is your best option to network with the full cross-spectrum of the lawyers who practice in our region. Take the first step and look us up. I guarantee you will be surprised at what options await you. So this month, start a new list that prioritizes re-connecting with your professional colleagues in a way that fits your style. You will enjoy taking that second step to put your list into action. We'll talk again soon.

Court News *By Chief Judge Katherine S. Gorman*



1. Please welcome back Judge Fehrenbacher to Tazewell County Civil Court. After an extended health related absence, he returns June 1st. Judge Fehrenbacher, we're happy to have you back!
2. Given loosening COVID restrictions, changes are afoot. Please continue to check our website, <https://www.10thcircuitcourtil.org/> for any updates.
3. Effective immediately, Tazewell Courtrooms 101 and 308 are effectively switching subject matter. Felony CF court will now be located in CR 308 and Civil L court will now operate out of CR 101.

Annual Membership Dues

Dues notices for the 2021-22 fiscal year will be emailed to the membership at the end of June. Like last year, we are offering our members the ability to split their dues into 2 equal payments. A credit card is required to do this as the payments will be automatically charged to your credit card on or about July 1, 2021 and January 1, 2022. Contact Stephanie at pcbaasst@mtco.com for more information or to setup the payment plan.

Annual Meeting

The **Annual Meeting & New Members' Reception** will take place on **Thursday, July 15 at Obed & Isaac's**. We will honor Ambrose McCall for his year of service as President, and welcome Emily Wilburn as incoming President, along with Mike Fleming and Aliesha Graves as President-Elect and Second Vice President, respectively. We will also vote on the Nominating Committee's motion to approve Joshua Herman as incoming Secretary-Treasurer. This will be a **FREE** event, for members only and will include food and drinks. Registration can be done online by clicking on the event calendar, or by clicking [here](#).

Schedule of Events & Court Holidays

July

- 5 Independence Day Observed – Courts & Courthouse closed, PCBA Office closed
15 Annual Meeting – Obed & Isaac’s, doors open at 5:00 p.m., meeting starts at 5:30 p.m.

Committee Meetings

All meetings are through Zoom unless otherwise noted

June

1	Real Property	7	Pro Bono	10	YLC
2	Family Law Section	8	Diversity	16	FH&W
3	Public Relations	9	GPIL		

Committee Reports

By-Laws Committee

Thank you to everyone who attended the Special Meeting of the PCBA membership on May 5 to review and adopt the amended By-Laws. The amended By-Laws can be found on the PCBA website, or by clicking [here](#).

Annual Meeting

Registration is open for the **2021 Annual Meeting & New Members’ Reception** being held **Thursday, July 15** at Obed & Isaac’s in their Bocce Garden! This will be a **FREE** event, for members only and will include food and drinks. Registration can be done online by clicking on the event calendar, or by clicking [here](#).

Entertainment – Golf Outing

Save-the-Date! The PCBA Annual Golf Outing is being held Friday, September 10 at Mt. Hawley Country Club! Mark your calendars now! More details to come in the July newsletter.



Local Continuing Legal Education

2021 Brown Bag Seminars – The entire 2021 Brown Bag Series is now available on Vimeo! To access the recordings and course materials, please visit www.peoriabar.org and click on “Free CLE Hours” under the CLE tab. You must log in with your username and password to access this page. Contact Stephanie at pcbaasst@mtco.com for assistance.

Recorded Seminars

Still in need of more CLE hours? For a complete list of seminars available to purchase, click [here](#), or visit www.peoriabar.org and click on recorded seminars under the CLE tab. Cost is \$100 per seminar for members & \$125 for non-members.

Membership

We received applications for membership from John Spears and Jennifer Anschuetz. If there are no objections, their names will be submitted to the Board in August for approval.

Memorial Service



On May 17, 2021 a member of the Association, Robert W. Bach, passed away. Rob attended Bradley University and St. Louis University School of Law. He was admitted to practice law in 1978 and practiced law for over 40 years, most of which was spent as a solo practitioner. 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 Robert W. Bach

The PCBA has made a \$100 contribution to the Foundation in memory of Robert.

PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICES RECENTLY CLOSED PRO BONO CASES

Prairie State Legal Services (PSLS) would like to thank the following attorneys who have provided free legal assistance to low-income persons through our Pro Bono Program and have recently closed their pro bono cases: Scott Ostericher of RLI Insurance Company and Kerriane Waters of The Law Office of Jeff Green.

OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

On August 20, 2021, PSLS is offering a free CLE over the noon hour on adult guardianships. We hope to recruit more volunteer attorneys to assist our clients in navigating the adult guardianship process. More information on this event will be provided in the July 2021 LegalEase article.

In lieu of the cancelled in-person sealing/expungement clinics, PSLS is offering a pro bono opportunity to advise sealing/expungement clients on their record over the phone. PSLS will investigate the client's eligibility to file a Request to Expunge/Seal and if eligible, PSLS will prepare the court documents. We will email the client's documents 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 have advised the client over the phone regarding the documents, the client will be empowered to then file the pro se documents. This pro bono commitment typically takes about an hour.

PSLS will be reaching out to attorneys in the area regarding potential referrals, but if you are interested in these volunteer opportunities, please call Laura at (309) 621-4015 or email Laura at llutkowski@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.

Directory Changes

Name Change: Cusack, Gilfillan & O'Day LLC is now Cusack & Gilfillan LLC.

Second Location: Cusack & Gilfillan LLC – 7535 N. Knoxville, Peoria, IL 61614. Phone: 309-670-0880 Fax: 309-589-4689

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 Ahmad – Director at Large
Charles Schierer– Director at Large
B. Kip Shelby – Director at Large
Christopher Oswald – Director at Large