



# LegalEase

March 2020

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

## **President's Page**

If you missed the Lincoln Memorial Banquet, you missed a great event. Kudos to Judge Tom Perkins, Mitch Gilfillan, and Carol Perkins, who formed a small but highly capable committee, and with Stephanie's yeoman effort delivered a bravura event. We had a great crowd, a nice meal and an interesting speaker: what else can you ask? Thank you to one and all who were able to attend, and to the firms who stepped up, bought tables, and encouraged attendance. Judge Perkins and committee set the bar high for Ambrose and Mitch next year, but have no doubt that they're up to the challenge.



The CLE Winter Series is completed, and the Brown Bag Series starts next week. If ever you wonder about the value of your bar association, the highly informative, free Brown Bag seminars should leave no doubt. Dealing with *pro se* parties, dope and guns, Family Law Wizard, who could ask for more? Sign up now before someone else gets your seat.

Finally, let me thank everyone who has tried to lighten Stephanie's burden while Linda is out of the office, and ask that you keep it up. The office may not be open forty hours a week during this busy season, but Stephanie is doing all she can to keep all the balls in the air. If you see her, help me remind her what a great job she has been doing!

One last thought: they're playing baseball in Arizona!

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



### MARCH NEWS:

1. Judge Lisa Wilson and Trial Court Administrator Rena' Parker have been appointed by the Supreme Court to State-wide positions involving the judicial branch. Two shining examples of the Tenth Circuit leading the way on matters important to the Illinois court system. For more details, visit our website: [10thcircuitcourtil.org](http://10thcircuitcourtil.org).
2. This office supports all manner of pro bono efforts in the Tenth Circuit and recognizes the efforts of the 10<sup>th</sup> circuit pro bono committee, chaired by the Honorable Lisa Y. Wilson. This committee works in unison with the Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) in achieving our goals. PILI is currently looking to hire a Senior managing Attorney. For details, go to: <http://pili.org/news/pili-is-hiring/>

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

### MARCH

- 4 Navigating Cases with Self-Represented Litigants – PCBA Office, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
- 6 New Laws in 2020 – Spalding Pastoral Center, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.
- 11 Labor & Employment Law Developments – PCBA Office, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
- 18 Cannabis & FOID Cards Brown Bag Seminar – PCBA Office, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
- 25 Family Law Wizard Brown Bag Seminar – PCBA Office, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

### APRIL

- 10 Good Friday, Courts & Courthouse Closed
- 30 Law Day Luncheon – Four Points by Sheraton, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

## **Committee Meetings**

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

### March

- |                                 |                            |                          |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 Real Property Committee       | 12 Lawyer Referral Service | 26 Public Relations      |
| 10 Government & Public Interest | 13 CLE                     | 26 Diversity             |
| 10 Communications & Technology  | 19 Pro Bono                | 30 Workers' Compensation |
| 12 YLC                          | 24 Board                   |                          |

## **Committee Reports**

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

**Save-the-Date!** 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! Mark your calendars now. Rain date is Friday, September 18.

### **Fitness, Health & Wellness**

#### **Softball Anyone?**

Spring is here, so summer must be right around the corner! Part of the Fitness, Health & Wellness Committee's mission is to encourage all members of the Peoria County Bar Associate to get out and be active to stay healthy.

The Bad News Barristers have already assembled again for this summer, but we are looking to take PCBA involvement a step further this year. We are putting together a 2<sup>nd</sup> PCBA softball team, either Men's or Co-Rec, this summer for lawyers and legal staff to participate in through the Peoria Park District. If you are interested in playing, or have any suggestions about other sports and recreational activities (not just in the summer) that may be of interest to your fellow members of the PCBA, please contact Kyle M. Tompkins ([ktompkins@hgsuw.com](mailto:ktompkins@hgsuw.com)).

Organized sports and activities are an easy and fun way to get involved with the PCBA, socialize with peers and be physically active. We hope that you will join us!

#### **Lincoln Memorial Banquet**

Thank you to everyone who attended the Lincoln Memorial Banquet! Photos of the event will be uploaded to the PCBA website soon. They will be located in the "photo albums" section under the "About" tab on the homepage. Below are a few of the photos.

### **Local Continuing Legal Education**

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

**The final Winter Series seminar "New Illinois Laws & Amendments in 2020" will be Friday, March 6 from 1:00 – 4:30 at the Spalding Pastoral Center.**

Civil Practice – now available on DVD & Vimeo!

New Cannabis Laws – now available on DVD & Vimeo!

Family Law & Professional Responsibility – now available on DVD & Vimeo!

Estate Planning, Probate & Elder Law - now available on DVD & Vimeo!

**2020 Brown Bag Seminars - PCBA Members only – 4 hours of *FREE* CLE plus *FREE* lunch!**

March 4 – Navigating Cases with Self-Represented Litigants

March 11 – Labor & Employment Law Developments

March 18 – Cannabis & FOID Cards

March 25 – Our Family Wizard

The April 1 Brown Bag Seminar has been canceled due to a change in the speaker's schedule. We are working to find a replacement and will advertise such if we do.

**Check-in and lunch begin at 11:45. Seminars will start promptly at 12:00. Registration is now open and limited to the first 18 people!**

**Mark your calendars. The Spring Professional Responsibility Seminar will be Friday, May 15 from noon – 2:00 p.m. at the Spalding Pastoral Center!**

#### **Membership**

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

#### **Memorial Service**



Gerald W.  
Brady, Jr.

David M.  
Lynch

Henry D.  
Noetzel

**The Annual Memorial Service will be Thursday, May 21, at 3:00 p.m.** in Courtroom 210 of the Peoria County Courthouse. A reception will immediately follow at the Heyl Royster Learning Center. This annual event is yet another unique long-standing initiative of the PCBA, for the purpose of remembering and honoring our members. The Memorial Resolutions are filed in the Circuit Clerk's office and become a part of the public record for all time. Several years ago, the Foundation felt it was important to have time set aside after the formal courtroom presentations, for members to reminisce with heartwarming memories of their colleagues being remembered. We hope you will mark your calendar for May 21.

## Young Lawyers

The Young Lawyers committee will be holding their Annual Law Day Luncheon on **Thursday, April 30** at noon at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Peoria. This year's theme is "Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment at 100." The keynote speaker is Southern Illinois University School of Law Interim Dean and Professor of Law, Cindy Buys. Essay contest winners will be announced at the April 30 event, and Paige Blumenshine from Prairie State Legal Services is in charge of this year's Law Day Essay Contest. We will also recognize our members who are celebrating 50 years since their admission to the bar: **Kerry R. Cordis, Robert G. Day, Jr., Hon. Thomas G. Ebel, Robert L. Potts, Lawrence E. Schwenger, Jr. and Dennis R. Triggs.**

Cost is \$40 per person or \$400 for a table of ten. Registration can be done online by clicking [here](#), or by visiting the PCBA website and clicking on the event calendar.

**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: Spencer Daniels of Spencer Lee Daniels, Attorney at Law; Blake Mishler of Black, Black & Brown, Attorneys at Law; A. Lou Benassi of Benassi & Benassi, P.C.; and Logan Block of Quinn, Johnston, Henderson, Pretorius and Cerulo. We would also like to give a special thanks to Jason Netzley and Amanda Stanley of Brave Law Center and Mary Corrigan of Howard & Howard for providing pro bono assistance to two Prairie State staff attorneys.

## **JANUARY 2020 SEALING AND EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC**

We would like to give a very special thank you to Tim Swain II of Swain Law LLC; Louis Meyer of Meyer & Kiss LLC; Mitch Gilfillan of Quinn, Johnston, Henderson, Pretorius and Cerulo; Wes Blumenshine of Caterpillar, Inc.; Scott Ostericher of RLI Insurance Company; and Natalie Vaughn volunteer attorney with Prairie State Legal Services for providing our clients with free legal advice at our most recent sealing and expungement clinic. Our clients were very appreciative of your help and the feedback we received from them was extremely positive. By helping our clients at the clinic, you are helping them obtain employment, professional licenses and facilitate many other areas in their lives. Congratulations on truly making a difference. Prairie State Legal Services would also like to thank your firms for supporting the community by encouraging attorneys to donate their time to pro bono work.

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER**

We are in need of volunteers for our 2020 Sealing and Expungement Clinics. Please call or email me if you are interested in donating some of your time to assist our clients or sign up using the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040c48aaab22a7f94-2020>. Prairie State Legal Services reviews the cases before the date of the clinic and prepares the petitions and other paperwork ahead of time. Our volunteer attorneys review the documentation with the clients, answer any questions the clients have, and obtain the clients' signature. Our Managing Attorney, Denise Conklin, is available during the clinic to answer any questions the clients or attorneys may have. If you would like to volunteer services, receive additional training in other areas of law or are willing to give a 30 minute phone consultations in your area of expertise, please call me at (309) 621-4015 or email me at [lwagenbach@pslegal.org](mailto:lwagenbach@pslegal.org). You will receive a Google Form, which you can use to send us your information. 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.

**FURNITURE FOR SALE;** Wooden table – 30" tall, 33" deep, 49" long, with glass on top, vintage. \$100; Bookshelf – 5-shelves, light brown/tan, 25" wide, 72" tall, 9½" deep – good condition. \$25.; Bookshelf – 4-shelves, dark brown, 36" wide, 48" tall, 12" deep – good condition. \$20.; Chairs – 2 office chairs – cherry wood with cloth back and seat – good condition. \$50 – sold as a pair. Please contact Jill at 309-676-0591 or [jstieghorst@cassidymueller.com](mailto:jstieghorst@cassidymueller.com)

## **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

## 112th Annual Lincoln Memorial Banquet



Banquet Chair Hon. Thomas J. Perkins, PCBA President Michael Gifford, Congresswoman Cheri Bustos, PCBA Second Vice President Emily Wilburn and Banquet Vice Chair Mitch Gilfillan



Congresswoman Cheri Bustos



Justice Thomas L. Kilbride



Congresswoman Cheri Bustos & Hon. Thomas Perkins



Local Artist Ken Tiessen & Congresswoman Cheri Bustos

Photography by Jacob VanDam of

JMV Portraits

<https://jmvportraits.myportfolio.com/>

Chief Judge Paul P. Gilfillan & retired Judge Kim Kelley



Left to right:

Grace Gomez, Ava George Stewart, Michele Miller & Linda Watson



**Law Day Subcommittee**

Kyle Tompkins, YLC Chair  
Paige Blumenshine, Essay Contest  
Annie Mergen, School Speakers  
Joe Pishghadamian, Keynote Speaker

Middle School Essay Contest Finalists  
will be announced.

**MAKE RESERVATIONS AT [www.peoriabar.org](http://www.peoriabar.org)**

**\$40 per person or \$400 table of ten**

## **2020 Law Day Luncheon**

Thursday, April 30, 2020

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

(lunch buffet opens at 11:30 a.m.)

Four Points by Sheraton



Keynote Speaker:  
Interim Dean Cindy  
Buys,  
Southern Illinois  
University,  
School of Law

**We will be honoring the following 50-year members:**

Kerry R. Cordis  
Robert G. Day, Jr.  
Hon. Thomas G. Ebel  
Robert L. Potts  
Lawrence E. Schwenger, Jr.  
Dennis R. Triggs