



LegalEase

May 2021

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

President's Message

Now that May is here, please remember to sign up for the PCBA Professional Responsibility Webinar to be held on Friday, May 14th, so you can earn 2 credit hours for professional responsibility. The 2 credits hours include 1 hour for diversity and inclusion and 1 hour of ethics. The PCBA is glad to help you meet your continuing legal education obligations. Also check out the details for the Annual Meeting to be held on July 15th. You have to attend in order to enjoy the events we have all missed over the past year. Plan to take a break from your Zoom and Teams meetings and reintroduce yourself to your friends and colleagues. We look forward to seeing you there!

The past month has brought the concept of justice into everyday conversations with our family, friends, and neighbors who are not lawyers. As lawyers, our view of justice is typically distinct from what is reported in the press or discussed on social media. Still, during the past month that included the George Floyd trial, and where various forms of justice and injustice continue to occur, all in too many variants for any one of us to track, it is encouraging that back in 1958 Justice Schwartz of the Illinois Appellate Court penned the following analysis explaining where one may start the analysis to seek justice. The analysis does not fix a destination point. Pondering the quoted words also brings to mind the duties we have as counsel, as elected and appointed representatives, and as judges. While we each have differing views of the facts and even the law, the overarching goal of justice still stands as the goal that each of us strives to attain. The words that follow can help us start off our personal check lists for justice. Moreover, current events inform us of the need to continue our discussions on this subject on a regular basis.

"Justice has been defined by some legal historians as the 'enforcement of covenants.' It has never been considered relevant for one of the parties to plead that he has become distressed by reason of the cost of performance. Other remedies have been provided for such situations. David Hume, whose legal philosophy had great influence in the shaping of the principles embodied in our constitutions, federal and state, laid down three fundamental laws, 'that of the stability of possession,' 'of its transference by consent,' and 'of the performance of promises.' He considered that the peace and security of human society depended upon them and that there was no 'possibility of establishing a good correspondence among men, where these are neglected.' (Hume's A Treatise of Human Nature, p. 526.) Of course, these are only philosophic generalizations and have no effect unless implemented by law. But it is well for those who with rule and line undertake the measure of a court's decision to bear them in mind." *Illinois Cent. R. Co. v. Michigan Cent. R. Co.*, 18 Ill.App.2d 462 (1st Dist. 1958).



Court News *By Chief Judge Katherine S. Gorman*



1. Trials are proceeding successfully at the Peoria County Courthouse.
2. Check the 10th Judicial Circuit website for updates.
3. Happy Spring!

At-Large Directors

Interested in being involved with the bar at Board level? Consider nomination to an At-Large seat on the Board. The petition can be found [here](#). Please return these to Stephanie at pbaasst@mtco.com by June 15.

By-Laws Committee

The Board of Directors recently approved some changes to the PCBA By-Laws. A special meeting of the PCBA Membership to vote and approve these changes is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 5** at Noon through Zoom. Contact Stephanie for the Zoom information.

Schedule of Events & Court Holidays

May

- | | |
|----|--|
| 5 | Special Meeting of the PCBA Membership through Zoom, Noon |
| 14 | Spring Professional Responsibility Webinar, Noon – 2:05 p.m. |
| 31 | Memorial Day, Courts & Courthouse Closed/PCBA Office Close |

Committee Meetings

All meetings are through Zoom unless otherwise noted

May

4	Real Property	12	Fitness, Health & Wellness	26	CLE
6	Public Relations	13	YLC		
11	GPIL	18	Board		

Committee Reports

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars! The **2021 Annual Meeting** will be **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 will open in June.

Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee is now accepting applications for the **Robert H. Jennetten Diversity Scholarship**. Submissions are due by Friday, July 16, 2021. The application can be found online by clicking, [here](#). Please share with law school students.

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!



Fitness, Health & Wellness by Robert Everett, Committee Chair

Though the Fitness, Health, and Wellness Committee often focuses on physical health, mental health is an equally important part of our overall wellness. There is no doubt that as a legal community, and as a society, we are coming off (and are still in) some of the most mentally taxing times of our lives given the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, it is more important now than ever to also address the mental side of health. Take that day off, get outside and enjoy the weather, and even enjoy that extra scoop of ice cream (once in a while!) if it brings you closer to mental wellness. For more tips on maintaining your mental health this summer, see the attached link. <https://discoverymood.com/blog/mental-health-during-the-summer/>

Local Continuing Legal Education

2021 May Professional Responsibility Webinar – Our Spring Professional Responsibility Webinar will be **Friday, May 14 from Noon – 2:05 p.m.** through Zoom. In the first half of this 2-hour webinar, Mark Brown, Bradley University Human Resource Specialist, will join PCBA member, Mike Lied, to discuss diversity & inclusion of lawyers with disabilities. PCBA President Elect, Emily Wilburn, will also present and speak on implicit bias. In the second half of this webinar, PCBA members Katherine Swise, Ann Pieper and S. Linn Perkins, will join judges from the 10th Judicial Circuit to discuss ethical rules as they pertain to working with self-represented litigants in and outside of court. Register online now by clicking [here](#), or visiting www.peoriabar.org and clicking on the event calendar.

Cost - \$65 PCBA Members | \$80 McLean County Bar Members | \$95 Non-Members

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.

Membership

We received an application for membership from Ryan Keeton. Ryan is an attorney with Quinn Johnston. If there are no objections, his name will be submitted to the Board in June for approval.

Memorial Service

There will be two Memorial Services this year. The first one will be on Thursday, September 2 and the second one will be Thursday, September 16. Both will take place in the afternoon in courtroom 210 of the Peoria County Courthouse. A reception will immediately follow each service in the Renaissance Room (3rd Floor) of the Janssen Building.

Those being honored at the September 2, 2021 service are: Gerald W. Brady, Jr., David M. Lynch, Henry D. Noetzel, Debra L. Stegall, Thomas H. Trager, K. Tate Chambers, Glenn E. Benckendorf and Medley A. Tornow.

Those being honored at the September 16, 2021 service are: Forrest D. Serblin, Aaron T. Wickenhauser, Hon. Calvin R. Stone, Hon. James D. Heiple, Frederick W. Allen, Thomas E. Schlehuber and Verne E. Dentino.

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: Michael Brandt of Michael E. Brandt, Attorney at Law; Anne Burton of Burton Law Office, LLC; Spencer Daniels of Spencer Lee Daniels; Donald Driscoll formerly of RLI Corp; Tyler Eathington of Quinn Johnston; Brandon Sarff of Hayes & Sarff, P.C.; and William Wombacher of The Law Office of William C. Wombacher.

OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

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.

Additionally, PSLS is seeking volunteers to assist clients with uncontested divorces, including uncontested divorces with children.

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 lutkowski@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.

EVICTIION MORATORIUM UPDATE: RENTAL ASSISTANCE IS HERE!

The Illinois Rental Payment Program (ILRPP) is expected to open its rental assistance application portal in May 2021. This program will provide up to **\$25,000** per tenant for rent owed during the time period June 2020 through August 2021. Landlords can apply at www.IHDA.org. Please share with any landlords or tenants who could benefit. Additional rental assistance also is available in our community and can be accessed by contacting **2-1-1 (or 309-999-4029)** or visiting www.211hoi.org. Please watch Prairie State Legal Services' (PSLS) Facebook Live for updates every Thursday at noon at www.facebook.com/PrairieStateLegalServices. Referrals to PSLS for legal assistance can be sent to me directly. If we all work together, we can minimize the impact COVID has caused on both landlords and tenants in our community. Thank you for your help. Denise Conklin, PSLS Managing Attorney, dconklin@pslegal.org. Download the flyer with all this information by clicking, [here](#).

Directory Changes

Michael Fleming - 411 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1510, Peoria, IL 61602. All other information remains the same.

Mike Lied – 6941 W. Dickson Cemetery Rd., Dunlap, IL 61525 Phone: 309-243-9716 Email: mrlied@gmail.com

Yolanda Riley – The Law Office of Yolanda J. Riley, LLC – 2601 W. Lake Ave., Suite A6 #202, Peoria, IL 61615. Phone: 309-643-2355 Email: info@yolandarileylaw.com

Richard Zuckerman - 411 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1510, Peoria, IL 61602. All other information remains the same.

Cusack, Gilfillan & O'Day – 411 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1510, Peoria, IL 61602. All other information remains the same.

Heiple Law Offices – New office address is 2310 W. Altorfer Dr., Peoria, IL 61615. All other information remains the same.

2020-21 Board of Directors

Ambrose V. McCall – President

Emily H. Wilburn – President-Elect & Budget

Michael A. Fleming – Second Vice President

Aliasha 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