



LegalEase

November 2019

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

President's Page

It's a snowy Halloween morning, the weather looks intimidating, and I'm watching these poor workers, hanging on scaffolds, looking half frozen, painting and scraping on OSF's future ministry building. Watching them work reminds me to be thankful that we're lawyers, and that our job descriptions generally don't call for us to hang frozen ten stories up the side of a building! Let's be thankful for our comfortable chairs, abundant coffee, the windows that separate us from the elements, and the professional spirit and camaraderie of our bar. It's easy to forget that this is a pretty good place to practice law.



So now that I have you in the proper frame of mind, let's also reflect on all of the PCBA activities for which we should be thankful. Ann Piper's CLE committee presented not just one, but two CLE's on Columbus Day, and we had a nice turnout. CLE and the Workers Compensation Committee are teaming up for a presentation on November 7th at Heyl's Learning Center, and the Winter Series kicks off on January 11th. The great thing about our CLE programs is going and learning something you didn't know before.

We had two big events in late September and October, YLC's blood drive on the 16th and Strides for Justice on September 28th. The Holiday Party on December 12th promises to be a blast, with Judge McCuskey orchestrating the roast of John Nicoara.

So, while I'm ticking off things for which we're thankful, I have to thank our hard working committees for all of the work they do planning and presenting our events. These things don't just stage themselves, and we owe a "thank you" to everyone who helps bring them to life. I also have to add our great Co-Executive Directors, Linda and Stephanie. It's easy to overlook the work they do on a daily basis, separate from the events and programs, just to keep PCBA ticking.

Thank you all.

Court News *By Chief Judge Paul P. Gilfillan*

1. WELCOME to the bench Judge Christopher R. Doscotch (Oct. 28th) and Judge Derek G. Asbury (Nov. 1st) who will temporarily preside in Peoria L court (CR 213) and Tazewell Traffic court (CR 207), respectively, for the remainder of 2019. See 2020 judicial assignments on line at our website, 10thcircuitcourtil.org.
2. On October 2nd, The Illinois Judicial Conference unveiled its 3-year strategic agenda for the Judicial Branch. "Read all about it" at illinoiscourts.gov click on Media/press releases. The Tenth Circuit is represented on this select conference by Peoria County Court Services Director Dan Hunt.
3. The Illinois Supreme Court has approved Peoria County to pilot Illinois' first Online Dispute Resolution Program (ODR) for the mandatory child custody mediation program in domestic relation cases, specifically targeting self-represented (SRL) and indigent parents. It was effective October 15th. Many thanks to former Judge Jodi Hoos and TCA Rena' Parker for their leadership. See our website for more information.
4. Justice Thomas L. Kilbride announces the new lawyer swearing in ceremony for new 3rd District resident attorneys, which will occur on Thursday, November 7th at Embassy Suites in East Peoria at 11 a.m.
5. Congratulations to all recognized at the recent Celebrate Pro Bono Reception. You and those like-minded attorneys and legal professionals that support and assist this noble cause (think the poor and vulnerable) are the BEST of our profession. Thanks to Judge Lisa Wilson for her tireless efforts. See, <http://pili.org/pro-bono/judicial-circuit-committees/10thcircuit/>.



Distinguished Community Service Award (DCSA)

Nominations are open for the **2020 Distinguished Community Service Award**. The recipient will be announced at the Lincoln Memorial Banquet held in February. If you know an attorney who deserves this award, please visit the website at www.peoriabar.org and click on DCSA under the members tab. Here, you can submit your nomination online or download the form and submit it to the PCBA office.

Nomination deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 3, 2020.

Schedule of Events & Court Holidays

NOVEMBER

- 7 Workers' Compensation Seminar – 12:30 lunch & check-in; seminar 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the Heyl Royster Learning Center
- 11 Veterans' Day – Courts closed; Courthouse open
- 28 Thanksgiving Day – Courts & Courthouse Closed
- 29 Day after Thanksgiving - Courts & Courthouse Closed

DECEMBER

- 13 Holiday Party – Warehouse on State, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
24 Christmas Eve – Courts & Courthouse closed
25 Christmas – Courts & Courthouse closed

Committee Meetings

Meetings are at noon at the PCBA office unless otherwise noted

November

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4 Public Relations | 13 Diversity Committee | 19 Foundation Trustees |
| 5 Real Property | 14 YLC | 21 Lincoln Memorial Banquet |
| 6 CLE | 14 Government & Public Interest | |
| 6 Holiday Party – in Linda’s office | 18 Criminal Law Section | |
| 12 Civil Practice Section | 19 Board of Directors | |

Committee Reports

Entertainment – Part II: Holiday Party

The PCBA Annual Holiday Party will be on **Thursday, December 12**, at The Warehouse on State! John Nicoara will take the hot seat as this year’s “Roastee” while Judge McCuskey leads the roast. Cost is \$60 per person and includes hors d’oeuvres, dinner and 2 drink tickets. Registration can be done online [here](#) or by visiting our website and clicking on the event calendar. Make your reservations now!

Fitness Health & Wellness by: Kyle Tompkins

Cold and Flu Season Is Here...Are You Ready?

Stuffy nose. Sore throat. Dry cough. It is that time of year again. You know that colds and the flu will be making a visit to an office near you, but are you ready? While there are no guaranteed ways to completely avoid getting a cold or the flu, there are some simple steps that you can take to reduce your risk of getting or spreading a cold or flu bug. Building a strong immune system by healthy living is a key to illness prevention. Some suggestions for do so are eating green vegetables, remembering your daily vitamin C and D, exercising and even getting enough sleep. You may also want to give some thought to getting an annual flu shot, which are oftentimes covered under your employer’s insurance or even offered in the workplace on occasion. Illness prevention is not only important individually for your own well-being, but keeping a healthy workforce is also crucial at this time of year. Check out some tips published by the CDC for preventing the spread of the flu in the workplace at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/business/prevent-flu-workplace.html>.

Local Continuing Legal Education

Work Comp Annual CLE - November 7, Check-in and lunch 12:30; seminar 1:00 – 4:30 at Heyl Royster Learning Center with social to follow at Obed & Isaac’s (Jessica Bell, Chair) Topics include: Presentation by Dr. Mary Elizabeth Rashid; Mental Health in Workers’ Compensation Cases, Including PTSD by Joe Pishghadamian; Subsequent Injuries by Ilir Imeri and Hania Soheil; Panel Discussion with Chairman Michael J. Brennan, Commissioner Mathis and Justice William Holdridge; and Case Law Update by Jessica Bell and Kevin Elder. Registration can be done online [here](#).

2020 Winter Series CLE: Saturday, January 11 – Family law and professional responsibility; Friday, January 17 Civil Practice; Saturday, January 25 New laws in 2020; Friday, January 31 Cannabis Seminar, “Up in Smoke: Tearing Up Old Law Criminalizing Demon Weed”; and Saturday, February 8 Estate Planning & Probate.

Registration opens in November. Check out the back page for more information!

Membership

We received an application for membership renewal from Thomas Leiter. Tom is with Leiter Law Group. His application will be presented to the Board in January for approval (no Board meeting in December).

Young Lawyers

Thank you to everyone who donated blood on October 16 for the YLC Blood Drive! We had 19 donors, collected 10 pints, and recruited 5 first-time donors. Project Santa will be starting soon. Information will come out later this month so keep your eyes open for that! Below are YLC Members Jason Boucher, Brad Barber and Kyle Tompkins.





CELEBRATE PRO BONO RECEPTION

On Monday, October 21, 2019, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) joined with the 10th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee to recognize the tireless efforts of those in our local legal community. This year's award recipients were:

Prairie State Legal Services

Equal Access to Justice Award: **Natalie Vaughn**, Attorney at Law
 Joined in Justice Award: **Officer Paul Burns**, Peoria County Sheriff's Office

Tenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee

Pro Bono Award: **G. Edward Murphy**, Murphy & Dunn P.C.

Tazewell County Bar Association

Pro Bono Award: **Betty Cassidy**, Attorney at Law

Peoria County Bar Association

Pro Bono Firm of the Year Award: **Caterpillar Inc.**
 Pro Bono Attorney of the Year: **Elizabeth Jensen**, Attorney at Law
 Young Lawyer of the Year Award: **Kerriane L. Waters**, Westervelt, Johnson, Nicol & Keller, L.L.C.

Congratulations to all of this year's recipients and everyone who participates!



Top: Donise Conklin (Prairie State Legal Services), IL Supreme Court Justice Tom Kilbride, Tenth Circuit Chief Judge Paul Giffilan, Michael Bergmann (PILI), Judge Lisa Wilson (10th Circuit Pro Bono Committee Chair), and Elizabeth Boe (PILI)

Bottom: Kerri Hutchison (Caterpillar) with Judge Wilson; Beth Jensen with Judge Wilson, G. Edward Murphy with Judge Giffilan, and Natalie Vaughn with Thomas Dennis.

Photography by Michael Bergmann

Other News

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: Vintage Stow & Davis solid mahogany executive desk with credenza. \$2500 for both. Desk 72w x 29h x 36d. Credenza 72w x 29h x 24d. Very good condition. Pulls are polished aluminum. Glass tops available. Desk has three very deep file drawers and three smaller drawers. Credenza has two very large file drawers and a two-door cabinet. Contact Theresa Hardesty at 309-253-1087 or trhadopt@comcast.net.

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
 Aliasha 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
 Open Seat – Director at Large



2020 Winter Series

Spalding Pastoral Center, 419 NE Madison Ave.
Friday afternoons & Saturday mornings in January & February

SATURDAY, January 11 - Family Law – Check-in and continental breakfast 8:00 a.m. | seminar 8:30 to noon

Legislative Update by Richard W. Zuckerman
Case Law Update by Norman D. McGill
Pre-Nuptial Agreements by Charles J. Urban
Maintenance by Mitch M. Gilfillan
View from the Bench – Judges from the 10th Judicial Circuit Family Law Courts

FRIDAY, January 17 - Civil Practice – Check-in 12:30 | seminar 1:00 to 4:30 *snacks provided at break*

Liens by Mike McKinley
Remaining topics to be determined

SATURDAY, January 25 – New Laws in 2020 - Check-in and continental breakfast 8:00 a.m. | seminar 8:30 to noon

Topics to be determined

FRIDAY, January 31 – “Up in Smoke: Tearing up Old Law Criminalizing Demon Weed” - Check-in 12:30 | seminar 1:00 to 4:30 *snacks provided at break*

Criminal Aspects by Jeffrey R. Hall
Application Process by Thomas E. Howard
Employment Considerations for both Employers and Employees by Joshua D. Herman
Municipalities and Regulations by Katherine L. Swise
Real Estate by David L. Wentworth II

SATURDAY, February 8 – Estate Planning, Probate & Elder Law – Check-in and continental breakfast 8:00 a.m. | seminar 8:30 to noon

New Trust Code by David Wiest
Elder Abuse Panel by Anne Bartolo & Brian Fengel, State of Illinois Elder Abuse Task Force
Residency Issues by Mary Corrigan
Partitions of Heirs Property Act by James F. Kane
To be determined topic by Kyle Tompkins
Judges Panel

Early Registration price: \$65 for PCBA Members|\$80 for McLean County Bar Members|\$95 for Non-Members

PCBA MEMBERS ONLY DEAL – All 5 seminars for the price of 4, only \$260!

Registration can be done online at www.peoriabar.org and clicking on the event calendar.

Registrations increase by \$15 the Monday before each seminar

Reminders:

- Please include your ARDC number in your registration. We **must** have your number when we submit our attendance to the MCLE Board or you will not receive credit.
- You will receive materials by email the week of the seminar.
- Continental breakfast included at Saturday morning seminars; snacks provided for Friday afternoon seminars.
- **NEW!** - Attendance certificates will be emailed after the seminar.