



LegalEase

November 2021

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

President's Message

Hello Members! In the spirit of showing gratitude this month, I want to acknowledge the excellent work that you are doing to support our legal community and other organizations in the Peoria area. I see your names listed as members of non-profit boards and on donor lists. I hear about the interesting things you are doing, and it is such a privilege to be associated with you. Just recently, several PCBA members, including our very own Executive Director Stephanie Bitner, were recognized for their Pro Bono Service by Prairie State Legal and Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI). I am so proud of our members and inspired by their generosity with their time and talents. Thank you for helping people to gain meaningful access to the legal system.



Thank you also to all of the PCBA committees for their hard work this year, especially the CLE committee. The CLE committee plans most of the CLE opportunities offered by the PCBA. It focusses on topics and issues that resonate with PCBA members and local attorneys. The value for the legal community is that these CLEs are generally presented by your local colleagues and at times include panels of our local judges. This is the kind of information that you will not get elsewhere, and our presenters graciously agree to accept follow up questions.

The CLE committee usually plans at least 20 hours of potential CLE credit each year, which includes two professional responsibility seminars and the winter series. Currently, these seminars are slated to mostly take place over Zoom, and the seminars are usually recorded for purchase later. As a special benefit, PCBA members also have access to another 4-5 hours of free CLE through the Brown Bag series. The Brown Bag series started as free lunch-time one-hour CLE seminars in March with limited space for attendees, but now the series is hosted via Zoom and recorded so that any PCBA member can access those free hours. Kate Swise is Chair of the CLE committee this year, and she is doing a great job of leading the committee. The committee is always looking for members to provide new seminar ideas, so if you have ideas, please come to the next committee meeting on November 17.

Last, but certainly not least, thank YOU. Thank you for continuing to support your local bar association and making Peoria a great place to practice law. Thank you for the time and effort you have put forth over the past year – even when it is so easy to feel worn down by the stress of the lingering uncertainty of the pandemic. The PCBA would not exist without your active participation. As we head into the holiday season, I hope that you have time to relax, recharge, and reflect on all of the good things happening around us.

Court News *By Chief Judge Katherine S. Gorman*



1. Statewide case numbering changes in the Circuit Clerks Office are afoot, effective January 1, 2022. Details were previously sent to all PCBA members. Should you have questions, contact your local Circuit Clerk's Office.
2. After accepting nominations at the September 17th, 2021, Conference of Chief Judges meeting, held in Kankakee, Chief Judge Katherine S. Gorman of the Tenth Judicial Circuit on October 15th, 2021, was elected Vice-Chair of the Conference effective January 1st, 2022.
3. Tazewell County will have several docket changes implemented in January 2022 to better serve the citizens of Tazewell County. The 2022 judicial assignments can be found at: <https://www.10thcircuitcourtil.org/380/2022-Courtroom-and-Judicial-Assignments>

4. Judge Fehrenbacher will return to Law and Equity CR 101 at the Tazewell County Courthouse on Wednesday, November 3rd. Welcome back Judge!

November

- 4 YLC Meet the Judges with Judge David Brown through Zoom
- 11 Veterans Day, Courts Closed/Courthouse Open
- 24 PCBA Office Closed
- 25 Thanksgiving Day, Courts & Courthouse Closed/PCBA Office Closed
- 26 Day After Thanksgiving, Courts & Courthouse Closed/PCBA Office Closed

Committee Meetings

November - All meetings are at Noon. A "Z" means the committee is meeting through Zoom. An "O" means the PCBA Office

2	Real Property (Z)	15	Membership (O)
3	Public Relations (Z)	16	Board (O)
4	YLC Meet the Judges (Z)	17	Continuing Legal Education (O)
8	Holiday Party (Z)	22	Workers' Compensation (Z)
9	Family Law (Z)	30	Commercial Law & Litigation (Z)
10	Communications & Technology (O)		
11	YLC (O)		

Distinguished Community Service Award

Nominations are open for the **2022 Distinguished Community Service Award**. The recipient will be announced at the Lincoln Memorial Banquet & Pillars of the Bar event being held on Thursday, February 17. If you know an attorney who deserves this award, please visit our 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 7, 2022.**

Committee Reports

Diversity

Thank you to everyone who attended the virtual 18th Annual Diversity Luncheon! Your attendance helped raise \$2,648.45 for the Robert H. Jenetten Diversity Scholarship, which will be given to law school students next year. A big thank you to Diversity Committee Chair, Yolanda Riley, Vice Chair, Melodi Green, and the whole committee for all their work. We'd also like to thank Peoria Mayor, Dr. Rita Ali and Peoria Police Chief, Eric Echevarria, for taking the time to speak at our event.

Entertainment – Holiday Party

The holidays are fast approaching and that means it's time for the PCBA Holiday Party! After taking last year off, we are so excited to have the event this year!

When: Thursday, December 16, 2021

Where: The Warehouse on State, 736 SW Washington St.

This year's entertainment will be PCBA Member and comedian, Matt Smith!

Timeline of Festivities

5:00 p.m. – Check-in & Drinks

6:00 p.m. - Hors d'oeuvres

6:30 p.m. - Entertainment

Cost is only \$40 per person and includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and two (2) drink tickets. Registration can be completed online by clicking [here](#).



Lincoln Memorial Banquet & Pillars of the Bar

The 113th Lincoln Memorial Banquet & Pillars of the Bar will take place on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at the Par-A-Dice Hotel & Casino. Our keynote speaker is University of Illinois Professor, Dr. Graham Peck. Mark your calendars now!

Local Continuing Legal Education

Fall Workers' Compensation Seminar

This seminar has been postponed. The membership will be notified as soon as it is rescheduled.

2022 Winter Series

Topics are still being finalized, but below are 3 dates for the 2022 Winter Series. The other two webinars & dates will be decided soon. The 2022 Winter Series will be held through Zoom. Registration will open in November.

Saturday, January 22 – Estate Planning & Probate Webinar, 8:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Saturday, January 29 – Civil Practice Webinar, 8:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Saturday, February 5 – Family Law Webinar, 8:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Membership

We have received an application for membership from Jon Giraud, Michael Biggott, Scott Kriegsman, Allison Piper Geber and Austin Nichols. We have received an application for renewal from Darrell Dies, Mark Johnson and Melinda Rowe-Sullivan. If there are no objections, their names will be submitted to the Board in January for approval.

Memorials



On October 25, 2021, a member of the Peoria County Bar Association, W. Thomas Johnston, passed away. Tom attended Western Illinois University and the University of Illinois. He was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1966 and spent his entire legal career at Quinn Johnston in Peoria. 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 W. Thomas Johnston.

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

Pro Bono



The Tenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee held their Annual Pro Bono Recognition event on October 25. Congratulations to the 2021 award recipients! Tenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Award: Kerriane Waters; PCBA Young Lawyer of the Year: Tyler Eathington; PCBA Pro Bono Attorney of the Year: Yolanda Riley; PCBA Law Firm of the year: Hinshaw & Culbertson; Tazewell County Bar Association Pro Bono Attorney of the Year: Brandon Sarff; Prairie State Legal Services Equal Access to Justice Award: Stacy Crabtree

Other News

To see a list of local LAP volunteers, click [here](#).

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).

2021-22 Board of Directors

Emily H. Wilburn – President
Michael A. Fleming – President-Elect & Budget
Aliesha N. Graves – Second Vice President
Joshua D. Herman – Secretary-Treasurer
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Heather J. Russo – By-Laws
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Yolanda J. Riley -- Diversity
Nathan R. Bach – Entertainment (Golf)
Dennis E. Merkley – Entertainment (Holiday Party)
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Joshua D. Herman – Government & Public Interest Law
Carol J. Perkins – Lawyer Referral Service

Mitch M. Gilfillan – Lincoln Memorial Banquet
Katherine L. Swise – Local Continuing Legal Education
Thomas A McConaughay & David B. Mueller –
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2021 PCBA Holiday Party

December 16, 2021

The Warehouse on State

736 SW Washington St.

Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m.

**This year's entertainment will be
PCBA Member and comedian, Matt Smith!**

\$40 per person—including heavy hors d'oeuvres and two (2) drink tickets

This event is open to ALL attorneys and judges, not just PCBA members.

Register online by visiting www.peoriabar.org