



# LegalEase

July 2022

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

## **President's Message**

Happy summer! Here we are at the end of the fiscal year for the PCBA, and I cannot believe how fast this year has flown by. This month I will be passing the gavel to Mike Fleming, incoming President, and I am so excited to see what is next for the Bar Association! The Bar Association has been an important part of my practice of law and involvement in the legal community since I moved to Peoria in 2009. I am so fortunate that my employers encouraged me, as a new attorney, to join the PCBA and get involved. The benefits of membership, for me, have been many:



- Through the Young Lawyers Committee, I met many other attorneys when I was new to Peoria and am lucky enough to have made some good friends in those early days.
- I continue to meet new colleagues and make new friends through the PCBA!
- Through work with the Young Lawyers Committee, I was able to meet our local judges and talk to them outside of the courtroom.
- Being a member of the CLE committee and presenting at CLEs gave me the opportunity to work on public speaking and presentation skills.
- Chairing committees gave me leadership experience and an appreciation for efficient meetings.

Peoria is a wonderful city in which to practice law, and in my opinion, it is because we have such a strong, collegial Bar Association and dedicated members. I hope that as your practices change and grow, you will continue to encourage your colleagues, new and not-so-new, to be active members of the Bar.

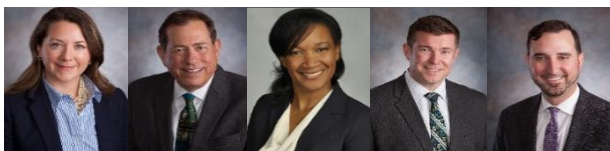
As mentioned above, Mike Fleming will be taking over the helm this month, and you are in capable hands! Mike has been an experienced voice on the executive board, and I have appreciated his counsel. He and his executive board members, Aliesha Graves, and Josh Herman have already been meeting to discuss ways in which to continue the great tradition of our Bar Association. And, at the July Annual meeting, we will be voting to add David Wiest to the team as Secretary/Treasurer. The future for the PCBA is very bright, and I look forward to continuing to work with the Board. Thank you, PCBA members, for your support this year!

Last, but certainly not least, thank you to Stephanie Bitner who keeps all things PCBA running on track. We would not be as successful as we are without her dedication, patience, and ingenuity. She is an asset to our legal community!

## **Membership Renewal Notices**

Dues notices for the 2021-22 fiscal year have been emailed! Contact Stephanie if you need an invoice emailed to you or need assistance paying them online.

## **Annual Meeting & New Members' Reception**



Left to right: Emily Wilburn, Michael Fleming, Aliesha Graves, Joshua Herman and David Wiest.

The **Annual Meeting & New Members' Reception** will take place on **Thursday, July 28 at Obed & Isaac's**. We will honor Emily Wilburn for her year of service as President, and welcome Mike Fleming as incoming President, along with Aliesha Graves and Joshua Herman as President-Elect and Second Vice President, respectively. We will also vote on the Nominating Committee's motion to approve David Wiest as incoming Secretary-Treasurer. This will be a **FREE** event, open to all attorneys and

judges and will include food and drinks. Registration can be done online by clicking on the event calendar, or by clicking [here](#).

**Registration closes at Noon on Thursday, July 21.**

## July

- 4 Independence Day – Courts & Courthouse Closed, PCBA Office Closed  
28 Annual Meeting & New Members' Reception – Obed & Isaac's at 5:00 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

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

6	CLE (Z)	19	Diversity (Z)
11	Pro Bono (Z)	20	Fitness, Health & Wellness (Z)

## Committee Reports

### Communications & Technology

Without any delays, the Attorney Pictorial Directory should be available at the end of July. An email will be sent to the membership once it's available!

## Diversity

**Save-the-Date!** The Annual Diversity Luncheon will be Wednesday, October 5 at Noon at the Spalding Pastoral Center. Judge Joe Billy McDade will be the keynote speaker.

## **Robert H. Jennetten Diversity Scholarship**

Applications for the Robert H. Jennetten Diversity Scholarship are being accepted! Please share the link below with anyone you know in law school.

Eligibility: The applicant must be one of the following for the 2022-23 academic year:

- 1) an entering first-year law student;
  - 2) a second-year law student; or
  - 3) a third-year law student.
- The applicant must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States of America.
  - The applicant must have a four-year college degree or be expected to obtain a college degree by the end of the spring 2022 semester.
  - The applicant must have been accepted to or have an application to law school pending.

Submissions are due by Friday, July 22, 2022. [Application Link](#)

## Entertainment – Golf Outing

Registration is open for the PCBA Annual Golf Outing! This year's event is being held on **Friday, October 7** at Mt. Hawley Country Club. Registration can be completed online by clicking [here](#).



## Fitness Health & Wellness by Robert Everett, committee member

Is it too hot to exercise outside? Try some of these indoor exercise activities. Warm up with some stretching and jogging in place. Try some squats for your legs, stomach, and lower back. Try some lunges for your upper legs and glutes. Try some planks for your core, back, and shoulders. Try some pushups for your chest, shoulders, triceps, and core. Try some shoulder presses for your core, shoulders, and back. After you finish, do some more stretching and walk it out to help your body cool down.

## Membership

We have received an application for membership renewal from Adam Bowton. Adam is a solo practitioner in Peoria. If there are no objections, his name will be presented to the Board in August for approval.

## Prairie State Legal Services

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 closed their pro bono cases in the first half of 2022: Tyler Eathington, Kenny Eathington, and Teresa Dickinson from Quinn Johnston Partners, Noah Menold from Howard & Howard, Kerianne Waters from the Law Office of Jeff Green, Michael Brandt from Michael Brandt Law, Andrew Cassidy from Cassidy & Mueller, and Abigail Fleming from Fleming Law Office.

If you would like to volunteer services, please call Terria at (309) 621-4014 or email Terria at [swilson@pslegal.org](mailto:swilson@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. PSLS is seeking volunteer attorneys to represent clients in simple divorces, bankruptcy, guardianship, estate planning, adoptions, and sealing and expungement matters.

### **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  
Alisha N. Graves – Second Vice President  
Joshua D. Herman – Secretary-Treasurer  
Ambrose V. McCall – Past President & Nominating Chair  
Heather J. Russo – By-Laws  
Katherine G. Legge – Communications & Technology  
Yolanda J. Riley -- Diversity  
Nathan R. Bach – Entertainment (Golf)  
Dennis E. Merkley – Entertainment (Holiday Party)  
James D. Van Rheeden – Fitness, Health & Wellness  
Ann R. Pieper – 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 –  
Membership & Memorials  
Kerriane L. Waters – Pro Bono  
Seth A. TeBeest – Public Relations  
Kyle M. Tompkins – Real Property  
John G. Dundas – Substantive Law  
Kevin O. Sheahan – Young Lawyers  
William B. Loeffel – Director at Large  
Norman L. McGill – Director at Large  
Nicole D. Meyer– Director at Large  
Christopher A. Nichols – Director at Large