



LegalEase

January 2023

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

President's Message

A Happy New Year to all PCBA members, their staffs and families—let's all commit to doing something to make 2023 a better year for someone else, for as many as possible!

The Association was busy in December, capped by our best-attended holiday party in six years! Over one hundred members enjoyed the evening, from Joe Napoli who has been to quite a few of these in his career, to Katelyn Schwiderski, from Heyl Royster, just sworn in as a new lawyer in November. Notable guests included U.S. District Judge Jim Shadid, Chief Tenth Circuit Judge Kate Gorman and several other Tenth Circuit Judges, our new Supreme Court Justice Lisa Holder-White, and the two newest Fourth District Appellate Court judges, Justice Amy Lannerd from Quincy and Justice Eugene Doherty from Rockford. Also attending was Perry Browder, of Alton, a member and currently a candidate for Third Vice-President of the ISBA. Thanks to Dennis Merkley for the event planning and oversight, and, as always, to Stephanie for making it all happen. Special thanks to Matt Smith for his on-stage talents! Also great to see some of our retired members in attendance!



Ed Murphy and the Family Law Section Committee members individually donated a total of \$500 to the Crittenton Center and the Dream Center, a nice supplement to our Young Lawyers' annual Project Santa. The Family Law Section has also put together what looks like an excellent program for the annual PCBA Family Law Seminar on February 4, and the remaining Winter Series will include the usual Civil Practice seminar along with the Estate Planning, Probate & Elder Law seminar in the second half of January. These seminars will be held at the Spalding Pastoral Center. The Criminal Law seminar, previously scheduled for Friday, February 10 through Zoom, has been postponed due to the pending appeal regarding the Pretrial Fairness Act.

The annual Lincoln Memorial Banquet is coming up on February 16, at the Par-a-dice Hotel, with Justice Holder-White as our honored speaker. I attended the tasting with Chairman Jim Rochford, to check out the suggested menu, and all I can say is that the food should be excellent! We know the speaker will be, and we appreciate the many visits that Justice Holder-White has made to Peoria recently as we adjust to our new Appellate District.

The Association allows the ideas of individual members to be amplified and put into effect on a much larger scale than might otherwise be possible. Leverage your membership—get involved and contribute to the well-being of the legal profession and the justice system as a whole! Thanks to all who have done that and are doing that!

Court News *By Chief Judge Katherine S. Gorman*



1. Happy New Year!
2. At the start of 2023, we will say farewell to Judge Donahue, who is heading to Tazewell, and Judge Mack who is heading to the Northern Counties.
3. Please join me in welcoming Judge Fehrenbacher and Judge Ierulli to Peoria County!
4. Please make sure to review Illinois Supreme Court Rule 45
5. Be on the lookout for a new Administrative Order regarding the Safe-T Act

Distinguished Community Service Award

Nominations are open for the 2023 Distinguished Community Service Award. This award will be presented to the recipient at the 114th Annual Lincoln Memorial Banquet on February 16, 2023. The nomination form can be found by clicking [here](#). Nominations are due by January 6th.

The PCBA Distinguished Community Service Award was established in 1995 when the following resolution was unanimously passed by the Board of Directors of the Association:

WHEREAS, members of the Peoria County Bar Association have a long history of community activism in volunteer projects to improve the quality of life in the Peoria area;

WHEREAS, the Peoria County Bar Association continues to encourage community involvement by its members;

WHEREAS, those individuals among our membership who have exhibited long commitment to community service as a volunteer deserve to be recognized and honored;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Peoria County Bar Association hereby establish the DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD recognizing each year one of our members whose record of longtime community volunteerism is exemplary and brings honor to both the Peoria area and this Association.

January Calendar

- 2 New Year's Day (Obsvd.) Courts & Courthouse Closed, PCBA Office Closed**
16 Martin Luther King Day, Courts & Courthouse Closed, PCBA Office Closed
20 Civil Practice Seminar, Spalding Pastoral Center, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.
28 Estate Planning & Probate Seminar, Spalding Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Committee Meetings

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

3	Real Property (Z)	12	YLC (O)	23	GPIL (Z)
6	Family Law (Z)	17	Board of Directors (O & Z)	24	CLE (Z)
9	Workers' Comp (Z)	17	Foundation (O & Z)	25	Criminal Law (Z)
10	Public Relations (Z)	18	Pro Bono (Z)	26	Substantive Law (Z)
11	Holiday Party (Z)	19	Diversity (Z)		

Committee Reports

Communications & Technology

The 2023 Attorneys' Directory will be sent to the printer soon. The membership will be notified once the directories are available.

Lincoln Memorial Banquet

Save-the-Date! The 114th Annual Lincoln Memorial Banquet will be held on Thursday, February 16 at the Par-A-Dice Hotel & Casino in East Peoria. Justice Lisa Holder White will be the keynote speaker. Mark your calendars now! Registration will open later this week!

Local Continuing Legal Education

2023 Winter Series – All topics subject to change.

Registration for the 2023 Winter Series is open! Registration can be completed online by clicking each seminar below, or by visiting www.peoriabar.org and clicking on the event calendar. Recordings can be pre-purchased by clicking the links below and registering for the recording.

FRIDAY, January 20 – Civil Practice – 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. (in-person) *Breaktime Snacks Included*

Case Law Update by Robert Tenney
Trucking Cases & the Reptile Theory by Devin Taseff
Arbitration from the Arbitrator's Perspective by J. Kevin Wolfe
Appellate Practice by Christopher Sokn
TBD Topic by Jeff Green
View from the Bench – Judges from the 10th Judicial Circuit
[Click here to register](#)

SATURDAY, January 28 – Estate Planning & Probate – 8:30 a.m. – Noon (in-person) *Continental Breakfast Included*

Estate Planning for Farm Clients by Kyle Tompkins
Corporate Trustee Issues by Jim Crowley
Case Law & Statutory Update by Ean Albers
Dead Man's Act – Rules and Practical Use by David Wiest
Using Pooled Special Needs Trusts by Scott Nixon
View from the Bench – Judges from the 10th Judicial Circuit
[Click here to register](#)

SATURDAY, February 4 – Family Law – 8:30 a.m. – Noon (in-person) *Continental Breakfast Included*

Legislative Update by Richard Zuckerman
Case Law Update by Norman McGill
Civility, Professionalism and Mental Health by Erika Harold, ILSCCP

Cohabitation Panel/Group Discussion by Ed Murphy and Richard Zuckerman
Hot Topics by Family Law Section
View from the Bench – Judges from the 10th Judicial Circuit
[Click here to register](#)

FRIDAY, February 10 – Criminal Law – POSTPONED. Due to the appeal regarding the Pre-trial Fairness Act, this seminar has been postponed until the court's ruling. The membership will be notified once it has been rescheduled.

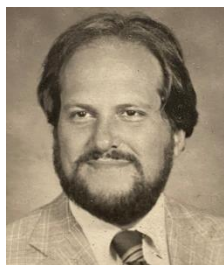
Everything you need to know about the Pretrial Fairness Act.

[Click here to register](#)

Recordings will be available 1-2 weeks after the seminar and are \$100 each. If you sign up to attend the seminar and do not attend, you will have the option to pay the additional \$35 to receive the recording.

Each course is worth 3.0 hours of general CLE credit. Cost is \$65 PCBA Members, \$80 for McLean County Bar Members and \$95 for non-members. Registration will increase by \$15 the Monday before each seminar. Registration can be completed online by clicking the links above, or by going to the seminar event calendar by clicking [here](#).

Memorials



On December 8, 2022, a member of the Association, Jack Teplitz, passed away. Jack received his bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois in Champaign. After successfully passing examinations to become a certified public accountant, he graduated from DePaul Law School. He was first employed as a lawyer for the US Department of Justice in Washington D.C. In 1973, he became Corporation Counsel for the City of Peoria in which capacity he served for most of the 1970's. Since then, he was engaged in the private practice of law specializing in local government law, municipal finance, and economic development law. He was appointed special counsel in Normal and Decatur. Among his Normal projects was the downtown Hyatt.

Jack was active in drafting Tax Increment Financing legislation and a law providing for \$20,000,000 in grant funds for the Peoria Civic Center. After leaving City employment, he served on the boards of the Peoria Housing

Authority, Family House, and the Peoria Civic Center. He played a substantial role in maintaining the Peoria Rivermen hockey franchise 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 Jack B. Teplitz.

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

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).

2022-23 Board of Directors

Michael A. Fleming – President
Alisha N. Graves – President-Elect & Budget
Joshua D. Herman – Second Vice President
David B. Wiest – Secretary-Treasurer
Emily H. Wilburn – Past President & Nominating Chair
Heather J. Russo – By-Laws
Katherine G. Legge – Communications & Technology
Melodi D. Green -- Diversity
Jason B. Boucher – Entertainment (Golf)
Dennis E. Merkley – Entertainment (Holiday Party)
Kyle M. Tompkins – Fitness, Health & Wellness
Mitchell J. Kavanagh – Government & Public Interest Law
Robert J. Hanauer – Lawyer Referral Service

James M. Rochford – Lincoln Memorial Banquet
Katherine L. Swise – Local Continuing Legal Education
Thomas A McConaughay & David B. Mueller –
Membership & Memorials
Kerriane L. Waters – Pro Bono
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Teresa M. Dickinson – Real Property
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Christopher A. Nichols – Director at Large
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