



LegalEase

February 2024

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

President's Message

Happy February, PCBA members! Now that the darkest days of the year are behind us, we can look forward to celebrating 115th Annual Lincoln Banquet on February 22, 2024. Dr. Samuel Wheeler is the keynote speaker, and I look forward to hearing his speech.



Court News *By Chief Judge Katherine S. Gorman*



1. Caroline Borden Campion shall take and subscribe to the official oath of office as a Circuit Judge in the Tenth Circuit on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Stark County Courthouse.
2. Join me in congratulating Judge John P. Vespa as he announces his retirement. He will retire at the end of business day on Wednesday, July 11, 2024.

Calendar of Events & Court Holidays

February

- 9 Government & Public Interest Law and Employment Law Seminar – Zoom – 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday – Courts Closed/Courthouse Open
- 19 President's Day – Courts and Courthouse Closed/ PCBA Office Closed
- 22 115th Annual Lincoln Memorial Banquet – 5:30 pm. at Par-A-Dice Hotel & Casino

Committee Meetings

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

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|---|-------------------|----|--------------|----|-------------------|
| 6 | Real Property (O) | 13 | Pro Bono (Z) | 21 | PR (Z) |
| 7 | FH&W (Z) | 15 | CLE (Z) | 26 | Workers' Comp (Z) |
| 8 | YLC (O) | 20 | Board (O&Z) | | |

Committee Reports

Continuing Legal Education Committee

2024 Winter Series

The final seminar in the 2024 Winter Series is this Friday. Register by clicking the link below. Recordings of the Estate Planning & Probate, Civil Practice and Family Law Seminars will be available this month. Contact Stephanie to purchase.

FRIDAY, February 9 – Government & Public Interest Law and Employment Law – 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. (Zoom) *3 hours of general MCLE credit. - \$65 for PCBA Members

Fair Housing and the Changes to the Illinois Human Rights Act by Thomas Dennis, Kayte Bernardoni, and Maya Ziv-El of Prairie State Legal Services

Employment Law Update by Michael Gifford

Local Government Tort Immunity Act by Phil O'Donnell

[Government & Public Interest and Employment Law Registration Link](#)

Registration Price: Zoom Seminars: \$65 for PCBA Members|\$80 for McLean County Bar Members|\$95 for Non-Members

In-Person Seminars: \$75 for PCBA Members|\$90 for McLean County Bar Members|\$105 for Non-Members

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

2024 Brown Bag Series

These seminars will take place from Noon – 1:00 p.m. through Zoom and are *FREE* to PCBA members. Registration is open and can be completed online by visiting our CLE calendar by clicking [here](#).

March 6 – Juvenile/DCFS Update by Joseph Borsberry

March 11 – Criminal Law - Odor of Cannabis as Probable Cause to Conduct a Warrantless Search of a Vehicle and Alcohol Evaluation & Treatment Process by Chuck Schierer and Jeffrey Hall

March 20 – Government & Public Interest Law - What Nonprofits Can Learn from Government Ethics Codes by Joel Corcoran

April 3 – The Role of a Guardian ad Litem by Ann Pieper

2024 Workers' Compensation Seminar

The 2024 Spring Workers' Compensation Seminar will be Thursday, April 11th from 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. at the Spalding Pastoral Center, 419 NE Madison Ave. in Peoria. Snacks will be provided. Topics include:

Topics Include:

* Arbitrator Panel with Dennis O'Brien and Maureen Pulia

* Commission & Arbitration Trends & Decisions by Quinn Johnston

* Dr. Christine DiPompeo from Midwest Orthopedics

* Ethical Dilemmas by Kevin Wolfe

Registration can be completed online by clicking [here](#).

Registration Price: \$75 for PCBA Members|\$90 for McLean County Bar Members|\$105 for Non-Members

Diversity Committee

Save-the-Date! The 21st Annual Diversity Luncheon will be Wednesday, October 30th from Noon – 1:00 p.m. at the Spalding Pastoral Center. American Bar Association President, Mary Smith, will be the keynote speaker.

Fitness, Health & Wellness Committee

Save-the-Date! The 2024 Strides for Justice 5k Run/1 Mile Walk will be Saturday, September 21!

Lincoln Memorial Banquet Committee

Registration closes next week for the **115th Annual Lincoln Memorial Banquet**. This year's event is on **Thursday, February 22nd** at the Par-A-Dice Hotel & Casino in East Peoria. Our keynote speaker is Dr. Samuel Wheeler, Director of History Programs at the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission. The recipient of the 2024 Distinguished Community Service Award will also be announced.



Cocktails (cash bar) 5:30 p.m. | Dinner 6:30 p.m. | Cocktail attire

Entrée choices:

All entrées are served with a side salad, rolls and dessert. Entrée choices are:

12oz Bone in Pork Chop with garlic whipped potatoes and green bean medley.

Salmon with lemon butter and garlic whipped potatoes and green bean medley.

Vegetarian Stuffed portabella cap with roasted vegetables

\$100 per person, or \$800 for a table of 8. Registration can be completed online by clicking [here](#). **Registration closes at 5:00 p.m. on February 14th.**

Membership Committee

We have received an application for membership from Kayte Bernardoni and an application for renewal from David Radley. Kayte is with Prairie State Legal Services in the Peoria Office and David is retired. If there are no objections, her name will be presented to the Board in February for approval.

Pro Bono Committee

Save-the-Date! The Pro Bono Committee is hosting a sealing and expungement clinic with Prairie State Legal Services on Friday, April 26th. We will be needing attorney volunteers to assist with the clinic. More information to come!

Young Lawyers' Committee

Save-the-Date! The 2024 Law Day Luncheon will be Wednesday, May 1st from Noon – 1:00 p.m. at the Spalding Pastoral Center. Elizabeth Gannon, Executive Director of the Peoria County Election Commission, will be the keynote speaker. Registration will open later this month.

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).

2023-24 Board of Directors

Aliesha N. Graves – President	J. Scott Kriegsman – Lincoln Memorial Banquet
Joshua D. Herman – President-Elect & Budget	Ann R. Pieper – Local Continuing Legal Education
David B. Wiest – Second Vice President	Alicia VanRheeden & David B. Mueller –
Katherine L. Swise – Secretary-Treasurer	Membership & Memorials
Michael A. Fleming – Past President & Nominating Chair	Austin L. Nichols – Pro Bono
Michele A. Miller – By-Laws	Carol J. Perkins – Public Relations
Jon R. Giraudo – Communications & Technology	Kyle M. Tompkins – Real Property
Yolanda J. Riley – Diversity	John G. Dundas – Substantive Law
Robert Boucher – Entertainment (Golf)	Allison Piper Geber – Young Lawyers
Dennis E. Merkley – Entertainment (Holiday Party)	J. Kevin Wolfe – Director at Large
JD VanRheeden – Fitness, Health & Wellness	Bradley S. Barber – Director at Large
Masum D. Perkins – Government & Public Interest Law	Kerrienne Waters – Director at Large
Robert J. Hanauer – Lawyer Referral Service	Youssef Boudjarane – Director at Large