



# LegalEase

March 2021

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

## **President's Message**

The COVID-19 pandemic has reached its first anniversary. No one could accurately predict the full impact of the pandemic on our country or the rest of the world. While each of us may have different experiences or views about its adverse impacts, we all know that we have arrived at a newly changed and different world. For example, the idea that office work always has to be performed at an office has run aground. Our prior practice of attending routine hearings in person at a courthouse has also greatly diminished. We even have courts using video software platforms to conduct jury selection, mediations, and trials. Moreover, to the extent we received mailed correspondence, discovery responses, and pleadings before March 2020, the pace of movement to only using email or other digital or software platforms has only accelerated. Most offices have replaced their physical fax machines with guest Wi-Fi systems. Yet still standing at the core of our practices is the unchanged dynamic of having to advise or represent a client in court proceedings or transactions. The legal substance of such matters is largely unchanged. However, in 2021 we should expect changes in legal substance. State and federal legislatures are besieged with demands for changes of so many varieties that the demands for our skills will grow, but our delivery formats will have to adjust. The challenge posed by our circumstances is to adapt and add to our respective toolboxes of skill sets so that we are able to provide our services in a more client-focused manner that also dots the i's and crosses the t's of our existing and amended codes, rules, laws, and statutes.



In response to our present circumstances and what awaits us as lawyers, the Peoria County Bar Association stands ready to help you with your business plans to adapt. Unlike every prior year, our Winter series of CLE programs were all presented via Zoom. The comments received to date report on the continuing high quality of our CLE programs. That effort continues this month with our Brown Bag series, free to all PCBA members who register to attend. The programs start on March 3rd "Our Family Wizard"; March 10th "An Overview of Recent Changes to the PAAR Residential Sales Contract"; March 17th "Trial Practice in a Digital Courthouse"; March 24th "Real Estate Tax Assessments"; and March 31st "Motion to Suppress & 4th Amendment Issues." All seminars will be presented on the Zoom platform hosted by the PCBA.

As first noted, other PCBA events held in the past may skip a year or be presented with a changed focus and format. We will take notes from former and present luminaries. Scientist Albert Einstein advised us what to do in these circumstances. "The measure of intelligence is the ability to change." Current writer Naomi Jackson concurs and takes it further. "[I]t wasn't so much the mistakes that people made but how flexible they were in the aftermath that made all the difference in how their lives turned out." It is uncomfortable. But we have little say in the matter. So when you pack up your cables, computers, mobile phones, and other digital devices that help you do your job, also remember to bookmark the PCBA website and Directory so we can all stay in touch. Have a great Saint Patrick's Day! We'll talk soon.

## **Court News** *By Chief Judge Katherine S. Gorman*



1. As vaccine distribution increases, efforts continue to gradually increase in person hearings. Please check the website frequently for updates.
2. To that end, jury trials have been conducted successfully and safely since January, 2021 with the stakeholders working cooperatively. Thank you for your ongoing efforts!
3. Judge Risinger conducted a virtual voir dire in a civil trial. The balance of the trial was in person and the jury reached a verdict. Kudos, Judge Risinger and all involved!

## **Schedule of Events & Court Holidays**

### **March**

- 3 OurFamilyWizard Brown Bag Seminar – Noon to 1:00 p.m. through Zoom. Registration is required.
- 10 Recent Changes to PAAR Contracts Brown Bag Seminar – Noon to 1:00 p.m. through Zoom. Registration is required.
- 17 Trial Practice in a Digital Courthouse – Noon to 1:00 p.m. through Zoom. Registration is required.
- 24 Real Estate Tax Assessments – Noon to 1:00 p.m. through Zoom. Registration is required.
- 31 Motion to Suppress & 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment Issues – Noon to 1:00 p.m. through Zoom. Registration is required.

## **Committee Meetings**

All meetings are through Zoom unless otherwise noted

### **March**

2	Real Property	16	Board	26	Public Relations
8	Family Law	18	Diversity	30	Pro Bono
9	Lincoln Memorial Banquet	23	GPIL		
11	YLC	25	CLE		

## **Committee Reports**

### **Communications & Technology**

The 2021 Attorneys' Directories are now available! Please contact the PCBA office at [pcbaasst@mtco.com](mailto:pcbaasst@mtco.com) to coordinate pick-up for your office.

## **Entertainment – Golf Outing**

**Save-the-Date!** The PCBA Annual Golf Outing is being held Friday, September 10 at Mt. Hawley Country Club! Mark your calendars now!



## **Fitness, Health & Wellness** by Mike Fleming, Committee Member

Lawyering is often a high-stress, time-consuming job. It is particularly important for attorneys, like everyone else, to maintain their physical and mental health and wellness, but it is easy to ignore those needs. Keeping physically and mentally fit is even more crucial as we complete a solid year of COVID restrictions.

While gyms have been closed or available only on a limited basis (with safety still a question), they will hopefully become more open and safer in the weeks to come. In the meantime, as it warms up, the great outdoors is readily accessible and safe for anyone.

Frequent walking of even shorter distances like a few blocks can be of enormous benefit to your well-being. That can be done just about anywhere, but we do have the Rock Island Trail and Greenway, and the River Trail of Illinois, that is great for running, walking, and cycling. These paths give us a solid route of some 40 miles from Morton to Toulon (crossing the river on the Michel Bridge). The Trails have many access points and it is easy to find a nice area for a 1- or 2-mile walk or run, or of course farther if you want.

There are also some scenic hiking trails in Peoria that don't require overexertion for most of us, such as in Forest Park and Detweiller Park, and the Illinois River Bluff Trail. You can find maps of the Rock Island Greenway and most other walking/running/hiking/biking trails in and near Peoria at <https://www.peoriaparks-planning.org/trails/>, while the River Trail in Tazewell County is shown at [https://www.trailink.com/trail-maps/river-trail-of-illinois-\(carl-bud-schmitt-trail\)/](https://www.trailink.com/trail-maps/river-trail-of-illinois-(carl-bud-schmitt-trail)/). The Rock Island Trail, stretching from the north end of the Greenway in Alta up to Toulon, is shown at <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/Parks/PublishingImages/RockIslandTrailSiteMap.PNG>.

Get out there and do a little walking, jogging, running, biking! If nothing else, get warmed up for our 2021 Strides for Justice 5K event in September!!

## **Lincoln Memorial Banquet & Pillars of the Bar**

The Lincoln Memorial Banquet Committee has made the hard decision to cancel the traditional Lincoln Memorial Banquet this year. Instead, the committee is looking at trying something virtual. The date is still set for Thursday, May 27, so keep your calendars marked! The Pillars of the Bar will be rescheduled at a later time.

## **Local Continuing Legal Education**

**2021 Brown Bag Seminars** – These seminars will take place through Zoom this year, which means we don't have to cap the attendance like normal! They are scheduled for every **Wednesday in March from Noon – 1:00 p.m.** Registration is open and as always, these seminars are FREE and for PCBA Members only!

**March 3** – OurFamilyWizard

**March 10** – An Overview of Recent Changes to the PAAR Residential Sales Contract and Related Amendments

**March 17** – Trial Practice in a Digital Courthouse

**March 24** – Real Estate Tax Assessments

**March 31** – Motion to Suppress & Fourth Amendment Issues

## **Memorials**



On February 5, 2021 a member of the Association, Thomas E. Schlehuber, passed away. Tom graduated from Bradley University and received his law degree from DePaul University, graduating number one in his class. Tom practiced law in Peoria until he retired in 2013. 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 Thomas E. Schlehuber. *The PCBA has made a \$100 contribution to the Foundation in memory of Mr. Schlehuber.*

## **Annual Memorial Service**

The Annual Memorial Service has been postponed until early fall. The membership will be notified when a new date has been set.

## **Young Lawyers' Committee**

The YLC has made the tough decision to cancel the Annual Law Day Luncheon this year, but they look forward to planning a great event for 2022!

## **Directory Changes**

The Janssen Law Center website has changed to [www.janssenlawcenter.com](http://www.janssenlawcenter.com). All email addresses associated with the firm have remained the same, except the domain name has changed to @janssenlawcenter.com.

## **2020-21 Board of Directors**

Ambrose V. McCall – President  
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Melodi Green -- Diversity  
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Dennis Merkley – Entertainment (Holiday Party)  
Robert Everett – Fitness, Health & Wellness  
Joshua Herman – Government & Public Interest Law  
Carol Perkins – Lawyer Referral Service  
Mitch Gilfillan – Lincoln Memorial Banquet

William Loeffel – Local Continuing Legal Education  
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