

# The SUMMATION

501 Main Street, Suite 101  
Evansville, IN 47708

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February 2025

The Monthly Newsletter of the Evansville Bar Association

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: **Greg Freyberger**

### THE MAKINGS OF A GOOD LAWYER: MOTIVATION AND PERSEVERANCE



Like most professions, the legal practice is a marathon, not a sprint. However, unlike most professions, the demanding nature of the practice of law—long hours, high stakes, combativeness, and relentless scrutiny—requires more than just intelligence and skill. It calls for perseverance and motivation to navigate the inevitable challenges, and to thrive in the face of adversity.

It has become a banal notion to say that burnout is a well-documented issue in the legal field. But the pressure to deliver exceptional work, meet deadlines, and manage expectations is overwhelming. The burnout experienced by lawyers often stems from the high-intensity environment that we operate in daily.

Motivation is the antidote to burnout. It fuels a lawyer's ability to push through fatigue and find meaning in their work. However, motivation isn't a constant; it ebbs and flows. That's where perseverance becomes critical. Perseverance keeps the engine running when motivation wanes, acting as a steady force that propels lawyers forward during the toughest times.

History offers countless examples of perseverance in the legal profession. Consider Thurgood Marshall, who argued *Brown v. Board of Education*. The case itself was the culmination of years of painstaking work challenging racial segregation and prior cases that were often simply ignored in the trial courts. Marshall faced immense resistance, yet his unwavering commitment to justice ultimately led to one of the most significant Supreme Court decisions in American history.

Another example is Ruth Bader Ginsburg's early career. Before her rise to the Supreme Court, Ginsburg encountered systemic sexism and professional rejection. Undeterred, she persevered, building a legacy as a champion for gender equality. Her story is a testament to the power of grit in overcoming obstacles.

While high-profile cases inspire, the reality for most lawyers is a daily grind of research, drafting, and negotiation. Motivation often comes from smaller victories: a well-crafted argument, a client's gratitude, or a favorable ruling. Recognizing these moments and celebrating them—however minor they may seem—can reignite a sense of purpose and keep burnout at bay.

Change in one's practice can also help to ignite the fires of motivation. Not necessarily drastic changes such as a lawyer's specialty, but perhaps cleaning one's office, adding some technological gadget to your practice, rearranging your office furniture...simple things that can offer some newness to the otherwise grind of daily practice.

No lawyer achieves success in isolation. A strong professional network can provide encouragement and perspective during difficult times. Mentorship, in particular, offers invaluable guidance and serves as a reminder that even the most accomplished attorneys faced challenges early in their careers. Find your CLE credits in person with your colleagues, or attend Pizza at the Bar whenever you are able. Get to know your colleagues as they can help pull you through periods of stagnant times. I've learned much about moving forward from the anecdotes of **Ross Rudolph**, the example set by **Michele Bryant**, and the positive energy of **Steve Lavallo**.

Perseverance and motivation are not innate qualities; they are cultivated through intentional effort and self-awareness. Lawyers who embrace these traits not only enhance their ability to succeed but also improve their satisfaction in the profession. As Ruth Bader Ginsburg said, "Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time." The same can be said of a lawyer's journey. One step at a time, one case at a time—perseverance and motivation pave the way for greatness.



## MEMBER LUNCH

Join us as we meet the newly admitted attorneys and celebrate the legal community

February 19, 2025

Doors open at 11:30am  
Program and Lunch at Noon



DoubleTree - Downtown  
601 Walnut Street



\$25

*To RSVP* Call (812) 463-3201, email  
ashley@evvbar.org, or at evvbar.org



## 2025 ANNUAL AWARDS

**NOMINATE NOW!**

- James Bethel Gresham Freedom Award
- Doran E. Perdue Service Award
- Florence Britzius Award
- Outstanding Paralegal Award

DEADLINE

**01 APR**

For more info or to  
nominate, go to  
evvbar.org/members

## VLP News

By: Max Happe ([max.happe@probonoindiana.org](mailto:max.happe@probonoindiana.org))

VLP and volunteers did a lot of good work this MLK Day and served over 50 people in need with their legal issues. Volunteering to help those in need is a wonderful way to memorialize the holiday and we are happy to have the opportunity to do this alongside amazing people in our Bar Association. There are still many people we are unable to serve due to our limited resources and is why volunteers like you are so important. Thank you for sharing your time as you are able to make the lives of others a little less burdened.

**Join us in February to spread the love!** On Valentine's Day, Friday, February 14, from 11am – 1pm Central, we invite you to the EBA to write a love letter (thank you card) to someone who matters. VLP will be writing to social service agency partners and volunteers to recognize what they do for our community. We encourage you to join us in this endeavor, or by writing something to someone who has shared their time with you and made an impact in your life. We hope by doing this at a space together, it can provide you a dedicated time in which you can recognize someone with intention. We hope to see you there.

Friday, February 14  
11am-1pm  
EBA Office  
←— for more  
information

## JOIN THE LAWYERS Lunch Club

The Lawyers Lunch Club connects lawyers from various practice areas and firms. Groups of 6-8 meet monthly for lunch over three months, choosing their meeting times and locations. These lunches offer a great chance to build relationships in a small group setting.

**Join now for Mar-Apr-May  
by email at [ashley@evvbar.org](mailto:ashley@evvbar.org)  
or call (812) 463-3201.**

*Deadline to sign up is February 7, 2025*

**LUNCH**

## Nominations Now Open for EBA Board of Directors

The nomination period has begun for the 2025-2026 Board of Directors for the Evansville Bar Association.

Service on the Board of Directors is an invaluable opportunity to play a role in the future of the greater-Evansville legal community. Board service will begin June 1, 2025. Self nominations as well as nominations of colleagues are both encouraged.

The 2025-2026 EBA Board of Directors will be led by Meagan Brien of United Companies. J. Beau Dial of Dentons will assume the role of President-elect.

Submit a letter of interest to the EBA Nominating Committee at [julie@evvbar.org](mailto:julie@evvbar.org) by March 1, 2025. Please include your name, number of years in practice, number of years as an EBA Member, principal areas of practice, participation in EBA activities.





**Barbara Coyle Williams**  
President

#### **Would you like to grant money local organizations?**

The Evansville Bar Foundation has four fields of primary interest:

- Encouraging and supporting programs to promote a public understanding and awareness of the law;
- Supporting an improved delivery of services to the community, as well as the indigent and our most vulnerable citizens;
- Promoting activities to enhance the performance of the practicing lawyers' professional qualifications and ethical responsibilities;
- Advancing and promoting the administration of justice.

Each year the Foundation accepts grant applications from local not for profit organizations. The above criteria guide the decision-making process. Grants are submitted in July for the following year. If you would like to participate in the selection of grant recipients, please consider joining the EBF Board of Directors! Send your letter of interest to serve on the Board to [julie@evvbar.org](mailto:julie@evvbar.org) on or before February 14, 2025.

Letters of interest should include:

Why you would like to serve on the Foundation Board, your passion for the law and law-related programs, and the number of years you have been a member of the EBA.

Thank you all for your continued support. A special thanks to the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office for making a generous donation, again, this year. Many, many thanks.

**Stay warm everyone. Spring is coming!**

## **LIBRARIAN'S CORNER: THANK YOU!**

Thanks to everyone contributing in response to the Law Library Foundation's annual appeal! Your generous donations and ongoing commitment to the Foundation and the William H. Miller Law Library ensure that the people in this community have **"...a quality law library readily accessible to all...at a substantial economic savings to everyone."** In addition to this mission, the goals of the Foundation are to preserve, maintain, and enhance the Law Library of Vanderburgh County as a resource center for legal information that serves the courts, bar, and people of Evansville and the surrounding tristate area. You also make it possible for this library to remain one of only two county law libraries in the entire state.

To become a 2025 member of the Law Library Foundation, you may use the envelope enclosed in the November mailing or send your contribution to:

Vanderburgh Law Library Foundation  
City County Courts Building  
825 Sycamore Street, Suite 207  
Evansville, Indiana 47708

As always, I welcome your questions, comments, and suggestions. Please feel free to call me, Kathleen Weston, at (812) 435-5175 or send me an email ([kweston@vanderburghgov.org](mailto:kweston@vanderburghgov.org)).



## **Annual Campaign Donors\***

### **Legacy of Leadership**

Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office

### **Senior Partner**

Hon. Sheila Corcoran

Steve Hoar

David Shaw

Stewart Richardson Deposition Services

### **Lead Counsel**

Bob Carithers

Marc Fine

Foster O'Daniel Hambidge & Lynch

Carrie Roelle

Tuley Law Office

Barbara & Brian Williams

### **Court Counsel**

Barber & Bauer

Todd Barsumian

Bill Bender

Tim Born

Dan Carwile

Jim Casey

Nicholas Golding

Ole Olsen

Mike Schopmeyer

Steve Thomas

Hon. Wayne Trockman

### **Attorney of Record**

George Barnett, Jr.

Diane Bender

Dennis Brinkmeyer

John Brinson

Hon. Elaine Brown

Laurie Bumb

Bill Bussing

Charlie Berger

Angela Chapman

Allison Comstock

Jamie Dameron

Kevin Gibson

Curt Hamilton

Kelly Jackson

Kathryn Kornblum

David Lamont

Hon. Mary Margaret

Lloyd

Carrie Lynn

Kevin Martin

Hon. Tom Massey

Mike Mitchell

Nathan Maudlin

Hon. Bob Pigman

Siesky Law Firm

Brian Smith

Charlie Spaetti

Gary Taylor

Aaron Tuley

Susan Vollmer

John Whinrey

Susan Wilkie

Scott Wylie

Seth Zirkle

### **Paralegal and**

### **Legal Staff**

Melissa Alldredge

Jeana Goebel

Lauren Gore

Jordan Terrell

### **Friends of the**

### **Foundation**

Julie Moore Holtz

Tonya Shumaker

*\* 2025 Campaign donations received November 1, 2024-January 31, 2025*

## *In Memory Of...*

Members and friends of the Evansville Bar Association who have passed away are remembered by friends and colleagues with contributions to the John L. Sanders Memorial—Evansville Bar Foundation.

Thank you for your contributions in memory of...

*Susie Hartig*

*John Hegeman*

*Phil Siegel*

Registration and pre-payment required for all EBA CLE. A virtual option for most EBA CLE is available upon request.  
Call (812) 463-3201, email [Ashley@evvbar.org](mailto:Ashley@evvbar.org) or go online at [evvbar.org](http://evvbar.org).

Guardian Ad Litem

Supreme Court Guidelines:

## NEW RULES FOR GAL'S

1 CLE

Kelly Lonnberg, Stoll Keenon Ogden

For the first time, the Indiana Supreme Court has issued new GAL Guidelines, effective January 1, 2025. GALs must meet specific qualifications and adhere to set standards. An Oversight Committee will handle qualifications and complaints. If you work with GALs, familiarize yourself with these new rules.\*

- Tuesday, February 11
- Noon-1:00PM
- EBA Office

To register, call (812) 463-3201,  
email [ashley@evvbar.org](mailto:ashley@evvbar.org),  
or go to [evvbar.org](http://evvbar.org).



\*This is an overview,  
not GAL training.



## SERVING ON A BOARD OF DIRECTORS? MIND YOUR ETHICS!

1 CLE/1 ETHICS

Scott Wylie, Pro Bono Indiana



**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

Noon-1:00pm

Evansville Bar Association

501 Main Street, Suite 101 - Downtown Evansville

To register, call (812) 463-3201, email  
[ashley@evvbar.org](mailto:ashley@evvbar.org), or go to [evvbar.org](http://evvbar.org).



## NEW LAWYER BOOTCAMP

3 CLE/1 Ethics

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

1:15pm

Winfield K. Denton Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse  
101 NW Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. - Evansville

FREE for all EBA Members 0-3 year in practice  
EBA Members \$90 (more than 3 years)  
Non-member \$150

To register call (812) 463-3201, email  
[ashley@evvbar.org](mailto:ashley@evvbar.org), or go to [evvbar.org](http://evvbar.org).



## LUNCH with

MAGISTRATE JUDGE CRYSTAL S. WILDEMAN  
United States District Court,  
Southern District of Indiana

**Tuesday, February 25**

Lunch at 11:30am

CLE Noon-1:00pm

Evansville Bar Association  
501 Main Street, Suite 101 - Downtown Evansville

Member \$45 Non-member \$65

To register, call (812) 463-3201,  
email [ashley@evvbar.org](mailto:ashley@evvbar.org),  
or go to [evvbar.org](http://evvbar.org).



Registration and pre-payment required for all EBA CLE. A virtual option for most EBA CLE is available upon request.  
Call (812) 463-3201, email [Ashley@evvbar.org](mailto:Ashley@evvbar.org) or go online at [evvbar.org](http://evvbar.org).

In partnership with the Shepard Lecture Series, we present an exploration of

# Lawyers Without Rights: Fearless Lawyers, Unpopular Clients and the Concept of Justice

3 CLE/1 Ethics

**Tuesday, March 11, 2025**

11:30am - Doors Open

Noon - Lunch

CLE 12:30-4:15pm

Evansville Wartime Museum  
7403 Old Petersburg Road  
Evansville, IN 47725

EBA Member \$115  
Non-member \$175

To register, call (812) 463-3201,  
email [ashley@evvbar.org](mailto:ashley@evvbar.org),  
or go online at [evvbar.org](http://evvbar.org)



The Young Lawyer Section Presents

## APPLIED PROFESSIONALISM *for the New Attorney*

6 CLE/6 Applied Professionalism/6 Ethics

**Friday, September 26, 2025  
8:30am-4:00pm**

501 MAIN STREET, SUITE 101  
Downtown Evansville

EBA Member 0-3 Years in Practice - FREE  
Non-member 0-3 Years in Practice - \$100  
EBA Member - \$190

To register, call (812) 463-3201 or email  
[ashley@evvbar.org](mailto:ashley@evvbar.org).



## CLE COURSES AVAILABLE ON DEMAND!

We've got more than 20 hours of CLE programming for you to enjoy whenever or wherever it's convenient for you—and, members save 25%!

**EBA MEMBERS** use  
coupon code: **eba20mem**  
for member pricing!

Go to the EBA website at  
[evvbar.org](http://evvbar.org) and  
click the **CLE** button!

*The CLE Commission will not approve online CLE credit if you previously received credit for the same live course. It is your responsibility to monitor your credits.*

## WHO'S DOING WHAT?



On January 2, 2025, **Ryan D. Hatfield** was sworn in as Judge of Vanderburgh Circuit Court by Judge **David D. Kiely**. Congratulations, Judge Hatfield.



**David D. Kiely** has joined Danks and Danks after serving as a judicial officer in Vanderburgh County for 26 years. Kiely will join the litigation teams handling personal injury, criminal defense, and family law matters.



Dentons has announced that **Lee Veazey** has been named managing partner of the Firm's Evansville office. Congratulations, Lee.



Congratulations to **Karey Cain** and **Matt Koressel** for being elected the newest Partners at Ziemer Stayman Weitzel & Shoulders.



Congratulations to **Lauren Berger** and **Brandon Curl** who have been selected to participate in Class XIII of the ISBA Leadership Development Academy.



### Bar Updates:

Please welcome attorney member **Tonee Hurst** and non-attorney member **Jana Kemper**. Please make these additions and updates to your contacts:

**Alyssa Allison**  
**American Water Company**  
 250 Cross Pointe Blvd.  
 Evansville, Indiana 47715  
[alyssa.allison90@gmail.com](mailto:alyssa.allison90@gmail.com)

**L. Katie Boren**  
**POLYVANTIS**  
 1 Lexan Lane  
 Mt. Vernon, Indiana 47620  
 (812) 430-5356  
[Katie.boren@polyvantis.com](mailto:Katie.boren@polyvantis.com)

**Kiersten Butler**  
**Danks & Danks**  
 1 SE 9th Street, Suite 101  
 Evansville, Indiana 47708  
 (812) 426-1000  
[kiersten@danks-danks.com](mailto:kiersten@danks-danks.com)

**Judge Ryan Hatfield**  
**Vanderburgh Circuit Court**  
 825 Sycamore Street  
 Evansville, Indiana 47708  
[rdhatfield@vanderburghgov.org](mailto:rdhatfield@vanderburghgov.org)

**Tonee Hurst**  
**A. D. Hurst Law**  
 3828 Hartford Place  
 Evansville, Indiana 47725  
 (812) 518-0077  
[toneeus@icloud.com](mailto:toneeus@icloud.com)

**Clay Havill**  
**Gonterman Meyer & Havill Law**  
 25 NW Riverside Dr., Ste. 310  
 Evansville, Indiana 47708  
 (812) 213-4039  
[clay@evvlegal.com](mailto:clay@evvlegal.com)

**Jana Kemper**  
**KDDK**  
 501 Main Street, Suite 305  
 Evansville, Indiana 47708  
 (812) 423-3183  
[jkemper@kddk.com](mailto:jkemper@kddk.com)

**Magistrate Joshua Orem**  
**Vanderburgh Circuit Court**  
 825 Sycamore Street  
 Evansville, Indiana 47708  
[jgorem@vanderburghgov.org](mailto:jgorem@vanderburghgov.org)

Jones • Wallace has joined

One Main St., Suite 600  
 Evansville, Indiana 47708  
 (812) 437-0200

**DENTONS**

David Jones  
 Paul Wallace  
 Lauren Jones, IRP

[david.jones@dentons.com](mailto:david.jones@dentons.com)  
[paul.wallace@dentons.com](mailto:paul.wallace@dentons.com)  
[lauren.jones@dentons.com](mailto:lauren.jones@dentons.com)

**GONTERMAN • MEYER & HAVILL LAW**

25 NW Riverside Dr., Ste. 310  
 Evansville, Indiana 47708  
 (812) 213-4039

Rhett Gonterman  
 Greg Meyer  
 Clay Havill  
 David Shaw, Of Counsel  
 Kelsey Stroud, IRP

[rhett@evvlegal.com](mailto:rhett@evvlegal.com)  
[greg@evvlegal.com](mailto:greg@evvlegal.com)  
[clay@evvlegal.com](mailto:clay@evvlegal.com)  
[david@evvlegal.com](mailto:david@evvlegal.com)  
[kelsey@evvlegal.com](mailto:kelsey@evvlegal.com)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Go to [evvbar.org](http://evvbar.org), click the **MEMBERS** tab.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EBA

## FEBRUARY 2025

- 01/24-03/14 **National Touring Exhibit sponsored by the ABA Center for Global Programs—Lawyers Without Rights: Jewish Lawyers in Germany Under the Third Reich—**[Evansville Wartime Museum](#)
- 02/06 **Talk to a Lawyer**—4:30-6:00pm, EBA Office
- 02/07 **Breakfast with the Bench & Bar**—7:00-8:30am, EBA Office—Come when you can, stay as long as you'd like! This is an informal social event for judges, lawyers, and legal staff. No RSVP necessary.
- 02/11 **CLE—Guardian Ad Litem Supreme Court Guidelines: New Rules for GAL's (1 CLE)** - Noon, EBA Office\* - [REGISTER](#)
- 02/11 **Women in Law Night of Chocolate**—5:00-6:30pm, Special presentation by Scott Wylie at 5:30pm, Mo's House—RSVP APPRECIATED to [ashley@evvbar.org](mailto:ashley@evvbar.org)
- 02/12 **CLE—Serving on a Board of Directors? Mind Your Ethics! (1 CLE/1 Ethics)** - Noon, EBA Office\*—[REGISTER](#)
- 02/13 **EBA Board of Directors Meeting**—Lunch at 11:30am, Meeting at Noon, EBA Office
- 02/14 **Deadline to submit Letter of Interest to serve on Foundation Board**—send to [julie@evvbar.org](mailto:julie@evvbar.org)
- 02/15 **Mock Trial Competition: Evansville Regional**—VOLUNTEER TO BE A JUDGE! Round 1 at 8:30am; Round 2 at 12:30pm; Round 3 at 4:00pm—[SIGN UP HERE!](#) - <https://form.jotform.com/243164292729159>
- 02/18 **Talk to a Lawyer**—11:30am-1:00pm, EBA Office
- 02/19 **EBA Member Lunch**—Doors open at 11:30am, Program and Lunch at Noon, DoubleTree—[REGISTER](#)
- CLE—New Lawyer Boot Camp (3 CLE)**—1:15pm, Federal Building\*—[REGISTER](#)
- 02/20 **EBF Board of Directors Meeting**—Lunch at 11:30am, Meeting at Noon, EBA/EBF Office
- 02/25 **CLE—Lunch with the Judge: Magistrate Judge Crystal S. Wildeman (1 CLE)**—Lunch at 11:30am, CLE at Noon, EBA Office\*—[REGISTER](#)
- 02/26 **EBA Young Lawyer Section Financial Wellness Series**—Lunch will be provided! Noon-1:00pm, EBA Office—RSVP to [julie@evvbar.org](mailto:julie@evvbar.org)

\*Registration and pre-payment required for all EBA CLE. A virtual option for most EBA CLE is available upon request. To register, call (812) 463-3201, email [Ashley@evvbar.org](mailto:Ashley@evvbar.org) or go online at [evvbar.org](http://evvbar.org).

