

The SUMMATION

501 Main Street, Suite 101
Evansville, IN 47708

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February 2026

The Monthly Newsletter of the Evansville Bar Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Meagan Brien

Building Community, One Gathering at a Time

I've been thinking about what makes membership in the Evansville Bar Association special. It's not just our continuing legal education programs or professional resources, though those are invaluable. What truly sets the EBA apart is our commitment to bringing lawyers together as people, not just practitioners.



Throughout the year, the EBA hosts numerous social events. In previous Summations I might have lumped these events in with networking or one of those unique benefits of EBA membership, but I want to take a moment to talk about why these gatherings matter and how they differ from traditional "networking."

Networking can feel transactional by exchanging business cards, pitching for referrals, and making a calculated effort to expand your professional sphere. There's nothing wrong with that because networking serves an important purpose. But the EBA's social events aim for something deeper like building genuine relationships and fostering a sense of belonging within our legal community.

When you join us for Pizza @TheBar or BBQ @TheBar, you're not there to work the room. You're there to share a meal, swap stories about challenging cases or memorable moments from the bench and maybe learn that the attorney you've opposed in court for years shares your passion for bourbon or your frustration with youth sports schedules. These casual conversations create connections that make us better colleagues and, frankly, better lawyers. The EBA's first Game Night was so popular that a second was scheduled for just two months later and one attendee said that she had "found her people."

Our signature events throughout the year each serve this community-building mission in different ways. Law Day celebrates our profession's role in democracy and is an opportunity to recognize 50 years of service to the Bar. The Legacy Lawyer Social honors our seasoned members whose wisdom enriches us all while the New Attorney Welcome Celebration allows us to meet and greet our newest members. Give Thanks @TheBar and Holidays @TheBar let us pause during busy seasons to appreciate one another.

This month and next offer chances to connect:

Women in Law Chocolate Night – Tuesday, February 10, 5-6:30 p.m. at Mo's House. An evening celebrating and supporting women attorneys, paralegals, and legal staff in our community.

Breakfast with the Bench & Bar – Tuesday, February 24, 7-8:30 a.m. at the EBA Office. Start your day with colleagues and judges in an informal setting.

Pizza @TheBar – Wednesday, March 11, 12-1 p.m. at the EBA Office. Come have a slice on the EBA with your colleagues!

I'll keep saying it, sometimes only those that have practiced law can understand, for better or worse, the highs and lows of the profession. There's camaraderie in having barbecue, pizza, a beer, or espresso martini with a fellow attorney, especially if you've agreed not to discuss billable hours while enjoying!

I hope to see you at these gatherings. Come hungry, come curious, and come ready to be part of the EBA community.



FROM THE BOARDROOM

President's Report

EBA will offer a CLE on the upcoming transition to the INfile e-filing system. Additional details are available on pages 4 and 6 of *The Summation*.

Treasurer's Report

Year-end 2025 results are as expected. CLE revenue exceeded projections but continues a downward trend from prior years.

New Business

EBA will offer Camp Legal Eagle this summer for incoming 7th, 8th, and 9th graders interested in the legal profession. More details forthcoming.

The Board approved continuing EBA CLEs at no charge for ILS, LAS, and VLP/PBI full-time attorneys and staff.

Old Business

The Spring Memorial Service will be held May 5 at noon at the Old Courthouse.

Board members will contact members with outstanding dues. Memberships not renewed by March 15 will be made inactive.

VLP News

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

Thank you to the volunteers who helped us realize an impactful day of service on MLK day. We helped "Clear the Queue" of legal questions for those in need alongside partners across the state. Locally, we were able to assist nearly 45 individuals in the span of a few hours through Indiana.freelegalanswers.org and by taking calls for Talk to a Lawyer. Access to justice is a key component to a healthy community and your volunteerism exemplifies the service necessary to having the world we dream to. We'd love to see even more of you at our next Clear the Queue event on Law Day (May 1) this year or at our twice monthly Talk to a Lawyer events.

thank
you!

In addition to our regular clinic and volunteer programming, this February, we will be doing a brief presentation on Eviction Sealing in Indiana at the Salvation Army. This will be on the 24th and is focused on informing tenants about how to reduce barriers to appropriate housing.

VLP would love to do even more to support our community and volunteers, but we are a little constrained by the number of hours in a day. Therefore, we are seeking to add an attorney who may be interested in working for VLP to help us continue our service. Contact max.happe@probonoindiana.org if you are interested in this opportunity, are looking for volunteer opportunities, have questions about eviction sealing, or just to say hi.

EBA
EVANSVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION

EBA Women In Law Section
Night of Chocolate
Tuesday, February 10, 2026
5:00-6:30
5:30pm - Special Presentation by Scott Wylie

Mo's House
1114 Parrett Street - Downtown Evansville

RSVP at (812) 463-3201
or ashley@evvbar.org

Join us for
Breakfast with the Bench & Bar
All are invited to attend!

Tuesday, February 24, 2026
Drop by anytime 7:00-8:30am
This event is casual with no agenda, no CLE
just breakfast with judges and lawyers!

Evansville Bar Association
501 Main Street, Suite 101



Bob Carithers
President

As I go down the home stretch of my year as President of the Board of Directors of the Evansville Bar Foundation there are a few things on my "to do list."

First is to advise the Evansville Bar Association members there will be openings on the Foundation Board. The term of a new Director is two years beginning June 1, 2026. There are nine meetings scheduled per year, on the third Thursday of the month with lunch at 11:45 A.M. and call to order at noon. Adjournment is almost always before 1 P.M. **Please write or call Executive Director Julie Moore Holtz by the 13th of February to express your interest in joining the Board.**

There are two things I have enjoyed the most about being a Board member. One is becoming acquainted with fun, talented, and interesting attorneys who I otherwise would not have met. The other, through serving on the Grants Committee, is discovering the inspiring work being done by applying non-profits in Evansville...and being able to support those efforts through Foundation grants.

Please put on your to do list the February 13 date to contact Julie and advise her you wish to be part of the EBF which manifests our legal community's commitment to the betterment of the place where we live and work.

Next, the Finance Committee has met with the Foundation's financial advisors to review its investments. And the committee has calculated the amount of funds—according to the grants policy—which the Foundation can distribute to applicants in 2026. MORE TO COME!

Lastly, the Annual Meeting of the EBF will be part of Law Day. A slate of Directors and Officers will be presented to the members for an election vote. Put Law Day on your to do list, too—April 22 at 5:30pm at City View.

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 2026 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).



Annual Campaign Donors*

Legacy of Leadership

Senior Partner

Hon. Sheila Corcoran
Steve Hoar
David Shaw
Stewart Richardson Deposition Services

Lead Counsel

Bob Carithers
Hon. Rich D'Amour
Marc Fine
Foster O'Daniel Hambidge & Lynch
Angela Freel
John Gaither
David Guerrettaz
David Robinson
Stone & Stratman
Tuley Law Office
Brian and Barbara Williams

Court Counsel

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M. Beth Burger	Kristin T. M. McLaughlin
Jim Casey	Ole Olsen, Jr.
Ron Christian	Steve Thomas
Jimmy Gentry	Hon. Wayne Trockman
Nicholas Golding	Scott Wylie

Attorney of Record

Ted Barron	Hon. Tom Massey
Diane Bender	Elaine Mittleman
Hon. Elaine Brown	Dan Robinson
Laurie Bumb	Katherine Rybak
Anne Butsch	Mike Schopmeyer
Allison Comstock	Garvin Senn
Mike DiRienzo	Hon. Randall T. Shepard
Monica Edwards	Hon. Les Shively
Kevin Gibson	Brian K. Smith
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Kelly Jackson	Gary Taylor
Kathryn Kornblum	Aaron Tuley
John Kreighbaum	Susan Vollmer
David Lamont	Keith Vonderahe
Carrie Lynn	John Whinrey
Kevin Martin	Seth Zirkle


Paralegal and Legal Staff

Melissa Alldredge	Jana Kemper
Jeana Goebel	Jennifer Savage
Lauren Gore	Jordan Terrell

Friends of the Foundation

Julie Moore Holtz

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 or go online at evvbar.org.



Preparing Your Practice for INfile

WHAT ATTORNEYS AND LEGAL STAFF NEED TO KNOW

1 CLE/1 ETHICS

The Indiana Supreme Court is planning a statewide launch of INfile, its new custom e-filing system, in Spring 2026. This CLE is designed to prepare attorneys, paralegals, and legal staff for the transition by outlining what to expect, key changes from the current system, and practical steps to prepare before launch.

Presented in partnership with the Indiana Office of Court Technology, this program will share the latest updates, address common questions, and highlight available resources. The current e-filing system at efile.incourts.gov will remain available until INfile goes live.

Attend one of the following:


- February 11, 8:30am
- February 13, Noon
- February 18, 3:30pm

EBA office or Zoom*

Member \$40
Non-member \$60

*Register at
(812) 463-3201,
ashley@evvbar.org,
or evvbar.org.*

*Please indicate at time of registration in-person or Zoom.



LUNCH

with the Judges


COURT OF APPEALS OF INDIANA EDITION
Judge Melissa S. May, 4th District
Judge Elaine Brown, 5th District

Wednesday, April 1, 2026
Lunch at 11:30am
CLE Noon-1:00pm

Evansville Bar Association
501 Main Street, Suite 101
Downtown Evansville

Member \$55 Non-member \$75

To register, call (812) 463-3201,
email ashley@evvbar.org,
or go to evvbar.org.



DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA?

Do you have an idea for a CLE course? Is there a topic you would like to learn more about and/or speak about?

Contact Julie Moore Holtz at (812) 463-3201 or julie@evvbar.org.



CLE COURSES AVAILABLE ON DEMAND!

We've got more than 25 hours of CLE programming for you to enjoy whenever or wherever it's convenient for you!

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

Go to the EBA website at 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?

KDDK Names Trockman Partner

Joshua R. Trockman has been named the firm's newest partner, effective January 1, 2026. Congratulations, J.R.!

**Bar Updates:**

Please take a moment to update your contacts! Join us in welcoming our newest members: **Dayd Hayley** and **Steven Mattingly**.

Dayd Haley
LNB Community Bank

PO Box 294
Lynnville, Indiana 47619
(812) 922-3245
dhaley@lnbcorp.com

Steven Mattingly
Posey Co. Prosecutor's Office

330 Walnut Street
Mt. Vernon, Indiana 47620
steven.mattingly@poseycountyin.gov

Trisha Dudlo-McCracken
McCracken Law

104 SE 4th Street
Evansville, Indiana 47708
(317) 644-9655
trisha@mccrackenlaw.org



John L. Sanders Memorial

EVANSVILLE BAR
FOUNDATION
We want you on the Board of Directors!

The mission of the John L. Sanders Memorial—Evansville Bar Foundation is to promote justice and improve lives through the law.

If you're interested in serving, please submit a letter of interest by February 13, 2026. Include why you'd like to serve, your passion for the law, and your years of membership with the EBA.

Evansville Bar Foundation
501 Main Street, Suite 101
Evansville, Indiana 47708

Or, email julie@evvbar.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

For more information, go to evvbar.org, click the MEMBERS tab.

Department of Child Services is currently hiring attorneys.

Dorsey, Gray, Norment & Hunter in Henderson seeks criminal defense and family law attorney.

Kinkade & Associates has entry level to advanced positions available.

Pro Bono Indiana is seeking a full-time Attorney Coordinator for the Evansville office.

Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office is looking for a Deputy Prosecutor to join the team!

Vanderburgh County Public Defender Agency has openings for full-time attorneys and a part-time attorney.

Zierner Stayman Weitzel & Shoulders is seeking

- a Legal Administrative Assistant.
- an experienced Civil Litigation Paralegal with strong eDiscovery skills.

Evansville Regional Mock Trial
JUDGES NEEDED!

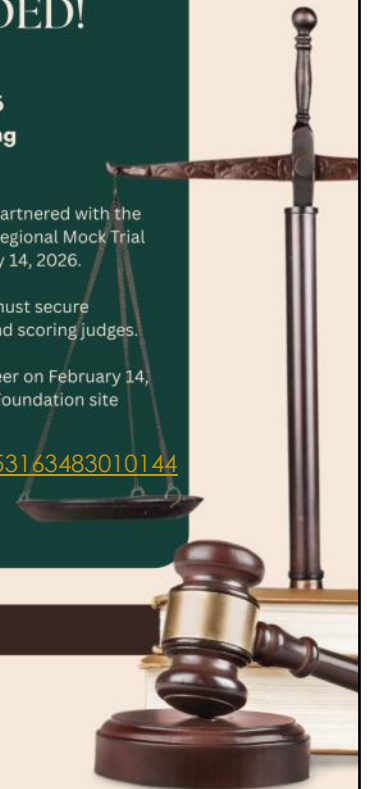
Saturday, February 14, 2026
Civic Center Courts Building

Once again this year the EBA has partnered with the Indiana Bar Foundation to host a Regional Mock Trial Competition on Saturday, February 14, 2026.

For a successful competition, we must secure volunteers to serve as presiding and scoring judges.

For more information or to volunteer on February 14, please sign up on the Indiana Bar Foundation site using the VOLUNTEER FORM -

<https://form.jotform.com/253163483010144>



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EBA

FEBRUARY 2026

- 02/05 **Talk to a Lawyer**—4:30-6:00pm, EBA Office—Contact max.happe@probonoindiana.org to volunteer!
- 02/10 **Women In Law Section Night of Chocolate**—5:00-6:30pm with special presentation by Scott Wylie at 5:30pm, Mo's House—RVSP to ashley@evvbar.org
- 02/11 **CLE - Preparing Your Practice for INfile: What Attorneys and Legal Staff Need to Know** (1 CLE/1 Ethics) - 8:30-9:30am, EBA Office or Zoom—[REGISTER](#)
- 02/12 **EBA Board of Directors Meeting**—Lunch at 11:45am, Meeting at Noon, EBA Office
- 02/13 **CLE - Preparing Your Practice for INfile: What Attorneys and Legal Staff Need to Know** (1 CLE/1 Ethics) - Noon-1:00pm, EBA Office or Zoom—[REGISTER](#)
- 02/17 **Talk to a Lawyer**—11:30am-1:00pm, EBA Office—Contact max.happe@probonoindiana.org to volunteer!
- 02/18 **CLE - Preparing Your Practice for INfile: What Attorneys and Legal Staff Need to Know** (1 CLE/1 Ethics) - 3:30-4:30pm, EBA Office or Zoom—[REGISTER](#)
- 02/19 **EBF Board of Directors Meeting**—Lunch at 11:45am, Meeting at Noon, EBA/EBF Office
- 02/24 **Breakfast with the Bench & Bar**—7:00-8:30am, EBA Office—Drop by anytime 7-8:30am. This is causal with no agenda, no CLE, just breakfast with judges, lawyers, and legal staff!



EBA
EVANSVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION

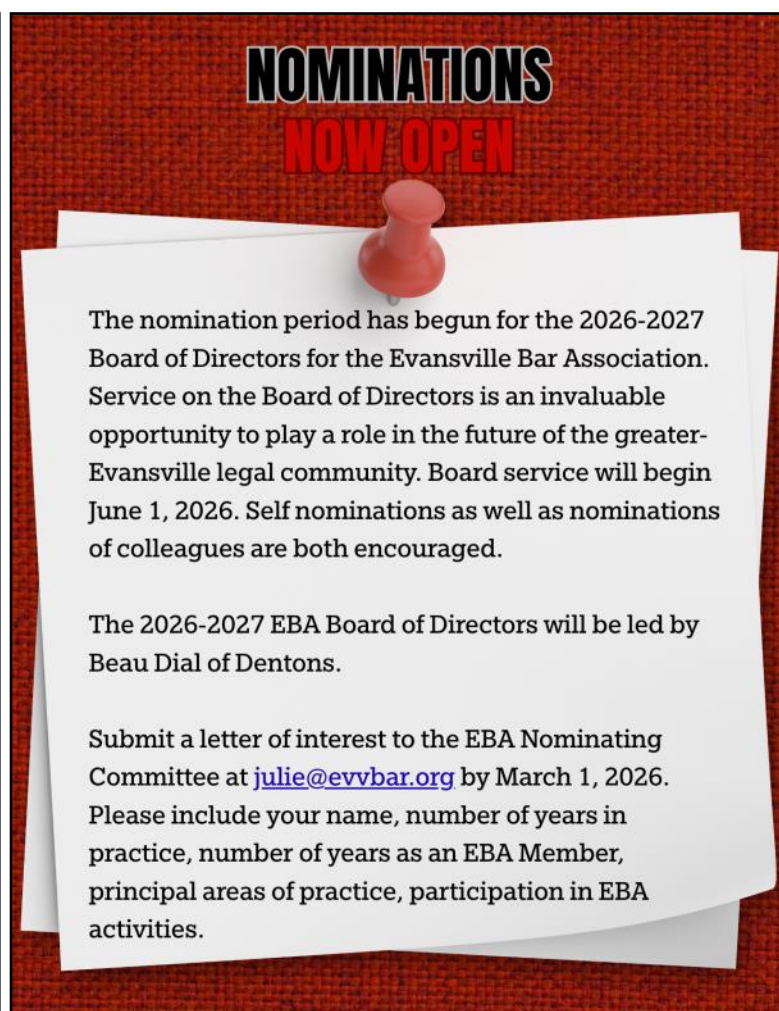
2026 ANNUAL AWARDS

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



NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

The nomination period has begun for the 2026-2027 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, 2026. Self nominations as well as nominations of colleagues are both encouraged.

The 2026-2027 EBA Board of Directors will be led by Beau Dial of Dentons.

Submit a letter of interest to the EBA Nominating Committee at julie@evvbar.org by March 1, 2026. Please include your name, number of years in practice, number of years as an EBA Member, principal areas of practice, participation in EBA activities.



THIS IS HOW YOU CAN HELP Volunteer with VLP



- Only legal professionals can provide this kind of help. Your skills can change lives.
- Create fair outcomes, facilitate community health, and protect the vulnerable.
- Supports the Legal System: Helping those without lawyers eases court backlogs and improves efficiency for everyone.
- Professional Growth: Network, gain experience in new areas of law, and expand your practice.
- Easy to get involved: VLP/PBI provides training, resources, malpractice insurance, and support to help you assist low-income litigants.

What is VLP/PBI?

VLP is a member of Pro Bono Indiana, the organization charged by the Indiana Supreme Court with promoting and organizing pro bono legal services around Indiana. We provide for the access to quality pro bono civil services by persons of limited means. We attempt to address many of the most vital unmet legal needs to foster community health and wellness.

How it Works

- VLP is referred cases from legal aid partners, often cases they do not have the resources to help.
- VLP screens matters for financial eligibility and case priorities to serve vulnerable Hoosiers.
- Volunteers indicate if they are willing to work the case pro bono. Your time is volunteered; the client is asked to pay unwaivable fees.
- Volunteers work the pro bono case like any other case.

VLP Provides Volunteers:

- Curated volunteer opportunities to serve the needs of our community and volunteers
- Malpractice insurance for volunteers
- Navigation and wrap-around services for people in need
- Resources and support

Check what you are interested in and send this back to us via mail or email to evansvilleinfo@probonoindiana.org

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY/PARALEGAL NAME: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Take a Case!

List any specific types of cases you would be interested in taking:

A Few Common Needs:

Family Law
Guardianship
Housing/ Eviction Law
Consumer/Debt Issues
Estate Planning
Reentry Issues / Expungement
Administrative Law Issues

Sign Up for Talk to a Lawyer!

Afternoon

Third Tuesday

11:30 AM-1:00 PM:

- ☐ February 5, 2026
- ☐ March 5, 2026
- ☐ April 2, 2026
- ☐ May 7, 2026
- ☐ June 4, 2026
- ☐ July 2, 2026
- ☐ August 6, 2026
- ☐ Sept. 3, 2026
- ☐ October 1, 2026
- ☐ November 5, 2026
- ☐ December 3, 2026

Evening

First Thursday

4:30 PM-6:00 PM:

- ☐ January 20, 2026
- ☐ February 17, 2026
- ☐ March 17, 2026
- ☐ April 21, 2026
- ☐ May 19, 2026
- ☐ June 16, 2026
- ☐ July 21, 2026
- ☐ August 18, 2026
- ☐ September 15, 2026
- ☐ October 20, 2026
- ☐ November 17, 2026

JOIN US AT A CLINIC:

- ☐ Help Desk
 - Monday through Friday
 - 8 AM to 9 AM
- ☐ Family Law Clinic
 - 1st and 3rd Thursday
 - 11 AM to 1 PM
- ☐ Second Chance/Housing Clinic
 - 2nd and 4th Thursday
 - 11 AM to 1 PM

*Closed on Court Holidays

CLEAR THE QUEUE AND EVENTS

- ☐ MLK Day Clear the Queue
 - January 19th, 2026
 - 11 AM to 1 PM
 - EBA
- ☐ Law Day Clear the Queue
 - May 1, 2026
 - 11 AM to 1 PM
 - EBA
- ☐ Homeless Connect
 - Sometime in March
 - More info to those interested closer to the event.

HELP OUT IN OTHER WAYS!

- ☐ Be a mentor to a legal professional
- ☐ Public Education and Outreach
- ☐ Resources and Training for Volunteers
- ☐ Protective Order Program (Reduced Rate)
- ☐ Alternative Dispute Resolution (Reduced Rate)
- ☐ Answer questions anytime on indiana.freelegalanswers.org

