

The SUMMATION

501 Main Street, Suite 101
Evansville, IN 47708

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March 2025

The Monthly Newsletter of the Evansville Bar Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: **Greg Freyberger**

THE MAKINGS OF A GOOD LAWYER: INTEGRITY



I was having a discussion with my 14-year-old son last week. We were talking about the fact that a reputation for honesty and integrity is something that takes years to develop, but can be lost in an instant. The fragility of such a reputation underscores its high value. In the legal profession, honesty and integrity are not just aspirational virtues—they are foundational principles that uphold the justice system. Attorneys and judges are entrusted with immense power and responsibility, making their ethical conduct essential to maintaining public confidence in the legal system. Without honesty and integrity, the legal profession risks eroding trust, weakening the rule of law, and undermining the very fabric of justice.

Honesty is the cornerstone of an attorney's duties, extending to their clients, the courts, opposing counsel, and the public. The Indiana Rules of Professional Conduct explicitly require lawyers to act with candor and truthfulness in all professional dealings. Rule 3.3, for example, mandates that a lawyer shall not knowingly make false statements to a tribunal or fail to correct false statements made by a client. Similarly, Rule 4.1 prohibits attorneys from making false statements of material fact to third parties.

Just as I discussed with my son, an attorney's reputation is also one of their most valuable assets. Even a single instance of dishonesty—whether misrepresenting case law, falsifying evidence, or misleading a client—can lead to disciplinary action, disbarment, and irreparable damage to a legal career. Beyond personal consequences, dishonesty undermines the legal system's ability to function fairly and efficiently.

Integrity in the legal profession means adhering to ethical principles even when no one is watching. It's golf. It requires attorneys and judges to act in a manner that is beyond reproach, ensuring that their conduct reflects the highest standards of the profession. The Indiana Rules of Professional Conduct reinforce this expectation, particularly in Rule 8.4, which defines professional misconduct as conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation. And let's not forget about our own EBA Professional Courtesy Code. <https://evvbar.org/members/professional-courtesy-code.aspx>.

For judges, the Code of Judicial Conduct imposes even stricter standards, recognizing that judicial integrity is crucial to maintaining public confidence in the courts. Judges must avoid not only actual impropriety but also the appearance of impropriety. This ensures that their decisions are based on law and fact, free from personal biases or external pressures.

History has shown that even minor ethical lapses can have severe consequences. Attorneys who engage in dishonest conduct—such as fabricating evidence, overbilling clients, or misrepresenting facts—risk not only disciplinary action but also criminal prosecution. Judges who fail to uphold integrity can be removed from the bench and lose the public's trust.

For attorneys and judges, maintaining honesty and integrity requires daily commitment. Think of our colleagues like **Brian Carroll**, **Diane Bender**, and **Judge Brookman**. This commitment means providing candid legal advice, refusing to participate in misinformation, disclosing conflicts of interest, and adhering to the highest ethical standards even under pressure. It also involves mentoring young lawyers and promoting a culture of ethical responsibility within the legal community.

Ultimately, honesty and integrity are more than professional requirements, they are characteristics all people should strive for, no matter the job. However, in our profession they are essential to preserving the public's trust in the legal system. By adhering to these principles, attorneys and judges fulfill their fundamental duty: to seek justice, protect our clients' rights, and uphold the rule of law.



MEMBER LUNCH

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

March 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)

With the help of the EBA and volunteers, VLP was able to write a few thank you cards in February to those who help us be a better community – including several to our social service agencies. Thanks for the help reaching out. Little kindnesses can go a long way.

VLP has received quite a few questions from social service and nonprofit agencies recently about how to provide the best services they are able to now and in the future as policies change. Please be supportive of these organizations as they work to figure out how to best help others. We may ask for a little kindness from you in sharing your knowledge or guidance with those in need as we try to keep up.

In addition to new opportunities to do good, we are grateful to recognize the work volunteers have done. The Free Legal Answers platform has answered 71,263 civil legal questions in 2024 across 43 United States jurisdictions. VLP helps administer the Free Legal Answers platform for Indiana: Indiana.freelegalanswers.org. It is an easy way to volunteer and attorneys from all types of practices can quickly jump on and answer a few legal questions for people. We used this to help us at our MLK day clinic and you can use it any time to help as you're able. If you have any questions about how to use it or would like to join us to answer questions together, please reach out. Thanks to all who have answered a question and for helping so many people with their legal issues.

PIZZA AT THE BAR



MARCH 12

NOON

EVANSVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION
501 MAIN STREET, SUITE 101

ITS TOTALLY CASUAL, A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY
FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER, AND GRAB A SLICE OF PIZZA!
COME EARLY! WHEN IT'S GONE, IT'S GONE!



LAW DAY and the Annual Meeting

APRIL 24, 2025 | 5:30 PM
EVANSVILLE COUNTRY CLUB



Barbara Coyle Williams
President

This year's Shepard Lecture Series event will be held March 11, 2025, at the Evansville War Museum. The Evansville Bar Association and the Evansville Bar Foundation will cohost with the Evansville War Museum an exhibit based on the book, "Lawyers Without Rights". This exhibit is sponsored by the American Bar Association and the German Bar Association, and it is touring around the country. The exhibit tells the story of lawyers who lost their rights to be lawyers in Germany, from 1933 through the Holocaust. Students in the Shepard Leadership and Law Academy will participate, and there will be a three (3) hour CLE presentation with national and local speakers. Mark your calendars and register at (812) 463-3201, ashley@evvbar.org, or on the EBA website at evvbar.org. I witnessed the exhibit; it is well done and moving.

Next month at its regularly scheduled meeting, the EBF Board will vote to approve the new slate of EBF officers and board members. Also, mark your calendars for Law Day and the Annual Business Meeting, which will be held on Thursday, April 24th, at the Evansville Country Club. The slate of officers and board members will be elected at the Annual Meeting.

We continue to receive donations to support the EBF and the grants it awards each year, and I want to thank all those who have donated. You are appreciated. The need is great, and we have not had enough donations to fully fund all the grant requests. Your donation is tax deductible and reportable under Rule 6.7(a)(3) of Professional Conduct.

Mail a check to:

501 Main Street, Suite 101, Evansville, IN 47708 or
go to <https://evvbar.org/foundation.aspx>.

LIBRARIAN'S CORNER: FAMILY LAW CLINIC, PRO SE CLINIC, AND THE HELP DESK

As you may remember, the law library hosts legal clinics operated by Pro Bono Indiana, Inc./Volunteer Lawyer Program of Southwestern Indiana. The Family Law Clinic meets on the first and third Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Participants must have an appointment in advance to attend the Family Law Clinic. The Pro Se Navigation Clinic meets on the second and fourth Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. No appointment or referral is required to participate in this general clinic.

Since the autumn of 2021, the William H. Miller Law Library has also provided space for a daily in-person help desk. Pro Bono attorneys staff this help desk from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. each week day to assist self-represented litigants facing evictions, collection matters, support modifications, or issues.

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

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

David Robinson

Carrie Roelle

Tuley Law Office

Barbara & Brian Williams

Court Counsel

Barber & Bauer

Todd Barsumian

Bill Bender

Tim Born

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Mike Schopmeyer

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John Whinrey

Susan Wilkie

Scott Wylie

Seth Zirkle

Paralegal and Legal Staff

Melissa Aldredge

Jeana Goebel

Lauren Gore

Jordan Terrell

Friends of the Foundation

Julie Moore Holtz

Tonya Shumaker

* 2025 Campaign donations received November 1, 2024-February 28, 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...

Tom Krochta

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.

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,
or go online at evvbar.org

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

Lawyers Without Rights is about the rule of law and how one government – the Third Reich in Germany – systematically undermined fair and just law through humiliation, degradation and legislation leading to expulsion of Jewish lawyers and jurists from the legal profession.

The ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct and the Indiana Rules of Professional Conduct establish two key responsibilities beyond client advocacy: a lawyer's role as a professional and officer of the court and their obligation to uphold the law. As the Preamble to the Indiana Rules states, attorneys have a "special responsibility for the quality of justice."

As officers of the court, attorneys must maintain the highest ethical standards. They cannot knowingly misstate facts or law before a tribunal and must correct any prior misstatements. In litigation, their primary duty is to the court—above obligations to opposing counsel in out-of-court negotiations.

Join us for Lawyers Without Rights, featuring nationally recognized legal experts:

Michael H. Rubin, J.D. – A leader at McGlinchey Stafford PLLC, veteran appellate attorney, and past-President of multiple legal organizations, he is also a sought-after speaker, having delivered over 500 speeches across the U.S., Canada, and England.

Douglas G. Morris, Ph.D., J.D. – A retired Federal Defenders of New York attorney and legal historian, he has authored books on Nazi-era lawyers and is an adjunct professor at Brooklyn Law School.

Dr. Teng Biao – A human rights lawyer and Hauser Human Rights Scholar at Hunter College, CUNY, he co-founded The Open Constitution Initiative and China Against the Death Penalty and was a key proponent of Charter 08, for which Dr. Liu Xiaobo won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Don't Miss This Critical Discussion

This event offers a unique opportunity to hear from some of the most respected voices in law, history, and human rights. Don't miss the chance to gain critical insights into the ethical responsibilities of attorneys and the role of lawyers in safeguarding justice.

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.



NEW LAWYER BOOTCAMP 3 CLE/1 Ethics

Wednesday, March 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, or go to evvbar.org.



LUNCH with

JUDGE LES SHIVELY
Chief Judge
Vanderburgh Superior Court

Wednesday, April 9

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,
or go to evvbar.org.



You're invited...

First and Foremost:

Conversations with
Women Leaders in
Our Legal and Business
Communities

IN Attorneys - 3 CLE/1 Ethics

Wednesday, April 23

City View - Sunset Ballroom
210 North Fulton Avenue
Evansville, Indiana 47710

11:30am - Doors Open

12:00pm - Lunch with Keynote Speaker

Chief Justice Loretta Rush, Indiana Supreme Court

1:15pm - Program

4:30pm - Cocktail Social

Lunch Only \$50

Lunch and Full Program \$125

RSVP on or before April 7
at (812) 463-3201,
or ashley@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

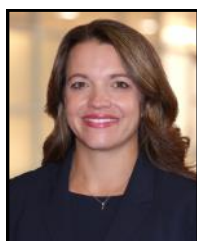
To register, call (812) 463-3201 or email
ashley@evvbar.org.

WHO'S DOING WHAT?



Congratulations to **Nicholas Golding** on being named Partner at Kahn, Dees, Donovan & Kahn.

Congratulations to **Alyssa Ricker** on being named Partner at Stoll Keenon Ogden.



Super Lawyers®

Congratulations to all EBA Members who have been recognized as a 2025 Super Lawyer!*

Steve Barber, Todd Barsumian, Erin Bauer, Charlie Berger, Kyle Biesecker, Tim Born, Michele Bryant, Laurie Bumb, Beth Burger, Brian Carroll, Neil Chapman, Allison Comstock, Randall Craig, Jamie Dameron, Mike DiRienzo, Terry Farmer, Max Fiester, Shannon Frank, Greg Freyberger, Mark Foster, Jake Fulcher, Jimmy Gentry, Josh Gessling, Danny Glass, David Hatfield, Rich Hawley, Jeff Helfrich, Ashley Hollen, Edward Johnson, Joe Langerak, Nathan Maudlin, Mark McAnulty, Whitney Mosby, Andy Ozete, Carrie Roelle, Ross Rudolph, Mark Samila, Lindsay Schmitt, Laura Scott, Mike Schopmeyer, Ryan Schulz, Pat Shoulders, Dirck Stahl, Patrick Thomas, and Brian Williams.

And, our Rising Stars*...

Mark Abell, Will Cartwright, Brandon Curl, Mallory Deckard, Hannah Dill, Trisha Dudlo-McCracken, Nicholas Golding, Elizabeth Hennessy-Spencer, Derrick McDowell, Buddy Lobermann, Heather Lobermann, Joshua Trockman, and Aaron Tuley.

* If you have been recognized as a Super Lawyer or Rising Star, but not listed above, please send an email to Julie@evvbar.org



Bar Updates:

Please welcome attorney members **Jeremy Morris** and **Travis Thickstun**. Please make these additions and updates to your contacts:

Jordan Buechler
Hogan Assessments
 (918) 281-1410
jbuechler@hoganassessments.com

Jeremy B. Morris
Attorney at Law, LLC
 1104 Harrelton Court
 Evansville, Indiana 47714
 (402) 679-7476
jbmorrislaw@gmail.com

Travis Thickstun
Thickstun Law, LLC
 PO Box 5244
 Bloomington, Indiana 47407
 (812) 727-3120
travis@thickstunlaw.com

BASES ARE LOADED
and You're Up to Bat!

CUBS VS CARDS

THURSDAY 26 JUNE **BUSCH STADIUM** GAME 1:15PM TIME

ALL-INCLUSIVE • MEMBER \$350* • 2 CLE/1 ETHICS

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

*Payment Deadline: Payment is required on or before May 1.
 Minimum: There is a minimum number of registrants necessary to proceed with the event. If this minimum is not reached, refunds will be issued.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Go to evvbar.org,
 click the MEMBERS tab.

The **Department of Child Services** is currently hiring attorneys to represent the State in civil cases regarding child abuse and neglect.

Kinkade & Associates, a debt relief law firm serving Southern Indiana and Western Kentucky, is seeking a Receptionist.

The **Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office** is looking for a Child Support Deputy Prosecutor to join their team for a thrilling and rewarding career.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EBA

MARCH 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](#)**
- 03/06 **EBA Board of Directors Meeting**—Lunch at 11:30am, Meeting at Noon, EBA Office
Talk to a Lawyer—4:30-6:00pm, EBA Office
- 03/07 **EBA Advisory Council Meeting**—11:30am, EBA Office
- 03/11 **CLE—Lawyers Without Rights: Fearless Lawyers, Unpopular Clients, and the Concept of Justice (3 CLE/1 Ethics)** -
 Doors open at 11:30am, Lunch at Noon with CLE beginning at 12:25pm, Evansville Wartime Museum—
 Register* by calling (812) 463-3201 or email ashley@evvbar.org.
Paralegal and Legal Staff Section Meeting—Noon-1:00pm, EBA Office
- 03/12 **Pizza @TheBar**—Noon, EBA Office—It's totally casual, a great opportunity to enjoy fellowship with one another, and grab a slice of pizza. Come early! When it's gone, it's gone!
- 03/18 **Talk to a Lawyer**—11:30am-1:00pm, EBA Office
- 03/19 **EBA Member Lunch: Meet the New Attorneys and Celebrate the Legal Community**—Doors open at 11:30am, Program and Lunch at Noon, DoubleTree—[REGISTER](#)
CLE—New Lawyer Boot Camp (3 CLE)—1:15pm, Federal Building—[REGISTER*](#)

**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 or go online at evvbar.org.*

Join us for the first session of the
 Financial Wellness Series
 hosted by and for the EBA Young Lawyer Section

Session III

What to Know When Taking on and Managing Debts

Tuesday, April 22

Session IV

Student Loans and Protecting Your Future Income

Tuesday, June 24

Session V

Building Your Credit Score

Tuesday, July 29

Session VI

Investing Tips You Need to Know Now

Tuesday, September 23

NOON-1pm

Lunch provided

RSVP requested to
julie@evvbar.org

EBA Office
 501 Main Street, Suite 101
 Downtown Evansville

INDIANA
 Members Credit Union
 Keeping It Simple

LFG
 LIFETIME FINANCIAL GROWTH
 LLC
 FINANCIAL PLANNING • INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT



YOU'RE INVITED TO GATHER FOR A TIME OF
 CELEBRATION, REMINISCING, AND STORYTELLING AT THE

LEGACY LAWYER *Social*

WITH GOOD FOOD AND DRINK

09
 SEPTEMBER
 4-6 PM

EVANSVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION
 501 MAIN STREET, SUITE 101
 DOWNTOWN EVANSVILLE

RSVP ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 2
 AT (812) 463-3201 OR ASHLEY@EVVBAR.ORG