

The SUMMATION

March 2026

The Monthly Newsletter of the Evansville Bar Association

501 Main Street, Suite 101
Evansville, IN 47708

Inside this issue:

EBA News	2
Foundation	3
CLE Offerings	4
Bar Updates	5
What's Happening at the EBA	6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Meagan Brien

More Than CLE: The EBA's Vision for Professional Development



Many local attorneys may tell you that professional development means getting a minimum of 6 CLE hours in any given year (except every three years, then it's an aggregate of 36!). Some may not even intentionally get those hours by enrolling in the courses that impact and elevate their practice (gasp!). Lawyers may tend to think of professional development as CLE compliance, but many other professions – medicine, education, business, finance – treat it as a continuous, strategic career investment. Business leaders consistently rank emotional intelligence, resilience, leadership, and communication as the skills that most define long-term success. So, why should lawyers think about it any differently? And while continuing legal education is certainly part of the picture, the Evansville Bar Association has always believed it is only the beginning.

True professional development enhances the full range of skills that make you successful; not just legally, but professionally and personally. It includes how you communicate, how you lead, how you manage conflict, how you build relationships, and how you take care of yourself along the way. It includes emotional intelligence, negotiation, mentoring, and yes, even your credit score. When the ABA talks about professional development, it describes it as the path to acquiring leadership skills that set you apart from your peers and put you on the road to the next step in your career. That is the philosophy behind what the EBA works to deliver to its members year after year.

Look at the range of programming the EBA has offered in the last twelve months. For lawyers at every stage, we have covered the practical (e.g. New Lawyer Bootcamp, the Federal Court Playbook, INfile preparation, probate administration A-Z, and DWI for Dummies). For those navigating complex client relationships, we have tackled ethics in depth: how to write ethically, avoiding the ethical snowstorm when representing clients with diminished capacity, who your client really is, and integrity and accountability when clients involve power and control dynamics.

The EBA has explored the intersection of law and emerging challenges such as technology and domestic violence in family law, social media in the workplace, immigration law, challenges for in-house attorneys, and the road map for addressing the attorney shortage and access to justice. We have invested in the whole lawyer through sessions on student loans, investing, credit building, and mental health. And we have been inspired – by Chief Justice Loretta Rush and other remarkable women leaders, champions for access for justice, and by the powerful *Lawyers Without Rights* program examining fearless advocates and the concept of justice itself.

This programming doesn't happen without an exceptional committee, generous presenters, an executive director and staff who firelessly exceed expectations, and members who invest their time and show up ready to grow. I am deeply proud of what this organization offers and grateful to be the EBA's president during a year this rich with opportunity.

But the true impact of this work happens when members attend **in person**. It is in the conversations before the program begins, the thoughtful exchanges during Q&A, the shared laughter over lunch, and the relationships strengthened in hallways and receptions. Professional development is not merely information transfer; it is connection, mentorship, visibility, and community. Showing up matters.

I hope you are taking full advantage because the EBA's investment in professional development is, at its core, an investment in you.



FROM THE BOARDROOM

A Statement from the Evansville Bar Association Board of Directors: [Senate Bill 291](#)

On January 18th, Tippecanoe County Superior Court Judge Steven Meyer and his wife, Kim, were involved in a shooting at their Lafayette home. The shooting was allegedly directed by a suspect who was facing a jury trial set to start two days later in Meyer's Court. Thankfully, Judge Meyer and Kim survived the shooting and are recovering. The Evansville Bar Association Board of Directors shares in the outpouring of concern and support that has come from all facets of the judicial community. As part of an ongoing effort to support the safety of all judges and staff, Indiana legislators swiftly passed [SB 291](#) to provide protections to its judiciary and respond to increasing threats to the safety of the legal community. The Evansville Bar Association Board of Directors commends the passage of SB 291 and supports continued efforts to protect the rule of law and ensure the safety and security of Indiana's judiciary and legal community.

In a statement published to the Indiana Judicial Branch's website, Judge Meyer stated, "I want the community to know that I have strong faith in our judicial system. This horrific violence will not shake my belief in the importance of peacefully resolving disputes. I remain confident we have the best judicial system in the world, and I am proud to be a part of it."

VLP News

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

Homeless Connect is Thursday, March 19th, from 9am to 2pm at the Old National Events Plaza. This is the largest local resource fair that we support each year. It is an opportunity for anyone struggling to access resources to find help. There will be more than 70 resource providers present to assist with things from health screenings to tax resources. VLP will be contributing by providing legal advice and assistance to people in need. We have several volunteer spots for different time slots during the event we would like to fill if you are able to help! This is an extremely cool event because it allows us to quickly address so many issues that would otherwise take days to begin to address due to transportation coordination, missed work, or other barriers. This is also a good opportunity to see some of the need in our community, the wonderful resources we have to help, and areas where we can make a meaningful impact.

If you are interested in volunteering to provide some legal advice and assistance at the event, please sign up at <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/601035536044/false#/invitation> or contact Max Happe at max.happe@probonoindiana.org.

Volunteers Needed: Homeless Connect

Homeless Connect is Thursday, March 19, 9:00am–2:00pm. at Old National Events Plaza.

We are seeking legal staff and attorneys to serve two-hour shifts, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Your participation helps ensure access to essential legal services for our community.

SIGN UP HERE—<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/601035536044/false#/invitation>

•EBA•

join us to celebrate the
115th Anniversary
of the incorporation of the
Evansville Bar Association
at

LAW DAY
and the
ANNUAL
MEETING

WEDNESDAY
22 APRIL 2026

5:30pm - Cocktails
6:30pm - Dinner and Program

City View
210 N. FULTON AVENUE



Bob Carithers
President

A milestone 25 years in the making will be achieved in 2026 by the Evansville Bar Foundation. The \$500,000.00 mark in total grants awarded by the Foundation will be exceeded this year, based on the calculation of funds available for grants in 2026 pursuant to its grant policy. The EBF first distributed grants in 2001.

The newest calculation resulted in a sum which is the greatest in the Foundation's history and eclipses the 2025 amount by almost \$5,000.00.

A major factor in these grant-making records is the generosity of all of you who donated to the EBF in 2025. The total of the 2025 donations was also tops in its history.

Many thanks to all of you for your efforts in all years in manifesting our local legal community's care for its neighbors here where we live and practice.

Applications for 2026 grants will be received in July. Information about the applications and the criteria used in evaluating them may be obtained by contacting the Evansville Bar Association office.

See you next month for the Foundation's annual meeting which is part of Law Day, April 22 beginning at 5:30pm at City View by Sterling Square.

**To make a donation to the Foundation
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 HELP DESK

As you may remember, the law library hosts legal clinics operated by Pro Bono Indiana, Inc. 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@vanderburghov.org).



Annual Campaign Donors*

Legacy of Leadership

Senior Partner

Hon. Sheila Corcoran
Steve Hoar
David Shaw

Stewart Richardson Deposition Services

Lead Counsel

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

Court Counsel

D. Tim Born	Kevin Kinkade
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	Kevin Martin
Diane Bender	Hon. Tom Massey
Hon. Elaine Brown	Elaine Mittleman
Michele Bryant	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
Hon. Carl Heldt	Charlie Spaetti
Kelly Jackson	Gary Taylor
Kathryn Kornblum	Aaron Tuley
John Kreighbaum	Susan Vollmer
David Lamont	Keith Vonderahe
Hon. Mary Margaret Lloyd	John Whinrey
Carrie Lynn	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.



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.



LUNCH

with the Clerk of the Courts

DOTTIE THOMAS

Clerk of the Courts, Vanderburgh County

Wednesday, May 13, 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?

Bjerke joins Danks & Danks



Chris Bjerke has joined the Law Firm of Danks and Danks. Chris's practice areas are criminal defense and family law, and he'll be practicing throughout the State of Indiana and

Brown Receives Award

Congratulations to longtime Vanderburgh County Prosecutor **Doug Brown** on receiving the prestigious Stephen Johnson Award from the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council—a well-deserved recognition of his steadfast leadership and dedicated service to our community and the profession.



Pictured above: **Doug Brown, Stan Levco,** and **Diana Moers.**

Ricker Elevated to Equity Member



Alyssa Ricker has been elevated to equity Member at Stoll Keenon Ogden. Congratulations, **Alyssa**, on this well-earned milestone.



Bar Updates:

Please take a moment to update your contacts! Join us in welcoming our newest non-attorney members: **Cassie Davis** and **Deana Tenbarge**.

Chris Bjerke
Danks & Danks, LLC
 1 SE 9th Street, Suite 101
 Evansville, Indiana 47708
 (812) 426-1000
chris@danks-danks.com

John Bober
Spencer Co. Prosecutor's Ofc
 PO Box 54
 Rockport, Indiana 47635
 (812) 649-6018
johnb@spencercounty.in.gov

Cassie Davis
Frick Powell LLP
 223 SE 2nd Street
 Evansville, Indiana 47713
 (812) 425-4690
cassief@frickpowell.com

Deana Tenbarge
Elite Investigative Services
 PO Box 6324
 Evansville, Indiana 47719
 (812) 480-0563
eliteinvestigative@myyahoo.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Department of Child Services is currently hiring attorneys.

Kinkade & Associates has entry level to advanced positions available.

The Law Offices of Steven K. Deig is seeking a qualified applicant to fill the position of Legal Assistant/Paralegal.

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

Salmon & Hewins, LLC has an immediate opening for a Paralegal/Legal Assistant.

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.

Ziemer Stayman Weitzel & Shoulders is seeking

- a dependable and detail-oriented Legal Administrative Assistant.
- an experienced Civil Litigation Paralegal with strong eDiscovery skills.
- an experienced and detail-oriented Real Estate Paralegal.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EBA

MARCH 2026

- 03/01 Deadline to submit Letters of Interest for Evansville Bar Association Board of Directors
- 03/05 **Talk to a Lawyer**—4:30-6:00pm, EBA Office—Contact max.happe@probonoindiana.org to volunteer!
- 03/09 **EBA Nominating Committee Meeting**—Noon-1:00pm, EBA Office
- 03/11 **EBA Pizza @TheBar**—Noon, EBA Office—It's totally casual, a great opportunity to enjoy fellowship with one another, and grab a slice (or two) of pizza! Comer early...when it's gone, it's gone!
- 03/12 **EBA Board of Directors Meeting**—Lunch at 11:45am, Meeting at Noon, EBA Office
- 03/17 **Talk to a Lawyer**—11:30am-1:00pm, EBA Office—Contact max.happe@probonoindiana.org to volunteer!
- 03/19 **EBF Board of Directors Meeting**—Lunch at 11:45am, Meeting at Noon, EBA/EBF Office

APRIL 2026

- 04/01 **CLE—Lunch with the Judges: Court of Appeals of Indiana with Judge Melissa S. May and Judge Elaine Brown** (1 CLE) - Lunch at 11:30am, CLE at Noon, EBA Office—[REGISTER](#)
- 04/02 **Talk to a Lawyer**—4:30-6:00pm, EBA Office—Contact max.happe@probonoindiana.org to volunteer!
- 04/03 **EBA Office Closed**—Good Friday
- 04/09 **EBA Nominating Committee Meeting**—Noon-1:00pm, EBA Office
- 04/14 **EBA Paralegal and Legal Staff Section Meeting**—Noon-1:00pm, EBA Office
- 04/21 **Talk to a Lawyer**—11:30am-1:00pm, EBA Office—Contact max.happe@probonoindiana.org to volunteer!
- 04/22 **Law Day and The Annual Meeting**—5:30pm at City View



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



MARCH 11

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!



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

