501 Main Street, Suite 101 Evansville, IN 47708

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April 2025

The Monthly Newsletter of the Evansville Bar Association

By: Greg Freyberger

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## SEPARATION OF POWERS: A CALL TO PUBLIC DISCOURSE

Our American system of government is founded on the principle of separation of powers, which ensures that no single branch—executive, legislative, or judicial—can dominate the others. This principle is critical to maintaining a fair and impartial judiciary, safeguarding the rule of law, and upholding constitutional rights. For lawyers, understanding and defending the concept of separation of powers is not just a theoretical exercise but a practical necessity in preserving judicial independence and preventing overreach from the other branches of government.

The judiciary is responsible for interpreting and applying the law, resolving disputes, and protecting legal rights. However, without a clear separation of powers, the judiciary and the decisions it makes, risk being influenced by the executive or legislative branches. If judges were subject to political pressure from lawmakers or the president, we would risk decisions based on expediency or partisanship rather than established legal principles.

The separation of powers doctrine ensures that judges can decide cases based on the law and facts, free from political coercion. This independence is crucial in cases that challenge government actions or laws that may infringe upon individual rights. For example, landmark Supreme Court decisions such as Marbury v. Madison (1803), which established judicial review, and Brown v. Board of Education (1954), which ended segregation in public schools, were made possible because of an independent judiciary that could rule without fear of retaliation.

While judicial independence is essential, the judiciary itself is not immune from checks. The separation of powers ensures that courts remain accountable while preventing judicial overreach. The executive branch, through the power of appointment, and the legislative branch, through the power of confirmation and impeachment, both play roles in shaping and checking the judiciary.

Additionally, Congress has the authority to establish courts, set jurisdictional boundaries, and, in certain cases, propose constitutional amendments that override judicial decisions. These mechanisms help balance judicial authority while respecting the courts' role in upholding the Constitution.

In recent years, debates over judicial appointments, court-packing proposals, and politically charged rulings have raised concerns about the judiciary's ability to remain neutral. Even recently, there have been calls on the State and Federal level to remove judges as a result of disagreeable decisions. As lawyers, we should stand up for the rule of law and speak up against such reactionary commentary. If the public perceives the judiciary as merely an extension of political power, it will lose its credibility, hurting us all. Lawyers, as officers of the court, have a duty to advocate for a judiciary that is free from political influence. We must support the principles of separation of powers in our legal arguments, defend judicial independence in public discourse, and resist efforts that threaten the balance between the branches of government.

The American separation of powers is not merely an abstract theory—it is an established safeguard that protects the integrity of the judiciary and the ever important rule of law. Lawyers, as judicial officers, must remain vigilant in preserving this system, ensuring that courts can operate independently and without political influence. Only by upholding this balance can the judiciary continue to serve as the impartial arbiter of law that our democracy requires.



## EMPOWER YOUR LEGAL TEAM: Why Your Paraprofessionals Should Join the EBA

3 KEY REASONS

A strong legal team thrives on knowledge, collaboration, and growth—including the dedicated professionals who support attorneys daily. The EBA's Paralegal and Legal Staff Section empowers your firm's paraprofessionals with continuing education, networking, and development opportunities that enhance your practice.



## **Expanded Knowledge**

Members gain insights into evolving legal trends, procedural changes, and best practices.



## Increased Engagement and Retention

Investing in professional development fosters loyalty, motivation, and job satisfaction.



### **Greater Networking and** Resources

Access to a community of legal professionals for knowledge exchange and mentorship.

Encouraging your team to join isn't just an investment in their careers—it's an investment in the overall success of your practice.

For more details on membership, reach out to Jordan Terrell, chair, at jordan.terrell@probonoindiana.org, or Savannah Stauth, vice chair, at <a href="mailto:sstauth@zsws.com">sstauth@zsws.com</a>.

## VLP News

By: Max Happe (<u>max.happe@probonoindiana.org</u>)

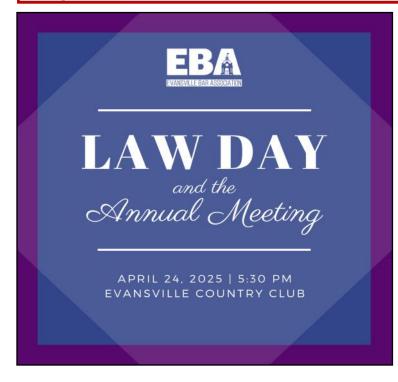
This month hosts one of Evansville's coolest events, *Homeless Connect*. Homeless Connect is a service fair in which agencies can provide same day services and resources to people in need. Services can range from housing assistance to haircuts to legal assistance.

Last year, Homeless Connect served nearly 700 individuals in need. A big obstacle to getting assistance is time scarcity and access to travel. Homeless Connect helps address these issues by bringing services under one roof and allowing service providers to collaborate to address issues that would otherwise take days of travel and communication which is something many individuals cannot afford due to potentially lost wages or lack of access to resources to begin with.

Homeless Connect is April 3rd from 9am - 2pm at the Old National Events Plaza. If you are interested in this event, or helping with other events that VLP assists, please let VLP staff

know. These events offer opportunities for people to get the assistance toward stability which could allow them to one day give back and continue to make our community one in which we enjoy. There is a lot of need and several good opportunities to help with it.











Barbara Coyle Williams President

This month, I want to highlight how the Evansville Bar Foundation's grants support our community. The Parenting Time Center uses these funds to offer the Cooperative Parenting Time Class, an eight-week program that helps parents communicate effectively and reduce conflict for their children's well-being. Director Kathryn Kornblum emphasizes that co-parenting education helps prevent "Children Caught in the Middle Syndrome," leading to better outcomes for kids. Children have fewer problems coping with divorce when the parents can co-parent properly. Thank you, Parenting Time Center.

On March 11, 2025, the Foundation co-hosted Fearless Lawyers, Unpopular Clients, and the Concept of Justice, a CLE program based on Lawyers Without Rights, at the Evansville War Museum. The event included the Shepard Leadership & Law Academy, where presenter Michael H. Rubin engaged 35 high school students in a thought-provoking discussion on justice. Retired Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard was also in attendance.

Looking ahead, the Foundation will grant nearly \$31,000 to deserving organization in 2025. With that said, in 2024 we awarded \$24,500 but received over \$71,000 in requests, forcing difficult funding decisions. While we appreciate our donors, more than 400 EBA members have yet to contribute. If each gave just \$50, we could significantly increase our impact, supporting nonprofits that use the law to improve lives.

Mail a check to:
501 Main Street, Suite 101, Evansville, IN 47708 or
go to <a href="https://evvbar.org/foundation.aspx">https://evvbar.org/foundation.aspx</a>.

## LIBRARIAN'S CORNER: INDIANA LEGAL HELP KIOSK

For the past two years, an indianalegalhelp.org kiosk has been available for patrons to use in the law library. It may look like an ATM, but the kiosk provides legal information for persons needing information or forms for a variety of civil legal issues. The kiosk has a touch screen where patrons can look up resources available in their area and get legal assistance. Over time, more features will become available through the kiosk, such as directly connecting with a legal navigator trained to provide them with guidance. For those attorneys asked for legal advice as you move through the court house hallways, please feel free to direct those persons to the Indiana Legal Help kiosk and the law library (suite 207).

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 Dan Carwile Jim Casey Nicholas Golding

Mike Mitchell
Ole Olsen
Mike Schopmeyer
Laura Scott
Stone & Stratman
Steve Thomas
Hon. Wayne Trockman

## **Attorney of Record**

George Barnett, Jr. Diane Bender Dennis Brinkmever John Brinson Hon. Elaine Brown Michele Bryant 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 Nathan Maudlin Hon. Bob Pigman Hon. Randall T. Shepard 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 Lauren Gore Jeana Goebel Jordan Terrell

## <u>Friends of the</u> <u>Foundation</u>

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...

Burley Scales

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.



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.





# What Every Attorney Should Know in 2025

2 CLE

Mallory Deckard Javier Lugo David Guerrettaz Erem Syed

**TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025** 

11:00AM-1:00PM LUNCH PROVIDED

Evansville Bar Association 501 Main Street, Suite 101 Downtown Evansville Generously underwritten by:



HEARTLAND

Member \$75 | Non-member \$115

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



# LUNCH

JUDGE ROBERT PIGMAN Vanderburgh Superior Court

## Wednesday, May 7 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. 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 <a href="mailto:Ashley@evvbar.org">Ashley@evvbar.org</a> or go online at <a href="mailto:evvbar.org">evvbar.org</a>.



## Breakfast with the Judge

Hon. Andrea K. McCord US Bankruptcy Court Southern District of Indiana 1 CLE

Wednesday, May 14 Check-in and Light Breakfast - 8:00am CLE Presentation - 8:30am

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.

## The Many Faces of Law:

WHAT NON-ATTORNEYS WANT YOU TO KNOW

2 CLE

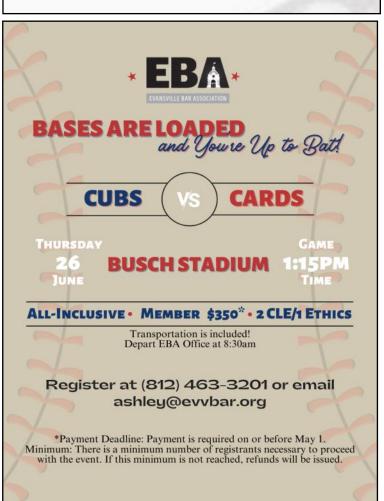
Friday, May 16 Ilam-Ipm Lunch Provided

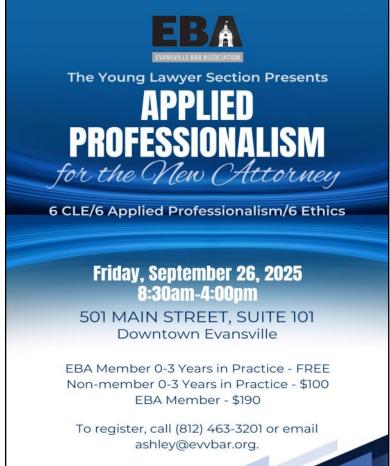
EVANSVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION 501 Main Street, Suite 101 Downtown Evansville

MEMBER \$75 | NON-MEMBER \$115

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







## WHO'S DOING WHAT?



The Boys and Girls Club of Evansville presented **Carrie** 

Roelle with the Extraordinary Service Award and Mark Samila with the Man/Woman & Youth Award.
Congratulations!





Congratulations to **Scott Wylie** on having been named a Paul Harris Fellow in 2025 by Evansville Rotary.

## Super Lawyers<sup>®</sup>

**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, Steve Thomas and Brian Williams.

And, our Rising Stars\*...

Mark Abell, Will Cartwright, Brandon Curl,
Mallory Deckard, Hannah Dill, Trisha DudloMcCracken, Nicholas Golding, Elizabeth
Hennessy-Spencer, Derrick McDowell, Buddy
Lobermann, Heather Lobermann, Jordan Saner,
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 <a href="mailto:Julie@evvbar.org">Julie@evvbar.org</a>



#### **Bar Updates:**

Join us in welcoming our newest members!

**Attorney Members:** John Bober, Anne Butsch, and Scott Lu. **Non-Attorney Members:** Shaila Dalrymple, Samantha Myers, and

Kendall Smith.

Please take a moment to update your contacts!

### Jean Blanton Magnera

(812) 483-7583

JeanBlanton@magnera.com

#### Anne Butsch Attorney

(812) 453-0470

annebutsch@yahoo.com

### Shaila Dalrymple Jackson Kelly

20 NW 3rd Street, Suite 700 Evansville, Indiana 47708 (812) 422-9444

shaila.dalrymple@jacksonkelly.com

#### Steve Krohn

New email address: stevnkro@gmail.com

#### Scott Lu

#### **Vowels Law PLC**

126 North Main Street Henderson, Kentucky 42420 (270) 869-2450 slu@vowelslaw.com

### Kendall Smith Jackson Kelly

20 NW 3rd Street, Suite 700 Evansville, Indiana 47708 (812) 422-9444

kendall.smith@iacksonkelly.com

#### John Bober Vand. Co. Prosecutors Ofc.

1 NW MLK Jr. Blvd.

Evansville, Indiana 47708 (812) 435-2050

jbober@vanderburghgov.org

## Emily Holder TrueAccord

(812) 205-6682

Emily.holder@trueaccord.com

## Jennifer Keppler Woods & Woods

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jennifer.keppler@woodslawyers.com

#### Samantha Myers Jackson Kelly

20 NW 3rd Street, Suite 700 Evansville, Indiana 47708 (812) 422-9444

samantha.myers@jacksonkelly.com

### **GROW YOUR BUSINESS!**

The EBA recaives calls daily from people seeking an attorney—your potential clients!

Contact Ashley@evvbar.org
to learn more!

## 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.

**Kahn Dees Donovan & Kahn** seeks to hire an associate attorney to its litigation practice group.

**Kahn Dees Donovan & Kahn** is seeking qualified applicants to fill a Legal Assistant position within their Business Law practice.

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

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

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EBA

## **APRIL 2025**

- 04/03 **Memorial Service celebrating Jim Flynn, Susie Hartig, Phil Hayes, Phil Siegel, and Fred White**—Noon, Old Courthouse in the Randall T. Shepard Courtroom, 2nd Floor; Use the Vine Street Entrance
  - Talk to a Lawyer—4:30-6:00pm, EBA Office
- 04/09 CLE—Lunch with the Judge: Judge Les Shively (1 CLE) Lunch at 11:30am with CLE at Noon, EBA Office—REGISTER
- 04/10 EBA Board of Directors Meeting—Lunch at 11:45am, Meeting at Noon, EBA Office
- 04/15 Talk to a Lawyer—11:30am-1:00pm, EBA Office
- 04/17 EBF Board of Directors Meeting—Lunch at 11:45am, Meeting at Noon, EBA/EBF Office
- 04/18 **EBA OFFICE CLOSED**—Good Friday
- 04/22 Young Lawyer Financial Wellness Series Session III: What to Know When Taking on and Managing Debt—Noon-1:00pm, EBA Office—RSVP REQUESTED at <a href="mailto:julie@evvbar.org">julie@evvbar.org</a>
- 04/23 CLE—First & Foremost: Conversation with Women Leaders in Our Legal and Business Communities
  (3 CLE/1 Ethics) Doors open:11:30am, Lunch: Noon with keynote Chief Justice Loretta Rush, Indiana Supreme Court, CLE begins: 1:15pm, Cocktail Social: 4:30pm, City View—Register by calling
  (812) 463-3201 or email ashley@evvbar.org. OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS!
- 04/24 EBA Bench and Bar Committee Meeting—Noon, EBA Office
  - **Law Day and The Annual Meeting**—5:30pm, Evansville Country Club—Register by calling (812) 463-3201 or email <u>ashley@evvbar.org</u>. RSVP by April 14.

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 **EBA Office** RSVP requested to 501 Main Street, Suite 101 Downtown Evansville julie@evvbar.org INDIANA : Members Credit Union LIFETIME FINANCIAL GROWTH Keeping It Simple

