

Enhance. Cultivate. Promote.



The SUMMATION

April 2026

The Monthly Newsletter of the Evansville Bar Association

501 Main Street, Suite 101
Evansville, IN 47708

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Meagan Brien

LEADERSHIP LIVES HERE



My time as the Evansville Bar Association President is winding down and I've been reflecting on how I got here. The answer to that isn't a straight line (is it ever?). It started with saying yes to things that didn't look like "leadership opportunities" at the time. A committee here, a volunteer project there: chair and vice chair of the Young Lawyer, Women in the Law, and Probate sections, Mock Trials (the old version!) vice chair and chair, Law Day co-chair, member of the Board of Directors, Membership Committee member, and the list goes on. Before I knew it, I was managing budgets, coordinating teams, building coalitions, and navigating the kind of interpersonal dynamics that no law school classroom will ever fully prepare you for. However, these skills are integral to the success of an attorney, paralegal, or legal assistant.

That's the thing about the EBA. The leadership opportunities are everywhere, especially if you know where to look.

The obvious ones come to mind first: serving on the Board of Directors for the EBA or the Evansville Bar Foundation, or chairing a section like Young Lawyers or Women in the Law. These are meaningful roles with real responsibility, and they deserve your attention when you're ready for them.

But some of the best opportunities fly under the radar. Ad hoc committees and special projects, such as Camp Legal Eagle¹, let you take ownership of something from start to finish without a multi-year commitment. You identify a goal, assemble a team, solve problems on the fly, and deliver a result. That's project management in its purest form, and those skills translate directly into your practice. Managing a pro bono initiative has parallels to managing a complex case or leading a deal team.

And here's what I want many of you to think about: this isn't just about you.

If you have an associate, paralegal, assistant, or other cohort who needs to develop leadership skills – someone who does strong substantive work but could grow in client management, team coordination, or professional confidence – the EBA has a built-in development track. Encourage them to join a committee, nominate them for a section liaison role, or point them toward one of our volunteer projects. These aren't just resume lines. They're real reps in a lower-stakes environment where it's safe to stretch, learn, and occasionally stumble. And you don't have to be the one spearheading every opportunity. Even exposure and proximity with the dynamic leadership at every level of the EBA and the EBF will inevitably sharpen your own, or your colleague's, leadership skills.

The legal profession asks a lot of us beyond knowing the law. We're expected to lead in our firms, in our communities, and for our clients. The EBA gives you a place to build those skills with people who are rooting for you.

So whether you're looking to grow yourself or invest in someone on your team, take a look at what's available. Reach out to any board member, committee or section chair, or volunteer. We'll help you find your fit, because we know that the opportunity is already here.

¹ President's Note: Y'all, **Camp Legal Eagle** is going to be great! Born out of necessity and aligning with the EBA's mission, a dedicated group of lawyers and staff are creating a 3-day academy and day camp for incoming 7th – 9th graders in the community to learn about numerous aspects of the law. It's going to be fun and formational for all participants. Big shout out to the group leading this effort and the practitioners making it possible!



FROM THE BOARDROOM

President's Report

Law Day and The Annual Meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 22 beginning at 5:30pm at City view—BE THERE!

Treasurer's Report

Strong year-to-date performance with CLE income trending positively, continued success in securing sponsorships, and increased utilization of office space.

Unfinished Business

- Recommendation from staff for implementation of new database, app, website and Lawyer Referral Service contingent upon review of Terms & Conditions; Target launch date September 1, 2026.
- Camp Legal Eagle committee finalizing agenda, application process, and logistics. Sponsorships available—reach out of Julie Moore Holtz at julie@evvbar.org if interested in sponsorship opportunities.
- Memorial Service for Ron Warrum will be held May 5 at Noon at The Old Courthouse.

New Business

- Members deactivated due to non-renewal—27
- First Reading of Proposed Amendments to Bylaws
- First Reading of Proposed Slate 2026-2027

VLP News

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

In March, Homeless Connect had over total 900 attendees for services. This is significantly more people served than last year. It is wonderful that programming was able to serve so many in need and it is amazing that we have so many great service providers able to collaborate to address so many issues. It is also a reminder of the amount of need there is and the growing numbers of those we see in need of services.

Per the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana, new data by ATTOM indicates Indiana was first in the nation for its foreclosure filing rate and fifth highest for foreclosure starts in February 2026. Indianapolis and Evansville were in the top 5 of cities for their foreclosure filing rates. According to Eviction Lab more than 1 out of every 10 renter households in Evansville have an eviction filed against them annually.

The Department of Health and Human Services has acknowledged that housing is a social determinant of health and as housing instability grows so do many stresses on our vital community support systems like access to medical care.

Lawyers can play a unique role in addressing these issues by helping people make informed decisions and navigate the ends and outs of situations before one loses their housing. As systems stress to address to increased need, the need for others to provide some strategic help does too. Volunteering your legal expertise with VLP is one way to help. Sign up to help at Talk to a Lawyer or let VLP know if you will be able to make it to our next Clear the Queue event at the EBA on Law Day, May 1st, from 11am to 1pm!

Thanks again to the wonderful volunteers and agencies who worked to make Homeless Connect a valuable resource and another opportunity to improve the health and wellness of our community.



Empower Your Legal Team: Every Piece Matters

Your legal team is a puzzle—each piece critical to the big picture. The EBA's Paralegal and Legal Staff Section supports paralegals, legal assistants, and court staff, helping them grow so your whole practice thrives.

Every Piece Matters

Paraprofessionals are key to your success - investing in them empowers your entire team.

Sharpened Skills

Members access high-quality continuing legal education tailored to their roles.

Stronger Connections

Networking with peers and legal professionals builds confidence and broadens perspectives.

Retention Through Recognition

Supporting their growth signals that they're valued, increasing job satisfaction and loyalty.

Encouraging your team to join the EBA is more than a professional courtesy—it's a strategic advantage. Let's complete the puzzle by ensuring all members of your legal team are supported, engaged, and connected.

For more information, contact
Tuesdae Suttles, chair, at tuesdae.suttles@usdoj.gov.



Bob Carithers
President

At our Law Day celebration, the agenda item involving the Evansville Bar Foundation will be its BRIEF annual meeting during which a recommended slate of officers and new directors will be presented for a vote.

In March the Foundation's Executive Committee and Board of Directors each approved the nominations of four incoming at-large Directors: Michael Lonnberg, Keaton Maurer, Kristin McLaughlin, and Steve Thomas. Continuing their terms as at-large directors will be Angela Freil, Bill Hussmann, and Jeremy Kemper.

Also nominated for terms commencing June 1 as Foundation officers are Carrie Lynn, President; Laura Scott, Vice-President; Aaron Allen, Treasurer; and Nicholas Golding, Secretary.

My thanks to the following EBF Board members during my time as President whose terms will be expiring with mine: Evansville Bar Association representative Jamie Dameron and at-large directors Jillian Hanneken, P. Michael Mitchell, and Aaron Tuley.

See you at Law Day and The Annual Meeting on April 22 at City View beginning at 5:30pm!

**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: THANK YOU!



**VANDEBURGH
LAW LIBRARY
FOUNDATION**

Thanks to everyone who has contributed thus far to the William H. Miller Law Library in response to the Law Library Foundation's annual appeal for 2026.

You can still join or renew your membership by contacting Kathleen Weston at the law library via phone (812) 435-5175 or email (kweston@vanderburghgov.org).

2026 Roster of Members and Donors as of 24 February 2026

PATRONS

Paul F. Arnold
George C. Barnett, Jr.
Todd Barsumian
Claude Bates *
Jerry P. Baugh *
Ronald W. Bell *
Diane L. Bender
Charles L. Berger ♦
F. Wesley Bowers *
David L. Clark *
Sheila M. Corcoran ♦
Patrick A. Duff
Eugene P. Fine *
Mark A. Foster
James E. Gentry, Jr.
Gary L. Gerling
Jean E. Hadley
Joseph H. Harrison *
Hon. Carl A. Heldt
Ronald A. Hobgood *
Mary Jane Humphrey

PATRONS - CONTINUED

Emily and Jeremy Kemper
James A. Kornblum
Legal Aid Society of Evansville
James W. Little
Theodore Lockyear *
Hon. William H. Miller *
P. Michael Mitchell
Terry Noffsinger
Doran E. Perdue *
Kathryn D. Peters *
Gayle Gerling Pettinga
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Patrick A. Shoulders
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Richard B. Steedman
Volunteer Lawyer Program of SW Ind
Stephan E. Weitzel
John Whinrey
Barbara Coyle Williams

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS & DONORS

John P. Brinson
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Dr. Anne Butsch
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Angela D. Chapman
Rick A. Cory
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Glenn Grampp
Michael J. Hayden
Karen M. Heard
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David W. Lamont
Hon. Mary Margaret Lloyd
Kevin R. Martin
Hon. Thomas A. Massey ♦
Verdelski V. Miller
Mark E. Neff
Mag. Celia M. Pauli ♦
Hunter A. Renschler
Garvin D. Senn, III
Lane Siesky
Hon. Randall T. Shepard
Brian Smith
Gary G. Taylor
Hon. Wayne S. Trockman
R. Scott Wylie

LAW FIRM MEMBERS

Barber & Bauer, LLP
Berger & Berger, LLP
Charles & Charles
Farmer Scott Ozete Robinson & Schmitt
Fine & Hatfield
Foster O'Daniel Hambidge & Lynch
Gentry Law Office
Johnson Carroll Norton & Kent, PC
Kahn Dees Donovan & Kahn
Olsen & White
Robert John & Associates, PC
Stone & Stratman ♦, LLP
Terrell, Born, Sullivan & Fiester, LLP
Tuley Law Office
Van Haften & Farrar

*Deceased

♦ Foundation Board Member

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.



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.



I CLE

THE CRIMINAL RULE 4 PLAYBOOK: TIMING, STRATEGY, AND SUCCESS

Scott Danks, Danks & Danks

June **12** @ Noon

EVANSVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION
501 MAIN STREET, SUITE 101
DOWNTOWN EVANSVILLE

Member \$40
Non-member \$60

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

WHO'S DOING WHAT?

In case you missed it...

Laura Nowinski, attorney at The Law Offices of Steven K. Deig, was featured on the *Real-Life Finance* podcast, exploring how legal and financial decisions intersect during major life transitions.

Listen HERE—<https://bit.ly/4tboWWj>



Bar Updates:

Please take a moment to update your contacts!

Join us in welcoming our newest attorney members:

Grant Barnett, Chris Carroll, Court Farrell, Aaron Hendryx, and Adam Rosenthal.

Grant Barnett
Vanderburgh Co. Prosecutors Ofc
 1 NW MLK Jr. Blvd.
 Evansville, Indiana 47708
 (812) 435-5150
gbarnett@vanderburghgov.org

Chris Carroll
D. Chris Carroll, Attorney
 201 NW 4th Street, Room 114
 Evansville, Indiana 47708
 (812) 725-8333
chris@dccattorney.com

Court Farrell
ZSWS
 20 NW First Street, 9th Floor
 Evansville, Indiana 47708
 (812) 424-7575
cfarrell@zsws.com

Aaron Hendryx
U.S. Court for the Southern District of Indiana
 101 NW MLK Jr. Blvd.
 Evansville, Indiana 47708
hendryxa0130@gmail.com

Ryan Parker
Flanders Inc.
 8101 Baumgart Road
 Evansville, Indiana 47725
 (812) 867-7421
rparker@flandersinc.com

Adam Rosenthal
U.S. Court for the Southern District of Indiana
 101 NW MLK Jr. Blvd.
 Evansville, Indiana 47708
adamrosenthal@yahoo.com

EBA
 EVANSVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION

Have you heard the scoop?
Our clerk and court staff are legen-dairy!

Join us for a sweet treat from JB's Barnyard as we show our appreciation for the hard work and dedication of our clerk and court staff.
 You keep everything running—
 now let us treat you!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Fenced lot at Sycamore and 9th

Hosted by the EBA for its members and the clerk and court staff of the Vanderburgh County and the U.S. Federal Courts

For more information,
 contact julie@evvbar.org
 or (812) 463-3201



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Department of Child Services is currently hiring attorneys.

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 an opening for a full-time attorney.

Ziemer Stayman Weitzel & Shoulders is seeking

- an experienced Civil Litigation Paralegal with strong eDiscovery skills.
- an experienced and detail-oriented Real Estate Paralegal.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EBA

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 Board of Directors Meeting**—Lunch at 11:45am, Meeting at Noon, EBA Office
- 04/14 **EBA Paralegal and Legal Staff (PaLS) Section Meeting**—Noon-1:00pm, Federal Building in the Law Library
- 04/20 **Youth Resources Teen Court Social**—6-7:30pm, 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



Camp Legal Eagle is coming!

Know a student who's curious about law, leadership, or how our justice system works?

Get ready for three exciting days of discovery, learning, and real-world insight into the legal profession—July 20–22, 2026.

Hosted by the Evansville Bar Association, Camp Legal Eagle is a hands-on experience for students entering 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. From interactive activities and courtroom experiences to connecting with local attorneys and judges, campers get an inside look at how the justice system works—straight from the professionals who live it every day.

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

<https://forms.gle/4cFbubYhn8ymfxZY6>

Interested in getting involved with or sponsoring Camp Legal Eagle—or learning more? Contact Julie Moore Holtz at julie@evvbar.org.

•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



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

