

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Monthly Newsletter of the Evansville Bar Association

By: Max Fiester

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## THE **``** Commercialization of the Legal Profession'' OR `` THE UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW"

Legal Zoom. Rocket Lawyer. Law Depot. These are some of the websites offering "legal services" that are held out as inexpensive and instant. One website even stated, "[t]hese sites provide legal assistance for far less than a

physical lawyer would cost, and in most cases are easier to understand." Now, ice water is easier to understand than the 2009 Seghesio Home Ranch Zinfandel (95 points from Wine Spectator), but I will take a glass of the red wine, thank you very much.

I have yet to meet with a client who previously prepared an online will and believes all of their concerns were adequately addressed. On the other hand, I have met many clients for whom I have laid out the relatively simple process of bringing suit in small claims court, only to have them still insist that I represent them. When they think critically about it, I believe most people understand that when it comes to comparing an attorney to instant documents, you do in fact get what you pay for. So why are instant form websites growing, and should we be concerned about the effects?

On September 21st, starting at 12:00 p.m. at the Tropicana Walnut Room A, ISBA President Carol Adinamis will be the keynote speaker for the EBA Members Lunch. Her topic will be the Commercialization of the Legal Profession. This is sure to be an informative meeting and I encourage each of you to attend.

The Indiana State Bar Association will be addressing the unauthorized practice of law at its September meeting, and the EBA is sending 8 delegates to this meeting. Did you know the ISBA has an Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee tasked with staying informed on, and providing information to the ISBA regarding, the unauthorized practice of law? The September meeting is going to address this issue head-on, and your EBA is going to be a part of it.

Indiana Code § 33-43-1-1 requires a person to take an oath to uphold the constitutions of the United States and the State of Indiana and to faithfully and honestly discharge the duties of an attorney before they shall practice law. Under Ind. Code § 33-43-2-1, it is a Class B Misdemeanor for one to profess to be a practicing attorney, conduct a trial, or "engage in the business of a practicing lawyer" without being admitted as an attorney. The question is, what does it mean to engage in the business of a practicing lawyer? This is just one of the questions I expect the state bar to address at its upcoming meeting.

As technology continues to advance and the public continues to demand instant results, the risk of inappropriate documents and uninformed decisions increases. Stay informed and be active where you can. The EBA will endeavor to keep its members informed of developments as they happen. Toward that end, I hope to see all of you at our Membership Luncheon on September 21st. Register here.

## EBA News

- Susan Vollmer reported that there were 200 referrals in July and that the EBA received \$1231.11 in referral fees, meaning attorneys in the referral service received over \$12,000 in fees for same.
- Jean Blanton agreed to chair the annual day of service project. The EBA members will be asked to volunteer to help renovate a portion of both the YWCA and Albion shelters. The work day will be September 16, 2016.
- The Board discussed the importance of the Solo/Small Firm Section and concerns that there is currently no chair or vice-chair leading the section. Susan Vollmer was asked to send a notice to the entire section regarding the need for a chair.
- The Board discussed the issue of not having Law Day Celebration Chairs designated yet. The Board was asked to try and find volunteers and to send any potential names to Susan Vollmer. The goal is to have 2 or 3 people in place by the mid-September.

## Volunteer Lawyer Program

#### Get Your Pro Bono On.... By Judge Greg Smith and Magistrate Sheila Corcoran

We first want to give a big shout out and thank you to the attorneys who responded to VLP's call for help with Talk To A Lawyer expenses for 2017. In addition to a very welcomed grant award from the Evansville Bar Foundation, an additional \$700 was received from the following: Don and Elizabeth Baier, Ole Olsen, Robert (Bob) Carithers, and Jean Blanton. Of course, if anyone else would like to donate, Beverly tells us that additional donations will be used to help buy new computers, software and peripherals needed. Thank you, again, for your donations and commitment to the Volunteer Lawyer Program.

## 2016 Legacy Lawyers Social

Join your fellow Legacy Lawyers for a time of celebration, reminiscing, and story telling.



Thursday, September 22, 4:00 pm EBA Office 401 SE Sixth Street, Suite 101 Evansville, IN 47713

RSVP

Email Jeana at: eba@evvbar.org Or Call: (812) 463-3201

## Red Mass - October 03

Noon, St Mary's Church

The Red Mass is celebrated to invoke God's blessing upon the members of the Bench, Bar, Legislature, Law Enforcement and Governmental agencies, all protectors and administrators of the Law.

All are welcome to attend.





## Women Attorneys Section

Monday September 19, Noon - Ziemer, Stayman, Weitzel & Shoulders

Ginny Peterson, a managing partner at Kightlinger and Gray, will be leading a roundtable discussion about career paths, and obstacles many women encounter in professional advancement.

RSVP eba@evvbar.org or 463-3201



## WHO'S DOING WHAT?

Congratulations to Jeffrey Ahlers, Robert ("Ted") Barron, Shannon Frank, Jake Fulcher, Jon Goldman, Jeffrey Helfrich, Mark Samila, and Mike Schopmeyer from Kahn, Dees, Donovan & Kahn for being recognized as 2017's Best Lawyers in America. In addition, Kent Brasseale II was named real estate law's Lawyer of the Year in Evansville by Best Lawyers.

Congratulations to **Randall K. Craig**, J.D., CELA, CAP, for being recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* ©2017 in the specialty of Trusts and Estates. He was also named as the Best Lawyers' 2017 Evansville Trust and Estates "Lawyer of the Year".



Paralegal Section planning exciting things for the year ahead.

## Looking for a fun way to get involved?

The EBA is looking for 2-3 people to plan the 2017 Law Day Celebration. Contact Susan Vollmer <u>susan@evvbar.org</u> for more information or to volunteer.

#### Employment Opportunities

Plan Administrator: The Volunteer Lawyer Program of Southwestern Indiana (VLP) is looking to hire a full-time plan administrator. Planned position start date to be January 2, 2017. Specific duties include, but are not limited to, implementation and oversight of the District 13 Plan; formulation and monitoring of approved policies and procedures; collection and compilation of data and reports; management of the organization's resources; and, reporting to and advising the Board of Directors of the VLP in respect to all phases of its mission, goals, and responsibilities. This position also oversees the Family Court Project, ADR Project and all additional grant projects awarded to the VLP. The successful candidate must be admitted to the Indiana Bar in good standing. Grant writing experience and Pro Bono Program management experience preferred. (Full Job Description) The salary range for this position is \$50,000 - \$60,000 and is commensurate upon experience. Send resumes and grant writing samples to VLP Secretary, Kevin Gibson kgibson@vanderburghgov.org See full description here. Deadline to apply is 09/30/2016

Bar Updates: Welcome attorney member Justin McGiffen.

Please make the following additions and changes to your address book:

Justin McGiffen Vanderburgh Superior Court 825 Sycamore St, Rm 114 Evansville, IN 47708 812.435.5206 Justin.mcgiffen@valpo.edu

## **Committee/Section Meetings**

- 09/06 Family Law Section Meeting, Noon EBA Office
- 09/13 ISBA Delegates Meeting, 8:00am EBA Office
- 09/15 Young Lawyers Section Lunch, Noon Turoni's on Main
- 09/19 Women Attorneys Section Meeting, Noon ZSWS
- 09/20 Bench & Bar Committee, 12:00 pm EBA Office
- 09/23 Access to Justice Committee Meeting, Noon -EBA Office
- 09/28 CLE Committee Meeting, 11:45 am Lic's Deli

WE ARE PLANNING A SPECIAL CELEBRATION TO HONOR OUR VETERANS. IF YOU ARE A VETERAN AND DO NOT SEE YOUR NAME LISTED HERE, PLEASE SEND YOUR SERVICE INFORMATION TO <u>EBA @EVVBAR.ORG</u> AND INCLUDE A PICTURE IF POSSIBLE.

Sacha L. Armstrong, Donald Baier, James Belcher, Sydney Berger, Thomas Bernhardt, Paul Black, R. Thomas Bodkin, Dennis Brinkmeyer, Neil Chapman, Rod Clutter, Michael Cork, Ben Cubbage, Sarah B. Dauer, Arthur R. Donovan, Kathy Feldmeier, Sean Georges, Rhett Gonterman, David Gray, Joseph Harrison, Sr., Henry Hudson, Victor Ippoliti, Brian Jeffries, David Jones, J. Robert Kinkle, Alan Kissinger, John Kreighbaum, R. Steven Krohn, David Lamont, R. Stephen LaPlante, Chris Lee, Russell G. Lloyd, Sr., Thomas O. Magan, Peggy, McCormick, P. Michael Mitchell, Terry Noffsinger, Robert D. Norton C.E. Oswald, Brandon S. Renner, Robert Rock, David Sanders, Toby Shaw, Toby Shaw II, Willard C. Shrode, Phil Siegel, Jim Son, Robert Stayman, Thomas H. Terrell, Wayne





#### Javier Lugo,

President



Every year, the Evansville Bar Foundation awards grants to organizations that "promote justice and improve lives through the law." This year, the EBF awarded \$24,040 in grants to the following organizations: EBA Diversity Committee, EBA Womens Attorney Section, Holly's House, Indiana Legal Services, Inc., Voices, Inc., Volunteer Lawyer Program- and it's "Talk to a Lawyer" Program, YMCA Youth in Government Program, Youth Resources of Southwest Indiana - Teen Court, Casa, Inc.

While many of our community's most vulnerable folks will benefit from these awards, there are many who still need our help. This is evident because these organizations had originally requested \$43,543 in grant funding. We still have work to do. I ask that you consider donating what you can to the EBF. Please remember that 2/3's out of all of your contributions to the EBF will go directly into funding grants for next year. I like to think that we are interested in the law because we believe it's worthwhile to promote the values of fairness, equality, and civil rights. These organizations are on the front line of promoting those values to our community. Let's do our part to see that they continue doing just that.

#### Law Library Updates

A new handout for people using the Self-Service Legal Center on www.in.gov has been prepared to reflect numerous recent revisions to the Center's forms packets. The contempt packets have been removed from the site and are no longer available online. The Law Library will keep the superseded packets in paper form for the time being, just as it keeps superseded treatises and statutes. Did you know that people can print documents such as BMV driving records in the Law Library? At present, there is no other office in the Courts Building providing this service. The charge is fifty cents per page, the same as the copy machine.

A reminder that ALR, Fifth Series, volumes 85 and 106, ALR, Sixth Series, volume 6, and Indiana Law Encyclopedia, volume 3 are still missing from the shelves. If you happened to remove any of these items from the Law Library and still have them, please return them at your earliest convenience so that others may use them. No questions asked!

Please send your comments and suggestions to evvlaw@evansville.net, or call 812-435-5175. Helen Reed, Law Librarian

#### 2016 CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to those that have contributed to the

John L. Sanders Memorial - Evansville Bar Foundation in 2016.

#### In 2016 The Evansville Bar Foundation awarded \$24.000 to community programs, but nearly \$44,000 in grants were requested. Two-thirds of all donations go towards funding grants. Anyone who donates before September 14 will be recognized at the Members Lunch on September 21.

#### Lead Counsel

Foster, O'Daniel, Hambidge &Lynch LLP Todd I Glass Steve Hoar P. Michael Mitchell Brian and Barbara Williams

#### Court Counsel James Casev

Charles Hewins Michael Land Krista Lockyear Terry Noffsinger Hon. Leslie Shively Dirck Stahl Bob Zoss

#### Attorney of Record

Sacha Armstrong Steve Barber Erin Bauer Diane Bender D. Timothy Born Allyson Breeden

Attorney of Record (cont) John Brinson Thomas Brvan Michele Bryant Wilfred Charles **Bussing III** Allison Comstock Hon. Richard G. D'Amour **Dennis Dewey** Marc Fine Jimmy Gentry Kevin Gibson Benjamin Haddox Jr. David Hatfield Kelly Jackson Daniel R. Robinson, Jr. Katherine J Rybak G. Michael Schopmeyer David Shaw Philip Siegel

Heath Tuley

John Whinrey Joseph Michael

Woods Sarah Woods &

Javier Lugo Scott Wylie

#### New Attorney (0-3 Years)

Lindsay Charles Steven Charles Ryan Hatfield Brandon Powell Erin Schmitt Patrick Thomas

#### <u>Paralegal</u>

Barbara VanZant

## Get Involved!

John A. Thomason

Dan Tuley

#### Boy Scouts Seek Volunteers for Law Career Immersive Exploration Post

Evansville Boy Scouts are looking for volunteers to lead students in an immersive learning evening program about the profession of law.

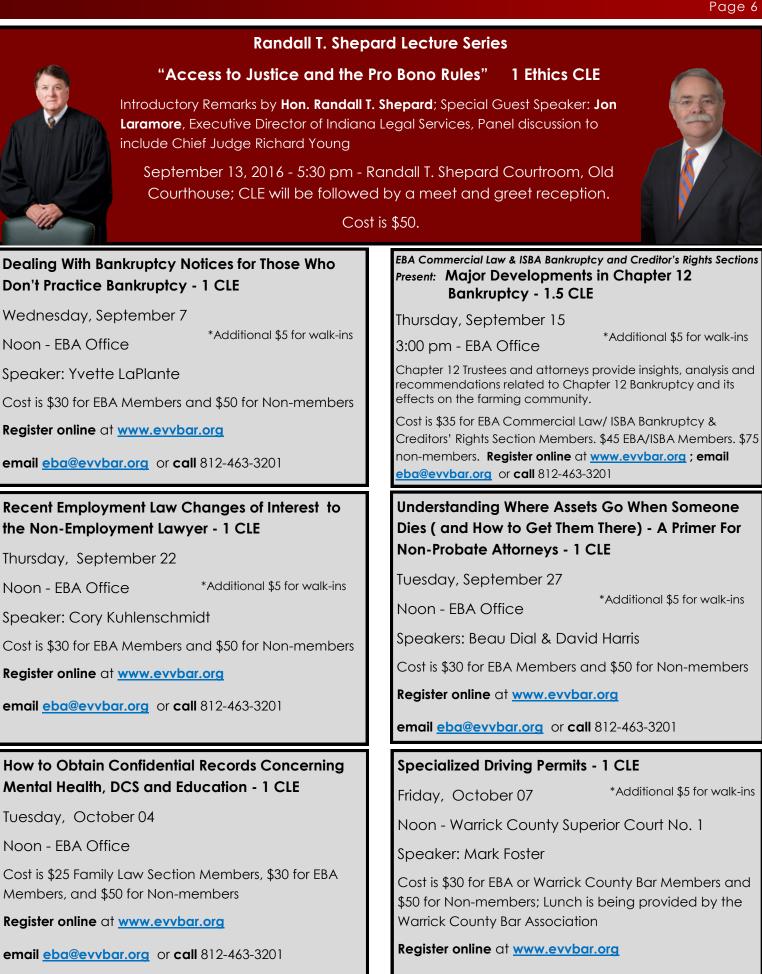
#### Join the Bench & Bar Committee

The Bench and Bar Committee is comprised of lawyers and judges. The Committee is responsible for planning the Dialogue between the Bench and Bar Conference, discussion and resolution of issues relating to the interaction between the attorneys and the court system and is responsible for the Fee Arbitration program. New members are welcome!

# WHAT'S COMING UP

Select a box to register, email <a href="mailto:eba@evvbar.org">eba@evvbar.org</a> or call Jeana at 812-463-3201





email eba@evvbar.org or call 812-463-3201

## Preserving and Obtaining Cell Phone

Records - 1 CLE

Wednesday, October 12 \*Additional \$5 for walk-ins

Noon - EBA Office

Speaker: Ben Bierce

Cost is \$30 for EBA Members and \$50 for Non-members

\$500

cash prize for Ist place team

Register online at <u>www.evvbar.org</u>

email eba@evvbar.org or call 812-463-3201

Tips and Advice on Appellate E-Filing and Practice

in Indiana - 1 CLE

Wednesday, October 19

Noon - EBA Office

Speaker: Kevin Smith

Cost is \$30 for EBA Members and \$50 for Non-members

Register online at <u>www.evvbar.org</u>

email eba@evvbar.org or call 812-463-3201

6:00 pm Doors Open 6:30 pm Game Starts

> Kirby's Private Dining

ponsored by EBA's Access to Justice Committee

All proceeds go to Legal Aid Society of Evansville, Inc. and Volunteer Lawyer Program of Southwestern Indiana, Inc. to help others gain access to justice.

October 20, 2016

TEAMS OF 8 \$30 per person at door

\$25 per person pre-registered To register, please call 463-3201 or email eba@evvbar.org

LIGHT SNACKS AND A CASH BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

09/01	Talk to a Lawyer, 4:30 pm - EBA Office
09/06	Family Law Section Meeting, Noon - EBA Office
09/07	Mandatory Pro Bono Rules in Indiana Southern District1 CLE, 9:00 am - Federal
	Courthouse Room 301
09/07	Dealing With Bankruptcy Notices for Those Who Don't Practice Bankruptcy 1 CLE, Noon - EBA Office
09/08	Morning Mixer, 7:30 am - Donut Bank Hwy 41 & Lincoln Ave
09/08	EBA Board of Directors Meeting, 11:30 am - EBA Office
09/12	Natalie Choate on Retirement Benefits 4 CLE, 8:30 am - Griffin Center @ USI
09/13	ISBA Delegates Meeting, 8:00am - EBA Office
09/13	Randall T Shepard Lecture Series "Access to Justice & The Pro Bono Rules"
	1 Ethics CLE, 5:30 pm - Randall T Shepard Courtroom, Old Courthouse
09/14	It's OneTwo Hours of CLE and the Old Ballgame 2 CLE - Bus departs from EBA Office at 8:30 am
09/15	Young Lawyer Section Lunch, Noon - Turonis on Main
09/15	Major Developments in Chapter 12 Bankruptcy 1.5 CLE (Joint with the ISBA), 3:00 pm - EBA Office
09/19	Women Attorneys Section Meeting, Noon - Ziemer Stayman Weitzel & Shoulders
09/20	Bench & Bar Committee Meeting, 12:00 pm - EBA Office
09/21	EBA Members Lunch, Noon - Tropicana Walnut Room A
09/22	Recent Employment Law Changes of Interest to the Non-employment Lawyer 1 CLE, Noon - EBA Office
09/22	Legacy Lawyer Social , 4:00 pm - EBA Office
09/23	Access to Justice Committee Meeting, Noon - EBA Office
09/27	Understanding Where Assets Go When Someone Dies (and How to Get Them There) 1 CLE, Noon - EBA Office
09/28	CLE Committee Meeting, 11:45 am - Lic's Deli

## UPCOMING ICLEF VIDEO REPLAYS

For reservations, pricing, or to verify credits or content for the ICLEF video replays, please contact ICLEF at (317) 637-9102 or visit www.iclef.org.