501 Main Street, Suite 101 Evansville, IN 47708

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January 2025

The Monthly Newsletter of the Evansville Bar Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE MAKINGS OF A GOOD LAWYER: ORGANIZATION

In the fast-paced and high-stakes world of law, effective organization is not a luxury but a necessity. Lawyers juggle numerous responsibilities, including managing case files, communicating with clients, preparing for court appearances, and staying abreast of legal updates. Without a structured approach, even the most skilled lawyer can falter. I admit that over the years I have seen several attorneys whose filing system was no more than a pile of papers on a desk under a half empty Pepsi



can, or a corner of their office stacked with files. (I won't name names in this article, but you know who you are). For most, however, good organization skills not only make the practice less stressful, but also improves on the quality of their client's representation.

Time is a lawyer's most valuable asset. Deadlines, client meetings, and court dates create a packed schedule that leaves little room for error. Organization helps lawyers prioritize tasks and allocate time effectively. A well-maintained calendar, for instance, ensures that important deadlines are never missed, while task management systems can break down complex cases into manageable steps. Programs such as Clio, MyCase, and Prolaw allow for calendaring, document management, and even back office billing are more specific to the legal profession than the pedestrian programs such as the Microsoft Office Suite.

Efficient document management is crucial. Digital tools like the above case management software allow lawyers to store, retrieve, search, and organize case files with ease. Instead of sifting through piles of paperwork in a war file, an organized lawyer can access necessary documents in seconds, saving time and reducing stress.

Today's legal market is competitive. Clients expect their lawyers to be competent, prepared, and responsive. An organized lawyer projects professionalism and instills confidence in clients. Whether it's responding promptly to emails or providing updates on case progress, effective organization enables lawyers to communicate clearly and consistently. Moreover, clients are more likely to trust a lawyer who appears to have everything under control. For instance, presenting well-prepared legal arguments and maintaining thorough documentation signals to clients—and opposing parties—that their case is in capable hands.

Lawyers must consistently demonstrate their value to retain clients, attract new business, and maintain their standing in the field. Organizational skills provide a competitive edge by enabling lawyers to manage larger caseloads, meet tight deadlines, and adapt to changing circumstances without compromising quality. In today's tech-driven world, leveraging organizational tools such as legal research databases, automated billing systems, and customer relationship management (CRM) platforms help lawyers streamline processes and focus on the substantive aspects of their work.

Finally, the demanding nature of legal practice often leads to long hours and high stress. Poor organization exacerbates these challenges, contributing to burnout. On the other hand, a well-organized lawyer can achieve greater work-life balance by maintaining control over their schedule and avoiding last-minute crises.





The Lawyers Lunch Club connects lawyers from various practice areas and firms. Groups of 6-8 meet monthly for lunch over three months, choosing their meeting times and locations. These lunches offer a great chance to build relationships in a small group setting.

Join now for Mar-Apr-May by email at ashley@evvbar.org or call (812) 463-3201.

Deadline to sign up is February 7, 2025

VLP News

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

Happy New Year! If you haven't decided what your new year resolution is, or if you would like to switch to a new one, why not attending a VLP clinic? You can still sign up for a Talk to a Lawyer event this year. For about an hour of your time we can help make a difference in someone's life.

On MLK day, which is the 20th of this month, we will be joining civil legal aid programs across the state to help answer legal questions for people in need. We administer Indiana Free Legal Answers which we discussed just last month. We will use this platform to answer Hoosiers' civil legal questions. There is also a federal platform for answering immigration and veterans' issues, so if you have any expertise in those areas, your knowledge would be greatly appreciated. We plan to answer questions from 11am-1pm. If you can join us, or stop in for a part of the time to help, please send me an email. We'll help sign you up and get you on the platform so you can help people in need! We are excited to start this year out on the right foot and to serve together!

Attached is the sign-up sheet for Talk to a Lawyer and MLK day and other service events. We have also updated our Civil Legal Resources flyer for the new year. Share with people in need.









Barbara Coyle Williams President

Happy New Year!

I hope you had a chance to rest, relax, and enjoy time with family and friends. As we begin 2025, the Foundation is excited about the opportunities ahead. I encourage you to support the Foundation in one or more of the following ways:

- Join the EBF Board of Directors: If you're interested in serving, please send your letter of interest to <u>julie@evvbar.ora</u> by February 14, 2025. Include why you'd like to serve, your passion for the law and law-related programs, and your years of membership with the EBA.
- Make a Donation: If you haven't donated yet, we'd appreciate your support! You can mail a check to 501 Main Street, Suite 101, Evansville, IN 47708, or donate online at evybar.org/foundation.

I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to those who have already contributed to the Foundation in 2024. You have donated over \$25,000 to assist in granting funds to deserving organizations in 2025.

Special thanks to **Julie** and **Ashley** for their tireless work in supporting the Foundation and the EBA. Their professionalism, enthusiasm, and dedication keep everything running smoothly—and they even built the "Time Machine" for our 25th Anniversary Gala!

Finally, a huge thank you to George, Cullen, and Walter Stanley at Morgan Stanley - The Stanley Group for their long-standing partnership as our financial advisor. We deeply appreciate your continued support.

Wishing you a 2025 full of health, happiness, and success!

LIBRARIAN'S CORNER: THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone contributing in response to the Law Library Foundation's annual appeal! Your generous donations and ongoing commitment to the Foundation and the William H. Miller Law Library ensure that the people in this community have "...a quality law library readily accessible to all...at a substantial economic savings to everyone." In addition to this mission, the goals of the Foundation are to preserve, maintain, and enhance the Law Library of Vanderburgh County as a resource center for legal information that serves the courts, bar, and people of Evansville and the surrounding tristate area. You also make it possible for this library to remain one of only two county law libraries in the entire state.

To become a 2024 member of the Law Library Foundation, you may use the envelope enclosed in the November mailing or send your contribution to:

Vanderburgh Law Library Foundation City County Courts Building 825 Sycamore Street, Suite 207 Evansville, Indiana 47708

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

Senior Partner

Hon. Sheila Corcoran
Steve Hoar
David Shaw
Stewart Richardson Deposition Services

Lead Counsel

Bob Carithers Foster O'Daniel Hambidge & Lynch Carrie Roelle Tuley Law Office Barbara & Brian Williams

Court Counsel

Barber & Bauer Todd Barsumian Bill Bender Tim Born Dan Carwile Nicholas Golding Mike Schopmeyer

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Scott Wylie

Paralegal and Legal Staff

Melissa Alldredge Jeana Goebel Jordan Terrell

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

Julie Moore Holtz Tonya Shumaker

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...



^{* 2025} Campaign donations received November 1-December 31, 2024

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.

TALK TO A LAWYER TODAY! ISBA VIDEO REPLAY

6 CLE/1 ETHICS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025 8:30AM-3:00PM EBA OFFICE

Offered **FREE** for attendees who agree to volunteer in the first half of 2025 for two (2) Talk To A Lawyer sessions or take one (1) Volunteer Lawyer Program case.

Member \$180 Non-member \$300

To register call (812) 463-3201, email <u>ashley@evvbar.org</u> or go to <u>evvbar.org</u> to register online.

ABUSE AWARENESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Speaker: Harry Heyer, LSW, MSW

This course provides an in-depth look at Abuse Awareness and Accountability, a certified Behavior Awareness and Modification program established over 20 years ago. Attorneys will gain valuable insights into the program's structure, including the types of cases not accepted, the distinction between anger management and BIP groups, and the operational guidelines for participants.

Thursday, January 23, 2025 Noon-1:00PM EBA Office 501 Main Street, Suite 101 Downtown Evansville



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



Guardian Ad Litem
Supreme Court Guidelines:

NEW RULES FOR GAL'S

1 CLE

Kelly Lonnberg, Stoll Keenon Ogden

For the first time, the Indiana Supreme Court has issued new GAL Guidelines, effective January 1, 2025. GALs must meet specific qualifications and adhere to set standards. An Oversight Committee will handle qualifications and complaints. If you work with GALs, familiarize yourself with these new rules.*



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

*This is an overview, not GAL training.

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.



SERVING ON A BOARD OF DIRECTORS? MIND YOUR ETHICS!

1 CLE/1 ETHICS

Scott Wylie, Pro Bono Indiana



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Noon-1:00pm Evansville Bar Association 501 Main Street, Suite 101 - Downtown Evansville

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



NEW LAWYER BOOTCAMP 3 CLE/1 Ethics

Wednesday, February 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

MAGISTRATE JUDGE CRYSTAL S. WILDEMAN
United States District Court,
Southern District of Indiana

Tuesday, February 25
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.



CLE COURSES AVAILABLE ON DEMAND!

We've got more than 20 hours of CLE programming for you to enjoy whenever or wherever it's convenient for you—and, members save 25%!

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?

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...



Shannon Frank was named the recipient of the 2024 Leaders and Legends Award from Southwestern Indiana Builders Association (SIBA). Congratulations, Shannon!

The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame Board of Directors announced that *Carrie Roelle* will be included in the 23rd Women's Induction Class to be honored on Saturday, April 26, 2025.

Congratulations, Carrie!



INDIANA COURT OF APPEALS Appeals on Wheels Ordingument

January 16, 2025 | 10:30-11:30am University of Southern Indiana University Center West (UC West)

Networking Social immediately following

Hosted by the University of Southern Indiana

• update

Bar Updates:

Please welcome new attorney member *Halie Hooper* and non-attorney member *Heidi Munselle*. Please make these additions and updates to your contacts:

Kiersten Butler Danks & Danks

1 SE 9th Street, Suite 101 Evansville, Indiana 47708 (812) 426-1000

kiersten@danks-danks.com

Trisha Dudlo-McCracken Woods & Woods

208 NW 4th Street Evansville, Indiana 47708 (812) 426-7200

<u>trisha.dudlo-mccracken</u> @woodslawyers.com

Craig Emig KDDK

501 Main Street, Suite 305 Evansville, Indiana 47708 (812) 423-3183

cemig@kddk.com

Kelli Fink Perry Co. Prosecutor's Ofc.

601 Main Street Tell Clty, Indiana 47586 (812) 547-2750

deputyprosecutor @perrycounty.in.gov

Robert Garwood Siesky Law Firm

4424 Vogel Road, Suite 405 Evansville, Indiana 47715 (812) 402-7700

robert@sieskylaw.com

Halie Hooper

7460 Gun Club Road S Mt. Vernon, Indiana 47620 (812) 319-3535 hh172@evansville.edu

Shellie Kyle

2472 E Warrenton Road Haubstadt, Indiana 47639 (812) 204-1197

shelliedk@gmail.com

Heidi Munselle Siesky Law Firm

4424 Vogel Road, Suite 405 Evansville, Indiana 47715 (812) 402-7700

heidi@sieskylaw.com





- James Bethel Gresham Freedom Award
- Doran E. Perdue Service Award
- Florence Britzius Award
 - Outstanding Paralegal Award

DEADLINE **61 APR**

For more info or to nominate, go to evvbar.org/members

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Go to <u>evvbar.org</u>,

click the MEMBERS tab.

The Law Offices of Steven K. Deig LLC has two openings for attorneys in the areas of trial and office practice.

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

Gutwein Law is seeking a Litigation Attorney to join the firm. **Robert John and Associates** is seeking an attorney that can resolve injury claims in a timely manner.

The **Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office is** looking for a Deputy Prosecutor to join their team.

The **Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office** is accepting resumes for Paralegals.

The **Vanderburgh County Public Defender Agency** in Evansville, Indiana has an opening for a full-time attorney to handle felony cases filed in Circuit and Superior courts.

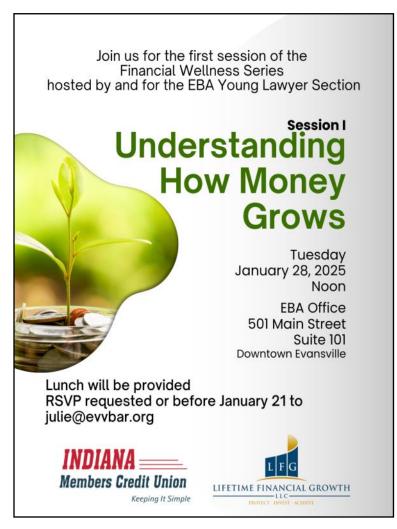
The *Warrick County Council* seeks a part-time contract attorney.

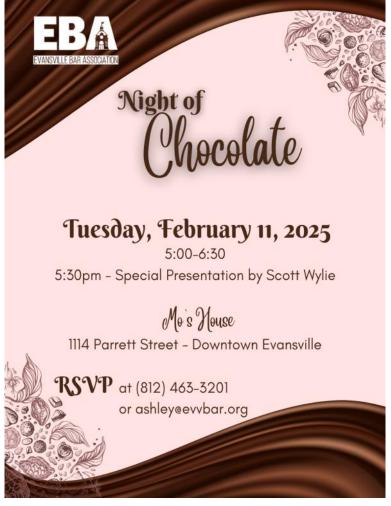
Woods & Woods is seeking multiple Associate Attorneys to join our ever-growing VA Disability Department.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EBA

JANUARY 2025

- 01/02 Talk to a Lawyer—4:30-6:00pm, EBA Office
- 01/07 CLE—ISBA Replay: Talk to a Lawyer TODAY! (6 CLE/1 Ethics) FREE to attendees who agree to volunteer in the first half of 2025 for two (2) Talk To A Lawyer sessions or take one (1) Volunteer Lawyer Program case—REGISTER
- 01/08 EBA Bench and Bar Committee Meeting—Noon-1:00pm, EBA Office
- 01/09 EBA Board of Directors Meeting—Lunch at 11:45am, Meeting at Noon, EBA Office
- 01/14 **EBA Paralegal and Legal Staff Section Meeting**—Noon-1:00pm, Vanderburgh Law Library, Civic Center Courts Building, Room 207
- 01/16 Indiana Court of Appeals: **Appeals on Wheels Oral Argument** 10:30am; Networking Social 11:30am-12:30pm, University of Southern Indiana in University Center West (UC West). No RSVP Necessary
 - EBF Board of Directors Meeting—Lunch at 11:45am, Meeting at Noon, EBA Office
- 01/21 Talk to a Lawyer—11:30am-1:00pm, EBA Office
- 01/23 CLE Abuse Awareness and Accountability (1 CLE) Noon, EBA Office—REGISTER
- 01/24 CLE—Bankruptcy A-Z for Those Who Don't Practice Bankruptcy (1 CLE) Noon, EBA Office—REGISTER
- 01/28 **EBA Young Lawyer Section Financial Wellness Series—Session I: Understanding How Money Grows** Lunch will be provided! Noon-1:00pm, EBA Office—RSVP to julie@evvbar.org
- 01/29 EBF Finance Committee Meeting—Noon, Morgan Stanley Office





Volunteer Lawyer Program of Southwestern Indiana, Inc. Maxwell Happe, Managing Attorney • 915 Main Street, Suite 208, Evansville, IN 47708 • Phone: (812) 402-6303

Volunteer Attorney and Paralegals for the EBA/VLP Talk-to-a-Lawyer Program

E-MAIL:	
(E-mail to jeana.goebel@probonoindiana.or	
Afternoon Talk-to-a-Lawyer on the First THURSDA January 2, 2025 4:30 to 6:00	AY of the month February 6, 2025 4:30 to 6:00
March 6, 2025 4:30 to 6:00	April 3, 2025 4:30 to 6:00
May 1, 2025 4:30 to 6:00	June 5, 2025 4:30 to 6:00
July 3, 2025 4:30 to 6:00	August 7, 2025 4:30 to 6:00
September 4, 2025 4:30 to 6:00	October 2, 2025 4:30 to 6:00
November 6, 2025 4:30 to 6:00	December 4, 2025 4:30 to 6:00
□ My firm would be interested in staffing one of these	e dates – please contact me to discuss.
Lunch-Time Talk-to-a-Lawyer on the Third TUESD	AY of the month
January 21, 2025 11:30 to 1:00	February 18, 2025 11:30 to 1:00
March 18, 2025 11:30 to 1:00	April 15, 2025 11:30 to 1:00
May 20, 2025 11:30 to 1:00	June 17, 2025 11:30 to 1:00
July 15, 2025 11:30 to 1:00	August 19, 2025 11:30 to 1:00
September 16, 2025 11:30 to 1:00	October 21, 2025 11:30 to 1:00
November 18, 2025 11:30 to 1:00	December 16, 2025 11:30 to 1:00
□ My firm would be interested in staffing one of these	e dates – please contact me to discuss.
□ Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Talk to a Lawyer Sess Legal Answers to join the statewide clear the queue for this	sion on January 20 th –We hope to utilize Indiana Free event! 01/20/2025 (Monday) from 11:00 to 1:00
I am interested in the Family Law Clinic. Please sen with the Law Library that is always held on the First and Thi	
□ I am interested in the Second Chance/Housing Clinic partnership with the Law Library and held on the Second and	
□ I'm interested in participating in Homeless Conne volunteer times when scheduled.	ct, typically held in March. Please contact me with
□ I'm interested in participating at some point in the I (when court is open) from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Help Desk which is held every Monday through Friday

As always, thank you!



MARTIN LUTHER KING IR.DAY

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2025

The Volunteer Lawyer Program of Southwestern Indiana

INVITES YOU TO:

CLEAR

11AM to 1PM
Evansville Bar Association
501 Main St.
Evansville, IN 47708

THE

RSVP REQUESTED BEFORE THE EVENT.

CONTACT MAX

Max.happe@probonoindiana.org 812-402-6303

QUEUE

Lunch Provided By:









INDIANA.FREELEGALANSWERS.ORG

How it Works.

To sign up, please follow these steps:

Click on "Attorney Registration" located at the top of the page.

Review the attorney agreement, and if you agree, click "Agree" at the bottom of the page.

On the following page, fill in the required information as prompted.

After entering your details, click the "Next" button to proceed with your registration. If you need assistance during the registration process, feel free to contact VLP by calling 812-402-6303.