Enhance. Cultivate. Promote.



### August 2024

The Monthly Newsletter of the Evansville Bar Association

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### By: Greg Freyberger

501 Main Street, Suite 101 Evansville, IN 47708

### THE MAKINGS OF A GOOD LAWYER: EMPATHY

Given the current condition of our political landscape, empathy and compassion seem to be bygone qualities. We have polarized ourselves based on our political views, the candidates we support, or the social issues of our time. The recent attempt on former President Donald Trump's life at his campaign event in Pennsylvania is just an example of how we have begun to vilify those who disagree with our viewpoints. Now, more than ever, we are called upon as a profession to use empathy and compassion in our work.



The use of empathy should not be viewed as a weakness. Too often do we hear that our clients want a "bulldog" who will win at all costs. While there's certainly a place for zealous advocacy, and while I would never argue that an attorney should not pursue the best interests of his or her client, I think we underestimate the benefits that common empathy can have for your client.

Empathy is simply having the ability to view an issue from the other party's viewpoint. It's the ability to feel and understand the feelings of another. An attorney who is skilled at empathy is able to identify the major issues effecting the other side. In addressing those issues, you more adeptly advocate the positions of your own client. Too often, parties fail to reach a resolution to their disputes because they are hung up on some personal issue that is relatively irrelevant to the legal dispute. As an example, many personal injury disputes could be avoided if the at-fault party in a car accident just paid the replacement value of the damaged personal property. When this is not done, the party who was not liable ends up feeling victimized because they cannot replace their damaged property. They feel the need to "get even," justified by the unfairness of being involuntarily placed in a lesser position than they were in before the accident.

It has become clear to me in my mediation practice that it is a rare occasion that one party is overtly misrepresenting facts to support their position. Typically, that party is simply viewing an issue through their personal lens, giving them a perspective not shared by their opponent. It is remarkable how two people and see an issue completely differently, though it's understandable given the common bias that people bring to a situation. By trying to understand each party's biases, and how each party may be internalizing a dispute, an attorney can better guide the party to a resolution.

Given the importance of empathy in the mediator's toolbox, it is no surprise that **Ross Rudolph**, **Tim Born**, **Tim Klingler**, and **Ed Johnson** come to mind as our local practitioners from whom we can take lessons. I'm also reminded of EBA members such as **Carrie Roelle** and **Lane Siesky** as attorneys with a strong sense of empathy. Their ability to mentally stand in the shoes of their opponents or their clients allows them to see issues from a different perspective, making them more effective in their ability to persuade.

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September 26, 2024\*

Doors open at 11:30am

Evansville Country Club

3810 Stringtown Road

Program and Lunch at Noon

Join us for lunch where candidates for Circuit Court Judge have the opportunity to speak to EBA members.

> **\$25** Jo RSVP

Call (812) 463-3201, email ashley@evvbar.org, or online at evvbar.org

The Member Lunch will coincide with the EBA Bench & Bar Conference. To attend the lunch only, please indicate when registering.

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# VLP News

By: Max Happe

All of us at the Volunteer Lawyer Program would like to thank Garvin Senn for his valuable service of aiding Hoosiers who would not otherwise be able to afford help with their civil legal needs. Enjoy retirement, Garvin.

Many of us may want to retire someday. I am sure one of the biggest reasons we all have not is the concern that we could not help our community by volunteering with VLP. Don't worry, even if you are retired, have an inactive license, or are holding a business counsel license, you can still volunteer to help people in need with their legal issues!

In-state and out-of-state attorneys can get a Pro Bono Publico License under Admission and Discipline Rule 6.2. There is no fee to apply. If you were admitted in Indiana, all you have to do is file with the State Board of Law Examiners an affidavit of intent to be devoted solely to the provision of pro bono legal services. If approved for the license you can provide pro bono legal services through a pro bono program like VLP. VLP can then provide opportunities that fit your goals of helping the community from brief, one-time legal advice all the way to being able to devote your attention to fully care for someone's legal issue.

I am sure this knowledge can make your retirement plans a little less stressful. Thank you for volunteering!

### Did you know...

...in-state and out-of-state attorneys can get a Pro Bono Publico License under Admission and Discipline Rule 6.2?

What does that mean, you ask? Read VLP News to find out! Or, contact max.happe@probonoindiana.org.

unteering!

VLP offers support, training, and malpractice insurance for volunteers. Reach out to max.happe@probonoindiana.org if you are interested in

Hosted by the EBA Access to Justice Committee to benefit Legal Aid Society of Evansville, Indiana Legal Services, and Pro Bono Indiana



Register your team NOW! <u>https://forms.gle/mRKHpTFsvTSTDmrr6</u> Thursday, October 17 Children's Museum of Evansville Doors open @ 5:30pm Trivia @ 6:00pm





President

In the coming year, I will highlight past Evansville Bar Foundation grant recipients.

Youth Resources of Southwestern

Indiana, Inc. - more specifically, the Teen Court program - is a longstanding recipient of the Evansville Bar Foundation. Teen Court, which serves as a youth driven alternative to traditional juvenile court, is a program that combines youth development with juvenile justice by involving young people in the community decision-making process for sanctioning their peers who have violated the rule of law. Teen Court offers a safe place to serve and learn as well as opportunities to develop leadership skills. Teen Court is operated in partnership with the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office and the Evansville Police Department.

In 2023, over \$22,000.00 was donated to the Foundation by our fellow colleagues and EBA members. Thank you to all who donated. This year, we are committed to raising even more, in order to continue funding grants for worthy programs. Every year the Board must make difficult decisions because we are not able to fund every application.

This year, there is a unique opportunity to raise funds as we celebrate the Foundations 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Get ready to step into a time machine because we're going to party like it's 1999, and we want you to join the celebration as a key supporter. SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE! Contact Julie@evvbar.org for more information.

If you have not donated to the EBF before, or have not this year, please consider doing so now. **Donating is quick and easy!** 

#### Mail a check to:

501 Main Street, Suite 101, Evansville, IN 47708 or

go to <u>https://evvbar.org/foundation.aspx</u>.

### LIBRARIAN'S CORNER: FAMILY LAW AND PRO SE CLINICS

As you know, the law library hosts legal clinics operated by the Volunteer Lawyer Program/Pro Bono Indiana (VLP/PBI). The Family Law Clinic meets on the first and third Thursday of each month from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for scheduled appointments. The *Pro Se* Clinic meets on the second and fourth Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and offers walk-in litigants assistance with questions about their legal needs. In addition, self-represented litigants may stop by the daily inperson help desk from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. in the William H. Miller Law Library.

This partnership between VLP/PBI and the law library helps make it possible for self-represented litigants involved in civil matters to receive guidance on how to successfully navigate the court system, obtain appropriate *pro se* pleadings, access self-help materials, and take advantage of online legal resources. Your generous donations and ongoing commitment to the Law Library Foundation and the law library ensure that the people in this community have access to these legal services and *pro se* clinics. Thanks for your ongoing support!

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 (<u>kweston@vanderburghgov.org</u>).

# EVANSVILLE BAR FOUNDATION

### **25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Saturday, October 5, 2024 6:00-10:00pm Evansville Museum of Arts, History and Science



Oh, snap! Get ready to step into a time machine because in 2024, the John L. Sanders Memorial – Evansville Bar Foundation is turning 25! We're gonna party like it's 1999, and you're invited to join the celebration.

Music by DJ Chidi will make you want to get jiggy with it as he blasts all your favorite hits from the 90s. Dig out your most fly 1999 attire or just roll up as you are – it's all about the vibes, baby!

And of course, what's a party without some grub and drinks? We've got you covered on that front too. So mark your calendars and get ready to party like it's Y2K all over again!

## SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE! CONTACT JULIE AT (812) 463-3201 OR JULIE@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 <u>Ashley@evvbar.org</u> or go online at <u>evvbar.org</u>.







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## **UPCOMING CLE**

08/23	CLE—Mediation: Be Prepared! (3 CLE/3 CME) - Light Breakfast at 8:00am, CLE at 8:30am, EBA Office— <u>REGISTER</u>
08/28	CLE—Wages Earned and Lessons Learned: Effective Procedures for Post-Judgment Collections (1 CLE) - Noon-1:00pm,
	EBA Office - <u>REGISTER</u>
09/12	CLE—Bases Are Loaded! (2 CLE) - Reds v. STL in STL—REGISTER, call (812) 463-3201 or email <u>Ashley@evvbar.org</u>
09/26	CLE—Bench & Bar Conference (6 CLE/1 Ethics/1 CME) - Light Breakfast at 8:00am, CLE at 8:30am, ECC— <u>REGISTER</u>
10/23	CLE—Commercial Real Estate Transactions: Deciphering Surveys and Understanding Title Policy Endorsements
	(1 CLE) - Noon, EBA Office— <u>REGISTER</u>
10/25	CLE—Hot Topics for In-House Counsel (CLE PENDING) - Light breakfast at 8:00am, CLE at 8:30am, EBA Office
11/08	CLE-35th Annual EBA Estate & Business Planning Institute (IN and KY attorneys: 6 CLE/1 Ethics; CFP PENDING: 4
	CE/2 Ethics; CAP 7.2; IN Insurance: 6 CE) - Light Breakfast at 8:00am, CLE at 8:30am; To register, call
	(812) 463-3201 or email <u>Ashley@evvbar.org</u>

- 12/06 CLE—Hot Topics: Always Fast, Always Fun! (CLE PENDING) Light breakfast at 8:00am, CLE at 8:30am, EBA Office
- 12/17 CLE—Trial Procedure—MORE DETAILS TO COME!
- 12/26 CLE—Procrastinators' Delight: The Final Countdown! (Up to 6 CLE)—Attend one hour or all six! (TITLES TO COME!)
- 12/27 CLE—Procrastinators' Delight: All Ethics, All Day! (Up to 6 CLE/6 Ethics)—Attend one hour or all six! (TITLES TO COME!)

### WHO'S DOING WHAT?

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ...



#### ...Trisha Dudlo-McCracken who has been named as one of the IBJ Media 2024 Indiana 250 Most Influential

Business Leaders in Indiana. Trisha is the managing partner at Dentons Bingham Greenebaum—Evansville.

...Max Happe who has been named to the 2024 20 Under 40 by the Rotary Club of Evansville. Max is the managing attorney at Volunteer Lawyer Program.



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES For more information, go to <u>evvbar.org</u>, click the MEMBERS tab.

**Bar Updates:** 

Taylor O'Bryan

427 E. 4th Street

(812) 683-3957

Schneider Law Office

Huntingburg, Indiana

tolawoff@psci.net

Department of Child Services—Attorneys The Law Offices of Steven K. Deig—Attorneys Stoll Keenon Ogden—Mid-Level Associate Vanderburgh Co. Prosecutor's Office—Deputy Prosecutor Vanderburgh Co. PD Agency—Full-time Attorney

update

Please welcome law student member **DaTonya Shumaker**. Please make these additions and updates to your contacts:

47542

## In case you missed it

Open to the public!

In an interview for the Indiana Lawyer podcast, EBA **President Greg Freyberger** chats about his role as president and the challenges the association faces.

Listen here at the 12:00 mark: https://www.podbean.com/ep/pb-vd9hk-1678bae

# Shepard

Lecture Series

The Evansville Bar Association and Evansville Bar Foundation present

### Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Loretta Rush



바 Tuesday, September 24 ⓒ 5:30pm

Old Courthouse Shepard Courtroom

Doors open at 5:00pm; Reception to follow



DaTonya Shumaker Law Student (812) 459-1872 djshum01@gmail.com

## CONNECT, COLLABORATE, AND CELEBRATE!





SAVE-THE-DATE

**CAROLING AT THE COURTHOUSE:** THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024

MORE DETAILS TO COME!

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EBA

## AUGUST 2024

08/01 Meet Us at Mo's hosted by the EBA Women in Law Section—4:00-6:00pm (Stop by when you can and leave when you want!), Mo's House at 1114 Parrett Street, 47713

Talk to a Lawyer-4:30-6:00pm, EBA Office

EBA Young Lawyer Section End of Summer Open House! - 5:00-7:00pm, Mo's House at 1114 Parrett Street, 47713

- 08/08 EBA Board of Directors Meeting—Lunch at 11:45am; Meeting at Noon, EBA Office
- 08/15 EBF Board of Directors Meeting—Lunch at 11:45am; Meeting at Noon, EBA Office
- 08/19 Talk to a Lawyer—11:30am-1:00pm, EBA Office
- 08/22 EBA Bench and Bar Committee Meeting—Noon-1:00pm, EBA Office
- 08/23 CLE-MEDIATION: Be Prepared (3 CLE/3 CME) -8:30am-Noon, EBA Office-REGISTER
- 08/27 EBA CLE Committee Meeting-Noon-1:00pm, EBA Office
- 08/28 CLE—Wages Earned and Lessons Learned: Effective Procedures for Post-Judgment Collections (1 CLE) Noon-1:00pm, EBA Office or Zoom\* (by request) - <u>REGISTER</u>
- \* Must indicate at time of registration.

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 09/10 Legacy Lawyer Social—4:00-6:00pm, EBA Office
- 09/12 CLE—Bases Are Loaded! (2 CLE) Reds v. STL in STL—to register, call (812) 463-3201 or email Ashley@evvbar.org
- 09/24 Shepard Lecture Series with Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Loretta Rush-Old Courthouse, 5:30pm
- 09/26 CLE—Bench & Bar Conference (6 CLE/1 Ethics/1 CME) Light Breakfast 8:00am, CLE 8:30am, ECC—REGISTER
- 09/26 EBA Member Lunch: Meet the Candidates—Noon, ECC—REGISTER
- 10/05 25th Anniversary of the Evansville Bar Foundation—6:00pm, Evansville Museum
- 10/17 Trivia Night—Doors open 5:30pm, Trivia 6:00, CMoE

**10/23** CLE—Commercial Real Estate Transactions: Deciphering Surveys and Understanding Title Policy Endorsements (1 CLE) - Noon, EBA Office—<u>REGISTER</u>

10/24 New Attorney Welcome — Ceremony 5:30pm, Old Courthouse, Shepard Courtroom; Reception to follow.

**10/25** CLE—Hot Topics for In-House Counsel (CLE PENDING) - Light breakfast 8:00am, CLE 8:30am, Welborn Community Room (15th Floor of 5/3 Tower)