

Enhance. Cultivate. Promote.



The SUMMATION

December 2024

The Monthly Newsletter of the Evansville Bar Association

501 Main Street, Suite 101
Evansville, IN 47708

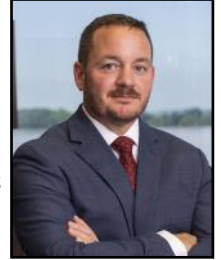
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: **Greg Freyberger**

THE MAKINGS OF A GOOD LAWYER: RESILIENCE



Given the election has concluded over three weeks ago, we are still hearing opinions and reading articles about what the Democrats did wrong, what they could have done to win the Presidency, and what the results of the election means to the future of our Country. Regardless whether you are Republican or Democrat; man or woman; right, left or center; we know that the Country continues on, and we are all called to come back together as a United citizenry. It's time to work together for the betterment of our Country, rather than as political opponents. To do this requires us to be resilient and to understand that the World has not stopped around us.

Similarly, if you've had enough experience in the law, you know we aren't immune to a decision we disagree with, a trial loss, or a deal that somehow couldn't be completed despite our best efforts. There are times when your mind is filled with doubts about your case and you win. And there are other times when you feel good about the facts, the law, and your arguments, but you still cannot persuade the judge or jury that your client should prevail. During these times, it is important that as a lawyer, you be resilient.

Steve Barber once told me that it takes two weeks before a lawyer can get his or her mind right after a disheartening loss. I think he's right. It certainly could take more or less depending on the lawyer. But if it takes you no time to recover, I'd question whether you have the necessary competitive spirit it takes to be a good advocate. I've won cases I thought I'd lose, and I've lost cases I thought I should have won. My experiences in the latter category have been very hard for me to get over. Even when I feel a little peace about the decision, I seem to still retain small nuggets of self-doubt when I find myself back in the fray. I think this is a good thing, however. Having the kind of self-confidence unaffected by a clear loss is the mark of a delusional person who has little self-awareness.

On the other hand, having the continued self-doubt that one is never good enough is not a better mental disorder. The late Bill Woods, who terrified me every time I tried a case against him, once told me while our jury was deliberating, "You have to start realizing that the facts and the law don't change depending on your side or mine. And you know as much, or more, than your opponent. Once you get that, the confidence to present the case is easy." I think he was right, and I think that is the key to resilience as a lawyer.

We can only do our best, and the rest is up to the client, facts, and the fact-finder in any given case. We'll always have the post-mortem, Monday morning quarterback thoughts after all is said and done. However, if you can see it for what it is with an conviction that you have done your best, whether a different argument would have been better shouldn't matter. You can rest peacefully knowing that you made discretionary calls to the best of your ability, and move on to the next case.

In the end, win, lose, or draw, what happens in your profession doesn't define you. Your spouse, kids, dog or cat, parents...they all still love you as a person. So learn from your losses and remain resilient.



EVANSVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION

Announcement to Bar Association Members

The Association Board of Directors has adopted a new schedule for memorial services to better honor the lives and legacies of our colleagues. Beginning in 2025, memorial services will be held twice annually:

- **Spring Service:** To commemorate those who passed away during the latter half of the previous calendar year (July–December).
- **Fall Service:** To honor those who passed away during the first half of the current calendar year (January–June).

This change ensures that we continue to pay meaningful tribute to our members in a timely manner.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our community. Together, we ensure the lasting recognition of our colleagues' contributions.

VLP News

By: Max Happe

Hello everyone and welcome to VLP News – the hard-hitting, fast-talking, no nonsense news source for all your legal volunteerism needs. Happy holidays!

I know what many of you are thinking, “I won’t be around in-person because of holiday stuff, but I really want to volunteer some of my expertise to helping those in need. If only there was a way...” Never fear, I have your back!

If you have some down time and would like to volunteer to answer some brief legal questions, check out Indiana Free Legal Answers. This is a platform that the ABA has supported in many states and we operate Indiana’s version! How it works is that people needing answers to brief legal questions can submit their question on the platform then attorneys can get on and see the bank of all the asked questions and choose ones to answer. The whole thing is done through the online platform by exchanging written communications so it can be done at a time that works for you at your own pace. This is a great, and easily accessible, way to volunteer to help people. It’s also good opportunity to expand competency into other areas as you are interested and to get a sense of some of the needs for low-income Hoosiers. If you are interested, check it out online at Indiana.freelegalanswers.org or contact max.happe@probonoindiana.org for how it works and with any questions.

Please consider signing up for Talk to a Lawyer this month with the attached sign-up sheet. We need volunteers for next year and would love to see you. If you have never participated, or it has been a while, we are happy to provide support and resources to make it easy for you. In addition to our bimonthly Talk to a Lawyer programming, we will be joining the ISBA and volunteers across the state to help answer questions on the Free Legal Answers platform above on MLK day in January. You can sign up to help us at this on the bottom of the sign-up sheet. Thanks for your support and volunteerism!

EBA
EVANSVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION

You're Invited!

Join us for the EBA Paralegal and Legal Staff Section
Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 4
5pm - 7pm, Turoni's Forget Me Not
4 N Weinbach Ave., Evansville, 47711

Gift Exchange - Bring a gift \$25 or less
Kid Friendly | Activities | Be a Santa to a Senior Gift Drop Off

RSVP on or before December 1 to
jordan.terrell@probonoindiana.org or julie@evvbar.org

Join us for the holiday party, where appetizers, desserts, and drinks will be available as we celebrate the season!

HOLIDAYS @ THE BAR
CELEBRATE THE SEASON

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024
Evansville Bar Association
501 Main Street, Suite 101, Downtown Evansville
3:30-5:00pm

EBA
EVANSVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION



Barbara Coyle Williams
President

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” ~ Sir Winston Churchill

During the past few weeks, our Board members have had the opportunity to visit recipient organizations to present grant checks in person.

Andrew Backes, Executive Director of the **Boys & Girls Club of Evansville** told us that our grant will be used for their Street SMARTS program benefitting the youth members of the Boys & Girls Club. This program is a gang and violence prevention program, fostering awareness of resisting gang involvement, bullying prevention, and building the “street-smart” knowledge to develop habits outside of unlawful choices.

The Salvation Army will use their grant to help fund the new Pathways of Hope program, which is a series of life skills classes to help bridge the gap in their guests' lives. Topics for the series include eviction, family law, reinstatement of drivers' license, disability/SSI, understanding your criminal case, and immigration.

Albion Fellows Bacon Center will use their grant funds to increase the ability of domestic and sexual victims to effectively access and participate in the civil/criminal justice systems through legal resource support, legal and social agency referrals, victim rights information and accompaniment. Survivor Services Navigators accompany victims of domestic and sexual abuse to law enforcement offices, attorney and prosecutor offices, and court hearings.

During this holiday season, it is important to count our blessings and continue to support our community. It has been my honor to meet some of the individuals who do such important work in our community. I can assure you that every agency is grateful for the support of the Foundation.

As we embrace the spirit of giving, remember that your support helps create a life of meaning and impact—for you and for those we serve. Thank you for giving so generously.

Donating is quick and easy!

Mail a check to:

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

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

LIBRARIAN'S CORNER: VANDERBURGH LAW LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Vanderburgh Law Library Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation that has been invaluable in keeping our high-quality legal research facility open to serve the courts, the bar, and the general public. Founded in 1982 under the leadership of the late Vanderburgh Circuit Court Judge William H. Miller, the Law Library Foundation has a dedicated board of directors constantly searching for new ways to enhance library services. Last month the current Law Library Foundation President Carl Heldt sent a letter highlighting the many valuable benefits offered to members of the Law Library Foundation.

As one of only two county law libraries in the state of Indiana and the first to offer the services of a *pro se* coordinator, the Law Library provides access to legal resources to members of the public looking for help in dealing with a legal issue or concern for their family. Please respond generously to this opportunity to support the Law Library's work! Your membership contribution benefits not only your practice but also our community as a whole.

As you know, the law library hosts legal clinics operated by the 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).



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.

TIME TO GO TO
TRIAL

JUDGE MATTHEW P. BROOKMAN
United States District Court,
Southern District of Indiana

MAGISTRATE EMILY KEMPER
Vanderburgh Superior Court

CLIFF WHITEHEAD
Ziemer Stayman Weitzel & Shoulders

Tuesday, December 17
Light Breakfast 8:30am
CLE 9:00am-12:15pm
Courtroom 110
Vanderburgh Superior Court

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

MEMBER \$115
NON-MEMBER \$175

EBA
INDIANA BAR ASSOCIATION

Step into the courtroom with confidence! This engaging and dynamic CLE will equip you with the practical tools and strategies you need to excel in jury trials. Whether you're a seasoned attorney looking to refine your approach or new to litigation, you'll gain invaluable insights from experienced trial attorneys and judicial officers who have been in the trenches.

Why Attend?

Because jury trials can be fun—when you know what you're doing!

What Will You Learn?

- Foundational Skills Made Simple: Learn how to confidently lay a foundation for evidence without breaking a sweat.
- Impeachment 101: Discover how to turn inconsistent testimony into your ace in the hole.
- Motion Mastery: Demystify pre-trial motions and make your arguments stand out.
- Trial Etiquette & Efficiency: Avoid common missteps—both literal and figurative—that can derail your case.

What Makes This Event Unique?

This isn't just another lecture. Expect real-world examples, interactive exercises, and candid advice from those who know the courtroom inside and out. You'll leave armed with practical tips to handle even the toughest trial challenges and take your advocacy skills to the next level.

**PROCRASTINATORS'
DELIGHT**

**EBA office
or Video Conference**

**PREPAYMENT
REQUIRED**

December 26

The Final Countdown!
6 GENERAL

December 27

ALL ETHICS, ALL DAY!
6 GENERAL / 6 ETHICS

To register for one, two, or all 12, call (812) 463-3201, email Ashley@evvbar.org, or go to evvbar.org.

WHO'S DOING WHAT?

CONGRATULATIONS TO...



The Indiana University College of Arts and Sciences honored **Patrick Shoulders** with its Distinguished Alumni Award. He was celebrated at an event that took place October 24 in Alumni Hall at the IU Memorial Union.



Derrick McDowell has been elected to the Indiana State Bar Association Board of Governors representing the 8th District. He will serve on the Board for two years beginning in January 2025.

update

Bar Updates:

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

Halie Hooper

(812) 319-3535

hh172@evansville.edu**Robert Garwood****Siesky Law Firm**

4424 Vogel Road, Suite 405

Evansville, Indiana 47715

(812) 402-7700

robert@sieskylaw.comNEED
SOME
HELP?

Have you had problems logging into the EBA website?

If so, please let us know!

Contact Ashley at the office at

(812)463-3201 or ashley@evvbar.org.



Do you have an idea for a CLE course? Is there a topic you would like to learn more about and/or speak about?

If so, contact Julie Moore Holtz at the EBA office at (812) 463-3201 or Julie@evvbar.org.



EVANSVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION

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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Go to evvbar.org,
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.

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.

Vanderburgh Superior Court has an opening for a Court Administrator.

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

DECEMBER 2024

- 12/04 **EBA Paralegal and Legal Staff Section Holiday Party**—5:00-7:00pm, Turoni's Forget Me Not, 4 North Weinbach—RSVP to julie@evvbar.org
- 12/05 **Talk to a Lawyer**—4:30-6:00pm, EBA Office
- 12/13 **Celebrate the Holidays @TheBar**—3:30-5:00pm, EBA Office (*This event has replaced Caroling at the Courthouse*)
- 12/17 **CLE—Time to Go to Trial** (3 CLE) with Judge Matthew Brookman, Magistrate Emily Kemper and Cliff Whitehead - Light breakfast at 8:30am, CLE 9:00am-12:15pm, Courtroom 110 Vanderburgh Superior Court—[REGISTER](#)
- Talk to a Lawyer**—11:30am-1:00pm, EBA Office
- 12/24 & 25 **EBA OFFICE CLOSED**
- 12/26 **CLE—Procrastinators' Delight: The Final Countdown** (Up to 6 CLE) - Sign up for one, two, or all 6 hours! - For a list of replays and times, go to evvbar.org or email ashley@evvbar.org.
- 12/27 **CLE—Procrastinators' Delight: All Ethics, All Day!** (Up to 6 CLE/6 Ethics) - Sign up for one, two, or all 6 hours! - For a list of replays and times, go to evvbar.org or email ashley@evvbar.org.
- 12/30-01/01 **EBA OFFICE CLOSED**

WE INVITE YOUR FIRM TO HOST A TALK TO A LAWYER EVENT

**NO EXPERTISE IN CIVIL LAW?
NO PROBLEM**



You will have this support during your event:

Civil Law Reference Book

VLP Staff Available to Help

Legal Navigation Resources

Lunch or Dinner Upon Request



RESERVE A
DATE
TODAY

● ● ● ● ●

1st Thursday 4:30PM - 6PM
3rd Tuesday 11:30AM - 1PM

● ● ● ● ●

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



improving lives. fostering connection.



We're in This Together

*Friends in the legal community: you are the helpers,
but please remember to ask for help for yourself.*

JLAP is here for you. Call today to talk with one of our staff
or schedule an appointment.

JLAP Services are Free & Confidential

The following peer support groups will be provided via Zoom

Connection: every Wednesday at 12pm EST

Addiction Issues: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 6pm EST

Caregiver Support: 2nd Thursday at 12pm EST

Grief & Loss: 4th Thursday at 12pm EST



For more information call
317-833-0370 or email
JLAPHelps@courts.in.gov

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

ATTORNEY/PARALEGAL NAME: _____

E-MAIL: _____

(E-mail to jeana.goebel@probonoindiana.org or max.happe@probonoindiana.org)

Afternoon Talk-to-a-Lawyer on the First THURSDAY of the month

_____ January 2, 2025 4:30 to 6:00	_____ 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 dates – please contact me to discuss.

Lunch-Time Talk-to-a-Lawyer on the Third TUESDAY 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 dates – please contact me to discuss.

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Talk to a Lawyer Session on January 20th –We hope to utilize Indiana Free Legal Answers to join the statewide clear the queue for this event! 01/20/2025 (Monday) from 11:00 to 1:00

I am interested in the Family Law Clinic. Please send me info on these Clinics operated in partnership with the Law Library that is always held on the First and Third Thursday of each month from 11:00 to 1:00.

I am interested in the Second Chance/Housing Clinic. Please send me info on these Clinics operated in partnership with the Law Library and held on the Second and Fourth Thursday of each month from 11:00 to 1:00.

I'm interested in participating in Homeless Connect, typically held in March. Please contact me with volunteer times when scheduled.

I'm interested in participating at some point in the Help Desk which is held every Monday through Friday (when court is open) from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

As always, thank you!