



The SUMMATION

501 Main Street, Suite 101
Evansville, IN 47708

Inside this issue:

EBA News	2
Foundation	3
CLE Offerings	4-5
Bar Updates	6
What's Happening at the EBA	7

December 2025

The Monthly Newsletter of the Evansville Bar Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: **Meagan Brien**

Investing in the Uniqueness of the Evansville Bar Association



As 2025 draws to a close and I reach the halfway point of my tenure as Evansville Bar Association President, I'm ruminating on why I invest in the EBA and, related, what sets the EBA apart from other professional organizations. The answer to both lies in what makes the EBA truly distinctive – we are a community where legal excellence meets genuine collegiality.

Proudly, the EBA has cultivated something increasingly rare in our profession: a space where all levels of practitioners, judiciary, paralegals, and legal support staff can find support, growth, and meaningful connection. In larger organizations members can feel like another number, and in smaller bar associations, you may miss the depth and variety that the EBA offers. All sizes of bar associations are important, but the EBA strikes the balance that matters most because we're big enough to provide substantial benefits, yet small enough that every member can build authentic professional relationships.

The benefits flow both ways. Members gain access to continuing legal education tailored to our regional needs, networking events that build relationships rather than just exchange business cards, and a unified voice on issues affecting our local practice. Whether you need a second opinion on a complex legal question or simply someone who understands the unique challenges of practicing in Southern Indiana, your EBA membership connects you to that resource. Moreover, when you call a fellow EBA member, you're not cold-calling a stranger; you're reaching out to a colleague who shares with you a commitment to an ethical, civil, and dynamic legal community.

The EBA is a central point for all attorneys in the region regardless of practice type. The EBA's membership varies among prosecutors, civil litigators, transactional lawyers, in-house counsel, judges, criminal defense attorneys, paralegals, legal staff, and everything in between. By being a member of the EBA, you avoid a fragmented professional life no matter what stage you might be in your practice. You'll be hard-pressed to find a better one-stop shop that will allow you to feel connected to the local and regional legal community, impact the legal culture here, and gain countless opportunities to improve your practice.

Bar associations serve three constituencies simultaneously - its members, the public, and the justice system itself. In serving these three, the EBA has adopted a [Professional Courtesy Code](#) that makes an unblinking request that you treat your colleagues professionally and with civility and courtesy. Every professional should conduct themselves with the tenants that you'll find in the [EBA's Professional Courtesy Code](#) but the EBA's explicit adoption of the Professional Courtesy Code is its unwavering support of the collegiality that makes practice in Evansville and the surrounding area special.

Like so many other things in our lives, what you get from your EBA membership is dependent upon what you put into it. You may not always be able to max out all the social, professional, and philanthropic benefits that the EBA offers. However, whenever you dedicate time to attend or lead a CLE, attend an event like the EBA Holidays @TheBar, Law Day, or happy hour, or sit on the EBA or EBF board of directors or committees, you are investing in a unique and valuable endeavor. You are building skills, networks, and safety nets for your practice and your future and you are contributing to a better legal community. I invite you to continue to invest in the EBA.



FROM THE BOARDROOM

2026 Budget & CLE Pricing Update

At its November 2025 meeting, the Evansville Bar Association Board of Directors approved the 2026 budget, which includes an adjustment to Continuing Legal Education (CLE) pricing. Beginning in 2026, CLE programs will be offered at \$40 per hour for EBA members and \$60 per hour for non-members. This is the first increase in CLE pricing since 2003.

Updates & Initiatives

The Board also discussed the *Commission on Indiana's Legal Future*, noting that the final report highlights an important role for local bar associations in future implementation efforts.

In addition, a task force has been established to plan, organize, and launch Camp Legal Eagle, a new program debuting in summer 2026. The camp will introduce students to the legal profession and showcase the many career opportunities available within the legal field.

We sincerely appreciate the ongoing support and engagement of our members, which strengthens the EBA and enables us to continue serving the legal community.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM VOLUNTEER LAWYER PROGRAM

Dear Legal Community,

The Volunteer Lawyer Program needs your help as we continue working toward meaningful access to justice.

Please consider supporting our efforts in the coming year. Reach out before year-end and sign up to cover a spot or two at our legal clinics—and let us know if we can count on you to assist with a case.

You can sign up for clinics online at vlpswin.org, or use this direct link: <https://signup.com/group/423404508054>. A printable sign-up sheet is also available on the last page of *The Summation* and may be sent directly back to VLP.

Our civil legal aid programs simply do not have the resources to help everyone in need. Nearly 90% of low-income individuals receive little or no assistance with their civil legal issues. Our clinics function much like urgent care—meeting immediate needs for those who cannot access more comprehensive help. VLP operates the majority of our local legal clinics, including Talk to a Lawyer, Help Desks, and Family Law Clinics, and we rely heavily on volunteer support to do so.

As the cost of essentials like food, housing, and healthcare continues to rise, more individuals are struggling to meet their basic needs. If we are to make meaningful progress toward access to justice, we will need many hands to help.

There are 8,760 hours in a year. We're simply asking you to donate a couple of them to support a cause that only legal professionals like you can meet.

We provide training, resources, and support for legal professionals from all backgrounds to ensure that volunteering is both possible and meaningful.

If you are interested in legal volunteerism of any kind, please contact me.

Max Happe
Managing Attorney, VLP
max.happe@probonoindiana.org



Bob Carithers
President

Seasons Greetings to all of you from the Board of the Evansville Bar Foundation. I hope that you find the December holidays to be meaningful and peaceful.

During this season of giving I ask that you give serious consideration and a positive response to the Foundation's letter asking you to participate in its giving cycle which has just begun. Your generosity in making a tax-deductible charitable contribution to the Foundation enables the Evansville legal community—through grants from the Foundation—to act in our broader community to support delivery of legal services to our indigent and vulnerable neighbors and to promote greater understanding and awareness of the law, especially among our youth. Therefore, you may also list your donation in your annual attorney registration, pursuant to Ind. R.P.C. 6.7(a)(3).

Finally, 2025 legislation introduced new federal income tax wrinkles which may be of interest and benefit to some donors to charities. They pertain to timing of the donation: December, 2025, versus January, 2026. Please contact an Evansville Bar Association member for expert income tax advice.

**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: 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, the Foundation has a dedicated board of directors constantly searching for new ways to enhance library services. Last month the current Foundation President Celia Pauli 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 Indiana and the first to offer the services of a *pro se* coordinator, the Law Library provides access to legal resources to community members looking for help in dealing with a legal issue or concern. 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 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

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Hon. Rich D'Amour
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Court Counsel

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Diane Bender
Carrie Lynn
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Gary Taylor

Paralegal and Legal Staff

Jordan Terrell

Friends of the Foundation

Julie Moore Holtz

* 2026 Campaign donations received November 1-30, 2025



2026 ANNUAL AWARDS

**NOMINATE
NOW!**

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

DEADLINE
01 APR

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

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.



Valuing the Business: INSIGHTS INTO APPRAISAL AND EVALUATION

1 CLE

CPAs / ADVISORS

blue

Brad Minor, Blue & Co.
Thomas Wagner, Jr., Blue & Co.

December 2, 2025
Noon-1:00pm

Evansville Bar Association*
501 Main Street, Suite 101
Downtown Evansville

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

* Zoom will be available; please indicate at time of registration.

ANNUAL HOT TOPICS

3 CLE / 5 ETHICS

DECEMBER 12 | 8:30AM – NOON

EVANSVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION
501 MAIN STREET, SUITE 101
DOWNTOWN EVANSVILLE
OR ZOOM*

**MEMBER \$100
NON-MEMBER \$160**

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



*Please indicate at time
of registration

**PROCRASTINATORS'
DELIGHT**

**EBA Office
or Video Conference**

December 29, Sam

The Final Countdown!
6 GENERAL

December 30, Sam

ALL ETHICS, ALL DAY!
6 GENERAL / 6 ETHICS

**PREPAYMENT
REQUIRED**

Click [HERE](#) to see titles and times!

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


1 CLE

The Intersection of Technology, Domestic Violence and Family Law

with  **OurFamilyWizard®**

This interactive workshop will explore the implications of technology in Domestic Violence and Family Court cases. Professionals will learn how batterers use phone technology, social networking and GPS to circumvent injunctions for protection, supervised visitation, and child custody. Legal and Mental Health Practitioners will explore how victims of domestic violence can overcome communication issues using mobile and online communication tools, such as the OurFamilyWizard website, designed specifically for high conflict parents.

Tuesday, January 13, 2026
11:30am - Lunch provided by OFW
Noon-1:00pm - CLE

Evansville Bar Association
501 Main Street, Suite 101
Downtown Evansville

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



1 CLE

Preventing Return Trips to Court Through Smarter Communication

WITH  **OurFamilyWizard®**

The OurFamilyWizard app (OFW) is frequently included in parenting agreements as a way to reduce litigation and improve family outcomes. Learn how OFW can simplify co-parenting communication, prevent coercive control, and streamline the work of practitioners. This training will also include our newest updates and information regarding our new **ToneMeter AI, Recorded Calls**, streamlined **Fee Waiver**, and partnership with **Keepr** for alcohol-monitoring.

GUISEPPE FRICANO
Our Family Wizard



Wed., January 14, 2026
11:30am - Lunch provided by OFW
Noon-1:00pm - CLE

Evansville Bar Association
501 Main Street, Suite 101
Downtown Evansville

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

36th annual Evansville Bar Association

Estate & Business Planning Institute

Thank you to our generous sponsors for making
this event possible!

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BRONZE



WHO'S DOING WHAT?

New Attorney Welcome Celebration

On November 13, the Evansville Bar Association hosted its New Attorney Welcome Celebration at the Old Courthouse in the historic Randall T. Shepard Courtroom. Ten of our newest attorney members took the Oath in front of peers and colleagues, led by Vanderburgh Superior Court **Judge Les Shively**, affirming their commitment to the ethical and professional practice of law. Following the ceremony, members and guests gathered for a reception where they connected, shared conversation, and enjoyed food and refreshments. We are proud to welcome these new attorneys into our legal community.



New attorneys in attendance, left to right: **Fred Folz, Jr., Holton Zoss, Shae Overton, Kaitlyn Coffey, Ashley Dorsey, Savannah Mundy, Dylan Murphy, Betsy Happe, Lukus Rickleman, and James Baker V.**

Give Thanks @ The Bar Recap

On Friday, November 21, members gathered for our annual Give Thanks @TheBar event to kick off the Thanksgiving season with great food and even better company. More than 50 members attended and enjoyed a warm, fall-themed atmosphere filled with meaningful conversation and connection. The menu featured classic favorites including turkey, macaroni and cheese, green beans, cranberry salad, mashed potatoes, vegetables, pumpkin and pecan pie, and pumpkin bread. Thank you to everyone who joined us in celebrating gratitude and community.



Bar Updates: Please take a moment to update your contacts! Join us in welcoming our newest **Attorney Member: Russell Hellyer.**

Russell Hellyer
Salmon & Hewins, LLC
 7505 Eagle Crest Blvd.
 Evansville, Indiana 47715
 (812) 901-6750
russell@salmonhewinslaw.com



DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA?

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

Contact Julie Moore Holtz at (812) 463-3201 or julie@evvbar.org.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Department of Child Services is currently hiring attorneys.

Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office is looking for a Deputy Prosecutor to join the team!

The **Posey County Prosecutor's Office** is seeking a full-time deputy prosecuting attorney in the criminal division.

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

Vanderburgh County Public Defender Agency has openings for two (2) full-time attorneys and one (1) part-time attorney.

Ziemer Stayman Weitzel & Shoulders is seeking an attorney for an Employment and Labor Law position.

Ziemer Stayman Weitzel & Shoulders is seeking a Legal Administrative Assistant.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EBA

DECEMBER 2025

- 12/02 **CLE—Valuing the Business: Insights into Appraisal and Evaluation** (1 CLE) — Noon, EBA Office—REGISTER
- 12/04 **Talk to a Lawyer**—4:30-6:00pm, EBA Office—Contact max.happe@probonoindiana.org to volunteer!
- 12/11 **EBA Board of Directors Meeting**—Lunch at 11:45am, Meeting at Noon, EBA Office
- 12/12 **CLE—Annual Hot Topics** (3 CLE/.5 Ethics) - 8:30am-Noon, EBA Office—REGISTER
- Holidays @TheBar sponsored by Kahn Dees Donovan & Kahn with entertainment by Chris Wischer**—4:00-6:00pm, EBA Office
- 12/16 **Talk to a Lawyer**—11:30am-1:00pm, EBA Office—Contact max.happe@probonoindiana.org to volunteer!
- 12/18 **EBF Board of Directors Meeting**—Lunch at 11:45am, Meeting at Noon, EBA/EBF Office
- 12/24-26 **EBA OFFICE CLOSED**—Happy Holidays!
- 12/29 **CLE—Procrastinators' Delight: The Final Countdown** (Up to 6 CLE) - REGISTER
- 8:00am - DWI for Dummies
 - 9:15am - Social Media in the Workplace
 - 10:30am - Probate Administration A to Z
 - 11:45am - The Nuts and Bolts of Protective Orders
 - 1:00pm - Bankruptcy and Divorce: What Every Family Law Practitioner Should Know
 - 2:15pm - Indiana's Red Flag Law Practical Considerations
- 12/30 **CLE—Procrastinators' Delight: All Ethics, All Day!** (Up to 6 CLE/6 Ethics) - REGISTER
- 8:00am - How to Write Ethically
 - 9:15am - Avoiding the Ethical Snowstorm with Working with Clients of Diminished Capacity
 - 10:30am - What You Need to Know: An Overview of the Disciplinary Commission
 - 11:45am - Who is Your Client
 - 1:00pm - Family Law Update Ethics
 - 2:15pm - Government Transparency and Ethics: Professional Responsibility through the Lens of Public Access
- 12/31/25 **EBA OFFICE CLOSED**—Happy New Year!



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!

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.



EVANSVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION

Join us for live music by our very own
Chris Wischer, refreshments, and drinks
to celebrate the season!

HOLIDAYS @THEBAR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025

Evansville Bar Association

501 Main Street, Suite 101, Downtown Evansville

4:00-6:00pm

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

ATTORNEY/PARALEGAL NAME: _____

E-MAIL: _____

(E-mail this sheet to max.happe@probonoindiana.org or mail it to us at VLP)

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

_____ NO TTAL- New Year's Day	_____ February 5, 2026 4:30 to 6:00
_____ March 5, 2026 4:30 to 6:00	_____ April 2, 2026 4:30 to 6:00
_____ May 7, 2026 4:30 to 6:00	_____ June 4, 2026 4:30 to 6:00
_____ July 2, 2026 4:30 to 6:00	_____ August 6, 2026 4:30 to 6:00
_____ September 3, 2026 4:30 to 6:00	_____ October 1, 2026 4:30 to 6:00
_____ November 5, 2026 4:30 to 6:00	_____ December 3, 2026 4:30 to 6:00

If your firm is interested in doing a firm volunteer night, please indicate the date(s) here: _____

Lunch-Time Talk-to-a-Lawyer on the Third TUESDAY of the month

_____ January 20, 2026 11:30 to 1:00	_____ February 17, 2026 11:30 to 1:00
_____ March 17, 2026 11:30 to 1:00	_____ April 21, 2026 11:30 to 1:00
_____ May 19, 2026 11:30 to 1:00	_____ June 16, 2026 11:30 to 1:00
_____ July 21, 2026 11:30 to 1:00	_____ August 18, 2026 11:30 to 1:00
_____ September 15, 2026 11:30 to 1:00	_____ October 20, 2026 11:30 to 1:00
_____ November 17, 2026 11:30 to 1:00	_____ December 15, 2026 11:30 to 1:00

If your firm is interested in doing a firm volunteer lunch, please indicate the date(s) here: _____

☐ **Martin Luther King Jr. CLEAR THE QUEUE Session on January 19th**—Join us as we clear the Indiana Free Legal Answers queue. 01/19/2026 (Monday) from 11:00 to 1:00. If you have questions about these events, ask!

☐ **Law Day CLEAR THE QUEUE Session on May 1st**—Join us as we clear the Indiana Free Legal Answers queue. 05/01/2026 (Friday) from 11:00 to 1:00.

I'm interested in one of the volunteer opportunities below:

- ☐ Family Law Clinic held on the First and Third Thursday of each month from 11 to 1.
- ☐ Second Chance/Housing Clinic held on the Second and Fourth Thursday of each month from 11 to 1.
- ☐ Homeless Connect, typically held in March. Please contact me with volunteer times when scheduled.
- ☐ Help Desk held every Monday through Friday (when court is open) from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Checking a box will inform us to send you more information on the opportunity.

Find us and opportunities at vlpswin.org

As always, thank you!