

**McLean County Bar Association
Young Lawyer of the Year Award
Nomination Form
2019**

The MCBA is now accepting nominations for its 2018 Young Lawyer of the Year Award. In order to qualify for the award, one must be:

- 1) Under age 36 or less than 10 years in practice
AND
- 2) A member in good standing with the McLean County Bar Association

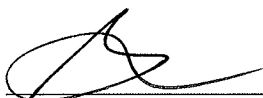
Evaluation criteria include employment history, individual achievements in the practice of law, service to the MCBA and the community in particular pro bono service.

If a nominee was nominated in the past, that person can be re-nominated without the need to resubmit the same materials. Updates can be provided for consideration. (For example, an updated resume or CV from the nominee.)

1. Nominee: Emily Petri
2. Nominee's Law Firm, Company or Organization: Prairie State Legal Services
Address: 201 W. Olive St. City: Bloomington St: IL ZIP: 61701
E-mail: abarr@pslegal.org Phone: 827-5021x6806 Birth Date: 1/27/1987
3. Nominator (Optional): Adrian Barr
E-mail: abarr@pslegal.org Phone: 827-5021 x 6805
4. Attach a Statement in Support of Nomination (1 page)
Include employment history and achievements in the practice of law.

Please include nominee's contributions to the McLean County Bar, such as bar association activities, public service and pro bono service.

Copies of the nominee's curriculum vitae can be attached in addition to the statement of nomination.

Date: 4/17/19 Signature: 

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All nominations must be signed and submitted by Friday, April 26, 2019.

Please send or email nominations to:
McLean County Bar Association - P.O. Box 3142 - Bloomington, IL 61702
or
mary.sellmyer@mcleancountyil.gov



PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICES
Equal Access to Justice

201 W OLIVE ST.
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61701
PHONE: 309-827-5021
TOLL FREE: 1-800-874-2536 (CLIENTS)
FAX: 309-828-3776

SERVING LIVINGSTON,
MCLEAN, AND WOODFORD
COUNTIES

ADRIAN BARR, MANAGING ATTORNEY
KATHY BOYLE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
VOLUNTEER LAWYER COORDINATOR

EMILY C. PETRI, STAFF ATTORNEY
STACY BRANDON, LEGAL SECRETARY

MEGAN M. WOOD, STAFF ATTORNEY

April 17, 2019

McLean County Bar Association
P.O. Box 3142
Bloomington, IL 61702

Dear Selection Committee,

I nominate Emily Petri for the 2019 Young Lawyer of the Year Award. I supervise Ms. Petri and have done so for over five years.

Ms. Petri is an active member of the McLean County Bar Association. She currently serves as the CLE Committee Chair, a position she has held since 2017. The CLE Committee continues to provide excellent CLE programs thanks to Ms. Petri's leadership.

Ms. Petri is an excellent attorney and advocate for Prairie State Legal Services' clients. I can assign any case to Ms. Petri without reservation. Ms. Petri works on her cases diligently. She meets all deadlines. Her work is excellent. Most importantly, Ms. Petri's clients are very happy with her work and often complete our satisfaction survey. I have attached some client surveys for your review. I have been impressed with Ms. Petri's ability to earn her clients' trust. Many of our most vulnerable clients are distrustful or reluctant to get help. One specific case comes to mind, a victim of extreme physical domestic abuse sought help from Prairie State Legal Services in 2017. Ms. Petri met with this client. The client decided not to pursue a plenary order of protection in 2017. Ms. Petri encouraged the client to contact her again if the client needed help in the future. In 2018, the client was attacked by her husband again. The client came back to Ms. Petri for help. Ms. Petri represented this client and helped her obtain a plenary order of protection and divorce.

Thank you for your consideration of Ms. Petri for the Young Lawyer of the Year Award.

Sincerely

Adrian G. Barr
Managing Attorney



E-MAILED
112119



PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICES
Equal Access to Justice

RECEIVED
JAN 02 2019
BY:

Your Opinion Counts!

Please let us know what you think about Prairie State Legal Services and the assistance you received from us. You do not need to put your name on the form. Your response will not affect the availability of future service to you from Prairie State. We take your feedback seriously. Positive comments brighten our day and negative comments help us to improve. **Thank you for taking the time to help us!**

Your City Bloomington Your County McLean Your Age 30

What did Prairie State do for you?

Made it possible for me to get full custody of my daughter & helped tremendously through Domestic violence court dates! Emily Petri is AMAZING! AMAZING!

How would you rate the service you received from Prairie State?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

Please tell us why you gave us this rating:

Very thorough!

How would you rate our staff in their courtesy and sensitivity to you and your problem?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

Please tell us if you have any comments about the staff who assisted you?

Emily Petri I will never forget, she saved my daughter & I's lives! She is a miracle! Also the front desk staff is very polite!

Do you have any suggestions on how we may improve our services?

None

Other Comments?

Thank you so so much EMILY PETRI
words can't explain
my gratitude !!



PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICES

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E-MAILED

11/19/18

Your Opinion Counts!

Please let us know what you think about Prairie State Legal Services and the assistance you received from us. You do not need to put your name on the form. Your response will not affect the availability of future service to you from Prairie State. We take your feedback seriously. Positive comments brighten our day and negative comments help us to improve. **Thank you for taking the time to help us!**

Your City Bloomington Your County McLean Your Age 27

What did Prairie State do for you?

Assisted me in getting a plenary 2 year Order of Protection

How would you rate the service you received from Prairie State?

Excellent

Good

Fair

Poor

Please tell us why you gave us this rating:

Mrs Petri was very kind and understanding of the gravity of the situation and my emotional fragility

How would you rate our staff in their courtesy and sensitivity to you and your problem?

Excellent

Good

Fair

Poor

Please tell us if you have any comments about the staff who assisted you?

Again, I am extremely grateful for the way my case was handled, not only with kindness, but in a very prompt and accommodating manner.

Do you have any suggestions on how we may improve our services?

None at this time.

Other Comments?

Thank you!



E-MAILED to Carol
2/28/19

KPB



PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICES
Equal Access to Justice

Your Opinion Counts!

Please let us know what you think about Prairie State Legal Services and the assistance you received from us. You do not need to put your name on the form. Your response will not affect the availability of future service to you from Prairie State. We take your feedback seriously. Positive comments brighten our day and negative comments help us to improve. **Thank you for taking the time to help us!**

Your City Heyworth Your County McLean Your Age 36

What did Prairie State do for you? represented me in obtaining an OP

How would you rate the service you received from Prairie State?

Excellent Good Fair Poor

Please tell us why you gave us this rating:

Emily P. is wonderful. She is kind, patient and understanding. She is very knowledgeable.

How would you rate our staff in their courtesy and sensitivity to you and your problem?

Excellent Good Fair Poor

Please tell us if you have any comments about the staff who assisted you?

office staff/reception always pleasant + helpful.

Do you have any suggestions on how we may improve our services?

Other Comments?

EMILY C. PETRI

8678 N. 1900 East Road ▪ Bloomington, IL 61705 ▪ (309) 838-3304 ▪ emilycpetri@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Admitted to the Illinois State Bar, 2012

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICES, INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Staff Attorney, August 2012 – Present

- Represent survivors of domestic violence in orders of protection, divorce, and family litigation at all stages including discovery, pre-trial motions, and trial
- Represent clients in negotiation and litigation to prevent wrongful evictions and illegal lockouts
- Represent clients in the denial or termination of public benefits, including General Assistance, SNAP, Medicaid, and Medicare
- Analyze medical records to evaluate claimants' likelihood of success on social security supplemental income and social security disability appeals
- Counsel clients on their advanced directive needs and prepare powers of attorney for property and healthcare for clients
- Oversee the Bloomington office's undergraduate internship program, including interviewing, hiring, supervising, and mentoring individual interns each semester
- Co-chair Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.'s internal public benefits task force, including working with task force members to complete projects and develop useful resources for clients and staff, and planning and leading two in person task force meetings a year

BRADY, CONNOLLY & MASUDA, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Law Clerk, May 2012 – July 2012

- Analyzed petitioners' medical records to assess claims regarding work related injuries
- Assessed hearing transcripts for theories of recovery on appeal

LAND OF LINCOLN LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION, CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

Volunteer/Student Attorney (obtained 711 license to practice as student), August 2010 – April 2012

- Represented clients in uncontested divorce cases
- Drafted divorce petitions and divorce judgments
- Interviewed clients to gather information about claims

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON LEGAL DEPARTMENT, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Legal Intern/Student Attorney (obtained 711 license to practice as student), January 2012 – April 2012

- Conducted bench trials and arraignments for ordinance violation cases
- Reviewed the legal theories and merits of cases in preparation for bench trials
- Researched various legal issues, such as the adoption of retail theft and noise ordinances

LIVINGSTON, BARGER, BRANDT & SCHROEDER, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Law Clerk, May 2011 – August 2011

- Drafted dispositive motions and supporting exhibits for medical malpractice defense cases
- Researched and prepared memoranda on legal issues such as negligent spoliation of evidence
- Prepared declaratory judgment action complaint for the interpretation of a land trust agreement
- Analyzed arguments for an appellate brief regarding negligence claim against a school district

LAND OF LINCOLN LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION, CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

Legal Intern, May 2010 – July 2010

- Interviewed clients regarding their respective claims; drafted divorce petitions and judgments
- Conducted legal research about issues faced by low income clients, such as access to dental care

FORMAL EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF LAW, CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, May 2012; GPA: 3.63/4.0 (top 25%)

- University of Illinois Law Review – Administrative Editor
- CALI Excellence Awards for the Future (awarded highest grade in *Torts, Employee Benefits*)
- Harno Scholar (semester top 10%): Spring 2012
- Dean's List: Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Fall 2011
- *Pro Bono* Notation (provided 60+ hours of pro bono legal service to the community)
- McLean County Bar Association 2011 Community Service Scholarship
- Public Interest Law Foundation; Student Legal Relief; Women's Law Society

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY, NORMAL, ILLINOIS

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, *summa cum laude*, December 2008; GPA: 4.0/4.0

- Dean's List: Fall 2005 – Fall 2008

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- McLean County Bar Association, CLE Committee Chair, 2017 - Present: Lead committee in organizing and coordinating monthly CLE presentations for the members of the McLean County Bar Association
- NITA Trial Skills Program, August 2017: participated in a week long hands on training, practicing and expanding essential trial skills including analysis of facts and law, opening and closing statements, and direct and cross examinations
- Illinois State Bar Association Lawyer-to-Lawyer Mentoring Program, 2013: partnered with a local attorney for mentoring regarding legal and ethical issues encountered by recently licensed attorneys
- Custody Litigation Training - Representing Victims of Domestic Violence in Custody Cases, May 2013: participated in a two day interactive training, building essential skills to advocate for survivors of domestic violence in custody litigation

AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- McLean County Bar Association, CLE Committee