

**MCLEAN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

**Tuesday, July 14, 2020
Via Zoom beginning at 12:00 p.m.**

- I. Welcome and Call to Order
- II. Memorial Resolutions will be presented at a later date.
- III. Minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting
- IV. Young Lawyer of the Year Award will be presented to Emily Petri at a later date.
- V. Nominations Committee Report / Open Board Positions (Katy Kraft & Alan J. Sternberg)
- VI. Committee Reports
 - Bench-Bar Committee (Hon. Paul Lawrence & Todd Miller)
 - Bylaws Committee (Hunt Henderson)
 - CLE Committee (Todd Miller)
 - Consumer Law Committee (Dan Deneen)
 - Corporate Counsel Committee (Erin Donaldson)
 - Criminal Law Committee (Jason Chambers & Scott Kording)
 - Family Law Committee (Michael Fenger)
 - Foundation Committee (Ryan Gammelgard)
 - History/Memorials (Brendan Bulkaski & Julia Davis)
 - Law Day (Hon. Sarah Duffy & Hon. Casey Costigan)
 - Lawyers in the Classroom (Jennifer Patton)
 - Mock Trial Committee (Matthew Koettters)
 - Pro Bono Committee (Carrie Haas)
 - Real Estate Committee (Brain Garwood & Tom Hundman)
 - Scholarship Committee (Adrian Barr)
 - Social Committee (Michael Butts & Nargis Khokhar)
 - Underwood Committee (Nate Hinch & Amelia Buragas)
 - YLD Committee (Kyle Korkus & Chase Molchin)
- VII. Treasurer's Report (Nathan Ihnes)
- VIII. Remarks Outgoing President (Joseph Foley)
- IX. Remarks Incoming President (George Wood)
- X. Adjournment

MCLEAN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 18, 2019
Bloomington Country Club, Bloomington IL 12:00 p.m

I. Welcome and Call to Order – Called to Order by Joseph Foley at 12.16 p.m.

II. Memorial Resolution for

- Steve Williams – presented by Hon. Paul Lawrence, motion by Michael Butts, seconded by Alan Sternberg
- Deborah Moore – presented by Bob Lenz, motion by Don Pioletti, seconded by Brendan Bukalski
- Melissa McGrath – presented by Terry Kelly, motion by Katy Kraft, seconded by Michael Butts
- Joe Ambrose – presented by Dawn Wall, motion by Joe Foley, seconded by Brenden Bukalski
- Ralph Turner – presented by Darrell Hartweg, motion by George Wood, seconded by Michael Butts
- Richard Dunn – introduction by son David S. Dunn, presented by Justice Knecht, motion by Justice Knecht, seconded by Helen Ogar

II. Approval of 2018 Annual Minutes – Motion by Alan Sternberg, seconded by Nate Hinch to waive reading and approve the minutes. Motion carried.

III. Young Lawyer of the Year Award presented to Jessica Jones by Tristan Bullington.

V. Nominations Committee Report/ Open Board Positions report given by Katy Kraft. Slate of candidates submitted for approval are:

President: Joseph Foley
First Vice President: Gorge Wood
Second Vice President: Julia Davis
Secretary: Rachel Brandt
Treasurer: Nathan Ihnes
Board of Governors: John L. Pratt

Motion by Gina Wood, seconded by Nate Hinch to approve slate of candidates by nomination committee. No other candidates submitted for election. Motion carries.

VI. Committee Reports: included with agenda packet for annual meeting were Bench-Bar Committee, By Laws Committee, CLE, Consumer Law, Corporate Counsel, Criminal Law, Family Law, History/Memorials, Law Day, Lawyers in the Classroom, Mock Trial, Pro Bono, Real Estate, Scholarship, Social, Underwood, YLD. No motions

VII. Treasure’s Report presented by Laurel Bingaman. No motion.

IX. Remarks outgoing President by Honorable Paul Lawrence.

X. Remarks by Incoming President Honorable Joe Foley.

XI. Adjournment to meeting – Motion by Hon. Paul Lawrence, seconded by Laurel Bingaman.
Meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

NOTICE

Pursuant to §9.2(a) of Article IX of the By-Laws of the McLean County Bar Association, the following have been slated as nominees for the below-named offices of the McLean County Bar Association for the 2020-2021 term:

President:	George C. Wood
First Vice-President:	Julia Davis
Second Vice President:	Kathleen M. Kraft
Secretary:	Jenna Finegan
Member, Board of Governors Term Expiring 2024	Peter Brandt

The above-named nominees will be formally placed in nomination at the **annual meeting** of the Association on **July 14, 2020, at noon** via Zoom.

All members should plan to attend and cast their ballots as aforesaid.

All members are further notified that pursuant to §9.2(b) of Article IX of the McLean County Bar Association By-Laws, not less than ten **members may nominate other candidates** for any office or offices described above. Such nominations shall be in writing, signed by the nominators, and shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association not less than fifteen days preceding the date of the annual meeting as aforesaid.

Dated this 1st day of July 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Nominating Committee of McLean County Bar Association

Alan L. Sternberg, Co-Chair

Kathleen M. Kraft, Co-Chair

Julia Davis

Tom Hundman

Angela Skinner

2020 Annual Committee Reports

Bench-Bar Committee

Bench/bar relations continue to proceed as expected. No areas of concern have been brought to the committee's attention over the course of the last year.

Paul Lawrence and Todd Miller, Co-Chairs

Bylaws Committee

For the fiscal year just ended, the bylaws committee held no meetings and there is no activity to report.

Hunt Henderson, Committee Chair

Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Committee

The CLE Committee coordinated a number of successful and well-received programs again this year.

The following programs were presented since our 2019 Annual Meeting:

- July 2019 - Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act
- July 2019 - What is Stress? What is Burnout?
- August 2019 - Marijuana Law Update
- September 2019 - Pro Bono Boot Camp
- September 2019 - The 30th Annual Legal Education Seminar
(Co-Sponsored by the Central Illinois Paralegal Association)
- October 2019 – Tax Law Update
- October 2019 - Expungement/Sealing
- October 2019 - Real Estate in Divorce
- November 2019 - Opioid Update Panel
- January 2020 - State of the Circuit
- February 2020 - Financial Mediation
- February 2020 - Recognizing, Understanding and Referring a Colleague in Need
- February 2020 - Veterans Court Overview
- April 2020 - Who's Bias? The Truth About Implicit Bias
- May 2020 - Drug and Recovery Court Overview
- May 2020 - State of the Circuit Update

These programs provided over 1800.5 CLE credit hours to our members, over 198 teaching credit hours, and netted over \$1100.00 in net income to the bar association.

The MCBA continues to be an “Accredited CLE Provider” with the Illinois Supreme Court’s MCLE Board.

The CLE Committee is a very active committee, and has benefited greatly from the hard work and dedication of the committee members, and of MCBA Administrative Assistant, Mary Sellmyer. Many thanks to Mary for her hard work and flexibility in transitioning our CLE formatting to Zoom during the COVID-19 outbreak. We look forward to meeting again in person for our CLE programs when we are safely able to do so. Our thanks also go to Joe Foley, the MCBA Board, and the other committees of the bar association who support our efforts and contribute valuable programming.

Emily Petri is stepping down as Chair of the committee, and Todd Miller will be stepping into that role. We look forward to the year ahead, and plan to continue with monthly CLE programing for the MCBA.

*Todd Miller, Committee Chair
Emily Petri, Former Committee Chair*

Consumer Law Committee

There have been no meetings. I will assist in Consumer Law going forward but will not chair. Jeff Lindsay and Jeff Crabill would be good co-chairs for our esteemed incoming president.

Respectfully submitted, Daniel G. Deneen, Chairman

Corporate Counsel Committee

There was no activity within this committee during this year.

Criminal Law Committee

The Criminal Law Committee has been largely inactive in the past year. Efforts to schedule multiple meetings of the Committee were ineffective, and the Committee has not been active at all in the spring of 2020. A number of initiatives are ripe for progress once the Committee resumes activity, including CLE opportunities, discussions of recent changes in criminal law, procedural changes at the courthouse, and the like.

Committee Co-Chairs, Scott Kording and Jason Chambers

Family Law Committee

The Family Law Committee is currently in the process of rescheduling the 2020 Guardian Ad Litem Conference from the Fall of 2020 to the Spring of 2021. The committee has tentatively agreed to April 21st and 22nd of 2021. The decision to move the Conference was a hard one. However, due to the many unknowns related to Covid-19 and the possibility of government ordered limitations to the size of gatherings, the majority of the committee determined that moving the Conference to the Fall would be the responsible decision.

Members of the Family Bar are quickly adjusting to the use of Zoom for all status hearings and those temporary relief hearings that can be done by proffer. The entire Family Bar met via Zoom to discuss the logistics of the remote courtroom and holding remote hearings. The overall consensus was that our Circuit is ahead of the game when it comes to conducting and adjusting to remote hearings.

Finally, the entire Family Bar has been emailed a copy of the GAL Referral Form which will be used in a similar fashion to the Mediation Referral Form. This will assist GALs by immediately providing them with the information they will need to begin their investigations in timely fashion.

Michael Fenger, Committee Chair

Foundation Committee

The McLean County Bar Foundation is now official and has received its Articles of Incorporation from the state. The Board held its first meeting on May 28, 2020 and continues to work through key governance issues. The Foundation will receive initial funding from the Bar Association but the goal is to move from making contribution of \$10,000-15,000 in the first couple of years to go well above that in the future. Also, we want to expand the number of legal aid organizations we contribute to and scholarships that we offer to students.

The inaugural Board is as follows:

Ryan Gammelgard - President

Cathy Pratt – Pratt & Pratt - Vice President

Laurel Bingaman – Compeer Financial – Secretary

Nate Inhess – Heartland Bank – Treasurer

George Wood – Hartweg, Turner, Wood

Todd Chapman – State Farm

History Committee

The History Committee archives materials for the McLean County Bar Association in order to protect, preserve, and provide accurate records of historical information for future generations. The History Committee also compiles attorney memorials with the McLean County Circuit Clerk, the McLean County Bar Association, and the History Museum.

As part of its ongoing archival project, the History Committee records lectures, events, and interviews bar members. Lectures and events frequently address historical cases and/or bar history. Interviews are conducted with members of the bar upon retirement or after several decades of practice in order to record their lives, their stories, and their work. These recordings help shed light on the practice of law in McLean County, changes to that practice, and the role individual bar members played in that history. The Committee is also working on making archival footage available through the MCBA website as part of our ongoing mission to provide our history to future generations. The Committee seeks interviewees interested in sharing their careers, backgrounds, cases, and practice in McLean County as well as interesting events that concern the practice of law in McLean County that can be recorded. Please e-mail one of the chairs of the committee if you are interested in being interviewed, or know of someone or some event that could be recorded.

Most recently, we anticipate creating a video for Law Day celebrating women's suffrage in Illinois, which may entail interview sessions, although this may be restricted by coronavirus.

Finally, we are also working on plans for the MCBA's 190th anniversary in 2021.

Thank you to everyone who helped in the last year! Your work helps the History Committee meet our mission, and preserve the history of the McLean County Bar Association, its members, and the practice of law in McLean County!

MCBA History Committee:

Chair: Brendan Bukalski

Co-Chair: Julia Davis

*Memorial Archivist and Coordinator for Annual Meeting: Dan Deneen
Deceased Attorney Funeral Coordinator: Rusty Depew
McLean County History Liason: Robert Porter*

Law Day Committee

Law Day was originally scheduled on Friday May 8, 2020. The theme for this year was a Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment. At the request of President Foley, this Law Day Celebration was going to be different from years past. Bloomington Country Club had been reserved for an evening gala which included speakers, presentations relevant to the 19th Amendment, a nice dinner and a band. The Law Day Committee had been very diligent in preparing for a special evening for the members of the Bar Association.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 required a postponement of the event. The event is currently scheduled for Friday, September 25th again at Bloomington Country Club. The committee is continuing to meet and plan for the event while also closely monitoring the pandemic to ensure the safety of everyone if the event is held.

Respectfully submitted, Casey Costigan and Sarah Duffy Committee Co-Chairs

Lawyers in the Classroom (LITC) Committee

Due to covid we did not do any presentations. We had several scheduled or late March and April. I hope to have a zoom meeting in early August. I am looking for a replacement, if no one volunteers, I will continue as as the chair.

Best regards, Jennifer Patton, Committee Chair

Mock Trial Committee

On Wednesday, February 12, we hosted 20 high schools fielding 26 teams for our annual Regional High School Mock Trial Tournament at the McLean County Law & Justice Center. This group included 304 students and 89 parents and Coaches. They were from the High Schools of: Bartlet, Bloomington, Chicago Christian, CPSA, DeLaSalle, Glenbard South, Maine South, Maine West, Niles West, Normal Community, Normal West, Pittsfield, South College Prep, St. Charles East, St. Charles North, Timothy Christian, Unity Christian Academy and York.

We were fortunate to have 46 MCBA Members, interns and Justice Corps volunteers. Three members of the Circuit Court staff also volunteered their time to escort teams to their rooms and help with set up/tear down of the tournament. Mr. William Scanlin was kind enough to assist with the activities. This year, Mr. Craig Queen presented 'Recognizing, Understanding and Referring a Colleague in Need'. Thirty-four attorneys and volunteers attended the luncheon CLE. The program was provided at no charge as an incentive to the volunteer judges a hour of general CLE credit was approved.

*Matthew Koettters, Committee Chair
Mary Sellmyer, Scribe*

Pro Bono Committee

The McLean County Bar Association has entered into a contract with Prairie State Legal Services agreeing to provide volunteer attorneys to handle overflow pro bono work and in exchange Prairie State has funds available for expenses and costs related to pro bono client representation.

The types of cases referred (in descending order): family law, criminal record expungement/sealing, collection/garnishment, wills and POA's, mobile home/landlord-tenant, adoption, veterans' benefits, mortgage foreclosure/home ownership/other housing, other consumer finance and guardianship.

The McLean County Bar Association has always had a pro bono committee and it has evolved over time from supplying the bulk of pro bono legal services to now assisting with the training and solicitation of local attorneys to handle the overflow from the Prairie State office.

In 2013 we were approached by the Public Interest Law Initiative to develop an 11th circuit judicial pro bono committee to work in coordination with tri-state and land of Lincoln. Members of our local PILI committee are listed web the at: <http://pili.org/pro-bono/judicial-circuit-committees/11thcircuit>

Although circuit wide, the local PILI committee duplicated the function of the McLean County Bar Association pro bono committee as it related to McLean County. It was the general consensus that these 2 committees should be combined and that was done a couple of years ago.

In the last year, the committee has sponsored two (2) Legal Advice Fairs held on April 28, 2019 and October 26, 2019, continued to focus efforts on outreach to Ford, Logan and Woodford Counties and emphasized recruitment and recognition of volunteers. The Committee assisted with CLE programming in September 2019 and December 2019, dealing with Veterans issues and cultural competency. A remote pro bono divorce project subcommittee was formed. On October 22, 2019, a reception was held to commemorate National Pro Bono Week and recognize volunteer lawyers who work to expand access to justice. Justice Rita Garman was the keynote speaker. The committee has also continued to work with PILI as it develops a pro bono referral program in the 101 counties outside of Cook to assist active duty military and veterans, as well as their spouses and dependents, with their civil legal needs through the Illinois Armed Forces Legal Aid Network (IL-AFLAN). Additionally, the Committee is helping to promote a virtual pro bono opportunity, Illinois Free Legal Answers, to help those in need.

Information about a Virtual Pro Bono Opportunity to Help Those in Need

Illinois Free Legal Answers is a virtual legal clinic where low-income Illinoisans can submit a question online to ask a lawyer for help with a civil legal issue. Volunteer lawyers then log onto the site at their convenience and answer questions waiting in the queue that they feel comfortable addressing. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a great way to help those in need from the comfort and safety of your home.

A project of the American Bar Association, Free Legal Answers was created as a national platform to increase access to advice and information about non-criminal legal matters for those who cannot afford legal assistance. It is now active in 42 jurisdictions within the United States, including Illinois, with the Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) as the statewide administrator. Most clients' questions tend to be in one of the big three civil legal aid categories—family, housing and consumer law. However, since the pandemic and resulting shutdown,

now people are also asking about employment and benefits issues. PILI provides the necessary support, including an online resource page with training videos and sample questions and answers. The ABA provides malpractice coverage for volunteer lawyers. You can learn more at www.pili.org/pro-bono/legal-answers or visit the site to register at <http://il.freelegalanswers.org/>.

Carrie Haas, Chairwoman

Real Estate Committee

The Real Estate Committee's mission is to increase the proficiency of the real estate practice for the betterment of the general public and the members of the bar association. The Committee was not very active in 2018 and 2019, but began holding regular meetings again in December 2019. The Committee continues to work with Bloomington Normal Area Realtors (BNAR) in an effort to increase the proficiency of the buying and selling of real estate for the betterment of the general public. The Committee is working with the BNAR for the purpose of improving the one-step contract being used in a majority of transactions in the county and potentially phasing out the two-step process. The Committee is also promoting the use of attorneys in real estate transactions and is planning to host a seminar to help educate realtors and the public about the benefits of being represented in a transaction.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Hundman and Brian Garwood, Committee Co-Chairs

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee intended to meet on April 13, 2020, but that meeting was postponed due to COVID-19. The committee plans to meet virtually later this summer. We will meet again in November 2020 to select the 2020 MCBA Scholarship recipient.

In July 2019, the MCBA Board of Governors approved the committee's request to increase the MCBA Scholarship award from \$1,500 to \$2,500.

We received 9 scholarship applications in 2019. This was a much larger pool of applicants than we had received in prior years. We attribute the increased number of applications to the increased amount of the scholarship, the transition to an online application, help from MCBA members to publicize the scholarship, and marketing support from regional law schools.

We presented the 2019 MCBA Scholarship to Whitney Leifheit at the MCBA Holiday Luncheon. Ms. Leifheit grew up in McLean County. She attended Illinois Wesleyan University for her undergraduate degree and Illinois State University for a post-baccalaureate certificate in Legal Studies. She currently attends Loyola University School of Law. Before going to law school, she worked as a paralegal at Mueller, Reece & Hinch, LLC. Ms. Leifheit resides in Bloomington with her husband and young children. She enjoys volunteering and giving back to her community. She has volunteered with the Immigration Project, Old House Society of McLean County, Eastview Christian Church, and Prairie State Legal Services.

Adrian Barr, Chairman

Social Committee

The Social Committee kicked off the year with a number of community and charitable events, starting with Bruegala, a craft beer festival that takes place in the Corn Crib, where Midwestern brewers annually show case their artisanal brews. Funds were raised by our volunteer bartenders for numerous charities which included Prairie State Legal Services. This fine event was followed by another summertime beer tasting happy hour at Keg Grove Brewery.

Fall activities launched into high gear with a medley of social and nonprofit engagements. In September, MCBA members participated in a St. Jude's Walk. The following month, Bar members clinked wine glasses at The Mystic Kitchen at an after-work happy hour. In November, our inner artists displayed their talents with a paint night at Merlot & A Masterpiece, a local art studio.

In the winter, a number of downtown firms were visited by the elves who distributed candy canes and kicked off a charitable drive benefiting Children's Home & Aid. Local lawyers purchased tickets to support this charity at the Annual Holiday luncheon at the Bloomington Country Club, and the Annual Holiday Party at Medici.

In January, Bar members exhibited a notable presence at the McLean County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Gala at the Doubletree Hotel & Conference Center, as numerous firms and attorneys were in attendance this year. The following month, MCBA families stayed connected at a fun, kid-friendly, indoor rock climbing event at the Proving Ground.

The emergence of COVID-19 halted social activities including a St. Patrick's happy hour in March at Reality Bites, an April wine tasting and tour at Mackinaw Valley Vineyards, and a spring clothing drive benefiting Center for Hope.

The Social Committee pivoted and regrouped during Phase One to reconnect Bar members via social media. A private Facebook group was established in March to post rapid updates of the ever-changing protocols at the Law & Justice Center, facilitate referrals, and create a platform for digital engagement. Members have been posting news and humor, and have participated in a virtual happy hour over Zoom. Our online group now has 92 members with new attorneys joining each week. We hope to continue administering this page as a venue for timely information and announcements.

Additionally, the a portion of funds allocated to the 2019-2020 Social Committee budget were redirected to pay for meals for frontline healthcare providers at OSF Medical Center and Advocate Bromenn Medical Center.

The MCBA Social Committee would like to thank all participants for joining us at all our events over the past year. We hope to be able to provide safe and enjoyable programming once we enter Phase Five. Please contact the Social Chairs if you are interested in planning activities for next year. We would love to host activities outdoors, focusing on health and wellness, as we continue overcoming the challenges of social distancing to remain connected.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you this year.

Nargis Khokhar and Michael Butts, Co-Chairs

Abridged summary: Hey things were actually going really good with great attendance and then...COVID -Mike & Nargis

Underwood Committee

The Underwood Committee is tasked with fostering professionalism within the bar association. This includes coordinating a CLE luncheon or extended program twice per year – one in the fall and one in the spring, working with the CLE committee, and particularly seeking to provide opportunities for MCBA members to obtain professionalism credit hours. As a reminder, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 794 now specifically requires professionalism credit in the areas of (1) mental health and substance abuse and (2) diversity and inclusion. For this reason, the Underwood Committee programs prioritize providing continuing education in these areas, as well as general professionalism. This past year the Underwood Committee programs were as follows:

November 2019 – We hosted an “Opioid Update” program as to the current status of the opioid issue locally. This program was approved for general professionalism CLE credit.

We would also note and thank the CLE Committee and member Craig Queen, who presented the LAP program “Recognizing, Understanding, and Referring a Colleague in Need” in February 2020; this program was approved for mental health and substance abuse professionalism credit.

April 2020 –Latasha Barnes joined us and presented “Who’s Bias?” on the topic of implicit bias. This program was approved for diversity and inclusion professionalism credit.

The Underwood Committee also seeks to maintain the “Principles of Professionalism” adopted by the MCBA in 2009 and encourages MCBA members to continue to strive to meet that aspirational statement.

Many thanks to all the committee members who served this past year, and to Mary Sellmyer for her assistance.

Nate Hinch and Amelia Buragas, Co-Chairs

Young Lawyers Division

There was not a report available.

The Financial Statement is in a separate document.