

The Advocate

Polk County Bar Association

April/May 2023

Upcoming Events

April 11: [PCBA Monthly Luncheon](#)

April 12: [Bench & Bar CLE](#)

May 5: [Spring General Practice CLE](#)

May 9: [Annual Meeting and Luncheon](#)

June 9: [Bench & Bar Golf Outing](#)

New Member Spotlight

Seamus Taylor



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From the President

PCBA President
Adam Zenor



**A Moment to
Recognize our
Committees, their
Work, and the
Volunteers that
Make it Possible**

“It is not more
bigness that should be our goal. We must
attempt, rather, to bring people back to the
warmth of community, to the worth of
individual effort and responsibility, and of
individuals working together as a
community, to better their lives and their
children’s future.” – *Robert F. Kennedy*

On behalf of the PCBA, I would like to take
this opportunity to thank our committee
chairs and our current committee members.
Their work has been exceptionally
meaningful this year, and their work is all
the more remarkable given the efforts are
volunteered by jurists with full dockets and
lawyers with full caseloads. Volunteerism
generally and as to the PCBA specifically is
so important for not only the substantive
benefits it provides, but also for the
procedural benefits, that is, the
collaborative process of working toward a
worthy cause

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Supreme Court mid-term review is topic of April luncheon

Join us for our next monthly luncheon on **Tuesday, April 11**, from noon to p.m., at the ISBA CLE Center. Spencer Cady and Matthew McGuire from Nyemaster Goode, P.C., will provide a mid-term review of the 2022-2023 Iowa Supreme Court. This event, which has been approved for one hour CLE credit, will be held in-person only. The cost is \$25 for the lunch per person (luncheon tickets reserved in advance must be paid for unless cancelled before noon on Friday prior to the event). [Register here.](#)

Save the date for our Annual Meeting and luncheon

Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, May 9**, and plan to join us for the PCBA annual meeting and monthly luncheon. This event will be held in-person only from noon to 1 p.m. at the Embassy Club in Des Moines. Jerry Anderson, Dean of the Drake University Law School and the Richard M. and Anita Calkins Distinguished Professor of Law, is our featured speaker. His topic will be “Cady Day of Service: A Call to Action.” Following the presentation, attendees will hear reports, elect new PCBA leaders, and take action on business items. The luncheon cost is \$25/per person. We anticipate approval for one hour of Iowa CLE credit. [Click here to register.](#)



Want to sponsor a winning Law Day student?

The winners of the annual PCBA Law Day competition for grades K-12 will be recognized at a luncheon and awards ceremony at the Iowa Judicial Branch Building on May 1. For just \$100, you or your firm can generate goodwill for the legal profession by sponsoring a student winner at this exciting event.

Sponsors or their designee may present a student with their award during the ceremony in the courtroom of the Iowa Supreme Court, which includes special guest speakers this year from the Iowa Legislature. Additionally, sponsors will be recognized in the written program and receive a photograph with their sponsored student. Sponsors are also welcome to network with students during a casual reception in the Light Court before and after the awards ceremony.

To sponsor a student, just [complete this form](#) and return it, along with your check, before April 20. If you have questions or need more information, email the committee co-chairs [Laura Lockwood](#) (phone 515-282-7800, or [Sarah Jennings](#) (Phone 515-984-0776.) For details about this year's Law Day competition, [click here](#).

Don't miss these upcoming events

Business Court Update CLE - April 12. Learn what is new at the Business Court and how the Business Court works from our presenters: District Court Judges Sarah Crane, Lawrence McLellan, and David Nelmark along with attorneys Mollie Pawlosky from the Dickinson Law Firm and Kevin Driscoll from the Finley Law Firm. This Bench & Bar Committee CLE is approved for one hour CLE credit and is being offered in-person from noon to 1 p.m. at the ISBA CLE Conference Center and via zoom. [Register here](#). A light lunch will be served for in-person attendees. Please email [Sonja Diener](#) if you have dietary restrictions.

Spring General Practice CLE - May 5. This event promises to offer a little something for everyone with a wide variety of sessions being planned. The in-person event will be held at the ISBA Conference Center in Des Moines from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We anticipate approval for 7.5 hours of CLE credit, including 1 hour of Ethics and 1 hour of either Diversity or Wellness credit. [Click here to register.](#)

Annual Bench & Golf Outing to Benefit the PCBA Volunteer Lawyers Project - June 9. This year's event will be held at the Bright Grandview Golf Course in Des Moines. Register by April 30 and pay the early bird discounted rate of only \$115 per person, which includes green fees, cart, brown bag lunch. For complete details and sponsorship information, [click here](#).

Is your Courts Phone Chart up to date?

The Polk County Courts phone chart has been updated and we have it available for PCBA members. You can have courtroom assignments, phone numbers, and court attendant and court reporter contacts for each judge at your fingertips just [by clicking here](#) and downloading the chart. *Member log in is required.*

Check out the latest job postings

Iowa Center for Children's Justice (ICCJ), a nonprofit organization assisting children in custody disputes through child-focused education and legal services, is seeking a Staff Attorney.

In addition, there is a District Judge vacancy in Polk County due to the resignation of District Judge William P. Kelly as a result of his appointment to the United States District Court bench. The deadline for submitting applications is May 16 at 4 p.m. Get details for both of these positions [here](#). *Member login required.*

Let us know if your firm has a job vacancy and we will post it free of charge. Just contact [Sonja Diener](#).

On the Move

Stephen Humke has joined Miller, Zimmerman & Evans, PLC as its newest partner. Stephen has been practicing law for 10 years. He focuses on assisting clients with family law issues.

Emily Duffy has joined Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. as an Associate Attorney in the Government Law Practice Area. She works with cities, counties, and other public entities in addressing all legal aspects of their operations, including litigation. She also counsels clients regarding procurement and bidding matters, public records, land use and zoning, and general municipal law. A native of Des Moines, Emily graduated from Drake Law School with highest honors.



Brett Nitzschke has joined the Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. as Special Counsel. Brett focuses his practice on K-12 school districts as a member of the firm's Education Law Practice Area. He provides daily counsel and advice and assists clients with general counsel on a variety of issues related to both employment and student issues, and other matters facing Iowa public employers. He has experience representing school districts in collective bargaining and employment litigation. He graduated from the University of Iowa Law School.



Emily Ellingson has joined the Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. law firm as Special Counsel. As a member of the firm's Education Law Practice Area, she focuses her practice on K-12 school districts and Higher Education entities in Iowa, and she assists clients with general counsel on a variety of issues related to both employment and student issues. Emily also works with school districts in collective bargaining and handling grievances and arbitrations as well as general employment litigation. She graduated from the University of Iowa Law School, and prior to joining Ahlers & Cooney, she practiced for many years in the areas of Education and Public Law with a Cedar Rapids law firm.



Kudos

Bradshaw Law attorney and shareholder **Blake Hanson** is a member of

Cassie J. Edgar, McKee, Voorhees & Sease Partner, Patent

the 2023 *Des Moines Business Record* 40 Under Forty class. The award recognizes young professionals for their commitment to career and to community. In 2021, Blake was recognized as one of the top 40 young lawyers in the nation by the American Bar Association (ABA) as a recipient of the "On the Rise" Top 40 Young Lawyers Award. He has also been recognized with the Rising Star Award from both the Iowa Defense Counsel Association and the Iowa Democratic Party. Blake earned his law degree, with honors, from Drake University Law School.



Attorney, and Chair of the Regulatory Law Practice Group and Co-Chair of the Data Privacy and Cybersecurity Practice Group, has been appointed Vice President of the FIN Capital Investor Association. FIN Capital Investor Association is an organization that funds startups across agriculture, medicine, and technology that are changing the world. Cassie is a scientist and an attorney, with both corporate and private practice experience.



Tracy Eaton and **Amy Davis** have been named partners at Miller, Zimmerman & Evans, PLC. They both represent clients in family and juvenile matters.

In addition, Miller, Zimmerman & Evans, PLC received the Above & Beyond award from the Fuse DSM Chamber at its annual Dinner on March 2, 2023. The award recognizes the firm's contribution to the Chamber. **Donna Miller** is also a member of Fuse DSM's board of directors.

Polk County Bar Association

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