

The Advocate

Polk County Bar Association

December/January 2023

Upcoming Events

Jan. 10 – PCBA Luncheon

Jan. 17 – Bench & Bar CLE

Feb. 3 – Bench & Bar CLE

Feb. 14 – Bench & Bar Luncheon

Member Spotlight

Elizabeth Heffernan



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From the President

PCBA President

Adam Zenor



Happy holidays!

Each of us at the Polk County Bar Association hopes this finds you and yours in good health and good spirits this season.

As we reflect on the year, there is much we, as the Polk County Bar Association, have to be thankful for and celebrate. Here are five examples:

The Historic Polk County Courthouse.

That the renovation project at the Polk County Courthouse is complete has been cause for celebration. The renovation not only highlights the building's original grandeur, it also allows for safe and efficient justice in Polk County. The ribbon cutting ceremony in June allowed us to recognize those who contributed to the project—including the former Chief District Court Judge for Polk County Arthur Gamble, who worked for many years to see this important project to fruition, and the countless others who sacrificed for the project. It reflects the utmost respect we in Polk County hold for the law and justice.

Join us as our monthly luncheons resume in January

Come ring in the new year with us on Jan. 10 from noon to 1 p.m. as our monthly luncheons resume for 2023. The event will be offered in-person at the ISBA CLE Center, 625 E Court Ave., 2nd Floor, in Des Moines, or online via Zoom.

The topic is “Tribal Customary Adoption in Iowa,” and the presenters include Roz Koob from the Heidman Law Firm, PLLC, in Sioux City; Diane Murphy Smith, assistant attorney general representing the Iowa Dept. of Health and Human Services; and Alexis Zendejas, ICWA and Children & Family Services attorney for the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska

To register for the in-person luncheon, send an email to sdiener@pcbaonline.org. The cost is \$25 per person for the lunch. Register for the zoom meeting by [clicking here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Approval is pending for 1 hour CLE credit.

Don't miss these upcoming Bench & Bar Committee CLEs

Tuesday, Jan. 17, from noon to 1 p.m. – Developments in Administrative Law .

Presenters include Hon. Denise Timmons, Chief Administrative Law Judge; and Hon. Dave Lindgren, Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge. The event will be held in person at the ISBA CLE Center (625 E. Court Ave., in Des Moines) or via Zoom, and it has been approved for one hour of CLE credit. To attend in person, send an email to [Sonja Diener](mailto:Sonja.Diener@pcbaonline.org). To attend via Zoom, register [here](#).

Friday, Feb. 3, from noon to 1 p.m. – Update on the implementation of recent changes to Iowa Code Chapter 232.

Featured speakers are Chief Justice Susan Christensen from the Iowa Supreme Court and Iowa HHS Director Kelly K. Garcia. This event has been approved for one hour CLE credit. This event is offered via Zoom only. Register by clicking [here](#).

Support the VLP and get a tax deduction

As 2022 draws to a close, don't forget that you can make a tax-deductible contribution to the PCBA Volunteer Lawyers Project. The PCBA VLP is a charitable organization established with the mission of providing legal services to low-income residents of Polk County. With your help, PCBA VLP is one of the most successful volunteer lawyer programs in the country, with Polk County lawyers donating approximately 5,000 hours of their time annually. Unfortunately, demand for PCBA VLP services has never been higher while our funding continues to decline.

It's never been easier to donate. The PCBA VLP now offers you the ability to make donations on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis via check or credit card. Get more information and the donation form [here](#).

It's time to renew your membership

One of the best things you can do for your career is to belong to the Polk County Bar Association. Your PCBA membership entitles you to FREE CLE seminars to sharpen your skills, monthly luncheons to explore current issues, networking opportunities, news and information you can't get anywhere else, discounts on programs and services, and much, much more. [Click here](#) to learn more and to download the enrollment form. And don't forget that you or your firm can use a credit card or send us a check to pay your dues.

Save the date for our Feb. 14 luncheon

You won't want to miss our Annual Bench Bar Luncheon on Tuesday, February 14, at noon. Judge Sarah Crane from the Fifth Judicial District and Judge Stephen Locher from the United States District Court, Southern District of Iowa, will discuss Wellness and Civility. Balancing work and life. Watch for more details as they become available. Approval for one hour Wellness CLE credit is pending.

Help spread the word about Law Day 2023

The Polk County Bar Association gives Polk County area students a chance to get creative with the law as part of our annual Law Day celebration. The Law Day theme for 2022 is *Cornerstones of Democracy – Civics, Civility, and Collaboration*. Students in grades K through 12 can express their thoughts on this theme through poetry, essays, posters, visual arts, performing arts, technology, and coloring.



The PCBA Law Day committee has distributed the competition materials to our educator contacts, but we want to encourage participation from as many schools and students as possible. Please encourage any teachers or students you know to get involved. Get the materials [here](#).

Trivia teams compete for a good cause

A great time was once again had by all as PCBA members gathered on Nov. 15 to take part in the latest Trivia Challenge Night to benefit the PCBA Volunteer Lawyers Project. Teams of players showed off their knowledge of all things trivial while the host, Trivia Mafia, kept the event moving and the participants entertained for the evening.



Team “No It Alls” took home the winning trophy. Members of that team were: Judge David Nelmark and Maria Nelmark, Steve and Dawn Eckley, Jonathan Causey and Yang Ye, Zach Hecht, and Greg Eckley. Following close behind in second place was Team “Ipse Dixiters” from Whitfield & Eddy Law. Other teams taking part were “What Happened to Benson?” from Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, and “East Village People” from Fredrikson & Byron PA.

Fall CLE materials are posted online

PCBA members gathered in person and virtually last month to network and stay on top of their profession at the Nov. 10 General Practice CLE seminar. The event provided a full day of thought-provoking presentations covering a wide array of topics pertinent to the practice of law in Iowa. The program, which was offered FREE to members, was approved for 7.5 hours of CLE credit, including one hour Ethics & one hour Wellness credit. Download the materials [here](#). Member login required.

Do you have the new Courts Phone Chart?

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.**

On the move

Attorney **L. Lars Hulsebus** has joined Dickinson, Mackaman, Tyler & Hagen P.C. as Of Counsel. His practice is focused on a wide

Sam McMichael recently joined Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. as an associate attorney in the Litigation Practice Group for both public law and

array of litigation and trial law. Lars brings nearly ten years of experience with him, having handled a wide array of litigation cases in state and federal court. He also has experience in arbitrations and mediations, including before JAMS, the world's largest private alternative dispute resolutions provider, and FINRA. Before joining Dickinson Law, Lars practiced litigation in New York, first at the international firm Willkie Farr and Gallagher LLP, and then at litigation boutique Dewey Pegno & Kramarsky LLP. He attended Georgetown University Law Center where he obtained his J.D. Prior to law school, he spent four years as a reporter for The Des Moines Register.



private law clients, with a focus on employment law and construction law. In his practice, Sam works on a variety of issues, including employment discrimination, FMLA violations, wrongful termination, retaliation, unemployment claims, and wage and payment matters. In addition, Sam conducts internal investigations for a variety of employment-related matters. He graduated with Highest Honors from Drake University Law School.



Parker Howe has joined Whitfield & Eddy Law as an associate attorney in the firm's litigation practice group. He works with clients in business and banking, construction, insurance, labor and employment, and transportation matters. Parker received his J.D. from the Drake University College of Law in 2022 with high honors..



Attorney **Nicholas F. Miller** has joined Fredrikson & Byron in its Intellectual Property Litigation, Litigation and Appellate Groups. Nicholas represents clients in trademark, patent, copyright, and complex commercial disputes in state and federal court, as well as the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. Before beginning his practice, Miller served two federal judicial clerkships, one with Judge Laurie Smith Camp of the U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska and one with Judge L. Steven Grasz of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

Brendan P. McGuire has joined the Bradshaw, Fowler, Proctor & Fairgrave (Bradshaw Law) law firm as an associate in the Firm's litigation and trial law practice group. Brendan earned his J.D. in 2022 from the University of Iowa College of Law. He graduated in 2019 from the University of Iowa, earning a BBA in Management and Organization.



Megan E. Happe has joined Bradshaw Law as an associate in the Firm's litigation practice group. Megan earned her J.D. in 2022 from the Drake University Law School with high honors. While studying at Drake Law, she was Managing Editor of the Drake Law Review, a Student Attorney in the General Civil Clinic, and earned a Constitutional Law and Civil Rights Certificate.

T Ivan Kling has joined the Bradshaw, Fowler, Proctor & Fairgrave law firm as an associate in the corporate law practice group. He concentrates on real estate law, business



Eve P. Durand has joined the Des Moines office of Fredrikson and Byron as an associate in the Patents Group. Eve has experience navigating global patent portfolios

and corporate law, and wills, trusts, estate planning and probate law. T Ivan earned his J.D. in 2019 from the Drake University Law School. He graduated from the University of Iowa in 2006.

encompassing a variety of technologies. Her engineering background and business-focused approach allows her to understand emerging technologies and inventions, as well as counsel clients to safeguard their intellectual property.

Attorney **Claire H. Padgett** has joined Fredrikson & Byron's Energy Group. Claire assists clients in the development and sale of renewable energy projects. She is detail-oriented and thorough in her approach to helping clients acquire, develop, finance and sell renewable energy projects. Padgett primarily focuses on the commercial real estate matters surrounding these transactions and projects. Claire is licensed to practice in Nebraska—her Iowa license is pending..



Kudos

Jeff Jeffries has been recognized as a 50-Year Member of the Iowa State Bar Association. He joined Hopkins & Huebner, P.C. in 1968 as a Law Clerk



where he tried a dozen jury trials in the Des Moines Municipal Court before several municipal judges, including Ray Harrison and C. Edwin Moore. He was admitted to the Iowa Bar in 1970 and has been with Hopkins & Huebner ever since.

Luke T. Mohrhauser has been elected to be the next Managing Member of McKee, Voorhees & Sease, PLC., succeeding Heidi S. Nebel. Luke is the Chair of MVS's Mechanical and Electrical Practice Group and has extensive



experience for prosecuting patent applications in the U.S. and Worldwide. He oversees the Firm's U.S. Patent Filing Department, staying abreast to any changes and updates to patent law, both in the U.S. and internationally.

Hopkins & Huebner, P.C. has been named among the "Best Law Firms" by U.S. News - Best Lawyers® for 2023. The firm received 12 Metropolitan rankings, including five "Tier 1" rankings in Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law, Insurance Law, Mediation, and Workers' Compensation Law for both claimants and employers. [Read more.](#)

Dickinson, Mackaman, Tyler & Hagen P.C. has been ranked by U.S. News - Best Lawyers for 2023 as a "Best Law Firm" in 20 practice areas. [Get full details.](#)

Fredrikson & Byron has been named a Tier 1 Metropolitan "Best Law Firm" in Des Moines in three practice areas by U.S. News – Best Lawyers® in 2023: Closely Held Companies and Family Businesses Law; Employment Law – Management; and Litigation - Labor & Employment.

International law firm **Dorsey & Whitney LLP** has announced that eight of its practices in its Des Moines office were ranked regionally in the 2023 U.S. News – Best Lawyers® "Best Law Firms" rankings, a collaboration between Best Lawyers and U.S. News & World Report. [Read more.](#)

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