

The Advocate

Polk County Bar Association

February/March 2023

Upcoming Events

Feb. 14 – [Bench & Bar Luncheon](#)
Feb. 21 – [Free Community Event](#)
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March 23 – [Social to Benefit PCBA VLP](#)
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Member Spotlight

Blake Hanson



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From the President

PCBA President
Adam Zenor



Our Polk County Bar Association is proud to share our new website, which went live on January 3. To appreciate improvements in the new website, I would invite you to visit it yourself by clicking [here](#).

As you see, the interface is refreshed and intuitive. That interface allows for our members to navigate to their desired information with ease. Our members are also able to see our full calendar and register for events nearly instantly. It also allows our members to garner exclusive member content, including judicial announcements and CLE materials. It also facilitates VLP assignments. We believe the website enhances our mission. I would like to specifically thank the website committee and its co-chairs, Joe Moser and Stacey Warren. This was no easy task. Their efforts could not be more appreciated. In short, we could not be more pleased with the website and hope you enjoy it too.

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Work-life balance is focus of February Bench Bar Luncheon

You don't want to miss our Annual Bench Bar Luncheon on Tuesday, February 14, from noon to 1 p.m. 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*. The event will be held at the Des Moines Embassy Club, 7th & Grand Ave., 34th Floor, in Des Moines. On the menu is a buffet of chef's choice. Gluten free and vegetarian options will be available. The cost is \$25 per person. Approved for one hour Wellness CLE credit. [Register here](#).

Celebrate Black History Month at our free community event

The Iowa State Bar Association and Polk County Bar Association are co-sponsoring a free, virtual People's Law School event in commemoration of Black History Month that will explore the many ways that the Fourteenth Amendment has reshaped American law and society. This event will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 21, from 12 - 1 p.m. The program theme is *Second Founding - Commemorating 155 years of the 14th Amendment and its Legacy* and it will focus on court decisions and laws impacting African Americans.

The following presenters will review and describe the three main clauses of the 14th Amendment: Citizenship; Due Process; Equal Protection; and a few of the landmark court decisions and legislation flowing from this far-reaching Constitutional Amendment: Hon. Henry Hamilton III, ISBA President and federal administrative law judge; Emily Chafa, ISBA Diversity & Inclusiveness Committee Chair; and Timothy Gartin, ISBA Real Estate and Title Law Section Chair.

Please register for this meeting [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Mark your calendar for our March luncheon

Plan to join us on March 14, from noon to 1 p.m. for our in-person only PCBA monthly luncheon at the ISBA Conference Room. Our speaker is Samantha Wagner, staff attorney at Iowa Legal Aid's Community Economic Development Project, and her topic is "Normalizing failure & building resilience: Keys to a sustainable career." The cost for lunch is \$25/per person. Please register for this event [here](#). We anticipate approval of one hour CLE credit



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. And thanks to our new website, it's never been easier to join. [Click here](#) to learn more and to join online.

PCBA CLE information is now all in one place

Annual CLE Reports are due by March 10. Log in [here](#) to file your report. If you have questions or need assistance, please call the Office of Professional Regulation at 515-348-4670.

To help make your reporting easier, we've posted a list of information regarding all the PCBA-sponsored CLE opportunities for 2022 on our website. The list includes CLE titles, dates, diversity, ethics, and wellness credit information as well as the activity numbers. Download your copy [here](#). *Member login required.*

Play golf and watch men's basketball with us!

Join us on Thursday, March 23, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., to watch the NCAA Men's Basketball tournament and brush up on your golf game while benefiting the PCBA Volunteer Lawyers Project. We will gather at Range Restaurant + Cocktail bar where all six of their golf simulators will be available to us. The cost is \$40 per person. Complimentary light hors

d'oeuvres and a free drink ticket will be provided. Bring your registration confirmation to claim your free beer, wine, or soft drink. Please register [here](#).

Save the date for our Spring General Practice CLE

The PCBA Spring General Practice CLE will be held on Friday, May 5. You may participate either in person at the ISBA CLE Center or via zoom. The event, which will run from 8 a.m. 5 p.m., is free for current PCBA members. An optional lunch will be provided at a cost of \$10 per person. We anticipate it will qualify for 7.5 hours of CLE credit, including 1 hour of Ethics and 1 hour of either Diversity or Wellness credit. Register for in-person attendance [here](#). Register to attend via Zoom [here](#).

Want to become a PCBA leader?

A Nominating Committee has been appointed consisting of the following immediate past presidents of the Polk County Bar Association: Chairperson Debra Hockett-Clark, Nicholas Cooper, Donna Miller, Hon. David Nelmark, William Miller, and Bridget Penick. The Committee will provide nominations for the officers of the Association (president-elect, vice president, secretary and treasurer), the Board of Directors, and representatives to the Board of Governors of the Iowa State Bar Association. The Committee may also determine recipients of the Polk County Bar Association Award of Merit for any members who have made outstanding contributions to the Polk County Bar Association.

Any member may submit suggestions for the Committee's consideration to Debra Hockett-Clark, Polk County Bar Association, 625 E. Court Avenue, Suite 100, Des Moines, IA 50309. Members may also contact Debra by telephone 515-247-9293 or email at debra@hockett-clarklawfirm.com. Please submit your suggestions to the Committee by March 31. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting of Members on May 9, 2023.

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.*

April Luncheon to focus on Iowa Supreme Court activity

Come hear Attorneys Spencer Cady and Matthew McGuire from Nyemaster Goode, PC. provide a mid-term review of the Iowa Supreme Court actions at our April 11 in-person only luncheon. The event will be held at the ISBA Conference Center from noon to 1 p.m. from noon to 1 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person. We anticipate approval of one hour CLE credit. Please register [here](#).

Law Day competition deadline is fast approaching

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 2023 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. Please encourage any teachers or students who might be interested to get involved. The deadline for entries is March 27. Get the competition materials [here](#).



Leah Patton has recently opened her own practice, Patton Legal Services, LLC. The firm provides affordable legal services, passionate representation, and access to justice. The firm provides affordable legal services to low-income and moderate-income central Iowans in Boone, Greene, Hamilton, Marshall, Polk, and Story Counties. It focuses on criminal law, juvenile law, family law, postconviction relief, and administrative law cases, appeals, powers of attorney, living wills, and wills. The firm utilizes a sliding fee scale based on income, flat fees in selected cases, and limited scope services. Leah is a 2005 graduate of Drake University Law School.

Kudos

Heidi S. Nebel, McKee, Voorhees & Sease Managing Partner and Chair of the MVS Chemical and Biotechnology Practice Group, has been named Vice Chair of the United States



Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Patent Public Advisory Committee (PPAC). The PPAC was created by statute in the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO on the management of the patent operations.

The Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers has included Bradshaw, Law shareholder **Justin E. LaVan** to its membership. Fellowship in the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers is by invitation only, upon sponsorship and



recommendation from peers and judges and unanimous approval by the Board of Governors. Justin has been a Bradshaw Law shareholder since 2015. He primarily practices Agricultural Law and Business and Commercial Litigation. He earned his law degree, with honors, from Drake University Law School..

Attorney **Tyler Smith** has been named Partner at Peddicord Wharton. Tyler focuses his practice in the areas of workers' compensation, personal injury, and employment litigation. Tyler graduated from Drake Law School



Peter Chalik has been named a member attorney at Whifield & Eddy Law. Peter joined the firm in 2018 as an associate attorney in the business and banking practice group. He



represents financial institutions in commercial litigation including creditors rights and bankruptcy matters. Peter attended the International Association of Defense Counsel Trial Academy. He is the Iowa State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division At-Large Representative and has served as associate co-chair of the business and banking practice group and is active in the strategic planning committee. He is a graduate of the West Des Moines Leadership Academy.

Sean Corpstein has been named a member attorney at Whifield & Eddy Law. Sean joined the firm in 2021 as an attorney in the construction practice group. He also represents



Joshua Feil has been named a member attorney at Whifield & Eddy Law. Joshua joined the firm in 2020 as an associate attorney in the business and banking practice group. He represents



clients in a wide array of civil litigation matters, including representing small businesses and agribusinesses. Sean is a member of the Criminal Justice Act Federal Defender's Panel.

financial institutions in commercial and agricultural loan matters on a weekly basis. Josh also regularly assists businesses in a variety of day-to-day and long-term matters, including business formation, governance, mergers, acquisitions, and sales.

Jessica James Rotole

has been named a member attorney at Whifield & Eddy Law. Jessica joined the firm in 2021 as an attorney in the family law practice group. She has over a decade of active practice in family law matters including divorce, child custody, and modifications. She is active in the West Des Moines Leadership Academy.



Jenna Sabroske has

been elected shareholder at Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. Jenna joined the firm in 2017 as a member of the firm's Public Law Practice Area, after clerking with the firm while she attended Drake Law School. Jenna primarily works with cities and counties throughout the state of Iowa. Jenna's practice centers around assisting cities and counties with economic development, real estate transactions, land use issues such as zoning, annexation, and eminent domain, as well as general municipal matters. Jenna is a frequent speaker on a range of government law topics and is/has been involved with several organizations in the legal profession and community. Jenna graduated from Drake Law School.



Polk County Bar Association

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