

# The Advocate

Polk County Bar Association

June/July 2023

## Upcoming Events

July 20: [Trivia Challenge Night](#)

Aug. 4: [Bench/Bar Committee Mtg](#)

Sept. 12: [PCBA Luncheon](#)

Sept. 28: [Solo Practice/Small Firm Mtg](#)

Dec. 1: [Fall General Practice CLE](#)

## New Member Spotlight

Griffin Scott



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## Your Representatives

[Officers](#)

[Board of Directors](#)

[Board of Governors](#)

## New officers, leaders elected at annual meeting

PCBA members gathered to hear reports, take care of Association business, and elect new officers at the PCBA annual meeting on May 5.



Adam Zenor provided an overview of his busy year as PCBA President and congratulated newly elected [officers](#): Stacie Codr, president; Erin Lain, president-elect; Drew Gentsch, vice president; Joe Moser, treasurer; and Corrin Hatala, secretary. [Click here](#) to get their contact information. We congratulate them and the new [Board of Directors](#) and [Board of Governors](#) members who have also assumed office.

Another highlight of the Annual meeting was the luncheon where Tre Critelli, executive director of Office of Professional Regulation of the Iowa Supreme Court, was the featured speaker. His topic was "Three things which will change the practice of law as we know it."

## Get involved and make a difference

The PCBA's committees work to improve the practice of law, offer legal assistance to those in need, and provide some fun social activities for members. Below are some examples of what just a few of our committees have accomplished in the past year:

- The Bench & Bar Committee fostered improved communication and relationship building between attorneys and judges and sponsored several "Lunch and Learn" CLE opportunities.
- The Family Law Committee served as a liaison between the family law bar and Polk County judges and administration to help resolve the backlog of trials.
- The Small Firm and Solo Practice Committee provided support and information to solo

and small-firm practitioners and sponsored lunch-hour meetings, many of which qualified for CLE credit.

Membership in a PCBA Committee gives you a unique opportunity to get involved and make a difference. To learn more about the work of the committees, read their reports in the PCBA Annual meeting packet [here](#) (member log-in required). And [click here](#) to join a committee.

## Bench and Bar golf outing benefits PCBA VLP

Some 90 players hit the links on a beautiful Friday afternoon on June 9 to support the PCBA Volunteer Lawyers Project at the annual Bench & Bar Golf Outing. The event, which was held at the Bright Grandview Golf Course in Des Moines, raised more than \$25,000 for the cause.

The big winner was the Dentons Davis Brown team of Liz Van Arkel, Maggie Hanson, Riley Coy, and Mike Gilmer. Coming in at second place was the Fredrikson & Byron team of Austin Goodnight, Scott Johnson, Bridget Penick, and Phil Bubb. Taking third place was Nyemaster Goode's team of Eric Tubbs, Mike Joyce, Matt McGuire, and Spencer Cady. And rounding out the winners at fourth place was Carney & Appleby's Katie Raisch, Sean Raisch, Jasper Verhofste, and Danielle Dunne.



Thank you to all of the sponsors, golfers and volunteers for making this another successful event. See [photos of the event here](#).

## We couldn't do it without our great sponsors

The sponsors listed below helped make the 2023 Bench and Bar Golf Outing such a huge success:

**Gold Sponsors:** Ahlers & Cooney, PC; Bradshaw, Fowler, Proctor & Fairgrave, PC; Brick Gentry, PC; BrownWinick Law Firm; Carney & Appleby, PLC; Dentons Davis Brown; Drew Law Firm, PC; Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP; Finley Law Firm, PC; Fredrikson & Byron, PA; Galligan Law, PC; Grefe & Sidney, PLC; Iowa State Bank; LexisNexis; McKee, Voorhees & Sease, PLC; Nyemaster Goode, PC; Shindler, Anderson, Goplerud & Weese, PC; Timmer & Judkins, PLLC; Whitfield & Eddy Law; and Zenor Kuehner.

**Silver Sponsors:** Emily Chafa & Miki McGovern; Dickey, Campbell, Sahag, PLC; Dorsey & Whitney, LLP; Miller, Zimmerman & Evans, PLC; Patterson Law Firm, LLP; The Weinhardt Law Firm; and Wilson, Deege, Despotovich, Riemenschneider & Rittgers, PLC.

**Lunch Sponsor:** Roxanne Conlin & Associates, PC.

## Popular Trivia Challenge Night is back!



Mark your calendar and plan to join us for an evening of food, fun, and challenging trivia questions on Thursday, July 20, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Teams of up to eight people can participate either in-person at the ISBA Conference Center, or virtually. All proceeds will benefit the PCBA Volunteer Lawyers Project. Get details and a reservation form [here](#).

## Have you forgotten something?

One of the best things you can do for your career is to belong to the Polk County Bar Association. If you haven't already done so, this is a friendly reminder that the 2023 dues were due in January for the 2003 calendar year. There are still lots of activities that you can participate in this year as a PCBA Member – fun activities with colleagues like our Trivia Night Challenge on July 20, opportunities to earn CLE credits including our Dec. 1 day-long seminar, our monthly luncheons with an exciting roster of upcoming speakers, and a chance to network with your peers by serving on one of our active committees. It's easy to renew your membership on our new website. Just [click here](#).

## Get the spring CLE seminar materials online

PCBA members gathered in-person and via Zoom on May 5 to network and stay on top of their profession at the Spring general practice seminar. The CLE 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 of Ethics and one hour of Diversity credit. Download the materials [here](#). *Member log in is required.*

## 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.*

## Congratulations to our Law Day competition winners

The 2023 Law Day celebration was held on May 1 at the Judicial Branch building in Des Moines. This year's theme was *Cornerstones of Democracy – Civics, Civility, and Collaboration*. Students around the metro area submitted entries interpreting this theme through poetry, essays, posters, visual arts, performing arts, technology, and coloring. The competition was open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The students, teachers, and parents were provided tours of the Judicial Branch building following the ceremony. Get more details and see the winning entries [here](#).

## Our box office is now open

One of the many benefits of belonging to the PCBA is getting discounted tickets to Civic Center performances. Tickets are now available for the upcoming concert with Tony Award Winner Kelli O'Hara featuring the Des Moines Symphony on Saturday, July 22, at 7:30 p.m. We have four tickets in row J, and two tickets in row K for \$78.50 each.

We also have tickets for the new season of Civic Center shows. All are on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. and they are mostly in rows G, L, M, N. The cost is \$95.66 per ticket for these shows: November 30 – *Girl from the North Country*; December 14 – *The Wiz*; February 8, 2024 – *Company*; and March 14, 2024 – *Funny Girl*. In addition, *Moulin Rouge! The Musical* on August 22, 2023 for \$103.66 per ticket. Contact [Sonja Diener](#) for more information or to purchase tickets.

## On the Move

BrownWinick has added **Christine Long, Abigail Hillers, Stephanie Sarcone**, and

**Ann Spellman** to the firm. These four highly experienced attorneys, combined, bring more than 108 years of experience in estate planning and expertise in hands-on, client-focused service. Each attorney has a strong background in providing comprehensive estate planning services to individuals and families, including wills, trusts and powers of attorney, as well as more complex planning strategies, such as asset protection, business succession planning and charitable giving. They have already brought tremendous value to the clients they serve and will continue to do so in the future.



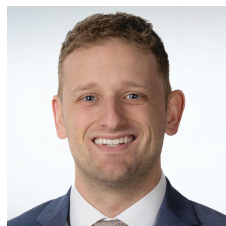
Fredrikson has welcomed attorney **Michael D. Currie** to the Des Moines office. Michael is a senior associate in the Litigation, Commercial Law and Real Estate & Construction groups. He represents clients in a variety of different construction and business-related issues and all stages of litigation. Michael develops case strategy, facilitates mediation and settlement, engages in motion practice and discovery, and tries cases in state and federal courts.



Trusts, Estates, and Wealth Preservation attorney **Jenn A. Randolph** has joined Dentons Davis Brown. Jenn assists clients with matters in trust and estate planning and administration, charitable giving, abstract examinations, and title opinions. Before joining Dentons, Jenn practiced at De Koster & De Koster law firm in Hull, Iowa, where she represented clients in criminal, juvenile, and civil proceedings as well as counseling businesses, drafting legal documents, and various real estate matters. Jenn earned her JD from Drake University Law School with honors in 2019.



Fredrikson has welcomed attorney **Alex C. Rice** to the Firm's Des Moines office. Alex is an associate in the Energy & Natural Resources and Renewable Energy groups. He focuses on the real estate aspect of the development of renewable energy projects where he assists clients with acquirement, development, financing and selling.



**Kayla L. Sproul** has joined Duncan Green, P.C. as an associate attorney. Kayla practices in the areas of estate planning, estate and trust administration, real estate, and business law. Kayla earned her J.D. in 2019 from Drake University Law School, where she graduated with high honors.



Restructuring, Insolvency, and Bankruptcy attorney **Tirzah R. Roussell** has joined Dentons Davis Brown this year. Tirzah represents a broad range of clients including businesses, creditors, trustees, and individuals with reorganizations, insolvency matters, and Chapter 7, 11, 12, and 13 bankruptcies. She works in a variety of industries – healthcare, senior housing, agriculture, manufacturing, construction,



**Steffi Lee Dwyer** has joined Dentons Davis Brown as an associate litigation attorney. Before joining Dentons, Steffi had several internships and clerkships including the Iowa Association of Business and Industry, the Honorable Judge Romonda Belcher, BrownWinick Law Firm, Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office, and Disability Rights Texas. She graduated with high honors from Drake University Law School. Prior to her law career, Steffi was an award-winning journalist. During college, and after she graduated, she worked for Sinclair Broadcast Group, covering the Iowa legislature and both the 2012 and

trucking, retail, and restaurant franchise industries. Tirzah also has experience representing companies in sales and acquisitions outside of bankruptcy. Additionally, she represents clients in creditors' rights and collections. Previously, Tirzah served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Thad J. Collins, Chief Judge for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Iowa. She earned her earned JD from Drake University Law School in 2019.

2016 presidential campaigns and Iowa caucuses. She then served as a state capitol correspondent for over a dozen Texas-based television stations at Nexstar Media Group. There she contributed to regional and national Edward R. Murrow awards for reports on school safety and the U.S.-Mexico border. She plans to focus her law practice on litigation and immigration

Attorney **Nicci M. Ledbetter** has joined Fredrickson's Des Moines office as an associate in the Firm's Energy & Natural Resources, Energy Litigation, Energy Regulation & Permitting, Condemnation & Eminent Domain, Renewable Energy, Litigation and Appellate groups. She represents utilities, independent power producers, and transmission companies with energy and utilities litigation throughout the Midwest before state and federal courts and administrative agencies. Nicci works collaboratively with clients to obtain necessary permits for large infrastructure projects and to resolve disputes relating to local land use issues, tariffs, and property rights..



**Megan Happe** has joined Whitfield & Eddy Law as an associate attorney in the firm's litigation practice group. She works on matters involving commercial litigation, construction litigation, and labor and employment litigation. She has defended corporations, individuals, and insurance companies in areas including products liability, personal injury, corporate law, trust and estate litigation, and workers' compensation. Megan earned her juris doctor with highest honors from Drake University Law School.



## Kudos

**McKee, Voorhees & Sease** has been nominated by the Downtown Des Moines Chamber for Sponsor of the Year. This award recognizes outstanding achievements and contributions made by local organizations, and the nomination serves as a testament to the hard work, dedication, and community involvement that MVS has exhibited.

Chambers and Partners' annual survey, *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business 2023*, has ranked Dorsey & Whitney LLP lawyers **William Miller** and **Kirk Schuler** and Dorsey's practice, Litigation: General Commercial, in Des Moines.

*Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, has named the following Des Moines-based Fredrikson attorneys and one practice area in its 2023 edition: **Krystle Campa**, Real Estate; **Bridget Penick**, Labor & Employment; **Emily Pontius**, Labor & Employment; and **Marc Ward**, Corporate/M&A.

## Polk County Bar Association

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