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NEXT LCBA EVENT: BENCH BAR GALA – JANUARY 24, 2019

All Linn County Bar Association members are cordially invited to attend the LCBA's 2019 Bench-Bar Gala on Thursday, January 24, 2019 from 4:30 –6:30 p.m. at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art.

The Bench-Bar Event will feature:

- A tribute to our 50 year members of the LCBA (John Bickel, Darrell Morf)
- Recognition of our retiring judges (Hon. Denver Dillard, Hon. Susan Flaherty)
- Recognition of the recipient of the LCBA's annual Citizenship Award.

Members are encouraged to arrive starting at 4 pm for complimentary hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer and refreshments served by Winifred's. Museum staff encourages all attendees to take advantage of the free opportunity to visit the Artwork and Exhibits in the museum over the course of our gathering.

Music will be provided throughout the evening once again by Carlis Faurot and Michael Maas.

Please plan to attend this important and fun event! This event is free of charge to all dues-paid LCBA members.

LINN LAW CLUB NEWS

The Linn Law Club would like to thank everyone who volunteered to make the 2018 Annual Linn Law Club Gift Drive a resounding success! We were able to raise \$13,281 and help 124 individuals have a happier holiday season.

Please join the Linn Law Happy Hour at Pig & Porter from 5 to 6:30 pm on January 24! Pig & Porter is located at 1028 3rd St SE Suite #1, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401. Hope to see you there!

For more information on any of the above opportunities or for any questions, please contact Law Club President Crystal Pound at cpound@spmbllaw.com or linnlawboard@gmail.com. Attorneys interested in learning more about Linn Law Club and more upcoming events and opportunities should join the Club's email distribution list by contacting LinnLawBoard@gmail.com.

BENCH BAR AFTER WORK GET-TOGETHER – FEB. 27

Mark your calendars! An informal bench bar get-together will be held on Wednesday, February 27 starting at 5 p.m. at Whitestar Ale House, 305 2nd Ave SE, Cedar Rapids. All courthouse staff and LCBA members are invited!

LOCAL GROUP SEEKING COMMENTS FOR PROPOSED FAMILY LAW MEDIATION RULE CHANGES

The Supreme Court is allowing public comment on the proposed Chapter 15 Rules of Mandatory Mediation in Family Law Cases. The Supreme Court has opened the proposed Rules up for public comment through 4:30 PM on February 24, 2019. Groups of family law attorneys and mediators from around the state are being formed to put together comments and concerns to submit regarding the proposed Chapter 15 Rules. If you would like to be involved in our local group, please contact Chris Crilley at 319-363-5606 or cmm@crilleylaw.com.

MARCH BAR MEETING DATE CHANGED TO MARCH 14

Mark your calendars! The March bar meeting has been moved a week back. Instead of having the meeting on the third Thursday of the month (as is the usual meeting date), the March bar meeting will be **Thursday, March 14**. The meeting location will remain the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art.

NOTICE RE PROPOSED ORDERS

Judge Bruns recently issued the following notice regarding proposed orders:

We are now entering our 5th year of EDMS. When we changed to the EDMS system, the need for a date blank and a signature blank for the judge in proposed orders ended. The EDMS system dates the orders and adds our electronic signature. Additionally, there is no need to include the word "proposed" in the caption for the proposed order. All orders you submit via EMDS are proposed orders. Several of the judges have worked to remind attorneys to take these blanks and the word "proposed" out of their proposed orders. Those efforts have only been partially successful. When doing the administrative rotation in Linn County we are still seeing as many as 20 orders per day that contain one or both of these blanks or the word "proposed" in the caption. In the past most or all of us have revised the orders by taking out the blanks and/or fixing the caption.

I have spoken with Judges Kepros, Anderson, and Thornhill. The four of us will be covering the Linn County Administrative rotation through the end of April. We have all decided we are now going to reject any proposed orders that contain blanks for a signature or date or the word "proposed" in the caption. An order will issue when we reject these orders and it will tell you the order has been rejected. No further action will be taken in the file until a proposed order in the proper form has been submitted. Please pass the word. If you or someone else you know has not yet updated forms to remove these blanks or the word "proposed" from the caption, please do so now.

SIXTH JUDICIAL JUDGE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2019

The Sixth Judicial District has issued the District Court Judge Assignments for 2019. The assignment list is posted on the LCBA website at: <http://www.linncobar.org/wp-content/uploads/DJAssign2019.pdf> A copy is also at the end of this issue of the Scriptum.

LCBA 2018 CLE SUMMARY

The following 2018 LCBA programs have been (or will be) approved for CLE credit:

Iowa Activity ID #	Date of Program	Program Description	Iowa Credit Hours	Ethics Hours
289949	2/15/18	Iowa Supreme Court Case Highlights – Justice Waterman	0.75	0
297024	3/22/18	EDMS and Continuances – Hon. Chris Bruns and Kellee Cortez	.5	0
297025	4/19/18	School Law – Cedar Rapids Community Schools Superintendent Dr. Brad Buck	.5	0
302096	6/21/18	Legislative Update – Sen. Rob Hogg	.5	0
302097	7/12/18	Summer Outing	3.25	1.0
308438	9/20/18	Prof. Todd Pettys – Iowa’s Constitutional History	.5	0
313009	11/15/18	Hon. Susan Christensen – Pro Se Family Law Forms	.5	0
313008	12/13/18	Last Chance Seminar	2.0	2.0

NOTE! Last summer the District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa each adopted an amended Local Rule 83 eliminating the requirement of six hours federal CLE biannually to be able to practice in federal court. Under the amended rule, which is effective immediately, federal CLEs are **NO LONGER REQUIRED**. The only requirements for continuing to practice in ND & SD Iowa are now (1) admission and good standing in the Iowa bar, and (2) payment of an annual fee.

LCBA MEETING CALENDAR

The Linn County Bar Association holds regular monthly meetings on the third Thursday of September – November, February – April and June.

There is no regular monthly meeting during the following months due to other LCBA events scheduled as indicated: January (Bench Bar Event); May (LCBA Day at the Kernels); July (Summer Outing); and December (Last Chance Ethics CLE). There is no monthly meeting in August.

MEDIATION and PARENTING COORDINATOR TRAINING

Crilley Mediation Services will be presenting the following training opportunities in upcoming months.

- 40-Hour Family Law Mediator Training: **April 8-12, 2019**
- 16-Hour Parenting Coordinator Training: **May 2-3, 2019**
- Coaching Emotional Positivity During Mediation & Dispute Resolution: **Date TBA**

Please visit www.CrilleyMediation.com for more information and to download the Registration Form for these trainings. If you have any questions, please call Christine Crilley at (319) 363-5606 or email her at cmm@crilleylaw.com.

NEW MEMBERS

The Linn County Bar Association has no new members to announce this month.

TRANSITIONS



Bradley J. Kaspar has been named a partner in the firm Pickens, Barnes & Abernathy of Cedar Rapids. He has been with the firm since 2014, having earned his J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law earlier the same year. His practice is specialized in civil litigation with an emphasis in insurance defense and personal injury.



Attorney **Paul Morf** has been elected President by the Board of Directors of the Iowa Academy of Trust and Estate Counsel (IATEC). Paul has served as IATEC's Vice President since it was established in 2012. Membership to IATEC is by invitation only and is limited to 250 Iowa attorneys. Paul has been with Simmons Perrine Moyer Bergman PLC since 1998 and has served on its board of directors. For over ten years, he has chaired the firm's Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning, and Probate Law practice group.

If you would like to announce your law firm comings and goings, new office locations, attorneys named to partnership, or whatever your “NEWS” is, please let us know and we will put it in TRANSITIONS section of the Scriptum. Submissions should be sent to webmaster@linncobar.org.

WANT ADS

Kirkwood Community College offers online Employers Services, available at no charge, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To learn more about this topic, call 398-5689 or go to jobs@kirkwood.edu

If you would like to publicize open attorney positions or available law office space in your building, let us know and we will publish it here. Contact webmaster@linncobar.org. We will run your “Want Ad” for three (3) consecutive Scriptum editions. If your space or employment needs are met during your three-month Ad run, though, please drop us a line so we know to delete your Want Ad from future issues.

PARALEGAL INTERNSHIPS WANTED

Are you interested in helping train and mentor future paralegals? The Paralegal Program at Kirkwood Community College continues to grow. Kirkwood paralegal students are required to intern in a legal environment as part of their education. You can help tomorrow’s paralegals gain valuable experience by agreeing to supervise a paralegal intern. The internship requires that the student complete 120 hours in a legal setting, and compensation is not required. If you are interested in mentoring a paralegal intern, please call Greg Clevenger at 398-5576.

COURT SCHEDULES & LCBA MEMBER DIRECTORY ON LCBA WEBSITE

Did you know the LCBA publishes each day’s court schedules for Linn County District Court, Associate Court and Small Claims/Traffic court? Head over to the LCBA website at www.linncobar.org. A link to each day’s court schedules is posted on the home page. You can also see the judge assignments, local Orders and the court’s contact numbers under the Court Schedules & Info menu.

The website also has contact information for all LCBA members at www.linncobar.org/directory/attorneys/index.html. Advise the LCBA webmaster if any changes need to be made. If you have a new address, please notify the LCBA at P.O. Box 74127, Cedar Rapids, IA 52407-4127, or via email at webmaster@linncobar.org.

HOW TO JOIN THE LCBA and DUES INFORMATION

Membership in the LCBA is open to lawyers admitted to practice in Iowa and who live or work in Linn County. The first membership year is free. Annual base membership dues for all others is listed on the LCBA’s website at: <http://www.linncobar.org/about/dues/> A voluntary charitable assessment of \$100 is included on all dues statement; payment of the assessment is not required. The assessment goes towards funding legal related charitable

organizations in Linn County. The membership application is at this link: <http://www.linncoabar.org/wp-content/uploads/220265.pdf>

Dues notices for the 2018-2019 LCBA membership year were emailed to members in August and September of 2018 from invoicing@messaging.squareup.com to the email address the LCBA has on file for you. Our invoices say “Linn County Bar Association” and include our logo. If you did not receive your dues notice, please contact the LCBA at linncobar@gmail.com. Members who do not timely pay their dues invoices will be charged a \$25 late fee.

Only LCBA members current on their dues may attend LCBA sponsored events such as the Last Chance Seminar CLE, Bench-Bar gathering and LCBA day at the Kernels.

Current annual base membership dues are \$150 for members admitted to any bar 5-49 years and \$120 for members who have been admitted to any bar fewer than five years. There are also special dues amounts for government employees, employees of certain non-profit organizations, and full-time judges and certain other government entities. Please see the full dues policy here: <http://www.linncoabar.org/about/dues/>

AMENDMENTS TO IOWA COURT RULES

Please click on this link for a list of recent Amendments and New Rules:

http://www.iowacourts.gov/Court_Rules_Forms/Recent_Amendments_New_Iowa_Court_Rules/

RESTAURANT REVIEW: Vesta

It was time. Time to visit a new restaurant and check them out. So we hopped in the car and away we went, off to Coralville, to review a restaurant. The name of the restaurant is Vesta and it is located at 849 Quarry Road (near the Marriott).

As we entered the restaurant we were greeted by a pleasant waiter who took us to a booth. In a split minute she returned with two glasses of water and menus for each of us. At that time she took our drink order, hot water with lemon and iced tea (no sweetener). I asked her to tell me about the soup of the day. She told me it was Creamy Tuscan and described it like this: bits of Italian sausage, potatoes, scallions, celery and seasoning in a cream base. It sounded good to me and I knew that Creamy Tuscan had to be part of my meal.

After we had a chance to look over the menu, we realized there were many interesting items to choose from including an appetizer that was called Vulcan Shrimp. The shrimp dish was described as follows: “Fiery chili glazed shrimp; served on a bed of red pepper mango cole slaw”. It made my mouth water to read about it, thinking about chili glaze, red peppers and mangos at the same time. However, after more rational thought, I had to say no to that item and be more traditional.

Traditional meant the following: my wife ordered the Salmon BLT which included a roasted North American salmon fillet topped with crisp bacon, spinach, tomato, and basil aioli on French bread. She added a side of sweet potato fries. I was really traditional ordering Creamy Tuscan soup (like I said) and the Iowa Pork Tenderloin sandwich with lettuce, tomato and pickle on a toasted brioche bun.

In a very few minutes the food was brought to our table. The presentation was very good. The soup was exceptional. Tasty, spicy, and just the right temperature. I could have eaten another bowl. But I didn't. The pork tenderloin was very good. Both moist and crunchy. The Salmon BLT was unique, in my wife's own words, and enticing. She ate the whole thing, almost. The sweet potato fries were plentiful and very good.

The dessert choice was a small slice of chocolate cake, with a dab of peanut butter in the center, topped with a small scoop of cheese based ice cream and surrounded by a fresh strawberry sauce. Excellent.

This restaurant, Vesta, has excellent service, a very good atmosphere, very good food and an interesting and diverse menu. I like this place. We will go back, particularly if the soup du jour is Creamy Tuscan.

Gene the Critic

Vesta 849 Quarry Road, Ste. 100, Coralville, IA 52241 www.vestaiowa.com

(BONUS!) BOOK REVIEW – The Reckoning by John Grisham

John Grisham is one of my favorite authors. His latest book, *The Reckoning*, is a 417 page novel about a murder that takes place in Clanton, Mississippi in 1946. The primary actor in this novel is a man named Pete Banning. Banning was born and raised on a small cotton farm near Clanton. He was a farmer, a husband, a father, a respected member of the Methodist church in Clanton and a hero for his military service in World War II. He was also a graduate of West Point.

The action begins when Banning returns from the war where he served in the Pacific and was also a prisoner of war. Upon arriving in Clanton, he resumes his status as member of a prominent family in the community. However, everything changes when he is charged with the murder of the pastor of the Methodist church.

The legal issues come to the forefront. His description of the legal system in this Mississippi community is excellent. As I was reading this book, I felt like I was sitting in the courtroom, the sheriff's office, the town square, the local restaurant, the law office or the farmhouse. I had a hard time putting the book down (except for Part II, see below).

Grisham divided this book into three Parts. Parts I and III were excellent. Part II not so much. When you read this book I think you will understand my sentiments. However, the novel, in its entirety is very good or even better than very good.

His previous novels, like *The Firm* or *The Pelican Brief*, were thrillers. This is not a thriller. Having read each of his previous novels, I would rank this one as average. But his average novel is better than most authors. I think most lawyers would find this book interesting.

Gene the Critic

LCBA GIVING AT WORK

Each year the LCBA uses charitable contributions from its members as well as monies from LCBA regular dues payments to provide funding to local non-profits that provide legal services to individuals in Linn County and make the judicial system in Linn County more accessible to the public. This new column, "LCBA Giving at Work", spotlights some of the work performed by recipient organizations of LCBA funding.

Iowa Legal Aid's Cedar Rapids Regional Office (located on the 4th Floor of the Human Services Campus, 317 7th Avenue SE, Suite 404) has recently undergone significant changes in both personnel and the scope of the legal work being done. First, as of January 1, 2019, the office has a new Managing Attorney, Lisa Gavin. Jim Kringlen has transferred to Iowa Legal Aid's Iowa City Regional Office. Lisa had been a staff attorney with Iowa Legal Aid since 1995, working in the Cedar Rapids Regional Office since 2000. During the first 13 years of her legal career, Lisa focused most of her time and energy on family law, including legal assistance to survivors of domestic abuse. After the Flood of 2008, Lisa became Iowa Legal Aid's Disaster Response Coordinator, handling a wide variety and large number of disaster-related matters, including landlord-tenant issues, voluntary property acquisitions by the city, and contractor issues. Around this same time, the nation-wide mortgage foreclosure crisis began, and over many years Lisa successfully defended dozens (hundreds?) of homeowners in foreclosure actions. Most recently, Lisa coordinated major responses by Iowa Legal Aid to the legal problems facing survivors of the June 19, 2018, tornado in Marshalltown, Iowa and the June 30, 2018 flash flooding in Des Moines. She has also been a leader in the office's new Health & Law Project, a partnership with the Eastern Iowa Health Center and Mercy Hospital. This project is funded by Iowa Legal Aid, the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, both of our medical partners, and a private philanthropist, and confronts head-on the social determinants of health. Lisa and the Office's Staff Attorneys meet patients of both health care providers, in their facilities, and provides assistance when patients most need legal help.

The Cedar Rapids Regional Office has also started a Parent Representation Project modeled after a similar project in New York wherein we bring not only staff attorneys, but also a part-time social worker/case manager and a part-time parent advocate (a parent who has successfully gone through a juvenile court "Child In Need of Assistance" proceeding) in representing custodial parents. This project is funded in part by an anonymous donor and includes legal services for custodial parents who are at risk of a DHS-filed CINA case unless they can resolve a legal issue. Finally, the office has two staff attorney Equal Justice Works Fellows, both of whom have 2-year fellowships with a statewide scope. One is focused on serving survivors of human trafficking (both sex and labor trafficking) and the other on serving victims of crime, including consumer fraud.

The Linn County Bar Association has supported the mission of Iowa Legal Aid's Cedar Rapids Regional Office for decades. The staff of the Cedar Rapids Regional Office greatly appreciate this long-term relationship and support of the bar. The staff are looking forward to the future with new leadership and a renewed commitment to serving the low-income and otherwise vulnerable populations within our community. If you have any

questions or would like to know more, please feel free to call Lisa Gavin at (319) 364-6108.

Jim Kringle, Managing Attorney, Iowa Legal Aid