

Affiliate Membership Committee

Indiana State Bar Association
Report to the ISBA House of Delegates
September 24, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as the action of the Indiana State Bar Association (ISBA). Any opinions or recommendations herein expressed or made are those of the **Affiliate Membership Committee** submitting this report and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Indiana State Bar Association until such time as the ISBA has duly adopted them as policy of the Association.

Highlight of Accomplishments



Affiliate Membership Committee Continues Annual Paralegal Symposium with Great Engagement and Feedback

The Affiliate Membership Committee's Paralegal Symposium held annually in May continues to bring quality topics for the paralegals of Indiana. One of the highlights of this year's Symposium included updates on the Court's plans for a Limited Legal Licensed Practitioner program. Attendees praised the session on managing up, and boundaries in the workplace. 99% of participants reported they would consider attending next year's Symposium.

Participant feedback included:

- "This year's symposium was way better than previous years (in my opinion). I've enjoyed attending every year, but sometimes there are speakers who feel a bit dry or topics that don't always feel relevant. This year, every speaker was engaging, and the topics were applicable across the board. There was something to take away from every session. I can't wait to see what you come up with next year."
- "I was nervous the course wouldn't be worth the price, but I gained valuable information worth far more than the cost to attend. This was incredible, and I love that I don't have to worry or scramble to receive CLEs throughout the year. Being able to earn all the credits I need through this program is huge."
- "This was my first Paralegal Symposium, and it was exceptional. The presenters were all excellent. There was a wealth of information presented. I have been a paralegal for almost 35 years, and I learned several new ideas and insights through this symposium. I am looking forward to next year. It was outstanding!"

Highlight of Accomplishments continued ...

- ❑ Kathy Thurston, a paralegal at Hall Render Killian Heath & Lyman, PC, was selected as the 2026 recipient of the Affiliate Membership Committee's Cathy Canny Award of Excellence.
- ❑ Held annual ISBA Paralegal Symposium in May
- ❑ Circulated e-newsletter, *Affiliate News*
- ❑ Served as a sounding board to the Court re: Limited Licensed Legal Practitioners
- ❑ Planned fall paralegal social event

2025-26 Overarching Goals

- Continue to publish e-newsletter (Affiliate News) on a monthly basis
- Stand ready to serve as a sounding board for ISBA leadership as it explores the allied legal professional model
- Continue to explore ways to increase membership
- Sponsor 2026 Paralegal Symposium
- Sponsor summer/fall social event
- Present 2026 Cathy Canny Award of Excellence

Scholarships & Awards

The Cathy Canny Award of Excellence honors ISBA affiliate members (to include paralegals; court administrators; law librarians; and legal administrators) who best exemplify Cathy's courageous, visionary leadership in raising the bar of professionalism for paralegals throughout Indiana.

Prior Cathy Canny Award of Excellence Winners

**Formerly known as the ISBA Affiliate Membership Award*

2010 – Edna Wallace, Paralegal, IRP

2011 – Cathy Canny, Paralegal, IRP

2012 – Lauren Jones, Paralegal, IRP

2013 – Cheryl Niemeier, Legal Administrator

2014 – Debra L. Elsbury, Legal Administrator

2015 – Lori Wagner, Paralegal, IRP

2016 – Monica Dabio, Paralegal, IRP

2017 – Howard E. Trivers, Law Librarian

2018 – Karin L. Fowler, Legal Administrator

2022 – Roberta J. Kickbush, Paralegal, IRP

2023 – Angela R. Hopson, Paralegal, IRP

2024 – Tracey M. Clark, Paralegal, IRP

2025 – Tammy Munchel, Paralegal, IRP

2026 – Kathy Thurston, Paralegal, IRP

This report is respectfully submitted by:

Tammy J. Froelich, IRP
Chair, ISBA Affiliate Membership Committee
Paralegal, Kroger, Gardis & Regas, LLP
tfroelich@kgirlaw.com
September 17, 2026



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Section

Indiana State Bar Association
Report to the ISBA House of Delegates

September 24, 2026

Indianapolis, Indiana

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INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

ISBA ADR Section Connected with Other Bar Associations

- The Section Updated Members Via Inbar_ADR Listserv
- ADR Council Members held the inaugural Lake County ADR meeting
- ADR Council Members have collaborated with the Judicial ADR Committee

Alternative Education Opportunities

- The Indiana Mediation Hub: The Mediation Hub is a resource for Mediators to network, find CLE/CME and inform Mediators about the yearly Maple Tree Mediation Retreat (just for Mediators). ADR Section Member, Marsha Hackenberg, Attorney/Mediator and Marla Hylton MSW, LCSW/Mediator teach two accredited 40-Hour Domestic Relations Mediation trainings per year, various accredited Continuing Mediation Education (CME) follow up classes and hold a yearly retreat for trained Mediators. Registration is open for all events on IndianaMediationHub.com.

Scholarships & Awards

- Sponsored an ISBA ADR Member Attendance at the Solo and Small Firm Conference

Looking to the Future

- Strengthening the ISBA ADR Council connection with the Judicial ADR Committee
- Host another National Speaker to Present on Advanced ADR Topic(s)
- Opening dialogue regarding non-attorney mediators and the expansion of documents mediators are permitted to draft.

This report is respectfully submitted by:

Rebecca L. Billick
Chair, ISBA ADR Council
BILLICK MEDIATION & FAMILY LAW



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Appellate Practice Section

Indiana State Bar Association
Report to the ISBA House of Delegates
September 24, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana

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INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Highlights of Accomplishments

- Appellate Rules proposed amendments submitted to rules committee
- Monthly administration of Pro Se Appellate Clinic with Pro Bono Indiana
- Continued screening of potential appeals for pro bono representation
- Evening with the Appellate Judges CLE and Dinner
- Continuation of task forces
 - Judicial Notice Taskforce
 - Supreme Court Transfer Taskforce

CLE

- Evening with the Appellate Judges CLE (May 19, 2026 @ FBT Gibbons)
 - *77 attendees*

Social & Connection Opportunities

- Evening with the Appellate Judges Cocktail Hour and Dinner after CLE (May 19, 2026 @ Columbia Club)
 - 94 Dinner Participants
 - Profit (with CLE) - \$8,359.33

Contributions

- We the People contribution - \$500

New Council Members

- Law Clerk Representative: Anne Marie Bonds

Looking to the Future

- Proposed Slate of Officers
2026-2027

Hon. Peter R. Foley	Chair
Libby Yin Goodknight	Chair-Elect
Cara S. Wieneke	Vice Chair
Hon. Mary A. DeBoer	Secretary
Jane Dall Wilson	Immediate Past Chair
Yvette M. LaPlante	District 1
Kathryn Franklund	District 1
Kyle C. Gillaspie	District 2
Dylan A. Pittman	District 2
Kevin E. Steele	District 3
Justin Forkner	District 3
Elizabeth Daulton	At Large
Kian J. Hudson	At Large
Angela N. Sanchez	Attorney General's Office Liaison
Tony Powers	Young Lawyers Section Liaison
Gregory R. Pachmayr	Appellate Clerk Liaison
Suzanne D. St. John	Public Defender Liaison

This report is respectfully submitted by:

Jane Dall Wilson
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September 11, 2026



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Bankruptcy & Creditors' Rights Section

Indiana State Bar Association
Report to the ISBA House of Delegates
September 24, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana

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INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Highlights of Accomplishments

- CLE Programs to provide benefits to membership
- Interactions with local bars, bankruptcy judges, and law students
- Continued law student externship stipend program
- Conducted membership survey which happens every 3-5 years
- Appointed new ISBA delegate to the Northern District Practice and Procedures Committee
- Commitment to ongoing ISBA Service: Three recent council members nominated to Board of Governors

CLE

- Joint CLE with Construction Surety Law Section and Bankruptcy and Creditor's Rights Section – November 13, 2025
- In Chambers: What the Bankruptcy Judges (of the Northern District) Want You to Know – July 22, 2026
- Breakfast with the Bench: An Ask the Judge CLE – August 28, 2026

Social & Connection Opportunities

- Section Members have participated in or presented at:
 - Solo and Small Firm Conference
 - Law Student Etiquette Dinners
- Co-Sponsored wine and cheese event in Judge Grant's courtroom in Fort Wayne
- Doubled attendance at Judge McCord's courtroom CLE

Scholarships & Awards

The Council awarded a combined \$2,750 in stipends to the following law students who were externs in a United States Bankruptcy Court during the 2025-26 bar year:

- Krystal Szerszen (Notre Dame)
- Noah Washington (Notre Dame)
- Skylar Cell (Notre Dame)

*Law Student stipends are being reduced in response to 2026 Member Survey

Contributions

The section made the following contributions during the 2025-26 bar year:

- ISBA Small and Solo Firm Conference (\$746 scholarship)
- Etiquette Dinner Sponsorships (\$1,100)
- Indiana Bar Foundation/We the People (\$750 donation)
- Upcoming: Pledged up to \$2000 to honor Judge Carr's retirement in January 2027

Council Members/Committee Members

- Chair: Katherine Iskin
- Chair-Elect: April Satow
- Secretary: Jason Lopp
- Treasurer: Matt Cree
- Immediate Past President: Shawn Cox
- Committee Chairs: Kaylin Cook, Angela Marshall, April Satow, Matt Cree
- At-Large Members: Anthony Carreri, Nick Cirignano, Ben Dennison, April Geltmaker, Faith Welch

Looking to the Future

- The Section continues to look for ways to connect Northern and Southern District practitioners and provide education on different practices in each district.
- CLE programming: the Section will continue to provide benefit to its members and others through quality CLE events.
- The Section will continue to explore membership outreach opportunities throughout the state, and to foster positive interactions between bench and bar.
- The Section will continue to encourage Indiana law students to consider careers in bankruptcy law by providing opportunities for Council participation, through participation in etiquette dinners, and through the externship stipend program.
- Supporting other ISBA initiatives through budgeted donations.

This report is respectfully submitted by:

Katherine Iskin
2025-2026 Section Chair
kiskin@maylorber.com
September 1, 2026



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Business Law Section

Indiana State Bar Association
Report to the ISBA House of Delegates
September 24, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as the action of the Indiana State Bar Association (ISBA). Any opinions or recommendations herein expressed or made are those of the **Business Law Section** submitting this report and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Indiana State Bar Association until such time as the ISBA has duly adopted them as policy of the Association.

Highlight(s) of Accomplishment

- Continued to conduct regular monthly meeting dates and annual meeting dates by zoom.
- Continued to support and request topics and solicit speakers for one-hour CLEs throughout the year and prior to regular quarterly meetings.
- Ended the year with 543 paid members and 165 law students/new admittees.

CLE

- The Business Law and Intellectual Property Law Sections offered a joint 1-hour in person CLE on November 5, 2025, at IU Mauer School of Law on the topic: “What’s In a Name Is No Longer The Entire Question; The Rapid Evolution of NIL and The Rights of Publicity”, presented by Expert Panelists Jackie Flint and Jonathan Faber with Robert S. Meitus moderating.
- The Council is currently working on other possible joint CLE programs for with the ISBA’s Intellectual Property Law Section and Employment Law Section.

Alternative Education Opportunities

- The section continues to work to collaborate with other sections to seek mutually beneficial interests, specifically.
- On November 6, 2025, the section held it's Holiday Social @ The Tap in downtown Indianapolis
- On June 16, 2026, the Section sponsored a free social/ networking event at the Fort Wayne TinCaps game for members.
- The Section continues to reach out to members to identify interests and are seeking to hold Social Events in each section of the State in 2026 and 2027.

Scholarships & Awards

- The Section funded (3) scholarships to attorneys and law students at for the annual Solo and Small Firm Conference.
- Continued to support and sponsor LDA.
- Sponsored “We the People”.

Contributions

- The section sponsored three (3) scholarships totaling \$2,238 for the 2026 Solo & Small Firm Conference
- Sponsored \$2,000 for the Leadership Development Academy
- Sponsored \$1,100 for the annual etiquette dinners at Maurer, McKinney and Notre Dame law schools.

2026 Council Members

- Chair: Paraskevi (Patty) Xidias, Griffith Xidias Law
- Chair-Elect: Randall Cloe, Cloe Legal LLC
- Secretary/ Treasurer: Amanda R Wilhite, Calumet Corporate Counsel
- Mary Kleiman, Mkleiman Corporate Consulting LLC
- Morgan Brading, Harshman Ponist Smith & Rayl, LLC
- Ricardo Simmons, Lighthouse Legal LLC
- Ross T. Yates, Gutwein Law LLC
- 2026 is the biennial year in which the Chair is replaced. Randall Cloe will assume the Chair following the 2026 annual meeting.
- New Member Joining Council: Angie Raymond, IU Kelley School of Business

Looking to the Future

- Encourage increased use of the Business Law Sections use of the Listserv.
- Re-engage membership through meaningful meetings, CLE opportunities and annual meeting locations.
- Collaboration with other sections to offer meaningful CLEs and increase interest in Business Law Section topics.

This report is respectfully submitted by:

Paraskevi Xidias
Chair,
Business Law Section
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September 10, 2026



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION



CFAF Committee

Indiana State Bar Association
Report to the ISBA House of Delegates
September 24, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as the action of the Indiana State Bar Association (ISBA).
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CFAF Committee Membership Summary

From July 2025 to September 2026:

- Starting # of members: 6
- Over half of current members have been on the committee for over a decade.
- All committee members are passionate about the Fund's purpose and look forward to continually serving the public to give them some monetary relief due to attorney misconduct.
- In May of this year, long-time committee member Rori Goldman resigned.

Committee Guidelines

The Clients' Financial Assistance Fund (the Fund) of the Indiana State Bar Association (ISBA) provides compensation to qualified applicants who have suffered a monetary loss as a result of the dishonest acts of an ISBA member acting as a lawyer or fiduciary.

- **Jump to Section:**
- [How the Fund Works »](#)
- [Eligibility »](#)
- [Review Process »](#)
- [FAQ »](#)
- [How to Apply »](#)

Claims Paid Out To Claimants

- **Claimants:**

- Christopher Clark

- **Attorneys:**

Samual Berkman

- **Amounts:**

\$3,500 (**pending**)

Fund Finances: July 2025 – June 2026

Starting Balance: \$354,918.26

Ending Balance: \$381,540.02

Summary of Income/Expenses

Income from Dues	Other Income*	Applications Paid**	Other Expenses
\$14,196.00	\$12,237.53	\$0	\$1,728.19

*Income from the investment of and interest earned from the Fund.

**Due to the collection of subrogation agreements and other documents or information needed from applicants, payments on approved applications may occur in a later fiscal year from when the application was approved.

Contributions

2025 – 2026 CFAF Payments Overview

- 7 applications resolved: 1 approved, 6 denied
 - \$3,500 total in payments approved
- **(pending payment-just received subrogation agreement and W-9 paperwork back)**

Note: **We have 5 claims on the agenda to review.**

The Future of the Committee

- Sunsetting the [Client's Financial Assistance Fund \(CFAF\)](#) as an ISBA program.
- Learn more about CFAF by reading *Res Gestae* article "[The Future of the Client's Financial Assistance Fund](#)" and the proposed [Resolution of the House of Delegates](#).

Final Thoughts from the Chairs!

- CFAF committee statement:
 - The Chairs recommend the ISBA not sunset the CFAF fund, which serves a critical function for the ISBA's mission. Instead, we recommend the ISBA undertake targeted efforts to strengthen the Fund, including modest dues adjustments and/or enhanced voluntary contributions.
 - [Read the CFAF Committee's position statement](#)

Council Members

- Aaron Cook Co-chair
- Adam Decker Co-chair
- Nicolette Mendenhall
- Dustin DeNeal
- **Rori Goldman** **Resigned effective May 2026**
- Josh Radicke
- Adam Kornya

This report is respectfully submitted by:

Aaron Cook
Co-chair

Adam Decker
Co-chair

September 24, 2026



Criminal Justice Section

Indiana State Bar Association
Report to the ISBA House of Delegates
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Indianapolis, Indiana

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Highlight(s) of Accomplishment

- Awarded an annual criminal justice scholarship.
- Hosted and planned CLEs on topics of importance to Indiana criminal justice practitioners.
- Connected with Indiana law schools and student organizations to engage law students in topics related to criminal justice practice.
- Planned the second annual distinguished speaker series event.

CLE

- Distinguished Speaker Series November 19, 2025 featuring Judge Candace Jackson-Akiwumi, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Legislative Activity

- The Criminal Justice Section voted to take a position opposing allowing executions by firing squad in Indiana.

Scholarships & Awards

- CJS awarded one scholarship for a member to attend the Solo and Small Firm Conference.
- CJS awarded the first annual Jessie A. Cook Criminal Justice Scholarship in honor of a beloved and inspiring member of the Indiana criminal law community.

Contributions

- CJS provided a \$1000 sponsorship to NAMI Indiana Mental Health & Criminal Justice Summit

Council Members

Amy Karozos	Chair	Steve Dillon
Michael Cunningham	Vice-Chair	Andy Fogle
Kristy Gordon	Treasurer	Bradley Keffer
(formerly) Ann Sutton	Secretary	Dan Murrie
Jeff Baldwin		Joel Schneider
Scott Bradtmiller		Grant Hawkins
Mark Clark		Angka Hinshaw
Amy Commean		Zach Stock
Justice Steve David		Andrew Wolf

Looking to the Future

- Encourage participation among Section members and continue to build a diverse membership that can effectively carry out the purposes of CJS.
- Offer practical CLEs to improve Indiana's Criminal Justice System.
- Actively involve CJS in solutions to the attorney shortage.
- Promote interest in criminal justice career paths among law students.
- Continue the "Speaker Series" to provide ISBA members with insights from prominent figures in criminal law on key legal issues.
- Continue to support and promote improvements to criminal law through legislative advocacy and rulemaking efforts.

This report is respectfully submitted by:

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Criminal Justice Section Chair
State Public Defender
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September 24, 2026



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Employment, Labor & Benefits Law Section

Indiana State Bar Association
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September 24, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana

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INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Highlights of Accomplishment

- 2025 – 26 Section consisted of 263 paid members and 29 law student members
- Review of membership and participation levels
- Targeted membership outreach to young lawyers
- August 20th CLE and Social with Tax Section
- Upcoming Fall 2026 CLE and Social with Federal Magistrate Judge Zanzi
- Coordinating with IP Section on small business event/seminar
- Planning 2027 social event at minor league team events (RailCats, Tin Cups)

Legislative Activity

- **Legislative Summaries for Members**
 - **Indiana General Assembly:**
 - Unemployment Insurance and Workforce Administration (SB 214, SB 162)
 - Wage and Hour / Pay Practices (HB 1290, SB 245)
 - Restrictive Covenants and Worker Mobility (HB 1054)
 - Technology and Workplace Safety (HB 1421, HB 1404)
 - Leave and Protected Traits (SB 186, SB 288, SB 154)
 - **U.S. Congress:**
 - Union and Wage Policy (PRO Act/H.R. 20, Raise the Wage Act/S. 1332/H.R. 2743)
 - Paid Leave and Benefits (More Paid Leave for More Americans Act/H.R. 3089)
 - Non-Competes and Mobility (Workforce Mobility Act/S. 2031)
 - AI and Algorithmic Management (No Robot Bosses Act/H.R. 6371, Empowering App-Based Workers Act/H.R. 6646, AI Whistleblower Protection Act/S. 1792)
- **Upcoming event in progress** (end of 2026 or 2027): lunch with the State legislators

Social & Connection Opportunities

- August 20th CLE and Social with Taxation Section: *Structuring it Right: Settlement Tax Strategy and Worker Classification Compliance*
- Upcoming CLE and Social with Magistrate Judge Zanzi
- Section Social/Dinner towards the end of the year (November 2026)

Scholarships & Awards

- Law Student Etiquette Dinner Sponsorship
- Solo & Small Firm Conference Scholarship

Contributions

- \$1,100 contribution to law student etiquette dinners
- \$500 contribution to the Indiana Bar Foundation

Council Members/Committee Members

- Courtney E. Endwright, Chair
- Jody M. Butts, Chair-Elect
- Schuyler D. Geller, Secretary/Treasurer
- Elizabeth M. Roberson, Immediate Past Chair
- Jason P. Cleveland, At-Large Representative
- Jacquelyn S. Pillar, At-Large Representative
- Ryan M. Poor, At-Large Representative
- Anthony M. Stites, At-Large Representative
- Brittany Stradling, At-Large Representative
- Lee Braun, At-Large Representative
- Matt Doss, At-Large Representative

This report is respectfully submitted by:

Courtney E. Endwright, Chair
cendwright@betzadvocates.com
9/10/2026



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

GP, Solo & Small Firm Section

Indiana State Bar Association
Report to the ISBA House of Delegates
September 24, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana

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Highlight(s) of Accomplishment

- The Section had 565 paid members as of it's Annual Meeting in French Lick on June 5, 2026.
- The Section's most awaited event, the ISBA Solo & Small Firm Conference, took place June 4-6 at French Lick Resort. This year's conference was a success once again, achieving exceptional attendance and sponsorship numbers while continuing to deliver meaningful, connection-driven experiences to ISBA members. Once again we had a strong attendance with over 300 joining us and the conference continued its reputation as one of the signature offerings of the ISBA. The SSFC has been intentionally designed to prioritize networking and community-building opportunities over traditional CLE programming. The conference schedule, while offering valuable CLEs is structured to facilitate organic and purposeful engagement, including interactive sessions, small group events, and informal networking opportunities. The result is a conference that offers both professional development and a strong sense of community.
- The Solo & Small Firm Conference continued its long-standing partnership with McKinney Law School and Maurer Law School and is working to develop a relationship with Purdue Global. Purdue Global, McKinney and Maurer law schools were able to send 19 students to the conference, covering their registration fee along with their hotel room. Each student was paired with a planning committee member to guide them through the event.
- The Section's LPM committee continues to grow and excel. The LPM Starting Your Own Practice page is live. **Check it out at:** <https://www.inbar.org/page/LPM> The committee is currently working on resources for Managing your Practice and Protecting your Practice pages.
- The Solo & Solo Firm Conference donated \$25,000 to the Rural Practice Academy. The Rural Practice Academy (RPA) supports attorneys who want to launch their own firm, on their terms, by providing the tools, skills, and connections needed to build sustainable practices in rural and underserved Indiana communities. This yearlong cohort program will deliver the tools, mentorship, and local connections to help you establish a successful, community-focused solo or small firm practice. For more information: <https://www.inbar.org/page/ruralpracticehub>

CLE

- On March 12, 2026, the ISBA Solo & Small Firm Conference hosted a virtual CLE open to all ISBA members, Leveraging the One Big Beautiful Bill Act in Divorce Settlement Negotiations.
- The Section hosted the 2026 ISBA Solo & Small Firm Conference June 4-6, 2026. Next year's conference will be held June 10-12, 2027, at French Lick. Planning began in July with a call out for speakers and topics of interest.

Alternative Education Opportunities

- The Section's LPM Starting Your Own Practice page is now live! **Check it out at:** <https://www.inbar.org/page/LPM> The LPM committee is currently working on resources for Managing your Practice and Protecting your Practice pages.
- The Section's Listserv remains active and the membership continues to share ideas and support each other by providing guidance and resources.

Scholarships & Awards

- The 2026 GP Section Hall of Fame Award was presented posthumously to Beth Heline, during the section's annual business meeting at the Solo & Small Firm Conference.
- The first ever SSFC Legacy Award was presented to Terry Harrell for her work and support of the Solo & Small Firm Conference
- The section funded four (4) scholarships to this year's Solo & Small Firm Conference.
- 25 scholarships were awarded to this year's Solo & Small Firm Conference through the generous support of the following sections:

ADR Section

Bankruptcy & Creditors' Rights Section

Business Law Section

Criminal Justice Section

Elder Law Section

Employment, Labor & Benefits Law Section

Family & Juvenile Law Section

GP, Solo and Small Firm Section

Litigation Section

Probate, Trust & Real Property Section

Young Lawyers Section

Contributions

- The section contributed to the following groups this past year: Leadership Development Academy (\$1,700), Law Student Etiquette Dinners (\$1,100) and IBF's We the People Program (\$1,500).
- The section participated as a sponsor (\$500) for the 2026 Solo & Small Firm Conference.
- Additionally, the section offered four (4) scholarships totaling \$2,984 for the 2026 Solo & Small Firm Conference
- The Solo & Small Firm Conference donated \$25,000 to the Rural Practice Academy. Total contributions by the section = \$7,784 (+\$25,000 by SSFC)

2026-2027 Council Members

Chair: Paraskevi (Patty) Xidias, Griffith Xidias Law

Chair Elect: Kevin Bowen, KMB Legal LLC

Secretary/Treasurer: Hannah Brady, Hume Smith Geddes Green & Simmons

District Reps

- 1 – Jacquelyn Pillar, Pillar Jones, LLC
- 2 – Thomas Peterson, TWPeterson Law Office
- 3- Kristin Fox, Fox Law Firm
- 4- Cory Sprunger, Sprunger & Sprunger/Sprunger Alliance
- 5- Tess Worrell, Resolution Mediation LLC
- 6- Kathrine Jack, Jack Law Office
- 7- Matthew Schulz, Schulz Reagan
- 8- Terry White, Attorney at Law

District Reps

- 9- Thomas Scifres, Attorney at Law
- 10- Devin Norrick, Adler Attorneys
- 11- Patty McKinnon, McKinnon Family Law
- YLS Rep: Hold Hovde, Waldron Tate Land
- SSFC Conference Chair: Beth Cox, Cox & Koons
- LPM Committee Chair: Cyndi Helfrich, Helfrich Law Offices
- Immediate Past Chair: Sundeep Singh, RileyCate

Looking to the Future

- The Council continues to seek ways to engage membership through meaningful engagement, socials and CLE opportunities, such as the Solo and Small Firm Conference.
- The LPM Committee continues to work to provide resources for solo and small firm practitioners who have already or seek to open their own practice and assist the ISBA's Rural Attorney Shortage Efforts.
- The Council will be meeting in-person on October 8th to further discuss and identify opportunities and initiatives to better serve our membership.
- The 2027 ISBA Solo and Small Firm Conference will be held June 10 – 12 at French Lick Resort, where the Section's Annual Business Meeting will also take place.

This report is respectfully submitted by:

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Chair,
GP, Solo Small Firm Section
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September 10, 2026



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Intellectual Property Section

Indiana State Bar Association
Report to the ISBA House of Delegates
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INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Highlight(s) of Accomplishment

- Hosting a virtual webinar with the Employment Law Section on IP/employment law basics for small businesses, new entrepreneurs, and the like.
- Hosting event with law students at either IU Mauer School of Law or IU McKinney School of Law to discuss careers in IP, healthcare, and other law.

IP/Employment Basics Webinar

- Date: TBD
- Joint event with Employment Law Section.
- Hosted virtually due to diversity and locations of attendees.
- Attendees include small startups, student entrepreneurs, individual inventors looking to move into business, etc.
- Coordinated effort with IU Launch Accelerator for Biosciences (“LAB”), IU Innovates, and IU Mauer PatentConnect.
- Goal is to help these small organizations get off the ground and teach them about issues they will almost surely face early on in their lifespan.

Social & Connection Opportunities

- Date: This semester (final date, TBD)
- Social event with the IP Section Council and other members of the IP Section to discuss careers in IP law, healthcare law, and other areas that the section members have overlap with law school students.
- Similar to last year's event, which was a great success. Students found the conversations to be incredibly helpful and informative.
- Will be with the IU Mauer School of Law, with help from their PatentConnect program, or IU McKinney School of Law.

Council Members

Chair	Dominic M. Yobbi	Barnes & Thornburg LLP -- Indianapolis
Chair-Elect	Keltie A. Haley	Meitus Strohm LLP -- Bloomington
Vice Chair	Justin L. Sage	Krieg DeVault LLP -- Indianapolis
Secretary/Treasurer	Rachael R. Taylor	Frost Brown Todd LLP -- Indianapolis
At-Large	Alesia Nettesheim	IU McKinney School of Law -- Indianapolis
Law School Representative	NOT FILLED	
Immediate Past Chair	Charles M. Fox	Roche Diabetes Care, Inc. -- Indianapolis

Contributions

- Donated \$550 to help sponsor the law student etiquette dinners at Indiana's three law schools for the 2026-2027 school year.

Looking to the Future

- Will continue to host events that serve the interests of section members.
- Will attempt to continue collaboration with other sections, outside IP groups, and law schools.
- Election of new officer slate at IP Annual Meeting.

This report is respectfully submitted by:

Dominic Yobbi
Intellectual Property Section Chair 2025-2026
dominic.Yobbi@btlaw.com
September 10, 2026



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Litigation Section

Indiana State Bar Association
Report to the ISBA House of Delegates
October 22, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as the action of the Indiana State Bar Association (ISBA).
Any opinions or recommendations herein expressed or made are those of the **Litigation Section** submitting this report and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Indiana State Bar Association until such time as the ISBA has duly adopted them as policy of the Association.



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Highlight(s) of Accomplishment

- 2025 – 26 Section, as of the August meeting, consisted of 615 paid members and 104 law student members
- Consistently held well attended monthly business meetings via Zoom
- Participation in the meetings was active amongst the members
- Litigation Council provided helpful insight and commentary on pending legislation and rule changes
- Began conducting regular virtual CLE's for the membership in with the first CLE planned to occur in November, 2025 and the second for December, 2025. Additional CLE's were conducted in March, 2026, June, 2026, July, 2026, and September of 2026

CLE

- This year, the Section continued to transition away from one large day-long symposium CLE to numerous shorter CLE's conducted via Zoom.
- The hope is that we will be able to reach more members, attract additional members, add value to the section membership, and be able to address a wider variety of topics.

Legislative & Rules Activity

- General discussions on legislative updates
- General discussions on changes to rules

Social & Connection Opportunities

- Council members are discussing the scheduling of a social opportunity for the end of 2026 with other sections.

Scholarships & Awards

- Solo & Small Firm Conference Scholarships: the council approved scholarships for this event

Contributions

- Law student etiquette dinners
- Leadership Development Academy
- Indiana Bar Foundation

This report is respectfully submitted by:

Patrick I Jones, Chair
pjones@witheredlaw.com
9/4/2026



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Probate, Trust & Real Property Section

Indiana State Bar Association
Report to the ISBA House of Delegates
September 24, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as the action of the Indiana State Bar Association (ISBA). Any opinions or recommendations herein expressed or made are those of the **Probate, Trust & Real Property Section (PTRP)** submitting this report and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Indiana State Bar Association until such time as the ISBA has duly adopted them as policy of the Association.



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Highlights/Areas of Focus

- PTRP and the ISBA lost a valued and dedicated member, Jeffrey A. Kolb, in February and the Section spent substantial time this year discussing ways to honor Jeff
- In conjunction with the ISBA's launch of the Rural Practice Initiative and Academy, PTRP established a \$5,000 Rural Practice Initiative support package (details later)
- Jeff Dible, Chair of the Probate Review Committee (PRC), and other PRC members spent significant time and efforts on 2 issues which faced unexpected challenges mid-year due to legislative actions: (1) Indiana guardianship code revisions, and (2) continuing important work of the Probate Code Study Committee
- Continued with Zoom meetings on Friday mornings and generally had solid member participation, especially for Probate Review Committee (PRC) for which CLE is available

CLE/Member Benefits

- Programs Committee (Jennifer VanderVeen and Jody Butts) planned a joint CLE with the Elder Law and Tax Sections
- Explored programming on FinCEN beneficial ownership reporting requirements (Elizabeth Berg presenter)
- Members continue to have access to CLE for participation in PRC portion of quarterly meetings
- Published the Section newsletter under co-chairs MaryEllen Bishop and John Bishop, featuring legislative updates and real estate case summaries
- Maintained ongoing member discussion and resource-sharing on the vibrant and busy Section listserv

Legislative Activity

- Jeff Dible and Elizabeth Berg continued as Section legislative leaders through the PRC, tracking bills and coordinating testimony with ISBA Legislative Counsel Paje Felts
- Jeff Dible continued to monitor progress of Senate Enrolled Act 71 and the Indiana guardianship code revision; despite creation by SEA 71 of a guardianship code task force, the Legislative Council through Indiana Legislative Council Resolution 26-01 declined to appoint members to the task force and reassigned the guardianship code revision work to the Code Revision Committee; but, some question whether the CRC has statutory authority to complete the tasks assigned to it by Legislative Council; Jeff Dible, Paje Felts, and other PRC and ISBA members continue to work to move the guardianship code revisions forward to make them a reality after significant time and effort of PTRP members and others across the State over the past few years to update Indiana's guardianship code
- Resolution 26-01 also provided that no topics would be assigned for study in 2026 to the Probate Code Study Committee (PCSC), even though the PCSC narrowly escaped being eliminated during the 2026 session; as a practical matter, this means the PRC and PTRP Section council will have to prioritize and find individual legislative sponsors for all legislative proposals approved for 2027
- Real Estate & Legislation Action Committee (Elizabeth Berg) opposed unfavorable legislation and promoted FinCEN compliance training among members

Social & Connection Opportunities

- Featured presentation by ISBA's Rebecca Smith and encouraged all members to participate in the ISBA MentorCity mentorship platform, featuring self-matched mentor/mentee pairings, one-time "coffee chat" connections, and peer-support spaces (e.g., working parents and attorneys with ADHD)
- Planning the October 30, 2026 hybrid (Zoom or in person) membership meeting followed by an in person gathering at Capital Grille; PTRP will cover the cost of the social gathering for Section members and offer a reduced price for plus ones to encourage participation
- Approved \$1,100 to support three law-school etiquette dinners connecting students with the profession; a member of the Section attends each of these dinners

Scholarships & Awards

- Awarded 5 Solo & Small Firm Conference scholarships to persons who are solo or small firm practitioners with preference for practitioners in rural areas
- To support the ISBA's Rural Practice Initiative and Rural Practice Academy, established and awarded 2 ISBA Rural Practice Academy Scholarships – Alexa Starkey (Covington) and Larry Morrison (Morgantown) – these scholarships are named in memory of Jeffrey B. Kolb
- Continuing work to establish a Jeff Kolb Memorial Award recognizing mentorship and public-service excellence

Contributions by the Section

- Contributed \$5,000 total to the ISBA Rural Practice Initiative (two \$1,400 tuition grants for RPA plus an unrestricted donation of \$2,200)
- Donated \$1,000 each to three charities in memory of Jeff Kolb: Vincennes YMCA, Knox County Community Foundation, and Vincennes Education Foundation
- Contributed \$1,100 to support law-school etiquette dinners

Council Members/Committee Members

- **Officers:** Paige Freitag (Chair), Erin Bantz Lee (Chair-Elect), Annette Brogden (Vice Chair), Jennifer VanderVeen (Secretary), Elizabeth Holmes (Past Chair)
- **Section Liaison:** Jennifer Burnett (succeeding Leah Baker)
- **Committee Chairs:** Jeff Dible (Probate Review); Elizabeth Berg (Real Estate & Legislation Action); MaryEllen Bishop & John Bishop (Newsletter); Jennifer VanderVeen & Jody Butts (Programs); Hon. J. Terrence Cody (Judiciary)
- **Jeff Kolb Memorial Award Subcommittee:** Jennifer VanderVeen, Paige Freitag, MaryEllen Bishop, Paje Felts, Elizabeth Berg

Looking to the Future

- Reactivate the Nominating Committee to streamline process of filling Council vacancies and to recruit new members
- Continue building the Rural Practice Academy scholarship and mentorship pipeline
- Formalize the Jeff Kolb Memorial Award for mentorship and public-service excellence for awards in future years to deserving members

This report is respectfully submitted by:

Paige Freitag
Chair, Probate, Trust & Real Property
Section

paige@bloominglaw.com

September 24, 2026



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION



Senior Lawyers Section

Indiana State Bar Association
Report to the ISBA House of Delegates
September 24, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as the action of the Indiana State Bar Association (ISBA). Any opinions or recommendations herein expressed or made are those of the **Senior Lawyers Section** submitting this report and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Indiana State Bar Association until such time as the ISBA has duly adopted them as policy of the Association.

Highlight(s) of Accomplishment

- The section is proud to provide and promote meaningful opportunities for its members to engage with one another through programs, volunteer opportunities, and casual meet ups.

CLE

- Our annual summer social and CLE outing, which was to be held at Conner Prairie on August 21, 2026, was cancelled due to lack of interest. However, the program content will not go to waste. “Indiana’s Immigrant Communities, Changing Policies, and How to Make a Difference” is scheduled to be split into three, one-hour programs that registrants can participate in virtually at live presentations in November or view in the ISBA on demand library. The section council is enthusiastic that presenting the content this way will allow for more viewers.

Legislative/Rules Activity

- The section proposed a change to Indiana Rules of Court Admission and Discipline Rule 6.2 which would expand opportunities for pro bono publico representation to include service to bona fide charitable or community service organizations. The change has been available for comments by the public, but the rule change, or any updates to the rule, have not been publicized.

Social & Connection Opportunities

- During the 2025 – 2026 term, we began offering opportunities for members to meet up casually for breakfast on the first Wednesday of the month at a restaurant in Indianapolis. Meet up reminders are shared via the listserv. The concept has been shared with members in other regions who are encouraged to organize a monthly meet up in the same vein.
- The section partnered with the Chin Community of Indiana to host virtual events where Chin youth could talk with volunteers about their lives as lawyers and the path they would need to traverse to become lawyers themselves.

Alternative Education Opportunities

- The Senior Lawyers Section listserv is regularly used by members for things like:
 - Program promotion
 - Regular meet ups
 - Training opportunities to volunteer (for example: Indiana Bar Foundation Mock Trial training)

One member regularly posts his “Friday Funnies” on Fridays which are anecdotes and jokes.

Council Members

- **Chair:** Mary J. Hoeller, Attorney at Law, *Indianapolis*
- **Chair Elect:** Carol M. Seaman, Retired from Cook Medical, *Bloomington*
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** John R. Zeiner, Retired from Sutherlin Zeiner and Barclay, *Greencastle*
- **Immediate Past Chair:** Robert, A. Garelick, Retired from Cohen Garelick & Glazier, *Indianapolis*
- **At Large:** Joseph P. Maguire, Attorney at Law, *Carmel*
- **At Large:** Michael K. McCrory, Retired from Barnes & Thornburg LLP, *Indianapolis*
- **At Large:** Julian L. Shepard, Attorney at Law, *Carmel*
- **At Large:** Ted A. Waggoner, Retired from Peterson Waggoner & Perkins, *Rochester*

Looking to the Future

- We hope to provide opportunities for members to socialize by casually meeting up, volunteering together, or attending programs together.
- We want to evaluate the types of education opportunities our members want so that we can best meet their interests.
- We hope to appeal to our younger members who are on the precipice of retirement so that we might be a resource on how to plan and what to expect when it's time to retire.

This report is respectfully submitted by:

Rebecca Smith
Liaison, Senior Lawyers Section
rsmith@inbar.org
September 24, 2026

Social Security Disability Law Section

Indiana State Bar Association
Report to the ISBA House of Delegates
September 24, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as the action of the Indiana State Bar Association (ISBA). Any opinions or recommendations herein expressed or made are those of the **Social Security Disability Law Section** submitting this report and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Indiana State Bar Association until such time as the ISBA has duly adopted them as policy of the Association.



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Highlight(s) of Accomplishment

- Continued to build off section revival in 2025, planning further CLEs for the year and continuing more regular meetings

CLE

- May 2026: Managing a High Volume Social Security Practice (presented jointly with Allen County Bar Association)

Social & Connection Opportunities

- In addition to meetings, hosted a social event for disability attorneys during the Solo & Small Law Firm Conference

Council Members/Committee Members

- **Chair:** Eric Farr
- **Vice Chair:** Joe Wambach
- **Secretary:** Katie Brinkmeyer
- **Treasurer:** David Ferency

Looking to the Future

- Continuing to build on early progress made in revivifying the section, with more opportunities for disability law practitioners to get together and more planned CLE events

This report is respectfully submitted by:

Eric Farr
Chair, Social Security Disability Law Section
Ph: 317-275-3062
Email: efarr@2keller.com
August 11, 2026



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Tax Section

Indiana State Bar Association
Report to the ISBA House of Delegates
September 24, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as the action of the Indiana State Bar Association (ISBA). Any opinions or recommendations herein expressed or made are those of the Tax Section submitting this report and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Indiana State Bar Association until such time as the ISBA has duly adopted them as policy of the Association.



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Highlight(s) of Accomplishment

- The Tax Section continued its focus on increasing member engagement and enhancing the value offered to section members through its executive committee and four standing committees (CLE, Law Student Engagement, Scholarships, and Legislation & Policy).
- The Section worked with law student council members to host events at all three Indiana law schools, including hosting an oral Tax Court argument at IU McKinney.
- The Section solicited nominations and selected the first recipient of the “Excellence in Taxation Award.”
- The Section supported ISBA law student Etiquette Dinners.
- The Section has organized five CLEs this year, including a joint events with the Employment, Elder Law, and Probate, Trust and Real Property Sections and plans for a luncheon with a federal Tax Court judge and the annual State Tax Reception.
- The Section formed a legislative subcommittee to provide member and legislator education on matters impacting Indiana taxation.

CLE

The Tax Section has organized four CLEs in 2026:

1. June 11, 2026 – Tax Amnesty Program Overview (virtual)
2. Aug. 20, 2026 – Joint Tax and Employment CLE and Social (co-sponsored w/ Employment Section)
3. Sept. 21, 2026 – Tax Court Luncheon
4. Nov. 4, 2026 – Joint Tax, Probate, Trust and Real Property, and Elder Law Sections CLE
4. Nov. 17, 2026 – Annual State Tax Reception and CLE w/ award presentation

Legislative Activity

- The Section formed a legislative subcommittee to provide member and legislator education on matters impacting Indiana taxation.

Social & Connection Opportunities

Networking opportunities were provided with the following Tax Section sponsored events:

- Joint Tax and Employment CLE and Social (Aug. 20, 2026)
- Tax Court Luncheon (Sept. 21, 2026)
- Annual State Tax Reception and CLE w/ award presentation (Nov. 17, 2026)
- Provided Pacers tickets to members of the Tax and Employment Sections

Scholarships & Awards

Awards

The Section solicited nominations and selected the first recipient of the “Excellence in Taxation Award,” established in 2025 to celebrate outstanding achievements and contributions to the tax community. The award will be presented at the Annual State Tax Reception on November 17, 2026.

Contributions

- The Tax Section sponsored ISBA Etiquette Dinners for law students in the amount of \$550.

Council Members/Committee Members

Executive Committee

Chair	Daniel Shackle
Chair-Elect	Chris Russell
Vice Chair	Tyler Macik
Secretary/Treasurer	Christopher Clerc
Immediate Past Chair	Hon. Justin McAdam
Past Chair	Adria Price

Council Members

Josh Brandle, Matt Ehinger, Scott Frissell, Mike Gould, Prof. Stephanie Hoffer, Randy Kaltenmark, Brandee Chanin, Paige McHugh, Rhonda Cook, Mark Pfeiffer, Angela Hale, Josh Schlake, Hon. Martha Blood Wentworth

Law Student Representatives

Amanda Kurteff, Noni Guvenoz, Thavisha Jayawardana

Advisory Members

Mark Richards

Looking to the Future

- The Tax Section plans to continue expanding member engagement opportunities through its standing committees.
- The Section plans to continue hosting events at all three Indiana law schools to promote student involvement in tax law.
- The Section plans to continue offering quarterly CLE programs and partnering with other ISBA Sections for joint events.
- The Section is exploring additional social and networking events for members, including potential annual gatherings.
- The Legislation & Policy Committee plans to continue its work on education regarding the tax on services for members and legislators.
- The Section plans to continue its scholarship program and build on the mentorship program for scholarship recipients.

This report is respectfully submitted by:

Daniel Shackle
Chair
dshackle@fbtlaw.com
(317) 237-3810

September 11, 2026



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Utility Law Section

Indiana State Bar Association
Report to the ISBA House of Delegates
September 24, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as the action of the Indiana State Bar Association (ISBA). Any opinions or recommendations herein expressed or made are those of Utility Law Section (ULS) submitting this report and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Indiana State Bar Association until such time as the ISBA has duly adopted them as policy of the Association.



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Highlight(s) of Accomplishment

- The Utility Law Section held a successful seminar in April 2026 in Indianapolis that provided relevant, quality continuing legal education content to its members with a second seminar scheduled end of October in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Navigated keeping costs down to maintain government membership attendance.
- Increased government member representation on the council

CLE

- April 23, 2026, seminar held in Indianapolis with 6.25 hours of CLE/1.0 hours ethics
- October 29-30, 2026, seminar scheduled in Indianapolis with 6.0 hours of CLE/1.0 hours ethics

Social & Connection Opportunities

- Each of the Section's seminars includes connection breaks, a seminar meal, and a reception, which encourages networking and social engagement with members.

Contributions

- Financial support of the ISBA Leadership Development Academy and Law Student Etiquette Dinners at Notre Dame, IU Maurer, and IU McKinney, as well as the We the People program.

Looking to the Future

- Increasing new membership
- Encouraging young practitioners to engage in the section

This report is respectfully submitted by:

Lauren Aguilar
Partner, Barnes & Thornburg LLP
ULS Section Chair, 2025 - 2026



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee

Indiana State Bar Association
Report to the ISBA House of Delegates
September 24, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as the action of the Indiana State Bar Association (ISBA). Any opinions or recommendations herein expressed or made are those of the **ISBA UPL Committee** submitting this report and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Indiana State Bar Association until such time as the ISBA has duly adopted them as policy of the Association.



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Highlight(s) of Accomplishment

- As of the date of this report, the ISBA UPL Committee has received and reviewed 28 complaints filed with the Committee in calendar year 2026.
- At the start of the year, the Committee was facing a backlog of 29 complaints that had not been acted upon.
- In 2026, the backlog has been cleared and new complaints are being timely screened and acted upon.

Council Members/Committee Members

- In March 2026, Colin Flora was appointed the new UPL Committee chair. At that time, there were nominally 17 members of the Committee. Based upon prior annual reports and experience, the active Committee membership is substantially fewer at approximately 4 persons.
- In August 2026, current Committee members were contacted and given the opportunity to advise whether they were interested in remaining on the Committee. Concurrently, notices were included in the ISBA's weekly Addendum email calling for new volunteers to join the Committee. Two persons have since been recruited, but the Committee still needs additional members to fully restaff the Committee and to continue to serve this vital function.

Looking to the Future

- The Committee has three primary goals 2026-2027:
 - 1. Reestablish sufficient membership on the Committee to carry out its function;
 - 2. Engage in more regular meetings to more timely act upon complaints; and
 - 3. Identify a liaison with the Attorney General's Office and Indiana Disciplinary Commission—i.e., the two other entities specifically empowered to abate the unauthorized practice of law under Indiana Admission and Discipline Rule 24—to coordinate and attempt to reach unified perspectives on developing issues in UPL

This report is respectfully submitted by:

Colin E. Flora
ISBA UPL Committee Chair

Pavlack Law, LLC
50 E. 91st St., Ste. 305
Indianapolis, IN 46240
Colin@PavlackLawFirm.com
September 10, 2026





Young Lawyers Section

Indiana State Bar Association
Report to the ISBA House of Delegates
September 24, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as the action of the Indiana State Bar Association (ISBA). Any opinions or recommendations herein expressed or made are those of the **Young Lawyers Section** submitting this report and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Indiana State Bar Association until such time as the ISBA has duly adopted them as policy of the Association.



INDIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION

Highlight(s) of Accomplishment

- This year, the YLS has worked to bring back some of its most popular offerings: *Legal Stuff (You Should Know!)* and the Young Lawyers Networking & Mentorship Initiative. While neither has been completed this term, both efforts take planning and review. Both options will be available in the near future.
- Like many, since the pandemic, the YLS has had its challenges “bouncing back” and resuming business as usual. Part of the draw of the section, especially when sitting on the council, is to get to know one another, which is often best done in person. However, with committee work and regular communication, council members have managed to get to know each other. Having a council who feels comfortable with one another is key to creating successful and successfully operated opportunities for section members. We feel that we are on the way to better member engagement with a united council.

Social & Connection Opportunities

- Dinner with the Judiciary, (Ruth's Chris Indianapolis Northside), November 4, 2025
- YLS Happy Hour during the ISBA Annual Summit (Bistro 33, Indianapolis), October 9, 2025
- YLS Council Fun Meeting (Southwest Michigan), August 7 – 9, 2026

Alternative Education Opportunities

- A committee has been diligently working on a new edition of the popular, youth-oriented legal guide, *Legal Stuff (You Should Know!)*. The committee has been working with Fishers High School Legal Studies teacher, Andrew Jones, to ensure that the guide is readable for students and useful for teachers as part of their legal studies curriculum. Mr. Jones has worked with other legal studies educators in the state to create curriculum for the guide. The newest edition of *Legal Stuff* is in its final edits and will be available via the ISBA's website.
- The YLS Service Committee co-hosted a park clean up outing with young lawyers of the Evansville Bar Association in the fall of 2025.
- A YLS committee has been working on plans to re-introduce the Young Lawyers Networking & Mentorship Initiative which is a five month long, virtual, group membership program for young lawyers. This program will be available in early 2027.

Scholarships & Awards

- Solo & Small Firm Conference, 2 Scholarships:
 - Elias Gering, Indianapolis
 - Cailyn Hoang, Fishers

Contributions

- Solo & Small Firm Conference, 2 Scholarships: \$1,492
- ISBA Leadership Development Academy Sponsorship: \$3,500
- Over the Edge, Michiana Sponsorship \$318
- We the People: \$250
- Indiana Law School Etiquette Dinners: \$1,100

Council Members/Committee Members

Name	Position	Firm/Organization
Elizabeth A. Klesmith	Chair	THK Law, LLP -- South Bend
Katherine A. Piscione	Chair Elect	Waldron Tate Land, LLC -- Indianapolis
Joshua C. Woodward	Secretary/Treasurer	Indiana Supreme Court -- Indianapolis
Matthew R. Land	Immediate Past Chair	Waldron Tate Land, LLC -- Indianapolis
Candace C. Dickson	District Representative 1	Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP -- Highland
OPEN	District Representative 2	
Alex C. Bowman	District Representative 3	Krieg DeVault LLP -- Mishawaka
Hannah L. Alderks	District Representative 4	Haller Colvin PC -- Fort Wayne
Elizabeth M. Roberson	District Representative 5	Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc. -- Lafayette
Ashley N. Canan	District Representative 6	Kightlinger & Gray, LLP -- Indianapolis
Jamie M. Sutton	District Representative 7	Sutton Law Office -- Bloomfield
Caroline F. Brinster	District Representative 8	Dentons -- Jasper
Timothy J. Stucky	District Representative 9	Kightlinger & Gray, LLP -- New Albany
OPEN	District Representative 10	
Stuart R. Settle	District Representative 11	Due Doyle Fanning & Alderfer LLP -- Indianapolis
Adrienne E. Rines Hammond	Counsel to the Chair	McKown & Myers, LLP -- Marion
MacKenzie A. Watson	At-Large Representative	Church Church Hittle + Antrim -- Noblesville
Scott J. Collins	At-Large Representative	Woodard Emhardt Henry Reeves & Wagner, LLP -- Indianapolis
Marisa R. Lareau	At-Large Representative	Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP -- Highland
F. Holton Hovde	At-Large Representative	Waldron Tate Land, LLC -- Indianapolis
Christopher B. Roberts	Indy Bar YLD Liaison	Woodard Emhardt Henry Reeves & Wagner, LLP -- Indianapolis

Looking to the Future

- Completing *Legal Stuff (You Should Know!)*
- Facilitating Young Lawyers Networking & Mentorship Initiative
- Re-introducing an annual Golf Scramble
- Service opportunities around the state

This report is respectfully submitted by:

Rebecca Smith
Liaison, Young Lawyers Section
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September 24, 2026