

# The COUNTY LINE



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## Pennsylvania Bar Foundation Launches Art Birdsall Impact Grant Program for County Bar Associations

*By E. Marie Queen, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Bar Foundation*

When Pennsylvania Bar Association County Bar Services Director Arthur J. Birdsall retired from his post in 2006, the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation and the PBA decided to work together to create a program to commemorate Art’s long tenure as the Association’s pre-eminent link to its important county bar partners.

The fundraising campaign conducted in association with Art’s gala retirement party provided over \$13,500 to launch a grant program based on Art’s wishes — to assist county bar associations in implementing a specific program or project, or enhancement of an existing program or project, that succeeded in making an immediate impact on the way county bar associations operate in service to their members, the courts and their community.

“The program is open to all bar associations, with consideration given to those with limited means,” commented Foundation President Karen M. Balaban of Harrisburg. “We’re hopeful that the program will be able to fund one or two grants annually over the next 10 years and make a meaningful and measurable impact on county bar operations across the state.”

Foundation Zone 6 Director Susan Key of the Washington county firm of Peacock Keller & Ecker L.L.P. will chair the five-person grant evaluation committee,

comprised of Foundation members selected by Foundation President Balaban and the Conference of County Bar Leaders Executive Committee. The committee will evaluate submissions and select recipient(s) annually to share in grants totaling not more than \$1,000. Any unallocated funds will be carried forward to the succeeding year.

County bar associations interested in applying for grant funds must complete a simple two-page application. **The deadline for submission is May 5, 2008.** The successful applicant(s) will be notified in

writing on or before June 1, and the grants will be awarded during the annual meeting of the Foundation Board of Directors and Members on June 5 in Hershey, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

For more information, see the Birdsall Grant Informational Sheet at [www.pabarfoundation.org/files/AJBirdsall.pdf](http://www.pabarfoundation.org/files/AJBirdsall.pdf). The application form can be downloaded at [www.pabarfoundation.org/files/BirdsallsGrantApplication.pdf](http://www.pabarfoundation.org/files/BirdsallsGrantApplication.pdf). ■

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# PBA Welcomes Education and Special Projects Coordinator Susan Etter



Susan Etter

Susan Etter has joined the staff at the Pennsylvania Bar Association as the Education and Special Projects coordinator. Susan hit the ground running with preparations for this year's celebration of the

50th anniversary of Law Day.

"I've only been here a few weeks, but it has been fabulous. I know I am going to enjoy working at the PBA and am looking forward to meeting people in the counties."

Susan is a graduate of Shippensburg University and the Dickinson School of Law.

"It continues to amaze me how things come full circle," she said. "Many years ago, I was helping to plan a statewide, week-long youth retreat for teens in foster care. One of the learning activities we pursued for the youth was law-related education. It seemed like a great way to teach teens, who were aging-out of the system and getting ready to live on their own, about their rights and responsibilities in a very engaging and thought-provoking way. A group of staff traveled to Philadelphia to Temple University and met with David Trevaskis and the Temple LEAP program. We left with lots of ideas for lessons and were able to develop a fun and educational program for the youth. It was a big hit! That experience helped solidify my plans to go to law school and inspired me to look for opportunities throughout my career to become more involved with law-related education in the schools. Imagine my surprise and delight when, almost 20 years later, I had the opportunity to interview for this position. Now I have a job that uses my passion for education, youth and law; I get to work with David (now the PBA pro bono coordinator) and so many other great people; and I am using the diversity of work experience I have gained over the years.

Who knew this is where the journey that started years ago would lead me?"

Prior to joining the PBA, Susan worked at the Center for Schools and Communities/Center for Safe Schools, a statewide intermediary organization working with schools, communities and organizations to improve outcomes for children and families. "My work at the Center and now my work at the PBA have many points of intersection. I am working with many of the same people and groups toward achieving similar outcomes: better educated and informed citizens."

In addition to the Law Day program every May, Susan will also work on other law-related education programs including the annual Celebrate the Constitution program in September and other special projects like lawyer certification.

Celebrate the Constitution runs from Constitution Day on Sept. 17 through Bill of Rights Week, which concludes on Dec. 15, the day the Bill of Rights was ratified by the states in 1791. Celebrate the Constitution is a program that allows students to gain a greater understanding of the U.S. and Pennsylvania Constitutions through fun and informative learning activities. The PBA provides lesson plans on the Constitution and classroom ideas for mock Constitution signings and Constitutional Conventions.

Susan noted that in 2004, Congress passed a measure requiring all educational institutions (public and private institutions including high schools, colleges and universities) that receive federal money to offer students an instructional program on the U.S. Constitution each Sept. 17. The Celebrate the Constitution program satisfies that requirement.

She noted, "This program is another wonderful example of how the PBA and the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation are partnering with PBA members and local bar associations, as well as other statewide organizations, like the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Pennsylvania First Lady and Third Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Marjorie Rendell's PennCORD initiative, to help local schools

provide civics education to students in kindergarten through college.

"Check the PBA Web site for more information on our Law-Related Education activities. I'm sure you will be reading additional articles from me in upcoming PBA publications as I learn more about the other "special projects" PBA Executive Director Barry Simpson has planned for me.

"I want to thank all of the people who have been so friendly, professional and helpful to me as I learn about the work that is happening here at the PBA and around the state in all of the counties.

"I am very interested in working with all of you to promote and showcase the contributions we make to our communities and the positive impact we have on people's lives."

Susan can be reached at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2256 or email at [susan.etter@pabar.org](mailto:susan.etter@pabar.org). ■

## 2008 PBA Unit County Dues Schedule

**November 2007** — First dues billing sent to unit county bar associations.

**January 1, 2008 - March 31, 2008** — All unit county dues received within this time-frame qualify for a 10 percent discount.

**March 2008** — Follow-up dues billing sent to unit county bar associations.

**April 1, 2008 - June 30, 2008** — All unit county dues received within this time-frame qualify for a 6-percent discount.

**June 2008** — Third dues billing sent to unit county bar associations.

**July 31, 2008** — Any unit county members whose dues are not paid are dropped from PBA membership.

# Local Bar Associations Invited to Join the Celebration as PBA Plans for 50th Anniversary of Law Day

*By Susan Etter, Esq., PBA Education and Special Projects Coordinator*

The Pennsylvania Bar Association will soon celebrate the ninth annual statewide Law Day program and the 50th anniversary of Law Day nationwide. In 1958 President Eisenhower recognized the importance of celebrating a “day of national dedication to the principle of government under law,” and that is still just as important today.

“Growing Strong Citizens” is the theme for Pennsylvania’s Law Day activities. We can strengthen our communities by educating others about their rights and responsibilities as citizens in a democratic nation, talking about the importance of the rule of law in a free society, and building relationships with our neighbors, schools and local businesses. There are many ways we can make a difference, some big and some small, but all important. Many local bar associations will be sponsoring Law Day festivities. If you have never participated in the past, please consider joining us during this 50th anniversary by celebrating Law Day in your community. Here are just a few ideas you can use: work with your county bar association to organize and host a community event — maybe an “Ask a Lawyer” program or guest speaker; invite a group of students to visit the courthouse and meet with a judge; go into a classroom at your child’s school and share one of the lessons in the PBA 2008 Law Day Planning Guide — everything you need to know to be successful is contained in the guide; or be creative and plan an event that meets a need you’ve identified in your community.

## **What is the PBA doing to support and celebrate Law Day 2008?**

The Pennsylvania Bar Association serves as a clearinghouse for Law Day, providing free materials and registration information. Local bar associations may request free Law Day lesson plan guides and other materials to use in classroom visits or during other special events that are held to celebrate Law Day. The PBA Law Day program and materials are designed to enhance and supplement existing local efforts. Please visit the PBA Web site at [www.pabar.org/public/education/lawday/lawdayinformation.asp](http://www.pabar.org/public/education/lawday/lawdayinformation.asp) for more information about Law Day. Remember, Law Day events can occur anytime during the month of May.

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*Please visit the PBA Web site at [www.pabar.org/public/education/lawday/lawdayinformation.asp](http://www.pabar.org/public/education/lawday/lawdayinformation.asp) for more information about Law Day.*

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## **These are some of the resources available on the Web site:**

- General Law Day 2008 information, including the free lesson plan guide.
- The 2008 K-College Law Day Lesson Plan Guide – filled with information to help you get started and plan a visit to a classroom, lesson planning tips and ideas, quick lessons if you have a limited amount of time to visit a class, and a variety of grade-appropriate lesson plans from which to choose.
- Law Day 2008 registration form.
- Lesson Plans from past years that can be used at any time.
- Local bar association Law Day activities scheduled for May 2008.

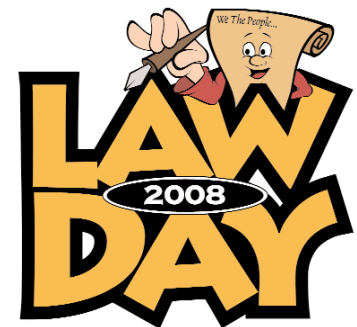
Please share with the PBA any information about your upcoming Law Day programs. It is important so that we can report the impact our members’ efforts have on local communities. Your time and efforts make a difference in the lives of students. We’d like to share this through the PBA Web site and other publications. To include your local program(s), please forward all relevant information, including date, place, contact information, etc., by e-mail to [lawday@pabar.org](mailto:lawday@pabar.org) or by fax to (717) 221-8739. Schools and lawyers do check this area for local information!

On May 1, PBA President Andy Susko will join Pennsylvania First Lady and Third Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Marjorie Rendell in a special plenary session at the National Judges Forum on Children, Families and the Courts in Philadelphia celebrating both the 50th anniversary of Law Day and the partnership between the PBA and Judge Rendell to promote civic education.

The PBA will also host a special 50th anniversary party in Harrisburg at the Capital in early May. Watch the Web site and future editions of PBA publications for more information.

Law Day is coordinated by the PBA Law-Related Education Committee and is funded by the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation.

If you have any Law Day questions, please contact me at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2256; or [susan.etter@pabar.org](mailto:susan.etter@pabar.org). Thank you for time and support of this important school-community partnership. ■



# County Bar Efforts Awarded at 42nd Annual CCBL

The Pennsylvania Bar Association presented County Bar Recognition Awards during the 42nd Annual Seminar of the Conference of County Bar Leaders (CCBL), Feb. 29, in State College. Twenty-eight local bar associations in Pennsylvania were honored this year for sponsoring projects that work to improve the legal profession, justice system and community. The awards, which are non-competitive in nature, are sponsored annually by the PBA.

“The Pennsylvania Bar Association is very proud to recognize Pennsylvania lawyers who lead and actively participate in programs that improve their communities and better the legal profession and our justice system,” said PBA President Andrew F. Susko. “It is our hope that the County Bar Recognition Awards will encourage even more legal professionals to become engaged and to be part of the organized bar’s collective spirit of activism.”

The following local bar associations received awards for notable projects and programs:

**Allegheny County Bar Association:**  
Employment of a Gender Equality Coordinator

**Bar Association of Lehigh County:**  
Organization of the Holiday Assistance Program

**Beaver County Bar Association:**  
Coordination of the Angel Tree Project and Support of the Children and Youth Services Independent Living Program

**Berks County Bar Association:**  
Production of Quarterly Issues of *Berks Barrister*

**Bucks County Bar Association:**  
Ongoing Coordination of Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts

**Butler County Bar Association:**  
Coordination of Legal Referral Services and Opening of Bar Association Offices

**Centre County Bar Association:**  
Creation of Murder Mystery Continuing Legal Education Program

**Chester County Bar Association:**  
Production of Chester County Elder Law Handbook and Resource Guide and Implementation of Legal Aid Fundraising Campaign

**Clearfield County Bar Association:**  
Implementation of Legal Eagles Program

**Cumberland County Bar Association:**  
Creation of the Florian Project and Organization of Young Lawyers Division's Casino Night Fundraiser

**Dauphin County Bar Association:**  
Implementation of the Capital Area Managing Partners 1L Summer Intern Program, Pro Bono Guardianship Monitor Program and Courthouse Self-Help Center

**Delaware County Bar Association:**  
Implementation of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee's Voluntary Settlement Program, Involvement of the Community Outreach Committee's in the City of Chester After-School Program, and Contributions to the Criminal Trial Practices Committee/Sub-Committee's Indigent Defense Program

**Erie County Bar Association:**  
Formation of the Coalition of Attorneys and Physicians in Erie (CAPE)

**Franklin County Bar Association:**  
Coordination of the Young Lawyers Division's Workday for Habitat for Humanity and Organization of the 2007 Bench Bar Conference

**Lackawanna Bar Association:**  
Production of the Lackawanna Legal Television Program, Creation of a Continuing Legal Education Program on Appellate Practice with the Superior and Commonwealth Courts and Coordination of the Young Lawyers Division's Lawyers in the Classroom, High School Edition

**Lancaster Bar Association:**  
Provision of Legal Assistance for Victims of Mortgage Broker Scam

**Lawrence County Bar Association:**  
Implementation of a Limited Appearance Custody Conciliation Program and Awarding of Scholarships for the Law Day Essay Contest

**Lebanon County Bar Association:**  
Employment of First Bar Executive, Creation of the Association's First Web Site and Implementation of the Law Exploring Post Career Education Program

**Lycoming Law Association:**  
Organization of the Lawtoberfest Fundraiser, Development of Grants through the Association's Foundation and Coordination of the Law Day Essay and Art Contest

**Monroe County Bar Association:**  
Coordination of “Broadway Bound with the MCBA,” the Monthly Section Luncheons and the Monroe County Bar Foundation Art Show

**Montgomery Bar Association:**  
Production of Television Program and DVD to Protect Children from Sexual Predators, Launch of a Political Action Committee and Ongoing Efforts to Promote Diversity within the Association's Membership

**Northampton County Bar Association:**  
Implementation of a Law Day Program, Internet Safety Programs for Children and Adults and the People's Law School

**Schuylkill County Bar Association:**  
Coordination of a Judicial Retention Campaign, Coordination of a Christmas Project Benefiting Schuylkill Community Action and the Purchase of a Courthouse Christmas Tree Honoring Members of the U.S. Armed Forces

(Continued on Page 5)

## County Bar Efforts Awarded at 42nd Annual CCBL

(Continued from Page 4)

### **Somerset County Bar Association:**

Coordination of Courthouse Tours and Essay Contest and Development of Articles about Elder Law for the Area Agency on Aging Newsletter

### **Washington County Bar Association:**

Creation of the Member Assistance Fund

### **Westmoreland Bar Association:**

Support for the Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk, Support for the Centennial Celebration for Westmoreland County Courthouse and Coordination of the Law Day Luncheon for Mock Trial Participants and Coaches

### **Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association:**

Production of Full-color Issue of *Luzerne Legal Register*, Donation of Bicycles to Needy Children and Creation of the Friday Breakfast Continuing Legal Education Series

### **York County Bar Association:**

Production of Educational Materials: Guardians of Freedom and The York County Judicial Center DVDs ■

Meeting of the  
Pennsylvania Association  
of Bar Executives  
(PABE)

Thursday, June 5  
3:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
Hershey Lodge

*part of the 2008 Pennsylvania Bar  
Association Annual Meeting*

## PBA Spring Avoidance of Legal Malpractice Seminars

The PBA County Bar Services Department, the PBA Professional Liability Committee and USI Affinity, in cooperation with local bar associations, have scheduled close to 20 malpractice avoidance seminars in the eastern part of the state in the next couple of months.

Attendees will receive a five-percent discount on their PBA-endorsed malpractice insurance through USI Affinity and 1.5 hours of CLE ethics credit. All seminars are presented live and include a CD-ROM of the presentation material. Unless otherwise noted, please register by contacting PBA County Bar Services at (800) 932-9311, Ext. 2297.

### **LANCASTER**

April 30 at 12:30 p.m.  
Lancaster Bar Association  
28 East Orange St, Lancaster  
(717) 393-6333

### **LEHIGH**

May 9 at 10:00 a.m.  
BALC Headquarters, 1114 Walnut St,  
Allentown

### **UNION**

May 12 at 3:00 p.m.  
Lewisburg Hotel, 136 Market St,  
Lewisburg

### **NORTHUMBERLAND**

May 13 at 9:00 a.m.  
Edison Hotel, 401 Market St, Sunbury

### **LYCOMING**

May 13 at 3:00 p.m.  
Holiday Inn, 100 Pine St, Williamsport

### **LUZERNE**

May 14 at 9:00 a.m.  
Genetti Hotel, 77 East Market St,  
Wilkes-Barre

### **COLUMBIA/ MONTOUR**

May 14 at 3:00 p.m.  
Quality Inn, 15 West Valley Rd,  
Danville

### **WAYNE/PIKE**

May 20 at 9:00 a.m.  
The Settlers Inn at Bingham Park,  
4 Main Ave, Hawley

### **LACKAWANNA**

May 20 at 3:00 p.m.  
Scranton Hilton, 100 Adams Ave,  
Scranton

### **CARBON**

May 21 at 9:00 a.m.  
Inn at Jim Thorpe, 24 Broadway,  
Jim Thorpe

### **NORTHAMPTON**

May 22 at 1:00 p.m.  
Best Western, Rt 512 & Rt 22,  
Bethlehem  
(610) 258-6333

### **PERRY**

June 9 at 3:00 p.m.  
Perry County Court House,  
Centre Square, New Bloomfield

### **LEBANON**

June 10 at 9:00 a.m.  
Coleman Chapel, 1901 Cumberland St,  
Lebanon

### **CUMBERLAND**

June 11 at 3:00 p.m.  
Hotel Carlisle, 1700 Harrisburg Pike,  
Carlisle

### **FRANKLIN**

June 12 at 9:00 a.m.  
Main Street Deli, Event Room,  
183 South Main St, Chambersburg

### **ADAMS**

June 12 at 3:00 p.m.  
Best Western Gettysburg Hotel,  
1 Lincoln Square, Gettysburg

# Bar Legends Honored at 42nd Annual CCBL Seminar — Arthur J. Birdsall and Gilbert Nurick Awards Presented in State College

On February 29, during the 42nd Annual Conference of County Bar Leaders (CCBL) Seminar held at the Nittany Lion Inn, State College, the CCBL honored Alexander A. DiSanti of Media with its 2008 Gilbert Nurick Award for commitment to the Pennsylvania and Delaware County Bar Associations. Cumberland County Bar Association Executive Director Becky H. Morgenthal received the 2008 Arthur J. Birdsall Award for her commitment to the legal profession.



*CCBL President Terry Weiler presents the Arthur J. Birdsall Award to Cumberland County Bar Association Executive Director Becky H. Morgenthal*

The Arthur J. Birdsall Award is presented to a county bar executive who demonstrates professional excellence, who is committed to the success of his or her bar association and who significantly enhances the stature of his or her bar association. The award is named in honor of Arthur J. Birdsall, the Pennsylvania Bar Association's county bar services

director who retired after nearly 40 years of support to local bar associations.

Fellow bar executives nominated Becky Morgenthal for the award because of her inspiring dedication to the legal profession, her professional demeanor, and her efforts to increase involvement in the activities of the organized bar. During her tenure as the president of the Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives (PABE), Becky continued the excellent service the association brings to bar executive across the state. As the PABE president, Becky also sat on the executive committee of the Conference of County Bar Leaders. She used her excellent organizational and interpersonal skills to help the Conference expand and improve its impact on the statewide county bar association leadership.

PBA County Bar Services Director Michelle Shuker added, "In her professional and personal life, Becky has always been ahead of the pack and leading the way. The bar in Pennsylvania is a better place as a result of Becky's contributions."

The Gilbert Nurick Award, which is named for the late Harrisburg lawyer who served as PBA president, is presented to a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association who exhibits dedication and service to the leadership and promotion of the organized bar and its activities.

Alexander (Lex) DiSanti has served as a member or chair of more than 50 committees of the Delaware County Bar Association (DCBA). He is a founder of the DCBA Inn of Court and a frequent presenter at numerous continuing legal education programs for Delaware County lawyers. For more than 20 years, DiSanti was a voting zone delegate for the PBA, and he served on the association's Government Regulation of the Profession Committee.



*Alexander (Lex) DiSanti, of Media, is joined by his granddaughter upon his receiving the Gilbert Nurick Award.*

Lex's exemplary efforts on behalf of the legal profession have been recognized with the E. Wallace Chadwick Memorial Award, the Guy G. deFuria Inn of Court Award, the Lawyers' Club of the Year Award, the Elizabeth C. Price Award and the Paul R. Sand Award.

Shuker said, "If you were lucky enough to attend the CCBL lunch and hear Lex's remarks, you understand his positive influence on the DCBA and Pennsylvania lawyers statewide. His professional and personal achievements only contribute to complete the picture that Lex is a true representation of a gentleman lawyer." ■

# Photos Highlights from the 42nd Annual CCBL, Feb. 28 - March 1, Nittany Lion Inn, State College



# CCBL Casino Night Jackpot Donors Contributed to an Exciting Evening

Casino Night at the 42nd annual Conference of County Bar Leaders (CCBL) in State College created an opportunity for bar leaders from across the state to meet other bar leaders and all of the vendors in a social and fun-filled environment. Publication of the jackpots before the event created an environment of excitement, and competition was strong to end the evening with the most winnings to qualify for one of the extraordinary prizes. The generous contribution of our jackpot donors made the evening a success.

We sincerely thank the donors listed below for their support. We are all looking forward to more fun next year.



## **Bedford Springs Resort** [www.bedfordspringsresort.com](http://www.bedfordspringsresort.com)

Bedford Springs Resort donated a night in the historic wing for two, including dinner.

## **Bucks County Convention and Visitors Bureau** [www.buckscountycvb.org](http://www.buckscountycvb.org)

The Bucks County Convention and Visitors Bureau donated gift items and certificates from businesses of the Bucks County area.

## **Central Pennsylvania Convention and Visitors Bureau** [www.centralpacvb.org](http://www.centralpacvb.org)

CPCVB donated the Creamery Ice Cream Bar and a gift basket of regional treats.

## **Congress Hall** [www.congresshall.com](http://www.congresshall.com)

Congress Hall donated a gift basket of Congress Hall and Blue Pig Restaurant holiday ornaments, cap, polo shirt, umbrella and napkins, and a stuffed Blue Pig, valued at \$200; as well as a gift certificate for one-night stay for one person, including dinner on Friday night, breakfast on Saturday morning, a tour of Congress Hall properties and a trolley tour of Cape May, valued at \$500.

## **Hershey Entertainment and Resorts Company** [www.hersheypa.com](http://www.hersheypa.com)

Hershey Entertainment and Resorts Company donated a basket of chocolate delights.

## **The Harrisburg Hilton Hotel** [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)

The Harrisburg Hilton donated a gift certificate for one-night weekend stay, with breakfast for two at the Raspberries California Bistro.

## **Lancaster County Pennsylvania Dutch Convention & Visitors Bureau** [www.padutchcountry.com](http://www.padutchcountry.com)

The Lancaster Pennsylvania Dutch Convention and Visitors Bureau donated a Tanger Club Outlets travel tote bag full of goodies.

## **Nemacolin Woodlands Resort** [www.nemacolin.com](http://www.nemacolin.com)

Nemacolin Woodlands Resort donated a gift certificate for a two-night stay at the Chateau, including breakfast each day.

## **Nittany Lion Inn** [www.pshs.psu.edu/NittanyLionInn/nlhome.asp](http://www.pshs.psu.edu/NittanyLionInn/nlhome.asp)

The Nittany Lion Inn donated a gift basket filled with Nittany Lion items, a cooler bag and other PSU-logo articles.



## **Omni William Penn Hotel** [www.omni.com](http://www.omni.com)

The Omni donated a gift certificate for their Leisure Package, with breakfast for two, including deluxe accommodations and full American breakfast.

## **Seven Springs Resort** [www.7springs.com](http://www.7springs.com)

Seven Springs Mountain Resort donated a gift basket with a gift certificate for an overnight stay, breakfast for two, a logo wine cooler carry bag, a bottle of wine and two wine glasses.

## **Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel** [www.sheraton.com](http://www.sheraton.com)

The Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel donated a certificate for a two-night stay (value \$750) along with a certificate for Philllips Seafood Restaurant for \$100.

## **Vintage Hotels, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada** [www.vintage-hotels.com/niagara-on-the-lake](http://www.vintage-hotels.com/niagara-on-the-lake)

Vintage Hotels donated two-nights accommodations for two in a traditional room, with breakfast for two each morning. ■





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# BE A LEADER OF THE PAC

## Protect Your Profession Through Political Action

**PABAR-PAC is the political action committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.** Its mission is to help elect legislators who represent the interests of Pennsylvania's legal profession – *our* profession – and the clients we serve. Pennsylvania lawyers and the clients we represent are greatly affected by the decisions made by our lawmakers in the state legislature, yet today, *only about 20% of these lawmakers are attorneys.*

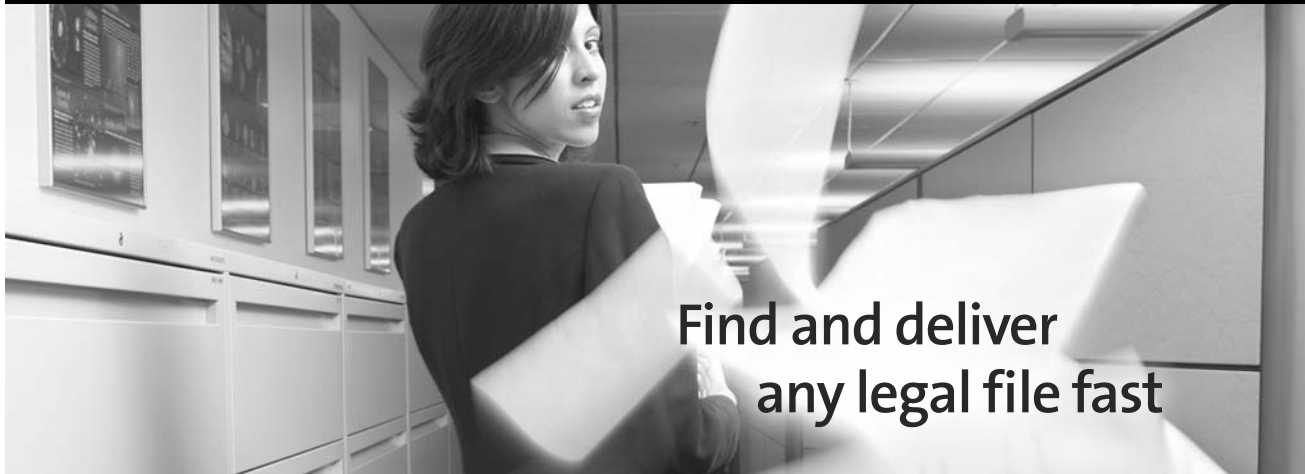
With issues such as taxes on legal services, the unlicensed practice of law, and caps on noneconomic damages in medical malpractice cases, the legal community cannot afford to have fewer legislators on Capitol Hill who lack an understanding of our profession. We need your help to elect legislators who will consider our views on the legal issues that affect us all.

**Make your profession's voice heard and become a leader of PABAR-PAC.**

**For more information, please contact:**  
Lauren E. Brinjac, Legislative Coordinator  
1-800-932-0311  
lauren.brinjac@pabar.org

or visit the Legislative News section of the PBA Web site, [www.pabar.org](http://www.pabar.org)

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# On the *Local Scene*...

## **Beaver**

The Charitable Fundraising and Giving Committee of the Beaver County Bar Association and members from the bench and bar spent a day with children from the CYS Independent Living Program, beginning with breakfast at the bar association, followed by a tour of the county jail. After lunch at the county courthouse, Judge Dohanich presented a Stepping Out Program. A donation was given to the CYS Independent Living Program so that the children could participate in the Pisgah Program at Geneva College.

The Charitable Fundraising and Giving Committee of the Beaver County Bar Association chose "Angel Tree" for its 2007 Christmas project. Members of the association made contributions, shopped for gifts, then wrapped gifts for 50 children. Angel Tree coordinates the purchase and delivery of gifts to Beaver County children whose parents are incarcerated.

## **Bradford**

The Bradford County Bar Association honored attorney Robert Landy, in memory of David Keefe, for his contributions to the community, the bar association, pro bono efforts and for excellent legal representation to the community. Marilyn Bok was honored in memory of Carol Keefe for her contributions to the community, the Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers and for her assistance to the bar association in administering the reward fund for David and Carol Keefe.

The Bradford County Bar Association held a memorial service for Judge Evan S. Williams, a former president judge who died in 2005.

## **Chester**

In celebration of Earth Day 2008, the Chester County Bar Association is serving as a drop-off location for recycling old computers, printers, mice, etc. During the event, the association's IT manager will wipe the hard drives for a fee of \$50

per system, with all proceeds going to the Chester County Bar Foundation.

Chester County Bar Association member and Pro Bono Committee Chair John McKenna recently received a Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network 2008 Excellence Award, honoring supporters of legal aid in Pennsylvania who work tirelessly as advocates for low-income people and victims of domestic violence. McKenna has also been instrumental in the development and continued success of the bar association's "Access to Justice" program, which provides pro bono services to the working poor in Chester County.

## **Cumberland**

The Cumberland County Bar Association has launched three new sections: Criminal Law, chaired by Jay Abom; Probate and Real Estate, chaired by David Stone; and Family Law, chaired by Linda Clotfelter. The sections are creating new enthusiasm among CCBA members.

PBA President Andy Susko joined the CCBA at its annual meeting. He thanked everyone for helping to defeat the sales tax issue, presented Daniel K. Deardorff with the President's award and gave the members a current overview of the PBA activities. CCBA member Linda Clotfelter received the MidPenn Legal Services Pro Bono award, and other pro bono volunteers received certificates of appreciation. The CCBA annual meeting is a time for socializing and fun, as well as for annual elections and reports for members.

## **Delaware**

Members of the Delaware County Bar Association who attended the 42nd Annual Conference of County Bar Leaders in State College included Joseph W. Chupain, president-elect; Bruce E. Rodger, vice president; Colleen M. Neary, CCBL Executive Committee member; Elizabeth C. Price, executive director and Bench Bar Relations panelist; and Alexander A. DiSanti.

Elizabeth C. Price, executive director of the Delaware County Bar Association, was recently named president of Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania (LASP). LASP provides high-quality civil legal advice and representation to low-income individuals, victims of domestic abuse and the elderly living in Bucks, Montgomery, Chester and Delaware counties. LASP ensures that members of these communities have full access to the rights and benefits to which they are entitled under the law.

The Delaware County Bar Association held memorial services for James H. Gorbey Jr., Anthony A. Raffo and Rolphe C. Marsh. This event provides members of the DCBA the opportunity to demonstrate respect for former colleagues and commitment to an association tradition.

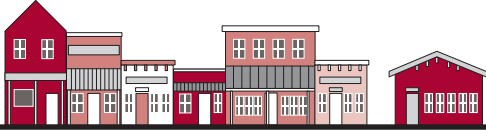
The DCBA Elder Law Committee hosted a well-attended seminar, "Interplay Between the County Mental Health System and County Services for the Aged." Prominent figures in the field provided attendees an overview of their agencies in helping older persons needing mental health treatment.

Another meeting of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Voluntary Settlement Program brought parties and their counsel before two settlement facilitators to attempt settlement or provide neutral evaluation to their cases. Such input assists the parties in further negotiations or helps them to settle their cases. Recommendations are advisory and provided as a voluntary service to DCBA members or other parties who have cases before the Delaware County courts.

The DCBA Family Law Section held a recent seminar entitled "College Costs: How to Reduce What You and Your Clients Will Have to Pay for College." The presenter, David A. Emery, a certified financial planner and divorce financial analyst, spoke to attendees about

*(Continued on Page 12)*

the county line



# On the *Local Scene...*

*(Continued from Page 11)*

planning for college, college and financial aid awards, and designing an equitable distribution plan that includes the most advantageous ways of covering college expenses. Emery is one of only 500 planners who have achieved the designation of Certified College Planning Specialist.

Members of the DCBA Young Lawyers Section planned several social events, including a happy hour, their Second Annual Texas Hold'Em Tournament and a judges' cocktail reception on April 24. All members of the bench and bar are invited to join the YLS in welcoming the new judges, honoring current and senior judges and networking with members of the Bar.

## **Franklin**

The Franklin County Bar Association hosted a reception to honor Common Pleas Judge Richard Walsh, Magisterial District Judge Todd Williams, District Attorney John Nelson and Commissioner David Keller — four members who were sworn into office during a ceremony in the county's historic Courtroom One. Other county row officers and their staffs also were invited to the reception.

The Franklin County Bar Association held its first Pro Bono Recognition Luncheon on Jan. 25 to honor the 45 attorneys who had accepted pro bono cases from one or more of the three legal aid offices in the county during 2007. The bar association plans to make the luncheon an annual event to thank members for their pro bono service.

Twelve of the 15 former presidents still active in the Franklin County Bar Association attended the Third Annual Past Presidents' Luncheon on Feb. 15. The current officers hold the luncheon not only to thank their predecessors for their ongoing service to the bar, but also to "brainstorm with the brain trust" — getting the past leaders' input on current issues facing the association.

The Franklin County Bar Association held its fifth annual Lawyers & Lawmakers Breakfast on March 5 at the bar association. All four of the state House members who represent the county attended, as did a staff member of the state senator's office. Among the issues discussed were property tax reform and revenue from casinos, the recently defeated sales tax proposal, the state inheritance tax, a bill that would increase juror pay, funding for legal services and the 2008-09 state budget.

## **Lackawanna**

Lackawanna Bar Association members visited more than 1,200 fifth-grade students as part of the association's Young Lawyers Division's "Lawyers in the Classroom" Day.

## **Lancaster**

The Lancaster Bar Association Foundation is co-sponsoring, along with Millersville University School of Education, training sessions for the Lancaster Mediation Center. Volunteer mediators can then be called on to help with disputes in families, neighborhoods and businesses, and on referral from courts.

## **Lebanon**

The Lebanon County Bar Association donated \$1,000 to Domestic Violence Intervention (DVI) of Lebanon County's Cool Care Campaign, which helped pay for air-conditioning for DVI's emergency residential shelter.

## **Montgomery**

Over the past three years, the Montgomery Bar Association (MBA) has been working with its counterpart, the Montgomery County Medical Society (MCMS), in exploring the use of mediation as an alternative to litigation in cases of potential medical liability. This effort was initiated when former Justice William H. Lamb of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court brought the bar association and the medical society together to encourage these groups to look for

improvements in the traditional liability system for resolving disputes about patient care. The groups then began jointly investigating mediation as an alternative form of dispute resolution in medical malpractice cases. With the support of Justice Lamb and the Hospital Association of Pennsylvania, members of the MBA and MCMS formed a Mediation Task Force in 2005, to design and launch a pilot mediation program at Abington Memorial Hospital. The program promotes early intervention to resolve disputes related to medical care, in the hope of reducing the adversarial feelings, costs and delays that often accompany a malpractice lawsuit. The pilot program will also use a more formal mediation arm to resolve serious disputes that remain unresolved at the first level. Seventeen physicians, 10 nursing leaders and others completed a 10-hour training program in January, consisting of formalized early intervention strategies for physicians and others within the hospital. More recently, a full-day training session for the second-tier phase of the program was held at the Montgomery Bar Building in Norristown and included participation by doctors and lawyers from the MBA.

Ultimately the key to this initiative will be broad acceptance by the medical, legal and patient communities. The groups are now publicizing the program so that when concerns about the quality of care do arise, all parties involved will know that mediation is an option for resolving disputes fairly, quickly and less contentiously than through litigation. The Medical-Mediation Task Force has solicited the support of state Legislature.

## **Monroe**

The Monroe County Bar Association Foundation is a sponsor for the county's 21st Annual Youth in Music Excellence Awards.

*(Continued on Page 13)*



# On the *Local Scene...*

## Philadelphia

The Philadelphia Bar Association has announced the creation of a new Office for Diversity, and has named Dr. Sean Kathleen Lincoln as director. The Office for Diversity was created to work with legal employers to foster more diverse work environments. The Office also serves as a resource for individuals seeking to advance and develop their careers. The Office for Diversity provides infrastructure, strategic leadership, coordination and continuity to the diversity efforts of the various association committees, departments and external efforts. The director of the Office for Diversity will provide the vision, leadership and support for developing and implementing programs and practices to encourage diversity in the Philadelphia legal community.

## Warren

The Warren County Bar Association was a co-sponsor of Robert H. Jackson Warren County, an annual event in an observance of the county native's 116th birthday. Jackson is remembered for his service on the U.S. Supreme Court and as chief prosecutor of Nazi leaders at Nuremberg, Germany.

## Washington

The Washington County Bar Association and the Washington & Jefferson College Pre-Law Society sponsored a lecture on the impact of local dogfighting, by Debbie Jugan, an attorney assigned to the Narcotics Division of the Allegheny County District Attorney's office.

## Wayne

The Wayne County Bar Association, together with the Dorflinger-Suydam Sanctuary presented the annual Rutherford Award to the Wayne County Tour of Honor Committee. The committee coordinated an effort to send approximately 100 local World War II veterans to Washington D.C. as a means to acknowledge their service. The award is named for the late Judge James Rutherford.

## Westmoreland

The Westmoreland Bar Foundation sponsored an information session titled "What Every Adult Needs to Know About Child Support in Westmoreland County." The seminar was expected to be of particular interest to people who need to file for

child or spousal support, are already scheduled for support conferences or are looking to file for modifications to an existing support matter.

The Westmoreland Bar Foundation has teamed up with the Greensburg Turkey Trot to provide sponsorship money to the newly organized Westmoreland CASA program. The money will be used to pair a child going through the family court system with a specially trained and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer.

## Wilkes-Barre/Luzerne

The Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association/Luzerne County Bar sponsored a CLE breakfast and seminar on parental rights of special education students.

The Luzerne County Bar Foundation, the charitable arm of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association/Luzerne County Bar, donated funds to the local "Memory Walk," sponsored by the National Alzheimer's Association Pennsylvania Chapter. ■



## SAVE THE DATES: June 4-6, 2008

- Annual Dinner
- Awards Breakfast/Luncheon
- Continuing Legal Education
- House of Delegates Meeting
- Law School Alumni Receptions
- Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section Conference
- Women in the Profession Conference
- PA Bar Foundation Silent Auction

## PENNSYLVANIA BAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

HERSHEY LODGE & CONVENTION CENTER, HERSHEY, PA.



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**Send your news for *The County Line* to  
PBA County Bar Services Director**

**Michelle M. Shuker, Esq., at  
Michelle.Shuker@pabar.org; FAX (717)  
238-7182; or PBA, PO Box 186,  
Harrisburg, PA 17108.**

**Call Michelle at (800) 932-0311,  
Ext. 2218 with your questions.**

## JUNE 2, 2008 IS THE COPY DEADLINE for the July 2008 issue of the County Line.

Send your news for *The County Line* to PBA County Bar Services Director  
Michelle M. Shuker, Esq., at Michelle.Shuker@pabar.org, FAX (717)238-7182  
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# Pennsylvania Lawyers Take Their Case to Capitol Hill

The 11th annual PBA on the Hill program has taken on new energy and purpose. Themed “Pennsylvania Lawyers Taking Their Case to Capitol Hill,” the two-day event on May 5 and 6 will provide opportunities for Pennsylvania lawyers to directly engage legislators on issues of importance to the profession:

- Access to justice/civil legal services funding
- Protecting the practice of the law/UPL
- Preserving county legal journals
- Other issues of interest to county bar associations and individual lawyers

This is an opportunity to meet face-to-face with state legislators about issues impacting the practice of law and the public’s access to justice. The program includes a dedicated block of time for these meetings. Attendees have another opportunity to meet with legislators during the PBA’s Capitol Rotunda reception ending Day One of the program. PBA Pro Bono Award winners will be showcased during this special event.

In addition, the program offers important updates on the right to know/open records legislation and the “Civil Gideon” movement in Pennsylvania. Plus, there is a special session on Day Two of the program, “Law School for Legislators and Staff,” that focuses on legal services supporting the needs of constituents. The entire program provides 6.5 Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits.

PBA on the Hill is a joint effort of the PBA Young Lawyers Division, the PBA Legislative Department and the PBA Legal Services to the Public Committee and serves as this year’s PBA Pro Bono Conference.

For more information, or to register, call the PBA at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2223 or 2231, or visit the “Legislative News” area of the PBA Web site at [www.pabar.org/public/legislative/Events/legislativedeptevents.asp](http://www.pabar.org/public/legislative/Events/legislativedeptevents.asp). ■

# Courses from the Pennsylvania Bar Institute

## Philadelphia

**Internet Law Update**, Wed., April 16; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; check-in at 8:00 a.m.; 5 substantive/1 ethics CLE credits

**SIMULCAST:**      *New Castle*  
*Easton*              *Stroudsburg*  
*Mansfield*        *Villanova*  
*Mechanicsburg*   *Wilkes-Barre*

## Malvern

**Real Estate Law Update 2008**, Thurs., April 17; 8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.; check-in at 8:00 a.m.; 4 substantive CLE credits

## Allentown

**How to Make Your Next Cross Examination the Greatest Cross Examination Ever!**, Fri., April 18; 12:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.; check-in and lunch begin at 11:30 a.m.; 3 substantive CLE credits

**SIMULCAST:**      *Reading*  
*Allentown*        *Scranton*  
*Bellefonte*       *Stroudsburg*  
*Easton*            *Towanda*  
*Erie*                *Uniontown*  
*Greensburg*     *Villanova*  
*Indiana*          *Washington*  
*Lewisburg*       *Waynesburg*  
*Mansfield*       *West Chester*  
*Mechanicsburg* *West Decatur*  
*Mill Hall*         *Wilkes-Barre*  
*New Castle*      *Williamsport*  
*Philadelphia*    *York*

**Boundary Law in Pennsylvania**, Wed., April 23; 8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.; check-in at 8:00 a.m.; 4 substantive CLE credits

## Philadelphia

**Wills of the Rich and Famous**, Thurs., April 24; 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; check-in at 9:30 a.m.; 3 substantive/1 ethics CLE credits Must attend the entire program to receive the ethics credit.

**SIMULCAST:**      *New Castle*  
*Easton*              *Stroudsburg*  
*Mansfield*        *Villanova*  
*Mechanicsburg*

## Philadelphia

**Hospitality Laws**, Mon., April 28; 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.; check-in at 8:30 a.m.; 6 substantive CLE credits

**SIMULCAST:** *Pittsburgh, Stroudsburg*

## Scranton

**How to Make Your Next Cross Examination the Greatest Cross Examination Ever!**, Tues., April 29; 12:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.; check-in and lunch begin at 11:30 a.m.; 3 substantive CLE credits

## Allentown

**Legal Writing Techniques for Winning Arguments**, Tues., April 29; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; check-in at 8:00 a.m.; 6 substantive CLE credits

## Mechanicsburg

**Family Caregiver Contracts and Use of Real Estate for Elder Law Attorneys**, Tues., April 29; 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.; check-in at 8:30 a.m.; 3 substantive CLE credits

**SIMULCAST:**      *Stroudsburg*  
*Chambersburg*    *Villanova*  
*Easton*             *West Chester*  
*Greensburg*      *Wilkes-Barre*  
*Mansfield*        *York*  
*New Castle*

## Mechanicsburg

**Hot Topics in Title Insurance**, Thurs., May 15; 12:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.; check-in and lunch begin at 11:30 a.m.; 3 substantive/1 ethics CLE credits. Must attend entire program to receive ethics credit.

**SIMULCAST:**      *New Castle*  
*Chambersburg*    *Stroudsburg*  
*Doylestown*      *Villanova*  
*Easton*             *Wilkes-Barre*  
*Greensburg*      *York*

*Dates, times and locations are subject to change. Contact PBI's Customer Service Department for more information at (800) 932-4637, (800) 247-4724 or (717) 796-0804 or visit their Web site at [www.pbi.org](http://www.pbi.org).*

## SIMULCAST:

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*Allentown*        *Philadelphia*  
*Bellefonte*       *Reading*  
*Doylestown*      *Scranton*  
*Easton*            *Stroudsburg*  
*Erie*                *Towanda*  
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*Hollidaysburg*   *Warren*  
*Indiana*          *Waynesburg*  
*Lewisburg*        *West Decatur*  
*Mansfield*        *Wilkes-Barre*  
*Mechanicsburg* *Williamsport*  
*Mill Hall*         *York*

**2nd Annual Estate Law Update**, Wed., May 21; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; check-in at 8:00 a.m.; 5 substantive/1 ethics CLE credits

## SIMULCAST: Wilkes-Barre

**Trying a Case in Bankruptcy Court**, Thurs., June 12; 12:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.; check-in and lunch begin at 11:15 a.m.; 3 substantive/1 ethics CLE credits. Must attend entire program to receive ethics credit.

**SIMULCAST:**      *Philadelphia*  
*Allentown*        *Reading*  
*Bellefonte*       *Scranton*  
*Doylestown*      *Stroudsburg*  
*Easton*            *Towanda*  
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*Hollidaysburg*   *Waynesburg*  
*Indiana*          *West Chester*  
*Lewisburg*        *West Decatur*  
*Mansfield*        *Wilkes-Barre*  
*Mechanicsburg* *Williamsport*  
*Mill Hall*         *York*  
*New Castle*

**General Practitioners' Update**, Wed., June 25; 8:30 a.m. to 4:10 p.m.; check-in at 8:00 a.m.; 5 substantive/1 ethics CLE credits

## PENNSYLVANIA BAR INSTITUTE

*Continuing Education Arm of the Pennsylvania Bar Association*

BRINGING EXCELLENCE TO CLE

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# Grants to Counties from the Pennsylvania Bar Insurance Fund and Trust Fund

By *Sandra Graver,*  
*PBA Governance Manager*

The Pennsylvania Bar Insurance Fund and Trust Fund approved grants to the following counties in 2007:

In January, the Chester County Bar Association received a grant of \$3,499.95 to purchase a portable public address and wireless sound system, a wireless credit card processing terminal and a digital satellite receiver, all of which will be used for CLE.

In January, the Washington County Bar Association received a grant of \$1,462.16 to purchase computer hardware to replace a reference computer in its Law Library and a portable TV/DVD/VCR unit that can be used by members in courtroom proceedings.

In June, the Monroe County Bar Association received a grant of \$1,786.10 to purchase a laptop computer that would be dedicated for CLE presentations through the Internet.

In September, the Bucks County Bar Association received a grant of \$4,250.00 to purchase a plasma TV/HDTV/PC monitor, as well as installation and set-up costs, for its second classroom located in the Club Room of its building.

In September, the Lebanon County Bar Association received a grant of \$4,810.99 to purchase high-speed ethernet cable drop, DLP portable projector, laptop and a plug-and-play speaker system, all of which will be used for CLE, including group casts sponsored by PBI.

In September, the Montgomery Bar Association received a partial Insurance Fund grant of \$21,854.20 to purchase presentation equipment, fixtures and technology upgrades necessary to adequately facilitate CLE programs for PBI and MBA.

The Trustees of the Pennsylvania Bar Insurance Fund and Trust Fund will hold several meetings in 2008. See the schedule below for meeting dates and the deadlines for grant request submissions:

- May 3, 2008 at Skytop Lodge
- Sept. 13, 2008 at Bedford Springs Resort (Grant requests to be considered at this meeting should be submitted no later than Aug. 13, 2008.)

While there is no formal grant application, you can obtain a copy of the "Guidelines Regarding Grants" by contacting Sandra Graver at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2221, or by going to [www.pabar.org](http://www.pabar.org), Members Only, About PBA, Pennsylvania Bar Insurance Fund & Trust Fund.

Following is a current list of the trustees of the Pennsylvania Bar Insurance Fund and Trust Fund:

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