

The COUNTY LINE



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PBA Offers Special Program for County Bar Officers and Execs at PBA Midyear Meeting In Las Vegas

The Pennsylvania Bar Association, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives, will offer an educational program for county bar officers and executives during the



The Bellagio Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas

PBA 2006 Midyear Meeting at the Bellagio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

“Valuing Diversity – Law Firms and Leadership in the 21st Century” will be offered on Jan. 19, from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

The program will explore how bar associations, law firms and lawyers benefit from diversity in their work environments and how local bars are addressing the issue. What does “diversity” and “reaching out” really mean? The program will present pragmatic ideas for creating and maintaining a welcoming setting for a diverse community — whether in a large, urban setting or a smaller, or more rural one. The stage will be set with a video clip from an American Bar Association seminar that raises some pertinent issues. The State Supreme Court’s Diversity

Report will also be a topic of discussion.

Program presenters are Carl Cooper, Esq., Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham L.L.P., Pittsburgh; Samuel T. Cooper III, Esq., Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, L.L.C., Harrisburg; Kathleen Sabol, executive director, Washington County Bar Association, and Evelyn Sullivan, executive director, Lancaster Bar Association. Diane

Krivoniak, executive director, Westmoreland Bar Association, helped with planning.

The PBA encourages all bar leaders to work with their legal communities on this salient topic.

Following the program, there will be a special reception for county bar leaders with members of the judiciary, legislature and PBA leadership. ■

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UPDATES: 40th Annual Conference of County Bar Leaders

March 2-4, 2006 • Nittany Lion Inn, State College

Why Attend?

CCBL builds strong relationships among bar leaders from throughout the commonwealth and strives to improve the status of the legal profession through effective leadership in the organized bar. Seminar attendees learn practical ideas to apply to activities in their home counties.

What's In Store?

Programs include malpractice avoidance, association management, diversity and media training. We also celebrate successful county bar programs and bar leadership with the presentation of awards. The format is a popular one, with lots of great sessions and CLE in a short, convenient schedule.

Awards Presented at CCBL - Submit Your Nominations TODAY!

County Bar Recognition Awards

The PBA County Bar Recognition Awards recognize outstanding projects and activities conducted by county bar associations during the 2005 calendar year. This awards program is designed to recognize projects of all county bar associations that in some way contributed to the improvement of the legal profession, the justice system or the community.

Gilbert Nurick Award

The Gilbert Nurick Award signifies outstanding contributions to and leadership in bar activities. The award recognizes a PBA member for dedication to and promotion of the organized bar resulting in improved leadership for incoming bar association officers.

The Chief Justice John P. Flaherty Award

The CCBL Executive Committee created the Chief Justice John P. Flaherty Award in recognition of the Chief Justice's efforts to encourage the work of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and

Costs and Reservations

The registration fee is \$175, which includes all meal functions and CLE. Attendees from unit counties receive a \$50 discount off the registration fee. Scholarships are available for county bar leaders who want to attend, but don't have the available funds. For lodging reservations, call the Nittany Lion Inn toll-free at (800) 233-7505. To receive the group rate of \$103 single or \$113 double (plus applicable taxes), make your reservation by Feb. 1, 2006, and mention that you are attending the PBA CCBL Seminar and reservation ID# PAB0301.

its Conference of County Bar Leaders. The award is given to a qualified PBA member to recognize an outstanding effort to promote the objects and purposes of the CCBL and to improve the legal profession, the justice system or the community. The award need not be given on an annual basis, but rather when the effort should be recognized.

Arthur J. Birdsall Award

Created by the CCBL Executive Committee, this award is given periodically "to recognize a bar executive who has been a faithful steward of bar traditions, who is committed to the success of his or her bar association, who has enhanced significantly the stature of his or her bar association, who cooperates with other bar executives and bar leaders to make the CCBL the best it can be, and who puts his- or herself second to the needs of the bar association whenever and whatever they may be."

Nomination forms for the awards are available online at www.pabar.org/ccblhome.shtml. Nominations will be accepted until Friday, Jan. 28, 2006.

PABE Fundraising Efforts

The Conference of County Bar Leaders is grateful for the support it has received from the Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives for the annual CCBL seminar. The PABE recognizes the value of the seminar and last year did a yeoman's job of finding sponsors and raising money (\$10,000!) to help subsidize the conference. Not everyone knows that the CCBL does not make money from the seminar. In fact, the PBA has been subsidizing the conference for many years. It's a Catch-22: the more people in attendance the better the conference — but the higher the deficit.

At the request of Nancy R. Paul, past PABE president, the PABE is conducting a campaign in order to continue the hospitality previously extended at the CCBL seminar and make it even better each year.

The PABE has voted to be a gold sponsor of the CCBL once again in 2006. Bar executives are asked to consider also being a gold sponsor with a \$1,000 contribution, or a silver sponsor with a contribution of less than \$1,000. In a message to PABE members, Paul asked that they consider investing in the conference to help continue the quality education and leadership training programs offered. At the very least, unit counties can help the CCBL by waiving the usual unit county discount.

Individuals and organizations who wish to become sponsors of the CCBL are asked to contact Art Birdsall at the PBA at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2218, or art.birdsall@pabar.org, no later than Feb. 1, 2006.

Sponsoring organizations will be acknowledged in print materials supplied at the conference. ■

CCBL Schedule of Events & Session Descriptions:

March 2-4, 2006 • Nittany Lion Inn, State College • Learn How to ...

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2006

9:00 p.m. – 12:00 midnight

Early Bird Registration

Sponsored by the Pa Bar Foundation

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2006

8:30 a.m.

Registration and PBA Supermarket

8:45 - 9:45 a.m.

Pennsylvania Assn. of Bar Executives

8:50 - 9:50 a.m.

InCite®

Learn how to use this free PBA membership benefit and see the new enhancements that make InCite a must for law firms in Pennsylvania.

Moderator: Hope Guy, Esq.

9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Orientation

All county bar presidents are invited to have coffee with CCBL leadership to get an understanding of the role of the CCBL and the part it plays in their life as a bar leader.

Moderator: Alfred Jones Jr., Esq.

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

County Bar Presidents' Session

Learn tools and techniques to ensure a successful presidency.

Moderator: Samuel D. Miller III, Esq.

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Avoiding Legal Malpractice Claims

Learn from PBA's Professional Liability Committee using real-life situations to show where claims are prevalent and what you can do to counter attacks.

Moderator: Alfred Jones Jr., Esq.

11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Kick-Off Luncheon

Welcome, Awards Presentations and Main Speaker

Moderator: Kenneth G. Vasil, Esq.

1:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Hotel Check-In Break and Networking Session

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

THREE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Whistle Blowing, Board of Governors' Conflicts & Audits

Learn more about fiduciary responsibility and governance.

Presented by the PABE

Moderators: Nancy R. Paul, Exec. Dir. and Barry N. Simpson, Esq.

Keeping Diversity Healthy and Alive in Your Bar Association and Community

Learn new, innovative ways to recruit and retain new members and address the legal needs of the community.

Moderator: Samuel T. Cooper III, Esq.

Legislative Issues and Public Service

Learn how to make an impact on the legislative process.

Moderator: Karolyn Vreeland Blume, Esq.

3:00 p.m.

PBA YLD Business Meeting

3:05 - 4:05 p.m.

THREE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Unauthorized Practice of Law

Learn the latest from a discussion with the PBA's Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee.

Moderator: Samuel D. Miller III, Esq.

The Ethics of Pro Bono

Moderator: Hope Guy, Esq.

Learn a practical approach to using pro bono resources and what to do when conflict-of-interest issues arise.

Strategic Planning and Your Bar Association

Learn what needs to be done to make association membership a "must" for attorneys.

Moderator: George A. Verlihay, Esq.

4:15 – 5:15 p.m.

PLENARY SESSION

Beer and Bull with PBA Leadership: A Q&A Session with PBA's President, President-Elect and Vice President

Moderator: Kenneth G. Vasil, Esq.

6:45 p.m.

Reception and Entertainment

9:30 – 11:30 p.m.

Hospitality

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2006

7:30 a.m.

Hot Breakfast Buffet

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

NETWORKING BREAKFAST MTGS:

Group A - for bar associations of 100 or fewer members

Moderators: Michele S. Dawson, Esq. and Susan Kenney, Executive Director

Group B - for bar associations of less than 3,000 members

Moderators: Terry D. Weiler, Esq. and Samuel D. Miller III, Esq.

Group C - for bar associations of more than 3,000 members

Moderators: Karolyn Vreeland Blume, Esq.; Nancy R. Paul, Exec. Director; and Kenneth G. Vasil, Esq.

9:05 – 10:05 a.m.

Dealing With the Media

Learn basic principles to deal with print and television reporters.

Moderator: Terry D. Weiler, Esq.

10:05 – 10:15 a.m.

Bar Leader Forum/Business Meeting

Presentation of Plaque and Gavel

Election of New Officers

Moderator: Kenneth G. Vasil, Esq.

10:15 – 11:45 a.m.

Dealing With the Disappearing Attorney

Learn what to do when you get that call about an attorney whose actions may have serious consequences.

Moderator: Michele S. Dawson, Esq.

11:45 a.m.

Getaway Buffet

11:45 a.m.

CCBL Executive Committee Meeting



On the *Local Scene*...

Allegheny

Meeting with State Legislators

Members of the Allegheny County Bar Association traveled to Harrisburg for two days of meetings with state legislators. Issues addressed included the proposed tax on legal services, opposed by both the ACBA and the Pennsylvania State Bar Association, and improving the diversity of jury pools. The delegation also detailed ACBA programs that can be beneficial to legislators, including publications of interest to citizens with legal problems.

Berks

“Free Speech” Mock Trial

Three judges and 44 lawyers from the Berks County Bar Association presented a mock Supreme Court argument in 18 Berks County schools in observance of Constitution Day. The case was argued before a “jury” of high school seniors who rendered a decision on the case. Last May, the Education Department of the Federal Government announced that all schools receiving federal money must teach the Constitution on or around Sept. 17. The BCBA-sponsored program centered on the Free Speech Amendment and the fictitious case of a student wearing a controversial T-shirt to school.

Bucks

Musical Review Fundraiser

Several members of the Bucks County Bar Association sang or played instruments as part of a holiday musical review at the BCBA headquarters to raise money for the Bucks County Housing Group and the bar’s charitable organization. The event was estimated to have raised more than \$20,000.

Blair

Food Pantry Drive

The Blair County Bar Association collected canned food for the St. Vincent DePaul Assumption Chapel Food Pantry at the Blair County Ballpark. The pantry is one of the largest in the state.

Chester

“Access to Justice”

Newspaper Supplement

The Chester County Bar Association raised over \$15,500 for three Chester County nonprofits by publishing a special supplement entitled “Your Access to Justice,” to the *Daily Local News* on Nov. 20. The supplement was published with the intent of raising awareness of the association’s community programs and raised much-needed funds for Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, the Crime Victims’ Center and the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County.

Among the public service information included in the supplement were articles highlighting lawyers’ involvement in the community, details on the Lawyer Referral Service and information on the courts and other law-related topics.

CCBA President Jamie W. Goncharoff recruited attorney Elizabeth Srinivasan to coordinate the inaugural project. CCBA members purchased most of the advertising space in the supplement, although some space was purchased by other community businesses.

Cumberland

Casino Night for Literacy

The Cumberland County Bar Association held a Casino Night on Nov. 4, with proceeds going to the American Literacy Corporation (ALC) whose purpose is to design and implement supplemental literacy programs that promote the importance of learning to students up to fifth grade. Since the inception of the program in January 2001 the ALC has served over 45,000 children.

Retirement Celebration

On Nov. 16, the CCBA hosted President Judge George E. Hoffer’s retirement celebration for 175 members and family at Allenberry Resort Inn and Playhouse. The CCBA presented Judge Hoffer with a framed copy of their 2005 composite photo for his home office.

Dauphin

Memorial Service

The Memorial and Outreach Committee coordinated a memorial service on Oct. 19 at the Dauphin County Courthouse to honor Richard W. Cleckner, Joseph J. Malatesta Jr. and Walter W. Shearer, all of whom had died within the past year. This event provided members an opportunity to demonstrate respect for their former colleagues and commitment to one of the finest traditions of the bar association.

“Inherit the Wind” CLE Program

An audience that included almost 150 Dauphin County Bar Association guests attended a unique CLE Program on Nov. 10, featuring a Theatre Harrisburg production of “Inherit The Wind” at the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts. A panel discussion (which included participants in the Dover Area School District’s “Intelligent Design” litigation) followed a reception after the play.

Past Presidents Reception and Dinner Meeting

Twenty-four past presidents of the Dauphin County Bar Association attended the Annual Past Presidents Reception and Dinner Meeting on Nov. 30. A brief program, moderated by DCBA President Joseph A. Curcillo III, included a group photograph.

Lebanon

AED Donation

The Lebanon County Bar Association donated \$1,200 to the Lebanon School District for purchase of an automated external defibrillator (AED). Bar association member Charles Jones Jr. suggested the project to bar members after hearing of an incident where a man had a heart attack at a county elementary school that was being used as a polling place.

Monroe

Warm Holidays for Children Project

The Monroe County Bar Foundation and the law firm of JacksonFiorentino, L.L.C. sponsored a holiday project to provide



cold-weather gear for needy children of the county. Children who visited the Monroe County Courthouse between Thanksgiving and Christmas were able to select items from a holiday tree decorated with hats, gloves and mittens. The tree was replenished daily. Contributions came from law firms and individuals.

Annual Mock Invitational Trial

Members of the Monroe County Bar Association worked with 15 teams from 11 area high schools who participated in the Annual Mock Trial Invitational at Pocono Mountain East High School. MCBA members helped the teams prepare for the trials, and the MCBA Mock Trial Committee prepared the problem that was presented to the teams. This year's theme was based on steroid use in high school sports. Team members took the part of the defense and the prosecution in different sessions and were judged on poise, articulation, presentation and other criteria by local attorneys and judges. At the end of the tournament, students who played the parts of best attorney and best witness were recognized. The first place team winner in the tournament was MMI Preparatory. Second place went to Stroudsburg High School and third place to Pocono Mountain East High School.

Swearing-In Ceremony and Holiday Open House

On Dec. 12, a swearing-in ceremony commemorating the admission of new attorneys to the Bar of Monroe County was held in Courtroom One of the Monroe County Courthouse. President Judge Ronald E. Vican presided at the ceremony, which was attended by members of the judiciary, attorneys, the newly admitted attorneys and family and friends. Following the ceremony, attendees were invited to a reception and open house at the Monroe County Bar Center. The Barbershop Chorus of the Poconos provided entertainment.

Montgomery

Luminary Award

The Montgomery Bar Association joined ranks that include the Pennsylvania Bar Association with their receipt of a Luminary Award at the National Association of Bar Executives (NABE) Annual Communications Conference, held in Orlando, Sept. 28 through Oct. 1. Luminary Awards are presented annually by the NABE Communications Section to recognize outstanding work among bar communications professionals. The MBA's Web Site (MontgomeryBar.org) was awarded a Luminary in the "Excellence in Web Sites" category.

Taking Action: MBA Reacts to PBA Perception Study

The Montgomery Bar Association launched two new community outreach programs aimed primarily at serving the needs of its community and enhancing the perception of Pennsylvania attorneys. These programs were organized and promoted in response to the PBA's recent statewide telephone survey, commissioned to better understand public perceptions of attorneys.

According to PBA survey responses of over 500 Pennsylvania residents, nearly nine in ten respondents (89%) felt that offering public information meetings where people can learn from lawyers about the law and receive legal guidance for free would improve the image of lawyers. That said, two new programs, "Law School for Non-Profit Leaders" and "Myths and Realities of Mediation" were launched and heavily promoted throughout the community. Follow-up surveys were sent to attendees electronically to measure program success and responses were overwhelmingly favorable. The MBA has plans to build on its recent success promoting the good that lawyers do by launching several new outreach programs in '06.

Northampton

The Service to the Public Committee of the Northampton County Bar Association presented "The People's Law School" in September and October. The eight-week course included sessions on different types of law, including real estate, criminal, wills and estates, elder law, civil litigation and family law. New to the list of classes was a session on identity theft. Based on survey results, a highlight was having Judge Jack A. Panella, Superior Court of Pennsylvania; Judge Emil A. Giordano, Northampton County Court of Common Pleas; and Judge Gay L. Elwell, Magisterial District Justice, Northampton County, as speakers on the first-night's program, "Introduction to the Court System." Students commented that they felt honored that the judges would take time from their schedules to speak with them and answer questions. "The People's Law School 2" is being planned for six weeks in the spring.

Memorial Service

The Northampton County Bar Association held a memorial service to honor six deceased members who, collectively, had practiced law for more than 300 years. Honored were attorneys Lawrence J. Briody Sr., Herbert Fishbone, Gus Milides, Nathan L. Reibman, Milton B. Riskin and Clyde W. Teel.

Somerset

Memorial Service

The Somerset County Bar Association held a memorial service honoring four deceased members: Robert I. Boose, Frank A. Orban Jr., Norman A. Shaulis and Alexander Ogle. A reception for friends and family followed.

Warren

Exhibit on President Judges

The Warren County Bar Association, together with the Warren County Historical Society, mounted an exhibit, "Justice!," on Warren and Forest Counties'

(Continued on Page 6)



On the *Local Scene...*

(Continued from Page 5)

13 president judges in the district's 131 years. The exhibit included photographs, case studies, personal writings and information about careers and private lives. The exhibit was meant to show the varied talents and experiences the judges brought to the district and the mark that each judge left. It was also meant to show that the position carries with it great responsibility and, at times, great risk.

Washington Candidates Forum

The Washington County Bar Association, along with the League of Women Voters of Washington County, co-sponsored a forum for members of the public to meet and ask questions of the four candidates for the two seats on the County Court of Common Pleas.

Classic Film Series

In observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and as part of their classic film series, the Washington County Bar Association sponsored a showing of the 1944 film "Gaslight." A presentation on domestic violence issues and the dynamics of psychological, emotional and physical abuse followed. The WCBA also showed the 1971 film "A Clockwork Orange," and held a related discussion on the purpose of punishment for criminals. The final film in the series was Alfred Hitchcock's 1960 film "Psycho." Following the screening, Steve Osborne from the Wichita, Kan., public defender's office, and defense attorney for Dennis Raeder, the "BTK" murderer, spoke about his client and the case.

Westmoreland Holiday Mixer/Fundraiser

The Westmoreland Bar Association held a "Merry Mixer," offering 100 attendees the opportunity to nibble on appetizers and desserts while they did some holiday shopping from area specialty businesses. Ticket sales, raffles and donated items benefited law-related education programs.

Bar Family Assistance Program

A member of the Westmoreland Bar Association recently lost her home and all her possessions in a fire. The Bar Family Assistance Program was able to help with a donation to the attorney and her family. The Westmoreland Bar Foundation established the Bar Family Assistance Program in 2003 to provide financial assistance to attorneys and their families when unexpected tragedies disrupt their lives and their law practices. "Financial assistance" is defined as making loans, with or without interest or security; providing grants to lawyers or their immediate families; applying money to their relief; or after death, advancing money to the families, including the costs of burial. Since the establishment of the program, the bar foundation has been able to assist three attorneys and their families.

Scholarships Awarded

The Westmoreland Bar Association awarded three law school and two college scholarships. The Wayne R. Donahue Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Christopher Watson, a first-year student at the Duquesne University School of Law. The Donald Laird Hankey Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Melissa K. Curry, a second-year student at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law. The Honorable David H. Weiss Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Marc C. Bryson, a second-year student at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. The college scholarships went to participants of the countywide Mock Trial Competition.

Wilkes-Barre/Luzerne Public Image Campaign

The Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association/Luzerne County Bar has made use of materials developed by the PBA's Lawyer Public Image Campaign, running the four different PBA ads in the *Citizens' Voice* and *Times Leader* through the end of November. The WBLLA/LCB has also developed TV ads that focus on the local community service of the Young Lawyers

Division, the donations to charity groups by the WBLLA/LCB Foundation, and the pro bono work of area lawyers for various charities. The ads can be viewed on the association's Web site (www.luzernecountybar.org).

Hurricane Katrina Relief

Dauphin

The Dauphin County Bar Foundation donated \$5,000 each to the Baton Rouge Bar Foundation and the Mississippi Bar Foundation to assist in the ongoing recovery efforts by the legal communities in Louisiana and Mississippi affected by Hurricane Katrina.



Delaware

The Delaware County Bar Association solicited members for contributions to the Delaware County Bar Foundation Katrina Relief Fund to provide legal relief for hurricane victims.

Lackawanna

Lackawanna Bar Association members donated \$4,050, which was matched by the LBA, to the Scranton Chapter of the American Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina disaster relief.

Wilkes-Barre/Luzerne

The Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association donated \$10,000 to the Luzerne County Bar Association Foundation for disaster relief for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The association and foundation will be focusing on additional relief efforts. ■

2006 “Stepping Out” Booklets Soon Available — In Print and Online Versions

Last year, more than 40 counties participated in the “Stepping Out” program. This year, county bar leaders and “Stepping Out” coordinators are urged to make note of the **February 24** deadline for ordering and submissions for the printed version of the “Stepping Out” booklets. The booklets are popular, and demand is expected to be high.

As an added convenience, this year the booklets will also be made available online from the Pennsylvania Bar Association Web site, where they can be downloaded at no cost and customized and copied as needed.

“Stepping Out” is designed to help graduating seniors make the transition from the classroom to the “real world.” As part of the program, volunteer lawyers visit schools and cover topics including consumer credit, DUI, renting an apartment, voting and jury service. Many of the programs coincide with the observance of Law Day.

Since the program’s inception more than ten years ago, over 200,000 “Stepping Out” booklets have been distributed. The PBA County Bar Services Department coordinates the ordering of the booklets and their distribution to local bar associations. Pages are reserved for each participating county bar association to include local information the association deems necessary or useful.

The PBA again extends its deep appreciation to the Berks and Erie County Bar Associations for allowing the use of their “Stepping Out” booklets. A special thanks to Barbara Kittrell, executive director of the Berks County Bar Association; and Sandra Brydon-Smith, executive director of the Erie County Bar Association. Thanks are also extended to the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation for their support over the years.

Bar associations that wish to participate in the “Stepping Out” program, or that need a list of their county high schools, should contact Dale Schell at the PBA at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2297, or dale.schell@pabar.org. **Please note the FIRM deadline of Friday, Feb. 24,**

2006, for all orders and materials. The per-booklet charge will range between 85¢ and 95¢, depending on the number ordered.

Printed Book Schedule & Information

- Local bar associations can use a maximum of eight pages inside the booklet; there are four blank pages in the front and four blank pages in the back for local information.
- The front cover will be the same except for the name of the county bar association across the top of the booklet.
- The remaining 29 pages are the same for all printings of this publication.
- Minimum order is 500 copies. The per-booklet charge will range between 85¢ and 95¢, depending on the number ordered by all local bars.
- **All local information must be camera-ready or typed and be received at PBA headquarters by Friday, February 24.** You are encouraged to submit your information prior to the deadline. We must insist that you pay close attention to this deadline.
- Printing of the booklets will take place in March.
- Booklets will be shipped to county bar associations in late March/early April.
- Call Dale Schell at the PBA at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2297, with any questions.

Booklet Introduction

“When you step out of high school, will you step into a job, more education, marriage, or a combination of the three? Whatever your destination, you will probably be 18 years old when you begin. Eighteen may be more challenging than you think because at this age you are a “legal” adult, but not fully independent. Although you can now vote, marry without your parents’ consent, make contracts and be treated like an adult in court, you may not drink alcoholic beverages. What’s more, your parents will continue to have a guiding, supportive place in your life.

“With your newly acquired rights, you have certain duties and may oblige yourself legally to more than you realize. The Young Lawyers’ Section of the Berks County Bar Association has prepared this booklet to answer some legal questions and to raise many more. Knowing the answers is now less important than learning how to ask the questions. How do you borrow money? How can you avoid getting ‘burned’ with an apartment lease? Where do you go to vote?

“The articles in ‘Stepping Out’ are arranged with a view toward four kinds of relationships: (1) contractual; (2) personal; (3) adversarial; and (4) the individual in a nation. Be sure to look at the assistance agencies in the booklet for help in answering questions ‘Stepping Out’ doesn’t answer. If you ever have a serious legal questions, don’t hesitate to visit an attorney.”

Contents:

1. Knowing the Law
 - Understanding the Consequences Pennsylvania Court System
2. Money, Finances and Budgets
 - Living on a Budget
 - Checks, Debit Cards & Credit Cards
 - Savings and Investments
 - Taxes on Income
 - Borrowing Money
 - Credit Card Reality Check
 - Insurance
 - Employment Benefits
3. Promises, Promises
 - Contracts
 - Warranties
 - Renting an Apartment
 - Family Matters
4. Getting Stuck - and Unstuck
 - Small Claims Court
 - Claims for Injuries or Damages
 - Criminal Law
5. Making it Work
 - Voting
 - Selective Service Registration
 - Get Involved
 - Resources

2006 PBA Unit County Dues Schedule

November 2005 — First dues billing sent to unit county bar associations.

March 2006 — Second dues billing sent to unit county bar associations.

June 2006 — Third dues billing sent to unit county bar associations.

July 31, 2006 — Any unit county members whose dues are not paid will be dropped from membership in the PBA.

Discount Schedule

January 1, 2006 - March 31, 2006 — All unit county dues received within the above time frame will qualify for a 10 percent discount.

April 1, 2006 – June 30, 2006 — All unit county dues received within the above time frame will qualify for a 6 percent discount.

In Memoriam

Robert Ceisler, 86, died Nov. 29. Bob practiced law in Washington County for 60 years. In 1972, he served as president of the Washington County Bar Association, which awarded him a Distinguished Service Award in 1983. He served local and state legal associations in many capacities and received a number of

awards, including the Gilbert Nurick Award in 1998 from the Pennsylvania Bar Association, for which he served as secretary. He also was president of PBA's Conference of Bar Officers (now the Conference of County Bar Leaders) and a member of its Board of Governors. ■

Awards, Accolades and Acclaim Available to Pennsylvania Lawyers

In addition to soliciting nominations for the awards bestowed at the Conference of County Bar Leaders Seminar in March (the County Bar Recognition Awards, the Gilbert Nurick Award, the Chief Justice John P. Flaherty Award and the Arthur J. Birdsall Award), the PBA is looking for a few more good men and women nominees for other significant PBA awards. Please consider nominating someone from your bar association.

The Child Advocate of the Year Award recognizes the accomplishments of lawyers who are advocates for children within the commonwealth. The nomination deadline for the sixth annual Child Advocate of the Year Award, presented by the PBA Children's Rights Committee, is Jan. 20, 2006.

The PBA Minority Bar Committee's A. Leon Higginbotham Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award was established to recognize the accomplishments of an attorney or judge who has demonstrated true dedication to the legal profession and the minority community through civil, community, or legal service for a period of at least 15 years. The nomination deadline is Jan. 20, 2006.

The PBA Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee will award the third annual Sir Francis Bacon Dispute Resolution Award, which recognizes excellence in Alternative Dispute Resolution. The nomination deadline for this award is Jan. 31, 2006.

Nomination materials for these awards can be linked to from the front page of the PBA Web site at pabar.org. ■

2005 – 2006 CCBL Executive Committee

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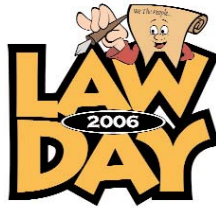
Celebrate Law Day 2006: “My World — My Responsibility”

Teaching kids about their legal rights and responsibilities is what this year’s Law Day program is all about. The theme for Pennsylvania’s seventh annual celebration is “My World — My Responsibility.” Children of all ages will have the opportunity to explore the ways in which they can have an impact on our world.

Lawyers and judges are again being encouraged to visit schools and use the PBA’s new, free law-related lesson plan guide during classroom visits. Because many local bar associations already have plans underway for their annual Law Day festivities, the PBA Law Day program and materials are specifically designed to enhance and supplement those existing efforts. Similar to last year, interested local bar associations can request free lesson plan guides to distribute to members and schools. Information regarding all of the Law Day plans will be mailed to local bar associations shortly.

Law Day is a great vehicle for county bar associations to reach out to their membership, not only by including them in Law Day activities, but also by helping them to reach out into the community.

For bar associations that would like to participate, but do not have a staff, the PBA can provide Law Day assistance.



Law Day 2006 “Planning Schedule”

February – May 2006:

Law Day 2006 K - 12 Lesson Plan Guide Available

May 1, 2006:

Law Day 2006

May 1 – 31, 2006:

Schools, Judges & Lawyers Celebrate the Law

The PBA has received several inquiries as to why it does not use the American Bar Association Law Day theme. In answer, several years ago, the

PBA Law-Related Education Committee decided to adopt Law Day themes that are unique to Pennsylvania. The committee did consider using the ABA’s themes when it initiated the statewide Law Day program, but found them to be too focused on one aspect of the law (i.e. judicial independence). Many Pennsylvania schools expressed interest in having broader themes to which their students could better relate. In addition, the PBA selects a new theme in the spring of the preceding year so that it can be used throughout the school year — from Celebrate the Constitution through Law Day. The ABA does not release its theme until late summer or early fall.

Contact PBA Communications Coordinator Jennifer Branstetter with any questions regarding Law Day at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2216, or by e-mail at jennifer.branstetter@pabar.org.

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

Dues Dollars at Work

PBA’s Law Practice Management Coordinator Garners High Ratings for MCLE Courses

Heather Martin, executive director of the Bucks County Bar Association, recently reported a great payoff from the PBA and a great payback for the association’s MCLE coordinator!

The BCBA’s MCLE coordinator brought in Ellen Freedman, PBA’s law practice management coordinator, to speak on several topics. Martin said, “The investment was nominal in comparison to the return. I netted nearly \$2,000 for three courses. Aside from that, I received nothing but positive feedback from the members who attended, and we are bringing [Freedman] back in the next few months to speak on different topics.”

The BCBA offered three courses — Honing Your Internet Skills, High-Tech Courtroom Presentation Skills, and Getting Paid — over the course of one day and averaged between 20 and 30 attorney attendees for each.

Responses indicated the courses were “entertaining and practical,” “could not be better,” “the best seminar in a long time ... Ellen Freedman is great,” and “I will keep [the] materials in my top desk drawer — too good to lose — the best CLE course I have taken in 10 years.”

Martin added, “I realize it is not standard practice to pay for outside speakers, but my MCLE Coordinator is now

revered for bringing in Ellen.”

The PBA is one of only a handful of state bar associations that offers business assistance to lawyers, recognizing that this part of the practice can be just as challenging as the practice of law. For more information, contact Ellen Freedman, CLM, PBA law practice management coordinator at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2228, or e-mail lawpractice@pabar.org.

Freedman can provide articles electronically for reprinting in newsletters or for adding to local seminar handouts on very short notice. She can also often be of help if you have a last-minute cancellation of another scheduled speaker. ■

Courses from the Pennsylvania Bar Institute

Here is a listing of courses being offered by the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. 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.

Marco Island, Florida

Gulf Coast Estate Law Conference, Fri., Jan. 6 to Sun., Jan. 8, 2006; 8:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.; registration at 7:30 a.m. (each day); 6 CLE credits (5 substantive/1 ethics)

General Practitioner Update, Fri., Jan. 6 to Sun., Jan. 8, 2006; 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; registration at 10:00 a.m. (each day); 6 CLE credits (5 substantive/1 ethics)

Allentown

Use of Trusts in Estate Planning – Basic and Intermediate Trusts, Tues., Feb. 21, 2006; 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.; registration at 8:30 a.m.; 3 substantive CLE credits

Malvern

The Real Estate Development Transaction: Undeveloped Property, Fri., Jan. 27, 2006, 8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.; registration at 8:00 a.m.; 4 substantive CLE credits

Recent Developments in Assessment Law & Procedure in Pennsylvania, Tues., Jan. 31, 2006; 12:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.; registration at 12:00 noon; 3 substantive CLE credits

Scranton

Family Law in Northeastern Pennsylvania 2006, Tues., Jan. 31, 2006, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; registration at 8:00 a.m.; 6 CLE credits (5 substantive/1 ethics)

Malvern

Taking & Defending Depositions, Fri., Feb. 10, 2006; 8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.; registration at 8:00 a.m.; 4 substantive CLE credits

Wilkes-Barre

Recent Developments in Assessment Law & Procedure in Pennsylvania, Tues., Feb. 28, 2006; 12:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.; registration at 12:00 noon; 3 substantive CLE credits

Bethlehem

Family Law Practice in the Lehigh Valley, Wed., March 15, 2006; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; registration at 8:00 a.m.; 6 substantive CLE credits

LIVE VIA SATELLITE

Allentown
Bellefonte
Chambersburg
Doylestown
Easton

Erie

Greensburg
Hollidaysburg
Honesdale

Indiana
Johnstown

Lancaster
Lewisburg
Mechanicsburg
Media

Montrose
New Castle
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Reading
Schuylkill Haven

State College
Stroudsburg

Uniontown
Waynesburg

West Chester
Wilkes-Barre

Williamsport
York

Fundamentals of Elder Law Practice, Wed., March 1, 2006; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; registration at 8:00 a.m.; 6 CLE credits (5 substantive/1 ethics)

LIVE VIA SATELLITE

Allentown
Bellefonte
Chambersburg
Doylestown
Easton

Erie
Greensburg

Honesdale
Indiana

Johnstown
Lancaster

Lewisburg
Mansfield
Mechanicsburg

Media
Montrose

New Castle
Philadelphia

Pittsburgh
Reading

Stroudsburg
Towanda

Uniontown
Villanova

Warren
Waynesburg

West Chester
West Decatur

Wilkes-Barre
Williamsport

York

19th Annual Civil Litigation Update, Thurs., Mar. 30, 2006; 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.; registration at 8:30 a.m.; 6 CLE credits (5 substantive/1 ethics)

Harrisburg

Environmental Law Forum 2006, Tues., April 4, 2006; 8:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.; registration at 8:15 a.m.; and Wed., April 5, 2006; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; registration at 8:00 a.m.; 6 CLE credits (5 substantive, 1 ethics)

Camp Hill

Workers' Compensation Practice & Procedure 2006, Wed., April 5, 2006; 8:25 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.; registration at 8:00 a.m.; 4 substantive CLE credits

Send Us Your News

**March 6, 2006 is the copy deadline
for the April 2006 issue of the newsletter.**

To submit news for *The County Line*, please use the enclosed "News and Views" form or call PBA County Bar Services Director Arthur Birdsall at (800) 932-0311, ext. 2218; write Arthur Birdsall, PBA, PO Box 186, Harrisburg, PA 17108; or e-mail Art.Birdsall@pabar.org.

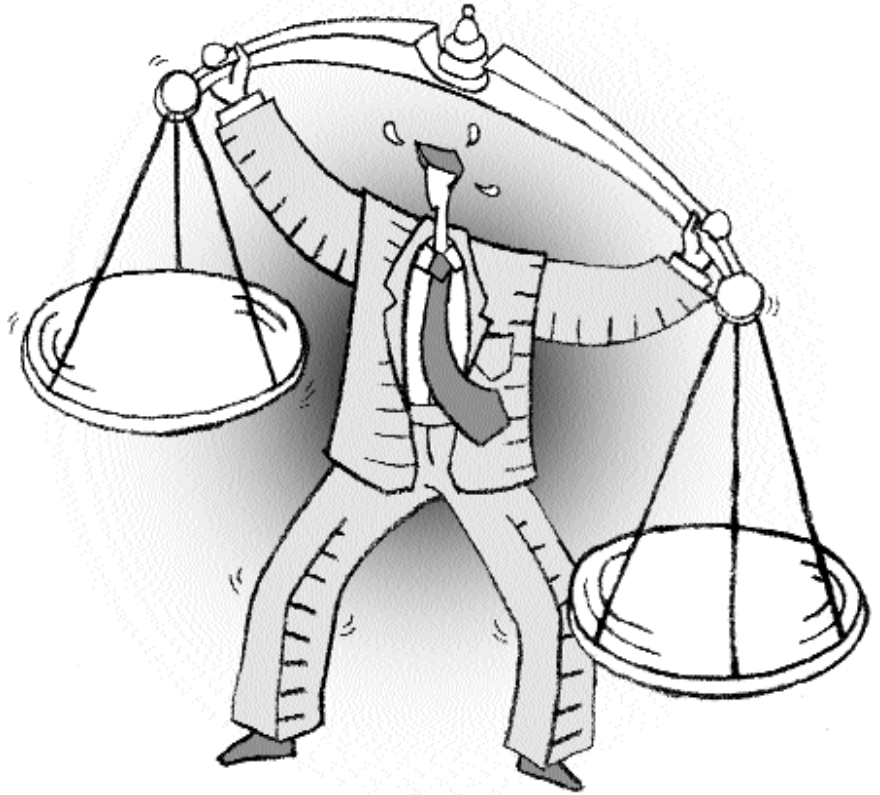
County Bar Services Director: Arthur J. Birdsall

The County Line Editor: Patricia M. Graybill

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For *Lawyers Only...*

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Referral Service Seeks More Lawyers

The PBA Lawyer Referral Service was created in the late '70s to help clients find lawyers in their geographic area. Since that time, the PBA LRS has broadened its scope and now covers 45 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. It is currently in need of members to offer their services.

The PBA LRS helps callers in counties that do not have their own referral systems. This past year (from Jan. 1 through Nov. 30), the PBA LRS staff made over 800 referrals per month to private attorneys.

Although every PBA member who is registered for the service receives referrals, thousands of members do not sign up for the service, which generates significant business for members and costs only \$100 annually.

Referrals are made on a rotating basis, so that every member receives a referral at some time. Only one lawyer referral is made for each prospective client call. To qualify for the service, lawyers must have an office in the county in which they are registered. Members with offices in more than one county may register in additional counties: a registration fee will be charged for each office. Lawyers must provide proof of professional liability insurance coverage in order to serve on panels.

Registration is \$25 for first-year lawyers. PBA members pay \$100 annually and nonmembers pay \$175. Callers who contact the lawyer to whom they are referred are charged \$30 for the first half-hour consultation. The lawyer is asked to return \$10 to the PBA to offset operating expenses.

Counties covered by the service are listed below. Those in **bold** are in need of more lawyers to serve on referral panels. For more information, contact the PBA LRS at (800) 932-0311, Ext 2209. ■

Counties Served:

Adams	Cameron
Armstrong	Carbon
Bedford	Centre
Bradford	Clarion
Butler	Clearfield
Cambria	Clinton

Columbia	Montour
Crawford	Northumberland
Elk	Perry
Fayette	Pike
Forest	Potter
Franklin	Schuylkill
Fulton	Snyder
Greene	Somerset
Huntingdon	Sullivan
Indiana	Susquehanna
Jefferson	Tioga
Juniata	Union
Lawrence	Venango
Lebanon	Warren
Lycoming	Wayne
McKean	Wyoming
Mifflin	

For Members in the Guard or Reserves

PBA members who were deployed on active duty in the U.S. National Guard or Reserves will receive one year free membership in the PBA's Lawyer Referral Service when they return to private practice.

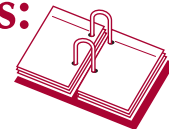


This in an effort to assist returning member veterans whose practices were disrupted due to deployment in active military zones.

To apply for the free one-year LRS membership, contact the PBA at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2209, for an application.

In a similar attempt to recognize the hardship placed on deployed lawyers, members are eligible to receive a waiver on regular PBA dues if called to active duty in the Guard or Reserves. County bar associations are asked for their help in notifying the PBA of any members who have been deployed. Please contact Elizabeth Kramer at the PBA at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2208 or elizabeth.kramer@pabar.org. ■

Mark Your Calendars:



PBA Family Law Section Meeting
Jan. 13-15, 2006
 Omni William Penn Hotel,
 Pittsburgh

PBA Midyear Meeting
January 18 - 22, 2006
 The Bellagio, Las Vegas

Conference of County Bar Leaders (CCBL) Seminar
March 2 - 4, 2005
 Nittany Lion Inn,
 State College

PBA Annual Meeting
May 4-6, 2005
 Hilton Pittsburgh

March 31-April 1
PBA/YLD Statewide Mock Trial Competition
 Crowne Plaza Hotel &
 Dauphin County Courthouse,
 Harrisburg

April 4-6
PBA Minority Attorney Conference
 Wyndham Philadelphia at
 Franklin Plaza, Philadelphia

June 7-9
PBA Annual Meeting
 Hershey Lodge &
 Convention Center, Hershey