

The COUNTYLINE



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Pennsylvania Celebrates Law Day 2004

Honors the 50th Anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education* Decision

The PBA and local bar associations will celebrate the fifth annual statewide Law Day program on May 17, 2004, with the theme “A Constitution for Everyone...Everyday,” commemorating the 50th anniversary of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*. This anniversary provides a special opportunity to emphasize freedom, equality and justice for all, the fundamental principles upon which our country was founded. This constitutional milestone also can serve to inspire lawyers, teachers and students to come together to discuss the complex issues facing today’s society such as diversity, equal rights and personal privacy.

As in the past, the PBA is creating a lesson plan book centered on this year’s theme to help lawyers, judges and educators teach students about the law. The book will be made available free-of-charge to all local bar associations at the end of January to assist with Law Day celebrations. Information about ordering the materials will be sent to all bar associations in early January.

The PBA encourages lawyers and judges to visit schools throughout the month of May to help mark this legal landmark. Law Day can help illuminate the role of law, advocates and courts in establishing and protecting our rights.

The PBA features a dedicated Law Day area on its Web site — www.pabar.org/lawdayinformation.shtml — to highlight county bar association Law Day activi-

ties, as well as to provide a list of schools, lawyers and judges interested in classroom visits, and general Law Day information. The site will be advertised to all schools. County bar associations are encouraged to submit information about their Law Day programs for publicity on the Web site. Please forward all information, including date, place, contacts, etc., by e-mail to Jennifer.Branstetter@pabar.org or by fax to 717-238-2342.

On May 7, the PBA will kick off this year’s Law Day celebration in Harrisburg with what will be an historic luncheon celebrating the 50th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. The late Oliver Brown’s daughters, Linda Brown Thompson and Cheryl Brown Henderson, will be the featured speakers. The Brown daughters will chronicle the history of their family’s participation in the court battle and its impact on education and the civil rights movement. The luncheon will be held from noon until 2:00 p.m. at the Harrisburg Hilton & Towers.

The American Bar Association will also use *Brown* as a basis for Law Day activities, which include an “images of freedom” photography contest for students aged 12-18. Visit the ABA Law Day Web site at www.abanet.org/publiced/lawday/home.html for more information on the national campaign.

For Law Day-related questions, contact Jennifer Branstetter at the PBA at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2216, or by e-mail at Jennifer.Branstetter@pabar.org. ■

Linda Brown Thompson and Cheryl Brown Henderson



PBA LAW DAY LUNCHEON

- **Platinum Table Sponsorship:** \$2,500. Provides for a table of 8-10; prominent listing in newspaper advertisements; and listing in the luncheon program, the *Pennsylvania Lawyer* magazine, the *Pennsylvania Bar News* and the PBA Web site.
- **Gold Table Sponsorship:** \$1,000. Provides for a table of 8-10; and listing in the luncheon program and PBA Web site.
- **Silver Table Sponsorship:** \$500. Provides for a table of 8-10; and listing in the luncheon program.
- **Individual tickets:** \$25.

To purchase tickets or sponsor a table, visit the PBA Web site at www.pabar.org or call Jennifer Branstetter at the PBA at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2216.

PBA Law Day luncheon proceeds will benefit the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research and the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Update: 38th Annual Conference of County Bar Leaders

March 4-6, 2004 • Hershey Lodge & Convention Center

Scholarships Still Available

A limited number of scholarships are still available for county bar leaders who want to attend the 38th Annual Seminar of the Conference of County Bar Leaders, March 4-6, at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, but don't have the available funds. Those scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Arthur J. Birdsall, PBA county bar services director, at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2218 or e-mail Art.Birdsall@pabar.org if you are interested.

PBA Committees/Sections to Send Leadership to CCBL

Several PBA Committee/Section chairs and vice chairs will be attending this year's CCBL Seminar. This is a great opportunity for county bar and committee/section leadership to interact and to learn about their respective members and the work that they do within the PBA.

County Bar Recognition Awards; Nurick, Flaherty and Birdsall Award

Nomination Forms Online

County Bar Recognition Awards nominations, as well as nominations for the Gilbert Nurick, Chief Justice John P. Flaherty and Arthur J. Birdsall Awards, are now easier than ever to file! The PBA recently completed posting interactive, online nomination forms to the County Bar Services area of the PBA Web site. Providing your County Bar Recognition Award nomination online will also help ensure a complete and correct description of the project in the CCBL program book and in the news releases that the PBA will provide to you for your local media outlets. Supporting documentation may still be supplied by regular mail, but we encourage all county bars to use the easy online form to file their nominations. You will receive a letter in early January reminding you of the award nomination deadlines, but the mailing will not contain nomination forms.

Award descriptions are below. Nomination forms for all the awards are available online at www.pabar.org/ccblhome.shtml.

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. By participating in the CCBL seminar, attendees receive many beneficial suggestions and ideas to apply to leadership activities in their home counties.

Hotel Reservations

Call the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center toll-free at (800) 533-3311, or fax (717) 534-8668. To receive the group rate of \$115 (plus applicable taxes), make your reservation by Sunday, Jan. 16, 2004, and mention that you are attending the PBA Conference of County Bar Leaders Seminar.

Be sure to review the updated schedule of events on Page 3!

County Bar Recognition Awards

The PBA County Bar Recognition Awards recognize outstanding projects and activities conducted by county bar associations during the 2003 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 was established in 1991. It signifies outstanding contributions to and leadership in bar activities. The award recognizes the honoree, who must be 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 2001 in recognition of the Chief Justice's efforts to encourage the work of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and its Conference of County Bar Leaders. The award is given to a qualified Pennsylvania Bar Association member to recognize an outstanding effort to promote the objects and purposes of the Conference of County Bar Leaders 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. 30, 2004.

Updated Schedule of Events

38th Annual Conference of County Bar Leaders - March 4-6, 2004

Thursday, March 4, 2004

9:00 p.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Early Bird Registration and Beer, Wine & Cheese Reception

Friday, March 5, 2004

8:30 a.m.

Registration and PBA Supermarket

8:50 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

CCBL Orientation and PBA Presidents' Roundtable

*All county bar presidents are invited to have coffee with PBA President Golden and President-elect Reed. Introduction and comments by CCBL President Upor.

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Avoiding Malpractice Claims

Moderator: Francis X. O'Connor, Esq.
Panelists: Professional Liability Program Committee

Conference members who attend this presentation will receive up to a 5% discount on their PBA-endorsed malpractice insurance, plus 1.5 hours of CLE ethics credit.

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

How to be a Great Bar President

Moderators: Samuel D. Miller III, Esq.
Alfred Jones Jr., Esq.

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

Kick-Off Luncheon

Presiding: Sandra Weyant Upor, Esq.,
President, Conference of
County Bar Leaders

Welcome: President, Dauphin County
Bar Association

Silent Invocation

Presentation of Gilbert Nurick Award

Presentation of Chief Justice John P.
Flaherty Award

Presentation of Arthur J. Birdsall Award

Introduction of Speaker:

Thomas M. Golden, Esq., President,
Pennsylvania Bar Association

1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Hotel Check-in Break and Networking Session

If you are receiving a County Bar Recognition Award, please be sure to have your photograph taken.

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

THREE BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

1. Diversity Benefits All

Moderator: Samuel T. Cooper III, Esq.
Conference members who attend this presentation will receive 1 hour of CLE credit.

2. The Disciplinary Board: What You Need to Know

Moderator: Francis X. O'Connor, Esq.
Conference members who attend this presentation will receive 1.0 hour of CLE substantive credit.

3. What to Do When a Major Event Hits Your County

Moderator: Terry Weiler, Esq.

2:45 p.m.

PBA YLD Business Meeting

3:05 p.m. - 4:05 p.m.

THREE BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

1. UPL: Who Are These People and Why are They Practicing Law in My County?

Moderator: Samuel D. Miller III, Esq.
Conference members who attend this presentation will receive 1.0 hour of CLE substantive credit.

2. Your Bar Association, Your Bar Foundation and the Executive Director

Moderator: Barbara I. Kittrell, Exec. Dir.,
Berks Co. Bar Assn.

3. Legislative Activities and the PABAR-PAC

Moderator: Ken Vasil, Esq.

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

**PLENARY SESSION:
Dealing With The Media**

Moderator: Michele Dawson, Esq.
William Z. Scott, Esq.

6:45 p.m.

Reception

9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

**Entertainment: The Bar Flies,
Westmoreland Bar Association**

Saturday, March 6, 2004

7:30 a.m.

Breakfast Buffet

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

FOUR NETWORKING BREAKFAST MTGS.

Small Bar Breakfast (for bar associations of 75 or fewer members)

Moderators: Francis X. O'Connor, Esq.
William Z. Scott, Esq.

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

NETWORKING BREAKFAST MTGS., *cont.*
Medium Bar Breakfast (for bar associations of 76-499 members)

Moderators: Alfred Jones Jr., Esq.
Ken Vasil, Esq.

Large Bar Breakfast (for bar associations of 500-3,000 members)

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

Metro Bar Breakfast (for bar associations of more than 3,000 members)

Moderators: David Blaner, Exec. Director,
Allegheny Co. Bar Assn.
Kenneth Shear, Exec. Director,
Philadelphia Bar Assn.

*Please attend the breakfast to which you are assigned by the letter indicated on your name badge. "S" indicates small bar breakfast, "M" indicates medium bar breakfast, "L" indicates large bar breakfast and "MB" indicates metro bar breakfast.

9:05 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.

Joint CCBL/YLD/New Admittee Program

Moderator: James Wells, Esq.

10:05 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Bar Leader Forum/Business Meeting

Moderator: Sandra W. Upor, Esq.,
CCBL President

County Bar Recognition Awards to be picked up. Recipients are listed in the back of the program book.

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Quality of Life Program

Moderator: Terry Weiler, Esq.
Conference members who attend this presentation will receive 1.5 hours of CLE ethics credit.

11:45 a.m.

Getaway Buffet

11:45 a.m.

CCBL Executive Committee Meeting

“Stepping Out” Deadlines Set for 2004

All county bar presidents, executive directors and secretaries will be contacted soon about their participation in the 2004 “Stepping Out” program.

The “Stepping Out” program is designed to help graduating seniors make the transition from the classroom to the “real world.” As part of the program, volunteer lawyers visit classrooms or are featured speakers at special assemblies. Topics covered include 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, 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 Berks County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section originated the “Stepping Out” program and updates the booklet on a regular basis.

If you wish to continue participating in this program, if you would like to participate for the first time, or if you need a list of high schools in your county, please contact Dale Schell at the PBA at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2297, or Dale.Schell@pabar.org. **Orders are due no later than Friday, March 12, 2004.** The per-booklet charge this year is \$.85.

Printing Schedule and 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 29-page text of the booklet remains the same for all printings of this publication.
- Minimum order is 500 copies. The per-booklet charge this year is \$.85.

- **All local information must be camera-ready or typed and be received at PBA headquarters by no later than Friday, March 12, 2004.** 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 during March and April.
- Booklets will be shipped to county bar associations in 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 (*Promises, Promises*); (2) personal (*Close to Home*); (3) adversarial (*Getting Stuck [and Unstuck]*); and (4) the individual in a nation (*Making it Work*). Be sure to look at the assistance agencies in ‘Close to Home’ 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

Promises, Promises

Contracts

Warranties

Buying a Car

Financing

Shopping at Home

Consumer Credit

Credit and Debit Cards

Borrowing Money and Applying for Credit

Bankruptcy

Close to Home

Renting an Apartment

Entering Into & Living with Your Lease

Ending Your Lease

A Word About Discrimination

Family Matters

Getting Married

Divorce

Children

Protection from Abuse

Assistance Agencies

Employment: Wages

Employment: Discrimination

Consumer Protection: General

Family Law Enforcement Agencies

Residential Matters

Legal Aid Agencies

Getting Stuck (and Unstuck)

Small Claims Court

Personal Injuries and Property Damage

A Word About Legal Fees

Workmen’s Compensation

Driving Under the Influence

A Word About Controlled Substances

Making It Work

Voting

Selective Service Registration

Income Taxation

Employee Benefits

PBA President Calls on Doctors to End Anti-Lawyer Campaign

Editor's Note: In late October, the Pennsylvania Medical Society unveiled a public education campaign in many Pennsylvania counties featuring the theme "To lawyers, PA patients all look the same. Stop Lawsuit Abuse." The campaign's billboard advertisements feature photos of pregnant women or babies with the words "Potential Lawsuit" superimposed on them.

The following is a letter from PBA President Thomas M. Golden to the president of the Pennsylvania Medical Society in which Golden calls for an immediate end to the campaign.

October 29, 2003

Jitendra Desai, M.D.
President
Pennsylvania Medical Society
777 East Park Drive, P.O. Box 8820
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8820

Dear President Desai:

As president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, I am writing to request that the Pennsylvania Medical Society immediately cease its sponsorship of the public campaign carrying the message of "To lawyers, PA patients all look the same. Stop Lawsuit Abuse." This campaign has launched a vicious and unwarranted attack on all members of Pennsylvania's legal profession and our justice system. The physicians of Pennsylvania are using unreasonable tactics to vilify lawyers and to debase the principles of this nation's Constitution.

This campaign attempts to dissuade the bringing of lawsuits by citizens who may have legitimate needs to secure the services of legal counsel. It is a basic and fundamental Constitutional right and privilege of every citizen of this country to seek redress through our justice system. Your campaign, which seeks to frighten and bully citizens into giving up this right, is morally offensive and misguided. At a time when Americans are giving their lives in service to their country in order to bring democracy to people around the world, it is a disgrace that the physicians of Pennsylvania would make a mockery of an individual's right to seek counsel and protection through the legal system.

Your campaign also creates a sweeping and false impression that the lawyers of Pennsylvania are interested solely in finding victims of medical malpractice. As you well know, there are thousands of lawyers in communities throughout Pennsylvania who practice law ethically and responsibly every day. They protect individual rights and civil liberties. They represent people from all walks of life in criminal cases, in business and tax transactions, in personal matters such as Wills and estate work and in real estate transactions. They even represent doctors and hospitals in medical malpractice matters. It is wholly irresponsible and unprofessional on the part of the Pennsylvania Medical Society to mislead the public into thinking that lawyers throughout Pennsylvania look at every medical patient solely as an opportunity for a lawsuit.

For decades, the Pennsylvania Medical Society has been known as an organization that has stood proudly for the ethical practice of medicine. The Pennsylvania Bar Association also has embraced its role as the champion for the ethical practice of the law. As statewide professional organizations, we cannot lose sight of the fact that we should — and we must — put aside any of our professional differences in order to attain our common goal, which should be to protect the people of this Commonwealth. To protect the people of Pennsylvania, please remove these offensive and misleading advertisements.

Very truly yours,
Thomas M. Golden

2002 – 2003 CCBL Executive Committee

PRESIDENT: Sandra Weyant Upor (Somerset)
238 West Union Street, P. O. Box 15
Somerset, PA 15501
(814) 443-2337, Fax (814) 443-4736

VICE PRESIDENT: Samuel D. Miller III (Montgomery)
One Sentry Parkway, Suite 6000
Blue Bell, PA 19422
(610) 270-1896, Fax (610) 270-1006

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150 East 8th Street
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Member PABE: Barbara I. Kittrell (Berks)
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544 Court Street, P.O. Box 1058
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www.pabar.org

the county line

Reverse Mentors Added to Provide Additional Online Research Seminars

County bar presidents recently received a letter from PBA Young Lawyers Division Chair Judge Todd Seelig detailing the expansion of the Reverse Mentoring Committee. The Young Lawyers Division has greatly expanded the Reverse Mentoring Committee — young lawyers who teach the basics of online legal research to any other attorneys who are not comfortable with computers or with the Internet. These young lawyers from all over the state help perform training seminars and are available for training and questions for Pennsylvania lawyers who want to use InCite.

Judge Seelig wrote, “As most of you know, one of the premier benefits of PBA membership is PBA’s free online legal research service, InCite. Thanks to the cooperative effort of the PBA and Lexis-Nexis, this member benefit now provides the practitioner with the ability to perform online legal research searches on all Pennsylvania courts and statutes without any limitation on dates. InCite has been improved with the ability to perform ‘all-court’ searches, so that one can search a topic with one search in the Pennsylvania Supreme, Superior and Commonwealth Court libraries at the same time. Moreover, InCite includes searches of current federal courts cases and statutes and all 50 state libraries within the past five years.”

The Reverse Mentoring Committee has put on seminars in 19 counties in the last two years, most recently in Centre, Washington and Cumberland Counties. Seminars generally lasts one hour, and are approved for CLE credit.

If you are interested in the Reverse Mentoring Committee putting on a seminar in your county or providing training to lawyers in your area, please contact Elizabeth Kramer at the PBA at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2208. ■

Project PEACE Schools Selected

The Pennsylvania Bar Association and Attorney General Mike Fisher are pleased to announce that the PBA Law-Related Education Committee met and selected the final 12 elementary schools to participate in the 2004 Project PEACE training conference scheduled for March 12-13, 2004, in Altoona:

Carson Valley School (Montgomery County)
Good Shepherd School (Cumberland County)
Intermediate Unit #18 (a team of elementary schools) (Luzerne County)
Loyalsock Valley Elementary School (Lycoming County)
Lynwood Elementary School (Luzerne County)
Manchester Academic Charter School (Allegheny County)
Price Elementary School (Lancaster County)
Richard Allen Preparatory Charter School (Philadelphia)
St. Anastasia School (Delaware County)
St. Monica School (Chester County)
White Oak Elementary School (Allegheny County)
Wyoming Valley Montessori School (Luzerne County)

Project PEACE works to reduce conflict and violence in Pennsylvania’s elementary schools by teaching students how to discuss and mediate disagreements peacefully. It empowers children, who are still in their formative years, with important life-skills that promote constructive communication, problem-solving, critical-thinking and self-esteem. Children govern behavior in their classrooms by serving as mediators and using the mediation process. With the help of neutral peer mediators, conflicts can be settled in a positive manner, benefiting the school climate as a whole.

During the training, school teams, which include local attorneys, will be introduced to the peer mediation process

and receive instruction in such areas as adjudication vs. mediation and diffusing conflict situations. At the end of the training, schools write their own mediation plans, which are introduced to their local schools. At home, the schools then select and train their student mediators, with the assistance of their attorney partners.

Bar associations interested in working with one of the schools should contact PBA Pro Bono Coordinator David Trevaskis at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2236. For more information about Project PEACE and other law-related education programs, visit the PBA Web site at www.pabar.org/educationprograms.shtml. ■

Action from PABE Annual Meeting

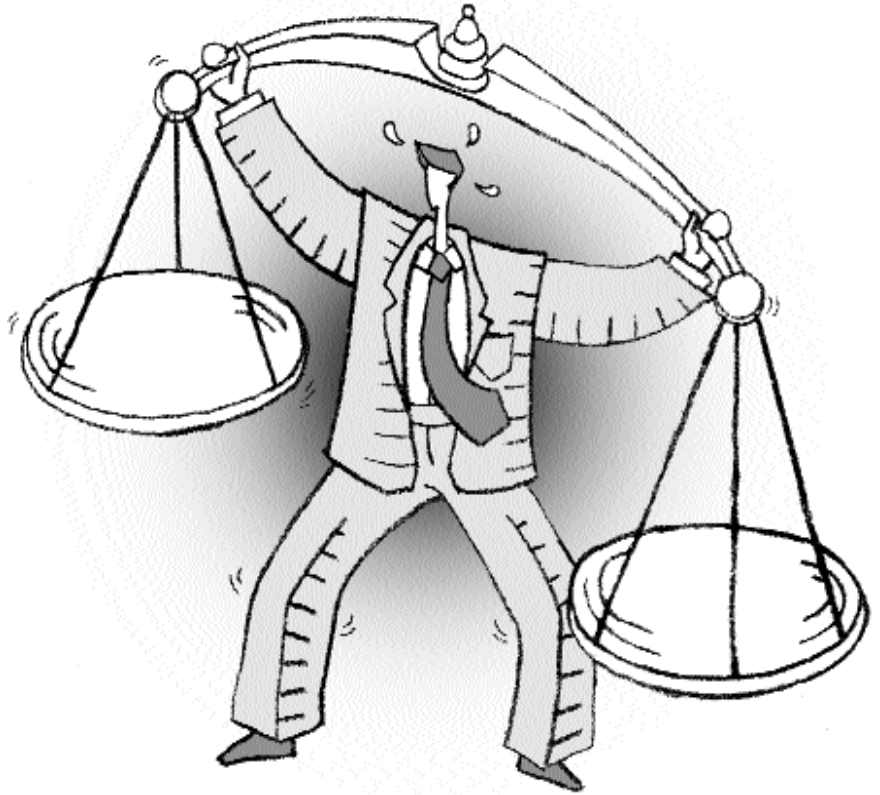
At the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives, held in November, the following officers were chosen for the 2004 year: President Nancy R. Paul, executive director of the Montgomery Bar Association; Vice President Becky Morgenthal, executive director of the Cumberland County Bar Association; Secretary Diane Krivoniak,

executive director of the Westmoreland Bar Association; and Treasurer Susan Kenney, executive secretary of the Monroe County Bar Association.

Also at the annual meeting, the PABE presented a plaque to outgoing PABE President Arthur J. Birdsall (PBA County Bar Services director) recognizing his year of service in that position. ■

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the lawyer specialist



On the *Local Scene*...

Allegheny

Ask the Attorney

The North Hills Practitioners Section of the Allegheny County Bar Association, in cooperation with North Hills Community Outreach, sponsored an “Ask the Attorney” program. Qualifying North Hills residents received free 30-minute consultations with a lawyer to discuss legal issues such as credit and consumer issues, family law and bankruptcy.

Service Ceremony

The Allegheny County Bar Association held their Diamond and Gold Ceremony at which Elliott Finkel was honored for practicing law for more than 70 years.

Beaver

Charity Roast

The Charitable Giving and Fundraising Committee of the Beaver County Bar Association hosted a roast for Judges Robert C. Reed and Peter O. Steege. The roast raised \$6,400, which will be used to benefit local charities.

Service Award

At their recent Bench/Bar Conference, the Beaver County Bar Association awarded the 2003 Judge James E. Rowley Service Award to Charles F. Bowers Jr. The award is given to recognize and honor an individual or individuals whose commitment, dedication and service to the BCBA and to the legal profession have significantly contributed to the betterment of the association or the legal profession. The recipient’s donations of time, talent and expertise serve as a model to be emulated by fellow members of the association and the bar in general.

Bucks

People’s Law School

After a two-year hiatus, the Bucks County Bar Association and the Bucks County College have re-launched their People’s Law School with a revamped format designed to be more convenient and consumer-friendly. Now instead of

enrolling for all courses offered over the eight weeks, residents can choose to enroll in any or all courses. Courses this year include parental liability, wills and elder care, criminal law, family law, consumer law, employment law, school law — parents’ rights in this age of “zero tolerance” — and real estate law. Previous law school topics such as tax law are no longer being offered after being deemed too complex for the time available; personal injury law is no longer offered because many lawyers offer free consultations in this area.

Carbon

Crime Prevention for Seniors

On November 20, the Carbon County Bar Association hosted a Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Senior Crime Prevention University. The program, involving video presentations as well as a question-and-answer period, aims to make senior citizens aware of scams they may encounter, educate seniors so that they may avoid such scams, and encourage seniors to alert local law enforcement officials so that others are not harmed.

Chester

Award to Legal Explorers Program

The Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry presented their 2004 Golden Apple Award to the Chester County Bar Association for the CCBA’s Law Explorers Program, which helps high school students to explore careers in the law. The program was recognized for its outstanding leadership in Chester County’s effort to build a strong educational and workforce partnership.

Clearfield

Legal Eagles

Members of the Young Lawyers Division of the Clearfield County Bar Association finished seventh in the nation in the American Bar Association’s 2003 Law Day Activity Awards — the only rural or Pennsylvania program mentioned — with their newly-expanded Legal Eagles program. Developed in cooperation with the

Clearfield County Crimestoppers, Legal Eagles brings in law enforcement officers, lawyers and others to teach elementary school students about careers the law, good citizenship, tolerance, leadership, the need to stay in school and how to respect one another as well as parents and teachers.

Crawford

Smoke Detector Donations

As part of National Fire Prevention Week, the Crawford County Bar Association teamed with K-Mart to provide free smoke detectors for area residents. Local fire prevention activities also included fire safety programs in schools, classes on the use of fire extinguishers and public reminders to change smoke alarm batteries.

Franklin

Divorce, Custody & Support Presentation

Attorneys from the Franklin County Bar Association and staff from the Franklin County Domestic Relations Office presented “Basic Legal Issues in Divorce, Custody and Support” on two consecutive Thursday evenings in October. Topics addressed included procedural aspects of divorce, income guidelines for calculating support, enforcement of support orders and third-party custody rights.

Lackawanna

Law Day

As part of their Law Day activities, the Lackawanna Bar Association held a dinner/dance, presented awards and held a “Meet the Judges” event for young lawyers.

Lancaster

Meet Your Judges

The Lancaster Bar Association held a “Meet Your Judges” program, aimed at demystifying judges and the role of the courts in everyday life. The program offered the public a chance to ask questions about proceedings that occur within the county’s courtrooms and to talk with the judges.



Northampton

People's Law School

The Northampton County Bar Association presented a People's Law School at Northampton Community College. Courses covered wills, elder law issues, real estate, family law, criminal law and consumer law.

Montgomery

Day on the Hill

The Montgomery Bar Association visited the Pennsylvania State Capitol on Oct. 21 to meet with legislators in conjunction with the PBA's Day on the Hill. David L. Narkiewicz, past MBA president and chair of the MBA Government Relations Committee, guided members through the day, beginning with a tour of the Capital building, Rotunda and the governor's office, followed by a visit to Whitaker Center for a meeting with legislators. The goal of the meeting was to communicate and exchange information, as well as encourage discussion of key issues between both parties.

People's Law School

The Montgomery Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section sponsored a People's Law School that began on Oct. 6 and ran each Monday through Dec. 8, at the Montgomery County Community College. All the tuition raised through the course materials fee will benefit foster children in Montgomery County.

Thanks-For-Giving Run/Fun Walk

The Montgomery Bar Association held its 5th annual Thanks-For-Giving Run/Walk on Oct. 18. All the proceeds from the run/walk were donated to provide food and household supplies to needy families in the community.

Philadelphia

Supreme Court Justices

Present Awards

The Philadelphia Bar Association held their quarterly meeting at which 1,200 attendees saw Bar Association Chancellor Audrey C. Talley receive the association's



U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg addresses members of the Philadelphia Bar Association as U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Bar Association Chancellor Audrey C. Talley (front row, left to right) look on.

Sandra Day O'Connor Award, given to a local woman lawyer who has best exemplified the ideals of Justice O'Connor. The association also presented the inaugural Ruth Bader Ginsburg Award. The Ginsburg Award honors excellence in legal writing and analysis and will be presented annually to a local second- or third-year law school student who has submitted the best law review-quality paper on a topic related to rights, privileges and responsibilities under federal law. Justices O'Connor and Ginsburg were on hand to help present the awards as well as offer remarks.

Somerset

Portrait Restoration Project

The Somerset County Bar Association is raising funds via a calendar sale to restore 27 portraits of former county judges in the county courthouse. The calendars feature images and photographs of courtrooms and courthouses, including some established before Somerset County was officially established. One unusual photograph is of a courtroom decked in black following the 1901 assassination of President William McKinley.

Washington

Patriot Act Forum

The Washington County Bar Association, in conjunction with the Washington

County League of Women Voters, sponsored a free public forum on the USA Patriot Act. The program included a brief description of the contents of the act, discussion on the implications regarding civil liberties, and a historical perspective on similar legislation during times of war. The program also included a question-and-answer period and a discussion on the part citizens can play in the act and possible successor legislation. Continuing legal education credits were made available for the event.

Service Awards

The Washington County Bar Association honored the following attorneys for their years of service to the profession: Robert Ceisler for 60 years of service; Melvin B. Bassi, Patrick C. Derrico and Clyde Tempest for 50 years of service; and Georg E. Anthon and Joseph P. Moschetta for 40 years of service.

Westmoreland

Candidates Forum

The Westmoreland Bar Association and the Westmoreland League of Women Voters sponsored a candidates forum for the recent election of Westmoreland County judge. Judicial candidates answered questions posed by representatives of community organizations, discussed their qualifications and answered questions from the public.

Youth Mentoring Program

Judges and lawyers of the Westmoreland Bar Association are partnering with Big Brothers/Big Sisters in a mentoring program at the Westmoreland County YMCA Emergency Youth Shelter. A temporary, residential care facility, the shelter houses, counsels and educates teens who are declared dependent by the judicial system and placed at the shelter by court order.

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the county line



Pennsylvania Bar Institute Courses

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.

Camp Hill

Workers' Compensation Practice and Procedure
Tues., March 30, 8:25 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.,
4 substantive CLE credits

Malvern

Taking and Defending Depositions
Tues., March 30, 8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.,
4 substantive CLE credits

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Thirty-one bar association mentors spend at least one hour a week meeting, sharing lunch and talking with shelter residents. The program is a result of a Juvenile Court Town Meeting held at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg in late 2001, where stakeholders of the juvenile court system, along with members of the public, learned that one-on-one mentoring of at-risk youth can be a deterrent against juvenile crime.

Wilkes-Barre/Luzerne

Fund Drive Volunteers

Members of the Young Lawyers Division of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association/Luzerne County Bar volunteered during the WVIA public broadcasting system's membership campaign pledge drive.

HIPAA Program

The Health Care Law Committee of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association/Luzerne County Bar sponsored a continued legal education program on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which was passed by Congress earlier this year and which changes the way certain types of patient medical information may be released by hospitals and physicians. Over 70 attorneys attended the session.

York

"Law Lines" Project

Members of the Young Lawyers Section of the York County Bar Association answered telephone calls from the public and provided free basic legal information during their recent "Law Lines" volunteer project. ■

Allentown

Practical Discovery in Pennsylvania
Fri., Feb. 6, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,
4 substantive CLE credits

Malvern

Title Insurance: From Commitment to Claim
Thurs., Feb. 12, 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.,
6 CLE credits (5 substantive/1 ethics)

Scranton

Preliminary Criminal Procedures: From Arrest to Arraignment
Fri., Feb. 20, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,
4 CLE credits (3 substantive/1 ethics)

Hershey

Solo and Small Firm Practice Retreat
Fri. & Sat., Feb. 20 -21,
up to 6 CLE credits

Malvern

Preliminary Criminal Procedures: From Arrest to Arraignment
Fri., Feb. 23, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,
4 CLE credits (3 substantive/1 ethics)

LIVE VIA SATELLITE

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Allentown</i> | <i>Media</i> |
| <i>Bellefonte</i> | <i>Mill Hall</i> |
| <i>Chambersburg</i> | <i>New Castle</i> |
| <i>Clarion</i> | <i>Reading</i> |
| <i>Doylestown</i> | <i>Schuylkill Haven</i> |
| <i>Easton</i> | <i>Scranton</i> |
| <i>Erie</i> | <i>Somerset</i> |
| <i>Greensburg</i> | <i>Stroudsburg</i> |
| <i>Hollidaysburg</i> | <i>Uniontown</i> |
| <i>Honesdale</i> | <i>Villanova</i> |
| <i>Indiana</i> | <i>Warren</i> |
| <i>Johnstown</i> | <i>Waynesburg</i> |
| <i>Kingston</i> | <i>West Chester</i> |
| <i>Lancaster</i> | <i>Williamsport</i> |
| <i>Mansfield</i> | <i>York</i> |

Feldman on Long Term Care

Wed., March 10, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon,
3 substantive CLE credits

LIVE VIA SATELLITE

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Allentown</i> | <i>Media</i> |
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| <i>Chambersburg</i> | <i>New Castle</i> |
| <i>Clarion</i> | <i>Reading</i> |
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| <i>Hollidaysburg</i> | <i>Uniontown</i> |
| <i>Honesdale</i> | <i>Villanova</i> |
| <i>Indiana</i> | <i>Warren</i> |
| <i>Johnstown</i> | <i>Waynesburg</i> |
| <i>Kingston</i> | <i>West Chester</i> |
| <i>Lancaster</i> | <i>Williamsport</i> |
| <i>Mansfield</i> | <i>York</i> |

17th Annual Civil Litigation Update,

Weds., March 31, 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.,
6 CLE credits (5 substantive/1 ethics)

Send Us Your News

To submit news for *The County Line*, please use the enclosed "News and Views" form or contact 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.

March 8 is the copy deadline for the next issue of the newsletter.

County Bar Services Director:
Arthur J. Birdsall

The County Line Editor:
Patricia M. Graybill

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Free Medical/Legal Services Clinic Opens in Hazleton

By Bernard Walter,
Pennsylvania Bar Association
Pro Bono Award winner

Imagine lawyers and doctors working together for the common good instead of attacking each other over the medical malpractice crisis, and you will capture the unique nature of a new initiative in Hazleton. The Lower Luzerne Bar Association has created a new vehicle for its members to render pro bono legal services to various members of the Hazleton community in a free, non-sectarian medical/legal clinic hosted by St. Gabriel's Church, Hazleton.

This past summer, I began talking with St. Gabriel's Monsignor Michael Delaney about adding legal services to the free medical services clinic run by Dr. Anthony Veglia and parish nurse Nan Smith. The clinic began providing free medical services this spring, primarily to Spanish-speaking people. I saw the Hazleton clinic as the perfect spot to replicate the free medical/legal clinic I had helped to set up in 1996 in Shavertown.

The legal side of the clinic was organized in August when Monsignor Delaney and I met with Charles Petrillo, North Penn Legal Services; Tom Kennedy, Kennedy & Lucadamo; and David Glassberg, president, Luzerne County Lower Bar, to discuss the practical details of setting up a legal clinic. Among the issues discussed and resolved were processing procedures and documentation, malpractice coverage, staffing issues and case referral methods to private practitioners. One month later, President Glassberg met with the Lower Bar members to seek their approval of this innovation and to seek volunteers among the 42 members present. Glassberg received unanimous approval of the plan and the agreement of every attorney present to participate as pro bono volunteers for the clinic. The bar association is creating a flexible schedule for volunteers as the clinic initiates publicity to make the public aware of the medical and legal services now available.

The first dual function clinic took place on Oct. 7, with five attorneys present including Glassberg, Petrillo, Brian

Price, Jerald Wassil and myself. Every lawyer brought skill and a commitment to public service to the clinic. Price, a lawyer at Dougherty, Leventhal & Price, also brought his experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in Central America to the session. Wassil, married to a Spanish teacher, added his experience from a practice that includes immigration law. Spanish-language skills and immigration law expertise are important at this clinic because of the large number of Hazleton workers and their families who speak only Spanish.

The Hazleton Medical/Legal Clinic offers monthly service the first Tuesday evening of every month. The legal side of the clinic serves everyone who comes to the clinic on a first-come, first-served basis. The legal clinic deals with whatever problems the visitors bring, including landlord-tenant problems, child support troubles, unemployment insurance coverage issues, estate planning, criminal defense, small business concerns, consumer issues and more.

The clinic handout states:

Our non-sectarian goal is to provide legal services to good people who:

1. Are unable to pay for such services in the private sector; or
2. May be alienated from the traditional justice system; or
3. Have a small problem warranting prompt preventative care; or
4. Would benefit from candid discussion with legal counsel; all without obligation, cost, or strings attached.

The legal clinic is not designed to handle active pending litigation or to undertake actual representation beyond what can be done in the clinic counseling context. Some problems or protracted conflict situations demand the more comprehensive services appropriate for an attorney of record. In such situations, the visitor may be referred to private counsel with knowledge in the needed area of the law. The legal clinic staff may also assist in referring the visitor to local counsel who may be willing to offer services at reduced fees.

The legal clinic relies upon the voluntary donation of time by local attorneys who have sufficient general background

to respond to a foreseeable range of problems. Advice is given based upon the information visitors provide and reflects only the opinions of the volunteer attorney with best wishes for a favorable outcome, but without any guarantee of any particular results. ■

Pro Bono Spotlight

Pro Bono Bankruptcy Project Launched at Judge's Prompting

At the March 5 meeting of the Dauphin County Bar Association Bankruptcy Section, newly-appointed bankruptcy Judge Mary D. France emphasized the need for pro bono assistance. She explained that from time to time, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court is faced with the problem of *pro se* debtors whose cases are too complex to be administered fairly and effectively without an attorney. Although these debtors' needs are serious and their resources limited, many of them are not eligible for legal services.

In the past, the court has attempted to steer these cases to counsel willing to handle them on a pro bono basis. There has not, however, been any formal program to recruit the assistance of members of the bankruptcy bar who are willing to take on pro bono cases. Through DCBA Bankruptcy Section Chair Robert Bein's leadership, DCBA is working with Judge France to launch a trial project to address that need. The DCBA is developing a list of bankruptcy lawyers who are willing to accept pro bono referrals directly from Judge France. Lawyers from "lower-tier" counties (Adams, Centre, Cumberland,

(Continued on Page 12)

Reminder Regarding Copies of the ABA Bar Leader Magazine

Because of the extraordinary cost per reader, and in order to be good stewards of member dues, the PBA will no longer provide the *ABA Bar Leader* magazine to county bar leaders. For individual subscriptions, contact the ABA Service Center at (800) 285-2221, or visit their Web site at www.abanet.org. (Use Search field to locate "Bar Leader.")

Pro Bono Bankruptcy Project Launched at Judge's Prompting

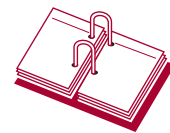
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Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lebanon, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Schuylkill, Snyder, Union and York Counties) are also asked to consider participating in the project.

Judge France will contact lawyers on a rotating basis and ask them to assist a debtor in need of a pro bono attorney. A large number of registrations will avoid placing a burden on those who step forward. Judge France will periodically forward the names of the attorneys who accept referrals to their local bar associations so that the attorneys receive appropriate credit for their pro bono service.

Please contact Robert Bein at (717) 237-5544 or Sandy Ballard, DCBA, at (717) 232-7536 regarding the pro bono bankruptcy project. ■

Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming Events:



Family Law Section Winter Meeting

January 16-18, 2004

Sofitel Hotel, Philadelphia

PBA Midyear Meeting January 21-25, 2004

The Breakers

Palm Beach, Florida

Solo & Small Firm Practice Retreat

February 20-21, 2004

Hershey Lodge &
Convention Center,
Hershey

38th Annual Conference of County Bar Leaders and YLD New Admittee Conference

March 4-6, 2004

Hershey Lodge &
Convention Center,
Hershey

Meeting brochures and
registration information
available at
www.pabar.org.

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