

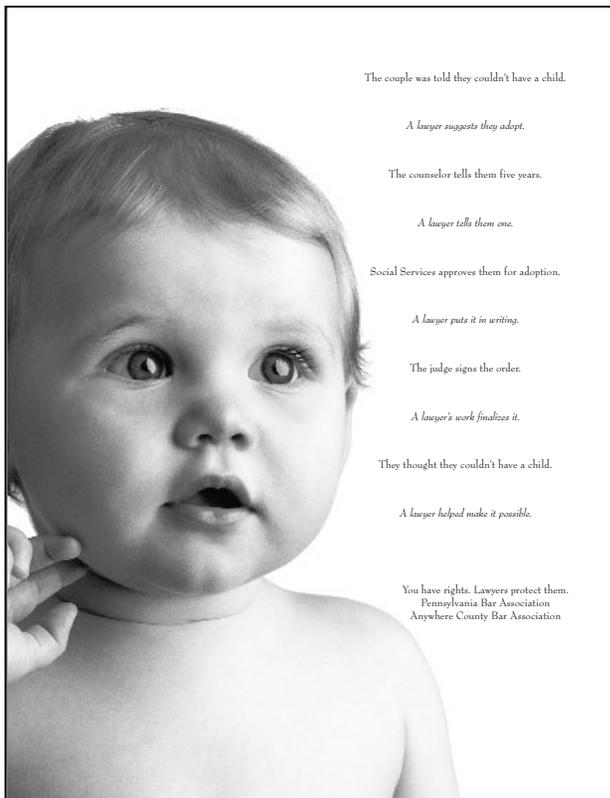
# The COUNTYLINE



Published by the Pennsylvania Bar Association

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## PBA Offers Popular Ad Campaign to Local Bars



***“This effort presents an excellent opportunity for the legal profession to share with the community the important work that lawyers do everyday. “***

The PBA Board of Governors has authorized the purchase of a series of four ads highlighting how lawyers help people in different situations. The purchase of the ads was recommended by the PBA Public Relations Task Force Implementation Committee as part of its year-long public relations study.

The ad campaign, developed initially by the Virginia State Bar Association and offered to state bar associations across the country, focuses on legal topics such as adoption, starting a business, elder law and discrimination. The Virginia State Bar reported that the ads were successful and were received well by Virginia residents. The PBA Client and Community Relations Committee is spearheading the efforts to work with local bar associations to implement the campaign in Pennsylvania.

“This effort presents an excellent opportunity for the legal profession to share with the community the important work that lawyers do everyday,” said PBA President Michael H. Reed.

This campaign is much different than the recent estate planning public education campaign in which many local bars participated. There are no

brochures, and there is no hotline for citizens to call. The campaign is simply a public service effort to educate Pennsylvanians about the positive work that lawyers do.

The PBA has purchased the rights to the Virginia State Bar’s campaign for a three-year period. The ads have been tailored to be Pennsylvania-specific and have been made available free-of-charge to local bars for the next three years. If a local bar chooses to run the ads in local newspapers, the PBA will size the ads and place the association’s name in them. The local bar then will be provided with an electronic copy of each ad that can be given to local newspapers. Local bars will need to contract directly with local newspapers to have the ads placed and pay for the placement. The ads also can be enlarged and used as posters and fliers.

Interested bar associations should contact the PBA Communications Department at (800) 932-0311 and speak with Marcy Mallory (Ext. 2247) or Jennifer Branstetter (Ext. 2216). ■

# UPDATE: 39th Annual Conference of County Bar Leaders

March 3-5, 2005 • Nittany Lion Inn, State College

## Why Attend?

CCBL builds strong relationships among bar leaders from across the commonwealth and strives to improve the status of the legal profession by increasing effective leadership in the organized bar.

## What's In Store:

Programs include malpractice avoidance, unauthorized practice of law, association management, diversity and media training. The seminar is purposely planned to fit lots of great sessions and CLE into a short, convenient schedule.

## Costs and Reservations

The registration fee is \$175, which includes all meal functions and CLE. Attendees from unit counties receive a \$50 discount. Call the PBA at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2231 to register. Rooms at the Nittany Lion Inn are \$103 single/\$113 double (plus applicable taxes). Call (800) 233-7505 by Feb. 9, 2005, and mention that you are attending the PBA CCBL/reservation ID# PAB0223.

A limited number of scholarships are available for county bar leaders who want to attend but don't have the available funds. Call Art Birdsall at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2218.

## Schedule of Events & Session Descriptions:

*Let Us Show You How to ...*

**Thursday, March 3, 2005**

**9:00 p.m. – midnight**

**Early Bird Registration and Refreshments**

**Friday, March 4, 2005**

**8:30 a.m.**

**Registration and PBA Supermarket**

**8:50 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.**

**CCBL Orientation and  
PBA Presidents' Roundtable**

County bar presidents' coffee with PBA President Reed, President-elect Carlucci and Vice President Horoho. Introduction and comments by CCBL President Miller.

**8:50 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.**

**... Benefit from the Exclusive Advantages  
of InCite®**

Can you afford not to have this free legal research tool as part of your standard of practice? You will learn how to use this PBA membership benefit and see first-hand the new enhancements that have made it a must for lawyers and law firms in Pennsylvania. (1 hour of substantive CLE credit)

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

**... Avoid Malpractice Claims**

Moderator: Ken Vasil, Esq.

PBA's Professional Liability Committee will present a program using real-life situations to show where claims are prevalent and what you can do to counter these attacks. They will also discuss the need for an accurate understanding of how to choose the right lawyers' professional liability insurance policy for your firm. (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.**

**... Develop Tools & Techniques To Be An  
Effective President**

It is an honor and a privilege to assume the presidency of your bar association. Make sure that you come to the office prepared for a term that you can look back on as being a wonderful experience. You will be given lots of ideas and tools for a successful presidency.

Moderator: Terry D. Weiler, Esq.

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## 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 2004 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 Associ-

ation 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](http://www.pabar.org/ccblhome.shtml).  
Nominations will be accepted until  
Friday, Jan. 28, 2005.**

# Schedule of Events & Session Descriptions:

(Continued from Page 2)

## Friday, March 4, 2005, continued

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

### **Kick-Off Luncheon**

Presiding: Samuel D. Miller III, Esq.,  
President, Conference of County Bar Leaders  
Welcome: James McKay Rayback, Esq.,  
President, Centre County Bar Association  
Presentation of Gilbert Nurick, Chief Justice  
John P. Flaherty and Arthur J. Birdsall Awards  
Introduction of Speaker: Michael H. Reed,  
Esq., President, Pennsylvania Bar Association

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

### **Check-in Break & 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. ... Work With The Disciplinary Board**

The Disciplinary System was created in the early 70s, yet we still do not understand how it works. You will hear from the Court, the Disciplinary Board and the Office of Disciplinary Counsel as to how the system works, the dos and don'ts, and the questions you want answers to. (1 hour of substantive CLE credit)

Moderator: Francis X. O'Connor, Esq.

#### **2. ... Harness Technology To Become An Effective Bar Leader**

Frazzled and overworked? Befuddled by computer hardware, software, digital imaging, PDAs and other gadgets? Learn how the right tools, used in the right way, can restore your sanity, make you more efficient and productive, and enable you to increase service to your membership. Our panel would be too busy to present this program if it weren't for technology.

Moderator: Kenneth G. Vasil, Esq.

#### **3. ... Meet the Legal Needs of Middle Income People : An Impossible Task?**

A discussion with the newly formed PBA Task Force on Meeting the Legal Needs of Middle Income People. We will discuss programs in existence, what your bar association can do for your legal community and the community around you, and explore any new and novel approaches or suggestions. (1 hour of substantive CLE credit)

Moderator: Michele S. Dawson, Esq.

**3:00 p.m.**

### **PBA YLD Business Meeting**

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

THREE BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

#### **1. ... Recognize and Attack The Unauthorized Practice of Law in Your Community**

This session is always sold out, so come early and bring your concerns. Discussion will include the views of the courts, the legislature, and the Attorney General's Office. (1 hour of substantive CLE credit)

Moderator: Sandra W. Upor, Esq.

#### **2. ... Recruit & Retain A Diverse Bar Assn.**

Bar associations and communities benefit when they are inclusive in their approach to problem-solving and making their communities a better place to work and live. A panel of experts will discuss how your bar association can attract a diverse membership and keep those members in your community. (1 hour of substantive CLE credit)

Moderator: Samuel T. Cooper III, Esq.

#### **3. ... Partner With Your Community**

There is a wealth of information available from county bar associations about successful programs that bring lawyers and communities together. You are welcome to share a program or take one back to your county.

Moderator: Alfred Jones Jr., Esq.

**4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.**

### **PLENARY SESSION:**

#### **... Deal With The Media**

Dealing with the news media isn't something with which many lawyers are comfortable. It's a learned skill, and is not always easy or without risk. But it can be a key marketing tool for a lawyer, a law firm or a bar association. This session will introduce you to the basic principles of dealing with reporters and interview situations.

Moderator: Terry D. Weiler, Esq.

**6:45 p.m.**

### **Gala Reception**

## Saturday, March 5, 2005

**7:30 a.m.**

### **Hot Breakfast Buffet**

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

FOUR NETWORKING BREAKFAST MEETINGS:

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

Moderators: Francis X. O'Connor, Esq.  
Sandra W. Upor, Esq.

#### **Medium Bar Breakfast (for bar associations of 76-499 members)**

Moderators: Alfred Jones Jr., Esq.

George A. Verlihay, Esq.

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

Moderators: Kenneth G. Vasil, Esq.

Terry D. Weiler, Esq.

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

Moderators: David A. Blaner, Executive Director, Allegheny County Bar Association  
Kenneth Shear, Executive

Director, Philadelphia Bar Association  
(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.**

#### **... Avoid The Fiduciary Pitfalls of Starting, Selling or Changing a Law Practice**

This program is designed to equip the attorney hanging out a shingle for the first time with some dos and don'ts — from naming your new firm to handling escrow accounts to dealing with your clients. We will also discuss the fiduciary responsibilities of lawyers selling their practices or retiring. Resources and a resource guide will be available for county bar leaders to take back to their bars to assist their members in such situations. (1 hour of substantive CLE credit)

Moderator: Jennifer J. Clark, Esq.

**10:05 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.**

#### **Bar Leader Forum/Business Meeting Presentation of Plaque and Gavel Election of New Officers**

Moderator: Samuel D. Miller III, Esq.

**10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.**

#### **... Manage and Sustain A Successful Public Relations Campaign**

Explore the results of the PBA's statewide market research on the image of lawyers and the legal profession. The chairs of the PBA Public Relations Task Force Implementation Committee will discuss plans for various public relations campaigns and provide tips on how local bar associations can conduct and sustain them successfully.

Moderator: George A. Verlihay, Esq.

**11:45 a.m.**

### **Getaway Buffet**

### **CCBL Executive Committee Meeting**



# On the *Local Scene*...

## **Allegheny**

### **Free Insurance Policy Review**

Members of the Allegheny County Bar Association offered a free 30-minute legal consultation for residents and business owners to review their insurance policies with an attorney.

## **Beaver**

### **Past Presidents Luncheon**

On Sept. 17, Beaver County Bar Association President Cathy D. Campbell hosted a luncheon for past presidents of the association. The past presidents who attended had served from 1973 to the present. This was an informal gathering to learn more about the history of the BCBA, goals and accomplishments of the presidents and the future vision for the association.

## **Cambria**

### **President's Award**

The Cambria County Bar Association awarded their President's Award for Community Service in September to attorney Ralph Trofino and in October to attorney Lewis H. Ripley Jr.

## **Carbon**

### **50-Year Member Award**

The Carbon County Bar Association honored Roger N. Nanovic for his 50 years of membership in the bar.

## **Crawford**

### **Smoke Detector Donations**

The Crawford County Bar Association provided 100 smoke detectors to the Meadville Central Fire Department for free distribution during National Fire Prevention Week.

## **Cumberland**

### **Building Dedication**

In early October, the Cumberland County Bar Association and Bar Foundation dedicated their newly purchased building to Henry Stuart and the G. B. Stuart Charitable Foundation. The building was named the "Stuart Bar Center."

Later in October, the association held its fifth biennial bench – bar conference at Allenberry Resort. The association reached the milestone of having 40 percent of its members in attendance.

## **Dauphin**

### **People's Law School**

The Young Lawyers Section of the Dauphin County Bar Association conducted an eight-week People's Law School program designed to share the experience of practicing lawyers with the public. The two-hour sessions were held on Wednesday evenings from Sept. 29 to Nov. 7 at Harrisburg Area Community College, and included classes on criminal law, the court system, family law, vehicle law, consumer law, estate planning and administration, and employment law.

### **Goldberg Lecture Series**

The fourth annual Arthur L. & Harry B. Goldberg Lecture Series, sponsored by the Dauphin County Bar Foundation, was presented on Oct. 14. The program featured Daniel J. Bryant, assistant attorney general for legal policy, U.S. Department of Justice, whose topic was the Patriot Act. This popular lecture series, which includes two CLE credits at no charge, attracts roughly 120 attendees each year.

### **Joint Dinner Meeting**

The fifth annual Dauphin County Bar Association/Harrisburg Black Attorneys Association Joint Dinner Meeting was held on Oct. 20, and featured Michael H. Reed, PBA president, who spoke on the topic of diversity in the legal profession. The Hon. Robert N. C. Nix Jr. Scholarship Awards were presented to Kristi L. Johnson, from the Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law, and Dionne R. Wiggins, of the Widener University School of Law, Harrisburg Campus.

### **Meet Your Judges Program**

The Dauphin County Bar Association, the Harrisburg Black Attorneys Association, the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, and the Harrisburg and Her-

shey Area League of Women Voters sponsored at Meet Your Judges program at the Dauphin County Courthouse on Oct. 28. The program featured Judges J. Michael Eakin, Joseph H. Kleinfelter, Jeannine Turgeon, Richard A. Lewis and Lawrence F. Clark Jr. and District Justice Joseph S. Lindsey. The question and answer session was moderated by a local TV news anchor, who was assisted by volunteers from the Young Lawyers Section. A reception followed the program.

### **Memorial Service**

The DCBA Memorial and Outreach Committee coordinated a memorial service on Dec. 1 at the Dauphin County Courthouse to honor Edward J. Weintraub, Frank A. Sinon, Maxine Kay Lewis, Milton Bernstein and John E. Nanorta Jr., all of whom had died within the past year. This event provided members an opportunity to demonstrate respect for former colleagues and commitment to one of the finest traditions of the bar association.

## **Delaware County**

### **Live and Silent Auction**

Members and friends of the Delaware County Bar Association gathered on Sept. 10 for the association's first live and silent auction. The event raised over \$7,000 to improve the quality of CLE presentations and the facilities of the bar association building.

### **Book Drive**

The Delaware County Bar Association's Community Outreach Committee sponsored a book drive through Nov. 1. Association members and their families exceeded expectations, as the receptacle in the association lobby had to be emptied at least five times prior to the donation cut-off. The effort collected 4,000 books for underprivileged pre-K through 12th grade children.

A special mention to DCBA member Frank J. Wesner Jr. and his daughter, Paige, a ninth grade student who made the book drive part of her school social service project. By communicating the objective of the book drive to students



and faculty, they gathered an additional 300-400 books.

### **Estate Planning Seminar**

Members of the Delaware County Bar Association's Elder Law Committee held a free public seminar on estate planning and related consumer protection issues, featuring representatives of the Delaware County District Attorney's Elder Fraud Unit, Orphans' Court and Register of Wills Office, Delaware County Office of Services for the Aging and the Delaware County Bar Association's Elder Law Committee. Topics included answers to popular questions for seniors including: What is meant by "probate"? What is taxable for purposes of PA Inheritance Tax? What are the advantages to having a living trust? What documents are needed to protect one's self and family members? How do you avoid being scammed by all of those marketers? Attendees had the opportunity to consult one-on-one with attorneys at the conclusion of the presentation.

The seminar also featured special guest Herb Denenberg, an investigative and consumer reporter and columnist. Denenberg is currently the consumer reporter for WLVT-TV (PBS) and is the former Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commissioner and professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

## **Erie**

### **Law School Scholarships**

The Erie County Bar Association awarded scholarships to five county residents who are either second- or third-year students at ABA-accredited law schools.

## **Franklin**

### **Wills and Trusts Program**

More than 200 people participated in a program on wills, trusts and the probate process presented in October by the Franklin County Bar Association. "Protect Your Future: The Truth About Wills, Living Trusts and Avoiding Probate" was sponsored by The Law and You Commit-

tee of the FCBA in conjunction with the PBA's 2004 public education campaign. It was held Oct. 19, with both a daytime and an evening session offered.

Attorneys Richard Hoskinson, LeRoy Maxwell Jr. and Forest Myers provided the attendees with basic information on wills and other estate-planning methods. They also spoke at length on the misconceptions many people have about the probate process and how numerous companies prey on people's fears to sell them expensive living trusts that often cause more problems than they solve.

## **Indiana**

### **Law School Scholarship**

The Indiana County Bar Association has announced the creation of a law school education scholarship in the amount of \$2,500. The scholarship is intended to be awarded on an annual basis to a county resident who has been accepted into or enrolled in an ABA-accredited law school.

## **Jefferson**

### **Superior Court Session**

As part of the Jefferson County Bicentennial Celebration, the Jefferson County Bar Association hosted a session of the Superior Court at the Jefferson County Courthouse on Sept. 14 and 15. The judges were expected to hear approximately 15 cases, and the public was invited to attend the proceedings. Members of the JCBA also participated in a guided walking tour of historic Brookville as part of the celebration.

## **Lackawanna**

### **Project KidCare**

The Young Lawyers Division of the Lackawanna Bar Association sponsored a Project KidCare event at the Viewmont Mall on Oct. 24. A child identification and fingerprint safety clinic was conducted, and Halloween treats were provided.

## **Lancaster**

### **Law Exploring Program**

The Lancaster Bar Association held a recruitment night on Oct. 26 for students interested in its Law Exploring Program. The program allows students between 14 and 20 to investigate various branches of the law, discover what judges, lawyers and paralegals do; participate in mock trials and more.

## **Lebanon**

### **Inter-Association Golf Match**

Members of the Lebanon County Bar Association successfully defended the Joseph M. Hill Memorial Cup in a golf match against the Berks County Bar Association in September. The LCBA won the cup in the match against the BCBA in June.

## **McKean**

### **Law School Scholarship**

The McKean County Bar Association awarded a \$500 scholarship to Kyle Sturm, a first-year student at Duquesne Law School. The scholarship is available to any county resident attending law school.

## **Mercer**

### **"I Signed the Constitution" Event**

As part of their "I Signed the Constitution" event, the Mercer County Bar Association provided a replica U.S. Constitution for signing and distributed pocket-sized copies of the Constitution and information about voting rights.

## **Monroe**

### **Identity Theft Seminar**

The Monroe County Bar Association sponsored a Citizen's Day conference on identity theft on Nov. 13 at the bar association center. Speakers included representatives from the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection, Monroe County District Attorney's Office and from Consumer Credit Counseling Services.

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the county line



# On the *Local Scene...*

(Continued from Page 5)

## Montgomery New Web Site

The Montgomery Bar Association announced their new Web site, geared to provide help and information to attorneys, businesses and the public. The site includes e-commerce; a daily, live news feed provided by the *Legal Intelligencer*; a members-only section, which includes searchable Montgomery County Opinions published in the *Montgomery Law Reporter* for the past five years; lawyer-to-lawyer networking; online CLE and event registration and more. The Web site is integrated with the new association management software developed by the MBA, which allows all information to be updated at any time. The URL is [www.montgomerybar.org](http://www.montgomerybar.org).

## Northampton Illustration Contest

The Northampton County Bar Association and American Citizenship Committee sponsored an illustration contest depicting "My Favorite Place in America" for first-, second- and third-grade students as part of the Nov. 1 Naturalization Court. The committee reviewed more than 250 illustrations sent in by Northampton County schools. Six students, two from each grade level, were awarded \$100 U.S. savings bonds for their winning drawings.

## Warren United Fund

The Warren County Bar Association has been designated a "Pacesetter" by the United Fund of Warren County. Donations from the WCBA to the United Fund are up 44 percent over last year. The designation comes from the WCBA doing their fund raising before the "official" start of the United Fund campaign, thus giving the fund a kick-start, and helping the United Fund gauge their fund raising and programs.

## Washington

### ABA Law Day Award

The Washington County Bar Association is one of five recipients of an American Bar Association 2004 Outstanding Law Day Activity Award. The centerpiece of the WCBA Law Day program was a free public presentation by the Brown sisters, complemented by a Law Day Liberty Bell Banquet featuring an award to a local civil rights activist, Law Day-themed contests for schoolchildren, a five-week People's Law School Program and in-school visits by attorneys. Key to the success of the program was the strong effort to collaborate with many community agencies and to connect all public education activities over a two-month period directly to Law Day.

### Classic Law Film Series

On Oct. 27, the Washington County Bar Association showed another film in its Classic Law Film Series: *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*. A discussion followed on the difficulty challengers for public office face running against incumbents and on the presidential election.

### Habitat for Humanity Work Day

The Washington County Bar Association held a "Lawyers on Ladders" Habitat for Humanity Work Day in September. Members hung drywall and performed other construction/renovation jobs. In other community service efforts, 46 units of blood were recently collected at the seventh annual Washington County Commissioners and Employees vs. Washington County Bar Association Blood Drive.

## Westmoreland

### Estate Planning Seminar

The Westmoreland Bar Association organized a free seminar on estate planning on Oct. 20 at the Westmoreland County Community College. Speakers included a deputy attorney general, a bank trust officer, and members of the bar association. Westmoreland County Court of Common Pleas Senior Judge Gilfert M. Mihalich provided opening comments and attorney John Shelapinsky, associate professor at the college, served as moderator.

## School Discipline Seminar

On Oct. 28, the Westmoreland Bar Association held a free seminar on student misconduct, violence, expulsion and discipline in schools, at the University of Pittsburgh. The two-hour seminar was designed for superintendents, principals, school board members, probation officers, law enforcement officers and parents. Attorneys John N. Scales and David G. Petonic addressed strategies for curbing and reacting to misconduct and violence, procedures and due process in disciplining students, Pennsylvania's weapons laws, and school policies to regulate student behavior.

### End-of-Life Seminar

On Nov. 16, the Westmoreland Bar Association held a free seminar on "End-of-Life: Healthcare Decisions." Presented by lawyers, doctors and other professionals, the seminar focused on addressing medical, personal, emotional and spiritual needs, as well as on powers of attorney, advance directives and living wills.

## Wilkes-Barre/Luzerne

### Public Television Fund Drive

The Young Lawyers Division of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association/Luzerne County Bar took pledges for the WVIA-TV public television membership drive. The Young Lawyers also assisted with the Keystone State Games and helped the Commission on Economic Opportunity by filling boxes with groceries for distribution to low-income senior citizens.

### President's Award

The Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association/Luzerne County Bar presented its President's Award to attorney John P. Moses on Nov. 5.

## York

### Free Telephone-Based Legal Advice

On Oct. 6, The Young Lawyers Section of the York County Bar Association answered telephone calls from the public and provided free basic legal advice as part of their "Law Lines" program. ■

# New Content for 2005 “Stepping Out” Booklets; Note Early Deadline This Year

County bar leaders and “Stepping Out” coordinators are urged to make special note of the **February 25** deadline for ordering of and submissions to this year’s “Stepping Out” booklets. This year’s booklets contain all new content, and demand is expected to be high. Last year, more than 40 counties participated in the “Stepping Out” program.

“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 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 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 Pennsylvania Bar Association extends its deep appreciation to the Berks and Erie County Bar Associations for allowing us the use of their “Stepping Out” booklets. A special thanks to those individuals who helped make this program possible: Barbara Kittrell, executive director of the Berks County Bar Association; and Sandra Brydon-Smith, executive director of the Erie County Bar Association. We also extend our thanks and gratitude to the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation for their support over the years.

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. **Please note the FIRM deadline of Friday, Feb. 25, 2005, for all orders and materials.** The per-booklet charge is still just 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 Friday, February 25.** 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 question, 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

# Online Research Seminars Offered for County Bar Presentations

Recent enhancements to InCite®, the Pennsylvania Bar Association's online legal research service, have made it easier and more time-efficient for members to conduct thorough case and statute searches. Mealey's Legal News Briefs have been added to the InCite library so members can search for up-to-the-minute articles on a variety of legal issues.

Members of the PBA's Reverse Mentoring Committee are available to present training seminars on how to get the most out of InCite, including basics such as logging on to the service and finding specific statutes and cases, to searching for cases using Boolean logic, shortcuts to Shepardizing and a host of other tools that make online research easy and cost-

effective. In addition to Pennsylvania appellate cases, the InCite library now includes District and County Reports, all New Jersey material and current federal courts cases and statutes and all 50 state libraries within the past five years.

Thirty-one seminars have been presented in the past three years across the state. The seminars generally run for one hour, are approved for CLE credit and can be tailored to your specific bar association's needs.

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

## 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 nomination deadline for the fifth annual Child Advocate of the Year Award presented by the PBA Children's Rights Committee, is Jan. 21, 2005. This award recognizes the accomplishments of lawyers who are advocates for children within the commonwealth. Nomination materials are available at [www.pabar.org/pdf/ChildAdvAward04.pdf](http://www.pabar.org/pdf/ChildAdvAward04.pdf).

The nomination deadline for the PBA Minority Bar Committee's A. Leon Higginbotham Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award is Jan. 21, 2005. The committee established the award 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. Nomination materials at [www.pabar.org/pdf/higginbothamaward.pdf](http://www.pabar.org/pdf/higginbothamaward.pdf).

The nomination deadline for the second annual Sir Francis Bacon Dispute Resolution Award, which recognizes excellence in Alternative Dispute Resolution, is Jan. 31, 2005. Sir Francis Bacon (1561-1626) was a Renaissance writer and philosopher who served British monarchs in a legal capacity as knight, attorney general and solicitor. He is the author of the essay "Of Negotiating," the opening line of which is frequently quoted: "It is generally better to deal by speech than by letter, and by the mediation of a third than by a man's self." Nomination materials at [www.pabar.org/pdf/05SirBaconAward.pdf](http://www.pabar.org/pdf/05SirBaconAward.pdf). ■

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# Celebrate Law Day 2005: “Free to Make a Difference”

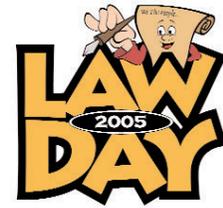
The PBA will celebrate the sixth annual statewide Law Day program with the theme “Free to Make a Difference.” As Americans, we are free to speak, free to think, free to be...free. We live in a country where our government is governed by our Constitution, and the success of that process is based upon every citizen’s involvement. By voting, going to school, volunteering and working, we all have the ability, opportunity and freedom to truly make a difference.

As in years past, lawyers and judges are being encouraged to visit schools and use the PBA’s new, free law-related lesson plan guide during classroom visits. We know that many local bar associations already have plans underway for their annual Law Day festivities. As such, the PBA Law Day program and materials are designed to enhance and supplement your existing efforts. Similar to last year, inter-

ested 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.

As you know, Law Day is a great way for you to reach out to your membership, not only by including them in your Law Day activities, but also by helping them to reach out into your community. If your bar association would like to participate, but does not have a staff, the PBA can provide Law Day assistance.

Law Day in Pennsylvania is coordinated by the PBA Law-Related Education Committee and funded by the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation. Please feel free to contact PBA Communications Coordinator Jennifer Branstetter with any questions at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2216, or at [Jennifer.Branstetter@pabar.org](mailto:Jennifer.Branstetter@pabar.org). ■



## Law Day 2005 “Planning Schedule”

### **February – May 2005:**

Law Day 2005 Lesson Plan Guide Available

### **May 1, 2005:**

Law Day 2005  
(Observed May 2, 2005)

### **May 1 – 31, 2005:**

Schools, Judges & Lawyers  
Celebrate the Law

## PBA Seeks Members for Two Committees: Members’ Input Indicates Interest in Current Issues

### **Committee on the Legal Rights of Gay Men and Lesbians**

In an ongoing effort to recognize diversity in the PBA and the legal profession and in response to expressions of interest from numerous PBA members throughout the state, the PBA is considering the formation of a committee that would focus on the legal rights of gay men and lesbians and related matters. Any PBA member who might be interested in joining such a committee is asked to contact the PBA to indicate his or her interest.

The proposed Committee on the Legal Rights of Gay Men and Lesbians would address issues of particular interest to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) people who work in the legal profession. Potential topics the committee would address include forms of discrimination against the LGBT community and

the impact pending legislation may have on members of the LGBT community and their families.

Other state bar associations already have formed such committees, including those in Arizona and Texas. The Philadelphia Bar Association also has organized such a committee.

The membership of the committee would not be limited to members of the LGBT community. All PBA members who want to engage in dialogue on the issues that affect the LGBT community would be free to join this committee.

For more information, call Michael L. Viola, Esq., at (215) 988-9700 or e-mail him at [MLViola@shainberg.com](mailto:MLViola@shainberg.com). Those who are interested in joining the committee should call Rebecca Zarecky at the PBA at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2253.

### **Gaming Law Committee**

Also at the request of members, the PBA is considering the formation of a Gaming Law Committee due to the recent legislative activity in Pennsylvania.

The committee goals will include reviewing and making recommendations concerning legislative proposals in the area of gaming law; promoting the understanding of laws, regulations and court decisions in the gaming area; and developing materials and educational programs of interest to the gaming practitioner to promote improvements and professionalism in the field of gaming law.

Those who are interested in joining the committee should call Rebecca Zarecky at the PBA at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2253. ■

# 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.

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## *Marco Island, Florida*

**Gulf Coast Estate Law Conference**; Fri., Jan. 14 to Sun., Jan. 16; 8:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.; registration at 7:30 a.m. each day, 6 CLE credits (5 substantive/1 ethics)

---

## *Hershey*

**PBA Family Law Section Winter Meeting**, Sat., Jan. 15; 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.; registration at 8:30 a.m.; 6 substantive CLE credits and Sun., Jan. 16; 9:00 a.m. to noon; registration at 8:30 a.m.; 3 substantive CLE credits

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## *State College*

**Family Law: A View from the Bench**, Tues., Jan. 25; 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; registration at 8:00 a.m.; 4 CLE credits (3 substantive/1 ethics)

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## *Scranton*

**Fish & Wildlife Law in Pennsylvania — 2005**, Wed., Jan. 26; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; registration at 8:00 a.m.; 6 substantive CLE credits

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## *LIVE VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE*

### *Wilkes-Barre*

**Representing the Individual in Bankruptcy**, Tues., Feb. 22; 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 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  
Hollidaysburg  
Honesdale  
Indiana  
Johnstown  
Lancaster  
Lewisburg*

*Mansfield  
Media  
Mill Hall  
New Castle  
Reading  
Schuylkill Haven*

*Stroudsburg  
Uniontown  
Villanova  
Warren  
Wilkes-Barre  
Williamsport  
York*

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**Proving Damages in Personal Injury and Death Cases**, Thurs., Feb. 24; 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; registration at 8:30 a.m.; 6 substantive CLE credits

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## *West Chester*

**2005 Divorce Code Amendments**, Tues., March 8; 9:00 a.m. to noon; registration at 8:30 a.m.; 3 substantive CLE credits

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## *State College*

**2005 Divorce Code Amendments**, Tues., March 15; 9:00 a.m. to noon; registration at 8:30 a.m.; 3 substantive CLE credits

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## *State College*

**Child Welfare Law 2005**, Thurs., March 24; 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; registration at 8:30 a.m.; 6 CLE credits (5 substantive/1 ethics)

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## *Scranton*

**Selecting, Investigating, Evaluating and Settling a Personal Injury Case**, Wed., March 30; 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; registration at 8:00 a.m.; 4 CLE credits (3 substantive/1 ethics)

## Send Us Your News

**March 7, 2005  
is the copy deadline  
for the April 2005  
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](mailto:Art.Birdsall@pabar.org).

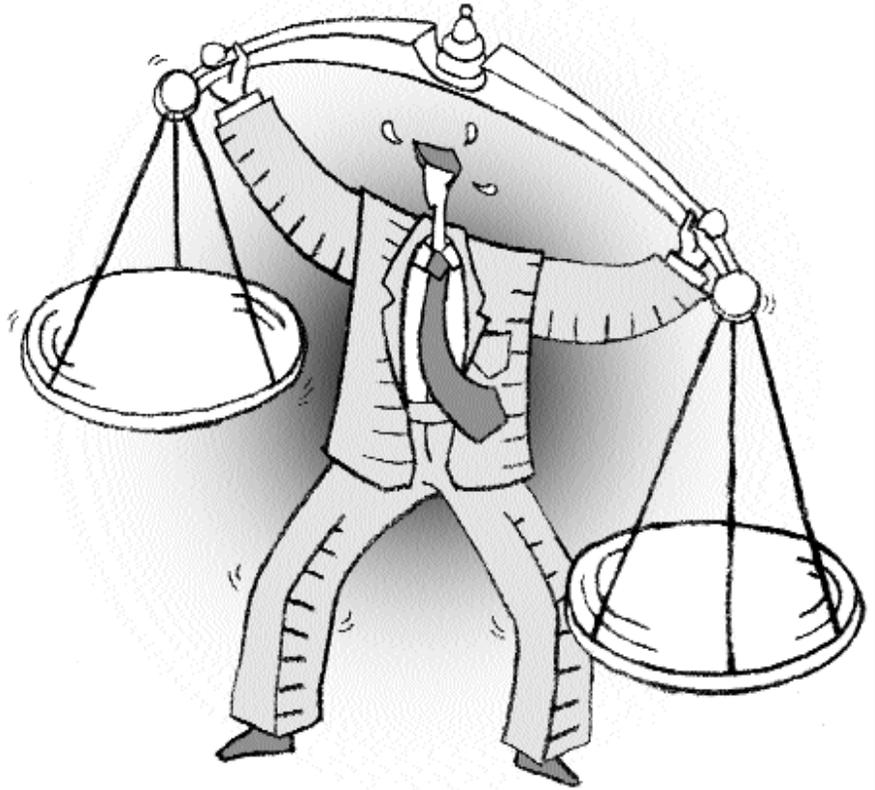
**County Bar Services Director:**  
Arthur J. Birdsall

**The County Line Editor:**  
Patricia M. Graybill

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# For *Lawyers Only...*

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# Consult and Contribute to the PBA Master Calendar to Reduce Potential Date Conflicts

It is important to PBA leadership to be able to attend local bar association events and get to know their leadership and members. The PBA Master Calendar, at [www.pabar.org/calendar.shtml](http://www.pabar.org/calendar.shtml), was developed, in part, to reduce potential date conflicts so that bar leaders have the most opportunities to attend the most number of events throughout the year.

So that the PBA does not schedule our significant functions and events at the same time as yours — and vice versa —

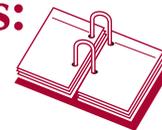
please consult the master calendar often. Submit your bar association's calendar of events to County Bar Services Director Arthur Birdsall at [Art.Birdsall@pabar.org](mailto:Art.Birdsall@pabar.org) (or use our regular mailing address) and keep us abreast of any changes throughout the year.

Stay tuned for more on this topic: Don't miss the Conference of County Bar Leaders in March and some important information that will be shared there. ■



(from left) Centre County Bar Association President James McKay Rayback presents a check for the PBA legislative program to PABAR-PAC Chair Thomas Golden at the Centre County Bench-Bar Conference in October.

## Mark Your Calendars:



**PBA Midyear Meeting**  
**January 26-30, 2005**  
 The Atlantis, Paradise Island,  
 the Bahamas  
*Brochure and registration information at [www.pabar.org](http://www.pabar.org)*

**Solo and Small Firm Practice Section Retreat**  
**February 11 and 12, 2005**  
 Hershey Lodge and Convention Center,  
 Hershey

**Conference of County Bar Leaders (CCBL) Seminar**  
**March 3-5, 2005**  
 Nittany Lion Inn,  
 State College  
*More information at [www.pabar.org/ccblhome.shtml](http://www.pabar.org/ccblhome.shtml)*

**PBA Annual Meeting**  
**May 4-6, 2005**  
 Hilton Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh

**PBA Committee/Section Day**  
**June 10, 2005**  
 Holiday Inn Harrisburg East,  
 Harrisburg

**2005 PABE Retreat**  
**August 14-16, 2005**  
 Erie

**More at [www.pabar.org/calendar.shtml](http://www.pabar.org/calendar.shtml).**

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