

The COUNTY LINE



Published by the Pennsylvania Bar Association

July 2002

Valuable documents offered free on PBA Web Site

PBA Provides County Bars with "A Guide to Legal Issues for Pennsylvania Senior Citizens"

The Senior Lawyers Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association has published "A Guide to Legal Issues for Pennsylvania Senior Citizens." The guide provides valuable information on legal topics of concern to Pennsylvania's senior citizens and the persons and organizations who care for them. The guide also helps seniors to locate lawyers in their communities who can help with legal problems. Many of these problems are covered generally in the booklet.

"The book covers virtually every area of law that impacts seniors and their care providers, including explaining in layperson's terms the vast web of public benefits such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and prescription benefits, as well as housing, tax, and financial and estate planning issues," said lawyer/editor Michelle C. Berk of Fort Washington.

Two copies of the guide are being mailed to each county bar association. In addition, the entire guide is also available on the PBA Web site at www.pabar.org/pdf/02legalissuessc.pdf. As a service of the PBA, copies of the printed booklet are also being provided free to public and law

libraries, nursing homes and senior citizen centers, legislative offices and other government and private organizations that assist the state's senior population.

Importantly, there are no restrictions or copyright limitations on the handbook in part or in whole. The PBA encourages all county bar associations to inform their constituents

about the guide, to copy it and make it available for their use.

Printing and distribution of the guide were funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania Bar Insurance and Trust Fund.

For more information concerning the guide, contact Diann Stinney at the PBA at (800) 932-0311, ext 2280 or diann.stinney@pabar.org. □

PBA Disseminates Drug and Alcohol Addiction Model Law Firm Policy

The PBA House of Delegates has approved a recommendation of the PBA Lawyers Assistance Committee to adopt the "Law Firm Policy on Drug and Alcohol Addiction" as an appropriate model for all Pennsylvania law firms.

Based upon recognized studies, the Lawyers Assistance Committee concluded that there was a statistical probability that any Pennsylvania law firm could, at some time, encounter a personnel problem involving alcohol or other drug

addiction. The model law firm policy is being disseminated to all PBA members as a resource to assist members and their firms in addressing alcohol and other drug-related employment problems. References in the policy include those on treatment, discipline and disclosure.

The "Law Firm Policy on Drug and Alcohol Addiction" is available online on the PBA Web site at www.pabar.org/drugalcoholpolicy.shtml. □

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PBArnestorming Schedules Zone Stops for September

PBA President Tim Carson, Executive Director Barry Simpson, County Bar Services Director Arthur Birdsall and other key PBA staff will take to the road again in September with another PBArnestorming tour. PBArnestorming is part of PBA's efforts to communicate with local bar associations, highlighted by personal visits in each zone to make local bars aware of what the state association offers, and to hear firsthand how it can best serve local bars. The 2002 PBArnestorming schedule, as it was available at press time is below.

Tuesday September 3

Lunch in Ebensburg - Cambria County - **Zone 8**
Dinner in Uniontown - Fayette County - **Zone 6**

Wednesday, September 4

Breakfast in Pittsburgh - Allegheny County - **Zone 12**
Lunch in New Castle - Lawrence County - **Zone 10**
Dinner in Brookville - Jefferson County - **Zone 7**

Thursday, September 5

Breakfast - open
Lunch in Erie - Erie County - **Zone 7**
Dinner at **Zone 10** outing

Friday, September 6

Golf at **Zone 10** outing

Tuesday, September 10

Breakfast in Harrisburg - Dauphin County - **Zone 3**
Lunch in State College - Centre County - **Zone 11**
Dinner in Lewisburg - Union County - **Zone 4**

Wednesday, September 11

Breakfast in Scranton - Lackawanna County - **Zone 5**
Lunch in Stroudsburg - Monroe County - **Zone 5**

Dinner in Bethlehem - Northampton County - **Zone 2**

Thursday, September 12

Breakfast in Reading - Berks County - **Zone 2**
Lunch in West Chester - Chester County - **Zone 9**
Late Afternoon - Workers Comp Section meeting in Hershey

Friday, September 13

Lunch in Philadelphia - Philadelphia County - **Zone 1**

Thursday, September 19

Dinner in Doylestown - Bucks County - **Zone 9**

Friday, September 20

Travel to Monroe County Bench/Bar - Tannersville - limited attendance

PBA Malpractice Avoidance Seminars

For more information, contact PBA County Bar Services Director Art Birdsall, at (800) 932-0311, ext. 2218 or call the number provided with each county's listing.

LEBANON

Monday, July 8; 9:00 a.m.
Quality Inn
625 Quentin Road, Lebanon
(717) 273-6771
CD-ROM presentation, 1.5 credit hrs.

DAUPHIN

Friday, Aug. 16; 9:00 a.m.
Dauphin County Bar Headquarters
(717) 232-7536
Live presentation, 1.0 credit hour

New Public Education Campaign to Advise “Know Your Credit Rights ... Be An Educated Credit Consumer”

The Pennsylvania Bar Association has extended a special invitation to county bar associations to partner with the PBA in October 2002 for an important public education campaign about consumer credit issues.

Laws governing credit collection, credit reporting and filing for bankruptcy often are complicated, and each credit situation can pose unique challenges for consumers. Therefore, it is important for credit consumers to know their legal rights and obligations, especially in today's uncertain economic times. With the theme of “Know Your Credit Rights,” the new public education campaign is designed to educate consumers about credit issues and help them understand complicated credit issues such as bankruptcy and debt management.

The campaign will be modeled after the four successful previous edu-



cation campaigns on wills, real estate, child support and elder law. Working with the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association, advertisements will be placed in newspapers throughout the state, and a statewide toll-free hotline will be available for citizens to request a free brochure outlining credit issues. The campaign will run from Sept. 30 through Oct. 14. A formal news con-

ference announcing the kickoff of the campaign will be held on Sept. 30 in Harrisburg. Representatives of various organizations, including the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Consumer Protection, will take part in the news conference.

Local bar associations are critical to the success of legal public education campaigns. In addition to getting the word out about the free brochure, local bars can further the public's understanding of credit issues through seminars and expos, radio call-in programs and more.

For more information about the campaign and how to involve your county bar association, contact Marcy Mallory (ext. 2247) or Jennifer Branstetter (ext. 2216) at the PBA at (800) 932-0311. □

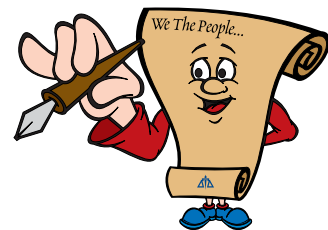
“One Nation Indivisible” is Theme for “I Signed the Constitution” Program

The Pennsylvania Bar Association, in conjunction with the National Constitution Center (NCC) and county bar associations, is sponsoring the fourth annual statewide “I Signed the Constitution” program this fall. This program allows students to gain a greater understanding of their rights and responsibilities by signing their names next to the signatures of the nation's founders on a mock U.S. Constitution. The program is informative, engaging and — most importantly — a lot of fun for students. It also provides attorneys with opportunities to participate in a worthwhile and fulfilling public service project.

The theme for this year's program is “One Nation Indivisible.” The events of Sept. 11, 2001, left a lasting impact on all Americans, including children. Now, as Americans work together to heal as a nation, there is a

unique opportunity — and responsibility — to teach children about the strength and history of the United States. As members of the bar work with schools and parents to foster the spirit of America in children, they can help words like *freedom*, *democracy* and *equality* become commonplace in the classroom.

The celebration begins with a formal signing program on Tuesday, Sept. 17, which will be broadcast by the Pennsylvania Cable Network. The opportunity to participate in the program continues with school signing programs across the state, and a poster contest for elementary schools, until “Bill of Rights Week” in December. This timetable provides an opportunity to conduct signing programs throughout the fall and also enables more county bars to help schools with their signing programs and activities.



Schools that registered with the National Constitution Center through June 30 were provided with NCC materials and a copy of the planning guide from the PBA.

The “I Signed the Constitution” program planning guide, which includes new lesson plans, is also available on the PBA Web site at www.pabar.org/2002constitution.shtml. To receive a copy of the printed guide, find out what schools in each county have registered, or for any general questions about the program, contact Jennifer Branstetter at the PBA, (800) 932-0311, ext. 2216. □

Supreme Court Pro Bono Initiative Sees Dividends from the Investment of Pennsylvania Attorneys

Last year, for the first time, former Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice John Flaherty sent an appeal requesting a voluntary contribution of \$50 to all Pennsylvania-licensed attorneys to help fund organized county-based pro bono efforts. This year, attorneys will again have the opportunity to make the \$50 voluntary contribution to the PA IOLTA Board when completing their 2002 annual fee form.

Nearly \$100,000 was generated from last year's fundraising effort, resulting in the establishment of three entirely new pro bono programs, the expansion of three existing pro bono programs, and the restart of two pro bono programs that had become inactive. Collectively, these efforts are expected to mobilize nearly 700 new volunteers who will take a pro bono case during the year.

In Luzerne County, where nearly 25 percent of the population is aged 60 or older, volunteer efforts will focus on the representation of low-income elderly persons in simple and living wills, medical powers of attorney, powers of attorney, help with general consumer and housing issues, property tax and tax sale issues, home foreclosures, debt counseling, consumer bankruptcy and other legal matters. Volunteer attorneys will also provide legal seminars at senior centers, clubs and group resident sites. In addition to the special IOLTA pro bono grant support it will receive, the Luzerne County effort will also receive local financial support from the bar association, and the county and local United Ways. Additionally, a special invitation to attend a free three-credit continuing legal education seminar and luncheon will be sent to attorneys in northeastern Pennsylvania counties. Seminar presenters will discuss the value of pro bono service

and offer a workshop on how to start a pro bono program.

In Indiana County, a pro bono committee consisting of a county judge, representatives of the Indiana County Bar Association and a representative of the community-at-large will initiate the first-ever pro bono program in the county. The Indiana pro bono effort will be enhanced by linking an existing compensated referral program so that attorneys who accept a pro bono case will also be eligible to receive a compensated case referral from Laurel Legal Services.

A similar plan in Washington County will be enhanced by a special IOLTA pro bono grant that is expected to double the number of attorney volunteers from 25 to 50 in the first year, and then add an additional 25 volunteers in the second year. This same program structure is planned for Bedford County, which expects to mobilize seven volunteers in the first year.

The special IOLTA pro bono grant for the four suburban Philadelphia counties is expected to restart the pro bono programs in Chester and Delaware Counties, and expand those in Bucks and Montgomery Counties. The IOLTA grant will be used to secure matching funds from the Independent Foundation and is expected to help mobilize nearly 1,200 volunteers from the four counties next year.

The IOLTA Board is particularly excited to be able to support the leadership efforts being undertaken by the board and staff of the Lackawanna Pro Bono Inc. and the president judge of Lackawanna County. Their pro bono initiative seeks to motivate and engage attorneys from Bradford, Sullivan, Carbon, Monroe, Pike, Wayne, Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties to establish pro bono efforts in those counties. President judges will be asked to encour-

age attorneys in their counties to attend a free continuing legal education seminar and luncheon at Marywood University in Scranton in the fall. After the luncheon, a workshop will be conducted to demonstrate how the attendees can organize pro bono programs in their counties.

The PA IOLTA Board is hopeful that attorneys will again favorably respond to this year's opportunity to contribute \$50 to help promote and expand pro bono efforts throughout Pennsylvania. This is yet another way that attorneys can ensure that even the less fortunate among us can access the civil justice process. □

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.

September 16 is the 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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PBI Expands Online Campus in Preparation for Accreditation of Internet-based CLE

The Pennsylvania Bar Institute has announced an expansion of its Internet-based Online Campus in response to the recent decision by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to accredit online training under the Pennsylvania CLE Rules.

PBI Board President Chester Corse said, "We have anticipated this action by the court and the CLE Board, and have had a Special Distance Learning Committee, as well as our staff, preparing to implement this new vehicle for providing CLE. Once we know the specifics of the new CLE rule, we are prepared to go forward with our program. Our initial CLE offerings [are likely to be] audio programs in each major practice field, as well as in ethics.

"We intend to remain in the forefront of providing high quality, convenient and affordable programs to meet the educational needs of the Pennsylvania Bar. Attorneys in many parts of the state find it difficult to meet their annual CLE requirements. We believe that online training can be an important supplement to our existing live and video program offerings in making CLE readily available."

PBI's Online Campus (located on the PBI Web site at www.pbi.org/pbiaudio/onlinehome.html) provides access to some of the commonwealth's best lawyers at any time from any computer with an Internet connection. PBI's programs are uniquely designed by and for Pennsylvania lawyers and their practices.

For a list of courses currently available at the PBI Online Campus, see the box at the top of this page. □

The following courses are currently available at the PBI Online Campus (www.pbi.org/pbiaudio/onlinehome.html):

Support Practice Update - \$119

- *In just 4 hours, pick up tips on effective and innovative enforcement*
- *Explore the practical applications of guidelines*
- *Get up-to-date case law and legislative updates*

Free sample clip available.

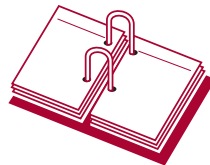
FREE: Transitioning Lawyers from Firm to Firm - Scott Vernick Esq.

The move from one firm to another raises many potential dilemmas. In this online presentation, Scott Vernick Esq. discusses these dilemmas in light of the PBA Committee on Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility, Philadelphia Bar Association and American Bar Association opinions, as well as the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct.

Free preview available.

FREE: Rules of Evidence Course

Professor Ohlbaum presents the New Pennsylvania Rules of Evidence 1998 PBI's first prototype online CLE program!



Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

Young Lawyers Division Summer Meeting

Aug. 2 - 4, 2002

Rocky Gap Resort,
Cumberland, Md.

Contact Susan Donmoyer at
(800) 932-0311, ext. 2223.

To reserve rooms,
call (800) 724-0828

(Refer to the PBA YLD
when making your reservation).

Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives (PABE) Retreat

Oct. 7 - 9, 2002

Hotel Hershey
Call (800) 932-0311
or visit www.pabar.org
for more information.

A Day on the Hill Oct. 7, 2002

Harrisburg Hilton
and Towers

Call (800) 932-0311 or visit
www.pabar.org for more information.

PBA Midyear Meeting Jan. 28 - Feb. 2, 2003

Casa de Campo
Dominican Republic
Take an e-tour of the resort at
www.casa-ebrochure.com

37th Annual Conference of County Bar Leaders Feb. 28 - March 1, 2003

Hershey Lodge and
Convention Center
Save the date and
watch for more details.



On the *Local Scene...*

Adams

Seminar Presented for National Health Care Decisions Week

The Adams County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and the Gettysburg Hospital participated in National Health Care Decisions Week. Members of the YLD and the hospital presented a free informational seminar on health care advance directives, durable powers-of-attorney and organ and tissue donation.

Allegheny

Attorneys Make Contributions to Fight Hunger

The recent ninth annual Attorneys against Hunger campaign of the Allegheny Bar Foundation generated over \$41,000 for the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, the Hunger Services Network and Just Harvest. Donations came from members of the Allegheny County Bar Association and the H.J. Heinz Company Foundation. LexisNexis underwrote the administrative costs of the campaign, so all proceeds were able to go directly to the hunger service agencies.

Association Welcomes Immigrants

In observance of Law Day on May 1, the Allegheny County Bar Association sponsored a citizens naturalization ceremony for 61 immigrants and their family and friends. Association President Amy Greer provided the remarks for the naturalization ceremony, which is the final step in the process of becoming a U.S. citizen.

Attorneys Answer Questions for Low-Income Neighbors

The North Hills Practitioners Section of the Allegheny County Bar Association, in cooperation with North Hills Community Outreach, sponsored an "Ask the Attorney" night in March. Income-eligible North Hills residents received free 30-minute consultations with an attorney to discuss legal con-

cerns including credit and consumer issues, family law and bankruptcy.

Beaver

"Stepping Out" Program Visits 14 School Districts

In April, members of the Beaver County Bar Association visited 14 local school districts with the "Stepping Out" program. Attorneys informed students of their legal rights as adults and the responsibilities that go with those rights.

Carbon

YLD Attorneys Present Mock Trial

Young Lawyers from the Carbon County Bar Association presented a Law Day program that included a mock trial where students from five county high schools and an area business school served as the jury panel. Members of the YLD served as other participants in the case, including the defendant and a prosecuting police officer in the trial.

Chester

Law Day Speaker Recalls Post-9/11 Efforts

The Chester County Bar Association marked Law Day with the presentation of awards, scholarships and the induction of five attorneys into the Chester County Bar. The ceremony also featured a speech by Larry G. Massanari, regional commissioner of the Philadelphia Social Security Administration, a federal employee who assisted in the nation's post-9/11 recovery efforts.

In her introduction, Bar Association President Cathy Wilson said, "We didn't think too much before Sept. 11 about the individuals who make up the systems." Wilson noted that emergency workers, mail carriers and government employees at every level represent the sometimes overlooked structure of American society under the law.



Members of the Dauphin County Bar Association at the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., where 14 members were admitted to practice in a group admission ceremony in February. Another 50 or so members will be admitted in a similar ceremony in October.

Clearfield

Legal Eagles Program Wins Several Awards

A Legal Eagles program coordinated by Mark Falvo of the Young Lawyers Division of the Clearfield County Bar Association, and the Clearfield County Crimestoppers, has won awards from the PBA's Conference of County Bar Leaders (CCBL), the American Bar Association and the State House of Representatives. The program brings law enforcement agents and officers, including Clearfield County Judge Fred Ammerman, together with Curwensville fifth graders for an exploration of careers in the legal profession.

Crawford

Association Helps with "Meet Your Legal System" Forum

The Crawford County Bar Association joined with the Meadville League of Women Voters and the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges to present a forum titled "Meet Your Legal System" in Meadville in April. Panelists answered questions on child custody, domestic relations, elder law, criminal law and more.



Dauphin

Senior Lawyers Section Formed

The Dauphin County Bar Association Board of Directors recently approved the creation of a Senior Lawyers Section to better serve the interests of members 55 years and older.

Practicum Provides CLE Credits for Young Lawyers

The annual practicum for newly admitted attorneys, sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section of the Dauphin County Bar Association, was conducted in four evening sessions Tuesdays in April. The program provides practical information on practice in the county and participants qualify for eight hours of CLE credit.

Attorneys Help Answer Community's Legal Questions

Sixty-one lawyers, three judges and 23 schools took part in the Dauphin County Bar Association's 2002 "Going Back to School" program in May. Additionally, 27 lawyers and 13 support volunteers participated in the annual Law Week "Ask a Lawyer" program at the Strawberry Square office and shopping complex, April 29-May 3. Both English- and Spanish-speaking attorneys were on-hand to answer legal questions.

Liberty Bell Award Goes to Civil Rights Advocate

The Dauphin County Bar Association awarded its 2002 Liberty Bell Award to Ann Van Dyke, advocate and civil rights investigator for the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

Delaware

Awards Presented During Law Day Celebration

The Delaware County Court of Common Pleas joined the Delaware County Bar Association to celebrate Law Day. As part of Law Day, the association presented the following

Erie County Garners State Grant to Help Homeless Students

The Attorneys and Kids Together (AKT) program, administered by the Erie County Bar Association, recently received a \$15,000 grant to help homeless students. The grant was awarded by the Department of Community and Economic Development, with the assistance of Senator Jane Earll.

Over the past 18 months, a number of projects have evolved to assist the homeless youth of Erie through AKT. Study rooms are currently being developed in six local homeless shelters. They will be equipped with personal computers, school supplies and reference books donated by members of the Erie County Bar Association.

The new funding will enable the ECBA to provide better furniture for the study rooms, printers and after-school tutoring. The money will also be used to help homeless students with cap and gown, year-book, senior banquet, prom and similar expenses associated with their senior year of high school.



(Left to right) Colleen Helsley, Safenet Children's Program director, Sen. Jane Earll, Natalie Dwyer Haller, AKT chairperson, and Thomas P. Agresti, AKT committee member and past president of the ECBA.

In addition, the ECBA's program has provided more than 2,000 new books to youth living in the shelters. Through various grant monies, AKT has obtained popular children's books that are made available to the shelters on a monthly basis.

Donations from local attorneys also provide students living in shelters with backpacks.

awards: the Elizabeth C. Price Award to attorney Donald Weiss for his volunteer services, dedication to the bar association and integrity; a "Special Recognition Award" to James "George Washington" Gallagher for portraying the first President at county functions; the Themis Award to Porter Alexander Halyburton, professor at the U.S. Naval Academy and prisoner of war from 1965-1973, for engendering respect for the law and stimulating the concept of individual responsibility; the Liberty Bell Award to Aloysius O'Donnell for activities that promote the spirit of the Constitution, and a "Special

Recognition Award" to James Riley of Eddystone.

Elk

"Symbols of Freedom" Is Theme for Law Day Visits

Members of the Elk County Bar Association celebrated Law Day on May 1 with visits to area schools to teach "symbols of freedom."

Erie

Students Learn of Rights and Responsibilities

The Erie County Bar Association presented its annual "Stepping Out"

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On the *Local Scene...*

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program in April and May. About 60 volunteer lawyers met with more than 1,700 students in area high schools to discuss the legal rights and responsibilities of apartment renting, family matters, criminal law, finances and voting.

John Dean is Law Day Speaker

The Erie County Bar Association held its 8th annual Law Day luncheon on May 1. Former White House Counsel and Watergate figure John Dean was the keynote speaker.

Franklin

Judge Honored with Portrait

A new tradition began in April when the Franklin County Bar Association honored Senior Judge John Keller for his service to the county and unveiled the judge's portrait to an audience of approximately 100 attendees. That same day, the bar association held its annual spring dinner at which Judge Keller and attorney Paul Mower were honored for their 50th anniversaries of admission to the bar. Previously, the association has honored the service of county judges posthumously. In the future, judges will be honored with portrait presentations at their retirement.

Businesses and Community

Members Benefit from Seminar

"Taking a Case to Small Claims Court" was the title of a free seminar presented for individuals and local businesses by the Franklin County Bar Association in April. The seminar also touched on summary criminal charges such as passing bad checks.

Huntingdon

Long-Time Members Honored

The Huntingdon County Bar Association honored attorney Warren R. Yocum for his 50 years as a practicing

attorney at a dinner on May 4. Judge Morris Terrizzi, who presented Yocum with a citation recognizing his achievement, was honored for his more than 60 years as a member of the association. M.B. DeForrest was also honored for 50 years as a member.

Lackawanna

Red Mass Held

As part of Law Week activities sponsored by the Lackawanna Bar Association, the Diocese of Scranton celebrated the Red Mass, a religious service that honors legislators, lawyers, judges, court officers and others.

YLD Presents Several Awards

The Young Lawyers Division of the Lackawanna Bar Association named attorney Joseph Sileo the recipient of its 2002 Margaret M. Gavin award. The bar association presents the award to honor an outstanding young lawyer who has made positive contributions to the association, the YLD and the community. The association awarded its 2002 Chief Justice Michael J. Eakin Award to Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn for his contributions to the community. They also presented Joseph Gaughan and Sally Gaughan with the 2002 Harold E. Miller Award for the couple's outstanding service to the courts. Mr. Gaughan is courtroom deputy/technology coordinator for the U.S. Middle District Court. Mrs. Gaughan is jury clerk/secretary for the County Court Administrator's Office.

Cocktail Party Benefits Area Kids

The Young Lawyers Division of the Lackawanna Bar Association held its 12th annual Law Week cocktail party on May 2. The party benefited Kids Time, a program administered by Goodwill Industries/Easter Seals that offers social skills training for young children with attention deficit hyperactive disorder.

Lawrence

Scholarships Awarded to Essay Writers

The Lawrence County Bar Association awarded \$1,000 college scholarships to two area high school seniors who were the winners of the association's essay contest. Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Debra M. Todd was the keynote speaker for the association's Law Day program, at which the scholarships, and the association's pro bono award, were presented.

Lebanon

Red Cross Donation Provides Relief

The Lebanon County Bar Association contributed \$1,200 to the American Red Cross for refreshments served at Red Cross blood drives throughout the year.

Lehigh

Liberty Bell Award Presented to County President Judge

The Bar Association of Lehigh County presented its 8th annual Liberty Bell Award to Northampton County President Judge Robert A. Freedberg at a Law Day luncheon in May. In his keynote speech, Judge Freedberg recalled the career of Judge Frank Johnson of Alabama, a judge who rendered vitally important decisions extending human rights to minorities, the mentally ill and prisoners.

Monroe

Fairy Tale Trials Help with Understanding of Consumer Law

The Monroe County Bar Association marked Law Day with its annual Fairy Tale Trials. In each of the county courtrooms, groups of lawyers participated in a mock trial with the theme "The Emperor's New Clothes." Fifth grade students from area schools were invited to observe the trials, which highlighted the rights of consumers and truth in advertising. Other Law Day activities included a



(Left to right, back row) Rep. John Fichter, Montgomery Bar Association President Keith B. McLennan, Rep. Eugene McGill; (front row) Rep. Lita Cohen, Sen. Connie Williams, Sen. Allyson Schwartz and Rep. Wallis Brooks gather at the bar association's legislator's breakfast.

commemoration ceremony, essay contest awards, Liberty Bell awards and a five-mile race.

Montgomery

Law Day Events Held At Renovated Bar Association Headquarters

The Montgomery Bar Association marked Law Day on April 29 with speakers on "symbols of freedom," awards to area high school students for their achievements in an essay contest and in mock trials, the presentation of the association's Dorothy M. Yeager Award for support of Legal Aid and several other awards. The Law Day event was followed by a reception at the association's newly renovated headquarters.

Foundation Grants to Help Family Services Agencies

The Montgomery Bar Foundation, the charitable arm of the Montgomery Bar Association, made donations to three county agencies at the association's board of director's meeting in May. The Women's Center of Montgomery County received funding for a 24-hour domestic violence hotline, counseling, legal advocacy and court accompaniment, and

education and community outreach. Family Services of Montgomery County received funding for counseling services to at-risk children and their families in order to prevent substance abuse, delinquency, domestic violence and academic failure. Inter-Faith of Ambler received funding for programs to prevent homelessness and to help families make a successful transition from homelessness to permanent housing in Central Montgomery County.

Bar and Legislature Meet to Foster Understanding of Roles

Members of the Montgomery Bar Association met with Pennsylvania legislators at a breakfast on April 5. Attending from the State Senate were Senators Allyson Schwartz and Constance Williams; and Marjorie Caplan, counsel to Sen. Edwin Holl. Attending from the State House of Representatives were Representatives John Fichter; Eugene McGill; Lita Cohen; Wallis W. Brooks; and Sue E. Cornell, legislative assistant to Rep. Kate Harper, and Bill Bushnell, legislative assistant to Rep. Raymond Bunt Jr.

The goal of the meeting was to improve relations between the bar and the legislature, to encourage the exchange of information relative to upcoming legislative issues impacting the practice of law and to provide a mutual understanding of the responsibilities of the respective professions. The consensus of the bar is that attorneys have their thumb on the pulse of the practice of law and — without usurping the responsibility of the legislators — would like a part in the dialog before new rules are granted. This year, tort reform, adoption laws and frivolous medical malpractice cases are some of the legislative issues that have generated review and debate among the members of the bar.

Northampton

Young Lawyers Meet With Students for Several Events

In May, Northampton County Bar Association young lawyers Maura Zajac McGuire and Victor Scamillo presented the popular "Stepping Out" program and its accompanying "Stepping Out" booklets to high school seniors. Topics covered included the legal aspects of apartment leasing, credit card use, marriage, employment, underage drinking and statutory rape — issues the students may encounter upon their graduation into the adult world. NCBA young lawyers also presented at the Northampton Area Community College's Career Day in April. Area high school seniors listened as husband and wife attorneys Robert and Jennifer Sletvold discussed legal careers and balancing life and work. NCBA young lawyer William Harris chaired the association's Law Day events, which centered on a mock trial presented by 12 young lawyers to 100 middle school students. Students participated as jurors.

Schuylkill

President's Dinner Recognizes Long-term Members

The Schuylkill County Bar Association presented long-term membership awards to three members at its recent president's dinner. The association inducted retired President Judge George W. Heffner into the "50-year club," and attorneys Murray W. Popkave and James J. Curran into the "35-year club." William C. Reilly, immediate past president of the association, was also presented with an award.

Somerset

Essay Winners Honored on Court Calendar

As part of its Law Day celebrations, the Somerset County Bar Association

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presented awards to winners of its "My Impressions of the Courthouse Tour" contest. In addition to receiving a cash award, the overall winner of the contest will be honored by having his or her winning essay printed on the Official Court Calendar for 2003.

Union

Attorneys Play the Part for Law Day Mock Trial

The Union County Bar Association recognized Law Day in May by sponsoring a mock trial involving Lewisburg and Mifflinburg high school students as witnesses and jury members. County attorneys served as other participants in the trial, while some members of the court staff participated in the trial in their official roles.

Washington

Law Day Celebrated with Awards

The Washington County Bar Association celebrated Law Day with remarks from Duquesne University law professor Joseph Sabino Mistick, and recognition of student contest winners and individuals who have promoted understanding of the legal system. Washington County Sheriff Lawrence O. Maggi and Michelle Robinson-Ritter, executive director of the Washington Women's Shelter were presented with the association's Liberty Bell Award. "Celebrate Your Freedom" photography contest awards were presented to high school students, essay contest awards to middle school students and poster contest awards to elementary school students.

"People's Law School" Presented

The Washington County Bar Association recently sponsored a five-week law seminar, "The People's Law School," to provide the public with basic knowledge about areas of the law that may affect daily life.

Westmoreland

Bar Associations Challenge Each Other in Charity Drive

The Westmoreland Bar Association raised \$3,065 and beat the Washington County Bar Association, which raised \$2,785, in a "Coats for Kids Challenge." The Washington County association had issued a "friendly" fund-raising challenge to the Westmoreland association in connection with their annual holiday gift drive.

Bar Association Board Approves PAC Formation

The Westmoreland Bar Association board has approved formation of a local political action committee (PAC), allowing the association to continue to contribute to the PAC of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PABAR PAC). Funds will be allocated annually in the association's budget, but donations will be solicited from individual members so that contributions can be made directly to candidates. The goal of the local PAC is to improve the visibility of the legal profession and get the attention of local legislators.

Attorneys Honored with Awards

The Westmoreland Bar Association presented their Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award to Jack L. Bergstein. Their Outstanding Young Lawyer of 2002 Award went to Lisa Galloway Monzo. The award is given to the young lawyer who best exemplifies outstanding leadership and distinguished service to the legal profession and the community.

Wilkes-Barre/Luzerne

Court Members Provide Tours and Presentations for Students

The entire Luzerne County Court and more than 160 students from area high schools took part in Law Day observances sponsored by the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Asso-

ciation/Luzerne County Bar. In addition to the judges, the observance included seven district justices and other community leaders. The agenda for the day included visits by the students to various courtrooms, where they were familiarized with the interaction of the three branches of government.

Young Lawyers Look Out for Kids

The Young Lawyers Division of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association/Luzerne County Bar sponsored Project KidCare at a Wilkes-Barre Township Wal-Mart. The project, co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania Bar Association, provides fingerprinting and photographing of participating children. Members of the township police force also helped with the project.

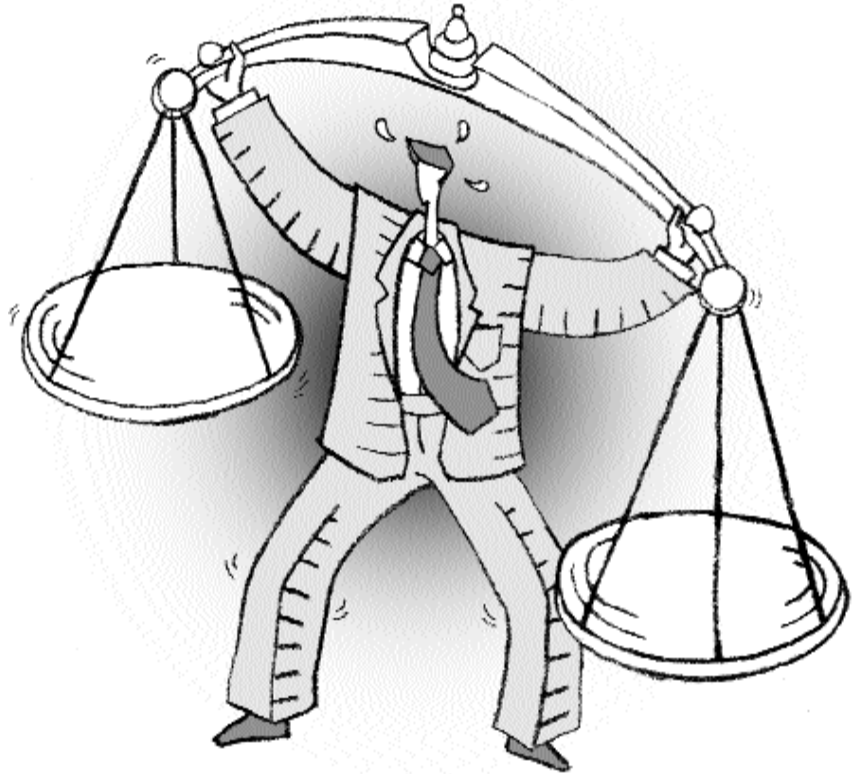
York

Liberty Bell Award Presented to Physician

The York County Bar Association presented its Liberty Bell Award to Dr. Jonathan Liss, director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at York Hospital and chairman of the Jewish Community Relations Council. Liss was chosen because "he speaks out against prejudice against all minorities. His stance requires eloquence and often takes courage to express." □

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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.

Wilkes-Barre

Fundamentals of Family Law

Mon., July 8; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,
6 CLE credits (5 substantive, 1 ethics)

King of Prussia

How to Prepare the Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax Return

Tues., July 9; 8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.,
4 substantive CLE credits

Kingston

Who's on First? Lien Priorities in Pennsylvania

Tues., July 16; 8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.,
4 substantive CLE credits

Greensburg

Who's on First? Lien Priorities in Pennsylvania

Wed., July 17; 8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.,
4 substantive CLE credits

Allentown, Erie, Kingston

Avoiding Ambushes and Minefields in the Courtroom

Fri., July 19; 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.,
4 substantive CLE credits

Allentown

Chambersburg

Clarion

Doylestown

Erie

Indiana

Kingston

Lancaster

Lewisburg

Mansfield

Media

Montrose

New Castle

Reading

Scranton

State College

Stroudsburg

Uniontown

Waynesburg

West Chester

Williamsport

York

Clarence Darrow: Crimes, Causes & the Courtroom

Wed., July 24; 2:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.,
3 ethics CLE credits

Allentown

How to Prepare the Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax Return

Wed., Aug 7; 8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.,
4 substantive CLE credits

Allentown

Chambersburg

Clarion

Doylestown

Erie

Gettysburg

Hollidaysburg

Honesdale

Indiana

Johnstown

Kingston

Lancaster

Lewisburg

Mansfield

Media

Mill Hall

New Castle

Reading

Schuylkill Haven

Scranton

State College

Stroudsburg

Uniontown

Warren

West Chester

Williamsport

York

Trial of a Custody Case

Wed., Aug 21; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,
6 CLE credits (5 substantive/1 ethics)

Hershey

PBA Workers' Compensation Fall Section Meeting 2002

Thurs., Sept. 12; 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.; and Fri., Sept. 13; 8:25 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., 7 CLE credits (6 substantive/1 ethics) for both days

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