

# The COUNTY LINE



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## PBA House of Delegates Votes to Add Three New Seats for County Bar Representatives

The PBA House of Delegates has approved the expansion of the PBA Board of Governors to include an at-large unit county governor's seat. (A unit county is one in which all regular members of the county bar association are members of the PBA. Currently, there are 50 unit counties in Pennsylvania.)

The unanimous vote took place April 25 at the PBA House of Delegates meeting in Philadelphia. The PBA Board of Governors had endorsed the new unit county governor's seat at its Jan. 28 meeting.

"We are pleased that the House has recognized the significant and vital role that unit counties serve in the overall health and success of the PBA," said PBA President Thomas M. Golden. "This new unit county governor's seat is the culmination of two years of in-depth study and suggestions from our members, and it is an important step in giving our members more representation in the governance of their association."

The unit county governor's seat will commence in May 2004. Each unit county governor will serve a three-year term, and selection will be based upon rotation, which will alternate between "A" unit counties and "B" unit counties. An "A" unit county is classified as a unit county with 1,500 or more PBA members. Cur-

rently, Montgomery and Dauphin counties are the "A" counties eligible for the rotation. A "B" unit county is a unit county with 1,499 or fewer PBA members.

The unit county governor's seat will rotate as follows:

- 1st Term = Montgomery County
- 2nd Term = "B" unit county
- 3rd Term = Dauphin County
- 4th Term = "B" unit county
- 5th Term = Montgomery County, which begins the rotation again, as above.

Unit county governors from the "A" counties will be selected by the president of the "A" county bar association whose turn it is in the rotation.

Unit county governors from "B" counties will be selected from the nominees of qualifying zones by a majority vote of the "B" unit county bar associations. Each "B" unit county will receive one vote plus one additional vote for every 100 active members of the association practicing in that unit county. The number of votes to which a unit county is entitled will be determined by the PBA secretary on the basis of the membership of the association on Dec. 1 in the year prior to the commencement of a "B" unit county governor term.

A zone must have at least one "B" unit county to nominate a lawyer for unit county governor. Each "B" unit

county in a zone may select one lawyer to stand for election as the zone nominee. One nominee for unit county governor may be selected from each zone by a plurality of votes of the "B" unit county bar presidents in a zone.

A "B" unit county governor election announcement setting forth the procedure and deadlines will be sent to the unit counties in all qualifying zones no later than six months prior to the PBA Annual Meeting. The zones may select one nominee each as previously described and shall provide written notice accompanied by written consent of the nominees to the PBA secretary no later than four months prior to the PBA Annual Meeting. The PBA secretary will have ballots prepared and distributed to the unit county bar presidents, who shall cast all votes to which their counties are entitled. All ballots must be returned to the secretary not less than two months prior to the PBA Annual Meeting. The person receiving a plurality of votes would be the next "B" unit county governor.

No zone will nominate a lawyer from a unit county that has been represented on the Board of Governors by a zone governor in the last three years or that is due to have a lawyer begin a zone governor term in the

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# PBA Adds Two New Committees in Response to Member Input

In response to input from members, the PBA has created two new committees — the Appellate Advocacy Committee and the Animal Law Committee — and is seeking members interested in joining either committee.

The Appellate Advocacy Committee has as its mission the promotion, support and improvement of post-trial and appellate advocacy through regular member dialogues, seminars, a newsletter and interaction with the courts and similar national and state organizations. Charles W. Craven of Philadelphia's Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin spearheads the committee.

The committee will consist of PBA members who are or who wish to become involved in post-trial and appellate practice in civil, criminal and administrative cases before the federal and state courts in Pennsylvania.

Any members interested in joining the Appellate Advocacy Committee should contact Sabrena Jutzi at the PBA at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2253. Questions or comments about the committee should be directed to Charles Craven at (215) 575-2626.

The Animal Law Committee will promote the interests of lawyers prac-

ticing in the area of animal law; promote the study and understanding of laws, regulations and court decisions dealing with legal issues involving animals; and educate the legal community and the public on the need to address various animal-related issues.

Potential topics the committee would address include animal rights and protection, access rights of people with disabilities and their service animals, issues and laws regarding farm animals, veterinary medical malpractice, animal fighting and cruelty, estate planning for companion animals and dog and cat overpopulation.

Harrisburg lawyer Patti Bednarik suggested the creation of the committee and said, "I envision the PBA Animal Law Committee serving as a forum to investigate laws that affect animals, to educate the public and attorneys about current issues involving animals and to act as an advocate to make changes in the way our society treats animals under the law."

For more information, call Patti Bednarik at (717) 731-7083 or e-mail her at [patti.bednarik@court.state.pa.us](mailto:patti.bednarik@court.state.pa.us). Those who are interested in joining the Animal Law Committee should call Susan Donmoyer at the PBA at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2223. □

## Bar Leader Magazine Survey Results

In March, the PBA conducted a readership survey among the more than 450 county bar leaders who receive the *Bar Leader* magazine six times a year without charge from the PBA. Of the surveys returned, only 52 people indicated that they read the *Bar Leader*, making the subscription cost per reader extraordinarily high for the PBA. In addition, the American Bar Association, publisher of the *Bar Leader*, recently dramatically raised the price of the magazine to the PBA and cut back on their own com-

plimentary distribution list. Therefore, in order to be good stewards of member dues and direct funds to where they have the most impact, beginning in 2004, the PBA will no longer provide complimentary copies of the magazine to county bar leaders.

Those wishing to subscribe to the *Bar Leader* (\$30 for an individual subscription) should contact the ABA Service Center at (800) 285-2221, or visit the ABA Web site at [www.abanet.org](http://www.abanet.org) (Use Search field to locate "Bar Leader.") □

## **PBA House of Delegates Votes to Add Three News Seats for County Bar Representatives**

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same year that a "B" unit county governor term begins.

The PBA House of Delegates also approved a bylaws amendment to expand the PBA Nominating Committee by seven new seats, including the new unit county governor and a county bar president selected by the Executive Committee of the Conference of County Bar Leaders immediately following its annual meeting.

The Nominating Committee selects candidates for the offices of vice president, secretary, treasurer and, in appropriate years, chair of the House of Delegates. The Committee typically meets one day before the fall House of Delegates meeting. This year, the Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet on Nov. 20, in Harrisburg.

In June, County Bar Associations were invited to submit the name of a county bar president, who will be in office on Nov. 20, willing to serve on the Nominating Committee. From those nominations, a county bar president will be selected by the CCBL Executive Committee before July 15.

In other actions, the PBA House of Delegates also approved a recommendation made by the PBA Membership Development Committee to continue to provide free first-year PBA membership to new admittees who practice in Pennsylvania and to make this provision a permanent policy of the association.

For questions regarding the new Board of Governors seat, the Nominating Committee seats, or the membership for new admittees, please contact Art Birdsall, director of County Bar Services, at the PBA at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2218. □

## **Automated External Defibrillators Now Available Through the PBA Discounted Rates Offered for PBA Members, Their Law Firms and County Bar Associations**

State-of-the-art fully automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are now available at discounted rates to PBA members, their law firms and county bar associations through the PBA. Special terms have been negotiated with LIFESERVERS of PA for the LIFEPAK Cr Plus AED package.

"It makes sense for every law office to be equipped with this type of device to handle life-threatening situations," said PBA President Thomas M. Golden. "I'm sure many of us know of emergencies where every minute of delayed care was critical. This kind of on-site care could make a huge difference in the outcome of such a situation."

"AEDs can be a vital piece of office equipment for law firms as much as for any other setting," explained Burt Bogdan, president of LIFESERVERS of PA. "Several studies have shown that the survival rate in sudden cardiac arrest instances increases dramatically when there is access to an AED."

The package price for a fully automated AED is \$2,695; this price includes freight and state sales tax. The package includes:

- LIFEPAK Cr Plus AED
- Two sets of electrodes
- Charge Pak
- Carry case
- AmbuRescue Kit
- Non-locking, local alarmed wall cabinet
- Orientation video
- EventCheck POS
- 5-year warranty

The EventCheck management feature is a Medtronic Physio-Control subscription service, which enables hands-off, worry-free defibrillator operational and management support. The service includes an "event data download" feature and report generation related to use of the defib-

rillator. In the event of LIFEPAK use, a Medtronic field technician will make an on-site visit to download event data. The package also includes post-event service such as AED inspection and replenishment of supplies such as electrodes and Charge Paks to help ensure the device is ready for subsequent emergencies.

Following the first-year free subscription to EventCheck, the service is available at \$95 per year, which covers all calls during the year. The subscription will be renewed automatically and billed to your account. Alternatively, EventCheck service may be purchased on an event basis at a flat rate of \$300, plus parts and accessories.

"The LIFEPAK is a very sophisticated instrument that has proven to be life-saving in any number of situations," says Bogdan. "The equipment is fully automated and user-friendly due to the equipment's advanced technology. Of course, employing sound basic procedures in its use goes hand-in-hand with the unit's built-in capabilities."

Training and authorization for use is a requirement of the Food and Drug Administration and typically is provided through the American Red Cross, American Heart Association and other similar organizations. To help ensure purchasers are prepared to use LIFEPAK in instances needing use of a defibrillator, LIFESERVERS is prepared to assist with obtaining resources for training and medical authorization.

To purchase the LIFEPAK package, members should call LIFESERVERS of PA at (724) 337-9709 and mention the PBA package. □

# Past Presidents of Lancaster Bar Association Hit the Road to Promote Pro Bono Program

by Linda J. Hibbs

Most attorneys do not like to step outside their comfort zone, but that is exactly what Michael Nast of Roda & Nast did when he volunteered to take a pro bono case from MidPenn Legal Services in Lancaster County. When Nast, an antitrust lawyer, was told his case would be a custody case, he responded that he knew nothing about that area of the law. He also was concerned about the fact that there were no published resources in that area to guide him through the procedure. But after a favorable outcome and an overall rewarding experience, Nast has taken on another custody case and plans to do more in the future. Nast is one of the growing number of attorneys taking pro bono cases in Lancaster County thanks to the efforts of the Lancaster Bar Association's past presidents and board of directors.

In Lancaster County, nearly 8 percent of all individuals live below the poverty line, and there are just seven legal services lawyers to serve them. There is one lawyer for every 652 Lancaster County residents, but there is only one legal services lawyer for every 5,079 low-income people.

In the past 14 years, Pennsylvania has seen an increase of more than 25 percent in the number of lawyers in the state. At the same time, the number of staff lawyers providing legal services to the

poor has decreased by almost one-third. This is in large part due to the dramatic cuts of millions of dollars in funding for legal services throughout the country. So, while the population of people living below the poverty line in Pennsylvania has remained steady

for the past few years, federal and state funding for legal services has been slashed, resulting in fewer legal services attorneys for the low-income population. Despite the efforts of the dedicated legal services lawyers, there is an enormous need for lawyers to do pro bono work.

In Lancaster County, six past Lancaster Bar Association presidents are doing something about it. "At a time of significant budget cuts, the legal needs of the poor are not being met. We're grateful our bar is taking a role," said J. Elvin Kraybill. James W. Appel, Jeffery Gonick, James Kearney, Kraybill, John S. May and Gregory Paulson not only recognized the need to increase the number of attorneys taking pro bono cases, but also that they were in a unique position to do something about it. Forming a team of past presidents, the six began to visit the managing partners at law firms throughout the county. Their first goal is to get every attorney in the county to take a case through the Lancaster Bar

Association Volunteer Attorney Program (VAP). If an attorney is unable to take a case, he/she has the option to "Buy In" by contributing \$500 to MidPenn Legal Services. However, as May said, "There will never be enough money to hire enough legal services attorneys. Money will not do it. It has to be service."

The team has raised awareness of the need for legal services, especially at the larger firms. While the bulk of pro bono work is often associated



*Pro Bono Ethics Roadshow - (Back row, from left) Gregory Paulson, Elvin Kraybill, Jim Appel and John May and (Front row, from left) Kim Smith, Jim Kearney and Judge Leslie Gorbey*

with small firms and solo practitioners who may specialize in family law or related areas, the team brought attention to this increasing need to the larger law firms. One of the three largest firms in the county, Barley, Snyder, Senft & Cohen, now has 100-percent participation by volunteering to take a case for every attorney in the firm. Participation across the bar has increased over the past year due to the past presidents' efforts.

While it is too early to measure the success on this program in numbers, the project has clearly increased pro bono participation. Kearney believes that what makes this program unique, and serves as the key to its success, is the personal nature of lawyer approaching fellow lawyer. No one likes to be told what to do or "guilted" into taking cases, and these methods are likely to result in resentment. However, the face-to-face meetings between the past presidents and the large firm partners facilitates communications and allows the attorneys to express their concerns and reservations about pro bono work. Moreover, both MidPenn and the LBA have learned how to better serve the attorney

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## Past Presidents of Lancaster Bar Assn. Hit the Road to Promote Pro Bono Program

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neys in the county, and the area attorneys have had their concerns alleviated by being given the opportunity to express themselves and by gaining information about how the program works. Educating the bar in this personal way has helped everyone to recognize the need for pro bono legal services.

One of the concerns commonly cited by attorneys for not taking cases is that they are unfamiliar with the subject area of the typical legal services case. A great number of the pro bono cases involve custody or domestic abuse. This often results in family law practitioners taking on the majority of the pro bono cases. But there are cases in many other areas from bankruptcy to employment law. Moreover, there is ample support provided for the volunteer attorneys. MidPenn Legal Services assigns mentors to work with the volunteer attorneys. Sue Danforth, the coordinator of VAP, waylaid Michael Nast's fears about taking on his first child custody case by assigning him a mentor, Jim Sorrentino, a custody specialist with Sorrentino & Savoca. Sorrentino met with Nast and his paralegal for over an hour to explain the custody procedure and was later available to answer questions whenever they arose. Danforth also makes an effort to assign less complex cases to new volunteers.

Other support is provided as well. Periodic continuing legal education classes are provided where volunteer attorneys can learn about new areas, and if they take a case, the fee for the class is waived. Finally, for each closed case, the attorney can receive a coupon for a free CLE.

Another important effort has resulted from the LBA's work with the Lancaster County President Judge Michael A. Georgelis. The courts have agreed to help by giving volunteer attorneys an accelerated docket, so attorneys taking a family law case will be placed first on the day's docket, and the bailiff will put a

volunteer attorney in the first slot in Protection From Abuse cases if the attorney advises him/her that the case is pro bono. Similar treatment is available in support appeals.

"Most attorneys want to do it, and find it gratifying to provide services and equal access to justice for those with low income, but we forget we have an obligation to provide service and it is a responsibility we can't ignore," added May.

Patrick Zimmerman of the Law Offices of Patrick Zimmerman is a long-time VAP participant. He says that the satisfaction he gets from his pro bono cases is "tremendous." He loves the fact that the cases allow him

to deal with the legal issues without having to worry about billable hours or the business side of a law practice. Whether an attorney volunteers because of the ethical obligation, to promote goodwill for lawyers or for the personal and professional rewards of stepping outside his/her comfort zone, the attorneys in Lancaster County now have a better understanding of the need for pro bono and how they can meet this need with the help of the LBA. □

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### Unit County Dues Drop

**Reminder: The drop date for PBA unit county members is July 31, 2003.** Any attorney who is a PBA member from a unit county, and has not paid his or her 2003 dues by July 31 will be dropped from the PBA's membership roles. If you have any questions regarding membership rosters or dues payments, please contact Cherie Reigel in the PBA Finance Department at (800) 932-0311, Ext. 2287.

The new dues schedule was approved by the PBA House of Delegates in 2002, with the hopes that in encouraging early payment of dues to both the local and the state bar, the PBA would be assisting the local bar in obtaining its funds at an earlier time in the fiscal year and eliminating the bookkeeping necessitated by extending the payment time.

### 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](mailto:art.birdsall@pabar.org).

**Sept. 8 is the deadline for the next (Oct.) issue of the newsletter.**

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

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

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# 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, recently sponsored an "Ask the Attorney" program. Qualifying North Hills residents received a free 30-minute consultation with a lawyer to discuss legal issues such as credit and consumer issues, family law and bankruptcy.

## **Beaver**

### **Law Day Activities**

Law Day activities for the Beaver County Bar Association included a naturalization ceremony for three new American citizens, a speech from Beaver County President Judge Robert E. Kunselman and honors for mock trial teams from Quigley Catholic and Ambridge high schools.

## **Berks**

### **Law Day Luncheon**

State Supreme Court Justice J. Michael Eakin gave the keynote address at the Law Day luncheon of the Berks County Bar Association. Tours of the courthouse were also part of the event, for which the theme was "Independent Courts Protect our Liberties."

## **Blair**

### **Superior Court Hears Appeals**

The Blair County Bar Association hosted a reception for Pa. Superior Court Judges Maureen Lally-Green, John Bender and Joan Orié Melvin, who presided over legal appeals in the county for the first time in the Superior Court's history. The judges also answered questions from high school students who watched the open proceedings.

## **Bradford**

### **Law Day Events**

As part of their Law Day events, members of the Bradford County Bar

Association visited with seventh- and eighth-grade students for a discussion about appreciation for the law.

## **Bucks**

### **New Courthouse Task Force**

The Bucks County Bar Association has formed a task force to study the development and design of a new county courthouse. The five-member task force intends to represent the major areas of legal practice in the county. The task force will serve as a liaison with the county commissioners, Court of Common Pleas, Doylestown Borough and others involved in the planning, development and construction of the courthouse for the purpose of communicating observations, suggestions and concerns of the bar association. The task force will pay particular attention to issues relating to technology implementation, functionality of the courthouse as it meets the needs of litigants and other users and how space and resources are allocated.

## **Carbon**

### **Law Day Events**

As part of its Law Day events, the Carbon County Bar Association invited students from local schools to the county courthouses to hear remarks from judges, a jury orientation program and to participate in a mock trial.

## **Centre**

### **Law Day Program**

Members of the Centre County Bar Association taught local elementary school students about law enforcement as part of its Law Day program. The program focused on crime investigation and featured the latest techniques used by local police departments. Lawyers, judges and police officers visited schools to teach students the importance of the law as well as their responsibilities as citizens.

## **Chester**

### **Student Mock Trial**

The Chester County Bar Association joined with the Chester County Bar Foundation and the Chester County Intermediate Unit to conduct a Law Related Education Program with area third-graders. The students served as lawyers, defendants, witnesses and jury in a mock trial entitled "Going to Court."

## **Clearfield**

### **Law Day Tours**

Members of the Young Lawyers Division of the Clearfield County Bar Association conducted tours of county offices and staged a mock trial for county high school students as part of Law Day. Students served as jurors and courtroom personnel for the trial, which centered around a victim who was based on television's "Joe Millionaire."

## **Cumberland**

### **Formal Swear-in Ceremony**

The Cumberland County Bar Association returned to a formal swear-in ceremony in the Old Courthouse for 28 new members in March. All five Cumberland County Common Pleas Judges were present and sitting with them were Superior Court Judge Robert A. Graci and Supreme Court Justice J. Michael Eakin. After the ceremony, an Open House was held in the association's new offices.

### **Partners for Students Program**

Fifty-two volunteer members of the Cumberland County Bar Association recently presented the association's "Partners for Students" program in six county schools. The Partners program brings family lawyers into the classroom to raise awareness of the issues that lead to marital discord, in the hopes of easing the pressures that can lead to the dissolution of the marriage. This is the sixth year the association has presented the program.



## Dauphin

### New Admittee Practicum

The annual practicum for newly admitted attorneys, sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section of the Dauphin County Bar Association, was held over four evenings in April. The program provides information on professionalism and the practice of law in Dauphin County. Participants qualify for eight hours of CLE credit.

### Law Week

The Dauphin County Bar Association (DCBA) held several events to celebrate Law Week 2003, including "Ask A Lawyer," special events at area high schools and the presentation of the 2003 Liberty Bell Award to James E. Hanawalt, founder and director of the Central Dauphin Area Paxtonia Youth Basketball Association. During the Ask a Lawyer event, members of the DCBA, including Spanish-speaking members, met with the public to answer legal questions and provide free legal information booklets.

### Judges and Lawyers Visit Schools

Members of the Dauphin County Bar Association participated in "Judges and Lawyers Go Back to School," visiting 30 schools to speak to students about the opportunities and responsibilities of being U.S. citizens. Sixty-seven lawyers and four judges participated in the program.

## Delaware

### Legal Services to the Poor

The Delaware County Bar Association is administering a screening committee to accept attorney applications for panels that will represent indigent defendants. The four panels, which include a misdemeanor panel, a felony panel, a homicide panel and a capital case panel, are part of a new program in the county designed to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of defense counsel for the poor. A judge will appoint a private attorney from the

panel when there is a conflict of interest with the Public Defender's Office.

### Law Day Observances

A retelling of the events surrounding the story of *Amistad* by author David Pesci was the highlight of Law Day observances of the Delaware County Bar Association. The 1839 *Amistad* case made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where former President John Quincy Adams provided the defense. Also part of the Law Day ceremonies were the presentation of the Elizabeth Price Award to attorney O. Warren Higgins; the Themis prize to Diane Peters, executive director of the Senior Victims Unit; the Liberty Bell Award to prison superintendent George W. Hill and to county Public Relations Director William Lovejoy; and announcements of the Law Day essay and poster contest winners.

## Erie

### "Stepping Out"

In April and May, the Erie County Bar Association (ECBA) presented its 15th annual "Stepping Out" program to assist graduating seniors with "stepping out" into the "real world." Approximately 50 volunteer attorneys visited classrooms to discuss apartment renting, small claims court, family matters, criminal law, money and finances, and voting. As part of the Stepping Out program, the ECBA held a design contest for the Stepping Out booklet cover. Three cash prizes were awarded to the winners, all juniors at Mercyhurst Preparatory School.

## Indiana

### "We the People" Donation

The Indiana County Bar Association provided \$2,500 to support Indiana High School's participation in the national finals of the "We the People" civics competition held in Washington, D.C. The Indiana team won the Pennsylvania state title at a competition at Dickinson College in Carlisle in March.

## Lackawanna

### Young Lawyers Benefit

The Young Lawyers Division of the Lackawanna Bar Association held their annual cocktail party to benefit the Catherine McAuley Center.

### Red Mass

The Lackawanna Bar Association helped with the Diocese of Scranton's annual Red Mass. The Red Mass asks for spiritual guidance and blessings for all members of the legal profession.

### Law Day Ceremony

Lackawanna County President Chester T. Harhut provided the address for the Lackawanna Bar Association's Law Day recognition ceremony.

## Lancaster

### Foundation's First Grants

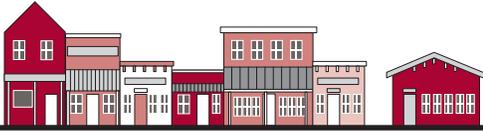
The Lancaster Bar Association Foundation has announced its first grant recipients. A \$4,000 award to the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic will cover a portion of the salary of the advocacy attorney for the program. The Lancaster Mediation Center received a grant of \$5,000, which will be applied to a training seminar for new mediators. The Lancaster Bar Association Foundation, the charitable-giving arm of the Lancaster Bar Association, was incorporated last year for the purpose of improving the delivery of legal services and increasing awareness of legal resources. Priority is given to programs that provide assistance for legal services to the poor or for law-related education.

## Lawrence

### Law Day Contest

The Lawrence County Bar Association held its annual Law Day essay contest for college-bound public high school seniors. The topic this year was whether reciting the Pledge of Alle-

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# On the *Local Scene...*

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giance in public schools is unconstitutional because of the words "Under God" inserted by Congress in 1954. Each of the contest's two winners received a \$1,000 scholarship. The association also honored attorney Jean Perkins with their annual Lawrence County Pro Bono award.

## **Lehigh**

### **Law Day Activities**

The Bar Association of Lehigh County used the occasion of Law Day to help young Americans understand how their freedom depends on the system of law. As part of their Law Day activities, the association arranged for lawyers to speak to high school students, donated money to the Allentown School District for the purchase of schoolbooks and presented the Liberty Bell award to Judge William H. Platt of the Lehigh County Court of Common Pleas. In an Op-ed for the *Allentown Morning Call*, Vanessa M. Nenni, association president, wrote, "Law Day presents us with an opportunity to remind students of the constitutional rights that allow them to speak, to challenge and criticize their government, to practice the religion of their choice, to be free from unwarranted government intrusion into their homes, and to have the right to due process in criminal and civil proceedings."

## **Mercer**

### **Law Day Events**

Superior Court Judge Maureen Lally-Green spoke as part of the Mercer County Bar Association's Law Day activities. The public was invited to the speech, as well as to a reception that followed at the Sharon Country Club. The bar association also made lawyers available to speak to county schools as part of Law Day and Lawyers and Judges in Our Schools Month.

## **Monroe**

### **"Harry Potter" Trial**

Characters from the popular Harry Potter novels played roles in a "fairytale trial" for fifth-graders that was part of the Monroe County Bar Association's Law Day activities. The purpose of the trial was to give the students a chance to see the judicial system in action. Other Law Day activities included a ceremony honoring essay contest winners, and a five-mile race held annually in memory of attorney Lester T. Brown to benefit the Pocono Mountain Kidney Foundation.

## **Montgomery**

### **Naturalization Ceremony**

The Montgomery Bar Association's American Citizenship Committee, with the help of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, organized a Naturalization Court, which took place on April 9 at Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School. Judge S. Gerald Corso of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas naturalized the participants, and Montgomery County Prothonotary William E. Donnelly awarded certifi-

cates to the newly-naturalized citizens. Students members of the Plymouth-Whitemarsh Combined Honors Orchestra and Jazz Band and Women's Choir performed. Marc Robert Steinberg, president of the Montgomery Bar Association, gave closing remarks on the meaning of U.S. citizenship.

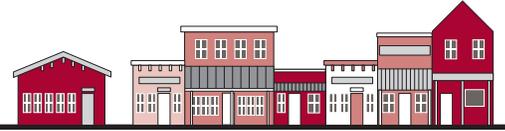
### **Visit from Sen. Specter**

The Federal Courts Practice Committee of the Montgomery Bar Association recently hosted U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter at a reception for over eighty judges and lawyers.

Specter related many of his experiences from his 23 years in the Senate. He spoke on the status of the Iraq conflict, the issues in North Korea and commented that the President is looking forward to resolving these issues. Based on his many conversations with him, Specter observed that the President is maintaining great confidence and calm in this difficult time. Specter believes that there is a realistic possibility for peace in the Middle East and a way to solve the problems in North Korea diplomatically.



*(From left) Mark A. Kearney, co-chair of the Montgomery Bar Association Federal Court Practice Committee; Sen. Arlen Specter, Judge Diane M. Welsh and Marc Robert Steinberg, president of the Montgomery Bar Association.*



Specter also answered questions pertaining to malpractice insurance, terrorism, the economy and the need to research alternative energy sources other than oil. He also addressed the process by which lawyers become federal judges, and the role of the U.S. Senate in that process.

In response to a question regarding his most recent publication *Passion for Truth*, Specter commented that he is considering writing a book in the future about terrorism.

### **Law Day 2003**

The Montgomery Bar Association held a Law Day celebration in the Montgomery County Courthouse with the swearing-in of new admittees. Also presented at the celebration were the association's Public Service Awards, given to one attorney and one non-attorney. This year's recipients were Mitchell W. Miller from the Norristown law firm of Miller, Turetsky, Rule & McLennan and Fran Held of Trooper, an employee of the Montgomery County Domestic Relations Section. The recipient of the Montgomery County Court House Employee Award was Michael R. Kehs Esq., court administrator. The authors of the top three essays submitted for the Law Day essay contest were also honored, as was Mt. St. Joseph's Academy for winning the Montgomery County High School Mock Trial Competition.

### **Northampton**

#### **Career Days**

Several Northampton County Bar Association members recently attended Career Days held at the Nazareth Middle and High Schools. The attorneys described different jobs in the legal community and the related educational requirements, responsibilities and opportunities.

### **Washington**

#### **Law Day Concert and Celebration**

The Washington County Bar Association (WCBA) sponsored a Law Day Concert and Celebration featuring singer-songwriter-activist Larry Long and schoolchildren from a local middle school. Long, a Smithsonian Folkways recording artist, worked with the students for two days prior to Law Day on a collective songwriting project. The students wrote alternate lyrics to "This Land Is Your Land" and performed their song with Long at the Law Day Concert. The keynote speech/performance centered on the statewide Law Day theme "Celebrate Your Freedom, One Nation Indivisible," and drew on Long's experience as the creator and executive director of Community Celebration of Place, which works with communities — as well as through the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance Program — to use music, performance, art and oral history to bring together children and elders, and people of different backgrounds — economic, faith, racial and cultural — to honor and celebrate our commonalities and differences. The Law Day event also included a presentation of a Liberty Bell Award to Dean Kenefick, a juvenile probation officer. Awards were presented to elementary school poster contest winners, middle school essay contest winners, and high school photography contest winners. Other community musical groups were included in the concert. A local family musical group also performed Long's "Freedom, Oh Freedom," which was written and performed for Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King during the dedication of the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery, Alabama, for the 45th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott.

The day before, Long participated in a "Cross-fire"-type radio show. Prior to Law Day, the WCBA co-sponsored a "Newspapers in Education: Law Day Resources Workshop" for 70 area schoolteachers, who received Act 48 credit. The WCBA's Law Day activities generated three pre-event and two post-event feature stories in the local newspaper, the *Observer-Reporter*, and one pre-event feature story in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. In addition, a newspaper tabloid, "It's Your Right," an educational history of the Bill of Rights geared towards students, was distributed through the *Observer-Reporter*.

### **Wayne**

#### **"Stepping Out" Program**

In conjunction with Law Day, the Wayne County Bar Association visited classrooms to present the "Stepping Out" program to graduating seniors. In addition to discussing legal situations the students might encounter around the time of graduation, the bar association provided students with a Stepping Out pamphlet that provides a general overview of related legal matters.

### **Westmoreland**

#### **Big Brothers/Big Sisters Mentors**

Judges and lawyers of the Westmoreland Bar Association are partnering with Big Brothers/Big Sisters to begin a mentoring program at the Westmoreland County YMCA Emergency Youth Shelter. Bar association mentors will spend a least an hour per week to meet, share lunch and talk with shelter residents, who are juveniles who have been declared dependent by the judicial system and placed at the shelter by court order.

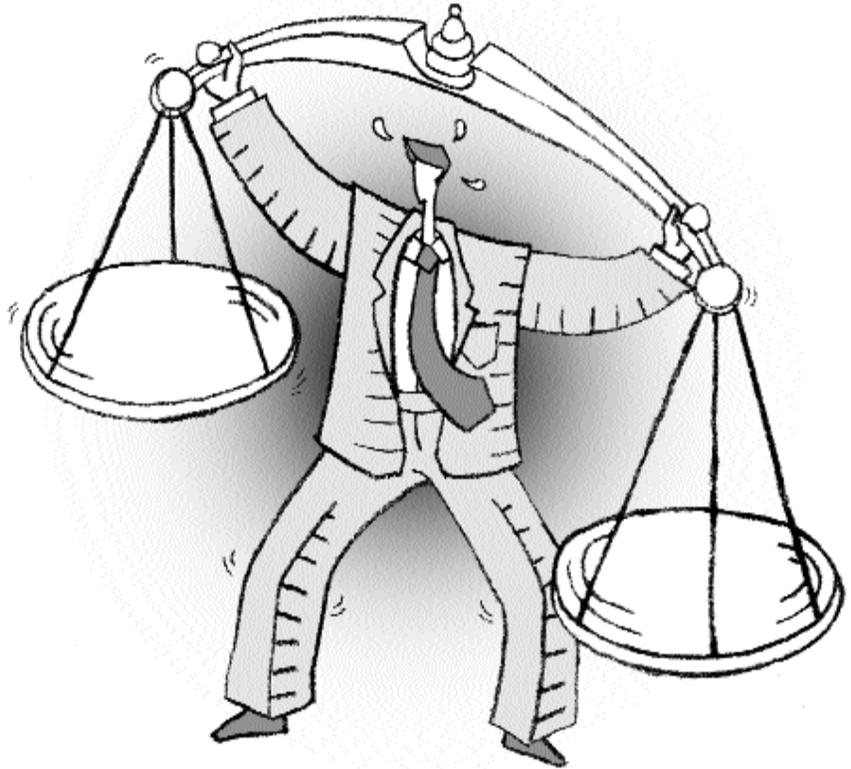
#### **Series for Public Officials**

The Westmoreland Bar Association teamed with Smart Growth and the

(continued on Page 12)

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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.

## *West Chester*

### **Maximizing Value in Cases Below \$100,000**

Tues., July 15, 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.,  
3 substantive CLE credits

## *King of Prussia*

### **Land Use Advocacy**

Thurs., July 17, 8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.,  
4 CLE credits (3 substantive, 1 ethics)

## *State College*

### **Civil Practice Before District Justices**

Mon., July 21, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,  
4 CLE credits (3 substantive, 1 ethics)

## *Bethlehem*

### **Maximizing Value in Cases Below \$100,000**

Tues., July 22, 2003, 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., 3 substantive CLE credits

## *Malvern*

### **Civil Practice Before District Justices**

Thurs., July 31, 2003, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 4 CLE credits (3 substantive, 1 ethics)

## *Bethlehem*

### **Representing Residential Landlords and Tenants**

Thurs., July 31, 2003, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 6 substantive CLE credits

## *LIVE VIA SATELLITE*

### *Allentown*

### *Bellefonte*

### *Chambersburg*

### *Clarion*

### *Doylestown*

### *Erie*

### *Greensburg*

### *Honesdale*

### *Indiana*

### *Lancaster*

### *Lewisburg*

### *Mansfield*

### *Media*

### *Mill Hall*

### *Montrose*

### *New Castle*

### *Reading*

### *Schuylkill Haven*

### *Scranton*

### *Somerset*

### *Stroudsburg*

### *Uniontown*

### *Waynesburg*

### *West Chester*

### *Williamsport*

### **How to Prepare the Federal Estate Tax Return**

Tues., Aug. 5, 12:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.,  
4 substantive CLE credits

## *Scranton*

### **Driving Under the Influence 2003**

Thurs., Aug. 7, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,  
4 substantive CLE credits

## *Plymouth Meeting*

### **Custody Law Update 2003**

Fri., Aug. 8, 8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.,  
3 CLE credits (2 substantive, 1 ethics)

## *West Chester*

### **Driving Under the Influence 2003**

Thurs., Aug. 14, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,  
4 substantive CLE credits

## *Greensburg*

### **Maximizing Value in Cases Below \$100,000**

Tues., Aug. 19, 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.,  
3 substantive CLE credits

## *Erie*

### **Driving Under the Influence 2003**

Fri., Aug. 22, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,  
4 substantive CLE credits

## *West Chester*

### **Basic Law Office Skills**

Wed., Aug 27, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,  
6 CLE credits (5 substantive, 1 ethics)

## *Erie*

### **Boundary Law in Pennsylvania**

Thurs., Aug. 28, 8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., 4 substantive CLE credits

## *Hershey*

### **PBA Workers' Compensation Fall Section Meeting 2003**

Thurs., Sept. 18, 7:15 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.,  
1.5 substantive CLE credits & Fri,  
Sept. 19, 8:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., 5.5  
CLE credits (4.5 substantive, 1 ethics)

## *West Chester*

### **Boundary Law in Pennsylvania**

Fri., Sept. 19, 8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.,  
4 substantive CLE credits

## *Allentown*

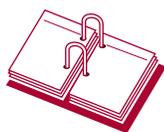
### **Boundary Law in Pennsylvania**

Wed., Sept. 24, 8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.,  
4 substantive CLE credits

## *Allentown*

### **Intervention — 401**

Fri., Sept. 26, 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.,  
3 ethics CLE credits



## Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming Events:

**PBA Midyear Meeting**  
**January 22-25, 2004**  
The Breakers,  
Palm Beach, Florida

Visit [www.pabar.org](http://www.pabar.org)  
for more information.

**38th Annual Conference of**  
**County Bar Leaders and**  
**YLD New Admittee**  
**Conference**  
**March 4-6, 2004**  
Hershey Lodge and  
Convention Center, Hershey

# PBA Spring Malpractice Avoidance Seminar Schedule



## On the Local Scene...

(Continued from Page 9)

Westmoreland Collegium of Solicitors to host a series to educate local public officials about important legal and policy issues that impact municipal governments. Topics included the impact of local taxation on municipal governments and avoiding labor employment litigation costs in municipalities.

### Awards Presentation

The Westmoreland Bar Association presented its President's Award for Professionalism to Milton V. Munk. Munk, a sole practitioner and solicitor for the Mount Pleasant and Smithton Boroughs, was recognized for his dedication to the practice of law, service to his profession and his integrity and civility as a lawyer. The Westmoreland Bar Foundation, the charitable giving arm of the Westmoreland Bar Association, presented its Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award to Sean Cassidy of Cassidy Kotjarapoglus & Pohland, Greensburg. Through their pro bono program, members of the Westmoreland Bar Association volunteered to represent 633 individuals on civil matters this past year.

### York

#### Law Day Luncheon

The York County Bar Association and York County Bar Foundation held a Law Day luncheon where they presented their Liberty Bell Award to Dan Elby, co-founder of Alternative Rehabilitation Communities, Inc., a nonprofit human service agency that serves juvenile offenders and their families. The award is given to a non-lawyer whose volunteer work enhances respect for the law and the legal system. Four student winners of the Law Day essay contest were also honored at the luncheon. □

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.

### WAYNE

Tuesday, July 22, 9:00 a.m.  
Wayne County Courthouse,  
925 Court Street, Honesdale  
(570) 253-0101  
CD-ROM presentation, 1.5 credit hrs.

### PIKE

Tuesday, July 22, 3:00 p.m.  
Best Western Inn at Hunts Landing,  
900 Rt. 6 & 209, Matamoras  
(570) 491-2400  
CD-ROM presentation, 1.5 credit hrs.

### LUZERNE

Wednesday, July 23, 9:00 a.m.  
Genetti Hotel, 77 E. Market Street,  
Wilkes-Barre  
(570) 825-6477  
CD-ROM presentation, 1.5 credit hrs.

### LACKAWANNA

Wednesday, July 23, 3:00 p.m.  
Radisson Lackawanna Hotel,  
700 Lackawanna Ave., Scranton  
(570) 342-8300  
CD-ROM presentation, 1.5 credit hrs.

### LEBANON

Tuesday, July 29, 9:00 a.m.  
Quality Inn, 625 Quentin Road,  
Lebanon  
(717) 273-6771  
CD-ROM presentation, 1.5 credit hrs.

### DAUPHIN

Friday, August 8, 9:00 a.m.  
Dauphin County Bar Headquarters,  
Harrisburg  
(717) 232-7536  
Live presentation, 1.0 credit hr.

### BUCKS

Bucks County Bench Bar  
Thursday, Sept 11, 3:00 p.m.  
Seaview Marriott, Galloway, NJ  
(215) 348-9413, ext. 110  
Live presentation, 1.0 credit hr.

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