

The COUNTY LINE



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Bar leaders statewide mourn Elizabeth Price

By Carolyn Seibert-Drager
Executive Director, Franklin County Bar Association
Vice President, Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives

As a county bar leader, you may or may not have met Elizabeth Price since you've been in office, but it's almost certain that you have been impacted by her — even if you don't know it.

That's why bar leaders across Pennsylvania are mourning the loss of Elizabeth — Betty to some, Liz to others — who died June 23 after a months-long illness.

Price was the executive director of the Delaware County Bar Association for the past 36 years. She had a tremendous impact on that bar association, to be sure, but her reach extended far beyond southeastern Pennsylvania. Her work with legal aid agencies and state and national law-related groups has helped transform how attorneys and bar associations serve their communities and how bar association staff, particularly executive directors, are regarded by their members.

As Delaware County's first executive director, Price was — by necessity — a trailblazer, noted DCBA President Bruce Rodger. That in itself, however, was no guarantee of success.

"Betty achieved pre-eminence as the executive director because she excelled in every aspect, and from every perspective, in confronting the myriad demands which attend that position," said Pennsylvania Superior Court President Judge Emeritus Stephen McEwen, who maintains chambers in Delaware County. "It was her manner, her style and her grace that found lawyers, whether a neophyte recently admitted to the bar or a prominent advocate of acclaim, to first like her, then trust her, then agree with her."

Price was one of just a handful of bar directors in Pennsylvania in the mid- to late 1970s. In 1979, they created an organization, Pennsylvania Bar Executives, which Price helped to lead. Not every executive director or secretary belonged to the group, and few bar associations encouraged their directors' involvement, according to *The History of the Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives*, which Price researched and wrote in 2007. The officers of the group added "association" to the name and drafted bylaws in 1985; a year later, those bylaws were adopted, and PABE as it exists today was formed.

Price was the first president of PABE, and she wasted no time in promoting the importance of the executive director to both local and state bar leaders. In July 1986, she wrote to then-Pennsylvania Bar Association President Ira Coldren, describing the vital role that the executive director plays in the life of his or her local bar and requesting that PABE members be given more opportunity for involvement in the PBA to serve and advocate better for their local memberships.

The relationship with PBA that most current PABE members always have known was considered radical by some in the state bar 25 years ago. In her letter, Price asked:

"...[T]hat all executive directors or executive secretaries of local bar associations be included on all state bar mailing lists; be included as courtesy members of state bar committees; be on the mailing list for the VIP publication; have a designated section for seating at the PBA House of Delegates Meeting as well as being provided the necessary and informational materials of the meeting; have the registration fee and cost of the meals waived for all state bar meetings; have cooperation in reserving meeting rooms for the Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives and the Conference of County Legal Journals; have the PABE Meetings placed on the printed PBA brochures; and be recognized by the volunteer members of the Pennsylvania Bar Association as a professional organization of the State of Pennsylvania."

When Price made her first appearance as PABE president at

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Elizabeth Price



Elizabeth Price (center) is shown at the 2009 PBA Annual Meeting.

Bar leaders statewide mourn Elizabeth Price

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a PBA event — the Board of Governors meeting in August 1986 — not everyone in attendance thought it was a good idea. Coldren and PBA Vice President Joseph Jones were very welcoming, however, and set the tone for changes to come in the future. “Without leaders such as these gentlemen, we may still be striving for the recognition that we deserve,” Price wrote in the PABE history.

Price remained very active in PABE after her pioneering stint as president, serving as its liaison to the Pennsylvania Bar Institute Board of Directors and on numerous committees of the association. She shared her vast experience with other bar directors and local bar leaders, moderating and making presentations to the Conference of County Bar Leaders, among others. In 1998, she received the CCBL’s Arthur J. Birdsall Award, presented to “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 CCBL the best it can be and who puts himself or herself second to the needs of the bar association whenever and whatever they may be.”

She also served on more than a half-dozen PBA committees and task forces over the years, including the Task Force on the Delivery of Legal Services to the Needy and its Subcommittee on Model Pro Bono Program for Small Local Bars, and received the PBA Special Achievement Award for outstanding service.

“Liz Price was an outstanding bar executive and served as a mentor to numerous bar executives across Pennsylvania,” remarked PABE President David Blaner. “Her willingness to help bar executives solve problems and succeed will be missed. She was there for each of us in her own way. Sometimes it was a phone call or maybe an e-mail, or she would stop to say hello as you passed her on the way to a PABE meeting. She was a wonderful person.”

Said PBA Executive Director Barry Simpson, “Betty’s passing was an



At the 2009 Annual Meeting, Elizabeth Price (center) is seated with Diane Krivoniak (left), Westmoreland Bar Association executive director, and Shelly Lawson, vice president of bar association programs at USI Affinity.

incredibly sad event. She was truly a renaissance woman, involved in many activities and serving many constituencies beyond just the legal profession. Despite her very busy schedule, she always had time for me, and advice when she thought I needed it! Both were much appreciated. I will miss her greatly.”

Said PBA County Bar Services Director Michelle Shuker, “When I started with the PBA four years ago, Betty was the first to reach out and welcome me in my new role. Her willingness to hold out her hand never ended. Betty left her footprints on my soul in a professional and personal way. I still find myself reaching for the phone when I have a question or a funny story to tell. My life, and the lives of many of us, is better because of Betty.”

Price was active in the National Association of Bar Executives during her career as well. She served on its board of directors as secretary and a local bar delegate and as a member of more than a dozen sections, committee and forums, chairing several of them. She received NABE’s prestigious Bolton Award (named for the late PBA Executive Director Fred Bolton) in 2000 and the NABE Communications Section’s Wally Richter Award in 1985 in recognition of her excellence as a bar director and her work at the national level.

But, of course, her heart was in Delaware County. She had “the rich respect and admiration of the bar and the bench,” McEwen said, and the feeling was mutual. While not an attorney, Price nevertheless was lauded by the Delaware County legal community for her commitment and achievements, receiving the Orłowsky Award from the Delaware County Board of Judges; the DCBA Paul R. Sand President’s Award, Themis Award and Young Lawyers’ Section Recognition Award; the “Man of

the Year” award by the Lawyers Club; and the DCBA President’s Special Recognition Award — named the Elizabeth C. Price Award — for “dedication, integrity and loyalty to the bar association.”

Her work in the community was too numerous to mention here, but one of the many recognitions she received for that work came last year when, as president of the Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania Board of Directors (a position she had held since its inception in 2001), she was presented with a Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Excellence Award.

Price is survived by her husband, William; a son and a daughter, Mark William Price and Tracy Locketto, the DCBA’s public relations and communications director; and the lights of her life, her four grandchildren. She was an accomplished painter whose works were displayed in galleries in the United States and Europe. She had a love of Paris and a rock collection that included pieces from throughout the world, including the Berlin Wall and the garden of the late Princess Diana.

“Elizabeth was a remarkable and multi-dimensional person,” Rodger said. “As DCBA president, I have been overwhelmed by the number of inquiries, kind notes and e-mails I have received from Elizabeth’s many friends throughout the country — she was truly a very special person, and we all miss her profoundly.

“We are all very sad here in Delaware County, but we also know that Elizabeth would say, ‘Knock it off — there’s work to be done!’ And so we have gotten to work, trying to maintain and build upon the sturdy foundation she created.”

Memorial contributions may be made to the Elizabeth C. Price Scholarship Fund, Delaware County Bar Association, 335 W. Front St., Media, PA 19063. ■

the county line

PBA avoidance of legal malpractice seminars scheduled

Don't forget to register for this fall's malpractice avoidance seminars scheduled by the PBA County Bar Services Department, the PBA Professional Liability Committee and USIAffinity, in cooperation with local bar associations.

Seminar attendees may qualify for a 5 percent discount on their liability insurance (underwritten by Westport) and receive 1.5 hours of CLE ethics, professionalism or substance abuse credit. All seminars are presented live and include a CD-ROM of the presentation material. Unless otherwise noted, register online at www.pabar.org/public/localbar/countybar.asp. If you have questions, contact PBA County Bar Services at 800-932-0311, ext. 2240.

Seminars Requiring Registration By Phone Numbers Listed Below:

SCHUYLKILL

Oct. 28 at 2:45 p.m.
Schuylkill Country Club,
Route 443, Orwigsburg
570-628-1235

YORK

Nov. 16 at 12:15 p.m.
Martin Library,
159 E. Market St., York
717-854-8755, ext. 201

WASHINGTON

Nov. 22 at 4 p.m.
Meadows Racetrack and Casino,
200 Racetrack Road, Meadow Lands
724-225-6710

ERIE

Dec. 9 at 4 p.m.
Ambassador Conference Center,
7792 Peach St., Erie
814-459-3111

DAUPHIN

Dec. 10 at 11:30 a.m.
Crowne Plaza Hotel,
23 S. Second St., Harrisburg
717-232-7536

Seminars Requiring Registration Online:

SOMERSET

Sept. 14 at 1 p.m.
Oakhurst Tea Room,
2409 Glades Pike, Route 31, Somerset

CAMBRIA

Sept. 15 at 9 a.m.
Holiday Inn,
250 Market St., Johnstown

BLAIR

Sept. 15 at 3 p.m.
Comfort Suites,
140 Stroehman Drive, Altoona

BEDFORD

Sept. 16 at 9 a.m.
Hampton Inn,
4235 Business 220, Bedford

HUNTINGDON

Sept. 16 at 3 p.m.
Huntingdon Country Club,
10305 Raystown Road, Huntingdon

ELK

Sept. 27 at 3 p.m.
Comfort Inn,
195 Comfort Lane, St. Marys

JEFFERSON

Sept. 28 at 9 a.m.
Pantall Hotel,
135 E. Mahoning St., Punxsutawney

INDIANA

Sept. 28 at 3 p.m.
Rustic Lodge,
2199 Oakland Ave., Indiana

CRAWFORD

Oct. 4 at 3 p.m.
Days Inn Conference Center,
18360 Conneaut Lake Road, Meadville

WARREN

Oct. 5 at 9 a.m.
Holiday Inn,
210 Ludlow St., Warren

McKEAN

Oct. 5 at 3 p.m.
Mutzabaugh & Sauders LLP,
13 Main St., Bradford

POTTER

Oct. 6 at 9 a.m.
Westgate Inn,
307 Route 6 West, Coudersport

CAMERON

Oct. 20 at 3 p.m.
Malizia & Malizia PC,
25 E. Fourth St., Emporium

CLEARFIELD

Oct. 21 at 9 a.m.
Hampton Inn,
1777 Industrial Park Road, Clearfield

CLINTON

Oct. 21 at 3 p.m.
Hampton Inn & Suites,
24 Hospitality Lane, Mill Hall

CENTRE

Oct. 22 at 9 a.m.
Ramada Conference Center,
1450 S. Atherton St., State College

MIFFLIN/JUNIATA

Oct. 22 at 3 p.m.
Quality Inn & Suites, Route 322,
13015 Ferguson Valley Road, Burnham

WESTMORELAND

Nov. 1 at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
Westmoreland Bar Association,
129 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Greensburg

FAYETTE

Nov. 2 at 9 a.m.
Holiday Inn,
700 W. Main St., Uniontown

GREENE

Nov. 2 at 3 p.m.
County Office Building,
93 E. High St., 2nd Floor, Waynesburg

LAWRENCE

Nov. 3 at 9 a.m.
Penn State Cooperative Extension Office,
Lawrence County Courthouse, New Castle

MERCER

Nov. 3 at 3 p.m.
Radisson Hotel Sharon,
Route 18 & I-80, Exit 4B,
3377 New Castle Road, West Middlesex

VENANGO

Nov. 4 at 9 a.m.
Holiday Inn Express,
225 Singh Drive, Cranberry

CLARION

Nov. 4 at 3 p.m.
Hampton Inn,
4 Hospital Drive, Clarion

ARMSTRONG

Nov. 5 at 9 a.m.
Kittanning Country Club,
218 Belltop Drive, Kittanning

BEAVER

Nov. 23 at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
Beaver County Bar Association,
788 Turnpike St., Beaver

BUTLER

Nov. 24 at 9 a.m.
Cornerstone Commons,
201 S. Main St., Butler

Pa. Bar Foundation - Pa. IOLTA to launch statewide loan repayment assistance program

The Pennsylvania Bar Foundation, the charitable affiliate of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and the Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA) Board have partnered to launch a statewide loan repayment assistance program (LRAP) to help attorneys employed at IOLTA-funded legal services organizations better manage their law school loan debt and to help IOLTA-funded legal aid organizations recruit and retain the best and the brightest attorneys for service in the public good.

The new program will provide for one-year loans, payable to qualified attorneys quarterly, with a 12-month employment requirement at qualifying organizations. Providing a participating attorney continues to meet the eligibility requirements, the attorney can apply for and receive up to 10, one-year loans over his/her tenure in qualified employment. The loans will be used to repay loans incurred for undergraduate and law school education costs and will be forgiven at the end of each year if eligibility requirements have been met.

Funding for the statewide LRAP comes from an IOLTA Board grant to the bar foundation. The IOLTA Board plans to fund the grant using pro hac vice funds that it has received from out-of-state lawyers who wish to make an appearance in a Pennsylvania court.

“In these times of increasing need for people in public service, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has taken the lead

in finding a way to attack one of the main deterrents to more lawyers getting directed into public service opportunities,” said PBA President Gretchen A. Mundorff. “It is a tremendous step forward and one for which we thank the court for its leadership and foresight.”

The LRAP is the culmination of nearly two years of planning by the foundation and IOLTA and is the direct outcome of the 2006 Report and Recommendation of the PBA Task Force on Student Loan Forgiveness and Repayment Assistance. The report identified law student loan debt as the chief obstacle to law school graduates choosing careers in public service over the more lucrative careers in private practice. With the average graduating law student owing close to \$100,000 in loans, the \$34,000 average starting salary for public interest attorneys becomes an effective barrier to talented lawyers entering and staying in public service careers.

“The amount of loan assistance provided to each applicant will depend on the available funding and the number of qualifying attorney applicants,” said Foundation President George Gvozdoch Jr. of Ebensburg. “Initially, a uniform amount of assistance will be provided to each qualified applicant, and it is anticipated that each qualified attorney will receive about \$2,000. As more experience is gained, the program may be amended in subsequent years to have several tiers of assistance based on the qualifying debt to income

ratio of the applicants.”

The foundation will administer one loan assistance cycle each year beginning Sept.

1. Eligible IOLTA-funded organizations are expected to distribute the LRAP applications to their staffs, collect and submit them to the bar foundation no later than Oct. 15. An initial quarterly payment will be made to eligible attorneys in January. The foundation will make the remaining quarterly disbursements based on receipt of the quarterly certifications of eligibility.

Loan applicants must be licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania or be permitted to practice law under Bar Admission Rule 311, have a valid Pennsylvania Supreme Court-issued bar number, be in good standing and practice law as an employee of an IOLTA-funded organization. At this time, the applicant’s total gross salary may not exceed \$60,000, and at the time of application, the amount of educational debt based on loans from commercial and government lending institutions, as well as university or other private institutional loans associated with law school and undergraduate educational debts must be greater than or equal to the amount of the LRAP grant. The attorney’s qualifying educational debt must be in satisfactory repayment.

For more information about the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation - Pennsylvania IOLTA LRAP, log on to www.pabarfoundation.org. ■

IOLTA-funded organizations eligible to participate in Pa. Bar Foundation - Pa. IOLTA LRAP

AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania
Allegheny County Bar Foundation
CASA of Allegheny County
Community Justice Project
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project
Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania
Education Law Center - PA
Franklin County Legal Services
Friends of Farmworkers Inc.
HIAS & Council Migration Service of Phila.
Homeless Advocacy Project
Legal Services for Immigrants and Internationals
Juvenile Law Center

KidsVoice Pennsylvania
Lackawanna Pro Bono Inc.
Laurel Legal Services Inc.
Legal Aid of Southeastern PA
Legal Clinic for the Disabled Inc.
MidPenn Legal Services
Montgomery Child Advocacy Project
Neighborhood Legal Services Association
North Penn Legal Services
Northwestern Legal Services
Pennsylvania Health Law Project
Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center
Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project
Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Inc.

Philadelphia Legal Assistance Center
Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts
Phila. Volunteers for the Indigent Program
Protection from Abuse Coordinated Services Inc.
Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia
Regional Housing Legal Services
SeniorLAW Center
Southwestern PA Legal Aid Society
Support Center for Child Advocates
Westmoreland Bar Foundation
Women Against Abuse Legal Center
Women’s Center & Shelter Civil Law Project

PBA 'Celebrate the Constitution' program coming

National Constitution Day is Sept. 17. To coincide with the date, this year's PBA "Celebrate the Constitution" program will kick off the third week of September and run through Bill of Rights Week, the third week in December. This schedule provides an opportunity for school programs throughout the fall, as schedules and curricula allow.

Federal law requires that all schools receiving federal money provide instruction on the U.S. Constitution to students on National Constitution Day. The "Celebrate the Constitution" program helps schools meet this requirement. Each year the PBA

sponsors this award-winning program to provide students with an opportunity to learn about the U.S. and Pennsylvania constitutions through engaging learning activities. Pennsylvania lawyers and judges visit schools across the state to help teach students about the Constitution and to participate in mock Constitution signings.

PBA members are asked to consider contacting a school in their area to share their love of the rule of law and our system of government. If contacted by a school, members are asked to respond with an offer to help. All participating schools receive free materials from the PBA and the

Pennsylvania Bar Foundation, including lesson plans and pocket-sized copies of the U.S. Constitution. There are poster, essay and video/audio contests that students can enter to win various prizes. Contest rules and entry forms will be available on the PBA website at www.pabar.org/lre.asp.

For more information, contact PBA Education and Special Projects Coordinator Susan Etter at 1-800-932-0311, Ext. 2256, or at susan.etter@pabar.org. A project of the PBA Law-Related Education Committee, "Celebrate the Constitution" is funded through the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation. ■

MESSAGE FROM PBA PRESIDENT GRETCHEN A. MUNDORFF

Teaching the value, importance of our Constitution

"Civic education in the United States is not good enough and we have to do something about it."

Wow, when I heard these words spoken by [Justice David H. Souter](#) last summer in Chicago during his address to the American Bar Association, he immediately got my attention. As I listened to his words, delivered in his unassuming and quiet New England demeanor, his passion for this issue became clear. He told us how concerned he is



Gretchen Mundorff

"about the risk to our constitutional government when a substantial portion of the American populous simply fails to gain the understanding of how the government works." I was surprised to learn that about two-thirds of the people in the United States cannot even name all three branches of the national government. "This is something to worry about," he said. And I agree. Justice Souter went on to challenge the audience of lawyers and judges asking us "to consider the danger to judicial independence when people have no conception of how the judiciary fits

within the constitutional scheme."

Justice Souter recalled a famous conversation that occurred shortly after the Constitutional Convention of 1787 when a woman asked Benjamin Franklin, "What kind of government do we have?" And Franklin replied, "A republic if you can keep it." "Franklin," Justice Souter passionately said, "understood a republic can be lost. And one way it may be lost is by a kind of erosion in the minds of its people. It will be lost

by citizens who lack the understanding or feel responsible for preserving the constitutional government that they have... We have to revive the basic civic knowledge that once came naturally..."

I, too, have always had a passion for civics, law and government and that passion was re-energized after listening to Justice Souter. It moved me to heed his call to action and make civics education a priority initiative during my year as PBA president. I was reminded of George Washington's argument to Congress in his 1796 State of the Union address, when he said, "A primary

object...should be the education of our youth in the science of government. In a republic, what species of knowledge can be equally important? And what duty more pressing...than communicating it to those who are to be the future guardians of the liberties of the country?"

Souter, Washington and many others have told us that we have to communicate to the next generation about the values, uniqueness and importance of our Constitution and the government it created. In her own practical, common sense approach, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor expressed it this way, "Knowledge of our Constitution and the role of our courts is not handed down in the gene pool. Each generation must learn about our system of government and the citizen's role."

Borrowing from yet another Supreme Court justice who has been equally passionate about the need for civic education in our schools, I share Justice Anthony Kennedy's views urging that democracy and the principles of the Constitution have to be taught. Justice Kennedy said, "... it's of vital importance that our young people know the meaning of the Constitution. You don't take a

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Re-launched Bar Leadership Institute to help develop the next generation of PBA Leaders

PBA President Gretchen Mundorff has re-launched the Bar Leadership Institute to strengthen the PBA's ongoing efforts to recruit and develop leaders for the association. The BLI was originally developed by Art Piccone in 1995-96 during his year as PBA president. Mundorff, who was the first chair of the institute, is a long-time proponent of leadership development and mentoring programs.

"We are going to make every effort to identify and prepare the best young lawyers who are representative of the diversity within the PBA membership to take leadership positions," Mundorff said.

BLI participants will learn about the day-to-day operations, governance, resources and staffing of the association. Participants will be introduced to the various leadership opportunities within the PBA and each participant will be paired with an experienced and committed mentor who is a member of the Board of Governors.

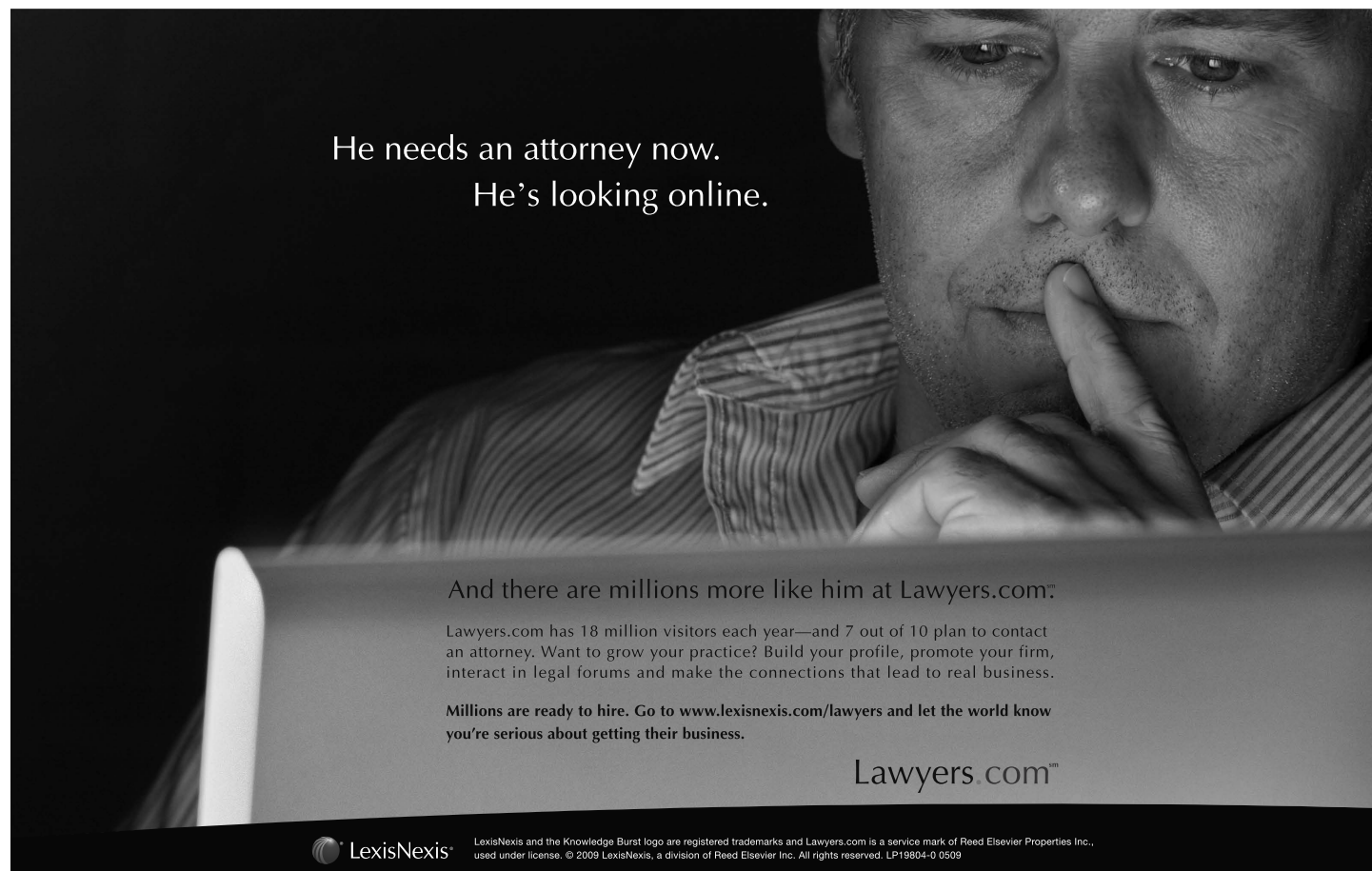
The 2010-2011 class size was limited to 11 lawyers. To apply, candidates had to demonstrate leadership ability, commit to attendance and participation in the required events, be currently licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania, be a PBA member, and be age 38 years or younger or have practiced five years or less.

This year's class, selected from a field of 34 candidates, includes the following participants:

- Laura Evans, Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott L.L.C., Harrisburg
- Sarinia Feinman, Vetrano & Vetrano, King of Prussia
- Sara Flasher, Administrative Law Judge, Department of Public Welfare, Pittsburgh
- Bernard John, John & John, Uniontown
- Guerline Laurore, Law Office of Guerline L. Laurore P.C., Coudersport
- Traci Naugle, Sullivan, Forr, Stokan, Huff & Kormanski, Altoona
- Joo Y. Park, High Swartz L.L.P., Norristown
- Melissa H. Shirey, The Family Law Group L.L.C., Erie
- Kevin Taccino, Arnoult, Taccino & Hamilton, Chambersburg
- Lisa Watson, Department of Public Welfare, Harrisburg
- Phil Yoon, Superior Court of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

This year's BLI co-chairs, Mary E. Schellhammer and Paul C. Troy, have participated in past programs – Schellhammer as a BLI member and Troy as a former BLI co-chair.

Additional information about the Bar Leadership Institute is available on the PBA website: www.pabar.org/BLI.asp. ■




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Message from the YLD chair

By Lisa Woodburn

The Pennsylvania Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division held its annual Executive Retreat on Friday, June 11, in Harrisburg. The day began with a Wills for Heroes training in which young lawyers from around Pennsylvania were certified as coordinators. The goal of the training is to allow the Wills for Heroes program to be taken on the road statewide and outside of the larger metropolitan areas into all counties throughout Pennsylvania. The Wills for Heroes program provides basic estate documentation to first responders. To date, 13 programs in seven different counties have already been held this year, and many more are scheduled in the upcoming months.



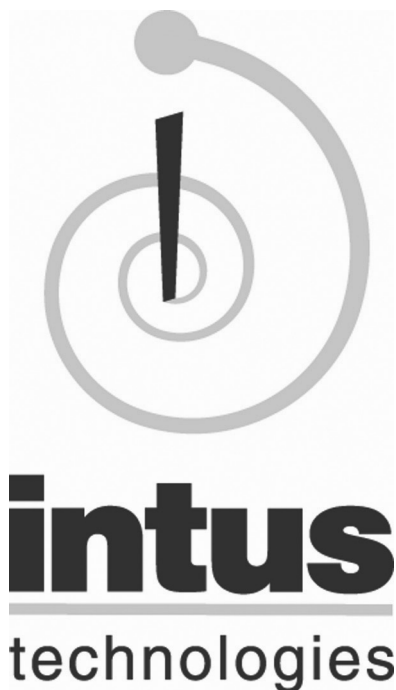
Lisa Woodburn

of a diverse mix of young lawyers representing all zones. The Executive Council has many new members who bring excitement and enthusiasm to the council, as well as some more seasoned members who bring experience and leadership. One Executive Council plan is to challenge every young lawyer to become active in one committee or project within the YLD and one committee or project outside the YLD but within the Pennsylvania Bar Association. The current Executive Council appreciates the importance of life after the YLD, and, therefore, encouragement in the bar association, as a whole, is a top priority in the 2010-2011 year.

In addition to the Wills for Heroes program, Project Kid Care will continue this year, as well as additional opportunities for young lawyers to become involved.

The Voices Against Violence Program will offer an opportunity for young lawyers to work within their community, educating individuals on the prevalence of domestic violence as it currently exists in our society. Finally, the council has prioritized membership in the YLD with particular note to our law student division. The council would like to reach out to the law schools, and possibly, a mentoring program for the bar exam would be a way to gain new members.

In addition to the standing annual meetings and programs, the Division is hopeful that a zone caravan, the YLD social event, will take place in nearly every zone throughout the upcoming year; *At Issue*, the YLD newsletter will make a comeback; joint receptions with PBI and the YLD will be planned this fall to greet and welcome new members of the bar; and you'll mark your calendars for the United States Supreme Court swearing ceremony scheduled for March 7, 2011. ■



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President's message: Teaching the value, importance of Constitution

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DNA test to see if you believe in freedom. It's taught. Teaching and learning are a conscious act. That's how our heritage is handed down from one generation to the next."

You'll find links to Justice O'Connor's [iCivics](#) educational website as well as [Justice Souter's](#) and [Justice Kennedy's](#) remarks on the PBA webpage, and I urge you to explore these resources and to share them with others, most importantly with our young people. No one is too young to begin learning about the value and importance of our Constitution and government. Wonderful resources have been developed by top educators to teach preschool children about fundamental principles of authority, justice, responsibility and privacy. You'll

find simple and engaging lessons that you can use in visits with elementary, middle and high school students. Please take a moment to reach out to your local school this year, but particularly during the PBA's Celebrate the Constitution program.

I leave you with this moving thought from Justice Kennedy, "We must remember that it's not just officials, the president, who have the obligation to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. It's all of your obligations. But, you cannot preserve what you do not revere. You cannot protect what you do not comprehend. You cannot defend what you do not know."

"Civic education in the United States is not good enough and we have to do something about it." Souter said. Help us make sure every child learns something about our Constitution and government and knows something about the rights and responsibilities of being a United States citizen. ■

Courses offered by the PBI

Habeas Corpus

Simulcast – Sept. 14, 2010:

Doylestown, Greensburg, Johnstown, Mansfield, Meadville, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Stroudsburg, Wilkes-Barre, York

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; check-in at 8 a.m.; 4 CLE credits (3 substantive/1 ethics*) *Must attend entire program to receive ethics credit.

Immigration Law Forum - 2010

Simulcast – Sept. 24, 2010: Baltimore, Md., Easton, Greensburg, Lebanon, Mansfield, Meadville, Mechanicsburg, Mill Hall, New Castle, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Wilkes-Barre, York

8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; check-in begins at 8 a.m.; 6 CLE credits (5 substantive/1 ethics)



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On the *Local Scene...*

Allegheny

Code of Professionalism

The Allegheny County Bar Association has adopted a Code of Professionalism for its members to preserve and enhance the high level of professionalism that exists in the practice of law in Allegheny County. The code, which was prepared by an ad hoc committee, is a statement of the best practices that generally exist and that have come to be expected. One of the most important parts of the code is the bar's commitment to diversity, equality and fairness in the profession. The Code of Professionalism can be found on the bar association's website at www.acba.org.

Beaver

Mock Trial

More than 110 Beaver County Bar Association members served as volunteer jurors, advisers and judges for the 22nd annual Beaver County Mock Trial Competition. Nine teams from seven county schools competed, with Team B from Beaver Area High School advancing to the district competition held at the Lawrence County Courthouse. In addition, the BCBA donated \$5,000 to support the 2010 National Mock Trial Competition in Philadelphia.

NCAA Basketball Championship social

The Charitable Giving Committee and the Social Committee of the BCBA hosted its annual NCAA Basketball Social on April 5. Proceeds from the event were raised to benefit Camp Cadet, Troop D, the Pennsylvania State Police and the Marion Gordon Society (A Chocolate Sunday).

Courthouse plaques honor BCBA vets

Beaver County attorney Eugene Martucci, working with the BCBA Photograph/Historical Committee, announced the hanging of two plaques in the Beaver County Courthouse to honor all known members of the BCBA who have served in the U.S. armed forces.

Women in the law

The BCBA Women in the Law

the county line

Committee participated in the Beaver County Women's Conference by sponsoring an information table at the March 13 event at Ambridge High School. The committee also sponsored a team for the 18th annual Susan G. Komen Pittsburgh Race for the Cure on May 9. The annual event is held to raise awareness about breast cancer and funds for research, education and related projects.

YLD presents Civic Appreciation Award

The Young Lawyers Division of the BCBA chose Rudi Lagatta as the 2010 recipient of the YLD Civic Appreciation Award. Lagatta was honored for his role in founding the Five Fun Ghoul's entertainment group which has raised \$300,000 for the Give-A-Christmas campaign.

Law Day

The BCBA celebrated Law Day 2010 on April 30 in Courtroom No. 1 of the Beaver County Courthouse. Members from the bench and bar attended the program with elected officials from Beaver County, local legislators, the Beaver Area High School (first place) and New Brighton Area High School (second place) mock trial teams, Mock Trial Scholarship and Randy K. Hareza Memorial Award recipients, the Young Lawyer Division's Civic Appreciation Award Recipient and honored guests. In addition to presenting the annual Randy K. Hareza Memorial Awards for Best Witness and Best Advocate, the BCBA awarded \$3,000 in scholarships to four mock trial participants who demonstrated exemplary skills in their roles as witness and attorney. A luncheon reception followed at the bar association building.

'Stepping Out' program

BCBA members visited 13 county high schools this spring to present the 15th annual Stepping Out program. More than 1,400 high school seniors received the Stepping Out booklet, which details various areas of the law, including consumer credit, civil litigation, voting, jury service and other topics. Voter registration forms and

driving under the influence statute fliers were distributed to each senior, and an open question-and-answer period was held with the visiting attorney.

Carbon

Law Day

The Carbon County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division, in cooperation with Marian Catholic and Palmerton high schools, presented its annual Law Day program on April 30 in Courtroom No. 1 of the Carbon County Courthouse in Jim Thorpe.

Groups of high school students from the Carbon Career & Technical Institute and Jim Thorpe, Lehighon, Marian, Palmerton, Panther Valley and Weatherly attended. The day's activities include a presentation of the court's "Jury Orientation Program" and a mock criminal trial between the Marian and Palmerton high schools' mock trial teams.

Chester

Computer recycling day

For this year's Earth Day, April 22, the Chester County Bar Association held its annual computer recycling day. Attorneys and law firms dropped off their well-used computers, printers, monitors and other peripherals to be picked up by a local recycling company, preventing the items from going into landfills. The event also raised several hundred dollars for the foundation from fees for securely erasing the hard drive of computers sent to recycling. On the same day, the Red Cross held a blood drive at the bar association and received donations from about 30 local attorneys.

Annual Golf Outing

More than 100 attorneys and business leaders from the area attended the Chester County Bar Foundation's 10th annual Golf Outing on June 1. More than 48 sponsors were responsible for the success of the event, which netted almost \$70,000 for the foundation. In addition to golfing in

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On the *Local Scene*...



(Continued from Page 10)

spectacular weather, the foundation held an auction, 50/50 raffle (which netted \$10,000 alone), hole-in-one contests and more.

Cumberland

Law Day

The Young Lawyers Division of the Cumberland County Bar Association recognized Law Day throughout May with numerous activities designed to engage the local community in conversations about the law.

This year, the committee reached out to all of the county's public and private high schools to schedule presentations titled "The Legal Consequences of New Technologies." The committee authored the curriculum, which focused on the legal and non-legal impact of activities such as "sexting," use of social networking websites and cyberbullying. More than 20 CCBA members volunteered to present the curriculum in May to hundreds of county students at Boiling Springs, Carlisle, Cedar Cliff, Shippensburg and Trinity high schools, following an orientation session organized by the committee in April. The committee received several positive remarks from educators at the high schools.

The committee also organized a community showing of the legal classic, "Inherit the Wind," at the Carlisle Theatre on May 18. The Cumberland County Bar Foundation graciously sponsored the movie so that the community could attend free of charge.

Lastly, the committee received a proclamation from the county commissioners declaring May 1, 2010, to be Law Day in Cumberland County.

Dauphin

Law Day activities

Seventeen new members were admitted to the Dauphin County Bar Association at its annual Law Day Breakfast on May 7, which featured the presentation of the 2010 DCBA Liberty Bell Award to Valerie G. Simmons, executive director of the nonprofit organization The Program - It's

About Change.

During Law Week, 29 lawyers volunteered for the DCBA "Ask A Lawyer" program at Strawberry Square in downtown Harrisburg and spoke with 370 people inquiring about a wide range of legal issues. And 68 attorneys volunteered to visit 81 classrooms in local schools during the month of May as part of the DCBA "Lawyers and Judges Go Back To School" program.

Memorial service

Five deceased members of the DCBA were honored at a special memorial service on May 19 in Courtroom One at the Dauphin County Courthouse. They included David B. Disney, H. Joseph Hepford, Allen Shaffer, Robert N. Tarman and James K. Thomas. The service was followed immediately by a "Last Call" reception at the bar association.

Volleyball League

The 2010 DCBA Volleyball League, sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section, was launched on May 20 with participants competing on 21 teams. This is one of the most popular bar association social activities of the year.

Senior Lawyers dinner cruise

The DCBA Senior Lawyers Section hosted their annual dinner cruise on May 27 aboard the *Pride of the Susquehanna* riverboat.

Erie

Law Day 5K Race/Walk

About 400 runners lined up to participate in the Erie County Bar Association's seventh annual Law Day 5K Race/Walk on May 1. The event, in cooperation with the Erie Runners Club, benefited the ECBA's Attorneys & Kids Together Program, which supports the needs of children living in area shelters, and the Runners Club Scholarship Fund.

Fayette

Law Day

To commemorate Law Day, the Fayette County Bar Association conducted a mock trial between students from Albert Gallatin and Uniontown high schools on April 30. FCBA attorneys served as jurors in the case.

Franklin

Law Day

About 125 middle school and junior high students and their teachers from throughout Franklin County attended the annual Law Day mock trial, presented by the Young Lawyers Division of the Franklin County Bar Association, on April 30 at the county courthouse in Chambersburg. Twelve bar members, mostly young lawyers, presented the mock criminal trial, for which a dozen students were chosen to serve as the jury. Prior to the trial, District Attorney Matthew Fogal and Assistant Public Defender Christopher Reibsome described the criminal justice process and the roles of their respective offices to the students.

Be Kind to Lawyers Day

Everyone likes to feel appreciated! To celebrate National Be Kind to Lawyers Day, FCBA Executive Director Carolyn Seibert-Drager and publications assistant Jessica Sharpe paid surprise visits to more than 100 attorneys throughout the county on April 16, presenting each with a cupcake and thanking them for their involvement in the bar association and the work they do on behalf of their clients and the citizens of the county.

Lackawanna

Law Month

The Lackawanna Bar Association marked Law Month with a variety of activities, kicking off the celebration on April 30 with a play commemorating one of America's most famous lawyers, Clarence Darrow, in the Lackawanna County Courthouse. Gary L. Anderson, a renowned Darrow portrayer, played the

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the county line



On the *Local Scene*...

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Participants chat during Lancaster Bar Association's Law Day luncheon on April 30.

title role in "Clarence Darrow's Search for Justice." In addition to bar members, students from the four semifinals teams from this year's Mock Trial competition – Scranton Prep, Abington Heights, West Scranton and Valley View – attended.

In other Law Month activities, Lois Lowry of the Lackawanna County public defender's office received the Harold Miller Award on May 5 for her more than 30 years of service, bar members participated in an interfaith prayer service, and the Young Lawyers Division visited local fifth-grade classrooms to educate students about the legal system.

The Harold Miller Award, presented annually to an individual who has dedicated himself or herself to serving the legal profession in a supporting role, was bestowed at the Harold E. Miller Luncheon at the Radisson at Lackawanna Station hotel. At the third annual Interfaith Prayer Service at the Scranton Cultural Center, Judge John E. Jones III, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, served as the keynote speaker. The Veterans Committee of the bar participated in the service, with prayers and readings by bar members.

Lancaster

Law Day

The Lancaster Bar Association hosted mock trial teams from McCaskey, Conestoga Valley, Penn Manor, Warwick, Cocalico and Lancaster Catholic high schools for its annual Law Day Luncheon on April 30 at the Marriott Penn Square Convention Center in downtown Lancaster.

Students had the opportunity to meet the county Court of Common Pleas judges, along with LBA board members and attorneys who had served as jurors for the competition. The highlight of the luncheon was the animated discussion led by David Trevaskis and Kim Smith during which the students discussed and debated their positions relating to a legal issue with members of the bench and bar. The LBA is proud of the fact that the teachers who have been participating in this event for several years report that this is one of the most valuable educational experiences the students have. Students come away with a greater understanding of how the legal system works, but they also polish their social skills in the process.

Lebanon

Pro Bono award

Attorney John H. Whitmoyer was recognized as the 2010 Outstanding

Lebanon County Pro Bono Attorney of the Year by the Midpenn Legal Services and the Lebanon County Bar Association. Whitmoyer was nominated because of his dedication to those who are unable to afford legal representation. Whitmoyer represented four clients and provided 25 hours of service. Whitmoyer, of Henry & Beaver Law Office, concentrates his practice in bankruptcy, family law and banking.

Pitching in

Early one recent Saturday morning, several members of the association donned work gloves and safety vests to pick up trash along Route 322. The Public Relations Committee adopted a two-mile portion of the road between Quentin and Annville in Lebanon County and has agreed to pick up trash four times a year through the nationally-recognized Adopt-A-Highway program.

In Pennsylvania, Adopt-A-Highway gives citizens an opportunity to support the state Department of Transportation's litter prevention programs by adopting a section of highway and removing trash from that section. According to the Adopt-A-Highway website, Pennsylvania's program has had more miles adopted than any other state in the nation!

A tribute to our veterans

LCBA members participated in the 20th annual Annville Memorial Day parade. The parade has grown so tremendously that it lasts nearly three hours and is now the largest Memorial Day parade in Pennsylvania. The bar members and their family were transported along the eight-division parade route by Past President Ken Sandoe's award-winning Belgian horse-drawn wagon.

Law Day events

In observance of Law Day, the LCBA hosted several activities to promote this year's theme "Rule of Law: It's what I live by." Attorneys visited classrooms and spoke about the law. Several schools took a tour

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of the municipal building. The children and teachers enjoyed a moment in the judge's chair, heard important information from the 911 call center operators and a chat with the mayor. Most classes were able to sit in on a hearing and then have a recap with the judges and attorneys. They also toured the police and sheriff departments. The holding cells were opened up for the students to get a feel for what it's like to be locked up.

Also, four attorneys were admitted before the Court of Common Pleas, and nine people became U.S. citizens during the Law Day and Naturalization Ceremony. President Judge John C. Tylwalk presented the winner of the Law Day essay contest with a \$500 savings bond.

Lehigh

Law Day

The Bar Association of Lehigh County presented its Liberty Bell Award 2010 to Allentown public school teacher John Annoni during the association's annual Law Day Luncheon on May 3 at The Barrister's Club, located at the association's headquarters, 1114 W. Walnut St., Allentown.

The Liberty Bell Award is the highest honor bestowed by the bar association. Law Day Committee co-chairs Zachery Cohen and Rebecca Young announced Annoni as the committee's 2010 award recipient. Annoni, who teaches at Trexler Middle School, was recognized for his enduring service to youths and as founder of Camp Compass Academy. The author of *From the Hood to the Woods*, Annoni recently worked with students on Oneface.me, a cyber-safety project for tweens.



John Annoni

Criteria for award recipients includes a person who encourages a greater respect

for law and the courts; promotes a better understanding of our Constitution and the Bill of Rights; contributes to the effective functioning of our institutions of government; fosters a better understanding and appreciation of the rule of law in the community; and stimulates a deeper sense of individual responsibility so that citizens recognize their rights.

Annoni and his students participated in Oneface.me, a cyber-safety program made possible by a \$20,000 grant from The Verizon Foundation in conjunction with the Bar Association of Lehigh County and Lehigh Valley Community Foundation. For more information visit <http://www.oneface.me/>

The bar association's other Law Day-related activities included arranging to have more than two dozen attorneys and paralegals volunteer to speak to students in local schools about law and legal issues. The schools program, held during the first week of May, was arranged by Young.

Luzerne

Law Day Dinner Dance



Celebrating Law Day in Luzerne County are Incoming PBA Zone 5 Governor David E. Schwager (from left), Outgoing Governor Michael J. McDonald, and former Governor and current PBA Treasurer Francis X. O'Connor.

The Wilkes-Barre Law & Library Association held its annual Law Day Dinner Dance on May 1 at the Woodlands Inn & Resort in Wilkes-Barre. The

association celebrated this year's Law Day with a record-breaking crowd that was the largest in the association's history for this event.

Monroe

60-year member honored

The Monroe County Bar Association used the occasion of its Member Business Dinner Meeting to honor attorney Alex Bensinger on his 60 years of law practice and service to the community.

More than 90 people, colleagues and their guests, celebrated the anniversary at Lawnhaven at the Stroudsmoor Country Inn on May 19. After the dinner, MCBA President Stephen M. Higgins presented Bensinger with a painting of his office building. Colleagues commented on their experiences with Bensinger, who has been a mentor to many and set a wonderful example of dedication to the law profession.

Law Day

The MCBA celebrated Law Day with many activities, including the Law Day Race, the Fairy Tale Trial, the essay contest and the popular program "Judges and Lawyers Go Back to School."

The Fairy Tale Trial, now in its 17th year, kicked off the event under its "Batman" movie theme. Many MCBA members, some in full Batman costumes, thrilled the fifth-grade students who attended the event.

Jason LaBar, with some assistance from President Judge Ronald Vican, led the Law Day ceremonies and gave attendees a short history on Law Day and its meaning.

The Law Day race, with more than 80 runners participating, was won by Matt Sobrinski and Jennifer Hawk-Heck. Todd Weitzmann was first in the lawyer division.

The topic of this year's essay was "Rule of Law: It's What I Live By." The first place winner of the essay contest was Connor Scovil of Pocono Mountain East. He read his essay at the Law Day Luncheon, held at the Pocono Inne Town.

Three judges, Margherita P. Worthington, Jonathan Mark and Jennifer H. Sibum, from

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the county line

County bar associations invited to join with PBA in public education campaign on consumer credit

County bar association presidents and executive directors should have received mailed invitations to participate in a public education campaign about consumer credit, which will run Oct. 18 – Oct. 31.

The campaign, “Know Your Credit Rights – Be an Educated Credit Consumer,” is modeled after successful previous statewide education initiatives on wills, real estate, child support, elder law and identity theft.

The campaign is being waged under the direction of the PBA Community and Public Relations Committee and is funded by the PBA and a grant from the Pennsylvania Bar Trust Fund.

Through a partnership with the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association, advertisements will be placed in newspapers throughout the state during the campaign and a toll-free hotline will be available for citizens to request a free “Know Your Credit Rights” brochure. A news conference announcing the campaign will be held to kick-off the campaign. Participating county bar associations are encouraged to hold events throughout the two-week period as part of the campaign.

For more information, contact Marcy Mallory or Jeff Gingerich in the PBA Communications Department, 800-932-0311. ■



On the Local Scene

(Continued from Page 13)

the Court of Common Pleas, along with 15 attorneys participated in “Judges and Lawyers Go Back to School.” More than 700 students in the Monroe County area school districts benefitted from the visits to classrooms by the judges or attorneys.

Montgomery

Going mobile

Thanks to a new mobile application built on the Montgomery Bar’s MYA-SOFTWARE platform, MBA members can now visit montgomerybar.org/m from most Internet-enabled mobile devices and put the power of their county bar association at their fingertips. By signing-in with the same credentials used to sign-in on the association’s primary website, www.montgomerybar.org, members can access more than 2,000 public member profiles, contact information with photos, click-through e-mail addresses, phone numbers and more. MBA Mobile also allows members to browse and register for upcoming CLE’s and hundreds of other MBA events – anywhere and anytime, with a convenient “bill me later” option for those members with pre-approved credit status. For convenience, members may opt

to bookmark the link, save it as a favorite, add an icon on their mobile home screen, and select the auto-fill option from their iPhones and other select mobile devices for convenient, one-click access.

According to MBA Executive Director Nancy Paul, “The recently launched mobile application was built in response to a

remain relevant to our membership.” For additional information on MBA Mobile or the MYA-SOFTWARE, call the MBA Help Desk at 610-279-9660, ext. 230, during regular business hours, or send your e-mail to: support@montgomerybar.org.

Northampton

Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion program

The Northampton County Bar Association began a Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion program about one year ago, and it’s been well received with both the public and NCBA attorneys. Some association members wanted to register to be in the program, so another CLE seminar was scheduled and quite a few additional attorneys registered to participate in the diversion program. The attorneys have volunteered to represent the homeowners during hearings between the mortgage companies and the clients.

The NCBA held an “Introduction to the Practice of Law” seminar for its young attorneys. The areas of law covered this year included real estate law, practicing before a magistrate or master, courtroom etiquette, bar association benefits, and wills, trusts and estates. The young lawyers particularly enjoyed a section on practicing in a large firm versus opening a solo practice. ■



growing demand from on-the-go members who frequent our website from their iPhones, BlackBerrys and other popular mobile devices.” Paul adds, “Offering the free mobile app has been a well-received member benefit and just one more way we’re evolving, thanks to technology, to

the county line

Lackawanna, Montgomery bar associations recipients of Birdsall Grants

Since 2008, the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation has used its Birdsall Grant program to assist county bars across the state to initiate or enhance a program consistent with the Foundation's charitable mission. This year's grants support pro bono programs aimed at helping Pennsylvania's heroes and its homeowners facing foreclosure.

At its May 13 annual meeting of the Board of Directors and Members, the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation Board of Directors unanimously voted to accept the recommendations of the 2010 Birdsall Grants Committee to bifurcate the 2010 Birdsall grant to allow the Foundation to support two commendable pro bono programs, one conducted by the Lackawanna Bar Association, the other by the Montgomery Bar Association. Each will receive a \$500 grant.

The Lackawanna County Bar Association grant will help support the development and delivery of CLE programming to train Lackawanna County attorneys to provide pro bono representation to low-income homeowners facing mortgage foreclosure proceedings.

The Montgomery County Bar Association grant will be used towards the purchase of laptops and portable printers to support the Bar's Wills for Heroes program, the pro bono program that brings together local first responders (police, firefighter, emergency medical technicians) with volunteer attorneys who prepare free wills and estate planning documents. ■

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Mark your calendars for upcoming PBA events

Minority Bar Committee Diversity Summit

Oct. 29
PBI CLE Conference Center,
Wanamaker Building, Philadelphia



PBA Commission on Women in the Profession Fall Retreat

Nov. 5-6
The Hotel Hershey, Hershey



Board of Governors Meeting

Nov. 17
Holiday Inn East, Harrisburg



Committee/Section Day

Nov. 18
Holiday Inn East, Harrisburg



House of Delegates Meeting

Nov. 19
Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey, Harrisburg



PBA Midyear Meeting

Feb. 2-6
Key West, Fla.

For more details, check the PBA Events Calendar at
<http://www.pabar.org> or call the PBA at 800-932-0311.

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