

2016 Conference of County Bar Leaders – The Magic of CCBL

By Joseph A. Curcillo, III, Immediate Past President, CCBL Executive Committee



Joseph A. Curcillo, III passes the gavel to the next CCBL leader, William L.J. Burke.

More than 250 bar leaders, including county bar officers and executive directors, young lawyer division members and the PBA Board of Governors, refined their leadership skills at the 50th Annual CCBL on Feb. 25 – 27, 2016. This year’s event, held at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College, again focused on leadership (with a touch of magic).

Our keynote speaker was Dr. G. Terry Madonna, who returned to give an informative and thought-provoking

update on the state of politics both in the nation and in Pennsylvania, focusing on the upcoming 2016 primaries. As always, Dr. Madonna left us all wanting to hear more.

Friday’s educational program lineup included seminars on your year(s) in bar leadership, diversity and civility. The avoiding legal malpractice program provided some laughs, with a star-studded live performance of a vignette by the “Permanently Banned from Prime Time Players.” The PBA YLD held a business meeting, and the PBA Leadership Recruitment and Development Committee offered a presentation on the “Pathways to Leadership” from the county to state bar association. Brought back by popular demand, all bar leaders gathered for “Bring It On (Again)!,” which was a valuable and interactive session led by county bar executive directors and past presidents where participants shared information about successful programs of our various bar associations.



The Birdsall Award was presented to PBA Deputy Executive Director Fran O’Rourke. (Read more about this deserving recipient in the related article on page 6). In addition, 24 county bar associations were presented with County Bar Recognition Awards, which honor projects and programs undertaken by the bar association in the calendar year which

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2016 CCBL

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improve the legal profession, justice system, and local community. (See the related article on page 5).

In keeping with the theme of “magic,” the Dauphin County Bar Association generously sponsored magician Ran’D Shine, who entertained and fooled us all. Some in the audience may have recognized Ran’D from Penn and Teller’s show, “Fool Us.” After being amazed by Ran’D, everyone hit the dance floor and gathered at the photo booth. We gave away overnight packages to seven fantastic destination resorts including the Crystal Springs Golf Resort, Hilton Harrisburg, Hotel Hershey, Hotel Monaco Pittsburgh, Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa & Marina, Nittany Lion Inn, Omni Bedford Springs Resort and Skytop Lodge.

The conference wrapped up Saturday morning with breakfast and three additional CLE programs. The early morning sessions addressed the Judicial Conduct Board and “Sex with Clients.” The always-popular Ellen Freedman closed out Saturday’s programming with her law practice management program. We also held our CCBL Executive Committee business meeting, where I was proud to pass the gavel to our next leader, Bill Burke.

William L.J. Burke engages in the general practice of law at Burke & Burke Law Office in Shenandoah, Schuylkill



Northampton Bar Association was among the 24 county bar associations recognized for sponsoring projects that improve the legal profession, justice system and community.

County, serves as solicitor for the Schuylkill County Recorder of Deeds Office and is a staff attorney for the Office of Senior Services of Schuylkill County. He is a past president of the Schuylkill County Bar Association and a member of the SCBA board of directors and the Judicial Committee. His PBA services include the House of Delegates, Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee and CCBL. Bill received his Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from the University of Scranton and his Juris Doctor from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan.

As a final note, we would not have been able to put this conference together without the hard work of the CCBL executive committee members, PBA staff, and the generosity of our sponsors. On behalf



Keynote speaker Dr. G. Terry Madonna discussed the state of politics in Pennsylvania and the nation.

of the entire CCBL executive committee, I would like to thank USI Affinity, the PA Association of Bar Executives, Dauphin County Bar Association, Pennsylvania Court Reporters Association, Omni Bedford Springs Resort, Skytop Lodge, Conestoga Title Insurance Co., Crystal Springs Resort, Hershey Resorts, Intel-

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2016 CCBL

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Linx, the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa & Marina, and John-DanielBriggs.com Judicial Portraiture.

As I passed the gavel to Bill, I look forward to his vision and ambition as he leads CCBL and coordinates an excellent conference for 2017. Please be sure to mark your calendars and plan to join us back in State College for the 51th annual conference on Feb. 23 – 25, 2017. I'll see you there!



Above: Luncheon and awards presentation, featuring keynote speaker Terry Madonna.



Click [here](#) to see more CCBL photos.

Left: The PBA Young Lawyers Division business meeting

THE Magic OF CCBL



Local Bar Associations Receive Awards from the PBA

The Pennsylvania Bar Association presented County Bar Recognition Awards during the 50th Annual Seminar of the Conference of County Bar Leaders, Feb. 25 – 27, at the Nittany Lion Inn, State College. Twenty-four county bar associations in Pennsylvania were honored this year for sponsoring projects that improve the legal profession, justice system and community. The awards, which are non-competitive in nature, are presented annually by the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

“Numerous projects and programs aimed at improving communities and the legal profession are successfully

“Numerous projects and programs aimed at improving communities and the legal profession are successfully completed each year thanks to the voluntary efforts of lawyers involved in local bar associations.”

completed each year thanks to the voluntary efforts of lawyers involved in local bar associations,” said William H. Pugh V, PBA president.

“We are proud to highlight their good works and hope this recognition inspires more legal professionals to participate in future efforts.”

The Conference of County Bar Leaders, whose membership includes leaders from county bar associations throughout the state and from the Pennsylvania Bar Association, organizes a yearly educational conference focusing on the exchange of innovative bar association projects and ideas and on the development of mutually-beneficial relationships among bar leaders that improve the legal profession.

The following county bar associations received awards for notable projects and programs:

- **Allegheny County Bar Association:** ACBA Planning Ahead Guide
- **Beaver County Bar Association:** Children and Youth Services Holiday Drive and Best Friends’ Spring Jamboree “Fiesta” Picnic
- **Berks County Bar Association:** Community Workshops
- **Bucks County Bar Association:** Women Lawyers Division Clothing Drive for CareerLink
- **Centre County Bar Association:** Centre County Law Day
- **Chester County Bar Association:** Advocacy Academy and 1L Diverse Law Student Summer Program
- **Cumberland County Bar Association:** Adopt-a-Family 2015 and Law Day: Magna Carta
- **Dauphin County Bar Association:** Lawyers for the Arts
- **Delaware County Bar Association:** Mentoring Program
- **Erie County Bar Association:** The Senior Law Project and Judicial Elections Education
- **Franklin County Bar Association:** YLD Wills for Heroes and YLD Law Day Mock Trial
- **Lackawanna Bar Association:** 125th Year Anniversary
- **Lancaster Bar Association:** Enhanced Member Benefits Program
- **Lebanon County Bar Association:** “Hire a Local Lawyer” Campaign
- **Lycoming Law Association:** Wills for Heroes, Law Day and Mock Trial Competition, and Angel Tree Project
- **Monroe County Bar Association:** Monroe County Bar Association Celebrates 100 Years! and MCBA Funds the Community
- **Montgomery Bar Association:** Informed Choices 2015, Keystone Leadership Celebration and Bar Guide Program
- **Northampton County Bar Association:** Positive Conflict Resolution and Mediation Skills Program for Easton Middle School
- **Pike County Bar Association:** Wills for Heroes and “All Star” Potpourri CLE
- **Schuylkill County Bar Association:** Bench-Bar Conference, 100th Anniversary Celebration and Superior Court Session
- **Washington County Bar Association:** Shred Day and City Mission Project
- **Westmoreland Bar Association:** Strategic Plan, Drug Court and IrvTalks
- **Wilkes-Barre Law & Library Association:** After the Child Abuse Report: What You Need to Know – A Medical/Legal Event, 250th Anniversary of Thomas Jefferson Passing the Bar: A Public Legal Seminar and CLE Program, and Travel CLE Committee
- **York County Bar Association:** Wills for Heroes, Impact Grants, Legal Aid and Scholarships, and Legal Aid Community Summit



PBA Bar Leadership Institute

The PBA Bar Leadership Institute provides **emerging leaders**, representing a broad cross-section of the **diversity of the PBA membership**, with an opportunity to **learn about the PBA** while actively participating in key meetings. Participation in the Bar Leadership Institute provides numerous opportunities to **network with PBA members and leadership** and helps **build lasting relationships** that will serve as an invaluable resource for future success.

The Bar Leadership Institute **looks to the future** of the organization by **developing well-informed, committed leaders** who will serve the PBA for many years to come. It familiarizes participants with the day-to-day operation of the association, provides a foundation on **governance and policy issues** and introduces the participants to PBA staff and resources.

If you know a young leader reach out and **encourage him or her** to apply.

If you are a young leader, **visit the PBA website** for details and to **complete an application**.



Applications for the 2016-2017 PBA BLI class are due May 13, 2016.

Everything you need is on the website:

www.pabar.org/bli.asp

Francis J. O'Rourke of Palmyra Receives Bar Association Professional Excellence Award

The Conference of County Bar Leaders (CCBL) of the Pennsylvania Bar Association honored Francis J. O'Rourke, deputy executive director of the PBA, with its 19th annual Arthur J. Birdsall Award. The award was presented to O'Rourke during the 50th CCBL Conference, Feb. 25-27, in State College.

The award is presented to a bar executive who demonstrates professional excellence, who is committed to the success of his or her bar association and who significantly enhances the stature of his or her bar association. The award is named in honor of Arthur J. Birdsall, the PBA's county bar services director who retired after nearly 40 years of support to local bar associations.

O'Rourke was selected for the award for his leadership and service to the PBA and the Pennsylvania



Francis S. O'Rourke and PABE President Wendy C. Leeper, Chester County Bar Association executive director.

Association of Bar

Executives (PABE), of which he serves as vice president.

During his 25 years on the PBA staff, O'Rourke has overseen the Committee and Sections, Communications, County Bar Services, Management Information Systems, Legislative, Member Services and Meetings departments.

According to his nomination, "He strives to make the association run smoothly by embracing technology and being open to new and improved processes. He does a great job providing updates and PBA communications to the bar executives. He is very involved with membership recruitment and retention programs and initiatives as he works with the PBA Membership Committee and supervises the staff responsible for all membership activity. He is the conduit between PBA and PABE for this as well."

O'Rourke also was recognized for his role in the planning of CCBL programming, conference logistics and the evaluation process. As a PABE officer, he has been instrumental in encouraging bar executives to participate in the CCBL. He is a state bar director on the board of the National Association of Bar Executives (NABE) and a past chair of the NABE Bylaws and Sponsorship committees.

A graduate of Lycoming College, he resides in Palmyra.

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PBA Annual Meeting

May 11-13, 2016

Hershey Lodge and
Convention Center

*The brochure and registration
form are now available
on the PBA website.*



www.pabar.org

Serving Those Who Served: Veteran Benefits, Programs and Legal Issues

Those interested in veterans' affairs are invited to attend a free conference on Friday, April 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Penn State Fayette in Swimmers Hall. Titled "Serving Those Who Served: Veteran Benefits, Programs and Legal Issues," the seminar will provide insight into benefits available to veterans. Attorneys and county veteran service specialists will sit as panelists to address current concerns for recent and not-so-recent veterans.

The program will kick-off with the viewing of the documentary "Journal To Normal" by Producer/Director JulieHera DeStefano, which recounts the service of women who have seen combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. Additional panelists include:

- Michele Vollmer, Esquire, Director of Penn State Law Veterans Legal Clinic,
- Keather Likins, Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist,
- Michael V. Quatrini, Esquire, Accredited Attorney for VA Compensation and Pension Matters,
- Kate Vozar, Fayette County Problem Solving Court Liaison, and
- David K. Trevaskis, Esquire, PBA Pro Bono Coordinator.

Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions of the panelists at the conclusion of the program.

Registration is available by calling the Westmoreland Bar Association at 724-834-6730. Attorneys can receive 3 CLE credits for a discounted rate of \$50. The event is sponsored by Penn State Fayette, Fayette County Bar Association and the Westmoreland Bar Association.

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Details and ticket order form at pabarfoundation.org.

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**Registration information
coming soon.**

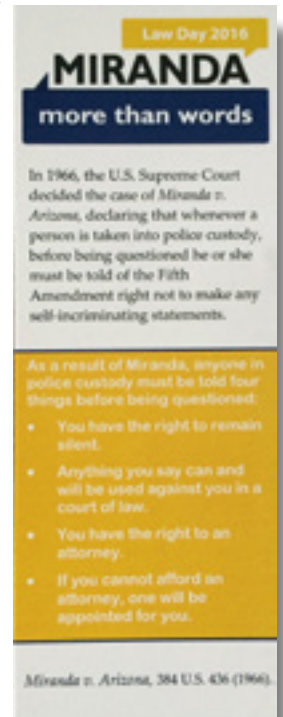


Law Day 2016: “Miranda: More than Words”

This year the PBA is celebrating its 16th year of Law Day activities. For 2016 the PBA will join the ABA in using the Law Day theme “Miranda: More than Words,” in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Miranda v. Arizona*.

The PBA and local bar associations across the state will observe Law Day during the month of May. The PBA invites all members to join the celebration. Lawyers and judges are encouraged to arrange for classroom visits and to use the PBA’s free law-related lesson plans and materials. Local bar associations may request free Law Day materials, including pocket U.S. Constitutions, Miranda bookmarks and gavel pencils to use in classroom visits or during other special Law Day events.

The PBA’s observation of Law Day is funded by the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation and coordinated by the PBA Law-Related Education Committee. For more Law Day resources, contact PBA Education/Special Projects Coordinator Susan Etter at 800-932-0311, ext. 2256, susan.etter@pabar.org or visit the [PBA Law Day web page](#).



Funding Opportunity and Foundations - Birdsall County Bar Impact Grants

Application Deadline: April 8, 2016

The Birdsall Impact Grant program seeks to assist county bar associations and foundations in the furtherance of charitable, educational or pro bono programs or projects that are consistent with the mission of the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation and succeed in making an immediate impact on the way a county bar operates in service to its members, its court and its community. [Click here for more information.](#)



Allegheny County

'Planning Ahead Guide' Available

What would happen to your active cases and client records if you were to pass away? Do you know what steps to take when the time comes to close your practice? What about closing the practice of another attorney who has died?

The ACBA answers those questions and more in its new publication: *Planning Ahead: A Guide to Protecting your Clients in the Event of Your Disability or Death*. The book – containing a workbook section and checklists – details the necessary steps, as required by the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct.

The guide is available to all attorneys; cost is \$20. Visit ACBA.org/ProductStore or call 412-402-6612.

ACBF Throws Red Tie Gala

The Allegheny County Bar Foundation threw its first-ever Red Tie Gala on March 12 to celebrate its 35 years as the “Heart of the Pittsburgh’s Legal Community” and to honor the volunteers who help the foundation carryout its important work.

More than 300 guests attended, most incorporating red into their wardrobe to celebrate the evening. Proceeds benefitted the ACBF. Incorporated in 1980, ACBF operates a variety of charitable, educational, pro bono and public service activities.

ACBA Publishes Themed Issue

The ACBA published its first-ever themed issue of the *Lawyers Journal* on March 18. The “Focus on Family Law” edition was widely successful, thanks in large part to strong participation from the ACBA Family Law Section.

The special edition of the journal included nearly 20 articles on an array of timely family law topics, along with the “regular” content readers have come to expect. The issue also generated additional advertising revenue, helping to keep dues low for members.

The *Lawyers Journal* is published every other week and distributed to all members of the ACBA.

Beaver County

Giving Library

A giving library has been added in the victim witness office at the courthouse. The library will be open to all children at the courthouse (whether they are there for custody, dependency or PFAs, etc.) The children are able to select a book to read while at the courthouse and take a book home with them as well. BCBA received book donations from the membership to help to supply the library.

BCBA Honors Members Who Achieved Membership Milestone

The Beaver County Bar Association hosted a dinner at The Club at Shadow Lakes on Nov. 5, 2015 to honor its 50-year members. Attorneys Charles F. Bowers Jr., Joseph J. Liberati and Alfred L. Steff Jr. were honored at the dinner for reaching this milestone, and each was presented with a crystal flame commemorating this remarkable achievement.

Chester County

During recent renovations of the Chester County Bar Association building, the original circa 1725 brass key to the original Chester County Courthouse was found within a box of historic documents. The key is now prominently displayed in the office. To celebrate this discovery, the Chester County Bar Foundation held a “Key Gala” fundraising event that generated more than \$50,000 for the bar foundation. The Foundation currently has a “fellow” program wherein attorneys contribute a certain amount in order to be designated



as a fellow. They are recognized on a glass wall in the building and in the membership directory. To expand on the “key” theme, we now offer the opportunity for current fellows to become “key fellows” by donating to the foundation at a higher level.

Cumberland County

Officials with Carlisle Works are teaming up with the Cumberland County Bar Association for a new program about criminal records. For any program that Carlisle Works puts on, the bar association will teach a class on the lifelong impact of a criminal record and through the CCBA Pro Bono Program will assist low-income workers with expunging their criminal records. These potential clients must qualify financially for the Pro Bono program. Carlisle Works programs are designed to further develop and implement workforce training programs that provide low-income community members with skills such as highway construction, brownfield assessment and cleanup, storm water infrastructure maintenance and housing renovation.

Erie County

The Erie County Bar Association Welcomes Michael Smerconish as Law Day Luncheon Keynote Speaker

The Erie County Bar Association’s annual Law Day Luncheon is Thursday, April 28 at the Bayfront Convention Center. The ECBA is proud to announce that this year’s keynote speaker is Michael A. Smerconish.

Michael Smerconish is an attorney, radio host, television host, newspaper columnist and author of five books, two of which were *New York Times* best sellers. Before turning to broadcasting as a full-time endeavor, Smerconish practiced law for 10 years with James E. Beasley, a legendary Philadelphia trial lawyer. Today, he is of counsel to the Philadelphia law

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On the Local Scene...

firm of Kline & Specter, but is most often recognized for his media endeavors, particularly *The Michael Smerconish Program*, weekdays on Sirius XM radio, and his television show, *Smerconish*, airing Saturdays on CNN.



Smerconish

In 2009, he became the first radio host to interview President Barack Obama live from the White House. The interview was televised

live on MSNBC, CNN and Fox News.

The timing of this year's Law Day Luncheon could not be better, especially in light of Michael Smerconish as keynote speaker. The luncheon will be held two days after the Pennsylvania Presidential Primary, and Smerconish is respected politically for being both connected and middle-of-the-road. His insight and comments following the primary are highly anticipated.

The Law Day Luncheon begins at noon on April 28. Before Smerconish's keynote, the Erie County Bar Association will be recognizing award recipients from its organization. The Liberty Bell Award is given annually at the luncheon for a non-attorney member of the community who has "strengthened the American system of freedom under law" through community service. The Pro Bono recognition is given to an ECBA member for his/her dedicated work on behalf of the civil legal needs of Erie's low-income community. The Erie County Bar Association also awards Chancellor of the Bar, which is an honorary position given to a member who has been in practice for over 30 years and who demonstrates numerous respected and characteristics important to ECBA members.



Law Day Supports Attorneys and Kids Together

The Erie County Bar Association's 13th Annual Law Day 5K is coming up on Saturday, April 30. The 5K is the second major event of the ECBA's Law Day festivities, the first being the Law Day Luncheon on Thursday, April 28 with keynote speaker, Michael Smerconish.

This year's Law Day 5K run/walk begins at 9:00 a.m. in front of the Erie

County Court House. The race benefits the Erie County Bar Association's Attorneys and Kids Together Program, which supports the educational needs of homeless students. A donation is made to the Erie Runners Club Scholarship Fund in appreciation of its race support.

Registration information is available at: eriebar.com. Participants who pre-register by April 15 are guaranteed a Law Day 5K race shirt.



Congrats to McDowell High School of Erie, which represented the northeastern area of PA Mock Trial Finals.



Congratulations to Winners and Participants of 2016 Mock Trials

The Erie County Bar Association would like to thank and congratulate everyone who was involved in this year's Mock Trial Competitions. Sixteen teams from Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango and Warren County Schools, who had been practicing since the beginning of the school year, traveled to the Erie County Courthouse between Jan. 26 and Jan. 28 for the initial round of trials. Members of the ECBA volunteered to serve as judges and jurors throughout the competitions and into playoffs. The final matchup was a close playoff between a team from Meadville Area Senior High School (Crawford County) and one from McDowell High School (Erie County). Congratulations to the McDowell students, who will represent our district in the state Mock Trials competition!

Lebanon County

Several classes of fourth grade students spent a morning touring the Lebanon County Courthouse, hosted by the Lebanon County Bar Association. The students observed part of Misc. criminal court and talked with a county judge, then toured the Emergency Management Agency, the Sheriff's Department and the city police station.

Past President Elizabeth Judd and Executive Director Susan Wolf participated in a panel discussion at the Conference of County Legal Journals, presenting some of the challenges and rewards of a small bar association.

Lycoming County

LLA Foundation Presents \$9,000 in Grants to the Lycoming County Historical Society

On March 8, 2016 the Lycoming Law Association Foundation (LLA Foundation) granted \$1,500 to the Lycoming County Historical Society for the



Robert Cronin, president of the LLA and a board member of the LLA Foundation, presented the check to Gary W. Parks, executive director of the Thomas T. Taber Museum along with Tammy A. Weber, chairperson of the LLA Community Outreach Committee and LLA Executive Director Michele S. Frey.

abstracting of legal documents related to Lycoming County. Last year, the LLA Foundation granted \$7,500 toward this same project. The grant money given by the LLA Foundation last year helped to fund the interpretation, preservation and archival of 4,000 historic legal documents at the Thomas T. Taber Museum. The monies presented this year will be used to continue this project.

The collection of legal documents span the 18th through the early 20th centuries. The Historical Society has used the funding to hire someone with a familiarity in reading and deciphering these documents. The 4,000 documents that have been abstracted are now readily available and usable by researchers and the public.

The contents of these diverse documents include land disputes, the disso-

lution of unsuccessful business ventures, divorces and writs of execution. Good historical and genealogical information can be derived from the documents.

LLA Donates \$500 to Saint Anthony's Center

Every year, at the annual banquet, the LLA honors those of its membership who undertook pro bono work in the previous year. In years past the LLA Legal Services for the Indigent Committee would award a thank-you gift (of nominal value) to each attorney to commemorate the efforts of the attorney on behalf of the poor.

This year, as in the recent past, the LLA is making a donation to benefit a worthwhile charity, in the name of the pro bono lawyers, instead of purchasing thank-you gifts.



Robert Cronin, president of the LLA, along with John Pietrovito, chair of the Legal Services for the Indigent Committee and Michele S. Frey, the LLA executive director, presented the check to Charmaine Shockloss, of St. Anthony's Center's board of directors.



On the Local Scene...

This year, \$500 was donated to St. Anthony's Center, a Williamsport organization that feeds, clothes and otherwise serves needy families in the city. The check was accepted by Charmaine Shockloss, a member of the board of St. Anthony's Center.

The attorneys of the LLA, in whose name the donation was given, are pleased to support the worthy efforts of St. Anthony's Center.

Montgomery County

Young Lawyers Lend a Hand on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

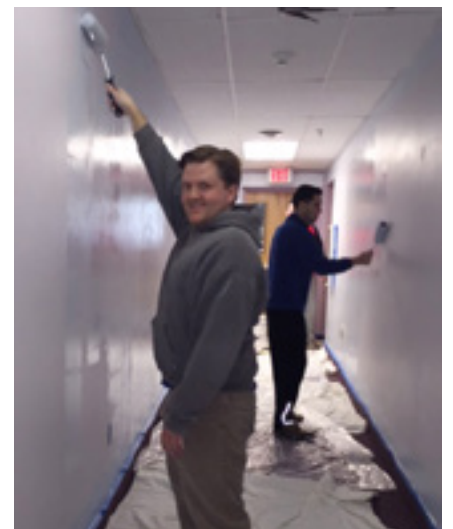
For the past three years, the MBA's Young Lawyers Section has honored the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by participating in the National Day of Service. This year, the Young Lawyers Section partnered with the MBA's Diversity Committee and volunteered their time at the Inter-Faith Housing Alliance (I-FHA) in Ambler, Pa. More than 25 members, friends and family answered the call to service and completed three large painting projects at I-FHA's facility. I-FHA Executive Director Marsha Eichelberger was on hand and remarked, "We were lucky to have so many members of the MBA spend their time with us. They were very



Montgomery County Young Lawyers volunteered at the Inter-Faith Housing Alliance on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

energetic and committed to the project. They spackled and sanded, wiped down all the walls, taped and painted."

The work performed by volunteers was much appreciated by the I-FHA. Eichelberger notes, "Their support allows Inter-Faith to commit more of our limited resources to our families instead of building and maintenance costs." The I-FHA provides emergency and transitional shelter for families with children, emergency food relief and intensive case management and supportive services. The organization relies on the generosity of many volunteers to meet its mission of "enabling families at risk to remain in or return to independent living."





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April 8-10

Civil Litigation Section Retreat
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May 4

**Civil Litigation Section
Pittsburgh Regional Dinner**
The Duquesne Club, Pittsburgh

May 11-12

PBA Annual Meeting (May 11-12)
**Women in the Profession
Annual Conference (May 11)**
Hershey Lodge, Hershey

May 18

**Civil Litigation Section
Philadelphia Regional Dinner**
The Logan, Philadelphia

June 2-3

Criminal Law Symposium
Hilton Harrisburg, Harrisburg

July 27-29

PBA YLD Summer Meeting
Toftrees Resort & Conference Center,
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**June 15 is the copy deadline
for the Summer 2016 issue of
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**Send your news for
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