

# The COUNTY LINE



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## An update on attendance, participation in statewide 'Get Help Now' program

Scores of volunteer lawyers from local bar associations and financial professionals continue to give of their time and talent throughout the commonwealth as part of the "Get Help Now, Pennsylvania" effort spearheaded by Gov. Edward G. Rendell and First Lady Judge Marjorie O. Rendell.

At press time, more than 410 lawyers and 235 banking and financial volunteers had staffed 19 help desk locations. They have helped nearly 600 Pennsylvania residents in need of resource information and assistance with financial problems.

And a few help desk locations that initially experienced low consumer attendance have turned their numbers around.

For instance, Westmoreland Bar Association Executive Director Diane Krivoniak made a phone call to the editor of her local newspaper, the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, which eventually led to a higher citizen turnout.

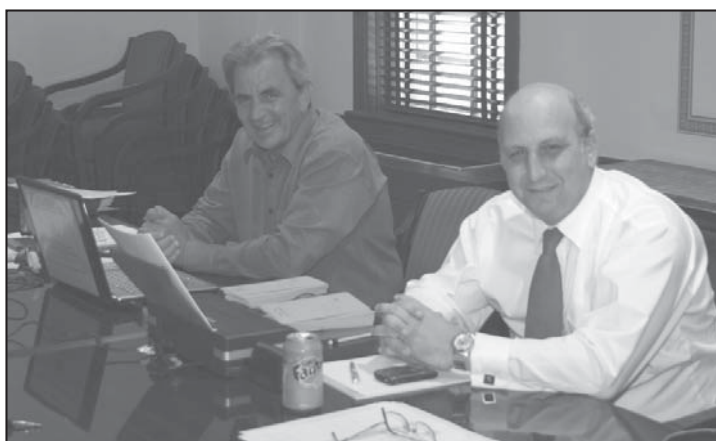
"In mid-July, I ended up calling the editor of the *Trib* to seek their coverage of this important program. Previously, I had sent out two separate press releases but had received no mention of 'Get Help Now' in the paper.

"Once the *Trib* realized there was a human interest story, they became quite interested. They ended up contacting Washington, Allegheny and Beaver County bar associations to do a regional story on this state-run program," she said.

"An article on the 'Get Help Now' program ran in early August in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, and the response since that time has been remarkable," Krivoniak said.

Now, the help desk averages about 11 to 13 clients each session.

"Many consumers are calling, but a good number are also showing up at the



*John D. Sheridan of Serratelli, Schiffman, Brown & Calhoun P.C., Harrisburg, and Gary A. Mastrangelo, Palmyra manager, Metro Bank, are pictured at the Dauphin County Bar Association help desk.*

bar office to speak personally to financial and legal representatives," Krivoniak said. "The attorneys and the banking professionals are much happier to be able to offer real solutions to those who are seeking help."

This initiative is doing more than just providing assistance to those in need; it's also giving a renewed sense of community to its volunteers.

One volunteer, speaking about his experience at a "Get Help Now" site, said, "Certainly consumers who have visited with our volunteers bring a host of problems or even one that is overwhelming. Recommendations and proper contacts for resources were provided, but I believe the most important remedy we gave was simply hope. Handshakes and 'thank you' have been shared many times these past weeks, but when one citizen's thanks was a hug, it hit home and meant a lot to me and our group."

Under the "Get Help Now" initiative, volunteers have been providing assistance to consumers on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 6 p.m. throughout the summer.

Now, after two months of operation and with the program winding down, some

of the help desk locations have shortened their hours of operation, and one location, Elk County, has closed as result of lower than anticipated response from citizens.

An updated list of the locations and hours is available on the PBA Web site and page 2 of this newsletter. Lawyers wishing to volunteer should contact PBA Education and Special Projects Coordinator Susan Etter at 1-800-932-0311, ext. 2256, or via e-mail at [susan.etter@pabar.org](mailto:susan.etter@pabar.org).

Rendell announced the "Get Help Now" initiative during a statewide webcast on June 22, saying he had enlisted lawyers, banking and mortgage professionals, and financial analysts knowledgeable in the areas of finance, credit and/or bankruptcy to serve on help desks in many of the county bar association offices.

"President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama have asked all governors and first ladies to join them in a service initiative designed to help our fellow citizens in need," Rendell said at the time.

PBA President Clifford E. Haines said, "When the governor and the first lady called

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## 'Get Help Now, Pennsylvania' help desk locations

Help desks staffed by volunteer lawyers and financial professionals are open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1 to 6 p.m., through Sept. 11. Pennsylvanians experiencing financial difficulties because of the economic downturn are invited to visit the help desk nearest them. For more information, call 1-888-799-4557.



### **Allegheny County**

Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Pittsburgh  
Heinz 57 Center  
339 6th Ave.  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222

Carlisle, Pa. 17013

\*This help desk will be open only on Sept. 10, from 4 to 8 p.m.

### **Beaver County**

Beaver County Bar Association  
788 Turnpike St.  
Beaver, Pa. 15009-2132

### **Dauphin County**

Dauphin County Bar Association  
213 N. Front St.  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17101

### **Bedford County**

Heartland Hall  
5564 Business 220  
Bedford, Pa. 15522

### **Erie County\***

Erie County Bar Association  
302 W. 9th St.  
Erie, Pa. 16502

\*This help desk is open from 1 to 4 p.m.

### **Berks County\***

Berks County Bar Association  
544 Court St.  
Reading, Pa. 19603-1058  
\*Note: On Sept. 10, the help desk will be open from 1 to 3 p.m.

### **Lackawanna County\***

Lackawanna Bar Association  
338 N. Washington Ave., Floor 3  
Scranton, Pa. 18503-1502

\*This help desk is open from 1 to 5 p.m.

### **Blair County**

Continuing Education and Training  
Devorris Downtown Center  
1431 12th Ave.  
Altoona, Pa. 16601

### **Lancaster County**

Lancaster Bar Association  
28 E. Orange St.  
Lancaster, Pa. 17602

### **Bucks County\***

Bucks County Bar Association  
135 E. State St.  
Doylestown, Pa. 18901  
\*This help desk is open from 1 to 5 p.m.

### **Lycoming County\***

Lycoming Law Association  
Penn Tower  
25 W. Third St., Suite 601  
Williamsport, Pa. 17701  
\*This help desk is open from 1 to 5 p.m.

### **Butler County**

Butler County Bar Association  
201 S. Main St., Suite 101  
Butler, Pa. 16001

### **Philadelphia County**

Drexel University  
Earle Mack School of Law  
3320 Market St., Suite 432  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19104

### **Centre County**

Centre County Bar Association  
232 Match Factory Place  
Bellefonte, Pa. 16823

### **Westmoreland County**

Westmoreland Bar Association  
129 N. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Greensburg, Pa. 15601

### **Chester County**

Chester County Bar Association  
15 W. Gay St., Floor 2  
West Chester, Pa. 19380

### **Washington County\***

George Washington Hotel  
82 S. Main St.  
Washington, Pa. 15301  
\*This help desk is open from 1 to 5:30 p.m.

### **Cumberland County\***

Cumberland County Bar Association  
32 S. Bedford St.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Next year's CCBL Annual Conference set for Lancaster

By Samuel T. Cooper III, president, CCBL

The CCBL Executive Committee attended a planning retreat at the Lancaster Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in June. The well-appointed facilities are gorgeous and will provide an excellent location for the 2010 CCBL Annual Conference.

PBA County Bar Services Director Michelle Shuker, PBA Meetings Manager Janell Klein and I toured the hotel and center, and we are sure that this new venue will provide excellent educational, vendor and socializing space for our conference.

The committee agreed that the Friday evening casino night has been successful in bringing attendees together socially; so, we are planning another such night for next year's conference. We also agreed that since the paid speaker was well-received on the Friday morning of this year's conference, we would again explore speakers to kick off that day at next year's conference.

There will again be a theme, but we are keeping it a secret until the Board of Governors Meeting in December. Look for more details then!

Please mark your calendars and budget for next year's conference: Lancaster Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, Feb. 25-27, 2010. It is shaping up to be one of the best yet! ■

## An update on 'Get Help Now' program

(Continued from Page 1)

upon the PBA to be the lead partner in this historic initiative, I knew that Pennsylvania's lawyers would step up to the plate. Lawyers are in the business of helping people, and we are a profession that believes in pro bono service and puts its beliefs into action. I was heartened by the enthusiastic response we have received from our PBA and local bar association leaders and the many lawyer-volunteers who are giving valuable time to such a valuable cause."

"Get Help Now, Pennsylvania" is a collaborative effort of the PBA and local bar associations, the Pennsylvania Bankers Association, the Pennsylvania Credit Union Association, the Pennsylvania Association of Community Bankers, the Mortgage Bankers Association of Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Association of Mortgage Brokers, the Pennsylvania Financial Services Association, the Office of the First Lady and the Pennsylvania Department of Banking. ■

# Minority Bar Committee's Diversity Summit is Oct. 29

By Karen J. Vaughn, co-chair,  
Minority Bar Committee's Diversity  
Summit Subcommittee

What new challenges are lawyers across the commonwealth facing as a result of the economic downturn? How are initiatives to promote diversity and inclusion in the legal profession faring in the midst of this turmoil? These are some of the issues that will be addressed during the PBA Minority Bar Committee's annual Diversity Summit, set for Thursday, Oct. 29, at the Lancaster County Convention Center.

Now in its fourth year, the Diversity Summit's mission is to foster statewide dialogue about diversity and inclusion in all sectors of the legal community, as well as to encourage collaboration and an exchange of best practices among organizations involved in diversity efforts. This year's

theme is "Banking on Diversity in Tough Economic Times." This all-day event (with five hours of CLE credit available) will open with keynote remarks by Temple University Beasley School of Law professor David Kairys, a distinguished academician and former civil rights lawyer. Kairys will focus on the ever-evolving state of civil rights law.

A series of thought-provoking panel discussions will follow. Sam Cooper, president of the Conference of County Bar Leaders (CCBL), will moderate one panel composed of representatives from county bars from different parts of the state. Sharon Lopez, an active member of the Lancaster Bar Association, will bring together the deans of Widener, Drexel and the University of Pittsburgh law schools to address the issue of diversity in law schools. Carl Cooper, a Pittsburgh-based law firm consultant, and Tyrone Powell

of the Dauphin County Bar Association, are taking the summit to new heights by moderating panels through which law firm managing partners and key leaders will share their perspectives about diversity and inclusion.

Rhodia Thomas, executive director of Mid Penn Legal Services; Randle Haley of Philadelphia; and Beverly Rampaul, Minority Bar Committee chair, will moderate panels representing, respectively, diversity efforts in the public interest community, state government and minority bar associations and committees. Also, ample time has been built into the agenda for audience questions.

I'm honored to serve as co-chair of this year's Diversity Summit with Rhodia Thomas. We invite you to join the statewide dialogue about diversity and inclusion. To register, please e-mail Louann Bell at [louann.bell@pabar.org](mailto:louann.bell@pabar.org). ■

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## YLD caravans offer chance to interact, network

By Timothy S. Burns, PBA YLD chair

The members of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division (PBA YLD) have been busy this summer with caravans held in several counties throughout the state.

The goal of the caravans is to allow YLD members to interact and network with other young attorneys and judges in a social setting.

The following are highlights of a few of this summer's caravans:

### ZONE 11

The PBA YLD Zone 11 held its caravan at the Tussey Mountain Amphitheatre near State College on Thursday, July 30, during Tussey Mountain's Wing Fest. Attendees enjoyed live music, and the PBA YLD provided free food and drinks, including the variety of delicious wings being served by The Down Under Steak House at Toftrees, 797 Lounge and Prospector's. A number of Centre County attorneys, along with their spouses, turned out to enjoy the event. The caravan was organized by Amanda Seelye, YLD Zone 11 chair. Lisa Woodburn, YLD chair-elect, also joined in the festivities.

### ZONE 8

Zone 8 held its caravan on Friday,

Aug. 14, at the Blair County Ballpark. The event included a picnic dinner, followed by an Altoona Curve (the AA minor league affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates) baseball game. In addition to members of the Blair County Bar Association and other Zone 8 young lawyers, YLD Executive Council members Hope Guy and Jacob Gurwitz, PBA Zone 8 Governor Mary Schellhammer and I attended the event.

### ZONE 2

**Steak & Beer Baseball Day:** This Zone 2 caravan for young lawyers was held from 2 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 29, in Reading, with steak and beer served beginning at 2 p.m. The event featured a 6:30 p.m. Reading Phillies baseball game, with a fireworks show after the game. Although the event was free, a \$5 per person donation to a local charity was suggested.

### ZONE 5

**Oktoberfest:** This Zone 5 caravan event is hosted by the YLD of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association and co-sponsored by the PBA YLD. Oktoberfest – featuring German and domestic beer, wine, top-shelf cocktails, traditional German food and appetizers – will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 24, on the patio

at the Arena Bar and Grill, 380 Coal St., Wilkes-Barre. Commemorative beer mugs will be given to the first 60 people.

All members of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association, judges and magisterial district justices, the officers and executive committee members of the PBA and its YLD, as well as members of the YLDs of Lackawanna, Wayne, Wyoming/Sullivan, Susquehanna, Pike and Monroe counties, are invited to attend with a guest. Charge for YLD members is \$10 per person or \$17 per couple. The cost to other members of WB-LLA and their guests will be \$15 per person. For more information, contact YLD President Jarrod Tranguch at 570-578-6719 or [jtranguch@gmail.com](mailto:jtranguch@gmail.com) or YLD Vice President Kevin Grebas at 570-822-6919 or [kgrebas@paelderlaw.com](mailto:kgrebas@paelderlaw.com).

These caravans help in building camaraderie and friendships across the state, which is one of the ultimate goals of the PBA YLD. For more information on how you can get involved, or to learn what caravan may be coming to your county, please contact your local YLD Zone chairs. Contact information can be found on the PBA Web site at <http://www.pabar.org/pdf/yldofficers.pdf>. ■

the county line





# On the *Local Scene...*

## **Beaver**

### **Law Day**

The Beaver County Bar Association celebrated Law Day 2009 on May 1 in the Beaver County Courthouse with the theme, "By the People, For the People."

Members from the bench and bar attended, along with county officials, local legislators, the Beaver Area High School (first place) and New Brighton Area High School (second place) Mock Trial teams, the YLD Civic Appreciation Award recipient, BCBA's Law Day poster and essay contest winners and honored guests.

A reception was held for more than 100 people at the bar association immediately following the ceremony.

### **Serving in soup kitchen**

The Beaver County Bar Association's Charitable Giving and Fundraising Committee served Easter dinner to individuals at the Beaver Falls Soup Kitchen on April 12 to allow regular crew members could have the holiday off. A second work day was held on May 1. In addition, the committee made a financial contribution to the soup kitchen.

This project was part of the committee's ongoing efforts to provide assistance to local organizations who work to improve the quality of life of Beaver County residents.

### **Women in the Law 'Race for the Cure'**

The Beaver County Bar Association's Women in the Law Committee organized a team for the 17th annual Susan G. Komen Pittsburgh Race for the Cure on May 10.

Proceeds from this event help provide funding for breast cancer education, screening and treatment programs.

### **'Stepping Out'**

Beaver County Bar Association members visited 12 out of the 16 Beaver County high schools this spring to present the 14th annual "Stepping Out" program.

More than 1,700 high school seniors received the "Stepping Out" booklet that details various areas of the law, including consumer credit, civil litigation, voting, jury service and others. Voter registration forms and DUI and Consequences of Underage Drinking statute fliers were

distributed to each senior, and an open question-and-answer period was held with the visiting attorney.

### **YLD award**

Attorney Garen Fedeles presented the 2009 Beaver County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Civic Appreciation Award to Arnaldo Bozza of Conway on May 1. This award recognizes an individual who has made vital contributions to the community. Bozza was honored for his work on behalf of the Conway Civil Commission, the Conway veteran's memorial and Little League Baseball.

The Young Lawyers Division also hosted a Mix 'n' Meet luncheon on April 27 at the bar association building. Twenty-seven bar members attended to discuss criminal law. The monthly luncheon meetings are held to give younger attorneys an opportunity to meet with more experienced members of the bar to discuss topics of interest to the legal profession.

## **Berks**

### **Speed networking**

The Berks County Bar Association hosted a speed networking event in May for almost 40 members, evenly split between members of Generation Y and the baby boomer generation. Based on the concept of speed dating, members exchanged information about each other at three-minute intervals.

A reception was then held to further the "bonding." Two more such events are planned for this year. A conscious effort is being made to invite a cross-section of the generations so that members get to know each other.

### **Bar Foundation distributes books**

As part of its annual "Book 'Em" project, the Berks County Bar Foundation has again given a book to each student in the 65 kindergarten classrooms of the Reading School District.

Almost 1,500 copies of "Biscuit Goes to the City" were distributed after a member or friend of the legal community read it to the class. For many of the children, it was the first book they could call their own.

## **Bucks**

### **Judicial candidates forum**

The Bucks County Bar Association held a forum for judicial candidates at the bar association headquarters on April 1. At the event, attended by five of the seven hopefuls, candidates made a short speech and then answered questions from the audience.

## **Chester**

### **Going 'green'**

The Chester County Bar Association created a task force, headed by Lisa Comber-Hall, to undertake the project of turning its offices and the legal community into a more "green" community. Seminars provide attorneys with information and suggestions on how to make their offices more environmentally-friendly.

A few of the personal computers, printers, cell phones and chargers donated during the association's Earth Day recycling drive were in good enough working order that they will be donated to local organizations that the bar association currently supports.

### **Local attorneys give blood**

Twenty-seven attorneys took part in the Chester County Bar Association's blood drive for the Red Cross.

## **Cumberland**

### **Free film showing**

The Cumberland County Bar Association hosted 200 residents and students for a free viewing of the classic film "To Kill a Mockingbird" at the Carlisle Theatre on May 11.

### **Book donations**

In an effort to mark 2009 as the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth, the Cumberland County Bar Association purchased 95 copies of the children's book, "Abe's Honest Words, the Life of Abraham Lincoln," by Doreen Rappaport and illustrated by Kadir Nelson. Each public and private elementary school library within the county, as well as the eight Cumberland County Library branches, will be presented copies.

# On the *Local Scene*...



YLD members have arranged to be guest readers, sharing the book in classrooms in the Carlisle Area School District. Every elementary student received a Law Day pencil. CCBA members will lead Lamberton Middle School's fifth-grade class (49 students) in Carlisle in a discussion of the Gettysburg Address using ABA lesson plans.

## Dauphin

### Bench/Bar conference

The 2009 Dauphin County Bar Association Biennial Bench/Bar Conference was conducted at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge, Md., on April 17-19, and featured a CLE program on trial tactics, a presentation on court reorganization, a "best practices" presentation by Dauphin County Common Pleas Court judges, and a DVD dinner skit by the "Not Ready for Front Street Players."

### Law Day activities

The Dauphin County Bar Association admitted 22 new members at its annual Law Day breakfast, which featured the presentation of the 2009 DCBA Liberty Bell Award to Robert A. Martin, police chief of Susquehanna Township, and a presentation by former PBA President C. Dale McClain of a 50-year membership recognition card and certificate to Donald J. Murphy.

During Law Week, 28 lawyers volunteered for the "Ask A Lawyer" program at the Strawberry Square shopping and office complex and spoke with more than 300 people who inquired about a wide range of legal issues.

### Volleyball League

The 2009 DCBA Volleyball League, sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section, began on May 21, with 324 participants competing on 23 teams over a 12-week season. This is one of the most popular bar association social activities of the year.

### CAMP 1L summer intern program

The Capital Area Managing Partners (CAMP) Diversity Initiative launched its fourth annual 1L Summer Intern Program,

hiring 13 first-year law students for eight-week internships at law firms and corporate legal departments in Harrisburg and Lancaster.

Each week of the program features a presentation describing the practical aspects of practicing law in different substantive areas. The program, extending from June 1 to July 24, also includes several group social events and has evolved into a partnership between the Dauphin County and Lancaster Bar associations.

## Delaware

### Updated Elder Law Handbook

The Delaware County Bar Association Elder Law Committee and COSA (Delaware County Services for the Aging) have updated the Delaware County Elder Law Handbook. The handbook is made available in print and of the Web sites of both organizations.

## Fayette

### New member

The Fayette County Bar Association welcomed new member William M. Martin, of Uniontown, in a ceremony before Judge John F. Wagner Jr.

## Franklin

### Lawyers & Lawmakers Breakfast

The Franklin County Bar Association held its sixth annual Lawyers & Lawmakers breakfast on March 13 at the bar office in Chambersburg. Bar members and local legislators discussed bills of interest, along with topics such as funding for the courts and legal services and the need for the position of jury commissioner. FCBA member Richard Alloway is the new state senator from Franklin County.

### YLD breakfast with judicial candidates

The Young Lawyers Division of the Franklin County Bar Association hosted the four candidates for the local court of common pleas at a breakfast April 13 at the bar office in Chambersburg.

The informal forum's purpose was twofold: to better acquaint YLD members with the candidates and to give them a chance to talk about their involvement in the bar and

how they hope to relate to the two future judges.

## 'President Lincoln' at Law Day

James Getty, a resident of Gettysburg who is known nationally for his portrayal of Abraham Lincoln, was the featured speaker at the Franklin County Bar Association's annual Law Day celebration, held April 24 at the county courthouse in Chambersburg. Getty described to the nearly 200 middle-school and junior-high students in attendance how Lincoln's work and philosophy as a lawyer informed his decision-making as the 16th president. Members of the Young Lawyers Division, which plans and carries out FCBA's Law Day activities, put on a mock criminal trial before Getty's talk, with students serving as the jury.

## Lancaster

### LBA bestows awards

The Lancaster Bar Association honored several members at its annual dinner on May 7.

President Jim Thomas recognized Mike Winters for his organization of the Law Suits Project. More than 60 business suits were donated by LBA members to the clothing bank operated by the Lancaster County Council of Churches. Mike received the 2009 President's Award for his efforts.

Dave Greer, chair of the Awards Committee, presented the 2009 LBA Service Award to Laura Tallarico for her work in rejuvenating the Young Lawyers Section and helping to develop a series of CLE seminars that blended learning and sociability at Annie Bailey's Pub and Iron Hill Brewery.

Caroline Hoffer received the 2009 LBA Achievement Award for her many contributions to the LBA and the community. She was particularly instrumental, as chair of the LBA Foundation Board, in the completion of the most recent Custody Attorney Campaign, bringing in sufficient funding to support a full-time attorney at MidPenn Legal Services to handle custody cases for a second three-year period.

*(Continued on Page 6)*

*the county line*



# On the *Local Scene*...

(Continued from Page 5)

Penn Glazier was this year's Louise Herr Award recipient. This award recognizes a long-standing bar member who is committed to pro bono service, exhibits a strong sense of values, demonstrates an enthusiasm for accepting new challenges with grace and good humor, shows a love and respect for the law, and meets these criteria with integrity, compassion and thoughtfulness of others.

## Lawrence

### Law Day essay contest

The Lawrence County Bar Association held a Law Day essay contest. The legal issue selected is currently before the U.S. Supreme Court cited *United States Supreme Court, Citizens United, Petitioner, v. Federal Election Commission*, No. 08-205. The issue is described as "whether or not 'Hillary: the Movie' represents campaign advocacy forbidden by McCain-Feingold."

## Lebanon

### Senior judge feted

More than 100 Lebanon County Bar Association members and guests honored Senior Judge Robert J. Eby at a retirement roast hosted by the association in May.

Several attorneys, judges and President Judge John C. Tylwalk shared their personal experiences with the judge. Longtime friend Robert Hoffman was master of ceremonies for the evening. Eby, who is a big fan of any Pittsburgh sports team, was presented with an autographed picture of his favorite baseball player, Bill Mazeroski, from Game 7 of the 1960 World Series.

Eby retired after 27 years on the bench, including 13 years as president judge. He will continue on the bench as senior judge of the court of common pleas.

### Law Day activities

To commemorate the Lebanon County Bar Association's Law Day program, four people became U.S. citizens at naturalization ceremonies held in the Lebanon County Municipal Building on May 2. In addition, LCBA President Kenneth Sandoe inducted two attorneys to practice before the Lebanon County Court

of Common Pleas.

Also, the LCBA hosted its third annual Law Day essay contest, which was open to all fourth- and fifth-grade students in the county. This year, the contest was extended to include the Law Exploring post. President Judge John C. Tylwalk presented \$500 savings bonds to Giulio Parente, a 12th-grade Law Post Explorer, and fourth-grader Maddie Moyer. Moyer's essay was selected from more than 80 essays sent in from around the county.

Other Law Day events included courthouse tours for several elementary and home-schooled students. Several attorneys, including retired Senior Judge Robert Eby, visited classrooms and spoke about the legal system.

### Berks/Lebanon golf match

The Lebanon County Bar Association recently hosted the annual Berks/Lebanon Bar golf match. Approximately 40 lawyers from the two bar associations put down their legal pads to enjoy a golf match, lunch and dinner at the Lebanon Country Club. The traveling trophy, fondly referred to as the "Winner's Cup," was won back by the Berks Bar Association. A rematch is scheduled for mid-September in Berks County.

### Modest Means in Lebanon County

The Lebanon County Bar Association continues its tradition of access to the legal system by incorporating a model program recommended by the Pennsylvania Bar Association task force to explore and develop recommendations regarding the delivery of legal services for people who do not qualify for subsidized legal services but lack the income to afford traditional

legal services.

Since mid-March, 14 members of the LCBA have registered and been referred for the Modest Means panel. In conjunction with Lebanon County MidPenn Legal Service, they have been assisting qualifying county residents of modest means to obtain legal representation on a reduced fee basis. Twenty referrals have been made in the areas of family law, bankruptcy, unemployment compensation and Social Security overpayment.

Lebanon was able to launch the program with a matching grant of \$250 provided by the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation. The funds, based on a one-time grant, were used to promote the program to the members of the association.

## Lehigh

### Liberty Bell Award

As the highlight of its observance of Law Day 2009, the Bar Association of Lehigh County presented its annual Liberty Bell Award at the association's annual Law Day luncheon on May 4.

Law Day Committee Chairwoman Nancy Conrad announced the 2009 award recipient was the Allentown Human Relations Commission, chosen by the committee in recognition of the group's work toward enforcement of civil rights laws and encouraged use of mediation services.

## Luzerne

### Grant to Junior Leadership

The Luzerne County Bar Association Charitable Foundation Inc. recently gave a \$1,000 donation grant to Junior Leadership Hazleton, a program for high school





# On the *Local Scene...*



Photo courtesy of Allentown Morning Call

Posing with "Abraham Lincoln" are (from left) Nicholas Butterfield, Liz Bradbury, Law Day Committee Chairwoman Nancy Conrad and Bar Association of Lehigh County President Ted Zeller.

students.

Junior Leadership is a leadership development and community awareness program for high school juniors. The program was established by Leadership Hazleton, an affiliate of the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce.

## Montgomery

### YouTube video contest

On the heels of last year's "Why Vote?" YouTube video contest, the Montgomery Bar Association has launched its second annual YouTube video contest: "There Ought to be a Law." The contest is open to all Pennsylvania residents, and the deadline for entries is Oct. 8. Cash prizes will again be awarded to winners and runners-up in two main categories: under 18 and 18 and over, including \$1,000 cash prizes for contest winners.

For contest rules and other information, visit [www.montgomerybar.org](http://www.montgomerybar.org) or [www.youtube.com/group/OughtToBeALaw](http://www.youtube.com/group/OughtToBeALaw).

## Northampton

### Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion

The Northampton County Bar Association began a new Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion program with a three-hour program to train more than 50

attorney volunteers.

The program explained a bit of the history, how the country ended up in this crisis, and how the program would work in Northampton County. The attorneys have volunteered to represent the homeowners during hearings between the mortgage companies and the clients.

### Judge's portrait unveiled

The portrait of Judge Robert (Robin) Simpson was unveiled and presented by the president of the Northampton County Bar Association to the Northampton County Court of Common Pleas on May 1.

It is a tradition for the bar association to commission artists to paint portraits of county judges and to have the portraits displayed in the courtroom in which they presided. Simpson served as a Northampton County Court of Common Pleas trial judge from May 1, 1989, through 2001. In 2001, he was elected to and currently serves on the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania.

## Potter

### New members

The Potter County Bar Association welcomed two new members, Karen Cahilly Espenshade and David Ross, in a ceremony before Judge John B. Leete.

## Schuylkill

### Food drive

The Schuylkill County Bar Association held a food drive from mid-February through March.

## York

### Sidebar Monthly debuts

Sidebar Monthly is a new program developed by several of the judges and officers of the York County Bar Association. The program is designed to be interesting and instructive to members of the bar. Attendees are given the opportunity to get tips and feedback from judges regarding courtroom procedures and local rules.

### The Bar Stools perform again

The Bar Stools, 48 members of the bar association whose purpose is to write, produce and perform musical parodies about the local practice of law, recently presented their seventh production, titled "The Wizard of Law." Proceeds from the fundraiser are divided between the York Little Theatre and the York County Bar Foundation. The foundation uses its portion to help fund law-related programs, including pro bono and grants programs.

## 2009 GUIDE FOR SENIORS

The latest issue of the "Guide to Legal Issues for Pennsylvania Senior Citizens" is now available.



Your Other Partner

Find it on the PBA Web site,  
at [www.pabar.org/public/  
currentpbanews.asp](http://www.pabar.org/public/currentpbanews.asp).

# Educational retreat brings bar execs together

By Diane Krivoniak,  
Westmoreland Bar Association

Summer is a great time to step away from the office and schedule time to regroup and that is exactly what happened on June 24–27 for 12 local Pennsylvania bar executives.

A retreat was scheduled in Philadelphia that kicked off with a Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives (PABE) retreat on Thursday afternoon and concluded with a National Association of Bar Executives (NABE) retreat on Saturday morning.

## PABE

Thursday's programming featured Paul Gilbert, a solicitor from the United Kingdom, who presented a thought-provoking and somewhat frightening look into the future of the practice of law.

Gilbert spoke to the issue of change, illustrating the acceleration of new technology and its impact on the way we do business.

Translating that to the practice of law, Gilbert suggested that the big-box store concept (think Wal-Mart or Target) which offers customers one-stop shopping plus vision, pharmaceutical, and dental services could possibly include legal services in the not-so-distant future.

An attractive feature to this concept is the idea that the "new" generation of lawyers is looking for a career that offers realistic working hours, company-funded health care and guaranteed vacation time. Add a decent salary to this and the idea that

a law office could be seen in a Walgreen's or in a freestanding "Med-Quick"-type business that allows for walk-ins and seven-days-a-week, 9-to-9 service doesn't sound so outlandish.

The challenge, Gilbert suggested, extends to bar associations and how they would react to this shift in the profession and the revised needs of lawyers. If lawyers no longer see a need to network with other lawyers and no longer look to the association for CLE credits, bench-bar connections or professional development, then where does the bar association fit in? If the big-box concept takes care of the wants and needs of the lawyer employees, does the need for membership within an association disappear? And if this happens, how can bar associations best prepare themselves to be relevant to these lawyers?

## NABE

Friday's programming was provided by the NABE and included a presentation from nonprofit guru Bob Harris. With 20 years of experience with associations, Harris provided detailed and exhaustive information on governance issues necessary for successful bar association management. One bar executive commented at the end of this intensive session, "I used to like my job until I realized how much of it I was not doing."

Many forms that Harris recommends – including committee review, succession planning, board orientation, sponsor opportunity blueprints, board job descriptions and antitrust literature – were made available to attendees.

Any bar leader or bar executive who wishes to access these forms may do so by visiting Harris' Web site at nonprofitcenter.com. Most of the forms are available and can be downloaded for free.

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*The PABE/NABE retreat brought bar executives together to share stories, exchange ideas and return home refreshed.*

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The afternoon speaker was Ed McMillan, a certified public accountant.

McMillan provided an interesting and relevant program on fraud within bar associations. His presentation included real-life stories about employees who outsmarted office policies and successfully (until they were caught) embezzled association funds. McMillan provided concrete advice on how to institute internal controls to ensure safety and security of bar association funds.

This is a program that the Conference of County Bar Leaders executive committee hopes to offer at CCBL in February, and all bar leaders and bar executives are encouraged to attend. Attendees will be entertained, as well as educated, and the information is applicable to law offices and any nonprofit associations.

The joint PABE/NABE retreat, although educational, was successful in that it brought bar executives together to share stories, exchange ideas and return home refreshed. ■

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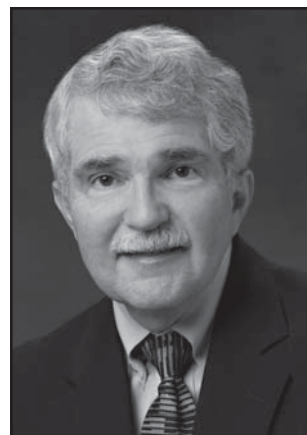
## Richard McCoy named PBI executive director

Richard McCoy has been named the executive director of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute.

"Dick brings extensive experience, proven organizational ability, and innovation to the challenges of providing continuing legal education to the 45,000 practicing lawyers in Pennsylvania," said PBI Immediate Past President Thomas Wilkinson. "There were many talented people interested in serving as PBI's executive director. Dick McCoy's thorough knowledge of PBI's operations and his unwavering commitment to bringing excellence in CLE programming to Pennsylvania lawyers convinced the board and officers that he was the best choice to lead PBI."

McCoy most recently served as PBI's deputy executive director and as associate director for curriculum. He succeeds Roger B. Meilton, who had served as PBI executive director since 1978. McCoy is a graduate of the Dickinson School of Law and has been a member of the Pennsylvania Bar since 1976. McCoy earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Delaware.

He served as a judicial law clerk and engaged in private practice until 1980, when he began his career with PBI as an assistant director. In 1984, McCoy was promoted to associate director for



Richard McCoy

(Continued on Page 11)



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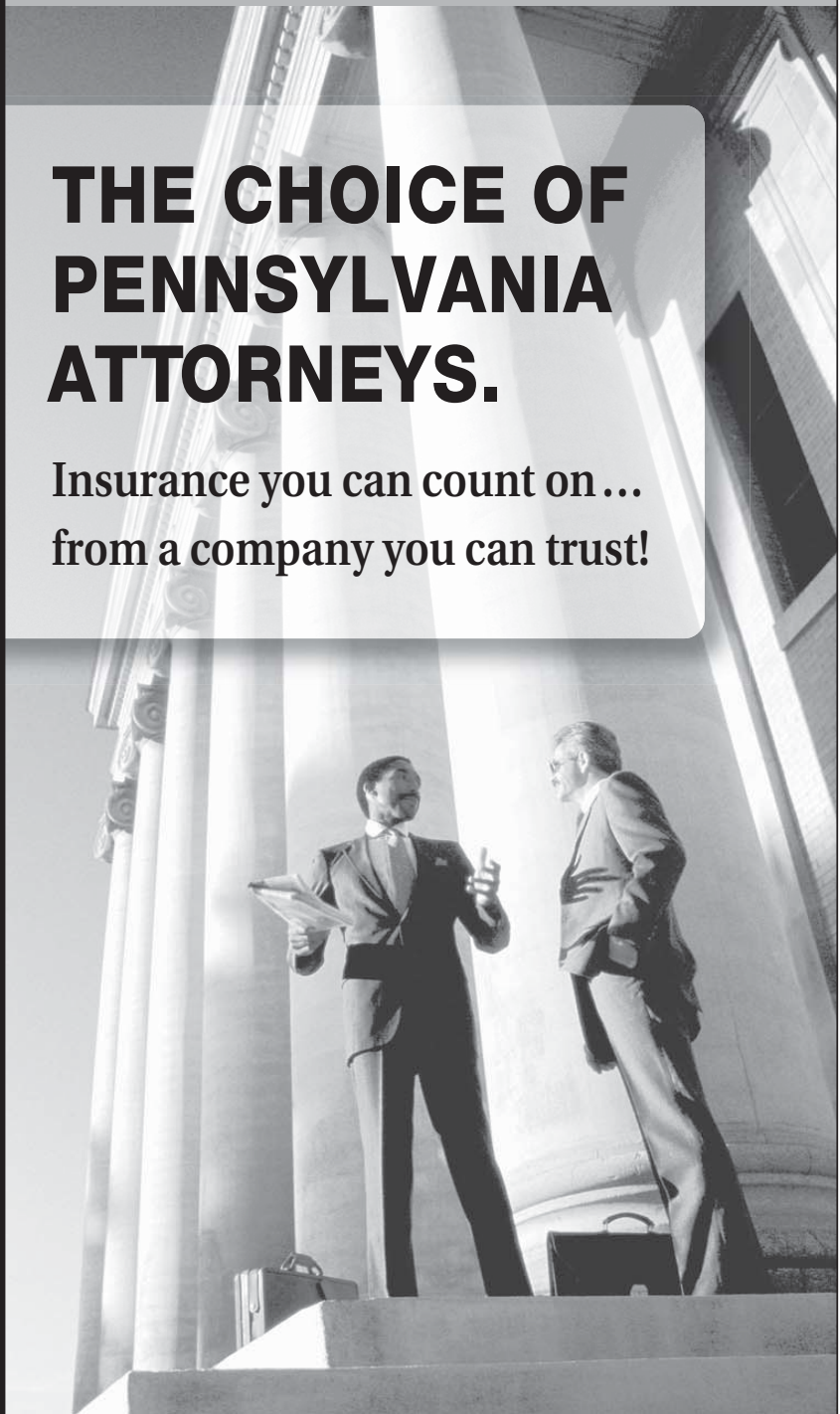
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# Washington County Bar Association receives NABE honors for radio program

The Washington County Bar Association recently received a public service award from the National Association of Bar Executives for its monthly radio program that educates the public about lawyers and the justice system.

The bar association received one of five 2009 LexisNexis Community and Educational Outreach Awards (formerly the Public Service Achievement Awards), which honors bar associations and bar foundations for outstanding public service efforts and law-related education programs.

The award comes with a \$25,000 LexisNexis online legal research pro bono grant. The Washington County Bar Association was the only Pennsylvania association or foundation to win the award this year.

The bar association, in partnership with Washington & Jefferson College of Washington, Pa., launched a monthly radio show, "The American Justice System ... A Day in the Life of ..." in September

on the college radio station, WNJR 91.7 FM. During the half-hour programs in the 2008-2009 academic year, Washington & Jefferson junior Peter Dehoff, of Claysburg, Pa., conducted live, on-air interviews of legal professionals, including President Judge Debbie O'Dell Seneca, of the Washington County Court of Common Pleas; District Attorney Steve Toprani; Assistant Public Defender Brian Gorman; Cary Jones, a sole practitioner; and Clay Nestler, managing attorney of the local legal aid organization.

"We are a small bar association (340 members) and our budget is limited – and television and print advertising (and commercial advertising) is expensive," wrote bar association Executive Director Kathleen Sabol in the application for the award. "This is a wonderful, no- to low-cost method of getting word (out) about our members and their work to the public."

The bar association's goal, Sabol wrote, is "to educate the public about

what lawyers do, how the justice system operates, and present a positive image of the legal profession."

For the radio program, the student and the interviewee do not meet ahead of time; although, if the interviewee wishes, he or she could receive a list of potential questions from the student in advance.

The radio station promotes the program on its Web site, on-air and through other campus information networks. The bar association also promotes the program on its Web site, in its newsletters and in e-mails on the day of the program.

The radio station broadcasts through a 30-mile radius. Therefore, it reaches almost all of Washington County, which has 204,000 residents. Each show is taped and archived.

The bar association received the award at the National Association of Bar Executives' Annual Meeting Membership Luncheon on July 30 in Chicago. ■

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## Lackawanna County lawyers take to the TV

### ● Bar association develops "Lackawanna Legal," a show designed to educate the public on law and activities of the bar

By Jason Morrison,  
Lackawanna Bar Association

In Lackawanna County, it just takes a click of the remote for residents to learn about their local bar association.

The Lackawanna Bar Association recently developed its own television show, born out of the desire to raise public awareness of the good works done by the lawyers and judiciary in the county and in the interest of documenting the past, present and future of the LBA.

"Lackawanna Legal" debuted in January 2008. In the fall of 2007, the bar association hired Dan Simrell Advertising to produce the show, which airs four to six times a year on the county's local public

television Channel 61.

The show, hosted by LBA president Joseph Price and president-elect Jerry Karam, is designed to educate members of the public on the law and the activities of the bar.

Each episode follows a similar format.

The show begins with a dialogue between Price and Karam, who discuss recent activities at the bar. They then introduce "Lackawanna Legal Legend," which is a segment that focuses on one of the senior members of the bar. The senior bar member talks about his or her own legal career, as well as how the practice of law has changed over the years. In addition to the "Legal Legend" segment, the show includes a legal tip, interviews with two young lawyers, a guest interview, and discussion of upcoming bar events. The guest interview segment is not restricted to members of the bar. Most recently, Loren "Chip" Prescott, the dean of the proposed law school at Wilkes University, was interviewed.

The show is being funded by the bar

association. Although the television station does not charge a fee to air the show, the association budgets \$25,000 to pay Dan Simrell Advertising to produce the show for one year.

The idea for the show originated with the LBA's Immediate Past President Frank Bolock and Price and Karam, as an extension of a local judge's project to videotape and document members of the bar. Now, Price, Karam and I discuss possible topics for each episode and outline who will participate.

Currently, "Lackawanna Legal" is halfway through the second season, and we have received positive feedback from the public regarding the show. They enjoy hearing from members of the bar. Often, the public does not fully grasp how involved the bar association is in the community, and the show has presented us with a unique avenue for public relations. ■

**Want to be in the know?  
Then check out the PBA E-News**

# Courses offered by the PBI

*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 or visit their Web site at [www.pbi.org](http://www.pbi.org).*

## **PBA Workers' Compensation Fall Section Meeting 2009 (25th annual)** *Sept. 10 & 11: Hershey Lodge & Convention Center*

Thursday: 1:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.;  
check-in at 1:15 p.m., Friday: 8:30 a.m.  
to 11:45 a.m.; check-in at 8 a.m.  
Total credits for attending 2 days:  
6 substantive/1 ethics CLE credits

## **14th Annual Bankruptcy Institute** *Simulcast – Sept. 24: Wilkes-Barre*

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

## **Richard McCoy named PBI executive director**

*(Continued from Page 8)*

curriculum development. In this role, McCoy has helped to lead the expansions of both PBI's curriculum and the range of services offered to lawyers in the Pennsylvania legal community. He has played a critical role in directing PBI's response to changes in the law and in its implementation of innovative services and CLE delivery methods.

The selection of McCoy followed a national search by a special committee of the PBI Board. The search committee was chaired by Marvin Rudnitsky from Selinsgrove. Committee members included four PBI past presidents: Rudnitsky, John Bagnato from Johnstown, Nancy Hopkins Wentz from Norristown, and Stephanie Latimore from Harrisburg; three Board members: Jane Roach Maughan from Stroudsburg, Sara Austin from York, and Paul Troy from Norristown; and Pennsylvania Bar Association Zone 10 Governor Brenda McBride from Grove City. ■

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**County coordinators sought for 'Wills for Heroes Pennsylvania' program**

Organizers of "Wills for Heroes Pennsylvania" are searching for lawyer volunteers interested in serving as county coordinators for will and estate document preparation events. County coordinators will be responsible for planning and running events in their areas. Certification training, to be scheduled soon, will be provided to interested volunteers.

"Wills for Heroes Pennsylvania," a project of the PBA Young Lawyers Division, provides free preparation of wills and other estate planning documents to Pennsylvania's police, fire and emergency medical personnel. The project is co-sponsored by the Philadelphia firm of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll LLP, which has designated "Wills for Heroes" as one of its public service projects.

Interested volunteers should complete an online application, which is posted at <http://www.pabar.org/public/committees/willsforheroescoordform.asp>. More information about the program is posted at the YLD section of the PBA Web site, [www.pabar.org](http://www.pabar.org).

In this issue of  
**THE COUNTY LINE**

**Features**

An update on attendance, participation in statewide 'Get Help Now' program ..... 1

'Get Help Now, Pennsylvania' help desk locations ..... 2

President's Message ..... 2

Minority Bar Committee's Diversity Summit..... 3

YLD caravans offer chance to interact, network ..... 3

Educational retreat brings bar execs together ..... 8

Richard McCoy named PBI executive director ..... 8

Washington County Bar Association receives NABE honors for radio program..... 10

Lackawanna County lawyers take to the TV ..... 10

**In Every Issue**

On the Local Scene ..... 4

Courses offered by the PBI..... 11

2009-2010 CCBL Executive Committee ..... 11