

The COUNTY LINE



Published by the Pennsylvania Bar Association

Spring 2014

2014 CCBL: A Homecoming to remember!

By Sharon R. López, Immediate Past President, CCBL Executive Committee

To quote Lew Losoncy, our kick-off motivational speaker, this year's "Homecoming" Conference of County Bar Leaders (CCBL) had many activating moments! 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 48th Annual CCBL on Feb. 27 – March 1, 2014, in State College.

Keynote speakers included motivational speaker Losoncy, who kicked off Friday morning's sessions featuring a program with the message that as county bar leaders, whatever you make important, becomes important! Dr. Lew offered strategies for successfully promoting membership and diversity within our own bar associations. His lively discussion left everyone feeling inspired and motivated.

Dean Ken Gormley of the Duquesne University School of Law joined us at lunch, giving an informative and thought-provoking presentation on the firing of Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox 40 years after the infamous "Saturday Night Massacre." He later joined everyone for a book-signing, as many conference attendees took home signed copies of *Archibald Cox: Conscience of a Nation*.

Friday's educational program lineup included seminars on foundations, preserving your bar association's history, civic education, diversity, Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers and your year(s) in bar leadership. The avoiding legal malpractice program provided some laughs with a star-studded live performance of "How Was I Supposed to Know That?" by the "Permanently Banned from Prime Time Players."

The Nurick, Flaherty and Birdsall



Pictured at the Conference of County Bar Leaders are (back row, from left) John Howland, Bill Burke, Terry Weiler; (second row, from left) Mike Pierce, Colleen Neary, Joe Curcillo; and (front row, from left) Nicole Antos and Sharon López.

awards were presented to Kathleen Wilkinson of Philadelphia, Marion Laffey-Ferry of Butler County and Don Smith of Berks County, respectively. (Read more about these deserving recipients in the related article on page 4). In addition, 25 county bar associations were presented with County Bar Recognition Awards, which honor projects and programs undertaken by the bar association in the calendar year that improve the legal profession, justice system and local community. (See related article on page 6).

Game Night returned this year as the Friday night entertainment, but with the added twist of being a tailgate party and Homecoming celebration, where I had the honor of being crowned Homecoming Queen. In addition to the Wii™ and other games, contestants were able to hit the dance floor or just gather with old and new friends for an "alumni reunion" photo shoot.

The conference wrapped up Saturday morning with breakfast and two additional

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2014 CCBL: A Homecoming to remember!

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CLE programs that focused on nonprofit insurance options for your bar association and introduced the new “Scary Guy,” who provided real-life examples and tips on avoiding fraud and embezzlement within your organization. We also held our CCBL Executive Committee business meeting, where I passed the gavel to our next leader, John Howland.

In addition to being a past president of the Montgomery Bar Association, Howland has served as a director and chaired several committees at the county-bar level. He is a past president of the Montgomery Bar Foundation and currently serves as vice president and a member of the board of the Montgomery Child Advocacy Project. In addition to serving on the CCBL Executive Committee, Howland is also a member of the PBA House of Delegates. He is a graduate of Lafayette College and the Villanova University School of Law. He is a partner in the firm of Howland, Hess, Guinan, Torpey & Cassidy LLP in Huntingdon Valley, Montgomery County, where his practice focuses on land use and real estate, business law and wills, trusts and estates.

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 of the entire CCBL Executive Committee, I would like to thank USI Affinity, Lexis-Nexis, the Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives, Berks County Bar Association, Smithfield Trust Company, Pennsylvania Court Reporters Association, Hershey Meetings, Omni Bedford Springs Resort, Seven Springs Mountain Resort, and Helo & Associates, Legal Nurse Consulting.

I have no doubt that Howland will be an effective leader and coordinate an excellent conference next year. Please be sure to mark your calendars and plan to join us in Lancaster on Feb. 26 – 28, 2015. ■



Dean Ken Gormley of the Duquesne University School of Law delivers his lunch-time presentation.



Sharon R. López (right), outgoing president of the Conference of County Bar Leaders Executive Committee, passes the gavel to incoming President John Howland.

See more photos from the Conference of County Bar Leaders on page 3.





*Scenes from the 2014 Conference of
County Bar Leaders in State College, Pa.*



Wilkinson, Laffey-Ferry, Smith receive CCBL honors

The Conference of County Bar Leaders (CCBL) of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) recently honored three prominent Pennsylvania lawyers during its 48th annual conference in State College.

Birdsall Award

Donald F. Smith Jr. of Reading, executive director of the Berks County Bar Association (Berks CBA), received the 17th annual Arthur J. Birdsall Award. PBA Zone 2 Governor and past Berks CBA President Terry D. Weiler presented the award to Smith. The award is given to a county 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.

Smith has served as Berks CBA executive director since 2009. Formerly in private law practice for more than 30 years, he was the Berks CBA president in 2000 and president of the Berks County Bar Foundation from 2001 until 2003.

“Don brings his rich background of 30 successful years as a trial lawyer to his job as Berks CBA executive director,” said Weiler. “He is encouraging to our younger members and has created programs to help them build practices and bridge the gap between the younger and older generations.”

Smith also rejuvenated the Berks CBA pro bono programs by expanding them to cover bankruptcy, immigration assistance, legal services at a local women’s shelter and foreclosure conciliation. He developed a “Modest Means” program to help individuals who do not qualify financially for pro-bono assistance. He also developed a lecture series on legal topics for the public in conjunction with Alvernia University in Reading.

Flaherty Award

Butler lawyer Marion Laffey-Ferry was the recipient of the Chief Justice John P. Flaherty Award. PBA Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Zone 10 Chair and Butler County Bar Association (Butler CBA) YLD Chair Kelley Harley presented the award to Laffey-Ferry. The award honors the work



Donald F. Smith Jr. (left) is presented with the Arthur J. Birdsall Award by CCBL Executive Committee Board of Governors liaison and Berks County Bar Association past president Terry Weiler.



Marion Laffey-Ferry (right) receives the Chief Justice John P. Flaherty Award, presented by PBA YLD Zone 10 Chair and Butler County Young Lawyers Chairperson Kelley Harley.

of an association member for supporting and promoting the projects and purposes of the CCBL and for efforts to improve the legal profession, the justice system and the community.

Laffey-Ferry is the PBA Zone 10 governor and has served in the PBA House of Delegates since 1996. An immediate past chair of the PBA Solo & Small Firm Practice Section, she is also a member of the PBA Family Law Section and the PBA Commission on Women in the Profession. She also served on the PBA Planning Committee and the House of Delegates Reform Task Force. She has been an active participant in and supporter of the CCBL and, as PBA zone governor, has fostered greater communication among the bar associations of Zone 10.

“Laffey-Ferry, who is a major advocate for pro bono service, has educated the Butler County legal community on the importance of pro bono service through both her direct service and her passionate advocacy of such service,” said Butler CBA Executive Director Janis Hackett in her nomination letter.

Laffey-Ferry was the recipient of the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation’s Louis J. Goffman Award in 2006 and received PBA Pro Bono awards in 1999, 2000, 2004 and 2006. She has served 800 clients since 1998 through the Neighborhood Legal Services Pro Bono/Reduced Fee Referral Service. She is a Commonwealth Club member of the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation and served on its board of directors from

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Wilkinson, Laffey-Ferry, Smith receive CCBL honors

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2004 until 2010.

Nurick Award

Immediate Past Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association Kathleen D. Wilkinson was honored with the 2014 Gilbert Nurick Award, which was presented to her by Philadelphia Bar Association Chancellor William P. Fedullo. The award is presented to a member of the PBA who exhibits dedication and service to the leadership and promotion of the organized bar and its activities.

“In advancing a wide spectrum of leadership opportunities for bar members during her tenure as chancellor, Kathleen has evoked the true spirit and meaning behind the Gilbert Nurick Award,” said Philadelphia Bar Executive Director Mark Tarasiewicz in his nomination of Wilkinson.

As chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association in 2013, Wilkinson conceived of and launched the highly successful Chancellor’s Leadership Institute, which harnessed the wisdom and experience of some of the region’s top legal minds and business leaders. In all, 10 free institute programs were held for bar association members during the course of the year



Immediate Past Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association Kathleen D. Wilkinson (left) is presented with the 2014 Gilbert Nurick Award by Philadelphia Bar Association Chancellor Bill Fedullo.

to develop leadership skills and tools for women attorneys, attorneys of diverse backgrounds and young lawyers to help them succeed in their careers.

Prior to beginning her year as chancellor, Wilkinson issued a challenge to law firms and legal organizations to place renewed emphasis, value and recognition on certain important aspects of being a successful lawyer: leadership, civility, mentoring, community service and pro bono work. “By creating new and unique opportunities for leadership and professional development of our lawyers through the Chancellor’s Leadership Institute, the bar association is working hard to meet the challenges

of a constantly evolving profession,” said Tarasiewicz. “The institute’s work strikes at the very heart of the bar association’s mission to serve the profession and the public by promoting justice, professional excellence and respect for the rule of law.”

The CCBL, whose membership includes leaders from county bar associations throughout the state and from the PBA, organizes its annual meeting as an educational conference focusing on the exchange of information on innovative bar association projects and ideas and on the development of mutually beneficial relationships among bar leaders that improve the legal profession. ■

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Local bar associations receive awards at CCBL

The Pennsylvania Bar Association presented County Bar Recognition Awards during the 48th annual Conference of County Bar Leaders, Feb. 27-March 1, in State College. Twenty-five 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 PBA.

“Our communities and legal professionals benefit greatly from the thousands of voluntary hours that hardworking lawyers invest each year into local programs and services,” said PBA President Forest N. Myers. “We are proud to acknowledge their efforts and encourage even more legal professionals to take part in the ongoing good works of the organized bar.”

The following local bar associations received awards for notable projects and program.

Allegheny County Bar Association
“Back to the Bar” Pilot Program

Beaver County Bar Association
Young Lawyers Division — Volunteer Recognition; Adaptive Bike Donation

Berks County Bar Association
Solo and Small Practice Conference

Bucks County Bar Association
Pro Bono Vendors Fair — How Can We Help?

Butler County Bar Association
“Think Like a Bad Guy” Program; Coffee with the Judges; Children and Youth Backpack Program

Centre County Bar Association
Centre County Bar Association Fund; “Bridge the Gap” Presentation; Stewards of Children Training

Chester County Bar Association
The “Grand” Challenge; Passing the Gavel Ceremony

Cumberland County Bar Association
“The Lifelong Impact of a Criminal Record” Program; Law Day 2013 — “Modern Day Slavery: Exploitation in the 21st Century”

Dauphin County Bar Association
Veterans’ Disability Appeals Lawyer Referral Program

Delaware County Bar Association
Landlord/Tenant Workshops; Orphans’ Court CLE Series

Erie County Bar Association
Strategic Planning, Phase 2; ECBA Online CLE ; Fee Dispute Process Revisions

Franklin County Bar Association
Juror Appreciation Day; Bench Bar Conference

Lackawanna Bar Association
Thomas M. Holmes, Esq., Bench Bar Conference

Lancaster Bar Association
Building Repairs

Lawrence County Bar Association
Law Day CLE 2013

Lebanon County Bar Association
Adopt-a-Family; Law Day Essay Contest; Law Explorers

Lycoming Law Association
Law Day 2013; PLAN Excellence Award:

Excellent Pro Bono Participation;
U.S. Supreme Court Admission

Montgomery Bar Association
Giving Tuesday — Promoting Awareness of Justice-related Causes; Courting Art — “What I Love about Montgomery County”; “Sidebar” Rejuvenation

Northampton County Bar Association
The Pro Bono Effect; Miracle League Softball Game

Pike County Bar Association
Fill the County Food Banks; Challenger League Baseball Sponsorship; Center for Developmental Disabilities

Schuylkill County Bar Association
Help for the Holidays; Distracted Driver Awareness Program; Young Lawyers Division “Lunch and Learn” Sessions

Washington County Bar Association
Limited Representation Custody Program; Pro Bono Celebration

Westmoreland Bar Association
Marketing Coach; Trends of Nonprofits Training; Quest Summer Law Camp

Wilkes-Barre Law & Library Association
Federal Practice Committee and Federal Admissions; Lawyers’ Golf Tournament and Charitable Fundraiser; Youth Suicide Prevention and Anti-bullying Community Program

York County Bar Association
“Wills for Heroes” Program; Impact Grants and Scholarships Program; Bar Stools Present “CinderLawyer” ■

Time’s flying: Deadline nears for Birdsall Impact Grant applications, Goffman nominations

Don’t miss your chance to apply for grant funds for your bar or to recognize outstanding pro bono service in your county.

Visit www.pabarfoundation.org today for



Birdsall Impact Grant applications and Louis J. Goffman nomination forms. Get them in by **April 15, 2014**, before time flies by!

30 yrs. of promoting education, justice, equal access

On May 15, 2014, the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation, the philanthropic partner of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, marks a milestone – its 30th year of promoting education, justice and equal access.

Founded in 1984, in response to the bar’s desire to become more involved in public service, the foundation continues to support programs that demystify the law, encourage pro bono service and promote an inclusive legal system that serves all.

The yearlong celebration is slated to kick off in May 2014. Please help us to cel-

ebate and enhance the vitality of the bar’s charitable organization with your contribution today. Membership forms to become a foundation fellow may be found on the foundation’s website at www.pabarfoundation.org. You can also make online contributions to any of the above mentioned funds by navigating to the “Contribute” page of the foundation’s website. Act now and be among the first to join and strengthen the foundation in its 30th anniversary year! ■



2014 Pennsylvania Bar Insurance Fund Grants

As most of you know, the Pennsylvania Bar Insurance Fund and Trust Fund awards grants to local bar associations for projects that qualify for funding from either the Insurance Fund or the Trust Fund.

The Pennsylvania Bar Trust Fund is the charitable arm of the PBA. It considers grant requests that “promote educational and charitable purposes associated with the legal profession and the administration of justice with particular reference to the promotion of such purposes in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.” *Unfortunately, the Trustees will not be in a position to consider and/or grant requests from the Trust Fund in 2014 due to a lack of funds.*

The main function of the Pennsylvania Bar Insurance Fund is to assure the quality and character of insurance programs offered to PBA members. It considers grant requests for programs that are designed to help reduce the incidence of malpractice and to provide loss control programs that will help lawyers practice better and have fewer incidents of malpractice. The main function of the Pennsylvania Bar Insurance Fund is to assure the quality and character of insurance programs offered to PBA members.

While there is no formal grant application to complete, requests must contain information relating to the purpose of the grant, benefits derived, population to be served and the amount requested supported by a detailed budget. This is necessary to determine whether the grant meets the objectives of the Trust Fund or the Insurance Fund. The application should also establish the fact it is a “seed money” request for the commencement of a new project, except for Trust-sponsored programs.

Below is the timeline for the grants process.

Deadline	Task
April 1 st <i>Extended to May 1st</i>	Grant requests for the current calendar year and supporting documentation are due from organizations.
April – June	The Grants Committee reviews and evaluates grant requests received by the May 1 st deadline and makes recommendations to the Trustees.
June	The Trustees consider the recommendations of the Grants Committee at its June meeting.
July 1 st	Grant applicants are notified of the Trustees action and provided with the payment request forms.
December 1 st	Grant applicants must have spent the funds and requested payment from the Trustees no later than December 1 st .



On the *Local Scene...*

Allegheny

Donna Brazile speaks at Women in the Law Division Lunch

More than 350 members attended the Allegheny County Bar Association's Women in the Law Division's lunch on March 12 to hear featured speaker Donna Brazile. The well-known veteran Democratic strategist spoke for more than an hour on a variety of timely issues woven into stories of her career and of people who inspired her. She told the attendees "that diversity in the legal community matters in the same way that it matters in politics, education and business."

Beaver

Charitable Fundraising and Giving Committee supports local soup kitchen

Fourteen members of the Beaver County Bar Association and their family members volunteered their time to serve dinner at *The Ladle* soup kitchen in Ambridge on Jan. 13. Eighty-six members of the community were fed a chicken and pasta dinner, donated by the bar association through the BCBA Fund at the Beaver County Foundation, as well as desserts that were provided by members of the bar. The First Presbyterian Church, which hosts the dinner, was greatly appreciative of the bar association's generous donation of time and food. The Charitable Fundraising and Giving Committee also made a monetary donation to support the kitchen's efforts to feed the local community.

Mock Trial

More than 100 members of the Beaver County Bar Association served as volunteer jurors, advisers and judges for the 26th annual Beaver County Mock Trial competition. Eight county schools fielded 10 teams, with Team I from Beaver Area High School advancing to the regional competition and then on to the state competition. The Beaver County Bar Association will also award \$3,000 in scholarships to students who participated in Mock Trial. Scholarship winners will be announced at the Law Day celebration on May 1.



Attorneys Kelly Tocci, Roseanna Weissert, Mary Murray, Laura Tocci, Terri Mitko, Sherri Hurst, Shannon Steele and Dana Kwidis, along with family members, are pictured preparing to bowl to raise money for the Beaver County Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

BCBA Women-in-Law Committee supports Bowl for Kids' Sake

The Beaver County Bar Association's Women-in-Law Committee organized a team to compete in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids' Sake event held on March 13. Twelve BCBA members and their families bowled to raise more than \$1,300 to support a vital non-profit agency in Beaver County which provides mentors to 350 county children.

BCBA Charitable Fundraising and Giving Committee supports Mental Health Association of Beaver County

The Charitable Fundraising and Giving Committee of the Beaver County Bar Association made a \$1,000 donation to the Mental Health Association of Beaver County. This donation will help the association continue to provide recovery focused programs that implement a holistic approach that promotes wellness, welcoming and support for Beaver County residents who have struggled with a mental health disorder.

Chester

Passing the Gavel ceremony

The Chester County Bar Association started a new and (hopefully) very special tradition at its Annual Meeting in 2013. CCBA President Kim Denise Morton invited all past presidents to take part in a "Passing of the Gavel" ceremony. All past

presidents were invited into the well of the court to pass the gavel from the oldest to the newest. More than 20 past presidents were in attendance to show their support and past president pride. After seeing this event get a standing ovation, it was clear that we definitely want to continue this newly-formed tradition.

The "Grand" Challenge

In an effort to grow and expand the Chester County Bar Association to 1,000 members the "Grand" Challenge was born! Our 908 members were challenged to reach out to non-members and recruit them to become members. And, yes, we bribed them: For each new member, the referring member received \$25 in "Bar Bucks" (used for events, CLE and dues). It doesn't end there – everyone who recruited a new member was entered into a drawing for free 2014 dues! As a result from the challenge, the Chester County Bar Association membership is up 7 percent (not quite a grand, but pretty close!).

Dauphin

Pro bono attorneys assist homeless veterans

Nineteen pro bono attorneys and law students assisted homeless veterans at the annual Stand Down on Saturday, March 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Harrisburg Military Post Armory in Harrisburg.

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Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas Judge Bruce F. Bratton joins Dauphin County Bar Association lawyers and law students volunteering at the Annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down on March 1.

Stand Downs are typically one- to three-day events that provide services to homeless military veterans, such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, VA and Social Security benefits counseling and referrals to a variety of other necessary services, such as housing, employment and substance-abuse treatment. The collaborative events are coordinated between local VAs, other government agencies and community agencies.

The Harrisburg Stand Down organizers contacted the Dauphin County Bar Association to request assistance with a legal information table. This is the bar association's second year to participate.

Erie Law Day

The Erie County Bar Association is proud to host its [Annual Law Day Luncheon](#), slated for noon on Friday, April 25, at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center with keynote speaker Matthew Dowd. Currently an analyst with *Bloomberg, ABC News* and *ABC's This Week* and a columnist for *National Journal*, Dowd will present "Reflections on an Evolving Nation: Fundamental Shifts



in America's Politics, Economics, Laws, Concepts of Privacy and Their Effect Upon Our Lives," focusing on the profound change that has and is occurring in America these days. He will discuss how institutions and the lives of average Americans are being continually and profoundly disrupted in a historic way. As Americans search for a life of greater meaning and try to understand in what direction we are heading, it is necessary to identify the values that defined our nation and will guide us into our future.

The Liberty Bell Award, Chancellor of the Bar and pro bono recipients are announced at the luncheon as well. An important element of our Law Day event is a unique educational program giving local high school and college students the opportunity of a special presentation from Dowd prior to the luncheon.

Law Day 5K

Erie County Bar Association will celebrate Law Day with the [ECBA Law Day 5K](#) on Saturday, April 26, at 9 a.m. at the Erie County Courthouse. This fun annual event ushers in spring and benefits our Attorneys and Kids Together program, supporting the educational needs of Erie's homeless students.

Mock Trials summary

2014 Mock Trials were a great success despite the challenges of winter travel for our student teams from across northwestern

Pennsylvania. Eighteen teams from Cambridge Springs, Collegiate Academy, Conneaut, Fort Le Boeuf, McDowell, Meadville, Northwestern, Oil City, Saegertown, Sheffield, Warren and Youngsville participated with a playoff between McDowell and Collegiate Academy. The McDowell Team I advanced for a regional playoff on March 6 with Beaver Area High School at the Erie Federal Courthouse, with Beaver advancing to the next level of state competition. The event is possible only with the support of our many members who served as jurors, judges, bailiffs and timekeepers, which allows our program to accommodate the excellent number of participating teams from local schools.

Wills for Heroes

The Erie County Bar Association in partnership with Gannon University and with the support of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, is proud to announce the first Wills for Heroes event in northwestern Pennsylvania on Saturday, April 12, for police officers and firefighters of the City of Erie. Wills for Heroes provides free wills, living wills, health care and financial powers of attorney to first-responders and their spouses and partners, ensuring that their legal affairs are in order should tragedy ever strike.

Attorneys and Kids Together

Erie County Bar Association members contributed \$3,832 to purchase new coats, sneakers and required uniforms through our Attorneys and Kids Together Program. The AKT program's mission is to support the educational needs of local students living in homeless situations. The staff makes the most of contributions by searching the many sales at this time of year to replenish coats and clothing that have been distributed to children in need. AKT was also awarded a grant of more than 500 free books through the non-profit organization First Books. Titles for school children (ages 6 through 18) are available to shelter representatives to select for students currently in shelter situations. The goal

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On the *Local Scene*...

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for this program is to utilize the positive effects of book ownership on literacy and self-esteem, as well as propelling children to higher levels of education.

ECBA launches new Women's Division, Municipal Practice Section

"The power I exert on the court depends on the power of my arguments, not my gender." -- Sandra Day O'Connor

In recognition of International Women's Day on March 8, the Erie County Bar Association (ECBA) launched its new Women's Division. International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. The ECBA has much to celebrate in recognizing the talented, resourceful women among its membership who are leaders and accomplished attorneys. Women attorneys represent approximately 25 percent of the entire ECBA membership. The ECBA will host an inaugural Women's Division Event at Erie's United States Courthouse on June 3.

In January, the Erie County Bar Association Board of Directors voted to create the new Municipal Practice Section, which met for the first time on March 14. The section will meet quarterly and focus on matters pertaining to the county, townships, boroughs and cities, municipal authorities and special purpose entities, such as COGs, tax collection committees, etc. The ECBA website will soon have a resource page that will provide links to sites useful for municipal solicitors.

Franklin Wills for Heroes

The Franklin County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's Wills for Heroes event took place on Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Waynesboro Hospital. Eight first-responders (or spouses of first responders) took advantage of this service. The majority were from the Medic 1 Unit. Most of the first responders/spouses availed themselves of all of the documents: will, financial power of attorney and living will/medical power of attorney.

the county line

Many members volunteered their time to make this event a success!

Wills for Heroes programs provide essential legal documents at no cost to our local first-responders. By helping first-responders plan now, they ensure their family's legal affairs are in order before a tragedy hits.

Professional Development Conference

The Franklin County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division, Rotary Club of Chambersburg and Wilson College alumni co-sponsored a professional development conference at Wilson College on Feb. 6. The YLD members and other area professionals led panel discussions on a variety of topics including internships, resume writing, interviewing, communication, professional attire, career advancement, etc. Our members also facilitated an etiquette luncheon. Several YLD members volunteered to become mentors to attendees after the conference. The career development department at Wilson College was very pleased with the outcome of this event and looks forward to partnering with the YLD for future conferences.

Lebanon

'You and the Law' radio segment

Attorneys in the Lebanon County Bar Association (LCBA) participate in a local radio show segment called "You and the Law." Once a month, an attorney spends one to two hours with the host, taking phone calls and answering general questions from the public.

Bench/Bar breakfast

LCBA members and the four Court of Common Pleas judges held their annual Bench/Bar breakfast on Feb. 18 and discussed a variety of topics.

CCBL awards

LCBA President Liz Judd accepted three awards on behalf of the county bar at the Conference of County Bar Leaders in February. The three programs recognized were: Law Explorers, Law Day Essay contest and the holiday-time Adopt-A-Family.

Law Day celebration

Chief Public Defender Brian Deiderick and Judge Charles T. Jones Jr., visited an elementary school on Feb. 26 as part of Law Day celebrations. They met with fourth-grade students to talk about the judicial system as well as the importance of voting.

Montgomery

Annual memorial service

On Friday morning, March 28, members of the bench and bar of Montgomery County took time to celebrate the lives of those members who passed away in 2013 at the Montgomery Bar Association's annual memorial service. The ceremony, held before a packed audience in Courtroom "A" of the Montgomery County Courthouse, was led by Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas Judge Joseph A. Smyth, and included inspirational memorial minutes given by members of the bar, the Legislature and invited guests. Following an introduction by MBA President Michael F. Rogers, the following members were honored (in alphabetical order): Richard Max Bockol, William R. Cooper, Bernard V. DiGiacomo, J. William Ditter III, Cindy B. Hallock, Arthur Lefkoe, Jack M. Marden, Barbara C. Molinsky, Robert E. Slota Jr. and Thomas E. Waters Jr.

The Montgomery Bar Association's memorial service has been held each year since its inception in the mid-1920s. In fact, according to the MBA's historical records, it was viewed so important by the association that during war time, only an organizational meeting and a memorial service were held each year. ■

SAVE THE DATE

For the Pennsylvania Bar Association Young Lawyers Division 2014 Summer Meeting/New Admittee Conference



Aug. 1-3, 2014

**Toftrees Resort and Conference Center
State College, Pa.**



*The upcoming YLD Summer Meeting/
New Admittee Conference will feature plenty of
CLE and networking opportunities and entertainment.*

Registration information coming soon.

Malpractice Avoidance Seminars scheduled

The PBA Insurance Program, advised and administered by USI Affinity, in cooperation with the PBA County Bar Services Department, PBA Professional Liability Committee, Pennsylvania Bar Institute and local bar associations, has scheduled spring malpractice avoidance seminars. Those attending the seminars will receive up to a 7.5 percent discount on their PBA-endorsed malpractice insurance through USI Affinity and up to 1.5 hours of CLE ethics credit. All seminars are presented live and include a CD-ROM of the presentation material. Unless otherwise noted, find instructions for online registration at www.pabar.org/public/localbar/countybar.asp. If you have questions, contact Gabriele Miller-Wagner in the PBA County Bar Services Department at 800-932-0311, ext. 2240.

The schedule of the remaining seminars follows:

BUCKS

April 15 at 9 a.m.
Bucks County Bar Association,
135 E. State St., Doylestown.
To register, call 215-348-9413.

LYCOMING

April 22 at 2 p.m.
Lycoming Law Association,
25 W. 3rd St., Suite 803, Williamsport

TIOGA

April 23 at 9 a.m.
Mansfield University, Memorial Hall,
Room 211, Mansfield

UNION/SNYDER

April 23 at 3 p.m.
Lewisburg Hotel,
136 Market St., Lewisburg

COLUMBIA/MONTOUR

April 24 at 9 a.m.
Frosty Valley Country Club,
2201 Bloom Road, Danville

NORTHUMBERLAND

April 24 at 2 p.m.
Edison Hotel, 401 Market St., Sunbury

CARBON

April 25 at 2:30 p.m.
Mahoning Valley Country Club,
323 Country Club Lane, Lehighton

MONTGOMERY

May 6 at 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Montgomery Bar Association, 100 W. Airy
St., Norristown

LEHIGH

May 7 at 3 p.m.
The Bar Association of Lehigh County,
1114 W. Walnut St., Allentown

NORTHAMPTON

May 8 at 1 p.m.
Best Western,
Routes 512 & 22, Bethlehem.
To register, call 610-258-6333.

LANCASTER

May 9 at 12:30 p.m.
Lancaster Bar Association,
28 Penn Square, 2nd Floor, Lancaster.
To register, call 717-393-0737.

CHESTER

May 21 at 9 a.m.
Chester County Bar Association,
15 W. Gay St., 2nd Floor, West Chester

DELAWARE

May 21 at 2 p.m.
Delaware County Bar Association,
335 W. Front St., Media

DAUPHIN

Aug. 8 at 11:30 a.m.
Crowne Plaza Hotel,
23 S. Second St., Harrisburg.
To register, call 717-232-7536.

Mark your calendars for these 2014 events

PBA Annual Meeting

May 14-16
Hershey Lodge, Hershey

PBA Committee/Section Day

May 15
Hershey Lodge, Hershey

PBA Young Lawyers Division Summer Meeting/ New Admittee Conference

Aug. 1-3
Toftrees Resort & Conference Center,
State College

NABE/ABA Annual Meeting

Aug. 7-12
Boston, Mass.

PBA Workers' Compensation Law Section Fall Meeting

Sept. 11-12
Hershey Lodge, Hershey

Mid-Atlantic Bar Conference

Oct. 1-3
Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa,
Atlantic City, N.J.

8th Annual PBA Diversity Summit

Oct. 23
PBI CLE Conference Center,
Philadelphia

PBA Committee/Section Day

Nov. 20
Holiday Inn East, Harrisburg

PBA House of Delegates Meeting

Nov. 21
Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey,
Harrisburg

Why is it important to celebrate Law Day?

By Susan E. Etter,
PBA Education and
Special Projects Coordinator

The idea of Law Day was first proposed by American Bar Association President Charles S. Rhyne, and in 1958 we celebrated the first “Law Day U.S.A.” under a proclamation from President Eisenhower. Law Day as Rhyne envisioned it, and explained to Eisenhower, is not a celebration of lawyers or the legal profession, but rather “the purpose is to highlight the rule of law in America and express to the people of the world our admiration and respect for the rule of law as the key to individual freedom and justice.”¹

In his radio address on that first Law Day celebration², Rhyne noted that, “Never in all history have so many men and women spoken on the same subject on the same day. Throughout America, public observance of May First as ‘Law Day-U.S.A.’ will be an event without precedent or parallel in our nation’s history. This nationwide salute to the law and its place in American life has struck a responsive chord in the deep and abiding faith of our people in the rule of law and their determination to strengthen it at this crucial turning point in the history of mankind.”³ (He was referring to events of the era, communism, the Iron Curtain, the Cold War, space exploration — the first successful orbital launch was the USSR’s Sputnik 1 in 1957 — the presence of nuclear weapons, relative recent experience of World War I and II, Holocaust, etc.) Rhyne’s words, spoken 56 years ago, are still relevant to American culture today and give testament to his point: Rule of Law is intrinsic to American life.

“Respect for and adherence to law is one of the most ingrained traits of an American. While the average individual is not learned in the law, there is an intense sense of justice which burns within him. There is in our nation an almost instantaneous adverse public reaction to any unlawful or illegal action. We believe in, and we live under the law. We are a ‘law-ful’ people,”⁴ Rhyne said.

Today, Law Day is held in Pennsylvania during the month of May, with the Pennsylvania Bar Association and county

bar associations marking the occasion with classroom visits by judges and lawyers and with free law-related lessons plans for K-college classrooms.

Recent surveys support the belief that adults cherish our Constitution and understand the connection with our history and development as a country, with 91 percent of Americans indicating the U.S. Constitution is important to them; and 84 percent

eration to the next. You don’t take a DNA test to see if you believe in freedom. It’s taught.”¹⁰ President Reagan noted that “[s]ince the founding of this nation, education and democracy have gone hand in hand. The founders believed a nation that governs itself, like ours, must rely upon an informed and engaged electorate.”¹¹

Souter says, “I’m concerned about ... the risk to constitutional government when

Law Day is a nationally recognized day (or in the case of Pennsylvania, the entire month of May) when we pause to pay special attention to the value and role of the law in our country and make a purposeful effort to celebrate and educate citizens about the law.

stating that to work as intended, our system of government depends on active and informed citizens.⁵

However, the concern is that we are no longer doing a good enough job educating our future generations. Since her retirement from the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Sandra Day O’Connor has made it her mission to improve the civic education of our young people. She often shares this troubling statistic: When two-thirds, or more, of students can name a judge on “American Idol,”⁶ yet only one in seven can name a Supreme Court justice, this is something to be concerned about. Similar numbers are reported among college students with 96 percent correctly identifying Lady Gaga as a musical performer, while only 57 percent know John Roberts is the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.⁷

And, in 2009 U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Souter expressed his concern in a keynote address to the American Bar Association. He opened his remarks with this strong statement, “Civic education in the United States is not good enough, and we have to do something about it.”⁸ The reason we have to do something about it, as O’Connor so often states, is because civic knowledge is “not handed down through the gene pool.”⁹

“Democracy and the principles of the Constitution have to be taught,” shares Justice Anthony Kennedy. “That’s how our heritage is handed down from one gen-

a substantial portion of the American populous simply fails to gain the understanding of how the government works. In particular, I’ll ask you to consider the danger to judicial independence when people have no conception of how the judiciary fits within the constitutional scheme.”¹² In fact, according to a recent study, 62 percent of American adults cannot name all three branches of the federal government. One-third cannot name even one.¹³

“One can debate the importance of knowing the name of the chief justice of the Supreme Court or the details of Paul Revere’s ride, but there is little doubt that understanding such foundational concepts as checks and balances and the importance of an independent judiciary does make a difference. Those bewildered by such basics as the branches of government and the concept of judicial review are less likely to express trust in the courts, and, as trust declines, more likely to say that courts are too powerful and, judges should be impeached or court jurisdiction stripped when unpopular rulings are issued and that, under some circumstances, it might simply be best to abolish the Supreme Court.”¹⁴ This is why civic education matters. This is why we should be concerned. And this is why, as a profession, we need to get involved. No one is suggesting lawyers and judges should become civics teachers, but rather advocates for the rule of law and civic

(Continued on Page 14)

the county line

Why is it important to celebrate Law Day?

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education by partnering with teachers and schools to celebrate our love and respect for the law. Law Day provides this opportunity. It's nationally recognized day (or in the case of Pennsylvania, the entire month of May) when we pause to pay special attention to the value and role of the law in our country and make a purposeful effort to celebrate and educate citizens about the law.

The American Bar Association continues to take the lead in organizing the national law day celebration and has chosen to focus the 2014 Law Day U.S.A. on the theme, "American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters." In our republican form of government, where supreme power resides in a body of citizens entitled to vote and is exercised by elected officers and representatives responsible to them and governing according to law,"¹⁵ every vote does matter but more importantly educated and informed citizens matter. There is a story that purports shortly after the Constitutional Convention in 1787 a woman approached Benjamin Franklin curious about what had been discussed and decided during all those months of very secret meetings. The story goes that she asked Dr. Franklin, "What type of government have you given us?" and Franklin's reply was, "A republic, if you can keep it."

Dr. Franklin's simple reply reminds us that our American way of life and our re-

liance as a society on rule of law requires purposeful effort. "Law is the intangible force that makes freedom and progress possible in our democracy. It is law that brings order into the affairs of men—that enables them to lift their sights above mere survival, to accumulate possession, to develop the arts, to pursue knowledge, and to enjoy life among their fellows. Law gives the individual security that he could obtain in no other way; it protects the family and other groups organized for advancement of common interests; it permits the growth of great cities and the development of vast enterprises. In other words, it is the cement that holds our free society together."¹⁶ But it can be lost if we don't purposefully protect it, preserve it, and defend it. Justice Kennedy states this so clearly, "We must remember that it's not just officials, the judges, the president, who have the obligation to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. It's all of our 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."¹⁷

We invite you to re-invigorate your Law Day programs and join us once again in the celebration of Law Day this May. Resources and materials are available on the Pennsylvania Bar Association web site, www.pabar.org, as well as the American Bar Association web site, www.lawday.org.

¹ <http://www.pabar.org/public/education/lawday/09ldwhyawday.pdf>

² <http://www.pabar.org/public/education/lawday/09ldwhyawday.pdf>

³ <http://www.pabar.org/public/education/lawday/09ldwhyawday.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.pabar.org/public/education/lawday/09ldwhyawday.pdf>

[lawday/09ldwhyawday.pdf](http://www.pabar.org/public/education/lawday/09ldwhyawday.pdf)

⁵ Poll administered by the National Constitution Center on the 210th anniversary of the Constitution, http://heartland.org/sites/all/modules/custom/heartland_migration/files/pdfs/3025.pdf

⁶ <http://www.icivics.org/news/civics-101-supreme-court-vs-american-idol>

⁷ http://www.timesdispatch.com/opinion/their-opinion/college-students-starved-for-knowledge/article_f40d4a9a-5192-5ff5-81fc-e5037e866aa0.html?mode=jqm

⁸ For those interested in hearing Justice Souter's ABA keynote, it is available on You Tube, part 1- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFnGxDz6oJI> and part 2- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2eQsoWhxzg>

⁹ Justice O'Connor

¹⁰ Justice Kennedy's remarks on the Supreme Court, May 14, 2010, Palm Beach County (FL) Bar Association, 13:20 minute mark - <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/293521-1>

¹¹ Page 10 Guardians of Democracy Report

¹² Justice Souter ABA keynote

¹³ http://heartland.org/sites/all/modules/custom/heartland_migration/files/pdfs/3025.pdf

¹⁴ Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Ph.D., Director, Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, from Guardians of Democracy: The Civic Mission of Schools

¹⁵ <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/republic>

¹⁶ Rhyne law day address

¹⁷ Justice Kennedy's remarks on the Supreme Court, May 14, 2010, Palm Beach County (FL) Bar Association ■



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The **Action Center** allows members to send emails to their senators or representatives on important legislative issues facing the legal profession. Members also can create a message and download it to send via postal mail. Talking points on legislative topics and sample letters also are available.

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