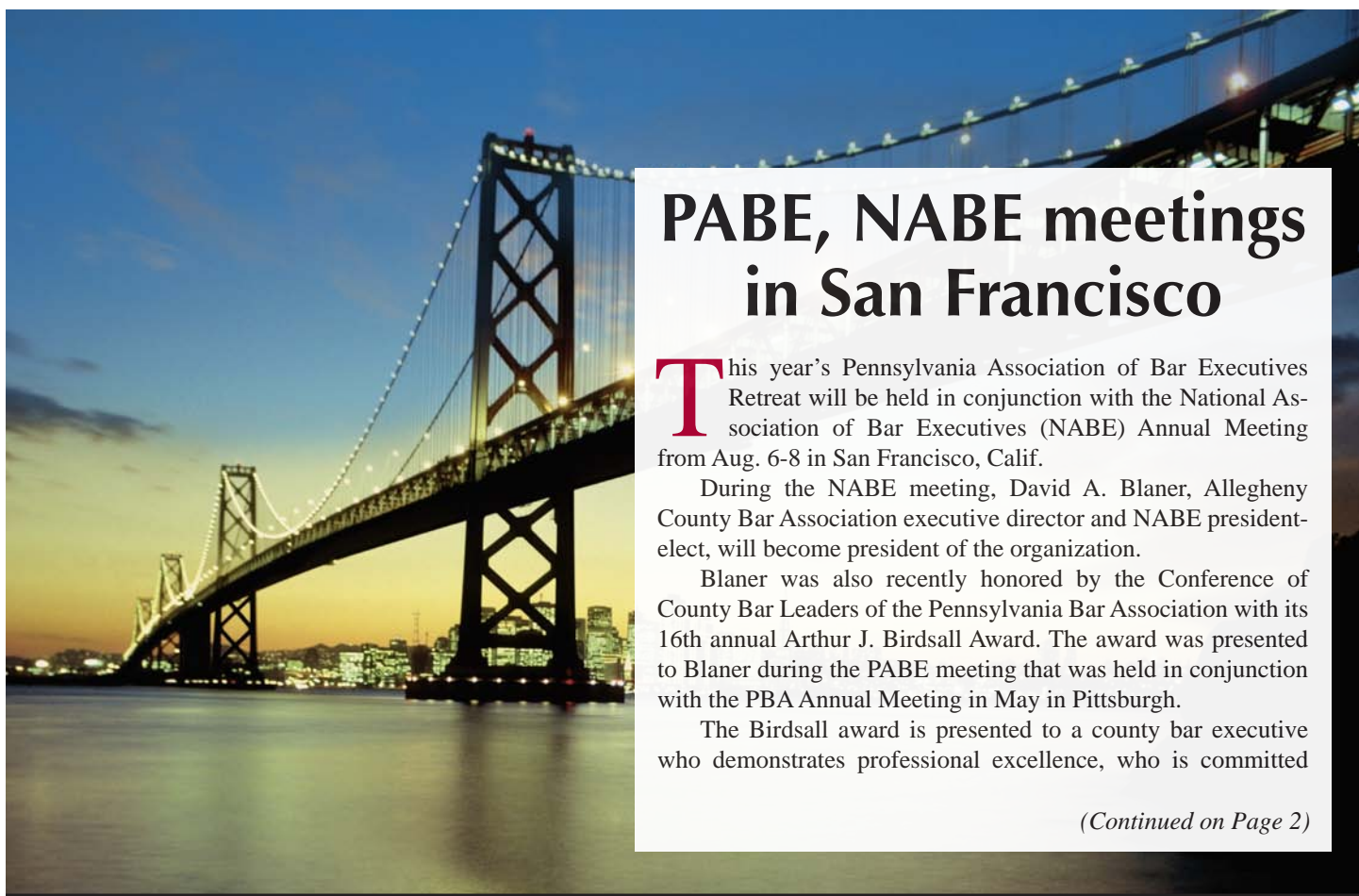


# The COUNTY LINE



Published by the Pennsylvania Bar Association

Summer 2013



## PABE, NABE meetings in San Francisco

**T**his year's Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives Retreat will be held in conjunction with the National Association of Bar Executives (NABE) Annual Meeting from Aug. 6-8 in San Francisco, Calif.

During the NABE meeting, David A. Blaner, Allegheny County Bar Association executive director and NABE president-elect, will become president of the organization.

Blaner was also recently honored by the Conference of County Bar Leaders of the Pennsylvania Bar Association with its 16th annual Arthur J. Birdsall Award. The award was presented to Blaner during the PABE meeting that was held in conjunction with the PBA Annual Meeting in May in Pittsburgh.

The Birdsall award is presented to a county bar executive who demonstrates professional excellence, who is committed

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## YLD Summer Meeting/New Admittee Conference to take place July 24-26 in State College

**T**he PBA Young Lawyers Division's 2013 Summer Meeting/New Admittee Conference is slated for Toftrees Golf Resort and Conference Center, State College, July 24-26. Attendees can earn up to six hours of CLE credit, including one hour of ethics.

The conference schedule, as available at press time, appears below. Those who wish to attend can download the registration form from the PBA website at [www.pabar.org](http://www.pabar.org).

[pabar.org](http://www.pabar.org). The registration deadline is July 19. For more information call the PBA Member Services Center at 800-932-0311.

### **Wednesday, July 24**

**4:00 – 5:30 p.m.**

#### **YLD Business Meeting**

Get an update on what is happening in the YLD. Learn about the programs for this year and how you can expand your practice through Division participation. Bring

your ideas about programs you want to see the Division implement and ways the PBA YLD can assist your county with young lawyer programs.

**6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

#### **Cocktail Hour**

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## PABE, NABE meetings

(Continued from Page 1)

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

Blaner has served as the ACBA's executive director for the past 12 years. In addition, he is the executive director of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation and CEO of Proliance Solutions Inc., which is the ACBA's for-profit subsidiary.

He is a longtime NABE member and past chair of the NABE Executive Committee, past chair of the NABE Administration and Finance Section, past chair of the NABE Program Committee and past chair of the NABE Sponsorship Committee. He is past chair and past treasurer of the Great Lakes Organization of Bar Executives and the Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives.

He is past chair and past treasurer of the Great Lakes Organization of Bar Executives and the Pennsylvania Association



Photo by Mark Higgs/Reprinted with permission by the Allegheny County Bar Association.

*Allegheny County Bar Association Executive Director David A. Blaner, shown holding his plaque, accepted the Arthur J. Birdsall Award at a Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives meeting in May. Shown with him are (from left) David Leonard, ACBA assistant executive director; Kenneth Gormley, dean of Duquesne University School of Law and past ACBA president; Bob Racunas, past ACBA president; Mark Vuono, immediate past ACBA president; and Hal Coffey, former PBA Zone 12 governor.*

of Bar Executives.

In addition to providing leadership at the county and state levels of the organized bar, Blaner is the immediate past chair of the American Bar Association (ABA)

Metro Bar Caucus. He frequently serves as a consultant to the ABA Division for Bar Services, providing peer-to-peer reviews of bar association operations. ■

## Lebanon County Bar Association receives 2013 Birdsall Impact Grant from Pa. Bar Foundation

The Lebanon County Bar Association received a \$250 Birdsall Impact Grant to support the Lebanon Law Exploring Post program, a hands-on, law-related educational initiative designed for high school students who are interested in learning more about law careers. In addition to providing insight into legal career options such as judge, attorney, JAG officer and paralegal, the program provides experiences and resources to help young people develop leadership and life skills. The Law Explor-

ing Post used the grant funds to travel to Harrisburg on May 21, 2013, to observe an oral argument in Superior Court and tour the Capitol Building.

The Birdsall Impact Grant program seeks to assist county bar associations in the furtherance of a charitable, educational or pro bono program or project or the enhancement of an existing charitable, educational or pro bono program or project that is consistent with the mission of the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation and succeeds in

making an immediate impact on the way a county bar operates in service to its members, its court and its community.

If your county bar association or foundation is interested in applying for grants funds, please visit <http://www.pabarfoundation.org/Programs%20and%20Awards/Birdsall.aspx>, complete the [Birdsall County Bar Impact Grant Application](#), and submit it by **April 15, 2014**. ■

[www.pabar.org](http://www.pabar.org)

For all the information you need about the Pennsylvania Bar Association

# YLD Summer Meeting/New Admittee Conference

(Continued from Page 1)

**7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

## **Dinner**

Opening remarks will be given by the YLD Chair Robert Datorre, PBA President Forest Myers and past YLD Chair Seth Mendelsohn.

**9:00 – Midnight**

## **Reception**

## **Thursday, July 25**

**8:45 – 10:15 a.m.**

### **Tips and Traps for Federal Practice**

*(1.5 Substantive Credits)*

Join a lively panel discussion among distinguished judges of Pennsylvania's federal courts on the lesser-known or underutilized practices and procedures that can give you a real edge in federal cases. You will hear about the pitfalls and danger areas that are lurking in the rules waiting for the unwary. Gain practical advice on important substantive legal tips — and traps — when practicing in federal court, such as how you can permanently waive your right to remove a case to federal court without doing anything.

**10:25 – 11:25 a.m.**

### **On the Front Lines: The Duties, Authority and Role of a U.S. Magistrate Judge**

*(1.0 Substantive Credit)*

Designed for anyone who may find himself with a case in federal court, this session will explain the duties, authority and role of a U.S. magistrate judge as a judge of the District Court.

**11:35 a.m. – 12:35 p.m.**

### **Problem-solving Courts: Practice and Procedure**

*(1.0 Substantive Credit)*

The prison population is a growing burden on both the state and counties. Problem-solving courts deal with a number of problem areas within the criminal justice system. This panel of judges and Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts representatives will prepare you for practicing in the ever-growing area of problem-solving courts in Pennsylvania.



**12:35 – 1:40 p.m.**

## **Lunch**

**1:40 – 2:40 p.m.**

### **Legal Advocate and Educator: The Importance of Law-Related Education Programs**

*(1.0 Ethics Credit)*

Law-related education (LRE) programs support the importance of citizens contributing to our democracy, rule of law and judicial system and also satisfy an attorney's duty to provide pro bono service to the public. Attend this session to learn how to present LRE programs at all school levels, and leave with resources you can use when speaking to youth groups.

**2:50 – 4:20 p.m.**

### **All Eyes on Me: The High-Profile Lawyer**

*(1.5 Substantive Credit)*

Practicing law can be challenging, but media or public interest in your case or client adds an entirely different dimension. Our panelists will provide insight on the legal, ethical and practical considerations of media and public attention on the courts and lawyers and provide tips on working and responding to the media and the public.

**4:20 – 6:00 p.m.**

## **Break**

**6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

## **Cocktail Hour**

**7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

## **Dinner**

Remarks will be given by past YLD Chair Charles Eppolito III.

**9:00 – Midnight**

## **Reception**

## **Friday, July 26**

## **Departure**

# Washington Co. lawyer honored by the Pa. Bar Foundation with Goffman Award

**M**ary R. Bates, chief legal officer of the Washington City Mission, received the Louis J. Goffman Award from the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation for outstanding pro bono support and service.

The award, named for a late Pennsylvania Bar Association president, was presented May 8 during the Pennsylvania Bar Association Annual Meeting awards luncheon at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown, Pittsburgh.

The Washington City Mission, a non-denominational, Christian, social services organization, provides shelters for men and women, offers long-term restorative programs for residents and operates five thrift stores. Bates founded The Legal Clinic (“TLC”) to provide legal assistance to the mission’s residents. Bates and a group of part-time volunteers advocate for shelter residents and work with state and local law enforcement, state and local officials, judges, lawyers, law school and legal aid organizations to expand the safety net for the homeless, poor and needy. The clinic serves more than 90 homeless individuals each year.

Bates is a chair of the Washington County Bar Association Pro Bono and Lawyer Referral Service Committee. She organized a panel of pro bono lawyers for the mission’s homeless veterans and hosted a Pro Bono Law Day at the mission. Bates also presented a continuing legal education program for lawyers that spotlighted the call for pro bono service in the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct, and she recently spearheaded the inaugural Washington County Bar Association Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award.

Bates is a chapter leader of the Chris-



*Mary R. Bates accepts the Louis J. Goffman Award from the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation. With her are Thomas G. Wilkinson Jr., PBA immediate past president, (left) and Alfred Jones, Pennsylvania Bar Foundation immediate past president.*

tian Legal Society of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Bates previously served as treasurer and vice chair of the Washington City Mission’s Board of Directors.

A Pittsburgh native, Bates earned an undergraduate degree from Duquesne University, a master’s degree from Carnegie Mellon University and a juris doctorate from the Duquesne University School of Law.

The Pennsylvania Bar Foundation, the charitable affiliate of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, improves the public’s understanding of the law and its appreciation of democracy and strives to ensure that citizens, particularly Pennsylvania’s most

vulnerable, have full access to our legal system. The foundation accomplishes its mission by making grants, seeking financial support from individuals and organizations both within and outside of the legal community, and encouraging bar members to donate their time, talent and expertise in service to the public.

It is not too early to begin thinking of nominees for the 2014 Louis J. Goffman Award. The nomination deadline will be April 15, 2014. Information about the award and nomination materials can be found at: <http://www.pabarfoundation.org/Programs%20and%20Awards/Louis.aspx>.

■

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# PBA names lawyers for 2013-14 BLI class

Pennsylvania Bar Association President Forest N. Myers has named 11 lawyers from across the state to the 2013-14 class of the association's Bar Leadership Institute (BLI).

The BLI helps prepare young lawyers for future leadership opportunities within the state's largest bar association.

"Lawyer participants learn about the nuts and bolts of PBA operations such as how it's governed, resources available to members and the roles of the association staff," said Myers. "Participants are also introduced to the various leadership opportunities within the PBA, and each participant is paired with a member of the Board of Governors who serves as a mentor to the participant.

The following lawyers have been named as participants in the 2013-14 BLI class:

## ALLEGHENY COUNTY

John M. Schaffranek, Frank, Gale, Bails, Murcko & Pocrass PC, Pittsburgh

## CAMBRIA COUNTY

Christopher G. Gvozdich, Gvozdich Law Offices, Ebensburg

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY

James L. Proctor, James Proctor Law Office LLC, Carlisle

## DAUPHIN COUNTY

Paula Knudsen Burke, Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association, Harrisburg

## FRANKLIN COUNTY

Tracy J. Ross, Keller, Keller & Beck LLC, Waynesboro

## LEHIGH COUNTY

Jessica F. Moyer, King, Spry, Herman, Freund & Faul LLC, Bethlehem

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Lindette C. Hassan, Fox Rothschild LLP, Blue Bell  
William Sylianteng, Bennett Bricklin & Saltzburg LLC, Blue Bell

## PHILADELPHIA

Michael B. Lee, Law Office of Michael Lee, Philadelphia  
James Nixon, Superior Court of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia  
Tamika N. Washington, Law Offices of Tamika Washington PC, Philadelphia

This year's BLI co-chairs are Kathy M. Manderino, Intercommunity Action Inc., Philadelphia, and Charles Eppolito III, White and Williams LLP, Philadelphia. Both Manderino and Eppolito have served in a number of PBA leadership roles, including terms as chair of the PBA House of Delegates.

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

The BLI was originally developed by Arthur L. Piccone of Kingston in 1995-96 during his year as PBA president to strengthen the ongoing efforts to recruit and develop leaders of the association. The first chair of the institute, Gretchen A. Mundorff of Connellsville, re-launched the BLI when she became the 2010-11 president of the PBA. ■

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\* Source: Self-reported LexisNexis Web Statistics, 2011. LDC20121

# PBA Legislative Update

The Legislative Department of the Pennsylvania Bar Association has worked hard to ensure that legislation does not harm the requirement to publish government notices in county bar legal journals. To this end, we worked successfully with other groups and Sen. Robert Robbins in the drafting of his bill, Senate Bill 733.

In addition, the PBA stands ever vigilant with respect to the potential taxing of legal services. As the bills to so do have again been introduced in the Senate and the House (they have not progressed), the PBA joined its coalition partners in sending a letter to the Hill expressing our joint concerns. Should these bills show any life, we will ramp up our efforts in opposition.

Beyond these two issues, the PBA Legislative Department has been supportive of a number of bills that may soon become law, as follows:

**H.B. 25**, sponsored by Rep. Glen Grell, adopts as Pennsylvania law the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts, including outlawing the use of the term “notario publico” other than by attorneys. The bill passed the House 197-0 on May 7, and received second consideration in the Senate on June 17.

**H.B. 513**, sponsored by Rep. Richard Stevenson, amends Title 20 (Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries), further providing for settlement of small estates on petition. Under current law, a small estates petition can be used as an alternative to probate if the estate has no real estate and the value of other assets is less than \$25,000. As an alternative to a formal accounting, a probated estate can be settled by petition if the value of all estate assets (excluding real estate), does not exceed \$25,000. H.B. 513 raises both amounts to \$50,000. The bill passed the House 201-0 on April 9, and received first consideration in the Senate on June 18.

**H.B. 515**, sponsored by Rep. Stevenson, amends the Municipalities Planning Code further providing a definition for “electronic notice” and “mailed notice,” which is a notice given by a municipality by first-class mail or Internet to a land-

owner or an owner of mineral rights of the time and place of a public hearing and the particular nature of the matter to be considered at the hearing. The bill passed the House 190-0 on April 17, and received first consideration, as amended, in the Senate on June 5.

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*Please note that a member of the legislative department is always willing and able to come to your county and brief your members on legislation.*

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**H.B. 1128**, sponsored by Rep. Chris Ross, amends Title 12 (Commerce and Trade) codifying the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Sales Finance Act and the Goods and Services Installment Sales Act. The bill passed the House 195-0 on April 24, and received first consideration in the Senate on June 4.

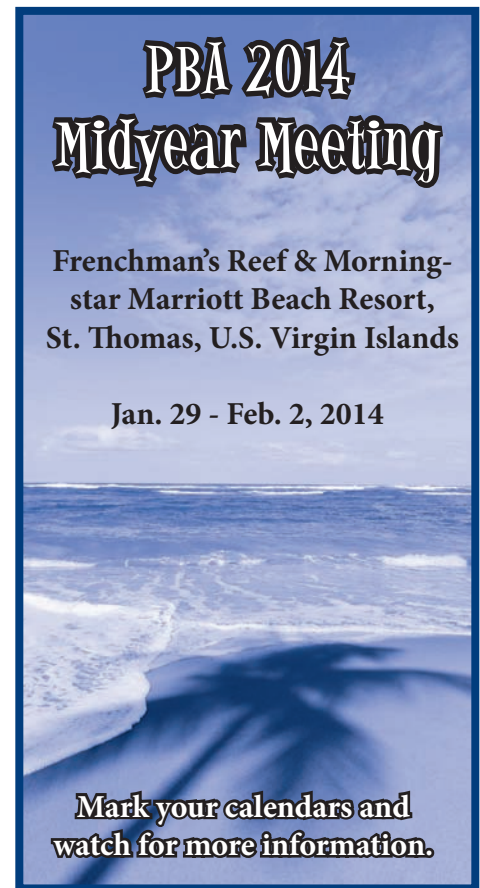
**S.B. 4**, sponsored by Sen. Michael Brubaker, is a Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution that states the General Assembly may by law establish uniform standards and qualifications which shall be the criteria to determine qualification as institutions of purely public charity. The bill passed the Senate 30-20 on March 20, and received second consideration in the House on June 18.

**S.B. 304**, sponsored by Sen. Stewart Greenleaf, completes the codification of the Nonprofit Corporation Law, updating the law and making it consistent with the Business Corporation Law, while also enacting the Uniform Unincorporated Nonprofit Association Act. The bill passed the Senate 50-0 on May 6, passed the House as amended 197-0 on June 18, and was then re-referred to the Senate Rules and Executive Nominations Committee.

**S.B. 381**, sponsored by Sen. John Eichelberger, provides limited but key UCC, Article 9 (secured transactions)

changes. Most significantly, it defines an individual borrower’s correct name on the relevant secured transaction paper work: the name on the borrower’s Pennsylvania driver’s license or non-driver’s license Pennsylvania Department of Transportation-issued ID card. For those without either ID, the borrower’s individual name or surname and first personal name is to be used. The bill received passed the Senate 49-0 on April 15, and received first consideration in the House on June 18.

Please note that a member of the legislative department is always willing and able to come to your county and brief your members on legislation. If you have any questions regarding any legislative matters, you may contact Fred Cabell, director of legislative affairs, at 800-932-0311, ext. 2232, or [fred.cabell@pabar.org](mailto:fred.cabell@pabar.org). ■



**PBA 2014  
Midyear Meeting**

**Frenchman’s Reef & Morningstar Marriott Beach Resort,  
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands**

**Jan. 29 - Feb. 2, 2014**

**Mark your calendars and  
watch for more information.**

# In Memoriam: Janis M. Leftridge, PBA's first diversity officer

Janis M. Leftridge, the Pennsylvania Bar Association's first diversity officer, died suddenly at her home on Saturday, June 8.

Leftridge, 67, of Harrisburg, who had an extensive background in human resources and diversity development, was responsible for overseeing and facilitating the PBA's efforts to improve diversity within the association and Pennsylvania's legal profession.

Leftridge previously worked as the senior director for business diversity for the Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce and CREDC, as a human relations consultant



Janis M. Leftridge

for Bayer Corp. in Pittsburgh and as a human relations manager for McCormick & Co. in Sparks, Md. She also served as the assistant director of law admissions for the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Leftridge worked with the PBA Diversity Team, Board of Governors and senior staff to develop and execute the PBA's diversity programs and worked with the state's legal community to provide resources and tools in support of diversity goals, objectives and initiatives.

Throughout her professional career,

Leftridge had used her skills and talents to build relationships and increase the awareness and participation of minorities, women and other under-represented groups in a wide range of environments.

Leftridge earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Morgan State University in Baltimore, a master's degree in social work from the University of Maryland at Baltimore and a juris doctorate from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

She is survived by her parents, Halbert and Wyonella Leftridge, and her son Nicholas H. Leftridge, all of Harrisburg, and her sister, Lois Leftridge, of Maryland. ■



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# On the *Local Scene...*

## Chester

### CCBF sponsors Appreciation Reception

Chester County Bar Association members came together to give their thanks and show appreciation to our wonderful and generous sponsors at the Chester County Bar Foundation's Annual Sponsor Appreciation Reception on Wednesday, June 5. Representatives from USI Affinity, Susquehanna Bank and DNB First Bank, just to name a few, were in attendance. There were plenty of snacks and beverages to go around, while CCBA President Kim Denise Morton spoke words of gratitude to our sponsors, and members got a chance to socialize and mingle with the people that make our events possible.

### Three Little Pigs fundraiser

Three Little Pigs Gourmet Deli of West Chester helped show its support for Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania by hosting a fundraiser. For an entire day, 10 percent of all purchases were donated to Legal Aid. The combined efforts of Legal Aid, Three Little Pigs and the Chester County Bar Association helped raise over \$300!

## Cumberland

### Law Day 2013 addresses modern-day slavery

The Cumberland County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division began its annual Law Day activities with a panel discussion about human trafficking and modern-day slavery. The event took place from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30, in the Apfelbaum Auditorium of the Penn State Dickinson School of Law Carlisle Campus. The event was free and open to the public.

Panelists included Krista Hoffman with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, Anne Brown Ebert with the Carlisle YWCA and Kathleen Klein from the Penn State University Dickinson School of Law Class of 2014. The panel discussion focused on the issue of human trafficking in our community and internationally. The panel discussion was facilitated by the use of clips from the documentary

"Very Young Girls" and a training video created by Truckers Against Trafficking. Our members also went to Trinity High School to lead discussions about actual trafficking cases in order for the students to gain a better understanding of how quickly trafficking can take someone's freedom.

Today there are more people in slavery than at the height of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Victims of trafficking are ordinary, vulnerable citizens – not just immigrants. In addition to exploitation, victims are used for free or heavily discounted labor, black market organ sales, and mercenary activities. Traffickers lure individuals with the false promises of employment and a better life.

## Erie

### 10th Annual Law Day Run

The 10th Annual Law Day Run/Walk was a huge success. With its largest number of participants yet, the run/walk this year netted \$13,650 for the Attorneys & Kids Together (AKT) program. The AKT program, which is the Erie County Bar Association's signature community project, supports the educational needs of students living in homeless situations in Erie County.

### Annual Law Day Luncheon

Keynote speaker Julian Bond wowed an audience of over 500 at the Erie County Bar Association's Annual Law Day Luncheon on May 8, recalling important moments in the history of the civil rights movement. These moments were brought to life as Bond described what it was like, not only be there, but to be an active participant.



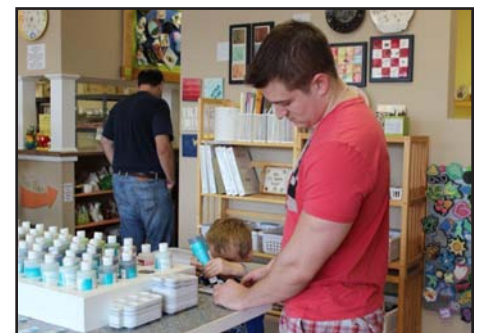
Julian Bond

For four decades, Bond has served the causes of dignity, peace and freedom. As the chairman emeritus of the board of directors of the National Association

for the Advancement of Colored People, the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, he continues that service into the new century. Bond has been on the cutting edge of social change since 1960. Founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, he organized voting drives and sit-ins. An elected member of the Georgia House of Representatives, Bond was denied his seat by legislators until the intervention of the U.S. Supreme Court. Co-chairman of an insurgent delegation to the 1968 Democratic Convention, he became the first African-American to be nominated for U.S. vice president.

Prior to the Law Day luncheon, Bond met privately with local high school and college students to answer questions they had on the civil rights movement. Recognized at this year's luncheon were the recipients of the Pro Bono Award, Attorney Laurie C. TeWinkle; Chancellor of the Bar Award, Attorney Ritchie T. Marsh; and the Liberty Bell Award, Max Peaster, longtime Erie County law librarian.

### Attorneys & Kids Together (AKT)



An Erie County Bar Association member takes part in Attorneys & Kids Together's Kid Konnection mentoring program.

AKT's Kid Konnection mentoring program is in full swing. With trips to Claytopia (create your own pottery), the Tom Ridge Environmental Center and other educational venues, students in homeless situations are able to visit places they otherwise would not be able to go, while spending quality time with

*(Continued on Page 9)*



# On the *Local Scene*...



(Continued from Page 8)

an attorney-mentor. The Kid Konnection program's purpose is to provide a positive role model to these students, whose lives are an everyday struggle.

## **Fayette** Lunch with Judges

It has been a busy time for the Fayette County Bar Association and its Young Lawyers Committee. On May 2, they had their first "Lunch with Judges" event. Scheduled for one hour, the event lasted two hours with four seated judges in Fayette County attending, including President Judge John F. Wagner Jr., Senior Judge Gerald R. Solomon, Judge Nancy D. Vernon and Judge Steve P. Leskinen. Tables were filled with young lawyers, and it was a moderated question-and-answer luncheon with insight from the bench on practice tips, advocacy and motions.

## **Mock Trial Competition**

On May 3, the FCBA's Young Lawyers Committee held its fifth annual Mock Trial Competition in conjunction with the American Bar Association Law Day. Two high schools participated in a full mock trial in front of Senior Judge Solomon. Brownsville Area High School represented the prosecution; Frazier High School represented the defense; and local attorneys sat as the jury. After the trial, a luncheon and award ceremony was held.

## **Summer picnic happy hour**

On June 27, the Young Lawyers Committee held a summer picnic happy hour at the Inne at Watson's Choice with appetizers, beer and wine. It was an event open to all lawyers practicing in Fayette County in an effort to express the benefits of being a member of the local bar association. Judge Leskinen spoke on that subject matter.

## **Lebanon** Law Day activities

Throughout April and May, as part of the annual Law Day activities, students from area elementary schools toured the Lebanon County Courthouse, including a



*A scene from Monroe County Bar Association's Law Day ceremonies is shown here.*

visit to a court room and the Emergency Management Agency, sheriff's department and city police. The annual Law Day and Naturalization Ceremony includes swearing in new American citizens, patriotic music and nominating new attorneys to the Lebanon County Bar Association. Two students also received awards for their essays focused on this year's Law Day theme, "Realizing the Dream: Equality for All."

Each year one high school senior is chosen to receive the Outstanding Senior Award, co-sponsored by the Lebanon County Bar Association and local radio station WLBR/WQIC. The student receives a \$1,000 cash award.

High school students in the Law Exploring Program chose sides for a five-minute "mock argument" in the *Florida v. Jardines* case, which was recently before the U.S. Supreme Court. Photos of the students in the court room of Lebanon County Judge Charles Jones appeared in the local newspaper. Run by volunteer attorneys, the Law Exploring Program is a hands-on program designed for high school students who are interested in learning more about law careers.

Additionally, two members of the

Lebanon County Bar Association, Bernerd Buzgon and C. Walter Whitmoyer, were honored for being 50-year members during a dinner in May.

## **Monroe**

Each year, our nation observes Law Day during the month of May. Law Day is designed to educate people of all ages about the legal system and to celebrate the American heritage of liberty, justice and equality. The Pennsylvania Bar Association, Monroe County Bar Association and other bar associations across the commonwealth sponsor Law Day activities each year. The MCBA Law Day events included Fairy Tale Trials, an essay contest, the Law Day ceremony and an annual Law Day race. Details of these events are outlined here:

## **Fairy Tale Trials**

The MCBA held its 24th Annual Fairy Tale Trials on the morning of Friday, April 26. In the courtrooms of the Monroe County Courthouse, a group of lawyers participated in a mock civil trial based on *The Wizard of Oz*. The trial focused on the

(Continued on Page 10)  
**the county line**



(Continued from Page 9)

issue of broom control. If brooms are not allowed to be used for transportation, how will the witches travel? In previous years, trials have welcomed the characters of *Star Wars*, *The Three Little Pigs* and *SpongeBob SquarePants*.

This year, over 200 fifth-grade students from Monroe County schools attended the trials. The students were also encouraged to participate in an art contest, incorporating the Fairy Tale Trials theme as well as the Law Day theme, "Realizing the Dream: Equality for All."

### Law Day ceremonies

This year's Law Day ceremony included two special segments. The first was the honoring of the 2013 Liberty Bell Award recipient Joel Keller. The Liberty Bell Award is presented each year to a man or woman who has promoted better understanding of the rule of law, encouraged greater respect for the law and courts and stimulated a sense of civic responsibility.

Keller has served as director of the Monroe County Department of Veterans Affairs for the past 33 years. His focus has been to assist and guide veterans in obtaining the benefits to which they are entitled. Keller has made it his priority to keep abreast of the constantly changing rules and regulations surrounding veterans' benefits. Prior to taking this post, Keller was the civil defense director for Monroe County, where he helped to create and develop what was the second comprehensive emergency preparedness procedure in the country at the time.

For the second segment of the Law Day ceremony, the three essay contest winners were invited to read their essays/poems. The winners of the 2013 Law Day writing contest were Kyle Jorstad of East Stroudsburg South High School (first place), Brent Weiss of Pocono Mountain East High School (second place) and Ryan Fox of Pocono Mountain East High School (third place). The contest challenged students to submit an original writing highlighting the lessons we have learned from our history and the progress we still need to make and

explaining how we can move closer to realizing the dream: equality for all.

### Law Day Race

The "Race Judicata" closed out the Law Day events. This year, the race brought out a record 160 participants and raised over \$2,000, all of which will benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bridge in northeast Pennsylvania. The overall male and female winners were Evan Griswold and Erin Bloodworth, respectively. The top three male attorneys/judges were: first place, Judge Arthur Zulick; second place, Matthew Bernal; and third place, Judge David Williamson. The winners of the female attorney/judge category were: first place, Ciaran Way, and second place, Julianne Oliver.

The success of this year's race was made possible by the generous sponsorship of local businesses Newman Williams, et al; ESSA Bank & Trust; Powlette & Field LLC; Monroe Abstract Company; Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort; Cramer's Home Centers; and *The Pocono Record*.

### Montgomery Fundraiser for Women's Center

On Wednesday, June 12, the Montgomery Bar Association hosted a fundraising cocktail party for family lawyers and a silent auction benefiting the Women's Center of Montgomery County.

With funding significantly reduced from all levels of government this year, the Women's Center has found itself scrambling to raise funds to sustain the organization, which provides advocacy and supportive services for 4,000 victims of domestic violence each year. The Women's Center of Montgomery County is a volunteer, community organization with a primary focus on freedom from domestic violence and other forms of abuse. Each year, the center is able to reach out and identify victims in need of assistance, educate potential victims and train community members to empower victims of domestic violence to take a step toward living safely.

Every day in the Court of Common Pleas for Montgomery County, volunteers

from the Women's Center assist with the filing of protection orders and accompany victims to court in protection from abuse and criminal matters. The collective sentiment from both the bench and the bar in this county is that the volunteers from the Women's Center are integral participants in assisting in the administration of justice in domestic violence cases within our court system. As such, the Family Law Section, led by the efforts of the special event co-chairs Mark Dischell, Larry Pauker, Leslee Silverman Tabas and Amy Stern, along with a host committee of over 20 attorneys, organized a wonderful event to raise money for the Women's Center. For more information on giving and the array of services provided by the Women's Center, visit [www.wcmontco.org](http://www.wcmontco.org).

### York

#### YCBA partners with Downtown Inc. for historic law offices tour

On Friday, May 3, 28 individuals took part in the first walking tour of 12 historic law offices in York. Proceeds from the sold-out event benefited Downtown Inc., which seeks to enhance and foster reinvestment in downtown York.

"During this fascinating and informative walk, tour-goers got a chance to see what lies behind the doors of some of York's most venerable law firms," stated Sonia Huntzinger, Downtown Inc.'s executive director. "Participants learned about the architecture of some of the city's oldest buildings that have housed law firms for decades and the famous cases tried in York."

The tour of law offices in downtown York revealed all kinds of fascinating information — brought to life via the narration of master storyteller, attorney J. Ross McGinnis.

Tour stop locations included buildings constructed from the 1880s to the 1940s, including the York County Bar Association; Menges & McLaughlin; Law Office of Marc Roberts; Ferro Law Firm, Griest, Himes, Herrold, Schaumann, Reynosa; Anstine & Sparler; Benn Law Firm, MPL Law

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# On the Local Scene...



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Firm LLP; Marshall & Smith; Hoffmeyer & Semmelman LLP; Blakey, Yost, Bupp & Rausch LLP; and Barley Snyder LLP.

From baby shoes and vintage whiskey bottles found tucked in walls during renovations to hidden safes, priceless stained glass and exquisite, hand-carved wooden details, tour-goers found so much to see and talk about that the event was extended a full hour beyond the original two-hour timeframe.

One piece of information that may be the most memorable about the evening tour, sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section of the York County Bar Association:

“Our tour guide, J. Ross McGinnis, as you know, is the author of the *Trials of Hex*,” commented Victoria Connor, YCBA/YCBF’s CEO, “and in an odd happenstance – Ross’ tonsils and adenoids were removed in the bar association’s building by the Dr. McDowell that owned it at one time. Pre-1970 – how times have changed!”

## Presidents’ Roundtable

The inaugural YCBA/YCBF Presidents’ Breakfast was held on May 28.



In attendance at the YCBA/YCBF Presidents’ Breakfast were: (seated, from left) Carolyn Lasky, Bill Gierasch, J. Ross McGinnis, Suzanne Smith and Jan Willey; (row 2, from left), Peter Mangan, Barb Stump, Suzanne Griest, Judge Maria Musti Cook (first female bar president) Barbara Sardella, District Attorney Tom Kearney, Sara Austin, Carolyn Steinhauer, Tom Shorb; and (row 3, from left) Jim Holtzer, Judge John C. Uhler, Leo Gribbin, Judge Craig T. Trebilcock, Dan Frey, Walt Tilley, Charlie Rausch, Larry Young, Gary Gilbert, Judge Joseph C. Adams, Tom O’Shea, Jack Shorb and Ray Hovis.

Twenty-eight former, current and incoming presidents met to discuss key issues including the bar’s role in addressing the equal access to justice crisis and opportunities to enhance its diversity, pro bono and public service efforts.

## The Bar Stools fundraiser nets \$14,500

Fourteen years ago, the York County Bar’s first Bar Stools production of *Behind Courthouse Doors* brought the house down at the York Little Theatre (YLT). Since then, their talents have delighted audiences and raised over \$100,000 to benefit the YLT and support the charitable work of the York County Bar Foundation (YCBF) in the community though its programs that provide legal service to the poor and help people move from the criminal justice system to independence, saving lives and community dollars.

The bar foundation, the charitable arm of the York County Bar Association, and YLT were proud to partner once again to present *CinderLawyer*, an original production written, produced and directed by CGA Law Firm attorney Thomas D. O’Shea. The nearly 50-member cast gave three nights



Greg Gross photo/York Dispatch  
Attorneys John Mitton (from left) and TL Kearney and York County Common Pleas Senior Judge John C. Uhler rehearse for the York County Bar Foundation’s “CinderLawyer” at the York Little Theatre.

of stellar performances before a sold-out house from April 25-27 and raised \$14,500 for the YCBF.

*CinderLawyer*, a musical spoof of the classic fairy tale *Cinderella*, took a comical look at the role of attorneys in York County and provided a humorous insight into life at the York County Courthouse and the practice of law in general. In O’Shea’s musical, the evil stepmother was a fictional Philadelphia-based law firm Greed, Schmidt, Claw and McPay, with an office in York, whose “lowly associate,” the young Cindie Lawyer toils away in a windowless cubicle wanting desperately to try out for a role in this year’s Bar Stools production. Prince Charming & Associates is the law firm where every young lawyer wants to work.

A subplot in the tale has both the stage manager, Margo Einsig, and director O’Shea quitting after a dispute with the “actors,” leaving the show in the hands of York County District Attorney Tom Kearney, Bar Foundation President Suzanne Griest and attorney Dan Fennick, until Einsig can be convinced to come back and O’Shea retakes the reins.

Hilarious song parodies ranged from Broadway show tunes such as “Hello Dolly” aka “Hello Margo,” sung by the male cast members dressed in tuxedos on Margo’s triumphant return to the production, to pop music like Donna Summer’s “Last Dance,” which was transformed to “First

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the county line



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Trial,” sung on a darkened stage beneath a spinning disco ball by Cindie’s much-envied friend, Donna, played by attorney Shaleeta Washington, who was employed by Prince Charming & Associates, and many others.

*CinderLawyer* was performed by the

Bar Stools, an acting ensemble comprised mostly York County Bar Association members, a mix of defense attorneys, prosecutors, civil attorneys, judges and others who work in the law profession, modeled after The Capitol Steps, who originally began as a group of Senate staffers who set out to satirize the very people and places that employed them in Washington, D.C.

Prior Bar Stools productions include *How to Succeed in Law Without Really Trying*, 2011; *The Wizard of Law*, 2009; *Lullaby of Lawyers*, 2007; *Best of the Bar Stools*, 2006; *We Will Sue You*, 2005; *The Circle of Law*, 2003; *The Bar Stools Go To Court*, 2001; and *Behind the Courthouse Doors*, 1999. ■

## Father-son first in the 163-year history of the Wilkes-Barre Law & Library Association

By Joseph P. Burke III

The Wilkes-Barre Law & Library Association, the bar association of Luzerne County, is an old and prestigious organization that dates back to 1850. In the century and a half years of its existence, the association has had 49 presidents, including its current president, attorney Joseph F. Saporito Jr. of Pittston. Saporito shares a very special connection with the 37th president of the local bar, attorney Joseph F. Saporito Sr. – his father.

In the long history of the organization, this is the only father-son presidency that has ever occurred.

### Joseph F. Saporito Sr.

Joseph F. Saporito Sr. served as bar president from 1988 through 1989. He was born on Jan. 12, 1919, the third of nine children of Carlo and Sarah Saporito of Pittston. A lifelong resident of Pittston, Joe Sr. attended the Pittston School District as a boy, graduating, as a teenager, from Wyoming Seminary High School in 1936. He then attended Penn State University, completing his studies and graduating in three years. He then decided to go to law school, attending the Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle.

Upon graduating law school, in 1942, Saporito enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he served for four years in Okinawa in the Pacific. At the time of his honorable discharge, he had attained the rank of lieutenant.

In 1946, Joe Sr. returned home to the Wyoming Valley and began to practice law, becoming associated with Frank J. Flannery, Patrick J. Flannery, J. Earl Langan and David Yelen. At sometime during this period, the group was joined by Thomas C. Gibbons, who later became a U.S. bankruptcy judge. The two lawyers, Joe Sr. and Gibbons, formed a tight friendship that would last many years. Joe and his wife



Joseph F. Saporito Jr. poses in front of a portrait of his father, Joseph F. Saporito Sr.

(“Dolly” – the former Yolanda Adonizio) would serve as the godparents to Gibbon’s youngest son, Patrick.

Friendship was important to Joe Saporito Sr. and he related this to his son, Joe Jr., often. He would remind his

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son that it is so important to go through life with friends by your side. Joe Sr. would say, "Throughout life, we will have multiple acquaintances, many friends, some good friends, but only a few best friends." Tom Gibbons would be Joe Sr.'s best friend, even serving on Joe's bar association Memorial Committee, when Joe passed away decades later.

In 1951, Joe and Dolly were married. A son, Carlo, was born in 1953 to the loving couple. Also, in 1953, Joe Saporito Sr., at 34 years old, was elected the mayor of the City of Pittston, defeating the incumbent mayor in the primary election. He was the youngest mayor to be elected at that time. In a strange twist, the incumbent mayor passed away unexpectedly in July 1953, leaving the Office of Mayor vacant. The city council installed Joe to fill this vacancy. As the Republican candidate, he then went on to face, and easily defeat, his Democratic challenger in the general election. It was a proud moment for not only Joe, but for his father and father-in-law (the late Pasquale "Tony Rose" Adonizio) both of whom were Italian immigrants and successful mine operators. Joe Sr.'s father, Carlo, was especially proud that the community had selected his son to be its leader. Family was important to Joe. And, on March 8, 1960, Joe Sr. became a proud father for the second time, when his son Joe Jr. was born.

Joe's love of family and his community, also carried over into his practice of law, where he loved and valued his clients as fellow citizens and as friends. He was never too busy to go beyond and do a little extra for a client in need. An example was when he was visiting a client in her home and happened to notice that when the woman opened her refrigerator it was empty. Joe called Insalaco's Supermarket and sent the woman a complete grocery order so that she would not go hungry. In another case, he helped clients, a young couple, obtain a house that they had their hearts set on, by buying it and simply having them pay him back over time without any interest.

Attorney Joseph F. Saporito Sr. loved the law, and he loved being a lawyer. He was an old school lawyer: a person who felt that no case was too big or too small. It was about helping people. Joe enjoyed the practice of law, and he had a special affection for the Greater Pittston

community. Photos of Joe at different area functions line the office hallway, including a dashing portrait of him in uniform. He was proud of his service to his country. And, closer to home, he always had a special place in his heart for the City of Pittston. Not surprisingly, when the city turned 100 years old, it was Joe who was asked to read the proclamation. This was fitting as so much of Joe's life was devoted to Pittston and the Pittston area over the years of his law practice. He served as solicitor to Hughestown. He served as solicitor for the Pittston Area Industrial Development and was a founding member of that nonprofit corporation. He was a lifelong member of the Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce and of St. Joseph Marelllo Parish (formerly Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church). In February 2002, the *Sunday Dispatch* honored the memory of Joe by awarding posthumously him the Lifetime Service Award and establishing this award in his name as the Joseph F. Saporito Sr. Lifetime Service Award. This award is presented annually to a selected individual from the community. Joe would have loved this as he loved his community so much.

Finally, loving the law and being a lawyer, Joe loved his law school alma mater. Joe's love of Dickinson School of Law and the practice of law would have a great influence on Joseph F. Saporito Jr. One of Joe Sr.'s happy accomplishments was being the founder of the law firm of Saporito, Saporito & Falcone in Pittston. Joe Sr. died on Aug. 6, 2001, after practicing law in Pittston and Luzerne County for 55 years.

### **Joseph F. Saporito Jr.**

Attorney Joseph F. Saporito Jr. practiced law with his father starting in 1985. He had attended the Dickinson School of Law from 1982 to 1985. He earned his undergraduate degree from Villanova University in 1982, having graduated from Scranton Preparatory School in 1978.

Joe Jr. is married to the former Giovanna Falcone, who is a school nurse. They have two children, Sarah and Joseph F. Saporito III.

Like his father, Joe Jr. belongs to a wide array of professional and community service organizations. He is a member of the American Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association, American

Association for Justice, the Pennsylvania Association for Justice and the Wilkes-Barre Law & Library Association. Joe belongs to the Knights of Columbus, Council 372, Pittston. He is a member of the Earthly Angels Autism board. He is a former member of the Pittston Memorial Library Association and a former member and chairman of the board of trustees of The Scranton Preparatory School. He is a member of St. Joseph Marelllo Parish, (formerly Our Lady Of Mt. Carmel Church) its Holy Name Society, and serves as a lector and as a member of the Parish Financial Council

Joe Jr. is a principal in the law firm of Saporito, Saporito & Falcone. He also serves as an assistant public defender of Luzerne County and as solicitor of the Pittston Area School District and the Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce. Joe practiced law with his father for 16 wonderful years, receiving life lessons on a daily basis from the older Saporito as well as learning his profession firsthand from a master craftsman. He has the honor of working with his brother, Carlo, a paralegal, his law partner and brother-in-law, attorney Samuel A. Falcone Jr. and their associate, attorney William J. Watt III. Joe Jr. and Sam are fortunate to have a seasoned and devoted staff in Nicole Rinaldi, Lee Ann Shovlin, Patricia Survilla and Tracy Ciarimboli. Through the high standards established by Joe Sr. and a strong record of performance, Saporito, Saporito, & Falcone has earned the trust and loyalty of its clients.

In the end, Joe Sr. was a mentor as well as a father to his son, not only in the practice of law, but in the living of life. And Joe Sr. had a decorated legal career and life. It is no wonder that Joseph F. Saporito Jr. followed his father's example and was selected by his fellow practicing lawyers to be the president of the local bar, being elected president in 2012 and re-elected in January 2013 for a second term. The presidency of this father and son is a first in the long history of the local bar association and sets a very high bar for others to follow who may come after them. ■

*Joseph P. Burke III is the executive director of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association.*



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