

73 Schools Participate in Constitution Day Signing

20,000 students in 73 schools from 50 Pennsylvania counties joined with the PBA, the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the National Constitution Center Sept. 21 for the first coordinated statewide observance of Constitution Day in Pennsylvania's schools.

PBA President Louis N. Teti, Pennsylvania Education Secretary Eugene W. Hickok and Lehigh County President Judge James Knoll Gardner led the celebration through a mock Constitution-signing ceremony from the Governor's Reception Room in the state Capitol, which was webcasted and broadcasted live throughout the state.

This year's Constitution signing was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Bar Association in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the National Constitution Center, and locally by many county bar associations. The "I Signed the Constitution" program

is part of the larger national celebration of Constitution Week, Sept. 17-23, which since 1993, has had an estimated 1.7 million people sign the Constitution at national parks, libraries, schools and malls across America. The purpose of the program is to increase the awareness and understanding of the Constitution, its history and its relevance.

"According to a recent National Constitution Center survey, 58 percent of America's youth can name Bill Gates as the 'father' of Microsoft, but only 2 percent can identify James Madison as the 'father' of the U.S. Constitution," noted Teti. "As such, the PBA is launching an educational effort this school year to help change those percentages by working with Pennsylvania teachers and schools to lay a foundation for teaching civics and government in the classroom."

The "I Signed the Constitution" celebration held at most schools around the

commonwealth kicked-off with students viewing the festivities from the State Capitol live over the Internet through a webcast or on television on the Pennsylvania Cable Network. Secretary Hickok and PBA President Teti talked to students statewide about the importance of the Constitution and how it affected their daily lives. The ceremony also featured a performance of the nationally-acclaimed "Four Little Pages," sponsored by the National Constitution Center. This play, created in 1987 for the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution, depicted the Constitution's founders and framers at work.

Following the broadcast from Harrisburg, schools hosted local programs that featured local judges, lawyers and/or legislators as speakers and local signings of the mock Constitution. The Constitution scrolls signed by the students will be sent to the new National Constitution Center in Philadelphia for display.

Later in the day, President Teti and the cast of the "Four Little Pages" visited with more than 250 students from Good Shepherd School in Camp Hill for an hour-long program and discussion about the Constitution.

"PBA's Constitution Day celebration was a great success, thanks to the 73 schools that participated and the many county bar associations that partnered with us," Teti said. The following is a list of participating schools and county bar partners.

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Constitution Day

(Continued from page 1.)

*Indicates school is partnering with its county bar association

Adams

- Immaculate Conception School B.V.M., New Oxford

Allegheny*

- Julia Ward Howe School, Pittsburgh
- Bon Meade E.S., Coraopolis

Beaver*

- Blackhawk I.S., Beaver Falls

Berks*

- Mt. Penn E.S., Reading
- Amity Elementary Center, Douglasville

Blair* (program to be held on Oct. 21)

- Claysburg Kimmel S.D.
- Hollidaysburg Area S.D.
- Martinsburg Area S.D.
- Williamsburg Area S.D.

Bucks*

- Pine Run Elementary, New Britain

Cambria*

- All Saints Catholic School, Cresson

Cameron*

- Cameron County H.S., Emporium

Carbon*

- Lehighton Area M.S., Lehighton

Centre

- Centre Hall-Potter E.S., Centre Hall

Chester *

- Exton E.S., West Chester
- Lionville E.S., Downingtown

Clarion

- Clarion Area H.S., Clarion

Columbia/Montour*

- Central Columbia M.S., Bloomsburg

Crawford*

- Schafer E.S., Linesville

Cumberland*

- Crestview E.S.
- Wilson M.S.
- Lamberton M.S., Carlisle
- Good Shepherd School, Camp Hill

Dauphin*

- Benjamin Franklin Academic Prep Harrisburg

Delaware*

- Media E.S., Media

Elk *

- St. Marys S.D., St. Marys
- Fox Township E.S., Kersey

Erie *

- Harding E.S., Erie

Fayette*

- Hatfield E.S., Uniontown

Forest*

- West Forest Jr. /Sr. H.S., Tionesta

Franklin*

- Chambersburg Area M.S., Chambersburg

Greene*

- Waynesburg E.S., Waynesburg

Huntingdon*

- Huntingdon Area E.S., Huntingdon

Indiana

- Indiana Area Senior H.S., Indiana

Jefferson*

- Punxsutawney Area M.S., Punxsutawney

Lackawanna*

- Scranton State School for the Deaf, Scranton

Lancaster

- Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Ephrata

Lawrence*

- George Washington Intermediate School, New Castle

Lebanon*

- Fredericksburg E.S., Fredericksburg

Lehigh*

- Salisbury M.S., Allentown

Luzerne*

- Rice Elementary, Mountaintop
- A.D. Thomas E.S., Hazletop
- Solomon-Plains Memorial E.S., Plains
- Chester St. E.S., Kingston

Lycoming*

- Williamsport Area S.D., Williamsport

Mercer*

- Mercer E.S., Mercer
- Mercer Area Jr./Sr. H.S., Mercer

Monroe*

- John Mills Intermediate School, Brodheadsville

Montgomery*

- Montgomery E.S., North Wales

Northampton*

- Shawnee M.S., Easton

Perry

- Susquenita M.S., Duncannon
- West Perry H.S., Elliottsburg

Philadelphia*

- Masterman H.S. Categorical Programs

- Conwell Middle Magnet School
- A.M.Y. at J. Martin School
- Martin Luther King H.S.
- Farrell E.S.
- Stephen Girard College Elementary

Potter

- Coudersport E.S., Coudersport

Schuylkill*

- D.H.H. Lengel M.S., Pottsville

Somerset

- Berlin Brothervalley E.S., Berlin

Susquehanna*

- Blue Ridge M.S., New Milford

Union*

- Lewisburg Area M.S., Lewisburg

Warren

- Pittsfield E.S., Pittsfield

Washington*

- Finley M.S., Finleyville
- Carroll M.S., Monongahela
- Washington Park M.S., Washington
- Cecil M.S., McDonald
- Charleroi M.S., Charleroi

Westmoreland*

- Ligonier Valley M.S., Ligonier

York

- Red Lion Junior H.S., Red Lion □

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Zone 10 Celebrates 75th Anniversary of Lawyers Golf Outing

Lawyers and judges from Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties got together for the 75th Annual Golf Outing of Zone 10 on Sept. 8-10 at Peek-n-Peak Resort in Clymer, NY.

Representatives from all five Zone 10 counties were joined by Pennsylvania Bar Association President Louis N. Teti, Director of County Bar Services Arthur J. Birdsall and Zone 10 Governor Charles F. Bowers Jr.

The tradition, which initially began in 1924 as a round robin baseball tournament, has created many lasting friendships. President Teti noted how well this tradition of developing fellowship between members of the bar fits into his presidential message of 'a balanced life.'

The lawyers of Zone 10 look forward to the golf outing because it gives them an opportunity to meet with lawyers and judges from other counties in a

relaxed atmosphere and establish good business relations. "This [outing] has produced phenomenal cooperation between lawyers and judges. You can even tell a judge he stinks [at golf]," jokingly said by Joe Valentino of Sharon, a 30-year outing veteran. Unfortunately, due to an injury, he was unable to attend this year's outing.

During the summer, golf outings and dinners are scheduled in each of the four counties that make up Zone 10 and culminates with a three-day golf outing following Labor Day.

In the past, the lawyers have had their outings at Lakeview Resort in Morgantown, W.V.; Bedford Springs in

Bedford County; Cambridge Springs in Crawford County; and Avalon Lakes Resort in Avalon, Oh.

Attendees of the Zone 10 outing received a gold-plated letter opener commemorating the 75th anniversary. □



Zone 10 Governor Charles F. Bowers Jr. and PBA President Louis N. Teti discuss their golf game at the Zone 10 Golf Outing Banquet.

MDP CLE Session and Statewide Public Hearings Scheduled

In an effort to gauge the views of PBA members and the public on the topic of multidisciplinary practice of the law, the PBA Commission on Multidisciplinary Practice and Related Trends Affecting the Profession will hold a CLE session on MDPs Oct. 29 in Harrisburg in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Bar Institute and a series of public hearings on the issue around the state in early November.

An MDP is a practice that offers legal services as well as other professional services such as accounting, counseling, and financial advice. The advent of MDPs has raised a host of ethical, business and philosophical questions in the legal community.

To educate lawyers about the MDP issue, the Commission will provide an informational program on multi-disci-

plinary practice at the Oct. 29 House of Delegates meeting at the Sheraton Inn, Harrisburg. Attendees at this two-hour session, which will run from 12:15 - 2:15 p.m. contingent upon the House of Delegates agenda, will be eligible to receive two hours of CLE credit for \$30.

In early November, the Commission will sponsor statewide hearings on MDPs on the following dates, times and locations:

Nov. 8; 1 - 3:30 p.m.; Allegheny County Bar Association

Nov. 9; 9 - 11:30 a.m. ; Erie County Bar Association

Nov. 10; 9 - 11:30 a.m.; State College Borough Council Room

Nov. 10; 1 - 3:30 p.m.; Lackawanna Bar Association

Nov. 10; 7 - 8 p.m.; Northampton County Bar Association

Nov. 11; Pennsylvania Bar Association

Nov. 12; 9 - 11:30 a.m.; Montgomery Bar Association

Nov. 12; 1-3:30 p.m.; Philadelphia Bar Association

Commission Co-Chairs Timothy Carson of Philadelphia and Bruno Muscatello of Butler will preside over the various hearings according to location. Testimony will be in increments of 15 minutes, and members who are interested in testifying are advised to submit written testimony to Louann Bell, Commission staff liaison at PBA Headquarters, no later than Nov. 1. The Commission then will author a report based on the hearings and further study, which will be the subject of a special House of Delegates meeting Jan. 21 in Harrisburg. □

Turn Lemons into Lemonade

Everything You Need to Know about Association Management Software Development

By Ev Sullivan

There are very few associations, and particularly few bar associations, that haven't wrestled with the problem of finding workable association management software at an affordable cost. There are programs being marketed specifically to bars touting the fact that they were developed with the unique requirements of bar associations in mind. They come with huge price tags and little flexibility in terms of customization. They also usually carry hefty annual maintenance fees that must be paid in order to have any technical support for the software.

To compound the problem, we've all heard the nightmare stories about trying to find a programmer who will design a software package to accomplish the wish list of tasks that bar execs compile. Often there's a big cash outlay up front and a tremendous amount of frustration at the end when the software developer insists that the program isn't working because of hardware problems and the hardware provider points the accusing finger at the programmer.

The good news is that successful software development is possible (and almost fun!), and the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow is filled with non-dues revenue if the program is productively marketed.

Know what you want

How does your organization operate? What tasks do staff members carry out every day? What information do you want to keep? What reports do you need to generate? Will you need mailing labels in particular formats? What information needs to integrate with other information? Is some information repeated

(i.e.: member names, addresses, phone numbers for Lawyer Referral Panels or CLE attendance)? Scrutinize every possible task you might want to perform. Do you need to have your accounting software integrate with your database? Keep lists of what needs to happen and don't forget to deal with Y2K issues. The analysis phase is the most critical step in reaching a positive outcome.

Do your research

Talk to anyone and everyone who might be able to recommend a local programmer. Get references. Get more references. Talk to people who have worked with the programmer. Talk to more people who have worked with the programmer. Interview your candidates. Can the programmer speak English, or does he/she speak techno-jargon? Can the programmer understand what you are describing when you talk about the desired final product? Is the programmer willing to accept the fact that the bar staff will have to use the software, so the software must work the way staff is comfortable? Insist on using "off-the-shelf" software so that if, after the program is created, the programmer is struck by a bolt of lightning there will be someone else out there who can provide support for you if you want to make alterations to the package. The selection of a programmer is the other critical aspect which will make or break your project.

Control Costs

Once you decide on a programmer, get a firm handle on the cost. Will this be a flat fee or a "not-to-exceed" fee with an hourly rate? Get your contract in writing and be sure there is a timetable for completion. Will you own the code or will it remain with the programmer? (You want to own it or you could have

potential problems down the road if you want to make changes and the programmer is no longer available.)

Plan Ahead

Be prepared to work closely with the programmer while the software is in the development stage. You will save an enormous amount of money because you aren't purchasing a product marketed by an established company, but you will absorb costs in terms of staff time. Don't try to fool yourself into thinking this won't take staff time...and a lot of it.

Test software

Test the new software one module at a time. Be sure each one does what you want before you go to the next step. You will probably need almost a year in order to go through one full cycle of bar events and activities which need to be tested in the new program.

Celebrate your success

Celebrate when your new association management software package is up and running and doing exactly what you want it to, when you want it to! Copyright your package (another reason to retain ownership of the code).

Profit from your hard work

Smile proudly and bring demo disks to a national bar conference. Show the final product to other bar associations and offer it for sale. By the time you're done, you may actually recoup your cash outlay and, if you ignore the staff time it took to get to this point, you can convince yourself that the program cost you nothing!

(Yes, call the Lancaster Bar Association at (717) 393-0737 if you would like to obtain a demo disk of our new product!) □

Ev Sullivan is the executive director of the Lancaster Bar Association.

Bittersweet Start for Operation Experience

• Project creator Donald Bebenek dies before initiation of program

By David Sinclair

Often the value of a work of art is not realized until long after its creator's death. Sadly, this maxim likely will hold true for Donald Bebenek and his breakthrough educational program, Operation Experience. Bebenek, formerly of Meyer, Darragh, Buckler & Eck, died before Operation Experience had begun. After suffering a stroke, he died at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital on Sunday, Aug. 15, 1999.

While Bebenek conceived Operation Experience through his conversations with fellow lawyers and numerous judges, he had some help making the idea become a reality. Merle Mermelstein of Sikov & Love; James Schadel of Weinheimer, Schadel & Haber; and Meyer, Darragh's Jonathan W. Delano, who was brought on to help publicize the program, all served on the implementation committee with Bebenek. "This was Don's baby from years ago," said Mermelstein, "And the three of us [Bebenek, Mermelstein, and Schadel] did most of the work on this project together."

Schadel agrees, "Don was our leader and the main motivator behind the project. He was very excited and optimistic that it would work. As long as I've known Don he was very concerned about the legal community and was always looking for ways to improve the system."

Operation Experience is a program designed to educate any lawyer who has little or no jury trial experience. Through the program, the novice trial attorney sits at the counsel table with veteran trial lawyers in front of a judge and jury and receives firsthand exposure to courtroom procedures.

Schadel consciously hesitates to label lawyers with little or no trial practice as "inexperienced." He notes, "I don't know many lawyers who will admit they are

inexperienced. Let's just say they are becoming more seasoned jury trial attorneys through this process."

According to Mermelstein, Operation Experience exposes lawyers to many things they do not learn in law school. "When a lawyer is called for a side-bar into the judge's chambers, or especially the conversations between a lawyer and client, the participating lawyer [in Operation Experience] or 'active observer' goes right along with the veteran. These are valuable experiences that you can't get from a mock trial or a classroom lecture in law school," said Mermelstein. While she was lucky enough to join a firm that had veteran lawyers who were willing to help her become a better trial attorney, "some lawyers don't have the opportunity for a mentor to take them under their wings," she noted.

Operation Experience has obtained the support of The Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County; the Board of Governors of the Allegheny County Bar Association; the ACBA's Civil Litigation Section; and the Civil Division Judges, including their Administrative Judge, Hon. James H. McLean.

Almost everyone is familiar with the portrayal of a television judge's exaggerated intolerance over an inexperienced trial attorney. Judge McLean believes that judges get impatient, but not to the degree portrayed on television. "The judges are very good and disciplined in Allegheny County, but we do have a mutual concern over the extra time an inexperienced trial attorney uses to try their case. Our concern is more about saving time," explained Judge McLean. "The court system could be streamlined by eliminating the amount of attorneys that seem to be mystified by the whole process. I have heard nothing but positive comments from the other civil division judges. They are anxious to see Operation Experience in action," Judge

McLean continued.

With changes in the court system, including the increased use of arbitration, came less opportunity for novice trial attorneys to cut their teeth on low-risk cases. According to Schadel, "As the court system changed over time, the smaller cases, \$25,000 or less, were usually settled during the arbitration phase. Don once told me that you were able to try a \$500 case in the past, getting a wealth of experience while risking a relatively low sum of money," said Schadel. "Don also told me that the courts had expressed a concern to him that this part of a young lawyer's natural learning process had been eliminated by the court's more effective use of arbitration," added Schadel.

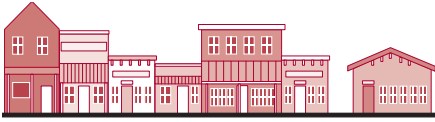
One of the goal of Operation Experience is to make it easily accessible. Mermelstein notes, "I know this program is really unusual, but I hope that the prestige of 'teaching' will glean veteran lawyers [as mentors]."

Schadel added, "We know that if it is difficult or time consuming that the interest will just not be there, so we don't want either party, the veteran lawyer or the active observer, to be forced into a burdensome commitment," said Schadel. "If an afternoon suddenly opens up for an active observer all he or she needs to do is to go to see [Cindy Diulus] in the assignment room, sign the agreement forms, and go get involved."

Operation Experience is in place for the Sept. 7 trial term and currently is only a civil division program. Interested parties should visit or call Cindy Diulus at (412) 350-5463 for the necessary consent and confidentiality agreements.

For general information call Merle Mermelstein at (412) 261-4202 or James Schadel at (412) 765-3399. □

This article is reprinted from the Sept. 10 edition of The Journal of the Allegheny County Bar Association, Vol. 1, No. 12.



On the *Local Scene*...

Delaware

Tax reassessment program hosted

The Delaware County Bar Association hosted an informational citizens' forum on the Philadelphia County tax reassessment. The DCBA, through its real estate practices committee, put together the one and a half hour forum to inform and educate the public on their rights and responsibilities. Members and a county representative presented a program on the court-ordered reassessment process and its significance to county property owners.

Lackawanna

People's Law School held

The Lackawanna Bar Association sponsored People's Law School '99 on Aug. 16-18 at Marywood University. A series of educational programs that informed the public about the law, legal rights and responsibilities was presented. The LBA has sponsored the school since 1993 and has educated the community on a variety of legal issues.

Lebanon

"Outstanding Senior" competition sponsored

For the 38th consecutive year, the Lebanon County Bar Association has teamed up with a local radio station to co-sponsor the "Outstanding Senior of the Year" competition. The competition is designed to pay tribute to one senior high school student who has excelled in scholastic achievement, leadership qualities and participation in school and community-related activities.

Lycoming

Blood drive sponsored

The Lycoming Law Association sponsored a blood drive on July 2 that yielded 175 pints. 191 individuals participated, including 16 first-time donors. This was

the association's first blood drive, and the American Red Cross has requested that it continues to sponsor an early July blood drive.

Montgomery

Annual softball game held

The Montgomery Bar Association held its annual "Mature" Lawyers v. "Young" Lawyers softball game on Tues., Aug. 10. The Mature Lawyers played a tough game, but the Young Lawyers emerged victorious with a final of 12-5.

Mentor program honors participants at dinner

The MBA held its Community Outreach Committee Student Mentor Dinner Program in July. Students received certificates of appreciation for their participation. The year-old mentor program seeks to team up students with adults who serve as role models and buddies throughout the school year.

Northampton

County flag commissioned

On Tuesday, Sept. 2 the Northampton County Bar Association presented a replica of the county flag to Northampton County to be displayed at the county government center. The NCBA commissioned the flag, which was officially adopted in 1952, in preparation for the 250 anniversary of the county.

Snyder

Law Day essay contest sponsored

The Snyder County Bar Association sponsored an essay contest honoring Law Day. Students from Selinsgrove, Middleburg and West Snyder high schools were invited to participate. Students were asked to submit essays on what crimes should be considered "high crimes and misdemeanors" for the purpose of impeaching U.S. presidents and judges. The students also had to decide

whether or not the Constitution needs to be amended to support their positions. The first-place winner received a \$100 savings bond and the second place winner received a \$50 savings bond.

Westmoreland

Bench-Bar retreat held

The Westmoreland Bar Association held its bench-bar retreat at the Wisp Resort in Deep Creek, Md. June 17-19. PBA President Louis Teti attended along with WBA President Richard F. Flickinger and Executive Director Diane Krivoniak. Attendees reported that the retreat was a great success.

Members receive various awards

The WBA presented various awards to members at its annual meeting on April 5. Jack L. Bergstein received the President's Award for Professionalism. The bar presents the award to a member who best exemplifies the highest standards of the law profession.

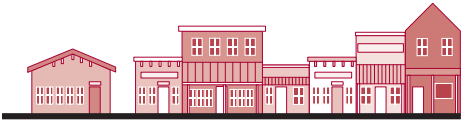
Christopher A. Haidze became the first recipient of the Outstanding Young Lawyers award. This award is given to the young lawyer who best exemplifies outstanding leadership and distinguished service to the legal profession and the community.

Also, the Westmoreland Bar Foundation presented Carl P. Izzo Jr. with the Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award. Hon. John E. Blahovec presented Mr. Izzo with the award honoring his character, courage and dedication to the service of others.

Wilkes-Barre

Speakers' bureau organized

The Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association/Luzerne County Bar has organized a speakers' bureau that makes participating members of the association available to address civic and community groups, schools and public func-



tions according to association President Charles A. Shaffer. The program was developed as a public service by the association's community relations committee.

York

Young Lawyers Sponsor "Law Line"

On Aug. 4, members of the Young Lawyers Section of the York County Bar Association sponsored "Law Line" from 4 to 8 p.m. Members answered telephone calls from the public and provided basic legal information free of charge.

Send Us Your News

If you have submissions for future issues of *The County Line*, please send in the enclosed "News and Views" form or contact PBA County Bar Services Director Arthur Birdsall, at (800) 932-0311, ext. 2218 or e-mail countybar@pabar.org.

Dec. 6 is the deadline for the next issue of the newsletter. □

Statewide Dining Directory

When County Bar Services Director Art Birdsall is on the road traveling to your county, he needs some suggestions on where to grab a bite to eat. Do you have a favorite restaurant or diner you like to frequent in your county?

If so, send your recommendations and a brief description of the restaurant's fare by Dec. 6 to Art Birdsall, P.O. Box 186, Harrisburg, PA 17108-0186; phone (800) 932-0311; fax (717) 238-7182; or e-mail: countybar@pabar.org. We also will publish your submissions on the PBA website at www.pabar.org under Art's Statewide Dining Guide located in the county bar services area. □

Upcoming Conference

34th Annual Seminar of the Conference of County Bar Leaders Update

The CCBL Executive Committee is fine tuning the details for the 34th Annual Seminar of the Conference of County Bar Leaders scheduled for Feb. 25-26 at the Nittany Lion Inn, State College. The committee will meet in October to finalize the educational programs, with topics that include malpractice avoidance, association management, multidisciplinary practices, bar publications, legal services, media training and quality of life. The Annual Seminar of the CCBL will offer up to 4.5 CLE credits to attendees.

Check your mail in November for additional information. Listed below is information on CCBL scholarships and awards available to county bar associations.

CCBL Scholarships Available

Do you want to attend the 34th Annual Seminar of the CCBL but you don't have the available funds? Tuition scholarships are available to county bar leaders.

Arthur J. Birdsall Award

Created by the CCBL Executive Committee, this award is given periodically "to recognize a bar executive who has been a faithful steward of bar traditions, who is committed to the success of his or her bar association, who has enhanced significantly the stature of his or her bar association, who cooperates with other bar executives and bar leaders to make the CCBL the best it can be, and who puts his or her self second to the needs of the bar association whenever and whatever they may be." Nominations will be accepted until Tues., Feb. 1.

Gilbert Nurick Award

Recommendations are being sought for a qualified PBA member to receive the 2000 Gilbert Nurick Award.

Established in 1991, the award signifies outstanding contributions to and leadership in bar activities. The award recognizes the honoree for dedication to and promotion of the organized bar resulting in improved leadership for incoming bar association officers. Nominations will be accepted until Tues., Feb. 1.

PBA County Bar Recognition Awards

PBA County Bar Recognition Awards recognize outstanding projects and activities conducted by county bar associations during the 1999 calendar year. This awards program does not place your bar in competition with other county bars for statewide recognition. Instead, it is designed to recognize projects of all county bar associations that in some way contributed to the improvement of the legal profession, the justice system or the community.

For more information about tuition scholarships, award nominations, or conference registration, please contact Arthur J. Birdsall, PBA county bar services director, at (800) 932-0311, ext. 2218 or e-mail: countybar@pabar.org. □

Westmoreland County Holds Legislative CLE Program

The Westmoreland County Bar Association in conjunction with the PBA Legislative Department held a highly successful three-credit CLE program on Aug. 19 that provided lawyers with an overview of the legislative process and how legislation winds its way through the General Assembly. The course addressed how lawyers can have a direct impact on legislation that will ultimately affect their clients.

The program, moderated by WCBA Legislative Representative Charles C. Mason Jr., included a panel composed of Sen. Allen G. Kukovich and Reps. Jess M. Stairs, Thomas A. Tangretti, and Terry E. Van Horne.

The course also addressed how law-

yers can no longer rely upon the practicing lawyer-legislator to understand the issues of concern to the legal profession and to have an empathetic point of view toward their interests. In 1970, approximately 40 percent of the legislature had law degrees. Today, only 18 percent of the legislature has law degrees and this percentage is destined to decline.

Since this program generated an overwhelming response, the PBA Legislative Department will work with any bar association interested in putting on such a CLE program. Please contact Peter Pokorny, PBA legislative liaison, at (800) 932-0311, ext. 2246, for more information. □

SCBA Responds to Request for Pro Bono Service

The Schuylkill County Bar Association began a formal pro bono program on Sept. 1. Responding to a request from Central Pennsylvania Legal Services (CPLS), the SCBA has volunteered to support a pro bono program to help fill the increasing gap between the funding available for legal services and the demands made on CPLS.

For years, many of the SCBA's 200 attorney members have provided free

legal and other public service to the community, according to SCBA President James P. Wallbillich, of Pottsville. CPLS had asked for the SCBA's commitment to the pro bono program in exchange for CPLS's agreement to continue providing the bulk of legal services to Schuylkill County's low income residents.

CPLS began services in Schuylkill County in mid-1997 with two full-time attorneys. □

New Format for Worker's Comp Form

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation has announced a new format for the LIBC-9 Medical Report Form. The form no longer requires a signature by a medical provider, but providers will need to attach medical records directly to the form. This

should simplify the process for the medical provider and the Employer/Insurer. The new form must be used effective Nov. 1. For more information or to request new forms contact the Workers' Comp. Bureau at (717) 772-1900. □

PBI Courses

Here is the most recent listing of live courses being offered by the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. Dates, times and locations are subject to change. Contact PBI's Customer Service Department for more information at (800)932-4637, (800)247-4724 or (717) 233-5774.

Buying and Selling a Business, live via satellite, Dec. 17, 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. 3 CLE credits (substantive).

Allentown	Media
Chambersburg	Montrose
Doylestown	New Castle
Easton	Reading
Erie	Scranton
Exton	Stroudsburg
Hollidaysburg	Uniontown
Indiana	West Chester
Johnstown	West Decatur
Lancaster	Williamsport
Lewisburg	York
Mansfield	

PBA Malpractice Avoidance Seminars-Fall 1999, 1.5 CLE credits (ethics)

Altoona - Nov. 3; 2-3:30 p.m.

Bedford - Nov. 9; 2 -3:30 p.m.

Burnham - Nov. 4; 2-3:30 p.m.

Clearfield - Nov. 3; 9-10:30 a.m.

Coudersport - Nov. 1; 3-4:30 p.m.

Huntingdon - Nov. 4; 9-10:30 a.m.

Johnstown - Nov. 10; 9-10:30 a.m.

Lock Haven - Nov. 2; 9-10:30 a.m.

McConnellsburg - Nov. 9; 9-10:30 a.m.

Somerset - Nov. 10; 2-3:30 p.m.

State College - Nov. 2; 2-3:30 p.m.