

PBI to Provide Online CLE beginning January 1

Starting Jan. 1, Pennsylvania lawyers will be able to earn CLE credits online from the Pennsylvania Bar Institute's new Online Campus. Up to three of the required 12 annual credits may be earned from programs PBI will offer over the Internet. The Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board has approved the programs and certified PBI as a "distance education" provider.

"We are very excited about this development," said Chester C. Corse, PBI president. "It makes our courses much more widely accessible to lawyers. PBI programs will now be available on demand, any time and anywhere a lawyer happens to be. Attorneys can learn when it is convenient for them. We call it 24-7 CLE."

PBI's Online Campus Web address is onlinecle.pbi.org. Lawyers can visit the Online Campus now to take a free demo and to register for courses, which include ethics programs as well as programs in every major area of practice. By Jan. 1, 60 hours of credits are expected to be available and by compliance time in April, there will be at least 100 hours of programming available.

The online campus will replicate the experience of a classroom seminar, with enhancements that take advantage of the Internet. Video or audio of the recorded program will "stream" in a window on students' computers. The familiar PBI "yellow books" will

be included as electronic files that can be saved on a computer and printed for reference. Lawyers will be able to submit questions or comments to the faculty or other participants.

Many courses also will include PowerPoint outlines that can be printed for note-taking. These outlines will appear on screen, with hyperlinks so that attorneys can open and follow cases, statutes, regulations and other primary law as it is discussed. Future enhancements may include transcripts of the speakers' remarks.

Most programs will be pre-recorded and available any time, at the convenience of the lawyer. Others will be live Webcasts of PBI programs that are also broadcast by satellite.

Elizabeth Price Named PABE Liaison to PBI Board of Directors

The Pennsylvania Bar Institute recently announced that Delaware County Bar Association Executive Director Elizabeth C. Price will serve as the first Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives liaison to the PBI Board of Directors. PABE President Arthur Birdsall appointed Price to the position.

"Betty was the first PABE president to gain the attention of the PBI for our organization and the value that bar execs bring to the organized

PBI is also developing periodic Internet-only updates in every major area of practice. Within weeks of a landmark case or new legislation, the Online Campus will offer a seminar where some of the commonwealth's best lawyers will explore implications and offer practical tips.

The Online Campus system unobtrusively monitors a lawyer's participation. To earn credit, the lawyer must view (or listen to) all the segments of the program and complete an evaluation form required by the CLE board.

For more information, visit onlinecle.pbi.org, or call PBI staff attorney Susan Swope at (800) 932-4637, ext. 2260. □

bar," said Birdsall. "This is a maiden voyage, and she will serve us all."

Upon announcing the designation of the new position, PBI President Chester C. Corse said, "This is a big step forward in continuing the cooperation between PBI and our partners, the local bars. Our policy at PBI is one of inclusion and this step will provide a meaningful method for members of the Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives to share their views with PBI." □

37th Annual Seminar of the PBA Conference of County Bar Leaders February 28 - March 1, 2003 • Hershey Lodge and Convention Center

What's New at CCBL?

• Thursday Night Early-bird Registration and Reception

To make it even easier for you to register, the CCBL is pleased to offer an early-bird registration and reception on Thursday night. Register "at your leisure" after you check-in and join your friends and colleagues for a relaxed evening of socializing.

• Best Projects and Awards

In addition to our usual County Bar Recognition Awards, this year the CCBL Executive Committee will spotlight best practices by county bar associations that give value to their members and/or increase member participation in bar activities. *Should your association be selected, please be prepared to have someone available to talk about your achievements during the Friday afternoon breakout session, from 2 - 3 p.m.*

• Metro Bar Breakfast

In order to better serve all our members, CCBL has added a fourth breakout group to our Saturday morning breakfast meetings. Now bar associations of more than 2,000 members will have their own group, called "Metro Bar" and designated on your badge by "MB." The "Large Bar" group will now be for associations of 500 up to 2,000.

Why Attend?

CCBL builds strong relationships among bar leaders from throughout the commonwealth and strives to improve the status of the legal profession through effective leadership in the organized bar. By participating in the CCBL seminar, attendees receive many beneficial suggestions and ideas to apply to leadership activities in their home counties.

Hotel Reservations

Call toll-free at (800) 437-7439/(800) HERSHEY, or FAX (717) 534-8668. To receive the group rate (\$109, plus tax, single or double), make your reservation by Jan. 26, and mention that you are attending the PBA CCBL Seminar.

CCBL Scholarships Available

Tuition scholarships are available to county bar leaders who want to attend the CCBL Seminar but don't have the available funds.

PBA County Bar Recognition Awards

PBA County Bar Recognition Awards recognize outstanding projects and activities conducted by county bar associations during the 2002 calendar year. This awards program does not place county bars in competition with each other 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.

Gilbert Nurick Award

Recommendations are being sought for a qualified PBA member to receive the 2002 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 Friday, Jan. 31, 2003.

The Chief Justice John P. Flaherty Award

The CCBL Executive Committee created the Chief Justice John P. Flaherty Award in 2001 in recognition of the Chief Justice's efforts to encourage the work of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and its Conference of County Bar

Leaders. The award is given to a qualified Pennsylvania Bar Association member to recognize an outstanding effort to promote the objects and purposes of the Conference of County Bar Leaders and to improve the legal profession, the justice system or the community. The award need not be given on an annual basis, but rather when the effort should be recognized. If you feel there is a member of your bar association worthy of this award, please complete the entry form and return it to the Pennsylvania Bar Association by Friday, Jan. 31, 2003. You may attach a current biography and any other relevant materials.

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 Friday, Jan. 31, 2003.

For More Information

For more information about tuition scholarships and registration, and for award nomination forms, please contact Arthur J. Birdsall, PBA county bar services director, at (800) 932-0311, ext. 2218, or e-mail art.birdsall@pabar.org, or visit the County Bar Services area of the PBA Web site at www.pabar.org/ccblhome.shtml. □

37th Annual Seminar of the PBA Conference of County Bar Leaders

Schedule of Events

Thursday, February 27, 2003

NEW! 9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Early Bird Registration & Reception

Friday, February 28, 2003

8:30 a.m.
Registration and PBA Supermarket

8:50 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.
CCBL Orientation & Presidents' Roundtable Discussion

All county bar presidents are invited to have coffee with PBA President Carson and President-elect Golden. Introduction and comments by CCBL President O'Connor.

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Malpractice Avoidance Program — Wrongful Use of Civil Proceedings
Conference members who attend this presentation will receive up to a 5% discount on their PBA-endorsed malpractice insurance, plus 1.5 hours of CLE ethics credit.

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Preparing Yourself To Be The President

11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Kick-Off Luncheon
Presiding: Francis X. O'Connor, CCBL President
Welcome: President, Dauphin County Bar Assn.
Silent Invocation
Presentation of Awards:
Gilbert Nurick Award
Chief Justice John P. Flaherty Award
Arthur J. Birdsall Award
Introduction of Speaker:
Timothy J. Carson, PBA President

1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Hotel Check-in Break and Networking Session
If you are receiving a County Bar Recognition Award, please be sure to have your photograph taken.

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
THREE BREAKOUT SESSIONS:
1. Bench and Bar Relations

2. Dealing With The Media

NEW! 3. Best Projects and Awards
Best practices by county bar associations that give value to their members and/or increase member participation in bar activities. Teams from county bar associations will present programs, awards, services and events that keep their associations relevant to their members.

3:00 p.m.
PBA YLD Business Meeting

3:05 p.m. - 4:05 p.m.
THREE BREAKOUT SESSIONS
1. Unauthorized Practice of Law
Conference members who attend this program will receive one hour of substantive CLE credit.

2. Preserving Your Bar's History: Why You Should Do It and How You Should Do It By Those Who Have Done It

3. Technology – Keeping Up With The Big Bars
Managing mountains of information while coping with the relentless daily responsibilities of your position can be a stressful and daunting task. This session addresses the many new and persistent challenges you are likely to face, and explores the tools readily available to help you meet those challenges head-on and come out on top. Some of the tools explored and demonstrated will be personal productivity software, office management software, hand-held organizers (PDAs), scanners, and e-mail.

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.
PLENARY SESSION: InCite – Electronic Legal Research
Conference members who attend this session will receive one hour of substantive CLE credit.

6:45 p.m.
Reception
Shuttle busses will leave from the front of the hotel beginning at 6:30 p.m.

9:00 p.m. - ?
Hospitality Suite

Saturday, March 1, 2003

7:30 a.m.
Breakfast Buffet

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
FOUR NETWORKING BREAKFAST MEETINGS:
Small Bar Breakfast (for bar associations of 75 or fewer members)
Medium Bar Breakfast (for bar associations of 76-499 members)
Large Bar Breakfast (for bar associations of 500-2,000 members)

NEW! Metro Bar Breakfast (for bar associations of more than 2,000 members)

Please attend the breakfast to which you are assigned by the letter indicated on your name badge. "S" indicates small bar breakfast, "M" indicates medium bar breakfast, "L" indicates large bar breakfast and "MB" indicates metro bar breakfast.

9:05 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.
Legal Journals: Past, Present and Future

10:05 a.m.
Bar Leader Forum/Business Meeting
County Bar Recognition Awards to be picked up. Recipients are listed in the back of the program.

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
TBD
Conference members who attend this session will receive one and one-half hours of CLE credit.

11:30 a.m.
CCBL Executive Committee Meeting

11:45 a.m.
Getaway Buffet

InCite™ UPDATE: Now InCite Includes More Cases; Provides More Results

The Pennsylvania Bar Association and LexisNexis™ continue to add enhancements to InCite™ to make the online research tool an even more valuable PBA membership benefit. New combined court searching has been added to make research easier. And, the InCite library now includes appellate cases for all 50 states for the past five years and all circuit court cases for the past five years.

InCite is available to all PBA members as part of their annual PBA dues. The service is fast, easy and has an information base to handle most any inquiry about Pennsylvania law. Additional features provide cases from the other 49 states as well. InCite is made available through a special arrangement with LexisNexis™, the leader in legal research. PBA members also have access to LexisNexis services outside InCite at special discounted rates.

InCite was designed with lawyers in mind. This means that it takes no more than basic office hardware and software that support the Internet to access the service.

PBA members who have not yet put InCite to use are encouraged to register by going to the PBA Web site and clicking on the revolving InCite logo.

In addition, county bar associations are encouraged to avail themselves of the "reverse mentors" who will help familiarize fellow bar association members with electronic legal research and with InCite. One hour of CLE credit is offered for the InCite training. To make arrangements for a program in your county, contact PBA Member Services Director Elizabeth Kramer at (800) 932-0311, ext. 2208, or elizabeth.kramer@pabar.org. □

Conference of County Legal Journals Re-Energized

The Conference of County Legal Journals met on Nov. 21 with a renewed effort. Legal advertising and legislative issues were part of the agenda and the resulting discussion was productive, especially for smaller counties that perhaps do not have as many resources as larger groups.

Elizabeth Price, Conference of County Legal Journals treasurer, said that in the past, the Conference met to discuss how to improve county legal journals, when to raise rates, and general "how to" questions. She indicated that those issues are still pertinent, but with the progress of electronic technology (desktop publishing, faxing, e-mail, etc.), the publication of county legal journals has become more automated so there are additional issues to be considered.

Future meeting discussions are likely to include topics such as software, working with printing companies, what is the best and most economical way to publish a bar's journal, and how current legislation impacts the publishing of county legal journals.

The Conference will present a session on county legal journals at CCBL on Saturday, March 1, at 9:05 a.m.

The Conference of County Legal Journals is chaired by Sandra Brydon Smith, Erie. Barbara I. Kittrell, Berks, is secretary and Elizabeth C. Price, Delaware, is treasurer. □

2003 Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives Officers

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County Bar Services Director
Pennsylvania Bar Association

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Bar Association

Send Us Your News

To submit news for *The County Line*, please use the enclosed "News and Views" form or contact PBA County Bar Services Director Arthur Birdsall at (800) 932-0311, ext. 2218; write Arthur Birdsall, PBA, PO Box 186, Harrisburg, PA 17108; or e-mail art.birdsall@pabar.org.

March 10 is the deadline for the next issue of the newsletter.

County Bar Services Director: Arthur J. Birdsall

The County Line Editor: Patricia M. Graybill

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Unit County Discount, Dues Drop Changes Approved by PBA House

The Pennsylvania Bar Association House of Delegates has approved the Report with Recommendation of the Membership Development Committee regarding Unit County discounts. The committee recommended that the discount schedule given to Unit County bar associations be 10 percent for the first quarter, six percent for the second quarter, and no discount for the third and fourth quarters, to become effective in the 2003 dues year.

By encouraging Unit Counties to pay by the end of the second quarter to receive the final discount, both the Unit County and the PBA will benefit from an increased cash flow.

Under the shortened discount schedule, members in Unit Counties who do not pay their dues will be dropped on July 31, thereby encouraging the members to submit their dues to the Unit County in a more timely fashion so as to not lose access to member benefits such as InCite, section memberships and other "members only" services. By encouraging payment of the dues early to both the local and the state bar, the PBA is assisting the local bar in obtaining its funds at an earlier time in the fiscal year and eliminating the bookkeeping necessitated by extending the payment time. □

2002 – 2003 CCBL Executive Committee

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Pennsylvania Bar Association and Foundation Soliciting Nominees for Several Awards

The PBA Children's Rights Committee is accepting nominations for the **Child Advocate of the Year Award**, which recognizes the accomplishments of lawyers and judges who are advocates for children within the commonwealth or who are involved with child advocacy. **Nomination deadline is Jan. 17.**

The PBA Minority Bar Committee is accepting nominations for the **Lifetime Achievement Award**, which honors the accomplishments of an attorney or judge who has demonstrated true dedication to the legal profession and the minority community through civil, community or legal service for a period of at least 15 years. **Nomination deadline is Jan. 17.**

The PBA Young Lawyers Division is accepting nominations for the **2003 Liberty Bell and Michael K. Smith awards**. **Nomination deadline is Feb. 1.**

The Pennsylvania Bar Foundation is seeking nominations for the **2003 Louis J. Goffman Awards**, which are presented to an individual and organization for outstanding pro bono work during the past year. **The nomination deadline is Feb. 14.**

Nomination forms and additional information for these awards are available on the PBA Web site at www.pabar.org.

www.pabar.org

the county line



On the *Local Scene...*

Allegheny

“The Truth About Probate and Living Trusts in Pennsylvania”

To counteract the claims of some unethical living trusts and wills vendors, the Allegheny County Bar Association’s Probate and Trust Law Section recently published a booklet, “The Truth About Probate and Living Trusts in Pennsylvania.” The association hopes to help the citizens of Allegheny County, especially the elderly, make better decisions concerning trusts and wills.

Minority Law Internship Program

The Allegheny County Bar Association will sponsor the 10th annual Minority Summer Law Internship Program this summer. The program, which was created by the ACBA Committee on Opportunities for Minorities and the Homer S. Brown Law Association, was designed to provide minority students with positive reinforcement through the creation of jobs, education and self esteem. The program also gives students an opportunity to witness the work of the legal community and the various job skills utilized by lawyers and support staff to complete their work. Students receive a uniform from the bar association and are also matched up with a mentor from the Homer S. Brown Law Association.

Leadership Program for YLD

The Young Lawyers Division of the Allegheny County Bar Association has developed a Bar Leadership Initiative Program to provide leadership training for young lawyers.

Beaver

Habitat for Humanity

Members of the Beaver County Bar Association helped erect walls at a local Habitat for Humanity project in October. The lawyers volunteered their time and effort to assist the county Habitat affiliate in its efforts



Building something to be proud of – (From left) Beaver County attorneys Clara Montanari and Jim Ross, along with Jack Ross, another Habitat for Humanity Volunteer.

(Front row, from left) Beaver County attorneys Bill Braslawce and Bernie Caputo, Habitat for Humanity Representative John Dudo, attorneys Cathy Campbell, Deb Kunselman, Lawson Cashdollar and Rich Urick. (Back row, from left) Attorneys Ken Fawcett, Jim Ross, Bruce Curry, Harry Kunselman, Clara Montanari, Paul Steff and John Rackley.



building and rehabilitating houses into affordable homes for low-income families. In addition to volunteering physical labor, the bar association also made a \$1,000 donation to Habitat for Humanity.

Jim Ross, an attorney volunteer, said that over the past four or five years, the association has made a concerted effort to have more of a charitable impact in the county. At the end of last year, the bar organized a five-person Charitable Giving Committee, which chooses from among the many charitable requests it receives, he said. Financial donations are made through the Beaver County Bar Foundation.

The Beaver County Bar Association has also signed an agreement with the Beaver County Foundation establishing the association’s Charitable Contribution Fund. The fund will be sup-

ported by contributions from the bar association and will benefit selected charitable causes in the county.

Blair

“Words of Wisdom”

The Blair County Bar Association recently held their first “Words of Wisdom” gathering. The event featured attorneys 70 years and older — including some WWII veterans — who shared their insights with fellow attorneys at an informal evening get-together. The association hopes to hold similar events each quarter.

Chester

“Meet Your Judges” Forum

The Chester County Bar Association joined with the League of Women Voters and the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges to present a



“Meet Your Judges” forum in October. The event provided the public with an opportunity to learn more about the judicial process, to witness the court in action with a short dramatization, followed by a question and answer session, and a chance to meet court judges. Judge Juan R. Sanchez said the drama enlivens the explanation of the legal process for the lay viewer while showing how one criminal case can have a serious impact on other areas of the judiciary.

Guide for Senior Citizens

The Chester County Bar Association recently published “The Chester County Guide for Senior Citizens and Their Families” for residents of Chester County. The free 74-page guide is designed to provide information about legal issues facing the county’s senior citizens, their caregivers and families.

Dauphin

Supreme Court Admission Ceremony

For the second time in a year, Dauphin County Bar Association members traveled by bus to the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. for a group admission ceremony. On Oct. 21, 29 members were admitted to practice by the court. A reception followed the ceremony, at which Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and the Clerk of Court met with the group and answered questions.

Dramatic CLE

The Dauphin County Bar Association, in conjunction with the Harrisburg Shakespeare Festival and the Widener University School of Law, made history with a one-hour CLE session that lasted two days! After a late-night performance of *The Merchant of Venice*, Law Professor Randy Lee moderated a discussion of the courtroom legal issues. The session included the play’s director and cast and lasted past midnight.

Diversity Dinner and Meeting

The Dauphin County Bar Association, along with the Harrisburg Black Attorneys Association, sponsored their third annual joint dinner meeting. The event, which focuses on diversity, is held each year on Oct. 4, Hon. Clarence C. Morrison Day (in honor of the first minority President Judge on the Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas). Judge Cynthia A. Baldwin of the Allegheny Court of Common Pleas was the guest speaker.

Local Justice System Desmystified

The Dauphin County Bar Association joined with the Harrisburg Black Attorneys Association, the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges and the Harrisburg and Hershey Area League of Women Voters, to present a “Meet Your Judges” forum in October. The event provides an opportunity for residents to meet and get to know those who are called upon to make many of the most difficult decisions in the county every day. Jeanine Turgeon, a Dauphin County judge and chair of the event, said the event is “a good opportunity to educate the public about what happens on a daily basis in our justice system locally ... and to kind of take away the mystery and some misunderstandings about how our justice system works.”

Red Mass

The annual Red Mass was celebrated in St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg in October. The event is designed as an opportunity for judges, lawyers and government officials of all religious faiths to seek divine guidance in their pursuit of justice.

Franklin

“Know Your Credit Rights”

The Franklin County Bar Association offered a program on consumer credit issues in October. “Know Your Rights: Be an Educated Credit Consumer” focused on topics such as

credit reporting, debt management, credit collection and bankruptcy. Information on landlord and employer use of credit reports, protecting financial privacy and identity theft was also made available. Program presenters included Richard Bushman and Carolyn Carter of the FCBA, and representatives of the Bureau of Consumer Protection of the Pa. Attorney General’s Office.

Lackawanna

Young Lawyers in the Classroom

The Young Lawyers Division of the Lackawanna Bar Association sponsored its fifth annual “Lawyers in the Classroom” program in October. Attorneys visited fifth-grade classrooms in the county to talk to students about the law.

Bench-Bar Conference

Judge John E. Jones III of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania was the speaker for the Lackawanna Bar Association Bench-Bar Conference in November. Jones is a two-time chair of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. His efforts have led to the creation of Pennsylvanians Against Underage Drinking, a statewide coalition of health and education officials, law enforcement, licensees and community leaders committed to youth alcohol issues.

Luzerne

Pro Bono Program for the Elderly

The Luzerne County Bar/Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association has implemented a pro bono program primarily for the elderly of Luzerne County. Funds for the program are derived from the Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyers Trust Account and are awarded via a grant to Legal Services of Luzerne County Inc., on behalf of the Luzerne County Bar Association.

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On the *Local Scene...*

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Monroe

Anniversaries Recognized

The Monroe County Bar Association recently sponsored an anniversary dinner honoring three members celebrating 45 years of service. Edward A. Hoffner, Edwin Krawitz and Phillip H. Williams were the honorees.

Mock Trial Invitationals

The Monroe County Bar Association held its Mock Trial Invitational Competition in November. Student participants litigated a criminal case before judges and attorneys of the association.

Montgomery

“Thanks-for-Giving” Run

The Montgomery Bar Association sponsored their fourth annual “Thanks-for-Giving” 5K Run/1-mile Fun Walk on October 19.

Civil War Weapons Demonstration

The Montgomery Bar Association recently learned about Civil War era — and earlier — weapons during a demonstration by Judge Maurino Rossanese of the Common Pleas Court and members of the 1st Pennsylvania Artillery.

Northampton

Attorneys Go Back to High School

Northampton County Bar Association member Annette P. Landes recently joined seven other Nazareth Area High School graduates, all now business professionals, who returned to their alma mater to share their professional experiences with 700 juniors and seniors. Landes and the other presenters spoke about the activities they pursued in high school and how those interests helped them choose their careers.

Memorial Service

The Northampton County Bar Association held a memorial service in

October for five attorneys who died in the last year. Memorialized were Benjamin F. Black, William F. Brodt Jr., William B. Joachim Jr., Dominick A. Lockwood and Robert Margolis.

Union

“Meet Your Judges”

Members of the Union County Bar Association joined with the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges and the League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area and the American Association of University Women, Susquehanna Valley Branch, to present a “Meet Your Judges” forum for Union and Snyder County residents in November. Area district justices and judges were introduced and discussed their roles in the judicial system.

Westmoreland

Help for Military Personnel

As part of the American Bar Association’s Operation Enduring LAMP (Legal Assistance for Military Personnel), the Westmoreland Bar Association has solicited its members to assist the 14th Quartermaster Detachment. The military unit is preparing for possible mobilization and the volunteer attorneys will help them in preparing wills and powers of attorney, as well as advise the reservists on other legal rights and responsibilities they may face as active duty soldiers.

Young Lawyers Meet District Justices

The Young Lawyers Committee of the Westmoreland Bar Association hosted a gathering for district justices and young lawyers on Sept. 26. Because a young lawyer’s first contact with the judicial system is most often the district justice, the gathering provides an opportunity for the young lawyers to get to know one another outside of the courtroom first.

HERO Project

Staff of the Westmoreland Bar Association and trustees of the Westmoreland Bar Foundation worked on the local HERO Project as part of the United Way’s Day of Caring on Sept. 5. The volunteers mounted posters, attached easel backs and delivered materials to area libraries, enabling the project to reach areas of the county they might otherwise have trouble accessing, and saving them substantial postage as well. The HERO Project encourages adults to report suspicions of child sexual abuse.

Wyoming-Sullivan

Award-Winning Pro Bono Program

A community service program launched this year by the Wyoming-Sullivan County Bar Association has received statewide recognition. The association’s Pro Bono Referral Program provides free legal services to people who can’t afford them. Although other counties in the state have similar programs, the W-SCBA program is unique, because all 25 members have agreed to provide their services. As of mid-November, the program had assisted with 30 cases. Chair Deborah Albert-Heise said that the program is being used as a model for other small counties.

York

Bar Association Thespians

“The Barstools,” a theatrical group from the York County Bar Association, performed an original comedy as part of York’s 225th anniversary celebration of the adoption of the Articles of Confederation in York. The play pokes fun at the handful of cities that have tried to lay claim to the title “America’s First Capital.”



McKean

Lawyers named temporary judges, preside over civil trials

Judgment day is coming a little sooner in McKean County Court with the help of temporary judges from the McKean County Bar Association.

With the county jail frequently over capacity and a full criminal case docket as well, the county court system is making do with a number of provisional ways to handle civil matters.

"We're trying to create as many options through the resources we have to hold this thing together," said McKean County Judge John Cleland, explaining an "alternative dispute resolution technique" called judge pro tem(pore).

The phrase means "temporary judge," Cleland said. McKean County's program involves "five of six senior members of the McKean County Bar Association presiding as judges over civil cases," Cleland said.

According to court administrator Joanne Bly, the lawyers who are eligible to participate in the program include John Yoder, who is also a district justice, Fred Gallup, Erik Ross, Mike Baker, Christian Mattie III, Robert Saunders and Richard Mutzabaugh.

Bly explained the pro tem judge is paid at a rate of \$125 per hour.

"The county pays the first \$750," she said, and the rest is divided equally between the litigants. The attorneys for the plaintiff and defendant deposit in advance \$600 for each day that has been allotted for the trial, she said.

The program is widespread and is used mostly to expedite the civil process, Bly explained.

Mutzabaugh, who practices in Bradford, has seen the program from both sides, serving as both a judge pro tem and as an attorney representing a litigant.

"I think it's a wonderful idea. We need to get the civil cases to trial," he said, adding the importance of a judge in the entire law process.

"A judge is a gatekeeper," he said. "He tries to keep the gate closed to impropriety."

Although the man behind the bench is not the one people are used to seeing, the cases proceed through the system in the same manner.

"There's nothing different," he said. "All the same steps are taken for the case to be heard."

Using the judge pro tem program, a civil case can get to trial "in a couple of months," Mutzabaugh said.

He said due to the large amount of cases in the system and the fact that there is only one judge in the county hearing both civil and criminal cases, civil matters have not gotten to trial rapidly.

He described the process by which the decision is made to use a judge pro tem. Generally, one of the attorneys representing a civil litigant suggests using the program.

Usually the attorneys will present a list to the judge of acceptable pro tem judges to be assigned to the case. He said that the list reflects attorneys with expertise in the particular field of the case. Then the court administrator assigns a senior member of the bar to hear the case.

Mutzabaugh said both attorneys must agree on the pro tem judge assigned by the administrator.

The pro tem judge's decision on the case is the final word and is not reviewed by Cleland, Mutzabaugh said.

The cases cannot be criminal, custody disputes or cases involving the termination of parental rights and can involve either a jury or a non-jury

trial, Cleland explained.

He said he believes so far, five or six cases have been heard in non-jury trials by a judge pro tem. Bly said pretrial conferences on civil matters are scheduled every other month as needed and Cleland suggests using the pro tem judge program as an option in the case.

Many forms of disputes are included in the category of civil cases. Matters heard under this heading include divorce, custody, personal injury, property damage, probate, protection from abuse petitions, administrative appeals and domestic relations matters of support and paternity issues.

Problems with a full court calendar are increasing each year, with higher numbers of civil matters asking for the court's attention this year than in the past.

According to the McKean County Prothonotary's office, the number of new civil cases in the court system [in September of] this year is 1,368 — a number that wasn't reached until Nov. 2 last year. The total number of civil cases for 2001, when the judge pro tem program began, was 1,639.

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Art Birdsall's List of Great Places on the Road

PBA County Bar Services Director Art Birdsall has spent his 21 years with the PBA traveling the state to develop relationships with local lawyers and county bar executives. Along the way, he's compiled this county-by-county list, which excludes major metropolitan areas, of where to find good food and conversation. We're pleased to share his opinions with you and know you'll feel free to share yours with Art.

Adams — Gettysburg Hotel, excellent cuisine among Civil War history.

Beaver — New Brighton Hot Dogs, various lengths and exotic toppings. Americana at its best!



Blair — The Dream (formerly Dave's Dream, established in 1952) and the U.S. Hotel, two great spots to eat in picturesque Hollidaysburg. Inlows is home of an excellent 12" hotdog and the best milkshakes.

Bradford — Towanda, Williamstown Inn. If it's winter, you'll enjoy a roaring fire.

Butler — Butler Hot Dog Shoppe.

Cambria — Lombardo's, on Scalp Avenue, Johnstown, is a bit of Europe. Also, Sunnyhanna Country Club for good food and a sublime golf course.

Cameron — Emporium, Cabin Kitchen Restaurant and the Buttonwood Inn, which serves a huge Amish-style breakfast from a giant grill and has rooms large enough to sleep four or five (usually hunters).



Carbon — The Inn at Jim Thorpe is an outstanding place to stay and for dining, try the Switzerland Hotel.

Clarion — Clarion, County Seat, a great breakfast spot where the lawyers all know each other.

Clearfield — Moena Restaurant, 215 East Market Street, Clearfield. A taste of Italy in the "New World."

Columbia — McGee Hotel, a landmark institution in Bloomsburg known for good food and a pleasant atmosphere.

Crawford — Santalino's, outstanding Italian food.

Elk — Bavarian Inn, don't miss the Spaetzel soup and the Bavarian-clad staff; or the Straub's Beer's Eternal Tap in St. Marys.

Forest (right on the border with Venango) — Five Forks, northeast of Oil City, overlook a scenic area and watch eagles fly by.

Fulton — McConnellsburg Diner, a classic.

Greene — Amelia's Restaurant on Route 21.

Huntingdon — Orbisonia, Dave's, serves the best hot meatloaf sandwich and fries; Grubb's Diner on Route 22. Spruce Creek Inn on Route 45, Grab a handful of fries and maybe you will run into former President Carter. He goes there to fly fish.

Indiana — Roxanne's on Route 286 S and Coney Island Hot Dogs; great dogs with style.

Lawrence — Coney Island Hot Dogs, more great dogs with style; Chuck Tanner's restaurant, where the former Pirates' manager offers excellent cuisine in a nice setting.

Luzerne — Beaumont Inn, located outside of Dallas in beautiful woodlands.

Lycoming — Williamsport, the Bridge, only takes cash and the sandwiches are so big no one can finish them; The Ross Club, a dignified setting for good food.



McKean County — home of Zippo lighters and Case knives; Smethport Christmas store, reputedly the oldest Christmas shop in Pennsylvania.

Mercer — Mercer, Iron Bridge, nice restaurant about 10 minutes from the Grove City outlets.

Northumberland — Front Street Station, good food and unique atmosphere inside a railroad car.



Pike County — Tom Quick Inn, in the home county of a great American "cowboy."

Potter — Laurel Woodlands, a restaurant in a log cabin whose owner, a former LAPD detective, built the place so his rock band could play there.

Schuylkill — Greystone Inn, lots of character and good food in this charming renovated hotel; the Yuengling Brewery, America's oldest, is located just blocks away.

Somerset — Somerset, Summit Diner, excellent food at one of the oldest diners in Pennsylvania; Georgian Place, a B&B in the middle of Horizon Outlets, also the Pine Grille.

Susquehanna — Montrose House, dining.

Tioga — Wellsboro Diner, where you can't beat the hot roast beef sandwich and mashed potatoes; Tyoga Country Club, play golf on a four-star course for annual dues that would surprise you.

Venango — Wolf's Den, Emlenton, well-known for its French onion soup.

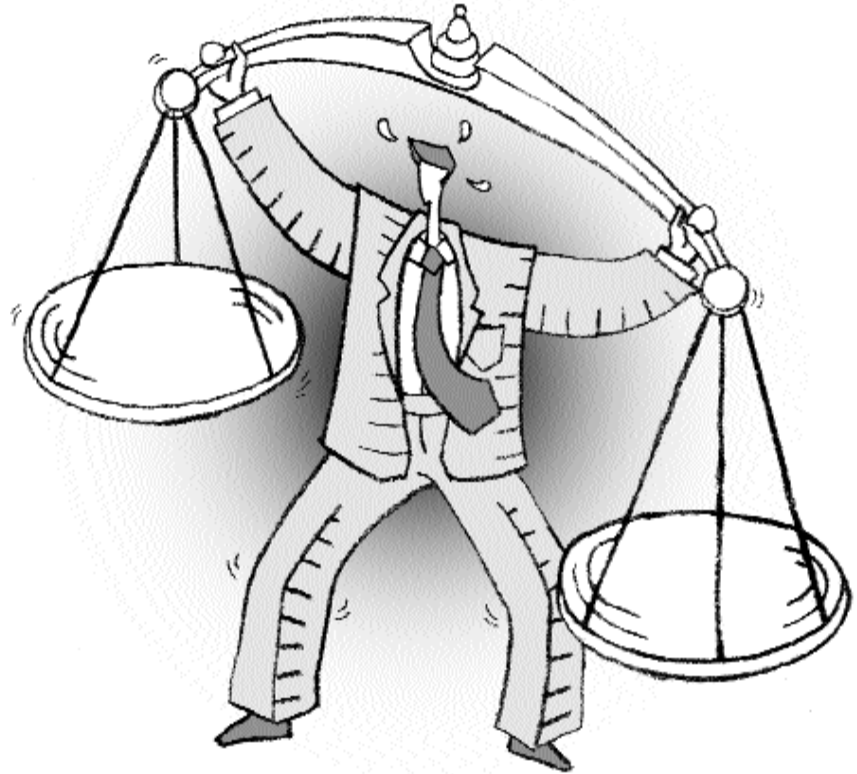
Washington — Century Inn in the Village of Scenery Hill on Route 40; Union Grille, the place where politicians and lawyers eat and meet

Wayne — Honesdale Diner; Settlers Inn and East Shore Lodging, two great spots near Lake Wallenpaupack.

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PBI Courses

Here is a listing of 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) 796-0804.

King of Prussia

Family Law Practice in Bucks, Chester, Delaware & Montgomery Counties, February 21, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 6 CLE Credits (5 substantive, 1 ethics)

LIVE VIA SATELLITE

Allentown	New Castle
Chambersburg	Reading
Easton	Schuylkill Haven
Erie	Scranton
Greensburg	Somerset
Hollidaysburg	State College
Honesdale	Stroudsburg
Indiana	Towanda
Johnstown	Uniontown
Kingston	Waynesburg
Lancaster	West Chester
Lewisburg	West Decatur
Mansfield	York
Media	

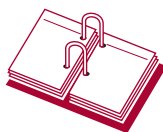
Civil Litigation Update, March 26, 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., 6 CLE Credits (5 substantive, 1 ethics)

Bethlehem

Family Law Practice in the Lehigh Valley, March 26, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 6 CLE Credits (5 substantive, 1 ethics)

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Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming Events:

PBA Midyear Meeting Jan. 28 - Feb. 2, 2003

Casa de Campo,
Dominican Republic
*Take an e-tour of the resort at
www.casa-ebrochure.com and
visit the PBA Web site for the
conference brochure or to
register online.*

*Limited spaces may still
be available!*

37th Annual Conference of County Bar Leaders

Feb. 28 - March 1, 2003
Hershey Lodge
and Convention Center
See details, Pages 2-3.

**YLD New Admittee
Conference**
Feb. 28 - March 1, 2003
Hershey Lodge
and Convention Center
*Call (800) 932-0311,
Ext. 2223, for details.*

**PBA Minority Attorney
Conference**
March 27-28, 2003
Westin,
Philadelphia

PBA Annual Meeting
April 23-25, 2003
Wyndham Franklin Plaza,
Philadelphia