Making a Difference

The Pennsylvania Bar News column that highlights Pennsylvania attorneys who make a difference in their communities by providing extraordinary pro bono service and/or other community services in the public interest.

Kristine L. Waltz, Lycoming County

Kristine Waltz is with Dinges, Dinges & Waltz LLC, Williamsport.

Describe your pro bono work.
I am the Lycoming County coordinator for the PBA Young Lawyers Division-sponsored Wills for Heroes (WFH) program. Our first WFH event, held in October, was met with a great response from first-responder clients, attorney and notary volunteers, and generous sponsors. Our team provided free, basic estate-planning documents to 39 clients in that inaugural event.

Waltz

Why do you participate in pro bono?
WFH provides a great opportunity to give back to those in our community — first responders and veterans — who selflessly serve all of us.

How did you first become involved?
After participating in pro bono work through the Lycoming Law Association for more than 20 years, I decided to “step up” and get the WFH program going in Lycoming County.

What have been the personal rewards?
My practice does include estate planning, so volunteering with the WFH program was an easy fit. However, you don’t need any estate-planning experience to volunteer with this wonderful community-outreach program.

Have your pro bono cases dealt with legal issues different from your regular practice areas? If so, how did you adapt?
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Visit the PBA online: www.pabar.org

Pennsylvania Bar Foundation Seeks Leadership Nominations

Those interested in being nominated should submit their qualifications and a brief biographical sketch by April 29 to PBF Nominating Committee, Attn: Grace R. Schuyler, Esq., Chair, c/o Pennsylvania Bar Foundation, P.O. Box 186, Harrisburg, Pa. 17108-0186.

Additional board service expectations and requirements can be found on the PBF website at www.pabarfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/board_member_expectations.pdf.

Bar Leadership Institute Seeks Applicants for 2016-17 Class

Applications are being accepted for the PBA Bar Leadership Institute (BLI) Class of 2016-17. The BLI is designed to provide emerging leaders, representing a broad cross-section of the diversity of the PBA membership, with an opportunity to learn about the PBA while actively participating in key meetings. Participation in the BLI provides numerous opportunities to network with PBA members and leadership and helps build lasting relationships that will serve as an invaluable resource for future success.

The BLI looks to the future of the organization by developing well-informed, committed leaders who will serve the PBA for many years to come. It familiarizes participants with the day-to-day operation of the association, provides a foundation on governance and policy issues, and introduces participants to PBA staff and resources.

Each BLI participant will be paired with an experienced and committed mentor who is a current or past member of the PBA Board of Governors.

Active and engaged participation in the BLI also provides opportunities for professional development and learning. Participants can earn CLE credits and interact with colleagues who practice law in their areas of interest.

To be selected for this year’s class an applicant must be a PBA member, age 38 years or younger or have practiced law for five years or less and have demonstrated leadership ability. Those selected as part of the 10-member class are required to attend and participate in three meetings: the Young Lawyers Division Summer Meeting, July 27-29, in State College, the Board of Governors, Committee/Section Day and House of Delegates meetings, Nov. 16-18 in Harrisburg, and the Conference of County Bar Leaders, Feb. 23-25, 2017, in State College. The costs of attending these meetings (rooms and meals provided at the events and registration fees) will be paid by the PBA. Travel expenses to and from the meetings are not covered.

Visit the BLI Web page at www.pabar.org/bli.asp for details and application materials. Applications are due by May 13. For more information contact Susan Etter, PBA education and special projects coordinator, at susan.etter@pabar.org or 800-832-0311, ext. 2256.