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 legal services in the public interest.

Stephen C. Miller

Stephen C. Miller is a solo practitioner in Media, Delaware County. Miller assists veterans, providing direct legal services in landlord-tenant, consumer affairs, custody, and other civil and criminal matters. He advocates for veterans before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the Pennsylvania General Assembly and participates in veterans court as a mentor and defense counsel.

Why do you participate in pro bono?
I was able to attend Rutgers Camden for free due to my military status as an F-16 pilot in the New Jersey Air National Guard. The faculty and staff were so supportive of me that I felt an obligation to “pay back” my legal education through pro bono services to veterans.

How did you first become involved?
By taking on matters for troops in my Air National Guard unit; this grew into starting the Pennsylvania Veterans Law Project, which is an all-volunteer nonprofit, currently applying for 501(c)(3) status.

Have your pro bono cases dealt with legal issues different from your regular practice areas? If so, how did you adapt?
Most of my pro bono work differs from my primary practice in aviation law. Through my pro bono work I have dealt with almost every bailiwick, from a squabble over a $15 bank fee to a brief stint as murder defense counsel. I’ve “adapted” by relying on the generosity of my fellow Delaware County attorneys.

What have been the rewards to you?
There are so many but none more important to me than that I like that my kids are growing up seeing the generosity of my colleagues and the appreciation of my veteran clients. I think it gives them great perspective on the goodness of people across the entire socio-economic spectrum.

CCBL in State College

Continued from Page 2

ble solicitation, lobbying and electioneering, organizational structure, board governance, fiduciary duty, personal liability of board members, indemnification and more.

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
YLD Business Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Avoidance of Legal Malpractice
(1.5 hours ethics CLE credit)
Join members of the PBA Professional Liability Committee as they discuss issues related to avoiding legal malpractice. Those who attend this session will receive up to a 5 percent discount on their PBA-endorsed malpractice insurance.

11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Kickoff Luncheon

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Break

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Marketing, Mentoring and Membership: Recruiting and Retaining Minority Attorneys in Your Bar Association
Are you looking to attract minority attorneys to your bar association or wondering what might help you get more minority attorneys involved? Learn about recruitment and retention using basic inclusion and community-building principles to build your network of minority attorneys within your bar association!

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Dealing with the Media
(1 hour substantive CLE credit)
Dealing with the news media is a learned skill. It is not without risk, but it can be a useful marketing and communications tool for a lawyer, law firm or bar association. Who is permitted to speak to the media at your law firm? How does communication with the media affect your representation of clients? This session is an overview of the basic principles of dealing with print/digital and television reporters in interview situations. Don Sarvey and John Baer will help you understand what reporters are interested in and why, talk about techniques for dealing with reporters and their questions and explain how you can focus on the message you want to get across.

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.
LCL: Leading the Way to Recovery
(1 hour ethics CLE credit)
How do you react when a bar member needs an intervention? How does your association react? What do you do if the court calls and expects you to intervene? Whether the problem is alcohol, drugs, gambling or something else that may be causing personal and professional impairment, the Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers confidential helpline provides discreet professional and volunteer peer assistance. LCL-PA is an independent, nonprofit corporation operated by and for the benefit of Pennsylvania lawyers. Our panel will provide the wisdom and insight you need to navigate the problems surrounding addiction and health issues to reach solutions.

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.
What an Original “Space Cowboy” Can Teach You about Leadership, Teamwork and Problem Solving
(1 hour substantive CLE credit)
Learn what the original “Space Cowboy,” Captain James T. Kirk of the Starship Enterprise, can teach bar leaders about being a leader, teamwork, resource utilization, problem solving and board governance. This interactive presentation will give ideas and provide thought-provoking commentary to lead your own “wagon train” to the promised land of success and service to your membership. Learn skills you can apply to your everyday law practice.

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Hot Topics, Cold Drinks

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Dinner
Sponsored by USI Affinity

8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Country Line Dancing/ Rodeo and Game Night
Sponsored by USI Affinity

Saturday, Feb. 23

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Hot Breakfast Buffet and “Roundup”

9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.
CCBL Business Meeting

9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
PA Legal Notices – A Review of Statutory Publication Requirements
(1.5 hours substantive CLE credit)
What is going on with your county legal journal? This seminar is an overview of the types of legal notices that are statutorily required and in which types of publications they must appear. It will also update you on the status of the Conference of County Legal Journals’ centralized, statewide website for legal notices published in county legal journals.