The Chief Justice on Access to Justice
Chief Justice of Pennsylvania Ronald D. Castille kicked-off the conference with remarks on access to justice and the importance of civil legal aid.

Don’t Shut Me Off: The PUC Utility Clinic
This session on the newly established Public Utility Clinic featured a partnership between Widener University School of Law and the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to help lower-income consumers receive legal help in navigating the complaint process before the PUC. Mary Beth Osborne of the PUC was joined by Widener Law professor Palmer Lockard, PUC Chief Administrative Law Judge Charles Rainey and Dianne Dusman of the Office of Consumer Advocate in showcasing the many ways private-practice attorneys can help support the poor in PUC matters.

Pro Bono Week 2014: Serving Those Who Serve
PBA President-Elect Frank O’Connor, just days from becoming the 120th leader of the statewide bar, introduced this session on the PBA’s 2014 Pro Bono Week focus on serving those who serve, our veterans of recent and not-so-recent wars. Wes Payne, chair of the PBA’s Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, highlighted developments in providing access to justice for veterans, joined by Susan Saidel, head of Widener Law’s Veterans Clinic, and Al Ciardi of the Military Assistance Project, which helps vets with bankruptcy issues. Materials on veterans from palawhelp.org and paprobono.net were provided by PBA Pro Bono Coordinator David Trevaskis.
Job Readiness: Establishing a Statewide Pro Bono Expungement Program

The PBA, under the leadership of Executive Director Barry Simpson, has been exploring establishing a statewide pro bono expungement project. Lisette McCormick, executive director of the Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness, joined Cumberland County’s Linda Ceconello, Dauphin County District Attorney Ed Marsico, PBA Legal Services to the Public Committee Co-Chair Kandice Hull, Montgomery County Public Defender Keir Bradford-Grey and Philadelphia attorney Michael Lee in this panel on what is being done today and what might be done in the future to handle expungements across the commonwealth.