

This free* program will provide:

- Training on topics of interest to all attorneys;
- A keynote speech by Superior Court Judge Jack A. Panella;
- Thought-provoking discussion about pro bono service; and,
- Free* CLE credits.

Who?

Attorneys from Bradford, Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming counties are invited to attend.

What?

A free* continuing legal education program, the event will begin with a primer on defending consumer debt collection efforts. With so many Pennsylvanians facing financial hardship, now is the time to learn more about this important area of the law. Next, attendees will have the opportunity to hear a keynote address by Superior Court Judge Jack A. Panella. This will be followed by practical “how to” training on using interpreters in the courtroom and a thought-provoking discussion regarding pro bono service. Lunch will be served.

When?

Friday, April 18, 2008, 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Where?

ST. MARY’S CENTER
320 Mifflin Avenue, Scranton, PA

Why?

This program is funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania IOLTA program intended to encourage attorneys in the northeastern portion of the state to participate in pro bono service.

Agenda

8:30 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.: **Registration**

9:00 A.M. – 9:05 A.M.: **Welcome**

9:05 A.M. – 12:20 P.M.:

Tips & Tools for Defending Consumer Debt Collection Efforts (3 Substantive CLE Credits)

This session will focus on strategies for defending efforts to collect credit card and other consumer debt, with particular attention given to defending credit card collection suits, combating attempts to execute on judgments, utilizing fair debt collection statute protections, and deciding when bankruptcy is the client’s best option. *Presenters: Joseph R. DeCristopher, Esq., James D. Hayward, Esq., Lori A. Molloy, Esq., Jason M. Rapa, Esq.*

12:30 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.: **Luncheon**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

The Honorable Jack A. Panella Judge, Superior Court of Pennsylvania

1:45 P.M. – 2:45 P.M.:

Effective Use of Interpreters in the Courtroom (1 Substantive CLE Credit)

An overview of Pennsylvania statutes dealing with the use of interpreters in judicial and administrative proceedings will be provided, along with practical tips for the effective use of interpreters in the courtroom. A panel discussion will be included. *Presenter: Osvaldo R. Avilés, Interpreter Program Administrator, Admin. Office of PA Courts. Panel moderator: Romilda P. Crocarno, Esq. Panel Members: To be announced.*

3:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.:

**PANEL DISCUSSION
Pro Bono Service: What & Why?
(1 Ethics Credit)**

In an entertaining game show format, panel members will address the implications and application of Rule 6.1 of the PA Rules of Professional Conduct, as well as the opportunities in northeastern Pennsylvania for performing “Voluntary Pro Bono Publico Service” as per Rule 6.1. *Panel moderator: Lawrence A. J. Spegar, Esq. Panel members: To be announced.*

About the Keynote Speaker

The Honorable Jack A. Panella was elected to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania in November 2003 and was sworn into office as an appellate judge in January 2004. His election to the Superior Court followed 12 years of service on the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County. After graduating from law school in 1980, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Michael V. Franciosa for two years, then maintained a law practice as a sole practitioner until his appointment to the Northampton County Bench. He is chair of Pennsylvania’s Judicial Conduct Board and a member of the Commission for Justice Initiatives in Pennsylvania.

Continuing Legal Education

Application will be made to the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board for five hours of CLE credit (four substantive and one ethics). The Lackawanna Bar Association will be the CLE provider.

Fee Information

Full day program, including course materials, CLE credits, light refreshments, and lunch, is **free.***

****To qualify for free registration, attorneys from Lackawanna County will be required to accept one pro bono referral within one year after the date of the program.***

About the Presenters

Osvaldo R. Avilés, the Interpreter Program Administrator for the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), is responsible for creating a statewide interpreter certification program, establishing a roster of qualified interpreters to assist the judicial system, and helping the sixty judicial districts implement strategies for providing interpreter services. He is a graduate of the University of Puerto Rico and Princeton University.

Joseph R. DeCristopher, Esq. has worked for Legal Services (Susquehanna Legal Services, now merged with North Penn Legal Services) since 1979. A graduate of Bucknell University and Rutgers University School of Law in Newark, his practice has focused on consumer law and bankruptcy.

James D. Hayward, Esq. has a private practice, The Consumer Law Firm, handling almost exclusively consumer law, and also practices part-time with North Penn Legal Services, concentrating in credit card, foreclosure, landlord/tenant, and custody matters. He is a graduate of College Misericordia and Widener School of Law.

Lori A. Molloy, Esq. is the Managing Attorney for North Penn Legal Services' Bethlehem office. Her practice concentrates in debtor counseling, foreclosure advice and defense, representation in HEMAP appeals, and Chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcies. She is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and Temple University School of Law.

Jason M. Rapa, Esq. focuses his practice on consumer rights litigation. Since 2002, he has successfully represented over 400 consumers in cases against debt collection agencies and collection law firms. He received his B.A. from King's College and his J.D. from Widener School of Law.

About the Panel Moderators

Romilda P. Crocamo, Esq. is the Managing Attorney for the Barbara J. Hart Justice Center, a project of the Women's Resource Center. She is a graduate of New York University and the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

Lawrence A. J. Spegar, Esq. has a general practice with an emphasis on litigation, especially personal injury, with offices in Blakely and Pocono Summit. A graduate of the University of Scranton and the University of Dayton Law School, he is a member of and has been a speaker for the Melvin Belli Society and has been a speaker for the American Association for Justice.

Course Planner

Sylvia H. Hahn, Esq. is the executive director of Lackawanna Pro Bono, Inc., a pro bono referral program serving Lackawanna County. She is a graduate of Cornell University and Rutgers University School of Law.

LOCATION

The program will be held at ST. MARY'S CENTER, 320 MIFFLIN AVENUE, SCRANTON, PA.

NOTE: THE LOCATION OF THIS SEMINAR IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF PREVIOUS NORTHEAST PA PRO BONO SEMINARS.

REGISTRATION (Pre-Registration Requested)

To register:

- Complete the form below and mail it to Lackawanna Pro Bono, Bank Towers 5th Floor, 321 Spruce St., Scranton, PA 18503, **or**,
- Call Lackawanna Pro Bono at (570) 961-2714, **or**,
- E-mail to lpbinc@juno.com.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail address (If this is a good way to reach you):

I plan to attend the following:

- ____ Morning session
____ Luncheon
____ Afternoon session

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For further information, call Lackawanna Pro Bono at (570) 961-2714 or e-mail to lpbinc@juno.com.

**Lackawanna Pro Bono, Inc.
Bank Towers 5th Floor
321 Spruce Street
Scranton, PA 18503
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2008 Northeast Pennsylvania Pro Bono Seminar

**April 18, 2008
9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.**

Registration at 8:30 A.M.

5 FREE* CLE CREDITS

**Presented by
Lackawanna Pro Bono, Inc.**

**Funded by a grant from the
Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyers
Trust Account (IOLTA) Board**