

Lawyers Lending a Hand

Montgomery County Lawyer Trains as Wills for Heroes Event Coordinator



Lisa A. Shearman, a Montgomery County lawyer with the law firm Plotnick & Ellis, P.C., took part in the **Wills for Heroes** pro bono event Saturday, October 17, 2009 at the Lower Merion Township Building. 31 wills were completed, along with other estate documents, for first responders at the Lower Merion event.

Wills for Heroes provides free wills, living wills, health care and financial powers of attorney to first responders and their spouses/partners. The foundation was started in response to the tragic events of 9/11. Of the 403 first responders who died that day, most did not have a will in place. This program provides free wills and other estate planning documents to our local heroes using a program supplied free-of-charge by LexisNexis. In Pennsylvania, it is a project of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and co-sponsored by Ballard Spahr L.L.P.

Shearman worked with PBA YLD Wills for Heroes Chair Dan McKenna and a cadre of local volunteers to provide wills and other estate planning documents for 31 first responders. In addition to providing her direct pro bono service to the clients at Saturday's clinic, Shearman learned how to set-up and execute clinics, becoming a certified Wills for Heroes coordinator in southeastern Pennsylvania. Shearman will be the first Montgomery and Bucks County Coordinator and will be organizing events in these counties.

PBA YLD Chair Tim Burns commended Shearman and McKenna for their service. *"This is a wonderful example of the giving back to the community philosophy that underscores the Pennsylvania Bar Association Young Lawyer Division pro bono efforts."*

Clients sign-up in advance and receive a questionnaire that needs to be completed and brought to their scheduled appointment. All participants will receive a single copy of their will after meeting with a volunteer attorney who processes the client's information through an online system. Typically one client is serviced per hour. Spouses/partners have the option of waiving the conflict and of working with the same attorney(s) - in that case, the appointment is generally 1.5 hours.

If you have any questions about the statewide program please contact Daniel McKenna at mckennad@ballardspahr.com. For more information on the program visit the **Wills for Heroes** section of the PBA webpage at www.pabar.org or visit the WFH Foundation at www.willsforheroes.org. > <

MONTGOMERY BAR ASSOCIATION BENCH BAR CONFERENCE 2009

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSORS...



The Zutz Insurance Group, now

WillisHRH

Supporting Sponsors

