35th Annual CCBL Seminar Scheduled for March 2 - 3

“Moving Forward — Together” is the theme of the 35th Annual Seminar of the Conference of County Bar Leaders. Slated for March 2 – 3, this year’s seminar will again bring together county bar association presidents and executive directors from across the state to share resources and ideas for energizing county bar associations.

Highlights of the 2001 seminar, which will be held at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers, include six breakout sessions on Friday with topics including partnering with the PBA for success, planning effective bar leadership, future trends in CLE and dealing with the media. A plenary session that day titled “The State of the Profession: A View from the Bench,” will provide new focus for all attendees. Friday night’s reception and special IMAX® screening takes place in the new Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts (connected to the Hilton and the Strawberry Square shopping complex by enclosed walkway).

Saturday morning starts with networking breakfast meetings for small, medium and large bars. Later that day, “Amazing Face Reading” promises a means to enhanced listening and communications.

For more information on the 35th Annual Seminar of the Conference of County Bar Leaders, call County Bar Services Director Arthur J. Birdsall at (800) 932-0311, ext. 2218.

The seminar agenda as it was available at press time appears on page 2.

PBA and County Bars Partner for Elder Law Public Education Campaign

To help educate Pennsylvanians on legal issues affecting the commonwealth’s seniors, the PBA’s Client and Community Relations Committee will again partner with county bar associations for the upcoming elder law public education campaign “Put Your Future in Order.” The theme for this year’s campaign comes from county bar associations who indicated the topic was of particular concern in their regions.

County bar associations can participate at no cost but are asked, as part of the partnership, to offer an educational program for the public between March 16 – 30. Benefits to participating bar associations include free advertisements in participating newspapers (scheduled twice during the two-week campaign), as well as free informational brochures and marketing materials. As a partner, county bar associations can choose to coordinate their county’s elder law campaign at the local level or have the PBA, on their behalf, answer calls and fill brochure orders.

All county executive directors and officers should have received an informational packet detailing the campaign from the PBA in December and are reminded to return the participation form to the PBA no later than Jan. 31, 2001.

For more information, contact PBA Communications Director Marcy Mallory at (800) 932-0311, ext. 2247.
35th Annual Seminar of the Conference of County Bar Leaders
“Moving Forward - Together”
March 2 - 3, 2001 • Harrisburg Hilton & Towers, Harrisburg

Scholarships Available
If you would like to attend the 35th Annual Seminar of the Conference of County Bar Leaders March 2 - 3 in Harrisburg, but don't have the available funds, you should know that scholarships are available for county bar leaders. For more information, please contact PBA County Bar Services Director Arthur J. Birdsall at (800) 932-0311, ext. 2218, or e-mail Art.Birdsall@pabar.org.

Arthur J. Birdsall Award
Created by the CCBL Executive Committee in 1998, the award is given periodically “to recognize a bar executive who has been a faithful steward of bar traditions, who is committed to the success of his or her bar association, who has enhanced significantly the stature of his or her bar association, who cooperates with other bar executives and bar leaders to make the CCBL the best it can be, and who puts his or her self second to the needs of the bar association whenever and whatever they may be.”

To nominate someone for this award, contact PBA Member Services Representative Jaymee Mehrmann at (800) 932-0311, ext. 2229, by Friday, Feb. 2. The award will be presented during the 35th Annual Seminar of the Conference of County Bar Leaders in Harrisburg.

Hilton Hotel Reservations
To receive the group room rate, make your reservation by Jan. 29, 2001, and mention that you are attending the PBA Conference of County Bar Leaders Seminar. Call toll-free at 800-445-8667 (or 800-HILTONS).
Kittrell Receives Berks County LeRoy Hyman Award

Berks County Bar Association Executive Director Barbara I. Kittrell was again the recipient of accolades, having recently received the NABE Richter leadership award and now Berks County’s inaugural LeRoy Hyman Award recognizing outstanding service to the Bar of Berks County.

Donald F. Smith Jr., Berks County Bar Association president, commented, “As our executive director for 20 years, Barb was a natural for the inaugural presentation. She has been tireless in her execution of the details of a multitude of meetings and programs to benefit our bar. She has created a staff responsive to the needs of our members. When new ideas require major commitment, Barb’s whole-hearted support and hard work have made the ideas not only come to fruition but also made them successful.

“It was solely on Barb’s initiative that the BCBA was among the very first of the county bars to be certified as a MCLE provider. Thanks in large part to her leadership, we enjoy a very strong financial health. She has been active on the national organized bar scene which has resulted in her bringing back ideas that we have successfully employed in Berks County.

“Over two decades, Barb has been a confidential resource for our members who have needed help in many different ways. I think it is safe to say that Berks County is a leader among the county bars of Pennsylvania, and we owe it all to Barb.”

Due to space considerations, Part 4 of “Seize the Future” does appear in this issue, but will resume in the next County Line.

Project PEACE Schools Selected

The Pennsylvania Bar Association and Attorney General Mike Fisher have announced the final selection of the 12 schools that will participate in the 2001 Project PEACE training conference scheduled for Feb. 1 – 3 in Harrisburg. The 12 schools below were selected from over 60 applications from elementary schools throughout the commonwealth.

Zone 1 Penrose Elementary School, Philadelphia (Philadelphia County)
Zone 2 Jefferson Elementary, Emmaus (Lehigh County)
Zone 3 Steele School, Harrisburg (Dauphin County)
Zone 4 Trevorton Elementary, Trevorton (Northumberland County)
Zone 5 Pleasant Valley Intermediate School, Kunkletown (Monroe County)
Zone 6 St. Sebastian School, Belle Vernon (Westmoreland County)
Zone 7 Edinboro Elementary School, Edinboro (Erie County)
Zone 8 Berlin Brothersvalley Elementary School, Berlin (Somerset County)
Zone 9 Heckman Elementary School, Langhorne (Bucks County)
Zone 10 Farrell Area Elementary School, Farrell (Mercer County)
Zone 11 Pleasant Gap Elementary School, Pleasant Gap (Centre County)
Zone 12 Saint Alexis, Wexford (Allegheny County)

Project PEACE empowers children, who are still in their formative years, with the important life-skills that promote constructive communication, problem-solving, critical-thinking and self-esteem. Children become active participants in governing behavior in their classrooms by taking on the role of mediator and using the mediation process. With the help of neutral peer mediators, conflicts can be settled in a positive manner, benefiting the school climate as a whole.
The Organized Bar as the Voice of the Profession

Excerpt from an Oct. 26 speech from Terry D. Weiler on his installation as president of the Berks County Bar Association.

During the past two years I have asked many of you to share your thoughts about your life as an active practitioner and the state of the bar as a whole. You told me that you were overworked, overstressed, unappreciated and sometimes under-compensated. You told me in many instances that you were anxious and apprehensive as to what lay ahead. You told me of your fear of the influx of technology, competition from your peers in an overcrowded profession, competition from the outside by the encroachment of investment counselors, accountants, banks, estate planners and realtors … fear of an unknown assailant known only as multidisciplinary practice. You related that you were disenchanted by the sharp tactics which have become the trademark of some practitioners, the lack of self-discipline among lawyers, the dissipation of interpersonal relationships, the lack of respect of lawyer to lawyer, lawyer to judge. There was above all, the general feeling that it ain’t like it used to be.

Well, in that regard nothing really is, but in distilling your remarks it seemed to me that most of your complaints seemed to have their origin in the breakdown of interpersonal relationships and mutual respect among the bar … perhaps the by-product of our rapidly expanding bar, perhaps a by-product of the impersonality of technology. Whatever the reason, whatever the origin, we are faced with the problem now and most assuredly into the future.

The organized bar must, more than ever, be the voice of the profession.

I share your concerns about our profession, and I submit to you that in these changing times the organized bar must, more than ever, be the voice of the profession. It must give identity, recognition and solutions to problems that are too overwhelming to be faced alone. It is the last best hope to attempt to restore dignity and integrity to this profession.

The problem of de-personalization cannot be blamed solely on technology. Law schools are graduating lawyers in record numbers and unfairly placing them into a marketplace that is not able to adequately absorb them. Lawyers are being placed into survival modes. They take dangerous shortcuts. They take on work they are not qualified to handle. They sacrifice relationships and ethics in the name of getting the fee and retaining the client. Desperate men do desperate deeds. We have attorneys who have never known the benefit of personal relationships, who have never had a preceptor or a senior partner as a mentor, indeed have never had a role model such as the distinguished members we honor tonight. We have a new generation of attorneys, young and old, who make a practice of over-lawyering and over-papering every case, who treat every case as a battleground, who treat opposing counsel with antagonism and contempt. They are attorneys who exert little or no effort to negotiate toward settlement. My brothers and sisters at the bar, I would submit to you that negotiation, at its best, is an art form, not a weakness, not a lack of advocacy. A fair settlement is a victory, not a defeat. Your job as a lawyer is to produce a fair and just result for your client. All of us have winners and all of us have losers. The skillful lawyer assesses the case and apprises the client with realistic expectations for the case, which may include losing as well as winning. If you have prepared the case and given your client the best possible representation and advocacy, then you have fulfilled your obligation to the client and to the profession.

I am weary of dealing with lawyers who personalize each case, who espouse ridiculous positions and are more interested in the journey than the destination. To those who would subscribe to such tactics, I would remind you that we are, above all, professionals. We are not trained bears performing at the whim of our clients. No, we have a higher duty. Our integrity is not for sale. Rather, we are the guardians of a legal system that is built on fair play, honesty and equity.

We are one at the bar by license and education, and we must be one at the bar in practice and reputation.

Justice Brennan said it well, “The law is not an end in itself, nor does it provide ends. It is preeminently a means to serve what we think is right.”

If there is a constant throughout all of the change I have related it must be our commitment to retain the underpinnings of our profession … a commitment to maintain the standards and ethics, which have set us apart from those who would attempt to invade our practice.

I shudder at some of the acts I have seen lawyers do in the name of serving the client. My fellow attorneys, there is no obligation, no advocacy, no canon, no oath that empowers us to do wrong in the name of right. If we succumb to the direction of clients who are ill minded, if we treat our fellow attorneys with discourtesy and disdain, we reinforce the negative image that has

(continued on next page)
Nurick Award Nominations

Nominations are being sought for the 2001 Gilbert Nurick Award.

Established a decade ago, the award signifies outstanding contributions to and leadership in bar activities. The award recognizes the honoree for dedication, achievement and promotion of the organized bar resulting in enhanced leadership for incoming bar association officers.

To nominate a qualified member of your bar association for this award, contact PBA Member Services Representative Jaymee Mehrmann at (800) 932-0311, ext. 2229, by Feb. 2. The award will be presented during the 35th Annual Seminar of the Conference of County Bar Leaders, March 2 – 3 in Harrisburg.

The Bar as the Voice of the Profession
(continued from page 4)

attached itself to our profession. If our conduct disrespects other lawyers, we disrespect our profession and ourselves. This profession is judged and measured every day on the individual performance of every lawyer in this room. Each of you is a spokesman for all of us. When you fail, we fail as an organized bar. When you succeed, we all bask in the glory of your success. We are one at the bar by license and education and we must be one at the bar in practice and reputation.

Gandhi once said, “Be the change you want the world to be.” I would say to you, “Be the change you want your profession to be ... be the change you want your bar to be ... be the change you want yourself to be.”

The full text of Terry Weiler’s speech can be found on the PBA Web site at www.pabar.org/weilerspeech.shtml.

Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives Meeting, December 1

Chester County Bar Association Executive Director Margaret “Peggy” Halfpenny receives a gift in honor of her retirement after 17 years of service to the association.

Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives members meet in Harrisburg Dec. 1.

2001 Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives Officers

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Adams
Advance Directives Seminar
The Adams County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, in conjunction with the Gettysburg Hospital, recently presented a free seminar on health care advance directives and organ and tissue donation. At the conclusion of the program, attorneys assisted in drafting related documentation at no cost to attendees. The seminar was presented as part of National Health Care Decision Week, a national program initiated by the American Bar Association Section of Real Property, Probate and Trust Law with grant support from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Allegheny
Referral Service Appointment
Jeffrey L. Pollock, a solo practitioner in Squirrel Hill, was recently appointed to serve as chair of the Lawyer Referral Service Committee for the Allegheny County Bar Association. A trained mediator, Pollock also serves on the association’s Judiciary Committee.

Bucks
Chili Cookoff
New Hope attorney Al Cepparulo took first place in the Bucks County Bar Association’s recent annual chili cookoff. Patricia Martin, executive director of the Bucks County Bar Association, said the competition has become a way for new and “seasoned” attorneys to come together in a social setting. Tying for second place in the third annual event were Newtown attorney Frank Sullivan and Quakertown attorney Dianne Magee. Warminster attorney Marijo Murphy took third place.

Chester
Meet Your Judges
The Chester County Bar Association, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges and the League of Women Voters of Chester County, recently hosted a “Meet Your Judges” program at the Chester County Courthouse. Judges of the Chester County Court of Common Pleas helped to demystify the court system by explaining their roles, discussing court issues and answering questions from the audience.

Clearfield
Project PEACE
The Clearfield County Bar Association recently donated $500 to Centre Elementary in support of the Project PEACE program. Project PEACE (Peaceful Endings through Attorneys, Children and Educators) is a peer mediation program designed to enable children to resolve disputes peacefully.

Delaware
Benefit Art Show and Auction
The Delaware County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section, in conjunction with the national Heisman Fine Arts Gallery, recently hosted an art show and auction to benefit the children’s Hope Foundation and the DCBA Young Lawyers Section holiday party for underprivileged children.

Reading Day
Delaware County Bar Association attorneys read to children in each of the 160 elementary school classrooms in the Chester-Upland School District for November 17’s Reading Day. Reading Day was started in 1998 by the association’s Community Outreach Committee to encourage literacy and to make a difference to children who may need extra help to succeed. The committee is looking to expand the program to other school districts in the county.

Erie
Scholarships Awarded
Five Erie County law students are recent recipients of scholarships from the Erie County Bar Association.

Lackawanna
Judge Honored
The Lackawanna Bar Association recently honored Lackawanna County Judge James J. Walsh upon his retirement as the county’s president judge.

Young Lawyers Projects
In October, the Young Lawyers Division of the Lackawanna Bar Association sponsored its annual Project KidCare where participating children were photographed and fingerprinted for protection and family identification records. November activities included the division’s first “Senior Citizens and the Law” program and presentation of the 2000 Youth Achievement Award to the Greater Scranton YMCA. In December, the Division hosted its annual Operation Dear Santa in cooperation with the Lawyers Auxiliary, collecting toys and sponsoring holiday parties for Friends of the Poor and the Boys’ & Girls’ Club of Scranton.

Lancaster
Board Member Named
Florine (Lori) Winger was recently named to the board of the Schreiber Pediatric Rehab Center of Lancaster County. Winger is a board member of the Lancaster Bar Association and co-chair of its Young Lawyers Section.

Montgomery
Dispute Resolution Center
The Montgomery Bar Association has opened the Horace A. Davenport Dispute Resolution Center, the first mediation and arbitration program in the area created and conducted entirely by members of a county bar association.
The center is named for Montgomery County Senior Judge Horace A. Davenport. The center’s 55 attorneys, all members of the association, have practiced law for a minimum of 10 years; many for more than 25. In addition, they have significant arbitration and trial experience and have completed a mediation training course.

Guardianship Explained
The Montgomery Bar Association recently presented a legal education course entitled “Guardianship Proceedings In Montgomery County.” The course was organized by Robert C. Gerhard III, who serves as vice chairman for the association’s Elder and Disability Law Committee.

Thanks-for-Giving Run
Needy Norristown families will benefit from proceeds from the second annual Thanks-for-Giving 5K run recently sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section of the Montgomery Bar Association.

Northampton
Holiday Assistance
On Dec. 10, attorneys Steven Goudsouzian, Robert Eyer, and others from the Young Lawyers Division of the Northampton County Bar Association sponsored a Christmas party for underprivileged children. Refreshments were provided, along with a day of miniature golf and a visit from Santa Claus with his bag full of presents.

Ceremonial Admission to the Bar
On Dec. 1, 16 new attorneys were admitted to practice before the Bar of Northampton County. At the event, two Northampton County Bar Association members were recognized for their outstanding service to the Fair Share Pro Bono program: Deborah Jean DeNardo of Bethlehem and Charles A. Banta of Easton.

Philadelphia
Quarterly Meeting Honors Several
At the Philadelphia Bar Association quarterly meeting on Oct. 12, Philadelphia attorney Lila G. Roombor received the 2000 Sandra Day O’Connor award, recognizing the important contributions that female attorneys in Philadelphia have made to the legal profession. Judge James T. Giles, chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, received the association’s William J. Brennan Jr. Distinguished Jurist Award. The award recognizes individuals who adhere to the highest ideals of judicial service.

Schuylkill
Christmas Project
The Woman’s Law Caucus of the Schuylkill County Bar Association sponsored a drive to provide toys and sweatshirts for patients of the Good Samaritan Regional Center’s Pediatric Dental Clinic.

Wilkes-Barre
Bench Bar Conference
The Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association/Luzerne County Bar Association held their annual Bench Bar Conference on Nov. 10. The association, in cooperation with the Penn State University Dickinson School of Law and Penn State Wilkes-Barre, also recently offered CLE programming on elder law planning.

York
Free Legal Aid
On Nov. 15, Members of the Young Lawyers Section of the York County Bar Association provided free legal help via phone through the York County Bar Center. The public was invited to call with law-related questions. ☑
Nominations Sought for County Bar Recognition Awards

The annual seminar of the CCBL will again be highlighted by the presentation of the PBA County Bar Recognition Awards, recognizing outstanding projects and activities conducted by county bar associations during the 2000 calendar year. Unique in that it does not place county bars in competition with each other, the awards program is designed to recognize projects of all county bar associations that in some way contributed to the improvement of the legal profession, the justice system or the community.

The project must have been undertaken during 2000, although it may have begun previously or will be continued in 2001 and beyond. A bar association may submit more than one project for consideration but no more than three.

Those bar associations whose projects meet the criteria will be presented an award, and a news release will be distributed to media in their counties.

To obtain an entry form, call PBA Member Services Assistant Nyla Crummel at (800) 932-0311, ext. 2227. The form must be returned by Feb. 2 with any relevant support material, including brochures, programs or other printed matter. (This material will then be kept at PBA headquarters.)

To see that your efforts receive recognition in your community and among your colleagues across the state, submit an entry on behalf of your local bar association.

Send Us Your News

To submit news for The County Line, please use the enclosed “News and Views” form or contact PBA County Bar Services Director Arthur Birdsall at (800) 932-0311, ext. 2218.
March 19 is the deadline for the next issue of the newsletter.

Pennsylvania Bar Institute Courses

Here is the most recent listing of live courses being offered by the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. Dates, times and locations are subject to change. Contact PBI’s Customer Service Department for more information at (800) 932-4637, (800) 247-4724 or (717) 796-0804.

Allentown
A Day in Discovery, Feb. 23, 2001, 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Bar Assn. of Lehigh County, 6 CLE credits (5 substantive, 1 ethics)

King of Prussia
Four County Domestic Relations Practice, Feb. 21, 2001, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Radisson Hotel Valley Forge, 4 CLE credits (3 substantive, 1 ethics)

Erie
Collecting and Enforcing Judgements, live via satellite, Feb. 28, 2001, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 6 CLE credits (5 substantive, 1 ethics)

Hampton
Civil Litigation Update 2001, live via satellite, March 21, 2001, 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., 6 CLE credits (5 substantive, 1 ethics)

Montrose
8th Annual Solo/Small Firm Retreat, March 23 & 24, 2001, Clarion Hotel & Convention Center, 7 CLE credits

Spring PBA Malpractice Avoidance Seminars — You be the Judge, Part II — will begin in April in Eastern Pennsylvania. Check upcoming issues of The County Line and the PBA Web site (www.pabar.org) for the complete schedule.