Preparing for 2012 Conference of County Bar Leaders

By Thomas V. Casale, President, Executive Committee Conference of County Bar Leaders

The 46th Annual Conference of County Bar Leaders (CCBL) will be held in Lancaster, Pa., on Feb. 23-25, 2012, at the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square. This year’s program will again focus on bar association leadership and providing the governing officers of local bar associations with important information for leading and protecting their organizations. The theme is “Your Bar Association is a Patchwork: Learn to Quilt it Together.”

We will offer a variation of our program that will provide incoming bar presidents with the information nobody else told them before they were handed the gavel. Additional programs will cover how to plan for an executive director transition, a lesson in technology from the young lawyers, diversity, bar foundations and avoiding legal malpractice. You will want to stay Saturday morning for blockbuster programs on dealing with the courts and a legal journal workshop. In all, attendees will be able to receive up to 6.5 credits, including up to 4 ethics credits toward their continuing legal education requirements.

Our featured speaker on Friday morning will be attorney Malcolm J. Gross of Gross McGinley in Allentown. Gross will be speaking to us about local Lancaster Congressman Thaddeus Stevens and his shared leadership role with President Lincoln during

(Continued on Page 3)
This program will examine Lancaster Congressman Thaddeus Stevens’ rise to power in the U.S. during the 1850s and ‘60s. Stevens and Lincoln had dramatically different personalities, styles of leadership, and strategies and goals for America in its bloodiest war. This program will identify these differing leadership traits and how they translate not only into the modern day practice of law but also how they can help the modern lawyer succeed in a leadership role within the bar association.

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Surprise! Things You Wish You Knew Before You Were Handed the Gavel
(A Stitch in Time Saves Nine)
CLE 1.5 hours substantive
In this session, experienced county bar association past-presidents and a bar executive director will outline issues you could face, such as: time management in your law practice with the additional obligations to the association, handling a conservatorship, handling a local disaster, and fiduciary obligations. Hear how large and small counties have handled these issues. Every incoming officer will want to mark this session as a “MUST SEE.”

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

YLD Business Meeting

Avoidance of Legal Malpractice (Don’t Hide Your Head Under the Covers)
CLE 1.5 hours ethics
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.

Kick-Off Luncheon
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Break
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Executive Director Transition – How to Plan for the Inevitable (Two Stitches Forward, One Stitch Back)
Every bar association will face a transition of the executive director. Learn what steps should be taken before you face this chapter so that the transition is a smooth one.

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Something Old, Something New: Learn What Your Young Lawyers Can Teach the “Old Dogs” About Technology
CLE 1.0 hour substantive
Learn how to integrate young lawyers into the bar by utilizing and learning from their knowledge of technology. You will learn about social media technology, smart phones and law-related apps!

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Diversity Quilt Tool Kit
CLE 1.0 hour ethics
This workshop will provide bar leaders with a snapshot of the varied and diverse legal needs in Pennsylvania. Each attendee will receive a diversity toolkit to make diversity part of his/her bar association’s legal fabric.

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Foundations, Resources, and You (The Stitching That Binds Us to Our Community)
Bar foundations have the potential to further the reach of our profession into our communities through funding various programs and works. How does a county bar association go about setting up a foundation, and how does it work? What are the legal requirements, benefits and risks? Once you obtain a grant from a foundation, what are the associated legal issues and obligations? We are here to help.

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Hot Topics, Cold Drinks (Your Chance to Intertwine With PBA Leadership)
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Dinner, Sponsored by USI Affinity
8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

‘80s Party and Game Night
Sponsored by USI Affinity

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2012
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Quilting Bee Breakfast
8:30 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.

CCBL Business Meeting
8:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Dealing with the Courts: The Good, the Bad & the Ugly
(Sharing Your Quilt with the Judges)
CLE 1.5 ethics
A blockbuster program on issues facing bar association leaders related to dealing with the judiciary in this post-Luzerne time. Issues to be explored include bar association judicial evaluations of candidates for county judgeships, including retention elections of sitting judges, and the ethical and practical issues of a sitting judge elected as your bar association president. Also learn how the relationship between your bar association and its members impacts their day-to-day business with the courts.

8:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

If Your County Legal Journal Went Away Tomorrow, What Would Your Bar Association Do? (Working Together to Protect the Family Quilt)
This is a critical issue facing county bar associations and one that the Conference of County Legal Journals is proactively addressing. If your county has a legal journal, you must become cognizant of this looming issue, understand it, and carry the information back to others in your county bar’s leadership. Don’t miss this important Saturday morning program! Attend and be provided with the answers to these questions as well as other timely information.
Conference of County Bar Leaders seeks award nominations

The PBA Conference of County Bar Leaders (CCBL) is seeking nominations for the Arthur J. Birdsall, Chief Justice John P. Flaherty and Gilbert Nurick awards. The awards will be presented during the 46th annual meeting of the CCBL, Feb. 23-25, 2012, in Lancaster. A candidate may be nominated for more than one award. Please review the award descriptions to determine if your candidate meets the criteria.

The Arthur J. Birdsall Award recognizes 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 CCBL the best it can be and who puts him- or herself second to the needs of the bar association. The award is named in honor of Arthur J. Birdsell, a past PBA county bar services director who retired in 2006 after nearly 40 years of support to local bar associations.

The Chief Justice John P. Flaherty Award is presented in recognition of the chief justice’s efforts to encourage the work of the PBA and the CCBL. The award is given to a qualified PBA member to recognize an outstanding effort to promote the objectives and purposes of the CCBL and to improve the legal profession, the justice system or the community.

The Gilbert Nurick Award, which is named for the late Harrisburg lawyer who served as PBA president, is presented to any member of the PBA whose dedication and service to leadership and promotion of the organized bar and its activities has resulted in the enhancement of leadership for incoming bar association officers. The award is not given solely because the recipient has held and discharged with fidelity a high office or a variety of offices in the association.

For more information and for online nomination forms, please visit the PBA website at www.pabar.org or contact Gabrielle Miller-Wagner at 1-800-932-0311, Ext. 2240. Nominations for the awards are due Jan. 13, 2012.

Applicants needed for CCBL executive committee member

Each year, one member of the executive committee of the Conference of County Bar Leaders fulfills his or her term of office and is replaced by selection. Nominations are sought for candidates whose qualifications must include being a president or past president of a county bar association. The new executive committee member will serve up to an eight-year term on the committee.

Letters of nomination, or applications requesting consideration for selection, along with a current resume, should be sent by Jan. 13, 2012, via e-mail attachment to nicole.antonis@pabar.org or mail to Nicole R. Antos, director of County Bar Services, Pennsylvania Bar Association, P.O. Box 186, Harrisburg, PA 17108-0186.

the county line
Pennsylvania bar executives say farewell to Susan Kenny

The Monroe County Bar Association executive director retired after 18 years of service.

The Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives hosted a farewell reception on Thursday, Nov. 17, at the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey for retiring Monroe County Bar Association Executive Director Susan Kenny. Kenny announced her retirement last year, and she worked with the Monroe County Bar Association board to locate her replacement, so she could join her husband in sunny North Carolina. Kenny was the first executive director of the Monroe County Bar Association. She worked for the bar association for 18 years. Prior to working for the Monroe County Bar Association, Kenny worked as an assistant hotel manager for Sheraton and as a salesperson for International Paper Company.

Kenny received the Arthur J. Birdsall Award from the Pennsylvania Bar Association Conference of County Bar Leaders in 2010. The Birdsall Award is presented to a county bar executive who demonstrates professional excellence, who is committed to the success of his or her bar association and who significantly enhances the stature of his or her bar association.

David Blaner, PABE president, commented that Kenny was one of the first bar executives that he met when he attended his first PABE meeting. He said, “She welcomed me to the group and was very helpful to me. She introduced me to the other bar executives and has always been willing to help other executive directors solve problems or deal with unique issues. We will miss Susan, but we know that she and her family will enjoy their new home in a warmer climate.”

The Monroe County Bar Association has hired Denise M. Burdge to serve as their executive director (See related story on Page 5). Burdge has known Kenny for most of the 18 years that she worked for the bar association, so the transition should be a smooth one.

Dauphin Co. Bar Association names new executive director

Attorney Elizabeth G. Simcox was selected by the board of directors of the Dauphin County Bar Association to serve as their new executive director. She assumed her new duties on Dec. 1.

Prior to coming to the DCBA, Simcox was the assistant director of development for the Penn State Dickinson School of Law, and previously served as the vice president of student services for the Harrisburg University of Science & Technology, and as dean of students for the Widener University School of Law, Harrisburg campus.

She is a member of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board.

Elizabeth earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Western Ontario and her law degree from the University of Toledo College of Law. She is a graduate of the Leadership Harrisburg Executive Leadership Series.
The Monroe County Bar Association has named Denise M. Burdge as its new executive director. She replaces previous Executive Director Susan L. Kenny, who retired from the position after 18 years of service and relocated to North Carolina.

Burdge, who began her duties on Oct. 31, brings professional management and community leadership experience through retail and commercial banking, 20 years of community volunteerism and her work as a business and management consultant.

Burdge has held various positions with regional and national banks, including regional vice president for KNBT, a division of National Penn, and human resources and branch administrator for Pocono Community Bank, now First Keystone Community Bank. She has had the opportunity to work with all sizes and types of business entities, including start-ups and large international companies.

Committed to the community, Burdge has held several leadership positions in volunteer organizations including chairman of the board for the Greater Pocono Chamber of Commerce in 2007-2008, past president of the Rotary Club of the Stroudsburg and past treasurer for Workforce Investment Board Pocono Region. She has served in leadership roles for the Pocono Builders Association, Monroe County Historical Association, Pocono Family YMCA and Leadership Pocono. She has been recognized with the 2001 Athena Award, presented by Grey Chevrolet and the Greater Pocono Chamber of Commerce, and as the 1994 Associate of the Year for the Pocono Builders Association.

Burdge attended Keystone College and Wilkes University, is a 1999 graduate of Leadership Pocono and has earned QuickBooks certification.

She and her husband, Jeff, reside in Mount Pocono. They are the parents of daughter, Jessica, and son-in-law, Walid Elhatw, and sons Jeffrey, Bryan and Adam. They also have two granddaughters.

The PBA has a launched a new membership campaign, “Recruit & Cruise,” that holds the possibility for a first-class vacation for a lucky participant. Each PBA member participating in the campaign who gets five new dues-paying members to join the association earns a chance to win a $2,500 cruise for two to a destination of his or her choice.

“This is a great opportunity to help recruit new members for your professional association and, at the same time, be entered to win a fabulous prize,” said Barry Simpson, PBA executive director.

Allegheny

Anita Hill speaks at luncheon

The Allegheny County Bar Association’s Women in the Law Division Council hosted a Nov. 10 luncheon for more than 300 association members that featured law professor and author Anita Hill. Hill, who became the center of media attention when she testified during the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearings on U.S. Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas, spoke about her latest book, Reimagining Equality: Stories of Gender, Race, and Finding Home.

Blair

‘Lunch & Learn’

Blair County Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division hosted a “Lunch & Learn” at the Blair County Courthouse on Dec. 8. Joel C. Seelye of Grabill and Seelye P.L.L.C, Altoona, who is a BCBA and J.S. Black Chapter American Inn of Court member, gave a presentation on InCite for 1.0 substantive CLE credit.

Chester

Rave reviews for ‘Beer & B.U.L.L.’

The Chester County Bar Association’s Lawyers’ Quality of Life Committee has quickly caught the attention of its members. Its “Beer & B.U.L.L.” (Better Understanding of Lawyers’ Lives) sessions received rave reviews because of its open forum and relaxed atmosphere. CCBA clubs have sprouted up as well. Its book club met for the first time on Nov. 30 to tackle Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand, and the ski club has already put five dates on the calendar, including two family ski trips. CCBA, which is dedicated to helping its members find that happy work/life balance, has other events in the works, especially to include its members’ families and spouses.

Toys for Tots

At this year’s CCBA’s Annual Meeting on Dec. 1, members gathered more than their questions, comments and concerns — they gathered toys! For the 21st year in a row, member Jamie Goncharoff has led the bar association in supporting the U.S. Marine Corps’ Toys for Tots, a program that delivers toys to needy children during the holiday season. Members were asked to bring toys, and in case they forgot, the Marine Corps League volunteers had toys for members to purchase and donate.

Delaware

Elizabeth C. Price honored by PABE

Elizabeth C. Price, the beloved, longtime Delaware County Bar Association executive director who passed away in June, was a trailblazer for bar executive directors across the state. On Oct. 6, Chester County Bar Association Executive Director Wendy Hoffman, on behalf of the Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives, presented a plaque in honor of Price that will hang outside of the Delaware County Bar Association meeting room that is already dedicated in her name. The plaque contains The Legal Intelligencer article that commemorates Price for her contributions, passion and legacy. Outside the building lies a special granite stone in the walkway leading to the bar association she transformed.

Wendy Hoffman presents a plaque in honor of Elizabeth C. Price.

Fayette

Toys for Tots collection

The Fayette County Bar Association kicked off the holiday season on Dec. 1 by hosting its seventh annual event to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps’ Toys for Tots program. The bench and bar met at Caleigh’s Restaurant in Uniontown for a holiday party, and each member brought a gift that was donated to the Toys for Tots program. Dan Martin, the Marine Corps program coordinator, collected the gifts for distribution to local families.

Lebanon

Law Explorers Program

More than a dozen high school students will participate in this year’s Law Explorers Program, led by volunteer attorneys from the Lebanon County Bar Association. This year’s program will include preparing for and participating in a mock trial. Students will hear from speakers, including attorneys and other legal professionals.

Pro bono service honored

Lebanon County Bar Association lawyers honored members Charles Buchanio and John Kelsey III during an Oct. 31 presentation in which both received 2011 PBA Pro Bono Awards.

New executive committee elected

The Lebanon County Bar Association elected a new executive committee at its annual meeting in early November. Joseph Farrell will begin serving as president in January. Other officers include Elizabeth Judd, vice president; Kimberly Adams, treasurer; and Ann Kline, secretary. LCBA also welcomed five new members.

Toys for Tots

The members of the LCBA collected new, unwrapped toys for the U.S. Marine Corps’ Toys for Tots program during the association’s annual meeting and dinner in November. More than 25 toys were donated to the program, which distributes the toys to needy children in the local community. The Public Relations Committee also presented checks to two charities, the Lebanon Rescue Mission, which provides shelter and services for men, and Jubilee Ministries, which provides services to those incarcerated or in after-care programs.

Lehigh

Veterans Day Salute

The Bar Association of Lehigh County hosted its Fall Membership Dinner – Veterans Day Salute – on Nov. 9. More
On the Local Scene...

than 200 attendees toasted members of the association that served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The keynote speaker was Joe Galloway, former military affairs consultant for the Knight-Ridder newspaper company. During the Vietnam War, he often worked alongside the troops he covered and was awarded a Bronze Star with Valor for carrying wounded men to safety. Galloway is co-author of two national bestsellers, *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young* and *We Are Soldiers Still*.

**Bench Bar Conference**

The Bar Association of Lehigh County hosted its annual Bench Bar Conference on Dec. 2-4 in New York City and included a surprise exchange of handshakes with U.S. presidential hopeful Texas Gov. Rick Perry. Attendees also enjoyed the Radio City Christmas Spectacular and CLE topics on legal aspects of a Broadway production and the policing and economic impact of selling knock-off “designer” handbags.

**Lycoming**

**Supporting flood relief efforts**

Lycoming County residents sustained severe flood damage from Tropical Storm Lee this fall. The Lycoming Law Association had members in all the affected communities. Many lawyers had come forward to assist with individual clean-up and relief efforts. To rally more support from the legal community for the people in need due to this disaster, the association’s executive committee authorized a matching grant to the American Red Cross. The association matched, dollar for dollar, donations made by LLA members to support the relief efforts of the Red Cross.

On Oct. 27, LLA President Brian Bluth presented a check to Valerie Whyman of the American Red Cross. The total donations from LLA members of $3,270 were matched with an equal amount from the association for a total of $6,540 donated to the Red Cross. The association thanks its generous members for their support of the work of the local Red Cross chapter.

**Montgomery**

**MCAP Salute to Heroes**

Montgomery Child Advocacy Project, MCAP, which began its seventh year as a nonprofit in December, celebrated by hosting its first MCAP Salute to Heroes Dinner Dance & Silent Auction at the Marriott Hotel in West Conshohocken on Dec. 3. They also honored two special members of their team: Nancy Paul, the executive director of the Montgomery Bar Association, and Donna Adelsberger, a long-time devoted child advocate. Both

(Continued on Page 8)
have contributed to MCAP in generous ways, and this event was a means to pay tribute to their devotion and celebrate the achievements of MCAP and the heroes who make a difference in the lives of abused children each day. Since 2004, MCAP has served more than 2,400 children in over 1,500 cases. For the last two consecutive years, MCAP cases have increased 30 percent from the prior years.

York

PBA honors local attorneys for service

York County Bar Association lawyers came together on Oct. 19 to celebrate one of their own, Clyde Vedder, for his pro bono service. Vedder was honored with the 2011 PBA Pro Bono Award for his work representing York County clients. He handled six separate individual cases in the past year, including one complex mortgage foreclosure. York County Judges Richard K. Renn and Chuck Patterson (see related story) joined with local bar leaders and YCBA and Foundation Chief Executive Officer Victoria Connor to celebrate Vedder’s good work.

Mourning death of Judge Patterson

The York County legal community is mourning the passing of its colleague, Judge Clarence “Chuck” N. Patterson Jr., who died suddenly on Nov. 21. A 1976 graduate of Indiana University, Patterson joined the Pennsylvania bar in 1984 and became an active member of the York County Bar Association in 2007. At that time, he also became a member of the York County Bar Foundation board of directors.

After serving for years as a criminal prosecutor in the York District Attorney’s Office, he chose to preside over the juvenile court upon being elected to the bench in 2010.

“Judge Patterson cared deeply about the York County community,” said YCBA President Craig Trebilcock. “It was in his role as juvenile court judge, that he felt that he could make the greatest positive impact on the futures of young people in York County. His compassion and commitment to our system of justice will be greatly missed.”

(Continued from Page 7)
YLD collects pajamas, books for children in need in Pa.

During the Nov. 18 Pennsylvania Bar Association House of Delegates meeting in Harrisburg, the PBA Young Lawyers Division collected monetary and in-kind donations to supply more than 80 pairs of new pajamas and 80 books to children who have been removed from neglectful or abusive home settings. This drive, along with the national Pajama Program, is a way to provide comfort and to help children entering a strange (albeit safe) environment. The donations were provided to children and youth agencies around the state, including those in Berks, Lehigh, Somerset, Tioga, Warren and Westmoreland counties.

The YLD hopes to hold another collection in May. For more information about the project, contact Hope Guy, YLD chair, at hopeguy6@gmail.com or (412) 651-4540.

Pictured with donations of pajamas and books are Hope Guy, YLD chair, and Jacob A. Gurwitz, YLD chair-elect.

Mark your calendars for these 2012 PBA events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference of County Bar Leaders</th>
<th>PBA Minority Bar Conference</th>
<th>PBA Statewide Mock Trial Competition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 23-25 Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square, Lancaster</td>
<td>March 15-16 Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh</td>
<td>March 30-31 Crowne Plaza Hotel &amp; Dauphin County Courthouse, Harrisburg</td>
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Best of the Oil and Gas Law Colloquium — Central PA
Jan. 24, Allentown, Honesdale, Johnstown, Lebanon, Meadville, Mill Hall, Montrose, New Castle, Uniontown, Warren, Washington, West Chester, Wilkes-Barre
9 a.m. to 4:40 p.m.; check-in at 8:30 a.m.; 6 substantive

The Strategic Negotiator
Jan. 25, Allentown, Reading, West Chester
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; check-in at 8:30 a.m., 5 substantive/1 ethics

Managing Impressions — The Lawyer’s Guide to Powerful Presentations (PEG)
Jan. 26, Allentown, Easton, Erie, Johnstown, Lebanon, Meadville, Mill Hall, New Castle, Uniontown, Warren, West Chester, Wilkes-Barre
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; check-in at 8 a.m.; 6 substantive

Violence Against Animals/Violence Against Humans - Examining the Link
Part of PBI’s Public Policy Series
Jan. 27, Allentown, Doylestown, West Chester
12 to 2 p.m.; check-in at 11:30 a.m., 2 substantive/0 ethics

Forfeitures and Return of Property Proceedings
Feb. 2, Allentown, Erie, Greensburg, West Chester
1 to 4:15 p.m.; check-in at 12:30 p.m., 3 substantive/0 ethics

ADA Update: How Have the New Regulations and Case Law Changed the ADA?
Feb. 3, Doylestown, West Chester
8:30 to 11:45 a.m.; check-in at 8 a.m., 3 substantive/0 ethics

Wildlife Laws in Pennsylvania 2012
Feb. 9, Allentown, West Chester
8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; check-in at 8 a.m., 3 substantive/1 ethics

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In this issue of
The County Line

Features
Preparing for 2012 Conference of County Bar Leaders...........1
2012 CCBL Schedule of Events..............................................2
Conference of County Bar Leaders seeks award nominations.......................................................3
Applicants needed for CCBL executive committee member ...3
Pa. bar executives say farewell to Susan Kenny ......................4
Dauphin Co. Bar Association names new exec. director ........4
Monroe Co. Bar Association selects new exec. director ..........5
‘I Have a Dream’: Law Day 2012 ..........................................5
PBA launches ‘Recruit & Cruise’ .............................................5
YLD collects pajamas, books for children in need in Pa........5

In Every Issue
On the Local Scene ............................................................6-8
Courses offered by the PBI ...................................................10
2011-2012 CCBL Executive Committee ...............................10