2015 Annual Conference of County Bar Leaders — Be Ready for Change!

By Sharon R. López, Esq., Immediate Past President, CCBL Executive Committee

Change is inevitable, and the annual Conference of County Bar Leaders (CCBL) is here to help you through it. The next CCBL is set for Feb. 26-28, 2015 at the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square. In addition to the basic skill-building workshops, we have planned workshops that address leadership needs and how to identify resources in your county bar association.

If you are an executive director of a county bar association, this is your opportunity to give some “nuts and bolts” training and exposure to your incoming officers and presidents. CCBL offers bar executives valuable opportunities to develop incoming leaders, connect and network with other county bar leaders, and hear about issues and strategies unique to Pennsylvania lawyers. No matter what size your county bar association, this conference has something for you and your leaders.

If you are an officer of a county bar association, you will learn about trends and resources in planning and sustainability, how to develop your leadership skills and cultivate more attorney volunteers, and you will connect with other county bar leaders in a setting that focuses on issues relevant to Pennsylvania lawyers. No matter what the issue, you will find resources either in the formal workshops or in our networking opportunities.

If you are a member of your Young Lawyers Division (YLD) and want to meet other bar leaders and develop your leadership skills, CCBL will provide the opportunity to meet with your YLD colleagues at the business meeting. You will also learn about the expansion of the Wills for Heroes program to include veterans, which is an important service of our bar associations and an opportunity for you to showcase your leadership abilities in your county. We want all YLD members to feel welcome because you are our future. Ask your bar executive about saving a space for you at the conference.

John R. Howland, Esq., the CCBL President, and his executive committee have planned a stimulating and diverse agenda for you to develop your knowledge base on important leadership topics as well as enjoy quality networking time. The kick-off speaker will get you in the right frame of mind for the leadership workshops. “Your Year as President” is a staple that will allow you to hear about the special challenges facing bar leaders. The practical workshops will give you tools, while the face-to-face time will give you people to call on if you want to follow up on any questions after the conference. The afternoon networking will include a “speed-sharing” session that allows everyone a sharing opportunity. The conference will close with legislative updates on the bills that matter most to us. In short, this conference promises to help you address changing trends.

But CCBL is not all work and no play! Friday night will be filled with games, dancing, prizes and more relaxed networking.

Don’t miss this opportunity to develop your Pennsylvania county bar leadership skills and your leadership resource network. Mark your calendars and look for more details in upcoming publications. Officers, plan to attend with your executive director. Bar executives, invite your board members and young lawyers to register. Change is coming. CCBL is ready to help you!
Pennsylvania Bar Association members provided five programs at the Elizabethtown Area School District on Sept. 17 to “Celebrate the Constitution.” In the morning, seniors at the high school learned about rights and responsibilities found in the Constitution and were asked to consider how their responsibilities as citizens will change as they turn 18. Copies of the “Stepping Out” publication were provided to the students.

The second program for the seniors engaged them in a discussion focusing on the First Amendment’s free speech protections and the struggle between the school’s need to maintain discipline and students’ right to express their views while at school. Students learned about several leading student free speech cases, then were asked to provide arguments, for the students and for the school, based on the facts in the 2013 decision of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in the B. H. v. Easton Area School District case.

In the afternoon, programs were provided to more than 860 students in grades K-3 at the Mill Road Elementary, East High Street Elementary, and Bainbridge Elementary schools. The students were eager to learn and ask questions about the framers writing the Constitution 227 years ago. They signed their own names to a large replica of the Constitution.

The high school programs were developed by PBA Law-Related Education Committee Chair Philip Yoon and PBA YLD Immediate Past Chair Robert Datorre. Many thanks to the following attorneys for their participation in the programs: Robert S. Cronin, Jr. and Bernadette Hohenadel, both of Nickolaus and Hohenadel, LLP in Lancaster; Jordan Lane, staff attorney at the Superior Court; Andrew Oltmans, McNees Wallace; Paula Knudsen Burke, Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association; and PBA staff members David Trevaskis, pro bono coordinator, and Susan Etter, education and special projects coordinator.

The PBA and the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation provide Celebrate the Constitution educational materials — copies of the Constitution, bookmarks with the Constitution’s Preamble and other educational resources — to county bar associations, schools and PBA members at no cost. Please contact Susan Etter for more information at 800.932.0311 x. 2256 or susan.etter@pabar.org.
At our last CCLJ meeting in Hershey, one of our members raised an interesting issue. Since so many of us rely on the same printer to produce our legal journals, what would happen if there were an interruption in service, or worse, they went out of business?

Thankfully, Clare Printing, which produces 10+ legal journals within the commonwealth, is aware of such a situation and has taken ample steps in preventing such an interruption. I recently had the opportunity to meet with owner Ian Clare and discussed this issue with him. He assured me that his company is well-equipped to prevent any interruption in service resulting from natural disaster, computer/system failure, employee issues or internal inefficiencies. The company has never missed a deadline, even after Hurricane Irene left much of Clare’s home base of Sayre, PA, under water.

As organizational leaders, it is our responsibility to ensure that our organizations are safeguarded against unforeseen catastrophes. Together, Ian and I came up with some ways to protect your association from an interruption in service:

**Cross-train your staff.** Make sure others within your organization know how to get key tasks done. They do not have to be great at it, just understand how to get the task completed. Cross-training your staff is critical; there should be no single person within your organization (management included) that is the only person who knows how to perform an operational task.

**What to do if you are the only employee?** We discussed this in Hershey and determined it would be good to set up reciprocal arrangements with another local Bar to help each other should an emergency arise. The legal journal is your bread and butter. Set up some procedures in advance to be prepared for an emergency.

**Backup your system and test it regularly.** Just because a procedure is in place does not mean it is actually working. Are your back-ups current enough, both on-site and off? What happens if a disgruntled employee deletes information? What if a new employee accidentally deletes information?

**Record and track filing procedures.** Make sure that others in the office know how and where projects are stored. Long-term employees often have unique filing systems that make perfect sense to them but very little sense to anyone else. In a “hit by a bus” scenario, if a key employee is out unexpectedly due to health, termination or family emergency, will you have to spend an inordinate amount of time trying to find critical files on his computer? Do you know how to access the important information if it is stored on a file server? In the Cloud?

**Reduce redundancy.** Do you have staff duplicating or handling the same information more than one time? Are you entering names and addresses in two different systems (for example, accounting database, e-mail database, membership database)?

**Have a backup facility/location in mind.** Should disaster strike and prevent you from doing business in your normal location, make sure to have a backup plan in place. It does not need to be formal, but a quick “what if” phone call to someone close by to create an informal reciprocal agreement. The person you call may never have thought about it and might greatly appreciate your foresight.

**Backup your hardware/equipment.** Clare Printing replicates its hardware to ensure that if a piece of equipment fails, a quick and easy substitute is at the ready. In a small office, this means having a backup computer available that has the same software installed and ready to go in case a computer crashes. In larger offices, you should think about this as it applies to one computer running a specific, important task. What will you do if this computer fails?

I hope I’ve encouraged you to think about how your office is functioning and what you might do to avoid a big problem. Our legal journals are an essential component to our bars. You never know when that lightning bolt will hit the transformer, when flood waters will invade your building, or when the roof will unexpectedly begin leaking.

We should all be looking at working smarter, not harder. I welcome your comments, suggestions or recommendations of articles that may be helpful to our members. We might not be able to meet very often, but we can share information with one another.
PBA Wants You … for Its New Lawyers Saluting Veterans Program

The PBA is recruiting lawyer volunteers for its new “Lawyers Saluting Veterans” program.

An initiative of PBA President Francis X. O’Connor, the program is seeking lawyer volunteers to handle pro bono cases in their areas of practice or expertise for Pennsylvania’s military veterans. The PBA Pro Bono Office and the PBA Military and Veterans Affairs Committee are coordinating the program.

“The PBA is proud to lead this effort to ensure that the men and women who have served faithfully in our armed forces will receive the legal care they need and deserve,” said O’Connor. “I am asking every PBA member to volunteer as a way of saying ‘thank you’ to those who have put their lives on the line in defense of our nation.”

Lawyer volunteers can register for the program via the PBA website. Registration will require certification of malpractice insurance. After registering, volunteer lawyers will have access to electronic documents such as an agreement of representation, a pro bono checklist and a termination letter for use with the veteran clients. In addition, they will receive an official certificate of participation for use in publicizing their involvement in the program. The PBA also will recognize program volunteers through a special listing in the Pennsylvania Bar News.

PBA will publicize the program to the state’s veterans via the statewide media. Veterans in need of pro bono assistance can find help in several ways. They can contact directly those lawyer volunteers who publicize their participation in the program in their local communities, or they can contact the PBA Pro Bono Office online or by telephone with their initial request for assistance. The PBA Pro Bono Office will assess the request and refer it to a volunteer lawyer.

Volunteers will be required to handle a minimum of one case per year. The program does not require a client means test. If the matter is something the lawyer does not handle, there is no obligation to take on the veteran as a client. Instead, the volunteer can refer the veteran to the PBA Lawyers Saluting Veterans hotline for assistance.

To volunteer for the PBA Lawyers Saluting Veterans program, lawyers can register via the PBA website at http://www.pabar.org/public/lsv.asp. For more information, contact the PBA Lawyers Saluting Veterans hotline at 800-932-0311, ext. 2570.

Judicial Candidates: JEC Questionnaire Available

The PBA Judicial Evaluation Commission evaluates the qualifications of candidates to appellate courts in Pennsylvania. There will be two vacancies on the Supreme Court and one on the Commonwealth Court.

Individuals who are considering filing as judicial candidates in the 2015 primary election should obtain the Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire and the commission’s guidelines and bylaws. To ensure that each candidate receives a full and fair evaluation, the completed questionnaire must be returned to the commission by Dec. 12, 2014 at the address below.

The ratings will be announced after all interview sessions have been completed. Under the commission’s guidelines, any candidate who does not participate in the evaluation process will receive a “Not Recommended” rating.

To obtain the questionnaire, contact Louann Bell at the PBA Judicial Evaluation Commission, P.O. Box 186, Harrisburg, Pa. 17108; 800-932-0311, ext. 2276, or louann.bell@pabar.org.

Update about PBA Online Dues Billing

The PBA is continuing its efforts to “go green.” Members who are billed individually by the PBA will receive their dues invoices in November via e-mail. This e-mail will allow for a quick click and payment of dues for 2015. Attorneys billed through a unit county or a law firm will not receive e-mailed invoices, and their invoices will continue to be processed through their respective county or law firm.

In addition to this change, all PBA members will print their membership cards and PBI discount coupons using the PBA website. These items will be easily accessible through a link in the “Thank You” email after dues have been paid for 2015 or through the member’s “Member Dashboard” via the Member Login link at the top right corner of the PBA website at www.pabar.org.
The PBA Insurance Program, advised and administered by USI Affinity, in cooperation with the PBA County Bar Services Department, PBA Professional Liability Committee, Pennsylvania Bar Institute and local bar associations, has scheduled fall malpractice avoidance seminars. Seminar attendees will receive up to a 7.5 percent discount on their PBA-endorsed malpractice insurance through USI Affinity and up to 1.5 hours of CLE ethics credit. All seminars are presented live and include a CD-ROM of the presentation material. Unless otherwise noted below, find registration information at www.pabar.org/public/localbar/countybar.asp. If you have questions, contact Gabriele Miller-Wagner in the PBA County Bar Services Department at 800-932-0311, ext. 2240.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Registration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Westmoreland</td>
<td>Oct. 15 10 a.m. &amp; 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Westmoreland Bar Association 129 N. Pennysylvania Ave., Greensburg</td>
<td>Register online <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambria</td>
<td>Oct. 16 9 a.m.</td>
<td>Holiday Inn Johnstown-Downtown 250 Market St., Johnstown</td>
<td>Register online <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bedford</td>
<td>Oct. 16 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Hampton Inn 4235 Business 220, Bedford</td>
<td>Register online <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Blair</td>
<td>Oct. 17 10 a.m.</td>
<td>Hampton Inn Altoona 180 Charlotte Dr., Altoona</td>
<td>Register online <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<td>Beaver</td>
<td>Oct. 21 10 a.m. &amp; 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Beaver County Bar Association 788 Turnpike St., Beaver</td>
<td>Register online <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawrence</td>
<td>Oct. 22 9 a.m.</td>
<td>PSU Coop. Ext. Office, Lawrence Co. Courthouse 430 Court St., New Castle</td>
<td>Register online <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Armstrong</td>
<td>Oct. 22 3 p.m.</td>
<td>Kittanning Country Club 218 Belltop Dr., Kittanning</td>
<td>Register online <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<td>Indiana</td>
<td>Oct. 23 10 a.m.</td>
<td>Rustic Lodge 2199 Oakland Ave., Indiana</td>
<td>Register online <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Oct. 27 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Meadows Racetrack &amp; Casino 210 Racetrack Rd., Washington</td>
<td>724-225-6710</td>
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<td>Greene</td>
<td>Oct. 28 9 a.m.</td>
<td>County Office Bldg. 93 E. High St., 2nd Floor, Waynesburg</td>
<td>Register online <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fayette</td>
<td>Oct. 28 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Penn State Fayette, Eberly Bldg., Room 116 One University Dr., Uniontown</td>
<td>Register online <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<td>Somerset</td>
<td>Oct. 29 10 a.m.</td>
<td>Oakhurst Tea Room 2409 Glades Pike, Route 31, Somerset</td>
<td>Register online <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<td>Schuylkill</td>
<td>Nov. 6 (time TBD)</td>
<td>Schuylkill Country Club 877 W. Market St., Orwigsburg</td>
<td>570-628-1235</td>
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<td>Huntingdon</td>
<td>Nov. 12 3 p.m.</td>
<td>Huntingdon Country Club 10305 Raystown Rd., Huntingdon</td>
<td>Register online <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<td>Centre</td>
<td>Nov. 13 9 a.m.</td>
<td>Ramada Conference Center 1450 S. Atherton St., State College</td>
<td>Register online <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<td>Mifflin/Juniata</td>
<td>Nov. 13 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Penn State Learning Center 152 E. Market St., Lewistown</td>
<td>Register online <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>York</td>
<td>Nov. 17 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>York County Administrative Center 28 W. Market St., 3rd Floor, York</td>
<td>717-854-8755, ext. 201</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>Dec. 1 10 a.m. &amp; 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Montgomery Bar Association 100 W. Airy St., Norristown</td>
<td>Register online <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Erie</td>
<td>Dec. 4 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Lake Shore Country Club 5950 Lake Shore Dr., Erie</td>
<td>814-459-3111</td>
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<td>Dauphin</td>
<td>Dec. 5 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Crowne Plaza Hotel 23 S. Second St., Harrisburg</td>
<td>717-232-7536</td>
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PBA and County Bar Associations Provide Information for Parents and Guardians About the Educational Rights of Exceptional Children

The PBA and 25 county bar associations have launched a statewide informational campaign, “Have a Voice in Your Exceptional Child’s Education,” which provides parents and guardians with an overview of the education rights of students with disabilities and mentally gifted students.

“A parent or guardian who knows or believes a child has problems learning or is mentally gifted can have many questions about the steps to ensure that evaluations are properly completed and, when needed, educational programs and services are put into place to best support that child,” said PBA President Francis X. O’Connor.

“In Pennsylvania there are education rights in place designed to protect children who have mental and physical challenges that hinder their development. There are also education rights in place for children with outstanding intellectual and creative abilities,” said O’Connor. “In creating this campaign, the PBA Community and Public Relations Committee and the PBA Legal Services for Exceptional Children Committee felt it was important to provide some basic information to parents and guardians about these rights, how the assessment processes to identify disabilities and giftedness are initiated, and where parents and guardians can turn when they need more information.”

As of press time, bar associations from the following counties had signed on to participate in the campaign: Beaver, Berks, Butler, Centre, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Erie, Fayette, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lawrence, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mercer, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Schuylkill, Washington, Westmoreland and York.

Through an agreement with the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association Foundation, half-page ads will appear in at least one newspaper published in each participating county. Ads will also run in other counties across the state.

O’Connor said that as part of the informational campaign, the state bar and participating county bar associations will distribute thousands of brochures titled “Education Rights for Students with Disabilities” and “Education Rights for Mentally Gifted Students.” The PBA will provide a toll-free number for parents and guardians to call to request copies of the informational brochures. The brochures will also be available on the PBA website at www.pabar.org.

The campaign is funded by the PBA and a grant from the Pennsylvania Bar Trust Fund. It is the 12th in a series of statewide public-education efforts administered under the direction of the PBA Community and Public Relations Committee. Previous campaigns have addressed such issues as wills and estates, identity theft, credit rights and child support.
PBA Bar Leadership Institute Class 2014-15

PBA’s Bar Leadership Institute (BLI) helps prepare young lawyers for future leadership opportunities within the state’s largest bar association. PBA President Francis X. O’Connor named 11 Pennsylvania lawyers to the 2014-15 class:

- Allegheny County: Samuel I. Yamron, Law Office of Samuel I. Yamron, Pittsburgh
- Beaver County: Sherri R. Hurst, Bowers and Fawcett LLC, Ambridge
- Centre County: Kathryn L. Urbanowicz, Centre County Public Defender’s Office, Bellefonte
- Dauphin County: Elizabeth R. Triscari, Pennsylvania Office of Small Business Advocate, Harrisburg
- Delaware County: Kristina M. DeSenze, Berman & Asbel LLP, Media
- Erie County: Jason R. Owen, Yochim, Skiba & Nash, Erie
- Franklin County: Kristen B. Hamilton, Stiltner, Taccino and Hamilton Law Offices, Chambersburg
- Northampton County: Jeremy F. Clark, Attorney at Law, Easton
- Northumberland County: Antonio D. Michetti, Diehl, Dluge, Jones & Michetti, Sunbury
- Philadelphia: Nefertiri R. Sickout, Pepper Hamilton LLP
- Pike County: M. Elizabeth Burton, The Law Office of Elizabeth Burton, Greentown

This year’s BLI co-chairs are Kathy M. Manderino, Intercommunity Action Inc., Philadelphia, and Charles Eppolito III, White and Williams LLP, Philadelphia.
**Allegheny County**

Diane K. McMillen is the new assistant executive director of the Allegheny County Bar Association in Pittsburgh. She also will serve as the assistant executive director of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation. She brings to the position 25 years of experience in non-profit and for-profit management. Most recently, she was the chief financial officer for the Pittsburgh Technology Council and spent earlier tenures with Equifax Settlement Services, consolidated entities of the Sisters of St. Francis, and Touche Ross and Company (now Deloitte Touche).

**Beaver County**

**Wine Dinner Raises Money for Beaver County Foundation**

The Beaver County Bar Association’s Social Committee and Charitable Fundraising & Giving Committee’s annual Wine Dinner raised $3,452 for the Beaver County Foundation – BCBA Fund, which supports county residents through a variety of charitable programs. Sixty-seven guests gathered at Mario’s Woodfired Pizzeria on April 13 to enjoy an evening of hand-selected wines paired with an array of Italian dishes.

**Professional Clothing Drive**

The BCBA Charitable Fundraising & Giving Committee sponsored a professional clothing drive to benefit Professional Outfitters, a local agency that assists no- or low-income job seekers by providing professional clothing for job interviews and work. A large closet of women’s and men’s business attire was donated.

**Law Day 2014**

A Law Day Celebration was held on May 1 in Courtroom No. 1 of the Beaver County Courthouse. Members from the bench and bar attended the program, along with Beaver County elected officials, local legislators, the Beaver Area High School (first place) and Quigley Catholic High School (second place) Mock Trial Teams, Mock Trial Scholarship and Randy K. Hareza Memorial Award recipients, Law Day poem and bookmark contest winners, the Young Lawyers Division’s Civic Appreciation Award recipient, and the Judge Joseph S. Walko Service Award recipient. The Bar Association presented $3,000 in scholarships to Mock Trial participants. A luncheon reception was held at the bar association following the ceremony.

**Stepping Out**

BCBA members visited seven Beaver County schools to present the 19th annual “Stepping Out” Program. More than 800 local high school seniors received information about various areas of the law, including consumer credit, civil litigation, voting, jury service and others. Voter registration forms and flyers about DUI and Consequences of Underage Drinking statute were distributed to seniors. A question-and-answer period was held with the visiting attorney.

**YLD Charity Golf Outing**

Fifty-seven golfers participated in the 2014 YLD Charity Golf Outing on June 13 at the Blackhawk Golf Course. Proceeds were earmarked to purchase two adaptive bikes through the Variety program to enable children with disabilities to enjoy the freedom of a bike and experience the joy of riding along with friends and family.

**Book Drive**

The BCBA YLD hosted a youth book drive to benefit the Steubenville Detention Center, which houses children from Beaver County. A recent visit to the facility highlighted the need for reading material for children and teens assigned to live in the facility. BCBA members donated more than 150 books at various reading levels for the center.

**BCBA Charitable Fundraising & Giving Supports Ohio River Trail Council**

The BCBA was a Diamond Sponsor of the Ohio River Trail Council’s Gear & Cheer Music Festival on July 21. The event, which featured bike and kayak races, a 5K run, beer and wine tastings and live music, raised money for the Council to interconnect existing land trails in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. The ORTC is a volunteer-led, non-profit organization which works to bring individuals, groups, councils, communities, businesses, recreational users and all levels of government together to reclaim, restore, promote and protect a continuous corridor of natural and cultural resources along the Ohio River and its tributaries.

**Blair County**

**Constitution Day Contest**

The Blair County Bar Association held Constitution Day poster, essay and poetry contests for area elementary and middle schools. The contest was facilitated by the YLD. Winners will be announced in mid-October.

**Butler County**

**Bar Association Moves to New Location**

On Aug. 1, the Butler County Bar Association moved to a new location at 240 South Main Street. The larger office space is closer to the courthouse and will provide conference rooms for Worker’s Compensation hearings, as well as a seminar room for large meetings and Continuing Legal Education seminars. BCBA members can use the rooms for meetings (Continued on page 9)
On the Local Scene...

Coffee with the Judges

The BCBA continues to hold the Coffee with the Judges program at 8 a.m. the first Friday of every month. These informal meetings cover a range of family, civil and criminal law topics.

The Young Lawyers Division hosted a family picnic at Alameda Park in Butler on Sept. 14. BCBA attorneys and their family members enjoyed the time outside of the office and courthouse with other members of the bar.

Chester County

CCBA Family Outing

The Chester County Bar Association played ball with the Reading Fightin’ Phils for its annual Family Outing. On the warm summer evening, members and their families enjoyed a plentiful buffet and special picnic seating overlooking the third-base line, as well as arcade games, the sports memorabilia display, and the opportunity to meet the Fightin’ Phils’ infamous mascot, the Ostrich. Several of our members’ children even made it on the big screen (see picture below). The game ended with a Fightin’ Phils’ 4-to-1 win against New Britain and a grand fireworks display.

Past Presidents’ Reception & YLD Happy Hour

The Chester County Bar Association hosted a cocktail reception for its first Past Presidents’ Council at the newly-renovated Chester County historic courthouse. The reception was attended by 22 past presidents, who enjoyed socializing, sharing ideas and discussing the future of the bar association they once led. The past presidents were also invited to an upcoming Young Lawyers Division happy hour so that YLD members could have a chance to speak with them in a casual setting about their years practicing law in order to open up communication and promote mentoring.

Dauphin County

DCBA Launches Lawyers for the Arts

This summer, the Dauphin County Bar Association and the Widener University Law School in Harrisburg launched a new pro bono initiative to provide legal assistance to area artists and small for-profit arts organizations (Nonprofit arts groups are already eligible for pro bono services through another DCBA program).

Organizers modeled the DCBA Lawyers for the Arts after successful Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts programs across the country including Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, which shared useful information, forms and suggestions.

Lawyers for the Arts will pair qualifying artists and arts organizations of limited means with experienced attorneys providing pro bono representation. The program will provide unique and rewarding pro bono opportunities for area civil and transactional attorneys.

As in many cities, artists make significant contributions to Harrisburg’s social and cultural resources, but often lack the resources and/or knowledge to seek legal counsel when needed. Therefore, in mid-August, the DCBA’s Lawyers for the Arts held its first two educational outreach programs for artists in Midtown Harrisburg, the hub of a growing arts community.

(Continued on page 10)
The Lawyers for the Arts educational programs present members of the community with information about common legal issues that artists encounter. These programs will help artists identify and avoid legal risks when possible. Finally, the programs raise artists’ awareness of the resources available from the DCBA and other organizations when legal representation is needed.

In late August, the Lawyers for the Arts hosted two training sessions for law students at Widener Law School complete with free pizza. Finally, on Sept. 9, the Lawyers for the Arts hosted an introductory CLE “Lawyers for the Arts presents: Legal Issues Facing Artists and Small, For-Profit Arts Organizations.”

The one-hour CLE included Widener University School of Law professor Juliet M. Moringiello and MakeSpace director and artist Liz Laribee. The bar association waived the $35 registration fee for attorneys willing to take a pro bono case for a qualifying artist or arts group.

The goal was for attorneys to leave the CLE with a better understanding of how representing an artist or arts group is similar to representing any small business. Artists and arts groups need representation on more than just intellectual property issues like copyrighting a hit song. The business law issues facing an artist or arts group may include insurance law, premises liability, real property rights, sales tax, contracting, permitting and licensing, among others. The interactive and entertaining CLE included Liz Laribee presenting hypothetical questions to Professor Moringiello, while artistic visuals depicted scenes fraught with legal risks.

On Sept. 15, the Lawyers for the Arts began accepting requests from artists and arts groups through the DCBA Lawyer Referral Service. Artists and arts groups will be initially screened by the Lawyer Referral Service. Students and faculty of Widener Law Harrisburg will review applications. The DCBA will then refer selected applicants to participating area attorneys for representation.

For more information, contact Sandy Ballard at (717) 232-7536 x7 or sandy@dcba-pa.org.

Erie County
Women’s Division Special Event & Seminar

The Erie County Bar Association Women’s Division welcomed Susan Smith Blakely, attorney and author of “Best Friends at the Bar: What Women Need to Know about a Career in the Law” and “Best Friends at the Bar: The New Balance for Today’s Women Lawyer,” for a presentation focused on overcoming challenges for women lawyers. The Sept. 19 program outlined the “do’s and don’ts” of how to become a successful female attorney in the midst of the issues facing women lawyers today. The vital role played by law firm management was also addressed, as were retention issues. A book-signing followed.

Attorneys & Kids Together Fundraiser

ECBA members generously supported the Attorney & Kids Together program during the annual Erie Gives Day hosted by the Erie Community Foundation, raising $2,207 for our AKT Program. The funds will assist with costs related to distributing much-needed school uniforms, sneakers and backpacks full of school supplies to children living in local shelters.

Erie County Law Foundation Celebrates 25th Anniversary

This autumn, the Erie County Law Foundation will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a special luncheon and fundraiser benefiting the Chief Justice Samuel J. Roberts Scholarship Fund on Monday, Oct. 13 at Erie’s Bayfront Sheraton Hotel. Former law clerks, scholars, friends and family will reminisce and honor the life and legacy of Chief Justice Roberts with current Erie County Bar Association members. Formed in 1989, the ECLF promotes education by awarding annual scholarships to law school students from Erie County and through the signature community project, Attorney & Kids Together program, that supports the educational needs of students living in homeless shelters. The ECLF also grants funds for the maintenance and preservation of the historic Courtroom H in the Erie County Courthouse.

Lancaster County
Lancaster Bar Association Head Wins Bolton Award

The National Association of Bar Executives has named Evelyn Albert, executive director of the Lancaster Bar Association, this year’s winner of the Bolton Award, which is presented annually to the bar association staff member who “most clearly demonstrates leadership and professional excellence.”

About 650 organizations belong to NABE. Albert is just the second Pennsylvania county-level association executive to

(Continued on page 11)
On the Local Scene...

Evelyn Albert (center), executive director of the Lancaster Bar Association, is the winner of the 2014 National Association of Bar Executives Bolton Award for Professional Excellence. She is pictured with NABE President-elect Nancy Roberson and NABE President George Brown.

(Continued from page 10)

be honored; the first was Elizabeth Price, who served as executive director of the Delaware County Bar Association for 36 years.

Albert received the award at the American Bar Association’s national convention in Boston.

Albert has been the county bar association’s executive director since 1988. She is active in NABE, having served as president, treasurer and on various committees. She was the Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives president from 1996 to 1998.

Lebanon County

Walk A Mile in Her Shoes

LCBA sponsored and attorneys participated in “Walk A Mile in Her Shoes,” a fund-raiser and awareness campaign for the Lebanon County Sexual Assault and Resource Counseling Center (SARCC). Men were challenged to walk in a variety of women’s shoes for a one-mile walk in downtown Lebanon.

Law Exploring Program

LCBA attorneys are again offering students the chance to explore careers in the legal field through its for high school students. Students will meet monthly, participate in a mock argument court, and visit the State Capitol to observe court.

 Luzerne County

Public Seminar/CLE on Marijuana

The Luzerne County Bar Association, in conjunction with the Luzerne County Medical Society, will hold a CLE and public seminar on “The Legalization of Marijuana and What You Need to Know About Medical Marijuana” on Thursday, Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the Burke Auditorium at the McGowan Business School of King’s College at North Main and Union Streets in Wilkes-Barre. The session provides two substantive CLEs to bar members at a small cost. The session is free to the public. For more information, contact Elaine Cook, R.N., J.D., Cook Law P.C. at (570) 708-1111.

Monroe County

Strategic Planning Initiative

In anticipation of a Centennial celebration in 2015, the Monroe County Bar Association embarked on a strategic planning initiative in 2014. The project began in January when MCBA President Lori J. Cerato invited all past presidents of the MCBA to participate (with the exception of past presidents who are currently serving as or are retired judges). Other members were identified based upon participation in the current Executive Board or the Young Lawyers Division of the MCBA. Fifteen members made up the strategic planning group which met five times for sessions lasting several hours. The project involved a member survey that the group completed in April. Ellen Freedman facilitated meetings of the group.

The purpose of the strategic plan is to provide the executive board with a blueprint of goals for the next five years. This marks the first time the MCBA has undertaken a strategic plan. The plan was approved by the executive board in September and will be presented to the general membership at the MCBA Bench Bar Conference on Oct. 16.

Montgomery County

New MBA Leadership Academy Aims to Help Members Become Better Leaders

The Montgomery Bar Association has announced the launch of a new multi-year initiative aimed at helping its members become better leaders, both in their professions and in their respective communities. Parameters and benchmarks for the MBA Leadership Academy were takeaways of an off-site planning retreat held this past spring under the leadership of MBA President Michael F. Rogers, Executive Director Nancy R. Paul and Donna M. Branca, a hired consultant from SJL Shannon Legal Career Management. Spring retreat attendees included officers, board members, communications staff and a diverse focus group of 10 pre-selected member attorneys from varying practice areas and demographic backgrounds.

First-year MBA Leadership Academy curriculum, led by prominent subject matter experts and thought leaders, will serve as a pilot for future years’ curriculum. The first course, a one-hour program entitled “Leading Successful Meetings,” will be delivered by Montgomery County Commissioners Josh Shapiro and Leslie Richards on Nov. 13. This program will be open to all member attorneys who are in good standing on a first-come, first-served basis.

The previously-mentioned 10-person focus group from the spring planning retreat will serve as the program’s inaugural Leadership Academy class and will participate in a one-hour pre- and post-event program to complete formal assessments and weigh-in on measurable objectives as a means to establish and improve future programs. For these individuals, the introductory session will be followed by monthly programs on topics such as “Building your Professional Brand through Relationship Building.”

(Continued on page 12)
“Communicating to Lead,” and “The Art of Influence.”

The MBA Leadership Academy, still in its infancy, aims to run annually and to target a new group of approximately 10 attorneys from the county each year. Attendees wishing to be considered for next year’s program must request an application in writing to apply for acceptance into the program. Applicants should have at least 3 years of experience as a practicing lawyer, remain in good standing with both the MBA and PBA, and be willing to commit their time to complete the program. All applicants must also include documentation indicating that their employer supports the program.

Northampton County

The Northampton County attorneys have been busy with community service.

Christmas Eve in July

The first event, Christmas Eve in July, was a fundraiser for our Holiday Hope Chest project. “Celebrity” attorneys took turns behind the bar to serve drinks and collect tips. It was a competitive and fun evening.

Lehigh Valley Day of Caring

The second community event was a painting project for the Lehigh Valley Day of Caring, a kick-off event for the United Way Annual Campaign. Members painted bedrooms and hallways at New Bethany Ministries Transitional Housing. It was a great opportunity for members to get away from their desks and enjoy the company of fellow bar members, while volunteering for a worthy cause.

Schuylkill County

Canned Food Drive

This year, through the generous contributions of its members, the Schuylkill County Bar Association raised over $2,000. The bar association again partnered with Boyer’s Market to purchase canned food items, dry goods, diapers and baby food, which were distributed by Schuylkill Community Action to its Food Pantry Network.

SCBA Scholarship Fund

In August, the Scholarship Committee reviewed scholarship applications and awarded grants to Schuylkill County residents enrolled in accredited law schools. Twelve law school students received scholarships totaling $8,000.

York County

YCBA Wills For Heroes

In 2010, the York County Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division launched the Wills for Heroes program in partnership with the PBA and Leave a Legacy York County. The sixth event was held on Sept. 13, when 22 volunteer attorneys, paralegals and others provided 33 emergency responders with wills, living wills, and health care and financial powers of attorney. Notarized legal documents were provided free of charge. To date, 286 police officers, fire fighters, other emergency services personnel and their significant others have received this important legal service.

The York County Bar Gives Children and Adults Alternatives to the Justice System

On average, two children drop out of school in York County every day, significantly reducing their potential to become productive citizens and increasing their risk of eventual incarceration. That’s a loss of 6,724 children in the past 10 years.

In response, the bar helped to found and is a major funder of the United Way’s Truancy Prevention Initiative, which is helping children succeed in school, graduate from high school, and become productive members of society. The Truancy Prevention Initiative works by establishing a protocol for improved communication with students and families, instituting a consistent response to truancy issues, and initiating interventions throughout the county. It also serves as a clearinghouse for best practices in truancy and drop-out prevention.

The results are dramatic. In 2010, York County had one of the highest rates of truancy in Pennsylvania and ranked 60th out of 67 counties. Today, York ranks 29th out of 67 counties.

One success story is Jade, 16, who moved to York City with her mother, who was ill. She began to miss school to take care of her mother and became chronically truant. Jade was given a choice: either go before the district magistrate and pay a fine, or enroll in the Youth Court Alliance, a Truancy Prevention Initiative at William Penn. The Youth Court program gives students a chance to be responsible for their actions instead of being truant.

Jade chose the latter and is glad she did. She says that Youth Court enabled her to make her first friends in York, become engaged in school, and helped motivate her to do better. Since completing Youth Court, Jade has served in several leadership positions within the program. According to Elizabeth Ernst, an education initiatives program assistant at the United Way, “You can see the transformation in Jade’s active participation and confidence.”

In the past school year, participation in William Penn’s Youth Court Alliance cut students’ unlawful absences and tardiness by 90%.
The April and August compliance deadlines for CLE credits have passed, and attorneys with those deadlines may have put their CLE requirement out of mind for another year. Recent changes to the CLE rules make that a bad strategy.

In January, the Supreme Court made these two changes:
• Attorneys are now required to have at least two ethics credits every year;
• Attorneys have permission to use up to six distance education credits to satisfy the annual 12-credit requirement.

Both changes became effective for CLE compliance periods beginning May 1, 2014. That means that the increased ethics requirement will be enforced for compliance periods ending on April 30, 2015. Beware! Attorneys who have been satisfying the requirement with one ethics credit for 20 years may find themselves out of compliance with the ethics credit responsibility next April and through the remainder of 2015. The full CLE requirement of 12 credits annually has not changed, only the minimum number of ethics credits as part of those 12 credits.

Many CLE courses include one hour of ethics training related to that field of practice. PBI offers a group of one-hour ethics courses near the end of each compliance period under the title, “Ethics Potpourri.” Keep the new rule in mind to avoid getting an unpleasant reminder and possible fine after your 2015 deadline.

The distance education changes offer 24/7 convenience in meeting the CLE requirement, but there is a nuance in that change, too. “Distance education” credits, as defined by the CLE Rules, do not, like other credits, carry over to subsequent years. For example, an attorney who viewed six hours of CLE from PBI’s Online Campus before her deadline in 2014 will not be able to count two of those credits toward either her 2014 or 2015 requirement.

PBI simulcasts to bar associations and other facilities around the commonwealth are not subject to this “cap” on distance education credits. They combine the convenience of local programming with quality instruction by statewide experts. Time spent in these outstanding seminars will help satisfy your full 12 credit requirement and can be carried forward to two future years.

Live webcasts, viewed on an attorney’s own computer at his office or home, on the other hand, are subject to the six-credit cap. CLE “bundles,” available from some national online providers, may offer credits that will not be available to satisfy the Pennsylvania CLE requirement.

PBI offers in-person training, simulcasts delivered to local communities statewide, practical course manuals, PBI Press publications, webcasts, podcasts and the 24/7 convenience of our Online Campus, all focused on the substantive needs of Pennsylvania practitioners. For 50 years, PBI has provided the practical training to help you become a better lawyer throughout your career.
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<th>Location</th>
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<td>Handling the Dog Bite Case</td>
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<td>Advanced Mineral Title Examination for Attorneys</td>
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<td>Attacking Your Adversary’s Expert</td>
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<td>Handling the Dog Bite Case</td>
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<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>Communications Skills for Lawyers</td>
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<td>Retaining Your Clients/Building Your Practice</td>
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<td>Labor Law Symposium</td>
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<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td>PA Attorney-Client Privilege and Work-Product Doctrine</td>
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<td>Criminal Law Update</td>
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<td>Advanced Mineral Title Examination for Attorneys</td>
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<td>A Primer on Collecting &amp; Enforcing Judgments</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<td>Election Law 101</td>
<td>Nov. 25</td>
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<td>Communications Skills for Lawyers</td>
<td>ABCs of Foreclosure Proceedings</td>
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<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>The Attachment Theory: Application in Custody Cases</td>
<td>Finance for Lawyers</td>
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<td>Nov. 24</td>
<td>Uncertain Justice</td>
<td>Dec. 16</td>
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<td>Trial Evidence</td>
<td>Family Law Practice in Bucks Chester Delaware &amp; Montgomery Counties</td>
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<td>Child and Spousal Support</td>
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<td>Criminal Law Update</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania’s Uniform Trust Act</td>
<td>Due Diligence in Business Transactions</td>
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<td>Advanced Mineral Title Examination</td>
<td>Thorny Issues in PA Landlord Tenant Law</td>
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<td>Litigating Condominium &amp; Homeowner Association Cases</td>
<td>Elder Law Update</td>
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<td>Attacking Your Adversary’s Expert</td>
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<td>Communications Skills for Lawyers</td>
<td>Medical Malpractice Update</td>
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<td>Trial Evidence</td>
<td>Criminal Law Update</td>
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<td>Criminal Law Update</td>
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<th>Mill Hall</th>
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<td>Nov. 7</td>
<td>Election Law 101</td>
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<td>ABCs of Foreclosure Proceedings</td>
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<td>Dec. 16</td>
<td>Pennsylvania’s Uniform Trust Act</td>
<td>Due Diligence in Business Transactions</td>
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<td>Advanced Mineral Title Examination</td>
<td>Thorny Issues in PA Landlord Tenant Law</td>
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<td>A Primer on Collecting &amp; Enforcing Judgments</td>
<td>Medical Malpractice Update</td>
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| Nov. 2              | Medical Malpractice Update   | Dec. 3                             |
| Dec. 4              | Child and Spousal Support    | Trial Evidence                     |
| Dec. 8              | PA Attorney-Client Privilege and Work-Product Doctrine | Dec. 4                          |
| Dec. 15             | UM/UIM (am)                  | Dec. 9                            |
|                     | Limited Tort: How to Handle or Defend a Limited Tort Case (pm) | Dec. 10                        |
|                     | Dec. 17                       | Dec. 15                           |
|                     | Advanced Mineral Title Examination | Dec. 18                        |
|                     | A Primer on Collecting & Enforcing Judgments                      |

| Nov. 7            | Election Law 101            | Norristown                        |
| Nov. 10           | Elder Law Update            | Dec. 2                            |
| Nov. 19           | The Attachment Theory: Application in Custody Cases | Medical Malpractice Update         |
| Nov. 24           | Uncertain Justice           | Dec. 3                            |
| Dec. 4            | Child and Spousal Support   | Trial Evidence                    |
| Dec. 9            | Trial of a Bad Faith Claim  | Dec. 4                            |
| Dec. 10           | Criminal Law Update        | Dec. 5                            |
| Dec. 15           | UM/UIM (am)                 | Dec. 17                           |
|                   | Limited Tort: How to Handle or Defend a Limited Tort Case (pm)     |

| Nov. 24           | Pennsylvania’s Uniform Trust Act | Dec. 17                   |
| Dec. 18           | Advanced Mineral Title Examination | Dec. 18                     |
| Norristown        | A Primer on Collecting & Enforcing Judgments                           |

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### Warren
- **Nov. 7** Election Law 101
- **Nov. 10** Elder Law Update
- **Nov. 19** The Attachment Theory: Application in Custody Cases
- **Nov. 24** Uncertain Justice
- **Dec. 2** Medical Malpractice Update
- **Dec. 3** Trial Evidence
- **Dec. 4** Child and Spousal Support
- **Dec. 9** Trial of a Bad Faith Claim
- **Dec. 10** Criminal Law Update
- **Dec. 15** UM/UIM (am)
  - Limited Tort: How to Handle or Defend a Limited Tort Case (pm)
- **Dec. 17** Advanced Mineral Title Examination
- **Dec. 18** A Primer on Collecting & Enforcing Judgments

### West Chester
- **Nov. 3** Litigating Condominium & Homeowner Association Cases
- **Nov. 4** How to Obtain and Use Digital Evidence
- **Nov. 10** Elder Law Update
- **Nov. 11** Attacking Your Adversary’s Expert
- **Nov. 17** Retaining Your Client’s/Building Your Practice
- **Nov. 18** ABCs of Foreclosure Proceedings
- **Nov. 20** Due Diligence in Business Transactions
- **Nov. 25** Finance for Lawyers
- **Dec. 1** Thorny Issues in PA Landlord Tenant Law
- **Dec. 4** Child and Spousal Support
- **Dec. 10** Criminal Law Update
- **Dec. 15** UM/UIM (am)
  - Limited Tort: How to Handle or Defend a Limited Tort Case (pm)
- **Dec. 17** Advanced Mineral Title Examination

### Williamsport
- **Nov. 11** Attacking Your Adversary’s Expert
- **Nov. 17** Retaining Your Clients/Building Your Practice
- **Dec. 3** Trial Evidence
- **Dec. 10** Criminal Law Update
- **Dec. 15** UM/UIM (am)
  - Limited Tort: How to Handle or Defend a Limited Tort Case (pm)
- **Dec. 18** A Primer on Collecting & Enforcing Judgments

### Washington
- **Nov. 14** Trials: Tips, Tactics & Tales
- **Dec. 12** Business Law & Ethics

### York
- **Nov. 3** Litigating Condominium & Homeowner Association Cases
- **Nov. 4** How to Obtain and Use Digital Evidence
- **Nov. 6** Mechanics’ Liens in Pennsylvania
- **Nov. 7** Election Law 101
- **Nov. 10** Elder Law Update
- **Nov. 14** Communications Skills for Lawyers
- **Nov. 17** Retaining Your Clients/Building Your Practice
- **Nov. 20** Due Diligence in Business Transactions
- **Nov. 21** Ethics and LGBT Law
- **Nov. 24** Uncertain Justice
- **Nov. 25** Finance for Lawyers
- **Dec. 1** Thorny Issues in PA Landlord Tenant Law
- **Dec. 4** Child and Spousal Support
- **Dec. 5** Labor Law Symposium
- **Dec. 8** PA Attorney-Client Privilege and Work-Product Doctrine
- **Dec. 11** Dining Out
- **Dec. 15** UM/UIM (am)
  - Limited Tort: How to Handle or Defend a Limited Tort Case (pm)
- **Dec. 18** A Primer on Collecting & Enforcing Judgments

### Wilkes-Barre
- **Nov. 4** How to Obtain and Use Digital Evidence
- **Nov. 6** Mechanics’ Liens in Pennsylvania
- **Nov. 10** Elder Law Update
- **Nov. 12** Handling the Dog Bite Case
- **Nov. 21** Ethics and LGBT Law
- **Nov. 24** Uncertain Justice
- **Nov. 25** Finance for Lawyers
- **Dec. 3** Trial Evidence
- **Dec. 4** Child and Spousal Support
- **Dec. 10** Criminal Law Update
- **Dec. 11** Dining Out
- **Dec. 17** Advanced Mineral Title Examination

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Exceptional Children Conference
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PBA Commission on Women in the Profession Fall Retreat
Nov. 14-15
The Hotel Hershey, Hershey

PBA Board of Governors Meeting
Nov. 19
Holiday Inn East, Harrisburg

PBA Committee/Section Day
Nov. 20
Holiday Inn East, Harrisburg

PBA House of Delegates Meeting
Nov. 21
Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey, Hershey

2015
PBA Family Law Section Winter Meeting
Jan. 16-18
Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square, Lancaster

PBA Midyear Meeting
Jan. 27-31
Hilton Rose Hall Resort & Spa, Montego Bay, Jamaica

PBA Conference of County Bar Leaders Seminar
Feb. 26-28
Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square, Lancaster

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