PBA and county bar associations launch information campaign to help those facing evictions or foreclosures due to the pandemic

The PBA, along with 26 county bar associations, are launching the “Pandemic preparedness: When your home is at risk” public information campaign. Part of a statewide effort co-sponsored by the PBA, the Pennsylvania Bar Trust Fund and county bar associations across the state, the campaign was developed to increase the public’s understanding of their rights when renting or owning a home, with a special focus on the impact from the pandemic.

All the resources will be available in October on the PBA website: www.pabar.org. Read the full article that appeared on page 8 of the Sept. 14 edition of the Pennsylvania Bar News.

PBA COVID-19 Task Force tools and resources

The PBA COVID-19 Task Force has compiled an informational tool, “Reopening Your Practice: Considerations from the Pennsylvania Bar Association” (member login required). The task force’s Resources Guide, updated regularly, provides links to federal information and programs to assist small businesses, and much more.

PBA President David Schwager wants to know how members are coping

David E. Schwager never imagined that his term as PBA president would be about survival. Unlike his predecessors, he has not been able to make the state circuit, meeting members in person and speaking at county events, learning first-hand what members need. What he has been able to do the first quarter of his term is to help members learn how to provide legal services safely and effectively in extraordinary circumstances.

“My presidency is unlike any other before me, and I pray it is not like any that comes after me,” he wrote in a recent email to members. Schwager said he sent the email because he wanted to ask how members are doing. “I’m a social creature. I have not been able to get out and meet the people I wanted to meet. I want to know how our members are coping.”

Read the full article that appeared on the front page of the Sept. 14 edition of the Pennsylvania Bar News.

Statewide LRAP application deadline is Oct. 15

Lawyers employed by IOLTA-funded civil legal services organizations have until Oct. 15 to apply for student-loan repayment assistance from the Pa. Bar Foundation (PBF)/ Pa. IOLTA Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP).

Conference of County Bar Leaders Virtual Leadership Event 2021: Decision Points and Defining Moments

“When something bad happens you have three choices. You can let it define you, let it destroy you, or you can let it strengthen you.” -Theodor Seuss Geisel

Given all of the changes and demands on leaders this year, attending CCBL 2021 is more important than ever. I’m not sure we could have gotten through all of this without each other to talk with, check-in, strategize, learn from, and yes, sometimes vent! CCBL 2021 draws on leadership lessons and will help us all focus on how we can come out of this STRONGER and BETTER. Each session will look at different decision points leaders are faced with and how those decisions become defining moments in your personal leadership journey and in the growth and evolution of your bar association. So, save the date for a full-day of virtual leadership sessions and opportunities to exchange ideas with your leadership team and bar leaders from across Pennsylvania! Feb. 25, 2021.

Details and registration information will be coming soon. The registration costs are $100 per person and $500 for leadership teams of five or more. An affordable investment for small bar leaders and an incentive to engage your entire leadership team in this opportunity to plan for the future of your association.

PBA officer nominations sought

The PBA is seeking nominations and applications for 2021-22 PBA leadership positions of vice president, chair of the House of Delegates, secretary and treasurer. The positions of secretary and treasurer are eligible to serve three one-year terms. Both Beverly H. Rampaul, the current secretary, and James R. Antoniono, the current treasurer, are eligible for renomination.

To learn more about the responsibilities of the various officers and nominating procedures, read rules 351, Sections 511 through 515 and 914 of the PBA Bylaws, available at https://www.pabar.org/site/About-PBA/Bylaws.

Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume by Oct. 9 to Anne N. John, chair, PBA Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 186, Harrisburg, PA 17108-0186.

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The PBA does so much for Pro Bono Week that we call all of October Pro Bono Month — Our slogan is “Every Day is Pro Bono Day!”

The PBA is proud to join with the American Bar Association to encourage you to plan and participate in “Rising to Meet the Challenge: Pro Bono Response to COVID-19” for the 2020 National Celebration of Pro Bono.

The PBA Legal Services to the Public Committee and the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service invite you to join us in October for the Pennsylvania and National Celebration of Pro Bono. In 2020, we encourage you to recognize the efforts of pro bono programs and attorneys across the commonwealth and across the country who are working hard to address the many legal needs arising from the coronavirus pandemic. The 2020 Pennsylvania and national celebrations will showcase the incredible difference that pro bono lawyers make to our state and our nation, to our system of justice, to our communities and, most of all, to the clients they serve.

We understand that the 2020 celebration may look different than years past and that planning is difficult when the future is unknown. We are here to support you with resources to assist with planning your events and campaigns. Look over our PBA Pro Bono Month website and visit the National Celebration of Pro Bono website for planning resources and ideas. Contact the PBA Pro Bono Office and the ABA’s Center for Pro Bono to help facilitate your planning.

As always, activities involving all aspects of pro bono are welcome and encouraged.

Thank you for all you do to support your communities and volunteers. We appreciate you and look forward to the 2020 Pennsylvania and national celebrations of pro bono to recognize the amazing work you do every day.

Pro Bono Month
Save the date for the 12th Annual National Celebration of Pro Bono • Oct. 25-31, 2020

#celebrateprobonopa

“Every day is Pro Bono Day!”

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Allegheny

Passing of the gavel
For the first time in the 150-year history of the ACBA, the gavel was passed from a woman ACBA president to another woman president. Elizabeth Hughes, an attorney with UPMC, took over as ACBA president on July 1, replacing Lori McMaster, who concluded her presidency on June 30. While the ceremonial passing of the gavel typically takes place at the ACBA Bench-Bar Conference, it instead was held virtually due to the pandemic. More than 220 ACBA members attended the Zoom ceremony.

Online wellness events
During quarantine, it’s a little too easy to make a trip to the fridge and begin drowning in stress. As a way to help members through the difficult times, the Allegheny County Bar Association organized numerous wellness events on Zoom, including online mindfulness, yoga and cardio sculpt sessions. There were numerous installments of each class, and each was conducted by an ACBA member. Over the course of the spring, dozens of ACBA members participated. The ACBA will explore organizing additional such sessions in the months ahead.

Dauphin

Keeping the momentum
The Dauphin County Bar Association quickly began holding free, virtual town halls to help our members navigate different aspects of the COVID crisis as it unfolded. They were well attended and well-received.

In June, we introduced our RiverFront Chat series as a service to our community. These programs provide access to a panel of our member-experts in a virtual setting to go over the basics (in layman’s terms) of a given topic and then answer questions. We have held a session on Unemployment & Worker’s Compensation and on Bankruptcy (Financial Re-Boot!) and are slated for another on Landlord Tenant Issues (When Can I Be Evicted? Who Will help?). These chats are a way for us to connect with our community in an empowering way, give our members some recognition of their expertise and advertise our LRS service.

Many of DCBA’s clinics with Mid Penn Legal Services – custody, driver’s license, etc – immediately switched to a virtual format, and they have been a great success. The model is easily adaptable and has been keeping us busy.

All of DCBA’s committees and sections have continued to meet regularly – sometimes at an increased pace – as does our board of directors.

Chester

Can’t stop, won’t stop– CCBA’s Spring Bench Bar
In accordance with Gov.Wolf’s Red Stage parameters, the Chester County Bar Association decided to make one of our biggest annual events virtual this year, instead of cancelling the event altogether. The decision to hold our First Ever Virtual Spring Bench Bar enabled our members to earn a significant amount of CLE credit as they typically would for our Spring Bench Bar (we offered opportunities for up to 6 total credits), while remaining in conformity with the governor’s order. CCBA had an excellent turnout, with a total of 97 registrants, which was actually higher than last year’s participation. At the end of the Zoom conference, we administered a survey that participants could take right on their screen. Not only did we receive overwhelmingly positive feedback, but almost all of our attendees said they would be willing to attend another virtual Bench Bar this fall.

We realize that though so many things are changing amidst this pandemic, some things don’t. The success of this event was due in large part to the virtual transitions executed by our dedicated staff and the steadfast support of our 22 sponsors. COVID-19 might have changed everyone’s normal, but it can’t stop—and won’t stop—CCBA from adapting to serve our membership.

Erie

The good, the bad and the ugly-revised
With the spread of COVID-19, the Erie County Bar Association Section/Division Meetings, CLEs and many of our signature events had to be canceled or altered. As with any crisis, there is resiliency, and from that comes opportunities, so Erie County Bar Association has retooled and is moving forward.

The Good:
COVID-19 restrictions have made us re-think how we communicate and assist our membership, business partners and community with the following initiatives:

- Daily communications to our members about COVID-19, court orders, and community happenings.
- An ‘Ask-a-Lawyer’ Helpline was held April 6-9 to respond to individual and business concerns about bankruptcy due to the COVID-19 restrictions in place for our community safety.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Fund was organized and raised $3,465 for three local hospitals for employee PPE.
- Little Legal Eagle Summer Activity Packet was developed for children ages 5-9 (complete with gavel squeeze, activity pages and more) to engage young children. It is currently being sold as a fun way to engage and educate children while parents are working from home.

The Bad:
With safety in mind, ECBA’s Law Day and Bench Bar conference were cancelled.

COVID-19 Didn’t Stop Our County Bars
COVID-19 Didn’t Stop Our County Bars

and will be held in 2021.

The Ugly Revised:

ECBA Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs are now being offered via Zoom, live or a combination of both.

Attorneys & Kids Together 5K Run/Walk in late May was completed virtually (and exceeded our fundraising total from last year).

ECBA Mid-year Meeting was held via Zoom webinar and included a CLE hosted by Chief Judge Mark R. Hornak discussing the steps taken and procedures implemented by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of PA in remaining open and functioning during the Coronavirus pandemic. This also included a video with all business partner messages.

Moving forward, adaptability may be our best asset for organizing each Erie County program/activity. One thing is certain: providing a digital component for each is here to stay.

Fayette

FCBA food bank drive matching donation challenge

June 2020: The FCBA issued a food bank drive matching donation challenge to support two local food banks to help ensure that no one goes hungry during the coronavirus pandemic. We received $700 in donations for the Fayette County Community Action Agency and $100 for the Connellsville Area Community Ministries. The association will match these donations, and more, by making $1,500 donations to each.

Thank you to all who donated to this worthy cause in support of the least fortunate in our community.

Lackawanna

“Interesting to Say the Least”

In the words of Lackawanna Bar Association President Mary Walsh Dempsey, Esq. “The past several months at the LBA have been interesting to say the least! No one could have imagined the impact that COVID-19 would have on so many facets of our lives, personal as well as professional; but overall, we are meeting these challenges collectively as a bar association, individuals, lawyers and jurists.”

During the stay at home directives resulting from the COVID-19 crisis, the LBA membership was kept up-to-date through the efforts of President Walsh Dempsey and the LBA staff. Additionally, Lackawanna County President Judge Michael Barrasse and Court Administrator Attorney Frank Castellano kept the lines of communication open between the LBA and the bench. Zoom meetings were held with Judge Barrasse and Atty. Castellano, which provided updates to the LBA from the court. Judicial orders were published in our legal journal and sent to our members in blast e-mails to keep everyone informed of changes and policies established to meet the challenges of these unprecedented times.

The LBA was able to move forward remotely with daily operations including the publication of our legal journal, The Jurist. Our committed and engaged board of Directors switched Board meetings from in-person to virtual, as did some of our committees, including the recently formed ad hoc committee to study bylaws. This dedicated group also met by Zoom to continue working on updates to this important document.

Through the leadership of our board, the efforts of our Community and Member Support Committee and the generosity of our members, the LBA contributed $2,600 to local food pantries for distribution to our most vulnerable residents.

Also, through the efforts of this committee and our board of directors, financial support was provided to several members faced with hardship providing evidence once again of our support for one another in difficult times.

The LBA, recognizing the need for education, filed an application with the PA CLE Board for certification as a CLE accredited long-distance provider. As an added benefit, the LBA Board has decided to offer the first five Zoom CLE’s free of charge to our members.

On June 4, the Lackawanna Bar Association presented the Stanley W. Kennedy, Esq. Memorial Award to Lt. Tanner Sterner in a Zoom Award Presentation Ceremony. This award, presented annually for outstanding service by an Army ROTC cadet, honors the memory of Atty. Stanley Kennedy. In addition to LBA leadership and LBA Veteran Committee Chairs, the virtual ceremony was attended by Lt. Tanner’s family and the cadre of officers and educators from the University of Scranton.

Lycoming

LLA eases into summer with yoga session

Our social committee, always open to try something different, scheduled its first ever session of yoga. The session took place in Indian Park, Montoursville.

The yoga session was designed to reduce

LLA yoga at Indian Park, Montoursville
COVID-19 Didn’t Stop Our County Bars

Monroe

Going forward – keeping the stride

Like so many in the world, the MCBA building closed to the public on March 17. One of our immediate focuses was ensuring communication between our courts and members. President Judge Worthington and all of the Monroe County judges along with John Goldner, Court Administrator, and their teams worked quickly to communicate new procedures to safeguard their staff members, attorneys and visitors. MCBA immediately shared these orders so members and their clients could stay informed. The MCBA staff also created a list of relevant links for our members, including all state appellate court links, surrounding county bar associations, state and national CDC links and more.

Our Continuing Legal Education Committee quickly went to work to develop and offer CLEs and were able to offer five CLEs through Zoom by mid-June. The MCBA staff worked with Nat Graham at PACLE and we were able to offer distance learning programs. Topics were varied and were developed to not be focused specifically for those who practice in Monroe County. MCBA provided these programs at no charge to members and at a nominal cost to non-members.

Thank you to MCBA Past President Lori Cerato, who inspired the board to support hospital workers and first responders in our community. Fresh fruit baskets were delivered for the entire staffs to both our local hospitals. To thank our first responders, we worked with several local restaurants and were able to provide them with $10 coupons toward a meal purchase. MCBA in turn then paid the restaurants for every coupon accepted allowing us to financially support local businesses impacted by COVID-19.

Our courts offered to meet with members and attorneys from surrounding counties to discuss the many procedural changes introduced because of the pandemic. MCBA organized meetings and, from June 9 through June 25, we held four GoToMeetings lead by our Monroe County Court Judiciary. Procedures were reviewed with plenty of time for questions. All seven of our Judges and various department heads participated.

Montgomery

COVID-19 didn’t stop us

COVID-19 certainly didn’t get in Montgomery Bar Association’s way of serving its members or its mission over the last few months. Here are just some of things the MBA offered to ensure the vitality of our extended legal community in the face of some rather challenging times:

Timely resources – For starters, the MBA wasted no time in preparing and building out its Online COVID-19 Resource Center, which by mid-March served as a centralized location for closing announcements, judicial emergency orders, and new procedures for our county court, as well as those of neighboring counties and jurisdictions. Here, members and their staffs could also find carefully vetted content ranging from the latest on PPP and SBA EIDL program applications to videos from resident experts addressing tax, insurance, employment and HR concerns. Members utilized our 50+ Listserv communities in record numbers to share updates and information, while staff did its best to monitor and assist those in need of assistance. Insurance and benefits partners, banking partners and others also proved to be lifeline for members. Many offered a single point of contact for our members, while some even offered live 24/7 assistance.

Virtual events and information sessions – Whenever possible, previously scheduled in-person gatherings, meetings, and events became live virtual happenings. Through the end of June, the MBA hosted over 60 virtual meetings and events, and nearly 20 live CLE webinars. Over 2,400 individuals attended these events, which ranged from town hall gatherings, expert-led on-camera training, judicial information sessions, legislative updates to health and wellness programs, happy hours, a virtual beer tasting, bingo, even a virtual piano bar. Many included sponsors, which in many cases allowed us to waive or offset member attendee fees. We offered four free CLE courses and 11
deeply discounted, both live webinar and on-demand for members who may be struggling financially. Our virtual gatherings also included multiple diversity-related sessions, held by our incredible Diversity Committee and MBA leadership, including a timely presentation entitled “Racism in America, Politics, and the Law” featuring PA State Representative Joanna Mclinton, which drew an unprecedented 170 attendees.

Promoting our members and visibility for our Lawyer Referral Service during challenging times – We arranged timely, on-camera speaking engagements on Action News for our Employment Law Committee chair; designed posters addressing common COVID-19 related issues that were distributed and hung in public-accessible areas of our courts; featured LRS panelists addressing common COVID-19 related concerns in our “Ask a Real Lawyer” series in MONTCO.TODAY. We also authored and pitched stories promoting our Lawyer Referral Service, Modest Means Legal Access and Legal Aid, which appeared on over dozens of area news websites and in newspapers, including front page coverage in The Pottstown Mercury and Times Herald. (Story appeared online in the following news media: The Pottstown Mercury | The Reporter | Times Herald | The Phoenix | Main Line Media News: Main Line Suburban Life | Main Line Times | King of Prussia Courier, Montgomery News: Ambler Gazette | The Colonial, Glenside News | Times Chronical | The Globe | Times Express | Germantown Courier | The Leader | North Penn Life | News Herald | Public Spirit | Willow Grove Guide | The Review | Souderton Independent | Springfield Sun.

Washington

From Zoom meetings to in-person again

After months of Zoom meetings and CLEs, Washington County Bar Association dipped its toe back into the “in-person” waters with its first member roundtable on June 26. Thirty members attended in person, socially distancing at two locations – outdoors in the bar office parking area and at the church social hall next door. In addition, eight members joined PBA President Dave Schwager via Zoom, with WCBA President Damon Faldowski and Common Pleas Judge Mike Lucas handling Zoom moderating duties.

York

#weshallmeetagain

Like everyone else, COVID-19 motivated forced the York County Bar Association and York County Foundation to quickly adapt the use of new technology to keep operations going. Our staff became a team of ducks who glided serenely on the service provision pond while paddling furiously to navigate the challenges of remote working, conducting board, committee and section meetings, new broad-based town hall meetings with the Bench and Bar inclusive of MDJs, row officers, staff and court administration, as well as hosting public education programs with key community partners.

While face-to-face interactions can never be replaced by technology, the silver lining in its use has been three-fold in increasing the value and reach of our offerings to members and the community via:

1) streamlining the timely provision important information to all constituents (internal and external);
2) enabling distance learning accreditation and simplifying delivery of CLE and other community programs; and
3) expanding the opportunity for more individuals to attend events and meetings.
COVID-19 Didn’t Stop Our County Bars

than ever before, as President Schwager might say, “by bridging the time travel continuum” for those who otherwise would be unable to do so due to travel and time constraints.

We also stretched our creative member benefit muscles by developing family-friendly and member only social offerings with a dual purpose of supporting our local restaurants and businesses. Examples include “Back to the Grind” days – free coffee with a baked good or a fruit cup on the two consecutive Mondays that the court reopened, Restaurant Bingo, Trivia night, a “Weekly Restaurant of the Week” promo. Game prizes were gift cards to local eating establishments and all members received weekly notice of special menu discounts, as well as a discount off the purchase of flowers and plants for the entire month of May at Millers Plant Farm which also offered curbside pickup service for groceries. The featured establishments were selected from the results of a member survey, with preference given to the favorites suggested and those owned by the families of our members.

Among the highly successful special events were a Virtual Law Day celebration, Inns of Court annual meeting, and a Women In Law memorial happy hour in honor of Jane Alexander, York County’s second female attorney, first female legislator and the state’s first female deputy agriculture secretary in the nation.

Post-event evaluations reveal that the convenience of technology is greatly appreciated under the current circumstances but, for most, that the unique energy shared by gathering together for a common experience is irreplaceable.

Consumer and employee demand moving forward will necessitate the creation of a “balanced hybrid”—the incorporation of greater use of technology with the option of remote participation in the daily workplace, as well as meetings and events.

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*See www.mybarinsurance.com/pba for additional details.
County bar leaders from across the state gathered together for the 54th Annual Conference of County Bar Leaders at The Hotel Hershey on Feb. 27-29, 2020. The theme was “Leap into the Roaring 20s.” The keynote speaker was Dr. Lewis Losoncy.

Attendees had the opportunity to engage with leader colleagues, share experiences, challenges and strategies to deliver high quality programs and benefits to members, attract and engage new members and strengthen county bars’ role in the legal and judicial systems.

The conference offered 12 CLE sessions covering: handling member misconduct, preparing for your year as president, diversity and suffrage in 1920 and 2020, protecting bar associations and firms from hacking, running efficient and meaningful meetings, engaging future members, avoiding legal malpractice, interacting with the media, and enhancing resiliency for good mental health.

On Friday night, attendees donned Roaring Twenties party attire and enjoyed a speakeasy and casino night. Saturday morning’s wrap-up session provided a healthy exchange of ideas among bar presidents, officers, executive directors and young leaders.

The CCBL recognized Victoria A. Connor, Chief Executive Officer of the York County Bar Association (YCBA) and York County Bar Foundation (YCBF) with the Arthur J. Birdsall Award (see page 10).

The PBA presented 23 local bar associations with County Bar Recognition Awards for projects that improve the legal profession, justice system and community (see page 9).
The Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) honored 23 local bar associations with County Bar Recognition Awards during the 54th Annual Seminar of the Conference of County Bar Leaders, Feb. 27 – 29, at The Hotel Hershey, Hershey.

The non-competitive awards annually recognize bar associations throughout Pennsylvania for projects that improve the legal profession, justice system and community.

“Each year, members of local bar associations conduct important projects and programs to better their communities,” said PBA 2019-20 President Anne N. John. “We are proud to recognize these good works and applaud the efforts of the many volunteers that contributed to their success.”

The following county bar associations received awards for notable projects and programs:

- **Allegheny County Bar Association**: Lunch for the Patrons of the Smithfield Church of Christ
- **Beaver County Bar Association**: Casino Night
- **Berks County Bar Association**: Pets at the Park
- **Bucks County Bar Association**: Bucks County Eviction Prevention Program and Solo and Small Practice Program
- **Butler County Bar Association**: Legal Literacy: Working with a Criminal Record
- **Chester County Bar Association**: Bar Foundation Record Grant Awards and Fundraiser to Support Gateway HorseWorks
- **Cumberland County Bar Association**: 2019 Adopt-a-Family and 2019 Law Day Mock Trial Script
- **Dauphin County Bar Association**: Judicial Candidates Forum, Oral History Project and New County Membership Category
- **Delaware County Bar Association**: Law Day Parade and Youth Courts and Systems Change Program
- **Erie County Bar Association**: Development and Promotion of ADR
- **Franklin County Bar Association**: Immigration CLE Series, Law Day and Wills for Heroes
- **Lackawanna Bar Association**: Mock Trial
- **Lebanon County Bar Association**: Adopt-a-Family and Outstanding Senior Award
- **Lycoming Law Association**: Law Day and Mock Trial Competitions, Project Linus and Holiday Toy Drive and Wills for Heroes
- **Montgomery Bar Association**: Access to Justice Summit and Reentry Simulation, Reentry Day and 2019 Legal Aid Golf Classic
- **Monroe County Bar Association**: Legal Information Seminar Series
- **Northampton County Bar Association**: Municipal Law Colloquium and Winter Apparel Drive
- **Philadelphia Bar Association**: Campaign for Qualified Judges Voter Education Project
- **Schuylkill County Bar Association**: Joint Legislative Update
- **Washington County Bar Association**: Bar Foundation 30th Anniversary House Party
- **Westmoreland Bar Association**: Founding of New Pro Bono 501c3, Legal Referral Service Launch through Community Lawyer and Succession Planning for New Bar Executive
- **Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association**: Changing the Narrative: Juvenile in Justice and Art Education, Judge Vanaskie Retirement Reception and Presentation and The Legal and Ethical Implications of “Miracle on 34th Street”
- **York County Bar Association**: Reflections at Journey’s End — Memorial Minutes 1851-2017, Impact Grants, Legal Aid and Scholarships, and Wills for Heroes 2019
PBA announces new Online Lawyer Referral Service

Connecting with potential clients is the first step to growing your practice. The PBA Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) receives over 10,000 inquiries each year from individuals seeking an attorney and is the perfect way for you to connect with people in need of legal help. PBA Members can test drive the new Online LRS FREE for the remainder of 2020 (value of $150).

Login to your PBA Member Dashboard to sign up.

https://www.pabar.org/site/For-Lawyers/Lawyer-Referral-Service

Arthur J. Birdsall Award: Victoria A. Connor

At the 2020 Conference of County Bar Leaders (CCBL) Conference, we recognized Victoria A. Connor, Chief Executive Officer of the York County Bar Association (YCBA) and York County Bar Foundation (YCBF) with the Arthur J. Birdsall Award.

The CCBL gives the Arthur J. Birdsall Award annually 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 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. Birdsall, a past PBA County Bar Service Director who retired in 2006 after nearly 40 years of support to local bar associations.

Since 2011, Victoria has been leading the YCBA and the professional needs of its 500-plus members. She has also dramatically advanced the mission and strategic goals of the YCBF to address the needs of the community’s vulnerable citizens whose lives intersect with the justice system.

Under her leadership, the YCBF has become the third largest bar foundation in the commonwealth and York’s largest private funder of law-related programs. In addition, member engagement in bar association activities has increased significantly and the foundation’s endowment funds have exceeded $4 million.

Victoria is a frequent presenter at CCBL and an advocate for participation in local, state and national bar association activities, conferences and events, and she is a great cheerleader encouraging bar and foundation board members, association members and her fellow Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives (PABE) colleagues to get involved.

Victoria serves on the PBA Judicial Evaluation Commission (JEC). In 2014, she was named a York Federal Fellow by the York County Community Foundation.

Her civic activities include serving as the current grants committee chair Women’s Giving Circle of the York County Community and past president of the Springdale Neighborhood Association as well as board and committee membership with the American Red Cross, National and Pennsylvania associations of bar executives, Council of Foundations, County Conference of Legal Journals, Leave A Legacy® York County, United Way of York County and the Uptown York Rotary Club.
Allegheny

ACBA celebrates 150th birthday

The ACBA – the largest legal trade association in the Pittsburgh region – was founded 150 years ago in February. To celebrate this historic milestone, the ACBA threw a 150th Anniversary Gala on March 7 at Heinz Field on Pittsburgh’s North Shore. More than 600 attorneys and guests attended the black-tie gala and enjoyed fine food, beverages, dancing and camaraderie.

Patricia Jones honored

Patricia Jones, a staff attorney with the Allegheny County Bar Foundation’s Pro Bono Center, was honored with its 2020 Duquesne Public Interest Law Association (PILA) Alumni Award. The award is presented annually to a Duquesne University School of Law alumnus who demonstrates a commitment to the values and goals of PILA, responds to the inequities that exist in the legal system and dedicates his/her professional life to the development of a more just society. Jones has dedicated her legal career to public service and helping those with low-incomes receive equal access to legal services.

New Health and Wellness Committee

The legal profession is a stressful one, and many attorneys opt for unhealthy ways to address the stresses of the job. As a way to help attorneys find healthier ways to practice law – and healthier ways to live in general – the ACBA has launched a new Health and Wellness Committee. In its first few months, the committee has already organized events on meditation, mindfulness, yoga and decluttering. Additional events in the works include self-defense and healthy eating programs, to name just a few.

ACBA expands CLE program

The ACBA has dramatically expanded its CLE program, and even more growth is around the corner. The new program includes more programs on a wider variety of topics, including a greater number of half- and full-day “symposium-style” CLEs. The in-person CLEs are being held in a wider variety of Pittsburgh locations, and the ACBA’s online CLE catalog at https://cle.acba.org/ has more than 10 times the number of courses ready to be viewed at any time than it did seven months ago. In total, the ACBA is on pace to present 230 CLE credits this fiscal year, compared to 105 last years. And next fiscal year will feature even more.

Chester

Summer internship program

This program offers first and second-year students a unique opportunity for summer employment in outstanding law firms and/or corporate law departments following their first year of law school.

This program is designed to afford law students who self-identify with those groups historically discriminated against on the basis of disability, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression or who otherwise come from a disadvantaged background the opportunity for summer employment. The goal of the 1L/2L Diverse Law Student Summer Internship Program is to achieve greater diversity in the Chester County legal community.

Application through this program will not preclude a student from otherwise seeking or accepting a job at any participating firm or organization or preclude the firm or organization hiring the student outside of our program.

Candidates must demonstrate the ability, based on academic achievement, writing ability and other accomplishments, to succeed in our program. We hope this program will enable students who participate the opportunity to experience the law firm or corporate law environment in Chester County and hopefully assist them in their future legal careers as well.

To apply: https://www.chescobar.org/index.cfm?pg=1LDiversity

2021 Summer Internship Program

Application Deadlines:

2L Students: Nov. 15, 2020
1L Students: Feb. 1, 2021

Cumberland

CCBF donates to Opioid Intervention Court

The Cumberland County Bar Foundation donated $7,500 to the Cumberland County Opioid Intervention Court (OIC). OIC was formed to be a triage court to keep participants alive between their arrest and adjudication of their charges. It is the first such program in Pennsylvania and the second in the nation.

Annual Adopt-A-Family

Adopt-A-Family was the 10th anniversary of the YLD’s outreach into the community. Nineteen firms, five organizations, and 10 individuals generously provided gifts to 78 individuals currently residing at Safe Harbour and Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties. The Young Lawyers Division thanks all who participated and especially Amy Harkins, McNees, Wallace & Nurick, for once again crocheting an item for each individual at the shelters.

YLD Adulting Program

The Young Lawyers Division has presented their Adulting?! program to over 400 high school seniors in three different schools. After the live presentation, each student receives a copy of the Adulting
booklet. *Adulting!!!* is based upon the Stepping Out project.

**Erie**

**Northwestern High School wins Region 2/District 2 Mock Trial Competition**

The Northwestern High School Mock Trial Team went to the PBA Statewide Mock Trial Championships. The team won the District 2, Region 2 Semifinal Round against Meadville High School, playing the defendants, on Feb. 26 with Judge Erin Connelly Marucci presiding.

Special thanks goes to Mock Trial Chair Attorney Stacey Baltz and all members of the ECBA who volunteered to serve as judges, jurors and timekeepers throughout the competition.

**Luzerne**

**W-BLLA Wills for Heroes**

Over 20 attorneys and 10 non-attorneys volunteered to prepare estate plans for first responders and veterans at the Public Safety Training Institute at Luzerne County Community College. These volunteers were comprised of attorneys from W-BLLA, Easton, Philadelphia and law students from Villanova Law School. The day began with Stacey Acri reviewing a Power Point presentation and David Pedri walking the volunteers through the estate planning software provided by the PBA which allowed all of the attorney volunteers to receive one substantive CLE credit. The rest of the day, attorneys met with the men and women who had pre-arranged appointments, listened to their needs and concerns, and drafted their necessary documents. Brenda Colbert and Kevin Grebas, as experts in elder law, reviewed every document. Notaries from Colbert & Grebas and O’Donnell Law Office also volunteered to finalize all of the documents. W-BLLA YLD sponsored the event and provided all refreshments. It was a wonderful day of working together to help over 50 of our community heroes. The volunteers included: Jane Acri, Peter Adonizio, Jr., Michael Bendick, Robert Boyer, Mary Deady, Gerard Gaughan, Kristyn Giarratano, Thomas Hogan, Shandra Kisailus, Carlo LaMonica, Girard Mecadon, Jessica Miraglia, Cathy O’Donnell, Michael O’Donnell, Neil O’Donnell, Renata O’Donnell, Brittany Quinn, Cheryl Sobeski-Reedy, Joanna Smith.

**Lycoming**

**District Attorney’s Office runs for a cause**

When they aren’t using their energies to make our justice system run smoothly, members of the Lycoming County District Attorney’s office have been running for good causes.
Local Scene

District Attorney Ryan Gardner and Assistant District Attorney Lee Fry participated in the Lycoming County Sheriff’s Office Hero Run on March 7. The run honors fallen law enforcement officers and their sacrifice for their communities. Participating law enforcement officers added weighted vests to their run. This run is held annually, and the event next year will be on March 6, 2021. All community members are welcome to run.

After the Hero Run, Gardner and Fry kept right on running into the Spring Forward for United Way 5k held at the Williamsport Country Club on March 7. This event helps raise funds for the United Way and spreads information about the services they provide for our community. They were joined by ADA Devin Walker and ADA Joe Ruby. Gardner called it an invaluable bonding experience for their office team.

Montgomery

MBA bids farewell to longtime executive director, Nancy Paul

In mid-January when Executive Director Nancy Paul first announced her plans for retirement, terms like global pandemic and social distancing were far more common in science fiction novels than in news headlines. Of course, a lot has changed since then, and to the relief of many, Paul agreeably remained at the helm well beyond her intended April departure date, through the first of wave of COVID, and until a successor for the 135-year-old, 2,100-member organization could take the wheel.

Her legacy will be that of a compassionate, forward-thinking and progressive bar exec with an exceptional commitment to service, membership, and fiscal sustainability. Her achievements for the MBA will not be forgotten, nor will they be for other organizations she’s helped and led along the way. While Nancy has maintained a certain glow in recent months working from the suburbs, the mountains and her new house at the shore, she admits missing the good friends she’s been blessed with seeing and working with at the MBA, and in her various roles with the PBA, CCBL, CCLJ, ALA, LASP, NABE and ABA.

It has been said that the truest measure of a great leader is in how her organization runs after she is gone. Nancy was and is a great Bar executive, so in her same calm, collect, and reasonable matter, they MBA looks forward to welcoming the new great leader and next golden era with many reasons for optimism. Thank you and good luck, Nancy. You will be deeply missed.

Meet MBA’s new executive director, Denise S. Vicario, Esq.

Following a well-contested nationwide search process, Montgomery Bar Association is pleased to announce the hiring of its next executive director, Denise S. Vicario, Esq. Vicario officially assumed duties as executive director of the 2,100+ member professional organization for attorney and judges on July 6.

As a lawyer, an active bar leader, and most recently Chief Deputy Court Administrator for Montgomery County’s Court of Common Pleas, Vicario brings with her a unique skillset, including first-hand knowledge, experience and understanding of the legal community, the court system, and local culture. She possesses first-hand knowledge of the association’s diversified membership, as well as the needs of those who live and work in the communities the association and its members aims to serve.

Since joining the Montgomery Bar Association in 2003, Denise has served as a director, chair and vice chair of multiple committees including the Law Reporter Committee, Awards Committee, SideBar Committee, Diversity Committee, Women in the Law Committee, Community Outreach Committee and others. She has also served on the Advisory Board Montgomery Child Advocacy Project (MCAP) since 2015. Denise is a longtime resident of Montgomery County and in her spare time enjoys travel, time with friends and family, and volunteering for projects that impact the local community. While she’s been a

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Local Scene

Denise can be reached by phone at 610-279-9660, Ext. 202 or by email: denise@montgomerybar.org

Westmoreland

Groundbreaking ceremony held for New Westmoreland Bar Association headquarters

After more than a year of planning, the Westmoreland Bar Association broke ground on our new headquarters located at 100 North Maple Avenue in Greensburg. A formal ceremony was held on Feb. 12 to mark the occasion with our loan partner, Somerset Trust Company, our contractor, ArTECH Group LLC, and our architect, Lee Calisti. “The idea of this building is not a new concept for the bar association,” said WBA President Joyce Novotny-Prettiman. “There has been a lot of discussion for many, many years about what was the best fit for our bar association. We made a decision to make this groundbreaking ceremony very public because the WBA is proud to be part of the revitalization efforts of the city of Greensburg.” The renovations were completed in mid-June.

York

WellSpan Health and York County Bar Association collaborate on unique legal medical partnership

In spring 2019, Mac Brillhart, the immediate past president of the York County Bar Association, and Dr. Vipul Bhatia, medical director of Continuing Care Services and Clinical Lead for WellSpan’s Horizon Planning® (advance care planning) program, began discussions to explore an innovative idea to transmit an individual’s advance directive from his or her attorney’s office directly to his/her electronic health record. Dr. Bhatia then met York County Bar Association members Steve Hovis and Mac Brillhart of Stock and Leader, and David Mills of Blakely, Yost, Bupp and Rausch, chair of the YCBA’s Estate Planning Section, to discuss feasibility.

Enthusiasm for the idea grew when it was determined a simple process could be implemented for an attorney to obtain a client waiver and consent to send his or her advance directive to WellSpan Health. The attorney must ensure there are two individual identifiers on the documents for correlation with patient information before sending the document via a secure fax line to WellSpan Health Medical Records/Health Information Management Department. The documents are then immediately scanned into a patient’s chart, giving timely access in the event of a serious health crisis for the client.

According to Brillhart, “To date, numerous law firms have committed to participate. Since July 2019, there have been 55 documents sent to WellSpan Health. We are now beginning to reach out to other health care systems in our county to expand this effort as we see tremendous value in offering this additional service to our clients.”

Dr. Bhatia noted, “To our knowledge, this is the only such partnership of its kind in the U.S.”

For more information, contact Roberta Geidner, manager for Horizon/Advance Care Planning at WellSpan Health at 717-812-6065, rgeidner@wellspan.org, or Mac Brillhart, Esq., mb@stockandleader.com, 717-846-9800.

Please help us keep the County Bar Leaders Online Directory contact information current by submitting changes and updates online or by email to Gabriele Miller-Wagner at gmw@pabar.org.

An official groundbreaking ceremony was held on Feb. 12 at the site of the WBA’s new headquarters at 100 North Maple Avenue in Greensburg. In attendance were, from left to right, Tim Miller, WBA Executive Director Alahna O’Brien, Chris Haidze, Architect Lee Calisti, ArTECH Group President Jeff Feret, WBA President Joyce Novotny-Prettiman, John Ranker, Somerset Trust Company President Thomas Cook, Scott Avillo, Jim Antoniono, Judi Petrush, Dennis Persin, David DeRose, Somerset Trust Company Vice President Rebecca Davidson, Zach Kansler, John Ward, and Somerset Trust Company’s Daniel Harshberger.
Glancing back at the networking and fun the Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives (PABE) had at the 2020 PBA Mid-Year Meeting, brings back great memories of what they accomplished together. During COVID, the PABE has continued to gather having Zoom meetings every two weeks to keep in touch with everyone and to share ideas and activities they have done throughout the restricting times for their associations and members.

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PABE: Will we meet —in person—again?
OCT | NOV | DEC CLE CALENDAR

October

Oct. 1—Current Issues for Child Advocates 2020, 8:30 AM to 4:15 PM; 5 substantive/1 ethics

Oct. 5—Hot Topics in Capital Cases 2020, 12:00 PM to 4:15 PM; 3 substantive/1 ethics

Oct. 6—International Business - Risks and Rewards, 9:00 AM to 4:20 PM; 5 substantive/1 ethics

Oct. 8 - Oct. 9—Medical Marijuana and Hemp Law Symposium 2020, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM; 10 substantive/2 ethics

Oct. 12—The Impact of COVID-19 on Custody Matters 2020, 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM; 2 substantive

Oct. 14—Oil & Gas Law Conference 2020, 9:00 AM to 4:45 PM; 5 substantive/1 ethics

Oct. 15—Business Owners Disputes 2020, 9:00 AM to 12:15 PM; 2 substantive/1 ethics

Oct. 16—Exceptional Children Conference 2020, 8:50 AM to 4:30 PM; 6 substantive/2 ethics

Oct. 19—To Civility and Beyond: Elevating Civility and Professionalism within the Bench and Bar 2020, 1:00 PM to 3:15 PM; 2 ethics

Oct. 20—ADA Update: Reasonable Accommodation in the Workplace 2020, 9:00 AM to 12:15 PM; 2 substantive/1 ethics

Oct. 20—The 'Red Mirage' vs. the 'Blue Shift' - Legal Issues in an Overtime Election, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM; 3 substantive

Oct. 21—Representing Bidders Under The Commonwealth Procurement Code, 9:00 AM to 1:15 PM; 4 substantive

Oct. 22—Assessment Law in Western Pennsylvania 2020, 9:00 AM to 12:15 PM; 3 substantive

Oct. 23—Federal Practice Institute 2020, 9:00 AM to 4:10 PM; 5 substantive/1 ethics

Oct. 26—The Law of Guns 2020, 9:00 AM to 4:15 PM; 5 substantive/1 ethics

Oct. 27—Family Law Institute 2020, 9:00 AM to 3:45 PM; 4 substantive/2 ethics

Oct. 28—A Day on Health Law 2020, 9:00 AM to 4:10 PM; 5 substantive/1 ethics

Oct. 29—Auto Law Update 2020, 12:30 PM to 4:45 PM; 3 substantive/1 ethics

Oct. 30—ABCs of Pennsylvania Trusts and Trusts Drafting 2020, 9:00 AM to 12:15 PM; 3 substantive

Oct. 30—Bankruptcy in a Pandemic: What You Need to Know, 1:30 PM to 5:15 PM; 3.5 substantive
November

Nov. 2—Small Businesses During COVID 2020, 2:00 PM to 5:15 PM; 3 substantive

Nov. 5 - Nov. 6—Estate Law Institute 2020, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM; 10 substantive/2 ethics

Nov. 9—PBA Workers Compensation Fall Section Meeting 2020, 8:10 AM to 4:30 PM; 4.5 substantive/2 ethics

Nov. 11—Legal Issues in Hiring and Firing 2020, 9:00 AM to 12:20 PM; 3 substantive

Nov. 12—Short Term Rentals - Issues for Homeowners 2020, 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM; 3 substantive

Nov. 13—Powerful Witness Preparation 2020, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM; 5 substantive/1 ethics

Nov. 16—Nonprofit Institute 2020, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM; 5 substantive/1 ethics

Nov. 17 - Nov. 18—Business Law Institute 2020, 8:45 AM to 4:30 PM; 10 substantive/2 ethics

Nov. 19—Third Circuit Court of Appeals on Eyewitness IDs 2020, 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM; 1 substantive

Nov. 19—School Law Update 2020, 9:00 AM to 1:15 PM; 3 substantive/1 ethics

Nov. 23—Laws to Protect Endangered Species 2020, 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM; 1.5 substantive

Nov. 24—Bridge The Gap 2020, 9:00 AM to 1:15 PM; 4 ethics

December

Dec. 1—Pennsylvania Attorney-Client Privilege and Work-Product Doctrine 2020, 9:00 AM to 12:15 PM; 3 ethics

Dec. 2—Mindful Lawyering 2020, 1:30 PM to 4:45 PM; 2 substantive/1 ethics

Dec. 3 - Dec. 4—Real Estate Institute 2020, 8:25 AM to 4:10 PM; 10 substantive/2 ethics

Dec. 7—Criminal Law Update 2020, 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM; 3 substantive/1 ethics

Dec. 7—Philadelphia Compulsory Arbitration Seminar 2020, 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM; 1 substantive/2 ethics

Dec. 8—Wills of the Rich and Famous 2020, 9:00 AM to 1:15 PM; 3 substantive/1 ethics

Dec. 10—Legislative Update 2020, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM; 5 substantive/1 ethics

Dec. 11—Year in Review for the General Practitioner 2020, 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM; 3 substantive/1 ethics

Dec. 14—Third Parties in Custody Cases 2020, 1:00 PM to 4:15 PM; 3 substantive

Dec. 16—Wage and Hour Issues 2020, 9:00 AM to 12:20 PM; 3 substantive
Drug and Device Issues Related to COVID
From the start of COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA provided guidance to members of the drug and biologic industries. Now the FDA is looking toward the future, providing guidance on clinical trials and compliance. Ms. Sanzo and Ms. Berman are part of the Coronavirus task force at Morgan Lewis in Washington DC. They discuss various issues related to drugs and devices and COVID-19.

2 substantive CLE   Regular: $149 | New Attorney: $75
ProPass Subscriber: FREE

Reopening of Schools after COVID-19: The Impact on Students and Teachers
COVID-19 has created a profound impact on the entire world, including the economy, health care system and social functioning. Indeed, one of the most prevalent impacts of the virus has been on the education of children. With the abrupt closing of schools in March 2020 for the remainder of the school year, the school system had to learn to adapt to continue educating children while at the same time keeping them and staff safe from the virus. Now that Governor Wolf has allowed schools to resume activities as of July 1, districts are preparing plans to reopen their doors this fall even while the pandemic still rages on throughout the country. This comprehensive course covers the top issues facing school districts in Pennsylvania as they plan to reopen.

2 substantive CLE   Regular: $149 | New Attorney: $75
ProPass Subscriber: FREE

The Truth About Jury Psychology: COVID-19 and Beyond 2020
This program is designed to help litigators sort out what is real and what is “bull” so that they can achieve better outcomes in settlement and at trial. We will discuss how understanding jury psychology can influence trial themes and persuasion techniques to use; how to get more out of jury selection; and how to use strategic visuals to persuade your jury (and judges). Featured will be discussions of how jurors view “the truth;” new techniques to study jurors; ways to use social media to get a better jury; most commonly juror-requested graphics. Audience interaction, interactive quizzes and jury clips will be utilized in this informative and entertaining session.

3 substantive CLE   Regular: $249 | New Attorney: $125
ProPass Subscriber: FREE

Navigating Vaccinations and Religious Exemption Under Title VII in the COVID-19 Era 2020
This program will provide an overview of the influenza vaccination case law and offer guidance to employers as they try to avoid legal minefields while implementing a COVID-19 vaccination program.

1 substantive   Regular: $79 | New Attorney: $40
ProPass Subscriber: FREE

Issues Facing Unions During the Pandemic 2020
Have your questions answered about a series of new issues brought on during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will explore the issues and examine the best solutions to solve them. Elections are required to be in-person, but how do you handle elections when people are not doing anything in-person?

3 substantive CLE   Regular: $249 | New Attorney: $125
ProPass Subscriber: FREE

Applying Emotional Intelligence to Hiring and Management
This seminar will explain common law firm hiring errors, and how they relate directly to a failure to include EQ in the selection and hiring process. Examine the relationship between emotional intelligence and professional and personal success for both attorney and firm. Discover the impact that emotional intelligence has on effective communication, retention, elevation decisions, and firm culture. These “soft skill” concepts will provide a great deal of food for introspective thought about personal improvement as well.

1 substantive CLE   Regular: $79 | New Attorney: $40
ProPass Subscriber: FREE

Bringing in Business During Both Normal and Difficult Times
Law firms and lawyers need to bring in business. This is true whether we are facing a pandemic or living in normal times. During this session, you will hear from three attorneys, all from different-sized firms, all successful, who will provide you with tips on how they bring in business. John Park from Baker Tilly will moderate and bring in the consultant’s perspective. Join us and: Discover how to reach potential clients through podcasts and radio, See how referral fees can be a great (and ethical) source of income, and more.

1 ethics   Regular: $79 | New Attorney: $40
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Wesley R. Payne, IV (Philadelphia)
White and Williams LLP
One Liberty Pl.
1560 Market St., Ste. 1800
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7304
(215) 864-7076
paynew@whiteandwilliams.com

**Vice President**
MariAnn Hathaway (Washington)
Law Offices of MariAnn Hathaway
1100 Ashwood Dr, Ste. 1104B
Canonsburg, PA 15317
(724) 263-5258
m.hathaway@washcobar.org

**Secretary**
Andrea B. Pettine (Chester)
Pettine Law Offices LLC
Matlack Bldg.
113 E. Evans St., Ste. B1
West Chester, PA 19380
(610) 692-7090
apettine@pettinefamilylaw.com

**Treasurer**
Daniel C. McKenrick (Centre)
Pennsylvania State University
Office of Student Legal Services
248 E. Calder Way, Ste 303
State College, PA 16801
(717) 856-6932
dcm230@psu.edu

**Member**
Mark A Primrose (Monroe)
17 N Sixth St
Stroudsburg, PA 18360-2177
(570) 421-2350
mprimrose@primrose-law.com

**Member**
Michael M. Jones (Beaver)
McMillen Urick Tocci & Jones
2131 Brodhead Rd.
Aliquippa, PA 5001-4669
(724) 378-1380
mjones@mutjlaw.com

**Member YLD**
Jennifer Galloway (York)
Kearney Galloway Graybill LLC
940 S Queen St
York, PA 17403
(717) 345-3494
jennifer@kglawyork.com

**Member PABE**
Francis J. O’Rourke (Lebanon)
Pennsylvania Bar Association
100 South St.
Harrisburg, PA .17101
(717) 238-6715
forourke@pabar.org

**Member PABE**
William L. Baldwin (Delaware)
Delaware County Bar Association
335 W Front St.
Media, PA 19063
(610) 566-1246
bill@delcobar.com

**Immediate Past President**
Jill M. Scheidt (Berkers)
Masano Bradley
1100 Berkshire Blvd., Ste. 201
Wyomissing, PA 19610
(610) 372-7700
jscheidt@masanobradley.com

**Board of Governors Liaison**
Jennifer Menichini (Luzerne)
Joyce Carmody & Moran PC
9 N. Main St., Ste. 4
Pittston, PA 18640
(570) 602-3560
jm@joycecarmody.com

**PBI Representative**
Clair A. Papieredin (Cumberland)
Pennsylvania Bar Institute
5080 Ritter Rd.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
(800) 932-4637
cpapieredin@pbi.org

**PBA Staff Liaison**
Susan E. Etter (Dauphin)
Pennsylvania Bar Association
100 South St.
PO Box 186
Harrisburg, PA 17108-0186
(717) 238-6715
susan.etter@pabar.org

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**Copy deadline for the next issue of The County Line: Oct. 30, 2020**

**Send your news for The County Line to**
Gabriele E. Miller-Wagner
Gabriele.MillerWagner@pabar.org

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**Upcoming Events**
Go to www.pabar.org and click on the calendar.