County Bar Leaders Present Awards at 52nd Annual Conference

The PBA Conference of County Bar Leaders (CCBL) honored two individuals at its 52nd Annual Conference, Feb. 22 – 24, at the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square, Lancaster. In addition, the CCBL honored 23 county bar associations with County Bar Recognition Awards for projects that improve the legal profession, justice system and community.

Arthur J. Birdsall Award: Wendy Leeper

Wendy Leeper, executive director of the Chester County Bar Association, received the 21st annual Arthur J. Birdsall Award. The Birdsall Award is presented to a county bar executive who demonstrates professional excellence, is committed to the success of and significantly enhances the stature of his or her bar association.

Recognized as a leader amongst bar executives throughout Pennsylvania, Leeper served as the president of the Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives (PABE) from 2016-17 and regularly shares information with her peers at venues like CCBL. As an active member and past treasurer of Pennsylvania Conference of County Legal Journals, Leeper was instrumental in developing a statewide online system for publication of legal notices, which has been a priority among CCBL members. Her work has been recognized with several awards, including the PABE Lifesavers’ Award, the CCBA President’s Award and the Chester County Bar Foundation’s Key Award.

Gilbert Nurick Award: Jessie Smith

Jessie Smith was honored with the 2018 Gilbert Nurick Award for her commitment to the Pennsylvania and Dauphin County Bar associations. The Nurick Award, named for the late Harrisburg lawyer who served as PBA president, is presented to a member of the PBA who exhibits dedication and service to the leadership and promotion of the organized bar and its activities.

A consistent and unwavering supporter of bar association membership, Smith fully engaged in the work of both the Pennsylvania and the Dauphin County Bar associations. She is being honored for her commitment to improving bar operations through her involvement in numerous committees, boards and panels. Throughout her career, Smith has also mentored numerous lawyers and encouraged new lawyers to become involved in bar association work.
## PBA Avoiding Legal Malpractice Seminars - Spring 2018 Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>DATE/TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>April 26 at 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Delaware County Bar Association, 335 W. Front St., Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chester</td>
<td>April 26 at 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Chester County Bar Association, 15 W. Gay St., 2nd Fl., West Chester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union/Snyder</td>
<td>April 30 at 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lewisburg Hotel, 136 Market St., Lewisburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tioga</td>
<td>May 1 at 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Mansfield University, Alumni Hall, Rm. 314, Mansfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lycoming</td>
<td>May 1 at 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lycoming Law Association, 25 W. 3rd St., Ste. 803, Williamsport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia/Montour</td>
<td>May 2 at 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Frosty Valley Country Club, 2201 Bloom Rd., Danville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northumberland</td>
<td>May 2 at 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Wiest, Muolo, Noon, Swinehart &amp; Bathgate Conference Center, 11 N. Center St., Sunbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegheny</td>
<td>May 2 at 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>PBI Professional Development Conference Center, Heinz 57 Center, Ste 760, 339 6th Ave., Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>May 3 at 10:00 a.m. &amp; 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Montgomery Bar Association, 100 W. Airy St., Norristown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon</td>
<td>May 18 at 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Country Inn &amp; Suites, 1619 Interchange Rd., Lehighton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lehigh</td>
<td>May 18 at 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>The Bar Association of Lehigh County, 1114 W. Walnut St., Allentown</td>
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</table>

The PBI is the CLE provider for this 1.5 hours program which has been approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board for 1.5 hours of ethics, professionalism or substance abuse CLE credit.

## Other Location Opportunities

The programs listed below are managed by the county bar associations. Admission fees and the length of the program vary and are determined by the county. To register, please call the corresponding number listed in this box to obtain information. DO NOT USE THE FORM BELOW.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>DATE/TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>May 17 at 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Best Western Lehigh Valley Hotel &amp; Conference Center 300 Gateway Dr., Bethlehem (610) 258-6333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dauphin</td>
<td>Aug. 3 at 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Widener University Commonwealth Law School Rm A180 3737 Vartan Way, Harrisburg (717) 232-7536</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Online prepayment and preregistration are highly recommended. [www.pabar.org/public/localbar/countybarprograms.asp](http://www.pabar.org/public/localbar/countybarprograms.asp)

**Reservation Form**

**REGISTRATION FEE IS $30 PER ATTORNEY**

Name ____________________________________________

Address _________________________________________

Telephone (_____) _______________________________ Supreme Court I.D. # ______________________

Seminar County Location __________________________ Seminar Date and Time _______________________

Mail in payments should be directed to:  Pennsylvania Bar Association, Department of County Bar Services, P.O. Box 186, Harrisburg, PA 17108-0186

☐ Check here if you require special services and attach a written description of your needs.

Please use a registration form for each attorney attending. Written confirmation will not be sent. Walk-in registration will be accepted, but preregistration is encouraged. **CANCELLATION POLICY: REFUNDS MUST BE REQUESTED 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE PROGRAM DATE.**

Questions: For more information, call Gabriele Miller-Wagner at 1-800-932-0311, ext. 2240
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On the **Local Scene**...

**Allegheny**

**Attorney Paul Titus Honored**

For decades, attorney Paul Titus has worked tirelessly donating his time to help Pittsburgh-area youth in predominantly African-American communities gain hands-on experience in the legal field. He devised and oversees a legal education program at schools in low-income communities; the program includes a mock trial with involvement from actual judges and trips to Harrisburg and Washington, D.C.

Titus, of Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis LLP, was honored for these efforts by receiving the Drum Major for Justice Award at the ACBA’s 19th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast and Program on Jan. 15 at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Pittsburgh’s Hill District.

The event is one of the biggest MLK celebrations in Western Pennsylvania; hundreds of attorneys and members of the community, including Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, attended to celebrate the work of Dr. King.

**ACBA Honors 50-, 60-Year Practitioners**

At the ACBA’s annual 50- & 60-Year Practitioners Award Ceremony on Nov. 27, the bar association honored those attorneys who have been practicing in Allegheny County for 50 years, and those practicing for 60 years.

The 50-year class featured 39 veteran attorneys, while three lawyers were in the 60-year class. Hundreds of friends, colleagues and family members attended the event, held at downtown Pittsburgh's Duquesne Club.

**Happy Hours Sell Out**

There have been two editions of the ACBA’s new Networking Happy Hour series, and there have been two sellouts. More than 100 attorneys attended the inaugural event, held Oct. 17 at the City Works Eatery and Pour House in Pittsburgh's Market Square. Another 100-plus attended the second installment on Feb. 21 at the Union Standard restaurant in the newly refurbished Union Trust Building in downtown Pittsburgh.

**Blair**

**Blair County Mock Trial Competition**

Blair County has seven high school teams competing in this year's PBA/YLD Statewide High School Mock Trial Competition. The winners of district playoffs will compete in the regional playoffs to determine the one or two schools advancing to state finals. Blair County attorneys and judges have participated as attorney coaches, scoring judges, bailiffs and judges throughout the district rounds and assisted with the regional playoffs.

**Lunch and Learn**

A lunch and learn was held at the Blair County Courthouse on March 16 and presented by local attorney, Mary Lou Maierhofer of Margolis Edelstein, who helped draft the Blair County Local Rules of Civil Procedure.

**Historic Courthouse Repairs and Upgrades**

Blair County Commissioner Terry Tomassetti presented “Unveiling the Treasures and Troubles of Blair County’s Historic Courthouse” at the Blair County Genealogical Society meeting. The talk focused on the repairs and upgrades at the courthouse.

In 2014, Tomassetti commenced his efforts to address the county’s historic courtrooms that had fallen into great disrepair and to incorporate current technologies to improve their use, which began The Courthouse Preservation Project.

**Allegheny County Sees LRS Growth**

The ACBA Lawyer Referral Service has helped to connect members of the general public with attorneys equipped to handle their specific legal situations for nearly as long as the bar association has existed. However, in the past year, the ACBA LRS has seen a significant growth.

During the fourth quarter of 2017, the LRS had a 55 percent increase in total referrals made and an 18 percent increase in hits to the LRS website, compared to the fourth quarter of the previous year.
Butler

The Butler County Bar Association’s 125th Anniversary

The Butler County Bar Association’s 125th Anniversary was celebrated at the annual holiday party in December. BCBA 2017 President Maryann Bozich-DiLuigi recognized all past presidents in attendance. Students from the Butler County Vo-Technical School made specialty favors commemorating the event and a beautiful oak display case for the original 1892 Charter and Minutes book.

Chester

“A Dramatization of the U.S. Supreme Court in Action”

The Chester County Bar Association will be presenting “A Dramatization of the U.S. Supreme Court in Action” at our local performing arts center. Rodney Smolla, dean and professor of law at Delaware Law School, and Judge Juan Sanchez of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, will provide an interactive dramatization with the mock moot court format demonstrating how our U.S. Supreme Court works. The audience will have the opportunity to ask questions – as if they justices with Judge Sanchez presiding and asking questions as the “Chief Justice.” Our members and the public are invited to attend and engage in this interactive presentation.

Cumberland

Cumberland County Bar Association’s 8th Annual Adopt-a-Family Program

The YLD would like to thank everyone who generously participated in the 2017 Adopt-A-Family program. The YLD collected gifts for more than 49 families and 80 individuals at Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry County. Safe Harbour and Cumberland County residents were referred by partner agencies of the United Way.

Carbon

Portraits of Our Sitting Judges

On Jan. 31, the Carbon County Bar Association unveiled portraits that were commissioned of the three sitting judges of the Carbon County Court of Common Pleas.

The ceremony took place at the courthouse, and a reception followed in the Law Library.

The portraits were created by photographer, Richard Quindry.
On the Local Scene...

Special thanks to Amy Harkins from McNeese Wallace & Nurick for crocheting 75 items (baby blankets or hat/scarf sets) for the individuals at the shelter.

Dauphin

Pro Se Custody Clinics

The area of greatest pro bono need is often custody. Like many counties, Dauphin County Bar Association and MidPenn Legal Services offer monthly Pro Se Custody Clinics. For decades, the DCBA has hosted clinics where pro bono attorneys help parents with paperwork. At each two-hour clinic, four to six pro bono attorneys help roughly eight to 12 parents complete the custody court forms.

Five years ago, the Pro Bono Program launched Clinic Part 2 with the goal of helping parents better prepare for their custody conference. After a brief overview about the law, parents work with a small group of attorneys and other parents to review their custody situation and develop at least three schedule options. Other parents in the group are encouraged to play devil’s advocate and offer suggestions as to why an option might not work.

The parent’s feedback from both clinics has been universally positive:
• “Great program for people that need it, as myself. Without this program and the steps, I don’t know what I would have done. They gave me options and great help.”
• “This clinic helped me a lot and gave me hope!”
• “Keep doing what y’all do!”
• “Thanks Mrs. Fran!”
• “Was very helpful”

Even the pro bono attorneys express their appreciation for the opportunity: “Thanks for conducting such a valuable clinic this morning. I’m always proud to assist folks in navigating these muddy waters and glad for the experience.”

Erie

Carriage House Renovation

Unseasonably warm weather for the Erie area allowed for significant progress on the ECBA’s Carriage House renovation. Once complete, this building will be home to a state-of-the-art education and meeting center. The ECBA anticipates the entire project will be completed by this summer.

If you are in the area and would like a tour of the new facilities, contact Sandy at sbsmith@eriebar.com.
On the **Local Scene...**

**FCBA Admission Ceremony**

The Franklin County Bar Association admitted four new members at its admission ceremony held on Dec. 1, 2017.

The new members admitted were Geoffrey E. Weyl, of Griffie and Associates PC; Kelsie N. Massini, of the Law Offices of WIN Victim Services; Jennifer F.W. Sticha, law clerk to Judge Todd M. Sponseller; and Samantha K. Wolfe, of Maxwell Sipe Law Offices LLC.

The ceremony, held in historic Courtroom One of the Franklin County Courthouse, included words of advice to the new admittees from Judge Todd M. Sponseller, PBA President Sharon López, Franklin County Bar Association President Mary Beth Shank and Young Lawyers Division Chair Nicole Sipe.

![FCBA Admissions Ceremony: Sticha, Wolfe, Weyl and Massini](image)

**Lancaster**

**LBA Host 2018 PLAN Reception**

The LBA played host to the 2018 Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (PLAN) reception, held in conjunction with the Conference of County Bar Leaders. Around 150 attorneys, judges, law students and other supporters from throughout the state convened to celebrate PLAN’s mission and highlight the importance of civil access-to-justice programs.

![LBA hosted the 2018 PLAN Reception.](image)

**Newly Admitted**

Eight Lancaster Bar Association Members, including Robin Ja-bour and her two daughters, Melissa Jabour and Amanda Kowalski, were admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court Bar on Feb. 20. The newly admitted lawyers were joined by PBA President (and LBA member) Sharon López, LBA members and family for both the admission ceremony and two sets of oral arguments.

![LBA Admissions Ceremony](image)

**The Foundation and Music**

In March, the LBA Foundation hosted a charity fundraiser featuring the musical talents of its members. All proceeds benefited local non-profit SWAN, which provides music education and lessons to vulnerable kids. What a fantastic evening!

![LBA charity fundraiser featured members’ musical talents.](image)
On the Local Scene...

Lebanon

LCBA Touring with Fourth Graders

The Lebanon County Bar Association is taking fourth grade students on tours of the Lebanon County Courthouse throughout the month of March. Students visit the sheriff’s department, Emergency Management Agency and the city police station to learn about what each of those departments do. They also sit in on part of a Criminal Miscellaneous Court and talk with a Court of Common Pleas judge.

Lehigh

Looking Forward to 2018 and Taking a Look Back at 2017

On Jan. 11, the BALC held its annual meeting and dinner, where we thanked Michelle Forsell for her leadership as president for 2017 and welcomed 2018 President Sarah Murray. We reflected on a very successful year, which included events such as our Law Day Luncheon, where we honored the hard work of the Community Action Committee of Lehigh Valley with the Liberty Bell Award and distributed over $14,000 to local nonprofits through the Lehigh County Lawyers Charitable Trust Fund. Other events such as the annual picnic, Spring Event at Coca Cola Ball Park, and fall membership drive, where we kicked off the annual Holiday Campaign with a Rock The Valley Troops concert to benefit local veteran charities. One of our most impactful events was our Wills For Heroes Program held in conjunction with the PBA, which assisted over 40 first responders and their families. Our well-attended 2017 Bench Bar Conference held at Inner Harbor had very informative and entertaining Baltimore-themed CLEs.

Sarah Murray welcomed our new board members: Constance Nelson, Kristin Noonan Hutchins and Karolyn Vreeland Blume. She updated the membership on upcoming new events and announcing the return of the BALC Fall Ball and that the 2018 Bench Bar Conference will be held at Cornell University in June.

“Federal Practice: Procedures and Pointers from the Bench, Part 1”

Recently the Bar Association of Lehigh County hosted the CLE “Federal Practice: Procedures and Pointers from the Bench, Part 1,” presented by Judge Lawrence F. Stengel, U.S. District Court chief judge; Judge Jeffrey L. Schmehl, U.S. District Court judge; Judge Edward G. Smith, U.S. District Court judge; Judge Joseph F. Leeson, U.S. District Court judge.; Judge Henry S. Perkin, U.S. magistrate judge; Judge Richard E. Fehling, U.S. bankruptcy judge, EDPA. The panel discussion was moderated by Nancy Conrad, Esq. Key procedures related to federal practice were reviewed with a focus on the new Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Procedures and pointers were discussed related to the following key topics: Clarifying Rule 1 – Scope and Purpose, Service under Rule 4, Motions Practice under Rule 12, just to mention a few.

This CLE presentation was so well attended that the followup (Part 2) is already scheduled for May 3, 4-6 p.m., followed by a networking mixer. Any questions about reserving your seat for this seminar, call Nancy Devers at 610-433-6204 X 16 or email ndevers@lehighbar.org

Luzerne County Bar Association Travel CLE Committee’s Trip to India, Bhutan and Nepal

See page 16 for an article about Luzerne County Bar Association’s Travel Committee CLE trip to India, Bhutan and Nepal.

Lawyers Elect Leaders for 2018

The judges and lawyers of the Wilkes-Barre Law & Library Association (the county bar association), gathered to elect officers and a governing executive committee for 2018. Wilkes-Barre attorney Jane M. Acri was elected president; Catherine R. O’Donnell of Kingston was elected vice president; and attorney Joseph P. J. Burke III of Sweet Valley was elected treasurer and general secretary of the association. Elected to the executive committee were Brian C.
Corcoran, Charles A. DeCosmo, Elliot B. Edley, Fred T. Howe and James T. Shoemaker.

The officers and executive committee were sworn-in by Arthur L. Piccone, a past president of the association and a past president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Attorney Piccone served as chairperson of the association’s nominating committee. Present as a guest dignitary was PBA Vice President David E. Schwager.

The association is the owner of the prestigious memorial law library in Wilkes-Barre that is named for the late Judge Max Rosenn, one of the most legally cited judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, who was one of the association’s most famous members nationally. Other nationally famous association members include the renowned painter of Native Americans, George Catlin, whose paintings are on display at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C., and Justice John Bannister Gibson, regarded by legal historians to have been the greatest Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and one of the most important jurists in American legal history.


Lycoming

Lycoming Mock Trial Awards

On Dec. 1, 2017, the Lycoming County Court of Common Pleas held a special session of court at which six attorneys were admitted to practice before the “several Courts of the County of Lycoming.” Judges Nancy Butts, Richard Gray, Marc Lovecchio, Joy Reynolds McCoy and Dudley Anderson presided over the admission ceremony.

Each of the new attorneys, Sean Gingerich, Joseph Ruby, Benjamin Green, Taylor Mullholand, Jason Lepley and Landon Hodges, was moved for admission by a current member of the bar, who outlined the admittees’ background and qualifications.


Educational Technology Upgrade

If you have taken in a recent CLE presentation in the Lycoming Law Association conference center, you will have noticed a much enhanced sound system. The speaker system is only one piece of a recent LLA project to improve the effectiveness of its educational program.

Thanks in great part to a grant by the Pennsylvania Bar Insurance Trust Fund, the much needed improvements have enhanced the association’s ability to present and record its educational programs. The grant of $3,692.70 covered most of the cost of the project.

The grant funded the cost of loud speakers and microphones, to increase the amplification of sound in our large conference room. Also, a Panasonic ultra HD camcorder was purchased to record and retain live presentations for replays on later dates. The camera is a newer model that has improved video quality and sound recording.
On the Local Scene...

capabilities to ensure a good quality recording. This is a substantial improvement over the home-video model borrowed from one of our members for the past year or so.

The Trust Fund was established to promote educational and charitable activities within the legal profession and the administration of justice, particularly in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Thanks to Executive Director Michele Frey for identifying the opportunity and writing the grant request that led to this award of funds.

Thanks also Technology Committee member Austin White for researching and specifying the equipment ultimately purchased for this improvement project.

Joseph Rider Receives Nichols Community Service Award

The William E. Nichols Community Service Award was created by the Lycoming Law Association to recognize a member for outstanding community service and for exemplifying the positive role that attorneys play in our community beyond the practice of law. It is named for a long-time member of this association, Bill Nichols, who was its first recipient.

This year, the William E. Nichols Community Service Award was presented to Joseph Rider. Joe spent his entire career donating his time and talent to make this community a better place to live and work. His service spans 56 years.

For the full article visit: http://www.lycolaw.org/news/articles/2018/service_award.asp

Judge Thomas Wood Equal Access to Justice Award

Judge Lovecchio was called upon to introduce the winner of the Judge Thomas Wood Equal Access to Justice Award. Pete Campana, his brother-in-law and former partner, was recognized for decades of service in the pro bono program, and for his selfless involvement on behalf clients referred by the Legal Services office. Pete was also recognized with a PBA Pro Bono award, presented by PBA President Sharon Lopez and David Trevaskis, PBA Pro Bono Coordinator.

MCBA Says Goodbye to a Friend, Attorney Bartholomew

Attorney Raymond P. Bartholomew exchanged time for eternity. He was born to Francis and Rena Bartholomew on Oct. 12, 1942, in Lackawannock Township (Mercer County). After graduating from Westminster in 1964, he was awarded a full scholarship to Vanderbilt University School of Law in Nashville, Tenn. An outstanding student, he served on the Vanderbilt Law Review and was a member of The Order of the Coif, and honorary legal society.

In 1967, he was awarded a juris doctor degree from Vanderbilt School of Law. Upon graduation, he returned to the area and served as a law clerk for Judge Leo McKay. On Jan. 2, 1968, he joined the Sharon law firm of Cusick, Madden, Joyce and McKay. In January 1966, he moved his law practice to Hermitage where he continued his practice, and

The William E. Nichols Community Service Award was presented to Joseph Rider, who donated his time and talents during his 56-year career.

Pete Campana was recognized for decades of service in the pro bono program.

Raymond P. Bartholomew
On Jan. 2, 2018, he celebrated 50 years in the practice of law. In 1995, Bartholomew served as president of the Mercer County Bar Association. Raymond will be missed.

Monroe

MCBA 2018 President Mark Primrose, Planning Efforts of the Pro-Bono Initiative in Monroe County

In 2014, North Penn Legal Services (NPLS), the only pro-bono agency in Monroe County, was expected to go from two attorneys covering Monroe County to one. At that time, under the leadership of then Pro-bono Committee Chair Primrose, the group decided to work closely with the MCBA Board and its’ membership to insure that services would continue for those who could not afford to pay an attorney. In that year, the membership approved a financial commitment of $80,000 to insure the retention of an attorney at NPLA focused only on providing services to Monroe County residents. To date, we have committed $320,000 to NPLS allowing the local office to dedicate one full time attorney and one part-time support staff to service clients of Monroe County. Through the efforts of the attorney, over 780 cases have been opened with 650 of those closed in the time period during which MCBA has been providing financial support.

NPLS and MCBA have worked closely together to offer clinics in the areas of custody, landlord/tenant and expungements. The clinics are tailored to the current needs of the community and are supported by and led by members of the Bar Association as well as NPLS staff.

Working together, MCBA and NPLS developed and launched a Modest Means Program in late 2016 to assist Monroe County residents who did not qualify for services through NPLS. To date over 100 applications have been submitted, with over 50% being accepted into the program. MCBA members continue to volunteer their services for this program.

Collaborative efforts with NPLS will continue as we look to find new and innovative ways to serve the legal needs of our community.

Montgomery

“Rolling the Dice for Meaningful Change”

Author and Business Guru Phil Rosenzweig once said, “The only way to make progress in business is through change. And change, by definition, has a certain amount of risk attached to it. But if you pick your shots, use your head, and apply good management, those rolls of the dice can turn out pretty.” In recent issues of The County Line, Montgomery Bar Association’s Local Scene entries have included some of the more meaningful changes the bar has recently implemented to ensure its continued relevance both to our members and in the communities we serve. Enhancements to its Lawyer Referral Service and Modest Means Legal Access Program, an award-winning Leadership Academy (now being piloted as a non-dues revenue generator to third-party businesses and agencies), and increased Access to Justice efforts, to name a few, are already capturing widespread attention and yielding favorable results for both the Bar Association and its members. While improvements to committees, member services, and diversity efforts also continue to take flight, leadership turns fresh eyes to the Bar’s annual event calendar, where important changes, focused on increased engagement, efficiency and impact, will make way for more exciting new initiatives, and the long-term success and well-being of the association and its members.

To clear a path for some exciting new programs, MBA President Mary C. Pugh has taken inventory of the number of events the Bar hosts each year. Rather than simply eliminating longstanding events to conserve resources for new additions, and running the risk of disappointing those who look forward to them each year, Pugh has taken a more diplomatic and strategic approach to preserve these time-honored favorites. By pairing certain events and implementing minor format changes, the Bar expects to increase promotions and attendance, while reducing associated costs. Moreover, by reducing the personal time traditionally needed for members to attend multiple after-hours events, over multiple nights, and at multiple venues, the Bar expects its time-starved attorneys will be more likely to participate. The first of these events will be a revamped Law Day event on May 1, which will combine a feature CLE with the 38th Judicial District’s Court of Common Pleas with an enhanced Law Day Celebration at the County Courthouse, followed by a free community barbeque at the MBA’s restaurant.

Perhaps the most dramatic example of this fresh approach will be seen on Friday, November 9 at the Sheraton Valley Forge in King of Prussia when the Montgomery Bar Association will marry three blockbuster events. The day’s events will begin in the morning with The Legal Symposium— a series of must-see CLE programs held in cooperation with Montgomery County’s Courts, and several of the Bar’s sections, committees and business partners. Following the Symposium, attendees will be encouraged to join hundreds of
colleagues on-site for the Delaware Valley Legal Expo, a trade show with live demonstrations, dozens of valuable door prizes, and over 60 exhibitors, co-sponsored by the ALA’s Independence Chapter in the adjacent ballroom space. Immediately following the Expo will be the MBA’s Annual Membership Celebration-- a less-formal twist on a perennial favorite, which each year draws hundreds who come to mingle and pay tribute to the Bar’s 50-year members, distinguished judges and colleagues. While the evening affair will be exclusively for MBA members and qualifying sponsors, those who plan to attend will be encouraged to arrive early in order to take in the sights and sounds of the Expo. Of course, the promise of hundreds of guests on location for all three of these high-profile events is a winning lure for sponsors, and promises to deliver more new and familiar faces than ever before.

Mindful of the growing needs of and demands on its members and community, Montgomery Bar Association will strive to “pick its shots, and use its head,” for meaningful change.

And to ensure its relevance to a world and profession that never stands still.

For more information visit:  https://www.montgomerybar.org/events/special-events/delaware-valley-legal-expo.php

Westmoreland

Bar Review in Westmoreland

One of the results from the 2017 Focus Group project was interest in revitalizing an Activities Committee. The “new” group calls themselves the Bar Review and their goal is to find opportunities for bar members to gather informally to enjoy each other’s company. The Bar Review schedules a gathering each month throughout the county. The initial Bar Review was launched last August at a local Italian Club and included a bocce and cornhole tournament, cookout, and live music. Most monthly gatherings are at restaurants/bars where the bar association buys the first drink and some appetizers. The group is now talking about possible future events to include a farm party, a kayak sojourn and Summer porch party.

York

York County Bar Association/Foundation Honors Community Service Efforts at Annual Meeting

Nearly 150 members of the York County Bar Association came together on Jan. 9 for the annual recognition dinner. PBA President Sharon Lopez, Pres. Elect Chuck Eppolito were on hand to celebrate Immediate Past PBA President Sara Austin at a special reception in her honor.

YCBA 50-year members with PBA President Sharon Lopez, YCBA President Mac Brillhart, Past PBA President Sara Austin and YCBF President Andrea Eveler Stanley

York County Bar Foundation and YCBA Young Lawyers Section Launch “Change for Justice” Initiative

The York County Bar Foundation, with the assistance of the YCBA’s Young Lawyers Section, recently launched “Change for Justice,” a pilot initiative designed to increase participation of Association members in supporting the work of the YCBF.

The Young Lawyers are assisting with delivery of branded coin containers and promoting the event during the year.

The goal of the effort, according to York County Bar Foundation President Andrea Eveler Stanley, is to highlight that donating change is something that everyone can do and that “no contribution is too small.”
On the Local Scene...

Members are being asked to support the Bar’s access to justice efforts by simply adding their loose change to the jars provided and when the jar is full, placing the funds in a ziplock bag along with a business card or a note with their contact info for delivery to or pick up by Bar Center staff.

If successful, “Change for Justice,” will become an ongoing program.

York County Estate Planning Council joins forces with the York County Bar Foundation

York County Estate Planning Council (YCEPC) has joined the York County Bar Foundation to operate as a program of the Bar Foundation rather than as a stand-alone organization.

The YCEPC’s objective is to inform local professionals – attorneys, accountants, trust officers (bankers), insurance and financial advisors, etc. – of current issues that impact estate planning for individuals and families. They presented four educational meetings/networking opportunities during the year with three to five offerings of continuing education credit per year.

Through the new arrangement, YCEPC will leverage the opportunity of being part of a larger institution that will provide staff support and administration. The YCEPC board of directors, now a steering committee of the Bar Foundation, is focusing its efforts on growth of the YCEPC membership, educational programs benefiting members, including offering continuing education credits, and partnerships with organizations whose work intersects with YCEPC.

Membership includes free attendance at all lunch programs of YCEPC and combined programs and mixers with Leave A Legacy® York County (LAL), also a program of the YCBF.

As a result of the arrangement, both YCEPC and LAL members will receive a 20 percent discount for joining both organizations.

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July 18-20, 2018
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Chief Justice Saylor shared his annual letter in support of pro bono and legal aid, noting the importance of the PBA’s model pro bono partnership between county bars, local legal aid offices and private practice attorneys.
I have a profound love of travel (an addiction actually - having been to all seven continents and 60+ countries). Fortunately, many of my professional colleagues also have the travel bug. A committee of lawyers within the Luzerne County Bar Association’s Travel Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Committee combine education gleaned from our travels with fun and friends for a win-win situation.

After our inaugural adventure in 2014 to Cuba, we realized that the world is our classroom. Since then, we have forged on to many locations around the world. From Scandinavia to the African continent, we experienced different cultures and gained a new perspective on life. The traveling members of the Luzerne County Bar Association are fortunate to be able to present a CLE offering at our bar association’s annual bench-bar conference, which is attended by over 300 members. Having this annual conference as our after-adventure classroom garners the perfect fit for bringing a new type of educational offering to our members, that changes each year as we travel from destination to destination.

In October 2017, some of our members traveled to India, Bhutan and Nepal. We knew we would see and do some different things and learn all sorts of facts about these destinations. What we didn’t realize was just where that education would come from and from who would deliver it to us.

We arrived at the Indira Ghandi International Airport, where getting through immigration was chaotic. We were met by our tour director, Aparna Rajawat, who I had met nearly two years ago during my first trip to India. Our bus whisked us through the still-crowded streets of Delhi, in spite of the midnight hour. We were in India, home of the Taj Mahal, tigers and Mahatma Ghandi! India was also home to our guide, Aparna, who would instill in us teachings that will live with us all the days of our lives.

Before heading on to Nepal and then hiking to the Tiger’s Nest in Bhutan, we had a short tour of India, from Delhi to Agra to Jaipur. First, to one of my favorite places in Delhi - Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, a Sikh Temple that inspires the soul for its outpouring of humanitarianism. At this beautiful and impressive temple, thousands of people are fed each day. We meandered the streets of Delhi, experiencing the pollution, traffic like nowhere else, and what seemed to be unsustainable overpopulation. Yet, we were also embraced with a warm welcome, smiles and hospitality of the people of this nation. We embraced the colors, flavors and charm of this country every step of the trip.

We traversed the land, learning and experiencing all India had to offer over the next few days. We were awed by the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial at Raj Ghat, traveled through villages, did a Tiger safari and marveled at the forts and palaces throughout. But, rising early to see the Taj Mahal at sunrise was the highlight. Aparna, a graduate of Agra University who majored in the Taj Mahal and certain styles of architecture, guided us thorough this building that is an architectural masterpiece with a love story as its background. All along the way, we learned and asked some hard questions, not just about the Taj Mahal, but also about India’s criminal justice system, the suicide statistics and even the caste system, that remains alive and well. It was numbing to learn that India’s penal code section 377 makes even consensual homosexuality a crime. As lawyers, we felt especially fortunate to know that the laws that governed our practice of law, allowed for acceptance, tolerance and equality.

Knowing our guide was openly gay had us more than a little concerned and even a bit protective.

I met Aparna in October 2015 and again in October 2017. I did not know that she had experienced a trauma in the summer of 2016 that caused her to go through the toughest time of her life. She became depressed and endured five months of agony due to this traumatic event. Then one day, while sitting in a park in London for eight hours, she fell into a deep meditation and felt some divine energy around her. Suddenly she felt peaceful and strong and decided she had two options: either “go through this...
Travel CLE Committee
Continued from page 16

pain or grow through this situation and become what I am born to do, ... something good with my life."

Aparna then had the courage to call her mother and tell her about what she had to go through and all the secrets of her life, as she describes it. She was blessed to be told by her mother "You are my Tiger and that nothing can ever be done to defeat you except God and He is always with you," and "I always love you, no matter what. Go and let this world know you are invincible." Her mother's words filled Aparna with strength and power, which she had completely lost for months. From tragedy and pain came a peace and determination that would change lives forever.

Aparna decided to allow her past pain to transform her and open doors for others thorough motivation and education. She founded the Aaleya Welfare Society, a nonprofit organization where she is the managing director. She is tireless in conducting seminars and workshops so that abandoned elders, special needs children and young impressionable kids can get help, enhance their personal growth and development and be successful. Sponsors provide poor children with education, allowing youngsters to convert their dreams into reality. Doing this job can't be easy, especially when it is common to hear women say that if they want to be treated well, they must come back in their next life as a man or a cow.

As lawyers, we work to make the world a safer and better place. Aparna taught us that we don't necessarily need to have a Juris Doctorate degree to change lives and save lives. Mile by mile, as we traveled the roads of India, we became informed about this country, its laws, the people and the customs. What we experienced in India and what we were able to learn about the Aaleya Welfare Society raised our awareness of the simple needs we take for granted. It also made us realize that heroes come in all shapes and sizes, and

our group now considers Aparna Rajawat to be one of those heroes.

The Luzerne County Bar Association's Bench-Bar conference was held on Nov. 9, 2017, just six days after our group returned. The traveling lawyers presented one of the session's CLE opportunities, complete with photos. As we spoke, we realized that the pollution and overpopulation was no longer ingrained in our mind, but the beauty, generosity and resilience of an everyday hero certainly was. We educated our bar association members about India, the statistics, the laws and their legal system ... all in an attempt to allow the happenings in a place a world away to educate us and allow us to be better attorneys. We knew when the one-hour CLE was concluded that we had hit a home run. Not a single person wanted to leave the room. The questions and comments continued well into the break. Our members have sought me out for more information. Some are planning to visit destinations to which we have traveled as a group and others have been inspired to learn more, do and be more.

Aparna considers her greatest achievement to be the founding of The Aaleya Welfare Society. She now lives in London some of the time and has returned home to India to begin writing a book. I won't disclose the horrors she had to endure. That is her job to fill you in with her own words, in her own book. She has said, "When we are in real pain, it is the time when we are closest to God and being introduced to our own inner strength." She notes that coming out of her ordeal has transformed her completely and changed her life for good. Her story has likely changed other people's lives for good also, in a very good way. I'm confident that her book will inspire, and I'll be sure to read it cover to cover.

The Luzerne County Bar Association Travel CLE Committee will be on the road again, traveling to more parts of the globe. Other bar associations are doing the same by creating a travel component to enhance their own CLE offerings. It delights me to know that other bar associations have recognized the educational opportunities coming from other places, cultures and people.

This past trip has certainly taught us not to judge a book by its cover. My personal goal is to instill in any reader the desire to travel. I look at our planet Earth as being one big house with many rooms. If you lived in that big house, wouldn't you want to learn about what is in all the rooms? Every single individual is an inhabitant of this planet, and we owe it to ourselves to become acquainted with all the rooms, all the planet and all of its people.

Join us and travel, learn, and educate yourself and others. It will make you a better lawyer and a better person!

Elaine Cook, R.N., J.D. is the cochairperson of the Luzerne County Bar Association Travel CLE Committee and self-diagnosed travelaholic.
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Joint and Several Liability Apr. 27
Financial Institutions/Estate/Elder Apr. 30
PA WC Practice & Procedure May 15
Your Guide to Elder Law May 16
Drug and Alcohol Issues in Civil Litigation May 18
Evidence for Trial Lawyers June 6
Valuing the Small Business in Divorce June 27
Powerful Witness Preparation June 29

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Family Law Institute Apr. 17-18
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YORK
Performance on Trial: Courtroom Magic Apr. 9
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Each year the Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives, PABE, hosts a meeting during the PBA Midyear Meeting for county bar presidents and executive directors who are able to attend. This year, the group met for a roundtable exchange of ideas on engaging and attracting members and sharing strategies to grow membership and provide the highest quality services and benefits to members. Following the formal meeting, the county bar executive directors, USI Affinity and PBA continued the conversations over lunch, learning more about each other while enjoying great food!

From left: Susan Etter, PBA; Victoria Connor, York County; Bill Baldwin, Delaware County; Shelly Lawson, USI Affinity; Kathy Sabol, Washington County; Don Smith, Berks County; Nancy Paul, Montgomery County; Stacey Mulholland, Bucks County; Wendy Leeper, Chester County; and Fran O’Rourke, PBA.
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June 1, 2018 is the copy deadline for the next issue of The County Line.

Send your news for The County Line to
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For more information, go to www.pabar.org and click on the Events Calendar.

Upcoming PBA Events

Beginning April 3
Avoiding Legal Malpractice Seminars
Various locations

May 3-5
Collaborative Law Committee’s Peace Institute
Philadelphia

May 9-11
PBA Annual Meeting
Hershey

May 10
PBA Committee/Section Day
Hershey

May 17
Commission on Women in the Profession Annual Conference
“Empowering Women”
Hershey

May 22
Civil Litigation Section Regional Dinner
Pittsburgh

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