From the Chair

In May, I had the pleasure of being reappointed to serve another year as chair of the PBA’s Government Lawyers Committee. I want to thank my former co-chair, Stephen A. Zappala Jr., for all his support and help last year in sharing the leadership role of the organization. I appreciate Steve’s effort to engage and interest government attorneys employed outside the Harrisburg region and those employed by local governmental entities. In addition to my reappointment, PBA President H. Reginald Belden Jr. also appointed two co-vice chairs to help lead the committee. I welcome Executive Deputy Attorney General Alexis L. Barbieri and Deputy General Counsel Doreen A. McCall to their new roles with the committee. Alexis and Doreen have been very active in the committee and I look forward to working with them.

As we learned at our most recent Committee/Section Day, the committee once again had a year full of projects and continued growth. The Special Projects Subcommittee was successful in gaining House of Delegates’ approval for its model mediation policy, which encourages governmental agencies to promulgate the model policy drafted by the subcommittee. The Services to Members Subcommittee demonstrated the new committee Web page for the PBA Web site, which will provide useful and easily accessible information regarding attorney positions within government. Thanks to the hard work of the subcommittee members, the Web page looks great and is very close to completion.

Additionally, we have formed a new Membership Subcommittee charged with formulating a plan for attracting and recruiting new members. One of their first suggestions is for each current member to actively recruit another government lawyer to join the committee. I urge each of you to take up this challenge and recruit at least one other lawyer in government service. In addition to getting your friends and co-workers involved in an active and significant professional group, you will be adding volume to the voice of government lawyers in the state bar association.

I hope that all of you continue to remain interested in the committee and its projects. Your participation makes the committee one of the most active groups in the PBA. If you have ideas for future projects, I invite you to contact Alexis, Doreen or me.

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Welcome to this edition of News & Views. As fall approaches and we settle into our post-vacation routines, it is easy to get caught up in the demands of both our professional and private lives. It is important, however, that we not lose sight of the important contributions being made every day by our fellow government lawyers. That is why the Government Lawyers Committee will once again recognize one of its own as the Government Lawyer of the Year.

We invite each of you to nominate someone you know that is making a difference to the legal profession. The Government Lawyer of the Year Award honors a practicing government lawyer who has made a significant singular contribution or has dedicated his or her career to outstanding service to the legal profession for the benefit of the public or a governmental entity.

This year marks the fourth time the Government Lawyers Committee will bestow its highest honor on a government lawyer. In order to ensure that the recipient will receive the recognition he or she deserves, the award will be presented before the general membership of the PBA at the Committee/Section Day luncheon on Nov. 29 at the Holiday Inn East in Harrisburg.

To obtain a nomination form, visit the PBA Government Lawyers Committee Web site at www.pabar.org/govlaycomm.shtml. Nominations must be received by Oct. 31.

We look forward to seeing you at the Committee/Section Day luncheon. Who knows, the next Government Lawyer of the Year could be you.

**ATTENTION GO-GETTERS:**

Need to brush up your resume and interviewing skills? Are you just interested in exploring opportunities and don’t know where to start? The Career Enhancement Subcommittee will be presenting a luncheon seminar on career building on Sept. 11 at the PBA Headquarters, featuring David Behrend, Director of Career Planning Services in Ardmore. He will discuss “The five steps of career enhancement as a government lawyer.” Join us for this always-timely topic.
Subcommittee Reports

What’s Going On

Career Enhancement
Our Lunch and Learn Speaker Series continues in September with a Career Building Seminar with David E. Behrend, Director, Career Planning Services, Ardmore, on Sept. 11. The cost of the program includes lunch and is $6 for members of the Government Lawyers Committee and $13 for non-members. For information on attending this program, please contact Michael Shatto at the Pennsylvania Bar Association at (717) 238-6715, ext. 2243 or Lisa Jo Fanelli-Greer at (717) 772-5128, e-mail lfanelli-gr@state.pa.us.

The Career Enhancement Subcommittee also conducts programs at law schools in the Commonwealth throughout the school year promoting the opportunities and benefits of government service. Our first program this year will be a program at The Dickinson School of Law of The Pennsylvania State University on Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. The program will be followed by a reception. Committee members in the area are invited to attend. If you are interested in serving as a panelist or moderator for one of the subcommittee’s law school programs, please contact either Lisa Jo Fanelli-Greer at (717) 772-5128, or John Henderson at (717) 783-1520, e-mail johnh@state.pa.us.

Membership
The Membership Subcommittee held its first meeting to discuss ideas for attracting new members to the Government Lawyers Committee. The subcommittee is developing a recruiting campaign designed to increase membership and give government lawyers greater visibility within the PBA. If you are interested in serving on the subcommittee or have recruiting ideas, please contact Doreen A. McCall at dmccall@state.pa.us or Michael Shatto of the Pennsylvania Bar Association at Michael.Shatto@pabar.org or at (717) 238-6715, ext. 2243.

Services to Members
The Services to Members Subcommittee is putting the finishing touches on the employment Web page that government attorneys may access through the PBA Web site. In order to obtain content for the employment Web page, the subcommittee is surveying legal offices throughout Pennsylvania that serve the state, local or federal sector. The survey information is then condensed into a short paragraph that summarizes the type of legal work that lawyers in that office perform. The Web page is an important tool and job placement resource that will detail the wide variety of work performed by government lawyers in Pennsylvania. The subcommittee hopes to finish the project by late fall.

Social
On June 21, the Social Subcommittee sponsored a well-attended “happy hour” for its members at the PBA headquarters in Harrisburg. The subcommittee also invited the Governor’s Office of General Counsel’s summer legal interns as the committee’s guests. The event was a huge success — close to 100 government lawyers and interns turned out and spent the evening networking and sharing insights about the benefits of membership in the PBA Government Lawyers Committee.

The PBA Government Lawyers Committee would like to extend our sincere thanks and praise to all of the government lawyers who participated on the PBA Government Lawyers Committee Relay for Life team on June 23 and 24. The team raised more than $5,000 for the American Cancer Society. In fact, the team’s efforts were so extraordinary that the Harrisburg Patriot-News featured an article about them on the front page of the local and state section on June 25.

A special thanks to Paul Stahlnecker, assistant counsel for the State Employee’s Retirement System, who served as team captain. Not only did Paul coordinate the event, but he also volunteered to take the exhausting night shift and walk from 2 to 4 a.m. Paul had such a great time that he offered to serve as team captain again next year. Thanks to all of you for a great job!

Special Projects
The Governor’s Office of General Counsel (OGC) has announced that it will launch a mediation program to promote the use of trained mediators in agencies under the Governor’s jurisdiction. OGC attorneys will receive mediation training at The Dickinson School of Law of The Pennsylvania State University and will be available to mediate disputes for the Commonwealth’s 33 executive agencies.

Nominations Are Now Being Accepted for the GOVERNMENT LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD
Nomination forms are available on the PBA Government Lawyers Committee Web site at www.pabar.org/govlaycomm.shtml.

Send your nomination to Michael Shatto, at the PBA, 100 South Street, PO Box 186, Harrisburg, PA 17108 or fax to him at (717) 238-7182 by Oct. 31, 2001.

The award will be presented at the PBA Committee/Section Day Luncheon on Nov. 29 in Harrisburg.
Going The Extra Mile: Assistant Chief Counsel Runs for Charity

By Mary Anne Wesdock, Senior Assistant Counsel, Environmental Hearing Board

Gary Ankabrandt gives a whole new meaning to the expression “go the extra mile.” In fact, he’s planning to go 26.2 of them. Gary, assistant chief counsel of the Department of General Services, Procurement and Governmental Operations Unit, is training for his first marathon as part of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s Team in Training. On Oct. 28, he will run in the Marine Corps Marathon, also known as the “People’s Marathon,” in Washington, D.C.

As part of the Team in Training program, runners commit to raising a certain amount of money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. In return, the program provides participants with a coach and mentor, and arranges for registration, transportation and lodging for the marathon. Gary has committed to raising $2,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and has been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support for his cause. “The response to the fund raising has been a real source of encouragement,” he notes. “People have given not just money but have also sent me notes of support.”

Gary began running in 1987 when a doctor advised him to start exercising as a way to relieve stress. Since then, he has run a number of 10k races and several nine-milers in Berwick, Pa., his wife’s hometown. About five years ago, the idea of running a marathon began to take hold. This year, at the age of 48, he decided it was time to fulfill his dream. It is not an election year or a transition year, and, therefore, he presumed he would have the time to devote to undertaking a more grueling training schedule. But one thing was missing. “In order to make the commitment, I knew I needed to do this for a higher purpose, for something that had more meaning.” He saw an article in Runner’s World magazine about the Team in Training program and attended one of their informational meetings in April.

That was the incentive he needed. Only one thing more was necessary: securing the “go ahead” from his wife, Bonnie. “I knew I’d be devoting a lot of hours to this and I couldn’t do it without her support,” says Gary. Bonnie, who prefers walking to running, agreed with Gary’s decision wholeheartedly and has been active in his fund-raising efforts. In addition, Gary’s administrative assistant, Kathy Lewis, his boss and other co-workers have been supportive in both fund raising and providing encouragement.

For Gary, the most important part of the program is not the rigorous training or the glory of the race. It is the people who benefit from what it represents. According to campaign manager Mary Ann Kennedy, the Central Pennsylvania chapter of Team in Training raised more than $460,000 last year for cancer research.

In addition, each participant runs in honor of a person who has dealt with cancer. Gary is running in honor of Don Martin, whom he came to know after joining the Team in Training. Don lives in Gary’s neighborhood and was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s Disease in January 2000. He has been in remission for nearly a year and found the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to be a great source of comfort during his treatment. To keep his motivation high, Gary frequently runs past Don’s house as part of his training.

Gary is also running in memory of Cathy Foley, a former co-worker in the Department of General Services’ Office of Chief Counsel for 10 years. Cathy lost her battle with lung cancer last year. Gary remembers Cathy as “courageous and an inspiration to all of us in the office.”

Training for the marathon, Gary will log at least 500 running hours. He regularly corresponds with his Team in Training coach, a teacher in the Cumberland Valley School District, and follows the 18-week training program provided by the team. “The program is very good. They provide you with a lot of support,” says Gary. “I feel more comfortable training for a marathon with them providing me with their expertise. They have done it before. They don’t want you to become injured.”

Gary runs five days a week. His favorite runs include a trek in the countryside near his home in Carlisle to the North Mountain or a journey along the Susquehanna River during his lunch hour. On the other two days of the week, he rests or cross-trains. Not even a vacation in Nova Scotia earlier this year slowed him down. By early October, he will complete two 20-mile runs.

As for the marathon, now just one month away, Gary has two goals. “The first,” he says, “is to finish. The second is to finish in under four hours.” A lofty goal indeed, but one cannot help but admire Gary’s spirit. What drives him is not just the fulfillment of his dream — running a marathon — but the fulfillment of many dreams — helping others to live healthier and fuller lives. Hearing his story, one is reminded of a quote that appears each month in Runner’s World, “The miracle isn’t that I finished ... The miracle is that I had the courage to start.”

Anyone interested in contributing to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s Team in Training may contact Gary at (717) 243-7128.
Reaching New Heights: Assistant Counsel Hikes Kilimanjaro

By Erin E. Stewart, Assistant Counsel, Governor’s Office of General Counsel assigned to the Department of State

AFTER working hard day after day, most of us look forward to a relaxing vacation where we can get away from it all and recharge our batteries for the inevitable return to work. One member of the Government Lawyers Committee, however, had a very different idea for spending two weeks away from his job with the Governor’s Office of General Counsel. Ed Flick, who is assigned to the Department of General Services, took an adventurous vacation that many of us would never attempt. In February, he traveled to Tanzania and climbed Mount Kilimanjaro.

Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa and the tallest freestanding mountain in the world. Located three degrees from the equator, Kilimanjaro is a dormant volcano that reaches 19,340 feet at its highest peak. Climbing this mountain is not exactly a walk in the park.

Ed and a friend decided to attempt to climb Kilimanjaro after another friend did it. Ed was intrigued by the opportunity to go to Africa and face the challenge of reaching the summit. Reaching the summit of Kilimanjaro does not require the technical climbing experience that is required to climb Mount Everest; the physical preparation, however, is critical in order to safely accomplish the goal. Although he was an experienced hiker, Ed was a novice climber and prepared for the ascent by running and lifting weights. He also had to purchase specialized equipment and clothing for the strenuous and dangerous adventure.

To complicate matters, airline delays meant that Ed did not get a critical day of rest before the climb. And to make things even worse, he arrived at the lodge after midnight — just a few hours before his group was leaving for the mountain.

There are several routes that can be taken to the summit. Ed’s group, led by experienced guides and assisted by porters, took the Shira Route to the summit and the Mweka Route for the decent. It took six days to ascend to the summit and two days to come back down. Due to Kilimanjaro’s equatorial location, its climbers experience a range of ecosystems: from a jungle environment at the base of the mountain to arctic conditions at the summit.

Early in the morning of the seventh day of the climb, the group headed for the summit. Ed’s group, with the exception of one man, successfully battled fatigue, cold and altitude sickness to reach the summit — a real feat considering that fewer than half of all climbers who attempt it reach the top. After taking photographs to memorialize their accomplishment, the weary group hiked down to that evening’s camp, located at 10,500 feet.

The physical demands of his adventure resulted in Ed losing 10 pounds on the trip. While reaching the summit was an incredible accomplishment, he believes that the entire experience was amazing and reaching the summit was only part of the adventure. When asked what his next adventure will be, he noted that while he has no desire to climb Mount Everest, he would someday like to hike Peru’s Inca trail to Machu Picchu, “the ancient lost city in the mist.”

Keep us posted Ed!
Relay for Life

By Carol Mowery, Assistant Counsel, Governor’s Office of General Counsel assigned to the Department of Labor and Industry

The Pennsylvania Bar Association once again sponsored the Government Lawyers Committee team at the American Cancer Society’s annual Relay for Life event at Harrisburg’s City Island on Saturday, June 23, and Sunday, June 24. The primary goal of the Relay for Life is to raise money for cancer research and patient resources. Teams must have a member walking or running on the track for twenty-four consecutive hours. Event organizers intertwine fun events to keep all involved entertained for the duration.

Consistent with the theme of this year’s event, “Aliens Attack Cancer,” Team Captain Paul Stahlnecker, Assistant Counsel, Governor’s Office of General Counsel assigned to the State Employees’ Retirement System, was abducted by aliens. In order to free him, team members had to complete a scavenger hunt within a specified time period. While the other teams hastily gathered items to complete the hunt, members of the Government Lawyers Committee kicked back in their lawn chairs and waved to the captive Paul from the comfort of their campsite. Eventually, the aliens declared Paul an official “pod” and released him.

Thanks to the more than 30 Government Lawyers, their families and staff, who contributed their time to this worthwhile cause, the team raised more than $5,000.

(Right) Greg Santoro, Chief Counsel, Department of General Services goes the distance for charity.

(Above) Team Captain Paul Stahlnecker and Erin Stewart, Assistant Counsel, Department of State, take a break at the campsite.

(Left) Dave Kennedy, Assistant Counsel, Department of Agriculture, and his dog, Jack, were part of the Government Lawyers Committee team.

(Right) Also on the Government Lawyers Committee Team was Elaine Blass, Assistant Counsel, PENNDOT.

(Left) Jayne Blake, Assistant Counsel, Penninvest, logs laps for the team.

(Left) Brian McDonough, Deputy Chief Counsel, State Employees’ Retirement System, and his daughter, Lauren, made the relay a family affair.
Committee/Section Day

By Erin E. Stewart, Assistant Counsel, Governor’s Office of General Counsel assigned to the Department of State

The Government Lawyers Committee members came out in full force at the PBA Committee/Section Day on June 8 at the Holiday Inn East, Harrisburg. Committee/Section Day presents the opportunity for all members of the Government Lawyers Committee to come together and hear the accomplishments and goals of the Committee and its subcommittees.

Among the new business, Chair Jim Sheehan announced two new co-vice chairs of the Committee: Alexis L. Barbieri of the Office of Attorney General and Doreen A. McCall of the Governor’s Office of General Counsel. Chair Sheehan also announced the creation of the Membership Subcommittee to recruit new members. Doreen, who is chair of the subcommittee, is looking for volunteers to assist her in recruiting for the Committee.

The other subcommittees provided updates on the status of old and new projects and invited members to add their ideas and talents to the various subcommittees.

One of the real highlights of the meeting was the unveiling of the career information Web site by the Services to Members Subcommittee. Christopher Carusone, assistant counsel, Governor’s Office of General Counsel assigned to the Pennsylvania State Police, demonstrated how the Web page will work and the information it will provide to attorneys interested in learning about career opportunities in government. The career information Web site will be accessed through the PBA’s Web site.

As has become the standard for our Committee, the meeting was well attended by interested and active members.

In other PBA news … two of the members of the Government Lawyers Committee were honored by the PBA at the Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh in May. Governor’s Office of General Counsel attorneys Robert J. Shea, who is assigned to the Department of Transportation, and Pamela F. Cross, who is assigned to the Office of Budget, received Special Achievement Awards for outstanding leadership. Congratulations, Bob and Pam.

RED MASS 2001

This year’s Red Mass will be held on Oct. 2 at noon in St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Harrisburg.

The annual event brings judges, lawyers and public officials of all faiths together to worship.

The Red Mass is sponsored by the St. Thomas More Society.

The American Bar Association
Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division presents the

Public Law Office Management Conference
April 12-13, 2002
Sheraton Gunter Hotel,
San Antonio, Texas

The ABA Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division will present this conference for public lawyers from a wide variety of public law offices across the nation. The conference will provide a forum for public lawyers to meet and share ideas for running a successful office. This is a great opportunity to learn what your colleagues are doing to run an efficient and cost-effective public law office.

Topics include:
Establishing an Effective Legal Team
Technology in the Public Law Office
Hiring and Firing Legally
Information for Clients and the Public
Services Provided by the Office
Dealing with the Media

We invite you to attend the conference, and while you are there enjoy everything that San Antonio has to offer: from the historic Alamo to the marvelous shops at La Villita to the best Tex-Mex food in the Lone Star state.

For more information and to request registration materials, please contact Theona Salmon at 202-662-1023 or salmont@staff.abanet.org. If you would like to learn more about co-sponsoring the conference, please contact Susan Kidd at 202-662-1022 or susankidd@staff.abanet.org.
**Close Up**

**The Road to the Prothonotary’s Office**

*A profile of David A. Szewczak, Prothonotary, Superior Court of Pennsylvania*

By Alexis L. Barbieri, Executive Deputy Attorney General, Office of Attorney General

Prothonotary for the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, David A. Szewczak recently reflected on the journey that led him to his position — one that he has held for the past 15 years.

While attending Villanova University as a political science major, the last thing Szewczak expected to be was a lawyer. However, his exposure to law-related courses and lawyers convinced him to apply to Villanova Law School.

During law school, Szewczak’s job at the post office led to an introduction to Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas Judge William T. Nicholas. Nicholas helped Szewczak find an internship with Judge Vincent A. Cirillo. Intrigued by the daily court activities, Szewczak started cutting law school classes to watch trials.

In addition to interning with the judge, Szewczak worked for several Montgomery County lawyers, handling arbitrations and court appearances. Then, when Judge Cirillo was elected to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, he took Szewczak with him as a law clerk. It was at this time that Szewczak also began doing corporate work, which was the type of law he expected to practice someday. However, his journey was to take a different route.

After clerking for two years, Szewczak joined the Superior Court’s central legal staff where he had the opportunity to learn about the administration of the court. Looking back, he believes this job provided an excellent bridge to the prothonotary’s office. When Judge Cirillo became President Judge of the court, Szewczak served as his administrative assistant. A year later and after much convincing by the judge, Szewczak became prothonotary.

His 15 years in the position have brought with them tremendous changes in the way the court operates. From the evolution of computer technology to an increase in caseload and the number of judges, Szewczak has played a significant role in the court’s adjustment to the changes. For instance, in 1983, the number of appeals handled by the court was 5,556. By contrast, in 2000, appeals had jumped to more than 8,000. Despite this, the size of the prothonotary’s staff has remained the same for 20 years.

If there is one thing for which Szewczak feels he can take personal credit, it is the fact that, throughout his time as prothonotary, he and his staff have managed to consistently and efficiently handle the court’s caseload regardless of the challenges they faced. This, he believes, has been his greatest contribution to the court.

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**Worth Reading**

*By Gregory E. Dunlap, Deputy General Counsel, Governor’s Office of General Counsel*

**LaValle v. Office of General Counsel, 769 A.2d 449 (Pa. 2001)**

Recently, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, in LaValle v. Office of General Counsel, issued an important decision interpreting the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Act (Act). In the opinion, the court undertook to clarify its view of the definition of a “public record.” The court made clear that the Act should be interpreted liberally in favor of public disclosure; but in doing so, it said a court may not depart from the terms used by the General Assembly in the Act.

In an 18-page opinion, the court criticized the Commonwealth Court for its undue expansion of the “minute/order/decision” prong of the definition in earlier cases and its unwarranted contraction of the “account/voucher/contract” component in LaValle. In the Supreme Court’s view, the General Assembly intended a more unitary interpretation to the two components of the definition, as exemplified in North Hills News Record v. McCandless, 552 Pa. 51, 55, 722 A.2d 1037 (1999); and Sapp Roofing Co. v. Sheet Metal Workers’ Int’l, 555 Pa. 105, 109, 713 A.2d 627 (1998).

Establishing an important precedent, the court explicitly ruled that the Act categorically does not include pre-decisional, deliberative documents that reflect confidential communications and work product of government officials, employees and their advisors. Litigation work product documents are included within this broader set of confidential pre-decisional documents, the court noted.
At the conclusion of the Allegheny Health, Education and Research Foundation (AHERF) preliminary hearing, Sherif Abdelhak, AHERF’s former chief executive officer, was held for trial. He faces 354 counts of Theft by Failure to Make Required Disposition of Funds Received, 354 counts of Misapplication of Entrusted Property and one count of Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition. Two conspiracy counts and one election code count were dismissed.

Last year, the Office of Attorney General filed a criminal action suit against Abdelhak and other officers, directors and several corporate entities. The office charged Abdelhak and others with nearly 1,500 separate counts for, among other things, unlawfully “liquidating and/or borrowing” approximately $52 million in restricted charitable endowments.

All counts of theft, misapplication of entrusted property and conspiracy against David McConnell, AHERF’s former chief financial officer, were dismissed at the preliminary hearing except one count of Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition for converting for his personal use more than $16,000 of AHERF funds that had been earmarked for renovation of a stadium box. All charges against Nancy Wynstra, AHERF’s former general counsel, were dismissed.

According to the judge, there was overwhelming evidence that Abdelhak was directly in control of AHERF and directed that money from various endowment funds be used to pay general operation expenses. However, the judge found insufficient evidence to establish that McConnell played any part in directing the use of the endowments in question and determined that McConnell’s knowledge about the use of the funds was insufficient to impose criminal liability. Similarly, the court found no evidence that Wynstra knew or played any part in Abdelhak’s directives.

In the meantime, the civil suit to recover the misappropriated endowments continues.
In the Spotlight

Compiled by Carol Mowery,
Assistant Counsel, Department of Labor and Industry

Honors/Awards

Frank T. Donaghue, chief deputy attorney general, director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection, testified before the House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Crime at a public hearing on Law Enforcement and Community Efforts to Address Crimes Against Seniors.

Elections/Appointments

Jonathan Kunkle, assistant counsel, Department of Corrections, was appointed vice-chair of the Government Law Section of the Dauphin County Bar Association, and chair of the Tour Committee for the Friends of the State Museum, where he also serves on the board of directors.

Thomas Blazusiak, senior assistant counsel, Department of Public Welfare, has been reappointed chair of the PBA Healthcare Law Committee.

Jeffrey J. Wood, chief counsel, Department of Aging, has been elected vice president of the Cooley Law School Alumni Association — Pennsylvania Chapter.

Births


Sandra Stoner, deputy general counsel, and her husband, Herb, welcomed a baby girl, Elizabeth Joy, on Aug. 4.

John D. Brenner Jr., assistant counsel, Department of Revenue, and his wife, Tara, welcomed a baby boy, Jacob Tyler, on Feb. 20.

Megan Consedine, special assistant to the governor, and her husband, Michael, welcomed a baby girl, Maura Grace, on June 2.

Other Accomplishments

Alison Taylor, assistant general counsel, Governor’s Office of General Counsel, made a hole-in-one on the 14th hole at Armitage Golf Course in Hampden Township during the OGC’s annual golf tournament.

Jeffrey J. Wood, chief counsel, and Jackie Welby, assistant counsel, Department of Aging, authored an article titled “Advocating for Older Adults: The Older Adults Protective Services Act and Power of Attorney Fiduciary Duty to Account,” which was published in the July/August 2001 newsletter “Victimization of the Elderly and Disabled.”

Compiled by Carol Mowery,
Assistant Counsel, Department of Labor and Industry

Honors/Awards

Philip Van Zile, assistant counsel, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, was honored as part of an employee team that received a performance award from DCNR. The employees were recognized for their work on an innovative project involving the helicopter salvage of downed timber.

Terry Keating, deputy chief counsel for litigation, Insurance Department, was awarded “Outstanding Manager of the Year 2000” by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department. Insurance Commissioner M. Diane Koken presented the award.

Jeffrey J. Wood, chief counsel, Department of Aging, was recognized for volunteering over one hundred hours of service to the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in the Emergency Care Room.

Speaking Engagements

Gerard M. Mackarevich, chief counsel, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, gave a presentation on Pennsylvania’s Crime Victims’ Compensation Program at the inaugural session of the Pennsylvania Victim Assistance Academy.

Maribeth Wilt-Seibert, assistant counsel, Department of Labor and Industry, participated as an instructor at a seminar on Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation in Philadelphia.

Lisa Jo Fanelli-Greer, counsel with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, spoke at a workshop titled “Mentoring in the Millennium” at the American Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division Spring Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. Lisa Jo also spoke at the Dauphin County Bar Association’s Lunch and Learn Program titled “What Every Lawyer Should Know about Fair Housing Law.”

Alexis L. Barbieri, executive deputy attorney general, director of the Public Protection Division, spoke at the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s annual meeting in Pittsburgh on the topic of “When Charities Meet the Internet.”

Jim Sysko, deputy attorney general, spoke on the topic of “Virtue, Values and Vision: How to Exceed Customer Expectations” at the Better Business Bureau of Northeastern PA’s annual dinner.

Lawrence Otter Sr., deputy attorney general, was a panelist at the Central Penn Healthcare Symposium in Harrisburg.
Chief Counsel Lauds the Commonwealth for Creating Leadership Roles for Women

Elisabeth Shuster, who has served as chief counsel to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC) for nearly two decades, offered her insights into leading and motivating attorneys in the public sector at April’s “Leaders on Leadership” program. In her comments, Shuster reflected on life as an aspiring attorney in the 1970s. She was one of only 26 women who graduated from Villanova School of Law in 1974. Shuster even remembers that her constitutional law professor actually skipped the only case in the textbook that addressed the rights of women.

After graduation, she found that the only areas of law open to women were family and juvenile law practices. Instead of entering private practice, Shuster began what would become a long and rewarding career with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Over the years, she has found that the Commonwealth has taken a leadership role in creating opportunities for women. Shuster herself is a great example, having served in a variety of positions: first as assistant counsel to the PHRC, and then as an assistant counsel to the Department of Health. In 1978, she became a deputy attorney general before assuming her current position in 1983.

Shuster told the audience that they must set examples and look for opportunities to act as mentors. She recommended always being mindful of the need to be courteous and acknowledge the contributions of others. Shuster said, “you owe it to those who came before you.”

”Things that Matter”

Prominent Harrisburg attorney William Costopoulos is known for his defense work in many high-profile cases, including those of school principal Jay Smith, former Supreme Court Justice Rolf Larson and the “666 lottery case.” He is currently defending York Mayor Charlie Robertson in the 1969 Lillie Belle Allen murder case.

Throughout his “Leaders on Leadership” speech in June, Costopoulos stressed the need for lawyers to maintain balance in their lives. He told an enthusiastic audience at the Dauphin County Bar Association to remember that, although you are a lawyer, you are much more than that and should not define yourself solely by your profession. In his own life, Costopoulos has made it a point to always make time for the “things that matter.” For Costopoulos, those things are family, friends and a meaningful spiritual life.

Costopoulos believes that a happy and healthy personal life leads to a more rewarding professional life. He encouraged the audience to make time for the things that matter even if they are extremely busy. For instance, when Costopoulos decided to write his first of four books, he was concerned about finding large blocks of free time in which to write. He made up his mind to write one page a day so that, at the end of a year, he would have a 365-page manuscript.

He acknowledged that balancing a personal life with a professional life is not easy, but he reminded the audience that no matter how successful you become, you have nothing if you lose what matters.

Costopoulos credited his own strong values and ability to set priorities for his success in balancing his personal and professional life.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>PUBLIC EMPLOYEE LABOR LAW CONFERENCE</td>
<td>PBI Conference Center, Mechanicsburg</td>
<td>Oct 4: 12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>E-COMMERCE: LEGAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES</td>
<td>PBI Conference Center, Mechanicsburg</td>
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<td>Oct. 5: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY</td>
<td>City Island, Harrisburg</td>
<td>Oct 4: 12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>E-COMMERCE: LEGAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES</td>
<td>Regional Enterprise Tower, Pittsburgh</td>
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<td>“MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER” WALK</td>
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<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>6th ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE LAW SYMPOSIUM</td>
<td>PBI Conference Center, Mechanicsburg</td>
<td>Oct 4: 12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>E-COMMERCE: LEGAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES</td>
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<td>Nov. 29</td>
<td>PBA COMMITTEE/SECTION DAY</td>
<td>Holiday Inn East, Harrisburg</td>
<td>Oct 4: 12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>E-COMMERCE: LEGAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES</td>
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<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>E-COMMERCE: LEGAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES</td>
<td>PBI Conference Center, Mechanicsburg</td>
<td>Oct 4: 12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>E-COMMERCE: LEGAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES</td>
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<td>Dec. 11</td>
<td>E-COMMERCE: LEGAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES</td>
<td>Regional Enterprise Tower, Pittsburgh</td>
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<td>Dec. 14</td>
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<td>Jan. 23-27</td>
<td>PBA MIDYEAR MEETING 2002</td>
<td>Holiday Inn East, Harrisburg</td>
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<td>PBA MIDYEAR MEETING 2002</td>
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**Stay Tuned**

PBA GOVERNMENT LAWYERS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER
100 SOUTH ST • P.O. BOX 186
HARRISBURG, PA 17108

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