Pounding Pavement with the “Judges”

As a young lawyer working in Uniontown, Fayette County, I am fortunate that our office is across the street from the courthouse. Our section of Main Street is known as “lawyer's row” for the number of law offices in this stretch. One of the best aspects of working in Fayette County as a young lawyer is the opportunity to pound the pavement with a lunchtime running group formed by now Senior Judge Gerald R. Solomon. I call them the “judges,” but the group includes attorneys, businessmen and Fayette County employees.

Senior Judge Solomon started running nearly 30 years ago when he was the district attorney in Fayette County. I ran that 5k as well and continued running numerous organized races with the judges who run 3.5 to 5 miles daily during the work week. The course along the streets of downtown Uniontown mostly remains the same, but the conversation is a tour of family, work and travel experiences. The judges are eager to share comical and inspiring stories with me during our weekly runs.

According to www.active.com, running provides at least six benefits:

- Improves health
- Prevents disease
- Helps with weightloss
- Boosts confidence
- Relieves stress
- Eliminates depression

I run for all of the reasons listed above. I have trained for the Great Race in Pittsburgh every other year for the past seven years. I ran in high school but did not have the mental stamina to understand that you could push through the pain. This year, I committed to running the 37th Great Race. The judges were a big contributor to my successful training and race this year. I joined the judges for the lunchtime run in June and ran two to three times a week. It truly was a rare opportunity to share stories and convivial laughter with individuals while exercising. There is a shared connection established within the group. On any given run, no matter how I am feeling physically or mentally, the judges support me. President Judge Wagner said it is “interesting to run in a group from a motivation standpoint, letting the group down for not running or using the group to pick you up.”

One key ingredient to the lunchtime run is the mental release it affords the group members. President Judge Wagner said that the lunchtime run “allows you to reinvigorate and refresh for the afternoon.” I certainly agree with that sentiment. After the run, I return to my desk ready to tackle the next project, client or phone call with a renewed and

Employees who'd like to exchange ideas and get close with their bosses will find that running has become a universal activity that can actually set the foundation for professional relationships.”

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At Issue is published by the PBA Young Lawyers Division. Editorial items, news material and correspondence should be sent to the PBA Communications Department, P.O. Box 186, Harrisburg, Pa. 17108-0186.

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Clear-minded attitude. Additionally, I have the satisfaction of completing a successful run with a great group of people.

Cindy Krischer Goodman of the Miami Herald writes, “Employees who’d like to exchange ideas and get close with their bosses will find that running has become a universal activity that can actually set the foundation for professional relationships.” Goodman goes on to indicate that a number of U.S. companies created in-house running groups.

My running-with-the-judges experience gave me a chance to build relationships outside the courtroom with the other professionals in my county. As a young lawyer navigating through the practice of law, I found their stories of past races and discussion of current legal topics, legislation or administrative changes within the county tremendously insightful and helpful. They spoke of past John Woodruff races through Connellsville, where my father mistakenly poured Gatorade, instead of water, on himself and could not get a swarm of bees and flies away from him as he crossed the finish line. They mentioned the Knights of Columbus race held in the fall along the Ohiopyle bike path, where the run started out cold and warmed up at the finish, which was followed by a big pancake breakfast.

Senior Judge Solomon and President Judge Wagner have pounded the gavel in their respective courtrooms over the years, but their legacy of pounding the pavement of the streets of Fayette County will certainly endure.

While the group members have varied and roles they play within the county have changed over the years, the overall mission to stay fit and refreshed remains the same. For me personally, the memories and jokes shared on each run built a connection that has helped in the courtroom and will last beyond my legal career.

I urge all lawyers, including young lawyers, to revive your afternoon with a lunchtime run in your county. Whether you run alone or with a judge, you will feel refreshed for the remainder of your day. To the judges – Thank you!

“The Judges”
President Judge John R. Wagner, Jr.
Senior Judge Gerald R. Solomon
Gary Frankhouser
John M. Purcell
Daniel Taylor
Jeffrey Proden
William Ulmer
John Hamm
Louis Lozar
Kate Vozar-McCombie

Bernard C. John is a third-generation private practice attorney in Fayette County, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, the late Bernard T. John; father, Simon B. John; and aunt, Anne N. John. He obtained his law degree in 2004 from Duquesne University School of Law. He is the secretary of the Fayette County Bar Association, co-chair of Zone 6 for the PBA YLD, and actively involved in the Uniontown Downtown Business District Authority, Sewickley Public Library, Fayette County Heart Association and Connect to Classrooms. He can be contacted at 724-438-8560 or bcj@johnandjohnlaw.com
Finding “A Job” Versus Getting the “Right Job”

By David Manes

As young lawyers, we certainly face pressure to take a job when it is offered. With the current legal market, most recent graduates do not have the luxury of waiting around for their dream job or the perfect fit. While working in any legal job immediately after graduation can be viewed as a victory, can settling for any job lead to a less than satisfactory career in the long-term? Graduating from law school can lead to a lot of uncertainties. Will I pass the bar? Will I have a job? Will that job enable me to pay off my student loans? Securing a job prior to graduation can help alleviate a lot of those uncertainties and reduce stress while studying for the bar.

With this pressure, a law student might accept a job offer in a completely different field than what he or she initially wanted. While any legal experience is often viewed as worthwhile, at what point does a young lawyer become ‘trapped’ in this unexpected trajectory? Is changing career paths a bad decision?

Reasons to Take Any Job

Any legal job can provide valuable experience to a young lawyer. Many young lawyers apply for a wide variety of legal positions upon graduation, regardless of whether they are in their preferred field of practice. Client interaction, case management, litigation experience, legal writing skills, and other skills can be developed and improved upon in a variety of legal jobs. When starting out, it may not be necessary to land a job in a specific area.

Young lawyers may also not know exactly what kind of law they want to practice. Sure, there are classes that you like more than others in law school. But the actual practice of different fields can be extremely different than studying them. By taking a job in a field you were not actively seeking to work in, you may discover an area of law that you love. By pigeonholing yourself into only one field, you may miss out on opportunities that allow you to grow as a professional in a field you enjoy.

When You Should Look for Specific Jobs

If you have your heart set on a very specific field of law and find yourself focused on a different area, it is not too late to get into a new job. Keep your options open by looking into new opportunities while in your new position. Perhaps there is a volunteer opportunity that would open a door in the field.

Chances are, the more specialized the type of law you want to practice, the fewer jobs there are. If you find yourself in an unrelated field, keep checking job postings and talking with your contacts. It may be a matter of finding the right job when it becomes available. Don’t be afraid to apply for a job even though you are working somewhere else and feel obligated to stick it out for a certain time period; that position may not be open later when you feel ready to change positions.

The Right Timing to Get Into the Field You Want

If you find yourself working in a field that you do not prefer, it can be tempting to want to change career paths as soon as possible. There certainly is a preferred window in which to change career paths. That window depends on the kind of law you want to get into and what you have been doing since graduation.

There are many opportunities to work for the government after graduation since many of the available positions do not require prior work experience. While these jobs can be an excellent stepping stone into other legal careers, after some time it could be extremely difficult to move into the private sector since you have not built up the same book of business as your peers. While it is difficult to pin down a specific timetable to follow for switching from a government job to a private sector job, it is important to look at what is expected of your peers. If you wait too long, you may have to start over when you change careers instead of entering as a senior associate.

If you are working in a larger firm in a specialty area that you do not see yourself working in the longterm, you may not even have to change firms in order to get your dream job. In this situation, it is important to talk with your supervisors early on. The senior attorneys may have a very specific idea of where you fit into their firm longterm, which could be drastically different from where you see yourself down the road. By having a conversation about where you want to end up, no matter how awkward it might be to have that conversation, you can make sure that the experience you get is geared toward your end goals. If the firm is unwilling or unable to help you achieve those goals, you can start looking into opportunities.

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Social Media Evidence in Litigation

The pervasive influence of social media in today’s world cannot be overstated. The use of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social networking sites available for use by organizations and individuals alike has increased exponentially seemingly overnight, prompting parents, teachers, employers and other concerned parties to repeatedly warn those around them to think before they post. However, many have failed to heed these warnings; a recent study by X1 Discovery, a blog dedicated to legal and technology perspectives on e-discovery, shows that there were 689 published cases in the years 2010 and 2011 that involved some sort of social media evidence, and the available data for following years shows that this trend is only likely to grow.

Despite its increasing prevalence in the legal sphere, the rules for discovery and use of social media evidence are shaky at best. Current statutes, case law and ethics codes are not well suited to providing guidance for this new source of potential evidence. As this new area of evidence law develops, young litigators should be aware of the potential benefits and pitfalls associated with its use.

Production

1. Proving Relevance

Information posted online that has been made available to the public at large does not often create problems during the discovery process. It is information that the owner of a social media account has made private or semi-private that leads to the most confusion.

As of the writing of this article, no Pennsylvania appellate court has addressed the issue of discovery of private information contained on social networking sites. The vast majority of Pennsylvania trial courts that have been faced with the issue have determined a threshold showing that the private information contained on a litigant’s social media profile will likely contain information relevant to the case. As Judge Wettick stated in the 2012 case of Trail v. Lesko:

“The courts recognize the need for a threshold showing of relevance prior to discovery of any kind, and have nearly all required a party seeking discovery in these cases to articulate some facts that suggest relevant information may be contained within the non-public portions of the profile. To this end, the courts have relied on information contained in the publicly available portions of a user’s profile to form a basis for further discovery.”

Indeed, most courts that have compelled production of private social media information have done so on the basis of public information is not the only means of showing relevance, it appears to be the most commonly used method of compelling social media evidence. In any event, a litigant must be able to show some good faith belief that the opposing party’s private profile may contain information that is relevant to the case at hand.

2. Privacy and Unreasonable Intrusion

To date, trial courts have been generally unwilling to accept litigants’ claims of constitutional, statutory, or otherwise established privacy rights in private social media content. However, these courts have looked to Pennsylvania Discovery Rules, specifically Pa.R.C.P. 4011, to determine when discovery of social media information would constitute an unreasonable intrusion into the lives of the parties opposing discovery.

Pa.R.C.P. 4011(b) bars discovery that would cause “unreasonable annoyance, embarrassment, [or] oppression.” Determining whether an intrusion is “unreasonable” requires the court to consider the level of the intrusion and the potential value of the discovery to the party seeking discovery.

Pa.R.C.P. 4011(b) bars discovery that would cause “unreasonable annoyance, embarrassment, [or] oppression.” Determining whether an intrusion is “unreasonable” requires the court to consider the level of the intrusion and the potential value of the discovery to the party seeking discovery.

However, as Judge Wettick stated in Trail, on a scale from 1 to 10, the intrusion from most social media discovery will likely fall around a level 2. This is so because the party opposed to discovery has made the information available to numerous persons, none of whom had any
be aware of this rapidly growing field of evidence and to be hesitant when advising clients on how to manage their social media content.

Ethical Considerations

As previously mentioned, the most common means of accessing private social media content comes through an attorney’s relationship with the account owner. When and by what means an attorney can contact an opposing litigant without a court order in an attempt to access private information is a cloudy ethical area that requires consideration of the county in which the attorney is practicing.

Under RPC 4.2 and equivalent state ethics rules, a lawyer is prohibited from communicating with a represented party without first receiving consent from that party’s attorney. While the rules are less straightforward for non-represented parties, RPC 4.3 and equivalent state ethics rules caution against contacting an opposing party in a manner that could be seen as deceptive. As the American Bar Association states, “Of the jurisdictions that have addressed this issue, the consensus appears to be that a lawyer may not attempt to gain access to non-public social media content by using subterfuge, trickery, dishonesty, deception, pretext, false pretenses, or an alias.” Going along with this line of reasoning, several jurisdictions have held that attorneys may not send parties to litigation a “friend request” in order to gain access to private social media content.

A lawyer may not attempt to gain access to non-public social media content by using subterfuge, trickery, dishonesty, deception, pretext, false pretenses, or an alias.

Obligation to keep the information private. As such, the party seeking discovery need only show that the information sought is “reasonably likely to furnish relevant evidence, not available elsewhere, that will have an impact on the outcome of the case.”

Preservation

Litigants have a duty to preserve relevant evidence when litigation is reasonably foreseeable. “Spoliation” occurs where evidence is destroyed or significantly altered, thus hampering its use as evidence in a pending or reasonably foreseeable litigation. Failure to preserve information can lead to sanctions, an adverse inference jury instruction, or a finding against the party guilty of spoliation. While the concept of spoliation is nothing new, the nature of social media evidence makes it easier than ever for litigants to delete or alter meaningful information from their profiles.

Various jurisdictions have attempted to delineate exactly when spoliation occurs in this context. Not surprisingly, the inquiry has been easier in circumstances where social media content has been deleted or altered during the course of discovery and after such information has been requested. In cases such as these, courts have not hesitated to institute an adverse jury instruction, economic sanctions, or in extreme cases, suspension of the attorney’s license.

However, what constitutes spoliation outside of these more obvious situations remains to be seen. For instance, what if a litigant deletes social media content before it has been requested simply because it is unflattering or no longer promotes the image the litigant wants to maintain? What if there is no bad faith motivating the deletion or alteration of such content? While the courts have yet to address such questions, it is important for attorneys to


Getting the “Right Job”

Continued from page 3

that will move you in the direction you want to go.

Evaluating the experience you are getting in your initial job will help you determine when you should look to get into your desired field. If you are building a solid book of business and polishing skills which will easily transfer to your desired field, it is likely that you have more time to find your perfect job. If you are in a field that has no overlapping skills or business with where you want to end up, you probably need to make a career change within three to five years. The longer you stay in a position which will ultimately add little or no value to your resume (in regards to your preferred position), the further behind you will be in comparison to your peers. This could lead to starting in a lesser position with lower pay if you are able to get into your preferred area of practice.

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Establishing a Positive Attorney-Client Relationship

By Stephanie E. Murphy

One of the most important skills that a lawyer can develop is the ability to cultivate good attorney-client relationships. This is true for attorneys practicing in all areas of the law – from the lawyers who represent individuals, to those representing large corporations, to government attorneys. Below are a few tips to keep in mind as you interact with your clients and potential clients.

1. Know your client’s priorities. Each client comes to you for a reason, with a legal or practical goal in mind. The most important objective in your first meeting with any new client should be to understand the client’s situation and goals. You can usually get a good idea of your client’s goals by simply asking “What brings you to my office today?” But, you should keep in mind that the client’s desired outcome may not always be obvious. For example, a client consulting with a family attorney regarding divorce may be interested in filing for divorce, or he may want to be prepared with a basic understanding of what to expect if his wife files. He may want to know how to get the divorce as quickly as possible, or he may want to stay married as long as possible. Your advice will vary significantly based upon your client’s desired outcome.

2. Treat your client as an individual. Remember that your client is more than just a legal issue. Each client is different with his own personality, social background, financial situation, etc. Some clients need you to lend a sympathetic ear, while others want to see a matter-of-fact professional. Some want you to appear strong and ready for a fight, while others need to see someone who is approachable and unintimidating. With experience, it will become easier to pinpoint what your client needs, often from the first interaction, if you take the time to get to know your client.

3. Never minimize your client’s concerns. While you may routinely handle the type of work that the client has asked you to perform, it is very unlikely that your client deals with legal issues on a regular basis. Acknowledge your client’s concerns, express understanding, and help him feel confident that you will give his case the time and consideration that it requires.

4. Be clear regarding the terms of your engagement. From the start of your attorney-client relationship, you must establish the terms of your representation. This goes beyond the basic expectations set forth by the Rules of Professional Conduct. You should allow your client the opportunity to ask questions regarding your billing policy and make yourself available to discuss any questions or concerns that the client has before engaging you and also after the relationship is established.

5. Communicate regarding the status of pending matters. To achieve a successful outcome in any case, you must have effective attorney-client communication. Once you know your client and understand your client’s goals, you should explain to your client the legal options that will allow her to obtain her desired outcome. Then, as you move forward toward the established goal, keep her updated regarding the process. You may be moving the case forward, but if you are not sharing the progress with the client, she may assume that you have forgotten her case. A good way to keep your client informed throughout the process is to copy her on all correspondence. Also, a brief “update” call on a Friday can do a lot to ease any concerns that she may have and may offer her peace of mind over the weekend.

6. Understand the importance of timely responses. Throughout your representation, you will receive calls and emails from your client. While you have many clients at one time, you are likely your client’s only lawyer. He is relying on you to provide the legal answers that he needs. You may receive a message asking a question that does not seem urgent to you. However, it may feel urgent to your client. It is good practice to return your client’s call within 24 hours. When possible, you should aim to respond during the same business day.
Establishing a Positive Attorney-Client Relationship
Continued from page 6

7. Be organized. This suggestion covers many different aspects of the attorney-client relationship. Keep notes summarizing your communications with your client. This will help you avoid asking the same question multiple times. Keep an organized file, with all important documents, and your notes, appropriately labeled and accessible. Keep an up-to-date calendar, with all important deadlines, hearing dates and meetings identified. In fact, it is a good idea to have your calendar in multiple locations and/or to have an additional “tickler” system within your office, from which another person in your office can keep track of your deadlines.

8. Be prepared. Every attorney knows (or should know) to be prepared for court. However, you should be prepared for other client interactions as well. You should prepare for meetings with your client by outlining an agenda in advance and should, when possible, allow the client the opportunity review the agenda and add items not identified by you. You should prepare for telephone calls with your client by ensuring that you have necessary portions of the client’s file available. Clients will feel more confident in your ability if you are prepared.

9. Put your client’s needs first. As a young lawyer, you may be tempted to take every case that a potential client presents to you. However, doing so is not advisable. You should know your strengths and abilities. You should only take those cases that you are equipped to handle. Sometimes the best way to preserve a relationship is by making a referral. A client will respect you more for making an appropriate referral than for taking a case that you cannot handle.

The common threads in all of the tips listed above are communication and respect. By making an effort to communicate openly with your client and to respect your client as an individual, you will increase the likelihood of having a positive attorney-client relationship, which should always be your goal.

Stephanie E. Murphy is an associate with McQuaide Blasko. Her practice focuses in areas of law impacting families, including divorce, custody, support, elder law, estate administration, estate planning and Orphans’ Court litigation.
Swearing-In Ceremony at the US Supreme Court

By Alison Wasserman

Waking up at 5:30 a.m. when it is cold, windy, rainy and still dark outside is not exactly my idea of a good time, but that’s precisely what I did on Nov. 17, 2014. The previous evening I had traveled from my apartment in Allentown to my childhood home in Baltimore because my mother, a former assistant attorney general and principal counsel to the Maryland Department of Planning, was accompanying me to Washington D.C. that fateful Monday morning to see me get sworn in, along with 31 of my fellow Pennsylvania lawyers, for admission before the United States Supreme Court.

Maria Engles, the PBA YLD coordinator and organizer of the group admission ceremony, stated, “Gaining admission to the highest court in the land is a moment of significance and a true milestone in the career of any attorney.” Gathering together with a large group of my friends and colleagues in front of the Supreme Court building, gazing up at its massive marble façade while waiting to be escorted inside, we all felt that sense of occasion and importance which made it easy to forget that we were cold and shivering.

Once inside the building, we passed through several security checkpoints and were led past portraits and busts of former justices. (I was particularly excited to see the portrait of Byron “Whizzer” White, an All-American football player at the University of Colorado, a Rhodes Scholar, an NFL standout, a Bronze Star recipient for his Naval service during World War II, a magna cum laude graduate of Yale Law School, and to me, the epitome of a scholar-athlete.) We arrived in a large waiting room where a continental breakfast had been laid out for us. I decided that a wonderful memory. My mother was amused by my endeavor. My friend Joel Seelye, YLD Zone 8 chair, was there to move for our admission into the Court. I was impressed that his wife Amanda, another friend and fellow young attorney, had accompanied him to the ceremony to D.C. despite the fact that it was her birthday.

After breakfast and an interminable wait, our group was escorted into the courtroom, with our guests sitting on benches behind us. Nothing could have prepared me for what it would feel like to sit in the same room where cases like Brown v. Board of Education, Gideon v. Wainwright, Miranda v. Arizona, and Loving v. Virginia had been argued. Seeing the justices file in and to look directly into the faces of Chief Justice Roberts, Justices Sotomayor, Thomas, Kagan, Ginsburg and other other justices was a completely surreal experience. One thing that particularly struck me was how tiny Justice Ginsburg was — and how big her glasses were — in person. Several groups were scheduled to go ahead of us, and finally our turn came. Joel stood up, introduced himself to Chief Justice Roberts and the rest of the Court and then began reading our names. Hearing my name, and the names of my friends, spoken to the Justices — knowing that my mother was sitting there witnessing this — put a grin on my face that nearly split my
ears. And then it happened: Joel moved for our admission to the United States Supreme Court and Chief Justice Roberts accepted his motion. We raised our right hands and swore before the highest court in the land that we would protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.

Afterwards, we posed outside for pictures on the steps of the Supreme Court building, never noticing the rain that continued to pour down on our heads.

Alison Wasserman, co-editor of At Issue, is a land use and zoning attorney with Grim, Biehn & Thatcher in Perkasie.

Upcoming Wills for Heroes Events

- **Feb. 21, 2015** Hilltop Community Center, Carbon County
- **Mar. 7, 2015** Limerick Fire Department, Montgomery County
- **Mar. 28, 2015** Pocono Barracks, Carbon County
- **Apr. 25, 2015** Springfield Fire Company, Delaware County
- **May 16, 2015** Bucks County Public Safety/Emergency Services Training Center, Bucks County

Click [here](#) to visit the website for an updated list of events added throughout the year. To volunteer for a Wills for Heroes Event, please contact Maria Engles, YLD coordinator, at maria.engles@pabar.org or 1-800-932-0311 x2223.

Lancaster exceeded 1,000 wills the weekend of 12/6/14. Pictured at the event: Jon Koltash (PBA/YLD Treasurer), Cindy Geib, Eric Rothermel (Lancaster Wills for Heroes Coordinator) and Lars Anderson (PBA/YLD Chair).

More Than 300 High School Teams Participate in 2015 PBA Statewide Mock Trial Competition

Beginning in January, 319 teams from 269 high schools across Pennsylvania will be competing in district and regional levels of the Statewide Mock Trial Competition sponsored by the Pennsylvania Bar Association Young Lawyers Division.

Pennsylvania’s mock trial program, now in its 32nd year, is one of the largest in the nation. Teams of high school students from across the state have the opportunity to act as lawyers and witnesses in simulated civil and criminal trials before actual judges and panels of juries. Lawyers volunteer to assist students as team advisors, scorekeepers and regional coordinators. Each year, the winning team goes on to represent Pennsylvania in the national competition.

Do you have experience with the Mock Trial Program and are interested in being a juror in the 2015 Mock Trial Championship Weekend to be held March 27-28, 2015? Please click [here](#) for more details and to sign up.

2014 Mock Trial Champions – Altoona Area High School
PBA’s Young Leaders Raise $15,000+ for Legal Services for the Poor

Third Annual “Raise A Glass to Justice” Event

Jill Kelly McComsey, graduate of the 2011-2012 Bar Leadership Institute Class and Zone 2 co-chair for the Pennsylvania Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, has led an effort in recent years to raise funds for North Penn Legal Services. She, along with two other young leaders from the Lehigh Valley, Lauren Sorrentino and Alison Wasserman, planned the first annual “Raise a Glass to Justice” event in the summer of 2012.

Building on the success of the first event, Jill teamed with North Penn Legal Services again in the fall of 2013 and 2014 to turn this event into a tradition.

To make the event even more interesting, the 3rd Annual “Raise a Glass to Justice” event, held on Nov. 20 at Melt in Center Valley, featured a popular State College 80s band, Velveeta, with a “Lehigh Valley Lawyer Idol” competition. Competitors Joshua Fulmer, Jacqueline Holmes and Joanne Kelhart each selected one of Velveeta’s cover songs and competed for the crown, with Attorney Phil Hof acting as M.C. of the competition. All of the competitors sang their hearts out and put on a great show, but at the end of the night, only Jacqueline Holmes left with a crown. Her rendition of “Love Shack” in her encore performance, complete with rose petal confetti, was surely the best entertainment of the evening.

This well-attended event raised an impressive sum of more than $15,000. The event would not have been a success without the generous contributions of all of the sponsors, including the amazing support from the host restaurant, Melt. The Platinum Level Sponsors ($2,500+) included the Northampton and Lehigh County Bar Associations. The gold level sponsors ($1,000+) included FindLaw, Law Offices of Edward P. Shaughnessy, Seidel Cohen Hof & Reid, LLC, and Matthew Sorrentino, Esq., of Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A.

Jill looks forward to planning the 4th annual event in 2015 and has already begun lining up competitors for next year’s Idol competition.

The 3rd Annual “Raise a Glass to Justice” event on Nov. 20 at Melt in Center Valley, featured a popular State College 80s band, Velveeta, with a “Lehigh Valley Lawyer Idol” competition. Competitors Joshua Fulmer, Jacqueline Holmes and Joanne Kelhart each selected one of Velveeta’s cover songs and competed for the crown. Phil Hof was the M.C.
Pennsylvania Bar Association

49th Annual Conference of County Bar Leaders

February 26-28, 2015 • Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square

THURSDAY, FEB. 26
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
PLAN Reception at Lancaster Bar Association
8:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Early Bird Registration
9:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Welcome Social

FRIDAY, FEB. 27
8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Registration
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
PBA Supermarket and Vendor Fair
8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Continental Breakfast
8:15 – 8:20 a.m.
CCBL Introduction
8:20 – 9:50 a.m.
Leading in Four Directions
CLE credit: 1.5 substantive
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Your Year(s) in Bar Leadership
CLE credit: 1.5 substantive
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Avoiding Legal Malpractice
CLE credit: 1.5 ethics
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
YLD Business Meeting
11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Luncheon and awards presentation, featuring keynote speaker Terry Madonna
1:30 – 2:00 p.m.
Break and county bar recognition award photos

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Diversity and Inclusion: Inclusive Lawyering for Your Bar Association
CLE credit: 1.0 ethics
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
UPL: Leading Your Members to Identify and Prosecute UPL
CLE credit: 1.0 substantive
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Wills for Heroes: Protecting Those Who Protect Us
CLE credit: 1.0 ethics
3:15 – 4:15 p.m.
“Bring it on!”
CLE credit: 1.0 substantive
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Cold Beer and Casemaker
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Diversity and Inclusion: Inclusive Lawyering for Your Bar Association
CLE credit: 1.0 ethics
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
UPL: Leading Your Members to Identify and Prosecute UPL
CLE credit: 1.0 substantive
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Wills for Heroes: Protecting Those Who Protect Us
CLE credit: 1.0 ethics
3:15 – 4:15 p.m.
“I’m Just a Bill on Capitol Hill: The Real Deal on the Legislative Process
CLE credit: 1.0 substantive

SUN, FEB. 28
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.
Hot Breakfast Buffet
8:30 – 9:40 a.m.
CCBL Business Meeting
8:50 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.
County Bar Associations and Legal Aid Programs: Working Together to Promote Access to Justice
CLE credit: 1.0 ethics
8:50 – 9:50 a.m.
LCL: Hope and Help for the Impaired Colleague
CLE credit: 1.0 ethics
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Beach party and game night

Get the brochure.
Register online here.
Registration deadline:
Feb. 4, 2015

CLE Credits
The Pennsylvania Bar Institute is approved by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Continuing Legal Education Board as an accredited CLE provider. The PBA 2015 Conference of County Bar Leaders has been approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board for up to 7.0 hours of CLE credits.

PENNSYLVANIA BAR ASSOCIATION
Your Other Partner

Leading
Through
Change

Leading Through Change
PBA Bar Leadership Institute

The PBA Bar Leadership Institute provides emerging leaders, representing a broad cross-section of the diversity of the PBA membership, with an opportunity to learn about the PBA while actively participating in key meetings. Participation in the Bar Leadership Institute provides numerous opportunities to network with PBA members and leadership and helps build lasting relationships that will serve as an invaluable resource for future success.

The Bar Leadership Institute looks to the future of the organization by developing well-informed, committed leaders who will serve the PBA for many years to come. It familiarizes participants with the day-to-day operation of the association, provides a foundation on governance and policy issues and introduces the participants to PBA staff and resources.

If you know a young leader reach out and encourage him or her to apply.

If you are a young leader, visit the PBA website for details and to complete an application.

Applications for the 2015-2016 PBA BLI class are due May 7, 2015.

Everything you need is on the website:

www.pabar.org/bli.asp

PBA YLD
Summer Meeting & New Admittees Conference
August 5-7, 2015
Seven Springs Mountain Resort • Seven Springs, PA

The conference will feature plenty of CLE, networking opportunities and entertainment. All young lawyers and law students are welcome.

The brochure and registration information are coming soon.

For information, contact PBA/YLD Coordinator Maria Engles at 800-932-0311, ext. 2223, or maria. engles@pabar.org.
ZONE 1 (Philadelphia)
On Oct. 2, the Philadelphia Bar Association (Phila Bar) Young Lawyers Division (YLD) held its inaugural Law Star Game fundraiser to benefit the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. The Law Star Game was a baseball battle between two teams—one of in-house lawyers and one of private-firm lawyers. The game was held at the Camden Riversharks stadium, where the gracious hosts opened up their stadium for a night of Homerun Derby, raffles, kids’ games (like potato sack races and tug of war), hot dogs and hamburgers, fireworks and, of course, baseball.

On Nov. 1, the Phila Bar YLD held its annual Harvest for the Homeless. Approximately 25 young lawyers gathered to sort the donations that were collected by volunteers from participating law firms. The donations were much appreciated by the community organizations and shelters that received them.

On Nov. 12, the Phila Bar YLD executive committee held its end-of-year retreat at The Pyramid Club, in conjunction with a meet & greet with the Philadelphia Emerging CPAs, the PICPA, and the Young Professionals of the Risk Managers Association of Philadelphia. The PBA’s own Maria Bermudez has also now taken the reigns as Phila Bar YLD Chair.

On Nov. 14, the Phila Bar YLD hosted its annual YLD Bootcamp, followed by a networking happy hour at The Field House.

As for future plans, the Zone 1 YLD is planning another Caravan to reach out to area PBA membership and young lawyers.

ZONE 2 (Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, Schuylkill)
On Sept. 27, a few young lawyers from Zone 2 were trained to be Will’s for Heroes coordinators. Congratulations to Ricky Santee (Northampton/Lehigh), Adam Weaver (Carbon) and Jill Kelly McComsey (Northampton/Lehigh).

On Oct. 4, young lawyers from Zone 2 participated in the Zone 2 Caravan, meeting for drinks at Cosmopolitan in Allentown and heading over to the new PPL Arena to see a Phantoms game. We were happy to see some new faces as well as old faces, and everyone had a great time.

On Nov. 1, young and “seasoned” lawyers from Northampton County helped pull off a Will’s for Heroes event at the Wilson Volunteer Fire Company. Ricky Santee and Jill Kelly McComsey assisted as recently trained coordinators. They are looking forward to planning future events and will be looking for volunteers.

On Nov. 20, young lawyers from Zone 2 supported the 3rd Annual “Raise a Glass to Justice” event to benefit North Penn Legal Services. Young lawyers Josh Fulmer and Jackie Holmes competed with Joanne Kelhart, a veteran lawyer, for the Lehigh Valley Idol Crown. They sang with Velveeta, the popular 80s cover band from State College.

Northampton County Bar Association YLD members set up a trick or treat booth at an event on Oct. 25 for the Miracle League and won the “Chairman Choice’s Award” for their Monsters, Inc.-themed booth.

Once again, the Northampton County YLD held its successful Holiday Hope Chest Program, an annual event in which gifts are purchased for the underprivileged children in the Lehigh Valley through donations from members of the bar. The NCBA YLD was recognized by local news media and the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley for its generous contribution of money and time to the Holiday Hope Chest Program. The YLD received “Spirit of Volunteerism Award” from the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley. YLD and the bar association donated close to 500 Holiday hope chests last year for children throughout the Lehigh Valley. The Bethlehem Boys and Girls Club nominated the YLD for this award. The Lehigh County YLD continues to have monthly happy hours at local bars and pubs. Check out the Lehigh County Bar Association’s website for upcoming happy hours.

ZONE 3 (Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, York)
CUMBERLAND COUNTY
The Cumberland County YLD has been very busy since the summer meeting. The YLD hosted a happy hour designed to attract young lawyers who cannot make a lunch meeting to enjoy comradery over a drink. The event was a success, attracting members of the local YLD community who have not been as involved due to scheduling conflicts. Understanding that for young and new attorneys it is difficult to leave the office for an hour during the day due to the demands of work, the YLD plans to host a happy hour at local bars in Carlisle every 2-3 months to continue to attract the younger lawyers unable to attend monthly meetings during the day.

For the 5th year, the YLD participated in the Adopt-a-Family program with a high level of involvement. The YLD teamed up with Safe Harbour, a local shelter, and the Domestic Violence Shelter of Cumberland and Perry County. Members of the bar received a “wish list” from families residing in the shelter, and went out to shop for those residents’ holiday wishes. Members of the bar also donated necessities for the shelters, such as linens, towels and other toiletries. Members of the YLD delivered the gifts on Dec. 18. The YLD was accompanied by Santa, assisted by our local judiciary, and brought dinner to the residents and children of the shelter to give them a memorable holiday.

The YLD had its annual end-of-year dinner in December to celebrate the hard work of the YLD board and members in
successfully accomplishing their goals. They look forward to the successes ahead in 2015.

DAUPHIN COUNTY

The Dauphin County YLS had a very busy summer and fall. The YLS volleyball league continued through August, and the YLS hosted a picnic for all involved at the volleyball fields at the end of the season.

The section also participated in a kickball challenge from the Cumberland County YLD at the annual joint DCBA/CCBA picnic at Allenberry Resort. Dauphin County was victorious, and we look forward to continuing this challenge next year.

The YLS joined with the Lebanon County YLD in August to attend a Harrisburg Senators game, including a private picnic for the group.

The highlight of September was the YLS wine and beer tasting at the Vineyard and Brewery at Hershey. The River House Bar & Grill catered the event, which included musical entertainment.

October brought the annual Oktoberfest party, featuring authentic German food and the presentation of the volleyball trophies to the champion social and competitive teams.

In November, the YLS hosted Casino Night at the Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course, where DCBA members gathered to enjoy a great view of the horse races from a private suite. The event also included a private betting window for those who wanted to try their luck.

In December, the YLS hosted its annual holiday party, where toys were collected for Vinny’s Kids, Inc., a local non-profit.

LANCASTER COUNTY

Following is a list of events hosted by the very busy Lancaster County YLS this past summer and fall:

July 11 - Lancaster Camp 1L event at a Barnstormers game
July 25 - Lancaster and Dauphin County Camp 1L reception at Montgomery House/LNC Marriott
Aug. 27 - YLS Q3 quarterly informal happy hour at Federal Taphouse
Sept. 5 - CLE: “Major Issues in Major Crimes 2014,” ADA Mark Fetterman
Oct. 10 - CLE: “Commercial Lending for the General Practitioner or General Business Lawyer,” Jennifer Velencia, Associate Counsel and VP, Fulton Financial Corporation and Bruce R. Spicer, Senior Counsel and VP, Fulton Financial Corporation
Nov. 13 - Young lawyers welcome lunch at Carr’s Restaurant
Dec. 12 - YLS quarterly informal happy hour at Springhouse Taproom

LEBANON COUNTY

In August, the Lebanon County Bar YLD held a joint event with the Dauphin County YLS, attending a Harrisburg Senators game on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. The Lebanon County YLD extends a big “thank you” to the Dauphin County YLS members for organizing and hosting the event.

For its final event of the year, Lebanon County YLD hosted a holiday party in December for the entire Lebanon County Bar Association. This event replaced the Oktoberfest party the YLD held last year. Lebanon’s bar has had very few social events in the past few years due to budget issues, and the young lawyers are trying to turn that trend around.

ZONE 4 (Lycoming, Montour, Columbia, Northumberland, Snyder, Tioga, Union)

The Zone 4 Caravan (Part 1) was held on Aug. 3 in Cutters Cove, which is located at the Susquehanna Bank Park at historic Bowman Field. Those in attendance enjoyed food and drinks, while watching a baseball game between the Williamsport Crosscutters and the Aberdeen Ironbirds.

The Zone 4 Caravan (Part 2) was held on Sept. 19, with a happy hour at the Old Corner. The event was open to YLD members, as well as members of the bench and bar.

The YLD held an Angel Tree Toy Drive from late November through early December. The toy drive collected toys, games, books and clothes, which were provided to the Salvation Army for distribution to local children.

ZONE 5 (Bradford, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming)

LACKAWANNA COUNTY

On Aug. 15, the Lackawanna County YLD participated in the LBA annual golf outing and clambake, and in September, were present for the LBA annual dinner dance.

The YLD hosted a well-attended Wills for Heroes event on Oct. 4, its annual Roba’s Family Farms event at the end of October, and a new admissions ceremony for new lawyers, followed by the annual YLD holiday party at POSH, on Dec. 5. Finally, on Dec. 9, the YLD hosted a Dear Santa program at the Allied Services Campus, which included a pizza party for approximately 100 children with crafts, presents and a visit from Santa.

LUZERNE COUNTY

In July, the Luzerne County YLD participated in Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Day to assist the community.

A social mixer was held with the Lackawanna County Bar Association in August.
What’s Going on in our Counties

Congratulations go to the YLD members who participated in the annual softball tournament and beat the “Big Bar.”

Zone 5 hosted its annual Oktoberfest caravan at the Arena Bar and Grill in Wilkes-Barre. The successful event was attended by young lawyers from across Pennsylvania.

On Oct. 29, the YLD had a dinner event with the judges of Luzerne County at Pazzo Restaurant.

The YLD’s annual brewery tour/bus trip to Lake Seneca, New York was held on Nov. 22.

The YLD Christmas party was held on Dec. 11 at the Westmoreland Club in Wilkes-Barre.

MONROE COUNTY

In August, the Monroe County YLD participated in the “Stuff the Bus” fundraising event, which provided school supplies for children in the community.

YLD members traveled to Wilkes-Barre for the Zone 5 Oktoberfest Caravan and had a great time meeting their colleagues from the surrounding counties.

The YLD continues to host mentoring lunches on a monthly basis with members of the bar association and the bench.

During its annual food drive for the holidays, the YLD provided food to local food banks at Thanksgiving and again in December’s holiday season.

A swearing-in ceremony was held on Dec. 19 to celebrate the admission of the new attorneys; the ceremony was followed by a holiday gathering at the Monroe County Bar Association.

In January, the YLD participated in another Habitat for Humanity event. In March, the YLD will put together teams to compete in the “Bowl for Kids Sake” fundraising event for Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

ZONE 6 (Fayette, Greene, Washington, Westmoreland)

WASHINGTON COUNTY

At the Washington County Summer Bench Bar at the Nemacolin Woodlands, Josh Camson led several members in a CLE called “Shakespeare and the Law.” Several young lawyers gave monologues and performed scenes from Shakespeare’s most famous plays. The scenes were then picked apart for lessons applicable to lawyers.

Washington County YLD had its annual wine and beer tasting/mini-golf fundraiser on Oct. 27, raising $5,000 for the Washington County Bar Foundation and the Washington County Educational Fund.

At the beginning of the year, a newly elected slate of officers began serving: Rachel Roney, chair; Joshua Camson, chair-elect; treasurer Brian Lucot, treasurer; and Leigh Lyons, secretary.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

The Westmoreland County YLD organized a final tie-breaker “young lawyers vs. not-so-young lawyers softball game” (which the young lawyers won) and sponsored a party immediately afterward.

The YLD sponsored an end-of-summer pool party for the bar association, the judges and their staff, and other courthouse employees.

On Nov. 13, the YLD helped out with an Epilepsy Foundation dinner.

The YLD sponsored the Westmoreland County Bar Association’s Christmas happy hour on Dec. 10.

The YLD is planning at least two, if not three, CLEs beginning in January.

ZONE 7 (Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Venango, Warren)

On July 10, the Erie County Bar Association’s YLD held a Zone 7 Caravan at Presque Isle Downs and Casino. There was a great turnout of young lawyers from Erie and Crawford counties. Everyone enjoyed delicious food and horse racing.

Over the past several months, the YLD has had several activities including the YLD Fall Fest on Sept. 25 and the swearing-in ceremony for new admittees on Nov. 7. On Nov. 20, the YLD hosted its second Teach a Geezer program. Each program brings together Erie’s more experienced attorneys to be mentored by the younger attorneys in the areas of technology. November’s meeting focused on social media.

ZONE 8 (Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana, Mifflin, Somerset)

BLAIR COUNTY

The Blair County YLD now has certified Wills for Heroes coordinators. We are currently in discussion with various law enforcement agencies to plan an event and are looking for fundraising to get computers for the event.

The YLD continues to support Lunch & Learns; upcoming presentations will include “Custody Process in Blair County” and “Cloud-based Computer Systems for Law Offices.” The cost is $15 per person. Zone 8 young lawyers received invitations, but anyone is welcomed.

The Blair County YLD will be organizing a group of young lawyers to be sworn in at the Supreme Court of The United States. It will be scheduled on an argument day, so space is limited. Please contact the Zone 8 Chair Joel Seelye at joel@grabillandseelye.com if you are interested.
What’s Going on in our Counties

Anyone in Zone 8 who is interested in being on the mailing list for events in the Zone, please email Joel Seelye at joel@grabil-landseelye.com

ZONE 9 (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery)

CHESTER COUNTY
In August, the Chester County YLD hosted a night at the Phillies, attended by 25 members.
In September, the YLD had a small meeting to discuss potential by-law changes and announce voting procedures.
Chester County’s fall bench/bar conference took place in October; many YLDers were in attendance.
The YLD hosted a happy hour on Oct. 2 to invite prospective members. There was some DA and PD attendance for the first time.
In November, the YLD voted to amend its by-laws, held the YLD annual meeting and conducted elections, and hosted three of the Inn of Court leaders to discuss YLD participation.
Many members of the Chester County YLD volunteered to participate in the Chesco Wills for Heroes event on Dec. 6.

DELAWARE COUNTY
On Sept. 20, the Delaware County Young Lawyers Section (YLS) held the 4th Annual 5K Run for the House at Rose Tree Park in Media. This annual event is organized by the section for the purpose of raising funds for the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House. This year, the race raised $5,412, an increase of $1,635 from last year’s race. Members of the section approved, by unanimous vote, to additionally donate $588 of their own funds to increase the total 2014 donation to the Ronald McDonald House to $6,000 – increasing the total amount the YLS has donated through this event to more than $20,000. The 2014 donation will also allow the YLS to remain an Adopt-A-Room sponsor in 2015.
On Dec. 6, the YLS hosted its annual holiday party at the Broad Axe Tavern in Blue Bell.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
In September, the Montgomery County Young Lawyers Section (YLS) participated in the Travis Manion Foundation’s 9/11 Heroes Run (5K+1M Fun Run), which took place at the Montgomery County Court House on Sept. 7. The YLS also spearheaded a Wills For Heroes event on Sept. 20 in Whitpain Township.
In October and November, the YLS collected slightly-used women’s professional clothing in coordination with the Dress for Success program. This program provides suiting apparel to women interviewing and applying for new jobs. Read more about the program here: www.dressforsuccess.org. The following law firms graciously helped us coordinate this effort: Elliot Greenleaf & Siedzikowski; Fox Rothschild; Hamburg, Rubin, Mullin, Maxwell & Lupin; Kane, Pugh, Knoell, Troy & Kramer; and Kaplin Stewart.
In December, the YLS had its annual holiday party at the Broad Axe Tavern in Blue Bell.

ZONE 10 (Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, Mercer)

BEAVER COUNTY
The Beaver County YLD continues to hold monthly meetings and is preparing for the Mock Trial Competition. In conjunction with our Oktoberfest, the YLD held a pj/coat drive and donated a substantial number of pajamas and coats to our local children and youth services department.

BUTLER COUNTY
The Butler County YLD had a busy fall. The YLD sponsored a family picnic for the entire bar association in September. In addition, the YLD held monthly meetings and successfully amended the Butler County Bar Association’s by-laws to grant the YLD president a position on the Bar Executive Council. YLD members continue to attend monthly Coffee with the Judges events and in November/December for the second year in a row, the YLD sponsored a collection drive for the Butler County CYS and a gift card drive for VOICe, the local domestic violence shelter.

ZONE 11 (Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Potter)

CENTRE COUNTY
During July and August, the Centre County YLD fielded a softball team in the Centre County Rec League and, after each weekly game, hosted a happy hour event to which the entire CCBA was invited. The YLD had a summer BBQ team party on Aug. 9.
What’s Going on in our Counties

The PBA YLD Zone 11 Caravan was held at Tussey Mountain Wingfest on Aug. 21. Approximately 30 people from the Centre County Bar Association and Clearfield County Bar Associations were in attendance.

On Oct. 10, Centre County hosted its annual Bench Bar Day with CLEs presented throughout the day, including one presented by PBA Law Practice Management Coordinator Ellen Freedman.

At the Centre County Community Super Fair on Oct. 18, CCBA participated in PBA’s public information campaign on education rights by manning a table at fair to provide information on education rights.

A happy hour event was held at Happy Valley Brewing Company on Nov. 7, and a Bridge the Gap CLE program administered by CCBA Executive Director Hollyce Winters was held on Nov. 8.

The CCBA holiday party was on Dec. 5 at The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel.

Upcoming events include a Wills For Heroes event on Feb. 7, a Relay For Life event on April 11-12, and fundraisers in January, February and March. A Centre County and Clearfield County Bar meet and greet was held in January.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY

Clearfield County YLD is planning several upcoming events, including a series of Lunch and Learn CLEs (date and location TBD), and the aforementioned meet and greet with Centre County.

CAMERON COUNTY

The Cameron County YLD is planning a Stepping Out Program (date and location TBD), which consists of giving presentations at area high schools on the legal consequences of turning 18 and “stepping out” into the world as a legal adult.

ZONE 12 (Allegheny)

In August, the Allegheny County YLD hosted its annual golf outing at Grandview Golf Club. This membership favorite is an all-day event that includes 18 holes of golf (scramble competition), three meals, 10 prizes, 4 hole-in-one grand prizes, trophies, gift bags for all, all-you-can-eat, all-you-can-drink and an “every-one-wins-something” raffle table for only $90 per person. The YLD golf outing is meant to be an affordable way for young lawyers to entertain clients and co-workers.

In August, the YLD participated in the ACBA Backpack Project by sponsoring and sending volunteers. This project creates backpacks full of school supplies for hundreds of underprivileged students in Pittsburgh.

Every fall, the YLD Public Service Committee begins the Stepping Out Program. Members of the YLD are sent to Pittsburgh area high schools to give presentations on the legal consequences of turning 18 and “stepping out” into the world as a legal adult.

In September, the YLD celebrated its 50th anniversary with a cocktail reception at the Duquesne Club. The YLD invited back all of its past chairs to meet with attendees.

Judicial Team Trivia (a Zone 12 Caravan event) was held at the Rivers Club in One Oxford Center on Nov. 19. YLD members and student members enjoyed a cocktail hour with judges and then were placed in small teams, headed by a judge, for an hour and a half of trivia designed to test knowledge in various law-based categories in a fun way. Prizes were awarded to the top team. Judges and justices from the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania and the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County were invited. The registration fee was $30 per person and included cocktail hour, an hour and a half of trivia, two drink tickets and heavy appetizers.

Every year, the YLD collects hundreds of gifts from law firms across the city and distributes them to hundreds of children living in Pittsburgh area homeless shelters over the holiday season. During this two-day event, gifts were collected, sorted and wrapped by YLD members who, along with Santa, gave the gifts to more than a dozen area homeless shelters and hosted a party for the children.

The YLD hosted its annual holiday party at the HYP Club on Dec. 10. This large annual event was open to the entire YLD membership and included drinks and appetizers, a raffle and a contribution box for Attorneys Against Hunger.

A Lunch and Learn was held on Dec. 2 at the ACBA Conference Center Auditorium. With the development of the Marcellus Shale, legal issues relating to the oil and gas and energy industries have grown exponentially in Pennsylvania in recent years. These issues impact a wide array of practice areas, including real estate, environmental, corporate governance, financial services, construction, legislative affairs and litigation. Topics discussed during this program included the current state of the oil and gas and energy industries in Western Pennsylvania; emerging legal issues currently being faced by companies involved in the oil and gas and energy industries; and, do’s and don’ts for young lawyers when dealing with in-house counsel for an energy company.
I have been a lawyer for 10 years now and am exploring whether I should stay in the practice of law or consider a different work environment, a career alteration, or possibly a transition out of law. Am I unusual? What do I need to consider before making a move?

As some readers know, I have been practicing as a career-planning consultant for more than 20 years, guiding lawyers who are going through some facet of employment transition. Many lawyers are rushed for time, with daily deadlines coming at them like blades of a windmill. With technology today, lawyers are never really “off the clock.” But even if you are unhappy, decisions to leave a particular job or career are difficult indeed.

In your mid-30’s, you may look at your law-practice mentor in his/her late 40’s or 50’s — and the excessive pressure put on him/her to produce and manage staff — and honestly ask yourself, “Is this where I want to be in 10-15 years?” If you are putting in 50 or more hours a week, with weekends unavailable for family, friends, and outside activities, it may be time to explore your options.

Ask yourself this question: Is there a “pew” or sector within the sanctuary of law that might be more accommodating, even if the compensation might not be as favorable? Examples might include work within a corporate or business environment. A number of lawyers I have counseled have a business mindset. Such an individual is what I call a “businessperson who happens to have a law degree.”

Many think of corporate law as working for a company such as Comcast, Verizon, Merck, etc., but there are a number of opportunities for younger lawyers to become counsel within an emerging company or business. Such opportunities are regularly seen in magazines like *Inc.* and *Fast Company*, where growing businesses are seeking a lawyer who will stay with them as they develop.

Other lawyers in a career alteration may wish to work in a non-profit, higher education or with a community, civic, governmental or political organization. Some may ultimately provide a service to law firms. Since the legal recession started in 2007, firms have cut back some services and have contracted work out, creating increasing possibilities for lawyers. Finally, a number of lawyers whom I have guided have decided to open their own firms, sharing benefits and expenses with one or two colleagues.

According to a recent article in the *ABA Journal*, 25% of the year 2000 law school graduates are not practicing law, per se. They may be using their legal knowledge, skills, insight, analytical ability and interest in their new line of work, but not on a day-in, day-out basis.

For example, my youngest son is a director of major gifts at a large institution where the person who hired him — his mentor — was a former practicing lawyer. Similarly, when I gave money to my undergraduate college, the assistant director of development called and thanked me for my donation and explained that he had gone into institutional higher education with his J.D.

While in law school, many lawyers think of their career as a ladder, in which they step up a rung every few years. In reality, it is like a jungle gym, with twists and turns they never expected back in law school.

Most lawyers have “tunnel vision.” They think, “This is what I know and have done for 6-10 years; what else is available for me?” Career Planning Services for Lawyers is a national practice that assists lawyers going through a change, whether it be a forced or elective move.

Lawyers graduating today will likely go through five jobs and two careers during their 30-plus years in gainful employment. There is no reason to stay on “cruise control” and be unhappy when there are other opportunities that you may have never considered. Good luck.

While in law school, many lawyers think of their career as a ladder, in which they step up a rung every few years. In reality, it is like a jungle gym, with twists and turns they never expected back in law school.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Upcoming PBA YLD Events

February 26-28, 2015
PBA Conference of County Bar Leaders (CCBL)*
Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square
Lancaster, PA

March 25, 2015
PBA Committee & Section Day
Radisson Hotel Harrisburg
Camp Hill, PA

March 27-28, 2015
PBA/YLD Statewide Mock Trial Championship
Dauphin County Courthouse
Harrisburg, PA

May 6-7, 2015
PBA Annual Meeting*
Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel
Philadelphia, PA

May 8, 2015
PBA House of Delegates
Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel
Philadelphia, PA

August 5-7, 2015
PBA/YLD Summer Meeting/New Admittee Conference*
Seven Springs Resort
Seven Springs, PA

November 19, 2015
PBA Committee & Section Day*
Holiday Inn East
Harrisburg, PA

*YLD business meeting will take place during the event.
CLICK HERE FOR UPCOMING PBA YLD EVENTS.

PBA YLD Seeks 2015-2016 Nominations

The PBA Young Lawyers Division's nominating committee, chaired by Bernard John, is accepting applications from YLD members interested in seeking nominations to run as candidates for the division's 2015-2016 chair-elect, secretary, treasurer, and division delegate positions. The terms will begin at the conclusion of the 2015 Annual Meeting (May 6-7, at the Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel, Philadelphia PA).

If you are interested in being nominated by the nominating committee under Article IV, Section 2, of the by-laws, please submit your qualifications and a brief biographical sketch by March 7, 2015 to Jacob Gurwitz, Feeney & Gurwitz, 500 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601; or fax: (610) 370-6515; or email: jgurwitz@usa.net.

If you wish to be nominated by petition under Article IV, Section 4 of the by-laws, please send your materials with a petition signed by at least 15 YLD members by April 7, 2015 to the above address or fax number.

Send a copy of all materials to Maria Engles, YLD Coordinator, Pennsylvania Bar Association, 100 South Street, P.O. Box 186, Harrisburg, PA 17108, fax: 717-238-7182 or maria.engles@pabar.org.


For information about the election process, contact Jacob Gurwitz at (610) 378-7000.

Calling All Writers!

The YLD At Issue editors are now accepting article submissions meeting the following criteria:
1. The subject matter should be relevant to young lawyers.
2. Articles should be no longer than 1,200 words. Longer articles may be considered to run as a series.
3. All submissions must include a short author biography and a digital photo of the author (300 dpi resolution preferred).
4. Electronic submissions (MS Word) are preferred. Please submit articles to Jonathan Koltash at jonathan.koltash@gmail.com.
5. Articles for the next issue are due by April 1, 2015.