



Westmoreland Revisited

Practicing Law In The Depression

by The Hon. Daniel J. Ackerman

In the third month after Black Friday, the annual meeting of the Westmoreland Law Association' convened in the small library of the courthouse at 2 o'clock on Monday, January 13, 1930. The minutes of the meeting suggest business as usual.



The Hon. Daniel J. Ackerman

The report of the Treasurer showed that at the beginning of the year there was a balance in his hands of \$166.96 and that he collected as dues from members of the Association the sum of \$210.00, making a total of \$376.96 in the treasury...

The following named persons were recommended for admission to the Westmoreland Law Association—Messrs. Avra N. Pershing, Jr., Clarence W. Beck and Robert M. Carson, and having paid their entrance fees, were, on motion duly seconded, admitted as members thereof.

James Gregg, Esq., Chairman of the Executive Committee, of the Law Association, read a paper setting forth the daily number of hours for holding court in the several classes of counties of the

' The original name of the Westmoreland Bar Association.



State, showing that Westmoreland County holds court a longer number of hours per day than any other county in its class. The Executive Committee recommended in this paper that the hours for holding court in Westmoreland County be shortened to two and one-half hours in the forenoon and two and one-half hours in the afternoon of each day.

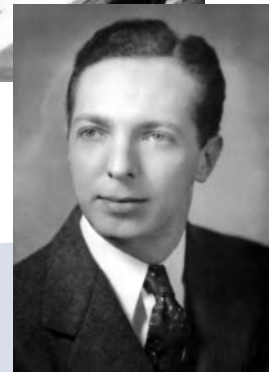


As with current minutes, there was no mention of the events shaping the outside world.

The events of the Depression are something that only a few recall. To have lived at all during the Depression one had to have been born before World War II. The effect of this greatest of economic upheavals still lingers in the recesses of the minds

H. Reginald Belden, Sr., and his wife, Irene, in the early 1930s.

H. Reginald Belden, Sr., in the late 1930s.



(Photos courtesy of Marcia I. Lappas)

of those of us who had parents or grandparents who bore the brunt of it.

It is hard to exaggerate the effects of the Depression. Following the stock market crash, five thousand banks failed. Stocks on average were worth 11% of their 1929 value and investors lost \$74 billion, three times the cost of the First World War. In 1932, 273,000 families were evicted from their homes

continued on page 4

President's Message

Only You Can Make A Difference

by James E. Whelton, Jr., Esq.

I know, it sounds like the slogan from the Smokey Bear campaign, but it's true.

Judge Caruso spoke at this year's Memorial Service on behalf of the Bench. Although we had not consulted with one another before hand, the tenor of his remarks and mine were

very similar, though his were more eloquent and better delivered.

He remarked that when we remember the lives of persons who work in the law, "we are remembering persons who fought

for those who, for whatever the reason, could not fight for themselves ... These lawyers fought for their clients in order that they would receive what we hope the courts will provide, and that, is justice."

To a person, that's what we do. Every member of our bar association will fight for those who are unable to fight for themselves. We do it for clients who can pay and we do it for those who can't. We also represent countless charities and civic organizations—sometimes as lawyers and sometimes as officers or board members. We volunteer our time with the Mock Trial Program, the Explorer's Post, Law Day, and we help to educate parents and kids about the dangers of online predators. We do it all because it's what we do. And we do it because it is the right thing to do.

Lawyers do good work—life-changing work. The changes are not always monumental in the way a new Supreme Court decision upholding constitutional rights may be, but these changes can significantly alter lives in positive ways, and of this we can be rightfully proud.

The Pennsylvania Bar Association, with the participation of the WBA, recently sponsored a television ad campaign. It was a tasteful campaign designed to portray some of the good work that Pennsylvania lawyers do every day. Although I personally did not like all of the ads, I thought they were good overall and were sorely needed. Unfortunately, more will be needed.

Public perception of lawyers must be changed. Ours is a profession, not a job. Our profession has been the butt of jokes for far too long and we've allowed ourselves to be

out-manuevered by the lobbyists representing other "professions."

So, other than running TV commercials, what can we do? The first thing I would suggest is to be proud. Don't shrink from the argument. The irony is that those

who would denounce us are the first to call for help when they or a family member has been arrested, has been hurt in an accident, or just needs help.

Secondly, keep doing the good work that helps change people's lives for the better. But let's do it with civility. I was surprised to learn that one of our judges saw the need to put copies of the rules of civility at counsel table. I know, it's always just a few bad apples and usually they're from some other county. I would ask, however, if you've ever heard anyone boast, "I'm not as bad as so-and-so." I know none of you reading this have ever made such a statement about yourself.

Lastly, we need a good dose of reality. The reality is that every year

brings renewed attacks on the practice of law, people's rights, and the judicial system. I'm not referring to only "tort reform" (and yes, you had better be prepared to see those efforts renewed) or the sales tax initiatives, but to laws that permit non-lawyers to do what only a lawyer should do, and laws that impede judicial independence. Concerted efforts from PACs representing other professions are at least partly responsible for these continuing attacks as well as the erosion of the public's trust in our profession.

To level the field, we need to support our PACs. This is a responsibility that

each of us shares equally. In an ideal world, I would agree with every position advanced and every candidate supported by our PACs. Changes are on the horizon for the WBA PAC (which limits its activities local legislative races) and hopefully

Keep doing the good work that helps change people's lives for the better. But let's do it with civility.

we will soon have an even more effective PBA Bar PAC to better represent our profession on statewide issues. The WBA PAC and the PBA Bar PAC support me. In turn, I support them and so should you.

As lawyers, we harness outrage and indignation to champion the causes of others. We find hope in despair and make sense of the senseless. We lead our clients to what it is they are searching for—justice. If you want to keep fighting for others, join this fight. Give—because no one else may and it's the right thing to do. Remember, only you can make a difference.



Award-Winning Vince Quatrini A Consummate Professional

by Robert I. Johnston, Esq.

When Vince Quatrini received the President's Award for Professionalism from the WBA at the recent annual meeting, he joined Reg Belden, Dick Galloway, Jack Bergstein, Skip O'Connell, Milt Munk, and Dan Joseph as the only WBA members so honored with its most prestigious award. Remove them from the history of our Association and this would likely be a very different place to be lawyer. Most of what we have come to associate with membership in our Bar, including the building we call home and the fact that we have an executive director and a full-time staff, was the result of their vision and perseverance.

What makes their contribution so special can be illustrated by explaining a little of what makes Vince such a worthy addition. After graduating from Duquesne University Law School in 1974 and spending time in the Westmoreland County District Attorney's office, Vince formed and became managing partner of one of the most respected and successful law firms in Westmoreland County, Quatrini Rafferty Galloway (or QRG), which came to prominence and thrives in no small part because of Vince's determination and drive. Vince has developed a statewide reputation in his area of specialty, Workers Compensation. He has served as Chair of the PBA Workers Compensation Committee, served on the state Rules Committee, and for years was a co-author of "Pennsylvania Workers

Compensation Practice and Procedure." He has lectured on any number of topics in his area of practice and recently began a series of programs presented across the state entitled "Medicine for Lawyers."

Like each of the previous recipients of this award, Vince served on our board during a period in our history which marks our transition to one of the most respected county bars in Pennsylvania. In the years since, he has been as engaged in service to the profession and the community as much as anyone I've had the privilege to know, including Reg Belden, the veritable gold standard for giving back to the world he inhabited. It's hard to know where to start or what to leave out in the interest of brevity so I'll just skim the surface. Vince was chair of the PBA Conference of County Bar Leaders, the Westmoreland County Bar Foundation, the March of Dimes, and the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County. He has long been active with the Center Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and Adelphoi Village. He even found the time recently to serve on a Pennsylvania Bar Association Task Force dealing with lawyer advertising, a subject about which he feels passionately.

In preparation for this story, Vince and I had lunch together and I had a chance to ask him the question you are probably as curious about as I: "Vince, what do you do in your spare time?" Actually, I wanted to know what drives someone to become immersed in so many aspects of the community. The

answer, as it turns out, goes back to Vince's father, a fine man I had the privilege of knowing many years ago when he was Editor of the Latrobe Bulletin and covered some of the work we did in the District Attorney's office.

Being a newspaper man was just part of what Vince, Sr., did. In his spare time, he also served as Sports Information Director for Saint Vincent College and, to make ends meet, sold used cars on the side.

When it came to effort, Vince, Sr., set the bar pretty high, providing an example that clearly still moves Vince, Jr., after 33 years in the profession.

There are lots of awards that seem to serve no greater purpose than to add a little polish to the résumés of the recipients. A really good award ought to be inspirational, one that celebrates the achievement as much as the person, an award that grows in stature by virtue of those who have earned it. It's an award given neither lightly nor often, conferred only when adding a new name to the list of honorees makes the award seem even more important than before. Such an award should honor not a single contribution, or even several, but a lifetime of taking the time and trouble to be an influence. The President's Award for Professionalism is such an award and it is fitting that Vince Quatrini has been added to the role of its recipients. Vince, Sr., would be really proud.



Vince Quatrini

the sidebar

the sidebar is published bimonthly as a service for members of the Westmoreland Bar Association. Letters to the Editor should be sent c/o WBA, 129 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601-

2311, fax 724-834-6855, or e-mail westbar.org@verizon.net. the sidebar welcomes unsolicited submissions from members or non-members. Please submit to the Articles Editor, c/o WBA.

Back issues from 2000 to the present and a comprehensive, searchable index are available online at www.westbar.org/html/publications.

EDITORIAL BOARD

David J. Millstein, Esq., *Editor*
Beth Orbison, Esq., *Assistant Editor*
The Hon. Daniel J. Ackerman,
Chief Bottle Washer
Susan C. Zellner, *Associate Editor*
Diane Krivoniak, *Managing Editor*

Practicing Law In The Depression *continued from page 1*



▲
Carroll Caruthers
 (Photo courtesy of
 J. David Caruthers)

were requiring a bachelor's degree to be hired as an elevator operator. About two million people roamed the country, what Fortune called the Depression's "wandering population," looking for a way out and their next meal. Communities could not cope with the needs of their own

and where there was a wage earner, the average wage was \$16.21 a week. Unemployment reached 24% in 1933 and industrial production fell to one-half of its prior peak. The steel industry was working at 19% of capacity. In September of 1932, Fortune magazine reported that 34 million people were without any income whatsoever—28% of the population. People learned to do without and use what they had. A friend told me that his father used the same razor blade for a year by honing it daily on the inside of a water glass.

Being educated did not guarantee protection. In 1932, New York department stores

populations and when impoverished strangers showed up, they were charged with vagrancy before the local magistrate and dumped across the county line where the process began anew.

In 1932, one of our court criers was asked, "because of economic conditions," to accept a reduction in salary from \$137.50 to \$50.00 per month. Rather than be terminated, the crier agreed to the reduction without protest for two years, but then demanded full payment of his back wages and was discharged. He sued the county and the court ruled in *Werkman v. Westmoreland County*, 20 WLJ 230 (1936), that the crier's salary, which had been set by the legislature at \$1650.00 per year, could not be reduced and the crier's agreement to the contrary was not binding. The court's order awarded \$1531.25, with no reference to reinstatement.

John M. O'Connell, Jr., recalls his father would wait until he had collected several deeds before presenting them



▲
Joseph M. Loughran
 (Photo courtesy of The
 Hon. Charles H. Loughran)

Business Valuation Services

- Estate & Gift Taxes
- Divorce Settlements
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Stockholder Transactions

Whether your client needs a comprehensive valuation opinion to withstand scrutiny by third parties or an estimate of value for internal use, you can rely on our team of qualified professionals to provide a full range of business valuation services.

Contact: Maryann White, CPA
Accredited in Business Valuation



**KELLY, SPARBER, WHITE
 & ASSOCIATES, LLC**

Certified Public Accountants

2510 Ligonier St., Latrobe, PA 15650 • Phone: 724.539.4581
 Fax: 724.537.0332 • E-mail: KSW@kellysparberwhite.com



◀ Rabe F. Marsh, Jr., with his coupe.
(Photo courtesy of Rabe F. Marsh, III)

From left to right: Rabe F. Marsh, Jr.; his mother, Jesse Dalbey Marsh; and his brother, Iden Dalbey Marsh, in October 1935. (Photo courtesy of Rabe F. Marsh, III)



▲ Paul W. Mahady, taken in 1933 upon his admission to practice law. (Photo courtesy of Pat Mahady)

for recording because the recording of a single deed did not warrant the expense of the 15¢ trolley fare from Jeannette to Greensburg.

Forty-some years ago I asked Calvin Pollins what it was like to practice law in the '30s. The best he could say was that litigation didn't decline. People, he said, were prone to sue each other over small sums that in more prosperous times they would have written off. He also recounted the story of a Greensburg lawyer who was so frequently in default on his telephone bill that the phone company removed his regular telephone and installed a pay phone in a closet in his office.

Desperate times spawned a cascade of legislation at both the state and federal level such as the Social Security Act, the National Labor Relations Act, the Unemployment Compensation

Law, the Anti-Labor Injunction Act, and the Fair Sales Act, to name a few. Oversight departments, agencies and boards were created, including the Department of Labor and Industry, the Health Department, the Board of Education, the Workmans' Compensation Board, the Department of Agriculture, and others. All of this created an opportunity for legal work, but it did not necessarily create fees.

With this background, let us return to some of the minutes of the

Association for the remainder of the decade to see some of its activities in context.



ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 13, 1931

Mr. Jay R. Spiegel, a member of the Grievance Committee of this Association, made some pointed remarks regarding a number of complaints he has received as a member of such committee, concerning abuses alleged to exist in the Westmoreland County Bar, such as hiring runners and unfair newspaper publicity.



ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 11, 1932

William L. Kahenowitz, Chairman of the Executive Committee, reported that little has been done by the Committee during the year 1931, due to lack of funds caused by the depression, except keeping up to date the various periodicals subscribed to by the Association, and stated further, that the Committee had requisitioned the Court for sufficient funds to carry on the various undertakings of the Law Association, which requisition is now pending.

The report of the Citizens Law Library Committee was received, the

continued on page 6



Beverly A. Dickson-Lewandowski RN ADN CLNC

**ATTENTION ATTORNEYS
MEDICAL RECORDS MAKING
YOU ILL?**

I have your prescription for relief. I am a RN CLNC (Certified Legal Nurse Consultant). I have 20 years experience reading, writing and deciphering doctors, nurses and other notes, which are parts of the medical record of any legal case. Let me put my **INSIDER** experience to work for you, and get well-deserved relief for the ills caused by your case medical records.

**CONTACT ME TODAY
FOR YOUR CURE**


BDL MEDICAL LEGAL CONSULTING SERVICES

724-832-5664 (Home Office) or 724-787-0266

www.bdlmed-legalconsulting.com

Email me: bdlewandowski@bdlmed-legalconsulting.com

Practicing Law In The Depression continued from page 5



For Register of Wills

JOHN W. POLLINS
Greensburg, Pa.

Republican Primaries, Tues. September 15, 1931

Your Vote and Influence Respectfully Solicited



▲ Campaign literature from 1931 primary. (Courtesy of John W. Pollins, III)



▲ John W. Pollins, Jr., in the driver's seat (and in photo at left), with his father, John W. Pollins, in the back seat. (Photos courtesy of John W. Pollins, III)

same showing that aside from periodicals, the Committee had received and disbursed no money during the year 1931, for the reason given in report of the Executive Committee.

W. G. Donald Donohoe, Arvel C. Scales, John S. Lightcap, Jr., Joseph Bonidy, Robert W. Smith, Jr., Everett S. C. Sorber, are duly elected members of the Westmoreland Law Association.

Remarks by the Honorable William S. Rial, concerning the advisability of inviting the several Judges of the Courts of Westmoreland County, to attend the meetings of the Association, at the conclusion of which remarks, it was moved by the Senator, duly seconded, that, in pursuance to Article VIII of the Constitution of this Association, which reads as follows:

"Any member of the Association who may become a Judge or Justice of any Court of Record shall be, while he shall hold such office an honorary member of the Association, and shall be entitled to all its privileges except that of voting, and shall be exempt from payment of dues."

Louis Alexander Sculco was duly elected a member of the Westmoreland Law Association.



SPECIAL MEETING OF JANUARY 29, 1932

Meeting called to order by the President, who stated that the purpose of the meeting was to secure a formal expression of the feeling of the members of the Law Association relative to the rumored request by the County Commissioners and Controller, for the continuance of the February Term Civil List, because of the financial embarrassment of the County.

* * *

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, and it is hereby resolved by the Westmoreland Law Association, in special meeting assembled, that it earnestly requests the Court to proceed with the business of the Court and the trial of cases at the time and in the manner fixed by rule of Court and as heretofore conducted, and that a copy of this resolution be given to each of the Judges of the said Court.

EXPERIENCE INTEGRITY EXCELLENCE

USI Colburn is the endorsed insurance administrator for The Westmoreland Bar Association.

Specializing in offering members single-source access to a broad spectrum of quality products and services.

- Medical
- Employee Benefits
- Disability
- Term Life
- Long-term Care and more!

To learn more please contact us at
800.327.1550
www.colburn.com

THE CHOICE OF PENNSYLVANIA ATTORNEYS.
 Lawyer's Professional Liability Insurance you can count on... from a company you can trust!



USI Colburn Insurance Service
A USI AFFINITY COMPANY



▲ Members of the Pollins family including John W. Pollins, Jr., (far left) and Calvin E. Pollins (far right). (Photo courtesy of John W. Pollins, III)



◀ John W. Pollins, Jr. (Photo courtesy of John W. Pollins, III)

Westmoreland Law Association hereby call upon the said Charles D. Copeland to be a candidate for Governor at the 1934 Primaries, that we hereby endorse such candidacy, and further that we hereby commend him not only to the members of the legal profession, but also to the people of the State at large,

and advise them that they will make no mistake in supporting him as a candidate for Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 9, 1933

Joseph M. Loughran was duly elected a member of the Westmoreland Law Association.

Thereafter, the President read an order of court filed at No. 277 February Term, 1933 captioned In re: Appointment and Approval of a Committee to Investigate Charges

Against the Professional Conduct of Members of the Bar of This Court. The committee consisted of twelve lawyers and the order provided: *said Committee is hereby authorized and directed to issue its subpoena directed to any person whom said Committee may desire to examine in connection with any such charges in accordance with the provisions of the Act of General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, approved the 4th day of June, 1929, P. L. 384, as amended by the Act of June 12th, 1931, P. L. 543.*

ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 8, 1934

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the



▲ John W. Pollins, Jr., and Calvin E. Pollins, at their graduation from the University of Michigan in 1926. (Photo courtesy of John W. Pollins, III)

SPECIAL MEETING, APRIL 13, 1934

Special meeting of the Westmoreland Law Association called to order at one thirty o'clock P.M., the same being called on written request of seventeen members of the Association for the purpose of considering the action of the Court in abandoning the May Sessions of Civil and Criminal Court, and for general purposes.

ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 14, 1935

Vance E. Booher, a member of the Citizens Law Library Committee, presented the following reports: "I might say the Chairman of the Committee is not here. We have not been getting any money out of the Commissioners. Every month I went to them for Mrs. Williams salary. Out of \$7000.00 we cut down our requirements to around \$4000.00; took that to them and they said that they would take care of it. They finally gave us \$1500.00 to take care of her salary and some other

continued on page 8

SAVE THE DATE AND TIME

SEPTEMBER 14, 2007
7:00 - 10:00 P.M.

Centennial Celebration Gala

Centennial Committee

&
OPENING RECEPTION

History Through Art

A JURIED EXHIBITION

Southwestern Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Inc.

at the Westmoreland County Courthouse
Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Tickets will go on sale in July.

Practicing Law In The Depression continued from page 7

Family Law in the Depression

Marital problems have always been with us. Here are a few examples of how the court dealt with them in the Depression.

In *Commonwealth v. Miller*, 18 WLJ 251 (1930), the district attorney charged the defendant with separating himself from his wife and child without reasonable cause and neglecting to support the wife and child. Two days prior to their marriage, the husband and wife signed an agreement providing that the husband was absolved of all liability for the support of the wife and any children resulting from the marriage. The court concluded that the agreement was contrary to public policy and when the defendant "left the marriage-altar, the said instrument dated April 27, 1929 was thereby cancelled and rendered null and void, in so far that it was in conflict with the marriage vow." The defendant was ordered to pay \$27.00 per month support for the wife and child, to post a \$1000.00 bond and to stand committed until the sentence was complied with.

In *Smith v. Smith*, 17 WLJ (1930), the court granted a divorce upon finding: That beginning about four months after the marriage and continuing until the withdrawal of the libellant from his home and habitation on or about May 1, 1928 the respondent subjected the libellant to gross indignities which consisted of the following: destroyed registration papers for his cattle, hindered the sale of his cattle by calling them in the presence of proposed purchasers "rotten cows"; refused to get a meal for threshers when they were working at his place; called him and his relatives vile and indecent names in the presence of his children, neighbors and friends; refused to put him a place at the table at meal time; compelled him to get his own plate, knife and fork and pour his own coffee; when he had a cold in his chest and had to cough told him if he had to bark he was to go out with the rest of the dogs; turned her back on him one time when he fell off the spring wagon and got a gash on his head, and other indignities.

In *Boerio v. Boerio*, 20 WLJ 256 (1935), the court was faced with a petition for the payment of counsel fees of \$300.00, a \$25.00 filing fee, \$350.00 for printing and \$5.00 per week alimony during the pendency of the wife's appeal of this divorce action to the superior court. Noting that the husband had paid at the common pleas level counsel fees of \$75.00, expenses of \$5.00 and alimony pendente lite of \$5.00 per week, the court concluded that neither party had the means to pay the cost of the appeal and dismissed the petition.

bills which amount to \$4000.00. The books now are being sent to us C.O.D. Now we have enough money that we can give everyone a little bit. We expect another \$1500.00 within a short time. At that if we use all of that for old debts, we will still be quite a bit in the hole. We need repairs around the library. We put things pretty plainly to the County Commissioners and they said that they hoped to be able to do something for us that we would get the full \$4000.00.

The committee on Admissions made the following report and recommendations. Charles H. Harman: "I wrote 40 letters to members suggesting that they join the Westmoreland Law Association. Out of those 40 letters, I get 8 replies. I move the admission of Thomas P. Nee, Donald Laird Hankey, David Harold Weiss, A. Frank Steiner, Henry E. Shaw, Oliver B. Shields, H. Reginald Belden, Paul Mahady, and William J. McDowell, Jr., Stephen B. Ewing, Frank Shea and Willis E. Topper.



▲ A.C. Scales and his wife, Gladys (Photo courtesy of John Scales)

Upon Motion of M.J.K. Davis, seconded by James Gregg, the above named gentlemen were admitted.

M.J.K. Davis, Treasurer of the Banquet Committee for 1934, begs leave to submit the following report:

<i>To amount received</i>	<i>\$324.00</i>
<i>To disbursements as follows:</i>	
<i>Catherine Clancy, Country Club</i>	<i>\$ 5.00</i>
<i>Catherine's Waiters</i>	<i>8.00</i>
<i>Sandy, Country Club</i>	<i>7.50</i>
<i>James L. Horning, printing</i>	<i>18.50</i>
<i>Joseph Thomas, flowers</i>	<i>9.50</i>
<i>Stamps</i>	<i>8.58</i>
<i>Henry Printing Co.</i>	<i>9.75</i>
<i>Catherine Clancy, dinners</i>	<i>190.50 257.33</i>
<i>Balance on hand</i>	<i>\$ 66.67</i>

*Respectfully submitted,
M.J.K. Davis*

Moved by Rabe F. Marsh, Sr., seconded by Howard H. Whitehead, that the unexpended fund of the Banquet Committee shall be used to purchase a suitable present for Albert H. Bell, Esquire, and to tender him a dinner, at which dinner each and every guest, except Mr. Bell, shall be required

to pay for his own individual entertainment. Motion carried.



ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 13, 1936

The Committee on Admissions having no report to submit, it was moved by Charles H. Harman, seconded by John C. Silsley, that William Theodore Dom III, Edward J. Morrell and Theodore Levin be admitted to membership in the Association. Motion carried.

The report of the Committee on the Unauthorized Practice of Law was called for, but no member of the Committee being prepared to give a report James Gregg asked permission to bring to the attention of the Association rumors of a "Count of Monte Christo" operating within the County and located in Greensburg. Robert W. Smith, Sr. reported the gentlemen referred to by Mr. Gregg was now residing in the Moorehead residence in West Pittsburgh Street, and while he has been informed this gentleman solicited accident cases against the Pennsylvania Railroad

A.C. Scales (below and at right) models fashions of the day. (Photos courtesy of John Scales)



when he was located in Altoona he is now advised

he has ceased that practice and is now devoting his time to the playing of the stock market—to which report the President stated if he persisted in his present activities he would receive his just rewards.



SPECIAL MEETING, APRIL 30, 1937

It was thereupon moved by George H. McWherter and seconded by Raymond Sowash as follows:

"Whereas a certain proposed law has been introduced in the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, now in session, and known as House Bill No. 1753, wherein among many other provisions it is proposed to create a state agency or corporation known as the "Pennsylvania State Bar", and to socialize the practice of law in the State of Pennsylvania and regiment the lawyers of the state subject to the regulation and approval of the Board of Governors:

Therefore be it resolved that the Westmoreland County Law Association disapproves the proposed legislation and hereby remonstrates against the passage of same: and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be given to each of Westmoreland County's representatives in the General Assembly.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

continued on page 10



Banking
Insurance
Trust
Financial Management
Investments

FIRST Commonwealth
800-711-BANK (2265)
877-816-1801 TTY Line
fcbanking.com

FCB Member FDIC
Equal Opportunity Lender

Practicing Law In The Depression *continued from page 9*

ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 10, 1938

Paul K. Robinson, Chairman of the Executive Committee, reported that several meetings had been held with the County Commissioners in regard to procuring additional room for our library but that nothing definite had been accomplished as yet, Judge R. D.



▲
A.C. Scales (Photo
courtesy of John Scales)

Laird advised the Committee to keep after the Commissioners until they gave us the front room to the south of the present one because they had refused to let him have it on the grounds that they needed it for the extension of our library.

Treasurer Charles H. Harman gave a learned discussion on unpaid dues and suggestions that had come to him concerning the reinstatement of members in arrears. No action was taken thereon.

H. W. Marker Sr., Chairman of the Committee on Unauthorized Practice of the Law, said he had nothing to report as it was impossible to get any place without the assistance of the members of the bar, and that that assistance had not been forthcoming.

Harry E. Cope, Chairman of the Monthly Luncheon Committee, reported that the one luncheon held had not been successful and therefore no others had been attempted.

Charles H. Harman moved the admission of the following:

Wayne R. Donohoe, Harry Crum, Maurice Claster, George H. Frich and Louis Claster.

Motion duly seconded and carried.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, JANUARY 12, 1938

The price of admission to the Association's banquet was not to exceed \$3.00 per person.



ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 9, 1939

The report for the Executive Committee was given by John W. Pollins who said that numerous meetings had been held with the County Commissioners concerning additional room for the Library and that he believed we were really getting some place. Remarks to the same affect were made by C. C. Crowell and the Secretary. Numerous changes are to be made in the Court House and the Library will probably be given the room to the south formerly occupied by the Orphans' Court.



SPECIAL MEETING, MARCH 31, 1939

The Association recommended a rule to the court that any master, auditor or commissioner appointed by the court would be paid \$40.00, the stenographer \$10.00, and that the prothonotary would withhold \$5.00 from the fees paid to masters, auditors, and commissioners to be paid to the

Westmoreland Law Association for its maintenance and support.

On these positive notes, a decade, which is almost unimaginable to us, came to an end. While the 1930s slipped into the past, the young lawyers who were admitted to the bar during this decade went on to fulfill their professional lives, to protect the interests of their clients and to influence the next generation of lawyers.

The minutes of their meetings and the cases selected to be included in this article have, to us, a bittersweet quaintness that generates a smile. They did not intend to be humorous. Whatever humor exists comes from a change in perspective, wrought by time. We can only hope that, faced with similar upheavals, we would respond just as well.

Sources

- Minutes of the Westmoreland Bar Association
- William Manchester, *The Glory and the Dream*, Little Brown & Co. 1973
- Ellis W. Tallman, *Monetary Explanations of the Great Depression: A Selective Survey of Empirical Evidence*, Economic Review—Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, 2004

Lawyers Abstract Company of Westmoreland County

35 WEST OTTERMAN STREET
GREENSBURG, PA 15601

Telephone 724 - 834-2822

Agents for Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Company

FULL TITLE SEARCHES
TITLE INSURANCE
ABSTRACTS

REAL ESTATE & MORTGAGE CLOSINGS

To-Wit: May The Force Be With Me

by S. Sponte, Esq.

It was luck, he said, but I assure you luck had nothing to do with it. "He" was the president judge of family court and "I" was out of my mind for being there. For health reasons, I had abandoned the practice of matrimonial law many years previously. After having done it for fifteen years or so, I had developed an acute allergy to chaos, mayhem and the maddening *ad hoc* approach to due process so endemic to family court. It made my eyes water something fierce.

Nonetheless, I have never been able to turn down an intellectually juicy case, and when the local child support office wrongfully intercepted my client's income tax refund to cover what it claimed was a delinquency

in payments, a decision based on a shortsighted, fundamentally unfair and just plain wrong interpretation of the term "delinquent," I was gloriously outraged. I said something to the family court administrator, I said something to the family court judges, and when they refused to listen I said something in a complaint seeking injunctive relief, naming all of them as defendants. I made no friends on the bench suing some of their own, but I did receive unqualified anonymous support from every lawyer on the Family Law Committee.

The case settled the day before trial when the defendants, in desperation, looked at the law and found for themselves the case I was relying on, a case that established the incontrovertible correctness of my position. Okay, so technically the case

had eluded my research completely, and yes, I was happy to have had their assistance in tracking it down.

Thanks, fellas. But I knew all the time the case was there because it just had to be. It wasn't a matter of luck, no, it was a matter of instinct.

When Columbus left Lisbon, he knew that America was out there. Sure, he thought he'd found India, but that's just splitting hairs. And $E=MC^2$, that was no shot in the dark. Einstein knew that MC^2 had to equal something and it only took him five letters of the alphabet to find it.

Neither event was born of luck. Rather they gestated from intellect,

continued on page 12



When your client needs a good criminal lawyer ...

The Criminal Law Group at



Dennis Persin
 Bob Johnston
 John Greiner
 Jeff Monzo
 Nancy Harris
 Lisa Galloway Monzo
 Brian Aston

Recommended by lawyers and clients across Pennsylvania since 1933
 724.834.0300 • beldenlaw.com • 117 N. Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601

To-Wit: May The Force Be With Me continued from page 11

experience, intuition and a strongly developed sense of what must surely be. That precious, vaporous quality upon which so much of the world's fate has hinged, that's instinct.

What has always been true for the gifted and the great is also true for lawyers. Sometimes we develop an instinct, a second sight, that coalesces from the bits and pieces of our experiential ether. When that happens we gain entrée to the mystical, massive collective of conscious awareness, unconscious memories and intuitive sensory perceptions by which we are able to know without knowing and see without seeing.

"Use the Force," Obi-Wan said to Luke in "Star Wars," and thus emboldened, Luke turned off his targeting computer and relying on naught but his instincts and a

well-placed photon torpedo, blew the Death Star all to hell. Likewise, when all has seemed lost for me, my head seems guided by an element unknown, and time and again it has enabled me to prevail over seemingly superior forces and overwhelming odds. The Force is not always with me, but when it is, I'm King of the World.

I know what you're thinking. You're thinking that if we ever go head-to-head in a courtroom you might just as well surrender the fort rather than go up against the likes of me: that with the Force as my ally, you're doomed *ab initio*, that you haven't got a chance. I'd never say that, I'm far too modest; but I have to tell you, I do like the way you think.

© 2007, S. Sponte, Esq.
Can't get enough Sponte? More articles are online at www.funnylawyer.com.

Lawyers' Exchange

(Free to all members of the WBA)

ASSOCIATE NEEDED Greensburg Firm. Concentrating in domestic, estate planning and estate administration. Seeking associate with experience. Incentive pay with health insurance contribution. Interested applicants should send résumé to: DKL and Associates at 140 South Main Street, Suite 301, Greensburg, Pa 15601, or e-mail to: law@dklucas.com.

ATLANTIC REPORTERS Volumes 1 through 719 available to a good home, preferably a nonprofit agency or a legal services organization, but, failing that, anyone with a need is welcome to them. The volumes go up to 1998 and are in very good condition. Contact Chris Fleming at 724-244-7508.

SAVE TIME & MONEY

VIDEOCONFERENCE

Cut costs while adding convenience.

Arrange or schedule out-of-town meetings or depositions via videoconference. Videoconferencing provides face-to-face communication without the security issues, expense and inconvenience of travel. It enhances productivity by eliminating travel time and costly transportation and accommodation costs.

Call for information.

412-261-5588 **724-837-1772**
PITTSBURGH OFFICE GREENSBURG OFFICE

www.acbaservices.com



ACBA
SERVICES, INC.

March 2007 Civil Trial Term

Jury Trial Verdicts

by Rachel Huss, Esq., Charles J. Dangelo, Esq., and Thomas L. Jones, Esq.

Of fifty-four cases listed for the March 2007 Civil Jury Trial Term, eleven settled, twenty-six were continued, two were tried non-jury, one was scheduled for a non-jury trial, two were binding summary jury trials, one was scheduled for a summary jury trial, one non-suit was entered, four verdicts were entered and six were held to the next trial term. The jury verdicts for the March trial term are summarized below.

**FRANCES T. APICELLA,
ADMINISTRATRIX OF THE ESTATE
OF ALBERT A. APICELLA
V.
INTEGRATED HEALTH SERVICES
OF GREATER PITTSBURGH
NO. 6220 OF 1997**

*Cause of Action: Negligence—
Wrongful Death—Survival*

This action arose from the alleged negligence of Defendant, by and through its agents, servants and/or employees, while providing respiratory therapy to Plaintiff’s decedent.



On October 15, 1995, a respirator providing oxygen to Plaintiff’s decedent became disconnected and/or failed and no alarm sounded. Plaintiff’s decedent was deprived of oxygen for a substantial period of time and suffered respiratory distress and cardiac arrest. His condition deteriorated into a vegetative state,

in which he remained until his death on April 1, 1996. Plaintiff argued that all of the injuries, damages, and death of the decedent were caused solely and exclusively by the negligence of Defendant, its agents, servants, and/or employees.

Defendant countered that Plaintiff’s decedent disconnected the ventilator pipe and pressed it against his leg. These actions prevented the alarm from sounding. As a result, Defendant argued, decedent’s respiratory distress and death were not the direct and proximate result of any act or omission of Defendant’s employees and that Plaintiff’s claims should be barred and/or limited by the affirmative defense of contributory negligence.

Plaintiff’s Counsel: Thomas E. Crenney, Crenney O’Keefe, P.C., Pgh.

Defendant’s Counsel: William K. Herrington, Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, Pgh.

Trial Judge: The Hon. Gary P. Caruso

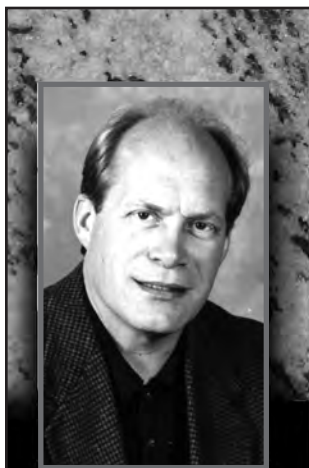
Result: Molded verdict in favor of Plaintiff in the amount of \$76,500 wrongful death damages and \$25,500 survival damages, for a total award of \$102,000. (The jury attributed 51% causal negligence to Defendant and 49% causal negligence to Plaintiff.)

**DEBORAH MOSLANDER
V.
422 HOME SALES, INC.
NO. 5853 OF 2005**

Cause of Action: Negligence

Plaintiff Deborah Moslander was shopping for a mobile/modular home at the sales lot of defendant, 422 Home Sales, Inc., on February 4, 2002. Defendant places temporary stairways at the front doors of its mobile homes to provide customers with access. Plaintiff, while attempting

continued on page 14



JOHN M. NOBLE, ESQ.
(724) 853-2296
FAX: (724) 836-0532
john@noblemediation.com
jnoble@mdbbe.com

JOHN M. NOBLE, ESQ.

Experienced Effective Dispute Resolution

- ♦ Personal Injury ♦ UIM/UM ♦ Construction
- ♦ Complex Medical Malpractice ♦ Products Liability
- ♦ Bad Faith ♦ Property Claims/Fire Loss
- ♦ Partnership Disputes ♦ Liquor Liability
- ♦ School District Liability ♦ Contract Disputes
- ♦ Pharmacy Liability ♦ Mold Claims ♦ ERISA
- ♦ Professional Liability ♦ Real Estate Disputes
- ♦ Sexual Assault Claims ♦ FELA ♦ Custody

Appointed Federal Mediator, Arbitrator and Early Neutral Evaluator for the Western District.



MEYER•DARRAGH•BUCKLER•BEBENEK & ECK
114 SOUTH MAIN STREET, GREENSBURG, PA 15601

Visit noblemediation.com for a list of recent mediations, publications, curriculum vitae and sample mediation agreement.

Jury Trial Verdicts *continued from page 13*

to enter a mobile home using such a stairway, fell from the landing and fractured her left tibia and fibula.

Plaintiff contended that lack of a railing on the temporary stairway constituted a dangerous and hazardous condition, and that Defendant should have recognized that the absence of a railing posed a hazard to business guests and invitees. The evidence indicated that stairs were not properly positioned against the mobile home, which resulted in an open area with no handrail on the landing portion of the steps.

Defendant argued that it had no notice of the condition that allegedly caused Plaintiff's injuries. Furthermore, Defendant argued that the condition of the stairway was open and obvious and that Plaintiff's injuries were the result of her own contributory negligence.

Plaintiff's Counsel: Jeffrey A. Pribanic, Pribanic & Pribanic, L.L.C., White Oak

Defendant's Counsel: Ronald P. Carnevali, Jr., Spence, Custer, Saylor, Wolf & Rose, LLC, Johnstown

Trial Judge: The Hon. William J. Ober

Result: Verdict in favor of Plaintiff in the amount of \$50,000. (The jury attributed 80% causal negligence to Defendant and 20% causal negligence to Plaintiff.)

JAMIE DANKO

V.

**WAL-MART SUPER CENTER
STORE #2611, A/K/A WAL-MART
CORPORATION
NO. 6278 OF 2004**

Cause of Action: Negligence

On August 11, 2003, Plaintiff Jamie Danko was shopping at Wal-Mart Super Center Store #2611 (Defendant), which is located in Mount Pleasant, Pa. Plaintiff bent down to look at a travel mug that was located on the lower shelf of a display.

When Plaintiff stood up, she struck her head on a paper towel dispenser that was attached to a pole and positioned above the shelf. Plaintiff alleged that the impact damaged her teeth and that she was required to undergo a course of restorative dental work.

At trial, Plaintiff sought to prove that the paper towel dispenser was suspended directly above the area where Defendant's customers would have bent down to examine merchandise. Plaintiff asserted that, because of Defendant's attractive display, she bent down and then became positioned below the paper towel dispenser, which led to her injuries. Defendant maintained that the paper towel dispenser was not a dangerous condition and that it was open and obvious.

Plaintiff's Counsel: Darrell J. Arbore, North Huntingdon

Defendant's Counsel: Patrick J. Loughney, Dell, Moser, Lane & Loughney, LLC, Pgh.

Trial Judge: The Hon. William J. Ober

Result: Verdict in favor of Defendant.

FLORENCE RUGGERI

V.

**BILLIE B. MEKIC, A.K.A. BILLIE C. MEKIC, A.K.A. BILLIE BRAY MEKIC, A.K.A. BILLIE BRAY-MEKIC
NO. 5230 OF 2004**

Cause of Action: Negligence—Motor Vehicle Accident—Arbitration Appeal

This case arose out of a motor vehicle accident that occurred on

July 29, 2002, on Route 30 near the Latrobe Regional Airport. Plaintiff was traveling west on Route 30 and came to a stop at a red light. Plaintiff alleged that Defendant, who was traveling behind the Plaintiff, failed to come to a complete stop at the red light, causing the front portion of Defendant's vehicle to collide with the rear portion of Plaintiff's vehicle. Plaintiff claimed injuries resulting in severe headaches and neck pain. Plaintiff had selected the full-tort option of automobile insurance coverage.

Defendant did not contest negligence at the time of trial. Trial was limited to the issue of causation and damages. Defendant contended that Plaintiff's injuries were not caused by the motor vehicle accident of July 29, 2002, but rather were sustained in a subsequent accident that occurred on September 20, 2002. Plaintiff contended that she did not sustain any injuries in the second accident, a contention that was contradicted in the report of one of her treating physicians. (The parties stipulated to the limit of monetary recovery in this trial of an arbitration appeal and submitted expert reports pursuant to Pa. R.C.P. No. 1311.1.)

Plaintiff's Counsel: Richard G. Talarico, Woomer & Hall LLP, Pgh.

Defendant's Counsel: Maria Spina Altobelli, Mears, Smith, Houser & Boyle, P.C., Gbg.

Trial Judge: The Hon. Daniel J. Ackerman, President Judge

Result: Verdict in favor of Defendant.

LawSpeak

"You can only protect your liberties in this world by protecting the other man's freedom. You can only be free if I am free."

— Clarence S. Darrow, Address to jury, Communist Trial, 1920, in *Attorney for the Damned* 121, 140 (Arthur Weinberg ed. 1957)

Committee Reports

WBA Members Energized by Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure

by Abby De Blassio, Esq.

Women in the Profession Committee

Thanks to all of the WBA and PBA members who joined me on the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Women in the Profession Team for the Cure, and walked the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in Pittsburgh on Mother's Day.

It was a beautiful day, and our team included a great turnout from the WBA and their family members, including Mike and Karen Stewart and their family: Mike Stewart, Jr., Katie Stewart, Debbie Stewart Smith, Scott Smith and Alexa Smith; Becky Fenoglio and her son, Chris, her sister, Caryl, with her daughter, Jessica, and mom, Dorothy Kress; Patricia Elliot; Henry Moore; Amanda Nuzum

Members of the PBA, Women in the Profession Team for the Cure (from left to right): Back row: Henry Moore, PBA President Ken Horoho, Mike Stewart, and Mike Stewart, Jr. Front row: Sean Horoho, Joan Horoho, Abby De Blassio, Katie Stewart, Alexa Smith, and Debbie Stewart Smith.



Faher, with her husband, Matthew, and brother, Jeremy Nuzum, her aunt and uncle, Frank and Kathy Peduti, and her cousin, Christine Smith.

Also joining us were Indiana County Judge Carol Hanna and

daughter Joan; PBA President Ken Horoho, along with wife, Joan, and son, Sean; co-chair of PBA WIP, Dana Baiocco, of Jones Day, along with daughter, Ava; Stacey Vernallis, of

continued on page 16

RELUCTANT TO PROCEED INTO UNCERTAIN TERRITORY?

As many of you are aware, Fayette County Courts differ from Westmoreland County Courts in their rules, practices and customs.

Our Fayette County office and attorneys, including a former Fayette County Assistant District Attorney, can assist you and your clients.



BLUM REISS & PLAITANO L.L.P.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

LOCAL ATTORNEYS YOU CAN COUNT ON

25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN FAYETTE COUNTY DOMESTIC, CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES.

Mount Pleasant Office • 724.547.4539

Greensburg Office • 724.836.4380

Connellsville Office • 724.628.5020

Committee Reports *continued from page 15*



◀ Over 36,000 people participated in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on May 13, 2007, in Pittsburgh.



◀ Members of the PBA Women in the Profession Team for the Cure (from left to right): Back row: Abby De Blassio, Becky Fenoglio, her sister, Caryl, and her mother, Dorothy Kress. Front row: Becky's niece, Jessica, and Becky's son, Chris.

Goehring, Rutter & Boehm, along with her family; Sandy McKee of McKee Organizing Service and family; Erica Burns, of Richard Ducote & Associates; and Margaret Burns.

We met at Schenley Park, snacked and shopped at the many sponsoring vendors, got to know one another better, and joined the awe-inspiring group of over 36,000 people snaking their way through the park and streets of Squirrel Hill, united to support this worthy cause. Our group succeeded at raising over \$1,190 toward finding a cure for breast cancer, and in doing so, not only shared a common feeling of accomplishment, pride and community, but a true camaraderie and enhancement of our professional friendships. It was a great way for all involved to share a special day with family and colleagues, and hope that next year, more can join us in this moving and inspiring endeavor.

Lawyers Assistance Committee

At the WBA Quarterly Meeting in January 2008, the Lawyers Assistance Committee will be presenting Dr. Amiran Elwork, a nationally known figure in the field of stress management and the Director of the Law-Psychology Graduate Training Program at Widener University. All members attending will receive a free copy of Dr. Elwork's book, "Stress Management for Lawyers."

Family Law Committee

The Family Law Committee is compiling a collection of Summary Plan Descriptions (SPD) and Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO) sample forms from local employers, to provide a resource for our members who have difficulty obtaining this information, and to expedite the finalization of QDROs in divorce actions.

All members are encouraged to drop off copies of SPDs and QDRO forms you may possess at the WBA, to add to our collection.

Got News?

Do you have news to share with the sidebar? Making Partner? Marriage? Birth? Anniversary? Accomplishments? Send us a fax (724.834.6855), an e-mail (westbar.org@verizon.net), a note by carrier pigeon or any other means and we'll publish your news in the next available issue.



724.834.0300
rjohnston@beldenlaw.com

Considering Mediation or Arbitration?

Please keep me in mind.

UM/UIM, PI, Estate or Partnership Disputes, Professional Liability, Custody

Bob Johnston

Appointed to Federal Court Mediation and Arbitration Program



Young Lawyers Committee

On April 25, 2007, Anthony Bompiani and Tony Perrone, co-chairs of the Public Service Committee of the Young Lawyers, presented their initial Operation Safe Surf Program. The presentation took place at Hempfield Area Senior High School with approximately 40 parents in attendance.

The presentation was done in conjunction with Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett's campaign to educate parents and children on the dangers of internet predators. The presentation was very well received and sparked interesting discussion among the parents in attendance.

The presentation is one part of a four-part program that will be presented by the Young Lawyers Public Service Committee throughout the county. The entire program consists of presentations to parents, high school

students, middle school students, and elementary school students. The plan for the Public Service Committee is to conduct these presentations at schools, parent associations, and other community associations with interest. Although the presentations will be very expansive, they are merely one portion of the overall goal of the Young Lawyers Public Service Committee.



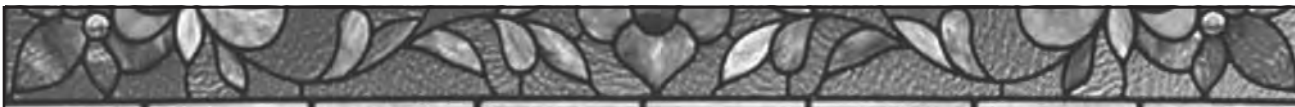
Westmoreland Bar Association liaison Mike Stewart suggested that the Young Lawyers Committee, and in particular, its Public Service sub-committee, take an active role in preserving and protecting the rights of children, and helping to ensure their safety. The Young Lawyers Committee welcomes any insight or assistance that members of the Bar Association may have. Interested members should contact Anthony Bompiani, Tony Perrone, or the WBA for further details.

E-Filing Update

After consideration of many issues, including the concerns voiced by bar leaders, President Judge Blahovec announced the creation of an E-Filing Study Committee. This will be a single, cooperative committee with representation from the bench, the bar, the Prothonotary, and the Sheriff.

Judges Ackerman and Ober will join committee chair Judge Caruso. WBA President Jim Whelton appointed Jim Horchak, Jayson Lawson, and Charlie Jelley as the WBA's representatives to the committee.

The committee will be studying the process of electronic filing and how to best utilize an e-filing system in our court system. There has been no further action taken on the proposal by Lexis-Nexis.



HELP YOUR CLIENTS MAKE SOUND RETIREMENT CHOICES

Total Continuum of Care

- Senior Apartments
- Personal Care
- Memory Impairment Program
- Nursing Care

Financial Security

Residents at Redstone Highlands are not asked to leave if, through no fault of their own, they exhaust their resources.

Style of Living

Monthly apartment fee provides the following services:

- Restaurant Style Dining
- Scheduled Transportation
- Barber/Beauty Shop
- Bank
- Exercise Room
- Maid Service
- Maintenance Service
- Personal Security

GREENSBURG

6 Garden Center Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 832-8400

NORTH HUNTINGDON

12921 Lincoln Way
North Huntingdon, PA 15642
(724) 864-5811

MURRYSVILLE

4951 Cline Hollow Road
Murrysville, PA 15668
(724) 733-9494



Redstone Highlands
Senior living communities

www.redstonehighlands.org



foundation focus

Events Held in May to Mark Law Day



Teaching kids about their legal rights and responsibilities was what this year's Law Day program was all about. With a theme of "Liberty Means Responsibility," dozens of volunteers from the Westmoreland Bar Association visited elementary, middle, junior high, and high schools in Westmoreland County throughout the month of May to challenge students to explore the ways in which they can have an impact on our world.



high school seniors who participated in the 2006-07 Explorer's Post or Mock Trial Competition.

WBA President James E. Whelton, Jr., welcomed the attendees and The Hon. Richard E. McCormick, Jr., made introductory remarks. The Hon. William J. Ober spoke to the students about how "Liberty Means Responsibility," followed by a question and answer period.

Approximately 85 students, teachers, and family members were in attendance.

Law Day is a month-long campaign sponsored by the Pennsylvania Bar Association and county bar associations across the state that sends judges and lawyers back to school for classroom visits in an effort to teach students about the law.

Thousands of students in dozens of schools were reached by the judges, attorneys, and district justices who volunteered this year.

In addition to classroom visits, the WBF hosted a Law Day Luncheon on May 1, 2007, at the WBA, for

THE ORIGINS OF LAW DAY

So how did Law Day come into existence? Its origins are in the Cold War.

The Cold War cast a shadow over American life for more than forty years. In our reaction to it we unwittingly did some things that were either dangerous (the Un-American Activities Committee) or silly (telling school children that ducking under their desks would protect them from an atomic blast). Law Day was one of the positive things to come out of this era.

Setting a day aside to recognize our commitment to liberty, justice, and equality under the law was first promoted in 1957 by Charles S. Rhyne, a Washington, D.C., lawyer, and president of the American Bar Association. A year later President Eisenhower signed the proclamation that Attorney Rhyne was advocating, establishing Law Day.

In 1961 a joint resolution of Congress designated May 1 as the official date of celebration. The date was directly related to the Cold War, so as to contrast the United States' reliance on the rule of law to the Soviet Union's rule by force that was put on display in a military parade in Red Square each May Day.

The concept has spread to other nations. The first World Law Day was celebrated in 1965. Attorney Rhyne's good idea is fifty years old this year.

Looking for a special way to remember someone?

**Births • Deaths • Marriages • Anniversaries
Making Partner • Passing the Bar**

Since 1991, the Westmoreland Bar Foundation has raised thousands of dollars to assist the poor, disabled, elderly and children in our community. Through the **Memorial Program**, you can honor a colleague or loved one with a contribution to the Foundation. Your gift will help serve the needs of our own who have nowhere else to turn for legal services.

If you would like to make a gift to the Foundation as a meaningful expression of respect, please make check payable to the Westmoreland Bar Foundation and mail to WBA Headquarters, 129 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Greensburg, PA 15601.



SecuriKey Investigations

Licensed Private Investigators

Working with Fortune 500 companies, lawyers, and private citizens to provide professional, thorough service to each client in a timely manner through our network of professional investigators worldwide.

- Investigations
- Witness Locates
- Executive Protection
- Asset Searches
- Surveillance
- Applicant Credential Verification
- Due Diligence

PA License: 4CV2005 AZ License: 1003105
 Proud Investigative Professionals since 1998
 724.235.9700 602.616.1994
www.securikey-investigations.com

New Member Sketches

Richard L. Ames has been admitted as an associate member of the WBA. A graduate of Freeport Area High School, Duquesne University, and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Richard maintains a solo practice in Kittanning, Armstrong County.

Kyle M. Baxter has joined the WBA as a participating member. A graduate of Triway High School in Wooster, Ohio, Kyle earned her undergraduate degree in Political Science from Allegheny College, and her juris doctor from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. After many years in the Westmoreland County District Attorney's office, Kyle joined DeBernardo, Antoniono, McCabe, Davis & DeDiana in Greensburg as an associate. She and her husband, Jeffrey, have two children, Jacob and Abigail, and live in North Huntingdon.



Elizabeth R. Christopher was admitted to the WBA as a participating member. A graduate of Bishop McCort High School, West Virginia University, and Duquesne University School of Law, Libby is an associate with Cassidy, Kotjarapoglus & Pohland in Greensburg, and makes her home in Ligonier.

John A. Cochran has been admitted as a participating member of the WBA. A graduate of Yough Senior High, West Virginia University, and Duquesne University School of Law, John is a solo practitioner based in Herminie. He and his wife, Joan, have three children, Rachel, Lauren, and Jessica, and live in Herminie.

And Baby Makes ...

DeAnn McCoy and her husband, Bradley, welcomed their daughter, Elise, into the world on May 25, 2007. Elise was 6 lb 14 oz. at birth. DeAnn is an associate with Philip McCalister & Associates in New Kensington, and is the current Chair of the WBA Young Lawyers Committee.



Christopher R. Giles has joined the WBA as a participating member. A graduate of Westmont Hilltop High School in Johnstown, Westminster College, and the University of Toledo College of Law, Chris is an associate with James B. Gefsky in Greensburg.

Mary Ann Grec has rejoined the WBA as a pilot member. A graduate of Hempfield Area High School, the University of Pittsburgh and Ohio Northern University, Mary Ann is the Solicitor for the Westmoreland County Children's Bureau.

Christopher E. Nichols has rejoined the WBA as a participating member. A graduate of Hempfield Area High School, Chris earned his undergraduate

degree from Penn State, and his juris doctor from Duquesne University. Chris joined his father, WBA member Greg Nichols, in practice in Greensburg.

Pamela Lynne Roudebush was admitted to the WBA as a participating member. A graduate of The American School in Japan, Pam earned her bachelor's degree from Robert Morris University and her J.D. from Duquesne University. Pam is an associate with Lou Anne Demosky in Greensburg.

Rachelle M. Wassel has rejoined the WBA as a participating member. A graduate of Greater Latrobe, the University of Pittsburgh, and

Duquesne University School of Law, Rachelle is an associate with Meyer Darragh in Greensburg. She and her husband, Scott Glassmith, and their daughter, Isabelle, live in Pittsburgh.

Ronald N. Watzman has joined the WBA as a participating member. A graduate of Valley Forge Military Academy, Penn State, and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Ronald is employed by the Pennsylvania State Education Association in Hunker. He and his wife, Anne, live in Pittsburgh.

Actions of the Board

APRIL 17, 2007

- LAC Chair Irv Bloom requested \$2,000 for fee for nationally-known speaker on the topic of lawyers and stress to address membership at the January 2008 quarterly meeting. Approved speaker and travel costs.
- Agreed that any attorney concern calls that cannot be handled by the WBA Executive Director would be referred to the Past President and the President-Elect.
- Accepted Membership Committee recommendations as submitted: Christopher Giles and Christopher Nichols, participating.
- E-filing Committee is meeting to review Allegheny County's e-filing program; agreed that this committee should continue the work on the review of other e-filing vendors.
- Requested that e-letter be sent to members each week and should include upcoming meetings.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

- 4 Courthouse closed in observance of Independence Day
- 6 Young Lawyers Pool Party
- 11 Membership, Noon
Bankruptcy, Noon
CLE Seminar: Oil and Gas Leases, Noon
- 17 Family Law, Noon
Board Meeting, 4 p.m.

AUGUST

- 8 Membership, Noon
Bankruptcy, Noon
- 16 Elder Law & Orphans' Court, Noon
- 21 Family Law, Noon
Board Meeting, 4 p.m.

A limited number of 2005 Pictorial Composite Posters are available at the WBA office. The posters measure 31" x 25" and cost \$45 each. Call the WBA office at 724.834.6730 or e-mail westbar.org@verizon.net to purchase yours.



LAWYERS
CONCERNED
FOR LAWYERS
CORNER

- The 12-step recovery meeting, exclusively for lawyers and judges, is in downtown Pittsburgh every Thursday at 5:15 p.m. For the exact location, call Pennsylvania Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers at 1-800-335-2572.
- LCL has a new website at www.lclpa.org. Attorneys and judges will find information on how LCL can help them, a member of their family or a colleague who may be in distress. It is confidential and easy to navigate. Visit it today.
- Lawyers Confidential Help Line: 1-888-999-1941. Operates 24 hours a day.



Westmoreland Bar Association
129 North Pennsylvania Avenue
Greensburg, PA 15601-2311

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GREENSBURG, PA
PERMIT #678