



Madam President

Judge Hathaway Assumes Presidency of Pa. Conference of State Trial Judges



◀ The full complement of the Westmoreland County bench attended Judge Hathaway's installation ceremony, including Senior Judge Marker and retiring Superior Court Judge Hudock. From left to right: Judge Bell, Judge McCormick, Judge Marsili, Judge Pezze, Judge Hathaway, President Judge Blahovec, Senior Judge Marker, Judge Caruso, and Judge Ackerman.

On July 18, 2008, The Honorable Rita Donovan Hathaway assumed the presidency of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges at the annual summer judges' conference held at the Hotel Hershey in Hershey, Pa. Judge Hathaway has been an active participant in the Conference of State Trial Judges since 1998, when she first became a judge in Westmoreland County. She was elected by her colleagues to serve in a leadership position in 2003, and has acted as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, and President-Elect in recent years.

Judge Hathaway was honored to have the full complement of the Westmoreland County bench in attendance at the conference when she became president, including Senior Judge Charles Marker and retiring Superior Court Judge Joseph Hudock.

The Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges is the only officially recognized judicial professional association in the Commonwealth. It is an association of trial judges from across the Commonwealth which serves primarily to provide continuing judicial and legal education to more than four hundred judges statewide. The Conference also offers ethics advice and training to our state trial judges, and provides mentoring and training to all newly-elected judges. The Conference maintains a close relationship with the administration at the AOPC (Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts), the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Office of the Governor, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who oversees all judicial administration in the Commonwealth.

As President, Judge Hathaway will be one of four officers of the

Pennsylvania State Conference of Trial Judges representing the Commonwealth as delegates to the National Conference of Trial Judges, a section of the American Bar Association. She also will serve as a member of the Pennsylvania Judicial Council during her term of office.

Judge Hathaway was elected to the bench in 1997 and was officially installed as a judge in 1998. She served primarily in Family Court until 2004, when she transferred to the Criminal Court Division. She is a graduate of Boston State College and Duquesne University Law School. She was admitted to the bar in 1988, and began her career as an Assistant District Attorney under then-District Attorney John J. Driscoll. There, she served as Chief Trial Attorney and as supervisor of the Child Abuse and Sexual Crimes Unit.

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President's Message

Stressed Out? Let's Get Back to the Basics

by Barbara J. Christner, Esq.

It takes much energy, time, and patience to practice law. We are constantly bombarded with voice mail, e-mail, cell phones, faxes, overnight mail—you get the picture. While technology has greatly improved our methods of communication, it



has also added to the stress of the practice. Couple this with the adversarial positions taken by attorneys. Has the civility of attorneys with each other changed over the years? The advent of attorney advertising

has shown us to the public in a difficult light. The list of stressors goes on.

How do you deal with practicing law and balancing your mental health? Many have found sports and exercise centers valuable in renewing the body and mind. Since I don't engage in sports or exercise (and they still let me be President!), and I'm a bit of a type-A personality, I have found many other ways to become renewed. I get out and do something worthwhile! Although not always the typical clinical approach to dealing with stress, it works. Let me tell you what is available in Westmoreland County. These are activities that you can enjoy with your family, friends, or yourself for either no cost or a nominal expense. Sounds good with the state of the current economy!

We have several colleges and universities (University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, Seton Hill University, St. Vincent College and Westmoreland County Community College) that provide lectures and concerts at various times throughout the year. Quality speakers come—often through funds from grants—to entertain, inform, and

give us an opportunity to meet with them personally. My most memorable speaker was Scott Turow (attorney turned author) who wrote "Presumed Innocent." The book was made into a movie that is at the top of my all-time favorites! Are you aware of these programs? I don't think enough people are, or the auditoriums would be filled for every lecture. What about concerts—either student recitals or special performers? It is an atmosphere of no cell phones—neither yours, nor mine! Go to the schools' websites for a schedule. When was the last time you stopped in at the Westmoreland Museum of American Art? Here, you will find not only artwork, but lectures, movies, and concerts.

We are in the midst of summer. In this county we are fortunate to have several local, county, and state parks to enjoy—Bushy Run, Hempfield Park, Mammoth Park, and Twin Lakes to name a few. Have you checked out the new Skate & Action Park at Twin Lakes?

No, I can't ride a skateboard, but just watching the skateboarders and bikers challenge themselves leaves you little time to worry about yourself. I also want to mention the Regional Trails for walking and bike riding around the county. (I do enjoy walking.) Just go to the website to find a new place to visit. Outdoor concerts in the summer, which several communities have scheduled, are a great place to unwind. Take your chair or blanket to the park on a summer evening and sit back, relax, and mingle. What a great feeling!

Of course, I am proud to remind you of what our county bar association

has available for wellness programs. Our CLEs and quarterly meetings have included a program by a medical doctor who not only showed us what happens to our hearts from stress, but what we could do to prevent it. We heard testimony from a WBA member (thanks, Dave) who had a heart attack and experienced a life change in dealing with stress. Ellen Freedman of the Pennsylvania Bar Association has done excellent presentations and provided us with information to get our practice under control. She keeps presenting new topics and we all benefit from her expertise, whether it relates to how to plan for unexpected illness, disaster preparation, or technology. She can help. Recently Dr. Amiram Elwork,

noted psychologist, spoke to us about stress in the practice of law. If you did not attend, it was videotaped and you should view it. He also gave each of us a copy of his book "Stress Management for Lawyers." I keep it in my office as a resource

and a reminder that I must find what works best in dealing with stress on a daily basis. You should also consider committee participation in the bar association. Having the support of your colleagues can be invaluable.

Are you taking advantage of all that we offer to you as members? We anticipate additional speakers this year on topics relating to wellness. You do not want to miss them. Even though you may think the suggestions in this article are too basic, you will be surprised at how well they work.



Barbara

New Director of Westmoreland County Children's Bureau

Meet Shara Saveikis

Shara Saveikis has a vision. In her dream, children who have been removed from their homes will have timely permanency and families will get the guidance they need to solve their own problems.

In December 2007, Shara Saveikis was hired as the new Director of the Westmoreland County Children's Bureau, and she was uniquely qualified for the job. A graduate of Greensburg Central Catholic High School, she has a B.A. in Psychology from Bowling Green State University and earned a Masters in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania while employed as a program manager for Monroe County Children and Youth Services ("CYS") in Stroudsburg, Pa. In 2002, she moved back to western Pennsylvania to take a position with the Department of Public Welfare, Office of CYF. In that position, she was involved in licensing facilities and in regulatory oversight of Allegheny County (CYS) and thirteen other private agencies. At one point, she was the regional program representative for Westmoreland County Children's Bureau (WCCB).

"The day-to-day operations of the Westmoreland County Children's Bureau were familiar to me because I'd been in a position to oversee them in my former job," she explains. "Right now, I'm developing and submitting our budget [to the DPW] for certification, and I know just what they are looking for because I was the one who used to review county budgets." In evaluating a program, the state looks for evidence-based and outcome-based programs. Shara emphasizes, "They're looking to see that what we do works."

So what changes does Shara see in the immediate future?

BARRIERS TO PERMANENCY PROJECT

Shara led the way for Westmoreland County's participation in the ABA's "Barriers to Permanency Project." Recognizing that children in foster care need permanency quickly and safely, the Permanency Project helps Pennsylvania counties provide children with the most permanent home that meets their needs. The file of children who have been in care for over one year is reviewed by the ABA team in an attempt to determine any barriers to permanency. Over two years, the team works with the county to suggest solutions, ensure progress, and address any resistance. "We anticipate that our participation in this program will have positive outcomes for our children. Reunifications, adoptions, and permanent legal custodianships may occur sooner," Shara happily reports. "In addition, the team has complimented the WCCB on its file organization, the amount of information in our petitions, court orders, and in our thorough explanations as to why a child is deemed dependent."¹

SUBSIDIZED PERMANENT LEGAL CUSTODIANSHIP

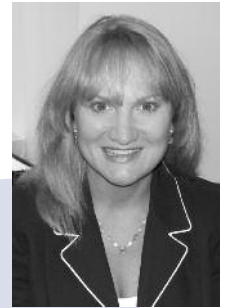
"We have had an internal policy that limited this permanency option for 15 years old and up, due to concerns with state funding. As we plan our 2008/2009 and 2009/2010

¹ To learn more about the Permanency Project, contact Project Director Anne Marie Lancour at lancoura@staff.abanet.org or 202-662-1756.

budget, we are looking to gradually increase the number of children who will be able to receive subsidies while in permanent legal custodianships, so that eventually this permanency option may be afforded to all children regardless of age," says Shara hopefully.

CPCMS FOR WCCB

Currently, the WCCB does not have a database system to aid in case management. Consequently, it can be difficult to determine what the roadblocks are that impede a case from getting to an adjudication. By September 2008, this problem may be solved when the WCCB will have access to the State's Common Pleas Court Management System. "This system will not only tell us what needs to be fixed—what are the root causes for continuances?—but it will also tell us what we are doing right. Education is the key in developing solutions," says Shara. "Justice Baer developed this project, and thanks to the unanimous support from members of the roundtable, we will be the fourth county in the state to implement it."



▲ Shara Saveikis

FAMILY GROUP DECISION-MAKING

Historically, in child welfare practice, the professionals were the "experts" and would walk in and say to the family, "This is what you need to fix." In Family Group Decision-Making, the family is the expert. The family, along with the help of their

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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.

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Meet Shara Saveikis *continued from page 3*

support system, identifies its own problems and develops solutions, as a family. There is a coordinator who helps arrange and facilitate the family meeting where the plan is developed. WCCB and/or the Court then adopt the plan.

“This is an evidence-based program that was initially developed in New Zealand,” explains Shara. “Giving families responsibility in the process empowers and strengthens families while decreasing dependency on the system and the chances of returning to the system, since the family and support network are responsible for overseeing the ongoing implementation of their own plan. Our adoption of this philosophy is a big cultural shift within our agency and we plan to expand that practice here.”

Shara believes that fostering cooperation and collaboration among all disciplines, law enforcement, probation officers, attorneys, judges,

CASA, caseworkers, families, and the community at large, is the key to better outcomes for children and families. “Rather than being adversarial, the more professional partnerships we develop, the better. We’re working toward open communication and developing relationships. My goal is not only to maintain but to consistently exceed

state and federal standards and best practice,” Shara says hopefully. To that end, she invites feedback in the hope that it will get her closer to her goal of finding a safe and permanent home for all children.²

² To contact Shara Saveikis, e-mail her at ssaveiki@co.westmoreland.pa.us or telephone 724-830-3345.

Judge Hathaway *continued from page 1*

Judge Hathaway has been married to George Hathaway for 38 years, and they reside in Murrysville. She is actively involved in her church, St. Barbara’s Catholic Church in Harrison City. A breast cancer survivor, Judge Hathaway serves on the board of Westmoreland Walks, Inc., a local organization dedicated to the emotional support of local breast

cancer patients and survivors, and fund-raising for breast cancer research and awareness programs. Perhaps most importantly, Judge Hathaway is the proud mother of two grown children, John (Wendy) Hathaway and Jill (Paul) Hauck, and grandmother to John’s children, Erik, Dane, Tyler, Jack, and Abigail, and Jill’s children, John, Julia, and Emma.

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Daniel Joseph

Committee Reports

WBA Members and Friends Race for the Cure

by Abby De Blassio, Esq.

Women in the Profession

Last year, I was called upon to captain a PBA WIP team to participate in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in Pittsburgh, while Nancy Conrad of White and Williams was organizing a companion team in Philadelphia. Since it was our first time entering WIP teams in this event, we weren't sure what to expect, so we reached out to our colleagues to join us in our efforts to fund-raise



▲ Abby De Blassio

and run/walk the race on both ends of the Commonwealth on Mother's Day.

We originally thought the team would consist mainly of local WIP members in each city. In Pittsburgh, it became instead, a growing Pittsburgh-area race "family," consisting of a cross-section of the Pittsburgh/Westmoreland County professional community, including lawyers, judges, judicial clerks, realtors, legal support professionals, insurance professionals, along with their families, friends, and members of their personal network. Much of this year's Pittsburgh team consisted of last year's members, back for a second time ... not only because they support the cause and/or their lives have been affected by breast cancer, but also because of the friendships and team spirit that grew from our experiences in the 2007 race. Like last year, we walked, we talked, we shared life experiences, we laughed, we cried, we even took turns pushing a very heavy baby carriage uphill through Schenley Park! (DeAnn McCoy spent her very first Mother's Day with us,



▲ From left to right: The 2008 team included WBA members ① Henry Moore, ② Abby De Blassio, ③ Amanda Nuzum Faher, ④ DeAnn McCoy, ⑤ Becky Fenoglio, and their families and friends.

bringing baby Elise along for the trek, whose good nature and smile warmed our hearts.) Most of all, everyone felt a great sense of satisfaction in supporting the thousands of people surrounding us, whose lives have been so impacted by breast cancer.

We set fund-raising goals each year, and each year we exceeded those goals. This year, the Pittsburgh team raised \$2,175 toward finding a cure for breast cancer. Combined with the Philadelphia team's \$3,511, the total PBA WIP contribution to the Komen organization totaled \$5,686. On behalf of the Pittsburgh team, I extend an ongoing invitation to anyone who would like to join our Pittsburgh race

Mock Trials

Attorneys may be needed to assist in coaching local high school Mock Trial teams this fall. There are usually one or two teams who need help each year. Anyone interested can contact Leo Ciaramitaro at lciamami@co.westmoreland.pa.us. Thank you.



▲ The Hon. Jacqueline Shogan (left) with her daughter, Alyson, husband, Jeff, and The Hon. Donetta Ambrose (right).

family, to participate in the 2009 PBA WIP Team for the Cure. Hope to see you at Schenley Park, Mother's Day, 2009!

Family Law

The Family Law Committee, through the generosity of the WBA, awarded a \$500 stipend to DeAnn McCoy, to attend the PBA Family Law Section Summer Meeting in Baltimore, Md., July 17-20, 2008. The purpose of the subsidy was to provide a first time attendee/young lawyer the opportunity to participate in the state bar function, and to increase and enhance the delegation of Westmoreland County lawyers attending the event. It was awarded to DeAnn based on her interest in expanding her knowledge of and practice in family law.

The WBA Family Law Committee is the first Family Law Committee in Pennsylvania to make such a "scholarship" award. Other attendees

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Committee Reports *continued from page 5*

at the meeting from Westmoreland County were Committee Chairs Abby De Blassio and Michael J. Stewart, as well as Bruce Tobin, Michele and Eric Bononi, and Sandra Davis.

The Committee is presently considering the changes to the Pennsylvania Support Guidelines, pending in the Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee. Copies of the proposed changes are available at the WBA Headquarters. Substantial changes are proposed, including the expansion of the guidelines to include families with monthly net incomes of up to \$30,000 per month, and a formula to address support in cases formerly calculated pursuant to the *Melzer* case. Comments are to be submitted to the Procedural Rules Committee by October 31.

Bench/Bar

New Venue Sparks Bench/Bar

by Stuart J. Horner, Jr., Esq.



▲ Stuart J. Horner, Jr.

One of the nice things about our Bench/Bar Conference is our willingness to try new places. One of the nice places turned out to be the Oglebay Resort in West Virginia, where we convened on Thursday, June 12, 2008, and stayed through the next day. Only an hour-and-a-half drive from Greensburg, the resort featured very nice accommodations, good food, good service, and great golf.

This year we condensed all activities into a one-night stay. There were

several Thursday morning options. In addition to the championship golf course, you could choose a glass museum tour, biking, or a hike on a lovely path through the woods led by a naturalist. Your correspondent found time for a return walk to a waterfall and a swim in their huge outdoor pool.

David Millstein and Jackie Knupp were the discussants in a CLE program of "Inherit the Wind." David added insights into the "creation" concept by reviewing the recent federal case from Dover, Pa., involving a school board introducing an "intelligent design" concept. Next was a well-presented vendors' exhibit in roomy accommodations that permitted a comfortable perusal of the featured products and services.

Cocktails and a barbecue dinner—with steaks on the grill—were outdoors in a shelter by the woods. The BarFlies were an unscheduled surprise with several songs, including a sendoff to Barb Artuso downstream to New Orleans and her Judgeship. Judge Chris Feliciani with his Scotty's Blues Peddlers Band, featuring Jim Boggs, got us dancing and singing, with

P.J. Blahovec, *inter alia*, sitting in. Into the night they played, and many stayed, though some strayed to the casino and others faded to bed.

After a splendid breakfast we were treated to two more worthwhile CLE seminars. The reliable Bob Johnston presented a Malpractice Avoidance Seminar with a very well done PBA film featuring Bob himself and starring John Noble as a lawyer who loved not wisely, but too well.

The Judges' Roundtable discussion turned into a speed-working network that was very effective. We divided the Bench and the Bar into thirds with the judges rotating by specialty for a twenty-minute give and take.

Our committee and staff are to be thanked for their organizational skills (especially with signs directing us around the sprawling grounds) and for choosing Oglebay as one of the nine resorts we have visited in the 22 years we have convened.

Oglebay merits a second look. The Bench/Bar Conference merits everyone's attendance; the free CLE credits alone are worth more than the cost of a ticket!

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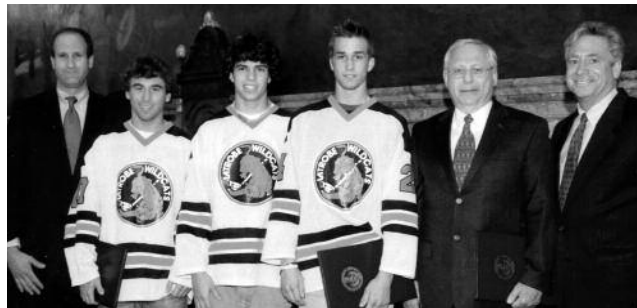


Cindy Stine, Esq.

AlterEgo: Ron Makoski, Attorney

Ron Makoski, Hockey Coach

The Penguins may have made it to the Stanley Cup Final, but they have nothing on the Latrobe High School Boys' Ice Hockey Team. This year, under the tutelage of Coach Ron Makoski, they won the Pennsylvania State Championship, a first for any Latrobe High School boys' sports team. Recently retired as coach, Ron reflects on his role as a coach and his love of the game.



▲ Coach Ron Makoski (second from right) and members of the state champion Latrobe High School team received congratulations from State Representative Joseph A. Petrarca (far left) and Pennsylvania House Speaker Dennis O'Brien (far right) in Harrisburg on May 7, 2008.

A I have always loved the game of hockey. When my sons, Matthew and Michael, were 4 or 5 years old [now 24 and 21], I got them involved in ice-skating and a few years later they began playing youth hockey. Ice hockey quickly became a family endeavor. My wife and I became heavily involved, and that was a good thing because it enabled us to spend a lot of time together as a family with a common interest.

Q DID YOU PLAY A LOT OF HOCKEY WHILE YOU WERE GROWING UP?

A I've never played hockey a day in my life. However, I have had the benefit of a lot of on-the-job training and, most importantly, I had the good fortune of some strong friendships and

associations with some fine Canadian coaches. If you want to learn the game, exposure to the Canadian game is a good place to start.

Q SO WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE GAME?

Q AT SOME POINT, YOU WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH VIEWING THE GAME FROM THE BLEACHERS?

A I got involved with coaching because I wanted to be on the ice with my sons. I started coaching at

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AlterEgo: Ron Makoski *continued from page 7*

the Westmoreland Hockey Association as an assistant, and I eventually moved on to a head coaching position at Southpointe in Washington County. My sons both played for Southpointe, and again it was a family thing. When my sons reached high school age, I was asked to coach at the high school level.

Q WHO WAS YOUR COMPETITION?

A Latrobe High School is part of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL), which covers all of western Pennsylvania and parts of West Virginia with participating high schools from Erie to Morgantown and from State College to Wheeling and everywhere in between.

Q CAN'T PARTICIPATING IN ICE HOCKEY BE QUITE EXPENSIVE?

A Yes. The Latrobe School District gives the Hockey Association a cash grant each year to help cover expenses, but parents still pay a huge part of the final bill which can be as much as \$1,000 per year. Costs include equipment, league dues, ice-time rental and transportation costs.

Q AND THE INVESTMENT YOU MADE OBVIOUSLY PAID OFF.

A Quality family time is always a good investment. During the 2007-08 season, we got a special bonus. Latrobe won the

Penguin Cup Championship, which is emblematic of the best high school hockey team in the West. We then went on to win the Pennsylvania State Championship by defeating the winner of the Flyers Cup Championship from the eastern part of the state. As a result of these championships, the Latrobe Varsity players have become mini-celebrities in Latrobe. They have been recognized by the Westmoreland County Commissioners. They were presented as State Champions on the floors of both the Pennsylvania State Senate and the State House. They were even invited to the Governor's Office for recognition. Most recently, they were featured on a special float in the Latrobe 4th of July parade. Last, but not least, a generous benefactor has purchased State Championship rings for the players and coaches at a total cost of \$18,000. As Canadian hockey players might say, "not bad, eh?"

Q WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MOST GRATIFYING ASPECTS OF COACHING ICE HOCKEY?

A Hockey is a complicated game where you are required to play both offense and defense simultaneously and it is all done at a high rate of speed and with a continuous flow in the action. I enjoy coaching the game and designing systems and game plans that will work on the ice. Most of all, I enjoy working with the kids. During my six years as varsity head coach, I have been blessed with good players with good skills and, most importantly, with good attitudes. My teams have always had a high level of dedication to the sport and few discipline problems.

Finally, unless you either played or coached ice hockey, you really can't imagine the intensity of the game, especially a sudden-death overtime playoff game. Once you play ice hockey, it's difficult to go back and play a slower paced sport. Hockey is an intense, disciplined and physical game. Emotions and adrenaline run high—it is a rush. I love the challenge and I love the intensity and I have enjoyed every minute of the coaching experience.

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Get Connected!

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Candid Camera: 2008 Bench/Bar Conference



▲ *"Does anyone remember my lines? Anyone? Please?"*



▲ *"I say we add motors to our bicycles, call ourselves The Tired Old White Guys and terrorize ourselves a mall or two."*



▲ *"You look like you have problems. Wanna tell me about it?"*



▲ *"I appreciate it, I truly do, but believe me, bowing is not at all necessary."*



▲ *"You're the only woman in the world for me, and by the way, I'm running for judge."*



▲ *"You're the only woman in the world for me, and by the way, I'm running for judge."*



▲ *"You're the only woman in the world for me, and by the way, I'm running for judge."*



▲ *"You're the only woman in the world for me, and by the way, I'm running for judge."*

▼ *Now what would any Bench/Bar be without the two most beautiful women in the bar association?*



▲ *"If I told him once, I told him a thousand times, 'Bill, drinking mojitos and then lighting your burps is dangerous.'"*



▲ *"Where's the damn crank? When I was a kid, there was always a crank!"*

▶ *Oh, so wistfully, Peggy recalls her favorite Bench/Bar Conferences from the past.*



Letters to the Judge

Editor's note: As can be seen from the date, this letter was sent 19 years ago upon the occasion of the elevation of one of our members to the Superior Court. The sidebar acknowledges the cooperation of Willis Knotz, the archivist of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, who recognized its importance and saved it from destruction.

November 13, 1989

Your Honor, Sir,
Well, I guess congratulations are in order. Darla Jean cut your picture out of the paper and sent it to me; it's the one of you where you are raising both hands, like a fellow at the beginning of a stickup. Jeeter, my cellmate, says it's not you, but a man his dad knew, who runs the rackets in Scranton, although he says that if it is him he has aged somewhat.

Jeeter also says that the Superior Court is one of five courts that hears

cases involving barge accidents and things like that on the Great Lakes and that your office is going to be in Duluth. If this is true, I would like again to ask for parole before you leave because it may be hard to communicate with you once you assume your new and nautical responsibilities.

I keep hearing that the county is going to build a new jail and that the

state is going to build a thousand cells here and there while all the while Jeeter and I have made it known that we are more than willing to give up our present accommodations to a new pair of miscreants. (While I was looking up miscreant in the dictionary I came across misanthrope, which is definitely what Jeeter is, your honor. Jeeter don't like nobody. All he does is bitch and moan about everyone. While on the other hand, I kind of like a great number of people, especially you now that you are going to be a Superior Court Judge.)

So how about that parole?

Very truly yours,
Ricky H. Benbow, Sr.



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To-Wit: J'Recuse

by S. Sponte, Esq.

An Open Letter to My Colleagues at the Bar

Well, by now you all know what happened at the call of the list, there is no need to go over it again. Yes, I did fling some epithets at His Honor, followed by my briefcase, but I was having a bad day and now I'm going to tell you why.

It all started a few weeks ago when I received his order in the mail. At first I didn't know what to say. Well, okay, I did, but its not printable. Although I held the order in my hands, although its import was plain enough, although the print was readily discernible despite the violent shaking of the hands that held it, despite all of that I still couldn't believe it. His Honor had recused himself from my case and now it would have to be tried before a different His or Her Honor as yet unnamed.

I didn't know who the new judge would be, but it didn't matter. The damage had been done. Though our local bench is replete with able jurists, none of them are as close to me, as dear to me, as devoted, beloved, and as lifelong a trusted friend to me as the one who had just stabbed me in the back.

"Because of my long-standing friendship with Plaintiff's counsel," he had written, "and because it is known to me that Plaintiff is a corporation which is owned substantially in part by Plaintiff's counsel, the ends of justice will be far better served, and the appearance of improprieties avoided, if I recuse myself from this case." That's what it said but that's not what it meant.

What it meant was this: "After all these years of dear and devoted friendship with Plaintiff's counsel, I willfully and malevolently decline to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime

opportunity to cut him a break, to help him out in a case in which he could clearly use a favor. I

further decline to return in even some small way a fractional part of the full measure of devotion and assistance he has always unstintingly offered to me, my career and my family, especially including my nephew, Ralph, who is something of a moron."

I was stunned. Now if I was going to win this case it appeared that I would have to rely solely on my own skill and the merits of my client's position. After almost forty years of camaraderie and consortium with him and his ilk, I deserved a far better fate than to be left entirely to my own devices. Plainly put, His Honor had

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To-Wit: J'Recuse

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simply abandoned me to the vagaries of justice. Now I ask you, what kind of friend does that to a guy?

No one understands any better than I do the need to avoid the appearance of impropriety. I'm all for it mostly. But I don't think I heretofore had any clue that such ethical considerations would make it impossible for me to get a favor from the court now and again. I guess I just never thought it through before.

It's been a couple weeks now since the incident, and the passage of time has allowed me to cool off and rethink my conduct. So has the contempt citation. Therefore I apologize to His Honor and I'm glad there will be no permanent scar.

But things between us can never be the same again. No longer will I invite him as my friend to my parties, dinners, family gatherings, no more hockey or football tickets given out of love and respect. No, from this day forth until the end of time, I will do such things only so as to kiss his butt.

A hypocrite, you say? Perhaps. But after all, business is business, and for at least a few more years the guy's still a judge.

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"Suzie and I went to Italy to attend my cousin's wedding that took place in the small town of Ivrea, just north of Torino. After the wedding, there was a reception and dinner at a castle called Castello di San Giorgio in the town of Canavese. The photo is of me standing at the wall that surrounds the castle and overlooks the town. My uncle [when he was alive] and his son worked for the Italian government renovating the old castles in the area. This was one of the castles they renovated."

— Jim Antoniono

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May 2008 Civil Trial Term

Jury Trial Verdicts

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

Of forty-one cases listed for the May 2008 Civil Jury Trial Term, seven settled, eighteen were continued, one was removed from the trial list, seven verdicts were entered, and eight were held to the next trial term. The jury verdicts for the May trial term are summarized below.

**ALOISE J. PENSKA
V.
STATE FARM MUTUAL
AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE
COMPANY
NO. 2862 OF 2004**

*Cause of Action: Breach of Contract—
Denial of Insurance Coverage*

Aloise J. Penska owned a 1993 Pontiac Firebird, which was insured by State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. On May 30, 2002, Penska drove his vehicle to work and parked it behind his place of employment. Later that day, Penska discovered that his vehicle was missing from the parking lot. On May 31, 2002, the police discovered the Firebird burned and abandoned in a small depression of water. Penska submitted a claim to State Farm for the loss of his vehicle.

State Farm subsequently interviewed Penska and concluded that



he had misrepresented or concealed material information. Moreover, State Farm conducted a forensic examination of the vehicle, which revealed that anti-theft features had not been breached or defeated and that the vehicle could only have been operated with a properly coded key. There were signs of serious engine

wear and no easily removable components had been taken from the vehicle. Based on the foregoing, State Farm denied coverage on the ground that the destruction of the vehicle was not a direct and accidental loss.

During trial, Penska testified with regard to the facts and circumstances of the loss of his vehicle, and he addressed the concerns raised by State Farm's interview and forensic investigation. State Farm presented evidence, including expert testimony, to show that its decision to deny the claim was reasonable and consistent with the insurance contract.

Plaintiff's Counsel: Brian P. Bronson, Richard H. Galloway, Quatrini Rafferty Galloway, P.C., Gbg.

Defendant's Counsel: Daniel L. Rivetti, Robb Leonard Mulvihill LLP, Pgh.

Trial Judge: The Hon. William J. Ober

Result: Verdict in favor of Defendant.

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Jury Trial Verdicts *continued from page 13*

**DENNIS HOOPER, INDIVIDUALLY;
HOOPER ROOFING, INC.;
DEBORAH L. PERRY, D/B/A
QUALITY ASSISTED LIVING, INC.;
MATTHEW G. HUET AND LINDA R.
HUET, HUSBAND AND WIFE
V.**

**HARFORD MUTUAL INSURANCE
CO. AND FIRST LINE NATIONAL
INSURANCE COMPANY
NO. 6307 OF 2002**

*Cause of Action: Declaratory
Judgment—Insurance Coverage—
Advisory Jury*

Deborah Perry hired Hooper Roofing, Inc., to repair the roof of a personal care home. On June 13, 2001, an employee of Hooper Roofing accidentally started a fire by igniting the roof of the personal care home with a torch. The resulting fire destroyed the personal care home. Dennis Hooper, the sole shareholder of Hooper Roofing, had purchased a Commercial General Liability policy from Harford Mutual Insurance, which was in effect on the date of the fire.

Dennis Hooper and Hooper Roofing, Inc., filed a Declaratory Judgment action, asking the Court to declare that Harford had the duty to provide a defense and indemnify any loss up to the limits of the policy. Following a non-jury trial, judgment was entered in favor of Harford. However, the Superior Court reversed the Court's order and remanded the case for further proceedings. The Superior Court found that Dennis Hooper, as an individual, was covered by the policy and directed the trial court, on remand, to determine whether Harford had any obligations to Hooper Roofing, Inc., within the context of their duty to defend and indemnify Dennis Hooper.

On May 6, 2008, the matter went to trial and an advisory jury was impaneled. The parties litigated the issues of whether the parties intended the insurance contract to provide General Commercial Liability coverage

to Hooper Roofing, Inc., and whether Hooper Roofing, Inc., was a sham corporation and functioned as the alter ego of Dennis Hooper.

Plaintiffs' Counsel: Louis M. Tarasi, Elizabeth M. Tarasi, Tarasi & Tarasi, P.C., Pgh.

Defendants' Counsel: Arthur Bloom, Arthur Bloom & Associates, Pgh.

Trial Judge: The Hon. William J. Ober

Result: The advisory jury, responding to specific interrogatories, determined that the parties did not intend to insure Hooper Roofing, Inc., and that Hooper Roofing was not the alter ego of Dennis Hooper. The Court adopted the verdict of the jury. The Court declared that Harford had no duty to defend or indemnify Hooper Roofing, Inc., but declared that Harford did have an obligation to defend and indemnify Dennis Hooper as an individual.

**NANCY GUMM AND EDWARD
GUMM, HER HUSBAND
V.**

**CHARLES HOOK D/B/A
HOOK'S CHUCK WAGON
NO. 4016 OF 2005**

*Cause of Action: Negligence—Strict
Liability—Breach of Warranty*

On June 24, 2003, the Plaintiff, Nancy Gumm, purchased and was served a tuna fish sandwich by Defendant at his restaurant, Hook's Chuck Wagon, located in West Newton, Westmoreland County. On or about June 26, 2003, Mrs. Gumm began to experience abdominal pain, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, and fever. In the course of one week, she lost between 10 and 15 pounds. During the second week following her consumption of the tuna fish sandwich, she developed herpes zoster (shingles) around her left eye. Plaintiff alleged that Defendant, by and through its agents, servants, and/or employees, was negligent in serving Mrs. Gumm food that was contaminated by harmful bacteria, thereby causing Mrs. Gumm

to contract salmonella. As a result of such negligence, Mrs. Gumm claimed injuries including numerous medical procedures, pain and suffering, and a weakened immune system that necessitated expending sums of money for medical attention, hospital care, and treatment.

Defendant claimed that Plaintiff's injuries and/or damages were the result of intervening and/or superseding causes over which the Defendant had no control. Defendant's medical expert testified that there was no conceivable clinical basis to associate Mrs. Gumm's gastrointestinal illness with the viral infection of her eye.

Plaintiffs' Counsel: Kenneth B. Burkley, Gbg.

Defendants' Counsel: Paul E. Pongrace, Redman & Pongrace, Pgh.

Trial Judge: The Hon. Gary P. Caruso

Result: Verdict in favor of Plaintiff in the amount of \$1,000.

**REBECCA MUSGROVE AND DUANE
MUSGROVE, HER HUSBAND
V.**

**JOSEPH A. SLEZAK, M.D.
NO. 7825 OF 2002**

*Cause of Action: Negligence—
Medical Malpractice*

On October 12, 2001, laparoscopic surgery was performed by Defendant, Joseph A. Slezak, M.D., on Plaintiff, Rebecca Musgrove, to treat Plaintiff's constant lower abdominal pain due to recurring abdominal and pelvic adhesions. During the surgery, Plaintiff's bowel was perforated. After the surgery, Plaintiff continued to suffer from abdominal pain. On October 14, 2001, Dr. Slezak performed a second laparoscopic surgical procedure in which he removed four inches of Plaintiff's bowel. Plaintiff alleged that Defendant was negligent in performing the initial surgery, and that he failed to obtain the necessary informed consent of Plaintiff for the second surgery. As a result of Defendant's negligence,

Plaintiff alleged that she suffered and will continue to suffer from permanent damage to the bowel, which will develop further adhesions and cause further abdominal pain. Plaintiff also alleged that she suffered from chronic diarrhea and depression.

Defendant argued that the care and treatment he provided met the applicable standard of medical care that was owed to the Plaintiff and that, prior to the second surgery, he obtained Plaintiff's informed consent.

Plaintiff's Counsel: Dennis J. Slyman, Gbg.

Defendant's Counsel: Tyler J. Smith, Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, Pgh.

Trial Judge: The Hon. Gary P. Caruso

Result: Molded verdict in favor of Defendants. The jury answered, in special interrogatories, that Dr. Slezak was not negligent, i.e., he did not violate the standard of care expected of him as a physician under the circumstances.

JAMIE STEYER

V.

LOUISE M. KILGORE

NO. 2260 OF 2001

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

The Defendant, Ms. Kilgore, appealed a \$15,000 arbitration award in favor of the Plaintiff, Ms. Steyer, arising out of an automobile collision near Bovard Elementary School at a Route 119 intersection on April 13, 1999. As Steyer stopped at the stop sign controlling the intersection, Kilgore collided with the rear end of Steyer's vehicle. The police were not called to the scene. Both vehicles were drivable and neither driver received medical attention at the time of the accident. Plaintiff contended that Defendant was negligent in the operation of her vehicle and claimed injuries that included severe pain and trauma to the neck and both shoulders, numbness in the right arm and hand, constant headache, pressure

at the base of the head, psychological and neurological injuries, medical expenses, impairment of earning capacity, and loss of earnings.

Defendant argued that Plaintiff's claims were barred by the statute of limitations and asserted the affirmative defense that Plaintiff was bound by the limited tort option of automobile insurance, which precluded her from maintaining any action according to the provisions of the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Law.

Plaintiff's Counsel: James N. Falcon, Youngwood

Defendant's Counsel: Stephen J. Magley, O'Malley & Magley, L.L.P., Pgh.

Trial Judge: The Hon. Gary P. Caruso

Result: Molded verdict in favor of Defendant. Finding that the Defendant was not negligent, the jury did not determine whether Plaintiff suffered a serious impairment of a bodily function.

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Jury Trial Verdicts *continued from page 15*

**GARY LEE HONICK, SR.
V.**

**MARTA K. MATTA, IN HER
INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY AND
REAL ESTATE CHAMPIONS, INC.,
A PENNSYLVANIA CORPORATION,
T/D/B/A MATTA & MATTA
REAL ESTATE
NO. 5590 OF 2005**

*Cause of Action: Negligence—
Real Estate Seller Disclosure Law*

In this action, Gary Lee Honick, Sr., the purchaser of a home in Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County, brought suit against the seller, Marta K. Matta and Real Estate Champions, Inc., seeking damages sustained from a water and sewage problem in the basement that the seller allegedly failed to disclose. The trial was limited to issues of liability and damages pursuant to the Real Estate Seller Disclosure Law.

The house was sold in June 2004 and the basement was damaged by water from Hurricane Ivan in September 2004. Plaintiff presented evidence that, prior to the sale, a neighbor had complained to both Defendant and the township that sewage water from Plaintiff's residence was coming onto his property. Buyer had a home inspection done prior to the sale and the inspection report raised no issue. Buyer presented testimony that subsequent excavation revealed water leakage from the septic tank. Seller, who resided in the home for four years, said there was one instance of puddling around the basement drain. She called in a plumber and had no further problems. The plumber opined that the loss complained of could not have been foreseen.

Plaintiff's Counsel: Andrew M. Gross, Law Office of Andrew M. Gross, Pgh.

Defendants' Counsel: Teresa O. Sirianni, Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, Pgh.

Trial Judge: The Hon. Daniel J. Ackerman

Result: In special findings, the jury found that Mrs. Matta had knowledge about defects in the house regarding water and sewage, which she failed to disclose to Mr. Honick. The jury found that the amount of damages sustained by Mr. Honick as a result of the failure to disclose these defects was \$3,000.

A non-jury trial was scheduled on the remaining claims under the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law for treble damages and attorney's fees.

**IN THE MATTER OF
CONDEMNATION OF FEE
SIMPLE INTERESTS IN PROPERTY
SITUATE IN THE CITY OF
JEANNETTE, WESTMORELAND
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA:
THE CITY OF JEANNETTE
REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
FOR THE CENTRAL JEANNETTE
REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

**NAME OF OWNER OF
CONDEMNED PROPERTY
JON P. BRADY, PETITIONER/
CONDEMNEE/PLAINTIFF**

**CITY OF JEANNETTE
REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
CONDEMNOR/DEFENDANT**

**NO. 5545 OF 2006
AND
NO. 5546 OF 2006**

*Cause of Action: Eminent Domain—
Damages*

These condemnation cases involved two properties owned by Mr. Brady and taken by the City of Jeannette Redevelopment Authority for the Central Jeannette Redevelopment Project.

Both parties' experts agreed that the highest and best use for these properties was commercial and that, since the buildings were going to be demolished pursuant to the project, the fair market value of the property after the taking would be zero. Therefore, the sole damages issue tried involved a determination of the fair market value of the two properties prior to the declaration of taking that was filed on February 9, 2006.

Both experts used the comparable sales method of determining the fair market value of the properties before the take. As for 714 Clay Avenue, Jeannette, Westmoreland County (No. 5545 of 2006), plaintiff's expert testified that the fair market value was \$54,000, while defendant's expert opined that it was \$35,000.

With respect to 708 Clay Avenue, Jeannette (No. 5546 of 2006), plaintiff's expert testified to a fair market value of \$45,000, and defendant's expert contended that it was \$32,000. The jury viewed the property prior to reaching its verdict.

Plaintiff's Counsel: John N. Scales, Meyer, Darragh, Buckler, Bebenek & Eck, P.L.L.C., Gbg.

Defendant's Counsel: Gary A. Falatovich, Gbg.

Trial Judge: The Hon. Daniel J. Ackerman

Result: In special findings, the jury found that the fair market value and just compensation for the taking of No. 714 Clay Avenue was \$41,000 and that the fair market value and just compensation for the taking of No. 708 Clay Avenue was \$40,700.

The remaining issues were scheduled for a non-jury trial.

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Westmoreland Revisited

Home Front: The WLA During World War II

by The Hon. Daniel J. Ackerman

I think I'm correct in saying that the wars that have followed the Second World War have had a steadily declining impact on the lives of Americans whose family members are not in military service. We have been slightly inconvenienced by the increased security at airports



▲
The Hon. Daniel J. Ackerman

and public buildings; we lament the cost, and are saddened by the loss of life of young people we don't know; but no sacrifice at home has been asked of us from the Korean War to the present. For the most part, life goes on as usual. Comparisons between the societal impact of these wars and the Second World War are usually, but perhaps unfairly, invited; because these later conflicts have been limited wars, while World War II was unlimited warfare, with conscription, rationing, a mobilization of almost all industry to war production, and a sense of urgency that has not been known since that time. Even then, however, the fabric of everyday life did not unravel, and mundane problems, some of a legal nature, had to be attended to. That war was closer to the public and a sense of participation was found not only in individuals, but also in businesses and a variety of recreational, civic, and professional organizations.

In Jeannette a sportsman's club taught members how to aim and shoot at descending paratroopers. The specter of German paratroopers filling the sky above Jeannette seems incongruous now. Not so in those days, where cities and towns conducted regular blackout drills and middle-aged men wearing World War I helmets and armbands walked the neighborhoods with flashlights warning families who had not done so to turn off their lights. The war was as close as the Atlantic seaboard. In 1942, German U-boats sank 1,160

ships, more than three a day in the North Atlantic, many within view of Americans living on the East coast.

The Westmoreland Law Association, the predecessor to the WBA, was not as innovative as the sportsmen of Jeannette, and followed a more traditional course, starting with a \$500 donation to the Red Cross, authorized at the annual meeting on February 5, 1942, two months after Pearl Harbor. Also in 1942 the WLA purchased \$3,000 in United States War Bonds. To put these amounts in perspective it is interesting to note that in the same year the WLA recommended to the court that the salary of the law librarian, Katharine W. Williams, be increased from \$150 to \$175 a month. In fact, based upon the Consumer Price Index, if today's bar association wished to make a similar bond commitment it would cost \$38,161.

At the annual meeting on January 11, 1943, John M. O'Connell moved to have the secretary write the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners recommending that any man who joined the armed forces and had a degree from

continued on page 18

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Home Front *continued from page 17*

an accredited law school be admitted to the bar without an examination. The motion carried. At the same meeting James L. Kennedy moved to dispense with the WLA's annual banquet and that the money saved be given to the war effort. The banquet was cancelled. Shortly thereafter, the executive committee directed the secretary to make a list of names of members of the WLA who joined the armed forces, together with the date of their induction or entry into active service. Unfortunately, the list doesn't appear in later minutes. At the 1944 annual meeting on January 10 it was moved and carried that an honor roll of bar members now in the armed services be placed in a niche to the right of the door to the law library.

Of course, the association dealt with other matters, and one of interest was a resolution adopted April 8, 1944, at a special Saturday meeting at the Greensburg Country Club authorizing the WLA to "set up, establish and operate a weekly publication for the profit and advantage of the Association." To this end \$2,500 was set aside from which the executive committee was authorized to spend no more than \$1,500 to purchase from the present owners of the Westmoreland Law Journal (the Henry Printing Company, according to the present staff of the law journal) the physical assets and the right to use the name.

The last entry in the minutes during the war making a reference to wartime



▲ *Vance E. Booher served as Secretary of the WLA during World War II.*

conditions is from the annual meeting on January 8, 1945, when "J. Edward Mitinger reported that the Grievance Committee held nothing against anybody, except the OPA." The OPA was the Office of Price Administration, and the report suggests Mr. Mitinger's dry sense of humor. During the war the OPA controlled the price of everything. Its mandate was to hold prices to within 30 percent of their 1939 levels. According to William Manchester it had "become a government-within-a-government, with 73,000 full-time employees, 2,000,000 volunteers, and an office in every community down to the town level." "It was," Manchester wrote, "an intolerable tyranny, a mockery of freedom, and all that could be said for it was that there was no alternative." Of course, it led to the rise of a black market and an imaginative system of bartering. The agency's reach was pervasive. Even Santa Claus was not beyond its power, as demonstrated by one of its decrees in December 1942: "Bona fide Santa Clauses shall be construed to be such persons as wearing a red robe, white whiskers and other well-recognized accouterments befitting their station of life, and provided that

they have a kindly and jovial disposition and use their high office of juvenile trust to spread the Christmas spirit they shall be exempt from the wage-freezing Executive Order of October 3." Others didn't stand a chance.

The end of the war brought cause for celebration, which did not escape the attention of the members of the WLA. Hence, this final entry.

Executive Committee Meeting Dec. 20, 1945

The Executive Committee met on the 20th [sic] day of December 1945 and very reluctantly approved the bill of the Greensburg Country Club for the dinner of November 10, 1945, which read as follows:

100 dinners at	
3.00 each	\$300.00
Refreshments	<u>200.00</u>
	\$500.00
Service charge	<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$550.00

The Committee further decided that refreshments would not be furnished by the Association at the next annual meeting, that this should be noted on the minutes, and that the Secretary should instruct the Country Club to that effect.

*Meeting adjourned.
V. E. Booher
Secretary*

It must have been some party.

SOURCES

- Minutes of the Westmoreland Bar Association
- William Manchester, *The Glory and the Dream: A Narrative History of America 1932-1972*, Little Brown and Company (1973)

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— Sheldon Kopp, "What Took You So Long?"

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BRIEFLY SPEAKING

Davis Receives Alumni Leadership Award

On May 31, 2008, Sandra Davis was one of 11 Seton Hill University alumnae who were chosen to receive the school's Distinguished Alumni Leadership



▲
Sandra Davis

Award, having demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership in one or more of the following areas: education, business and professions, science and technology, arts, voluntary services, and philanthropy. The first female attorney to become a partner in a Westmoreland County law firm that was not family-based, Sandi shares her time and legal expertise generously in the community. Following her graduation from Seton Hill, she taught both elementary and junior high school for the Greater Latrobe School District. A certified Reading Specialist and Reading Supervisor, Sandi earned her Masters of Education at the University of Pittsburgh and pursued doctoral studies. When her career focus shifted to law, she completed her Juris Doctorate at Duquesne University School of Law's night school.

Now a partner with DeBernardo, Antoniono, McCabe, Davis & DeDiana, PC, in Greensburg, Sandi is the first female attorney in Westmoreland County to receive an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell, a peer review based on ethical standards and legal ability.

In the community, Sandi is an ardent supporter of the Westmoreland County Epilepsy Sports Dinner and has assisted in raising more than \$750,000 for the organization. She served as Bishop Anthony Bosco's personal representative to the Administrative Board of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the watchdog organization for all state legislation of interest to the Catholic Church, and is currently involved in a variety of community organizations, including Stage Right and the Bethlehem Project at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral.

A Jeannette resident, Sandi is the mother of a son, who is an attorney in Philadelphia, and also has two grandchildren.

Actions of the Board

MAY 20, 2008

- Accepted diversity and harassment policies as amended by the board.
- Noted that CLE income is up due to increase in hourly CLE charges; LRS income is higher than projected in both attorney registration and in percentage fee.
- Approved Membership Committee recommendations as follows: Jonathan Kozusko, participating; Jeffrey Baxter, associate.

- Ms. Brammell has accepted the appointment to the Membership Committee to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Artuso; this appointment will need membership approval at the annual meeting in April 2009.
- Learned that \$1,944 was allocated to PBA for their public image campaign, which begins in September.
- Young Lawyers reported that they will participate in a June 22 croquet tournament; approved expenditure for this event.
- Network Deposition Services signed a lease to occupy several rooms on the first floor of the WBA building beginning June 1.
- Voted to allow the Family Law Committee a \$500 allotment for a scholarship for attendance to the annual PBA family law conference.

JUNE 17, 2008

- Agreed that the WBA should begin to look at alternative healthcare policies for January 2009 renewal.
- Reviewed an e-mail from the court administrator that indicates that the WBA is not the court-recognized local rule publisher. However, it is the C.A.'s opinion that the WBA does this best.
- Agreed to add the above matter to the fall judges' meeting agenda to discuss whether the courts could pay the law journal for operating this local rules publication service.
- Learned that the CLE board has a home-study option which allows physically ailing attorneys to earn CLE credits at their leisure.
- Accepted executive session policy as amended by the board.
- Voted to co-sponsor ACBA technology fair in Pittsburgh on November 10, and to reappoint Mr. Lightcap to another five-year term on that committee.

wba news

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

- 19** Family Law, Noon
Board Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 20** Northern Lawyers Luncheon,
Noon, King's, New Kensington
Civil Litigation, Noon
- 22** WBA Picnic/Pool Party,
4:30 to 9:30 p.m.
*Family and friends welcome!
Contact the WBA for more
information and to RSVP!*
- 28** CLE: Video Compliance, 9 a.m.
to 3:45 p.m., 5 substantive and 1
ethics credits available

SEPTEMBER

- 1** Courthouse closed in observance
of Labor Day
- 10** Fee Dispute, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.,
Laurel Valley
Bankruptcy, Noon
Membership, Noon
Real Estate, Noon
- 16** Family Law, Noon
Board Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 17** Northern Lawyers Luncheon,
Noon, King's New Kensington
- 18** Elder Law and Orphans' Court,
Noon
- 24** Ned J. Nakles American Inn of
Court, 5 p.m.

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.

save the date!

**Fall Gathering • October 4, 2008
Westmoreland Country Club**

*\$30 per person, cash bar • 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Look for your invitation in early September.*



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

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