



Collaborative Law

Cooperation, Rather Than Opposition, May Be the Answer

by Bob Johnston, Esq.

My friend and former partner, Denis Zuzik, used to complain that in the practice of law, the primary objective of each side in a conflict is to prevent



▲ Bob Johnston

whatever it is the other side wishes to promote. Some areas of practice—family law comes to mind—seem inevitably contentious. And while few would maintain that is healthy for either lawyers or clients, it has long seemed unavoidable.

Have you ever wondered if it really has to be this way?

Last month, the Family Law, Young Lawyers, and ADR Committees co-sponsored a presentation by Paula Hopkins and David Miller, founding members of the Collaborative Law Association of Southwestern Pennsylvania (CLASP). CLASP was formed in 2006 and is one of many similar organizations devoted to the practice of Collaborative Law. Forty members of our bar attended—some for the free lunch—but many were curious to find out whether collaborative law could become one of the ways they could practice law.

The concept of Collaborative Law began with Minnesota lawyer Stuart G. Webb in 1990. After concluding yet another (unnecessarily?) litigious divorce case, Collaborative Law was Webb’s way of saying, “I’m not going to take this any more!” He recruited other like-minded lawyers in his community, each of whom agreed to change how they approached the practice of family law for those clients who had the right disposition and were appropriately inclined—that is, those who failed to see the wisdom of lengthy, expensive, and, as I’ve already mentioned, contentious litigation.

Its philosophy has since grown roots in communities all across the country. The American and Pennsylvania Bar Associations’ ADR Committees now have active subcommittees devoted to the practice, which is not limited to family law but can be utilized in any civil dispute where the parties desire to have greater control over the process and the outcome.

So just what is Collaborative Law? A form of alternative dispute

resolution, Collaborative Law is a process in which lawyers and clients agree that the lawyers’ role is solely to assist clients in settlement negotiations. Parties agree to voluntarily provide all documents and information relevant to the matter at hand and, when appropriate, will jointly engage experts who are encouraged to proceed in the spirit of seeking a fair and just settlement. They also agree not to engage in litigation, or even threaten to do so, while the negotiation process is ongoing. If negotiations fail, and the matter can only be resolved by going to court, the “collaborative” lawyers must be replaced by new trial counsel.

The process itself involves a series of meetings that follow

an agenda prepared by both parties, at which both lawyers and clients are present. The recipe for good negotiations includes a combination of the non-adversarial problem-solving that is common to mediation, and the advocacy and advice of traditional legal representation. Each lawyer’s primary

continued on page 4



President's Message

Our Impact Extends Well Past the Courtroom

by James R. Antoniono, Esq.

At our annual meeting, I set forth the goals I hope to accomplish for this coming year. Since a majority of our members do not attend the annual meeting, I thought I would restate these goals in this message, since they involve all members. The objective of these goals is to improve the public image of our profession and of our association.



To one degree or another, we have all been affected by the economic collapse our country suffered this past fall. Obviously, some of us have been hit harder than others, but no one has emerged unscathed. This applies to our clients and all of the other citizens in our county as well. We can sit around and complain about how much money we have lost in our various retirement plans, or how our income has been impacted, or, we can turn this into an opportunity.

This economic adversity gives us, as a profession and as an Association, an opportunity to not only help those who are less well off or have been hit the hardest, but also to improve our image.

I have asked each committee to come up with a project that will have a positive impact on the community and help those less fortunate. As these projects are submitted to the Board and approved, we will schedule either a press conference or send out a press release to announce the project. Hopefully these projects will both provide a benefit to the community and improve the image of our profession.

Second, I am asking each of you to provide the Westmoreland Bar Association office a list of all the volunteer activities you have undertaken since entering the legal profession. There is not another profession whose members give as much of their time, talent and energy helping to make this world a better place. I believe it's time to let the county as a whole know just how valuable the legal profession is to every community.

I am asking that you list every board you have agreed to sit on, every group you have provided pro-bono legal services to, every church committee or activity (e.g., Sunday school teacher), every municipal committee you have been involved with, every children's activity you have taken part in, every elected position you have held where you serve without pay—in other words, list any community activity you have undertaken without pay to help your fellow citizens.

After we accumulate all of these responses, the Bar Association plans to publish this information to illustrate the impact our profession has had and continues to have on the community. As I indicated above, no other profession can match the impact we make on the lives of so many people—and this is in addition to the impact we

have on the lives of our clients on a daily basis. Without the skill set we bring to any activity, the community as a whole would suffer a great loss.

Please e-mail, fax, or mail your list of activities to the Bar Association office as soon as possible. It shouldn't take longer than half an hour, even for those who are very active, to compile a list and forward it to the Bar Association. ***Please take time to compile your list now!!!***

I have asked Kim Houser to head up a committee to put together a Disaster Response Plan for our Bar Association. If a disaster should strike our county and catch us unprepared, whatever goodwill and respect we have built up in the community would dissipate. If you are interested in working with Kim on this committee, please let the Bar Association know as soon as possible.

Also, I have asked James Boggs to make an attempt to reach out to those individuals who live in our county and are authorized to practice law but are not actively engaged in the practice of law. I believe if we are successful in getting these individuals to become active in our Bar Association they would bring a whole new perspective to our association and we would be richer because of their involvement. If you are interested in working with James on this committee, please contact the WBA office.



Finally we need to re-brand the Bar Association, so that we are consistent with the image and the message we send out through all we do: letterhead, web site, newsletter, all affiliated organizations, etc. For example, the news story that appeared in the Tribune-Review following the judicial forum ended with the following: “The forum, attended by about 80 people, was sponsored by the Westmoreland League of Women Voters, the county bar association and the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.”

Instead of being identified as the Westmoreland Bar Association, we were referred to as the “county bar association” as if we were simply a collection of individuals with no formal organization. What’s sad is that we were the leading organization in making this event happen and come off as well as it did. We need to do everything we can to make the public recognize the Westmoreland Bar Association as not only the face of our profession but also a resource for competent legal services at a reasonable price. When the primary media source in the county does not recognize us, how can we expect the public to do so?

I think this will be an exciting and challenging year to be President of the Westmoreland Bar Association. It will take your help, however, to make it a successful year. Together we can make all of Westmoreland County know what other bar associations throughout the Commonwealth already know—that we are one of the greatest bar associations in the Commonwealth. 🍀

Remembering Jane Campbell Mika

Editor’s note: Jane Campbell Mika passed away on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, from lung cancer and its complications. She is survived by her husband, WBA member John A. Mika, Esq.; a niece, Susan Campbell Wagner, of Lemon Grove, Calif.; a grandniece, Megan Demers, of Delmar, Calif.; a cousin, the Rev. Paul B. Blank and his wife, Helen, of Lancaster; and numerous second and third cousins from the Blank side of the family.

by The Hon. Richard E. McCormick, Jr.

Q WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT A LAWYER WHO WAS NEVER CRITICIZED BY HER FELLOW LAWYERS?

A She must have never practiced law.

Jane Campbell Mika, Lou Congelio, and I spent the better part of the second half of the 1970s carpooling to night classes at Duquesne Law School. We met in the Greengate Mall parking lot every afternoon, joined the same study group, and endured the same lectures, reading assignments, and exams that are the boot camp on the road to lawyerdom.

And yet, Jane never practiced law. She never represented a client, never reviewed a contract, and only wrote two wills. She passed the bar exam, maintained her CLE credits, and attended WBA functions, but she never stood before a judge or jury.

After completing law school, Jane married WBA member John Mika,

and continued to work as a supervisor in the Children’s Bureau, ultimately retiring in 2000, after 39 years of service.

After her retirement, she and John visited 45 of the lower 48 states, often playing the slots along the way. In fact, on their last trip to Nova Scotia via *The Catamaran*, the purser had to be summoned to pay her jackpot; it was so large.

To Lou and me, she was “the hostess with the most-est,” introducing us to Chick-fil-A sandwiches and keeping us all well-fed during study groups.

She was an aficionado of roses, crossword puzzles, and the Steelers.

She died at age 71, on March 25, 2009, from lung cancer and its complications.

And she will certainly be missed by us all. 🍀



Jane Campbell Mika

LawSpeak

“The law should be construed so as to advance the remedy and suppress the mischief.”

— Justice Thomas Todd, United States Supreme Court (1807-1826)

Cooperation, Rather Than Opposition, May Be the Answer

continued from page 1

duty is to his or her client, as each seeks to reach a settlement that is fair and just to both.

The result is a process that assists clients in fashioning solutions that might otherwise be difficult to achieve in litigation. It can occur in complete privacy and is often at a fraction of the cost of litigation.



The parties can move as quickly as they wish or as slowly as their resources or other considerations dictate. And although potentially distracting at first, the participation of the clients at every step of the process allows them to achieve a settlement to which they are each more likely to be committed.

If you've read this far, you probably have a number of reactions to the concept. It's obviously not for every client. Many litigants want or need the traditional litigation process. Sometimes people just aren't ready or willing to settle their differences. On the other hand, the alternative—litigation—is time-consuming, expensive, and unpredictable. You rarely hear a client say he was glad for the experience. And perhaps the notion of spending one's precious resources directly participating in the solution of one's own problems will have even greater appeal in a struggling economy.

It's also not for every lawyer. Resolving conflict with opposing counsel and emotional clients all sitting at the same table can be difficult. In order for the settlement process to work, our traditionally adversarial attitudes and approach need to be adjusted, and change is not always so easy. In addition, a lawyer may not be entirely comfortable with the way in which a typical collaborative law agreement alters the customary attorney-client relationship. And then there is the matter of whether the other lawyer and party are proceeding under the same notions of good faith as your side ... what's your remedy if they're not?


START YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TODAY!

Westmoreland Law Journal

Legal advertisements, estate notices, court opinions, and other important notices are published every Friday in Westmoreland County's **only** authorized legal periodical—the **Westmoreland Law Journal**. A yearly subscription is \$52 and can be received either in the mail, or as a PDF file in your e-mail. For more information, or to begin your subscription, contact Managing Editor Susan Zellner at 724-834-7260 or susan.zellner@verizon.net.

So why is this concept proving to be so popular? Call me "Pollyanna," but the idea of collaborating, of working in cooperation with, rather than forever opposing, has a nice sound to it. Helping people make peace, and having them be glad you did, is such an appealing idea. We never seem to have enough grateful clients. And did I mention that the clients seem to be more willing to pay? At least that's what the practitioners are saying. Their clients seem to value the service more when they participate every step of the way.

Becoming a practitioner of Collaborative Law requires a minimum of two days of training in the theory, mechanics, and fundamentals necessary to perform this unfamiliar role. Following certification, most lawyers become affiliated with a group, such as CLASP, who are devoted to providing education, training, and support to Collaborative Law practitioners.

The ADR and Family Law Committees are participating (read "collaborating") in the planning and creation of such a group here in Westmoreland County. Training will be available at the WBA office on July 24 and 25, for those interested in certification. The cost of certification will be \$180–\$225 per person. For more information, please contact the bar association office at 724-834-6730. 

ACBA Services, Inc.

Realtime reporting
Video synchronization
Expedited delivery
A/V tape transcription
Conference rooms



TO SCHEDULE ONLINE



CLICK HERE

Scheduling a court reporter is quick and easy when you visit www.acbaservices.com!

The Court Reporters
From ACBA Services, Inc.

412-261-5588
PITTSBURGH OFFICE
724-837-1772
GREENSBURG OFFICE
www.acbaservices.com

New Leaders Chosen, Awards Given at Annual Meeting

James R. Antoniono assumed the office of President at the Annual Meeting of the Westmoreland Bar Association held on Monday, April 6, 2009, at the Greensburg Country Club.



▲ James R. Antoniono

A member of the WBA since 1982, Jim is a shareholder with DeBernardo, Antoniono, McCabe, Davis & DeDiana, P.C., in Greensburg. He is a graduate of Penn State and the Duquesne University School of Law. Jim is a member of the WBA's Investment Advisory, Planning, and Governmental Affairs Committees. He succeeds Barbara J. Christner, and will serve a one-year term as President.

OTHER ELECTION RESULTS

Michael J. Stewart was elected Vice President for the 2009–2010 term, and Joseph W. Lazzaro was chosen to fill the vacant Director seat on the board. Other board members include President-Elect Donald J. Snyder, Jr., Directors David S. DeRose and John K. Greiner, Past President Barbara J. Christner, Treasurer L. Christian DeDiana and Secretary/Executive Director Diane Krivoniak.

Maureen S. Kroll was elected to the Membership Committee and Christopher Skatell was elected to the Building Committee. Both will serve five-year terms.

AWARDS GIVEN AT MEETING

Terence O'Halloran was named Pro Bono Attorney of the Year in recognition of his noteworthy

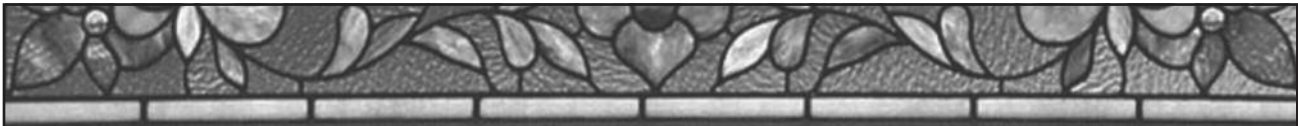


▲ PBA President-Elect Gretchen Mundorff (left), outgoing WBA President Barbara Christner, and PBA County Bar Services Director Michelle Shuker (right).

volunteer legal representation of indigent Westmoreland County residents (see article on page 16).

At the WBA Annual Meeting, PBA President-Elect Gretchen Mundorff presented the WBA's 50-year members

continued on page 6



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



Leaders Chosen, Awards Given *continued from page 5*

who were in attendance with an award for their years of practice. Those honored included Dante Bertani, Bob Cassol, Richmond Ferguson, Richard Jim, Aaron Kress, Earnie Long, The Hon. Charles Marker, James Nardelli, John Scales, and Wayne Whitehead.

Other awards given at the WBA Annual Meeting included Outstanding Young Lawyer and Committee of the Year. The recipients are as follows.

John M. Hauser, III OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAWYER

John M. Hauser, III, was named Outstanding Young Lawyer at the WBA Annual Meeting.

The award is given to the young lawyer who best exemplifies outstanding leadership and distinguished service to the legal profession and the community. A member of the WBA since 2004, John is Chair of the Explorers Post, Past Chair of the Young Lawyers, and is active in the Planning and Civil Litigation committees.

A graduate of Latrobe Area High School, Westminster College, and the Duquesne University School of Law, John is an associate with Reeves and Ross in Latrobe.

Q WHAT DOES THE AWARD MEAN TO YOU PERSONALLY?

A I like our lawyers here in Westmoreland County. Our Bar Association consists of an impressive group of talented, witty, caring, and professional people from diverse backgrounds, and with innumerable variegated interests, talents, and



▲ WBA Vice President Mike Stewart presents John M. Hauser, III, with the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award at this year's annual meeting.

experiences. The stories and discussions at our events, on both legal and other topics, are always captivating, and our community outreach efforts, both as a bar association and among our members

individually, are laudable. It means a lot to me to be recognized by a group for whom I have so much respect, and whose company I so much enjoy.

Q WHAT DOES THE AWARD MEAN TO YOU PROFESSIONALLY?

A We all prefer those cases where we know the attorney at the neighboring table can be taken at their word, to those cases where even the most insignificant conversation must be confirmed by a follow-up letter. I would hope that my receipt of this award will help, in some part, to build my reputation as an active and honest lawyer who can be trusted not to hide the ball.

Q HOW DID YOU FEEL UPON LEARNING YOU WERE THE RECIPIENT?

A This was definitely a well-kept secret, so I would say that I was surprised. As I approached the podium, I heard Mike Stewart whisper something about racquetball and I felt a surge of youthful energy—you can't dodge me forever, old man.

Q WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE TO FUTURE CANDIDATES FOR THE AWARD?

A Be involved. Participation in the Inns of Court, Bar Association committees, CLE seminars, holiday and seasonal parties, the Bench/Bar Conference, and numerous other Bar Association activities, are all great opportunities for professional development and for getting to know fellow lawyers. It is always good to know people, and the elder members of our Bar Association can be a great educational resource. Also,

WE UNDERSTAND LITIGATION AND THE TECHNOLOGY BEHIND IT.



- MULTIMEDIA TRIAL SERVICES
- ONLINE DATABASE HOSTING
- DATABASE MANAGEMENT
- COURT REPORTING SERVICES
- ELECTRONIC DATA DISCOVERY (EDD)
- DOCUMENT & MEDICAL FILM IMAGING
- CUSTOM GRAPHICS & ANIMATION
- SOFTWARE SALES & CERTIFIED TRAINING*
- VIDEO SERVICES
- *SUMMATION® & TRIALDIRECTOR®

PRECISE
Litigation Technologies

PITTSBURGH: 412.281.8699
PHILADELPHIA: 610.565.9544
www.precise-law.com

as we are all very fortunate to be members of a great profession, we should all try to give back. Whether through pro-bono work, membership on a public service committee, participation in Law Day, or work with a charitable or non-profit organization, we can all do our part to better the communities around us.

Editorial Board of *the sidebar* COMMITTEE OF THE YEAR



▲ WBA President Jim Antoniono presents David J. Millstein with the Committee of the Year Award at this year's annual meeting.

The Editorial Board of *the sidebar* was honored as Committee of the Year at this year's Annual Meeting. Editor David J. Millstein accepted the award on behalf of the board, which consists of Beth Orbison, Assistant Editor; The Hon. Daniel J. Ackerman, a man of many hats; Diane Krivoniak, WBA Executive Director; and Susan Zellner, WBA Publications Specialist.

Q WHAT DOES THE AWARD MEAN TO YOU, AS COMMITTEE CHAIR, PERSONALLY?

A The Editorial Board of *the sidebar* takes its charge very seriously. We all give a lot of thought and attention to what we put into the magazine and what we don't. We have tried to make

the publication of interest in some ways to all our members, and I take a lot of personal satisfaction in believing that this award indicates that at least to some degree we have been successful.

Q WHAT DOES THE AWARD MEAN TO YOU AND YOUR COMMITTEE PROFESSIONALLY, AS MEMBERS OF THE WBA?

A It lets us know that we are in touch with what is of interest to our colleagues, it truly reinforces our hopes that we are serving our profession, and it gives all of us something really entertaining to read during our many daily bathroom breaks.

Q HOW DID YOU FEEL UPON LEARNING YOUR COMMITTEE WAS THE RECIPIENT?

A Actually I was expecting to receive the President's Award for

Professionalism, so I was a bit miffed. :)

Q WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE TO FUTURE COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS WHO STRIVE FOR THE AWARD?

A Don't strive for the award. Just treat your committee work as meaningful and do a conscientious job. If you get recognized for it, that's peachy keen, but if you don't, it doesn't matter. Your best efforts make it way-meaningful enough. 🍀



▲ Among the 50-year members honored by the PBA were, from left to right, Richard Jim, Dante Bertani, Aaron Kress, and Bob Cassol.

STINE & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
www.stinelawfirm.com

Referral fees paid for:

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION
PERSONAL INJURY**
SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY • FELA
MESOTHELIOMA & Asbestos Cancer Cases

— representing injured persons only —
In Westmoreland, Allegheny, Cambria &
all western PA counties



Cindy Stine, Esq.

231 S. Main St., Ste. 205
Greensburg, PA 15601

724-837-0160
cindy@stinelawfirm.com

Candid Camera: 2009 Annual Meeting



▲ *"It's two years for personal injury claims, now give me the five bucks."*



◀ *"It's called Hair Club for Men and it's worth every penny."*

▶ *"Wait just a minute and I'll offer myself to you, too."*

▲ *"You, sir, are out of order. It's my turn and I want the fish."*



Lawyers' Exchange (Free to all members of the WBA)

FOR RENT Pennsylvania Avenue Commons, Suite 204, 20 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601, 3 Offices with Common Area, \$295.00 per month per office or \$795.00 per month for the entire space, 724-832-2499.

UNIQUE 1ST FLOOR OFFICE SUITE(S) Downtown Greensburg, 126 W. Pittsburgh Street. Monthly rental and security deposit dependent upon the length of the lease. Adjacent paved, lighted, fenced, off-street parking for tenants, staff, clients or customers, private entrance from common hallway, separate handicap entrance from parking lot, completely separate units. Good character and credit references required. To view offices, call 724-834-9087.

SITUATION WANTED Graduating Pitt Law 3L from New Alexandria seeks temporary legal work from August until January. Possesses judicial clerking and law firm summer associate experience. Detailed resume available upon request. Please contact rms58@pitt.edu or call 412-715-2257.



▲ *"Is it true what they say about the length of a man's tie?"*



▶ *"I'll never stop laughing if you don't get that beard out of my ear."*



▲ And what would any annual meeting be without the the two smartest, strongest, and best looking members in attendance?



▲ In the best traditions of the bar, Terry O'Halloran wins the Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year Award for the thirteenth straight time, proving yet again how valuable someone with a great heart can be while waiting for his practice to develop.



▲ "I know what you're thinking, but I'm not really here."



▲ "Did you hear the one about the tipstaff's daughter?"



▲ "And she said, 'If this is a law library, what happened to my bra?'"

▲ "Yes, I know you're retired, and I'm sorry, but the dinner is still twelve bucks."



▲ "Dad, did you forget your Depends again?"



◀ "Aw gee, guys, thanks. I haven't seen this hat since I finished filming 'The Village People—A Nude Retrospective.'"



▲ "Let's celebrate my fifty years in practice by all singing 'Ein Kelohehu' together."



▶ "I don't know exactly how many legs it has but it was swimming in the vichyssoise."

Committee Reports

Family Law Update

Notice to Family Court Attorneys

by *The Hon. Christopher A. Feliciani*

This notice is to inform you of a new procedure that will begin as a pilot on July 1, 2009. All new Westmoreland County Children's Bureau placement cases will be



▲
The Hon. Christopher A. Feliciani

scheduled for a 90-day conference. This conference will be scheduled by the judge or master at the first day of the adjudicatory hearing.

The purpose of the 90-day conference is to use case conferencing to facilitate the prompt achievement of permanency.

Research has shown that family involvement and a team approach in case planning and in evaluating case progress has many benefits. In an effort to speed permanency, engage families, and to improve communication and collaboration, a 90-day case conference shall occur for all new placement cases. The goals of the 90-day conference are:

- The continued development of the case plan with the input of all interested parties;
- The evaluation of case progress;
- To review the status of referrals for services;
- To prepare for permanency reviews and settle as many issues as possible before the next court hearing.

All parties and other interested individuals, such as involved family members; MH/MR and JPO when assigned; CASA; service providers and

school personnel shall be invited or requested to submit a report to be presented at the conference.

The Family Court Judge or Master will facilitate this 30-minute conference and prepare a summary of the meeting for all parties. Issues to be addressed at the conference may include:

- Continued development and review of service plan;
- Review of necessary evaluations, services, and referrals for parents and children;
- Identify missing parents and develop list of relative supports;
- Visitation issues;
- Child's needs, including level of care;
- Determination of concurrent permanency plan with input from the parents;
- Discussion of strengths and concerns regarding the family and case progress.

We strongly encourage your attendance at this very important meeting. 🌸

Notice to Family Law Practitioners

Family Assessment Services at Excelsa Health Westmoreland has changed its name to Comprehensive Counseling and Assessment Services, and will be relocating to 132 South Main Street, Suite A, Greensburg, PA 15601, effective July 1, 2009. Thereafter, the CHILD program will be held in the Commissioner's Meeting Room at the Westmoreland County Courthouse. There will be two 4-hour sessions per month. New CHILD Program Registration packets containing this information are available at the Custody Office. Old registration packets should be discarded. All current open cases will transition to the new practice.

If you have any questions, call Carrie Gallatin at 724-832-4890. 🌸

BARRY B. GINDLESPIERGER ATTORNEY AT LAW

724-853-2464

101 North Main Street, Suite 206A, Greensburg, PA 15601
www.gindlespergerlaw.com • barry@gindlespergerlaw.com

**Accepting referrals in Chapter 7
and Chapter 13 bankruptcies,
and commercial law.**

**Referring family law and criminal law matters,
and certain contingent-fee cases.**

A Debt Relief Agency helping people file for relief under the Bankruptcy Code.

To-Wit: The Haunting

by S. Sponte, Esq.

For many summers now, I have volunteered two weeks of my time, for a modest fee, to serve as a counselor at law camp. Oh sure, there are mosquitoes, vermin, and sometimes maggots to contend with, but it's not that far removed from practicing law and it gives me a wonderful opportunity to mentor the young. I just adore the way the campers hang on my every word, as if it were the gospel, and I love to fantasize about them getting elected to the bench as soon as possible.

Last summer, as I always do on the last night of camp, I gathered the kids around a campfire to tell them ghost stories. It's a welcome respite for them from the daily grind of memorizing fee agreements and learning to do percentages in their heads.

"Once upon a time," I began, "there was this wonderful, brave, and handsome attorney who, although he was very smart and very experienced, still continued to practice family law."

With such an impaired sense of judgment, the kid had no chance to ever be a family court judge.

"Uh oh," one of the campers groaned, "is this going to be another one of your horror stories, like being a judge or having to sit next to defense counsel at lunch?"

I went on. "One day he was representing a husband in a divorce action"—I could hear a shudder from the kids—"and he negotiated a settlement agreement which provided that if and when their young children needed braces, the husband, who was an orthodontist, would do the work."

"Eminently fair," one of the campers offered, but I just shook my head. With such an impaired sense of judgment, the kid had no chance to ever be a family court judge.

"But the wicked wife," I continued, "took the kids to a different orthodontist and sent husband a bill for five thousand dollars. When husband refused to shell out, wife sued him in

continued on page 12



Tell me more about
finding what it takes
to succeed.

Imagining a secure future is a good first step.

To realize all you hope for takes sound planning, hard work and a trusted partner who can help you understand your options. At First Commonwealth® we have the financial resources, products and services to truly make a difference.

Like you, we live, work and raise our families here. We understand what it takes to have the life you want. So, come in and talk with us. We'll help you get there.



**FIRST
Commonwealth.**

fcbanking.com

800.711.2265

To listen. To ask. To talk to and advise.

To Wit: The Haunting

continued from page 11

family court for money to pay the bill.”

Oh, and with that the little cherubim began to snicker, as even at this age they could smell an incipient butt-kicking. They were right of course; they just had the wrong butt.

“His lawyer argued that husband had no obligation to pay, that wicked, wicked wife had breached the settlement agreement, and that both she and her wicked, wicked counsel should be shoved into a hot stove and cooked.”

“What happened next, Uncle Sponte?” a camper exclaimed with eager anticipation.

“That’s what I want to know,” I told them. “It was many years ago and I still can’t figure it out. All’s I know is that the court, without opinion, ordered husband to pay.”

There was this long, stunned

silence. After the campfire had long since crackled and groaned into quietude one of the campers broke the stillness with a plaintive query.

“What happened to the husband and his wonderful, brave, and handsome attorney?”

“The husband was so mad,” I told them, “that he fired the wonderful, brave, and handsome attorney and lived miserably ever after. As for the wonderful, brave, and handsome attorney, well, that’s when he quit practicing family law forever and ever.”

“Oh,” said one of the kids, “so this story has a happy ending after all?”

“Yes,” I told her, “it does. Now before we go to bed, let’s all do our forty percent multiplication tables in our heads one last time.”

© 2009, S. Sponte, Esq.

Can't get enough Sponte? More articles are online at www.funnylawyer.com.

www.westbar.org

Did You Know?

The online Lawyer Referral Service is up and running. Clients who visit www.westbar.org and click on the “Need A Lawyer?” button will be directed to the LRS website where they can select a panel of law from a drop-down list, pay the referral fee of \$30 (if applicable), and be matched with an attorney who practices in that area of law. Both the client and attorney receive a confirmation e-mail. Next time you need to refer someone, think www.westbar.org.

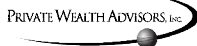
HOW STRONG ARE YOUR ADVISOR'S STRATEGIES?



Hopefully, strong enough to handle typical market volatility.

After all, isn't that why you hired an advisor? At Private Wealth Advisors, we employ tactical asset allocation in designing a strategy for our client's investment portfolios. This strategy is designed to produce a less volatile portfolio while enhancing the possibility for greater returns. And doesn't everyone want a portfolio that solid. Call us. We would like to share our strengths with you. 800.245.5339 or visit www.pwaua.com.

WWW.PWAUSA.COM



Our investment strategy does not assure profit or guarantee against loss.

USI Affinity 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.

Employee Benefits,
• medical,
• dental
• vision

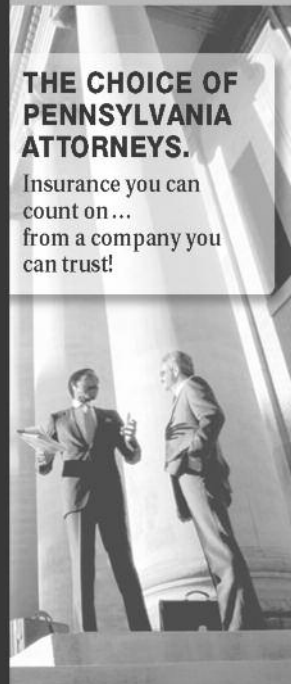
Professional Liability
Disability
Term life
Long Term Care

To learn more please contact us at

800.327.1550
www.usiaffinity.com

THE CHOICE OF PENNSYLVANIA ATTORNEYS.

Insurance you can count on... from a company you can trust!



Westmoreland Revisited

Old Westmoreland: A Review

by *The Hon. Daniel J. Ackerman*

A book review usually follows the publication date sooner than 109 years later. This book review occurs now because Heritage Books recently reprinted “Old Westmoreland: A History of Western Pennsylvania During the Revolution,” by Edgar Wakefield Hassler—first published in 1900—as a compact paperback of 194 pages.

It would be of interest to the Westmoreland bar if it did nothing more than inform concerning the burning of



▲ *The Hon. Daniel J. Ackerman*

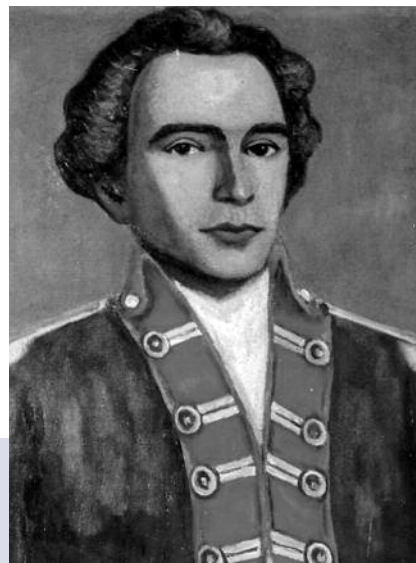
Hannastown, our original county seat. In addition, however, it provides insight into what a violent and strife-ridden place this once was during the eighteenth century, and frequently recounts events which involved William Crawford, a Virginian, who became a Pennsylvania magistrate, and who George Dallas Albert in his “History of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania” designates as the county’s first presiding judge.

The Penns purchased the geographic stage on which these events were acted out from the Six Nations of the Iroquois at Fort Stanwix, N.Y., in November 1768. Out of this land, and as an offspring of Bedford County, Westmoreland County was created on February 26, 1773. In addition to its present boundaries, it encompassed the counties of Fayette, Green, and Washington, those portions of Allegheny and Beaver south of the Ohio River, as well as two-thirds of Indiana and one-third of Armstrong. The total area was 4,700 square miles, almost five times its present size.

Prior to the Revolution, the central domestic political issue on this frontier was whether this land was part of Virginia or Pennsylvania. William Crawford, while commissioned as a Pennsylvania magistrate, was, as mentioned, a native Virginian, a friend and agent of George Washington, and a partisan of the Virginia claims, the last of which prompted the Governor of Pennsylvania to remove him from his judicial office in 1775. He regularly, however, reappears in Hassler’s narrative, and his name was memorialized through the naming of Crawford County.

The Pennsylvania-Virginia boundary dispute was put on hold because of the Revolution and, as you may have surmised, was subsequently resolved in favor of Pennsylvania. The outbreak of hostilities at Lexington and Concord in April 1775 did not become news here until a month later, stirring many public meetings, one in particular at Hannastown where the residents resolved their allegiance to the king, but voted it to be their duty to resist the oppression of parliament and the British ministry.

The initial phase of the war in the west for both the Americans and the British was an attempt to secure the Indians as allies, or at least to persuade



▲ *William Crawford was an American soldier and surveyor who worked as a western land agent for George Washington. Crawford fought in the French and Indian War and the American Revolutionary War. He was tortured and burnt at the stake by American Indians in a notorious incident near the end of the American Revolution.*

them to remain neutral (native people are referenced in the book as Indians, and often as not, as savages; the concept of political correctness was still some distance in the future). In the hope of creating an alliance, the Continental Congress in July 1775 appointed three of its members—Benjamin Franklin, James Wilson, and Patrick Henry—to hold a treaty with the Indians at Fort Pitt. The outcome was a vague suggestion of neutrality. The British fared better when, at Fort Niagara in May 1776, the Iroquois voted to fight for the king, a decision that would have lasting repercussions here for the remainder of the war.

The war on this western front was what we would refer to today as a guerrilla action, directed by the British

continued on page 14

HARRY J. SCHMIDT
 LICENSED PRIVATE
 INVESTIGATOR

Bonded – Insured

Greensburg, PA 15601

Phone: 724-838-0644
Fax: 724-838-0832

Old Westmoreland: A Review *continued from page 13*

from Fort Detroit and carried out through their Indian allies. It was, for those supporting the revolution in the west, primarily a war conducted on the defensive because of a lack of manpower and supplies.

Most of the Continental troops raised in Western Pennsylvania were called to make a long and treacherous march across the mountains during the winter of 1776-77 to join Washington's command along the Delaware River. Left behind in defense of this area were sparse militia units, who had recruiting problems because most frontiersmen viewed as their first obligation the duty to stay and defend their families and their land from the increasing Indian raids upon their settlements.

In addition, the Americans in the west faced a critical shortage of gunpowder. All of the powder produced in the colonies came from the eastern seaboard, primarily from the Brandywine Valley, and was quickly expended in the eastern engagements, while the flow of powder over the mountains declined to next to nothing. An expedition on flatboats undertook a dangerous journey down river from Fort Pitt to New Orleans to purchase gunpowder from the Spanish, who were technically neutral, but who were eager to make a profit and to weaken their traditional British enemy.

Twelve thousand pounds of powder were purchased. Three thousand

pounds were crated, falsely labeled as merchandise, and put on board a merchantman bound for Philadelphia. The remaining gunpowder was placed upon the flatboats and headed up the river. The down-river trip had lasted five weeks; the return voyage took seven months.

The powder arrived at Fort Pitt in May 1777, and was placed in the care of the former judge, now Colonel William Crawford of the Thirteenth Virginia. Hassler also notes in other unrelated matters that Crawford still maintained some judicial duties by presiding over court-martials at the fort.

There was also a scarcity of food on the frontier. Settlers who escaped with their lives following Indian raids usually found that their livestock had been killed and their crops burned. American

militiamen mirrored such conduct in attacks on Indian villages, and winters were equally punishing to both sides. In 1780, a stockade in Parnassus, known as Fort Crawford, was abandoned for the lack of food.

Crawford's name surfaces again as a signatory to one of the most remarkable treaties ever entered into by the United States. Almost all of the Indian tribes of the northeast, and what was then considered the west, sided with the British. The notable exception was the Delawares. At a conference at Fort Pitt on September 12, 1778, an alliance was

formed with the Delaware nation. Article Six of the treaty reached provided that any other tribe friendly to the interests of the United States could join with the Delawares "to form a state, whereof, the Delaware nation shall be the head, and have a representative in Congress; provided nothing contained in this article be considered as conclusive until it meets with the approbation of Congress." Hassler is not being cynical when he suggests that the American negotiators knew that Congress would not agree to the admission of an Indian state.

True to their alliance, the Delaware chiefs brought warriors to Fort Pitt in the autumn of 1780 to take part in a campaign against the pro-British Wyandottes, only to be told that due to the want of food and supplies at the fort, the proposed raid would not take place. While camped at the fort, the Delaware required a guard of colonial soldiers to protect them from a band of Westmoreland settlers intent on attacking them.

By 1781, the relationship with the Delawares was turned around by the death of their chief, White Eyes, who had been a friend of the Americans, but whose views were shared only by a minority of his tribe. From that point on, the Americans found themselves without Indian allies and the depredations on the part of both sides of the conflict escalated.

A detachment of 100 Westmoreland County volunteers under Colonel Archibald Lochry, attempting to join an expedition led by General George Rodgers Clark, was taken prisoner in what is now southern Indiana on August 24, 1781, by the Mohawk chief, Joseph Brant. Forty of the volunteers were killed; most of them after their surrender, and the remainder were imprisoned in Montreal.

The following spring, the American warfare against the Indians was unrestricted. On March 7, Colonel David Williamson and 160 mounted



▲ *This statue of Col. William Crawford stands in a niche outside the courthouse in Crawford County, Ohio.*

militiamen in search of those who killed Mrs. Robert Wallace and her three-year-old son, Robert, at their home on Raccoon Creek, came upon the Indian village of Gnadenhutzen whose occupants, Moravian converts to Christianity, offered no resistance. Evidence—items believed to be from the Wallace home—was found at the village. The inhabitants were confined in their church and informed of their condemnation. The next day, in pairs, 40 men, 20 women and 34 children were led from the church to the cooper shop where they were executed with mallets and hatchets.

The disgrace of Gnadenhutzen was not the last word and through the end of the war the native tribes prevailed on the frontier. In May 1782, the ubiquitous William Crawford, now a regular officer of the Virginia line, led 480 horsemen 160 miles to attack the tribes along the Sandusky River. Greatly outnumbered, the Indians and the British routed the column after a two-day fight and Crawford was taken prisoner during an unorganized retreat.

After hours of torture, which Hassler describes in some detail, Crawford was burned at the stake.

Another blow was yet to fall. A British expedition of 300 soldiers, 500 Indians and twelve pieces of artillery were descending the Allegheny River that summer to attack Fort Pitt. The plan was abandoned when it was learned that the ordnance at the fort had been increased. However, about a hundred warriors led by the Seneca chief Guyasuta, and about sixty Canadian rangers dressed as Indians, continued on to Kittanning and headed overland to the Westmoreland settlements. On Saturday, July 13, 1782, they struck at Hannastown. The inhabitants sought shelter in the small stockade fort. The only recorded fatality from the exchange of gunfire was a sixteen-year-old girl within the fort, Margaret Shaw.

The town, which was the county seat, consisting of thirty buildings, was burned. Only two buildings survived: a cabin and the tavern used by the court. All of the cattle and other stock

in the settlement were killed. About the same time there was an attack upon Miller's station where eleven were killed and four carried into captivity. And at a wedding at the Cruikshank home two men were killed and fifteen guests were taken prisoner, including Mrs. Robert Hanna and her daughter, who were taken to Canada and released after the war.

Hannastown never recovered from the blow, which was one of the last hostile acts of the Revolution, and when a new road between Bedford and Pittsburgh opened three miles to the south of the village, the county seat was moved in January 1787.

Reading "Old Westmoreland" a century later, one may wonder as to the degree of its historical accuracy and to what extent it is embellished by local legend. Mr. Hassler's credentials as a historian are unknown, but his list of authorities is impressive enough to show scholarly research; he tells a fascinating story of a land in which we live, at a time, which we can only imagine. 🌿

G

GEORGE AND JOSEPH

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**Representing clients in
Westmoreland, Allegheny,
Armstrong, Butler, Indiana, Clarion,
and surrounding counties**



**Personal Injury
Medical Malpractice
Criminal Defense**



*10 Feldarelli Square
2300 Freeport Road
New Kensington PA 15068
Phone: 724.339.1023
Fax: 724.339.3349
www.georgeandjoseph.com*



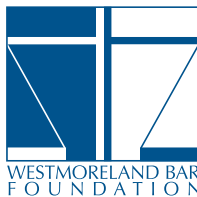
Duke George



Daniel Joseph

foundation focus

Terence O'Halloran Named Pro Bono Attorney of the Year



▲ Terry O'Halloran (left) accepts the Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award from The Hon. Daniel J. Ackerman at the WBF Annual Meeting held in April.

For the third time in three years, Terence O'Halloran, a sole practitioner in Greensburg was named Pro Bono Attorney of the Year at the 2009 annual meeting of the Westmoreland Bar Foundation held in April. The award is given to the attorney who has provided noteworthy volunteer legal representation of indigent Westmoreland County residents.

A Pro Bono volunteer since the program's inception in 1991, Terry has provided countless hours representing clients in bankruptcy and other consumer-related issues. The Pro Bono program of Westmoreland County provides free legal representation to those who qualify according to income guidelines and case merit.

Why does he devote so much of his time to helping others? "I believe

we all promise ourselves at some early point in our professional lives to make a difference—that the world will be better because we were a part of it," explains Terry. "I suspect that is part of the universal process of choosing this profession as our career. Judge Ackerman's gracious remarks about me in his presentation (*see box at right*) give some indication that I may have at least partially fulfilled my promise I made to myself a couple of generations ago. My goal now is to *not* receive this award next year—not by my working less in Pro Bono, but because so many others will be giving of their time and talents, that my name won't even come up for consideration.

"Judge Ackerman nailed the basic need for Pro Bono to exist at all. And it's a need that has always been around. Only today, the need is overwhelming. I would urge all the members of our Bar to step up in this most 'interesting' of times, and make a difference 'in the ancient and best tradition of the bar.' The assets we possess as lawyers are in such demand during this economic challenge, the influence we can wield for the general good by helping our individual clients is uncommonly strong. I would hope our Bar members take advantage of the opportunity before them. Get involved! Our corner of the world can be better!" 🌱

The following remarks were made by The Hon. Daniel J. Ackerman at the WBF Annual Meeting on April 6, 2009.

While we have concern for the financial health of the foundation and for our own affairs, there is an ever-growing body of people living in a state of financial crisis, facing problems that they never dreamed would beset them. We are reminded daily of the growing numbers of unemployed and working poor. Many of the problems they now face might be lessened, if not cured, if they had access to legal advice, which now they find beyond their means to afford.

It is not the current crisis that causes the Rules of Professional Conduct to call lawyers to render services in the public interest. It is in the ancient and best tradition of the bar that lawyers will provide services free, or at a reduced fee, where the need for benevolence is apparent. And lawyers true to this professional obligation will not wait for those in need to come to them, but will seek them out. This is the essence of participation in the pro bono program.

Every year scores of lawyers direct a portion of their time, energy and talent to assist indigent clients who have learned of the program and how it might help them. All contributions of service are highly valued regardless of the duration or frequency. But each year, based upon feedback from client questionnaires and observation, one lawyer is picked to represent the virtues of all because of his or her outstanding service and dedication, and that lawyer is designated as the Pro Bono Attorney of the Year.

At this annual meeting, one of the highlights is the presentation of that award. Well, who will it be this year? All I can say is that there are dynasties in sports and in politics, and now we see a dynasty centered on generosity. Please welcome for the third time in the past three years, the Pro Bono Attorney of the Year, Terry O'Halloran. 🌱

Law Day School Visits A Success

More than 60 volunteers from the Westmoreland Bar Association visited elementary, middle, junior high, and high schools in Westmoreland County throughout the month of May as part of this year's Law Day campaign, whose theme was "By the People, For the People."

Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Bar Association and county bar associations across the state, Law Day sends judges and lawyers back to school for classroom visits in an effort to teach students about the law.

More than 3,000 students in 28 schools throughout Westmoreland County were treated to presentations by the judges, attorneys, district justices, and paralegals who volunteered this year.

Volunteers for Justice

The Pro Bono Program extends thanks to all the attorneys who volunteered their time from January through March 2009: Gary Alexander, Mary Baloh, Marla Blum, John Bumbaugh, Brian Cavanaugh, Debra Cribbs, Michael DeMatt, Rebecca Fenoglio, Karen Ferri, Dennis Gounley, John Hauser III, Debra Henry, James Horchak, Maureen Kroll, Stephen Langton, James Lederach, Irene Lubin, Shirley Makuta, Phil McCalister, Elizabeth McCall, David Millstein, Donald Moreman, Debra Nicholson, Keith Nicola, Terry O'Halloran, Bradley Ophaug, Pamela Roudebush, Robert Slone, Mark Sorice, Todd Turin, Mark Wible, Ron Zera. 🍷



Left: Anthony Bompiani
Above: Don Rigone

Below: Scott Henderson
Right: Elizabeth McCall

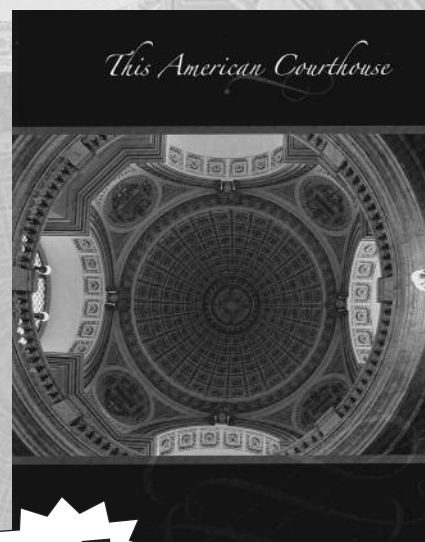


Left: The Hon. Debra Pezze
Above: Mark S. Galper

On sale now at the WBA!

All proceeds benefit the Westmoreland Bar Foundation.

Written to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Westmoreland County Courthouse in 2008, "This American Courthouse: One Hundred Years of Service to the People of Westmoreland County," includes many vintage photos and chapters on the construction of the Courthouse, the early legal community, and the history of the Westmoreland Bar Association. Contact the WBA at 724-834-6730 to order yours today. Quantities are limited.



\$35

Make checks payable to the Westmoreland Bar Foundation.

BRIEFLY SPEAKING

Bill of Rights Clinic Receives NAACP Award



▲ David J. Millstein

**DAVID MILLSTEIN,
CLINIC DIRECTOR**

The 1st Annual President's Award of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the NAACP was conferred upon the Duquesne University Center for the Bill of Rights, Civil Rights Litigation Clinic, at a dinner held on May 7.

Clinic Director David Millstein and Tracey McCants Lewis, Assistant Director of Clinical Legal Education, supervise Duquesne University law students in the representation of clients whose civil rights have been violated. The program is conducted in collaboration with the staff and volunteers of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the NAACP, and is the first of its kind in the United States.

Although the original idea for the Clinic was Mr. Millstein's, he credits Ms. McCants Lewis and Margaret Krasik, Director of Clinical Legal Education, with the suggestion that they operate in a partnership with the NAACP.

In the past, the NAACP had to rely solely upon volunteers to review hundreds of complaints a year involving allegations of racial discrimination, gender discrimination, and violations of free speech. With the help of the Bill of Rights Clinic, attorneys and students have streamlined the intake process and follow a protocol to assess the viability of complaints. In some cases, students will participate in pursuing claims before the EEOC and in the courts of common pleas. In other cases, the supervising attorney may refer the complainant to outside sources for legal help.

In addition to providing legal representation to civil rights litigants, the Clinic serves to educate law students, the NAACP, its Board members, and the community at large in an effort to protect individual liberties from bigotry, insensitivity and unlawfulness. 🐦

Actions of the Board

MARCH 16, 2009

- Learned that a meeting was scheduled with Pennsylvania Bar Institute Assistant Director Dick McCoy to discuss the PBI's proposal to show PBI seminars at WBA headquarters.

- Agreed to host a "Free Lunch Friday" on computer technology issues with the YWCA.
- Agreed to contact League of Women Voters to suggest that WBA partner with them in an upcoming forum between all judicial candidates.
- Agreed to sponsor Faith in Action's annual luncheon and agreed to use an ad that showcases the work of the WBA for seniors.
- Agreed to invite both Mr. Munk and Mr. McCabe to continue to serve as representatives to the PBA House of Delegates.
- Reviewed Google AdWords program that the WBA is using to market the online LRS program.
- Reviewed the guidelines that will be used by the Tribune Review to conduct a judicial candidates ballot, which will be mailed to WBA members.
- Heard report from YL Chair Hauser:
 - March Madness PBA caravan event is Thursday March 18, at 4:30 p.m. at the Cedar creek Golf Course.
 - CLE scheduled in May.
 - YL annual meeting scheduled for April 6 with Anthony Bompiani
- Voted to award the Committee of the Year to *the sidebar* editorial board.
- Learned that Riggy Lavelle's former band has been booked for the Holiday Dinner Dance which is scheduled at Westmoreland Country Club on December 5.
- Extended a special thanks to President Christner, Past President Whelton, and YL Chair Hauser for their years of service to the WBA.

APRIL 21, 2009

- Heard request from Judge McCormick regarding the 2010 National Mock Trial Competition to be held in Philadelphia. Judge McCormick asked the WBA to provide financial backing to the PBA for this historic event.

On The Move ...

JASON N. HUSKA has left the Westmoreland County District Attorney's Office and has joined Ferguson Law Associates as an Associate. He will be practicing in the areas of Family Law, Criminal Law, and Workers' Compensation. He can be reached at 400 Main Street, Latrobe, PA 15650; phone 724-537-7671.

wba

- Agreed to begin work on new pictorial directory with color photos. New photos will also be used for the WBA website.
- Learned that a “Truth About Living Trusts” presentation in partnership with the Attorney General’s office is scheduled for Wednesday May 27 at 7 p.m. at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.
- Learned that the PBA is holding a training for the “Wills for Heroes” program on May 29.
- Agreed to ask Matthew Faher to attend the PBA YL admittee ceremony August 7-8.
- Voted to start to schedule PBI seminars at the WBA headquarters for a six-month trial period.
- Learned that John Greiner will monitor the Tribune-Review ballot count of the judicial candidates on April 22 at 1:30 pm at the Tribune-Review’s Greensburg offices.
- Learned that the Medical Society has invited our president to their 150th anniversary on May 20 at Latrobe Country Club.
- Agreed to begin the retention balloting of the WBA participating members for Judge Bell and Judge Marsili.
- Voted to allow up to \$500 for a young lawyer to attend the PBA Family Law retreat. 🍷

New Member Sketches

Jonathan B. Bompiani has been admitted as a participating member of the WBA. A graduate of Hempfield Area High School, Jonathan earned his undergraduate and juris doctor degrees from West Virginia University. He is an associate with Meyer Darragh Buckler Bebenek & Eck in Greensburg.

Danielle G. Barozzini was admitted to the WBA as an associate member. She is a graduate of Bethel Park High School, the University of Pittsburgh, and the Duquesne University School of Law.



Looking for a special way to remember someone?

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

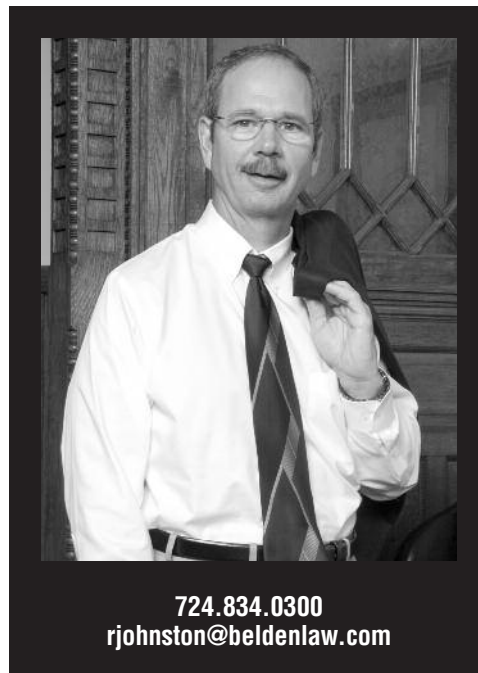
Since 1991, the Westmoreland Bar Foundation has raised thousands of dollars to assist the poor, disabled, elderly and children in our community. Through the **Memorial Program**, you can honor a colleague or loved one with a contribution to the Foundation. Your gift will help serve the needs of our own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

To make a gift to the Foundation as a meaningful expression of respect, please make your check payable to the Westmoreland Bar Foundation and mail to 129 North Pennsylvania Ave., Greensburg, PA 15601-2311.



Got News?

Do you have news to share with the sidebar? Making Partner? Marriage? Birth? Anniversary? Accomplishments? Send us a fax at 724.834.6855 or e-mail us at westbar.org@verizon.net, 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





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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 2009

- 23** USI Affinity Day at the WBA, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- 24** Young Lawyers Committee Lunch 'n' Learn with the Criminal Court Judges, Noon
- 30** A CLE Event: "Good Night, and Good Luck." with "The Movie Critics" David Millstein and Jackie Knupp, Noon to 2:45 p.m., 2.5 substantive CLE credits available

JULY 2009

- 3** Courthouse closed in observance of Independence Day

- 8** A CLE Event: "Good Night, and Good Luck." with "The Movie Critics" David Millstein and Jackie Knupp, Noon to 2:45 p.m., 2.5 substantive CLE credits available
- 9** Membership Committee, Noon
- 16** Elder Law and Orphans' Court Committees, Noon
- 21** Family Law Committee, Noon Board Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 24** Collaborative Law Training: Day One, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 25** Collaborative Law Training: Day Two, 9 a.m. to 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.