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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WESTMORELAND BAR ASSOCIATION  
SPECIAL EDITION  
MARCH 2014

# Nominations Announced for 2014–2015 Board, Committees



**Joseph W.  
Lazzaro**



**Lee R.  
Demosky**



**Maria E.  
Soohey**



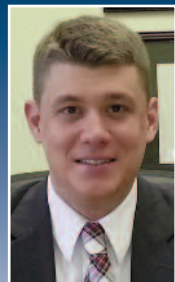
**Daniel J.  
Hewitt**



**Christopher P.  
Skatell**



**Joyce Novotny-  
Prettiman**



**Zachary J.  
Kansler**

The Nominating Committee, comprised of Dara A. DeCourcy (Chair), Samuel R. Coury, David S. DeRose, Terrance C. Ferguson, Joseph W. Lazzaro, Annaliese P. Masser, and Kerri A. Shimborske-Abel, met in January to review applications submitted for openings on the Board of Directors, the Membership Committee, and the Building Committee. The committee's charge, as outlined in the bylaws, is to recommend to the Board the names of at least one prospective candidate for each office to be filled at the annual meeting.

For the April 7, 2014, Annual Membership Meeting, the openings will be as such:

- One opening on the Board of Directors for Vice President. One-year term.
- Two openings on the Board of Directors. Three-year terms.
- One opening on the Membership Committee. Five-year term.

- One opening on the Building Committee. Five-year term. At the annual meeting, participating members of the WBA will vote to fill each of the openings. Due to the bylaws changes approved at the 2011 Annual Meeting, which resulted in two Directors being elected to the

Board rather than one, this is the first year WBA members will be asked to choose one of two candidates for the Vice President position. The candidate who is not chosen will have concluded his or her service on the Board of Directors. As stated in the WBA bylaws, which can be viewed online at [www.westbar.org/bylaws](http://www.westbar.org/bylaws), nominations for any of these openings will be accepted from the floor.

The committee's recommended candidates are:

- **Lee R. Demosky** or **Maria E. Soohey**, Vice President
- **Daniel J. Hewitt**, Board of Directors
- **Christopher P. Skatell**, Board of Directors
- **Joyce Novotny-Prettiman**, Membership Committee
- **Zachary J. Kansler**, Building Committee

At the conclusion of the annual meeting, **Joseph W. Lazzaro** will assume the Bar presidency.

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Look for your invitation in this mailing. Register online at [www.westbar.org](http://www.westbar.org) or call the WBA at 724-834-6730.

WESTMORELAND  
BAR FOUNDATION

ANNUAL  
MEETING

WESTMORELAND  
BAR ASSOCIATION

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014  
RIZZO'S BANQUET HALL,  
CRABTREE, PA

# Nominations Announced for 2014–2015 Board, Committees

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## VICE PRESIDENT: LEE R. DEMOSKY



*The Vice President ensures that the WBA's mission, services, policies, and programs are carried out. One one-year term open.*

**Professional Background:** Meyer, Darragh, Buckler, Bebenek & Eck, PLLC, February 1999–present, elected Partner in January 2002; Assistant Part-Time District Attorney, Fayette County, November 1997–January 1999; Coldren Adams, Associate Attorney, May 1996–February 1999; Dauphin County Public Defender's Office, April 1993–May 1996; Widener University School of Law, 1994; Saint Vincent College, 1992.

**WBA Activities:** Board of Director Member, 2011–present; Member since 1997; Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year, 2004; ADR Committee; Municipal Law Committee; Family Law Committee; Inns of Court, 1997–present; Westmoreland Academy of Trial Lawyers.

**Other Professional Information:** 2013–Founding Member, Westmoreland Mediation Academy; 2012 Saint Vincent College Alumnus of Distinction Award; Executive Board, Saint Vincent Law Society; Adjunct Professor, Saint Vincent College, 15 years; PBA-YLD Executive Council, 2002–2004.

**Vision for WBA:** I have been a member of the Westmoreland Bar Association since 1997, when I established a law office in Westmoreland County, and have been very active and committed to the Association consistently through the years. I seek the opportunity to serve as WBA Vice President to continue and advance my commitment and service to not only the WBA, but also the legal profession.

The complexion of the legal profession is changing dramatically.

The future of the WBA is dependent on attorneys coming into the profession and taking an active interest in the WBA, not only through the payment of dues, but also through direct involvement. Through my participation as a WBA Board Member, I and a number of my colleagues have reached the conclusion that an opportunity to enhance the ability to earn a living in the legal profession is the WBA's primary attraction to attorneys doing business in Westmoreland County.

Therefore, my vision for the WBA is to focus on preserving the legal profession by being vigilant in curbing the unauthorized practice of law and also by enhancing areas of growth such as mediation. To further preserve the profession, I am a strong advocate of the WBA Lawyer Referral Service. This program has been in place for a number of years and I have been a member since this program's inception. The Lawyer Referral Service provides the basis for WBA members to refer business to one another and I believe that WBA leadership can use this concept to develop a state of the art referral network that will include aggressive internet advertising of WBA member practice areas.

As this referral network blossoms, I envision attorneys seeking to establish practices in Westmoreland County will seek to become members of the WBA as part of their respective business plans. As additional attorneys join the ranks of the WBA, more funds become available for competitive advertising and financial benefits will eventually flow to the WBA members.

Moreover, the WBA functions as a "support group," so to speak, to members of the legal profession. In this regard, I believe that the practice committees and the Ned J. Nakles Inn of Court are an integral part of the organization and should have the full support of WBA leadership. For those

members who are solo practitioners in particular, involvement in these groups is priceless, as it provides an opportunity for attorneys with little to vast amounts of experience to meet with one another and share "war stories," provide updates in the field of practice, and input on how to handle a particular issue. There are no groups outside the WBA that can provide this benefit. Isolation is not conducive to competent and ethical practice.

I believe that my experience in handling cases before the entire Westmoreland County Bench will be a substantial benefit if I am elected as WBA Vice President, as this gives me a unique ability to understand and empathize with concerns and issues that arise between practitioners and the judges. Additionally, I have management responsibilities with my law firm and I also serve as solicitor for a number of municipal entities that requires me to lead on a daily basis.

I believe that the skills I have acquired throughout my 20 year involvement with the legal industry will permit me to serve as an effective leader of the WBA. I thank you for your consideration. 🌟

## VICE PRESIDENT: MARIA E. SOOHEY



*The Vice President ensures that the WBA's mission, services, policies, and programs are carried out. One one-year term open.*

**Professional Background:** General Counsel and Chief Operating Officer of Aestique Medical Center, a multi-million dollar business; Soohy Law, LLC. Practice areas include business, health care, elder law and estate planning; Graduate University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University School of Law, J.D., member Duquesne Law Review.

**WBA Activities:** Member of WBA since 2001; Board of Directors, 2011–present; Chair, E-filing Committee; Co-Chair, Practice Management Committee; Planning Committee; attended Conference of County Bar Leaders; Westmoreland Bar Foundation Trustee since 2003; Treasurer of the WBF since 2009; Inns of Court, 2006–present.

**Other Professional Information:** Professor University of Phoenix, teaching Health Law and Ethics; Board member, Turkey Trot.

**Leadership and Vision:** I am committed to the Bar Association and qualified to serve. I respectfully request your vote for Vice President of the WBA.

Borrowing from a famous quote, “This is your Bar Association, shape it or someone else will.” Lew, G.

I share the vision of our membership aimed at continued service to clients, our community, and to each other. It requires time, effort, and enthusiasm focused on better experiences and better results with no exceptions. Our combined efforts will result in improving the image of lawyers and assuring that the WBA continues to be the leading Bar Association in Pennsylvania. Member services and events will always be important, because after all, we are an Association that works hard and plays hard. Our social events are fun and attendance is necessary for us to network with each other.

Sam Parker, author of “212 the Extra Degree” encourages us to lead simply. In the WBA that is easy to do, as our members are the “best and the brightest” leaders themselves. In order to lead effectively and get results, my vision involves leading by example, connecting with you, and involving you whenever and however I can. It

just takes a small increase in effort to promote positive changes that shape our future.

During my tenure as Director on the WBA Board, along with the entire Board of Directors, I have supported the ADR Committee’s efforts aimed at solving the problem of the growing number of pro se litigants in our courts. The progress this committee has made toward increased mediation should be commended.

Having served on the WBF and WBA boards, I recognize the importance of their continued alliance. The overwhelming generosity of our members both financially and in time and effort allows the Foundation programs to be successful.

As chair of the E-Filing Committee, I continue to work directly with the Prothonotary, with the goal of implementing e-filing services. A partnership between the WBA and Prothonotary would result in convenience to lawyers and produce a shared revenue stream. I understand the challenges of finding new revenue sources to assure WBA’s continued financial well-being.

I look forward to serving you as Vice President, and with your help, will continue to promote the professionalism and the spirit of friendship and community that has made the WBA so successful. 🌟

#### **DIRECTOR: DANIEL J. HEWITT**



*The Director ensures that the WBA’s mission, services, policies, and programs are carried out. Two three-year terms open.*

**Professional Background:** McDonald, Snyder & Lightcap, P.C., 2000–present; sole practitioner, 1993–2000;

Godlewski & Hewitt, 1983–1993; Thirty-three years of practice concentrating in municipal, eminent domain, and real estate law, including serving as solicitor or special counsel for municipal entities across Westmoreland County.

**WBA Activities:** Member since 1983; active member in Real Estate and Municipal Law Committees including service as committee chair.

**Other Professional Information:** Chairman of the Board of View in Westmoreland County to consider eminent domain claims from 2001–2013; Member, Municipal Law Section of the Pennsylvania Bar Association; President, Westmoreland Collegium of Solicitors.

**Reason for Interest:** I have been involved in the Bar Association since I returned to Westmoreland County in 1983. This organization serves as an invaluable resource for problem solving and opportunities to share with and learn from other attorneys. We should continue to encourage all local lawyers to become engaged in the social and professional opportunities offered by the Association. I welcome the opportunity to give back to the Association by my service. 🌟

#### **DIRECTOR: CHRISTOPHER P. SKATELL**



*The Director ensures that the WBA’s mission, services, policies, and programs are carried out. Two three-year terms open.*

**Professional Background:** Graduate of University of Pittsburgh, BA – emphasis in accounting, 1989; Graduate of Duquesne University School of Law, J.D., 1993; Christopher P. Skatell, Esquire, P.C. –  
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#### **EDITORIAL BOARD**

David J. Millstein, Esq., *Editor*  
Beth Orbison, Esq., *Assistant Editor*  
The Hon. Daniel J. Ackerman,  
*S. Sponte’s Understudy*  
Charles J. Dangelo, Esq., Pamela Ferguson, Esq.,  
and Susan C. Zellner, *Associate Editors*  
Diane Krivoniak, *Managing Editor*

# Nominations Announced for 2014–2015 Board, Committees

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Owner/Partner, 2000–present; Labor Disputes UFCW Local 1407, Greensburg, PA, 2003–present; Skatell Law Group – Owner/Partner, 2008–present.

**WBA Activities:** Member of WBA since 1993; Real Estate Law Committee, 2010–present; Building Committee, 2011–present; Family Law Committee, 2011–present; Chair of the Business Law Committee, 2012–present.

**Other Professional Information:** Member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, 1995–present; Member of the Allegheny County Bar Association, 1994–present; Member of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association, 1993–present; Member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Charitable Organizations Committee (2010–present), Gaming Law Committee (2010–present), and Children’s Rights Committee (2010–present); Admitted to U.S. Supreme Court, 2002; Participated on Committee for Euro Banking with United Bank of Switzerland, Zurich, 1998; Named Counsel for American Fidelity Trust, 1997; Admitted to United States Bankruptcy Court, Norfolk, Va., 1996; Formed Committee and Chaired, Association to Redraft Franchise Agreement for Burger King USA, 1995; Formed Corporate Litigation Defense Team, 1994; Admitted to practice in United States Bankruptcy Court, Pittsburgh, Pa., 1994; Admitted to practice in United States Court, Third Circuit, Western District, 1994; Board Member of Men’s Night Out Community Foundation, 2000–present; Member of Patron of the Arts of the Vatican, Vatican City, 1998–present; Board Member of the Greensburg YMCA, 2008–2012.

**Reason for Interest:** I have wanted to become a more active part of the Bar Association for quite some time,

and now is personally a good time to take that step. During my years of practicing law, I have found being a member of the Bar Association to be very rewarding both personally and professionally. I would now like to use some of my time to give back to the Bar Association, as well as to help continue developing the Bar Association’s Committees and services it offers to those in the legal field. 🌟

## MEMBERSHIP: JOYCE NOVOTNY-PRETTIMAN



*The Membership Committee is the first point of contact most applicants have with the WBA. One five-year term open.*

**Professional Background:** Associate, QuatriniRafferty, P.C.; Duquesne University School of Law, J.D., 2000; Seton Hill College, B.A. *summa cum laude*, 1997, Major: Business Management.

**WBA Activities:** Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee; Civil Litigation Committee; Lawyers Assistance Committee, current Chair.

**Other Professional Information:** Pennsylvania Bar Association, Member; American Bar Association, Member; Ned J. Nakles American Inn of Court, Member and Executive Board Member; Pennsylvania Association of Justice, Member; Westmoreland Academy of Trial Lawyers, Member; Collaborative Law Association of Southwestern Pennsylvania (CLASP), Member.

**Reason for Interest:** Many attorneys are making a decision not to become members of local bar associations. This may be due to economic concerns or because there are other ways to network in this digital age. As part of the Membership Committee, I would be making an

effort to make sure that all candidates know the many advantages to being part of the WBA. We should all be proud of our local bar association and we should be talking about the advantages to joining which cannot be accomplished through electronic communication when we are welcoming potential members. 🌟

## BUILDING: ZACHARY J. KANSLER



*The Building Committee is responsible for maintaining the management and upkeep of Bar Headquarters. One five-year term open.*

**Professional Background:** Associate, Tremba, Jelley & Kinney, LLC, 2012–present; Legal Assistant, Dean Patricia Salkin, Touro Law, 2012–present; J.D. from Albany Law School, *cum laude*, 2012; B.A. in Political Science, Minor in Law and Society, Lebanon Valley College, *cum laude*, 2009.

**WBA Activities:** Member since 2012; Young Lawyers Committee, Municipal Law Committee.

**Other Professional Information:** Pennsylvania Bar Association, Member; Co-Author, with Patricia Salkin, “Municipal Inspectors General: Guarding the Public Trust,” *The Public Lawyer*, Vol. 22, No. 1 (Winter 2014).

**Reason for Interest:** I am interested on serving on the Building Committee because not only is the WBA building an important public representation of the County’s Bar, it also serves as the headquarters for many significant gatherings, including Inns of Court, CLE presentations, and committee meetings. The WBA building is a resource that many county bar associations do not possess, and I am interested in ensuring that the building is used to its fullest advantage. 🌟