

## the side bar

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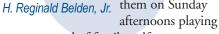
## Remembering Reg Belden

by The Hon. John J. Driscoll

y earliest recollection of Reg Belden begins in the sixth or seventh grade in the mid-1950s. We were about 11 or 12 years old. I would see him during the summer at the Greensburg Country Club. Even as a sixth or seventh grader, it was obvious Reg truly enjoyed life. He took junior

golf lessons, he swam, he had great times during the summer holiday weekends, particularly on the Fourth of July.

He was often with his parents and his sister, Marcia, and I particularly remember seeing them on Sunday



a round of family golf.

Reg, from day one, seemed completely at home with anybody and in doing anything. In many ways he was a complete natural. In one situation that we joked about over the years, he and I became locked in a sudden death playoff of the Mother/Son-or-Daughter golf tournament. Reg had the same full-bodied golf swing then that he carried throughout his whole life. I can still picture the long tee shot that he hit out the second fairway. It was probably only about 135 or 140 yards,



With their big bow ties, members of the Westmoreland and Pennsylvania Bar Associations show Reg that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery as they helped celebrate his 2001 inauguration as President of the PBA.

but it seemed like an awfully long shot for kids our age. It seemed to fly forever. I can remember thinking how good a shot that was because Reg never practiced. Even then, his schedule was full and didn't permit long periods of practicing golf.

By the end of the ninth grade, Reg had become the life of the party. Whether with the Hempfield crowd or the Greensburg crowd, Reg always seemed to be involved. He was one of those guys that girls loved to be around; they always seemed to want his attention. He was quite popular.

One day Mrs. Belden called me aside to ask, "What can we do about Reg?" I assured Mrs. Belden that I would keep an eye on him. (This was one of my own more hypocritical moments, as I had spent all summer

trying to learn his method of operation.)

We graduated from high school in 1959: Reg, from Hempfield, and I, from Greensburg. For the next 45 years, Reg attended both high school reunions. If I would miss my own class reunion, no one noticed, but if Reg missed one of my class reunions, everyone asked, "Where's Reg?"

A few years later, Reg had "survived" four years at Lafayette. I had gone to Villanova and would occasionally pick up information about fraternity life at Lafayette College. Reg's name would always come up. Reg was well known on the eastern seaboard.

A few years later, I was quite happy to find myself in law school with Reg. continued on page 4

#### President's Message

### It Sort Of Comes With The Job

by Robert I. Johnston, Esq.

his is my final President's Message. At first it seemed easy enough: 850 words, six times, two months in between to prepare the next one. It hasn't proven so. I've written each, as I'm doing now, within a day or so of my deadline. Oh, it's easy enough to



do the 850 words, if you're not very particular about what you say, but I haven't been able to be not very particular. I don't know who reads this stuff but to those who do, I've felt a responsibility not to waste their time or

my own. Mostly, I've wanted very much not to fritter away the chance to be an influence, to have an effect, hopefully a positive one, on the community and the profession of which we each are a part.

I know, that seems a bit presumptuous. You might well ask: Who am I, after all, to imagine I have anything so valuable to say that I should agonize over the writing of it? You'd be right, of course. I wasn't elected President because I was wise; if wisdom were a prerequisite, we'd likely go years at a stretch with the position vacant. I got the job, really, for no better reason than I was willing to stand for election and part with some of my time. And being an influence, or at least the opportunity, sort of comes with the job.

No, being an influence has nothing to do with being wise. It requires no more than a willingness to be involved, to participate, to give of one's time, to have and express an opinion, and once in a while, to be out front. You've likely learned more from my failures than my successes; Lord knows I have. There being no suitable course of study on the subject, or book to guide us, the ideas and conduct, both good and bad, the influences of those willing to speak up and to be out front, is about all we have to inform our lives.

I know this is true. I know for a fact that I would never have run for the Board or become President, nor would I be writing these words now, but for the influence of Reg Belden. He was neither a saint nor a perfect man, circumstances of which he was

alone. Any number of people we know had similar experiences, can trace their becoming more active and involved and more of an influence, to his influence. And like me, I'm certain they'll tell you, their lives are more interesting and satisfying for it.

I know I run the risk of making Reg sound like some sort of superior being, a notion he devoted many long nights and a small fortune disproving. If he was different than us, and I believe he was, it was not so much in the height of his accomplishments, though they were surely formidable,

Being an influence has nothing to do with being wise. It requires no more than a willingness to be involved, to participate, to give of one's time, to have and express an opinion, and once in a while, to be out front.

inordinately proud, but he was willing to be an influence. He understood that groups and organizations and communities and professions are nothing without the participation of those who are willing to be an influence. Before I met him I saw my life as a personal and private affair, no one's concern but my own, and I wasted little time on my community or my profession. Truth is, there was no profession; lawyering was just a job to me.

If life were a river, I was pretty much sitting on the bank, hardly even aware it was flowing by. At first he got me to put my toes in, and then more and more of me, until I was swept along with the current. I was hardly but in their volume. He simply lived more, participated more, and was therefore more of an influence in his world, and he was happier for it.

And this last point, that he was happier for it, is really the most important. We would remember him best, and live more happily in the bargain, by living more ourselves, by making a point of becoming more of an influence in our community and our profession. I know Reg was proud of the influence he was in my life and we both would be proud if either of us has been any influence in yours.





by James R. Silvis, Esq.



or a number of years, the Bench/Bar Committee attempted to have the conference at Seven Springs. Unfortunately, our choice of dates was always booked by other groups well

in advance. This year we're in luck!

The 2005 Bench/Bar Conference is scheduled for June 23-25, 2005, at Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Champion, Pa.

If you haven't been to Seven Springs lately, you'll be pleasantly surprised. The rooms were redecorated recently and there are plenty of new activities. There will be golf (Thursday and Friday), a rock climb rope course, mountain biking, miniature golf, bowling, tennis, swimming and beach volleyball.

Thursday, following the showing of the film "The Verdict," John Scales and Irv Bloom will lead a discussion on its legal and ethical issues. For the more adventurous/foolhardy there will be whitewater rafting at Ohiopyle. That evening, we'll enjoy an island party with Caribbean food and drinks at the ski lodge at the base of the mountain.

Friday, Judge Ackerman will lead a hike at Ohiopyle on a trail that is rated one of the 50 best hikes in Pennsylvania, Aaron Kress will again lead the biking excursion, and you can ride a horse on the resort's scenic trails with Abby De Blassio.

Special accommodations have been made for the Young Lawyers' hospitality suite, so we won't encounter the problems we had last year!

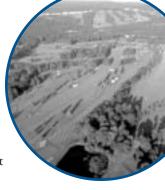
David Millstein is rumored to be hard at work on the script for the BarFlies performance, and, as a special attraction this year, Judge Feliciani and

his band will entertain. (They are currently learning "Double Shot of My Baby's Love" at the request of an older member.)

I hope to see you all at this year's conference. It's so important to get to know the judges and members of your own bar (ours is deemed to be one of the strongest in the state)

and this is the perfect venue— with serious discussions, athletic endeavors, and lots of laughs.

So, clear your calendars for Thursday, June 23, through Saturday, June 25. Come up for the day or stay for the entire two-day conference, and I'll see you at the Springs!



### Remembering Reg Belden continued from page 1

I won't go into detail, but let me just say that, no matter how sleep-deprived Reg might be on a Monday morning, no matter how much his head might be throbbing, Reg entered the classroom somehow fully prepared for the day's work. At 8:30 a.m. on Monday, out came his fountain pen,



Janie and Reg Belden

his dozens of ink cartridges and his legal pads, and Reg was quickly, fully engaged in the subject at hand.

I cannot help thinking, though, of some of the "extracurriculars"—the time Reg took me to dinner at the Park Schenley to commemorate our birthdays, and the pub crawl down Forbes Avenue from the Pitt Tavern to the Hilton Hotel where survivors had dinner. There were unforgettable events, too many to recall in less than a full night of recollection.

Reg thoroughly enjoyed the study of law, particularly civil procedure. He had a strong desire for order, orderly thought, clarity and correctness. One professor that Reg thoroughly admired and enjoyed was himself a student of civil procedure, David Stahl. He taught federal practice and procedure, and though Professor Stahl's low-key monologue-type of delivery may have lulled some into a state of excessive relaxation, Reg was stimulated and enlivened by his course. Reg, in many ways, became a champion of "process," not just outcome. He knew that civility, credibility, respect for the rules were the life's blood of what he would do as a lawyer. Wally Knox, one of Reg's

classmates, and one of his closest friends, noted that despite all of the conflicts and controversy that later surrounded Reg as a Bar leader over the years, everyone liked and respected him.

In the months before his death, many came to visit Reg. Bar leaders came from down East by chartered flight from Philadelphia into Latrobe, others traveled long distances just to say a few words. Just before Christmas several members of our class, Wally Knox, Andy Connor, Pete Veeder, Dick Rosenzweig, Dick Westerhoff, Bob Shupe, Ron Bua, Kent Culley, Edgar Snyder, Jim Kopelman and I had a mini-reunion at Reg's room at the hospital. Though some were shaken at Reg's weakened condition, to a man all were grateful to have had the visit. Reg, as enervated as he was, called everyone by name and expressed how wonderful it was to see them. His collegiality remained his hallmark to the end.

Upon leaving the hospital, Edgar Snyder called me aside to say that he would do anything that Reg needed—write out a check, lead a fund-drive, anything. All of Reg's classmates felt the same in their affection and regard for Reg.

If you watched Reg at play, you would think he had no time for work; if you knew how much he worked, you would think he had no time for play; if you knew of his service to his community and profession, you would think he had time for nothing else. He was devoted to his parents, loved his sister, Marcia, his nephew, Tommy, and niece, Courtney, and his brother-in-law, Nick Lappas.

Reg's love of the law, his profession and life and the people in his life, were his drivers and inspiration. People like Reg come along only once in a generation.

Reg's life was like the wine at the Feast of Cana. Full-bodied, pleasing to all, filled with the richness of life, but saving the best 'til last. The greatest, most fulfilling happiness of his life came in the last nine years, through his marriage. His relationship with the

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wife he loved was a joy to behold. Reg would not have traded one day of his sickness if to do so would have meant not having found his bride, Janie.

Reg was a distinguished fellow in several trial lawyers' associations, but his greatest day in court occurred this past fall, when, from his wheelchair, in answer to Judge Hathaway's question, "Why do you adopt John DelVitto?" he answered in his best, clearest, resonating voice, "Because I love him and want him to be my son." Having known Reg for over 50 years, I can tell you he could not have gone out on a higher note.

by Daniel Joseph, Esq.

eg Belden lived life with more zest, more fun and more laughter than anyone else I have ever known. I first met Reg when I started out as a lawyer in 1972. You immediately got to know Reg because he was a major part of the pulse in Greensburg and the legal community.



Reg was a familiar face at many Bar functions including the mock trial competitions. Here he is with his fellow jurors in 2002.

Many years ago, before we became close friends, a personal injury client left me and hired Reg. A year or so passed, and one day I received a check from him. He had settled the case and forwarded one-half of the fee to me. There was no reason for him to do that other than he felt it was the right thing to do. Reg always made "the right thing to do" his priority. To him,

the practice of law was pure joy—not for the sake of income but for the sake of serving his clients.

If the PBA ever had a Royal Family, it was the Belden family. Reg and his father were past PBA Presidents and his mother was a past PBA Ladies Auxiliary President. The PBA even named a building after the Beldens.

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### **FULL FUNDING RESTORED**

### CLIENT OPENINGS AVAILABLE IN THE RIP/ATS PROGRAM FOR LEVEL 3 & 4 OFFENDERS

As a result of full state funding being reinstated to the Restrictive Intermediate Punishment/Alternative Treatment Services (RIP/ATS) program, the client capacity has been increased from 20 clients to a 30 client caseload. At this point in time the RIP/ATS Program is operating at full client capacity and immediate client openings exist for eligible Level 3 & 4 offenders. The RIP/ATS Program is a partial level of care which provides clients with 30 hours of intense substance abuse treatment services per week over a 14 week time period. Daily client transportation, both to and from services, is provided by the program. If you would like to refer an individual to the RIP/ATS Program or if you have any questions about the program, please contact either Louisa Wotus at 724-830-3482 or Bill Shifko at 724-830-3448, the RIP/ATS probation officers.

### Remembering Reg Belden continued from page 5

Reg was instrumental in getting me active in the PBA as well. Having been in the PBA for a few years now and meeting attorneys from so many areas in Pennsylvania, I feel safe in saying that Reg was the best-known lawyer in Pennsylvania. Whenever a lawyer found out you were from Westmoreland County, they would say, "Oh, you're from Reggieville," and I was always proud to say "yes."

My most memorable, and most fun, times with Reg were the many road trips we took to Harrisburg, Hershey or Philadelphia for PBA meetings along with Dick Galloway. Reg always drove—Dick was known as a tailgater—and I would generally end up parking the car, if parallel parking was required, because of my recognized skill in that area. From the time we left Greensburg until we arrived, it was non-stop laughter.

As with most things in his life, Reg usually opted for the more scenic route. That meant taking Route 30 instead of taking the turnpike, with an obligatory stop at either the Ligonier Tavern or the Jon Bonnet Inn, for everything with Reg was "social" and no one would outlast him at any of the hospitality rooms. Fun and work filled every day, with socializing at night. Then, he was up early, fresh-as-can-be, ready to go again. That was Reg. But no matter what we were doing, he always broke away at 10 p.m. to phone Janie. She was the love of his life and he never missed a call to her.

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A regular cast member of many BarFlies productions, Reg performed the title role in "The Phantom of the Courthouse" in 2000.

We will all miss Reg. He left us with an unfillable void. More than any other lawyer in Pennsylvania, Reg exemplified the good in our profession. Our task is to now live up to the standard that he set. On a personal note, I will miss the laughter and the absolute guarantee of a good time when he was among us.

by Richard H. Galloway, Esq.

In my second year of law school at Pitt, I found out that there was a party thrown by some first-year students that was rumored to be a good party. It was. I met the host, a fellow from Greensburg who went by "Reg." Fast-forward 35 years: I had become a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Board of Governors and found myself at a party at 3:30 a.m. where my guide and mentor was that same Reg Belden. These were just two of the good times that I enjoyed with Reg. During those same years, Reg lived life to the fullest.

When I first met Reg, though I liked him a lot and thought he would be a good lawyer, I didn't anticipate that he would become the civic leader extraordinaire that he became. That he founded Mr. Toad's did not surprise me. That he spearheaded the Westmoreland Symphony, several foundations and a myriad of other community endeavors did surprise me. But Reg was the true Renaissance man.

First of all, he was a consummate lawyer, elected by his peers to the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers. I can tell you that he was a very capable courtroom advocate. In our only head-to-head confrontation in court, the best I could manage was a draw. The first time we tried it, it was a hung jury, and the second time he tied up all the loose ends and handily whipped me. Incidentally, he closed to the jury while wearing a football helmet, but that's another story ...

For most of his career, he was Mr. Westmoreland Bar

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Association. Almost single-handedly he instituted a budget process, the hiring of a full-time executive director and the idea that a building was necessary. Today, the Westmoreland Bar Association is one of the leading

county bars in Pennsylvania, in large part because of the changes Reg championed.

He was also Mr. Pennsylvania Bar Association, serving as the Chair of the Young Lawyers, then moving on to become a Board Member, Chair of the House, and ultimately President. No PBA President was better known, communicated with the members better, or simply was as well-loved as Reg. He knew and enjoyed lawyers in every nook and cranny of the Commonwealth and travelled to all but two or three of the counties in Pennsylvania during his long service for the Pennsylvania Bar.

But I am missing Reg's essence. He had a sweetness and gentility to his

soul that seemed never to allow rancor into his thoughts and actions. He loved lawyering in all its particulars—the pithy problems that cried out for insight and a little compassion, the zealous jousting in the courtroom for



With fellow WBA members at the 2003 Annual Meeting.

a just cause, the wordsmithing that would give precision to the parties' intentions in a complex matter, and the give and take when dealing with colleagues who were also earnestly advocating a contrary position.

True, he had some quirks. He was obsessively fond of a black Lincoln that was ten years old, had almost

200,000 miles on it, and had a dashboard that leaned perilously onto the passenger's lap. Once when Reg and I had to drive to Harrisburg in a blinding snow storm for a meeting, the question was whether we would

take that Lincoln or my brand new Jeep Cherokee four-wheel-drive vehicle. The second question was whether we should travel the twisting, winding Route 30 through the Laurel Mountains or take the better-maintained Pennsylvania Turnpike. Reg, ever decisive, opted to take the Lincoln and head onto snow-swept 30. Did I mention we got stuck?

Can I pause? Every so often you see a romance that sparkles; a couple fitting together so easily that it is a joy to behold. I offer as Exhibit A, Janie and Reg. Perhaps Reg waited so long to find his soul mate because he wanted perfection. Well, he found it. In addition to finding a wonderful

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Adventures in Law-Law Land

## A Major Confrontation, Chapter 2

by Judge Irving L. Bloom

hen we last left the courtroom of Federal District Judge Daniel J. Snyder, he had agreed that Westmoreland County must grant a park permit to let pot smokers advocate and puff in Mammoth Park. As a follow-up, the ACLU filed a Petition for an award of counsel fees since they were the winning party in a civil rights action. When faced with this Petition, the county commissioners told me that there was no way that they would pay fees. I told them they would have to pay something, hopefully less than the ACLU had requested: 50 hours at \$100 per hour. I received marching orders from them to fight the petition.

At the hearing before Judge Snyder on the request for counsel fees, the ACLU attorney testified that she had spent 50 hours working on various aspects of the case and that her time was worth \$100 an hour. The ACLU representatives in the room nodded in agreement at her testimony. When I got the attorney on cross-examination, I had a few questions for her. This attorney had just left the employ of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. I asked her what her salary was at the Human Relations Commission, and she told me it had

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been \$12,000 a year. I mused that with 2,000 billable hours, the Human Relations Commission thought that her time was worth \$6 an hour.

I then asked her if she had gotten a raise since she started working for the ACLU. She told me that

she had and was now making \$20,000 a year. I once again mused and said that 2,000 hours a year meant that the ACLU thought her time was worth \$10 an hour. I then stated that if her last two employers thought she was worth \$6 and \$10 per hour, respectively, I saw no reason for Westmoreland County to pay for her time at the rate of \$100 per hour.

At that point, Judge Snyder called an immediate recess and asked for everybody to meet with him in his chambers; he specifically told me to bring the county commissioners with me. In his chambers, Judge Snyder told me that was enough of that. I had had my fun, and it had to stop. He then said to everybody concerned that both sides were going to agree on a rate of \$30 an hour for a total of \$1,500.

The commissioners did not want to pay anything and the ACLU kept demanding the \$100 an hour. Judge Snyder then said that anybody who interfered with this proposed stipulation of fees would be very unhappy with what he ordered. After a brief conference outside the chambers with the commissioners, we agreed, the ACLU agreed, and that was the end of the case.

## Remembering Reg Belden continued from page 7

wife, he knew the joy of being a dad and having a son, John, of whom he could justly be proud.

Why is it we always smile when we think of Reg? Perhaps because he never entered a room without a smile on his face (some would call it beaming) and a spring in his step and a general zest for the day and the law that lifted the rest of us to a new level. Perhaps because he was just plain fun. Perhaps because he was just ... Reg. Enough said.

Didn't Reg make you feel better just being around him? Aren't you going to miss him? Don't you miss him *already*? Amen and Amen.

## Design Your Client Agreement as a Legal and Marketing Document

Editor's Note: In addition to complying with the Professional Rules of Conduct, written agreements concerning representation of clients enhance communication and avoid misunderstanding between attorney and client. Here are some practice tips to consider when drafting such agreements.

by Trey Ryder

ontracts have different effects on prospects. The more familiar people are with lawyers, the less intimidated they may be by your agreement. The less familiar they are with lawyers and retention agreements, the more your contract may give them heartburn.

Don't underestimate the importance of your agreement as both a legal document and a marketing document. Because if prospects aren't comfortable with it, they may not sign it—and all your prior marketing efforts have been for naught. You want prospects to perceive your agreement as the logical next step in the process, not as a cement wall that stops them in their tracks.

Regardless of whether you use a contract, letter of understanding, or engagement letter, make sure its quality is equal to your best work. Because, often, your agreement is the first example of your work that your prospect sees.

### MAKE SURE YOUR CLIENT AGREEMENT IS ...

• Easy to understand. When prospects don't understand what

they're reading, their skepticism increases. You enjoy a much higher level of credibility when prospects clearly understand what you ask them to sign. Include legal terms when you must, but also help

your prospect by defining those terms in plain English. Certainly, your agreement must be legally

sufficient, but be careful not to go overboard with minute details unless you have a compelling reason for doing so.

• Easy to read. Don't use small print because it creates the impression that you're hiding something. Prospects feel more comfortable when the print is large and fonts continued on page 10

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## Design Your Client Agreement as a Legal and Marketing Document continued from page 9

- are easy to read. A one-page agreement of fine print arouses much more suspicion than a three-page agreement where the type is big and easy to read.
- Crisp and clean. If you have a sharp, clean agreement, prospects expect the work you do on their behalf will also be sharp and clean. A smudged agreement or a poor photocopy reflects poorly on you. Print a new, clean laser copy for each client. To make the agreement appear more personal, type the client's name and address into each agreement, rather than just filling in the blanks.
- Appealing to the eye. Take special care to make your agreement pleasing to the eye. Leave adequate margins around the page. Insert white space between paragraphs. Keep paragraphs relatively short. If a paragraph is over 6 lines or so in length, divide it into two paragraphs because short paragraphs are more inviting than long paragraphs.

#### YOUR AGREEMENT'S CONTENT

 Word your agreement so its tone is consistent with the tone you use in conversation. A client once told me my agreement "didn't sound like me." That was the first time I realized that agreements could and should sound like the person they represent.

- When possible, describe negatives in a positive light. If your agreement contains things your prospect might perceive in a negative way, explain why you include those terms. For example, in my engagement letter, I specify that I do not provide certain routine secretarial services. First, I explain this is done for
- greater efficiency. Second, I offer to help my clients find someone to perform these functions, if they don't want to handle this work in house. And third, I offer the secretarial services I use at cost so they can use the same people I have come to depend on, if they wish.
- Avoid complex agreements for simple matters, when possible. Several years ago I hired an out-ofstate lawyer. During the hiring process, I interviewed several lawyers over the telephone. One lawyer sent me a 12-page doublespaced agreement. My immediate conclusion was that this lawyer was my adversary rather than my ally. Another lawyer I spoke withand the one I hired-said he would draft a brief letter of understanding. In two paragraphs, he said everything that needed to be said. I signed and returned the letter with my check. And he did an excellent job.

 Proofread every word from beginning to end. I've seen many lawyers' agreements with words left out, misspellings, and so on. Remember: Your agreement should represent your best work. A mistake

> in your contract reflects poorly on you. Make sure you're proud of your agreement. Look it over

carefully several times.

### WHEN REFERRING TO YOUR CONTRACT ...

- Call it an agreement. The word agreement emphasizes that your contract reflects how you and your client have agreed to work together and what both of you will do.
- Point out that you wrote the agreement in plain English so your prospect will understand every word.
- Downplay your agreement's complexity. Describe your agreement as simple so you start shaping your prospect's perception even before he sees it.
- Call it your standard form agreement, implying that everyone routinely signs it without objection, almost as a formality.
- If you offer an escape clause, emphasize how easily your prospect can cancel the agreement. Your prospect feels more at ease when he knows how to get out from under your contract.

When you use proven marketing principles to create your client agreement, you help turn a potential obstacle into a powerful, persuasive marketing piece. Plus, when your prospect reviews an agreement that's easy to read and understand, his fears melt away and your credibility soars.

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### LawSpeak

The makers of our Constitution undertook to secure conditions favorable to the pursuit of happiness. They recognized the significance of man's spiritual nature, of his feelings and of his intellect. They knew that only a part of the pain, pleasure and satisfactions of life are to be found in material things. They sought to protect Americans in their beliefs, their thoughts, their emotions and their sensations. They conferred, as against the Government, the right to be let alone—the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized men.

 BRANDEIS, J., Olmstead v. United States, 277 US 438, 72 L. Ed. 944, 48 S. Ct. 564 (1928)

To-Wit: You Could Look It Up

by S. Sponte, Esq.

he last four months I've had a lot of time on my hands, thanks to an appendix that gave up the ghost and almost caused me to do the same. Thus unable to either work or pursue my usual avocations of water polo, pantomime haiku or Rover, Red Rover, I decided to make the best use I could of my extended recovery time by getting to all the reading that I'd been putting off since my bar mitzvah. And of course, just like you, the first thing on my list was Black's Law Dictionary.

I have always had a penchant for words, especially arcane words that make me seem far more erudite than I am. The law in general, and Black's Law Dictionary in particular, is full of such words. Not only do they impart the false luster of knowledge, they also carry with

them a particular kind of history, culture and wisdom.

I still have the same dictionary I used during my first year of law school, and that was more than 35 years ago. Oh, there have been subsequent editions, many, in fact, but the way I figure it why should I get a new one when I haven't finished reading the old one yet? You can laugh, sure, but that selfsame philosophy has saved me a fortune on Pa. Reporters over the years.

More to the point, however, I have learned a great deal from my recent sojourn into Black's. For instance, you are certainly all familiar with the famous but very rarely used phrase "caeteris tacentibus," meaning "the other judges expressing no opinion." But did you know that Caeteris Tacentibus was a real man, a Roman judge who, while presiding over Family Court, found himself much

against his will and better judgment adjudicating the divorce of his mistress from her husband.

When asked by husband's counsel to deny

alimony, a ruling which was clearly supported by both law and facts, wife stood up, put her hands on her waist, started tapping her foot petulantly and said "Well, Judgie Wudgie, what'cha gonna do, huh?" At that point, Judge Tacentibus was apparently unable to utter a sound, a response that has come down through history to us known as "pulling a tacentibus."

That's just one of Black's tales of delight. Here are some others.

continued on page 12

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## To-Wit: You Could Look It Up continued from page 11

#### **QUARE CLAUSUM FREGIT—**

Literally translated, this means "wherefore he broke the close," and was always thought to be a form of trespass upon real estate. According to Black's, however, this is incorrect. It actually derives from a phrase coined by the plaintiff in the Elizabethan case of Schmendrick v. Speedy Izzy's, and is the first reported lawsuit in which a disgruntled customer sued his dry cleaner for damages.

**PECUNIA TRAJECTITIA**—Long believed to be an early form of commercial transaction somewhat akin to Freight On Board, it turns out that this was actually the name of ancient Rome's first and only commercial airline. For a fee, a traveler was hoisted into an oversized catapult and hurled through the air at approximately the right trajectory to achieve a desired destination. The takeoffs were okay, but landings were a tad beastly, in-flight service was sketchy at best,

and eventually the endeavor failed when customers tired of having to make so many connecting flights just to get across the city.

**SUBNERVARE**—the act of cutting the sinews of the legs and thighs so as to render the victim incapable of standing. Prior to the invention of the clock, this was the primary technique by which appellate courts let counsel know that their time for oral argument had expired.

**COMPOS MENTIS**—now taken to mean "sound of mind," the original phrase was "composte mentis," and was used to describe someone who was obsessed with the scatological.

**DE CHAR ET DE SANK**—from Italian jurisprudence, this cause of action refers to a products liability lawsuit in which a very corpulent plaintiff is injured when a poorly made chair collapses.

FORUM BOVARIUM—In ancient Rome, the court dedicated to resolving disputes between cows.

HAIMSUCKEN—In Scottish law, the crime of assaulting a person in his or her own house.

NOWYURSUCKEN—In Scottish law, an act of revenge.

Now I know some of you out there may question whether or not these all came from Black's, that maybe instead this is nothing more or less than the depraved ramblings of a diseased, albeit highly creative, mind. But I assure you that, almost without exception, every one of these words or phrases can be found in your own copy of Black's. And if you doubt me, well, like Thurber said, you could look it up.

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November/December 2004 Trial Term

## **Jury Trial Verdicts**

by Rachel Huss, Esq.

f ninety-two cases listed for the November/December 2004 Civil Jury Trial Term, twenty-nine settled, one was stricken, one was dismissed, thirty-six were continued, four were transferred to arbitration, one was transferred to American Arbitration Association, one was assigned non-jury, four resulted in non-jury verdicts, six verdicts were entered and nine cases were held to the next term. The four cases upon which juries deliberated are reported below.

### RAMONA M. RUSSO AND MARK J. RUSSO, HER HUSBAND V

MERIT CONTRACTING, INC. NO. 422 OF 2001

Cause of Action: Negligence— Premises Liability

This slip and fall occurred in the Port Royal Village mobile home park located in Belle Vernon, Westmoreland County. Plaintiffs rented a mobile home lot in the park. Adjacent to Plaintiffs' lot was an open field whereupon Plaintiffs had placed a playground swing set for their minor child. The owner of the mobile home park had decided to expand the park and build additional sites where the field was located. Defendant performed the renovation and earth-moving work associated with the new construction. On June 18, 1999, Wife-Plaintiff was walking across the yard to find out why the swing set had been moved when she slipped and fell on grease allegedly deposited by Defendant. Plaintiff contended that Defendant was negligent in failing to properly police the construction area and in failing to avoid depositing waste material onto the premises occupied by Plaintiff.

Defendant denied the allegations of negligence and defended on the

following alternative grounds: (1) the fall occurred in the construction area and, therefore, no legal duty was owed to Plaintiff as a trespasser; (2) if Plaintiff did fall in her yard, Defendant did not commit acts of negligence; and (3) the condition that caused Plaintiff's fall was open and obvious. The case was bifurcated and tried only as to the issue of liability.

*Plaintiffs' Counsel:* Anthony J. Seneca, Washington, Pa.

Defendant's Counsel: Joseph S. Weimer, Pgh.

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

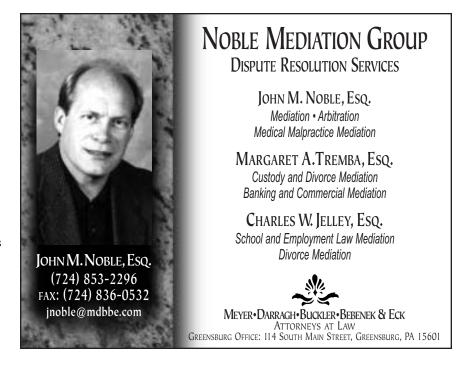
Result: Molded verdict in favor of Defendant. Jury found that Plaintiff fell outside the construction area (therefore, a higher duty of care was owed Plaintiff), but determined that Defendant was not negligent.

V.
MARY M. HULL
NO. 5766 OF 1998

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

This motor vehicle accident occurred on November 18, 1996, at approximately 10:00 a.m. on State Route 1058 in Donegal Township, Westmoreland County. Plaintiff was traveling west on Route 1058 (County Line Road) and proceeded through its intersection with Township Road 754 (Back Creek Road). Defendant was traveling north on Back Creek Road. Plaintiff alleged that Defendant either failed to stop or failed to stop for a sufficient period of time at the stop sign that controlled northbound traffic on Back Creek Road at the intersection. As Plaintiff was negotiating a left curve in the road, the right side of Defendant's vehicle collided with the left front side and corner of Plaintiff's vehicle. Plaintiff claimed injuries to her back, arms, neck and shoulder, as well as the bilateral anterior displacement of the discs of both temporomandibular joints of her jaw.

continued on page 14



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### Jury Trial Verdicts continued from page 13

Defendant denied Plaintiff's allegations of negligence and asserted the provisions of the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Law and the contributory negligence of Plaintiff. Defendant contended that Defendant stopped her car at the stop sign, proceeded forward slightly and then stopped her car again at the controlled intersection. Defendant also argued that Plaintiff was negligent in operating her vehicle at an excessive speed.

Plaintiff's Counsel: John K. Bryan, Zimmer Kunz, PLLC, Pgh.

*Defendant's Counsel:* Timothy D. Appelbe, Pgh.

*Trial Judge:* The Hon. William J. Ober

*Result:* Molded verdict in favor of defendant. Jury found that defendant was not negligent.

### **JOHN GELSDORF**

V.

### BONNIE BUKOSKEY, EXECUTRIX OF THE ESTATE OF THEODORE BUKOSKEY, DECEASED NO. 7944 OF 2001

Cause of Action: Negligence— Motor Vehicle Accident

This action arose from a motor vehicle accident that occurred on December 29, 1998, at 3:00 p.m., in Derry Township, Westmoreland County. Plaintiff was traveling west on State Route 1025 (Pizza Barn Road) as he passed through its intersection with Township Road 887 (Seger Road). Defendant was traveling north on Seger Road. Plaintiff alleged that Defendant failed to stop at the stop sign controlling Defendant's entry onto Pizza Barn Road, causing the passenger side of Defendant's vehicle to collide with the front of Plaintiff's vehicle. Plaintiff had selected the full-tort option of automobile insurance coverage and claimed a herniated disc and aggravation of a pre-existing arthritic condition.

Defendant conceded negligence, but contested causation at trial. Plaintiff was involved in two automobile accidents subsequent to the accident that was the subject of this lawsuit. Defendant argued that Plaintiff's disc injuries were pre-existing arthritic changes unrelated to the accident of December 29, 1998.

Plaintiff's Counsel: Ned J. Nakles, Jr., Nakles and Nakles, Latrobe Defendant's Counsel: Richard F. Boyle, Jr., Mears, Smith, Houser & Boyle, P.C., Latrobe

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

Result: Verdict in favor of Plaintiff in the amount of \$1.00.

IN RE: CONDEMNATION OF RIGHT OF WAY FOR STATE ROUTE 0022, SECTION B05, AND TOWNSHIP ROUTES T-885 AND T-628, IN THE TOWNSHIP OF SALEM

### PROPERTY OF BRYAN E. GORDON, ET AL. NO. 1107 OF 1998

Cause of Action: Eminent Domain— Board of Viewers Appeal

This condemnation case involves a taking of 1.05 acres of a 2.58-acre parcel of property, upon which was erected a one-story commercial building, in Salem Township,

Westmoreland County. As a result of the taking, the condemnees asserted a loss in the fair market value of their property. The condemnor paid estimated just compensation of \$49,000.00. Before the Board of Viewers, the condemnees' expert opined damages of \$135,000.00 and the condemnor's expert opined that damages resulting from the taking were \$49,000.00. The Board of Viewers found that the condemnees were entitled to just compensation for the taking in the amount of \$100,000.00. Both parties appealed from the award of the Board of Viewers. The case was tried before a jury to determine the amount of damages sustained by condemnees as a result of the taking. The condemnees submitted an appraisal showing damages in the amount of \$135,000.00. The condemnor's appraisal reflected damages from the taking in the amount of \$65,000.00.

Condemnor's (Commonwealth of Pa., Dep't of Transp.) Counsel: Walter F. Cameron, Jr., Office of Chief Counsel, Pgh.

Condemnees' Counsel: John N. Scales, Scales and Murray, Gbg.

Trial Judge: The Hon. William J. Ober

*Result:* Verdict in favor of the condemnees in the amount of \$126,000.00.

## Lawyers' Exchange\*

(\*Free to all members of the WBA)

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## Spotlight on The Hon. John E. Blahovec

## WHAT JOBS HAVE YOU HAD PRIOR TO BECOMING AN ATTORNEY?

A I was a stock clerk, delivery man and meat cutter at Anderson's Market. Before Judge Marker made me carry his briefcase, I carried out his groceries. I also worked at Moore Metal fabricating structural steel.

### WHICH WAS YOUR FAVORITE AND WHY?



At Anderson's

I met numerous
great people who
helped me my
entire professional
career and still are
friends today.

## WHAT IS THE FUNNIEST THING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU AS AN ATTORNEY?

A Sharing an office with Allen Kukovich, John Peck, Al Bell, Denny Del Cotto, Bruce Tobin and Gary Fine. The floors were crooked, the hallways were dingy, but we always had a few laughs.

## WHAT IS THE QUALITY YOU MOST LIKE IN AN ATTORNEY?

A Honesty. If you can't trust someone's word, where can you go from there?

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE JOURNEY?

A My journey through life with Marylou Blahovec.

WHAT
IS YOUR
GREATEST
REGRET?

A Having such a large head.

## WHO ARE YOUR HEROES IN REAL LIFE?

A Judge Gil Mihalich, Judge Charlie Marker and George Washington.

## WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE ATTORNEYS NEW TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW?

Work hard, learn from your elders, respect the Court and be true to the justice sensor in the pit of your gut.

continued on page 16



# Spotlight on The Hon. John E. Blahovec

continued from page 15

## WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

A Being happily married for more than 27 years.

## WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?

A It involves my wife, my truck and a stretch of the mountains of Somerset County.

### WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?

A My Martin HVD-28 guitar.

## WHAT DO YOU MOST DISLIKE?

A Hypocrisy and self-righteousness.

### WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?

My kids once told me if I had spent less money on music and duct tape over the years, we would be rich.

### WHAT TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

A I'd like to have the wisdom to fill my large head.

## WHAT DO YOU MOST VALUE IN YOUR FRIENDS?

A Loyalty and patience.

## WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

A Gary Caruso. How does he get all those people to plunk for him?

### WHAT IS YOUR MOTTO?

A If you're not going to help me get my work done, would you please get the hell out of my way.

## InCite's New Features Make Your Online Legal Research Easier

he PBA's InCite program has been enhanced to make your online legal research even easier. With the addition of an enhanced library and easier search capabilities, virtually every legal research project can be done through InCite. All participating members of the WBA and PBA may use the InCite program for free by going to <a href="https://www.pabar.org">www.pabar.org</a> and clicking on the PBA InCite logo.

The InCite library includes all Pennsylvania appellate decisions, statutes, the Pennsylvania Constitution, the Administrative Code and court rules. It also offers all U.S. Supreme Court decisions, federal statutes, 3rd Circuit decisions since 1995 and the federal rules. If you previously tried InCite but haven't tried it lately, there are some welcome changes to the program:

- District and County Reports can be found under the "Cases" link.
   To search the D&C database, click on the "PA District and County Reports from 1919" link.
- Simultaneously search all Pennsylvania appellate opinions and the D&C opinions by entering a search in the "PA State Cases Combined" library.
- View all 3rd Circuit decisions, including court of appeals, district and bankruptcy cases.
- Review decisions from all circuit courts since 1995.
- See case law and statutes from all 50 states for the past five years.
- Search Mealey's News Briefs for current information about legal topics.
- "Get By Citation" search box has been added. Just type your citation into the search box and the case or statute will be shown.



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### **New Member Sketches**

Kelly Balog has been admitted as a participating member of the WBA. A graduate of Yough, Indiana University of Pennsylvania and the Duquesne University School of Law, Kelly maintains a solo practice in Rillton.

Jason R. Dibble has joined the WBA as a participating member. A graduate of Greenville High School, Jason earned his undergraduate degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and his juris doctor degree from Duquesne University. Jason is an associate with Tremba, Jelley & Whelton in Greensburg, and lives in Allison Park.

Jeffrey S. Golembiewski was admitted to the WBA as an associate member. A graduate of Uniontown Area Sr. High School, the Virginia Military Institute and the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Jeffrey is an associate with Mazzei & Associates in their Greensburg office. He and his wife, Denise, live in Uniontown with their son, Jeffrey, Jr.

John M. Hauser, III, has been admitted as a participating member of the WBA. A graduate of Greater Latrobe Sr. High School, Westminster

College, and Duquesne University School of Law, John is an associate with Reeves and Ross in Latrobe.

Frank W. Jones has joined the WBA as an associate member. A graduate of Plum Sr. High School, Kent State University, and the Duquesne University School of Law, Frank is a solo

practitioner based in Plum Borough. He and his wife, Peggy, live in Plum Borough and have two children, Carrie and Tim.

Thomas L. Jones has been admitted as a participating member of the WBA. A graduate of Monessen High School, Penn State University and the Duquesne University School of Law, Tom maintains a solo practice in Monessen. He has three children, Matthew, Kathryn and Nicholas.

Farley S. Kalp has joined the WBA as a participating member. A graduate of Mt. Pleasant High School, Farley

earned his undergraduate degree from St. Vincent College, and his juris doctor degree from Duquesne University.

Farley has a solo practice, Kalp

Law Office, in Ruffs Dale, and has one child, Ryan.

Amanda N.
Nuzum was
admitted to the
WBA as a participating member. A
graduate of Trinity
Area High School,
she earned her
undergraduate

and juris doctor degrees from the University of Pittsburgh. Amanda is an associate with Geary & Loperfito in Vandergrift.

Claudine Orloski was admitted to the WBA as an associate member. A graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School, Penn State University and Duquesne University School of Law, Claudine works for Price Waterhouse Coopers in Pittsburgh. She and her husband, Raymond, live in Harrison City with their daughters, Emma and Jessica.

Norbert J. Smith has rejoined the WBA as a participating member. A graduate of St. John's High School and St. Vincent College, Norbert earned both his master's degree in Biology and his juris doctor degree from Duquesne University. After many years with Allegheny Energy, Norbert started a solo practice in Murrysville in 2004. He and his wife, Janet, have three children, Hannah, Alec and Gideon, and live in Murrysville.

Candice J. Stewart, has been admitted as a participating member of the WBA. A graduate of Hempfield Area Sr. High School, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and Ohio Northern University School of Law, Candice is an associate with James B. Gefsky in Greensburg.

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## Actions of the Board

#### **DECEMBER 22, 2004**

- Accepted Membership Committee recommendations: Amanda Nuzum, Lynda Dupre, John Hauser, and Kelly Balog as participating members; Jeffrey Golembiewski and Frank Jones as associate members.
- · Accepted 2005 WBA budget.
- Confirmed LLS board appointments: John Ranker, Cindy Stine, Harry Smail and Bob Slone.
- Agreed to table any development of a mediation center in the Bar headquarters.
- Heard report that LLS funding has been significantly cut due to recent census figures that indicate that the number of poor in Westmoreland County has declined.
- Discussed the help that WBA could provide to LLS.
- Assigned the LLS funding issue to Ms. Brammell and the Outreach Committee of the WBF.
- Learned that more than 50 attorneys have registered to participate in the

- new LRS program; start-up date January 1, 2005.
- Learned that PBA is offering the use of PR material, purchased from Virginia Bar Association, at no cost.
- Referred PBA PR matter to the WBA PR Committee.
- Agreed to run the CLE program without a paid coordinator.
- Circulated a thank you from the PBA for the WBA contribution to the PBA PAC.

#### **JANUARY 18, 2005**

- Accepted Membership Committee recommendations: Elizabeth McCall and Cynthia Sheehan as participating members; Stephanie Hebrank as an associate member.
- Agreed to have Investment Committee meet to review investment policy.
- Agreed to hold a signing ceremony in March to announce the adopting of the Legal/Medical Code of Ethics.
- Reviewed plans for the Annual Meeting to be held on Monday, April 4, at Ferrante's Lakeview in Greensburg.
- Learned that the 2005 Dinner Dance will be held at Greensburg Country Club on Saturday, December 3.

- Agreed to co-sponsor an ACBA technology seminar in Pittsburgh on April 18-19 with the only requirement to insert marketing flier in the February issue of the sidebar.
- Discussed the closing of Citizens Bank, Main Street, the location for the bar association and the bar foundation accounts. Agreed to investigate offers from other local banks, if needed.
- Considered proposal from artist to do a pen and ink rendering of the courthouse with proceeds going to the WBF and agreed to gather figures and review at February board meeting.
- Heard Young Lawyers report that the YL proposed by-laws have not yet been reviewed by the WBA By-Laws Committee.
- Learned that 14 WBA members will attend the swearing-in ceremony at the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday, March 7, and Rob Boyer Jr. will move for the group's admission.
- Learned that over 1,000 Living Trust brochures have been purchased by WBA members for use with clients.
- Heard report that four bar members have expressed interest in serving as speakers for the living trust program as we take the program to other areas of the county.
- Agreed to invoice a local non-profit for the balance of rental fee for use of the bar building.
- Agreed to invite incoming chair of YL, Amber Leechalk, to the CCBL in State College as guest of WBA.
- Agreed to work on board policies for participation in WBA, PBA and ABA events.
- Agreed to select Committee of the Year at the February meeting and to begin consideration on other annual awards.
- Agreed to hold New Member Ceremony in conjunction with St. Patrick's Day as was done last year, and to approach Citizens Bank about their interest in sponsoring this year's event.

### On The Move ...

**JUDITH M. FISCHER** has requested that all correspondence be directed to 408 Jackson Drive, Apollo, PA 15613.

**JOSEPH R. GOVI** has joined Mears, Smith, Houser & Boyle as of January 1, 2005. He can be reached at their Latrobe office: 801 Ligonier Street, Latrobe, PA 15650-1827; phone 724-537-9036; fax 724-537-9038; e-mail jrgovi@mears-smith-hb.com.

**JACQUELYN A. KNUPP** has accepted a part-time position with The Hon. Gary P. Caruso as his law clerk.

**JOSEPH W. LAZZARO** has moved to 118 Wendel Road, Irwin, PA 15642. He can be reached at 724-978-0333; fax 724-978-0339; e-mail jlazzaro@kl-law.com.

**DEBRA M. NICHOLSON** has moved her office to 35 West Pittsburgh Street, Greensburg, PA 15601.

Paralegal **AMANDA STEIN**, formerly with the Pro Bono office, has accepted a position with Sandi Davis at DeBernardo, Antoniono, McCabe & Davis in Greensburg. We wish her the best of luck in her new endeavor.

**JAMES E. WHELTON, JR.**, has joined Tremba, Jelley & Whelton, at 229 South Maple Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601. He can be reached at 724-838-7600; fax 724-838-8870; e-mail j.whelton2@ verizon.net.

### **Got News?**

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

### And Baby Makes ...

Michael and Amy DeMatt welcomed their first child, Owen Michael, into the world on December 1, 2004. Owen weighed 6 lb, 9 oz, and was 201/2 inches long. Michael is an associate with Berk Whitehead Kerr & Turin, while Amy is an associate with Mears, Smith, Houser & Boyle, both in Greensburg.

Jennifer and Ray Dupilka are the proud parents of a baby boy, Raymond Dupilka III, born February 7, 2005. He weighed 7 lb, 15 oz, and was 201/5 inches long. Raymond joins his big sister, Raven, at home. Jennifer is a partner with The Love Law Firm in Youngstown.



## 2005 WBA Pictorial Directories Now Available

e are pleased to provide to all WBA members at no cost—the newest and most current membership directory of the Westmoreland Bar Association.

At the time of publication, the total bar membership was 492,

which is a 50% increase since January 1990. Since we're talking numbers, we thought it would be interesting to take a look at who makes up our local bar.

Women now represent 24% of the membership while Young

Lawyers and the Senior bar (using the AARP definition of age 55 and older) are represented by exactly the same percentage: 27%.

Two hundred fifty-one WBA members work in Greensburg (51%)

with New Kensington, Latrobe and North Huntingdon being the next most attorney-populated areas. Thirty-nine percent of our members currently practice with at least one other attorney and the number of government employees is at 11%.

The most startling figure is the increase in the number of attorneys who have e-mail addresses. Sixty-three percent of our members now correspond with us via e-mail. Of the 182 members without e-mail, it is interesting to note that over half are attorneys who are younger than 50.

No matter what the numbers show, we are glad to have you

as a member of the Westmoreland Bar

Association and we hope that you find this directory helpful to you and your staff.

Please stop by the WBA office to pick up your complimentary directory, or call 724.834.6730 to have one mailed to you.

### Law Library News

aw Librarian Betty Ward would like to remind attorneys about the Law Library Meeting Room, furnished by the WBA. It's a comfortable, private, quiet place to meet with clients or other attorneys and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Attorneys who wish to use the room should ask for assistance at the circulation desk.

In other Law Library News, there is a Municipal Ordinance Database available on the Law Library's public access computers to easily search the local ordinances of municipalities in Westmoreland County.



The Westmoreland Bar Association operates an informal résumé service for paralegals, legal secretaries and attorneys. We collect résumés and forward them to potential employers at no cost to you.

If interested, send your résumé and a generic cover letter to the WBA, 129 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Greensburg, PA 15601 or contact Bar Headquarters at (724) 834-6730 for more information.





### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### **MARCH**

- 7 Mock Trial Finals, Noon, Westmoreland County Courthouse
  - Supreme Court Admission, Washington, DC
- 9 Membership Committee, Noon
- 15 Family Law Committee, Noon Board Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 16 Ned J. Nakles American Inn of Court, 5 p.m.
- 18 New Member Ceremony, 2:30 p.m., Westmoreland County Courthouse
  - St. Paddy's Day Party, immediately following New Member Ceremony, WBA Headquarters
- 24 LIVE CLE Lunch 'n Learn: "Fundamentals of Pennsylvania Automobile Insurance Law," Noon to 2:15 p.m., 2 optional substantive credits
- 25 Courthouse closed in observance of Good Friday
- 31 LIVE CLE Lunch 'n Learn: "Criminal Law: Should Polygraph Be Admissible in the Court of Law?" Noon to 2:15 p.m., 2 optional substantive credits

#### **APRIL**

- 4 Annual Meeting of the Westmoreland Bar Foundation, 4:30 p.m., Ferrante's Lakeview, Greensburg

  Annual Meeting of the Westmoreland Bar
- Association, 5 p.m., Ferrante's Lakeview, Greensburg

  6 Membership Committee, Noon
- 7 LIVE CLE Lunch 'n Learn: "Emerging Legal Concerns Regarding: Harassment, Whistle Blowing and Retaliation," Noon to 1:15 p.m., 1 optional substantive credit
- 14 Ned J. Nakles American Inn of Court, 5 p.m.
- 19 Family Law Committee, Noon Board Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 21 VIDEO CLE Compliance Seminar, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 6 optional credits
  Elder Law and Orphans' Court Committees, Noon
- **26** *LIVE* CLE Lunch 'n Learn: "Beware What Lurks On Your Client's Hard Drive," Noon to 1:15 p.m., 1 optional substantive credit



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