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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WESTMORELAND BAR ASSOCIATION  
VOLUME XXVI, NUMBER 1  
FEBRUARY 2014

# Reflections on the Career of The Hon. John E. Blahovec

*Editor's note: The Hon. John E. Blahovec retired from the Court of Common Pleas of Westmoreland County effective January 5, 2014, after twenty-eight years on the bench. He will continue as a Senior Judge in the Criminal Division.*

by *The Hon. John E. Blahovec*

**B**y the time Diane e-mailed me asking me to write a farewell article for *the sidebar*, I'll admit I had been thinking about the prospect for a while. As January 5, 2014, approaches (my official retirement date), I have been thinking more and more about my life as a lawyer and judge and trying to put it all into



▲  
*The Hon. John E. Blahovec*

perspective. Writing this article will certainly help me put memories of people and events into an orderly reference for the days when my memory gives out. It might prove of interest to some readers. So here goes. Just one caveat is offered: the people and events I will refer to are real and just how I remember them. If I am inaccurate, it's only because I don't know any better.

## WHY RETIRE?

The answer to this question can be summed up in three words: It is time. I was elected Judge of the Court of

Common Pleas in November of 1985 and sworn in by my dear friend, Judge Charlie Marker, in January of 1986.

I served ten years working with Charlie in Family Court where my responsibilities included PFAs, all custody, and all support actions. In 1995, when District Attorney John Driscoll was elected Judge, my good friends, Gary Caruso, Dick McCormick, Jr., and Debbie Pezze talked me into transferring to Criminal Court since there could be a perceived conflict with John handling criminal cases that had his name on every information as Prosecutor. In any event, I've been in Criminal ever since and John is still an integral part of Family Court.

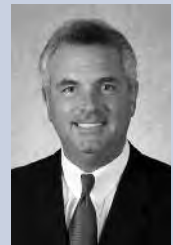
Twenty-eight years of making decisions has taken its toll. Many of my old pals are retired or passed away. I have a lot of great colleagues now, but I'm just getting tired and old myself.

I have been blessed with a lot of outstanding staff over the years. My present crew of Chief of Staff (she got the title but no extra money) Ruth Tatika, Court Reporter Kathy Sileo, Court Assistant Georgia Salandro, and Law Clerk Emily Smarto, are the best

*continued on page 16*

by *The Hon. Gary P. Caruso,  
President Judge*

**I** first met John Blahovec in 1985 when he and I campaigned for election to two positions on the Court of Common Pleas. I, like most of Westmoreland County, did not know much about John. However, during the campaign, I, like most of Westmoreland County, got to know him. The more we knew, the more we liked. Westmoreland County liked him so much that, in the spring, he won both the Democratic and Republican nominations for Judge. I was not so fortunate, and he never forgave me, because that meant that we had to continue campaigning into the fall. John and I won in November.



One of the political definitions that John learned in that election was the meaning of the word "plunking," which is another thing for which he continues to hold me responsible. Imagine that—Italians in the Mon Valley voting for only one candidate when there are two positions to fill and neither of the other two candidates is Italian. I'm shocked, just shocked that there was plunking going on!

*continued on page 17*

# Remembering Thomas P. Cole II

*Editor's note: Thomas P. Cole, II, passed away on Thursday, June 13, 2013. Preceded in death by his son, Thomas P. Cole, III, he is survived by his wife, Sandra; his siblings, Linda C. Neill, Megan C. Miller, and Richard S. Cole, Jr.; and his grandson, Aiden Thomas Cole. Memorial donations may be made to the T.P. Cole III Memorial Music Fund, c/o First Presbyterian Church, 300 South Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601.*

by Jeffrey W. Miller, Esq.

In the fall of 1991, I interviewed with Tom Cole at his office on Otterman Street in Greensburg. I recall that time as a difficult one and remember my fear and confusion as a new attorney. After a short conversation and without further formality, Tom threw a file my way and told me to do the research and prepare a memorandum on some topic that had never been mentioned in law school.



▲ Tom Cole

I wasn't sure if I had been hired, or if my hiring was dependent upon the work I returned. When I presented the memo, Tom either determined that it

was good enough or felt sorry for me and took me in.

For ten years we worked side by side in a loose relationship that provided me with a steady flow of work and a place to call my professional home as I worked my way into practice. I don't recall Tom providing me with much guidance in the reading or interpretation of the law. Nevertheless, in our discussions, I felt treated as an equal at a time when I was not. He listened and considered genuinely. He taught me the practical considerations of a law practice, and he taught me, by his example, a respect for my clients.

Tom was compassionate and patient with his clients and they came to him from all stations in life. He had an ease with and fealty toward them.

Tom remembered a more civil time in the practice of law. He treated

judges and colleagues with respect and counted them as friends. He knew all the important people of Greensburg and was active in more associations and boards than I can mention.

Tom studied at Mercersburg Academy, and later at Franklin and Marshall College. He eventually earned his law degree from Duquesne and served a preceptorship with Westmoreland County legal giant Avra Pershing. He worked at a few well-respected firms in Greensburg before deciding to go into solo practice in 1973. Thereafter, he mentored many young attorneys and provided steady work to us as we sought our places in practice.

Tom had a true partnership with his wife, Sandy—a manifestation of the yin and yang. Sandy managed the office for many years. Where Tom was at times soft, ethereal, and diplomatic, Sandy was at times hard, practical, and direct. Viewed through my eyes, their relationship was the essence of a marriage.

My way with Tom parted more than ten years ago. Although Tom struggled with illness, I remember him as an active, energetic man, running to the office on a mid-summer Friday following aerobics classes or exercise at Lynch Field. I remember his easy manner and active sense of humor. I remember his diplomacy with clients and opponents. He was compassionate toward and generous with me. I hope that my time in practice will favorably influence some young attorney as Tom's time positively influenced me. 🍷

*Looking for a special way  
to remember someone?*

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

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



**Tom Cole will be among those remembered at the Westmoreland Bar Association's 52nd Annual Memorial Service to be held at the Courthouse in May 2014.**

**Please plan on joining us to honor our colleagues.**

## practice tips

by Pamela Ferguson, Esq.

For those of you who attend depositions as a regular part of your practice, rising at the crack of dawn, fighting rush-hour traffic (often in inclement weather), and searching for reasonably-priced parking within walking distance are all necessary evils of your job; but, what if they didn't have to be? What if you could attend your deposition from the comfort of your own office?

Sound too good to be true? It's not. It's the wave of the future and it's currently possible through remote video deposition technology.

Remote video deposition technology allows lawyers to depose witnesses in any city, in any country in the world without ever having to leave their office. In fact, it's not even necessary to go to the office: home PCs, laptops, and some tablets are also capable of accessing remote video technology. Connecting a small video camera to your device's USB port and accessing the remote video computer program through a designated court reporting provider is all that's necessary.

Once connected, everyone who is participating remotely has visual access to the deponent, any documents identified during the deposition, and the court reporter's real-time transcription of the deponent's testimony. According to NextGen Reporting, a Philadelphia-based court reporting company that has patented a remote video computer program, up to 99 remote locations can be accessed at one time.

# Remote Video Depositions Can Save Time, Money

This offers numerous opportunities to reduce cost, increase productivity, and maximize case-management efficiency. Without the time constraints and expense of traveling to the deponent's location, more time is available for productive office work, and fewer resources are spent retaining experts, which is a significant benefit to sole practitioners and attorneys from smaller firms, whose limited capital makes accepting complicated personal injury cases cost prohibitive.

**“Remote video deposition technology allows lawyers to depose witnesses in any city, in any country in the world without ever having to leave their office.”**

With the opportunity to attend the deposition from multiple remote locations, associates and paralegals can play a more active role, and insurance claims adjusters can assess the demeanor and veracity of the deponent, which may expedite settlement negotiations.

Inherent in the technology is the ability to access retained videotaped depositions, documents, and transcripts in on-line repositories, which enhances trial and settlement conference preparation, encourages “green” (paperless) offices, and streamlines e-filing for courts.

Lawyers are not the only ones who benefit from remote video depositions. Plaintiffs who file federal lawsuits in other states can petition the Court to allow them to testify via video instead of appearing in person for their deposition if they can establish good cause, for example, if doing so would result in a financial burden or impose an undue hardship.

In January 2013, The United States District Court for the District of Maine in *Patricia Lynn Ryan v. Bucksport Regional Health*, 2013 U.S. Dist. 81 (2013) granted the Plaintiff's request for a protective order, sparing her the need to travel from Palm Springs, Calif., to Bangor, Maine, for her deposition, despite the general rule that a “plaintiff has selected the forum and should not be heard to complain about having to appear there for a deposition.” *Shockey v. Hutmaki, Inc.*, 280 F.R.D. 598, 600 (D.Kan. 2012).

The Plaintiff argued that the burdensome travel cost and child-care expense satisfied her burden to show good cause pursuant to Rule 26(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and should be granted relief from travel. Through its inherent power under Rule 30(b)(4), the Court ordered a deposition by remote means, refusing to find that the Defendant had sufficiently satisfied its burden

*continued on page 4*



▲ Pam Ferguson

## the sidebar

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## Practice Tips *continued from page 3*

to establish good cause as to why it should not be conducted remotely. The Court held:

*“In this era of reliable electronic video connections, expensive and unreliable air transportation, and significant environmental impacts occasioned by unnecessary travel, Rule 30(b)(4) should be liberally employed whenever practicable in order to effectuate the purpose of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 1 declaring that ‘the rules should be construed and administered to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action and proceeding.’”*

Continuances due to inclement weather, air travel delays, or undue hardship can also be avoided if the parties agree to proceed remotely.

If the benefits are as described, you might be wondering why we aren't all utilizing this amazing technology. First, the technology is relatively new,

especially in our area; and second, we are creatures of habit, and change is a nasty word. How many of you rebelled initially against on-line researching, choosing to research and Shepardize the old-fashioned way? How many of you refuse to relinquish your Dictaphone and yellow legal pad, relegating mastering the intricacies of Microsoft Word to another day? Are you ready for change, but intimidated by the technology? You're not alone.

For many members of our Bar Association, who didn't grow up with

computers, the World Wide Web, and social media, the mere thought of utilizing the newest technology elicits a lament for the “good ol' days,” and a stubborn refusal to change. While this is understandable, an “if it ain't broke, don't fix it” attitude will only delay the inevitable and impede continued business success.

As intimidating as it may seem, “technology” does not necessarily have to be a bad word. It has provided new ways of reaching out to clients through websites and social media and has streamlined and made more efficient the way we practice law. Remote deposition technology is a perfect example. For a minimal investment in time and finances, the benefits of remote deposition technology can be yours, along with the assurance on a cold, wintry morning at the break of dawn that the farthest you have to travel for your deposition is to your computer. 🌸

### LawSpeak

*“The test of the protection of fundamental rights is not how they are served in times of calm, but how vigilantly they are defended in times of danger.”*

— Geoffrey Perret, historian

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November 2013 Civil Trial Term

# Jury Trial Verdicts

by Beth Orbison, Esq., Thomas L. Jones, Esq., and Monique J. Lafontant Mears, Esq.

**O**f thirty-three cases listed for the November 2013 Civil Jury Trial Term, one proceeded to a non-jury trial, one was conducted as a summary jury trial, four settled, two were discontinued, twenty-one were continued, and four jury trials were held.

**TONYA L. WRIGHT**

**V.**

**RINKU M. DUTT, M.D.;**

**DUTT VISION & EYE CENTER;  
AND LUNA EYE CENTERS  
NO. 3017 OF 2008**

*Cause of Action: Negligence—  
Medical Professional Liability*

On October 11, 2006, Plaintiff consulted with Defendant Dr. Dutt to see whether she was a candidate for laser eye surgery. Plaintiff was thirty-seven years old at the time and had been wearing eyeglasses since she was five years old. Defendant determined that Plaintiff required a procedure called “modified monovision,” a procedure whereby the vision in the dominant eye is corrected to plano and the non-dominant eye is made to be very nearsighted.

Defendant performed surgery on October 1, 2006, and told Plaintiff that her vision would be clear within a couple of days. However, Plaintiff continued to experience difficulties with blurred vision and her eyes adjusting to monovision. When Defendant was unable ameliorate her difficulties, Plaintiff sought a second opinion from an ophthalmologist.



Plaintiff’s expert opined that Plaintiff was not a candidate for monovision because she was not presbyopic prior to the surgery; that Defendant failed to determine Plaintiff’s ocular dominance; that Defendant failed to perform cycloplegic refraction to reveal the presence of latent hyperopia; and that Defendant failed to perform a contact lens trial to simulate “monovision” prior to the surgery.

As a result of the surgery, Plaintiff suffered depression and anxiety, her work has suffered, and she continues to experience dry eye, eye pain, and a pulling sensation in her eyes.

The Defendant’s expert opined that Defendant’s treatment was within the standard of care. Furthermore, the expert believed that Defendant provided the Plaintiff with informed consent and that the post-operative symptom of dry eyes is a recognized side effect of laser eye surgery, about which Plaintiff was informed. Finally, Plaintiff underwent an independent psychiatric evaluation, which led the examiner to suspect that Plaintiff was embellishing her complaints for secondary gain.

*Plaintiff’s Counsel:* Elizabeth L. Jenkins, Rosen Louik & Perry, P.C., Pgh.

*Defendants’ Counsel:* David M. Chmiel, Matis Baum O’Connor, Pgh.

*Trial Judge:* The Hon. Richard E. McCormick, Jr.

*Result:* Verdict in favor of the Defendant. The jury found that Defendant’s conduct did not fall below the applicable standard of medical care and that the Defendant obtained the Plaintiff’s informed consent before performing surgery on her.

*continued on page 6*

**did you know?**

**Westmoreland County Civil Jury Trial Verdicts from 2000 to the present are available online at [www.westbar.org/verdicts](http://www.westbar.org/verdicts).**



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# Jury Trial Verdicts *continued from page 5*

**MARY BETH MAIOLO**

**V.**

**RAYMOND S. MATTUCCI**  
**NO. 4079 OF 2011**

*Cause of Action: Breach of Contract*

In 2008, Plaintiff and Defendant entered into an oral contract for the Defendant to perform certain work at Plaintiff's residence located on Altman Road in Jeannette. Among other things, Defendant agreed to construct two retaining walls and grade the ground near the walls.

Plaintiff alleged that, due to Defendant's delay and improper construction, the upper wall collapsed in March 2010 and the lower wall is deteriorating. Accordingly, Plaintiff requested monetary damages for the \$10,000.00 already paid and an additional \$14,000.00 to remove the two retaining walls and to properly finish the grading.

Defendant denied that the work he completed on the two retaining walls, a driveway, and steps was not done in a proper and workmanlike manner.

In addition, Defendant alleged in his Counterclaim that the Plaintiff fired him, and therefore, he was unable to complete construction. Furthermore, he admitted that he was paid the \$10,000.00, but alleges that he completed more work for which he is entitled to be paid in the amount of approximately \$30,000.00. Plaintiff denied these allegations.

A summary jury trial was conducted.<sup>1</sup>

*Plaintiff's Counsel:* Michael Nestico, Gbg.

*Defendant's Counsel:* Chris Nichols, Gbg.

*Trial Judge:* The Hon. Anthony G. Marsili

*Result:* Verdict in favor of Mattucci on the Complaint; verdict in favor of Maiolo on the Counterclaim. The jury awarded no damages to either party.

**DONALD L. TEMSICK**

**V.**

**MICHAEL TEDESCO AND**  
**MATTHEW D. WALTON**  
**NO. 438 OF 2010**

*Cause of Action: Intentional Assault—  
Negligence—Personal Injury*

On February 1, 2008, Plaintiff was employed at Defendant Tedesco's residence as a plasterer, when he got into an argument with Defendant Walton, who was also working on the job at Tedesco's home. Plaintiff alleged that both Defendants physically assaulted him, causing him to dislocate his left elbow and suffer abrasions on his head. Plaintiff sought reimbursement of medical expenses related to his injuries, as well as damages for pain and suffering.

Defendants claimed that Plaintiff was the aggressor and that any injuries sustained by Plaintiff were as a result of a physical altercation that was provoked and initiated by him. In addition, Defendants claimed that Plaintiff had a pre-existing left elbow fracture that contributed to his continuing complaints of physical problems with his elbow.

At trial, Defendants presented evidence in support of their claim that Plaintiff changed his story about what happened several times since the incident occurred over five years ago.

At the conclusion of Plaintiff's case, Defendants' motion for non-suit was granted on the special damages claims for medical expenses and wage loss. Consequently, the jury was asked only to consider whether the Plaintiff was entitled to non-economic damages.

*Plaintiff's Counsel:* Matthew D. Gailey, Pgh.

*Defendant Tedesco's Counsel:* Sean P. Hannon, Dell, Moser, Lane & Loughney, LLC, Pgh.

*Defendant Walton's Counsel:* Kerri Shimborske-Abel, Zimmer Kunz, Gbg.

*Trial Judge:* The Hon. Richard E. McCormick, Jr.

*Result:* Verdict in favor of Defendants. The jury found that each one of the three parties was one-third responsible for Plaintiff's injuries and awarded no damages to Plaintiff.

**JONATHAN BOSCAN**

**V.**

**E. DANIEL MATTY,**  
**JAMES ADDIS, AND JOHN DOE**

**V.**

**LEANNE BOSCAN**  
**NO. 4684 OF 2011**

*Cause of Action: Negligence—  
Motor Vehicle Accident*

On July 25, 2003, Defendant James Addis was operating his motor vehicle on State Route 51 in Rostraver Township, at or near the intersection of McKenery Drive. Addis abruptly stopped in the left travel lane to make a left turn into the C. Harper Chevrolet car dealership. Addis realized the area where he thought he was supposed to turn was not actually the legal turning point, so he continued on Route 51.

At this point, a driver, John Doe, slowed in the right lane and yelled at Addis. This caused several cars behind the vehicles—including the car that Plaintiff was riding in, which was driven by his mother, Additional Defendant Leanne Boscan—to slam on their brakes. Boscan came to a stop without hitting the vehicle in front of her. Defendant E. Daniel Matty, who was driving behind Plaintiff, plowed into Plaintiff's car, pushing it into the car in front of it. The air bag deployed, striking Plaintiff in his right eye, injuring his eye, and causing burns and cuts to his face. Plaintiff maintained that Defendants negligently operated their vehicles and caused the chain-reaction collision.

Due to the collision, Plaintiff claimed he sustained an injury to his right eye. The injury was diagnosed as a hyphema, which resulted in Plaintiff developing permanent, significant floaters in the field of vision in his

<sup>1</sup> A jury in a summary jury trial consists of eight individuals; agreement by at least six of the eight jurors constitutes a verdict.

eye. Plaintiff's expert witness opined that Plaintiff has an increased risk of developing glaucoma as a result of the accident. Plaintiff's medical bills were covered by his first-party benefits. There was no claim for lost wages. Plaintiff claimed damages for pain and suffering, emotional distress, inconvenience, and loss of enjoyment of life.

Defendant Addis asserted a cross-claim against Defendant Matty and Defendant John Doe arguing that the negligence of Matty in failing to assure a clear distance ahead, and the negligence of John Doe in slowing in his travel lane to yell at Addis, were the causes of the collision. Accordingly, Defendant Addis argued Defendant Matty and/or Defendant John Doe were liable to Plaintiff for any damages.

*Plaintiff's Counsel:* Noah Geary, Washington, Pa.

*Counsel for Defendant James Addis:* Karen L. Mascio, Pgh.

*Trial Judge:* The Hon. Gary P. Caruso

*Result:* Molded verdict in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendant James Addis in the amount of \$1,500.00.

#### **TIANI, L.P.**

**V.**

#### **COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NO. 9048 OF 2004**

*Cause of Action: Condemnation—  
Highway Right-of-Way*

Defendant PennDOT condemned a portion of Plaintiff/Condemnee's land for the purpose of widening a Route 22 right-of-way corridor in Murrysville. The condemnation resulted in Plaintiff's automobile dealership, Watson Chevrolet, losing the property on which was parked its entire front row of cars. Plaintiff sought damages for the reduction in fair market value of the property as a result of the taking.

At trial, Plaintiff called two experts: Francis R. Chiapetta, MAI, testified that the difference in the fair market

value of the property before the taking and after the taking was \$1,180,000.00; and Anthony C. Barna, MAI, testified that the difference in the fair market value of the property before the taking and after the taking was \$1,231,000.00. Pat Tiani, a principal of Tiani, L.P., testified that Plaintiff suffered damages in the amount of \$2,000,000.00.

The Commonwealth, Department of Transportation, presented the testimony of a real estate expert, Paul Griffith, who opined that

damages were in the amount of \$659,815.00.

*Counsel for Plaintiff/Condemnee:* William P. Bresnahan, Hollinshead, Mendelson, Bresnahan & Nixon, P.C., Pgh.

*Counsel for Defendant/Condemnors:* Walter F. Cameron, Jr., Office of Chief Counsel, PennDOT, Pgh.

*Trial Judge:* The Hon. Eugene Fike, Somerset County

*Result:* Verdict in favor of Plaintiff/Condemnee in the amount of \$1,450,000.00. 🍀



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# Letters to the Judge

Your honor, Sir,  
 My cellmate, Jeeter, came back from the prison library a few weeks ago in a pensive mood. He sat for a bit on his bunk, then looked at me and quietly said, "I wonder how often I was fooled."

Jeeter, you see, had just read a piece in an out-of-town newspaper which related how the Boston P.D. had placed two life-sized cardboard cut-outs of officers in a busy downtown subway station which had been attractive to thieves, and that following the installation of these cardboard cops, thefts at this station fell by 67%.

The writer suggested that the result could be explained in two ways: "Either thieves are stupid and can't tell a scarecrow cop from a real one; or, simply thinking about a police officer reminds people of justice and jail—and reins in the impulse to steal, causing our inner policeman to kick in and we police ourselves."

Jeeter was clearly hurt by the first suggestion, saying that it was insensitive, politically incorrect, and a slur against the criminal class, which Jeeter thinks should be treated with a bit more understanding. "Look," he said, "I bet about 8% of the gross national product comes from the detection, arrest, prosecution, housing, and rehabilitation of criminals. Without us, there would be massive layoffs of police, guards, therapists, prosecutors, and parole officers; even your precious judge and about 50% of his colleagues would find themselves out of work if there were no crime. Stupid! We're providing employment to millions."

We both, however, had to give some serious thought to the second possibility, and have had some fun thinking about the possible extension of the use of the "inner policeman," like having a small cardboard picture of a motorcycle patrolman pasted onto the rear window of vehicles so it would appear in the rear-view mirror. But

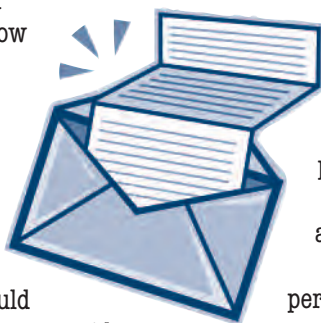
until Darla Jean's visit, we didn't realize how far behind the curve we actually were.

You may remember, your honor, that Darla Jean is Jeeter's fiancée of eleven years and mother to two of his progeny. Jeeter wrote to her about this article and on visiting day she surprised him by saying that her aunt, who works in the court administrator's office, had read a draft report concerning a pilot program initiated by the AOPC and the PBA which secretly placed cardboard jurists in the courtrooms of three undisclosed counties when arraignments and calls of the list were conducted.

The report explained that a test was run for a period of 90 days and an exit poll was conducted among the lawyers attending these proceedings. When asked their opinions about using cardboard judges, 64% of the lawyers said they hadn't noticed that they weren't real, and 12% thought it was an improvement.

The whole point of this is, your honor, since you are known as an innovative judge, could you possibly see your way to make sure that upon my release I'm assigned a corrugated parole officer?

Your friend,  
 Ricky H. Benbow, Sr. 🐼



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# Spotlight on Pam Neiderhiser

**Q WHAT JOBS DID YOU HAVE BEFORE BECOMING A LAWYER?**

**A** I spent a lot of time as an assistant pastry chef for an Italian bakery. Spent so much time making pastries, I had no desire to eat them, resulting in the best weight of my life.

**Q WHAT'S THE FUNNIEST THING THAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU AS AN ATTORNEY?**

**A** I don't know if it is the funniest, but it is definitely memorable. When I was an Assistant Public Defender, I was going out to dinner with colleagues.

The restaurant had valet parking. When I went to hand my keys to the valet, the valet turned out to be one of my clients—a client charged with

DUIs and no valid license. Needless to say, I parked my own car and got a good laugh out of telling everyone else who just parked their vehicles.

**Q WHAT QUALITY DO YOU MOST LIKE IN AN ATTORNEY?**

**A** Integrity.

**Q WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE JOURNEY?**

**A** I approach every day as a journey. After all, every day has a beginning, a middle, and an end. I learned a long time ago to appreciate each and every one.

**Q WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST REGRET?**

**A** Not getting the chance to thank JDC [J. David Caruthers] for his friendship and advice. I'm sure he knew how much I appreciated both, but I still regret not getting the chance



to tell him. He is greatly missed and the practice of law has not been the same without him.

**Q WHO ARE YOUR HEROES IN REAL LIFE?**

**A** The men and women of our U.S. Military. They sacrifice so much to

*continued on page 10*



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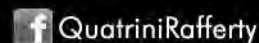


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# Spotlight on Pam Neiderhiser *continued from page 9*

protect our freedom and are simply not appreciated enough.

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

**A** Be the type of attorney you would want representing you if the roles were reversed. Our clients just want to be treated with respect and like human beings. Too often, attorneys forget that, and when they do, they fail our profession.

**Q WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE YOU EVER GOT?**

**A** Don't ever discuss politics with your grandmother.

**Q WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?**

**A** In high school, I was voted most likely to be walking with a cane by the age of 21. I'm well over 21, and no cane!

**Q WHEN AND WHERE WERE YOU HAPPIEST?**

**A** Sharing the love of the game with the girls of summer, coaches Chuck

and Al, and the greatest stats and score keeper ever, my dad.

**Q WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?**

**A** My Beagle-German Shepherd mix, Whitney (see photo). Though I really wouldn't call her a possession—she's family.

**Q WHAT IS IT THAT YOU MOST DISLIKE?**

**A** Anchovies, "know-it-alls," and the New England Patriots.

**Q WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?**

**A** Anyone who knows me knows that I am not extravagant by any means. However, if I ever locate the '57 'Vette I'm looking for, that could all change.

**Q WHAT TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?**

**A** I'd love to be able to make the music and not just play the notes.

**Q WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST IN YOUR FRIENDS?**

**A** Their wicked sense of humor, their appreciation for sarcasm, and the fact that they are genuinely just great people.

**Q WHAT PROFESSION, OTHER THAN YOUR OWN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEMPT?**

**A** Artist/photographer. I would love to show the world how I see it.

**Q WHAT IS YOUR MOTTO?**

**A** Success is a choice. 🍀

*Notice from the Court Administrator*

## Access Civil Trial Lists Online

Starting with the January 2014 Civil Trial List, the Court Administrator's office will be posting the trial list on the Court's Civil web page and will start posting the Arbitration List in March 2014.

The Civil Trial List and the Arbitration List will be posted on the Court's web page and mailed to all interested parties. The Civil Trial List will be updated once (one week prior to the trial term), indicating the cases that are currently active on the list. The Arbitration List will be not updated after initial posting.

The Court will evaluate the response from the attorneys during this temporary "trial period" with the expectation of adopting a local rule eliminating the mailing of paper lists.

To subscribe to Court News and get an alert when the current Civil and Arbitration lists are released, go to [www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/list.aspx](http://www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/list.aspx) and follow the directions to sign in. Then scroll down to the News Flash section and click one of the icons next to Courts. Court News also contains news items regarding changes in court forms, procedures, and practices. 🍀





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# To-Wit: The Wrong Stuff

by S. Sponte, Esq.

I read the brief over again for the fourth time, checked the citations for the third time, did further research, and came to the same conclusion; it was a great brief in support of preliminary objections and I couldn't make it any better than it already was. It was something to be proud of.

And I would have been, too, had it been my brief, but it wasn't; it was the brief of my opposing counsel and it blew my case all to hell.

In no time flat, I conjured up a whole lot of reasons to explain how this had happened, and some of them even sounded plausible. But no matter how delusional I endeavored to become, I couldn't avoid the painful and only real truth here; I'd been wrong from the beginning. In fact, I had been so wrong that I felt obliged to call my client into the office to tell him it was necessary to withdraw his complaint.

When I personally delivered the bad news, he just sat there looking at me for several minutes in stunned disbelief before he replied.

"You were the one who told me to sue, now you're telling me you were wrong?"

"Yes," I replied, "I was wrong."

**"I could tell from the way my client leapt out of the chair and lunged at me that he wasn't going to take this sitting down."**

I could tell from the way my client leapt out of the chair and lunged at me that he wasn't going to take this sitting down. Instead of a punch, however, he just delivered a diatribe.

"Well, I'm going to find me another lawyer," he bellowed, "and I'll prove

you were right if it's the last thing I do."

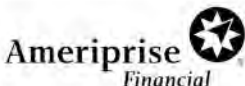
With that, he ran out the door, slamming it behind him

so violently that it shattered the glass and, I'm guessing here now, our professional relationship as well.

One of the things I've learned over the years is that it's really hard for a lot of lawyers to admit they were wrong; and it's particularly hard for someone like me who's had so few occasions to practice it. Harder still, though, is admitting it to a client and thus facing the concomitant loss of both face and work. For some, it's hard because billable hours precede candor in importance; for others, those who don't do insurance defense work for instance, loss of face makes it pretty much impossible to look into a mirror with admiration.



*continued on page 12*




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# To-Wit: The Wrong Stuff *continued from page 11*

I struggled a lot with this issue in my professional youth. In those days, mistakes found me the way tornadoes find trailer parks. I shan't ever forget the day I had to call a client into my office to deliver the bad news. Rather than tell him I had been wrong, I blamed it on the courts.

"I'm so sorry," I said with as much sincerity as I could muster up for a canard, "but a recent appellate court opinion simply changed the law on us."

"Those things happen," he replied, with a philosophical acceptance I hadn't expected. "Can you get me a copy of that opinion?" I hadn't expected that, either. That's when I learned that, while the truthful approach does have its inconveniences, artifice isn't one of them.

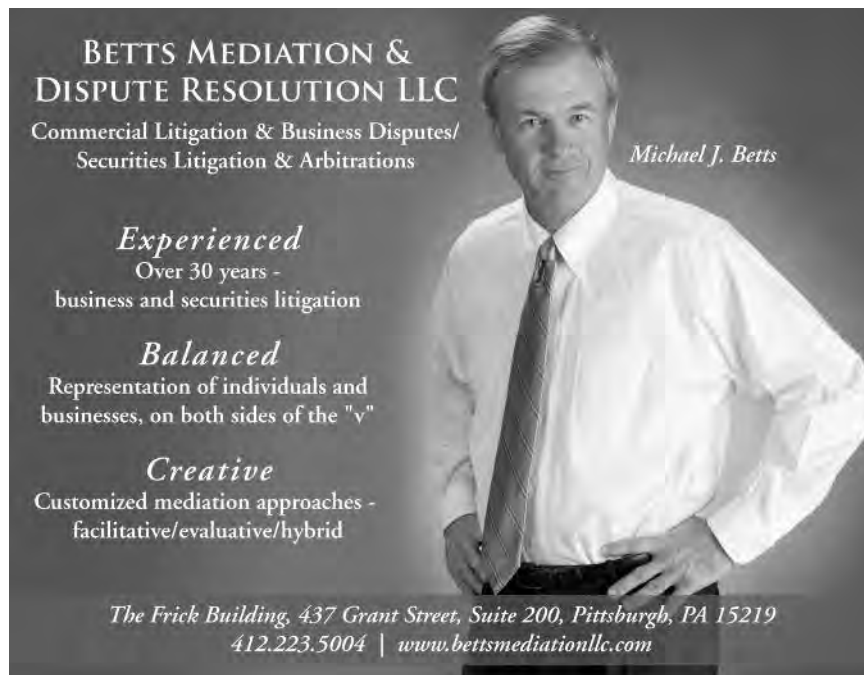
I've come to regard the willingness to 'fess up in such matters as really one of the truest indices of professionalism. Some have it, others don't; some learn

it, others never do. I've been right often enough in my career to carry the burden of my mistakes with a measure of confidence, secure in the knowledge that in this business, as in any other, only liars are right all the time.

I'm ever mindful of Lord Jim, Joseph Conrad's greatest real fictional character. At various times in our

careers, we all have to face our chiefs. Being wrong carries no dishonor unless accompanied by stupidity. Okay, now you can all put your books and pencils down: recess is upon us. 🐼

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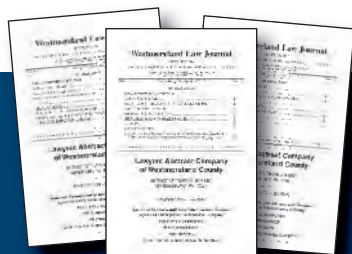
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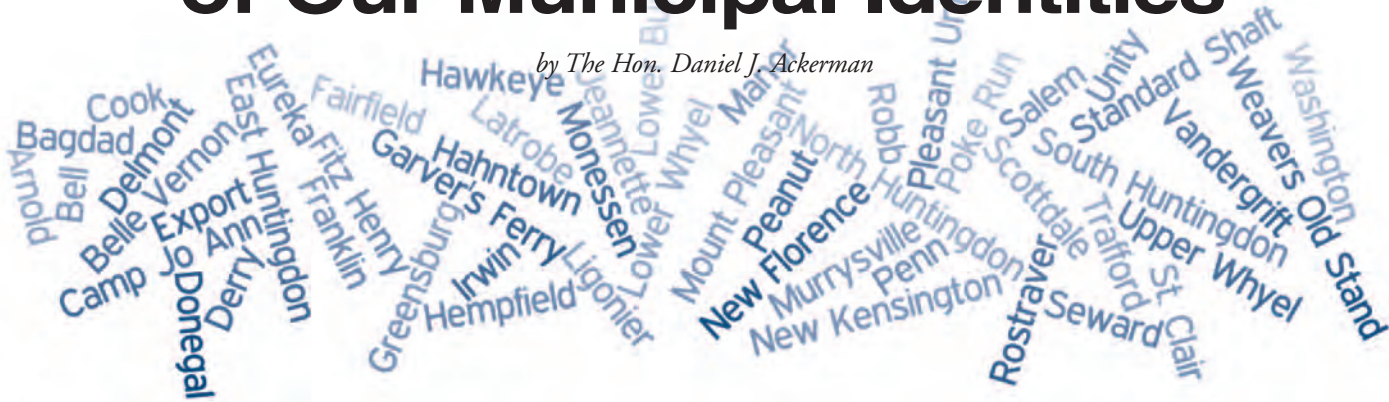
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Westmoreland Revisited

# What's In A Name? The Origin of Our Municipal Identities

by The Hon. Daniel J. Ackerman



In a recent sidewalk conversation with Don Rigone, who can hold forth on all subjects pertaining to the Civil War, he lamented that the name of John White Geary is not



▲ The Hon. Daniel J. Ackerman

affixed to any building, municipality, or street in our county. Except for a small plaque in Mount Pleasant, not far from where he was raised, this law-trained major-general—which was only one of his many accomplishments—is, for all intents and purposes, forgotten

in his own county. Yet, a county in Kansas, and streets in San Francisco and Harrisburg are named for him, as well as a building at Penn State University. That is what might be expected for one who served in the capacities of governor of the Kansas Territory, during its most turbulent time; as the first mayor of San Francisco; a major-general in the Union army, who took part in a half-dozen of the war's most important battles; and thereafter was a two-term governor of Pennsylvania. But, public recognition here makes no room for his memory. It made me think about how we went about naming our public places, at a time when names were not purchased by commercial interests.

Our local municipalities derived their names in a variety of ways: from figures of national importance to local luminaries who had had their moment, but now are mostly forgotten; from names imported from Europe or our east coast; from individuals connected to industry or commerce; from names depicting an activity; and geographically related designations.

## FOUNDING FATHERS

Those who were in the national spotlight would lend their names to the townships of Penn (William) and Washington (George), and the former Franklin (Benjamin) Township. In the same category, but not as quickly remembered, are Nathanael Greene, the heroic field commander of the Colonial Army in the southern theater during the Revolution (Greensburg), and Arthur St. Clair, a resident and county office holder, whose name would be lent to St. Clair Township. During the Revolution, St. Clair played a significant role as a brigadier-general in Washington's army, and after the war became the president of the Continental Congress, and then governor of the Northwest Territory. Of all these, Washington and St. Clair were the only ones to ever have set foot in the county, and St. Clair is the only one whose remains rest here.

A second tier of historical figures whose names grace some of our

municipalities include: William H. Seward, Lincoln's secretary of state, whose recognition factor in the present day may have improved with the release of the movie, "Lincoln"; Colonel John Irwin, an Irish fur trader, who, with his son, led the construction of what is now Route 30, between Irwin and Greensburg; David Cook, an associate judge (a lay judge, not trained in the law) from 1843 to 1849 (while you may never have been there, there is a Cook Township); Major Andrew Arnold, whose reputation was that of an Indian fighter; Jeremiah Murry, pioneer merchant and land developer, who laid out Murrysville; and his grandson, Jeremiah Murry Burrell, who sat on our common pleas bench and was also a territorial justice in Kansas, prior to John Geary's appointment as governor.

## TITANS OF INDUSTRY

One, however, didn't have to be an Indian fighter or statesman to secure a place name: many names were drawn from commerce and industry, and it helped if you worked for a railroad.

Scottdale was named after Colonel Thomas A. Scott, one of the early presidents of the Pennsylvania Railroad. It was Benjamin F. Latrobe, a civil engineer for the B & O Railroad (not to be confused with Benjamin Henry Latrobe, the nation's

*continued on page 14*

## What's In A Name? *continued from page 13*

first premier architect and designer of the United States Capitol) who foresaw that a town was likely to be built on the banks of the Loyalhanna. Jeannette was the loving wife of H. Sellers McKee, a partner in the Chambers & McKee Glass Works. And Vandergrift, designed as a model town by Frederick Law Olmstead to house workers at what was then the largest sheet steel mill in the world, was named for Captain J. J. Vandergrift, a heavy stockholder in the Apollo Iron & Steel Company.

### THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Those who chose to put their roots down in the New World obviously found comfort in recalling the old, or at least prior, abodes along the eastern seaboard from which they came. Immigrants who were drawn to the banks of the “Mon,” affixed to the

river's popular designation the name of the German city they left behind: Essen. Long before that, a British military expedition erected a fort on the upper portion of Loyalhanna Creek and looked homeward in naming it for their commander-in-chief, Lord Ligonier. The ruling house of Scotland included the Earl of Huntingdon, whose name would grace three of our townships. And Kensington, England, was remembered as its namesake took hold on the bank of the Allegheny River; but soon “New” had to be added when the postal service discovered that there was more than one.

This apparently wasn't an uncommon problem. Salem Township and the crossroads village of New Salem were named after Salem, Mass., but in 1871, postmaster Zachariah Zimmerman saw to it that the village's

name was changed to Delmont when he found that mail directed to his constituents was being sent to another New Salem in Fayette County.

New Florence was named for Florence, Italy, and Belle Vernon in French means “beautiful green,” which provides a nice touch. George Westinghouse named Trafford after a town near Manchester, England; County Down in Ireland has lent us the name of one of its villages, Rostraver; and Derry is named after the city in Northern Ireland. Finally, so as not to leave the Scandinavians out of the mix, Manor was once part of Denmark Manor, one of two proprietary manors obtained from the heirs of William Penn with the intent (which was mostly unsuccessful) of drawing Danish settlers to the area.

A few municipal names preceded the creation of the county. While still part of Bedford County, this area was divided into sections, which were not municipalities; three of these had designations which would be inherited and formally incorporated into the townships of Mount Pleasant, Fairfield and Donegal when Westmoreland was created.

Some names were derived from rivers or streams: Allegheny Township, whose northern point is at the confluence of the Allegheny and Kiskiminetas rivers; Loyalhanna, for the creek of the same name; and Sewickley, for Big Sewickley Creek, which was undoubtedly named for Sewickley Manor, the other proprietary manor reserved as an estate by the Penn heirs.

Others took their names from enterprises: Export, named for the first coal to be exported in the area; and the name Hempfield, while taken from a township in Lancaster County, had its origins in the production of hemp. (Will this be prophetic if Pennsylvania ever legalizes medical marijuana?).

A couple of our township place names are shrouded in uncertainty.

## where in the world IS THE WBA MEMBER?



*My wife and I took a ten-day river cruise down the Danube last September/October. We started in Prague, Czech Republic; then visited Nuremberg and Regensburg, Germany; Melk, Salzburg, and Vienna, Austria; and ended up in Budapest, Hungary.*

*Here I am (far right) in Salzburg, Austria, at the St. Peter Stiftskeller Restaurant. Run by a monastery, it claims to be the oldest restaurant in central Europe, having been in operation since 803 AD.*

*—Jim Kelley*

SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

No definitive information is available for Unity and Bell Townships. According to George Dallas Albert in his *History of the County of Westmoreland* (1882), Unity Township “has within its limits the church of the Unity Presbyterian congregation, one of the oldest and most historic in the West; and the graveyard, whose hallowed precincts have been tenderly guarded for a hundred years ...” This seems a likely explanation. As for Bell Township, one resident involved in local history there told me that he believed that it may have been named for a judge in the 1850s. This likely eliminates from consideration the present Judge Bell, who is the only common pleas judge with that surname, but it is possible that the man referred to sat as a lay or associate judge; however, as to both townships we are left to mere speculation.

If the origin of township names can be forgotten, what’s to be said for the small hamlets with unusual and eye-catching names, the source of which remain known to a dwindling few, such as Peanut, Bagdad, Garver’s Ferry, Camp Jo Ann, Poke Run, Hahntown, Upper and Lower Whyel, Fitz Henry, Eureka, Hawkeye, Weavers Old Stand, Standard Shaft, and Robb, to name a few.

As developers move across the landscape, some of these names may be replaced with pretentious and soft syllables, but something of value will be lost when that happens. Need I remind you that Pleasant Unity was once named Buzzard’s Town, for John Buzzard? I’ll leave it to you to decide if that was an improvement. 🐦


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**Daniel Joseph**

# The Hon. John E. Blahovec *continued from page 1*

I could hope for. My Sheriffs, Sharon Greece and Shawn McKowan, are outstanding. Leaving the bunch is not going to be easy, because they are all friends as well as co-workers. Yet for me, at this point in my life, I know it is time for me to go.

## A LITTLE BACKGROUND



Much of my career had its beginnings on Grove Street in Greensburg, and Fifth Ward in general. At age 15, I began to work at Anderson's Market

for O. W. "Bud" Anderson, who is the father of County Commissioner Charles Anderson. I learned to bag and display produce, drive a truck and deliver groceries, run the register, carry out groceries, and cut meat. That doesn't matter much at all, except for the customers I served.

At Anderson's, I met Charlie and Bunny Marker and their kids. I met John and Ann Driscoll and John's parents. I often waited on Barb Bacha and came to know Kenny, Kathy, and John. So many people in the Greensburg area came into that store, and I got to know them.

I can't count how many of these customers became important in my life and how many, some seventeen or so years later, helped me in my practice or my campaign. Anyone running for Judge needs to remember you began running many years ago, and that the people you have met along the way will play a part in your campaign and service based upon, at least in part, their long-ago memories of you.

Just a word or two about Fifth Ward in Greensburg. I met Leo Bacha, who hired me as his Solicitor for the Coroner's Office, and he became one of my dearest friends. He was an integral part of our lunch table, an extra grandpap to my kids, and, with my wife, Marylou, a two-person campaign committee that made my election happen. I miss him more than I can say.



▲ *The Hon. Charles E. Marker, The Hon. John E. Blahovec, The Hon. Gilfert M. Mihalich, and The Hon. Charles H. Loughran at the 2007 WBA Annual Meeting.*

Fire Chief Ed Hutchinson employed my dad for a number of years. I remember him bringing an oxygen tank in a silver suitcase to the house and leaving it there in case I had an asthma emergency. I remember the book he and his sister, Helen, bought me in fifth grade when I was recovering from my appendectomy. I still have that book. As Judge, I've worked with Ed many times and still serve with him on a Mutual Aid Ambulance Committee. When I decided to run, he was one of the first people I went to see for help.

As a new lawyer, I was not required to have a preceptor, but I had one; one who was not a lawyer, but a law maker—Ed's brother, Amos. I learned common-sense problem-solving, and more wisdom than you could glean from a dozen philosophy classes. My first law books came from him. I miss him, and I think of him nearly every day as I use some lessons he taught me.

## LEGAL CAREER



I started my legal career working with Alex Echard, Pete Cherellia, Rick Bruni, Dave Beck, Dave Petonic, Steve Alm, and lots of current attorneys as a legal intern at Laurel Legal Services after my second year of law school. We got to actually represent clients under supervision and Supreme Court Rule. The experience was invaluable. During my third year

of law school, I attended classes at Pitt in Oakland and worked part-time at Laurel Legal Services in Indiana right over the Kentucky Fried Chicken store. My mentors there were John Kopay and Ken Burkley. Kopay gave us a turkey roaster for a wedding gift that is still in use today, some 36 years later.

After I passed the bar, I worked for Bob Weisgerber in Mount Pleasant for a year before hanging out my shingle at 27 North Main Street in Greensburg in Orlando Prosperi's old office. The place was kind of a refuge for not-so-prosperous young lawyers. Here is a list of my office mates: Allen Kukovich, Alfred Bell, John Peck, Bruce Tobin, Dennis Del Cotto, Todd Crawford, and Gary Fine.

Eventually, Allen, Alfred, Bruce, and I rented other space on Maple Avenue. Then Alfred Bell and I shared office space until I got elected.

I took court appointments in criminal and family cases as often as I could get them. I rode the "Mental Health Circuit," representing patients and travelling with Mental Health Review Officer John Mika all over the state. I searched titles in numerous counties with Sean Cassidy, travelling with Sean, his dad, Ray, and two or three others in Sean's light blue Datsun B-210.

Charlie Marker appointed me as guardian ad litem for many children. He was a bit upset when I left that work to serve for a year as Assistant



District Attorney for John Driscoll. See how those Anderson's Market connections come up? Luckily, Charlie didn't forget about me.

**SPECIAL PEOPLE**

I was admitted to the bar by Judge David Weiss. My first jury trial was as defense counsel in a criminal trial before Judge Earl Keim against Al Gaudio. I had a custody trial before Judge Hudock against Joe Loughran, Chuck's dad. I had a criminal trial against old Bill Caruthers and A.C. (not John) Scales. Bob Weisgerber and I had a zoning appeal before Judge Sculco. I feel lucky that I got to meet and know some real legendary characters in the history of our Bar.

Lots of people may not know that John Peck was a Public Defender for a while, and a very good one. As young lawyers, if we got a court-appointment we would often go up to the Public Defender's Office and discuss the case with one of the experienced Public Defenders. I had a client charged with Recklessly Endangering. He allegedly pointed a rifle at the victim. I recited the facts to John Peck. In that warm way of his, he barely looked up from the Advance Sheet he was reading and he asked: "Is your guy also charged with Simple Assault?"

I said: "No."

Again, head down, John stated: "*Commonwealth v. Trowbridge*. They have to prove the gun was loaded. If they don't, make a demurrer."

They didn't. I did.

*continued on page 18*



▲ *Marylou and The Hon. John E. Blahovec at a WBA Holiday Dinner Dance.*

*continued from page 1*

His campaign slogan during the campaign was "For the Children." But to John, it was not just another catchy campaign slogan, but something he really meant with all his heart. To understand why, you would have to know something quite private about John. He and his wonderful wife, Marylou, adopted two lovely little girls, Becky and Rachel. They are devoted parents and have raised those two little girls to become two lovely ladies.

Furthermore, John knew exactly what he was getting into by choosing the family court as the place he wanted to work. This is because, for many years, he was a Master in family matters and, obviously, was quite familiar with the trials and tribulations that a career in family court would bring. Nevertheless, that is exactly what he wanted to do. He believed that he could make a difference in the lives of some families, and he worked very hard at accomplishing just that.

He and Judge Charles Marker made a great team in the family court. It was only the two of them, and they handled it all with aplomb. Without question, that was a remarkable accomplishment. I know how difficult working in family court can be, because in those days when John or Charles was conflicted out of a case, unfortunately that case would be reassigned to me. A steady diet of that type of emotional conflict in family court cases, day after day, would take its toll on even the strongest of judges.

After some time, it was decided that the Common Pleas Court of Westmoreland County would be changed in structure and the President Judge would make assignments to specific divisions of the Court. Judge Richard McCormick, Jr., Judge Debra

Pezze, and I chose the criminal court assignment. We prevailed upon John to join us. It was a difficult decision for John. It would mean leaving a position for which he specifically had campaigned and, in some way, he felt that he would be abandoning those people who had voted for him. However, at that time, the criminal court needed a judge with John's work ethic. We pestered him until he agreed; and we were sure glad he did. I like to believe that the four of us made a wonderful team, each ready to help the other without question or hesitation.

As with all things, change occurs. The office of the Court Administrator takes over control of much of the activities of the court. Criminal defendants become the "primary participant" in the new computer software for the criminal courts. Arraignments and some bench warrant hearings are done by video conferencing.

Computers enter the courtrooms with their technical staffs trailing behind. The manner of presenting demonstrative evidence is forever changed. Some lawyers begin treating "lawyering" as a job and not a profession. New judges are elected and other judges, like Judge McCormick and me, move to civil court. Change is the natural order of things and, although difficult, must be accepted. John and Debbie are still in the criminal court, along with Judge Bell and Judge Hathaway. They continue toiling in a very, very busy court.

Then John became our President Judge. It was not a position that he aspired to attain. However, being most senior, he understood it was a position he must accept. He performed the job well and kept the court on a steady course. He had many difficult problems to deal with during his term as President Judge

*continued on page 19*

**“He believed that he could make a difference in the lives of some families and he worked very hard at accomplishing just that.”**

# The Hon. John E. Blahovec *continued from page 17*



▲ *The first picture: Westmoreland County's Bench, circa 1985. Top row: The Hon. Daniel J. Ackerman, The Hon. Charles H. Loughran, The Hon. Gilfert M. Mihalich, The Hon. Joseph A. Hudock, and The Hon. Charles E. Marker. Bottom row: The Hon. Bernard F. Scherer, The Hon. Gary P. Caruso, The Hon. Donetta W. Ambrose, and The Hon. John E. Blahovec.*



*Westmoreland County's Bench, circa 2010. Top row: The Hon. Anthony G. Marsili and The Hon. Debra A. Pezze. Middle row: The Hon. John E. Blahovec, The Hon. Christopher A. Feliciani, The Hon. Gary P. Caruso, and The Hon. Christian F. Scherer. Bottom row: The Hon. Rita D. Hathaway, The Hon. Richard E. McCormick, Jr., The Hon. Michele G. Bononi, The Hon. John J. Driscoll, and The Hon. Alfred B. Bell.*

Judge Gilfert Mihalich rocked in his rocking chair in what eventually became my office, read *Trowbridge*, and granted the demurrer.

Yes, it was the same John Peck.

## ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY



John Driscoll hired Al Bell and me as Assistant DAs. During the two-week trial terms, we simply closed our office and worked full-time at the

DA's. Space was limited. Here's a list of people sharing the same "cube": Pat Mahady, John Peck (having seen the light), Tim Geary, Jerry Little, Tom Himler, Pat Merlino, Al Bell, and me.

We all looked to Pat Mahady for guidance, which he remains gladly willing to impart even to this day. We called Pat the "Mystical Orb," and rubbed his forehead for good luck before trial. My wife found a silver round orb which was a kind of silver round Rubik's Cube. We presented it to Pat and he still has it.

In the DA's Office, I met Bob Johnston—one of the finest people I ever met. He taught me lessons I still

remember in that high nasal twang of his. One thing he stated was: "The purpose of a District Attorney is not just to get convictions. It is to do justice." Bob lived that phrase, and I have never forgotten it.

After just one year in the DA's Office, Charlie Marker called and offered me a job as Juvenile Court Master which I held for three years until my election.

## THE ELECTION OF 1985

Two judges were to be elected in 1985. One was going to serve with Charlie Marker in Family Court. The



▲ *Judge Blahovec and Bob Johnston at the 2003 WBA Annual Meeting.*

candidates were: Alan Berk, Pat Mahady, John Peck, Bruce Antkowiak, Gary Caruso, and me. I won both nominations; Gary, the Democrat; and Alan, the Republican. The campaign was gentlemanly and professional. I still have great respect for all of my opponents. I gained a kind of legal big brother, Gary Caruso, and we have been close friends and colleagues for the past 28 years.

One historical note: the main media outlet besides newspapers used in the campaign was AM radio! How long ago was 1985?

## THE FIRST PICTURE

Every time new judges are elected, an official picture of the bench is taken. I have to confess—no disrespect for anyone—the first picture I was in is my favorite: President Judge Gilfert Mihalich, Joseph Hudock, Charles Loughran, Charles Marker, Daniel Ackerman, Bernard Scherer, Donetta Ambrose, Gary Caruso, and me. To be on the bench with people I practiced before and deeply respected is one of my greatest honors. To become their



▲ *Judge Blahovec giving Les Mlakar a lift on the golf course at a long-ago Bench/Bar Conference.*

friend and colleague is one of my greatest treasures. Now all the people in the first picture have moved on except Gary and me. It is time for me to move on, too.

#### THE SUBSEQUENT PICTURES

I am grateful to all of my colleagues for their courtesies, kindnesses, friendship and wisdom over these years. Some special things I'll remember about the people in subsequent pictures:

**DICK MCCORMICK, JR.:** Dick and I had a trial against each other when he was a Public Defender and I was Assistant District Attorney. We handled many cases and I came to respect and admire him. I always said if I had a pile of work to do and could pick only one judge to work with, I'd pick Dick. I call him the Great Red Father because of his wisdom, his willingness to share his wisdom, and his general overall redness.

**DEBBIE PEZZE:** We had cases against each other. She was a great trial lawyer and is one of the most knowledgeable criminal judges in the state. She is a dear friend who is constantly in my thoughts and prayers.

**TONY MARSILI:** Tony has been a great help in enabling me to deal with two aging parents based on his experience. He is calm, measured, and wise. I will miss our morning conversations.

*continued from page 17*

and dealt with them in his usual deft manner. He showed great courage when he put the system of central warrant control in the hands of the Sheriff. He did this in the face of significant opposition from the constables in Westmoreland County. He knew it was the right thing to do and did it without fear of retribution. It would have been easy to pass on it, but that is not how John rolls. This program has become a source of revenue for the courts, rather than an expense as it was in the past.

For all of us who have come to know and love John, perhaps what we appreciate most is his sense of humor. And when I say "sense of humor,"

that is exactly what I mean. He has a sense of how to use humor. Often it is self-deprecating. But he can also use it to cut you so that you are dead before you even know that you were bleeding. He has a wonderful way of disarming you with his humor and can defuse even the most difficult courtroom situations with his wit.

There are just a couple of examples of his wit and humor that I would like to share with you. On one occasion, while selecting a jury, a male juror who was being questioned claimed that he was too stupid to be a juror and really could not hear very well. John, being sensitive to the man's professed stupidity, first asked why

the man could not hear very well. The man responded, "I stuck the sharp end of a pencil in my ear."

John then said, "You're right, sir, you are too stupid to be a juror."

On another occasion while questioning the jurors, a female juror explained that she had served on a jury before. John asked her in what courtroom she had served. She said, "Judge Caruso's."

He then said to her, "You know, a lot of people think we look alike.

What do you think?"

Her eyes widened, and she shrunk back in her seat, and she said in a soft voice, "Yeah, maybe a little."

John is quite a man and I am privileged to call him my friend. He has been my

confidant and counselor. I could always speak to him about any problem I was having as a judge and he always stood ready to help. He has all the qualities of character that make him an excellent judge. His integrity is beyond reproach. He is fair, impartial, and unbiased. He is loyal to the court and his colleagues. His work ethic is something to behold. He respects the law and the lawyers who properly serve the law. He does not suffer fools. He truly loves his family, God, and country. He serves all of them admirably. We may look a little alike, but I aspire only to be as good a judge, and person, as my friend, Judge John Blahovec. 🐾



▲ *Judge Caruso and Judge Blahovec as guest bartenders at the 2005 Merry Mixer.*

**RITA HATHAWAY:** Practiced in front of me when I came to criminal. Capable, fearless prosecutor. Baker of superlative brownies and chocolate cake. I was proud to be present as she became President of the State Conference of Trial Judges.

**ALFRED BELL:** I lost touch with Al from 1985–1995, but when he appeared before me as a prosecutor,

I was impressed by his fairness, his refusal to try a case by ambush, and his trial ability. He is an able and caring judge and my connection to the rest of the galaxy.

**CHRIS SCHERER:** Again, as he prosecuted cases before me, he proved himself to be a very competent and fair prosecutor. His great sense of

*continued on page 20*

# The Hon. John E. Blahovec *continued from page 19*



▲ *Judge Blahovec and Judge Feliciani entertaining at the 2007 Bench/Bar Conference.*

humor and his political wisdom have brought me a lot of joy. I enjoy his company just like I used to enjoy my time with his Uncle Bernie. I know Bernie is proud of him.

**CHRIS FELICIANI:** Excellent trial attorney, always prepared. Caring judge. I'm proud he's let me play with his band on several occasions. He's one of the best musicians I've ever seen. I'm grateful he took me to see Joe Bonamassa at The Palace. He introduced me to a whole new world of music.

**MICHELE BONONI:** Frank, open, honest. Michele is a refreshing person who has the one quality I have always prized in a colleague—she does her job. She is a great asset to the bench and she has several really super cars.

## THE LUNCH TABLE



I used to eat lunch every day with a great group. I mentioned my dear friend Leo Bacha, who usually picked up the tab. I miss him so much.

Charlie is retired, and I have to say when Charlie and I worked together, it was clear he was the boss. I didn't mind a bit. He taught me more than I can ever repay.



◀ *Playing golf (and showing off those gams) at a long-ago Bench/Bar Conference.*

*Judge McCormick, Judge Bloom, and Judge Blahovec at the 2008 Bench/Bar Conference.*



Bernie Scherer and I got off to a rocky start. Once he granted a mistrial in a case which I was prosecuting. I disagreed with his ruling, showed him no disrespect, then promptly went to the DA's office and punched a hole in the wall. Over the years, I came to love the guy, and the day he died, Gary Caruso and I spent two hours on the phone crying and reminiscing about how he had helped us along. Bernie told me to always remember that the people who appeared in front of me were "all God's children." I try to remember that every day, Bernie.

Gilfert M. Mihalich, the Czar. I practiced before him as defense counsel. I was assigned regularly to his courtroom as an Assistant DA. He came to the funeral home to pay his respects to my Grandfather Blahovec and my family appreciated that visit more than you could know. When I became a Judge, he taught me, listened to my complaints, and calmed my fears. We came to be dear friends. We travelled a lot of miles, drank a lot of V-O and Heineken, sang a few songs, and golfed a few rounds. We shed tears when Bernie died. He gave me two bits of advice I will never forget. First, he told me that when you are on the bench, be patient and a light will come on, even in the most difficult case, and guide your decision.

He has proven to be right. Secondly, in my darkest days on the bench, when everything seemed hopeless, he gave me the key to go on. He said look yourself in the eye and ask yourself this question: "Where can a fat hunky kid like you make this kind of money? I couldn't think of anywhere, so I stayed.

## CONCLUSION



Thank you to everyone who has touched my life in the past 28 years. Thank you especially to my Marylou, Rebecca, and Rachel for making the Courthouse life a part of your lives. Thank you for your love, your support, and your faith in me. Rachel and Jarred have a beautiful daughter, Haley Marie, who has enriched our lives. Somehow, Pappy seems an even more honorable title than Judge.

To anyone I have offended, I offer my apologies. I may have been grouchy most of the time, but I have never meant to demean or insult anyone. I am just a crotchety pain in the ass who has gotten 28 years older and then some. It has been an honor to serve you, but now, clearly, it is time to go. 🍷

# foundation focus

## Westmoreland Bar Foundation Receives Pro Bono Service Award

In recognition of “extraordinary commitment to equal justice,” Legal Services Corporation (LSC), the largest funder of civil legal aid for low-income Americans in the nation, presented a Pro Bono Service Award to the Westmoreland Bar Foundation. The awards ceremony took place on October 21, 2013, at the law offices of K&L Gates in Pittsburgh as part of the LSC Board of Directors meeting. Pennsylvania Congressman Chaka Fattah, Former Governor Dick Thornburgh, and LSC Board Chairman John G. Levi participated in the ceremony.

LSC recognized the Westmoreland Bar Foundation for 22 years of continuous legal assistance to low-income Pennsylvanians, handling more than 500 pro bono cases annually. “The Pro Bono Service Award to the WBF is a testament to the dedication of our participating



attorneys,” says Bruce Tobin, Chair of the WBF board. “Our volunteer attorneys uphold the principle of *pro bono publico* through the donation of their time and talents to help persons in need of legal assistance.”

The WBF Pro Bono Program helps indigent clients resolve legal problems in many areas, including family law, housing, consumer issues, and bankruptcy, as well as assisting with simple wills. To volunteer your time and talents, contact Pro Bono at 724-837-5539 or stop by their office at the Westmoreland County Courthouse, Suite 403. 🍷

## Volunteers for Justice

The Pro Bono Program extends thanks to all the attorneys who volunteered their time from October through December 2013:

- Steve Allias
- Tim Andrews
- Ken Baldonieri
- John Bumbaugh
- James Duffy
- Rebecca Fenoglio
- Richard Flickinger
- Dennis Gounley
- John Hauser, III
- James Horchak
- Daniel Hudock
- Jason Huska
- Karen Kiefer
- Maureen Kroll
- Amber Leechalk
- Allan Lundberg
- Shirley Makuta
- Charles Mason, Jr.
- Philip McCalister
- Joseph McDaniel
- Zachary Mesher
- Paul Miller, Jr.
- David Millstein
- Milt Munk, Jr.
- Keith Nicola
- Dennis Persin
- John Ranker
- Corey Sacca
- Robert Slone
- Donald Snyder
- Susan Williams
- Gerald Yanity
- Ron Zera 🍷



Pro Bono Coordinator Iva Munk and Laurel Legal Services' Sam Rosenzweig and Megan Williams participated in a number of expos in 2013, including Sen. Don White's and Rep. Tim Krieger's Senior Expo in July, Sen. Kim Ward's Senior Expo in October, and Westmoreland County's Health & Education Expo in October. The expos are offered as a community service to showcase the health and social services that are available for Westmoreland County residents.

## BRIEFLY SPEAKING



**Mike Stewart** received the YMCA's 2013 David Shaw Atkinson Achievement award at their annual dinner meeting in September 2013. The award recognizes Mike's hard work and dedication to

the YMCA and the community. 🌟



**John Peck** was inducted into the Pennsylvania Police Hall of Fame in a ceremony held July 27 in State College. According to Richard Marsh, an officer with the state chapter of the International

Police Association, which presented the award, John is just the third district attorney to be enshrined in the Hall of Fame. "He's made a difference in our business," Marsh said, "and that's what our award is all about." 🌟

## Actions of the Board

### SEPTEMBER 19, 2013

- The ADR Committee and the Family Law Subcommittee on Mediation were in attendance to discuss pro se family court issues and possible mediation for family court issues.
- Agreed to invite Private Wealth Advisor financial advisor to the November 21 board meeting to review WBA investments.
- Agreed to make a \$400 donation to the YMCA Strong Kids program in honor of CPA Delisi in appreciation for his work with tallying the judicial candidates' survey.
- Learned that President Greiner appointed John Ranker to fill the opening on the PBA House of Delegates. November 22 will be Mr. Ranker's first House meeting.
- Agreed to hire Tom Spallone for DJ services at the December 7 Holiday Dinner Dance.

- Learned that next YL lunch and learn is set for Noon on October 31 to cover the topic of practicing in front of MDJs.
- Learned that YL President-Elect Dan Schimizzi has resigned his position after taking a job in Pittsburgh. Allison Thiel will assume the Vice Presidency opening.
- Learned that WBF trustees are having a conference call with LLS President Mark Sorice on October 7 at 4 pm and will be seeking to find a way to help LLS.

### OCTOBER 17, 2013

- Annual Bench/Bar Leaders Meeting
  - Approved an "optional" custody mediation program for pro se litigants as a pilot program as long as the program is in line with local rules.
  - Judges agreed that an increase in court-appointed fees are long overdue. President Judge Caruso volunteered to go to a meeting with the commissioners with President Greiner.
  - Agreed that LLS attorneys are overburdened with PFAs and that the WBA should keep trying to help them with this issue and the issue of funding.
  - Discussed a return to the two-day Bench/Bar Conference, keeping in mind the travel time to the Bench/Bar destination.
- Discussed the Tribune-Review article about "required pro bono service" with David Millstein, newly appointed Pro Bono Director. Mr. Millstein felt that he was misquoted in the article and his wish is to work to change the culture of the WBA as it views Pro Bono service.
- Accepted Membership Committee recommendation: Erica Laughlin, associate.
- Agreed to partner with the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County for a November 26 program at UPG

**Need a quiet place to relax at the Courthouse? Looking for space to set down your files and work? Visit the Lawyers Lounge on the Fourth Floor. Stop in at Pro Bono (Suite 403) for your access code.**

## Join a PBA Listserv

**D**id you know the Pennsylvania Bar Association maintains a number of listservs for its committee and section members?

What is a listserv, you ask?

It is an Internet-based discussion group of individual subscribers who communicate via e-mail. When you e-mail a question or comment to the listserv, you end up reaching the inbox of everyone who subscribes to the listserv without having to know or use each individual's e-mail address. It's an efficient, convenient way of reaching out to colleagues across the state to stay on top of hot topics in the areas of law that concern you.

For a complete list of what listservs are maintained by the PBA, visit [www.pabar.org/public/listservform.asp](http://www.pabar.org/public/listservform.asp). Not all PBA committees and sections have listservs; you must be a member of the PBA committee or section to join that committee or section listserv. 🌟



wba

with two nonprofit consultants. The Community Foundation will cover all advertising costs for the program and all costs for the reception.

- Agreed to recommend to WBF Trustees that the WBF Pro Bono Committee look into the issue of promoting pro bono within the WBA, and promoting methods to increase participation.
- Voted to have the WBA board construct a blast e-mail to go to all members, indicating that although the WBA board encourages pro bono it does not endorse mandatory pro bono.
- Agreed to hold the January quarterly meeting as the Retirement Party for Judge Blahovec. 🍷

## New Member Sketches

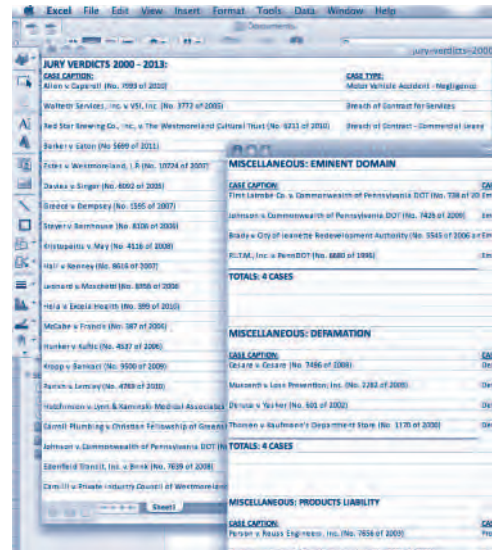
**LAURA E. CARAVELLO** has been admitted as an associate member of the WBA. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Development from McGill University, and her J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. Laura is an associate with Burns White in Pittsburgh. She and her husband, Peter, live in Irwin.

**ERICA L. LAUGHLIN** has joined the WBA as an associate member. Erica earned her undergraduate degree in Journalism/Psychology from Duquesne University and her juris doctor degree from the University of Pittsburgh. An associate with Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky in Pittsburgh, she and her husband, Nicholas, reside in Gibsonia. 🍷

## Jury Trial Verdicts Evaluated, Categorized, Online

If the Jury Trial Verdicts are your favorite part of reading *the sidebar*, this should be of interest: this past summer, Judge Caruso's intern, David Mathews, was asked to evaluate and categorize each of the jury trial verdicts that have been published in *the sidebar* since 2000. His results are summarized in two Excel workbooks which are now online at [www.westbar.org/verdicts](http://www.westbar.org/verdicts).

The first spreadsheet is a listing of every jury trial from 2000–2013 with the case caption, the type of action, and the verdict. It includes total numbers of verdicts, amount of damages, and percentage of each type of verdict.



The second workbook is separated by the different types of actions. Each page in the workbook has a different type of action with the case caption, verdict, total number of verdicts, the amount of damages, and the percentage of each type of verdict. You can switch pages, which are labeled, by clicking on the tabs at the bottom left of the workbook. 🍷

## Lawyers' Exchange

(Free to all members of the WBA)

**REFERRALS ACCEPTED.** Contracts, employment law, wills. Also will do research and writing for attorneys. Sharon Wigle—724-423-2246.

**RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATE WITH LEGAL ASSISTING/ PARALEGAL STUDIES BACHELOR'S DEGREE SEEKING EMPLOYMENT.** President's Award Recipient, Commencement Speaker, Presidential Student Ambassador, LEX Honor Society Member. E-mail [ejp1@pct.edu](mailto:ejp1@pct.edu).

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*All committee meetings and activities will be held at the WBA Headquarters unless otherwise noted. Visit [www.westbar.org](http://www.westbar.org) for more information about activities and CLE courses, or to **register online**.*

### FEBRUARY

- 12** [CLE] Trial Tips In Action, 5 p.m., Westmoreland County Courthouse
- 17** Courthouse closed in observance of Presidents Day
- 18** Family Law Committee, Noon  
[CLE] Trial Tips In Action, 5 p.m., Westmoreland County Courthouse
- 20** Membership Committee, Noon  
Board Meeting, 4 p.m.  
[CLE] Trial Tips In Action, 5 p.m., Westmoreland County Courthouse
- 25** [CLE] Pre-Litigation: Where the Case Is Won Or Lost, Noon to 1:15 p.m.
- 26** [CLE] Trial Tips In Action, 5 p.m., Westmoreland County Courthouse
- 28** [CLE] A Review of Recent United States Supreme Court Civil Rights Decisions, Noon to 1:15 p.m.

### MARCH

- 11** [CLE] The Nuts and Bolts of the Post Conviction Relief Act, Noon to 1:15 p.m.
- 12** Real Estate Committee, Noon
- 14** [CLE] Understanding the Child Welfare System, Noon to 1:30 p.m.
- 17** New Member Ceremony, 3 p.m., Westmoreland County Courthouse, Courtroom No. 3
- 18** Family Law Committee Lunch with the Judges, Noon
- 19** Elder Law & Orphans' Court Committee, Noon  
Ned J. Nakles American Inn of Court, 5 p.m.
- 20** Membership Committee, Noon  
[CLE] Best Practices for Land Title/Real Estate, Noon to 2:15 p.m.  
Board Meeting, 4 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](http://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.



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- Litigating Against Energy Companies
- Tips for Oil and Gas Practice

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This event is open to: Attorneys, Supervisory Committee Members, CEOs, CFOs, Internal Auditors, and other Accounting Professionals

**For more information, email [klaraba@smgglaw.com](mailto:klaraba@smgglaw.com) or call Kellie Laraba at (412) 281-5423.**

Two Available Dates & Locations:

### **BEAVER**

**MARCH 6, 2014, 1:30 P.M.**  
Cottrill Arbutina & Associates  
525 3rd St.  
Beaver, PA 15009

### **GREENSBURG**

**MARCH 25, 2014, 1:30 P.M.**  
Megan's Suite  
The Palace Theatre  
21 West Otterman St.  
Greensburg, PA 15601

A reception will follow the program.

Space is limited, early registration is suggested.

**\$25 Registration Fee**

Presented by:



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## GAS & OIL LAW FOR SMALL FIRMS Register One of Two Ways:

### 1. Via Telephone:

Kellie Laraba at (412) 281-5423  
Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.  
*Please have your credit card information available.*

### 2. Return This Form:

#### VIA MAIL

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Four Gateway Center, 22nd Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
Attention: Kellie Laraba

VIA FACSIMILE  
(412) 281-8264

VIA EMAIL  
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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

CLE Credit:  YES  NO

Course Site / Date:  Beaver, March 6, 2014  Greensburg, March 25, 2014

#### PAYMENT METHOD

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Credit Card (Please Circle One): Visa MasterCard Discover

Card Holder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Pre-Litigation: Where the Case is Won or Lost

(Geared toward the Young Lawyer)

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*Many people believe that cases are won or lost in the courtroom. That is not true in today's world. With broad discovery rules and fewer cases going to trial, the pre-litigation stage will determine the success or failure of your case.*

## Topics of Discussion

- ◆ Do I have a case?
- ◆ What investigation is needed?
- ◆ Who do I make a claim against?
- ◆ How do I settle a case before filing a lawsuit?

## Speaker:

***Dwayne E. Ross, Esq.***  
*Reeves and Ross*

One (1) SUBSTANTIVE Credit is available toward your annual CLE requirements.

You may pre-register for this seminar by visiting the westbar.org website. You must "LOG IN" to register OR submit the form below.

## February 25, 2014 Pre-Litigation: Where the Case is Won or Lost

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attorney I.D. # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Enclosed is my check made payable to the Westmoreland Bar Association.  
 Bill my  MasterCard  VISA  DISCOVER for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Amount).  
 Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Pre-Registration Fees

- Non-Credit:**
- WBA Members - \$30 per credit hour
  - Non-Members - \$50 per credit hour
  - FREE - I am a Young Lawyer practicing 5 years or less
  - Waived for Young Lawyers (practicing 10 years or less)
  - \$10 Flat Rate

To qualify for Pre-Registration Seminar Fees - Please return this form and your payment to the WBA Office, 129 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601, by 12 pm February 24, 2014

Tuesday,

February 25, 2014

12:00 pm - 1:15 pm

WBA Headquarters

Seminar Fees:

**PRE-REGISTRATION:**

(Must be prepaid & received at the WBA office by 12 pm February 24, 2014)

CLE Credit

WBA Members - \$30 per credit hr.

Non-Members - \$50 per credit hr.

Non-Credit

\$10 Flat Rate

Waived for Young Lawyers (practicing 10 years or less)

WALK-IN:

CLE Credit

WBA Members - \$40 per credit hr.

Non-Members - \$50 per credit hr.

Non-Credit

\$20 Flat Rate

Waived for Young Lawyers (practicing 10 years or less)

Lunch will be provided.

Westmoreland Bar Association

129 North Pennsylvania Ave.

Greensburg, PA 15601

724-834-6730

Fax: 724-834-6855

www.westbar.org

For refund policy information, or if special arrangements are needed for the disabled, please contact the WBA Office at 724-834-6730, or by email at westbar.org@westbar.org

# A Review of Recent United States Supreme Court Civil Rights Decisions

— LIVE —

1 Substantive Credit Available



An accredited provider for the PA Board of Continuing Legal Education

Topics of Discussion include, among others:

- *United States vs. Windsor* - Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act
- *Hollingsworth vs. Perry* - Sponsors of California Proposition 8

**Speaker:**

**David J. Millstein, Esquire**

One (1) Substantive Credit is available toward your annual CLE requirements.

You may pre-register for this seminar by visiting the westbar.org website. You must "LOG IN" to register. OR submit the form below.

**February 28, 2014**  
**A Review of Recent United States Supreme Court Civil Rights Decisions**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney I.D. # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check made payable to the Westmoreland Bar Association.  
 Bill my \_\_\_\_\_  
 MasterCard  VISA  DISCOVER for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Amount).

Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-Registration Fees**  
**CLE Credit:**  
 WBA Members - \$30 per credit hour  
 Non-Members - \$50 per credit hour (practicing 10 years or less)

**Non-Credit:**  
 \$10 Flat Rate  
 Waived for Young Lawyers

To qualify for Pre-Registration Seminar Fees - Please return this form and your payment to the WBA Office, 129 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601, by 12 pm February 27, 2014.

**Friday,**  
**February 28, 2014**  
**12:00 pm - 1:15 pm**  
**WBA Headquarters**

Seminar Fees:

**PRE-REGISTRATION:**

(Must be prepaid & received at the WBA office by 12 pm February 27, 2014)

**CLE Credit**

WBA Members- \$30 per credit hr.  
Non-Members - \$50 per credit hr.

**Non-Credit**

\$10 Flat Rate

**WALK-IN:**

WBA Members- \$40 per credit hr.  
Non-Members - \$50 per credit hr.

**Non-Credit**

\$20 Flat Rate

Waived for Young Lawyers (practicing 10 years or less)

Lunch will be provided.

**Westmoreland Bar Association**

129 North Pennsylvania Ave.

Greensburg, PA 15601

724-834-6730

Fax: 724-834-6855

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arrangements are needed for the disabled, please

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724-834-6730, or

by email at westbar.org@westbar.org

# The Nuts and Bolts of the Post Conviction Relief Act

— Live —

1 Substantive credit available

An accredited provider for the PA Board of Continuing Legal Education



*If you do any criminal work, you need to know how the Act works. Hear information and more from defense counsel, assistant district attorneys, and judicial law clerks.*

### Topics of Discussion

- ◆ If you are accused of ineffective assistance, you will receive a subpoena to testify. Does attorney client privilege apply?
- ◆ If you represent the Defendant, what is your burden?
- ◆ What are your obligations in deciding whether there is any merit to the claim?
- ◆ How discovered evidence applies to the PCRA.

### Attorney Presenters:

**Timothy C. Andrews - Chair, WBA Criminal Law Committee**  
**Leslie J. Uncapher - Law Clerk for the Hon. Rita D. Hathaway**  
**Judith Potoka Petrush - Assistant District Attorney**  
**Pamela L. Neiderhiser - Criminal Court Administrator's Office**

**One (1) SUBSTANTIVE Credit available toward your annual CLE requirements.**

You may pre-register for this seminar by visiting the westbar.org website. You must "LOG IN" to register OR submit the form below.

**March 11, 2014**      **The Nuts and Bolts of the Post Conviction Relief Act**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attorney ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check made payable to the Westmoreland Bar Association.  
 Bill my  MasterCard  VISA  DISCOVER for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Amount).  
 Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-Registration Fees**  
**CLE Credit:**  
 WBA Members - \$30 per credit hour  
 Non-Members - \$50 per credit hour  
 Waived for Young Lawyers (practicing 10 years or less)  
 FREE-I am a member of the WBA Criminal Law Committee

**Non-Credit:**  
 \$10 Flat Rate  
 \$20 Flat Rate  
 Waived for Young Lawyers (practicing 10 years or less) & Members of the WBA Criminal Law Committee

To qualify for Pre-Registration Seminar Fees - Please return this form and your payment to the WBA Office, 129 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601, by 12 pm March 10, 2014.

**Tuesday,**

**March 11, 2014**

**12:00 pm - 1:15 pm**

**WBA Headquarters**

**Greensburg PA 15601**

**Seminar Fees:**

**PRE-REGISTRATION:**

(Must be prepaid & received at the WBA office by 12 pm March 10, 2014)

**CLE Credit**

WBA Members- \$30 per credit hr.

Non-Members - \$50 per credit hr.

**Non-Credit**

\$10 Flat Rate

Waived for Young Lawyers (practicing 10 years or less) & Members of the WBA Criminal Law Committee

**WALK- IN:**

**CLE Credit**

WBA Members- \$40 per credit hr.

Non-Members - \$50 per credit hr.

**Non-Credit**

\$20 Flat Rate

Waived for Young Lawyers (practicing 10 years or less) & Members of the WBA Criminal Law Committee

Lunch will be provided.

**Westmoreland Bar Association**

129 North Pennsylvania Ave.

Greensburg, PA 15601

724-834-6730

Fax: 724-834-6855

www.westbar.org

For refund policy information, or if special

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please contact the WBA Office at

724-834-6730, or

by email at westbar.org@westbar.org



An accredited provider for the PA Board of Continuing Legal Education

# Understanding the Child Welfare System 101 \*

— LIVE —

1.5 Substantive Credits Available

\*This seminar qualifies for required credits for those attorneys practicing in Dependency cases as required by Administrative Order effective January 1, 2011.

Hosted by the training committee of the Westmoreland "Children's Roundtable", this seminar will include information about:

- How a case is opened for assessment
- Criteria for accepting a case for services
- The definitions, descriptions, guidelines of abuse and neglect that caseworkers use in making these initial determinations
- GPS vs. CPS cases
- Assessing family needs and matching with services
- Continuum of care and services available in Westmoreland County

Speaker: **Jennifer Baumgardner**

Westmoreland County Children's Bureau - Assessment Caseworker Supervisor

## 1.5 Substantive Credits are available toward your annual CLE requirements.

You may pre-register for this seminar by visiting the westbar.org website. You must "LOG IN" to register OR submit the form below.

**Understanding the Child Welfare System 101**  
March 14, 2014

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney I.D.# \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-Registration Fees

WBA Members - \$30 per credit hour (1.5 credits = \$45)

Non-Members - \$50 per credit hour (1.5 credits = \$75)

**CLE Credit:**

Non-Credit:  FREE

Enclosed is my check made payable to the Westmoreland Bar Association.

Bill my  MasterCard  VISA  DISCOVER for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Amount).

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

To qualify for Pre-Registration Seminar Fees - Please return this form and your payment to the WBA Office, 129 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601, by 12 pm March 13, 2014.

**Friday,**  
**March 14, 2014**  
**12:00 pm - 1:30 pm**  
**WBA Headquarters**

Seminar Fees:

**PRE-REGISTRATION:**

(Must be prepaid & received at the WBA office by 12 pm March 13, 2013)

**CLE Credit**

WBA Members- \$30 per credit hr.  
Non-Members - \$50 per credit hr.

**Non-Credit**

**FREE**

**WALK-IN:**

WBA Members- \$40 per credit hr.  
Non-Members - \$50 per credit hr.

**Non-Credit**

**FREE**

Lunch will be provided.

Westmoreland Bar Association

129 North Pennsylvania Ave.

Greensburg, PA 15601

724-834-6730

Fax: 724-834-6855

www.westbar.org

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arrangements are needed for the disabled, please

contact the WBA Office at

724-834-6730, or by email at westbar.org@westbar.org

# Best Practices for Land Title/Real Estate

— LIVE —

1 Substantive Credit &  
1 Ethics Credit



An accredited provider for the PA Board of Continuing Legal Education

- Topics of Discussion
- Integrated Mortgage Disclosure Rule
  - The Enhanced Title Insurance Policy
  - Ethical Considerations for the Title Agent and Closing Attorneys

Speakers: *Dwight E. Edwards, Esq.*  
*Sue Swick, Esq.*  
Old Republic National Title Insurance Company

One (1) Substantive Credit & 1 Ethics Credit are available toward your annual CLE requirements.

You may pre-register for this seminar by visiting the westbar.org website. You must "LOG IN" to register OR submit the form below.

**Best Practices for Land Title/Real Estate**  
**March 20, 2014**

Enclosed is my check made payable to the Westmoreland Bar Association.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attorney I.D.# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-Registration Fees**  
**CLE Credit:**  
 WBA Members - \$30 per credit hour (2 credits = \$60)  
 Non-Members - \$50 per credit hour (2 credits = \$100)

**Non-Credit:**  
 \$10 Flat Rate  
 FREE for Young Lawyers (practicing 10 years or less)

To qualify for Pre-Registration Seminar Fees - Please return this form and your payment to the WBA Office, 129 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601, by 12 pm March 19, 2014.

**Thursday,**  
**March 20, 2014**  
**12:00 pm -2:15 pm**  
**WBA Headquarters**

Seminar Fees:

**PRE-REGISTRATION:**

(Must be prepaid & received at the WBA office by  
12 pm March 19, 2014)

**CLE Credit**

WBA Members- \$30 per credit hr.  
Non-Members - \$50 per credit hr.

**Non-Credit**

**\$10 Flat Rate**

Waived for Young Lawyers (practicing 10 years or less)

**WALK-IN:**

**CLE Credit**

WBA Members- \$40 per credit hr.  
Non-Members - \$50 per credit hr.

**Non-Credit**

**\$20 Flat Rate**

Waived for Young Lawyers (practicing 10 years or less)

Lunch will be provided.

**Westmoreland Bar Association**

129 North Pennsylvania Ave.

Greensburg, PA 15601

724-834-6730

Fax: 724-834-6855

www.westbar.org

For refund policy information, or if special

arrangements are needed for the disabled, please

contact the WBA Office at

724-834-6730, or by email at westbar.org@westbar.org

# Life Happens . . . Suffering is Optional: Stress Management for Lawyers — Part 1

— LIVE — 1 FREE Ethics Credit



An accredited provider for the PA Board of Continuing Legal Education

The objective of this seminar is to help improve clarity and improve effectiveness both professionally and personally. Learn how to achieve and feel more balanced in all aspects of your life.

#### Topics of Discussion:

- Overview of distress and how it's impacting the well-being of the law profession
- Defining stress and basic principles of stress management
- Creating "YOUR" life vision as a compass for organizing and prioritizing
- "How" and "why" the four quadrant approach to time management pulls it all together
- Benefits of creating a "PAUSE"
- Experiential time will be provided for techniques that can be used in emergent situations and for longer time allowances

**Presented by: Elizabeth Minerva RN, HSMI, CWHC**

*Exela Health*

*Well Being Center for Mind/Body Health*

You may pre-register for this seminar by visiting the [westbar.org](http://westbar.org) website. You must "LOGIN" to register. OR submit the form below.

**March 27, 2014**  
**Life Happens . . . Suffering is Optional:**  
**Stress Management for Lawyers**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney I.D. # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsored  
by the  
Academy of Trial  
Lawyers**

**Thursday,**  
**March 27, 2014**

**4:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

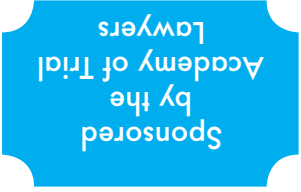
***WBA Headquarters***

Reception Immediately Following.

**1 FREE**

**CLE**

Ethics Credit



Westmoreland Bar Association

129 North Pennsylvania Ave.

Grensburg, PA 15601

724-834-6730

Fax: 724-834-6855

[www.westbar.org](http://www.westbar.org)

For refund policy information, or if special

arrangements are needed for the disabled, please

contact the WBA Office at

724-834-6730, or

by email at [westbar.org@westbar.org](mailto:westbar.org@westbar.org)

# 2014 Personal Injury and Auto Law Update

— LIVE — 2 Substantive Credits Available

An accredited provider for the PA Board of Continuing Legal Education



## Topics of Discussion include:

- Significant developments in case law
- Subrogation issues including the SMART Act
- Development of post Koken procedures and guidelines in UM and UIM cases

### Speaker:

**Michael D. Ferguson**

*Ferguson Law Associates*

Two (2) Substantive Credits are available toward your annual CLE requirements.

You may pre-register for this seminar by visiting the westbar.org website. You must "LOG IN" to register. OR submit the form below.

**April 23, 2014**  
**2014 Personal Injury and Auto Law Update**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attorney ID. # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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 Bill my  MasterCard  VISA  DISCOVER for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Amount).  
 Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-Registration Fees**  
 WBA Members - \$30 per credit hour (2 credits=\$60)  
 Non-Members - \$50 per credit hour (2 credits=\$100)

**CLE Credit:**  
 WBA Members - \$30 per credit hour (2 credits=\$60)  
 Waived for Young Lawyers (practicing 10 years or less)

**Non-Credit:**  
 \$10 Flat Rate  
 Waived for Young Lawyers (practicing 10 years or less)

To qualify for Pre-Registration Seminar Fees - Please return this form and your payment to the WBA Office, 129 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601, by 12 pm April 22, 2014.

**Wednesday,**  
**April 23, 2014**  
**12:00 pm - 2:15 pm**  
**WBA Headquarters**

### Seminar Fees:

#### PRE-REGISTRATION:

(Must be prepaid & received at the WBA office by 12 pm April 22, 2014)

#### CLE Credit

WBA Members- \$30 per credit hr.  
 Non-Members - \$50 per credit hr.

#### Non-Credit

\$10 Flat Rate

#### WALK-IN:

WBA Members- \$40 per credit hr.  
 Non-Members - \$50 per credit hr.

#### Non-Credit

\$20 Flat Rate  
 Waived for Young Lawyers (practicing 10 years or less)

Lunch will be provided.

*Westmoreland Bar Association*

129 North Pennsylvania Ave.

Greensburg, PA 15601

724-834-6730

Fax: 724-834-6855

www.westbar.org

For refund policy information, or if special

arrangements are needed for the disabled, please

contact the WBA Office at

724-834-6730, or

by email at westbar.org@westbar.org





4 Substantive & 2 Ethics credits available

An accredited provider for the PA Board of Continuing Legal Education

# Westmoreland Bar Association – CLE Compliance Period Seminar

**Wednesday,  
April 30, 2014  
WBA Headquarters  
9 am - 3:45 pm**

Seminar Fees:

**PRE-REGISTRATION:**

(Must be prepaid & received at the WBA office by 12:00 pm April 29, 2014)  
 WBA Members- \$30 per credit hr.  
 Non-Members - \$50 per credit hr.

Non-Credit  
 \$10 Flat Rate  
 Waived for Young Lawyers  
 (practicing 10 years or less)

**WALK-IN:**

WBA Members- \$40 per credit hr.  
 Non-Members - \$50 per credit hr.

Non-Credit  
 \$20 Flat Rate  
 Waived for Young Lawyers  
 (practicing 10 years or less)

Lunch will be provided.

**Westmoreland Bar Association**

129 North Pennsylvania Ave.  
 Greensburg, PA 15601  
 724-834-6730  
 Fax: 724-834-6855  
 www.westbar.org  
 For refund policy information, or if special arrangements are needed for the disabled, please contact the WBA Office at 724-834-6730, or by email at westbar.org@westbar.org

**Session 1 – 1 Substantive Credit**

9:00 am – 10:00 am (Video from 1/29/14)

**Closing Arguments: Strategies and Tactics**

Trial Academy Board member and frequent guest speaker Mike Ferguson will present discussion on “Closing Arguments: Strategies and Tactics.” Learn the do’s and don’ts from a 27 year veteran of both civil and criminal trials.

Speaker: Michael D. Ferguson, Esquire, Ferguson Law Associates

**Session 2 – 1 Substantive Credit**

10:15 am – 11:15 am (Video from 2/25/14)

**Pre-Litigation: Where the Case is Won or Lost**

*Many people believe that cases are won or lost in the courtroom. That is not true in today’s world. With broad discovery rules and fewer cases going to trial, the pre-litigation stage will determine the success or failure of your case.*

**Topics of Discussion**

- ◆ Do I have a case?
- ◆ What investigation is needed?
- ◆ Who do I make a claim against?
- ◆ How do I settle a case before filing a lawsuit?

Speaker: Dwayne E. Ross, Esquire, Reeves and Ross

**April 30, 2014 Video Compliance CLE**

**Session 3 – 2 Substantive Credits**

11:30 am – 1:30 pm (Video from 4/23/14)

**2014 Personal Injury and Auto Law Update**

- ◆ Significant developments in case law
- ◆ Subrogation issues including the SMART Act
- ◆ Development of post Koken procedures and guidelines in UM and UIM cases

Speaker: Michael D. Ferguson, Esquire, Ferguson Law Associates

**Session 4 – 2 Ethics Credits**

1:45 pm – 3:45 pm (Video from 2/7/14)

**Helping the Colleague (or Family member) in Distress**

Topics of Discussion:

- ◆ Distinguishing stress from “distress”
- ◆ Basic understanding of substance use disorders and mental health problems
- ◆ Warning signs of distress
- ◆ The LCL motivational intervention approach (overcoming denial and avoiding resistance)
- ◆ How to use LCL when you are concerned about a colleague or family member

Speaker: Kenneth J. Hagreen, Esquire

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Four (4) SUBSTANTIVE and Two (2) ETHICS Credits are available toward your annual CLE requirements.

You may pre-register for this seminar by visiting the westbar.org website. You must “LOG IN” to register OR submit the form below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney I.D. # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign me up for:

Session 1 – 1 substantive credit

Session 2 – 1 substantive credit

Session 3 – 2 substantive credits

Session 4 – 2 ethics credits

by 12:00 pm April 29, 2014.

To qualify for pre-registration, please return this form and your payment to the WBA Office, 129 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601,

**Pre-Registration Fees**

Non-Credit: \_\_\_\_\_

CLE Credit: \_\_\_\_\_

WBA Members - \$30 per credit hour

Waived for Young Lawyers

(practicing 10 years or less)

Enclosed is my check made payable to the Westmoreland Bar Association.

Bill my  MasterCard  VISA  DISCOVER for

\$\_\_\_\_\_ (Amount).

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Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

## DINE AROUND


 SPRING  
2014  
EDITION!

**J**OIN OTHER BAR MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS FOR AN INFORMAL EVENING OF FOOD AND CONVERSATION. THE DINE AROUND WILL TRAVEL TO THREE DIFFERENT EATERIES ON THREE DIFFERENT WEEKNIGHTS OVER THREE MONTHS. REGISTER FOR THE ONES THAT INTEREST YOU, OR REGISTER FOR ALL THREE. THERE ARE OPENINGS FOR APPROXIMATELY 30 ATTENDEES WITH NO REGISTRATION COSTS. RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY AND TAKEN ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS. REGISTER ONLINE AT [WWW.WESTBAR.ORG](http://WWW.WESTBAR.ORG), OR CALL THE BAR OFFICE AT 724-834-6730 TO RESERVE YOUR DINE AROUND DATE(S). START TIME: 6 P.M. • COST: ON OWN, AS ORDERED FROM MENU.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 11:  
BELLA MIMI'S**  
520 CLAY AVENUE  
JEANNETTE, PA 15644

**NEW!** A family-run restaurant in Jeannette, **Bella Mimi's** has been serving authentic Italian cuisine to Jeannette residents and visitors for the past eight years. Bella Mimi's boasts excellent, always-fresh beef, chicken, and seafood, delicious pasta and fresh salads. Try the Calamari, the Scalzitti Pasta, or Bella Mimi's signature entree of Eggplant or Chicken Parmigiana.

*Order off the menu;  
average entree \$15.*  
[bellamimis1.com](http://bellamimis1.com)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9:  
BRASSERIE DU SOLEIL**  
201 EAST MAIN STREET  
LIGONIER, PA 15658

**NEW!** Executive Chef and owner William Csikesz of Du Soleil has a vision of creating the Laurel Mountain's finest dining experience with his restaurant's modern French cuisine. The chefs infuse every meal with a passion for perfection. Signature dishes include Filet Mignon, Seared Veal Chop, and Bouillabaisse. Leave plenty of room for Les Dessert!

*Order off the menu; average entree \$15-\$22; Fully stocked premium bar; BYOB is welcome, \$5 corkage fee.*  
[brasserieodusoleil.net](http://brasserieodusoleil.net)

**TUESDAY, MAY 13:  
THE BACK PORCH**  
114 SPEERS STREET  
BELLE VERNON, PA 15012

This restaurant is a fan-favorite—a not-to-be-missed Dine Around date! Located on the banks of the Monongahela River, The Back Porch offers charm, history, and friendly service. Built in 1806 as the home of ferry-owner Henry Speers, the two-story brick structure has housed the restaurant since 1975. Favorite comfort foods Duck Chambord, Veal Oscar, and signature Baby-Back Ribs are still on the menu.

*Order off the menu;  
entrees average \$20-\$30.*  
[backporchrestaurant.com](http://backporchrestaurant.com)

**3 NIGHTS, 3 RESTAURANTS, 3 GREAT MEALS**

# **Westmoreland Bar Association's** *"A Walk in the Woods"*

***Jim Antoniono has agreed to lead a hike of a part of the Appalachian Trail this summer. The hike would be for no longer than a week and no less than 4 days. The length [in terms of time] and the difficulty of the hike will be determined by those desiring to undertake the hike.***

***Because of the travel time required to reach the trail we would limit the possible hiking locations to somewhere between northern Virginia to the New York/Connecticut border.***

***Interested?***

***If so send an email to [westbar.org@westbar.org](mailto:westbar.org@westbar.org) or call the office at 724-834-6730. An interest group meeting will take place in early March to discuss this further.***

# Volunteer for Law Day 2014

Email [i.munk@verizon.net](mailto:i.munk@verizon.net) or return the form below via fax 724-837-4221 or mail:  
WBA, 129 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601-2311,  
by **Friday March 14, 2014.**

One of our most cherished national ideals, expressed eloquently by Abraham Lincoln, is “government of the people, by the people, for the people.” It is a principle enshrined in our Nation’s founding documents, from the Declaration of Independence’s assurance that governments derive their powers from the consent of the governed, to the opening three words of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, “We the People.”

The right to vote is the very foundation of government by the people. For this reason, striving to establish and protect every citizen’s

right to vote has been a central theme of American legal and civic history. Much of the struggle on voting rights began decades ago, but the work is far from complete, and a citizen’s right to cast a ballot remains at risk today.

As we approach the 50th anniversaries of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the 2014 Law Day theme, “**American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters,**” calls on every American to reflect on the importance of a citizen’s right to vote and the challenges we still face in ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to participate in our democracy.



**As in years past, we are seeking WBA members to visit schools to teach this year’s topic. In 2013 over 55 WBA members visited 84 classrooms. We’ll supply the lesson plans and student give-aways. All we need is YOU!**

## YES! SIGN ME UP FOR LAW DAY!



To register for Law Day 2014, complete this form and return it to the WBA by mail, fax or email (see above.) Or call Iva Munk, Pro Bono Coordinator at 724-837-5539 to register. Thanks for your interest!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School/School District Preference \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s) Preference \_\_\_\_\_

Availability (weekdays in May) \_\_\_\_\_



*You are cordially invited to attend the*

***Presentation of New Members  
of the  
Westmoreland Bar Association  
March 17, 2014***



*The court en banc will recognize the newest members of the WBA at  
the annual New Members Ceremony scheduled for  
Monday, March 17th, in Ceremonial Courtroom #3 at the  
Westmoreland County Courthouse at  
3:00 p.m.*

*Attorneys eligible to participate in this presentation:*

***Peter J. Borghetti  
Laura E. Caravello  
Clare H. Dooley  
Nicole M. LaPresta  
Erica L. Laughlin***

***Stefani A. Lingafelt  
James V. Natale  
Charles K. Sunwabe Jr.  
Christopher E. Vincent  
Adam Yarussi***



***Please join us for a complimentary reception  
at the "New" Rialto following the ceremony.***

***RSVP by March 10, 2014  
to the Bar Office  
724-834-6730  
or register online  
at [www.westbar.org](http://www.westbar.org)***

