



Westmoreland County Lawyers Last In Per Capita Income

In the results of a special study recently released by the Pennsylvania Bar Association's LCI (Lawyers Concerned for Income) Committee, a study which gathered, processed and analyzed income data voluntarily submitted by Pennsylvania attorneys, the lawyers of Westmoreland County were found to have the lowest per capita annual income in the state, averaging just \$19,004.

Not surprisingly, Philadelphia County led the state with an average of \$93,455, followed by Montgomery County (\$89,727), Allegheny County (\$87,398) and Potter County (\$86,872). The report makes careful mention that the Potter County results could be misleading, as the seven practicing lawyers there may have mistakenly reported the combined sum of all their incomes.

The study was conducted over a nine-year period commencing in 1995 and was conceived of and organized by Marcus W. Thorneberry, Esq., of Allentown, chair of the committee. "I just had this notion that lawyers elsewhere in the state were making more money than I was, and I just had to put those fears to rest," said Thorneberry when contacted by this reporter. "Turns out I had no reason to be concerned. I'm way near the top. You're from Westmoreland County, huh? You sap."

Average Per Capita Annual Income for Attorneys in Pennsylvania

Philadelphia	\$93,455
Montgomery	\$89,727
Allegheny	\$87,398
Potter	\$86,872
Westmoreland	\$19,004

A special study recently released by the Pennsylvania Bar Association's LCI (Lawyers Concerned for Income) Committee revealed that the lawyers of Westmoreland County have the lowest per capita annual income in the state, averaging just \$19,004.

"The biggest problem in getting the study off the ground," Thorneberry went on, "was to convince our members that it was important to report honestly and accurately, that it wasn't like dealing with the Disciplinary Committee. But when you took a look at the numbers submitted to us, we still had to knock off thirty-five percent as an educated guess to satisfy ourselves that the information had some link with reality. Even then we weren't sure. Remember, many of our participants are the same guys who routinely brag about getting a million dollar verdict on a slip and fall."

When queried about why Westmoreland County trailed the pack, Thorneberry was vague. "I don't

know," he replied, "maybe it has something to do with what's in your water—coal dust or cooties or something—who knows?"

There is not much independent data to support or refute the findings of the committee. When asked whether or not attorneys were big spenders, for instance, the managers of the best local restaurants provided little insight. "We don't get too many lawyers in here," one manager offered, "our prices are a bit upscale."

The operator of a local McDonald's disagreed. "They always spring for the large fries with their Big Macs," he said, "but, God, they carry out so many ketchup packs."

continued on page 3

President's Message

Hear Me Roar

by Rebecca A. Brammell, Esq.

As I take my seat on the throne of power, I know what many of you are wondering. I'm a quiet person, introspective, not at all confrontational, and you are probably not sure I can do this job. Am I right?



You may not be sure I can assume the mantle of absolute authority, that I have the will, the strength of character, the confidence, to carry on in the tradition of all of the great presidents who have preceded me. Well then, permit me to reassure you—I probably do.

Even as recently as when I entered practice some thirty-five or forty years ago, the law was really a man's world. Oh, there were a few female lawyers around then, but they mostly did family law, maybe some estate work, and some touchy-feely real estate transactions. But the more traditional work, the gritty, adversarial stuff of the law, that was pretty much a guy thing. Golly, you'd never see a girl trying a personal injury case or prosecuting a criminal case or undertaking a tough *quo warranto* proceeding, heavens to Betsy, no.

But things have changed. We gals are now as ubiquitous as the dew on the vine, as fully seasoned as a ripe young cherry tomato, waiting to be plucked and savored. Like many of my gender compadres, I have learned from my years at the bar, I have become tough, wily, cunning. Why, in some corners of this profession, I am known as "Becky the Bear."

So let me tell you straight out about my tough and ambitious plans for the

next year. I've become increasingly concerned about the lack of civility among our members, particularly when it comes to litigation. We have always been known as a friendly, warm, loving bar association, but that tradition seems to have waned some. Maybe it's from a plethora of outside counsel or a substantial influx of young and uninitiated lawyers, or maybe it's a growing anger at the lying, thievery and treason of the Bush administration, I don't know.

All I know is that it's happening.

So, as your Madame President, I intend to go to the Board of Judges and ask that the local rules be amended to mandate hugging by opposing counsel at the conclusion of every jury trial. Gee, I think it's a perfectly lovely idea, just darling, and if it has the warm and fuzzy results I anticipate, I hope to extend it to oral argument as well.

I look forward to a very special year as your president, a comfy, warm year, a year of self discovery and wonderful feelings and special memories, a year of communicating and of talking, real talking, about our innermost thoughts and dreams, our hopes and aspirations.

Oh yes, lots and lots of talking. So please, anytime you just want to chat, I'm in the book ... under "B" for "Bear."

XOXOXO

County Sued Again Over Electronic Voting

On March 3, county officials breathed a sigh of relief when the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled in their favor in a citizens' lawsuit which tried to stop the county's acquisition of electronic voting machines because the purchase was not authorized by referendum. The purchase was made in an effort to comply with the federal Help America Vote Act.

Now, only weeks after that decision, the county faces a second lawsuit filed in federal court by a Cook Township citizens' group also intent on derailing the new voting machines. The complaint filed Thursday by Operation Vintage Votes alleges that the electronic voting machines purchased by the county should not be put to use because the inverse differential frequency curve upon which these machines identify candidates can be skewed by outside electronic interference from microwave ovens, but of even more concern, by iPods.

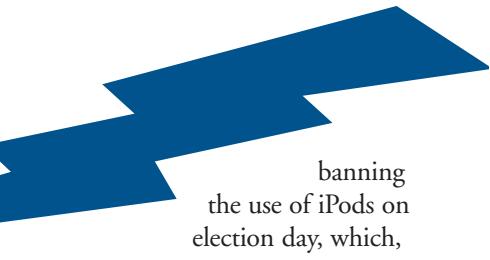
"iPods are the real threat because of their mobility" says Diane Heart-Gerbil of Carnegie Mellon University's physics department. CMU is one of the leaders in studying the collateral effects of iPod use, beginning with their 2004 study on whether iPod radiation had an adverse affect on milk production in dairy cows. It was then

learned that iPod interference could be detected at great distances, up to twelve miles, depending on

the direction of the wind. "On a particularly windy election day it could mean that votes cast in one county could end up being counted in an adjoining county" said Heart-Gerbil,

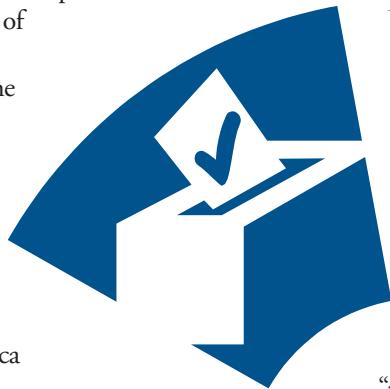
"and I suppose we might see even some candidates being elected to office in a jurisdiction other than their own."

A high county official said he would ask local legislators to pass a bill



banning the use of iPods on election day, which, in turn, prompted the ACLU to announce that it would seek to intervene in the federal action on behalf of iPod-users everywhere. A similar response is expected from the League of Teenage Voters. A spokesperson for the league stated, "Only half of the adults are registered to vote anyway, and of those, only 20 to 50 percent actually go to the polls, so what's the deal? It's not like we are hurting the majority if the iPods tip a vote this way or that. If we were in the Middle East, where there was really a high voter turnout, it might be different."

Preliminary objections seeking to dismiss the suit will be argued April 20.



Westmoreland County Lawyers Last In Income

continued from page 1

A side-by-side comparison of the income tables with the general population/lawyer ratio county by county only dims the picture. Westmoreland County has a ratio of 750:1, about average when compared to other counties in the state. Yet the per capita income puts it at the bottom of the list.

"I think I know the answer," said Jim Silvis, outgoing president of the WBA. "We just don't charge enough. At our next board meeting, I'm going

to suggest that we simply all double our hourly rates. That should put us near the top, and that's where we deserve to be."

The WBA Board of Directors is expected to unanimously endorse the Silvis Plan at its next meeting, scheduled to be held at the Wendy's out on Route 30. "And who knows," says Ex-President Silvis, "by next year at this time, if smarter heads prevail, the board could be meeting at Mt. View."

A Recent Trial Term

Jury Trial Verdicts

by Norm DePlume, Esq., Senior Judge Trainee

Of the multitude of cases called for the most recent Civil Jury Trial Term, a whole bunch settled, a few were continued, one was bogus, two were scheduled but nobody showed up, one was transferred to arbitration because the judges didn't want to be bothered with it, and two were actually argued in front of juries. One resulted in an exorbitant award on a counterclaim verdict and the other resulted in a mistrial. They are summarized below.



Norm DePlume

**MELISSA
PLANKTON,
ADMINISTRATRIX
OF THE ESTATE
OF EDWARD
PLANKTON,
DECEASED
V.
COMMONWEALTH
OF PENNSYLVANIA,
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
NO. 10182 OF 2002**

Cause of Action: Wrongful Death and Survival—Negligence

A Westmoreland County jury has awarded a \$1 million verdict in favor of PennDOT and against the estate of a prominent Greensburg lawyer whose silver BMW crashed into a bridge abutment on Route 30 in 2001. The suit was initiated as a wrongful death action, but the jury found in favor of DOT's counterclaim and awarded damages to DOT for clean up, repairing the abutment, barrel placement and overtime for 28 flagmen. A DOT spokesperson described the verdict as "adequate."

The driver and decedent, Edward Plankton, was well-known for his flashy television advertisements in which he solicited prospective clients who may have been injured by small appliances.

Plankton's estate initiated the lawsuit with wrongful death and survival actions, contending that DOT was negligent in failing to provide signs warning the motoring public of the adverse effect likely to be caused by striking a bridge abutment. DOT then joined Bavarian Motor Works, the German manufacturer of the decedent's automobile, as an additional defendant for designing and manufacturing a pretentious vehicle. BMW was subsequently let out of the case on its motion for summary judgment.

DOT's successful counterclaim was based upon the coupling of two ancient legal doctrines, *res ipsa loquitur* and *res immobiles* (literally, driving into immovable things is bad). The jury rejected DOT's bid for punitive damages based upon DOT's contention that the filing of the lawsuit "hurt their feelings."

Plaintiff's counsel indicated that post-trial motions have been filed in the hope that a new trial will be awarded for frequent errors committed by the trial judge. He admits, however, that if a new trial is granted, he would chart a different course. "I was overly optimistic in bringing this case to a jury," he said. "If we get a new trial, I will lower our demand to get under the limits for compulsory arbitration. One has to be realistic; verdicts are not what they used to be."

The \$1 million verdict consisted of \$990,000 to DOT and \$5,000 each to the wives of two flagmen for loss of consortium.

The trial judge told the jury that the verdict was the highest ever returned in his courtroom and exceeded what had been the highest verdict by \$950,000 (a 1986 case in which 14 plaintiffs were seriously injured by a train derailment).

Plaintiff's Counsel: Fritz Drang, Sturm und Drang, P.C., Pgh.

Defendant's/Counterclaim Plaintiff's Counsel: George A. Custer, VI, Deputy Attorney General

Trial Judge: The Hon. Gary P. Caruso

**JOHN AND PATRICIA OOZE
V.
CARL AND ANGELA FOG
NO. 9874 OF 2000**

Cause of Action: Property Dispute

While no verdict was returned, the jury in this case left no doubt as to where it stood in a boundary line dispute brought before it in February. The action was a contest between adjoining landowners in Unity Township concerning a disputed parcel 421 feet long and 3 1/4 inches wide, and was preceded by a history of booby traps, shouting matches laced with profane and evocative utterances and at least three visits by the state police.

On the afternoon of the fourth day of trial, while a surveyor, only the second witness in the Plaintiffs' case, was being questioned about an arcane easement, juror number six in a split second and with cat-like movements, undid his necktie and leaped from the jury box, wrapping the cravat around the neck of Plaintiffs' counsel shouting, "enough, enough." This breach of decorum brought wild and sustained applause from the other eleven jurors and some court personnel.

The trial judge declared a mistrial, thanked the jurors profusely for their service, and, after some hasty calculations involving the life expectations of the parties, as well as his own, rescheduled the trial for the November term, 2031.

Plaintiff's Counsel: Leonard Rods, Arc, Rods and Ironpin, Latrobe

Defendants' Counsel: Jean Acre, Perches and Acre, Gbg.

Trial Judge: The Hon. William J. Ober

To-Wit: The Devil Made Me Do It

by S. Sponte, Esq.

Once again, as it's time to take pen in hand, I approach the experience with great trepidation. You may think, after all these years of lambasting my profession and my colleagues on account of their various and sundry idiosyncrasies, that I actually enjoy doing it. Well, let me assure you that nothing could be further from the truth.

You see, I like my colleagues, I really do, every last one of them. In fact, I've never met one I didn't like or respect or think, "gee, what a wonderfully smart guy/gal."

And judges? Oh, you gotta' love 'em. I mean we all learned in law school that judges were just like lawyers, only much smarter, wiser, more patient, truly the cream of the professional crop. And if my thirty-five

years at the bar have taught me anything, it's that, yes, judges are the best of our breed, an unyielding testament to the notion that voters always know best when it comes to selecting their jurists.

So why, you may ask, have I spent so much time and effort lambasting so many people I adore? I just don't know. I've spent years in therapy trying to figure that one out. All I can say about it is that I'm sorry.

Can you ever forgive me? You, the colleague who once argued in court that the Statute of Frauds only applied to a seller and not your client, the buyer, please forgive me for mocking you.

And you, the colleague who was so incensed when I took a default judgment that you refused to dignify my conduct by filing a timely petition to open, can you ever forgive me for parodying you? It wasn't a nice thing

to do, and I still regret it that the appellate courts agreed with me and refused to open the judgment.

And the colleague who simply made up case citations in a brief, I owe you an apology, too. What was I thinking when I made fun of you? And me such a fan of creative writing.

So I've decided, here and now, to publicly apologize to each and every one of you. I'm sorry, mea culpa, mea culpa, can you ever forgive me?

I will never, ever, do it again. I love you all.

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the sidebar's Great Annual “And Then I Said” Contest

It is a sad and unalterable fact of life that a judge's career only begins after election. Oh, would that their election was the culmination of their career rather than its commencement. Then they wouldn't have to say a word. Then we'd have ever so much less to worry about.

But once elected, it is a judge's role to pontificate, and, by God, that's what they do. They talk, they write, they give speeches, and, alas, it is by that conduct that they make their reputations—and our laws.

Various and assorted pundits have opined that we are most fortunate in this county to have a good bench, an able bench, a fair and just bench. Yeah, well, what planet are they from?

In order to better prove the point, we, the editorial staff of *the sidebar*¹ have put together a collection of inestimable quotes from our bench², the better by which to make our point.

See if you can figure out which quote belongs to which judge. Some come from opinions, some come from statements made on the bench and some come from casual conversations. Others may be totally without responsible attribution. It is your task to separate the weed from the chafe in this matter.

Match the quote to the jurist from whom it emanates and you could win a prize. First prize is an all-expense-paid trip for two to Washington, D.C., to personally attend oral argument at the United States Supreme Court. There you will get to experience firsthand the wit and wisdom of Justice Clarence Thomas, the fountainhead of judicial folderol.

Second prize is an all-expense-paid tour of the judicial offices of all the local magistrates. Take it from us, you really don't want to come in second.

**MATCH THE QUOTE WITH
THE JUDGE AND WRITE THE
CORRESPONDING LETTER NEXT
TO THE JUDGES' PICTURES ON
THE ENTRY FORM TO THE RIGHT.**

¹ It should be noted that the Editor did not have any hand in this piece mocking the judges. "It's thoroughly unprofessional," he groused, and he disavows any responsibility.

² Unlike other contests, we are only including the non-senior jurists of our Court of Common Pleas in this one. Why? We're tired, that's why.

the sidebar's Great Annual "And Then I Said" Contest

MATCH THE QUOTE ON PAGE 6 WITH THE JUDGE WHO SAID IT AND WRITE THE CORRESPONDING LETTER NEXT TO THE JUDGES' PICTURES BELOW.



Judge
Ackerman



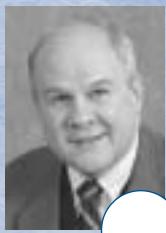
Judge
Bell



Judge
Blahovec



Judge
Caruso



Judge
Driscoll



Judge
Feliciani



Judge
Hathaway



Judge
Marsili



Judge
McCormick



Judge
Ober



Judge
Pezze

NAME _____

PHONE _____

Please fax form to (724) 834-6855 or mail to WBA, 129 N. Pennsylvania Ave.,
Greensburg, PA 15601-2311, by April 1, 2006.

Late entries will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Pa.R.C.P. 4026: Discovery in the Age of Advanced Technology

by The Hon. Cyrus Mitten

It will come as no surprise to those acquainted with civil litigation that the rising costs associated with a lawsuit are primarily due to the expanding abuse of the discovery rules. Lawyers and clients alike are burned out by the unending flow of interrogatories trying to uncover



▲
The Hon. Cyrus Mitten

Recognizing that discovery was about to implode civil court, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court enacted Pa.R.C.P. 4026, which became effective the first of the year. The new rule boldly moves the courts into the 21st Century. It provides that any party or their counsel may waive traditional discovery procedures by agreeing to the installation of ELDs (Electronic Listening Devices) in their businesses, homes, vehicles or

LawSpeak

"Gee, forty percent doesn't seem like quite enough. Tell you what, you take sixty-five percent and I'll take thirty-five percent. I wasn't hurt that bad and I really want you to be my lawyer. No, make it seventy percent."

— Oakey, Cary,
"Practicing Law In
Heaven," True Truth
Press, (2006)

beach houses. Instead of answering all those inane questions, a party will now simply have all their conversations recorded by their opponent until the end of the litigation.

That's fine, you say, but what happens when a party goes on vacation and is away from the ELDs? Subsection (c) of the rule provides that vacations must be preceded by twenty days written notice during which time opposing counsel can file what is ingenuously called a Subsection (c) Petition. This procedure sets up a hearing to determine if the court, in its discretion, should order the departing party to purchase a coach ticket for opposing counsel. The comment to the rule emphasizes the intent of making litigation "more fun and relaxed for all involved."

Some court watchers are predicting that if the Court's emphasis on fun has

legs it eventually might lead to complete abolition of discovery. Pennsylvania could then adopt the TBA (Trial By Ambush) Program which already has received widespread acceptance in

Kentucky by both the bench, the bar and the public. As a trial judge,

that day cannot come soon enough for me.

practice tips

Editor's note: The Honorable Cyrus Mitten has the distinction of being both the newest judge on the Court of Common Pleas and its oldest. Judge Mitten was appointed by the governor and took the oath after lengthy confirmation proceedings in the senate. He fills a vacancy created by the death of Judge Charles E. Whitten in 1942. (See the sidebar, Nov-Dec 1942.)

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placemat Where Have You Been Eating?

by Harley Quinn, Esq.

Gee, when the sidebar folk asked me to do a restaurant review, I was so excited. No one has ever asked for my opinion on restaurants before. Heck, no one has ever asked for my opinion about anything before. That's mostly on account of Cranky Sue. That's what I call the missus, Cranky Sue. She don't like it when I talk too much. Like she's always tellin' me, "Unless you're fixin' to put food in it, you'd do best to keep your mouth shut."

But I don't think she'll mind too much my talking about my favorite restaurants. So here goes.

CHEZ PIER

My all-time favorite place to eat. It isn't named for the cook or the owner or anything, it's for the specialty of the house—pierogies. Oh, and are they yummy. They got potato ones and

cheese ones and onion ones and prune ones, and I usually eat there when Cranky Sue is having one of her bad days and doesn't much feel like cooking me dinner. I eat there pretty regular, but afterwards, there isn't anything regular about me at all. Those darling delicacies of dough stay with me a long, long time. The best thing about it is I don't have to bother Cranky Sue to fix me breakfast next morning. I wake up good to go, in a manner of speaking, and she gets to sleep in. She likes that.

KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN, NEW STANTON

This palace of pleasure is one of the best kept secrets about New Stanton. Located just a squawk and a cluck from the highway, they serve up breasts and thighs the way God and the Colonel intended: hot, juicy and soaking in grease. You'd do well to go there on Thursdays for dinner when

Madeline is out on work release and cooking the late shift. She's got a twelfth herb or spice she adds. I don't know what it is, but it sure gets my hair to sweating. And if she likes you, she'll give you an extra roll.

ROLLO'S

The best soup in Harrison City. Vegetable, chicken, vichyssoise, I don't know what makes them all so darned special but I do know they get their water from the crick out back.



▲
Harley Quinn

THE LAIR

Located in an alley in Jeannette, The Lair specializes in crabs, and no, not the kind you usually associate with the alleyways of Jeannette.

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bookmark What Have You Been Reading?

by Richard Stough, Esq.

I try as much as possible to be eclectic in my reading habits. My reading, like my law practice, is broad but not deep. After making out this list I now see that I am more likely to choose non-fiction over fiction. I can probably attribute that to my college days as a history major.



▲
Richard Stough

Some of the books I am recommending appeared on best seller lists, others are more obscure. I hope you will share with me the pleasure of reading them.

THE DELUCA CODE ♦ by Daniel

Braun ♦ A secret society of probate judges in Palermo is threatened by the investigation of Professor Robert Longwell, who is aided by clues discerned from ceramic tile work by the medieval master artisan, Giuseppe DeLuca, and his son, Freddy. A taut thriller that you will not want to put down. Avoid the movie, unless you don't mind spoiling the unexpected ending.

THE SIEGE OF HOSTETTER ♦ by Donald Rigone and Irving Bloom ♦ Gettysburg and Chambersburg were not the only Pennsylvania sites to feel the sting of invasion by the

Confederate army. Rigone and Bloom have collaborated in this masterful work to tell the little-known story of the twelve days in June 1864, when General Jubal Early and his troops marched into Unity Township and attempted to destroy the Union canteen works at Hostetter. The failure of Early's mission has never been given its due as a significant factor in the war's outcome.

THE FIGHTING GRIFFINS ♦ by Lou Anne Rockney ♦

The complete and unabridged history of the storied football program at Seton Hill University. Sports fans will love it.

THE WORLD IS FAT ♦ by Kermit Gern ♦

The story of the unimaginable task facing the 19th century surveyors who attempted to find and paint the equator.

THE ART OF BEING OBNOXIOUS ♦ by Philip Scree ♦

Why be nice to people, it just doesn't pay. The author, a noted psychologist, sets forth in beautiful simplicity how to turn offensive conduct to your advantage. The best self-help book I've read in years.

SPRING COMES TO ANTARCTICA ♦ by Joyce Purse ♦

A novel about a dog, a penguin, a boy and a piece of cheese that will warm the hearts of all readers regardless of age.

SALTICK ♦ by Ralph Woodward and Jerry Bernstein ♦

A brilliant exposure by seasoned journalists of the industry's attempt to crush the fledgling United Pretzel Workers Union. Full of twists and turns.

MR. RODENT AND THE TALLEST TREE ♦ by Blanch

Upright ♦ A children's book that my kids just love. It is a collection of poems from around the world inspired by the Superior Court opinion ruling on one rodent's quest for freedom.

A GUIDE TO URBAN CAMPING ♦ by Matt Roughoff ♦

Travel is my favorite pastime. In this beautifully illustrated guide you will find where you can pitch a tent in metropolitan areas, all within walking distances of museums, police stations and emergency rooms. It lists the 50 top urban campsites in North America. The top three are Cleveland, Guadalajara, and Winnipeg. Pittsburgh (No. 37) is noted for the quality of its underpasses.

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Placemat

continued from page 9

HOT TAMALES

Judging by the number of cars in the parking lot of this old Victorian mansion, this must be the favorite eatery in New Kensington. Funny thing though, when you go in, there's not a lot of people eating. I don't know where they all are, maybe in the private dining rooms upstairs, but they're really missing the goodies. Great Mexican fare, but a limited menu. Tamales pretty much says it all.

Committee Reports

- **BENCH/BAR COMMITTEE:** Citing crushing pressure from the WBA Girls Auxiliary, attendance at this year's Bench/Bar has been opened up to include spouses. Co-Chair Jacquelyn Knupp has already withdrawn her reservation. "Hey," she said, "my husband's a nice guy and all, but damn, I can't party with him around." The registration deadline has been extended to June 15 due to an unexpectedly large number of other canceled reservations.
- **PLANNING COMMITTEE:** The Planning Committee has voted to move this year's annual retreat to a new site. The Committee has held their retreat in Annapolis, Md., for the last 17 years but when advised that neither Richard Galloway nor his boat were able to attend this year's retreat, they unanimously agreed to look elsewhere. "Same old story," grumbled one member of the Committee, "without a Dick, we ain't got boat."

Schedule of Upcoming CLEs

APRIL

- 4 George W. Bush and the Bill of Rights—A Snack and Learn
 15 The Wit and Wisdom of the Minor Judiciary
 21 A Primer on Office Efficiency, Part IX—Dating Your Secretary

MAY

- 9 Let's Be Friends—A Weekend Retreat with the Disciplinary Committee
 15 Sexual Harassment in the Workplace—What's the Fuss?
 22 Representing the Poor for Fun and Profit

- **LCL COMMITTEE:** Facing criticism that it is an elitist organization, limiting its attention to such "monied" disorders as alcohol and substance abuse, the LCL Committee has agreed to expand its purview to include pride, envy, gluttony, lust, anger, greed, and sloth. "That should satisfy all the egalitarian nuts out there," says Judge Irving Bloom, head of the group. "Almost everyone can afford illicit nookie."
- **ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:** In deference to the commitment and objectives of the LCL Committee, alcoholic beverages will no longer be served at any WBA social functions. In addition, the Committee plans to recommend to the Board of Judges that the burden of proof be abandoned in all future court proceedings.
- **COURTS COMMITTEE:** Paul Kuntz, Court Administrator, has advised that the posting of WBA photographs on the bulletin board between the old and the new Courthouse will no longer be

permitted, as it has been creating a bottleneck in the corridor. "People are stopping to gawk and stare," he says. "What, haven't you got any nice-looking members? Damn, what a repulsive group."

- **OUTREACH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:** Sadly, the Committee has barred the Greensburg-Salem School District Team from further participation in the Mock Trial Competition because of cheating. "Apparently their head coach tried to bribe all six of the Common Pleas judges who volunteered to try cases for the kids," reports the Chair, "and two of them reported it to us."

- **PROCEDURAL RULES COMMITTEE:**

A new local rule has been adopted, effective April 1, 2006, changing the seniority system. Instead of seniority being calculated based upon an attorney's years in practice, it will hereafter be based on IQ. Because the Committee wrote its new rule using many multisyllabic words, no one has yet complained.

wba news

Lawyers' Exchange

(Free to all members of the WBA who paid their dues)

RETIRING BOARD CERTIFIED VETERINARIAN available for expert testimony in those troublesome, heart-wrenching dog-or-cat-meets-vehicle cases. If you have a client who wants recompense for a flattened Fluffy or squashed Skippy, give me a call. Dog spoken here. 724-888-WOOF.

LOCAL FEMALE PRACTITIONER seeks to share briefs with young, drop-dead gorgeous, male colleague. No prior experience desired.

WANTED TO BUY Experienced legal secretary, proficient in using a typewriter, making coffee, in good health and not in need of medical insurance, no spouse or children. Compensation package includes small bedroom in corner of library, use of bath and restroom facilities down the hall (off hours only) semi-annual weekend vacation. Send résumé c/o Job of a Lifetime, WBA, Greensburg.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

- 1** April Fool's Day
- 3** Elder Law Committee
Topic: "The Challenges of Memory Failure"
- 4** Elder Law Committee
Topic: "The Challenges of Memory Failure"
- 7** Family Law Committee
Topic: "Recalling the Fun of Fault Divorce"—a slideshow presentation
- 14** Inn of Court Pupilage Group No. 4
"The Scatological Humor of Our Board of Judges"—a musical review
- 25** Courthouse closed in mourning for repeal of judicial pay raise. Flags at half mast.

MAY

- 9** Annual Spring Dance, *Climax Gentlemen's Club, Rte. 22, Salem Township.* Dress optional.
- 11** CLE presentation by Bankruptcy Committee
Topic: "Debtor's Prison—The Administration's Latest Effort at Reform"
- 17** Young Lawyers Committee
Topic: "Jell-O Shots—Better Than Sex Alone, Or Not?"
- 25** Courthouse closed in observance of Christmas (Roman, Greek, Russian), Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Festivus, National Holiday, and, oh God (or Allah), every other real or imagined reason that anyone anywhere could possibly have to celebrate anything that occurs now or within any reasonable proximity to now.

LCL CORNER

- A new two-step recovery program has been successfully launched in two beta sites throughout the Commonwealth and is now ready for testing here. Combining elements of both medieval implements and ancient Chinese water treatments, the plan has been lauded for the rapid and efficacious manner in which it enables substance abusers to find the wherewithal to stop. For the exact location of the next LCL meeting, call the WBA office and when a voice says, "Do pigeons fly by night?" please reply, "Irv sent me," and wait for further instructions.
- LCL has a new website at www.wtfitmwy.org. There you can find information on alcoholism, drug abuse, depression, sexual addictions, gambling compulsions and other assorted hobbies.



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