Kelly Eshelman and Ron Fonner, co-chairs of this year’s June 12-14 Bench/Bar Conference, are excited to announce that the 2019 location is a return venue to a newly rebranded site: Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place.

The last time we held our event at this hotel was in 2011; since then, the facility is under new management by Marriott Hotels. For those of you returning to this venue, you will find many features of the original hotel have been replaced—from a total redo of the lobby area to the upscale room renovations, this is a modern hotel. Many of the amenities that we enjoyed in our 2011 visit remain including these features and local attractions:

- **Biking** on Rails-to-Trails outside the hotel
- **Hiking** at Coopers Rock State Forest
- **Golf** at the Lakeview Resort, just a few minutes from the hotel
- **Indoor lap pool**
  - Many new amenities have been added:
    - **Full-service spa** on-site
    - **Full fitness facility**

- Starbucks on-site
- **Brewery with live music** just ½ block from the hotel
  - Block off your calendar and join us for the 2019 Bench/Bar Conference with these activities that are included with your registration fee:
    - **Complimentary lunch**
    - **Complimentary networking reception**
    - **Complimentary breakfast**
    - **Complimentary dinner buffet**
    - **5.5 free CLE credits**
    - **Vendor reception**

- **Music by Brothers Kelly**
- **Twisted Trivia contest** after dinner
- **Group activities** including Tai Chi (with optional CLE), golf, hiking, biking, and a possible 5K walk/run.
  - Plan to relax, unwind, and get away from it all. Look for your invitation to the Bench/Bar Conference in your mail soon!
The WBA Board of Directors has been working for the past several months with an American Bar Association consultant to develop a Strategic Plan to build on the success of the association and to continue serving our members and the community. “The Plan,” which is in place through 2022, outlines three goals and identifies multiple strategies for achieving those goals. Here are the highlights of The Plan:

Offer valuable benefits that are essential to lawyers practicing in Westmoreland County
- Strategy No. 1: Create a new professional home for the WBA that supports the community of lawyers.
- Strategy No. 2: Refresh the WBA’s programs and services to meet the diverse needs of its members.
- Strategy No. 3: Raise the visibility of the WBA in the profession and in the community.

Increase membership and create greater member engagement opportunities
- Strategy No. 1: Sustain a high member retention rate by reinforcing the WBA’s value and promoting engagement.
- Strategy No. 2: Engage in targeted outreach efforts to lawyers in Westmoreland County.
- Strategy No. 3: Use personal outreach and technology to increase access to the WBA and foster greater member engagement.

Ensure the WBA has the resources and staff it needs to carry out its mission
- Strategy No. 1: Diversify the WBA’s revenue streams.
- Strategy No. 2: Cultivate partnerships with other organizations to leverage resources and expand benefits.
- Strategy No. 3: Engage in succession planning for long-tenured staff.

The Plan looks to secure WBA’s future
All three of these goals are important to moving the bar association in the direction of sustained relevancy to its members. Following are a few items already underway:
- The new building has stimulated interest in and discussion of the many things this new headquarters can bring to our members, including non-dues revenue, better visibility, and community programming.
- The newly launched LRS site, (which if you have not visited the site yet, please do—lrs.westbar.org) has received immediate positive responses from the panel attorneys. Comments include ease of use, attractiveness, opportunity to personalize attorney profiles, and comprehensive online reporting.

The bar’s renewed commitment to community presence echoes the current resolve of the bar foundation trustees in their efforts to do more with and for the community. As an example, the trustees have embarked on a partnership project with the United Way, Blackburn Center, and the Attorney General’s office to plan local outreach programs on “Fighting Senior Abuse,” and will include fraud prevention, nursing home neglect, and other pertinent subjects to our aging Westmoreland County citizens.

Stay tuned as the Board and staff implement the recommendations from the ABA strategic plan. And let us know if you would want to join us in any of these endeavors.

On a personal note, I sincerely thank the WBA membership for affording me the opportunity to serve as President this past year. I also sincerely thank Diane Krivonik, Susan Zellner, Jessica Turberville, Pat Iezzi, and the WBA Board of Directors (Joyce Novotny-Prettiman, Scott Avolio, Dennis Persin, Judith Petrush, Chris Haidze, and Tim Andrews). Your individual and collective support has been unfailing, and greatly appreciated.

To my successor, Joyce Novotny-Prettiman, I wish you the very best during your term as President. Our membership should rest assured that the WBA is indeed in very good hands!

Best regards,
Remembering Richard L. Jim

by Aimee R. Jim, Esq.

I am as proud of my father as any daughter could be. He was fortunate enough to have 89 birthdays, and he used his years well. Even during his childhood, my father’s love for life, compassion for others, and desire to succeed were unfailing.

The youngest of three children in a second-generation Italian household, my dad first demonstrated the ease with which he accomplished goals by becoming an Eagle Scout and graduating from Latrobe High School at age 17. He earned degrees in Industrial Engineering and Public Management, accumulating the knowledge he needed to revitalize his hometown over the next few decades.

He served his country in the Navy during the Korean War and continued as a reservist, retiring as a USNR Lieutenant Commander. As a young girl, I thought we were just going on family vacations to Groton Long Point, Connecticut, and Bath, Maine, where we ate fresh lobster boiled in steel barrels on the beach, but in fact, my dad was fulfilling his military duties at naval bases.

My father opened his private practice in 1957 after graduating from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law with notable classmates such as Governor Dick Thornburgh and former Westmoreland County Public Defender Dante Bertani. Unique for its time, his class included a woman, an African-American, and a blind student. Despite being described by one professor as “the worst class I’ve ever seen,” it produced four judges, a Harvard Law professor, and a host of excellent attorneys.

“My dad never retired, and never wanted to retire. Even after practicing for 60 years, he approached the law with curiosity, passion, and enthusiasm.”

My dad never retired, and never wanted to retire. Even after practicing for 60 years, he approached the law with curiosity, passion, and enthusiasm. He was born in an era where you learned how to try a case by sitting in a courtroom; did your own title searches; typed deeds on carbon paper; kept your word; maintained your civility; shined your shoes; and spent time thinking about cases, rather than writing your way through them.

When asked what quality he admired most in another attorney, he replied, “patience.” He treated all of his clients with grace and respect, offering them the same advice he would follow himself, and was known for his ability to get things done quickly. He inspired me to join the profession, and I am forever grateful to have had his tutelage.

Despite his busy career, my father always had time for his faith, his family, and some fun. He was an altar boy and usher at Holy Family Church, and will be remembered walking down the aisles every Sunday with a smile, trying to pass his basket just a little bit faster than the other ushers. He enjoyed 53 years of marriage to my mom, Posy, the love of his life, who never stopped making him laugh. He left the office every Friday saying he was “going to pick up his bride.” He won tennis tournaments, played bridge twice a week, planted a garden every summer, and yet in his endlessly productive manner, there was never a day when his heart was not determined to ensure the care, happiness, and success of my brother, Bernie, and me. We were both instilled with a love for education: I followed in my father’s footsteps while Bernie earned a Ph.D., became...
a professor at Case Western University, and is, like my dad, a wonderful father.

My dad’s secret to vitality was that he never stopped dreaming about what he wanted to do next, blissfully unaware that his body was aging, and never allowing this to interfere with his plans. His favorite motto from the Peanuts was “Put me in, Coach, I think I can score!” That was how he lived.

While he may not have fulfilled his goals of riding the Dempster Highway, learning to tap dance, or eating an entire pumpkin pie in one sitting, I believe my dad regarded his life as a great adventure, and he could not have asked for anything more.

JANUARY 2019 TRIAL TERM

Of the 12 cases on the January 2019 Civil Jury Trial list, 3 settled, 8 were continued, and 1 proceeded to a jury trial.

NICHOLAS J. RAE
V.
NORMAN P. GEBROSKY, M.D.;
GU, INC., A PENNSYLVANIA CORPORATION
NO. 6413 OF 2016

Cause of Action: Medical Malpractice

Plaintiff alleged that Defendant, a urologist, failed to properly diagnose testicular torsion and deviated from the standard of care in failing to review the clinical findings of the emergency doctor and the ultrasound results that supported a diagnosis of testicular torsion. Instead of treating it surgically, Defendant misdiagnosed Plaintiff with orchitis or epididymitis, both infections, and prescribed an antibiotic. As a result of Defendant’s alleged negligence, Plaintiff had to have one of his testicles surgically removed. Plaintiff sought damages for pain and suffering, embarrassment and humiliation, loss of ability to enjoy the pleasures of life, and disfigurement.

Defendant denied the allegations, testifying that he met the applicable standard of care and that the symptoms presented to him at the time of his examination of Plaintiff supported his diagnosis of an infection. He argued that it was only with hindsight that it became clear that Plaintiff did suffer from testicular torsion, but that he could not have known that at the time based on the unique presentation of Plaintiff’s symptoms.

Trial Date: January 7–10, 2019

Plaintiff’s Counsel: Michael C. George, Law Office of Michael C. George, Pgh.

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

Trial Judge: The Hon. Chris Scherer

Result: The jury found in favor of Plaintiff and entered a verdict in the amount of $500,000.

Richard L. Jim will be among those remembered at the Westmoreland Bar Association’s 57th Annual Memorial Service to be held at the Westmoreland County Courthouse on May 23, 2019. Please plan on joining us to honor our colleagues.
It’s A Dog’s Life

by Pamela Ferguson, Esq.

With technological advances pushing the pet consumer market to the nth degree, every want and need of man’s best friend is well within reach. Concerned about your pet’s health and well-being? Fitbit-style wearable monitoring devices can track your pet’s physical activity, location, and health metrics. Worried that your best buddy is lonely and depressed while home alone? Internet-connected video cameras and treat dispensers facilitate engagement between owner and pet through Skype-like connections. Need a special present for an upcoming holiday? Everything from Swarovski crystal earrings to golden sable fur coats are available online to make your dog feel pampered and loved. There is nothing we can’t or won’t do for our four-legged friends. They’re our buddies, our best friends, members of our families and, yet, only Alaska and Illinois have statutes that treat dogs as living, breathing creatures; the remaining 48 states view them as chattel—no different than a toaster or table lamp.

While that may have seemed reasonable when the statutes were enacted and dogs lived in dog houses in the back yard and ate table scraps and the occasional rodent that wandered by, it does not reflect how dogs are viewed in today’s society. Thanks to the Baby Boomer generation, the humanization of dogs has changed their place in the family unit from pet to companion. Thanks to Millennials, their place is evolving from companion to “starter child” or “fur baby.” Emotionally attached Millennials are making life decisions, such as buying their first home, based not upon their ticking continued on page 6

What matters most to you in life? It’s a big question.
But it’s just one of many questions I’ll ask to better understand you, your goals and your dreams. All to help you live confidently – today and in the future.

Timothy M. Henry
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With the right financial advisor, life can be brilliant.
biological clocks, but upon how those decisions will affect their dog. In a poll by USA Today of 1,500 Millennials, 71% said they would take a pay cut if their dog could accompany them to work every day; 72% said they expected to pay more for their dog over the course of their pet’s lifetime than on their own healthcare costs.1

Encouraged by pet-friendly retailers and services that foster pet inclusivity, empty-nesting Boomers and emancipated Millennials are finding ways to share every aspect of their lives with their dogs. Even in death, owners are finding ways to provide for their canine companions.

Hotel and real estate tycoon Leona Helmsley left the bulk of her $12 million estate to her dog, Trouble; Majel Barrett-Roddenberry, widow of Star Trek creator, Gene, established a $4 million trust for her dog (with an additional $1 million allotted for care of the cat); Florida heiress Gail Posner left her Maltese, Chihuahua, and Yorkshire Terrier her $11 million estate; and Gunther III, a German Shepherd, inherited his owner’s $80 million estate, from which he bought Madonna’s Miami mansion and several other homes around the globe.

With demand high enough to support a $1 billion pet industry, legally designating a dog as chattel ignores the reality that in many families, dogs hold an equal place in the family unit. It also leaves courts ill-equipped to address a growing demand for help in determining who gets the dog when owners separate.

In Pennsylvania and 47 other states, dog custody arrangements are unenforceable in a court of law. Your dog—the light of your life, your best friend—will be lumped in with the Tupperware and divided, as such, during equitable distribution. Only one spouse gets the dog; the other is out of luck.

Anthony DeSantis learned the hard way when he tried to enforce the provision of his Marital Settlement Agreement that gave him “visitation” with their dog. The Pennsylvania Superior Court affirmed the Chester County trial court’s order sustaining the wife’s preliminary objections, holding that “Appellant is seeking an arrangement analogous, in law, to a visitation schedule for a table or a lamp.”2 The Florida appellate court ruled likewise when it overturned the trial court’s order awarding visitation to the wife, citing lack of authority to order visitation with personal property and concerns with judicial economy:

“Determinations as to custody and visitation (of dogs) leads to continuing enforcement and supervision problems … Our courts are overwhelmed with the supervision of custody and visitation, and support matters related to our children. We cannot undertake the same responsibility with animals.”3

Disheartening as these holdings may be to dog-lovers everywhere, all is not lost: more and more courts are acknowledging the important role dogs play in our lives and finding creative ways to circumvent the statute. In Lanier v. Lanier, a Tennessee court awarded joint custody of the dog after hearing testimony from the wife, who said that she “kept him away from ill-bred bitches, ensured that he attended weekly bible classes, and prevented others from drinking in his presence; and from the husband, who claimed that he “taught the dog tricks, including riding on the back of his motorcycle,” and refrained from drinking in his presence.4

1 USA Today, “National Pet Month: Here’s How Much Millennials are Spending on Their Pets,” (May 22, 2018)


4 This was an unpublished opinion, but referenced in Jim T. Hamilton’s article in the Tales from Tennessee Lawyers 180, titled “Dog Custody Case Attracts Nationwide Attention.”
For the Alaskan and Illinois courts, creativity is not required. Their respective legislatures recently passed dog custody provisions in their divorce laws that require courts to consider “the well-being of the animal” when determining into which home the dog should be placed.

Illinois State Senator Linda Holmes, who sponsored her state’s legislation, acknowledged the reality of the role animals play in modern American lives: “People look at their pets as members of the family, not possessions.”

Jeff Pierce, legislative counsel for the Animal Legal Defense Fund, a non-profit organization that advocates for greater legal protection for animals, applauds the changes in the law and thinks that it will allow judges to be more compassionate in their rulings without appearing to be activists. Acknowledging that convincing more legislatures to jump on the bandwagon has been hard, Pierce is optimistic that states will eventually recognize the need for court guidance.

Valid arguments on both sides of the issue continue to frustrate animal activists, dog lovers, and legislative proponents who are trying encourage their states to follow Alaska’s and Illinois’s lead. Blaming retribution as a reason so many couples fight over companion animals and expressing concern with the ability to use the emotional attachment to pets as leverage in divorce cases, Rhode Island State Representative Charlene Lima introduced legislation in February of 2017 that requires courts to consider who fed the dog, who took the dog to the vet, and whose lifestyle is best suited for pet ownership. Almost two years later, the law remains unchanged.

With the “Barney Rule” as precedent (named after the parties’ dog and established by the Superior Court in Desantis), most Pennsylvania courts have refused to consider pet custody, even when the parties have reached an agreement. However, as more couples decide to wait to start a family and have “fur babies” instead of children, Pennsylvania courts, including Westmoreland County, are changing their approach to pet custody.

Having addressed this issue from both the perspective of counsel and judge, Judge Harry Smail has modified his approach to disputes over the family dog. While remaining steadfast in his application of the statutory definition of a dog as property, he now recognizes a need to help parties resolve disputes over the dog. As a private practitioner representing a husband in a divorce case in which the wife sought custody of the dog, he argued with pen poised in the air, that the court did not have authority to decide custody of the dog and that to do so would be no different than determining custody of the pen. Much to the wife’s dismay, Judge Marsili agreed.

Years later, after assuming the bench, he refused the parties’ request to determine a custody schedule for their dog, ruling, as Judge Marsili did many years earlier, that the court did not have the authority to enter a custody arrangement for personal property. However, he offered to facilitate through mediation a consensual “time-sharing provision” that could be enforceable under a theory of breach of contract, much like a time-sharing provision for a vacation home. When asked if he would

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support the legislature's inclusion of a “best interest” review for determining dog custody in divorce proceedings, Judge Smail said, “no.”

“There are so many complex issues relative to children in divorce proceedings, that delaying resolution of the case hurts the children,” he said. “Changing the Dog laws would give the parties another ‘tool’ they could use to hurt each other, adding another layer of hostility and extending the proceedings, which ultimately, would be to the detriment of the children.”

Agreeing that dog custody arrangements are unenforceable, but recognizing a need to find ways to provide guidance and resolution when neither party is willing to relinquish custody of the dog, both Judges Bononi and Driscoll found creative ways to help the parties reach a resolution.

Recalling only two times that she was asked to address dog custody in a divorce case, Judge Bononi said that in each case a settlement was reached to have the dog follow the children’s custody arrangement. While she never had to address the issue of dog custody with a childless couple, she said she would consider a request for partial distribution of marital property under 23 Pa.C.S.A. §3502(f) which would provide for faster resolution of the issue than waiting for the entire estate to be distributed.

Judge Driscoll acknowledged that he has had several cases where who gets the dog became a major sticking point.

“I recently suggested that the dog follow the children’s custody schedule, an idea that was acceptable to both parents,” he said. A more difficult case involved a childless couple who had resolved all of the marital issues except custody of the dog. For that, they asked the judge to decide. “For some reason, this was very difficult. I discussed the various considerations, not legal considerations, but how each party would feel about losing the dog, who could be better at handling the loss, etc. In a final act of kindness, the wife felt she would be able to replace her loss with a new dog.”

Clearly, our family bench understands the importance of the family dog and that losing contact with him/her is not analogous to losing possession of a toaster or a table lamp. However, courts are required to interpret the law. Without legislative guidance and changes in the current dog laws, their ability to do anything other than give the dog to one party as if it were a marital asset is limited.

From the responses of our family bench, it appears that conciliation by the court or mediation with an out-of-court mediator might be a more viable option to those couples who can’t do it themselves. Ultimately though, without an agreement of the parties, the court will be constrained to distribute the dog amongst the Tupperware and table lamps.
To-Wit: The Good Old Days

by S. Sponte, Esq.

It is not very often that I find myself at the courthouse anymore, and even less often when it also happens to be time for lunch. It is for me such a sweet coalescence, as it affords me yet another occasion to dine with colleagues at Sans Merci, my favorite downtown restaurant.

It’s a quaint, little faux-French establishment that sits across the street from the courthouse, nothing at all like your cold, au courant, big city eatery, perish forbid. The menu hasn’t changed since Napoleon’s time, and the food hasn’t been fresh since then either, but it is nonetheless a most amiable and familiar place, kind of like well-worn slippers absent most of the smell. “Perish forbid,” incidentally, is the phrase we all use whenever the food is served.

For many years now, a regular coterie of my colleagues and I have gathered there for lunch and companionship, to share stories and reminisce about what we have deluded ourselves into thinking were the good old days. It is not only a denial of the aging process to return to those thrilling days of yesteryear, it also distracts us from trying to figure out what we’ve really been served.

“Remember when a landlord could simply distrain for rent,” a colleague reminisced. With that we all paused in silent and respectful reverie as homage to one of the most beloved inequities of all time.

“Ah yes, the battle cry of the “fault” divorce, when marital freedom still required proof of marital misconduct. Proving adultery was almost always the name of the game, golly, well, they took so much time.

In addition to distraint and confession of judgement, there were any number of other examples of antediluvian gambols that, like the course, we all knew about due process of law, notice and hearing and all that, we had read about it in law school, but now we were in the real world and those things, golly, well, they took so much time.

Permit me to recall some of those quirky things we used to have at our disposal. Yeah, they were pretty ruthless, and yeah, they were pretty cruel, but I suppose in hindsight, that’s what made them so much fun.

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planning, cunning, and a photographer. Once no-fault divorce reared its insipid head and took sin completely out of the equation though, many colleagues got bored and quit doing matrimonial law completely. “It’s not as much fun without photographs,” one of my friends opined; he and a few of his colleagues used to pass them around like trading cards. He thereafter became so disheartened that he gave away all of his picture albums and took up crocheting.

**MINIMUM FEE BILL** – Typically written into the local rules of court, this was a list of the lowest prices a lawyer could ethically charge for various kinds of work. It was intended to prohibit fee-cutting which was universally thought to diminish the dignity of the profession in a way that such an agreement in restraint of trade apparently didn’t. It would not be accurate to say that some thought this was price-fixing; everyone thought it was price-fixing, and it, too, disappeared under the crushing weight of public interest, aided in meaningful part by the realization that truly crass lawyer advertising could make lawyers rich enough that they could afford to kiss the dignity of the profession goodbye.

**DIVORCE A MENSO ET THORO** – The “bed and board” divorce, a legal separation available only by wife against husband, was the most fun of all. Whenever a husband took up with a new chippie, his wife could obtain a support order that terminated only when she consented to a full divorce, and she never consented until she was offered all the marital assets. When the then male-dominated state legislature realized it was their own statutory petard that was hoisting them, it declared the whole scheme to be gender-based discrimination and repealed it. That it also significantly reduced the cost of a new chippie was something for which all male state legislators were eternally grateful.

The law now regards the common weal as its paramount objective, and I guess that’s how it should be. Oh, but there was a time when … wait, we’ll have to finish this later. I’m at lunch and Crepe Suzettes are about to be served as soon as the waiter can find the chisel. 

© 2019, S. Sponte, Esq.
His name frequently appears on these pages, but goes unnoticed by all but the few who have persevered to the end of the offerings which have cluttered the “Westmoreland Revisited” section for the past decade; yet I know him as well as my own somewhat reclusive neighbor. I have borrowed from him as a source on more occasions than I care to admit, so out of a sense of guilt I feel I owe him something in return.

George Dallas Albert was, of course, the editor and author of the History of the County of Westmoreland, Pennsylvania, which is the abbreviated title. In the style of the times in which it was published by L.H. Everts & Co. in 1882, its formal title is The History of the County of Westmoreland, Pennsylvania, with Biographical Sketches of many of its Pioneers and Prominent Men. In Chapter 1, Mr. Albert reveals his motivation:

“We propose in the following pages to collect something of the early history of the County of Westmoreland, a county which has aptly been designated as the mother of counties. What, above all other things, has induced us to this attempt is the fact that nothing of the kind has heretofore been attempted.

What he created was a tome of broad scope, covering the political, military, social, educational, industrial, commercial, and professional histories of the county for more than a hundred years, supplemented with an index of more than 16,000 individual names.

By necessity, it is a weighty offering, not just in the intellectual sense, but also literally—its 727 pages printed in double columns on 10.5 x 8 inch paper, along with the 113-page index, weigh in at a little over five and a half pounds.

It appears to be the end product of a full lifetime of scholarship, yet when it was published George Dallas Albert was only 36 years old.

The magnitude of his project is even more remarkable when we focus upon the fact that his is not a national

continued on page 12
George Dallas Albert  
continued from page 11

history, but a local one, where his sources were scattered and not well preserved; and yet, despite obstacles, which will be discussed shortly, he labored to obtain records from the Pennsylvania Archives, and Virginia’s Colonial Archives, and unearth local letters and documents. He was a forerunner of what has since become known as “living history,” i.e., the gathering of information from those who lived through historical events, as many of his contemporaries had done.

This personal perspective is apparent throughout his work, for less than a hundred years separated the signing of the Declaration of Independence from his admission to the bar; his contemporaries, as well as their parents and grandparents, had seen a great deal of our early history take place.

By almost all measures, his work was a success, though probably not a financial one, for a hefty reference book of this nature was not meant for a mass market. A little-remembered newspaper, The Latrobe Advance, did publish his book in serial form, but because of its length, it was likely abridged.

When Albert’s history was republished in 1974, Calvin E. Pollins of our bar, and then-President of the Westmoreland County Historical Society, wrote in the introduction, “It was the first and is the best history of Westmoreland County.”

John N. Boucher, Esq., as well, writing in his own later history of the county, said of Mr. Albert, “He has done more to unearth and perpetuate the history of Western Pennsylvania and particularly of Westmoreland County than any other man living or dead.”

That Albert’s efforts have met the test of time is obvious from the fact that today, 136 years after its publication, it is still a seminal work to those interested in our county’s history.

But what of Mr. Albert’s own story? He certainly did not come to his task with the credentials one might expect. What little we know about him comes from Albert H. Bell’s Memoirs of the
Bench and Bar of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, published in 1924.

George Dallas Albert was born in the village of Youngstown in 1846, a few miles from Latrobe where he would be raised, and thereafter reside. Educated in the common schools, as public schools were then called, his classroom studies ended there. Without the benefit of a classical education, exposure to travel, or an introduction to the arts and sciences, he became a self-taught scholar. Inclined toward the law, he read and studied the subject in the offices of Henry C. Marchand, Esq., and was admitted to the Westmoreland Bar during the February term in 1869. Of all the things that influenced his life, the most predominant and unfortunate was his poor health.

“He was born with a feeble body,” Mr. Bell observed, “that prevented him for several years after his admission to the bar from pursuing the practice of law. Delicate health attended him all of his life ... Mr. Albert's springs of life had to seek gentler channels ... [so] the contentious jurisdiction of the courts had no charm for [him]. He was diffident, modest, and lacking in self-assertion. [Nor did he have] the physical strength to endure the strain of a long trial.” Whatever the condition was which was so disabling, no medical diagnosis is mentioned, perhaps out of a respect for privacy, or simply because it was unknown.

The assertion that Mr. Albert held back from active practice for several years may be a bit of an understatement, for Mr. Bell later notes that Mr. Albert “did not engage in the active practice of his profession until 1880.” By that time, however, he was able to travel to the courthouse from his home in Latrobe on a regular basis, and develop a clientele of well-to-do people. And as a counselor, he was highly regarded for his ability to negotiate the settlement of disputes.

His life also improved domestically. Mr. Bell wrote: “His wife, whom he married in his mature years, was a lady of refined tastes, active in religion and philanthropy, of very respectable literary ability, a graceful writer, and a frequent contributor to the Pittsburgh newspapers.” Unfortunately, Mr. Bell leaves her unnamed. Which raises what a reader of Albert’s history would also likely notice, that women were seldom mentioned. Today it might be considered as chauvinism, and that is not to say that it was anything other than that in the nineteenth century; however one of history’s basic lessons is that manners and mores shift with the passage of time.

The History of the County of Westmoreland was not Mr. Albert’s final contribution. In 1895, the commonwealth published his 636-page second volume of Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania, a work done after his gubernatorial appointment to a state commission charged with making inquiry into the number and location of these forts for the purpose of marking them for posterity.

From time to time throughout the years, our bar and bench has produced many sophisticated briefs and opinions, appreciated at the time and then forgotten. In Mr. Albert we have found a man of vision and courage who created a gift for later generations.

Author’s note: To those who may wish to see Mr. Albert’s history and peruse its pages, it is available at the Law Library, through the courtesy of our librarian, Betty Ward, or online at https://archive.org/details/cu31924028854978/.

Mr. Bell’s final word on his subject was: “Mr. Albert died on the 13th day of October, 1898, the victim of a malady that saddened his days as it hastened their end.” He was 52 years old.

1 Her name was Elvira Wilson Albert. She is buried in Unity Cemetery in Latrobe with her husband, whom she outlived by 17 years.

2 George Dallas Albert’s gravestone lists his day of death as October 8, 1898.
We Bought A Building!

The Westmoreland Bar Association closed on our new HQ located at 100 North Maple Avenue in Greensburg on February 20, 2019. From left to right: Bob Lightcap, Jim Antoniono, David DeRose, Tim Miller, Tim Andrews, President John Ranker, Scott Avolio, Joyce Novotny-Prettiman, Diane Krivoniak, Pat Iezzi, John Ward, and Chris DeDiana.

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY Ruder Law seeks an associate attorney for a full-time position in Pittsburgh to represent parents and students in matters involving the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Candidates should have at least 1-3 years of legal experience; a background in disability rights advocacy, due process hearings or civil rights litigation will receive special consideration. To apply, submit a letter of interest and a curriculum vitae by email to ashleyclose@ruderlaw.com with “Associate Attorney Position” in the subject line.

LOOKING TO HIRE OR BE HIRED? The Westmoreland Bar Association operates an informal placement service for paralegals, legal secretaries and attorneys by collecting résumés and forwarding them to potential employers at no cost. We have had some requests lately for freelance/per job secretarial work in particular. Send your résumé via email (westbar.org@westbar.org) or mail (129 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Greensburg, PA 15601) today.
Actions of the Board

OCTOBER 18, 2018
• Discussed current investment strategy. The Investment Committee is following a conservative approach with a 65/35 split, which is within investment policy provisions. Committee is confident that the work that they and PWA are doing with the bar money is appropriate; Board agreed that the assistance of PWA is necessary to protect the investment of the membership as is the fiduciary duty of the Board. Agreed to leave everything as is for the time being, but to keep an ongoing conversation regarding the investments.
• Agreement signed on the AAA building on October 12, contingent on membership approval within 30 days. Will move forward with Lawyers Abstract to obtain title.
• Agreed to hold Special Membership Meeting on Wednesday, November 7, at 4:30 p.m., at the bar building. Will send a “save the date” notice with supporting documentation to members ahead of the meeting.
• Agreed to draft letter to the Sheriff indicating a cost increase of $45 ($15 per week) for publishing Sheriff Sales in the law journal, effective for January advertising.
• Approved the sharing of WBA staff with the Pro Bono Program for the purpose of keeping Pro Bono operational for the near future.
• Agreed to post WBA board minutes on the westbar.org site beginning with the January 2018 meeting.

NOVEMBER 15, 2018
• Discussed personnel issues and agreed to table a vote on the 2019 budget until December 20, 2018, board meeting.
• Accepted bid from AGI Inc. for the environmental study of the AAA building at a cost of $8,950.
• Learned that Julia Moreman has announced her retirement effective December 31. Agreed to recognize her at the dinner dance or luncheon at the bar office, whichever best suits her.
• Agreed to upload Quarterly Meeting minutes to website after approval from board.

DECEMBER 20, 2018
• Due to new building and other unknown expenses, agreed to make no contribution to the Investment Account for 2018, and to wait until the end of 2019 to make any contribution to the account.
• Accepted the 2019 budget pending review and approval by the WBA treasurer.
• YL Chair Tim Miller reported that January meeting will be scheduled as well as a Spring axe-throwing competition.
• Membership Committee recommendations accepted as presented for approval: Lauren Catalano and Katie Ranker, participating; Rachelle See, associate.
• President Ranker reported that American Geosciences’ environmental study on the AAA building revealed “all results were well within the PADEPs nonresidential usage standards.”
• Approved investigating opportunities available with the City of Greensburg for a Business Soft Cost grant program.
• Voted to authorize the President, President-Elect, and/or Vice President, for and on behalf of the WBA, and its name, to execute any and all documents required in connection with the purchase of the real property located at 100 North Maple Avenue, Greensburg, Pa., for the purchase price of $300,000.00, including but not limited to purchase agreements, notes, mortgages, agreements, settlement statements, and escrow documents.
• Authorized liquidation of the investments held in the investment account of the WBA as may be necessary to provide the funds needed to complete the purchase of the real property located at 100 North Maple Avenue, Greensburg, Pa.
• Agreed to ask the Investment Committee to weigh in on how best to finance the renovation of the building.
• Board asked that the minutes reflect their appreciation of Julia Moreman’s many years of service to the bar.
• Accepted the recommendation of the LRS Committee to enter into a contract with Community Lawyer to design an LRS website at no cost to the association.
• PBA is allowing the WBA’s grant of almost $19,000 to be held until the new building is ready so that the grant money is best spent for technology and board room furniture.
• Agreed to hire Ashley Nicewonger for part-time work with the WBA.

LawSpeak

“Equal justice under law is not merely a caption on the façade of the Supreme Court building, it is perhaps the most inspiring ideal of our society. It is one of the ends for which our entire legal system exists ... it is fundamental that justice should be the same, in substance and availability, without regard to economic status.”

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell, Jr.
MARCH
26 New Member Ceremony, Westmoreland County Courthouse, 3 p.m.
27 [PBI CLE] Using Social Media Effectively and Ethically in Your Practice 2019, 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., 2S 1E
28 [PBI CLE] How to Close An Estate, 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., 3S Ned J. Nakles American Inn of Court, 5 p.m.

APRIL
1 Annual Meeting of the Westmoreland Bar Foundation and Westmoreland Bar Association, Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg, 4:30 p.m.
10 [PBI CLE] Successful Real Estate Development Projects 2019, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 5S 1E
11 [CLE] Personal Injury Update with Mike Ferguson, Noon to 2 p.m., 2S
13 Young Lawyers/Blackburn Center Walk A Mile in Her Shoes, Saint Clair Park, 10 a.m. to Noon
16 Family Law Committee, Noon
18 Board Meeting, 4 p.m.
19 Courthouse closed in observance of Good Friday
22 [PBI CLE] Emerging Trends and Hot Topics in Condominiums and Homeowners Associations 2019, 1 to 4:15 p.m., 3S
23 [PBI CLE] Family Law Institute, Day 1, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., 4.5S 1.5E
24 [PBI CLE] Family Law Institute, Day 2, 8:30 to 11:45 a.m., 3S Ned J. Nakles American Inn of Court, 5 p.m.

How Stress Affects Lawyers
Stress affects all people and all professions. Stress in the legal profession, however, is well-documented. Lawyers work in an adversarial system with demanding schedules and heavy workloads, which may contribute to increased stress levels.

Lawyer assistance programs are available to help lawyers manage stress effectively. Contact Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers for help: www.lclpa.org.

LAC Committee members: Joyce Novotny-Prettiman, Tim Geary, Jim Antoniono, Chris Skovira, Linda Broker, Stuart Horner, Tom Shaner, Linda Whalen.
WE NEED YOU: LAW DAY 2019

A Westmoreland Bar Association tradition is to seek members who will volunteer a couple hours during the month of May to visit classrooms in Westmoreland County to discuss topics of interest to today’s students. This year’s American Bar Association theme is Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society and is one that is as relevant today as it was when the founders first wrote the Bill of Rights in 1791. Can you volunteer to spare a morning or afternoon to “Go Back To School”? Here’s what past volunteers had to say about their experiences:

“I HAD A WONDERFUL TIME THIS YEAR, AND ENJOY LAW DAY EACH YEAR. I TRULY ENJOY HAVING THE CHANCE TO SHARE WITH STUDENTS WHAT BEING A LAWYER IS REALLY ABOUT, AND WHAT I ACTUALLY DO.”

“LAW DAY WAS VERY INTERACTIONAL, WITH EXTREMELY BRIGHT 4TH GRADERS. I WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH THEIR ADVANCED AND SCHOLARLY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SEPARATION OF POWERS AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION.”

“I HAD A LOT OF FUN AT LAW DAY THIS YEAR. THERE WERE PLENTY OF EXCELLENT QUESTIONS ASKED BY THE STUDENTS THAT SHIFTED THE CONVERSATION IN THE DIRECTION OF TOPICS THAT INTERESTED EACH CLASS.”

If interested, complete the registration form below. The bar association can provide lesson ideas, including video clips and discussion starters, student giveaways, and tips on handling your classroom visits. You can speak on the topic of the ABA theme or select your own topic. And you can visit the school on your own or we can pair you with another bar association member.

To volunteer, register online at www.westbar.org/lawday, email westbar.org@westbar.org, or return the form below via fax (724-834-6855) or mail TODAY.

YES! SIGN ME UP FOR LAW DAY!
To volunteer for Law Day 2019, register online at www.westbar.org/lawday, email westbar.org@westbar.org, or return this form via fax (724-834-6855) or mail to Westmoreland Bar Association, 129 N Pennsylvania Ave, Greensburg PA 15601, TODAY.

Name ____________________________

Phone (preferred) ______________________ Email ______________________

School/School District Preference ______________________ Grade(s) Preference ______________________

Availability (weekdays in April/May) ______________________ Times ______________________


Mike Ferguson's 18th Annual Auto Accident and Personal Injury Update
— LIVE — 2 Substantive Available

Topics of Discussion:

1. Significant Case Law Developments
2. A Practical review of Pennsylvania’s Fair Share Act and Joint and Several Liability
3. Updated Subrogation issues and strategies in Personal Injury Cases
4. Tips for building and growing a successful Personal Injury Practice in 2020

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

April 11, 2019 Mike Ferguson's 18th Annual Auto Accident and Personal Injury Update

Name: _________________________________
Attorney ID #: _______________________
Phone _________________________________

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

____Bill my ___MasterCard ___VISA ___DISCOVER for
$____________________ (Amount).

Card # _________________________________
Expiration Date _________________________ 3-digit code ___

Credit Card Billing Address ________________________________

Pre-Registration Fees
___ WBA Members $35 per credit hour ($70)
___ Non-Members $55 per credit hour ($110)
___ CJE Credit - Free

Non-Credit:
___ $10
___ 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 10, 2019.
**Wednesday**  
**April 17, 2019**  
**WBA Headquarters**  
9 am - 2:15 pm

**Seminar Fees:**  
**PRE-REGISTRATION:**  
(Must be prepaid & received at the WBA office by 12:00 pm April 16, 2019)  
CLE Credit  
WBA Members - $35 per credit hr.  
Non-Members - $55 per credit hr.

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

**WALK-IN:**  
CLE Credit  
WBA Members - $45 per credit hr.  
Non-Members - $55 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@westbar.org

**Session 1 — 1.5 Substantive Credits**  
9:00 am – 10:30 am (Video from 2/14/19)  
A Review of Significant Changes to Pa. DUI Law in 20191  
2. Changes in License Suspensions and Licensing alternatives.  
   **Speakers:**  
   *Timothy C. Andrews, Esquire*  
   *Michael D. Ferguson, Esquire*

**Session 2 — 1 Ethics Credit**  
10:45 am – 11:45 am (Video from 2/27/19)  
Marketing Your Law Practice - Tips & Trends for Effective Online Presence  
*Marketing your Law Firm in today's world*  
*Tips to responding to negative reviews online.*  
   **Speakers:**  
   *Mike Beitcher*  
   FindLaw  
   *Mark Melago*  
   Find Law

**Session 3 — 1 Substantive Credit**  
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm (Video from 1/29/19)  
Addiction Treatment and the Court System: Working Together to Change a Community  
2. How substance abuse impacts individuals contact with the legal system.  
3. The importance of helpings navigate the legal system while balancing personal responsibility.  
   **Speakers:**  
   *Toni Antonucci, MSW, LSW*  
   Clinician & Community Liaison at Strive Health of Greensburg  
   *Jennifer Herbert, LPC*  
   Program Director at Strive Health of Greensburg

**Session 4 — 1 Ethics Credit**  
1:15 pm – 2:15 pm (Video from 2/27/19)  
Apps for Attorneys: Panel Discussion  
A technology update focused on some of the most recent computer and smartphone applications that can be used by attorneys to provide more effective representation, streamline office procedures, calendaring, planning, and file/document storage and retention. It also incorporates elements of best practices for using these technologies.  
   **Speakers:**  
   *Daniel Joseph, Esquire*  
   George & Joseph  
   *George C. Miller, Jr., Esquire*  
   Skala Miller, PLLC

**April 17, 2019 Video Compliance CLE**

**Name:** __________________________  
**Attorney I.D. #** __________________  
**Phone:** ______________

**Pre-Registration Fees**  
CLE Credit:  
___ WBA Members - $35 per credit hour  
___ Non-Members - $55 per credit hour

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

**Sign me up for:**  
___ Session 1 – 1.5 Substantive credits  
___ Session 2 – 1 Ethics credit  
___ Session 3 – 1 Substantive credit  
___ Session 4 – 1 Ethics credit  
___ Enclosed is my check made payable to the Westmoreland Bar Association.  
Bill my ___ MasterCard ___ VISA ___ DISCOVER for $____________________(Amount).  
Card # __________________________  
Expiration Date ____________ 3-digit code ________

**Credit Card Billing Address**  
__________________________________________  
__________________________________________  
__________________________________________

To qualify for pre-registration, please return this form and your payment to the WBA Office, 129 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601, **by 12:00 pm April 16, 2019**.
The training will focus on describing and defining human trafficking as it pertains to U.S. law, and throughout the training participants will learn how human trafficking presents itself in Westmoreland County. By the end of the training, attendees will also be able to recognize traffickers' tactics for recruitment of victims, and why victims may not report human trafficking.

Finally, participants will be given the skills for how to work with a client who you suspect is a victim of trafficking.

**Speaker:**
*Abigail Scanga Blackburn*
Outreach Counselor/Advocate

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**May 1, 2019 Human Trafficking: What Attorneys Should Know**

| Name: _________________________________ |
| Attorney ID #: ______________________ |
| Phone _________________________________ |

**Pre-Registration Fees**
- WBA Members $35 per credit hour
- Non-Members $55 per credit hour
- CJE Credit - Free

**Non-Credit:**
- $10
- 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 30, 2019.

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

- Bill my ___MasterCard ___VISA ___DISCOVER for
  $____________________ (Amount).

- Card # _____________________________

- Expiration Date _____________ 3-digit code _____

- Credit Card Billing Address ________________________________

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**Seminar Fees:**

**PRE-REGISTRATION:**
(Must be prepaid & received at the WBA office by 12 pm April 30, 2019.)

**CLE Credit**
- WBA Members - $35 per credit hr.
- Non-Members - $55 per credit hr.

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

**WALK-IN:**
- CLE Credit
  - WBA Members - $45 per credit hr.
  - Non-Members - $55 per credit hr

**Non-Credit**
- $20
- 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.
Topics of Discussion:
1. The role that stress, anxiety and depression play in the daily life of an attorney.
2. What members can and should be doing to help impaired colleagues.
3. Mindfulness for overall lawyer wellness.
4. Explanation of what a typical call to the LCL Helpline "looks" like.
5. Free services provided to lawyers, judges, their family members and law students.

We hope to alleviate some of the fear that surrounds picking up the phone to ask LCL for advice or help for themselves or someone they know.

Speaker:
*Brian S. Quinn, Esquire
Education and Outreach Coordinator for LCL

May 23, 2019 Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Impaired Lawyers (...but were afraid to ask.)

Name: _________________________________
Attorney ID #: _________________
Phone _________________________________

Pre-Registration Fees
___ WBA Members $35 per credit hour
___ Non-Members $55 per credit hour
___ CJE Credit - Free

Non-Credit: ___ FREE

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 May 22, 2019.

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

___Bill my ___MasterCard ___VISA ___DISCOVER for

$ ________________ (Amount).

Card # ________________________________
Expiration Date ____________________ 3-digit code ______
Credit Card Billing Address ____________________________

Thursday,
May 23, 2019
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
WBA Headquarters

Seminar Fees:
PRE-REGISTRATION:
(Must be prepaid & received at the WBA office by 12 pm May 22, 2019.)
CLE Credit
WBA Members - $35 per credit hr.
Non-Members - $55 per credit hr.

Non-Credit
FREE

WALK-IN:
CLE Credit
WBA Members - $45 per credit hr.
Non-Members - $55 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

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.
Westmoreland Bar Association’s 56th Annual Memorial Service
Westmoreland County Courthouse
Courtroom #3

Thursday, May 23, 2019
at 3:00 pm

In remembrance of:
- Steven R. Allias
- Edgar P. Herrington, Jr.
- Richard Louis Jim
- George H. Love, Jr.
- Thomas E. Rodgers

Kindly notify the bar office in advance if you intend to share a special memory.

Following the service, a complimentary reception will be held at the Rialto Event Room.

2019 WBA Memorial Service Registration

Fax 724-834-6855 or Return to WBA
129 North Pennsylvania Avenue
Greensburg, PA 15601

[Signature] I will attend the Memorial Service on Thursday, May 23, 2019 at 3 pm in Courtroom #3.

Name (please print) __________________________________________________