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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
WESTMORELAND BAR ASSOCIATION
VOLUME XXXV, NUMBER 4
NOVEMBER 2023

Westmoreland's Own Lean In and Lead

The Hon. Michele Bononi Appointed to Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

by Joyce Novotny-Prettiman, Esq.

The Honorable Michele G. Bononi has been appointed to serve on the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC). The commission was established in 1959 and consists of nine members. Nominated by Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Debra Todd, Judge Bononi was appointed by Governor Josh Shapiro to serve a three-year term.

The JCJC is responsible for:¹

- Advising juvenile courts concerning the proper care and maintenance of delinquent and dependent children;
- Establishing standards governing the administrative practices and judicial procedures used in juvenile courts;
- Establishing personnel practices and employment standards used in probation offices;
- Collecting, compiling, and publishing juvenile court statistics; and

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Amy DeMatt Elected President of the Pennsylvania Association of Court Management

by Caitlin Bumar, Esq.

This summer, our own Westmoreland County District Court Administrator Amy Mears DeMatt was elected the 2023-24 President of the Pennsylvania Association of Court Management (PACM). Amy has been Westmoreland County's Court Administrator since 2014, and has been an active member of the PACM since that time. Amy was sworn in as President at the June PACM meeting by her brother, The Hon. Scott O. Mears. She is excited to take on this responsibility, and I spoke with her about the history of the association and her plans for its future.

The PACM has two important functions: educational and social. Founded in 1989, the PACM provided the first opportunity for Court Administrators in all sixty judicial districts in the Commonwealth to meet, exchange ideas, and collaborate on any significant scale. Meeting topics range from AOPC updates and educational workshops to new-member mentorship programs and themed social nights.

The PACM comprises numerous committees which focus on varied aspects of court administration such as caseload management, jury utilization, and accessible technology in the courts. Westmoreland County's

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¹ See <https://www.jjc.ppa.gov/About>.

President's Message

Engagement Key to Outreach

by Maureen Kroll, Esq.

It continues to be an honor to serve as your President. The Board of Directors are engaged, enthusiastic, and committed to making our Association the best it can be. When you are at a point in your career when you have time to serve in Bar leadership, I strongly encourage you to do so as this was one of the best decisions I made.

In this article, I want to outline the goals and actions already taken to advance our Bar Association in a

direction of outreach and focus on the needs of our members.

Realizing that our committees and the Chairs of those committees are central to the viability and growth of our organization, our Board proposes the following recommendations:

- Conduct at least quarterly meetings.
- Present one CLE program per year, either a Lunch & Learn or a more in-depth seminar.
- If the budget permits, offer a stipend for the substantive committee Chairs to attend a major CLE in their discipline.
- Provide assistance with the execution of and participation in the Pro Bono clinics.
- Have committee Chairs participate in the CCBL if slots are not filled by Board members.
- Submit a report of the committee's past year's work for the annual meeting.
- Have Chairs increase participation through one-on-one reaching out, especially to younger lawyers and new members of the committee.
- Continue the hybrid meetings, offering a Zoom alternative for participation.



The inaugural meeting of the Women In Law Committee was held at my home in August. Audrey Rockett-Collins, founder and Head Stylist of Flourish, in Verona, talked to us about defining our style and gave great information. It was a wonderful evening, not only because of the speaker, but just to be in the presence of strong and compassionate women. All women lawyers are on this committee, so I hope to see you at the next event.

Along with financial assistance from the Westmoreland Bar Foundation, our Board approved a new hire for the Westmoreland Bar Association. Crystal Beers joined us in mid-October as our new Legal Services Coordinator (*see below*). One of our missions is to provide assistance in our county

to those who may not have the financial resources to obtain legal care. Therefore, Crystal will coordinate *pro bono* clinics in custody, landlord/tenant, pardons, license restoration, bankruptcy, wills, and Wills for Heroes, and will also administer the Lawyer Referral Service (LRS).

The LRS program generates significant income for our Association, but with a more watchful eye, even more income can be generated. The program will grow as we seek grant money, alliances with our county colleges for legal interns, and a partnership within a university for law school students.

Fees for advertising notices in the Law Journal have not increased for decades until now. This is also a

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Welcome, Crystal Beers

The Westmoreland Bar Association's Board of Directors, the Westmoreland Bar Foundation's Board of Trustees, and Executive Director Alahna O'Brien are pleased to extend a very warm welcome to our new Legal Services Coordinator, Crystal Beers. Crystal joined the WBA in mid-October and shares some introductory comments below:

I am honored to have been chosen to lead the Lawyer Referral Program for the Westmoreland Bar Association.

Prior to starting at the Bar Association, I had been the Business Development Manager for a local manufacturing company. I plan to use that experience to help grow the Lawyer Referral Service and strengthen our outreach to members of the community. We have many exciting things in the works that I think will make a positive impact on our local Westmoreland County residents, and I am thrilled to be a part of it!

In my personal life, I have three young boys, a husband, and two dogs who keep me busy. As a family, we enjoy taking long weekend trips, going to concerts, and testing out new recipes from around the world.

I look forward to working with Alahna, Susan, Dana, and the members of Westmoreland Bar Association. ■

Remembering Sam Rosenzweig

M. Samuel Rosenzweig passed away on July 19, 2023, at his home in Henderson, Nev., at the age of 71. A member of the WBA for 37 years until his retirement in 2017, he is survived by his wife of almost 48 years, Karen; two daughters, Shoshana Rosenzweig, of Pasadena, Calif., and Mira Rosenzweig, of Hackensack, N.J.; brother, Edwin Rosenzweig (Shirley); two nieces, Heather Cohen and Rebecca Yaffe; and nephew, Seth Rosenzweig. Memorials may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation or your local humane society.

by Peggy Hooker, Esq.

Martin Samuel Rosenzweig was born in McKeesport, Pa., on February 18, 1952. His friends, and colleagues in the Westmoreland County community, knew him as "Sam." We knew him as an animated and passionate guy. He was passionate about his family (including his dogs), his religious faith, and his commitment to providing legal services to the people who could least afford them and who often seemed to get the proverbial "short end of the stick" in life. The legal community in Greensburg will remember Sam's decades of service as first staff attorney and then managing attorney of the Greensburg office of Laurel Legal Services, Inc. He had a special affinity for working with the elderly and developed expertise in elder law, served on the Elder Law Committee of the WBA, and worked closely with the Area Agency on Aging to provide free legal services to the elderly.

Sam attended McKeesport High School and obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh Law School in 1977. Before devoting his life to legal aid for the indigent, Sam worked

briefly as an attorney for a big insurance company in Philadelphia (which will remain nameless). The tragic case of the death of a young child in an accident at a funeral home convinced him that he was working for an employer whose values were so antithetical to his own that he could

“He was passionate about his family (including his dogs), his religious faith, and his commitment to providing legal services to the people who could least afford them and who often seemed to get the proverbial ‘short end of the stick’ in life.”

not continue in their employ. The parents of the deceased child in this case were poor, naïve, and poorly educated, the stereotypical country mice in the big city. The funeral home clearly was guilty of negligence that led to the child's death. The people at the insurance company who were in charge of deciding what kind of offer of



settlement to make to the family, saying that \$10,000 would be seen by this family as a king's ransom, dispatched Sam to the home of the grieving parents with instructions to make that offer and to make it sound good. Sam rightly believed that the case was "worth" many multiples of that amount. He went to the family's home and told them what he had been sent to offer them but subtly communicated to them his own disdain for the offer. He was relieved that they turned it down, and he started looking for another job. Fortunately, the job he found with legal aid turned out to be one to which he could devote himself with pride and passion.

Sam was a talented attorney and a zealous advocate for his clients. He was also a good teacher and mentor to the other less experienced attorneys and interns who worked at or passed through Laurel Legal Services. When I came to Pennsylvania after several years as staff attorney at a legal aid program in Tennessee and began working at LLS, I relied often on Sam to bring me up to speed on Pennsylvania law and

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the sidebar

the sidebar is published bimonthly as a service for members of the Westmoreland Bar Association. Letters to the Editor should be sent c/o WBA, 100 North Maple Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601-2506, fax 724-834-6855, or e-mail westbar.org@westbar.org. *the sidebar* welcomes submissions from members or non-members. Please submit to the Articles Editor, c/o WBA.

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Remembering Sam Rosenzweig *continued from page 3*

procedure. When the idea of starting a formal pro bono program in the county gained traction, Sam worked hard to get it started and to keep it going. Sam also helped to write Pennsylvania's first draft of the "Lemon Law."

Sam could sound fierce when arguing with an unreasonable opposing counsel or when counseling his own clients when they did something stupid. We other staff attorneys could sometimes hear him down the hall scolding a client with, "Well, whose fault is that?" Those conversations would often, to our amusement, be followed by an afternoon call to check in with his loving wife or two lovable daughters, where the lilt in his voice and the love in his tone were palpable and furnished quite the contrast.

I was fortunate to have a close relationship with Sam. I lived in Pittsburgh, and he lived in Plum. After I worked at LLS for a while, we started to carpool. I would drive to Plum, and we would take turns from day to day driving the rest of the way to and from work together. I enjoyed those drives

very much. Sam and I would often continue office case review meeting talk in the car or exchange ideas on how to proceed in our more difficult cases. I valued his opinion and advice very much.

Both of us were animated in our work by an underlying religious faith that valued justice and protection of the powerless. That often led us into rich theological discussions and exploration of scripture. As a Christian, I was deeply aware of the great debt that my faith owed to his Jewish faith, and we had enlightening and enlivening discussions about our theological common roots. We each respected the other's sincerity of belief, though I think Sam would have liked to see me convert to Judaism.

I got to know Sam and his loving wife, Karen, and his daughters, Shoshana and Mira, and their big golden Labrador retriever (who we liked to call "son of Sam" because he treated that dog with the affection of a father). Sam and Karen treated me and my husband and son like family. We

were even invited to dinners at Karen's parents' house in Squirrel Hill. We invited each other to dinners in our homes and at restaurants and other venues, and we each hosted office parties at our homes. Karen is a fabulous cook. Some of my fondest memories are of sharing Seder and Shabbat meals with the Rosenzweigs. It was an honor and a blessing to be included as though we were family and to be invited to the bat mitzvahs of his daughters. I was sad when, a few years after Sam's retirement, the Rosenzweigs moved to Nevada to be closer to Shoshi, who works in Hollywood. I had not seen them in a few years—though they had invited us to visit them—when I learned the sad news of Sam's sudden death of a heart attack, contributed to by a sudden drop in blood glucose level related to Type I diabetes and high blood pressure, and a recently acquired rhinovirus. I am sorry that I did not have the chance to say goodbye to a dear friend. My deepest sympathies go to Karen, Sam's wife of nearly 48 years, and to Shoshi and Mira. ■

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Remembering Deborah L. Jackson

Deborah L. Jackson passed away on July 29, 2023, at the age of 70. A member of the WBA for 20 years prior to her retirement, she is survived by her sister, Kim Hylander (Steven) of Woodbridge, Va.; two nieces, Tomicka Jackson-George (Brett) of Piney Point, Md., and Brittany Hylander of Aurora, Colo., and several cousins. Memorial donations may be made in her honor to the Rheumatoid Arthritis Foundation.

by Pamela Neiderhiser, Esq.

When I was asked to write about Debbie, I was both honored and quite truthfully a little unnerved. I find myself already becoming a little teary-eyed. Debbie was by far the nicest person I ever had the pleasure to know and an incredible friend. Her passing still hits me quite hard at times.

A lot can be said about Debbie's many years of legal service in Westmoreland County. She was an Assistant Public Defender and a solo practitioner. She helped countless numbers of people navigate the legal system—a job that at times can be thankless, but she always continued on, determined to do her best.

I, however, prefer to write about the friend I knew. Debbie knew how to enjoy life. She knew that the ingredients to a good life are simple: family, friends, and faith. It was not unusual to see Debbie and me sharing lunch or dinner on a regular basis. Together we could find humor in just about anything and enjoyed talking about our families. Add in a beer or a good glass of wine and the two of us could talk for hours.

We were both raised in families that looked at dinner time as a time for family to not only eat together but to talk about the events of the day. It was a time when family members forged strong bonds sharing food and faith. I think we owed the length and strength of our friendship to the time we spent talking over a meal. I even feel comfortable saying that Debbie would agree with me.

“Debbie was by far the nicest person I ever had the pleasure to know and an incredible friend. Her passing still hits me quite hard at times.”

Debbie had a great deal of love for her family and she had an incredible bond with her mother and nieces. The stories she would tell about their adventures together were both comical and heartfelt. Debbie also talked about the trips she took with family, the parties they had, and the holidays spent with them. She would light up talking about her nieces; so much so that you would think that she was talking about her own children. After all, she treated her nieces as if they were her own. She even bought a wedding dress for one niece. She loved them so much and talked about them so often that I felt that I knew each of them long before I ever got to meet them. I saw them at Debbie's memorial service and found out that she talked



about me to them almost as much as she talked about them to me. We were able to share some laughs and embrace each other as family because of our connection to Debbie.

Debbie's closest relationship was the one she had with her mother. The two of them were absolute peas in a pod. They loved and appreciated every minute that they spent together—even when they would argue, like a parent and a child sometimes do. Watching the two of them interact, laughing and joking, you couldn't help but feel good. When my grandmother passed away, Debbie and her mother showed up at my parents' house with food. They had my parents laughing and feeling better in no time at all.

It was always clear to me that Debbie got her humor and compassion from the woman that raised her. When Debbie's mom became ill, Debbie did not complain about taking care of her mother. She took on the additional responsibility with compassion and understanding and with a bit of her trademark wit. We weren't able to get together as much during this time, but whenever we did she was quick to ask about every member of my family, even my beloved dog. She wanted to make sure we were all doing well. That was just who Debbie was. Those of us who knew Debbie well, knew that she did not ever recover from the passing of her mother. The loss she felt was

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The Westmoreland Bar Association's
60th Annual
Memorial Service
will be held at the
Westmoreland County Courthouse
on May 22, 2024, at 3 p.m.
Please plan on joining us
to honor our colleagues.

Remembering Deborah L. Jackson

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something that just never really healed. Debbie's faith kept her strong but we know she missed her mother's friendship and companionship. That loss affected Debbie in a profound way. It took away a little of Debbie's spark. Thankfully it didn't take it all.

Debbie also suffered for years from her own health issues. Each passing year brought her more physical pain and discomfort. Whether it be in her hands, her back, or other parts of her body, Debbie kept going. She still came to work, still helped her mother, still helped people in her community, and still helped her friends. Debbie was strong in her faith and she persevered because of that strength. She believed that she had a purpose in life and strived to fulfill that purpose. She also knew that God would not give her more pain than she could handle and that one day he would take it all away.

At least now I and her family and friends find comfort in knowing she is no longer in pain.

Looking back over this writing, I hope it properly memorializes such a good friend. I would hate to do an injustice to Debbie. She would have wanted me to keep it short and she would not want me to feel sad about her passing. She would want me to smile and laugh about the many years of an incredible friendship.

So, I will end this with the following: Debbie had an incredible ability to always be in a hurry but never on time for anything, whether it was court, family functions, or a get-together with friends. She loved going to the movies and the two of us went to a countless number of movies together through the years. And yes, she was late for each and every movie we went to see. It used to drive me crazy.

One nice summer afternoon I found myself waiting again for Debbie outside a movie theater. With the start time fast approaching I had just decided to go inside and get seats, just like I had to do many times before, when I saw her coming—Debbie in her little black Mercedes convertible. She had the top down and was wearing a big straw hat. She waved, like royalty, as she drove by me with a huge smile on her face. When she got out of the car, she had an explanation for her lateness that I've long since forgotten. I, however, have not forgotten her waving at me with that big smile, wearing that straw hat. In fact, I think that's how I always want to remember her. That picture in time was Debbie. A picture of life well-lived and enjoyed because she had family, friends, and faith. No wonder it didn't bother her that she was never on time. ■



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Engagement Key to Outreach

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significant source of income for our Association. Finally, the rental of our rooms at our state-of-the-art building is flourishing. Members, non-members, and Hearing Officers (formerly Masters) are using our spaces at a record pace, generating a healthy revenue source.

Future plans include obtaining an AED device (heart defibrillator) and offering CPR courses; making our website ADA compliant; and continuing to help our members with succession planning.

Our Board has many more ideas to recognize our members and enhance the benefits of membership by supporting the plans of the Wellness Committee and the Pennsylvania Bar Association goal of work/quality of life balance.

Let us hear from you. Suggestions to improve the work we are doing are always welcome and needed. As always, I am grateful to serve this outstanding Association. ■

Sincerely,

Maureen Kroll

Remembering Law Librarian Betty Ward

Elizabeth (Betty) Ward passed away in Columbus, Ohio, on August 11, 2023, at the age of 71. An avid book lover since she was a child, Betty spent her career as a librarian, dutifully serving as the Westmoreland County Law Librarian for 32 years. Preceded in death by her husband, John Patrick Ward; and sister-in-law, Doreen Ward, she is survived by her daughter, Meghan VanCleve (Rob) of Columbus, Ohio; her sister, Phyllis Jones (Bob) of Pittston, Pa.; brother, Edward (Debbie) of Fredericksburg, Va.; sisters-in-law, Kathleen Ward and Maryanne Bragg, and brothers-in-law, Jamie Ward (Maggie) and Marty Ward (Cathie), as well as several nieces, nephews, and many friends. Memorial donations may be made in her honor to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

by Rebecca K. Fenoglietto, Esq.

The year was 19-never-you-mind and, having finished my first year in law school, I was going to intern for The Hon. Daniel Ackerman. My father was a county solicitor at the time and he was showing me around the courthouse. Right away he took me to meet the person he said was the most important person at the courthouse. And it wasn't the judge. It was Betty Ward.

Betty Ward, who held court as the director of the law library for 32 years, passed away at the age of 71 on August 11, 2023. She leaves behind her loving family and many adoring colleagues.

Jason Greenwald has been the director of the county's law library since March 2023 and knew Betty when he was in the records management department. Betty, he recalls, sent him emails of topics she thought he'd be interested in. "She loved to give out information," he says.

Assistant Librarian Pam Snyder worked with Betty for six years and remembers that "Betty was very helpful, such a wealth of information. She got joy out of sharing her knowledge. There wasn't anything she didn't know the location of as far as resources. And if there was a case or information that wasn't obviously available, she would dig and dig and dig until she found it."

Pam says that her willingness to help extended to everyone, be it attorneys,

courthouse personnel, or public patrons who came to her in search of answers. "She helped them all the same, and would find the best information she could."

“Betty was very helpful, such a wealth of information. She got joy out of sharing her knowledge ... She never made you feel like you should know something already. She just directed you to where you should find it.”

Thirty-two years ago, when Betty was hired as the Law Librarian, online legal research wasn't used, or if it was, it was in its infancy. Legal research was cracking open Purdons, casebooks, and the like. But Betty leaned right in once research went online. "Betty used both," explains Pam. "When she had a query she might start with the books to get a head start but went online as well. People still like the books. In fact there are still attorneys who prefer the books over the computers. Of course, there are always the PBI yellow books; Betty always made sure we were up-to-date with those."



"She was just a joy and a delight to work with," says Pam. "Very caring, and she also had a professional demeanor, but it was a caring demeanor that influenced her professional demeanor. She just had the right 'librarian' attitude." Betty, she says, loved engaging in conversation with attorneys she knew, and was very patient. "She never made you feel like you should know something already. She just directed you to where you should find it."

One of the attorneys who appreciated the fact that Betty never made her feel like she should know something is Mary Baloh. "I was always there," laughs Mary. "Because I never knew what I doing."

Betty was a saint, says Mary. "She wanted to help everyone. What a team she and Pam were. You'd come in, she would put everything down, all of her books, and come help you. She (and Pam) gave great answers. And they'd email you with more information even after you left the library. Every time you went in there, you'd walk out smarter."

"It's a great library," says Mary. "We're very blessed. We were so very lucky to have her. She was just perfect."

Larissa McGrew clerks for Judge Michele Bononi. As such, she has the opportunity to train new clerks and the first place she takes them is—you guessed it—the law library.

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Remembering Betty Ward *continued from page 7*

"Law librarians are under-utilized. People don't realize what they know," Larissa says.

Larissa recalls one of many episodes where she relied on Betty. "I was writing a brief on a dram shop case and I needed the legislative notes on the Dram Shop Act. I searched for the better part of two days and then called Betty. She had them emailed to me in five minutes. She was an amazing person. When she saw things that she thought I might need for anything, she would send me articles, or new rule changes, with the note: 'Hey, this made me think of you.'"

Betty would always get you what you needed, but would also follow up. "She was one step ahead," says Larissa. "When I was in law school, we learned both online research and how to use the books. But of course I didn't really use the books, so when I went to the library, Betty would pull out books for me 'so I don't have to watch you

wander around,' she would say. I called her my 'knowledge dealer.'"

Going further, people don't realize the extent of the reach of law librarians, Larissa says. It's a network. When, for example, Larissa left Beaver County to clerk in Westmoreland County, the Beaver County librarian, also named Betty, contacted Betty Ward to let her know Larissa was coming and asked her to take care of her. And, says Larissa, they would consult each other for information.

Like Mary, Larissa says that no matter what the questions, Betty never once made her feel bad or feel less of an attorney. "I could go down there with any problem and she never made me feel bad about needing help. As a clerk, we have lots being thrown at us at one time and I never once felt that she thought less of me. She made me a better clerk. She made people better, whoever she worked with." ■



The Westmoreland County Law Library is being renamed in honor of Betty Ward at a dedication ceremony on Friday, April 12, 2024, at Noon.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.



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- Metallurgical Analysis
- Review of Construction Documents
- Scope/Cost of Repair
- Period of Construction



Spotlight on David Pohland

Q WHAT JOBS HAVE YOU HELD PRIOR TO BEING AN ATTORNEY?

A Unloading box cars, repairing electric motors, and servicing and installing air conditioning.

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

A Listening to the John Pollins Reclining Chair Closing to the jury (using



the rail as a footstool); hearing the Al Nichols story when he asked the condemned what was his name and the answer was \$40,000.00; and being introduced to Galloway.

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

A Honesty.

Q WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE JOURNEY?

A My annual trip to Alaska to visit my brother, his children, grandchildren, and his friends.

Q WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST REGRET?

A I have never been to Montana or Wyoming.

Q WHO ARE YOUR HEROES IN REAL LIFE?

A After my parents and wife, Winston Churchill, Harry S. Truman, Ronald Reagan, Volodymyr Zelensky, and Joe Paterno.

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

A Spend enough time listening to your clients and all others.

Q WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE YOU EVER GOT?

A If it doesn't sound fair to you, it probably won't sound fair to a Judge, therefore, file a Petition in Equity—A.C. Scales, 1974.

Q WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

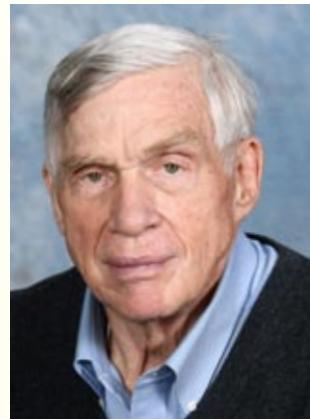
A Good results for clients.

Q WHEN AND WHERE WERE YOU HAPPIEST?

A Boarding the plane in Vietnam on November 11, 1968, and being discharged from the Army at 5:17 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on November 12.

Q WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?

A Family, friends, faith, and my 1987 tri-tone Plymouth.



Q WHAT IS IT THAT YOU MOST DISLIKE?

A Dishonesty.

Q WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?

A Amaretto Disaronno and pierogies from St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Uniontown.

Q WHAT TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

A Electrician.

Q WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST IN YOUR FRIENDS?

A Loyalty.

Q WHAT OTHER CAREER WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEMPT?

A Stand-up comic.

Q WHAT IS YOUR MOTTO?

A I don't care what the weather is as long as I am around to see it. ■



Felicia A. DeVincentis

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underreview The Rule of Law Endangered

by Daniel J. Ackerman

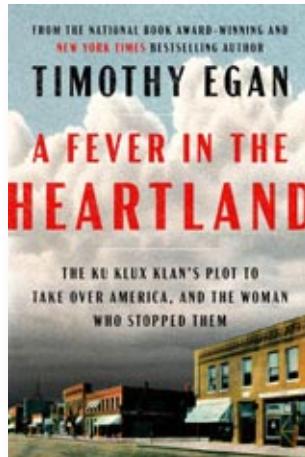
A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them, by Timothy Egan (Viking, 432 pages, 2023)

The privilege of practicing law comes with the implicit understanding that enforcement of the law and decisions handed down by the judicial system are untainted by political considerations or public approval.

If this separation between law and politics is ever disregarded by members of the bar and bench we will face the danger of reverting

back to one of the most little known and shameful chapters in our nation's history—where the Rule of Law became a meaningless phrase, as it did a hundred years ago with the reemergence of the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana and a number of other states.

The Klan originated in former Confederate states after the Civil War. Its goal was to terrorize former slaves with threats and acts of violence in order to keep them from voting and generally to "put them in their place." Yet, after several decades of atrocities its influence and power began to wane. After the First World War, however, there was a resurgence of the Klan, particularly in states north of the Ohio River.



Yet, there were notable distinctions between the old Klan of the South and the new chapters formed in the northern states in the 1920s. The targets and victims of the former southern Klan were African-Americans. In the new resurgent Klan, their hate was expanded to include Catholics, Jews, and recent immigrants from Europe and Asia, none of whom, because of their ethnicity or religion, could pass the Klan's test as pure-blooded Americans.

In the old South, Klansmen would only don their white sheets and hoods at night when carrying out their nocturnal violence. During the day their ridiculous costumes were packed away and their identity was unknown. Twentieth century Klansmen were more brazen, often participating in holiday parades in full regalia. During the summer of 1925 they marched 25 abreast down Pennsylvania Avenue in the nation's capital, faces unveiled and applauded by 200,000 spectators. An estimated 50,000 men and women (known as the Ku Klux Queens) paraded by, 90% of whom came from northern states, with the majority coming from Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Michigan. All of them had taken the oath: *I swear that I will most zealously and valiantly shield and preserve by any and all justifiable means and methods White Supremacy. I will seal with my blood by Thou my witness, Almighty God.*

Fifty years earlier, President Ulysses S. Grant had outlawed this same organization. Now, no official in Washington—including President Calvin Coolidge—uttered a word of condemnation.

The Klan had succeeded through acts of charity and support of community projects in softening their outward image while concealing their acts of terror. Yet they were open about their political ambition. In some areas 30-40% percent of the adult population were members of the Klan, with even more people buying into their platform which supported the prohibition of alcohol, the sanctity of marriage, and opposition to immigration.

The result was that many members were men and women of standing in the community, municipal and state office holders, members of the Protestant clergy, and law enforcement officers. Unfortunately, in addition there were lawyers, *continued on page 14*

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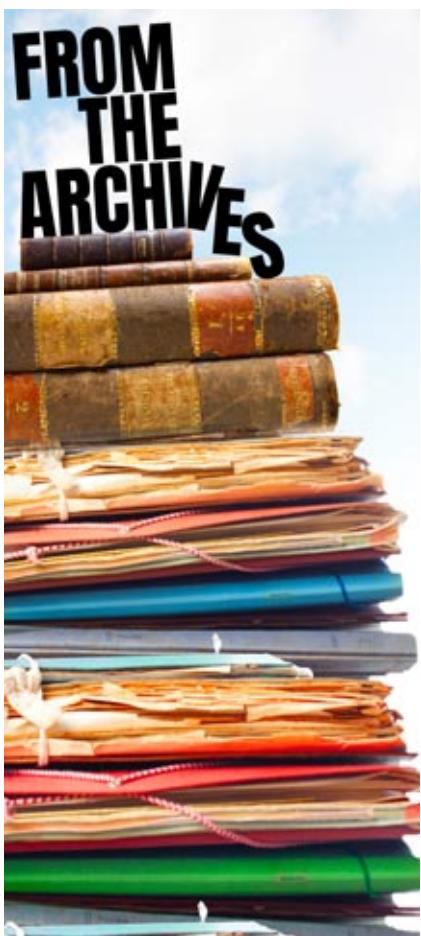
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Rediscovering a Most Remarkable Lawyer

Editor's note: Everyone has an archive of paper they go through from time to time—old files in a cabinet, scrapbooks filled with clippings and souvenirs, things preserved so long ago you may have forgotten why. Sometimes those papers end up in the recycling bin, but every so often, you come across a gem that is still worth keeping. Next time you find something interesting in your archives, let us know.

by Amy DeMatt, Esq.

In a recent conversation with Judge Feliciani, he mentioned his uncle who had been a lawyer in Greensburg prior to his death in 1995. I never had the opportunity to meet his uncle, Orlando Prosperi, but I knew older members of the bar and bench who had known him and who had more than a few stories about his remarkable life. He served as combat Marine during the Second World War and survived the battles of Peleliu and Okinawa in the Pacific theater. Later he received degrees from St. Vincent College and the law school at Notre Dame.

After a stint as a federal narcotics agent, who even went undercover as an inmate in a prison in Philadelphia, he became what can only be described as a fearless criminal defense lawyer who secured an impressive string of not guilty verdicts in homicide cases. And, as if that was not enough, he established a law practice in Rome which afforded him the opportunity to study and then enter into the Roman Catholic priesthood.

During the course of my conversation with Judge Feliciani, I learned of a letter that Senior Circuit Judge

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Rediscovering a Most Remarkable Lawyer

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Ruggero Aldisert, of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, wrote to the editor of the *Tribune-Review* after Orlando Prosperi's death; it appears below. I think you will appreciate this portrait of a man who was a study of contradictions, bold and humble, logical and spiritual, but above all, passionate about his many roles and his drive to help the downtrodden.

If this unusual letter piques your interest you can find even more information in "The Most Remarkable Lawyer We Ever Knew," which appears in two parts in the February and April 2007 issues of the *sidebar*, available online at westbar.org.

August 21, 1995

Dear Sir,

I was presiding in Criminal Courtroom No. 1 in the Court of Common Pleas in Allegheny County many years ago when a young lawyer from Greensburg appeared before me and in very deliberate formal cadence proclaimed: "This is the appointed hour for the return of the writ of habeas corpus that I filed for my

client. I look around the courtroom and I do not see his body." The lawyer was Orlando Prosperi, the distinguished lawyer-priest who died last week. It was the first time we had ever met and was the beginning of a friendship that spanned two continents for 30 years until his death last week.

When the District Attorney responded that the case had not been listed on the calendar, Orlando responded: "When King John signed the Magna Carta on Runnymede on June 15, 1215, he did not intend that the return of the Great Writ would be dependent on the scheduling whims of the District Attorney of Allegheny County. The Writ commands that the Commonwealth produce my client. That's what habeas corpus means: 'that you have the body.'" I was so impressed, or rather taken back, by the drama of his presentation, that



Orlando Prosperi's 1971
WBA photo.

I ordered the authorities to produce the defendant in my courtroom forthwith.

The courtroom was somewhat disrupted. But that became the hallmark of this man. He spent many years disrupting courtrooms. He was the most complex person I have ever known—part mystic, often given to the occult,

part scientific; terror of the criminal courtroom as a lawyer, quietly pious, ascetic and monastic as a priest.

In the years that followed we became good friends. I followed his career at the Westmoreland County bar and I know how he irritated my good friend and colleague, the late Judge Earl Keim. Judge Keim had appointed him as defense counsel in a murder case and during the trial he clashed often with the district attorney and the trial judge. The jury returned a verdict of "not guilty" and the judge discharged the defendant. He summoned defense counsel Prosperi to the bar however, and ticked off eight counts of contempt of court he had pronounced against him during the trial. After lengthy plea negotiations the attorney and the judge agreed on one count of contempt whereupon Judge Keim fined him \$100.00. Orlando then asked to approach the bench and avowed that inasmuch as the judge had appointed him, that it was a charity case and that the lawyer had no money, he asked: "Judge Keim, will you lend me \$100.00 and I will gladly pay the fine immediately." The Judge stormed off the bench.

Shortly after the death of his father, Orlando moved to Rome where he served as a legal consultant for a

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ABSTRACTS

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number of years, but throughout had an inner longing to become a priest. He told me that the first indication that this was his calling came to him when he was severely wounded as a U.S. Marine on Pelileu during World War II. He was a forward observer for an artillery company and was injured by "friendly fire," when a white phosphorus shell fell short. While going in and out of consciousness on the battlefield, he saw himself attired in the raiment and vestments of a priest. From 1944 to 1975 he had agonized over the choice of vocation.

Twenty years ago he made the decision to enter the seminary for delayed vocations at the Beda in Rome. My wife and I arranged to be in Rome on the day he entered the seminary. We accompanied him to the gates of the seminary, located across the way from the great St. Paul's Basilica, and during the ensuing years we often visited him.

His decision to enter the priesthood came as no surprise to his close friends. Although active in his practice on Via Ludovisi, in close proximity to the U.S. Embassy on the Via Veneto, he had many friends in the Church and in the Vatican. For six months he lived in San Giovanni Rotondo in Southern Italy where he attended mass every day to serve



The newly ordained Father Orlando Prosperi in Rome.

voluntarily the celebrated Capuchin priest, Padre Pio, he of the famous stigmata, to whom many have attributed miracles. When Orlando returned to Rome, he seemed determined to become a priest, and, moreover, to assume vows of poverty and charity. In time he was ordained a priest, was incardinated in a Sardinian diocese, but elected to have his first mass in Export, Pennsylvania. With his many friends we attended that very impressive ceremony.

He did not follow the traditional life of a priest. Under special arrangements with his Sardinian bishop he was not assigned to any parish, but performed informal liaison for his diocese and the Vatican. He worked with several Vatican congregations and religious orders, at the same time pursuing graduate courses eventually leading to a Canon Law degree. He was ultra conservative in Catholic dogma and in time became associated with

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Uniontown, PA – January 2023

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"Congratulations to Financial Advisors Melody Cole, Laura Williams, Mike Tetteris and Chris Filicky for receiving this prestigious recognition, which is a testament to their commitment to offer the highest standard of success in financial relationships. Melody, Laura, Mike and Chris represent the best of our industry," said Kevin Reed, Executive Vice President and President of Private Client Group

Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams ranking was developed by SHOOK Research and is based on in-person, virtual and telephone due diligence meetings and a ranking algorithm that includes: a measure of each team's best practices, client retention, industry experience, review of compliance records, firm nominations; and quantitative criteria, including: assets under management and revenue generated for their firms. Investment performance is not a criterion because client objectives and risk tolerances vary, and advisors rarely have audited performance reports. SHOOK's research and rankings provide opinions intended to help investors choose the right financial advisor and team, and are not indicative of future performance or representative of any one client's experience. Past performance is not an indication of future results. Neither Forbes nor SHOOK Research receive compensation in exchange for placement on the ranking.

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Rediscovering a Most Remarkable Lawyer

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Father Orlando Prosperi outside St. Mary's Church in Export on the occasion of his First Mass in 1975.

Father Candido of the Passionist Order, the official exorcist for the Rome diocese. The hard-boiled criminal lawyer had become an ultimate ethereal disciple of mysticism and psychic phenomena. To Father Prosperi piety and heartfelt prayer formed the quintessential solution to worldly problems.

Over the years we had many long philosophical discussions on law and religion, and often I noted an inner struggle between his desire to nurture the religious spirit and innate yearnings to return to clashes of the courtroom.

In later years he became afflicted with severe health problems and became susceptible to aneurysms. He had three serious operations, the last one in 1992, performed in Pittsburgh, having been almost a total disaster. Following the operation, he was in a coma for almost eight weeks and when he gained consciousness he was paralyzed on his right side and was totally debilitated. He gradually lost his eyesight, and for over five years he was a patient at St. Anne's Nursing Home in Greensburg until his death last week.

A sophisticated Roman cleric, extremely well known along the Eternal City's Via Veneto, he often spoke with endearing affection of life in Westmoreland County. It is fitting that last week it became his final resting place.

Sincerely,

RUGGERO J. ALDISERT

Chief Judge Emeritus,

U. S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit ■

The Rule of Law Endangered

continued from page 10

prosecutors, and judges who supervised one application of justice for the general public while winking at illegal acts of their fellow Klansmen and ignoring the harm and pain they caused. The Klan had in many states become a shadow government.

Mr. Eagan, a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and author, adroitly leads us through this fog of hate while focusing upon the life of D.C. Stevenson, a man of multiple identities. An avuncular looking salesman with a kindly smile and a knack for persuasion, he convincingly wrapped himself in the red, white, and blue, and had the ability to attract a large and loyal following. At the same time he nurtured and spread a passion for hate based on race, religion, and ethnicity. Seeing the same passion in others, he rode it to a position of power, becoming the Grand Dragon of the Klan in Indiana. In that capacity he was a "political puppeteer" controlling the state's officeholders, including the judiciary, both

appointed and elected, who could brag with confidence, "I am the law." Achieving personal wealth from funds raised for the Klan he harbored an ambition to occupy the White House. Yet, simultaneously, he was a "silken-voiced predator" who was a liar, drunkard, womanizer, and rapist.

Even if you have tried a hundred cases in court you will be taken aback by the evidence and trial of this man for murder at the conclusion of this gripping history. One has to wonder how so many people could have been attracted to and taken in by the Klan's vile message. Perhaps W.E.B. Du Bois, one of the founders of the NAACP, came close to the answer when he wrote, "behind the yelling, cruel-eyed demons who break, destroy, maim, lynch, and burn at the stake is a knot, large or small, of normal human beings, and these human beings at heart are desperately afraid of something." The fear it seems, for a substantial minority, may still be there. ■

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Associate U.S. Supreme Court Justice
Sonia Sotomayor, November 2002

Westmoreland Revisited

Westmoreland Homesteads

by Daniel J. Ackerman

Among the many and varied places which one can call home in our county—cities, towns, farms, apartments, mobile home parks, and retirement villages—a great many of us live in planned developments which began to proliferate after the end of the Second World War and continues unabated to the present day. Unlike many municipalities whose names have some historic or



meaningful origins, housing plans are often given pretentious names simply because they sound sophisticated or upscale, which may or may not be true.

I see one-third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished ...

— Franklin Roosevelt's second inaugural address

There is, however, one housing development which has such a unique history that it merited the installation of a roadside marker by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. It was originally known as Westmoreland Homesteads. Born out of the economic chaos of the Great Depression, it is symbolic of the New Deal's effort to relieve some of the hardships enumerated in Roosevelt's second inaugural address. On a personal level, Westmoreland Homesteads offered 250 families a

home, a community, and a new start in Mount Pleasant Township.

The seeds for this experiment to create homesteading opportunities for families of displaced workers—and it was an experiment—were sown in the private sector by the American Friends Service Committee, an organization established by the Quakers, and its secretary, Clarence Pickett, who had borne witness to the ravages the Depression had brought to the coalfields of Appalachia. An article by Pickett in the *New York Times* featuring the committee's ambitious plan was called to President Roosevelt's attention who then conferred with Pickett to discuss what, if any, federal assistance might be needed. The result was the inclusion of a \$25 million allocation in the National Industrial

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Westmoreland Homesteads

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Recovery Act of 1933 to create "subsistence homesteads" for dislocated American workers, along with Pickett's appointment as an administrator in the Division of Subsistence Homesteads. The goal was to create 99 homestead communities. By 1935, Westmoreland Homesteads was the fourth in existence, preceded by two in West Virginia and one in Tennessee.

The 1934 acquisition of 1,492 acres in Mount Pleasant Township by the federal government provided the site for 250 houses. These four- to six-room homes built on 772 acres, designed with dormer windows and porches, were on lots of 1.6 to 7 acres (large enough that families could grow food for themselves and the community). The remainder of the land was reserved for farming, barns, outbuildings, a post office, and space for community activities.

In the broadest sense, the act made any unemployed person eligible for a homestead. But as the act was administered, the focus was on workers "stranded by the abandonment of coal mines." In three years, 19 mines closed in Westmoreland County; 12 were in Mount Pleasant Township, and 80 percent of the lots contained in Westmoreland Homesteads were allocated to the families of miners.

The anticipated cost of the project here came to \$276,000. The president and his administration foresaw basic houses without the luxuries of electricity and running water, but the first lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, intervened and the ensuing one-and-a-half-story Cape Cod-style homes were equipped with indoor plumbing, a coal furnace, and electric lighting, along with an adjacent garage, chicken coop, and grape arbor. The program drew a number of



Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt en route to Washington, D.C., 1935.

detractors, decrying the public expense, who viewed it as nothing more than "socialism." The local press and most of the business community, likewise, were appalled. These opponents would have had to admit that during the Civil War, the Homestead Act of 1862 gave away government land in individual parcels of 160 acres conditioned upon the recipients building a residence and cultivating the land; but here the critics were aroused by the fact that the land grant—though minuscule in comparison to the nineteenth century allotment—contained a modernly equipped home. The fact that the plan is still used by subsequent generations perhaps testifies to the wisdom of

the planners in making the houses more livable for their initial occupants.

The selection process for these homesteaders consisted of an evaluation based on need, the size of the family, and work skills which would contribute to the construction and running of the whole community. Some 1,850 families from the surrounding coal towns applied, and 254 were chosen who represented a cross-section of the area's population.

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Fifteen percent were born abroad; the average household had five to six members; the average age of the wage earners was 39; and the family income was less than \$1,000 a year.

It was no free ride for those chosen, for the heads of each household were required to work a five-day week on the project. For three of those days they were paid \$4 to \$5 a day. The work on the other two days was credited toward the purchase of their home. A hired work force assisted and instructed the homesteaders who were also supported by Quaker and student volunteers. These costs were paid from a \$370,000 loan from the federal government. The goal of self-sufficiency was advanced by a farm covering 600 acres which produced meat, milk, vegetables, and grain. By 1939 the homesteaders could boast of a school, community center, garment factory, co-op store, barber shop, beauty parlor, and offices for doctors and dentists and other visiting health care providers supplied by the government. A nurse took up residence on the property and a biweekly newsletter was being published.

In May of 1937 Eleanor Roosevelt arrived at the Greensburg depot and declining a police escort drove a car to a gathering arranged for her at Westmoreland Homesteads where she spent the next three hours inspecting every aspect of the project and the well being of its residents. Later she described it in her daily newspaper column as, "a very remarkable piece of work." Two months later the community's newsletter, the *Homestead Informer*, announced a contest to provide a more suitable name for the community.



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Westmoreland Homesteads, now known as Norvelt, in 1936.

The name "Norvelt" was chosen, which is a combination of the last syllable of the First Lady's first and last names in honor of "the project's most enthusiastic patron."

What was materializing was much more than a housing plan, but rather a vibrant community where residents benefited from clubs and programs focused upon the arts (more of the First Lady's influence), gardening, housekeeping, cooking, athletics, music, and various crafts and hobbies.

The garment factory opened in 1938 in conjunction with a private corporation to provide a much needed economic stimulus for the community. In 1940 the factory obtained a government contract to manufacture 30,000 olive drab trousers for the army at 55¢ a pair, resulting in \$231,301 in sales during the first nine months of the year. By 1941 the factory employed 312 workers, most of whom were women; two-thirds were residents of Norvelt. Business continued during the post-war years until the factory was consumed by a fire in 1966.

Like the factory, the co-operative store and the farm are gone, though Norvelt continues to possess what can be described as a Norman Rockwell type version of rural America. As the authors of *Hope in Hard Times* aptly concluded:

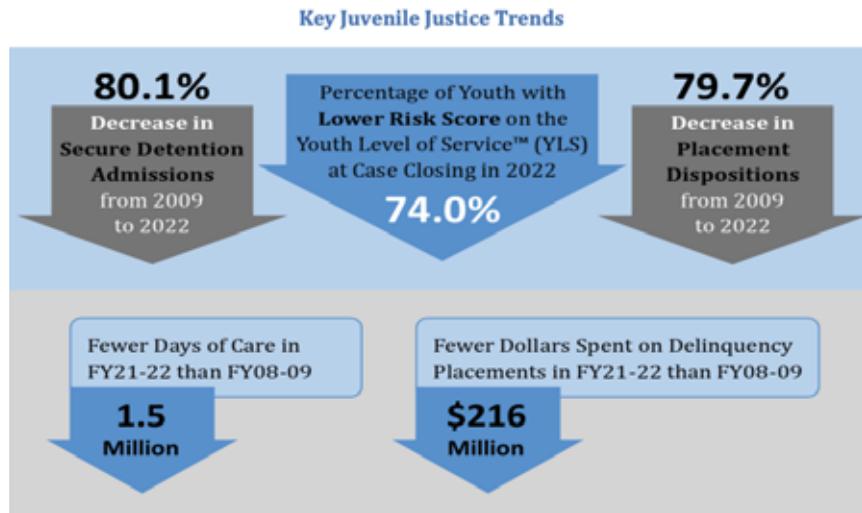
The example of Norvelt, which met with much skepticism and sharp resistance in the beginning and through much of its history, shows that in hard times of economic crisis and desperation, bold projects that offer work, dignity, community, and hope have been and can be imagined, planned, and attempted. And they can succeed. ■

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The Hon. Michele Bononi Appointed to Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

continued from page 1



Recent trends in the juvenile justice system, per the 2022 Juvenile Court Annual Report. See <https://www.jcjc.pa.gov/>.

- Administering a grant-in-aid program to improve county juvenile probation.

The JCJC provides juvenile justice personnel with information and training regarding current trends and issues on a state and national level. The Commission presents the annual James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice which was held this year in Harrisburg from November 1-3. It provides publications aimed at educating juvenile justice personnel and assisting them with their work. It also issues a newsletter on a monthly basis which covers significant issues about juvenile justice and child welfare matters and compiles statistics regarding the juvenile justice system. Additionally, the Commission is charged with compiling and publishing statistics used to efficiently administer the juvenile courts.

This past February, Judge Bononi also was appointed to serve as a member of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee for a six-year term.

By way of background, Judge Bononi graduated from Seton Hall

University, *magna cum laude*, where she earned a bachelor of arts degree in psychology before obtaining her juris doctorate at Ohio Northern University Claude W. Pettit School of Law. It is interesting to note that she was one of 20 women who graduated with a law school class of 150 students. Judge Bononi was first admitted to practice law in New Jersey and continues to maintain her membership in the New Jersey Bar Association, as well as the Pennsylvania and Westmoreland Bar Associations.

Judge Bononi also participates in the following legal organizations and boards:

- Westmoreland County's Juvenile Detention Board;
- Officer on the Board of Directors of the Juvenile Court of PA Conference of State Trial Judges Association;
- Technical Committee of the PA Conference of State Trial Judges Association; and
- President, Criminal Justice Advisory Board in Westmoreland County.

She is currently participating in the Ad Hoc Committee for

the Pennsylvania Supreme Court concerning master fees in divorce cases, and she previously served on an Ad Hoc Committee involving the charging of fees in domestic relations cases.

Judge Bononi was elected to the Court of Common Pleas in Westmoreland County in 2009 and has served in the family court and juvenile court divisions from January 2010 through the present time. She is one of eleven judges serving on the Westmoreland County Court of Common Pleas. Prior to her career as a jurist, she was a partner at the law firm Bononi & Bononi, PC, and served as a hearing officer in the family court division in Westmoreland County.

Recently, Judge Bononi has been instrumental in partnering with the Westmoreland County YWCA to spearhead the Women of Achievement Awards. This annual event recognizes, celebrates, and encourages young women in Westmoreland County. Scholarships are awarded to applicants who have demonstrated outstanding abilities and who have worked hard to stand out among their peers in various endeavors including athletics, community service, and academics.

Judge Bononi commented on her JCJC appointment: "It is truly an honor to serve on the Commission. As was quoted by lawyer Alan Dershowitz, 'It is every lawyer's dream to help shape the law and not just to react to it.' Being on the Commission gives me the opportunity to continue my mission to give every young person the opportunity to succeed."

We congratulate Judge Bononi on her appointment, and know that she will bring her years of experience and expertise to this very important work. ■

Amy DeMatt Elected President of PACM

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Magisterial District Court Administrator Chris Haidze is this year's liaison to the Court Technology Committee. PACM members are also members of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Procedural Rules committees. As such, they are invaluable in providing real-world, county-level input in their development.

During her tenure as president, Amy hopes to introduce new energy into the committee process so that each committee can make meaningful advancements throughout the state in modernizing and standardizing court processes. Amy especially hopes to work on integrating and improving technology for both administrative and courtroom use. She would also like to increase participation in the PACM from Court Administrators from all districts in Pennsylvania.

The PACM is divided into western, central, and eastern regions, and hosts two large meetings each year. The first meeting of the year generally takes place in June in State College, and all Court Administrators and President Judges from around the Commonwealth are invited to attend. The November meeting takes place in different locations across the state. This year, the conference was held at the Omni William Penn in Pittsburgh with a speakeasy theme night and a number of educational seminars. Amy finds these meetings to be invaluable for collaborating, networking, and sharing ideas with peers who are otherwise spread out across the state.

We congratulate Amy on this significant achievement, and wish her the best of luck in this upcoming year. ■



Mental Health of America of Southwestern Pennsylvania CEO Laurie Barnett Levine (left) presented The Honorable Meagan Bilik-DeFazio (right) with the chapter's Community Advocacy Award at their Innovations Awards dinner on April 27.

Judge Bilik-DeFazio has been committed to supporting individuals who become involved in the criminal justice system and in trying to divert individuals who have serious mental health issues rather than incarcerating them. She and President Judge Christopher Feliciani established and preside over Westmoreland County's Adult Drug Treatment Court. The Treatment Court serves high-risk participants diagnosed with substance use and mental health disorders.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All committee meetings and activities will be held at the WBA Headquarters or virtually via Zoom. Visit westbar.org for more information about activities and CLE courses, and register online.

For PBI CLE courses, call 1-800-932-4637 or visit pbi.org/westmoreland-county.

DECEMBER

- 5** [CLE] Bridge the Gap, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 4E
- 12** [CLE] Survival 101: Law Practice Emergency Planning for Disability or Death, Noon to 1 p.m., 1E
- 13** [PBI CLE] Year in Review for the General Practitioner, 9 a.m. to 12:20 p.m., 3S
- [PBI CLE] Essential Ethics 2023, 1:30 to 4:45 p.m., 3E
- 14** Retirement Tribute Celebrating The Hon. Rita Donovan Hathaway, 4 to 6 p.m., Sun Dawg Café, Greensburg
- 15** [CLE] Video Marathon, 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., 3S/2E
- 25** Courthouse and WBA offices closed in observance of Christmas

- 26** WBA offices closed in observance of Christmas

JANUARY

- 1** Courthouse and WBA offices closed in observance of New Year's
- 10** Membership Committee, Noon Board Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 11** Criminal Law Committee, Noon
- 15** Courthouse and WBA offices closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day
- 16** Family Law Committee, Noon
- 17** Real Estate Committee, Noon
- 18** Elder Law & Orphans' Court Committees, Noon
- 30** Winter Quarterly Meeting, Noon, Ferrante's Lakeview



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, Linda Whalen.



Join the Elliott Group Legal Team!

We are seeking an experienced attorney to facilitate and partner in strategic analysis and management of Elliott legal matters worldwide.
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Jeannette, PA



Survival 101 : Law Practice Emergency Planning for Disability or Death

Lawyers have an ethical duty to take steps to protect their clients in the event of sudden disability or death. This course discusses general emergency planning procedures, and then focuses exclusively on how to preplan to continue to run your office while you are sick, injured or disabled, or how to run your practice as part of the administration of your estate. Buyout, emergency coverage and succession planning for partners is also discussed. This course explains your obligations and provides specific details about what you need to do, and how to do it. Attendees will be provided with practical information and forms which can be put to immediate use at the firm to make compliance easier.

**Speaker:****Ellen Freedman, CLM**Law Practice Management Coordinator
Pennsylvania Bar Association*Ms. Freedman will be joining us via Zoom***LIVE CLE**

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023 • Noon to 1 pm • WBA Headquarters & Via Zoom
1 ethics credit • \$35 WBA members/\$55 Nonmembers**

SURVIVAL 101**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023 • NOON TO 1 PM**

Name: _____

Attorney ID #: _____

Email: _____

Seminar Fees:

- WBA Member - \$35
- Nonmember - \$55
- WBA Member Noncredit - \$10
- Nonmember Noncredit - \$20
- Young Lawyer Noncredit - FREE

Choose one:

- In Person
- Via Zoom

Choose one:

- Enclosed is my check made payable to the Westmoreland Bar Association.
- Bill my credit card for \$ _____.

Card #: _____

Expiration: _____ CVV: _____

Billing Address: _____

Lunch will be provided.

To qualify for **pre-registration fees**, return this form and your payment to:Westmoreland Bar Association
100 North Maple Avenue
Greensburg PA 15601-2506by **Noon on December 11, 2023**, or register online at westbar.org.**Walk-in fees** of \$45 WBA members/\$55 Nonmembers will be charged for registrations received after Noon on December 11, 2023.

Phone 724-834-6730

Fax 724-834-6855

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



RETIREMENT TRIBUTE FOR THE HON. RITA DONOVAN **HATHAWAY**

Please join the Westmoreland Bar Association for a Retirement Tribute celebrating The Honorable Rita Donovan Hathaway and her many years of service to Westmoreland County.

Judge Hathaway began her legal career as a prosecutor in the Westmoreland County District Attorney's Office, where she was Chief Trial Attorney and the Supervisor of the Child Abuse and Sexual Crimes Unit. She was elected to the Court of Common Pleas in 1997, and in 2018 became the first woman elected President Judge in the history of Westmoreland County.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14 | 4 TO 6 PM
SUN DAWG CAFE, GREENSBURG**

TO RSVP, CALL 724-834-6730, EMAIL WESTBAR.ORG@WESTBAR.ORG,
OR REGISTER ONLINE AT WESTBAR.ORG BY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7.

JOIN THE LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE IN 2024 AND LET US HELP YOUR PRACTICE SOAR.

\$212,000+ in fees were reported as earned by panel members in 2023.

800+ new clients were referred in 2023.

Over 1,000 calls in 2023.

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Still just \$125 registration fee!

Join today! Download an application at westbar.org or call the WBA at 724.834.6730.



**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

WINTER
**QUARTERLY
MEETING**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30 • NOON
FERRANTE'S LAKEVIEW
GREENSBURG

Includes lunch and one FREE ethics CLE
credit for WBA members who attend.
Invitations will be sent out soon.