



# PBA To Bring New Member Benefit On-Line in 2002

The Pennsylvania Bar Association is bringing a new member benefit on-line in January 2002—free electronic access to legal research from LEXIS.

For participating members of the Westmoreland Bar Association, this new benefit has the

potential to greatly lower overhead costs. The initial costs of a comprehensive Pennsylvania library and basic federal library will be

transferred from you, the user or potential user, to the PBA.

“Thanks to our new program, we will be able to provide some relief,” said PBA Past-President Marvin Lieber. “It will be a boon to the solo and small-firm practitioner, and it will greatly reduce the enormous electronic legal research costs incurred by our large firms as well.”

PBA Zone 6 Governor Dan Joseph concurs. “This is the best benefit the PBA has ever offered,” he said.

The new program will provide members with access to certain Pennsylvania and federal legal research materials at no cost (see box at right). Other materials

will be available at a reduced fee. You will be able to access the LEXIS electronic libraries through a link on the WBA Web site, [www.westbar.org](http://www.westbar.org), or directly through PBA’s Web site, [www.pabar.org](http://www.pabar.org).

“While this service will not be all things to all lawyers, for many of you it will meet a substantial level of your research needs,” says PBA Executive Director Barry Simpson.

“It will save you and your clients money, and it will stretch your research dollars.”

If you haven’t used an on-line research program because the hourly or monthly costs were prohibitive, this new benefit presents a real opportunity to experiment at no risk or cost. You will be able to learn at your own speed and at no cost other

*continued on page 4*



## Beginning in 2002, PBA members will have free access to the following research on-line. Other materials will be available at a reduced fee.

### PENNSYLVANIA CONTENT

- Supreme Court from 1791
- Superior Court from 1895
- Commonwealth Court from October 1970
- Pennsylvania statutes
- Administrative Code
- Constitution
- Court Rules, including Rules of Appellate Procedure, Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure, Evidence and Judicial Administration; Code of Judicial Conduct; Internal Operating Procedures of the Supreme Court, Superior Court and Commonwealth Court; Supreme Court Orphan’s Court Rules; Rules of Conduct, Office Standards and Civil Procedure

for District Judges; Local Rules of the U.S. District Courts and Bankruptcy Courts for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of Pennsylvania; and the Philadelphia Municipal Court Rules of Civil Procedure.

### FEDERAL CONTENT

- U.S. Code
- Supreme Court cases from 1790
- Third Circuit Court cases from 1995, including the U.S. Court of Appeals, U.S. District Court and U.S. Bankruptcy Court
- Federal Rules, including Appellate Procedure, Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Supreme Court and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

President's Message

# Ah, To Be Young Again

by John M. Campfield

A favorite pastime of the older generation is to wax reminiscent of the days of youth; to remember more fondly and generously past times, most often at odds with reality.

Privileged few aside, American youth did not enjoy a stroll in the park until the middle of the twentieth century. Prior to World War II, the children of America were minimally educated and most often relegated to a life of labor, beginning in their teens. Higher education was a luxury enjoyed by limited numbers.



But then the American opportunity began to greatly expand and folks like me could dream of and achieve goals and opportunities that were never on my parents' radar screen. Westmoreland County was a great place to begin a legal career. Opportunities existed and the legal community was inviting, supportive and fostering. Life rolled merrily along.

But over the years, the climate has changed. While the legal community has remained inviting, supportive and fostering, the opportunities have changed. First, it has become more and more costly to become a lawyer; and second, the opportunities for young Westmoreland County lawyers have diminished.

Law school has become a very costly adventure, rising in cost at a rate much greater than any inflationary factor. The average law

school graduate debt (not including undergraduate debt), now exceeds \$90,000. Now we are beginning to see the first effects of a costly legal education.

While we all read annually about the rising starting salaries for new associates in dominant, urban law firms, let's face it, it isn't happening in Westmoreland County.

Westmoreland County is currently an anomaly in that it has no law firms of any great size, considering the number of attorneys that practice here. So there are no firms that regularly seek the best and brightest.

And government legal opportunities and court appointment rates have remained generally static for a decade and do not enable



new lawyers carrying the new legal education debt to consider Westmoreland County as a place of first choice. The best and brightest will be forced to look elsewhere. Where does this leave us?

Will the Westmorelands of the world become a quaint outpost for the resident lawyer, populated by descendants of lawyers, the privileged or the quiet-life seekers? And will the Westmorelands continue to erode into an extended market of the urban hub, served remotely by dominant, sometimes

predatory, legal service providers?

Over the last two decades and across the spectrum of economic opportunities we have witnessed a general loss of young talent in Western Pennsylvania. We are close to having lost a whole generation because of lack of opportunities. There are signs of a turn around in some segments of the regional economy, but not generally in the legal community. Lack of opportunity combined with rapidly rising costs are causing young lawyers to abandon the profession in numbers never seen before. Some will say that's good because we have too many lawyers. But a legal environment and a justice system that becomes too costly and limited to join, will, in the long run, suffer.

Will we revert to a new system of opportunities based upon a new privileged class? Will the golden age of American opportunity begin to exclude lawyers?

My father never finished the eighth grade and began his working life at age thirteen driving a mule in the coal mines. I would hate to find that a few generations from now this type of "opportunity" looks like a good opportunity for Westmoreland's young.

Do I want to be young again? Hmm; maybe it was nice the first time around.

# Recognition and Scholarships Awarded at Quarterly Meeting

A trio of thank you gifts and a pair of scholarships were awarded at the quarterly meeting of the Westmoreland Bar Association held Friday, July 20, 2001 at Cherry Creek Golf Course in Youngwood, Pa.

## GETTYSBURG TRIP ORGANIZERS RECOGNIZED

Judge Irving Bloom, Don Rigone and Ralph Conrad were recognized for organizing the WBA trip to the Gettysburg Civil War battlefield this past May. On behalf of the WBA, Judge Dan Ackerman presented the trio with gifts to thank them for their efforts.

## TWO MOCK TRIAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Also on the agenda at the quarterly meeting was the presentation of this year's Mock Trial Scholarships. Westmoreland Bar Foundation Chair Marnie Abraham presented the awards to Brianna Kalp from Mt. Pleasant Area High School, and

Megan Nogasky, from Greensburg-Salem Senior High School.

A first-time participant in the Mock Trial program, *Brianna Kalp* considers it to be the best experience of her high school career.

"I take with me an added confidence and a workable knowledge of the legal system," she says. "No other avenue in high school would have given me similar benefits. I found myself with a competitive edge I never thought I had."

In addition to participating in the Mock Trial program, Brianna was captain of the majorette squad, president of the psychology club, and played tuba in the wind ensemble. She was also a member of Students Against Drunk Driving,



▲ 2001 Mock Trial Scholarship winners Brianna Kalp (left) and Megan Nogasky (right) with WBF Chair Marnie Abraham.

*Megan Nogasky* has been involved in the Mock Trial program for three years and, as lead attorney this year, helped her team capture the 2001 State Championship.

A 2001 National Merit Finalist, Megan was also active in the National Honor Society, National Forensics League, French Club and Academic Team. In addition, she was a member of the varsity volleyball and track & field teams.

"Megan is a young woman who is uniquely gifted and committed to developing her gifts to their highest potential," says Judith Washburn, Greensburg-Salem's Mock Trial coach. "She truly embodies the best of young womanhood in America."

Megan is enrolled at Yale University this fall and will major in English/English Literature.

The next quarterly meeting of the WBA is October 11, 2001, and will include free CLE credits for those attending. See page 19 of this issue for more details.



▲ *Ralph Conrad, Don Rigone and Judge Irving Bloom were recognized by Judge Dan Ackerman for organizing the recent WBA trip to the Gettysburg Civil War battlefield.*

the Medical Explorer's Post and a volunteer at Frick Community Hospital.

Brianna will be attending Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa., this fall, majoring in Pre-Medicine.

# Ralph Conrad Named Special Master in Divorce

by Mike R. Rubinoff, Esq.

Ralph Conrad, a Greensburg sole practitioner, has been named the new Special Master in Divorce. The Special Master holds hearings on injunctive relief, exclusive possession of the marital residence, alimony pendente lite, preliminary counsel fees, costs and expenses and such other matters as the Family Court judges designate. In addition to his experience in handling such matters in his practice, Ralph was a law clerk for the Honorable Charles E. Marker from July, 1998 to the judge's retirement in 2000.



▲ Ralph Conrad

He and his wife, Carolyn, have been married for 32 years. They have one child, Brian, who resides at home. Brian shares his father's aptitude for golf having worked as an assistant golf professional in Mississippi. Ralph is an avid golfer who has a three handicap.

## LAW SPEAK

The only evidence we have concerning this period is the fact that petitioner married his present guardian at some time within it, an act from which, in the legal sense, no inference of insanity can be drawn.

— Wiley Rutledge, in *Galloway v. United States*, 319 U.S. 372 (1943)

Another great interest is the American Civil War, or as Ralph might prefer, the War Between the States, since he admits to a sympathy for the Confederate perspective. He has been to many battlefields of that war with a special interest in the sites of battles fought by the Army of Northern Virginia, which was commanded by General Robert E. Lee.

Ralph, Don Rigone, and Workers' Compensation Judge Irv Bloom have led several field trips for the Bar Association to War Between the States battlefields. (For one raised in

Pennsylvania with a slant to the Union point of view, that characterization seems very awkward.)

Ralph has a special interest in a Southern regiment, the 11th Georgia, and has done extensive research on that unit. He has actually compiled an unpublished book on the regiment.

Unfortunately, his interest in conflict and war can only serve him well in his new part-time position. For many litigants and their lawyers, the divorce process is a war with a "no prisoners taken" attitude.

## PBA to Bring New Member Benefit On-Line in 2002

*continued from page 1*

than your annual PBA membership dues.

The PBA House of Delegates, meeting in Pittsburgh in May, approved a dues increase for 2002 to help offset the cost of the LEXIS program. PBA officials say, however, that the increase—\$35 for those in practice for more than five years, and graduating down for those in practice for fewer than five years—will be more than covered for most members by the money they will save on electronic legal research.

The WBA Board of Directors has charged the Finance Committee with reviewing this increase in PBA

dues and making a recommendation to the Board regarding a possible increase in WBA dues for participating members in 2002. Currently, the WBA pays PBA dues for all participating members.

"The LEXIS on-line products have an excellent reputation. I'm quite pleased with those that we offer in the Law Library," says Westmoreland County Law Librarian Betty Ward. "This should be quite an asset for WBA members."

More information on this new member benefit can be found on the PBA Web site, [www.pabar.org](http://www.pabar.org).

**DON'T MISS THEATER NIGHT** with Judge Irv Bloom playing—of all things—a judge in Apple Hill Playhouse's "The Caine Mutiny Court Martial" to be staged Saturday, November 17 in Judge Pezze's courtroom. If enough tickets are sold for the Saturday evening performance, the WBA will host a pre-theater reception at Caffe Barista. To make reservations, call the Apple Hill box office at 724-468-5050. Please let the WBA know of your interest in attending the reception by calling 724-834-6730.



# Jury Trial Verdicts

## MAY/JUNE 2001 TRIAL TERM

Out of 98 cases slated for trial during the May/June 2001 Civil Division trial terms, 32 settled, 29 were continued, 1 was discontinued, 1 was stayed upon the filing of bankruptcy, 3 were moved to arbitration, 1 was scheduled for mediation, 2 were non-jury trials, 1 will be a summary jury trial, a non-suit was granted in 1, 8 verdicts were entered and 19 were held to the next list.

**VELMA GRIGGS**

**V.**

**SIMONE JACKSON, LEONARD J. McCONNELL  
AND HARDHAT TRUCKING COMPANY  
NO. 2780 OF 1997**

*Cause of Action: Negligence—Motor Vehicle Accident*

On May 24, 1995, plaintiff was a passenger in a vehicle operated by co-defendant Simone Jackson that was traveling east on Route 30 in Ligonier Township. Co-defendant Leonard McConnell was also operating a vehicle in an easterly direction on Route 30. The complaint alleges that the two vehicles collided when Jackson attempted to change lanes and/or make a left turn while McConnell attempted to pass her on the left.

Plaintiff's injuries included a head injury, hematoma to her left leg and injury to her leg and back.

Co-defendant McConnell, an independent contractor for Hardhat Trucking, submitted that he was operating his vehicle in the left/passing lane when Jackson turned left into his vehicle. McConnell asserted comparative/contributory negligence, the sudden emergency doctrine and the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Law (MVFRL). Co-defendant Jackson asserted contributory/comparative negligence, plaintiff's pre-existing injuries/damages and plaintiff's election of the limited tort. Both McConnell and Jackson brought claims for contribution and/or indemnity against each other.

*Plaintiff's Counsel:* Susan E. Mahood, Pgh.

*Counsel for Defendant Simone Jackson:* J. Eric Barchiesi, Baginski and Bashline, Pgh.

*Counsel for Defendants Leonard J. McConnell and Hardhat Trucking Co.:* John G. Wall, Burns, White & Hickton, Pgh.

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

*Result:* Molded verdict for plaintiff against defendant Simone Jackson in the amount of \$15,000.

*continued on page 6*

MOVE OVER KINKO'S

online at  
[www.businesspartner.com](http://www.businesspartner.com)

HERE COMES BUSINESS PARTNER!

• Color Copies	• Laminating / Binding	• Printing
• UPS Shipping	• Giant Posters	• Specialty Advertising
• Computer Rental	• Web Design	• Graphic Design
• Signs & Banners	• Video Production	• Trade Show Displays

★
TWO LOCATIONS
★

<p><b>GREENSBURG</b> Route 30 West (next to Denny's)</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">724.836.2900</p>	<p><b>IRWIN</b> 324 Main Street</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">724.863.7888</p>
---	--

The Marketing Center

## Jury Trial Verdicts *continued from page 5*

**EXPLORER SCOUTING POST 155  
A/K/A THE GOLDEN LANCERS DRUM  
AND BUGLE CORP., KENNETH B. BEHREND  
AND PAMELA BEHREND, HIS WIFE**

V.

**DAVID LONG, DEFENDANT**

V.

**JANE M. KENNELLY,  
ADDITIONAL DEFENDANT  
NO. 514 OF 1998**

*Cause of Action: Negligence—  
Motor Vehicle Accident—Loss of Consortium*

The plaintiff is a musical Exploring Post with the Boy Scouts of America and performs at shows, parades and events. The plaintiffs, Kenneth R. Behrend and Pamela Behrend, and the additional defendant, Jane M. Kennelly, are adult leaders of the Post. On July 29, 1995, Kenneth Behrend, Pamela Behrend and Jane Kennelly were operating three vehicles on the Pennsylvania Turnpike during heavy traffic in a construction zone. The defendant, David Long, was traveling behind their vehicles. A chain reaction collision ensued when traffic came to a sudden stop as a result of a disabled vehicle ahead. Kenneth Behrend claimed soft tissue injuries and a closed head injury. Pamela Behrend claimed soft tissue injuries and loss of consortium. The Post claimed injuries to its reputation and property damage.

The defendant contended that the plaintiffs and the additional defendant were responsible for the collision. In new matter, defendant raised the relevant provisions of the MVFRL, including plaintiffs' failure to allege "serious injury," comparative/contributory negligence, the assured clear distance rule and the sudden emergency doctrine. The additional defendant maintained that the plaintiffs and the original defendant caused the accident. In amended new matter, the additional defendant averred that each of the plaintiffs executed a release in her favor.

*Plaintiffs' Counsel:* G. Clinton Kelley, Pgh.

*Defendant's Counsel:* Thomas A. McDonnell, Summers, McDonnell, Walsh & Skeel, Pgh.

*Additional Defendant's Counsel:* John R. Bryan, Zimmer Kunz PLLC, Pgh.

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

*Result:* Molded verdict (1) in favor of original defendant, David Long, and (2) in favor of plaintiff, Explorer Scouting Post 155, and against additional defendant, Jane M. Kennelly, in the amount of \$4,000.

**MIGUEL SALOMON**

V.

**DARRYL CORNMAN AND COLLEEN R. CORNMAN  
NO. 1820 OF 1995**

*Cause of Action: Negligence—Motor Vehicle Accident*

This motor vehicle accident occurred on March 15, 1993, as both vehicles were traveling west on Route 22 in New Alexandria. The complaint alleges that defen-

dant Darryl Cornman, operating a vehicle owned by defendant Colleen R. Cornman, struck plaintiff's vehicle in the rear when plaintiff stopped his vehicle for a traffic signal. Plaintiff alleged soft tissue injuries and aggravation of a pre-existing low back condition.


The defendants argued that plaintiff was involved in two prior motor vehicle accidents. The question for the jury was whether the injuries claimed by the plaintiff were caused by the third collision.

*Plaintiff's Counsel:* Dante G. Bertani, Gbg.

*Defendants' Counsel:* Kim Ross Houser, Mears and Smith, P.C., Gbg.


*Trial Judge:* The Hon. Charles H. Loughran, President Judge

*Result:* Verdict for the defendant.



**DISPUTE RESOLUTION  
UIM/UM ARBITRATION  
MEDIATION**

SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES  
EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS  
BINDING/NON-BINDING  
COST-EFFECTIVE  
CONFIDENTIALITY  
NEUTRAL THIRD-PARTY INPUT  
SWIFT RESOLUTION  
DIRECT PARTY PARTICIPATION  
FLEXIBILITY

  
**MEYER-DARRAGH-BUCKLER-BEBENEK & ECK**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
GREENSBURG OFFICE: 114 SOUTH MAIN STREET, GREENSBURG, PA 15601

**JOHN M. NOBLE, ESQ.**  
GREENSBURG, PA  
(724) 853-2296  
FAX: (724) 836-0532  
jnoble@mdbbe.com

**CHARLES ANGELO VALENTI  
V.  
ROBERT DENNISON  
T/D/B/A  
BUMMY'S CAMPGROUND,  
AND ABATE OF PENNSYLVANIA  
NO. 2257 OF 1997**

*Cause of Action: Negligence—  
Slip and Fall*

On July 15, 1995, plaintiff participated in a poker run sponsored by defendant ABATE of Pennsylvania. The motorcycle event concluded with a picnic and band at defendant Robert Dennison's campground, which was leased by ABATE. After a rain storm, plaintiff stepped into the picnic pavilion where he slipped on smooth concrete. Plaintiff alleged that defendants were negligent, *inter alia*, in permitting a dangerous amount of water to accumulate on the pavilion floor, in failing to install adequate drainage in the pavilion, and in failing to inspect and remove the dangerous condition following the storm. Injuries included a fractured fibula with swelling, as well as the insertion and removal of pins and plates.

Both defendants denied that the area was under their care, custody and control when plaintiff fell. Defendants asserted comparative negligence, assumption of the risk, the choice of ways doctrine and that the condition was open and obvious.

*Plaintiff's Counsel:* Timothy E. Cassidy, Pgh.

*Counsel for Defendant Robert Dennison:* Matthew L. Rovacic, Witheral, Kovacic & Marchewka, Pgh.

*Counsel for Defendant ABATE:* Stephen J. Poljak, Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, Pgh.

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

*Result:* Molded verdict for defendants.

**MARTHA FOSTER, AN  
INCAPACITATED PERSON, BY  
JAMES FOSTER, GUARDIAN  
V.  
RICHARDO MIGLIORI  
NO. 2234 OF 1999**

*Cause of Action: Negligence—  
Binding Summary Jury Trial*

The defendant was the passenger and owner of the vehicle driven by the plaintiff when it collided with a second vehicle on May 15, 1998.

In August of 1997, the plaintiff had

been instructed by her doctor not to drive a motor vehicle. Through her guardian, plaintiff brought this action against defendant for permitting or encouraging plaintiff to drive his vehicle when he knew or should have known that plaintiff was restricted from driving a motor vehicle. Plaintiff's injuries included a fractured left cheek bone and jaw, damage to teeth, and fractures to her ribs and leg.

*continued on page 8*

## Organizational Registration



# Profits made Simple!

Simply the most efficient, effective way  
to handle incorporations for your clients.

Once you have determined what type of entity best suits your client, the next step is **as simple as making a phone call!** From there you are guaranteed the most complete professional processing of the task, all for **one low price** (no hidden costs).

By eliminating the tedious tasks of administering the registration, you realize significant savings of time and money, which of course enhances your bottom line!

Our professional staff accurately and efficiently works "behind the scenes" registering S-corps, non-profits, LLC's, Delaware & Nevada corps — all 50 states, District of Columbia and Canada... all with absolute confidentiality. **You provide the advice... we do the paperwork.**

Our complete service includes EIN, state filing, fee payment, "S" elections, placement of any required advertising and Corporate Record kit.

Whether your firm processes one organizational registration per week or hundreds, you will benefit by utilizing our services.

- Business Corporation
- Non-Profit Corporation
- Limited Liability Company
- Limited Partnership
- General Partnership
- Limited Liability Partnership
- Fictitious Name/d.b.a.
- Registered Agency
- International Services

For more information, call:  
**412-261-1135**


simplybusiness.com

## Jury Trial Verdicts *continued from page 7*

The defendant denied plaintiff's allegations of negligence and asserted the affirmative defenses of contributory/comparative negligence, assumption of the risk, the MVFRL and Act 6.

*Plaintiff's Counsel:* Jay H. Feldstein, James C. Heneghan, Feldstein Grinberg Stein & McKee, Pgh.

*Defendant's Counsel:* Kim Ross Houser, Mears and Smith, P.C., Gbg.

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

*Result:* Following a verdict for plaintiff, the parties settled the action for a predetermined amount.

**Please support the Pro Bono Program by signing up or opting out today. Call Iva Munk at 724-837-5539 for more details.**

**HELEN STACK  
V.  
PROFESSIONAL  
INVENTORY MERCHANDISING  
MANAGEMENT SERVICES,  
A/K/A  
P.I.M.M.S.  
NO. 802 OF 1999**

*Cause of Action: Negligence—  
Slip and Fall—*

*Binding Summary Jury Trial*

On February 17, 1997, plaintiff was shopping in a Wal-Mart store in Belle Vernon. While walking through the stationery department, plaintiff's foot became caught in a display allegedly owned, constructed and erected by the defendant. Plaintiff fell on her back and was struck by an improperly secured support pole on the display. Injuries included a fractured left hip and injuries to her left knee and back.

In its answer and new matter, defendant denied ownership of the display base and that it owed or breached a duty of care to plaintiff. Defendant asserted contributory/comparative negligence, assumption of the risk and that, as a contractor hired by Wal-Mart, it followed the directions and instructions of Wal-Mart with regard to the construction, location and erection of the display.

*Plaintiff's Counsel:* Andrew J. Leger, Jr., Shilobod Leger & Ball, P.C., Pgh.

*Defendant's Counsel:* Cheryl L. Esposito, Gigler & Joyal, Pgh.

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

*Result:* The jury having determined that defendant was negligent and that plaintiff was free of contributory negligence, the parties settled the action for a predetermined amount.

### Attention: Litigators Who Use Financial Experts

Trial courts exclude proffered financial expert opinion testimony where there are insufficient factual bases, unreliable methodology or improper application of reliable methodology to the facts.

I have 30+ years of combined accounting, tax and business valuation experience as an expert financial witness and trial counsel in commercial and business cases. I am ready to assist you in matters concerning:

- Lost profits, future earnings, business valuation
- Reliability and causation issues
- Depositions
- Financial expert qualifications
- Preparation of expert testimony for direct and cross-examination
- Conduct direct or cross-examination of financial expert
- Motions in limine

All financial expert opinion testimony has weaknesses; let me help you understand those weaknesses so they do not prejudice your case.

**Have computer, will travel • Contract and referral arrangements**

**Roman Iwanyshyn • Attorney at Law**

Voice Mail & Fax 412.826.1360 • Mobile 412.848.9182

iwanyshyn@aol.com



# Confessions of a First-Time BarFly

by Amber Leechalk, Esq.

Acting first and thinking later. I have to stop doing that. But, once again, it's too late now. Having just agreed to write an article about my first Bench/Bar experience, I actually did start to think (it does happen once in a while), which in turn led to panic (that usually happens a little more often). The Bench/Bar was two months ago and my memories of it were already a little hazy. OK, I admit it, the entire weekend itself was a little hazy, but who knew Rachel Yantos was going to make so many Jell-O shots?

On second thought, there's no need to panic. After all, I'm just a last-minute fill-in because our fearless BarFly Dance Captain Bob "Fosse" Johnston was too busy this week to write about his life as a BarFly (probably had to many cha-cha lessons scheduled). So whatever I write about, *the sidebar* is pretty much stuck with it. Any port in a storm, I guess.

I'll start by blaming it all on Tim Kinney (why not, everybody else does). After all, if he hadn't talked me into becoming a BarFly, I probably would never have gone to the Bench/Bar. You see, I don't really know that many other WBA attorneys, and didn't want to look like an outcast. Upon joining the BarFlies, however, I discovered that I now had my very own group of outcasts to hang out with, and I started to look forward to attending my first Bench/Bar.

But wait, I'm getting ahead of myself, because I've decided that I can't adequately explain my first Bench/Bar experience without also explaining my first BarFlies experience. (Sorry, see paragraph #2—you're stuck with me.) Looking into the archives of my Palm Pilot, I determine that I started attending BarFly rehearsals in April. Good grief, did I really spend that much time with those people?

Things started out innocently enough, with everyone just sitting around reading through the script,

taking turns with different roles, deciding who best fit what character, etc. Of course, once again, acting without thinking, I told John Noble that I would gladly take any role as long as I didn't have to sing too much, because, while I love to sing, I can't (which is truly unfortunate because—ask anyone who knows me—I know all the words). He immediately assigned me the role of Lorraine (or Loretta, if you're speaking to Lee "I was born to keep the 80s alive" Demosky) and I learned my first lesson as a BarFly—don't ever volunteer for anything (which, roughly translated, means "don't agree to be the geshiftawalar girl until after you find out what a geshiftawalar is—or are, as the case may be").

As if that weren't enough, the week after that, our choreographer, Lisa Monzo, comes to practice rav-

ing about this fabulous dance number that we will be performing in the show. Everything is going smoothly until she starts showing us, little by little, who will be doing what. First, there are the Maypolers, with Judge Ackerman starring as the Maypole. No—I'm not one of them. Then there are the yodelers. Again—not me. Finally there is only one group to go—the "dancers."

*continued on page 12*



▲ Amber Leechalk



▲ The cast and crew of "The Sound of Lawyer," the 2001 Bench/Bar musical.

Candid Camera:

# 2001 Bench/Bar Conference



◀ "Hey, sweetie, want to see a really big production?"

"I'd love to, Tim, but surely my roommate would know I was gone." ▼



▲ "I give up, Rachel. Why does the chicken cross the road?"

▶ "Get outta here, kid, it's my toke!"



▲ Lawyers and their racquets.



▲ "I don't think you'll attract many lawyers with a name like that."



◀ "Get out of my way, dammit!"



▶ *Maureen always felt more comfortable with someone around to catch spittle.*

▶ *“Did I offer an opinion about the law? Ohmigod, I am so sorry.”*



▶ *“This is the court. I am the judge. Any questions?”*

▶ *“Yeah, I know it’s still moving but I’m going to eat it anyway.”*

▶ *“Uh ... don’t tell anyone, but I really liked the thing you did with the toilet seat.”*

▶ *“I’m looking for the name tag that says ‘President Judge.’”*

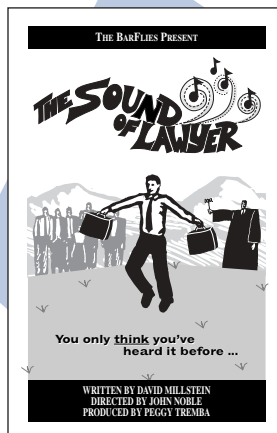


▶ *“Go ahead. Give it a yank.”*



## Confessions of a First-Time BarFly *continued from page 9*

Lisa tried to soften the blow, me being a rookie BarFly and all, by not telling me right away that I was going to be one of the, uh, “floor people,” for lack of a better term. But it didn’t matter. I knew the inevitable was coming, and soon, there we were, my partner, Tim Kinney, and I, yo-hoing and kicking our way on the stage and into your hearts. And, I must admit, after hearing the audience response and seeing it on video, it was really one of the highlights of the show.



OK, this seems about the right place for a shameless plug—the BarFlies are an

excellent group of quality people that I highly recommend joining if you like to have fun, make fun, and laugh a lot. Yes, it is a big time commitment, although it didn’t seem like it at the time. And yes, you have to be willing to act foolish and be able to take just a small amount of ribbing (maybe more) from your peers, but all in all, it’s worth it.

That said, on to the Bench/Bar. After picking up my partner-in-crime, a/k/a Rachel Morocco, we were off to the Wisp. Getting in late Thursday afternoon, we arrived just in time to check in and go to dinner (Did I mention that next to singing, eating is right up there in my top ten favorite things to do?). After dinner, it was on to dress rehearsal, which, due to our thorough and meticulous preparation, went off with-

out a hitch, leaving us plenty of time to head back to the Wisp and hit the Young Lawyers Hospitality Suite for refreshments and socialization. And socialize we did—until the wee hours of the morning. I had a great time, met lots of people, listened to lots of stories, and finally straggled back to my room for a night of much needed rest.

Friday rolled around and it was déjà vu all over again—more eating, more socializing, more fun. Oh yes, and we did put on that show, what was the name of it? No, it wasn’t “The Jim Wells Musical,” even though Iva Munk tried to convince me that is what it should have been named (Come on, Iva. He was OK, maybe even good, but naming the entire show after him? What about Leslie? What about Dick? What about David? Now Schvienhunt—that was acting. Hey, it never hurts to kiss up. I’m hoping for a bigger part next year.). It was “The Sound of Lawyer” and it didn’t disappoint.

Needless to say, by checkout time on Saturday, I was ready to head home and take a nap. I had a great time and will definitely be back—at the Bench/Bar and, yes, Blither, as a BarFly—next year. For once, my acting first (as a BarFly) and thinking later (or, acting without thinking at all, which, some may say, is what the BarFlies do best) worked out.

### *On The Move ...*

**BLUM REISS & PLAITANO** has new offices on the second floor of the National City Bank Building, 632 West Main Street, Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666. Their telephone remains 724-547-4539.

**SHIRLEY MAKUTA** has opened an office at 2236 Freeport Road, New Kensington, PA 15068. She can be reached at 724-335-3050.

**MARY ANN PETRILLO** has relocated her practice to Victorian Commons, 412 Main Street, Irwin, PA 15642. Her phone number is 724-861-8333.

### **Lawyers Abstract Company of Westmoreland County**

James C. Ripple – Manager

**129 NORTH PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE  
GREENSBURG, PA 15601**

Telephone 724 - 834-2822

**Agents for Commonwealth Land Title  
Insurance Company**

FULL TITLE SEARCHES

TITLE INSURANCE

ABSTRACTS

REAL ESTATE & MORTGAGE CLOSINGS



# To-Wit: Topsy Turvy

by S. Sponte, Esq.

When Lord Cornwallis surrendered the British troops to George Washington at Yorktown, he ordered his pipers to play “World Turned Upside Down,” a popular little ditty of the day. It was an appropriate choice, as no one would have ever believed the ragtag American forces could defeat the most powerful military force in the world.

When it comes to certain matters in the law, I tend to be somewhat Cornwallian myself. I mean, the more than thirty years I have spent doing law has taught me that there are some universal truths upon which I can always rely. Assumptions like these are important to me. I rely upon them to provide stability and predictability in a world otherwise

strewn with chaos, disarray and uncertainty. Take away my assumptions and I become no more than primordial slime with a JD.

For instance, I know that in matters of family law it’s always opposing counsel’s client who is most culpable. I know that in personal injury law the most restorative treatment for soft tissue injury is a prompt settlement, and I know that in matters of collection work, the defendants always lie about payment.

If I’ve heard “The check is in the mail,” or “I already paid it,” and “I’ll send a check tomorrow, swear to God,” once, I’ve heard them a million times. It isn’t that people lie. After all, I am a lawyer, I’ve heard it all before. In collection work, however, they lie with facility, with a polished ease that can only come from many years of practice.

So upset had I become by such constant lying that a few years back I started making it a rule not to take such cases anymore, and I don’t. Ah, but as with any rule, there are always exceptions, and I made just such an exception a few months back in order to accommodate a long-time client in a suit against a landlord. The unrepresented defendant had taken my client’s three hundred dollars as a security deposit on an apartment my client wanted to rent. She thereafter rented the apartment to someone else and refused to return the security deposit to my client.

Obtaining the money judgment  
*continued on page 14*



**When your client needs criminal defense help quickly . . .**

**refer them to the Belden Criminal Law Group.**



If you don’t practice criminal law regularly, the best counsel may be to recommend a team of lawyers with proven experience on both sides of criminal cases.

We invite you to learn more about our firm and our Criminal Law Group at our website: [beldenlaw.com](http://beldenlaw.com) or email [info@beldenlaw.com](mailto:info@beldenlaw.com).



Recommended by lawyers and clients  
across Pennsylvania

**Meet the Belden Criminal Law Group**

724.834.0300  
[beldenlaw.com](http://beldenlaw.com)  
117 N. Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601

## To-Wit: Topsy Turvy *continued from page 13*

was easy. The unrepresented landlord never answered the complaint. Can you say “default judgment?” Oooh, I can.

Thereafter she simply ignored every attempt we made to collect and even when I sought contempt, she didn’t show up for the hearing. His Honor was so miffed that he phoned her at home, and told her if she didn’t get herself to court *eo instante*, he was going to issue a bench warrant for her arrest.

About twenty minutes later, she came into the courtroom walking like a crab on three legs. It wouldn’t be accurate to say her clothes were disheveled. They had never been sheveled. She was old, disoriented, odorous and babbling, and even before His Honor could get one word out of his mouth, she utilized the “My son has cancer,” the “I couldn’t find my heart medicine,”

and the “I was recovering from an epileptic seizure” gambits so sincerely and in such rapid succession that all counsel assembled in the courtroom broke out in polite and respectful applause at the deftness of her prevarications.

“You know,” His Honor said, “you could make all this go away by just paying the money you owe.”

“I have paid it,” she said, “I gave the cash to my lawyer a few days ago, and he told me I wouldn’t have to come here.” With that, a groan went up from the audience.

Now His Honor is one of the most genteel, considerate and caring people on the bench, but this obvious lie was too much even for him. He glowered at her and advised that he was going to take a brief recess to call the lawyer she had mentioned and find out for himself if any money had been paid.

As soon as he departed the courtroom, a generalized hubbub broke out among colleagues there

assembled, the sort of clamor I always imagined the Romans sent up each time a Christian became lion chow. She had surely lied to the judge and she was surely headed

for jail. And you thought collection work was no fun at all, huh?

A few minutes later, the Judge resumed the bench, but he had this ashen, quizzical look on his face.

“Well,” he said, “I have spoken to the

lawyer in question and he has the three hundred dollars. He is sending his secretary to the courthouse with the money even as we speak. Call the next case.”

Everyone else filed out, and as they did so, I swear I could hear the distant sound of fife and drum. Me, I just sat there awhile, awash in disbelief. So it hadn’t been a lie after all. Now I know how the dinosaurs felt when the meteor hit.

I haven’t been back to my office since. My therapist has suggested I take up crocheting. He wants me to learn to do more with my hands.

Oh, I’ll be all right eventually. I’m still a bit in shock is all. I mean, I expected this defendant to lie, I wanted her to lie, I needed her to lie, and she let me down. If I can no longer rely on the falsehoods of others, I need to construct an entirely new belief system for myself. So for awhile, I’ll be at home, sorting all of this out. Anyone need a shawl?

© 2001, S. Sponte, Esq.

**If I can no longer rely on the falsehoods of others, I need to construct an entirely new belief system for myself.**

### For complete insurance protection, we’ve got you covered.

For over 60 years, USI COLBURN INSURANCE SERVICE has been meeting the needs of Pennsylvania lawyers. We can satisfy your insurance requirements through the following programs:

- Medical Insurance
- Employee Benefits
- Disability Insurance
- Term Life Insurance
- Long Term Care
- Medicare Supplement
- Professional Liability
- Fidelity and Surety Bonds

For more details or a quote on coverage call today:  
412-885-6570  
1-800-WCOLBURN  
www.colburn.com

**USI** Colburn Insurance Service

201 Caste Village, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15236

# Actions of the Board

## JUNE

- Accepted Membership Committee recommendation: Robert Liotta, participating.
  - Voted to liquidate WBA investments in amount not to exceed \$325,000 and contract with Bill Few Associates to administer bar finances.
  - Reviewed Law Library Committee report which requested that the WBA purchase three new computer chairs for computer areas at library. No action taken.
  - Voted to direct the Building Committee to purchase an oval six-foot oak conference table with six matching chairs for use in the previously designated law journal office.
  - Delayed decision on future use of third floor conference room until first floor of WBA building becomes vacant.
  - Voted to hire plumber to determine the cause of current plumbing problems.
  - Agreed to rekey front door.
  - Agreed to invite Building Committee members to July Board Meeting to discuss space utilization of WBA headquarters.
  - Voted to remove the WBA logo from the Lawyer Referral Service yellow page ads and to remove the address as recommended by the American Bar Association review team.
- building and have him meet with the Building Committee and any other WBA member or staff member whose knowledge would be helpful in determining the best use of the bar headquarters space.
  - Approved Membership Committee recommendations: Ada Guyton, David Gaudio, participating.
  - Agreed to review Arbitration Fee report to track the bar members who are serving as arbitrator, those who are serving more than once per year and those who are not serving at all.
  - Reviewed the PBA dues increase of \$35 which will begin January 2002. Charged Finance Committee with reviewing this increase and make recommendation of WBA handling of this state bar increase.
  - Agreed to ask Info Tech Committee to work with Law Librarian Betty Ward to view the proposed LEXIS internet research benefit to be added to 2002 benefits for PBA members and report to board on its usability and attractiveness to WBA members.
  - Voted to hire Bill Few Associates at set annual percentage fee.
  - Reported that Pro Bono coordinator, Iva Munk, has indicated problem with present location of Pro Bono office and agreed to ask WBF to begin searching for rental space for this program.
  - Voted to implement the recommendations of the American Bar Association report on the WBA Lawyer Referral Service in its entirety with responsibility for implementation assigned to the Delivery of Services Committee.
  - Reported that Bench/Bar Conference operated at a deficit.
  - Voted to lease a digital copier.

## JULY

- Voted to allow Criminal Law Committee to spend up to \$1,000 to cover expenses for the Juvenile Court Training Curriculum speaker.
- After meeting with Building Committee Chair David DeRose voted not to convert the Arbitration rooms on the third floor to storage closet.
- Voted to have Architect Barry Morris look at storage needs and existing use of space throughout the WBA

## New Member Sketches

*The Honorable Ada Guyton*, a judge with the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, was admitted to the WBA as a participating member. A graduate of York College of Pennsylvania and the University of Toledo Law School, Judge Guyton lives in Greensburg with her husband, James Haas, and their two children, Kevin and Tom.

*Irving A. Pratt* has joined the WBA as a participating member. A graduate of the University of Minnesota and West Virginia University's School of Law, Irving does financial consulting with Bill Few Associates. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Laughlintown and have five children: Tom, Barbara, Shelley, Elizabeth and Jennifer.

## Did You Know?

**T**he most current version of the Westmoreland County Rules of Court can be found on-line by following the links on the WBA web site.

Start at [www.westbar.org](http://www.westbar.org), click on the "Courts & Decisions" button, and then on the text "Westmoreland County Local Rules." Downloading through the WBA site will ensure you receive the most current set of rules.



# Are You A Difficult Client?

by Ellen Freedman, CLM, Law Practice Management Coordinator, Pennsylvania Bar Association

**M**any vendors simply refuse to do business with law firms. Some estimate as many as 25% refuse to do so. Other vendors charge premium rates to law firms, claiming that they are more difficult to deal with, let alone on a profitable basis. Are law firms and lawyers really more difficult as consumers? Speaking on a general basis, and as one who has spent almost as many years in a variety of corporate environments as the legal environment, the simple answer is YES.

What makes so many lawyers such difficult clients? Are you one? If you feel you've gotten poor response or attitude from a number of your critical vendors, or have been frequently overcharged for services and/or supplies, chances are you're viewed as a difficult client. Here are some of the reasons you are viewed that way, and how to change it.

## LACK OF PLANNING

Lawyers rarely have or take the time to properly plan things out. They rely on the evolutionary process used to turn out documents—do a draft, then revise repeatedly until done—to accomplish other tasks. Unfortunately, many lawyers do not feel that the vendor has any right to charge for the resulting changes to plans and/or specifications. They usually consider that a “cost of doing business.” Unfortunately, the vendor does not. When the job involves software, the endless cycle of rewrites and revisions costs the vendor any margin of profitability, and usually strains the relationship with the lawyer to the breaking point.

The lawyer does not understand that this is not how the relationship operates elsewhere in the “real world.” Normally, clients have thought out their needs more thoroughly, and expect to pay for unanticipated changes and course corrections.

The solution is simple. If you cannot adequately plan, be realistic in your expectations. Expect to pay for changes and revisions which crop up as a result of the “evolutionary” nature of your project. Negotiate a reasonable cost in advance, which is mutually acceptable to you and the vendor.

## THE BLAME GAME

I remember clearly how one firm thought it was the vendor's “fault” that they did not buy an optional piece of equipment which was quite costly. They had turned it down, thinking it an unnecessary upgrade. When they discovered they were unhappy with the equipment performance without it, they actually expected it free from the vendor, because the vendor failed to “convince” them they needed it. Of course, the correct response would have been to purchase the additional equipment and try to negotiate a reduced rate for installation.

The solution is simple. It is incumbent upon you to ask questions—lots of them, and then make an informed decision. Be sure to get the answers in writing, or reduce them to writing. If your decision turns out to be flawed, you must take responsibility. Unless the information you received was inaccurate, don't expect the vendor to pay for your poor decision, or for the questions you failed to ask.

**Keep in mind that your relationship with your vendor is and should be an ongoing one. That is in the best interest of the firm.**

## EGO ISSUES

Egos are usually a bit stronger and larger in law firms than elsewhere. This manifests itself in many ways. Partners on the same committee may each seek to prove their place in the pecking order by exacting the most concessions from the hapless vendor caught in the middle. I call this double-teaming. In their effort to outdo each other's negotiating, they

trample the vendor and wipe out any profit margin which might ensure an ongoing healthy relationship.

Ego can also get in the way of making good technology decisions. Accustomed to having the answers, lawyers with a shaky grasp of technology often attempt to bluff knowledge, intimidate the vendor, and pay attention to what they know (like contract negotiation) and gloss over what they don't (like network specifications).

Lawyers may also make decisions on deployment of technology based on ego. That's when you see partners getting the super-duper computers with large monitors, and staff getting the worn-out hand-me-downs with monitors so small they can barely edit more than a few sentences at a time on the screen. Of course, the lawyer will blame the vendor for the dip in productivity and employee morale.



Keep in mind that your relationship with your vendor is and should be an ongoing one. That is in the best interest of the firm. Therefore, although you want to negotiate a great deal, you should stop short of “killing” the vendor. If they can’t make a reasonable profit, the only place they can recover is in short-changing follow-up service your firm will need. And when you allocate equipment and plan for technology upgrades, focus on productivity and service to the client, and deploying resources to achieve those aims. Keeping those goals firmly in mind will help you avoid the ego minefields which derail the best plans.

#### I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR CLASS

If only I had a dime for every time I've heard that. Lawyers rarely want to or take the time to get adequate training. And they usually don't want to spend the money or allow the staff the time to get trained either. Sometimes the unwillingness to train is caused by overconfidence that training will not be necessary. Just as often it's caused by a fear of appearing ignorant to one's peers. In either case, time pressures exacerbate the underlying cause. Unfortunately, in either instance the vendor must bear the brunt of problems created by users who are not properly trained to use the specified hardware and/or software. Vendors also hear about it when lawyers and staff are unhappy with software they don't fully utilize.

I am often contacted on the hot line by people unhappy with “proven” software. They tell me they have complained endlessly to the vendor and gotten nowhere. They want me to recommend other software, because they can't do what they want with the software they have. “It won't do xxx,” I hear. I know it will. I ask, “How much training did you receive when you

got the software?” Usually the answer is little or none. I contact their vendor. They are relieved to hear from me. “It's a training issue” they say, “but they won't listen to us.” I resolve the issue by persuading the firm to pay for and get proper training. Once I “do the math” and show them that conversion will be a lot more costly than properly learning to use what they have, they are convinced.

Today's software is powerful and versatile. It is also a lot more complex. Just because it has these nice GUI (pronounced “goeey,” which stands for Graphical User Interface) icons to click on, it doesn't mean you can teach yourself how to use it properly, unless you're exceptional where technology is concerned. And even if you are, what about your staff?

You can and should expect to pay as much for or MORE for training as for the software itself. For a network implementation project, as much as 35% of the overall budget should be allocated for training. That also means that lawyers and staff must schedule the time to get trained, retrained, and advanced

trained, until use of the software is second nature.

#### DO AS I SAY, NOT AS I DO

Lawyers constantly counsel clients to “get it in writing.” Yet they rarely do so for themselves. Too many relationships with vendors go sour because of accusations about what was said and/or promised which was not reduced to writing. Lawyers are very quick to threaten vendors with lawsuits over these misunderstandings. No wonder many vendors who have had this experience refuse to deal further with law firms.

Again, the solution is very simple. The law firm representative should take copious notes during every meeting with the vendor. Record carefully all representations made, statements of fact, promises, who agrees to do what and be responsible for what. Within 24 hours of the meeting type up the notes and deliver them to all who attended the meeting. Let the vendor(s) know that the notes are subject to correction within 48 hours, after which everything in there will be relied upon as fact. This simple exercise is

*continued on page 18*

## BANKRUPTCY



Now Accepting Referrals In Chapter 13

**Edward E. Gilbert, Esq.**

*Attorney-At-Law*



Telephone  
724-836-4730

140 South Main Street  
–Third Floor–  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania

## Are You A Difficult Client? *continued from page 17*

well worth the effort. It will totally eliminate finger pointing. It will quickly pinpoint miscommunications and misunderstandings, so that your purchase/project goes more smoothly. Both results are in the best interest of the firm.

Changing from a “difficult” client to a “reasonable” one is not too difficult. Nor does it mean you have to be a “sucker” or overpay for services, equipment and supplies. It simply means that you will plan more carefully, realistically expect to pay for course corrections when your planning has proven inadequate, keep your goals in mind and egos in

check, budget for and get adequate training, take responsibility for your oversights and errors, and take copious notes to document all meetings



and conversations. My experience is that you can be a tough consumer and still be a reasonable one. Vendors don't mind tough, they mind bullies. In fact, they respect tough consumers. Being tough but reasonable will earn your firm the

pricing and support you want, need and deserve.

*Ellen Freedman, CLM, is the Law Practice Management Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Bar Association. In that capacity she assists PBA's members with management issues and decisions on the business side of their practice, including areas like technology, human resources, risk management, setting up a practice and so forth. Members are encouraged to contact Ellen through the 800 “Hot Line” at PBA headquarters, (800-932-0311 x2228) or through e-mail (lawpractice@pabar.org).*

## Antidepressants and Mood Stabilizers

**T**hese medications neither cure depression nor automatically clear up one's negative perceptions and behaviors. Therapy is always suggested even when the medication appears to lift even the most severe depression. Antidepressants are not prone to abuse or addiction. They do not trigger the euphoric highs of alcohol or other drugs, (prescriptions or illicit). This is important for those who are suffering both from depression and alcoholism or other drug addiction. They can safely take these antidepressants without fear of triggering addiction. By properly treating depression, they improve their chances for a successful recovery from chemical dependency.

The earliest drugs were tricyclics (Tofranil, Elavil, Norpramin, Aventyl, Pamelor) and monamine oxidase inhibitors (Parnate, Nardil). These drugs still work and are relatively inexpensive but have serious side effects. Research produced a second generation—selective

serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (Prozac, Zoloft, Paczyl) and a newer generation of re-uptake inhibitors (Effexor, Serzone). Research continues for improved medication in this field.

Possible side effects are dry mouth, constipation, fatigue, headaches, change in sleep habits, change in blood pressure, decreased sex drive, etc. The prescribing physician can help find a medication giving the maximum benefits with the minimum of side effects.

Bipolar sufferers are often treated with the same antidepressants to combat depression but face a limited choice of medications to treat the manic phase. There is real concern that in the depressive stage of bipolar disease the medication may trigger a manic episode. It is important to be followed closely by a doctor experienced in the use of these medications for the appropriate medication and dosage.

Sedatives used to treat sleeplessness and anxiety can be addictive.

If a person has a personal or family history of alcohol or other abuse or addiction, they should request their doctor to use appropriate medication to assist with insomnia.

Antidepressants are not automatic “happy pills.” It may take several weeks at full dosage to determine if a particular medication is effective. Sometimes experimentation with several medications is necessary before one is found that is right for the person involved. A gradual lifting of the depression, not an appearance of euphoria, indicates the medication is working. Combining the medications with talk therapy will assist with identifying and changing those attitudes and behaviors that makes one vulnerable to stress and depression.

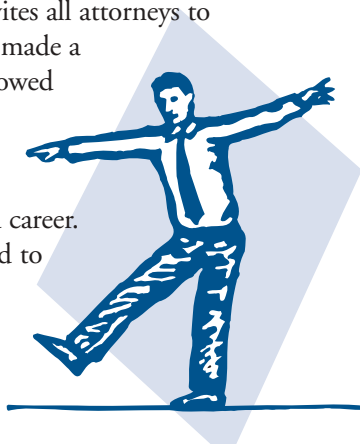
**For more information on any of these matters, contact the Lawyers Concerned For Lawyers Confidential Lawyer's Helpline, 1-888-999-1941, where help is available 24/7.**

# October Quarterly Meeting Will Help You Keep Your Balance

Ever been interrupted at home with a phone call from a “pesky” client? Had to cancel a pre-planned family outing because of an “inflexible” court date? Left friends or family members waiting for hours while you “finished up” at the office? If so, then you’re well aware of the emotional upheaval caused by the demands of your professional responsibilities invading (and often overtaking) the plans for personal time.

If you’re open for help on this most difficult balancing act then you’ll want to be in attendance at the October 11 Quarterly Meeting of the WBA at the Greensburg Garden and Civic Center. Attorneys can receive two complimentary ethics credits on the topic “The Ultimate Balancing Act.” This program, written, produced and distributed by the Pennsylvania Bar Association Task Force on the Quality of Life/Balance, uses everyday situations to show the pressures and tensions felt by lawyers. Each scenario is left unresolved so that audience members can discuss the possible solutions.

This free program is offered as a membership benefit and the Board of Directors invites all attorneys to attend. The wellness issue was made a priority after a 1999 survey showed that more than one-half of the respondents indicated feeling stressed or out of control on issues of family and career. The board has since committed to offering one free CLE seminar a year on topics focusing on preventive and remedial steps that lawyers can take to improve their quality of life and achieve personal and professional balance.



The October 11 program will be offered from 4 to 6 p.m. and will be facilitated by Vince Quatrini. WBA members John Ranker, Dan Joseph, Mary Ann Petrillo and Judge Irv Bloom will join psychiatrist Lawson Bernstein in a follow-up discussion of the vignettes. Please consider joining us for this important seminar.

**IS YOUR INFORMATION ON THE WBA WEB SITE CURRENT? CHECK IT OUT AT WWW.WESTBAR.ORG.**

*Click on “Attorney Search” and search for your name. If your information needs to be changed, complete this form and return to: WBA, 129 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Greensburg, PA 15601, or fax (724) 834-6855.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Firm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Building \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Web Site \_\_\_\_\_  
 My four main areas of practice are:  
 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Mediation, arbitration and all forms of conflict resolution**

- John M. Campfield, Esquire
- Vincent J. Quatrini, Jr., Esquire
- Dennis Slyman, Esquire
- W. Bryan Pizzi II, Esquire
- Jennie K. Bullard, Esquire
- William M. Radcliffe, Esquire

The Academy For



Telephone 724-850-8ADR (8237)  
 P.O. Box 476 Greensburg, PA 15601

# CALENDAR of Events

## SEPTEMBER

- 5 Women in the Law, Noon
- 6 Finance, Noon
- 8 Fall Gathering, 5:30–9:30 p.m.,  
Hill Crest Country Club
- 12 Membership, Noon  
Inns, 5 p.m.
- 18 Family Law, Noon  
Board Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 20 Elder Law/Orphans' Court,  
Noon
- 29–30 Casino/Football Outing

## OCTOBER

- 8 Columbus Day Holiday
- 10 Membership, Noon
- 11 Quarterly Meeting and  
Special CLE Seminar:  
“The Ultimate Balancing  
Act,” 4 p.m.
- 16 Family Law, Noon  
Board Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 18 Elder Law/Orphans' Court,  
Noon

# TOP TEN

## Top Ten Excuses Heard By The Disciplinary Board, Part Two

1. “Come on, it’s not commingling if I intended to keep it all.”
2. “Of course I was drunk in court. Why else would I have been there?”
3. “Because I thought that representing both sides would be cheaper and quicker, that’s why.”
4. “If I hadn’t told them I was an expert, they never would have hired me.”
5. “I know I didn’t graduate. That’s why I charge less.”
6. “I didn’t say I would reduce the fee if she slept with me. I said I would think about it.”
7. “Certainly I knew the statute of limitations had expired. That’s why I charged so much to take the case.”
8. “Believe me, I would never have forged my client’s name to the release if he’d been willing to sign it himself.”
9. “Yes, I did call His Honor a big fat pig in the courtroom but I thought he was still asleep.”
10. “Of course I was obdurate, dilatory and vexatious. That’s my job.”



Westmoreland Bar Association  
129 North Pennsylvania Avenue  
Greensburg, PA 15601-2311

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
GREENSBURG, PA  
PERMIT #678