



# Electronic Filing Is On The Doorstep (Or In Your Inbox)

by Beth Orbison, Esq.

Following the lead of the federal courts and a handful of state courts, Westmoreland County is seriously considering the gradual implementation of mandatory electronic filing of all documents in civil and family court cases. "Electronic filing" simply means that all submissions and pleadings filed in the Prothonotary's Office will be received in electronic format, rather than on paper. With the help of LexisNexis Courtlink, Inc., a leading provider of legal information and litigation support and technology services, the Westmoreland County courts would be among the first of the 60 courts of common pleas in Pennsylvania to require e-filing for a large cross-section of civil and family court cases.



Beth Orbison

"The success of Beaver County has encouraged us," says Ron Diehl, Westmoreland County Prothonotary. "They have been on board since September 2006." As such, the Westmoreland County Prothonotary's Office is currently in the process of updating its case management and docketing software in anticipation of

being up and running by the end of this month.

Once the system is implemented, attorneys who sign up for a basic account with LexisNexis File & Serve will be able to file documents via an internet connection without having to go the courthouse. In addition, since case documents are contained in an electronic file, they will be able to access previously filed documents at any time and from anywhere at [www.lexisnexis.com/fileandserve](http://www.lexisnexis.com/fileandserve). Paul Weiser of LexisNexis explains, "It can change the way you work to your liking, because you can work from any location where you have internet access."

A public access terminal will be available both to *pro se* litigants and attorneys. In addition, or perhaps alternatively, office staff will assist those who bring their paperwork to the counter in the Prothonotary's Office, and will scan their paper documents into the electronic system.

Additional features provided by the LexisNexis system include electronic service; filing receipts (which list the date and time of submission, case name, documents filed, represented parties, served parties and method of

service, identity of the filer and the person authorizing the filing); a toll-free 24-hour-a-day support line, provided free of charge; seminars on the web ("webinars"); and on-site training.

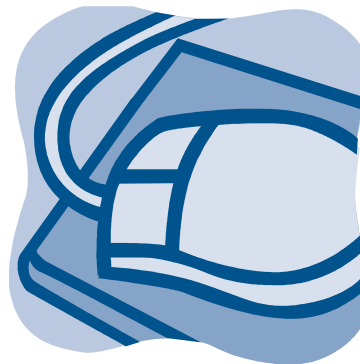
The average electronic filing charge for one or more documents that are filed at the same time and in the same case is \$7 per transaction. The charge for electronic service is an additional \$7. The attorney of record in the case will incur no subsequent access charges

for any documents that are viewed, downloaded or printed at a later time. Statutory filing fees and fees charged by the server will be billed once a month to the account holder.

Representatives from LexisNexis are quick to point out the potential cost savings to those who take full advantage of the services offered through e-filing. Some of the obvious costs that are eliminated are expenses related to mileage, parking, time, paper, photocopying, mailing and payment tracking.

If the system offered by LexisNexis is approved for use in Westmoreland County, a new local rule will be

*continued on page 4*



President's Message

# Moving On

by Rebecca A. Brammell, Esq.

One of the first messages I wrote was about travel. Now I come full circle and write about it again. I've spent the past two days driving to Florida to transport my eldest child and his many belongings to start college in Orlando. It was one of those trips when you are trying to make the best time of it despite being keenly aware that this is a one-way trip for one of the family



members, and that knowledge just gnaws at you.

New beginnings. Not hard, necessarily, but changes nevertheless. My secretary left the office in December and I am making changes. Changes in personnel; changes in the office procedures and changes in the way I do business.

Some things, like sending a child off to college, are among the things that you plan and some things, like an accident or losing a key staff person, are not. You need to be able to deal with both of them in your life and practice. People are counting on you. Friends, family and clients all want you to handle the crisis and then move on. Maybe you get a little sympathy in the short term but people generally just want what they want, NOW. In our business there is time to pause and regroup but then it's "business as usual."

We have had a couple of seminars in the past few years about planning for disasters. We all need the business plan that will take care of things when bad things happen. It doesn't need to be as big as 9/11 or Hurricane Katrina; it could be as small as a flood from a broken water pipe or a car accident that takes you out of commission for

days or weeks. Who will meet those deadlines in a crisis? Who will pay the bills and with what? Dig out those forms and sign the Power of Attorney so the accounts and things that only you know will be taken care of.

As a Bar Association the board is trying to do this disaster planning on a long-range basis. The dues you pay are just a minimal sum compared to the costs of running the operation. Two-thirds of the sum you pay in dues goes to the Pennsylvania Bar Association to pay their dues. As an organization, the ties we have to that organization and the benefits they provide are a crucial part of our

strength. If you have not taken advantage of the many committees and information sources through the PBA you should avail yourself of them.

Our local bar association functions only because we have the revenue from the legal journal to keep us solvent. With the increase in communication systems and the updated technology, the law journal, as we know it, will go by the wayside and that revenue stream is expected to be dramatically curtailed. For that reason, the planning committee and the board have been working diligently over the past few years to put money into investments that will grow and eventually endow the Bar Association so the programs and operations will be able to continue to function.

In the coming year there will be some tough decisions

to make about the programs, committees or events that the Bar Association sponsors. Your voice is important in those decisions and I encourage you to make your opinion known. Drop an e-mail or note to the bar association office or make a quick call to someone on the board. If you forget who that is, check the back of the law journal each week, it's all there.

The board is working hard to be good stewards of the funds we have and to make our organization work well to serve our members, just as each one of you is out working in a profession that presents challenges every day, and trying to anticipate

the needs of the future.

So, as I leave my son to begin his new adventure in Florida, I am thinking of the challenges that will face me upon my return to Pennsylvania. I hope that we both will be growing and learning in these new experiences. I know that

there are resources within the Bar Association that will help me practice "smarter, not harder," as Ellen Freedman would say, and I plan to take advantage of them. I hope you plan to take advantage of these same programs and resources and I also hope you will consider working with the Westmoreland Bar Association in the future to help continue this successful organization.

**Some things are among the things that you plan, and some things are not. You need to be able to deal with both of them in your life and practice.**

*Rebecca A. Brammell*

Committee Reports

# Nominations Announced for 2007–2008 Board, Committees

## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee of the Westmoreland Bar Association has recommended the following members for positions on the Board of Directors and the Membership and Building

Committees. Those WBA members attending the Annual Meeting of the association, to be held on April 9, 2007, will vote “yea” or “nay” to fill these positions.

At the conclusion of the annual meeting, James E. Whelton, Jr., will assume the Bar presidency.



▲ Incoming WBA President James E. Whelton, Jr.

## VICE PRESIDENT: JAMES R. ANTONIONO

*The Vice President ensures that the WBA’s mission, services, policies and programs are carried out. One-year term.*



▲ James R. Antoniono

James R. Antoniono has been nominated for the position of

Vice President. He is completing his third year as a Director on the WBA board.

A member of the WBA since 1982, Jim serves as Chair of the Investment Advisory Committee, and has been a Pro Bono volunteer and

Law Day participant. He is a member of the Pennsylvania and American Bar Associations, the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association, Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association and the Westmoreland Academy of Trial Lawyers

Jim received his Bachelors Degree from Pennsylvania State University, his M.A. from Rutgers University, and his Juris Doctor from Duquesne University School of Law. He is a partner in DeBernardo, Antoniono, McCabe, Davis & DeDiana, P.C., in Greensburg.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS: DAVID S. DEROSE

*The Director ensures that the WBA’s mission, services, policies and programs are carried out. Three-year term.*

David S. DeRose has been nominated for the open position on the WBA Board of Directors.

“I have been a member of our Bar for 30 years,” says David. “I would like to think that in some small way, I have

made a positive contribution to the Bar, particularly with respect to the many years I spent with other colleagues in establishing Lawyers Abstract Company and in securing and maintaining our Bar Association headquarters. It is likewise important to acknowledge, however, that I have received much more from this Association than I have ever contributed, mostly because relationships fostered by the camaraderie among the Bar, its leadership and members have always placed first.

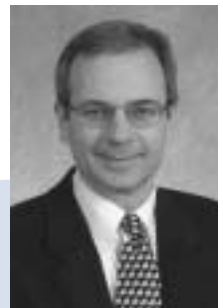
The Bar Association is our means to separate ourselves from other “businesses.”

Hopefully, we will all continue to work together to carry forward the tradition, spirit and professionalism that others shaped for us many years ago.”

David has served as Chair of the WBA’s Building Committee for the past 15 years. He also is active on the ADR, Elder Law and Family Law Committees. His professional memberships include the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association and the Association for Conflict Resolution.

A graduate of Pennsylvania State University, with high distinction, David earned his J.D. from Duquesne University, where he was editor-in-chief of Juris magazine.

He was a solo practitioner for 18 years



▲ David S. DeRose

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## EDITORIAL BOARD

- David J. Millstein, Esq., Editor
- Beth Orbison, Esq., Assistant Editor
- The Hon. Daniel J. Ackerman, President Judge, Assistant Town Crier
- Susan C. Zellner, Associate Editor
- Diane Krivoniak, Managing Editor

# Committee Reports *continued from page 3*

before joining Quatrini Rafferty Galloway, P.C., in Greensburg, as an associate in 1994.



▲ Barbara J. Artuso

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: BARBARA J. ARTUSO**

*The Membership Committee is the first point of contact that most applicants have with the WBA. Five-year term.*

**B**arbara J. Artuso has been nominated

to fill the open position on the WBA Membership Committee.

Admitted to the WBA in 1978, Barbara has, at various times, been a member of the Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, Women in the Legal Profession, Explorers, and Nominating Committees. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives and recently completed a two-year term as president of the Ned J. Nakles American Inn of Court. She continues to serve on the Executive Committee of the Inn.

According to Barbara, her experiences with the Inn of Court made her appreciate "the necessity for older lawyers, and yes, I include myself among them, to get to know the newest members of our Association. I believe that my commitment to this endeavor would make me an appropriate candidate for a position on the Membership Committee."

Barbara received her B.A., with honors, from Bucknell University and her J.D. from Dickinson School of Law. She is an associate with Quatrini Rafferty Galloway, P.C., in Greensburg.

**BUILDING COMMITTEE: RICHARD F. FLICKINGER**

*Responsible for maintaining the management and upkeep of Bar Headquarters. Five-year term.*

**R**ichard F. Flickinger has been nominated to serve a third term on the Building Committee.

A past president of the WBA, Rich currently serves on the Building,



▲ Richard F. Flickinger

Real Estate, By-Laws and Orphans' Court Committees.

In addition to the Westmoreland Bar Association, Rich is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the American Bar Association. He also sits on governing boards of St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fort Ligonier Association, and Valley Players of Ligonier.

Rich earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Lafayette College, and his J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He is a founding partner of Flickinger & Barr in Ligonier.

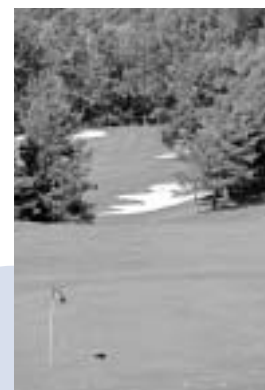
**Bench/Bar Committee**

## 2007 Bench/Bar A Blast From The Past

**M**any bar members have great memories from their attendance at past Bench/Bar Conferences held at the Wisp Resort. Those members will be glad to hear that

the 2007 Bench/Bar will be returning to that location. And anyone who remembers the "old" location will be pleasantly surprised with the changes that have occurred since our last trip to Deep Creek, Md., in 2003.

The entire facility has had a \$2.7 million makeover with renovations to the outside façade, the meeting spaces and the room interiors. The hotel lobby is now outfitted with over-sized



▲ Golf at The Wisp

# Electronic Filing *continued from page 1*

adopted to authorize the conversion to electronic filing. Implementation will be conducted in phases, beginning with mandatory e-filing of mortgage foreclosures, then liens and judgments, then all civil court filings, and finally divorce and custody cases. All offices associated with civil and family cases—the courts, the court administrator's office, and the Sheriff's office—will work through this system. For example, a sheriff's deputy will use a



computer to input data at the site as soon as a party is served, and the Sheriff's Department will e-file writs of execution.

Electronic filing offers quicker and more cost-efficient filing, improved access to information, overall increased efficiency in managing documents, enhanced case monitoring and a reduction in costs for document storage and administration. As Ron Diehl says, "Economically, it will be good for us."





◀ The 2007 Bench/Bar Conference will be held at The Wisp in Deep Creek, Md., June 14–16. The entire facility has recently undergone a \$2.7 million makeover.



leather couches, comfortable sitting areas, a stone fireplace, a computer work station and wireless internet service.

The “new” Sewickley Spa has taken over a portion of the second floor and the facility is as nice as any upscale location with spa services that include wraps and scrubs as well as basic massage and manicures. Reservations are a must here though as the space is somewhat limited.

Judge Feliciani and Scotty’s Blues Peddlers have been booked to entertain us on Thursday evening out on the newly designed deck. Word has it that guest appearances are likely from James Boggs, Judge Blahovec and some other talented bar members. Thursday evening will include an outdoor social hour and barbecue and, if the weather is anything like last year’s, this will most likely be the highlight of the weekend.

The Wisp has an upscale eatery called DC’s Bar and Restaurant and we have made arrangements to rent the entire space for Friday’s dinner. The décor is inviting and metropolitan and is guaranteed to be a memorable dining experience at this resort.

Outdoor recreation offerings are also impressive.

The golf course continues to be rated as one of the top courses in the state. Golfers will have two opportunities to golf at this conference with a shotgun start set for Thursday afternoon and nine holes scheduled for Friday morning. An open-air skate park is available for the adventurous—and most likely younger—Bar member, but other new offerings include chairlift rides, nature

hikes, paintball games, water skiing and mountain biking.

Some Bar members may remember lounging by the Olympic-sized indoor pool and Jacuzzi. This area, too, has been modernized. Exercise fanatics will enjoy the renovated fitness area, which includes new free weights and cardio and Nautilus equipment, with Pilates and yoga classes available for a nominal fee.

In keeping with the Wisp tradition, we have arranged for pontoons to shuttle attendees over to Uno’s for a pizza and salad lunch and we have also arranged for a shuttle to escort interested partiers to and from the Deep Creek bars.

So block off your calendar for Thursday, June 14, through Saturday, June 16. Alert your secretary to keep those dates free of appointments, court hearings and depositions so you can be part of the 2007 WBA group that creates new memories at the Wisp Bench/Bar Conference.

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# Committee Reports *continued from page 5*

## Family Law & ADR Committees

# ADR Update: By The Numbers

by John M. Noble, Esq.



▲  
John M. Noble

PA President Kenneth J. Horoho, Jr., recently authored an article in the Pennsylvania Bar News entitled “Pay Raises for Pa. Judges: A Top 10 Q&A for Citizens.” The article addressed issues relating to the controversy stirred by the increase in judicial salaries. In that context, statistics were offered in response to the question, “Just how hard do Judges really work for their money?” You may be surprised by the numbers.

### STATEWIDE NUMBERS

According to the article, during 2005, the Superior Court of Pennsylvania was “among one of the busiest intermediate appellate Courts in the country” with 7,946 cases filed and 5,037 opinions rendered.

In 2004, the common pleas courts statewide boasted the following statistics:

- 150,000 criminal cases
- 125,000 civil actions
- 349,542 support, custody and divorce matters
- 13,677 juvenile dependency actions
- 50,000 juvenile delinquency cases
- 40,000 protection from abuse orders
- 18,000 orphans’ court cases.

If you think the above statistics are significant, consider these 2004 numbers for the magisterial district judges:

- 211,522 criminal cases
- 102,160 private criminal complaints
- 1.6 million traffic offenses
- 395,545 non-traffic offenses

- 143,496 civil actions
- 74,253 landlord/tenant matters
- 888,861 arrest warrants issued.

Based upon the numbers, who could disagree with President Horoho’s assertion that our Judges are “working for their salaries?”

Compared to the number of civil cases, the number of domestic and juvenile court cases in the courts of common pleas seems alarming. Admittedly, these are statewide numbers, but nonetheless, the numbers tend to beg the question, “Just how well can the courts adequately handle the volume of family court matters?”

Are our Judges working for their salaries? No question. Could they use some help? No doubt.

### WESTMORELAND COUNTY NUMBERS

The numbers in Westmoreland County are not as alarming. According to the Westmoreland County Prothonotary’s Office, there were 10,122 civil cases filed in 2005, and 9,705 cases filed as of October 1, 2006. As for domestic matters, 1,053 divorce complaints and 2,508 support petitions were filed in 2005. After the first 10 months of 2006, these numbers were 821 and 2,166, respectively. PFA petitions numbered 781 in 2005 and

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**practice tips**

# Practicing Before A Magisterial District Judge

*Editor's note: We asked Magisterial District Judge Mark Bilik, as President of the Westmoreland County Magisterial District Judges' Association, to poll his fellow magisterial district judges to see if they had any suggestions as to how younger attorneys appearing in the offices of the magisterial district judges might improve their performances in their courtrooms. What follows is his response.*

*by Mark J. Bilik, Magisterial District Judge*

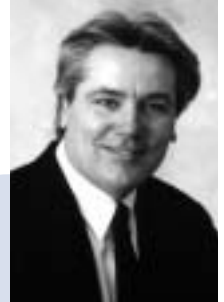
I was asked to prepare an article for the sidebar that new attorneys, in particular, would find informative and helpful in dealing with Magisterial District Judges ("MDJs") and their staffs. With the help of my colleagues, I have endeavored to identify areas of concern that may be of interest to the

members of the bar who practice in the magisterial district courts in Westmoreland County.

**CONTINUANCES**

The first concern is the dreaded continuance: "I need a continuance. I know it's ten minutes before the hearing, but I was just called to the Supreme Court." Continuances are inevitable and, most times, are for very legitimate reasons. Our courts schedule hearings well in advance and our staffs are more than willing to work with attorneys and their staffs towards a mutual accommodation. A lawyer should be considerate, however, of the fact that a continuance results in the reissuing of subpoenas and checking the availability of police and other witnesses, along with the loss of scheduled court time.

MDJ Mansour indicated that attorneys have contacted his office and advised that they represented an individual, but later failed to appear for trial. Whether the reason for the lawyer's absence is the client's failure to pay the lawyer's fee or otherwise, the court is entitled to notification that the lawyer is not going to appear. (See PA MDJ Rule 207.1, effective October 10, 2006). Be aware that tardiness on the part of an attorney simply escalates the tension that already exists between the litigants in these matters. If a lawyer is going to be late to a hearing for any reason, the MDJ



▲ Mark Bilik

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# Practicing Before An MDJ *continued from page 7*

should be notified so that he or she can decide if a postponement is warranted.

## PROFESSIONALISM

As part of the Unified Judicial System, MDJ courts expect the same professionalism from counsel as any other court. Professionalism facilitates the MDJ's role as adjudicator, as opposed to a referee. A lawyer who treats an unrepresented opponent, witness or opposing lawyer with respect permits the MDJ to focus on the testimony and evidence being offered rather than on resolving verbal conflicts. Trust that the MDJ is able to filter out the irrelevant material.

## PREPAREDNESS

Several MDJs indicated that, during civil proceedings, it appeared as if the attorneys were hearing their client's testimony for the first time. Just as in any other court, an attorney has a professional responsibility to be prepared and to provide an accurate and detailed account of the evidence. If an exhibit will assist you, provide the court with copies. Additionally, if you rely upon a case in support of your position, provide a copy of the case.

## GRANDSTANDING

Webster's Dictionary defines "grandstanding" as playing or acting so as to impress onlookers. In my first few years on the bench, I thought I must be doing something wrong because when I made a ruling on a motion by an attorney and they disagreed with me, they would respond with such body language as bulging eyes, shoulder shrugs and other gestures of incredulity. I came to learn that sometimes they do this for appearance only, and I was shocked. Now that I've been on the court for fifteen years, I won't put up with it. Accordingly, they do it less, but they shouldn't do it at all.

## PRELIMINARY HEARINGS

At preliminary hearings, the prosecution must present evidence sufficient to establish a *prima facie* case, not guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, but evidence which, if true, would warrant a trial in the court of common pleas. Since assistant district attorneys

are present at these hearings, defense lawyers have the opportunity to negotiate an acceptable resolution with them, which may alleviate the need for the hearing. That can occur through a plea bargain on a case waived into court, or through a reduction of charges to summary offenses which can be disposed of at this level.

*[Editor's note: Once waived, the right to a preliminary hearing cannot be revived because the defendant has changed his mind or because the court declines to accept the negotiated*

*plea.]* Magisterial district courts

have an opportunity to play a significant role in reducing common pleas criminal court dockets. MDJs Conway and King point out that once there is an agreement between the prosecution and defense, it is important for all necessary documents to be signed, including, if appropriate, waiver of arraignment, bond, and fingerprint forms (along with service of fast track and CRN notices in DUI cases), before the defendant leaves the district court.

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## COMMUNICATION

When attorneys from Indiana, Somerset, Fayette, or other surrounding counties come into our courts, they are impressed that public defenders and assistant district attorneys are always present at criminal proceedings, including night court and video arraignments. All these advancements were made possible because there are open lines of communication between the courts and those people who use them the most—attorneys. The Magisterial District Judges Association has played a big part in these advancements and we are always open to suggestions that could help improve the system. I hope these suggestions will assist you when you appear in our courts.



# Spotlight on Tom Ceraso



**Q WHAT JOBS HAVE YOU HELD PRIOR TO BECOMING AN ATTORNEY?**

**A** Worked at the United Engineering and Foundry as a laborer and U.S. Steel as a laborer during college and law school.

**Q WHICH WAS YOUR FAVORITE AND WHY?**

**A** Neither, but they taught me a good lesson in terms of perhaps I was better suited to using my mind rather than my body.

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

**A** During the preparation for the Gammage trial in

Chester, Pa., my client knocked on the door at about 4:45 a.m. I answered the door in my skivvies and he later commented to one of the other attorneys that he didn't know whether to call 911 or give me CPR—I assume because of the magnificence of my body.

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

**A** Frankness.

**Q WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE JOURNEY?**

**A** My wife's and my trip to Italy for our 40th wedding anniversary.

**Q WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST REGRET?**

**A** The death of the 4th Amendment to the Federal Constitution.

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

**A** My secretary, Barbara Frey, who has tolerated me, and Jim Smith, who likewise has tolerated me.

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

**A** Start every case knowing the law relative to the problems that exist in that case.

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

**A** An acquittal of a doctor in federal court who was charged with 376 counts of medical abuse of prescriptions for patients. The doctor at that time was 72 years old and was

*continued on page 10*



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## Spotlight on Tom Ceraso

*continued from page 9*

offered a plea agreement of 10 years. He was a saint in his community and his return to his community was an achievement above all else that I have ever been involved in.

**Q WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?**

**A** Spending time with my family and grandchildren.

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

**A** Possessions are not particularly treasures to me.

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

**A** Bureaucratic bumbling and the problems in coordinating schedules.

**Q WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?**

**A** I don't think I have any great extravagance.

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

**A** The ability to be a good writer. I seem to talk right, but have problems putting thoughts on paper.

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

**A** The fact that they are there when needed.

**Q WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?**

**A** I never considered this question, but frankly, admiration for another person is not something that is particularly meaningful to me. However, the person that I most admired was A.C. Scales who was probably the greatest teacher that I could have had.

**Q WHAT IS YOUR MOTTO?**

**A** Work as hard as you possibly can.

## Committee Reports *continued from page 6*

639 through October of 2006. The sheer volume of cases begs the question, "Why doesn't Westmoreland County have some avenue for domestic ADR/mediation within our local rules?"

### FAMILY LAW ADR PROCEDURAL RULES UNDER CONSTRUCTION

By a joint effort of the Family Law and ADR Committees, proposed rules for Westmoreland County Family Law ADR are under construction. Given the statewide and county numbers above—as well as the success of ADR programs in neighboring counties—it is time to take this next step, if only preliminarily as a "pilot" program. Should you have any questions and/or interest in being part of the rule-making process, contact the Bar Association for information on upcoming meetings. You can expect to see the proposed rules in the near future.

Clearly, mediation isn't just for civil personal injury cases anymore. For example, the mediation of medical malpractice matters is now taking place regularly throughout Western Pennsylvania. But it doesn't stop there. Mediation has expanded to the resolution of partnership disputes, boundary line and/or right-of-way disputes, breach of contract/covenant not to compete claims, pharmacy malpractice claims, school district litigation, racial and sexual discrimination, federal employer liability act claims, legal and architectural malpractice disputes, and patent claims.

By the numbers, it would seem that we are barely scratching the surface of cases that could and/or should be mediated. As the above

statistics illustrate, we are on the verge of tremendous growth in the ADR field with plenty of room for many, many more mediators in a wide variety of practice areas. If the momentum continues, rules governing family law ADR will soon be here.

### Lawyers' Assistance Committee

## Committee Members Sign Agreement

Each member of the Lawyers' Assistance Committee (formerly Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers) recently signed a confidentiality agreement in recognition of the need to maintain the privacy of the information with which our legal colleagues entrust us in the context of the work of the committee. In conjunction with the signing of the agreement, the committee has formally adopted the following policy:

*It is the policy of the Lawyers Assistance Committee of the Westmoreland Bar Association to protect the privacy rights of all WBA Members, Committee Members, and all of our attorney colleagues by holding all information obtained during the course of the Committee's work in strict confidence and limiting the disclosure of all information.*

To read the full text of the confidentiality agreement, contact Irv Bloom or Beth Orbison, co-chairs of the committee, or visit the Member Resources area of [www.westbar.org](http://www.westbar.org).

*Submit your committee's news, events or reminders for publication in the April issue of the sidebar. Fax 724-834-6855 or e-mail [susan.zellner@verizon.net](mailto:susan.zellner@verizon.net) by March 23, 2007.*

# To-Wit: The Last Laugh

by S. Sponte, Esq.

Not a chance,” said Billy, the same response he had given me seven times before in reply to my request that he contribute something to the settlement. I had beseeched, wheedled and cajoled him now for nigh on to incessantly, and his reply remained the same. I haven’t begged anyone that much for anything since I pleaded with my hard-hearted high school prom date for a feel. Her reply had been identical, and that’s why I suspect she must now be doing defense work, too.

The case was quite complex, an adjective I generally apply now to any case in which I don’t know the law. The whole matter revolved around a forged automobile title. The forger was now both penniless and incarcerated, twin qualities that had pretty much insulated him from civil justice’s

jumbled snare, and thus the remaining and thoroughly guiltless parties were left to slug it out among themselves.

Though I thought I knew the applicable law, Plaintiff’s counsel had

**Despite my resolve, the trial date crept inexorably closer, like a tsunami, merciless, unforgiving and unyielding, caring not a whit that Billy was a toad.**

faxed around a recent state supreme court decision which, *horribile dictu*, was exactly on point and which

seemed to assure him of prevailing. Both Billy’s client and mine could easily be left holding the bag.

However, the case was not worth a lot of money to begin with, and the costs and fees would quickly escalate beyond all proportion to value. With Plaintiff willing to significantly compromise to avoid the considerable expense of trial, I had hoped to put together with Billy a modest offer of settlement and to thus put this case quickly to bed.

“Billy isn’t home right now,” a female voice replied the first time I called the number on his letterhead to discuss the matter. “This is his mommy, can I help you?” With that,

*continued on page 12*



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## To-Wit: The Last Laugh *continued from page 11*

hope took flight and wasn't expected back any time soon.

"Not a dime," said Billy when he returned my call. "My client's blameless."

And from that perch he steadfastly refused to be dissuaded. The risks, the costs, the aggravation and the time, they mattered to him not one iota, and my client being equally blameless, I was determined to not offer any money unless Billy did the same. Yet despite my resolve, the trial date crept inexorably closer, like a tsunami, merciless, unforgiving and unyielding, caring not a whit that Billy was a toad.

What do you do with a lawyer like that, as unmoved by the pragmatics of law as a stone, a reckless, callow simpleton of the profession whose time means little, whose clients mean less, and who stands oblivious to the unwritten rules to which his colleagues bow, scrape, shiver and sweat on a daily basis, oh what do you do?

What you do, if you're any good at all, is flinch, and that's just what I did the day before trial when I called Plaintiff's counsel and settled the case. Billy paid nothing, true enough, but it still cost my client less to settle than it would have to win by trial. In that regard, if no other, I did my client a service.

So who here had the last laugh? For sure it wasn't me. Yet still I have to stand back and marvel in bemusement and distress at the dark wit and ironic

synergies of a profession that can treat the skilled like a poor stepchild and the less-talented with wholly unwarranted deference.

Oh, I'll get over it, yes, I will. But for the moment I can't help but recall the prom days of my youth when, as now, I was left pretty much feeling nothing at all.

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### ATTENTION ATTORNEYS, PARALEGALS AND LEGAL SECRETARIES

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November/December 2006 Civil Trial Term

# Jury Trial Verdicts

by Rachel Huss, Esq., Charles J. Dangelo, Esq., and Thomas L. Jones, Esq.

Of sixty cases listed for the November/December 2006 Civil Jury Trial Term, sixteen settled, eighteen were continued, three were transferred to arbitration, three were summary jury trial verdicts, two were scheduled for summary jury trials, one compulsory non-suit was entered, one advisory jury was empaneled, five verdicts were entered and eleven were held to the next trial term. The jury verdicts for the November/December trial term are summarized below.

**JOHN TAMEWITZ**  
**V.**  
**SMEALS ENTERPRISES, INC.**  
**D/B/A EASTERN OFF-ROAD**  
**AND EASTERN OFF-ROAD, INC.**  
**NO. 7997 OF 2002**

*Cause of Action: Negligence*

At approximately 3:00 a.m. on January 1, 2001, Plaintiff was leaving a New Year's Eve party at a friend's home when he stepped onto the running board to enter the driver's side door of his pick-up truck and the



running board gave way and dislodged, thereby causing Plaintiff to fall backwards into two feet of snow. Plaintiff contended that as a result of Defendant's faulty installation of the running boards, he sustained injuries to his back that were chronic and permanent. These injuries affected his

ability to perform his work duties as a state trooper and resulted in an impairment of his earning capacity.

Defendant contended that Plaintiff was contributorily and/or comparatively negligent and barred from recovery since Plaintiff's causal negligence was greater than the negligence, if any, of the Defendant.

*Plaintiff's Counsel:* Gary Ogg, Ogg, Cordes, Murphy & Igelzi, L.L.P., Pgh.

*Defendants' Counsel:* Andrew Horvath, Stofko Law Offices, Johnstown

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

*Result:* Molded verdict in favor of Plaintiff in the amount of \$1,250,000.00.

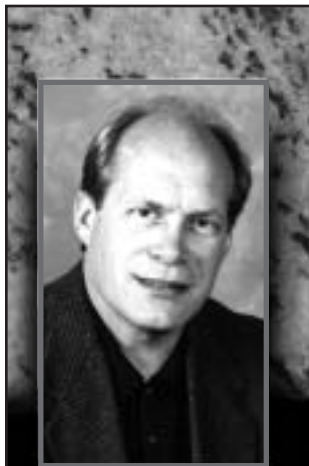
**ROBERT WALTERS AND**  
**TINA WALTERS**  
**V.**  
**JOHN SWEENEY**  
**NO. 6585 OF 2005**

*Cause of Action: Replevin—*  
*Advisory Jury Verdict*

In 1999, Plaintiffs Robert and Tina Walters, purchased a female beagle dog, which they named "Cole." On October 5, 2003, Cole escaped from Plaintiffs' property and was lost. Plaintiffs conducted a search and placed an advertisement in the local newspaper, but the dog was not found. On May 20, 2005, Plaintiffs learned that Defendant, John Sweeney, was in possession of a female beagle and, after viewing the dog, they concluded that it was, in fact, Cole. Thereafter, Plaintiffs filed an action in replevin, in which they averred that Defendant had wrongful possession of their beagle and that they had the right to immediate possession of the animal.

Trial took place on November 6, 2006, before the trial judge and an

*continued on page 14*



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## Jury Trial Verdicts *continued from page 13*

advisory jury empaneled pursuant to Pa. R.C.P. 1038.3. Plaintiffs testified regarding the identity of the beagle, the circumstances surrounding its escape from their property, and their search for the dog. In response, Defendant testified that the beagle, which he had named "Dixie," was acquired from a customer of his employer and that he had been caring for the animal for almost two years.

*Plaintiff's Counsel:* Brian M. Mancos, Bassi, McCune & Vreeland, P.C., Charleroi

*Defendant's Counsel:* Kenneth M. Baldonieri and Mark J. Shire, Shire Law Firm, Monessen

*Trial Judge:* The Hon. William J. Ober

*Result:* The advisory jury determined that the dog in Defendant's possession was not the same beagle that Plaintiffs had lost in 2003. The Court accepted the advisory jury's verdict and entered a decision in favor of Defendant.

**NICHOLAS DELUCA AND  
NORA J. DELUCA, HIS WIFE  
V.**

**KUKURIN CONTRACTING, INC.,  
D.C. GUELICH EXPLOSIVE  
COMPANY  
NO. 3248 OF 2002**

*Cause of Action: Blasting Activities—  
Arbitration Appeal*

The Plaintiffs are owners of property located in Saltsburg, Indiana County, Pennsylvania. The contiguous property formerly owned by Plaintiffs was condemned by Conemaugh Township Water and Sewage Authority. Defendant Kukurin Contracting, Inc., a general contractor performing blasting activities on the contiguous parcel, hired Defendant D.C. Guelich Explosive Company to do the blasting. Plaintiffs contended that on or about November 6, 2001, the Defendants conducted blasting activities that caused damage to Plaintiffs' swimming pool. The Plaintiffs sought to recover the costs

to repair the pool in the amount of \$17,640.00. Defendants denied that the blasting caused any damage to Plaintiffs' pool.

Because the damage to the pool was not observed by a witness contemporaneous with the blasting, the parties relied upon expert testimony as to causation. Pursuant to Pa. R.C.P. 1311.1, Plaintiffs submitted an expert engineering report. *[Editor's note: This is the first time new rule Pa. R.C.P. 1311.1 was utilized at trial before this court. This rule governs the admission of documentary evidence at trial after an arbitration appeal when damages are capped at \$25,000.00.]* Defendants submitted the videotape deposition of their expert engineer, as well as two expert reports from the Department of Environmental Protection.

*Plaintiff's Counsel:* Jon M. Lewis, Gbg.

*Defendants' Counsel:* Robert G. Cameron, Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, Pgh.

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

*Result:* Verdict in favor of Defendants.

**RONALD G. MCHENRY, JR.,  
A/K/A RONALD JEFFERIES  
V.**

**JOSEPH CAMPANELLI, III, AND  
PADMA-RAO JEVAJI, M.D.  
NO. 5451 OF 2001**

*Cause of Action: Negligence—  
Motor Vehicle Accident*

This motor vehicle accident occurred on December 5, 2000, on Leechburg Road in Lower Burrell, Westmoreland County. The Plaintiff was a passenger in an automobile operated by Defendant Joseph Campanelli, III. Plaintiff was injured when the Campanelli car skidded on ice, left its lane of travel and collided with an oncoming vehicle driven by Defendant Dr. Jevaji. Plaintiff sustained injuries that included, *inter*

*alia*, loss of consciousness, closed head injury, urethral rupture and severing requiring multiple surgeries, pelvic fractures, multiple rib fractures, blunt chest trauma, multiple right lung hematoma, contusion and post-traumatic lung cyst formation, a right sacral fracture and permanent scarring and disfigurement of the right arm, chest and abdomen.

Plaintiff contended that both Defendants were negligent. Defendant Campanelli paid the limits of his insurance coverage into court, and the trial was bifurcated in order to first resolve the issue of liability of Defendant Dr. Jevaji. The jury returned a verdict placing liability solely on Defendant Campanelli, who had already paid the limits of his insurance coverage into court.

*Plaintiff's Counsel:* Richard M. Rosenthal, Edgar Snyder & Associates, LLC, Pgh.

*Counsel for Defendant Campanelli:* Charles A. Buechel, Jr., Grogan Graffam, P.C., Pgh.

*Counsel for Defendant Jevaji:* Ernest P. DeHaas, III, Radcliffe & DeHaas, L.L.P., Uniontown

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

*Result:* Molded verdict in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendant Campanelli alone. The jury found that Defendant Campanelli was negligent, that his negligence was a factual cause of the accident, and assigned 100% negligence to Defendant Campanelli.

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Westmoreland Revisited

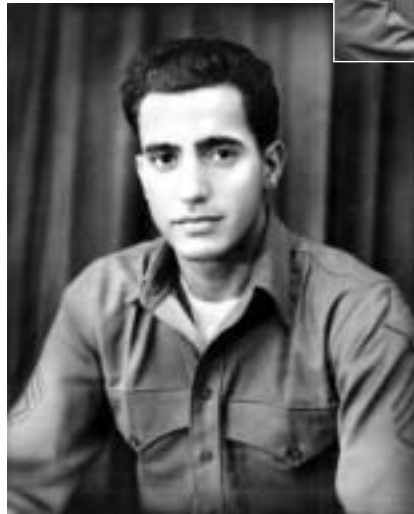
# The Most Remarkable Lawyer We Ever Knew, Part I

by The Hon. Daniel J. Ackerman, President Judge, The Hon. Debra A. Pezze and The Hon. Christopher A. Feliciani

The photographs show it was a bright day, so that the buff brick of St. Mary's Church in Export appears white. Inside the packed sanctuary were family, friends, parishioners, and many members of the bench and bar, some who had come from great distances. To a few, what was to occur came as no surprise and was viewed as inevitable; to others it was a great incongruity. The event on September 7, 1975, was the celebration of the First Mass of the Reverend Orlando N. Prosperi, and a remembrance of his ordination into the priesthood one month earlier in Rome.

The professional transition from law to the clergy is not unheard of, but in this instance, the contrasts compelled attention. The man about to celebrate the Mass was both figuratively and literally a warrior, and in time we would see that his new professional role did not prevent him from continuing as an advocate.

From left to right: ▶  
Ned Nakles,  
John O'Connell,  
Al Nichols, Dr. Frank  
Pantalone, Dom Ciarimboli  
and Father Rocco at  
Father Orlando Prosperi's  
First Mass in 1975.



◀ Orlando Prosperi served in the  
Marines during World War II.

Orlando (no disrespect intended by not using his ecclesiastical title; it was by his first name that he was known in legal circles) was raised in Murrysville and graduated from Franklin Township High School in the midst of the Second World War. He promptly enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

In later years, as a lawyer, Orlando would be recognized for his determination and courtroom skill, but what one often thinks of first is his apparent fearlessness. It is a trait which may arise out of genetic good fortune; but if it is acquired, its presence can likely be attributed to Orlando's Marine Corps experience.

Before ending his tour of duty as a twenty-year-old gunnery sergeant in China, he was thrown into two of the most horrific battles of the war. The first was at Peleliu in the autumn of 1944, a speck of coral six miles long and two miles wide in the South Pacific defended by a network of hundreds of caves and tunnels carved into limestone ridges just off the beach.

Historians have said it was the single-most savage battle of the Pacific

*continued on page 16*



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# The Most Remarkable Lawyer *continued from page 15*



◀ *Members of Orlando Prosperi's (second from left) Marine Corps Unit during World War II.*

War with some Marine units suffering casualties of seventy percent. By its end, 12,000 American and Japanese soldiers had lost their lives. Orlando was fortunate in the sense that he was one of the wounded.

In the spring of 1945, he was part of the largest amphibious assault of the Pacific campaign (548,000 American troops). It was also to be the longest battle in the Pacific running from April 1 to June 21. The place was Okinawa and its battle statistics are staggering: American, 12,500 dead or missing, 38,000 wounded, 38 ships sunk, 738 aircraft destroyed; Japanese, 110,000 dead, 7,455 captured, 16 ships sunk, 7,800 aircraft destroyed; Civilian losses, 150,000 dead.

To survive such events must permanently alter one's perspective of life.

Orlando's post-war years were devoted to his formal education, first at Saint Vincent College, then at the University of Notre Dame Law School. In later years, he

worked as a federal narcotics agent doing undercover work, and, on one occasion, passed himself off for a week as a prisoner in the Philadelphia County Jail, an experience which probably engendered some sympathy

would study at McGill University in Toronto and at the Medical-Legal Institute at the University of Rome.

After graduating from law school, he

for his clients in later years. He practiced briefly with a law firm in Tulsa before settling in Greensburg.

Orlando was, from then on, always a sole practitioner. There were a number of lawyers who had the good fortune to be associated with him from time to time. Pete Lamproplos, Lou (later Justice) Manderino, Bernie Redlich, Bob Cassol, Dan Ackerman, and Dick Galloway here in Greensburg; and Dom Ciarimboli and Irv Green, when in the late 1960s, he opened an office in Rome to provide legal services to the American community living there; but he was always the sole practitioner, not a member of a firm.

He worked long hours, late into almost every evening and on weekends as well, and knew no recreation outside of the law. His research was unending and his briefs were likely to quote not only Pennsylvania law, but law from California, Michigan, or some other state that took a different slant on a given point. Like fictional television lawyers, he would devote himself entirely to one case from the time he was retained until the jury returned its verdict. That was not necessarily a formula for financial success, but to Orlando it was the case itself, the challenges, that meant everything. Like his fictional counterparts, it seemed as if he never lost a case (according to the *Tribune-Review*, he won acquittals in nine consecutive first-degree murder cases), nor did it appear that he participated in a guilty plea in a major case.

One unusual case was resolved without a trial. Orlando was engaged to represent an Italian citizen who had shot and killed his mother-in-law in Vermont.

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The defendant was deaf, mute, unable to read English, and could not sign. Confounded by the obstacles inherent in trying him, the Vermont authorities agreed to his deportation.

He was a student of human nature who believed that the jury selection process was the most critical part of any trial. While he was warm and witty among friends, in the courtroom his piercing eyes and modulated voice announced loud and clear that here was a man not to be trifled with.

His dear friend, Ruggero J. Aldisert, Chief Judge Emeritus of the United States Court of Appeals, wrote of his first meeting with Orlando forty-some years ago when Judge Aldisert was on the Allegheny County bench. He said Orlando appeared before him:

“[A]nd 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.’ When the District



▲ *The newly ordained Father Orlando Prosperi in Rome.*

Attorney responded the case had not been listed on the calendar, Orlando responded: ‘When King John signed the Magna Carta at Runnymede on June 15, 1215, he did not intend that the Great

Writ would be dependent on the scheduling whims of the District Attorney of Allegheny County ...’ Judge Aldisert indicated that he was taken back by the drama of the presentation and ordered the defendant to be produced forthwith. He continued:

“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 court room as a lawyer, quietly pious, ascetic and monastic as a priest.”

In 1972, while practicing in Rome, Orlando Prosperi quietly entered a seminary, and, at age fifty, was ordained a priest in the Sardinian Diocese ...

*To be continued in the April 2007 issue of the sidebar.*

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# foundation focus

## Pete Cherellia Is Making It Count



▲  
Pete Cherellia

Pete Cherellia earns our salute this month for the time he has devoted to the Pro Bono office. Pete is easy to like and hard to forget with his quick smile and contagious laugh. His demeanor, expertise and ability to handle the difficult cases make him a welcome visitor in our office whether it's to see clients or just a quick visit to say hello. In spite of his hectic schedule, it seems he always has time for questions or clients and for us. It's little wonder the clients like him as much as we do! What distinguishes Pete as a lawyer is his ability to remind us all of the lighter side of life and law, and that a smile in the heart is important, too. Thanks, Pete.

### VOLUNTEERS FOR JUSTICE

The Pro Bono Program extends thanks to all the attorneys who volunteered their time from October to December 2006.

- Ross Bash
- Richard Baumgardner
- John Bumbaugh
- Larry Burns
- Pete Cherellia
- Ralph Conrad
- Chuck Conway
- Jennifer Dupilka
- Becky Fenoglio
- Richard Flickinger
- Mark Galper
- Dennis Gounley
- Aaron Kress
- Maureen Kroll
- James Lederach
- Shirley Makuta
- Chuck Mason
- Paul Miller
- Terry O'Halloran
- Jeff Pavetti
- Gino Peluso
- Dennis Persin
- Brian Petroski
- John Pollins
- Ronald Russell
- Mark Shire
- Nathan Zarichnak

## Business of the Board

### DECEMBER 21, 2006

- Adopted the revised 2007 budget.
- Charged Mrs. Krivoniak with formulating a marketing plan for the Lawyer Referral Service program with presentation at February meeting.
- Agreed that President Brammell should propose written guidelines for handling attorney concerns.
- Directed WBA staff to review experience panel registrations for LRS and enforce guidelines for participation.
- Agreed to close WBA office for AED recertification of staff.
- Young Lawyers reported that their Santa party was a great success with about 60 family members in attendance.
- Learned that the Westmoreland Trust is interested in talking with the WBA about use of the first floor of the WBA building.
- Signed off on WBA Board of Directors conflict of interest policy; policy filed at WBA headquarters.
- Agreed that the e-letter should be mailed on Fridays and should include the calendar of events for the upcoming week, all events, all CLEs and all committee meetings.

### JANUARY 16, 2007

- Learned that Chris Nichols has agreed to fill the vacancy on the Laurel Legal Services board.
- Mrs. Krivoniak reported that two heat exchangers were replaced in the building.
- Joann Berquist, Executive Director of the Westmoreland Medical Society, has inquired about a joint dinner meeting with possible CLE programming in late Spring 2007 for the WBA and Medical Society.

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



- Court Administrator Kuntz contacted the WBA to offer to set up a meeting with the e-filing vendor from LexisNexis so that bar members could preview software that is being considered by the courts to institute e-filing. Meeting will be held in early February.
- Agreed to investigate other e-filing options.
- Agreed to proceed with New Member Ceremony on March 16 in conjunction with the St. Paddy's Party at WBA headquarters.

## Correction

Andrea B. Tuominen, Assistant Court Administrator for the Administrative Office of PA Courts, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, provided statistics and information for the article "On Women In The Profession" in the December 2006 issue of *the sidebar*. Attribution was inadvertently omitted.

### LawSpeak

"A jury verdict is the quotient of the prejudice of twelve people."

— Grubb, Kenneth P., "False Fears," Volume 26, Insurance Counsel Journal, (No. 4, October, 1959), p. 480

## Lawyers' Exchange

(Free to all members of the WBA)

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# Animal Crackers

At lunch a few weeks ago, some members of the Bar were discussing a quirky piece of litigation that involved an animal. By the end of the meal, everyone at the table had come up with a legal anecdote about animals.

There is something oddly compelling about animal cases. In civil court, the most important cases will pass unnoticed by the media, but if the case should involve "Spot" it's "film at eleven" (remember Judge Hudock's opinion affirming the rights of "Nutkin" the squirrel).

*The sidebar* wonders (to the extent that an inanimate thing, such as a newsletter, is capable of wonder) just how many legal anecdotes about animals are floating around out there;

and we would like you to share your favorites with us.

Think about it, but don't delay; perhaps you have drafted a will making a specific bequest of a lemur, or represented a plaintiff who was spit on by a llama. We are not requesting stories and there need be no punch line.

Instead, we are just looking for a few sentences or less with your personal observations about those occasions where the law and the animal kingdom cross paths.

There are only two requirements for your submissions: (1) the anecdote must involve a creature, living or dead; and (2) at least eighty percent of it must be true (we realize that this second requirement raises the bar for some of you, but our journalistic

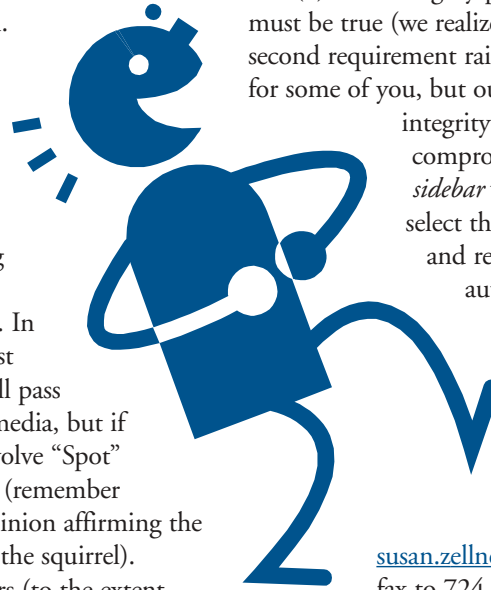
integrity can't be compromised). *The sidebar* will capriciously select the most original, and recognize the author with a

prize, apropos of the particular beast, fowl or fish.

E-mail your entries to

[susan.zellner@verizon.net](mailto:susan.zellner@verizon.net), fax to 724-834-6855 or mail to FAUNA, 129

N. Pennsylvania Ave., Greensburg, PA 15601-2311, by Friday, March 23.



### PRIVATE WEALTH ADVISORS, INC.

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Chief Executive Officer

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Greensburg, PA 15601

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Securities offered through Bill Few Securities, Inc.

news

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH

- 5** Bankruptcy, Noon
- 14** Membership, Noon  
Real Estate, Noon
- 15** CLE Seminar: "Act 1690 of 2006" presented by the Elder Law & Orphans' Court Committees, Noon
- 16** New Member Ceremony  
St. Paddy's Party
- 20** Family Law, Noon  
Board Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 21** Municipal Law, Noon  
Ned J. Nakles American Inn of Court, 5 p.m.
- 27** WBA Dine Around, Eastwood Inn, Ligonier, 6:30 p.m.

### APRIL

- 2** Bankruptcy, Noon
- 6** Courthouse closed in observance of Good Friday
- 9** Annual Meeting of the Westmoreland Bar Foundation and Westmoreland Bar Association, Greensburg Country Club
- 11** Membership, Noon
- 17** Family Law, Noon  
Board Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 19** CLE Seminar: "Auto Law and Personal Injury Update," Noon to 2:15 p.m.  
Ned J. Nakles American Inn of Court, 5 p.m.
- 23** Lawyers Assistance Committee Training Session with Dr. Doug Ramm, Psychologist, 4 p.m.
- 27** WBA Dine Around, The Back Porch, Speers, 6:30 p.m.

## LAWYERS CONCERNED FOR LAWYERS CORNER

- The 12-step recovery meeting, exclusively for lawyers and judges, is in downtown Pittsburgh every Thursday at 5:15 p.m. For the exact location, call Pennsylvania Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers at **1-800-335-2572**.
- LCL has a new website at [www.lclpa.org](http://www.lclpa.org). Attorneys and judges will find information on how LCL can help them, a member of their family or a colleague who may be in distress. It is confidential and easy to navigate. Visit it today.
- Lawyers Confidential Help Line: **1-888-999-1941**. Operates 24 hours a day.



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Greensburg, PA 15601-2311

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