



Memories of Bench/Bar 2005

by DeAnn McCoy, Esq.

From a neophyte Bench/Bar Conference attendee's perspective, I thought this year's conference was wonderful. The weather could not have been better, the food and service were of high quality, and everyone enjoyed the daily activities—even the group whose white-water raft flipped! My only complaint of the weekend was a room key that required reprogramming more than once.



DeAnn McCoy

I am sorry the BarFlies did not perform this year, but

Judge Feliciani and Scotty's Blues Peddlers Band—complemented by James Boggs, who impressed everyone with his saxophone playing—were “jamming.” As a young lawyer, I especially enjoyed the comfortable atmosphere and opportunity to become acquainted with colleagues. While at the Young Lawyers suite, I joined in a conversation about farming (I was raised on a farm). This conversation led to a job interview a few weeks later. Consequently, not only did I enjoy the activities and the entertainment, but I am now enjoying



The Hon. Christopher A. Feliciani, James Boggs and Scotty's Blues Peddlers Band performed at this year's Bench/Bar Conference at Seven Springs.

my new position with Attorney Philip McCalister.

A sincere “thank you”

to the Board for granting me a scholarship to attend this year's conference. Though individual results may vary, I think Bench/Bar is a “must attend” for all members of the Bar Association, and particularly for young lawyers.

SEE PAGES 5 & 6 FOR MORE 2005 BENCH/BAR PHOTOS!



Excursions at this year's Bench/Bar Conference included a tour of Fallingwater (above) and a Nature Hike at Ohiopyle (right).



Special Report

A Message from the King

by Larry King

Since President Silvis (he likes me to call him that) is busy, he asked me to fill in for him this time. He suggested that I visit Westmoreland County for a few weeks, snoop around, and meet people to include in my wonderful musings. Here goes

Is it just me, or do you forget where to stop when you say Jim Antonionio Call it a hunch: Denny Zuzik did not attend UC Berkeley I don't know about you, but, when I find out who my guest is for the following night, I usually say, "I thought he was dead" I'm not ashamed to admit, yours truly will be purchasing several packs of those gorgeous Gary Caruso trading cards—I'm told they can be found at www.richvictoria.com

Funny thing happened: I stopped to talk to John Noble out painting the front of his house, when Les Mlakar came by and asked if he could help. John gave him a can of white paint and told him to go around back and paint the porch. When Les returned in about 1/2 hour, John asked, "Finished already?" "Yeah," Les said, "but that's no Porsche, it's a Mercedes." File this under fact: now that Art Munk is retiring as your bar association treasurer, he'll get back into football in some capacity Note to self: find out if the 150-day CD being offered by Dollar Bank has songs by Sinatra and

Dean Martin or just those kids who are all the rage now like MC Hammer and Vanilla Ice Just my bad luck; every time I use the Courthouse's men's room, they're out of paper towels In my book, you can never tire of Mark Russell's subtle, edgy humor From where I sit, President Silvis is as effervescent as Brian Lamb Gotta say it: Judge Blahovec's noggin is nothing short of breathtaking What's all the fuss about aerobics? I just stand in my driveway, have my wife

drive fast towards me and stop at the last minute. My heart rate is soaring and I didn't even work up a sweat What was I thinking? Almost forgot to offer a belated congratulations to Dan Hewitt for his record-breaking performance in this year's Iditarod Is my face red? I thought "Monster in Law" was about Gloria Allred What's the story? I asked Lou DeRose to represent me should I decide to divorce again and he said I'd be long dead before he wraps up the divorce he's currently working on Where was I when they started letting gals into law school? Has anyone else noticed that Judges McCormick and Pezze can give the same sentence, and the defendant will THANK Judge Pezze? Quick question: is that pro-Bono group a fan club for Sonny or for that kid who sings

with U2? I've been told that Rich Flickinger really likes to PARTEE. In fact, on the most recent of his many flights to Las Vegas, he was seated next to a Baptist minister. The stewardess brought Rich the large glass of bourbon he'd ordered and asked the minister if he'd like a cocktail. The minister replied (loudly, I'm told), "I'd rather rape a brazen whore than let liquor touch these lips!"—at which point, Rich handed his drink back to the stewardess and complained, "I didn't know there was a choice." I wouldn't be surprised if charismatic Harry Smail someday runs for office For my money, that Sue Sponte is one funny gal You heard it here first: Men's Wearhouse does not carry any of those improved Soviet ties that I started hearing so much about in the late '80s Am I the only guy who would like to see Ann Coulter marry Robert Blake?

..... nuff said.



▲ Larry King at his recent press conference at La Vita's in Greensburg.



Through The Looking Glass:

A Conversation with WTAE-TV Cameraman Terry Connell

by Beth Orbison, Esq.

Terry Connell often stands patiently poised in the Courthouse lobby with his 20-pound video camera perched on his shoulder, waiting to capture the stars of the day's "Breaking News" as they emerge from a courtroom. As the Westmoreland Bureau Photographer for Channel 4 WTAE-TV news for the last ten years, Terry has viewed the comings and goings in the Courthouse from a detached, but unique, perspective. As a result, he has some helpful observations and suggestions to share with attorneys who, from time to time, may encounter the broadcast media.

Q YOU HAVE BECOME A FAMILIAR FIXTURE AROUND THE COURTHOUSE OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS. DOES THAT FAMILIARITY HAVE ITS ADVANTAGES?

A When the television media first arrived in Westmoreland County as a permanent fixture, it was a new experience for all of the attorneys, the judges and the commissioners. They weren't accustomed to the scrutiny, weren't accustomed to the ambushing, and had to learn about dealing with the media. They were cautious and somewhat suspicious. Their only experience had been with local newspaper reporters.

Q AND NOW?

A I think that those around the Courthouse have grown more

comfortable with us over the years because we have gained their trust. In part, this is because our policy at WTAE—and our bosses tell us this—is to attempt to present both sides of the story. We want a balanced presentation of the events of the day. In addition, attorneys have discovered that they can and should use the media to their advantage. As a lawyer, if you carry yourself well, and take advantage of the opportunity to be on camera, you get business out of it.

Q HOW WOULD YOU ADVISE THAT WE "TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY?"

A While on camera, it's best to take a conversational approach; you want it to seem real. Also, remember that you'll be given about a ten-second sound bite, in that we have 1 to 1½ minutes to tell the story. For example, after the jury sentenced [Michael J.] Travaglia to death a second time, 25 years after the crime was committed, Dante Bertani said, "I'll see you in 25 years." And Larry Burns, after arguing that Westmoreland County was not the proper venue for a criminal prosecution for polygamy when his client married a second husband in Las Vegas, said, "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas."

Q WHEN A LAWYER AND HIS CLIENT ARE IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA, HOW MUCH CONTROL DOES THE LAWYER HAVE OVER THE INTERVIEW?

A If a lawyer sets certain conditions on the questioning, we respect that. If the attorney says, "I just can't talk about this right now," we'll honor that request and not broadcast it. But one

word of advice—if you're representing a criminal defendant, don't run away from the camera. When you take off, you look guilty. You don't look guilty if you stand there.

Q HAS A SUSPECT EVER MADE AN INCRIMINATING STATEMENT TO YOU ON CAMERA THAT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY USED BY THE PROSECUTION?

A One time I asked a woman accused of arson whether she was sorry that she had burned down her house, and she said, "Yes." Once said, her attorney could not withdraw the statement or ask that it be withheld because it's part of the public domain. Because the media is perceived as not being involved—they are not associated with the victim, the investigator or the prosecutor—people are more likely to make comments to us that they might not make otherwise. Their guard is down, and I think that, generally, people have a need to confess. The police have the ability to subpoena the footage, and use it in their case, so it's important to coach your client about the possibilities.

Q HAVE YOU FOUND ATTORNEYS TO BE EASIER OR MORE DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH THAN THE GENERAL PUBLIC?

A Generally, because attorneys are educated, they're easier to deal with, although some allow their emotions to overtake them. I was once attacked by an attorney in Greensburg. I was covering a story about a mother who left her son in the care of a carnival worker who had a history as a child



▲ Terry Connell

practice tips

continued on page 4

Terry Connell

continued from page 3

molester. When the man abused the son, the woman was charged. As I chased the mother down Pennsylvania Avenue in an attempt to capture her on camera, her attorney physically grabbed me in an attempt to get me away. Moral of the story: Don't attack the cameraman. An attorney should always maintain his or her professional demeanor, especially when on film.

Q DOES A SUBJECT HAVE A RIGHT TO DEMAND THAT HE OR SHE NOT BE PHOTOGRAPHED?

A *If you are in a public place, where you can be publicly viewed, you give up any right not to be filmed. If, on the other hand, I knock on your door, and you open it and ask that the camera be turned off, I will turn off the camera. If I'm on private property, I have to respect your privacy. Otherwise, it's trespassing.*

Q WHAT IS YOUR POLICY WITH REGARD TO THE BROADCASTING OF CHILDREN WHO BECOME INVOLVED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER WITH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM?

A *As a matter of strict policy, we never put the photograph of a child victim of sexual abuse on the air. Also, we do not put the photograph of a minor on TV if the minor is the perpetrator. If a parent consents to the photographing of his or her child under other circumstances, we will show the photograph.*

Q DO YOU HAVE ANY COMFORTING WORDS FOR THOSE WHO MAY BE INTIMIDATED BY THE PROSPECT OF BEING CAUGHT ON CAMERA?

A *Just remember that Westmoreland County has an advantage in its dealings with the broadcast media in that the same six people—beat reporters and photographers from the three local TV news stations—are in and around the county and Courthouse everyday. We are interested in having a good rapport with you and maintaining good will, so we want to do our job and work with the judges, attorneys and their clients in ways that will inure to our mutual benefit.*

Committee Reports

Editor's note: This is a new space dedicated to the goings on of every WBA committee. One committee will be featured each issue, however, all committees are encouraged to submit their news, events or reminders to be printed here. If your committee has something to report, please e-mail westbar.org@verizon.net.

MUNICIPAL LAW COMMITTEE MEETING: JULY 13, 2005

- An E-Group will be created to facilitate communication between the members of the Municipal Law Committee.
- The next Public Officials Law Series will be held at the University of Pittsburgh on September 22, 2005. Attorneys Donald Snyder, Bob Lightcap, Kim Houser and Gary Falatovich will be the presenters. The two-hour session will begin at approximately 7:00 p.m.
- A Municipal Newsletter, which, *inter alia*, will include decisions by the Judges in Westmoreland County, will be posted on the Westmoreland Bar Association's website. The Civil Division Judges are willing to provide such decisions to us electronically. Les Mlakar has agreed to coordinate this effort. This newsletter will be available to all WBA members and not simply to the members of the Municipal Law Committee.
- Future committee meetings will be held on the second Wednesday in September and November, 2005 and January and March, 2006, at noon, at the WBA.
- Topics to be considered for future Public Officials Law Series presentations were discussed, but not finalized. We would like to provide a survey form to municipal officials at the September seminar indicating to them the topics of interest that we are considering and asking them for other topics. The topics discussed by the Committee were: 1) Zoning Hearing Board procedures; 2) Public Records; 3) Eminent Domain; 4) Officials Liability and Immunity; 5) Road Law; and 6) The Uniform Construction Code, One Year Later.

Lawyers Abstract Company of Westmoreland County

35 WEST OTTERMAN STREET
GREENSBURG, PA 15601

Telephone 724 - 834-2822

Agents for Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Company

FULL TITLE SEARCHES
TITLE INSURANCE
ABSTRACTS
REAL ESTATE & MORTGAGE CLOSINGS

Candid Camera: 2005 Bench/Bar Conference



▲ Failure to grasp the water/gravel dichotomy cost Team Doofus much valuable time.



◀ "Yeah, it's more bird droppings. Why do they hate you so?"



▶ Slowly, leeringly, the Wilderness Voyeurs make their way downstream.



▲ With one last desperate push, the gang managed to make it past Mammary Rocks, but just barely.



▲ Leslie, ever anxious to reprise her role as Dyslexia, Wicked Witch of the North, No, Make That South, spontaneously breaks into a chorus of "I'm Getting Married In The Morning," much to Lisa and Bob's ill-concealed consternation.

▶ Despite showing up every day at 3 a.m. for five hours of makeup, Larry lost out to Fred Gwynne in the final casting and from that day to this has never watched another episode of "The Munsters."



▲ When Athos, Porthos and D'Artagnan finally arrived on the scene, they were soaked to the bone, their swords had rusted in their scabbards, and they felt pretty much like hell.

Memories of Bench/Bar *continued from page 1*



placemat Where Have You Been Eating?

by John N. Scales, Esq.

When I started to practice law in 1958, you could count on one hand the number of good restaurants in our area. Today we are blessed with an incredible number of really good places to dine. The variety is tremendous, the atmosphere is almost always friendly, the presentation is sometimes exquisite, and the prices are often surprisingly modest.

The following are a few of my personal favorites, but many others are equally good and enjoyable.

LUCCHESI'S, MONESSEN

(724) 684-9889

The crème brûlée is to die for, with fresh raspberries and a generous serving. Don't miss the crab hozel and don't allow your spouse to ask for an extra fork when you've ordered the

crab. Veal dishes are superb. Virginia spots is excellent and rarely on the menu in Western Pennsylvania. Everything is fresh. Les, the owner, will often visit your table, and the conversation is always pleasant. A few years ago we celebrated my wife's birthday and when Les discovered why we were there he canceled the order we had already given from the menu and insisted upon preparing something special for us which, of course, turned out to be sensational and then insisted we take home fresh raspberries as a birthday gift.

THE BACK PORCH AT SPEARS ON THE MONONGAHELA RIVER, NEAR BELLE VERNON

(724) 483-4500

The atmosphere is warm and pleasant. A visit at Christmas time is wonderful when the large tree outside the building is ablaze with small white

lights. There are Christmas decorations throughout the restaurant and the fireplaces are blazing. The restaurant is filled with antiques and history and used to be the home of the ferry boat captain. The iced tea is fresh and delicious. Lobster bisque is a must. The béarnaise sauce is always good. Fish and veal are excellent as are the crab and steak. The main courses are served with the best asparagus I've ever tasted, and the carrots certainly aren't far behind. The potatoes have a taste of horseradish. The salads are outstanding, with a secret dressing recipe that will keep you guessing. Desserts are mostly Italian-style, with tiramisu to die for.



▲ John Scales

continued on page 8



HELP YOUR CLIENTS MAKE SOUND RETIREMENT CHOICES

Total Continuum of Care

- Senior Apartments
- Personal Care
- Memory Impairment Program
- Nursing Care

Financial Security

Residents at Redstone Highlands are not asked to leave if, through no fault of their own, they exhaust their resources.

Style of Living

Monthly apartment fee provides the following services:

- Restaurant Style Dining
- Scheduled Transportation
- Barber/Beauty Shop
- Bank
- Exercise Room
- Maid Service
- Maintenance Service
- Personal Security

GREENSBURG

6 Garden Center Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 832-8400

NORTH HUNTINGDON

12921 Lincoln Way
North Huntingdon, PA 15642
(724) 864-5811

MURRYSVILLE

4951 Cline Hollow Road
Murrysville, PA 15668
(724) 733-9494



Redstone Highlands
Senior living communities

www.redstonehighlands.org



placemat Where Have You Been Eating?

continued from page 7

THE PIC NIC BASKET, YOUNGSTOWN (724) 537-2755

You must bring your own wine. The meals are very informal and very delicious. The mahi-mahi is superb and smothered in artichoke hearts with a delicious white sauce. The vegetables are varied and always delicious and prepared with extra-special sauces. The crème brûlée is the largest serving in Western Pennsylvania and has a light orange flavor. Prices are extraordinarily reasonable. It is hard not to go back time and time again. The Pic Nic Basket must be a favorite of lawyers. The last time we were there Denis and Maxine Zuzik were at the next table and the time before that Leonard Reeves was at the next table.

EASTWOOD INN, LIGONIER (724) 238-6454

You have to press the buzzer to gain entrance (shades of the 1920s and '30s). Smokey, the owner, personally knows almost everyone who comes and he regularly visits the tables of his guests. He is very careful not to overbook and overcrowd. The menu is relatively small but many of the customers never look at the menu because they know they wish to order the steak, lamb chops, or the flounder broiled in orange juice. Baked potatoes and lima beans are delicious. The salad with crumbled bleu cheese has a slightly sweet flavor and has never been duplicated anywhere else. The onion rings are excellent.

PICCOLO FORNO, 3800 BLOCK OF BUTLER STREET, LAWRENCEVILLE (412) 622-0111

Piccolo Forno has been open since December 2004. You must bring your

own wine and there are no reservations. It is better to go early to avoid having to wait, but if you do have to wait it is well worth it. The menu features sensational Italian cooking. The pastas are extraordinary. My personal favorites are the crêpes with pasta and a delicious light sauce and the lasagne. The Tuscan salad with tuna and Italian beans is extraordinary. One salad easily satisfies two people. The atmosphere is very friendly and relaxed. Try the margherita pizza and save room for dessert.

Reservations are required at all of these establishments except for Piccolo Forno, which doesn't accept them. My thirteen-year-old grandson, Brian Joseph Rizzo, who someday plans on being a world-class chef, has contributed to the information on Lucchesi's, The Back Porch and Eastwood Inn, all of which he has enjoyed. I am very grateful for his help.



Banking
Insurance
Trust
Financial Management
Investments
**FIRST
Commonwealth**
800-711-BANK (2265)
877-816-1801 TTY Line
fcbanking.com

FCB Member FDIC
Equal Opportunity Lender

Spotlight on Sharon Wigle



Q WHAT JOBS HAVE YOU HAD PRIOR TO BECOMING AN ATTORNEY?

A I was a substitute teacher at Mount Pleasant High School. I worked as a phone communications specialist, a counter person at Wendy's, a cashier at Kaufmann's and a bus person at Mountain View Inn.

Q WHICH WAS YOUR FAVORITE AND WHY?

A I enjoyed substitute teaching 11th and 12th grade. I also enjoyed working at Kaufmann's because I like clothes and Mountain View Inn because you work with a group of people in a team environment.

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

A Compassion for the client's problem, zealouslyness in aiding the client, honesty and integrity.

Q WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE JOURNEY?

A Going to Florida to visit my brother.

Q WHO ARE YOUR REAL-LIFE HEROES?

A I admire many individuals in the criminal justice system. I admire law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line to protect private citizens. I also admire defense attorneys who zealously represent their clients. Two attorneys I most admire in Greensburg are Bob Johnston and Tom Ceraso. I admire Bob Johnston because he gave many years of his life to public service as First Assistant

District Attorney. I also admire how thorough he is on his cases.

I admire Tom Ceraso for his 40+ years of zealously defending criminal clients. When I ask him a question on a criminal case, he has the case

completely analyzed within five minutes. In my personal life, my everyday heroes are my father, my mother and my brother. My father is a dairy farmer who works from sunrise to sunset. My mother had polio when she was eight years old and has dealt with this disability with style and grace even though she is confined to an electric wheelchair. My brother works for the United States Air Force and is willing to put his life on the line for what he believes. I am fortunate to have many real-life heroes.

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

A Find an older attorney to mentor you and be open and willing to learn from his or her experiences.

Q WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

A My greatest achievement was graduating from Duquesne School of Law. I was married young and had to work 20 to 30 hours a week while I was attending Saint Vincent College. Then I took out student loans so that I could attend law school full time. When I received my JD, I knew that I had really earned this degree.

Q WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?

A Perfect happiness is having a family who loves and cares about you and is proud of your achievements. Perfect happiness is going to work and loving what you do.

Q WHAT TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

A I would like to cross-examine a witness the way Bob Johnston or Tom Ceraso do.

Q WHAT QUALITY DO YOU ADMIRE MOST IN YOUR FRIENDS?

A The quality I admire most in my friends is loyalty and sincerity.

Q WHAT LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

A I most admire three people: My father, my mother and my brother.

Q WHAT IS YOUR MOTTO?

A Never quit.



NOPPE & ASSOCIATES

Title Insurance
Real Estate Settlements

Closing Services To Meet Your Needs

Telephone: 724 - 838-7521
Fax: 724 - 850-2575

AGENT FOR
Land America / Lawyers Title Insurance Corporation
First American Title Insurance Company

New Member Sketches

Scott E. Crawford has been admitted as a participating member of the WBA. A graduate of Apollo-Ridge High School, Indiana University of Pennsylvania and the Duquesne University School of Law, Scott is an associate with Godlewski & Associates in Greensburg.

Kevin Feigel has joined the WBA as a participating member. A graduate of Pittsburgh Central Catholic High School, Kevin earned his undergraduate degree from Saint Vincent College and his juris doctor from the University of Pittsburgh. Kevin is an associate with Ronald L. Russell & Associates in Greensburg.

Shaun Griffith was admitted to the WBA as a participating member. A graduate of Hempfield Area High

School, Loyola University and the University of San Francisco School of Law, Shaun maintains a solo practice in Greensburg.

Tony J. Perrone has joined the WBA as a participating member. A graduate of Northern Cambria High School, Washington & Jefferson College and Widener University School of Law, Tony is an associate with Tremba, Jelley & Whelton in Greensburg.

Andrew F. Skala has been admitted as a participating member of the

WBA. A graduate of Westmont Hilltop High School, the University of Pittsburgh, and Thomas M. Couley School of Law, Andrew is an associate with James Gefsky & Associates in Greensburg.

Sue Swick has joined the WBA as an associate member. A graduate of Avonworth High School, Sue earned her bachelor's and juris doctor

degrees from the University of Pittsburgh. She was recently named Associate Counsel and Area Manager to the western Pennsylvania office of Old Republic National Title Insurance Company in Canonsburg.

Richard C. Thiele was admitted to the WBA as an associate member. He is a graduate of Leechburg Area High School, Washington and Jefferson College and John Marshall Law School. A native of Southwestern Pennsylvania and current resident of Murrysville, Richard maintains offices in Atlanta, Ga., and Washington, D.C., while looking for a firm to join or share space with in Greensburg or Murrysville.



Ned J. Nakles American Inn of Court Announces Meetings for 2005–2006

The Ned J. Nakles American Inn of Court is gearing up for a tenth year of dinner, refreshments, camaraderie and education. The first meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 14, 2005**. Meetings start at 5 p.m. at the bar headquarters. Other meeting dates are:

- Thursday, October 20, 2005
- Wednesday, November 16, 2005
- Thursday, December 8, 2005
- Wednesday, January 18, 2006
- Thursday, February 16, 2006
- Wednesday, March 15, 2006
- Thursday, April 20, 2006

If you were an Inn member last year, you will automatically receive an invitation to join for the 2005-2006 year. If you were not a member last year but are interested in membership for the 2005-2006 year, please contact any officer or the Westmoreland Bar Association.

Officers of the Ned J. Nakles American Inn of Court for 2005–2006 are: Barbara J. Artuso, President; Donald J. Snyder, Jr., Vice President; James T. Boggs, Secretary; Jacquelyn A. Knupp, Treasurer; and Rachel Huss, Assistant Treasurer. Executive Committee Members are: Daniel J. Ackerman, Brian P. Bronson, Richard H. Galloway, Nancy L. Harris, Robert I. Johnston, James E. Kopelman, Annaliese P. Masser and David J. Millstein.

LawSpeak

In law it is a good policy to never plead what you need not, lest you oblige yourself to prove what you can not.

— Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865), U.S. president, letter to Usher F. Linder, Feb. 20, 1848. *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, vol. 1, p. 453, Rutgers University Press (1953, 1990).

To-Wit: Big Mouth

by S. Sponte, Esq.

I'll be the first to admit that I haven't exactly been a model of tact and diplomacy during my career. Yes, it was I who said in response to an appellate court judge's question during oral argument that only an idiot could possibly take that particular view of the law. And yes, it was I who told a trial judge following an unfavorable ruling on one of my objections how much I was looking forward to catching an instant replay on the Wide Wide World of Idiocy.

"You've got a big mouth," Judge admonished, "and one of these days it's going to get you into trouble."

Those kinds of incidents occurred far more often in the halcyon days of my professional youth when, in truth, ardor frequently superseded judgment. Aided over the years in no small

part by some well-placed threats of contempt, I had been doing better.

But recently I stumbled once again into passion's swamp and permitted the heat of the moment to overtake my painfully acquired sense of professional judgment. This time it wasn't a judge but opposing counsel that piqued me, and while that makes my conduct no less inappropriate, at least it takes any threat of contempt pretty much out of play.

It was another one of my beloved First Amendment cases, this time involving the constitutional right of women to completely disrobe in front of drunken men and gesticulate with certain body parts generally intended, according to some erroneous interpretations of the law, for different purposes altogether. A local municipality took umbrage at this and urged the court to declare it obscene.

"What difference is there,"

I argued in a phrase neatly purloined from a wonderfully written opinion, "between a nude ballet at Lincoln Center for the black tie and tails crowd and this form of dancing for the work shirt and steel toed boots patron who prefers a bit of entertainment with his beer or shot of rye?"

One day following a rather contentious evidentiary hearing in federal court, I received a call from a local reporter. "Tell me," the reporter queried, "Mr. (Opposing Counsel) stated that this case is less about the First Amendment and more about peddling flesh. How do you respond to that?"

continued on page 12





ACBA Services, Inc.

IS ON

THE MOVE!

*(now located on the ground floor
of the WBA Building)*

Make your best move with your next case. Call ACBA Services, Inc. for your COURT REPORTING, VIDEO DEPOSITION, VIDEO PLAYBACK and VIDEOCONFERENCING needs.

ACBA Services, Inc. is serving the legal community in Westmoreland County.

www.acbaservices.com • 724-837-1772



ACBA
SERVICES, INC.

To-Wit: Big Mouth *continued from page 11*

“He’s an idiot,” I replied.

Now I know I shouldn’t have said it, and believe me, if I had any notion, any notion at all, that the reporter was going to print it, I might not have. But print it he did, and it was waiting for me on the front page of the local paper when I got to work next morning.

So was a pink telephone slip from opposing counsel. I really didn’t want to return the call, but the Lord Jim in me insisted. “Did you say that?” he asked me, hurt and humiliation oozing from every word.

“Yes, I said it, and I’m truly sorry.”

“Are you sorry you said it, or are you merely sorry it got into print?” he queried.

“Yes, I am,” I responded and then quickly excused myself from the unanswered portion of the conversation with the lame excuse of “other pressing matters.”

Now you’d think that something cataclysmic had to happen, right? After

all, I had committed the cardinal sin of denigrating a colleague in public, and surely some form of fitting retribution would follow. But it didn’t. The only

Venom oft times flows like the Ganges, and ’tis a far, far better thing to vent than to permit all that poison to back up inside like bile in the liver.

thing that happened was I got a lot of phone calls from other colleagues congratulating me on my candor.

In due course, I wrote opposing counsel a letter of apology. Well, actually my secretary wrote it, I just

signed it, but it’s almost the same thing. I confessed that I had been overtaken by the heat of battle, and I promised him it would never happen again.

But it probably will. In this adversarial occupation, venom oft times flows like the Ganges, and ’tis a far, far better thing to vent than to permit all that poison to back up inside like bile in the liver.

So if I’ve learned anything from this, it’s that there is nothing quite so cathartic as a well-flung barb. Every once in a while give in to your instincts, hurl an invective or two, lash out at anyone in your way. It will certainly make your practice a whole lot more interesting, and you’ll feel oodles better, I promise. However, a word of caution—just don’t do it with me if you know what’s good for you.

© 2005, S. Sponte, Esq.

Can’t get enough Sponte? More articles are online at www.funnylawyer.com.

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

For over 60 years, USI INSURANCE SERVICES 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:
724-873-8150
1-800-926-5287
www.colburn.com



333 Technology Drive, Suite 255, Canonsburg, PA 15317

Build Your Practice COUNSEL TO COUNSEL LLC Co-Counsel Litigation Services

Attorneys with more than 60 years experience settling and trying major and complex cases assisting with:

- ◆ FINANCING
- ◆ EVALUATION
- ◆ CONDUCTING JURY FOCUS GROUPS
- ◆ SETTLEMENT
- ◆ TRIALS

Principals

Thomas W. Henderson & Robert A. Creo

Lawyers can limit risks while enhancing and building their own practices.

For more information contact:

Counsel To Counsel LLC at 412.441.1153
or visit us at www.KeepYourCase.com

May/June 2005 Trial Term

Jury Trial Verdicts

by Rachel Huss, Esq., Charles J. Dangelo, Esq., and Jacquelyn A. Knupp, Esq.

Of forty-two cases slated for the May/June 2005 Civil Jury Trial Term, eighteen settled, twelve were continued, one was discontinued, one was scheduled for a summary jury trial, six verdicts were entered and four were held to the next term. The five cases upon which juries deliberated are reported below.

**RYAN M. ADAMS AND
FRANCES M. EMERT
V.
MARY M. HAUS, M.D., AN
INDIVIDUAL, AND SALEM
ORTHOPEDIC GROUP, P.C., A
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
NO. 3475 OF 1998**

*Cause of Action: Professional
Negligence—Medical Malpractice*

Plaintiff, Ryan M. Adams, was treated by Defendant, Dr. Mary M. Haus, an orthopedic surgeon, over a four-day hospital admission in September 1996 for a displaced fracture of the left ulna and radius. Defendant performed two surgeries on Plaintiff's arm during that time, whereupon Plaintiff developed compartment syndrome. Plaintiff transferred his care to two more physicians, who performed two additional surgeries on the Plaintiff. Plaintiff claimed injuries of permanent atrophy of his left forearm with hypersensitive surgical scars, as well as loss of function in his right arm, wrist and hand. Plaintiff's mother, Frances M. Emert, asserted a claim for reimbursement of medical bills during Plaintiff's minority. The Defendant maintained that she exercised appropriate judgment and complied with the relevant standard of care at all times during her treatment of Plaintiff.

The contested issues at trial concerned the timing of the initial surgery and



whether any delay contributed to the development of compartment syndrome, the appropriateness and placement of the hardware (plates and screws) installed during the initial surgery, and whether a subsequent fasciotomy was properly performed.

Plaintiff's Counsel: William J. Gagliardino, Gilardi, Cooper & Lomupo, Pgh.

Defendants' Counsel: James W. Kraus, Picadio Sneath Miller & Norton, P.C., Pgh.

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

Result: Verdict in favor of Defendants.

**BONNIE SUPRANO
V.
ANNA MARIE BEATTY
NO. 689 OF 2002**

*Cause of Action: Negligence—
Motor Vehicle Accident*

This automobile accident occurred on February 7, 2000, in Allegheny Township, Westmoreland County. Plaintiff was traveling north on State Route 4048, approaching its intersection with State Route 56. Defendant was traveling east on State Route 56. As Plaintiff reached the green light at the intersection, Defendant's vehicle struck the vehicle operated by Plaintiff in the front driver's side. Plaintiff claimed injuries to her lower back

and severe headaches that caused her to pass out. Plaintiff had previously selected the full tort option of automobile insurance coverage.

The Defendant admitted liability at trial. Defendant contested the extent of Plaintiff's injuries regarding her claim for unreimbursed

chiropractic bills. Defendant also argued that Plaintiff's headaches were not related to the accident.

Plaintiff's Counsel: Robert Paul Vincler, Vincler & Knoll, P.C., Pgh.

Defendant's Counsel: Scott O. Mears, Richard F. Boyle, Jr., Mears, Smith, Houser & Boyle, P.C., Gbg.

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

Result: Verdict in favor of Plaintiff in the amount of \$5,000.

**FRANK M. MILLER
V.
JAMES R. FALCONE
NO. 5213 OF 1998**

*Cause of Action: Negligence—
Motor Vehicle Accident*

This action arose from an accident involving three motor vehicles that occurred on December 23, 1996. Defendant's vehicle went through a stop sign, collided with a vehicle driven by Leslie Mlakar, and thereby forced the Mlakar vehicle to collide with the vehicle operated by Plaintiff. Plaintiff suffered a fractured wrist and, after the accident, began to complain of cervical and thoracic pain, as well as pain in his low back and left hip. In addition, Plaintiff claimed that persistent pain prevented him from working as a percussionist, choreographer, and competition judge for various drum corps groups.

continued on page 14

Jury Trial Verdicts *continued from page 13*

Plaintiff had selected limited tort automobile insurance coverage.

Defendant conceded negligence, but contested causation at trial. Defendant argued that Plaintiff's pain was caused by degenerative disc disease, which was unrelated to the motor vehicle accident. Defendant also asserted that Plaintiff did not suffer a serious injury for purposes of limited tort insurance coverage.

Plaintiff's Counsel: Daniel Ernsberger, Behrend & Ernsberger, Pgh.

Defendant's Counsel: Laura Signorelli, Law Offices of Marianne C. Mnich, Pgh.

Trial Judge: The Hon. William J. Ober

Result: Verdict in favor of Defendant. While the jury found that Defendant was the factual cause of Plaintiff's harm, no damages were awarded.

STANLEY LINGELBACH, JR., D/B/A VINALPRIDE

V.

JOHN THOMAS CLOSE NO. 3855 OF 2002

*Cause of Action: Breach of Contract—
Home Remodeling*

Plaintiff and Defendant entered into a contract to remodel the residence of Defendant. After a dispute erupted between the parties over the quality of Plaintiff's work, Defendant refused to pay the final installment of the contract, which was in the amount of \$24,216. Plaintiff filed suit to recover the final installment of the contract. Defendant filed a counterclaim for damages to his residence allegedly caused by Plaintiff's faulty workmanship.

At trial, Plaintiff presented evidence showing the details of the construction contract and the work he performed on Defendant's home. Defendant, who was proceeding *pro se*, presented a videotape to the jury, which he

narrated, pointing out alleged defects in Plaintiff's work.

Plaintiff's Counsel: Matthew L. Prather, McCalister & Associates, New Kensington

Defendant's Counsel: Pro se
Trial Judge: The Hon. William J. Ober

Result: Verdict in favor of Plaintiff in the amount of \$20,100, which was subsequently molded to \$23,747.70. On the counterclaim, verdict in favor of Defendant in the amount of \$93.

ROBERT FINE AND SUSAN FINE, HIS WIFE

V.

SALEM ORTHOPAEDIC GROUP NO. 1399 OF 2003

*Cause of Action: Negligence—
Medical Office Injury*

Plaintiff, Robert Fine, was a patient of Dr. E. William Kennen, who is an employee and corporate officer of Defendant. On April 4, 2002, Plaintiff went to Defendant's medical office to receive a knee injection. Dr. Kennen injected Plaintiff's knee while Plaintiff was seated on an examination table. After Dr. Kennen had completed the

injection and left the room, Plaintiff suddenly fell from the examination table and struck his face and mouth on a desk, which caused significant damage to his teeth.

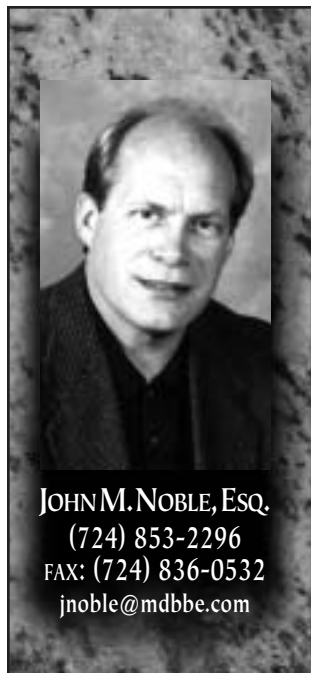
The key issue at trial was whether Defendant's conduct fell below the standard of care for a patient in an orthopedic office. Plaintiff relied upon the expert testimony of an orthopedic nurse, who opined that Defendant increased the risk of harm by not conducting a proper assessment of Plaintiff and by permitting an X-ray technician to assist Dr. Kennen with the knee injection. Defendant offered the testimony of an orthopedic surgeon, who opined that Defendant followed the appropriate standard of care, and he stated that the X-ray technician was qualified to assist Dr. Kennen.

Plaintiff's Counsel: Thomas J. McClain, Pgh.

Defendant's Counsel: Marian Schleppey, Gaca Matis Baum & Rizza, Pgh.

Trial Judge: The Hon. William J. Ober

Result: Verdict in favor of Defendant.



NOBLE MEDIATION GROUP

DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES

JOHN M. NOBLE, ESQ.

Mediation • Arbitration
Medical Malpractice Mediation

MEYER•DARRAGH•BUCKLER•BEBENEK & ECK
114 SOUTH MAIN STREET, GREENSBURG, PA 15601



MARGARET A. TREMBA, ESQ.

Custody and Divorce Mediation
Banking and Commercial Mediation

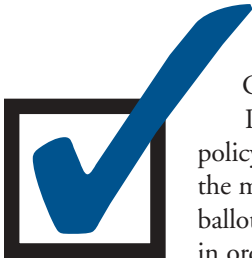
CHARLES W. JELLEY, ESQ.

School and Employment Law Mediation
Divorce Mediation

TREMBA JELLEY & WHELTON
229 SOUTH MAPLE AVENUE, GREENSBURG, PA 15601

Membership Votes “Yes” for Retention of Judges

By an overwhelming majority, Westmoreland Bar Association members voted in favor of the retention of Judges John E. Blahovec, Gary P. Caruso and John J. Driscoll as Common Pleas Judges in Westmoreland County.



Pursuant to WBA policy, a referendum of the membership by secret ballot was taken in April in order to determine

the position of the members on the question of the retention of Judges Blahovec, Caruso and Driscoll.

The ballots were counted and certified by Vincent J. Morocco and James R. Gaut. The results are as follows:



JUDGE JOHN E. BLAHOVEC

302 TOTAL VOTES

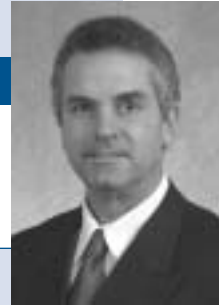
Yes.....	293	97.0%
No	6	2.0%
No Response.....	3	1.0%



JUDGE GARY P. CARUSO

302 TOTAL VOTES

Yes.....	294	97.4%
No	7	2.3%
No Response.....	1	0.3%



JUDGE JOHN J. DRISCOLL

302 TOTAL VOTES

Yes.....	270	89.4%
No	27	9.0%
No Response.....	5	1.6%



Court Reporting / Legal Video / Document Imaging / Trial Presentation

- Schedule your depositions with us -

724-853-7700

Staffed Full-Time By Lifelong Westmoreland County Residents:

- Mary Emanuele - Managing Court Reporter
- Tammie Elias - Court Reporter
- Mary Jane Rucci - Court Reporter
- Donna Skuta - Court Reporter
- Joe Hagan - Manager VideoTech

(Conference Rooms available at our Greensburg, Pittsburgh and Erie offices.)



101 North Main Street, Suite 105, Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601

foundation focus

Scholarship Winners Announced

The Westmoreland Bar Foundation is pleased to announce that three law school scholarships and two college scholarships have been awarded to Westmoreland County residents.



science undergraduate study in conjunction with a law degree to pursue the study of Environmental Law. Marc was involved this summer in a University of Pittsburgh Law Clinic, which takes on public interest cases involving environmental issues in the Pittsburgh area.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO MOCK TRIAL COMPETITORS

The Westmoreland Bar Foundation also recently awarded two college scholarships to participants of the county-wide Mock Trial Competition. The Mock Trial Competition is a contest comprised of high school students who compete in simulated

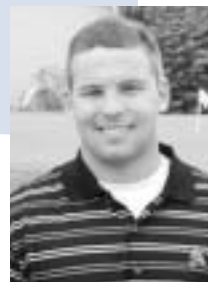
legal trials. Participating students conduct a trial as lawyers and witnesses before real-life judges and “juries” and winning teams proceed to regional, state and national playoffs.

Amanda Waugh is a 2005 graduate of Greensburg-Salem High School, and was a member of the winning county and

Reproductive Rights Clinic, and was recently chosen to be an Associate Editor on the *Journal of Constitutional Law*. This summer she worked as a legal intern at the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project in Philadelphia. She hopes to pursue a career working for women’s rights or consumer protection.

THE HONORABLE DAVID H. WEISS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Honorable David H. Weiss Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to *Marc C. Bryson*. A resident of Latrobe, Marc is a second-year student the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He intends to use his earth



▲ *Marc C. Bryson*



THE WAYNE R. DONAHUE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Wayne R. Donahue Memorial Scholarship of \$2,250 was awarded to Irwin resident *Christopher Watson*. A graduate of Penn Trafford High School, Christopher

▲ *Christopher Watson*

is a first-year student at the Duquesne University School of Law. “The funds will do wonders in aiding me through law school,” he says. “I hope that I will make the selection committee proud in school and professional life.” He hopes to combine his interests in corporate and international law with his ambition to become a prosecutor.



THE DONALD LAIRD HANKEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Donald Laird Hankey Memorial Scholarship of \$2,500 was awarded to Hempfield Area High School graduate *Melissa K. Curry*. Melissa is a second-

▲ *Melissa Curry*

year student at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. At Penn Law, she has been involved with the Equal Justice Foundation and the

Looking for a special way to remember someone?

**Births • Deaths • Marriages • Anniversaries
Making Partner • Passing the Bar**

Since 1991, the Westmoreland Bar Foundation has raised thousands of dollars to assist the poor, disabled, elderly and children in our community. Through the **Memorial Program**, you can honor a colleague or loved one with a contribution to the Foundation. Your gift will help serve the needs of our own who have nowhere else to turn for legal services.

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.



state Mock Trial team. Amanda is attending Dickinson College and is pursuing a degree in English.

Jennifer Beresky recently graduated from Kiski Area High School. She is attending the University of Pittsburgh and is pursuing a degree in Political Science/Pre-Law.

The Bar Family Assistance Program

A member of the Westmoreland Bar Association recently lost her home and all her possessions due to a devastating fire. The Bar Family Assistance Program was able to help out with a donation to the attorney's family.

The Westmoreland Bar Foundation established The Bar Family Assistance Program in 2003 to provide financial

assistance to attorneys and their families when unexpected tragedies disrupt their lives and their law practices. Financial assistance is defined as making loans, with or without interest or security, making grants to lawyers or their immediate families, applying money to their relief, or after death, advancing money to the families, including the costs of burial. Since the establishment of this fund, the bar foundation has been able to assist three local attorneys and their families.

This fund is available only to Westmoreland County attorneys and all information regarding the awards is kept confidential. If you know of someone in need of financial assistance because of these circumstances, please contact the bar office at 724-834-6730.

If you would like to contribute to The Bar Family Assistance Fund, mail your tax-deductible donation to:

**THE BAR FAMILY ASSISTANCE FUND
WESTMORELAND BAR FOUNDATION
129 N. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
GREENSBURG, PA 15601-2311**



▲ Donald R. Rigone

Law Day: Rigone Made A Difference

Donald R. Rigone spoke to students at Maxwell Elementary School as part of the 2005 Law Day program, delivering this year's message: we are "Free to Make A Difference" in this world by voting, going to school, volunteering and working. His name was inadvertently left off the list of volunteers in the last issue of *the sidebar*.

Business Valuation Services

- Estate & Gift Taxes
- Divorce Settlements
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Stockholder Transactions

Whether your client needs a comprehensive valuation opinion to withstand scrutiny by third parties or an estimate of value for internal use, you can rely on our team of qualified professionals to provide a full range of business valuation services.

Contact: Maryann White, CPA
Accredited in Business Valuation



**KELLY, SPARBER, WHITE
& ASSOCIATES, LLC**

Certified Public Accountants

2510 Ligonier St., Latrobe, PA 15650 • Phone: 724.539.4581
Fax: 724.537.0332 • E-mail: KSW@kellysparberwhite.com

Do You Want to Serve?

Openings on Board, Committees

The Nominating Committee of the Westmoreland Bar Association is accepting applications for positions on the Board of Directors, Membership Committee and Building Committee. Any member interested in running for these positions should send a letter to the Chair of the Nominating Committee, c/o the WBA, by September 30, 2005. The positions will be filled at the Annual Meeting of the association to be held in April 2006.

Applicants must be active, participating members of the WBA. The responsibilities for each position are as follows:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors ensures that the WBA's mission, services, policies and programs are carried out. Applicants should have experience in WBA activities such as chairing a committee, attending bar functions and being active in the bar community. In addition, they must be able to think clearly and creatively, and work well with people, individually and in a

group. One four-year term is available. The Director will:

- Attend all board and appropriate committee meetings and special events.
- Serve on committees and offer to take on special assignments.
- Inform others about the organization and its activities and functions.
- Assist the board in carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities, such as reviewing the organization's annual financial statements.
- Take responsibility and follow through on given assignments.
- Contribute personal and financial resources in a generous way according to circumstances.
- Open doors in the community.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee is the first point of contact that most applicants have with the WBA. One five-year term is available. The Membership Committee member will:

- Attend monthly committee meetings.

- Personally interview and educate applicants on the workings of the WBA, including committee assignments, staff responsibilities, and new lawyer opportunities such as the mentor program, the Young Lawyers, and Pro Bono.
- Make recommendations for membership eligibility with specific recommendation for membership class.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee is responsible for maintaining the management and upkeep of Bar Headquarters. One five-year term is available. The Building Committee member will:

- Attend quarterly committee meetings.
- Be knowledgeable about the utilization of Bar Headquarters for business and social functions.
- Help to develop annual budget for operation of building.
- Make recommendations to Board of Directors on matters of concern in building upkeep.

Lawyers' Exchange

(Free to all members of the WBA)

LAW BOOKS NEED NEW HOME After 40+ years of practice, Nevin Wollam is closing his office and needs to find a new home for his extensive collection of law books. Interested takers should contact him at 724-561-7564.

FOR RENT Greensburg, downtown, office, with separate waiting room, like new, attractive building, client and staff off-street parking included, \$500/month including utilities. Call 724-834-9087.

FOR RENT Greensburg, downtown, two paved off-street parking spaces, \$45 per month per space. Call 724-834-9087.

RETIRED BOARD-CERTIFIED GENERAL SURGEON available for part-time/full-time employment doing case evaluations for law firm (no expert witness work). Call 412-271-6411.

And Baby Makes ...

Eric and Dawn Barchiesi welcomed a son, Dante Luciano, into the world on July 18, 2005. ("No, we weren't thinking of Mr. Bertani when we chose the name," says Eric.) Dante weighed 8 lb. 11 oz. and was 20 inches long. He joins his four-year-old brother, Dominic, at home.



wba

Actions of the Board

JUNE 21, 2005

- Treasurer Munk reported that the number of arbitration panels is down.
- President Silvis reported that the executive committee had met and discussed the need to:
 - Develop a master calendar which includes all law-related organizations' calendars.
 - Inform courts of Bench/Bar Conference date.
 - Look into recording the living trust program for air on cable.
 - Schedule living trust programs once a month or at least regularly within the county.
 - Move forward with having program air on Representative Pallone's weekly program.
 - Schedule next living trust program in September and then again in November with Ms. Christner serving as coordinator.
- Learned that the YL committee has agreed to participate in the Toys for Tots program; money raised will be used to purchase gift cards for the holiday season.
- Heard that a Municipal Law Lunch 'n Learn was scheduled in July; Lawyers Abstract will conduct a Title Search Lunch 'n Learn in September.
- Learned that Colburn will hold a free CLE on August 19.
 - Agreed that the CLE should include language that emphasizes the subject matter to be of interest to YLs but that the seminar and happy hour would be opened to the entire bar.
- Learned that attendance for the 2005 Bench/Bar Conference is 101.
- Discussed the 2006 Bench/Bar Conference location; agreed to do a site visit to The Wisp and return the

conference dates to the weekend of Father's Day.

- Reviewed a draft of the Board Reimbursement Policy and agreed that Mr. Whelton will present a finalized version for vote for the July meeting.
- Agreed that a follow-up to June's quarterly meeting on the topic of "Time and Money: How to Make the Most of Both" would be an informal gathering of those bar members who have a concern/interest in the business side of practicing law.
- Heard report from President Judge Ackerman about the possibility of having the judges convene court at site locations throughout the county.
 - Agreed that the problem is with moving the staff and providing appropriate security.
- Learned that LRS Advisory Committee met; committee members are willing and able to make decisions necessary to oversee the operation of LRS.
- Learned that President Silvis and President-elect Brammell will hold two committee chair meetings in July to discuss responsibilities of the committees.
- Agreed to call Past Presidents Senate meeting for late summer.
- Agreed to invite leaders of Medical Society to the Fall Gathering.
- Agreed to invite Joann Bergquist, Executive Director of the Medical Society, to speak on HIPAA and its impact on attorneys.
- Agreed that Mr. Johnston and Mr. Antoniono should continue to work on relationship with doctors and lawyers.
- Agreed that the bar should be involved and educated on the mediation process and that the ADR committee needs to continue to meet on this issue.

JULY 26, 2005

- Accepted Membership Committee report as submitted: Sue Swick, associate (with sponsor signature from President Silvis); Tony Perrone, Scott Crawford, Kevin Feigel, Andrew Skala, participating.
- University of Pittsburgh Dean Al Novak asked the Westmoreland Bar

Association to accept a framed notification and accompanying medal in memory of Christ. C. Walthour, Jr., for his significant contribution to the university's law school.

- Voted to allow WBA staff to attend September 14 seminar in Greensburg.
- Voted to authorize the executive director to allow local banks to schedule events at the bar to educate members about services associated with the local banks; also voted to not enter into exclusive offers with any bank.
- Learned that Municipal Law committee will hold a community education program September 22 at UPG.
- Learned that the next living trust seminar is set for September 27 at 7 pm at Latrobe airport.
- Voted to allocate up to \$600 to cover the costs of the upcoming living trust seminar and to make additional requests if these funds do not cover the costs.
- Learned that Jo Ann Bergquist, ED of the medical society, cannot be the guest speaker at the fall quarterly meeting due to other obligations.
- Agreed that committee chairs will poll their members to determine preference for communication regarding committee meetings.
- Agreed to schedule a committee chair meeting in late April 2006 to create a master calendar of events.
- Learned that the owner of Lapels is planning a fund-raiser for the Reg Belden Memorial Fund.
 - Agreed to provide a mailing list and the opportunity to include a flier for this fund-raiser in *the sidebar*.

Got News?

Do you have news to share with the sidebar? Making Partner? Marriage? Birth? Anniversary? Accomplishments? Send us a fax (724.834.6855), an e-mail (westbar.org@verizon.net), a note by carrier pigeon or any other means and we'll publish your news in the next available issue.

news

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 12 Bankruptcy, Noon
- 13 Parent Counsel & Guardian, Noon
- 14 Membership, Noon
Municipal Law, Noon
Ned J. Nakles American Inn of Court, 5 p.m.
- 17 Fall Gathering, 5:30 p.m.,
Latrobe Country Club
- 20 Planning Retreat (through 22nd)
Family Law, Noon
- 21 Pro Bono on the Road,
New Kensington
- 22 Municipal Law CLE, 7-9 p.m.,
University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, Smith Hall
- 27 “The Truth About Living Trusts”
Public Education Seminar, 7 p.m.,
Arnold Palmer Regional Airport, Latrobe

30 Red Mass, Noon, *St. Vincent*

OCTOBER

- 3 Bankruptcy, Noon
- 6 Nominating, Noon
- 7 Fall Quarterly Meeting of the
Westmoreland Bar Association,
Noon
- 10 Courthouse closed in observance of
Columbus Day
- 12 Membership, Noon
Real Estate, Noon
- 18 Family Law, Noon
Board Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 19 Pro Bono on the Road,
New Kensington
- 20 Planning, 8:30 a.m.
Elder Law & Orphans’ Court, Noon
Ned J. Nakles American Inn of Court, 5 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. 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.



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

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

GREENSBURG, PA
PERMIT #678