



MONROE COUNTY BRIEF

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Monroe County Bar Association, 913 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360
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President's Message

Lori J. Cerato, MCBA President

I want to begin my term as President of our Association by thanking Jane Maughan for her service as President during 2013. From my perspective, it went by quickly and I believe that is due to Jane's superb organizational skills and efficient planning. I will benefit from her mentoring as immediate past president.

I've set three goals for my term as President. In addition, each quarter's newsletter will include an update on our progress in meeting those goals.

The first relates to curb appeal of our historic building. For many years, I've served on the building committee and we should be very proud of 913 Main St. A perennial garden is planned for the spring, with container gardens adding even more color to the porch. I hope to host at least one member meeting at the building in 2014 followed by cocktails and hors d'oeuvres on the porch.

Second, in 2013 the Association's Board approved a contract with Ellen Freedman to provide strategic planning consultant services. Our Association has never had a strategic plan. Given the volume of business flowing through the building,

a strategic plan seemed like an important piece to put in place. I have asked a group of Past Presidents and Young Lawyers to join me in the process and our first meeting is scheduled for January 17.

Finally, 2015 marks the Centennial of our Association and planning for a Centennial Celebration gets underway in 2014. Save the date of October 7, 2015 for a gala event at Skytop during beautiful fall foliage season. The event, with a capacity for 300, will be open to members and friends of the Association. A commemorative booklet is planned as well as member recognition.

I look forward to a productive year and what promises to be a busy one!

Lori Cerato

Monroe County Bar Foundation

It seems like just a short while ago I was thanking everyone for their continued support of the Foundation through our annual mail solicitation with the MCBA dues. To date we have raised just over \$6,000. Great start to a new year!

I am pleased to announce joining the board this year is Denise Murray, Branch Manager for the Stroudsburg Office of PNC. Denise is actively involved in the community and she is a welcome addition to our group.

See **Foundation**, Page 2

Young Lawyers Division

Taking the helm of the YLD this year is Brian Jordan. As always, the YLD has a very strong and active board. Joining the leadership team this year are Kat Walters, Syzane Arifaj and Deb Huffman. You can expect to see the YLD not only at MCBA functions, but also in our community volunteering for the betterment of charitable organizations such as Habitat

See **Young Lawyers Division**, Page 2

MCBA Introduces Two New Employees

Mirtha Quintana has joined MCBA as our Journal Coordinator. In addition to handling all the areas of the Monroe Legal Reporter, Mirtha is the Association's bookkeeper. With over ten years with HFZ Capital Group in New York, she gained valuable operational and project management experience, vendor, and client relationships as well as bookkeeping. Mirtha received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from City University of New York, Hunter College. Mirtha lives with her family in Monroe County.

As a former Administrative Assistant for a senior executive at Pocono Medical Center and Donor Records Coordinator at East Stroudsburg University Foundation, Wendy Dickinson comes to MCBA with a strong background in event and donor management. As Event Coordinator for the Association, Wendy will manage all of the events, including educational, social, and special projects. In addition, she will be the key contact for our **Find a Lawyer** program and scheduling all events and meetings held on-site at the Bar Center. Wendy lives in Wayne County with her husband.

MCBA YLD Division

YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

Brian C. Jordan
President

Kathleen Walters
Vice President

Syzane Arifaj
Treasurer

Deborah Huffman
Secretary

Monroe County Bar Foundation Board of Trustees 2014

William J. Reaser
Chairman
Elizabeth Bensinger Weekes
Treasurer
Tom Dirvonas
Trustee
Diane Dagger
Trustee
Victoria Strunk
Trustee
Jason Altschul
Trustee
Denise Murray
Trustee
Denise M. Burdge
Executive Director

News from the YLD

Young Lawyers Division

From Page 1

for Humanity, the soup kitchen at St. Luke's Church and many more to come.

On March 3, 2014, the YLD sponsored the American Red Cross Blood Drive. This year, for the convenience of our members who spend so much time at the courthouse, the bloodmobile was brought in and was located just outside the main entrance. Thank you to all those took time out of their busy schedules to selflessly help others.

Thank you to all the volunteers, both past and future that make all of the YLD events a success.

On a "just for fun" note, the social hours continue. And they aren't just for the YLD. All members are invited to attend. Watch the MCBA event calendar for the dates and locations.



Pictured above: Elizabeth Field, President Judge and founder of the YLD annual blood drive, Margherita Patti Worthington, Brian Jordan and Michelle Polato
March 3, 2014

Monroe County Bar Foundation

William J. Reaser, Jr., MCBF Chairman

Foundation

From Page 1

The Foundation will again offer scholarships to graduating seniors this year. We will award one \$1,000 scholarship within each of the four public school districts. For details regarding criteria and the application, go to the Association website, www.monroebar.org under MC Bar Foundation. The individual schools will be receiving the information in the next week or so as well.

In October of 2013, the Foundation held a very successful fundraising event at Shawnee Craft Brewery. Great food and company accompanied the beer and wine tasting. We raised a total of \$3,200, which was split between the new Children's Advocacy Center of Monroe County and Camp Cadet Troop "N". We were able to raise this not only because of the support of the MCBA membership and community but also because of the generous support of MCBA. Underwriting the expenses of the event allowed us to give all money to the charities. Therefore, I say once again, "Thank you. Without your generosity all of this would not be possible."

Look for more information on this year's Oktoberfest 2014. We promise another great evening with good beer, delicious food, and great company!

Thank you!

Bill

Upcoming PBI Schedule at the Bar Center - Live-feed Group-casts & Video Replays
For more details or to register for any PBI seminar, go to www.pbi.org
Courses are subject to cancellation by PBI if a minimum number of attendees do not pre-register.

[PBI 2014 Family Law Institute - Groupcast](#)

Date and Time:

4/17/14 8:30 AM - 04:00 PM

[PBI Employers' Obligations Under the Affordable Care Act: The Deadline is Quickly Approaching - Video](#)

Date and Time:

4/22/14 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

[PBI Powerful Witness Preparation - Groupcast](#)

Date and Time:

4/30/14 9:00 AM - 05:00 PM

[PBI Pro Bono Seminar: Making a Difference – Groupcast](#)

Date and Time:

5/13/14 9:00 AM - 04:30 PM

[PBI Workers' Compensation Practice & Procedure 2014 - Groupcast](#)

Date and Time:

5/22/14 12:25 PM - 04:45 PM

[PBI Sheriff's Sales in Pennsylvania - Groupcast](#)

Date and Time:

6/9/14 9:00 AM - 01:15 PM

[PBI Defending the White Collar Case - Video](#)

Date and Time:

6/13/14 9:00 AM - 12:00 AM

[PBI RESPA/Lenders and Consumers Points of View - Video](#)

Date and Time:

6/17/14 9:00 AM - 05:00 PM

[PBI General Practitioners' Update 2014 - Groupcast](#)

Date and Time:

6/25/14 8:30 AM - 03:45 PM

[PBI 15th Estate and Elder Law Symposium - Video](#)

Date and Time:

6/27/14 9:00 AM - 05:00 PM

Please go to the MCBA calendar to confirm seminar. www.monroebar.org

Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board Announces Increases in Ethics Requirement and Distance Learning Options

February 4, 2014

The Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board has announced changes in rules and regulations that will permit more credits to be earned via distance learning, and will increase the annual ethics requirement.

By Supreme Court order, Pa.R.C.L.E. Rule 108 (e) has been changed to increase the amount of credits lawyers may earn via alternate delivery methods from four (4) to six (6) credits annually. The board also adopted a regulation change to increase the ethics component of the annual CLE requirement from one (1) to two (2) credit hours. The total number of CLE credits required annually will remain 12 hours.

The amendments to the rules and regulations will take effect with CLE compliance periods that begin in 2014 and have requirement deadlines in 2015.

The ethics credit increase marks the first significant modification to the CLE requirement since 1996 when the total requirement expanded from nine credits to 12. The new provisions for distance learning will provide lawyers the option of completing up to half of their annual requirement through distance learning and computer-based education.

Both changes are the result of considerable research and consideration by the PACLE Board.

“These updates to the rules and regulations for CLE in Pennsylvania recognize the changing needs and realities of modern law practice,” said Kenneth Argentieri, CLE Board Chair. “We hope that these changes will help lawyers to better serve their clients and the administration of justice in our Commonwealth. Ethics and professionalism is at the heart of what we do. Since accredited providers of CLE in Pennsylvania continue to do an excellent job of offering ample quality ethics and professionalism training, attorneys should easily be able to meet the new ethics requirement.

“This is even more so with the increase in the amount of credits that can be earned through distance learning programs,” Chairman Argentieri added. “Participation through distance learning has been an option for Pennsylvania lawyers since 2003. Since then the Board has received feedback from attorneys to consider increasing the amount of distance learning credits that may apply to the CLE requirement. The Supreme Court’s decision to amend this rule responds to these requests and recognizes evolving comfort levels with the online delivery of professional education.”

The CLE board is responsible for administering the rules pertaining to continuing education for attorneys. This responsibility includes monitoring each attorney’s compliance with the requirements, notifying attorneys of CLE status, and accrediting CLE providers and courses.

The Board’s website is home to several online tools that help attorneys locate educational opportunities and track their CLE compliance. To access these services, and for more information on Continuing Legal Education in Pennsylvania, please visit: www.pacle.org.

For more info, contact PACLE: (800) 497-2253 or (717) 231-3250

Find a Lawyer hits new record!

The **Find a Lawyer** program hit over 3,900 referrals to participating members in 2013.

The **Find a Lawyer** program is now available online. Anyone who is looking for an attorney in Monroe County can find one through our online system by visiting the MCBA website www.monroebar.org. The online system is the same as we use at the office and meets the goal of being fair and random to the participants.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the Bar Association at 570.424.7288.

New Members

Barbara Fitzgerald
Barbara Fitzgerald, Attorney at Law
18 South 9th Street, Suite 102
Stroudsburg PA 18360

Caitlin M. Humphreys
North Penn Legal Services
10 North Tenth Street
Stroudsburg PA 18360
570.424.5338
caitlinmhumphreys@gmail.com

Curtis J. Rogers
Law Offices of Curtis Rogers
529 Sarah Street
Stroudsburg PA 18360
570.982.1902
Rogerslaw570@gmail.com

Jeff Rosen
Jeff Rosen, Esquire
7 Rock Ridge Terrace
Dover, NJ 07801
610.574.9251
rosenstar@aol.com

James C. Swetz
Cramer, Swetz, McManus and Jordan, PC
711 Sarah Street
Stroudsburg PA 18360
570.421.5568
570.4521.5720
jcswetz@csmlawyer.com

Nicholas I. Timko
Kahn Gordan Timko & Rodriques
20 Vesey Street
New York, NY 10007
212.233.2040
212.732.4666 (Fax)
mitimko@kgtrpc.com

Michelle Akritas Polato
Law Clerk to
The Hon. Margherita Patti Worthington
Monroe County Courthouse
610 Monroe Street
Stroudsburg PA 18360
570.517.3927
mpolato@monroepacourts.us

Welcome Law Clerks

David Humphreys
Law Clerk, The Honorable David Williamson
Monroe County Courthouse
610 Monroe Street
Stroudsburg PA 18360
570.517.3932
dhumphreys@monroepacourts.us

Julia Skinner
Law Clerk, The Hon. Margherita Patti Worthington
Monroe County Courthouse
610 Monroe Street
Stroudsburg PA 18360
570.517.3931
jskinner@monroepacourts.us

Firm Changes

Cramer, Swetz, McManus PC announces Brian C. Jordan becomes a shareholder in the firm and the renaming of the firm to:

Cramer, Swetz, McManus & Jordan, PC

Donald Leeth and Brian Gaglione form Partnership known as Leeth and Gaglione

Joshua Goldberg joins
Anders, Riegel and Mastington, LLC

T. Axel Jones opens a sole practitioner office,
The Law Office of T. Axel Jones

Michael Ventrella joins
Fisher and Fisher Law Offices LLC

King, Spry, Herman, Freund & Faul, LLC announces new partners:

Jessica F. Moyer
Rebecca A. Young

Remember to notify the MCBA office if you have any changes to your membership. Up-to-date member information is available on the MCBA website: www.monroebar.org

Members in the News

On January 9, 2014, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania appointed Attorney Lori J. Cerato to a three year term on the Supreme Court's Orphan's Court Procedural Rules Committee. The Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committee reviews current rules governing statewide practice and procedure in the Orphans' Court and recommends new rules as necessary.

Dorota K. Gasienica-Kozak was named the YMCA of Bethelhem's Woman of the Year on February 4, 2014. Attorney Gasienica-Kozak is a partner with King, Spry, Herman, Freund & Faul, LLC.

Brian C. Jordan, shareholder in the firm of Cramer, Swetz, McManus & Jordan, P.C. was re-appointed to the Board of Directors for the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (PACDL) for 2014. Attorney Jordan is also Co-Chair of the CLE Planning Committee for PACDL and the President of its Young Lawyers Division. The Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers ensures justice and due process for persons accused of crime or other misconduct. In addition to its primary mission, PACDL conducts continuing legal education for lawyers and education programs for the public about criminal justice and the Bill of Rights.

YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Estate Lawyers Lunch - 1st Wednesday
Real Estate Attorneys Lunch - 2nd Tuesday
Municipal Law Lunch - 3rd Tuesday
Willowtree Inn, Noon - 1:00 pm

Criminal Defense Lawyer's Lunch - 4th
Tuesday
Sarah's Cafe

FOR UP-TO-DATE MCBA NEWS

and
COURTHOUSE NEWS
GO TO
[MCBA Legal Links Page](#)

2014 Monroe County Bar Association Officers and Directors

Lori J. Cerato	President
Todd W. Weitzmann	Vice President
Jeffrey A. Durney	Secretary
Timothy J. McManus	Treasurer
Jane Maughan	Past President
Mark Primrose	Member at Large
Elizabeth Bensinger Weekes	Member at Large
Brian C. Jordan	Member at Large/YLD President

Save the Date

Iron Pigs Baseball Game - Sunday, June 29, 2014
New York City Bus Trip - Saturday, September 20, 2014
Bench Bar Conference - Thursday, October 16, 2014 at Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort
Swearing in Ceremony - Friday, December 19, 2014
Holiday Open House - Friday, December 19, 2014



Member Meeting

Peppe's Bistro, East Stroudsburg
Wednesday, May 21, 2014

5:30 PM – Cash Bar

6:00 PM – Buffet Dinner Meeting

Filet of Sole with Shrimp Stuffing
Roast Sirloin of Beef
Veal Sorrentino
Chicken Pollo Francese
Cheese Ravioli

\$35 per person

RSVP by May 14, 2014

Member Meeting

May 21, 2014

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

**Monroe County Bar
Association**

913 Main Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
570.424.7288
Fax: 570.424.8234
info2@monroebar.org
www.monroebar.org

Monroe County Bar Association Presents a CLE Lunch and Learn Seminar:

Unemployment Issues for the Pro-Bono Attorney

Discover how to volunteer your time, provide a community service and determine the most effective representation of your client in today's work environment.

David Keller Trevaskis, Esquire
Pro Bono Coordinator
Pennsylvania Bar Association

Barry Chromey
Program Manager Central Sector
Unemployment Compensation Board of Review

When:

Tuesday, May 6, 2014
11:30am – Lunch
12:00pm – 1:00pm – Seminar

Where:

MCBA Center
913 Main St.
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Cost:

\$25 – Members
\$35 – Non-Members



****Everyone present for entire seminar will receive 1 substantive CLE credit****

Please return the bottom portion along with payment to MCBA by May 1, 2014

Lunch and Learn: Unemployment for the Pro-Bono Attorney

May 6, 2014

Member cost: \$25 Non-Member cost: \$35

Name: _____ Email: _____

Atty ID#: _____ Telephone: _____



Please join us at Monroe County Bar Association's

2014 Law Day Celebration

Friday, May 2, 2014

Monroe County Courthouse

Breakfast Reception

8:30 a.m. - Law Library

RSVP required: info2@monroebar.org or 570.424.7288

Law Day Ceremony

9:00 a.m. Courtroom 1

Presentation of the Liberty Bell Award

Student Essay Contest Winners

"Why Every Vote Matters"

Fairy Tale Trials

10:00 a.m. - Courtroom (rooms to be announced)

"Alice in Wonderland vs. The Mad Hatter"

Monroe County Bar Association Holiday Schedule

Good Friday, April 18, 2014 - MCBA Office closed

Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, 2014 - MCBA Office closed