



**MCBA MONROE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**  
100 YEARS *of* DEDICATION

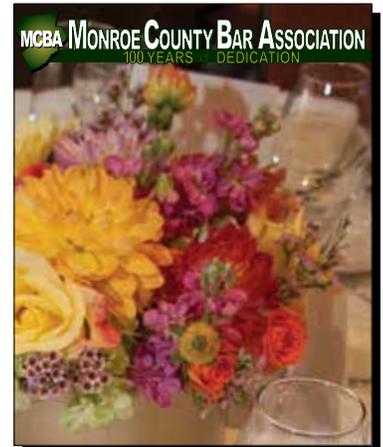
AN MCBA PUBLICATION  
FOURTH QUARTER 2015  
VOLUME 20 ISSUE 4

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Cover Photo: MCBA Centennial Celebration soars at Skytop.

**MONROE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**  
 913 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
 www.monroebar.org  
 info2@monroebar.org  
 570.424.7288

**Mission Statement**

*The mission of the Monroe County Bar Association is to maintain the honor and dignity of the profession of the law, to cultivate social interaction among its members and to increase its usefulness in promoting the due administration of justice.*



# *President's Message*

Our centennial year has been one of celebration and accomplishment. We've looked back over our history and honored the contributions of our members. We've enjoyed opportunities to socialize and strengthen collegial bonds. And, perhaps most importantly, we've turned our focus to the future with the goal of keeping our Association healthy and vibrant. We have been good stewards of this Association as it embarks on its second hundred years.

Starting in 2014, Lori Cerato laid the groundwork for our centennial year as she guided the development of the first strategic plan in MCBA's history. This year, we began to implement that strategic plan. Led by Bill Cramer and his committee, one of our first achievements was the completion of a new grant policy. Under the new policy, the Monroe County Bar Foundation, supported financially by MCBA, will provide substantial and much-needed support to worthy causes in our community. Also, the Building Committee has been working hard as it considers options for expanding our parking and our building.

This was a landmark year for social events. Jane Maughan organized our first quilt show in collaboration with the Pocono Mountains Quilters' Guild and the Pocono Arts Council. Andy Wolf promoted the idea of our first St. Patrick's Day Parade Party at the Bar Center. Our building was full with members and their families enjoying these events along with great food and drink. We look forward to continuing these new traditions!

The centerpiece of our centennial celebration was our gala evening at Skytop. With the skillful and meticulous planning of Deb Huffman and her committee, and with the overwhelming support of our members, we had a truly remarkable evening of celebra-

tion and camaraderie. The evening was an opportunity to strengthen old bonds and forge new ones, and I'm hopeful that this spirit will carry forward.

In addition to the Centennial Dinner, we found a lasting way to commemorate our past leaders, members, and history with the research and publication of our 100th Anniversary book. We all owe Lori Cerato a special thank you for steering this project from its initial conception through completion. Along the way, the project benefited from the contributions of many talented individuals. Without the thorough and painstaking research by ESU intern and historian David Brodsky, and the polished writing and editing of Taharah Nix, the book would not have become the treasure that it is.

Our Bench Bar Conference moved this year to Northampton County Community College's beautiful Monroe Campus. The first-rate location and accomplished presenters garnered overwhelmingly positive reviews from our members. Many thanks to Jeff Durney and his committee for their hard work in planning this event.

It has been an honor to serve as your president during this centennial year. As I prepare to pass my gavel to Jeff Durney as next year's president, I want to thank Denise, Ashley and Marsha for their dedicated service to our Association, and all of the members who have contributed in large and small ways to our successes this year. I am confident of our continued success in 2016.

*Todd W. Weitzmann, Esq.*  
*MCBA President*

## **Monroe County Bar Foundation 2015 Board of Trustees**

**William J. Reaser, Jr. Esq.**  
Chairman

**Thomas V. Casale, Esq.**  
Vice Chairman

**Thomas F. Dirvonas, Esq.**  
Trustee

**Diane L. Dagger, Esq.**  
Treasurer

**Victoria A. Strunk, Esq.**  
Secretary

**Lara Kash, Esq.**  
Trustee

**Matthew Field**  
Trustee

**Denise Murray**  
Trustee

## **Monroe County Bar Association 2015 Officers and Directors**

**Todd W. Weitzmann**  
President

**Jeffrey A. Durney**  
Vice President

**Timothy J. McManus**  
Secretary

**Mark A. Primrose**  
Treasurer

**Lori J. Cerato**  
Immediate Past President

**Elizabeth Bensinger Weekes**  
Member at Large

**Elizabeth M. Field**  
Member at Large

**Brian C. Jordan**  
Member at Large/YLD President

## **Monroe County Bar Association 2015 Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Officers**

**Brian C. Jordan**  
President

**Kathleen E. Walters**  
Vice President

**Elizabeth M. Field**  
Treasurer

**Jason LaBar**  
Secretary



# MCBA MEMBER UPDATES

## Welcome To Our New Members...

### **Kaitlin Fulmer**

Monroe County Courthouse  
610 Monroe St., Suite 221  
Stroudsburg PA 18360  
570.517.3960  
[kfulmer@monroepacourts.us](mailto:kfulmer@monroepacourts.us)

Kaitlin Fulmer grew up on her family's farm in Plainfield Township, Northampton County. After graduating from Moravian College in 2012 where she was a Comenius Scholar, she attended the Penn State Dickinson School of Law where Kaitlin worked for the Rural Economic Development Clinic before graduating in 2015. Currently working with the Honorable David Williamson as a Law Clerk, Fulmer plans on a future in civil law.

### **Brian Stone, Esquire**

6021 Route 115  
Blakeslee PA 18610  
570.517.9097  
[brian@brianstonelaw.com](mailto:brian@brianstonelaw.com)

A graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, Brian Stone spent a decade as a prosecutor of organized crime and corruption in New York before his entry into private practice. He concentrates his work in general litigation (civil, commercial, family, personal injury and criminal), business transactions and real estate. Although fairly new to Pennsylvania, he is admitted to practice in the federal and state courts in both Pennsylvania and New York, and has more than 40 years of experience.



# Centennial gala

by Jeanine Hofbauer  
photograph David Coulter



Over 230 guests gathered at Skytop Lodge October 3 for an evening celebrating a century of strengths, strides and contributions by Monroe County Bar Association. From a humble beginning with 17 members, to modern day magnitude topping 300, the Stroudsburg based organization comprised of legal professionals continues to dedicate time, talent and foundation dollars to the citizens of Monroe County. An ability to cast aside courtroom debate and share legality logistics for the benefit of the community was the focus of applause that evening, as well as longevity with past MCBA presidents and longtime members reminiscing over the association's evolution.

Considering the evident enthusiasm illustrated by attendance "cohesive and strong," The Honorable President Judge Margherita Patti-Worthington called it, "A huge achievement compared to other bar associations across the state."

What a difference a decade makes, reflected Common Pleas Court Judge David Williamson. "Who would have thought ten years ago when we had a handful of lawyers it would evolve

into what we have today," the association's 2011 President added with applause for the magnitude of community involvement displayed.

Current President Todd Weitzmann, Esquire, measured the professionalism for "justice in our community" and "camaraderie" as means for growth into the future. Turning attention to term tallies, he politely chipped away chronologically leaving those with over 50 years standing to accept a round of applause.

Member since 1962, Senior Judge Peter J. O'Brien led the room in a toast starting with, "Those who came before us with wisdom to create this association," to future MCBA leaders encouraging all to "follow" in the footsteps led by experience.

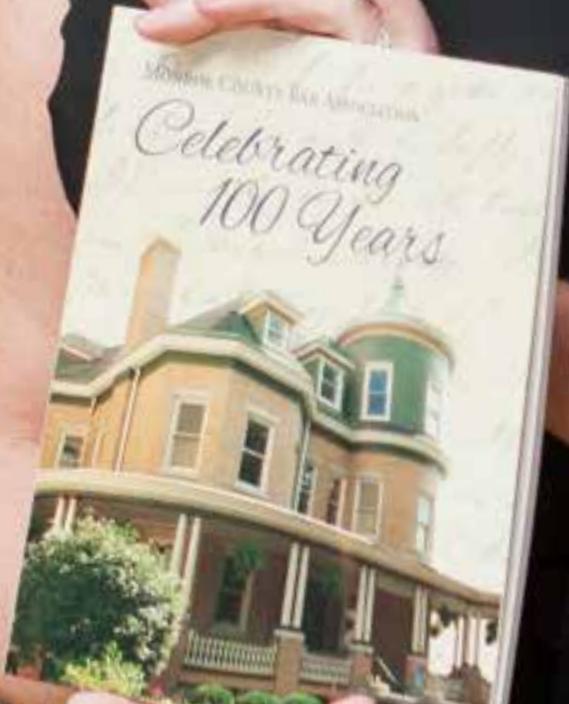
With MCBA for 48 years, Senior Judge Jerry Cheslock praised the past "civility practiced" then recognizing a swell in membership numbers, as well as budget figures, he agreed in the overall benefit for Monroe County as a whole stating, "Now more money goes back into the community."

Published October 6, 2015  
The Pocono Record





1. MCBA Past Presidents 2. President Judge Margherita Patti-Worthington & MCBA President Todd Weitzmann 3. (L to R) Brenda Higgins, Judge Stephen Higgins & Gretchen Marsh Weitzmann 4. Rick & Suzanne Estrella 5. Mary Jane & Sam Newman 6. Paula Heeschen & Judge Arthur Zulick 7. (L to R) Hillary Madden, Joel Madden, Syzane Arifaj, Jason LaBar & Andrea LaBar 8. Maria & Ricardo Ramirez 9. (L to R) Judge David Williamson, Judge Arthur Zulick, Judge Jonathan Mark, President Judge Margherita Patti-Worthington, Senior Judge Jerome Cheslock, Judge Stephen Higgins & Senior Judge Peter O'Brien 10. Attorneys from Newman, Williams, Mishkin, Corveleyn, Wolfe & Fareri, PC 11. (L to R) Bill Reaser, Senior Judge Cheslock, Janet Cohen & Patricia Cheslock 12. (L to R) Deb Huffman, State Representatives David Parker & Rosemary Brown, Todd Weitzmann, State Representative Jack Rader



*A Centennial Reminder*

grab your copy of  
MONROE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
**Celebrating 100 Years**

Upcoming PBI Schedule at the MCBA Bar Center  
Live-feed Group-casts & Video Replays  
For more details or to register for any PBI seminar, go to [www.pbi.org](http://www.pbi.org)  
or call 800.932.4637  
Courses are subject to cancellation by PBI if a minimum number of attendees do not  
pre-register.

[PBI: 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Auto Law Update - Video](#)

01/12/16 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM

[PBI: Municipal Law Update - Groupcast](#)

01/13/16 9:00 AM – 4:15 PM

[PBI: Personal Injury Litigation Basics Groupcast](#)

1/21/16 9:00 AM - 1/21/16 04:30 PM

[PBI: Steve Stark: \(A\) Surprisingly Useful Thing Legal Writers Can Learn from Poetry \(B\) Legal Writing in the Smart Phone Age - Video](#)

1/28/16 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

[PBI: Using Social Media in Your Law Practice – Video](#)

2/9/16 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

[PBI: Habeas Corpus – Video](#)

2/10/16 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM

[PBI: Fundamentals of Pennsylvania Business Corporations Practice - Video](#)

2/11/16 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

[PBI: Estate Planning in PA's Shale Energy Environment - Video](#)

2/16/16 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM

[PBI: Section 1983 Litigation: Civil Rights and Attorney's Fees Under Section 1988 - Video](#)

2/25/16 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM

[PBI: Elder Law Update – Video](#)

3/1/16 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

[PBI: Environmental Enforcement Actions – Video](#)

3/8/16 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM

[PBI: Guardianship 101 – Groupcast](#)

3/10/16 12:00 PM – 4:15 PM

[PBI: 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Law Update – Video](#)

3/16/16 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

[PBI: Fixing a Broken Trust – Groupcast](#)

3/17/16 12:00 pm – 3:15 PM

[PBI: Pennsylvania's Proposed Medical Cannabis Act – Video](#)

3/21/16 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

[PBI: 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Civil Litigation Update – Groupcast](#)

3/23/16 9:00 AM – 4:15 PM

[PBI: Talking w/ Pictures: Courtroom Persuasion in the Multimedia Age \(PEG\) – Groupcast](#)

3/24/16 8:30 am – 3:30 PM

[PBI: Internet Defamation – Groupcast](#)

3/29/16 8:30 AM – 11:45 AM

# MONROE COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION



As we close out the year, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Board of Directors of the Monroe County Bar Association, the members of MCBA and to all those who supported the Foundation.

The Board of Directors of MCBA and the Trustees of MCBF finalized an agreement wherein MCBA will be the administrator and grantor of funds contributed from MCBA to MCBF. These funds will be provided to our community within the guidelines of the MCBF Grant Policy. We are pleased to say that we received \$61,360.85 in requests and have approved \$29,860.85 in grants. This month these community organizations will be granted funds for use in Monroe County:

<i>Devereux Pocono</i>	\$ 1,500.00
<i>Supporting children's Behavioral Health Family Promise Financial Literacy Incentive Program</i>	\$ 2,250.00
<i>Garden of Giving Supply food pantries with fresh fruits, vegetables and eggs</i>	\$16,000.00
<i>Quiet Valley A day at the Farm for Head Start children</i>	\$ 1,000.00
<i>Salvation Army Emergency shelter for families and children</i>	\$ 9,110.85

2016 grant applications will be available by February 29, 2016.

With the support of our members, we also awarded scholarships to graduating seniors. In honor of The Honorable Ronald E Vican, we awarded \$1,000 to Russell TP House. We also provided four individual scholarships for \$1,500 each to Thomas J. Rubino, Julianna Lynch, Michael J. Loedel and Kayla Wolf.

Additionally we provided \$5,600 to local organizations including The Monroe County Historical Association, Camp Cadet Troop "N", Habitat for Humanity, PATH, ESASH FBLA National Competitors, Center for Vision Loss, Children and Youth in support of their Adoption Day, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Women's Resources.

With your generous contributions we hope to continue the giving to the local non-profit organizations in our county. As you send in your 2016 annual membership dues for MCBA please consider contributing to the Foundation.

Thank you all again for a most successful 2015!

*William J. Reaser, Jr. Esq.*  
2015 MCBA Foundation Chair

# Young Lawyers Division



What a great year 2015 has been! As a group the YLD supported St. Luke's soup kitchen again, Bowling for Kid's Sake at the 2015 Big Brothers Big Sisters event and worked on two different projects for Habitat for Humanity. The annual fall food drive is still going on, so don't forget to place you non-perishable food items in the box at the courthouse entrance or at the Bar Center.

Mentor lunches were enjoyed by many. We appreciate everyone who participated.

January will be a month of transition as Brian Jordan steps down as President after two years. Elections will take place at the annual meeting to be held on Thursday, January 14th at noon. This year's slate of officers and members at large include:

*Elizabeth Field, President*

*David Marra, Vice President*

*Shamira Cooper, Secretary*

*Caitlin Humphreys, Treasurer*

*Hillary Madden, Member at Large*

*Casey Schweppenheiser, Member at Large*

Also at the January meeting, the YLD members will vote on revised YLD By-Laws. Acknowledging the changing demographics of the YLD, the Board has reviewed and changed the By-Laws to reflect the membership.

Plans are already underway for 2016. We'll continue to put our talents to use by working at the soup kitchen and helping Habitat for Humanity, but we'll also take some time to enjoy the company of others though several social events. Watch your in boxes for all the happenings!

Finally, thank you to all the 2015 officers for their time and talents – Brian Jordan, Kathleen Walters, Elizabeth Field, and Jason LaBar. And thank everyone for your support. The success of the YLD is because of you.



# Save the Date

## January

January 20, 2016  
*Lunch & Learn*  
11:30 a.m. - MCBA Building

## February

February 19, 2016  
*Lunch & Learn*  
TBD - MCBA Building

## March

March 10, 2016  
*Lunch & Learn*  
TBD - MCBA Building

March 20, 2016  
*St Patrick's Day Parade*  
1:30 pm - MCBA Perch Yourself on the Porch

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Detailed Docs & Signups  
**INCLUDED**

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# MONROE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

## LUNCH AND LEARN

PRESENT:

### Preserving Issues for Appeal: Cross Examining the VE in a SSD Hearing

Presented by:  
**Patrick J. Best, Esq.**  
Anders, Riegel & Masington, LLC

**Wednesday, January 20, 2016**

11:30 am Lunch

12:00 -1:00 pm CLE

Members: \$25.00

YLD Members: \$20.00

Non-Member Cost: \$35.00

*In accordance to the Event Payment Policy: If you reserve a seat and do not attend you will be charged for the full amount of the CLE, \$25.00*

**Monroe County Bar Association  
913 Main Street  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360**

**\*\*Everyone present for entire seminar will receive 1 substantive CLE credits\*\***

Please return this portion along with payment to MCBA by January 13, 2016

**Preserving Issues for Appeal: Cross Examining the VE in an SSD Hearing**  
**Wednesday, January 20, 2016**

*In accordance to the Event Payment Policy: If you reserve a seat and do not attend you will be charge for the full amount of the CLE*

Name:	Attorney ID:
Telephone:	Email:

**\*If you have special dietary requirements, please contact a staff member of the MCBA\***

# MONROE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

## LUNCH AND LEARN

PRESENT:

### PA and Interstate Adoptions and PA Dependency Law:

Practice, Pointers, Pitfalls, Processes and Procedures

Presented by:

Hon. Stephen Higgins  
Lara Kash, Esq.

Craig Bluestein, Esq.  
Elizabeth Weekes, Esq.

## Friday, February 19, 2016

### SAVE THE DATE!

### 2 Substantive Credits!

Members: \$40.00

YLD Members: \$35.00

Non-Member Cost: \$70.00

*In accordance to the Event Payment Policy: If you reserve a seat and do not attend you will be charged for the full amount of the CLE, \$50.00*

# MONROE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

## LUNCH AND LEARN

PRESENT:

### Tax Incentives to Help Conservation-minded Landowners

Thursday, March 10, 2016

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**3 Substantive Credits!**

Members: \$50.00

YLD Members: \$40.00

Non-Member Cost: \$70.00

*In accordance to the Event Payment Policy: If you reserve a seat and do not attend  
you will be charged for the full amount of the CLE, \$50.00*

Join us out on the Porch to watch the

# St. Patrick's Day Parade!

**Sunday, March 20, 2016**

Parade starts at 1:30 pm



Meet us out on the porch at  
12:30 pm for lunch!

This will be a Potluck lunch,  
bring your favorite covered dish!

Beverages will be provided  
(along with adult beverages)



Please RSVP to Ashley by phone: 570.424.7288 or  
email: [info2@monroebar.org](mailto:info2@monroebar.org)



**NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR**

**2016 LIBERTY BELL AWARD RECIPIENT**

As in past years, the Monroe County Bar Association will be presenting the Liberty Bell Award to a suitable candidate at the 2016 Law Day Ceremony to be held at the Monroe County Courthouse, Stroudsburg PA. Law Day will be observed on Friday, April 29, 2016. The Law Day Committee is seeking nominees for this year's Liberty Bell Award honor. The criteria for the Liberty Bell award is a man or woman who has promoted better understanding of the rule of law, encouraged greater respect for the law and courts, stimulated a sense of civic responsibility. Please see the reverse side of this form for previous Award recipients.

If you believe you know someone who is a suitable recipient, kindly contact Denise M. Burdge at the Monroe County Bar Association at 570.424.7288, email the completed form to [info2@monroebar.org](mailto:info2@monroebar.org), or mail the completed form below to Monroe County Bar Association, 913 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360 by March 15, 2016. Thank you.

Law Day Committee  
Monroe County Bar Association

.....  
Liberty Bell Award Nomination 2016

Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pocono Record \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Background Information: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# LIBERTY BELL AWARD RECIPIENTS

## THROUGH *the* YEARS

1970	<i>Henry McCool</i>
1971	<i>Harry Werkheiser</i>
1992	<i>William White</i>
1994	<i>Harry Miller, East Stroudsburg Police Officer</i>
1995	<i>Pat Kresge, Director of the American Cancer Society</i>
1996	<i>Charlotte Sittig, Community Volunteer</i>
1997	<i>Leigh Kane, Chestnuthill Park Chairperson</i>
1998	<i>Helen Meckes, Community Volunteer</i>
1999	<i>Robert Hillman / Walter Washington</i>
2000	<i>Thomas McLaughlin</i>
2001	<i>Jurors of Monroe County</i>
2002	<i>John &amp; Rachel Moyer</i>
2003	<i>Wayne Bolt</i>
2004	<i>Tom E. Breslauer</i>
2005	<i>Lester Abelof</i>
2006	<i>John J. Riley</i>
2007	<i>Master Sergeant Robert Yarnall</i>
2008	<i>Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Richards, Jr.</i>
2009	<i>Clarence Murphy</i>
2010	<i>None Selected</i>
2011	<i>David Merklin</i>
2012	<i>Jeffrey J. Kash</i>
2013	<i>Joel Keller</i>
2014	<i>Jane Koelble, MSW</i>
2015	<i>Kathryn "Mimi" Mikels</i>

# *Local Students Dabble in* Mock Trial Deliberation

By Jeanine Hofbauer  
Published December 2, 2015  
The Pocono Record

**L**essons in legality seized center stage during Monroe County Bar Association's Mock Trial Invitational November 22 at East Stroudsburg High. Over 200 high school students formed seven teams from surrounding school districts including Stroudsburg, Pocono Mountain East, Notre Dame, Wallenpaupack, Valley View, MMI Preparatory and East Stroudsburg with coaches on hand for the event now in its 30th year.

"This is getting them ready for the spring where the state competition brings in more than 300 schools," explained Monroe County Judge Jonathan Mark describing details of the day long deliberations where point accumulation resulted in Wallenpaupack capturing first, Pocono Mountain East second and Notre Dame dominating third place prize recognition.

Faced with scenarios, the teens tackled crucial case components. Providing professional perspective to pupils, attorney Ryan Campbell, noted weeks of strategic planning beforehand.

"The Invitational goes well beyond anything I had in high school," the law clerk serving Monroe County President Judge Margherita Patti-Worthington admitted.

Agreeing, East Stroudsburg High South Social Studies teacher by day, Mock Trial coach by way of a shared passion for the law, Paul Kernan added, "It takes out a lot of their kinks." He goes on to note benefits beyond potential law careers in poise, preparedness and confidence, reporting past participants that went on to excel in other professional fields.

"This prepares them for life," he said.

"It's amazing how much you learn by doing this," reported Pocono Mountain East High School senior Connor Braithwaite.

College-bound with sights set on studying Engineering as a segway to Patent Law, he suggests all students consider joining the experience in the future—for their future.

***"Prepares them for life"***

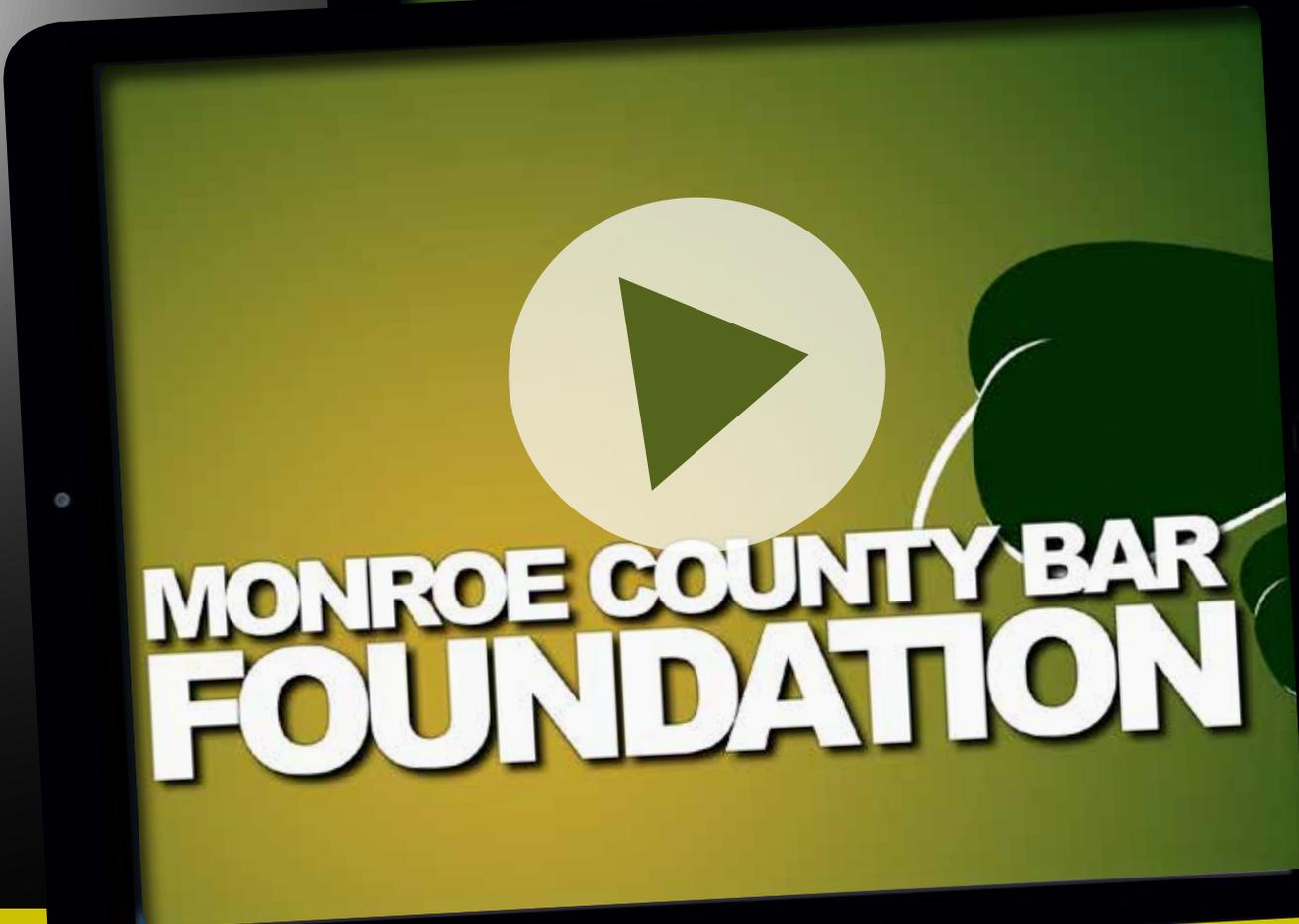
-Paul Kernan  
Mock Trial Coach  
East Stroudsburg High South

*Connor Braithwaite's (seated) responds to a barrage of questioning by pseudo council Jake Lambardino as Mock Trial Judicator Attorney Ethan Stowell (far left) looks on*



Proud  
**Sponsor**  
of this year's  
**Big Brothers  
Big Sisters**  
NEPA Telethon





Watch Commercial at >>><https://vimeo.com/148021735>

# *Signing Off* with a Reminder **MUNROE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION'S**

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

**Christmas Day, December 25, 2015**

**New Year's Eve, December 31, 2015 closing 1:00 p.m.**

**New Year's Day, January 1, 2016**

**President's Day, February 15, 2016**

**Good Friday, March 25, 2016**

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100 YEARS *of* DEDICATION

Promoting *an*  
Understanding &  
Respect *of the Law* for  
Every Monroe County Citizen



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