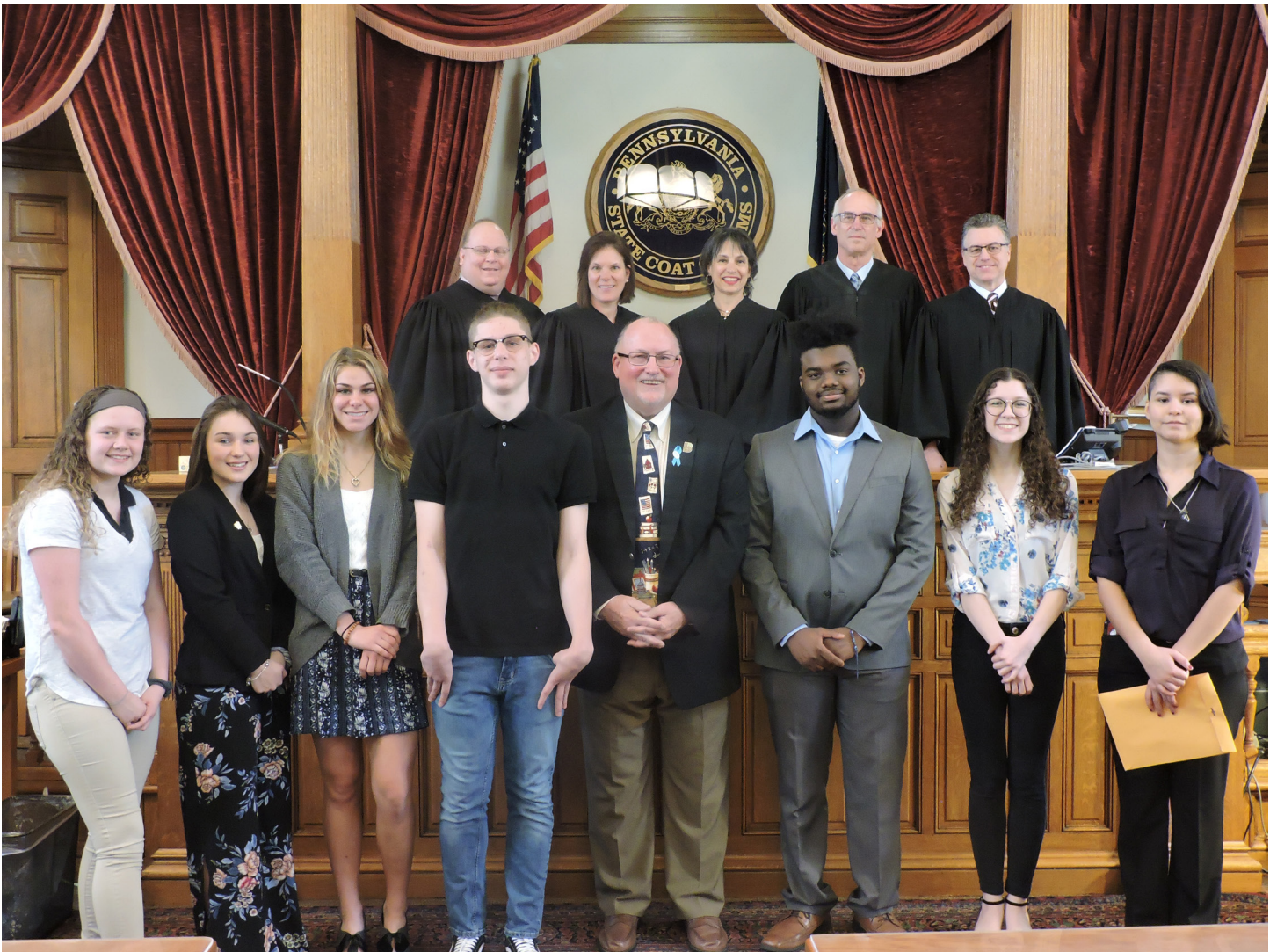




Monroe County Bar Association



**A MCBA PUBLICATION
FOURTH QUARTER
Volume 24 Issue 2**

Law Day Celebration Winners



Monroe County Bar Association

SECOND QUARTER 2019 VOLUME 24 ISSUE 2

NEWS BRIEFS & UPDATES

President's Message	3
Boards and Trustees	4
Young Lawyers Division – Update	5
MC Bar Foundation – Update	5
Members in the News	6
Member Updates	7
2019 Law Day Celebration	8
Thank You!	10
CLE – Winding Down Your Practice	11
River Rafting on the Delaware	12
PBI at MCBA	13
Bench Bar Conference	14
The Quarter in Pics!	15



Cover Photo:
Law Day award recipients. For full
details, turn to page 8

Monroe County Bar Association

913 Main Street, Stroudsburg PA 18360
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Mission Statement

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

President's Message



Spring finally arrived in the Poconos and with it more rain than sun. But the weather didn't stop the Bar Association from continuing to offer educational programs, social events and publish a journal that just continues to provide members with lots of reading material!

Law Day was celebrated first with the 37th running of the Edwin Krawitz Memorial Law Day Race Judicata held on Sunday April 28th. Rain and colder weather didn't hinder the enthusiastic participants as they ran and walked raising just under \$3,000 for the Valor Clinic Foundation. Thank you to all the sponsors, runners and walkers as well as the volunteers who made the event successful.

We honored community member, Ken Gustafson as Judge Mark presented him with the 2019 Liberty Bell Award on May 16th. Ken's contributions to our community are many. In addition we celebrated our creativity contest winner and the Monroe County Bar Foundation scholarship winners. I hope you take the time to read more about all the winners further on in this newsletter.

I offer a special thank you to both the Law Day Race and Law Day Fairy Tale Trial committees for the production of two excellent community programs! Chairs Steve Krawitz, Don Gual and Hillary Madden and their teams worked very hard this year and we thank them for their dedication to our organization.

Our social events continued throughout the spring and early summer. Members and friends were invited to go to NYC by bus and play tourist for the day. Some folks saw plays, others went to museums and still others hit the garment district! Everyone enjoyed being in the city for the day and not having to navigate the traffic home after their very full day. The weather was perfect as everyone enjoyed the annual Iron Pigs baseball game at Coca-Cola Park on Father's Day. Even though our team lost, everyone had a great time relaxing, socializing and eating ballpark food!

Our Social on the Veranda was held in June after our second member meeting of the year. It was another scorching day with the threat of rain and very high humidity. But that didn't stop everyone from sharing time together after the meeting. Thank you to all who took the time out of their busy schedules to attend the meeting and social. It's always a pleasure to see everyone outside of court!

It's hasn't been just fun. The work of the Bar Association continues. We continue to offer both PBI courses regularly as well as CLE's. The legal ads continue to hit record breaking numbers as the shift from residential homes moves to deeded timeshares. We know these high numbers will not continue indefinitely so the Strategic Planning Committee will be shifting their focus to better understand the financial health of the Association long term. Chair Mark Primrose and the Board have decided to not do another survey at this time, but to hold targeted meetings with the SPC, Investment Committee and the Board to do more in depth financial planning for our future. Focus groups will meet with members to assist with the development of the long term objectives of our organization.

Finally, you may have again noticed staffing changes. Marsha requested part-time hours beginning in May. She's now enjoying her semi-retirement as John, her husband, has officially retired. Mecca has left MCBA for personal reasons and we wish her well in her new endeavors. Staffing changes, while difficult for a period of time, are allowing us to look closely at the needs of the association, both for the immediate and long term. The behind the scenes work is extensive and we are taking our time to find just the right mix of enthusiasm, qualifications and flexibility to meet the needs of the association. We are currently supported by temporary employees until such time as the 'perfect fit' person is found.

The half-year mark of my term as your president has arrived. I look forward to the next six months and hope that when you join us for upcoming member meetings, socials and continuing ed programs. Remember that our Bench Bar Conference will be held on Friday, September 27th at the Monroe Campus of Northampton Community College. We'll hold two more member meetings, one in September and one in November. CLE's are being planned as we speak with a few really interesting programs lined up. And, if you are called on to participate in a focus group, I hope you will say "Yes". This is your organization and the future is really in your hands.

Elizabeth Bensinger Weekes

Monroe County Bar Association Officer and Directors - 2019

Elizabeth Bensinger Weekes, Esquire
President

Brian C. Jordan, Esquire
Vice President

Hillary A. Madden, Esquire
Secretary

Deborah L. Huffman, Esquire
Treasurer

Mark A. Primrose, Esquire
Immediate Past President

Vincent Rubino, Esquire
Member at Large

David Marra, Esquire
Member at Large

Don Gual, Esquire
Member at Large/YLD President

Monroe County Bar Foundation Board of Trustees - 2019

William J. Reaser, Jr., Esquire
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Thomas V. Casale, Esquire
Vice Chairman

Victoria A. Strunk, Esquire
Secretary

Diane L. Dagger, Esquire
Treasurer

Christopher Brown, Esquire
Trustee

Matthew Field, CRPC
Trustee

Hillary A. Madden
Trustee

Young Lawyers Division Officers and Board - 2019

Don Gual, Esquire
President

Jessica Jones, Esquire
Vice President

Noelle Wilkinson, Esquire
Secretary

Kaitlin Fulmer, Esquire
Treasurer

David Marra, Esquire
Member at Large

Chynna R. Beisel, Esquire
Member at Large

YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION NEWS

Summer brings more events and programs offered by the YLD for both YLD members and the general membership. Our member mixers and trivia contests continue to be every other month. We also invite a member to join us for our Mentor Lunch on alternating months. The hosting of these events provides all members of the YLD the opportunity get to know our more experienced members.

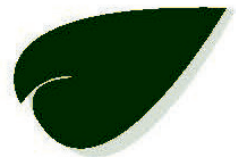
This year we will again host Rafting on the Delaware on Saturday, August 3rd. Hopefully the flood waters will not return and we can all enjoy the beautiful outdoors. Sign-ups are already being accepted. The event is very affordable as the YLD budget covers the majority of the cost. We encourage you to sign up now!

It isn't all social events for us, however. We will host our annual Wills for Heroes event on Saturday November 9th. The event will be held at the Monroe County Public Safety Center in Snydersville. Volunteers will be asked to work with the first responders to prepare wills, POAs and living wills. We hope you will answer the call to help these vital members of our community.

When the school year begins again, the Stepping Out Program will continued to be offered to the high schools. We hope to expand and offer the program to all the local schools, public and private.

Watch your emails for more exciting programs and events coming this fall. There's more to come!

MONROE COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION



Hillary Madden, Law Day Chair, invited the Foundation to join in the law day celebration by presenting our 2019 scholarship award winners at the Law Day Celebration. We were excited to be a part of the day and were very please that these students received the recognition they so deserve. The Foundation awarded \$7,000 in scholarship. Please take a few minutes and read the press release on page 8 listing all of our winners.

Grant applications for 2019 were accepted through June 3rd this year. Later this summer the Board of Trustees will review the applications. This isn't the easiest of our tasks, but definitely another very rewarding one. Providing funding helps not only the individual organization, but our community as a whole. Without the contributions by our members and the Bar Association this would not be possible. Thank you to you - you make this possible.

We can never say "Thank you!" enough to the MCBA and to all that contribute to the Foundation. We truly appreciate all you give!

William J. Reaser, Jr., Chairman

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Chynna Beisel, an Associate Attorney at the firm of Kash Fedrigon Belanger LLC, has been selected to be part of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Bar Leadership Institute Class of 2019-2020

On May 31, 2019, Attorney Chynna R. Beisel was selected to be part of Bar Leadership Institute class of 2019-2020. This program is designed for young attorneys to grow as leaders in the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Chynna will be one of ten young lawyers selected for the program this year. During the year Chynna will travel and attend meetings held by the Pennsylvania Bar Association in Boalsburg, Harrisburg, and Hershey, Pennsylvania. At each of these meetings Chynna will learn about leadership within the Pennsylvania Bar and will have a chance to meet with and network with other young attorneys and members of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Chynna focuses her practice on family law matters such as divorce, custody, and support. She is a court appointed guardian ad litem in cases involving children in foster care. Chynna is also an active member in the Monroe County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division currently serving on their board as a Member at Large.

The MCBA Board recently celebrated Attorney **Charlie Vogt's** completion of his three year term as Zone 5 Governor for the Pennsylvania Bar Association. The Board of Governors manages the PBA policies as established by the House of Delegates. As Zone 5 Governor, Charlie was very active at the state level sitting on multiple committees and meeting regularly with all the Zone 5 delegates. Attorney Vogt will remain a delegate to the house for the next three years.

Donald F. Spry, II and Kirby G. Upright have been named 2019 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers. The honorees are listed in the June 2019 issue of *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* and at www.superlawyers.com.

Donald F. Spry, II is a founding member of the firm. He chairs the Family Law Practice Group and is also a member of the Education Law Practice Group. As a Pennsylvania Bar Institute faculty member, he lectures frequently on family law and also lectures on education law for other organizations. He has written materials for PBI as well as for other seminars and he appears regularly on the television show American Law Journal.

A graduate of Moravian College, Mr. Spry earned his Juris Doctorate from University of Pittsburgh School of Law. In 2019, he was honored as a distinguished graduate of Moravian College at their Night of Stars event.

Kirby G. Upright is a member of the firm who holds a Masters of Laws (Taxation) as well as being a certified public accountant. Mr. Upright takes particular pride in having been elected a Fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Council, a prestigious organization to which only attorneys who meet certain exemplary standards are invited. He is one of only two attorneys in northeastern Pennsylvania and approximately 1500 across the nation in ACTEC. Mr. Upright is a frequent lecturer on matters of estate planning and administration and regularly serves as a faculty member of and has authored many articles for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. He is the past chair of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Section of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and most recently, he contributed a chapter and served as editor of a PBI text entitled "Representing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Clients in Pennsylvania." Mr. Upright is listed in various Who's Who publications as well as Best Lawyers In America.

A graduate of The Pennsylvania State University, Mr. Upright earned his Juris Doctorate from Akron University School of Law and a Master of Law degree in Taxation from Temple University School of Law.

Attorney **Mark Primrose** has been appointed to the Executive Committee of the Conference of County Bar Leaders (CCBL). The purpose of the CCBL is to establish closer relationships between local bar associations across the state, the PBA, and the ABA. CCBL is also a conduit for the exchange of ideas among the associations, provides resources and assistance to local associations and promotes the standing of the legal profession and the courts.

The PBA's 2019-2020 Young Lawyers Division Executive Council has been announced. Joining the Council are two MCBA members, **Jennifer Menichini** who has taken on the position of YLD Chair and **Don Gual** who becomes the YLD Zone 5 Co-chair. The YLD Executive Committee manages the business and activities for the PBA's 7,500 young lawyer members.

Monroe County Court's comfort dog, **Nicholas**, and **Jessica Jones**, his handler, continue to make news. You may remember the April 14, 2019 article in the Pocono Record when Nick and Jess were playing cards. Well, they've done it again. This time Nicholas and Jedi, Lycoming County's comfort dog are featured in the AOPConnected's 2019 Issue 2 magazine. Both Jess and Jerri Rook, Jedi's handler, talk about the benefits to having a comfort dog in the courts, especially to help alleviate the stress for children. These hardworking teams continue to work hard for the courts. The AOPC article can be found at <http://www.pacourts.us/assets/files/setting-6727/file-7821.pdf#search=%22comfort%20dogs%22>. The Pocono Record article can be found on the Pocono Record's website - <https://www.poconorecord.com/news/20190414/facility-dog-nicholas-settling-in-at-monroe-co-courthouse>.

MEMBER MOVES

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Jennifer Ann Wise
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Jamie Brett Levy
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84 Main Street,
PO Box 555
Delaware Water Gap PA 18327
www.levyjustice.com

We saw our first tie on April 25th. After a double tie breaker, the game was called. Obviously the questions just weren't hard enough!

Join the YLD as they mix and mingle again on August 29th and see if your team can take home the traveling trophy!

Pictured left to right: Andy Wolf, Martin Souto-Diaz, Mary Boothe, Chynna Beisel, Justin Davenport and Don Gual



2019 Law Day Celebration

Law Day Honors Ken Gustafson and Nine Area Students for their Excellence

Family and friends gathered in Courtroom One as the Honorable Margherita Patti-Worthington presided over the 2019 Law Day Ceremony. The Monroe County Bar Association celebrated Liberty Bell award winner, Ken Gustafson, along with several winning students of the Law Day Creativity Contest. The Monroe County Bar Foundation awarded \$7,000 in college scholarships to local students during the ceremony as well.

The Liberty Bell award is presented each year to someone who has promoted better understanding of the rule of law, encouraged greater respect for the law and courts and stimulated sense of civic responsibility.

Mr. Gustafson spent his professional career in management and leadership roles with Mars, Inc. From the beginning as a systems analyst through years in advancing roles in marketing and business development, Ken utilized his love for learning his craft to help his colleagues excel. Now his experience helps to inspire others by setting an example as he has become one of the most active volunteers in our county. After retiring from Mars, Inc. Ken worked for Community Church and Catholic Social Services heading up community outreach programs and business development. At both organizations, his primary focus was to develop working partnerships in collaboration with others to better serve our community.

Now retired, Gustafson devotes much of his time to several community organizations. Many of these organizations focus on the well-being of children and families. In 2012 Ken began volunteering with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bridge. As an Advisory Board Member, he actively works with the staff and other board members to plan and execute various fundraising events including the annual Bowl for Kids' Sake bowling event and the telethon. Ken is the current Board VP and over his time on the board has also focused on educating others on BBBS by facilitating mentoring presentations and training programs. In addition Ken has supported the organization as a Big Brother for 6 years.

Two other organizations that Gustafson is extremely active in include Monroe County Children and Youth and the Children's Roundtable of Monroe County. He is both an Advisory Board Member and current Chair of the Nominating Committee with Children and Youth. The Children's Roundtable, developed by Monroe County Court of Common Pleas Judge Jonathan Mark, addresses the ever increasing need for services for children. It also helps educate those working with children and families, along with the health and welfare for those that provide services.

The commitment to our community doesn't stop there however. Mr. Gustafson holds advisory board positions with Nurse Family Partnerships and Youth Employment Services. He's a volunteer statistician with the Pocono Mountain West Panther football team. Ken is involved with Monroe County United, sits on the Interagency Council on behalf of the Children's Roundtable and is the Chair of the Education, Awareness, Prevention and Stigma Removal Committee for the Opiate Task Force of Monroe County which helps plan the annual Recovery Walk/Celebration to be held this year on September 21st on the ESU Campus. Ken is also on the planning committee for the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast at East Stroudsburg University and remains active at Community Church.

Attorney Hillary Madden, Law Day Chair, honored students for their exceptional creativity projects. This year's theme was "Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society". Award winners included Pocono Mountain West High School student Aaliyah Rojas for her first place poem "Freedom of Speech"; Pocono Mountain West High School student Jason Walker for his second place poem for "Our Voice" and Shatterra Robinson, Pocono Mountain West High School student, for her third place essay entitled "Law Day Essay". Stroudsburg High School students Brendyn Lechene and Mackenze Williams both received honorable mention certificates for their inspiring and thought provoking paintings.

During the ceremony, Attorney William Reaser, Chair of the Monroe County Bar Foundation, awarded multiple scholarships to graduating students. Allison Bone, Pocono Mountain East High School, was the recipient of the Judge Ronald E. Vican Memorial Scholarship of \$1,000. Scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each were award to Christian Bethea, Pocono Mountain East High School; Megan Gawron, Pleasant Valley High School; Kaitlyn Lichtenstein, East Stroudsburg High School South; and Magdalen Trunfio, Stroudsburg High School.



Bottom L to R: Mackenze Williams (PME), Kaitlyn Lichtenstein (ESS), Allison Bone (PME), Brendyn Lechene (Stsbg), Ken Gustafson (Liberty Bell), Christian Bethea (PME), Magdalen Trunfio (Stsbg), Aaliyah Rojas (PMW). Missing Jason Walker (PMW), Shatterra Robinson (PMW)

Top L to R: Judge Jonathan Mark, Judge Jennifer Harlacher Sibum, President Judge Margherita Patti-Worthington, Judge Arthur Zulick, Judge Stephen Higgins



Law Day Participants!

A special “Thank You” to President Judge Margherita Patti-Worthington and Judge Jonathan Mark for taking the bench, to all our Judges for the rescheduling their day to allow the Law Day Ceremonies to go on and for joining us for the presentations! Thank you to Sheriff Martin and his incredible staff, John Goldner and all of Court Administration, to George Warden and his entire crew and all the courthouse personal for making the 2019 Law Day celebration a memorable day for everyone!

Mary Boothe
Scott Brannan
Gerald Brunell
Holly Conway
Dan Corveleyn
Justin Davenport
Elizabeth Field
Matthew Forrester

Kaitlin Fulmer
James Fuller
Don Gual
Deb Huffman
Janet Jackson
Jessica Jones
Steven Krawitz
Hillary Madden

John Malchow
Dave Marra
Mike Muth
Gary Saylor
Mike Ventrella
Todd Weitzmann
Noelle Wilkinson

Law Day Sponsors & Donors!

SUPREME

Powlette & Field, LLC
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Krawitz & Krawitz
Mt Pocono Campground
Lori J. Cerato, Esquire

APPELLATE

Newman, Williams, et al
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**MONROE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
LUNCH AND LEARN**

PRESENTS:



Winding Down Your Practice

What does retirement mean to you? Work until you drop? (And leave the "clean-up" to others?) Scale back and work just a little? Do you want to salvage sweat equity by selling or transitioning your practice? Or will you just turn off the lights and close the door on your last day? This session will discuss your options, with an eye on your obligations to your clients, what the Rules permit, and the myriad of practical implications that come into play.

Presented by:

Ellen Freedman

**Law Practice Management Coordinator
Pennsylvania Bar Association**

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

11:30-11:45 am – Registration & Lunch

11:45 - 1:15 pm – CLE

1.5 Ethics Credits

Members: \$30.00

YLD Members: \$25.00

Non-members: \$35.00



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

ALL RSVP'S VIA PHONE, EMAIL OR WEBSITE WILL BE INVOICED

Monroe County Bar Association

913 Main Street

Stroudsburg PA 18360

****All attorneys present for entire seminar will receive 1.5 Ethics CLE credit****

Please RSVP by Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Winding Down Your Practice

October 16, 2019

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: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

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

River Rafting Trip

Saturday, August 3, 2019

9:45 AM-Leave Sharply @ 10:00 AM

Water Gap River Base

129 Main Street, Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327

\$10.00 YLD Member

\$15.00 General Membership, Family & Friends

Great day to relax and enjoy the beautiful Poconos!

Route options: 6 Mile or 10 Mile

There is a limited number of watercrafts available!

Watercraft Options Include:

Single Kayak – Tandem Kayaks – Canoes – Rafts

Delaware River Trip

\$15.00 General Membership, Family & Friends

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Amt. Enclosed: _____

Total # of attendees: _____

Which type of watercraft (circle one): Single Kayak Tandem Kayak Canoe Raft
(4 Person Minimum)

Trip(circle one): 6 Mile 10 Mile

\$10.00 YLD Member



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
or call 800.932.4637
Courses are subject to cancellation by PBI if a minimum number of attendees do not
pre-register.

[PBI: Best Practices: The Well-Prepared Workers' Compensation Lawyer 2019 – Video](#)

7/09/19 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

[PBI: Clean Slate CLE March 2019 - Video](#)

7/16/19 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

[PBI: Maximizing the Outcome of Personal Injury Cases 2019 - Groupcast](#)

7/17/19 9:00 AM – 1:15 PM

[Municipal Law Colloquium 2019 - Video](#)

7/23/19 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

[PBI: Practicing in New Jersey Superior Court - Groupcast](#)

8/06/19 9:00 AM – 1:15 PM

[PBI: Family Law Institute 2019 Day One – Video](#)

8/13/2019 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

[PBI: Family Law Institute 2019 Day Two – Video](#)

8/20/2019 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

[PBI: How to Handle Small & Insolvent Estates 2019 - Video](#)

8/21/19 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

[PBI: Drafting Legal Opinion Letters 2019 - Groupcast](#)

8/23/2019 9:00 AM – 12:15 PM

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

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL

**Monroe County
Bench Bar
Conference**

SAVE THE DATE:

Friday, September 27, 2019

**Northampton
Community College
-Monroe Campus-**













