

REGISTER NOW!

Twenty-Fourth Annual

**MONROE COUNTY
BENCH BAR CONFERENCE**

Friday, September 24, 2021



**African Ballroom
250 Kalahari Blvd.
Pocono Manor PA 18349**

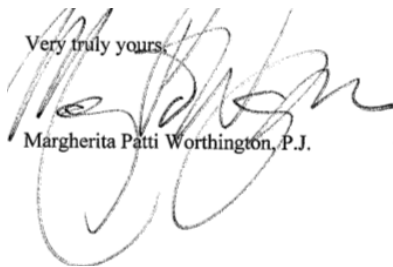
Dear Members of the Bar:

On behalf of the Judges of the 43rd Judicial District, Court of Common Pleas, Monroe County, I would like to invite you to the 2021 Monroe County Bench Bar Conference.

I would personally like to thank the members of the Bench Bar Committee, course planners, and faculty for planning a conference that promises to be an immensely rewarding opportunity for all involved.

We are honored to welcome Pennsylvania Superior Court President Judge Jack A. Panella and Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Victor P. Stabile. The Bench and the Bar are excited to present a variety of relevant topics this year. In addition to our traditional Monroe County Judicial roundtable discussion, two plenary sessions will be offered, one on health and wellness and the other on the use of technology in the court systems.

Please enjoy the conference and our beautiful Pocono Mountains.

Very truly yours,

Margherita Patti Worthington, P.J.



Dear Members of the Monroe County Bar Association:

On behalf of President Judge Patti-Worthington and the Bench Bar Committee, we are pleased to invite you to the 2021 Bench Bar Conference to be held on Friday, September 24, 2021. This year's Conference will be held at Kalahari Resort and Conventions, with its recently expanded, state-of-the-art conference facilities that will provide us with enough space to be together while maintaining current social distancing requirements.

We've changed the format of this year's Conference to include two judicial roundtables. The first session will feature judges from the Pennsylvania appellate courts who will discuss recent decisions impacting the rule of law in Pennsylvania, current issues facing the courts, including COVID-19 policies and procedures, and recent and pending administrative changes. Our local judges will host the second roundtable session which will include an expanded conversation with the bar regarding the past year and continued use of ACT during the courthouse expansion. And, after a one-year hiatus, President Judge Patti-Worthington will update our members with her State of the Bench report.

This year's conference will also offer plenty of time for our members to catch up with one another face-to-face during networking and sponsorship breaks. Please remember to visit each one of the sponsors who generously support our conference each year.

We look forward to seeing everyone in person.

Hillary A. Madden, Esquire and *Deborah L. Huffman*, Esquire
Co-Chairs, 2021 Bench Bar Conference

Meet Our Guests and Presenters

The Honorable Jack A. Panella - Pennsylvania Superior Court President Judge Panella was sworn into office as an appellate judge on January 9, 2004. Prior to being elected to the Superior Court, he was a trial judge in the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County.

The Honorable Victor P. Stabile - Elected to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania in 2013, Judge Stabile is a member of the Continuing Judicial Election Board of Judges. Prior to being elected to the Superior Court, Judge Stabile was a partner at Dilworth Paxon LLP and served as the managing member of the Harrisburg Office.

The Honorable Thomas I. Vanaskie, Ret. - After retiring from the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania as Chief Judge, Judge Vanaskie joined Stevens & Lee where he chairs the firm's Appellate and Mediation, Neutral and Alternative Dispute Resolution practice groups.

Gerard Geiger, Esquire - Attorney Geiger, partner at Newman Williams, P.C., is a certified mediator for the Monroe County Court of Common Pleas and the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of PA. Geiger is the current Chair of the Monroe County Bar Association's ADR Committee.

Alexandra Milspaw, Ph.D. - Dr. Milspaw is a licensed professional counselor and AASECT-Certified Sex Therapist. She earned her doctorate in Human Sexuality from Widener University and her Master's degree in Counseling Psychology and Human Services from Lehigh University. Additionally, she is certified in Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction.

Kathleen D. Wilkinson, Esquire - Attorney Wilkinson is the 2021-22 president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Wilkinson is a partner with the Philadelphia firm Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP. In addition to her involvement with the PBA, she is also a PBA-appointed delegate to the American Bar Association House of Delegates.

Monroe County Judicial Roundtable Presenters Call for Questions

The Monroe County Judicial Roundtable discussion participants include President Judge Margherita Patti-Worthington, Judge Jonathan Mark, Judge Jennifer Harlacher Sibum, Judge Stephen M. Higgins, Judge David J. Williamson and Judge C. Daniel Higgins.

Two years will have passed since our judiciary and members were last able to be together in an open forum. In addition to the changes instituted by the pandemic, construction has now begun on the major expansion to the Monroe County Courthouse. This is an opportunity to ask about newly instituted procedures, what changes can be expected and how the practice of law in our county may be affected.

To better enhance the discussion, our panel of judges, along with the Bench Bar Conference Committee, encourage attendees to submit questions to the MCBA staff prior to the conference as well as on the day of the event. Questions from the floor will also be welcomed.

We encourage you to forward questions by emailing them to dburdge@monroebar.org.

Thank you!

EVENT SCHEDULE

All Events in the African Ballroom

8:00-8:40 am	Registration & Sponsor Networking Arrive early. Visit our 2021 Sponsors. Enjoy a light breakfast. Reconnect with your colleagues.
8:40-8:45 am	Welcome by Hillary A. Madden and Deborah L. Huffman, Bench Bar Conference Co-Chairs
8:45-9:45 am	PLENARY SESSION 1 Health, Wellness, and Mindfulness Lawyering 1 Ethics Credit <p>Dr. Milspaw will provide a 1-hour educational and experiential presentation during which she will discuss the physiological changes in the brain and nervous system when experiencing and observing high levels of stress, trauma, and pain. She will demonstrate specific behavioral exercises that will help heal the brain and nervous system from these changes. Dr. Milspaw will highlight the importance of regular personal self-care practices in an effort to build resilience, reduce burnout, and maintain a healthy mind-body connection.</p> <p>Faculty Dr. Alexandra Milspaw, 4Directors Counseling</p>
9:45-10:00 am	Sponsor Networking
10:00-11:30 am	PLENARY SESSION 2 Pennsylvania Appellate Courts Roundtable Discussion 1.5 Substantive Credit <p>Panelists will offer a discussion on current issues facing the appellate courts, including recent decisions impacting the rule of law in Pennsylvania, current issues facing the courts, including COVID-19 policies and procedures, and recent and pending administrative changes.</p> <p>Faculty The Hon. Jack A. Panella, Pennsylvania Superior Court President Judge The Hon. Victor P. Stabile, Pennsylvania Superior Court</p>
11:30-11:45 am	Sponsor Networking
11:45-1:15 pm	Lunch

Welcome

Hillary A. Madden, Esquire
 Durney Worthington & Madden, LLC
 MCBA President & Bench Bar Conference Co-Chair
 and
Deborah L. Huffman, Esquire
 Weitzmann, Weitzmann & Huffman, LLC
 MCBA Vice President & Bench Bar Conference Co-Chair

From the Pennsylvania Bar Association

Kathleen D. Wilkinson, Esquire
 Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP
 President, Pennsylvania Bar Association

Lunch (con.)

From the Bench

The Hon. Margherita Patti-Worthington, President Judge
43rd Judicial District, Monroe County Court of Common Pleas

1:15-2:15

PLENARY SESSION 3
Electronic Evidence for Trial Lawyers
1 Substantive Credit

The presentation will address the unique issues presented by evidence created by electronic devices, including preservation duties, production responsibilities, authentication challenges, and admissibility concerns. Recent caselaw and rules changes will be discussed and future advances in technologies such as virtual reality and holograms will be previewed.

Faculty

The Hon. Thomas I. Vanaskie, Retired
Stevens & Lee Lawyers & Consultants
Gerard J. Geiger, Esquire
Newman Williams, P.C.

2:15-2:30 pm

Sponsor Networking

2:30-4:00 pm

PLENARY SESSION 4
JUDGES' ROUND TABLE
Judges 43rd Judicial District, Court of Common Pleas of Monroe County
1.5 Substantive Credit
(MCBA Members Only)

Faculty **The Hon. Margherita Patti-Worthington**
The Hon. Jennifer Harlacher Sibum
The Hon. David J. Williamson

The Hon. Jonathan Mark
The Hon. Stephen M. Higgins
The Hon. C. Daniel Higgins, Jr.

Questions are encouraged and may be emailed to dburdge@monroebar.org prior to the event, provided to MCBA staff through the conclusion of lunch, or asked during the round table.

4:00-5:00 pm

Cocktails & Hors D'oeuvres
Attendees and Guests Welcome



2021 Bench Bar Conference Raffles

MCBA will be giving away
raffle prizes throughout the
event!

**MEMBER MUST
BE PRESENT TO WIN.**

2021

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The Hamilton Group at Morgan Stanley
SER Commercial Real Estate



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Hagy Insurance Agency

Remember to visit and support these businesses and thank them for supporting MCBA!

EARN 5 CREDITS BY ATTENDING ALL DAY.

Materials will be available on MCBA's website approximately 1 week prior to event.

Event Registration

REGISTER NOW!

Reservations made by phone or email are considered binding and subject to billing.

Refund Policy: Request for refunds must be made in writing and received no later than September 15, 2021.

No refunds will be given for cancellations after September 15, 2021.

All materials will be available on the MCBA website approximately one week prior to the conference to be printed or downloaded.

DISCOUNT AVAILABLE FOR EARLY REGISTRATION WITH PAYMENT BY SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

RESERVATIONS AFTER THE DISCOUNT PERIOD WILL BE CHARGED AT THE STANDARD RATE

Name: _____

PA Attorney ID#: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

MCBA MEMBERS:

Early Registration with payment received by September 15, 2021

_____ Member	\$125.00
_____ Members Admitted after 9/30/2016	\$ 85.00
_____ MCBA Member Law Clerks	Free
_____ Full-Time Non-Elected MCBA Members ADAs/PDs/NPLS	\$ 75.00

Registration with payment received after September 15, 2021

_____ Member	\$150.00
_____ Members Admitted after 9/30/2016	\$100.00
_____ MCBA Member Law Clerks	\$ 50.00
_____ Full-Time Non-Elected MCBA Members ADAs/PDs/NPLS	\$100.00

NON-MEMBERS:

_____ Non-members	\$200.00 on or before September 15, 2021 \$250.00 after September 15, 2021
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Walk-Ins

MCBA Members	\$175.00
Non-Members	\$300.00

Price includes CLE credits, continental breakfast, lunch, and cocktail reception

Please note: Programing and schedule subject to change

Questions may be directed to the MCBA office at 570.424.7288

Monroe County Bar Association
913 Main Street
Stroudsburg PA 18360