

LAWYERS JOURNAL

Young Lawyers Division wraps up another successful gift drive



PHOTOS BY JAMES PIAGGIO
Pictured left: Matthew DeMaio, Devyn Lisi, McCall Chafin and Connor Sease take a break for a photo during the YLD Children's Gift Drive on Dec. 9 at the Koppers Building. Pictured center: The 2023-24 Bar Leadership Initiative Class paused for a photo with YLD Chair-Elect Danielle Parks during the Gift Drive. Pictured right: Members and volunteers take the time to fill stockings for children who could use some extra cheer during the holiday season.

By Ron Cichowicz

Nearly 1,000 youngsters had a merrier Christmas this year thanks to the kindness of the ACBA Young Lawyers Division (YLD) through its annual Children's Gift Drive and Holiday Party.

The program, a YLD Public Service Committee (PSC) project and joint effort with the YLD's Bar Leadership Initiative, this year provided personalized holiday gifts to children in 19 shelters or programs throughout Allegheny County, with nearly 1,000 children receiving gifts – the largest effort to date.

"This was truly an incredible success that I was proud to have chaired this year," said Devyn Lisi, an Associate Attorney with Massa Butler Giglione.

The annual Children's Gift Drive and Holiday Party always depends on the generosity of donors and volunteers. Joining Lisi to spearhead this year's

program were BLI Subcommittee Co-Chairs Kylee Clark, Rachel Pressdee and McCall Chafin, while PSC Co-Chairs included Jesse Exilus and Kelly McGovern. In addition, Samantha Dorn, a Judicial Law Clerk, is non-YLD council liaison to the program. Tara Sease, an attorney with Adamczyk Law Offices, LLP, is YLD Chair.

Lisi said that the Covid pandemic forced some changes to the program's process, moving it from an in-person gift wrapping session to an online format through Amazon. Committee members purchased gifts and coordinated efforts with donors and recipients, collecting "stocking stuffers" while also providing sponsors with an Amazon Wish List of items that could be purchased for each child.

This year, volunteers were again invited to a stocking-stuffing event

Dec. 9 at the ACBA's downtown headquarters in the Koppers Building.

"We had an incredible turnout of volunteers and we stuffed 617 stockings in record time, under 30 minutes," Lisi said.

The impressive volunteer effort was not limited to the stocking stuffing, either.

Lisi noted, "Easily over 50 people joined us to assist throughout the day when we delivered the gifts to our community partners. The program also benefitted from an incredible turnout of volunteers throughout the year, including those who stepped forward to sponsor a child."

"We saw an increase in the price of gifts mostly because of inflation," she said. This posed a little hurdle, but we were able to overcome it through incredible generosity by individuals,

firms and other organizations who stepped up to sponsor a child."

Lisi added that 93 different sponsors sponsored one or more children, with quite a few firms choosing a large number.

"I am in awe of the number of people who helped us this year," said Dorn. "Everyone who participated in the gift drive – the organizers, the BLI members, and the volunteers who bought gifts, stuffed stockings, and played Santa – was dedicated and came with a purpose: to make Christmas special for children."

"I know that the children were thrilled to get stockings and to receive all the presents which were bought by our sponsors! I think the gift drive really exemplifies the giving nature of

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First Labor and Employment Law Symposium a success

By Ron Cichowicz

The ACBA's inaugural Labor and Employment Law Symposium, held Nov. 9 at the Westin Pittsburgh downtown, more than exceeded expectations according to the event's organizers. The event drew about 120 attendees.

Consequently, the Symposium, presented by the bar association's Labor and Employment Law Section, goes into the books as an unqualified success and encourages a commitment to an even more successful effort in 2024.

"It really went well, especially for the first year," said Nikki Velisaris Lykos, Chair of the Labor and Employment Law Section and Founding Member of Ramage Lykos, LLC. "We had a nice turnout, the space at the Westin was great. Everyone seemed to enjoy seeing each other and networking."

The day-long program featured an outstanding array of programming presented by a distinguished list of speakers who presented critical issues important to labor and employment law practitioners as well as human resource professionals. The approximately one dozen plenary and breakout sessions covered such topics as a review of the



PHOTO BY JAMES PIAGGIO
Lisa Garrett, Karen Baillie, Colleen Ramage, R. Stanley Mitchel and Labor and Employment Law Section Chair Nikki Velisaris Lykos pause for a photo during the successful inaugural Labor and Employment Law Symposium at the Westin Pittsburgh on Nov. 9.

year in employment and labor law; issues related to accommodations for religion, disabilities and pregnancy; ERISA issues; updating an employee handbook; diversity and inclusion programs; and the use of neuroscience research to enhance negotiation skills, to name a few.

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 Supervising Editor: *David A. Blaner*
 Editor: *Jennifer A. Pulice, Esq.*
 Graphic Artist Supervisor: *Jessica Wysocki Valesky*
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ACBA.org/member-center/gender-bias-hotline
 If you have observed or experienced any form of gender bias in your role as an attorney or law student intern, you may contact any one of the following members of the Gender Bias Subcommittee of the Women in the Law Division on a daily basis. The duty officers will keep your report confidential and will discuss with you actions available through the subcommittee.

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Professional Ethics Hotline

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 Wonder if your decisions, legal advice or other professional actions are ethical? Need guidance? The ACBA Professional Ethics Committee “Ethics Hotline” makes available Committee Members to answer ethical questions by telephone on a daily basis. *All calls are confidential.*

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Free hotline available to ACBA members with ethical questions

By ACBA Staff

Even the most confident, well-educated, and seasoned lawyers confront moments of uncertainty when it comes to ethical dilemmas tied to their professional responsibilities as outlined in Pennsylvania’s Rules of Professional Conduct. In times of such ambiguity, the ACBA provides a valuable resource: the Professional Ethics Hotline. This hotline was established to assist any member of the ACBA, extending guidance on the interpretation of the Rules of Professional Conduct or the Code of Judicial Conduct, thanks to the members of the ACBA Professional Ethics Committee.

Through this service, any ACBA member can seek informed advice via a phone call with a fellow attorney who generously volunteers their time to offer this assistance, free of charge. These volunteer “duty officers” are part of the ACBA Professional Ethics Committee, bringing diverse backgrounds and representing various practice areas. The identities of those seeking guidance are kept strictly confidential.

“The Ethics Hotline is an excellent avenue for any ACBA lawyer facing a predicament related to the Rules of Professional Conduct. It provides a means to obtain guidance,” explained Lourdes Sánchez Ridge, Chair of the Professional Ethics Committee.

“The committee is comprised of seasoned lawyers,” said Whitney Hughes, Director of the ACBA Lawyer Referral Service and liaison to the Professional Ethics Committee. “They possess a wealth of experience and are more than willing to share their insights.”

Accessing this service is straightforward. No question is too basic or complex for attorneys seeking advice. They simply need to visit the ACBA website at ACBA.org and navigate to the Professional Ethics Hotline page,

Unsure if a certain action is ethical?

Take advantage of our Professional Ethics Hotline.

Visit www.ACBA.org/OfficerAssignments for more.



conveniently located in the Member Center dropdown menu. There, they’ll find a list, sorted by month, containing the names and phone numbers of the “duty officers” who have volunteered to assist. These duty officers rotate their service on a monthly basis.

Upon receiving a call, the duty officer requests the caller’s name and basic contact information, which remains confidential. While callers are allowed to remain anonymous, this might limit additional advice in the future. After hearing the inquiry, the duty officer offers an opinion, emphasizing that its relevance is contingent on how the Disciplinary Board, the court, or other reviewing authorities assess it. Advice is provided regarding the caller’s own conduct, with no opinions offered on the conduct of other lawyers or judicial officials.

“Taking the first step allows you to see how user-friendly this service is,” Hughes pointed out. “Once you overcome any initial hesitations and make that initial call, you’ll realize how accessible the hotline is. After your first use, you’ll wonder why you haven’t been utilizing it all along.”

Following each call, the duty officer records the ethical issue raised by the caller and the advice given in a written memorandum, which is then shared with fellow members of the Professional Ethics Committee. Once again, the inquirer’s identity remains anonymous, even among committee members. The advice provided is subsequently discussed at the committee’s monthly meetings. The Committee then engages in a robust discussion about the advice given and then most times the advice is endorsed. ■

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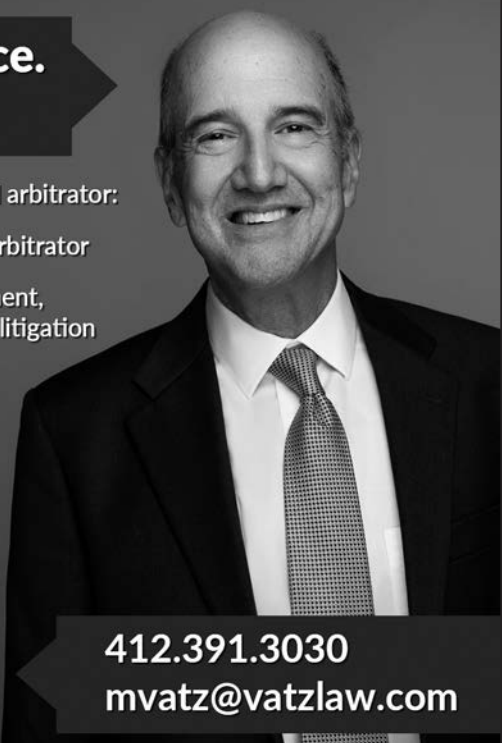
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BLI Class Project to support inner city boxing program

By Ron Cichowicz

The Bar Leadership Initiative (BLI) Class of 2023-24 has chosen this year's project and it can truly be said that it will pack quite a punch.

The ACBA's Young Lawyers Division (YLD) offers BLI as a program to assist participants in building professional contacts, increase involvement in the community and prepare them as future leaders in the bar association.

While BLI members participate in several activities throughout the year, a huge emphasis is placed on an annual class project they complete by their graduation from BLI in the spring. The project, voted on by the class, is to be comprehensive and designed to leave a lasting impact on the community or bar association at large.

This year's class has chosen to benefit Team 412, a nonprofit organization that provides boxing lessons, training and much more to Pittsburgh's underserved youth. Sessions are held at the Third Avenue Boxing Gym, Third Avenue and Ross Street, downtown right near the Grant building.

"The gym provides an outlet for these kids to come after school to train and socialize," said Danielle Parks, an employment litigation attorney with Jackson Lewis, P.C. and both BLI Chair and YLD Chair-Elect. "It needs everything from boxing equipment to toilet paper. It is run completely by volunteers and relies on contributions to keep operating."

Parks said the idea to support Team 412 was suggested by BLI member Maddison Sullivan, Judicial Law Clerk for the Hon. Christine

Ward. (Other members of this year's class are Michael Bethune, Diana Bruce, McCall Chafin, Kylee Clark, Jonathan Deasy, Sam Dhaliwal, Timur Ryan Dikec, Adam Garret, Andrew Giel, Trisha Klan, Alyson Landis, and Rachel Pressdee.)

Sullivan's connection to the gym started when she was accepted to the University of Pittsburgh Law School and received a call welcoming her from Judge Lisa Lenihan, who was on the Pitt Law School alumni board. During a morning coffee, Judge Lenihan mentioned that she organized a group of women to work out Saturday mornings at the gym and invited Sullivan to join them.

That was in 2019, and Sullivan has been practicing the "sweet science" ever since. She also developed an admiration for Team 412 and the positive impact it was having on individuals and the community.

"They work with about 40 kids and they teach them more than boxing," she said. "And what they take from this experience spreads. They become family men and women who pass the lessons learned onto their families and others."

Judge Lenihan, recently retired as Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, has been connected to the program for approximately 10 years. It was started more than 20 years ago by her friend, Jimmy Cvetic, an Allegheny County homicide detective who is now deceased.

"The program needed financial support, so I got involved," Judge Lenihan said. "We formed a nonprofit about two and a half years ago."

Judge Lenihan, Chair of Team 412's Board and a USA Boxing Coach who teaches some of the sessions, explained that Team 412 is an after-school program that provides a safe space for inner city boys and girls ages 8 and up to come each day.

"I started boxing to stay in shape," Judge Lenihan said. "It's a great outlet for the anxiety that comes with the practice of law. But then I met the kids and fell in love with them."

"Boxing is a great hook to get the kids into the gym. It's a small facility, but we won't turn anyone away. When they're here, they're not involved in gang activities or on a couch playing video games. Some kids have no dads, so the coaches are like father figures for them."

Judge Lenihan is convinced that Team 412 is changing lives one child at a time and possibly even saving lives.

"These kids come to us after having suffered traumas of various natures," she said. "We are giving them the mentorship they need and possibly saving them from involvement with the judicial system in the future."

Judge Lenihan added that boxing has additional benefits for the youth in the program.

"For example, a lot of the population we serve have diabetes in their families," she said. "Some kids come to us overweight and out of shape. Boxing helps with that."

Well-known local trial lawyer John Gismondi also was introduced to Team 412 and the Third Avenue Boxing Gym through Judge Lenihan, and his charitable organization, The Gismondi Foundation, has provided Team 412

with some significant financial grants.

"I've been to the gym many times and met the coach, James Hoy," Gismondi said. "I am impressed by the combination of physical skills and life skills being taught. More than boxing, they teach life lessons such as discipline and attention to schoolwork as a prerequisite to boxing participation."

Gismondi added that Coach Hoy isn't just there to teach boxing but is committed to helping them outside of the ring as well.

"He calls their teachers to check their school progress and has them pull out their books to study when they are not in the ring," Gismondi said.

Judge Lenihan agreed, noting that boxing is a sport that requires discipline.

"Sometimes these kids come to us with anger issues," she said. "Boxing is a positive outlet for their aggression. It also builds confidence. We also stress sportsmanship. Our kids hug their opponents after every match. We teach them to fight with respect and to be honorable."

The program also has provided inner city youngsters an opportunity to expand beyond Pittsburgh. Field trips to other boxing events around the country have enabled them not only to compete, but to also learn, such as when they visited the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. This past year, two of the boxers traveled to Louisiana to compete in Olympic qualifiers. Judge Lenihan added that Team 412 also occasionally invites professionals to meet with the youth to

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YLD CHAIR’S MESSAGE

2024 Soul Sea(se)rching: Welcome to JOINuary

By Tara M. Sease

January. The first month of every new year. That’s a lot of yearly pressure if you think about it. January is named for the Roman God Janus, who was the protector of gates and doorways, and the Roman who decided the names of the months decided that Janus symbolizes beginnings and endings. Wow, that’s even more pressure. And honestly, sometimes January gets cheated because everyone is always excited for New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day; or making resolutions; or starting a new habit...but who really gets excited for the days after January 1...like mid-January? Or January 31? I’ve never heard anyone say, “Yay!! January 15 is here. What a happy day!” or “I love January 31!! Time to celebrate the best month of the year!!” Well, this year, let’s make a change, and enjoy January.

First and foremost, it’s time to take the pressure off January. If you’re a list-maker, then, by all means, write out those resolutions. If you’re not, then who cares – there is no need to increase your stress level by adding subtle pressure on yourself based on a fictitious deadline. Like every other day, tomorrow is a fresh start; and there is no hard and fast rule that says 365 days needs to happen to start anew. So, if you haven’t already, I encourage you to join the ACBA – this is the time, and by simply joining the ACBA, there is no added pressure.



Tara Sease
YLD Chair

Instead, your membership allows you to be in the know of all the potential opportunities that the local bar has for you by receiving this publication and membership emails. If you are already a member of the ACBA, I encourage you to read and calendar the possibilities that interest you.

Secondly, maybe it’s because we live in the northeast, and I get it, during this time of the year – the weather is usually...gray. BUT January’s potentially poor weather does not mean that the month is not full of opportunities. Even just ten days into the new year, the YLD has already provided members and non-members with an opportunity to attend a CLE. Also, leaders of the YLD have spoken at an event encouraging

future leadership in this county. A body in motion will stay in motion, and January should be about movement and motion, figuratively or literally. If you missed the January 10 CLE, you’re in luck, the YLD will be hosting another CLE on January 30, so sign up today. With your ACBA membership, all CLEs and social events will be at your fingertips.

Lastly, January is synonymous with goals. If I may be so bold, whether you are a law student and/or a lawyer, I encourage each and every one of you to be more engaged with the ACBA this year. There really is a committee, division and/or section for everyone. If your passion is planning events,

there are social committees; if you want to become more involved with your practice area, there are sections for each area of the law; if you want to be in a leadership role, the Young Lawyers Division has its own Council as well as positions within the ACBA like the Board of Governors or the Judiciary Committee. Sooner than we know it, elections for the new bar year will be here. Don’t wait until January of 2025 to start your membership or expand your involvement in the local bar. ■

Tara M. Sease is an attorney at Adamczyk Law Offices, LLP, and can be reached at tsease@adamczyklawoffice.com.

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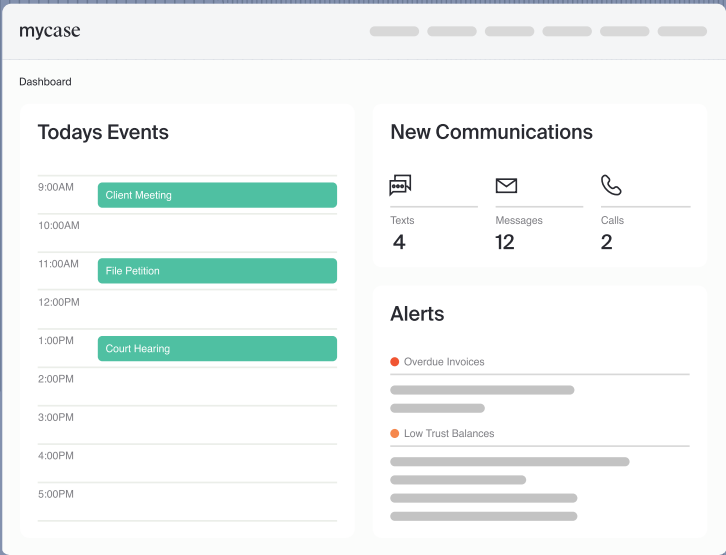
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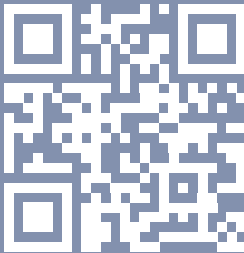
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LAW PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

Online Law Practice Management Center is valuable member resource

Online hub includes links to essential vendors

By ACBA Staff

The Law Practice Management Center remains a valuable resource to members, serving as an online hub with links to essential vendors. Whether you're a solo practitioner, a managing partner at a Pittsburgh law firm, or somewhere in between, effective practice management can be the key to your practice thriving rather than merely surviving.

Recognizing the crucial role of practice management content, the ACBA consistently features a Law Practice Management article in nearly every edition of the *Lawyers Journal*, typically on page 5. But what if you miss an edition or want to revisit a particularly beneficial article months later?

The official hub for practice management content within the ACBA is the Law Practice Management



Center, accessible at [ACBA.org/PracticeManagement](https://www.acba.org/PracticeManagement). This center compiles practice management articles from the *Lawyers Journal* and various other sources, categorizing them for easy navigation. This ensures that you can easily find the practice management

guidance you need, covering areas such as Financial Management, Hybrid Workplace and COVID Response, Insurance and Liability, Marketing and Client Relations, Sole and Small Firm Strategies, Technology and IT, and Time Management and Efficiency.

ACBA Law Practice Management Center

[ACBA.org/PracticeManagement](https://www.acba.org/PracticeManagement)


Contains:

- Practice Management Articles
- Connections to Vendors via EVG
- Law Practice Management Guide

While guidance is a crucial aspect of practice management, establishing connections with vendors is equally essential for assistance with various needs such as office supplies, billing, and IT solutions. The Law Practice Management Center facilitates this through the ACBA's *Expert and Vendor Guide (EVG)*.

The EVG is the ACBA's directory of vetted partners, categorized by business type and encompassing a range of professionals from valuation experts to medical expert witnesses and court reporters.

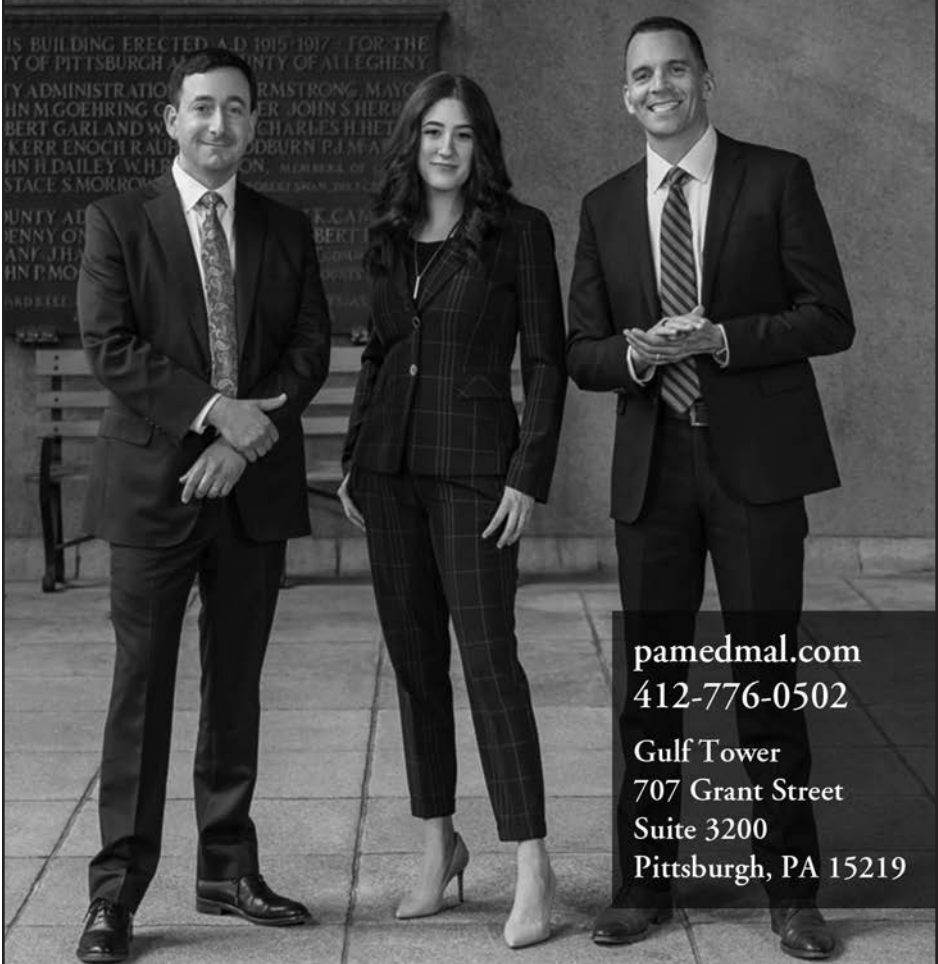
The Law Practice Management Center also provides a link to the ACBA's *Law Practice Management Guide*, a reference guide tailored to offer advice on initiating and operating a small practice from the ground up. ■



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YLD GIFT DRIVE
continued from front page

the ACBA. It really is the true spirit of Christmas!”

Chafin, Deputy Attorney General in the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General and a BLI Class Co-chair, admitted that the Gift Drive was one of the main reasons she applied for the BLI Class.

“From the beginning, I got to do a lot of shelter outreach and see how we could best work with them,” she said. “It was a unique process, talking to the community partners about their needs. I also got to know some of the children and spent hours on Amazon researching the best gifts for them. I picked out gifts for about 300 of the children.”

“It was fun and really heartwarming to know these children were not likely to get much more than what we would provide. Looking at the children’s list, it brings you back to reality. Many of them asked for a coat or a blanket – items we take for granted. It is a special feeling to spend a weekend shopping for people who deserve a gift and a little holiday magic.”

Lisi said that after the toy distribution, the comments from the community partners were overwhelming and rewarding. A highlight of the day occurred when the volunteers were presented with a certificate from Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey, Senior Pastor Katrina Organ and the Beulah Baptist Church Family expressing appreciation for help provided to residents all over the region. The certificate read: “Your exceptional caring and involvement demonstrates your passion for serving others.”

“Our community partners do fantastic work every day,” said Chafin. “To be

able to help them at this time of year makes their jobs a little easier and is a privilege. I would tell all young attorneys to jump at the chance to get involved.” ■

LABOR/EMPLOYMENT SYMPOSIUM
continued from front page

Along with these educational offerings, the event also provided invaluable networking opportunities.

“I think our employment and labor bar in Pittsburgh is unique in that we are all very collegial with each other and events like this solidify those relationships,” said Sally Griffith Cimini, a Symposium organizer and frequently used local mediator.

“Everyone I spoke with was so excited about the program. They thought it was excellent and appreciated the opportunity to talk about critical issues, learn of new developments and interact with each other.”

Both Cimini and Lykos attributed the success of the Symposium in large part to the support and commitment of others.

“We are grateful to the many employment and labor lawyers in our community who stepped up to present and to all of the agencies who participated,” Cimini said. “This included the U.S. Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the National Labor Relations Board.”

Cimini also expressed gratitude for the time and presentations given by two Magistrate Judges from the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, the Hon. Patricia L. Dodge and the Hon. Maureen P. Kelly.

Cimini also acknowledged the support of the ACBA and, in particular,

Director of Membership, CLE and Events Mary Ann Fiorilli, CLE and Program Manager Holly Bedford and their staff.

“They were outstanding to work with,” said Cimini. “The team was first class, providing wonderful attention to detail and follow up. They made sure everything about the program went well.”

So well, in fact, that Lykos said the Committee has already set a date for the next Symposium: Nov. 14, 2024.

“We covered a lot of topics this year, but there always is so much change occurring in the law,” Lykos said. “So, we are requesting that members of the Section send us program proposals and the topics they would like to see covered.”

“As Section chair, I was happy that the Planning Committee brought this idea for the Symposium to the ACBA and our Section. We hope this will become a tradition for our Section moving forward.”

Added Cimini, “Everyone I spoke to said they already are looking forward to next year. We hope it grows. We want to do it again. We must keep the momentum going and we are excited for 2024.” ■

BLI CLASS PROJECT
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expose them to possible career opportunities.

In short, Team 412 gives youngsters a fighting chance to succeed in the most important challenge of all: life.

“I became a real fan of the program,” said Gismondi. “If BLI wants to take on a project to support a nonprofit, particularly one devoted to the city’s young people, I am hard-pressed to come up with a better one to support than Team 412.”

Added Judge Lenihan, “When I heard BLI was picking the gym for its class project, I was absolutely ecstatic. We’re constantly searching for funding and every dollar goes a long way.”

Parks said the BLI Class is planning a three-part project. To start, ACBA members are encouraged to sign up for boxing classes and donate funds to the gym.

“We also will have an item drive, where members can go online and purchase requested items for the gym,” she said, adding that the site will be available for two months leading up to the third phase, an evening gala.

“The theme will be a throwback to the boxing scene,” Parks said. “The gala will include a silent auction, appetizers and other food. It will be a nice opportunity to mix and mingle while supporting the gym. Guests are encouraged to dress up in their best vintage gala wear.”


Sullivan said that any funds raised this year will be greatly appreciated but she also has her sights on a longer goal.

“We also need to look at the long term,” she said. “I love that the gym is on Third Avenue, near where many attorneys go to lunch. These kids are in our own backyard, they live in the city and they are making an impact on today’s Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh of the future.”

For more information on Team 412, visit www.412boxing.com. ■

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Revised ACBA/ACMS Advance Directive available on the ACBA website

By ACBA Staff

ACBA members are reminded that a free advance healthcare directive document is available to the public on the ACBA website at [ACBA.org/LivingWill](https://www.acba.org/LivingWill). The advance directive, which was revised in 2022-2023, provides the public with a tool to prepare for and record end of life healthcare decisions. It consists of 4 discrete sections that can be tailored to the user's needs and complexity of their wishes: Section I - appointment of a healthcare agent, Section II - healthcare agent powers, Section III - the living will, and Section IV - organ donation and anatomical gifts. The four-part document can be completed in its entirety, but individuals who do not wish to, or do not have the ability to complete the entire document may opt instead to complete only one or some of the four sections, without necessarily completing the whole document. Section 1 of the document, in which the user may select a healthcare agent and alternate agent to act on their behalf, is viewed by many experts as the most important component of advance healthcare documentation. Even if users do not specify their healthcare treatment wishes, they are strongly advised to select an agent at the very least. Selection of a healthcare agent allows medical professionals to quickly ascertain who is responsible for the incapacitated patient for

purposes of coordinating medical care. Moreover, it can help to avoid family disagreement and uncertainty about who will make decisions on behalf of the incapacitated person. It additionally provides the principal with an advocate, and can avoid time-consuming guardianship proceedings. Selection of a healthcare agent who is willing, capable, and available to making healthcare decisions, is critical to ensure that the principal's needs are met. Moreover, careful agent selection can reduce the danger of exploitation and abuse by allowing the principal to choose a trustworthy, responsible, and reliable advocate to meet and protect their needs in the event of incapacity. Section 2 of the document sets forth specific powers granted to the healthcare agent, including the authority to withhold or withdraw medical care, and withhold or withdraw artificial nutrition and hydration. The language of Section 2 mirrors that of the statutory form at 20 PA.C.S.A. § 5471, with the addition of the power to carry out wishes regarding funeral, burial, and the disposition remains. The principal has the option of granting the agent authority to make decisions on their behalf as soon as the document is executed, or in the future upon a determination of incapacity. In addition, the principal has the option of inserting goals for care. To aid in providing clarity to the agent and doctor, the

Our Health Care Power of Attorney and Living Will documents are available on the ACBA website for free at [ACBA.org/LivingWill](https://www.acba.org/LivingWill).

instructions to the document suggest a variety of possible goals that the principal might consider, such as preserving life as long as possible, or being kept alive long enough to give loved ones an opportunity say goodbye. The living will section of the document seeks to guide the healthcare agent as to what specific medical treatments the principal wants and does not want at the end of life. Living wills have recently come under increased scrutiny due to the difficulty of predicting future medical needs far in advance of a medical crisis. Those who rely on living wills are cautioned that the document does not include or predict all possible medical situations and potential outcomes, as an individual's medical circumstances, personal choices, and individual needs are subject to change. Moreover, users are advised to consult with a medical professional to address their specific healthcare requirements. Section 4 of the document, pertaining to organ donation and anatomical gifts, incorporates the 2018 revisions to the anatomical gift act (20 Pa.C.S.A. § 8600 et. seq.), which require authorization for donation of organs and additional separate authorization

for donation of other anatomical gifts. With respect to organs, the document allows users to donate some, all, or none, and users may select whether such donation is for transplant purposes or research purposes and place any other desired restrictions on their gift. In keeping with the revisions to the anatomical gift, (20 Pa.C.S.A. § 8600 et. seq., Section 4 of the document also permits users to separately consent to donate other body parts known as vascularized composite allografts. Where an individual does not make an organ donation decision of their own, the decision as to whether their organs will be donated may fall on family members to choose on the decedent's behalf. Recording one's consent or refusal to donate can alleviate the burden on families who may struggle to make an organ donation decision without knowing what the donor would have wished. Once again, those who use ACBA/ACMS advance directive to record their healthcare wishes are free to complete any, all, or some of the four individual sections of the document, so long as the document is appropriately witnessed and signed at the end. The document also contains an optional but important HIPPA authorization, allowing the healthcare agent access to the principal's healthcare records in order to remain fully informed while making important decisions during incapacity. ■

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ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION Nominating Committee Solicitation of Candidates for 2024-2025 President-Elect, Treasurer, Governors and Members of the Judiciary Committee

The Nominating Committee of the Bar Association is seeking candidates for the positions of President-Elect, Treasurer (two-year term), five (5) Governor positions (three-year terms) and eleven (11) Judiciary Committee positions (three-year terms). Terms are to begin on July 1, 2024.

Qualifications:

President-Elect—Candidate must be a member of the Bar Association and a current or former member of the Board of Governors of the Bar Association. One seat is available for a one-year term, with the individual automatically ascending to the position of President and, subsequently, Immediate Past-President.

Treasurer—Candidate must be a member of the Bar Association and have served as a member of the Audit or Finance Committee for at least the year prior to taking office. One seat is available for a two-year term.

Governor—Candidate must be a member of the Bar Association and should have a history of active participation in one or more Committees, Divisions or Sections of the ACBA. Five (5) seats are available for three-year terms.

Judiciary Committee—Candidate must be a member of the Bar Association and should be actively practicing and appearing before judges of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, PA Appellate Courts and/or Federal Courts. Eleven (11) seats with three-year terms will be filled by election to the Judiciary Committee. The following seats will be elected in 2024:

- Three (3) seats for members who are diverse as that term is defined by Section 1.3 of the ACBA By-Laws
- Five (5) seats representing practice-areas of the court system, with one seat available for members whose practices focus on each of the following: Appellate, Civil, Criminal, Family and Elder Law/Probate & Trust
- Two (2) At-Large seats which shall be available to any member(s) of the Association
- One (1) Young Lawyer seat (0 to 10 years of practice experience).

Anyone desiring to run for the above positions must submit a resume and completed ACBA Nomination Application Form (the Nomination Form can be downloaded from the ACBA website at [ACBA.org](https://www.acba.org) or obtained by contacting David Blaner at 412-402-6601 / dblanser@acba.org).

The Nomination Application Form and resume are to be emailed to David A. Blaner, Executive Director, at dblanser@acba.org. **All applications with resumes must be received by 4:00 p.m. Friday, February 9, 2024.**



Bankruptcy Symposium

PHOTO BY DAVID BLANER

Retired Judge Robert Drain reflected on his career with the Hon. Jeffery A. Deller during the first plenary session of the ACBA's 36th Annual Western District of Pennsylvania Bankruptcy Symposium held on Dec. 8 at the Westin Pittsburgh.



PHOTO BY DAVID BLANER

Thanks to all the sponsors for their support of the ACBA's 36th Annual Western District of Pennsylvania Bankruptcy Symposium.



PHOTO BY HOLLY BEDFORD

The second plenary session explored the use of artificial intelligence in a distressed M&A transaction from the perspectives of the investment banker, the financial advisor and the deal lawyer.



PHOTO BY HOLLY BEDFORD

Bankruptcy Judge Scott C. Clarkson's presentation of the life and 1656 Bankruptcy of the Dutch artist Rembrandt van Rijn painted a unique picture of art, personality, the loves of his life and his overwhelming financial successes and failures during the third plenary session.



PHOTO BY HOLLY BEDFORD

Amid rising interest rates, inflation and increased borrowing costs, the panel of lenders and certified turnaround professionals provided a glimpse into the future of insolvency during the fourth plenary session.

Legal professionals encouraged to explore the benefits of subscribing to the *Pittsburgh Legal Journal*

By Jennifer Pulice

Whether you're an attorney practicing in Allegheny County or hold an administrative role at a local law firm, subscribing to the *Pittsburgh Legal Journal* (PLJ) is a highly recommended choice.

The PLJ serves as an indispensable resource for attorneys seeking success in their legal practices within the Pittsburgh region. As the official legal journal of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas and the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, the PLJ stands as an exclusive source for trial lists and legal notices. This publication encompasses legal advertisements, court notifications, schedules, and much more, all conveniently accessible in a searchable PDF format. Members are also encouraged to share the advantages of this publication with their support staff.

The PLJ is sent five days a week via email to subscribers, offering an easily printable 8.5 x 11 inch PDF format.

Subscribing to the PLJ brings forth numerous benefits, such as:

- Access to the PLJ from any location, be it at home or the office
- The ability to save the file on your computer for future reference
- An affordable subscription rate
- The convenience of utilizing the electronic "find" feature (CTRL-F) for quick keyword searches

The Pittsburgh Legal Journal

For legal professionals interested in a PLJ subscription, please contact Meredith Shumsky at 412-402-6686/mshumsky@acba.org.

Another valuable service provided by the ACBA is *Allegheny Lawyers Online* (ALO). ALO systematically processes the *Pittsburgh Legal Journal* daily and supplies subscribers with pertinent information extracted from the PLJ, based on the keywords they specify (e.g., attorney names or client names). For additional details regarding this service, visit www.PittsburghLegalJournal.org.

It's worth noting that the *Pittsburgh Legal Journal* is a distinct publication from the *Lawyers Journal*, the ACBA's bi-monthly newspaper, which you're currently reading. The *Lawyers Journal* includes feature articles, updates on the Pittsburgh Legal Community, photographs from ACBA events, and more. It's sent to all ACBA members every other week as part of their membership, while the *Pittsburgh Legal Journal* is exclusively available to subscribers. ■

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Taylor appointed as a U.S. Magistrate Judge

By Zandy Dudiak

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania has announced the appointment of Kezia O. L. Taylor as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for its Pittsburgh division to fill the vacancy resulting from the recent retirement of Judge Lisa Pupo Lenihan. Taylor was sworn in on Dec. 22, 2023. Most recently, she served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania and as a faculty member at the Department of Justice’s National Advocacy Center. Prior to joining the court, she practiced law in Pittsburgh and served as an assistant solicitor for the City of Pittsburgh.

“I am honored to serve and to be entrusted with the power of the judiciary,” Taylor said following her appointment. Chief Judge Mark Hornak explained that the court publicly advertised for applicants to become a U.S. magistrate judge. Candidates under consideration were screened by a merit selection panel of nine people – six lawyers and three others from the community – who presented five names to the court. The new judge was appointed by the court’s district judges. “She has great experience and a great record of public service,” Hornak said. “She’s also been engaged in a number of community endeavors. We’re excited to have her onboard. We think she is going to add to the energy of the court.” Pursuant to federal law, the magistrate judges preside over a wide range of



Hon. Kezia O. L. Taylor

proceedings on the court’s civil and criminal dockets, and broadly participate in the full range of the court’s activities and responsibilities. “My service as a former law clerk and experience as an attorney for over 17 years inform my pragmatic and common-sense-based approach to resolving cases,” Taylor explains. “I appreciate the power of the judiciary to be the arbiter of disputes and to provide resolutions for complex problems. I’ve spent the better part of my career as a legal public servant being guided by and wed to following the letter of the law.” Moving into the role of judge means looking at cases from the other side. Taylor doesn’t know quite what she might encounter as she takes on her new role. “I suspect that grappling with the decision to detain a defendant, to take

from them their liberty before conviction, will be the biggest challenge,” Taylor said. “After all, it’s our liberty that gives us access to the possibility of the American dream.” She shares some advice for those who will come before her in court. “I surrender to the law and established facts,” she said. “Further, the use of italics, bold and/or underline will not offend me, if used with discretion.” Taylor’s aspirations to serve as a judge began even before she started college. “In 1996, I was on a college tour in Tennessee and I learned about how, in his days as a civil rights attorney, Thurgood Marshall crisscrossed the country arguing for human rights, and my takeaway was how instrumental the judiciary was in righting wrongs,” Taylor said. “I believe my desire to be a judge was birthed then.” Taylor is an honors graduate of Howard University. She received her law degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where she was a member of the Law Review and was honored at the University’s Honors Convocation upon her graduation. She then served as a law clerk to Judge Mary Jane Bowes of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Taylor comes to the court with a long record of engagement with the legal profession and the community. The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania appointed her to the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners, where she served as chair. She also served as the vice-chair of the ACBA’s Federal

Court Section, and served on the Nominating and Bench-Bar Committees. She has served on the boards of the Kelly Strayhorn Theater and the NEED Pittsburgh Foundation, in leadership on the YWCA’s Young Leaders Board and with the CORO Pittsburgh Leadership Development Program and the Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania. The court serves the approximately three million residents of the 25 counties that make up the Western District of Pennsylvania. ■

Probate and Trust Mentorship Program Available

Attorneys interested in learning more about estates, trusts and related practice areas can be connected with a knowledgeable practitioner via the Probate and Trust Law Section Mentorship Program, which offers members one-on-one mentorship in all areas of practice governed by Title 20 of Pennsylvania’s Consolidated Statutes, including estate and trust planning, administration, litigation and related areas as well as inheritance and related tax issues governed by Title 72.

Contact Brian Knavish at bknavish@acba.org for more.

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ACBA Job Board continues to facilitate employer-candidate connections

By ACBA Staff

When individuals are in pursuit of career opportunities within the Pittsburgh Legal Community, their initial destination is the ACBA's Job Board. This Job Board stands as the premier platform in the region for both posting and viewing legal job opportunities. In 2023, the Job Board achieved remarkable success by facilitating the matching of 220 highly skilled legal professionals with employment in the legal field.

The ACBA Job Board, available at jobs.acba.org, was designed to offer legal professionals a user-friendly job search and posting experience.

For job seekers, the ACBA Job Board provides the following advantages:

- The ability to search for and apply to attorney and legal support positions.
- An option to upload their anonymous resume to a resume bank, accessible to potential employers. Job seekers retain control over their information and decide to whom they grant access.
- Notifications each time a job matching their personal profile, skills, interests, and preferred location(s) becomes available.
- Access to an array of career resources, job search tips, and tools.

Employers, on the other hand, benefit from the following features of the ACBA Job Board:

In search of new hires?
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- Posting job listings at an affordable rate while ensuring visibility to an audience actively seeking legal job openings in the Pittsburgh area.
 - Directly promoting their job listings to job seekers who have registered to receive the weekly Job Flash email.
 - Proactively searching the resume database and connecting with qualified candidates.
 - Leveraging the power of social media marketing: Once an employer posts a job on the ACBA Job Board, the ACBA staff amplifies that position through its social media channels.
- The association is currently extending a special offer to all employers in search of new hires. By entering the code "JOB30," you can enjoy a 30 percent discount on any of the first three job posting packages ("30 Day," "First Seen," and "Job Flash") available on the job board. This coupon code remains valid until March 1. ■

CLE on preparing for trial to be held Jan. 16

By ACBA Staff

The Allegheny County Bar Association Sole and Small Firm Practitioners Section will present the Live Webinar CLE Preparing for Trial as a Solo Attorney on Tuesday, Jan. 16.

The course is designed to help the lawyers who are saying, "I don't go to court that often, but when I have to, help me learn how to prepare."

Join renowned trial attorney and national speaker Claude Ducloux for a 60-minute presentation on the topic. Specifics to be covered include:

- Preparing the non-trial lawyer for a trial before the court
- Developing a trial theme
- Defining elements of the case or defense and evidence required for each
- Preparing witnesses ahead of time
- Simple yet effective presentation techniques
- Scoping out your courtroom/court staff ahead of time
- Understanding standard objections
- Ethical rules about evidence, offers of testimony and the duty to correct false testimony
- Drafting your judgment early and other necessities
- Keeping track of exhibits and rulings during trial
- Handling your client throughout the process and setting reasonable expectations

This is a live interactive Zoom webinar that can be viewed by participants on their own computers remotely. Participants will receive one hour of live CLE credit for the webinar. You will receive the link to join and the materials 24 hours in advance of the program.

This program has been approved for one hour of substantive credit in Pennsylvania and also qualifies for one hour of credit under the West Virginia Rules for Mandatory Continuing Legal Education.

Program planner is Rachel McElroy, and speaker is Claude Ducloux from LawPay. Register at ACBA.org/calendar. ■

Articles wanted for the *Lawyers Journal* for 2024

If you have an idea for a substantive law article or would be interested in authoring one, please email Jennifer Pulice at jpulice@acba.org.



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Please note: The Pa. CLE Board may
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- Preparing for Trial as a Solo Attorney**
Tuesday, January 16 | Noon | Live Webinar
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Practical Considerations in Estate Planning
Wednesday, January 17 | Noon | Live Webinar
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Hydrogen, Carbon Capture and Storage
Thursday, January 18 | Noon | Live Webinar
1 Substantive credit

Latest Developments in R&D Tax and Changes to Section 174
Tuesday, January 23 | Noon | Koppers Building
1 Substantive credit

Meet the Clerk of Court in the Western District
Thursday, January 25 | Noon | Joseph F. Weis, Jr.
U.S. Courthouse | 1.5 Substantive credits

What Attorneys Who Handle Medical Records Need to Know
Thursday, January 25 | 4 p.m. | U.S. Steel Tower | 1 Ethics credit
**All Rise (A Glass) Happy Hour to Immediately Follow CLE
Courtesy of UPMC*

How to Navigate a Mid-Career Crisis
Tuesday, January 30 | Noon | Live Webinar | 1 Ethics credit

An Overview of the Patent System and Introduction to Patent Durability
Thursday, February 1 | Noon | Koppers Building
1 Substantive credit

Expert Roundtable Regarding Complex Issues in Family Law
Thursday, February 8 | 8 a.m. | Koppers Building
3 Substantive, 1 Ethics credits

- Coping with Stress for Mental and Physical Health and Longevity**
Tuesday, February 13 | 2 p.m. | Koppers Building
2 Substantive credits

Let's Talk About Racial, Ethnic and Gender Bias in the Legal Workplace
Wednesday, February 14 | Noon | Koppers Building
1 Ethics credit

Law for Cocktail Parties: Family and Landlord-Tenant Laws
Thursday, February 15 | Noon | Live Webinar
1 Substantive credit

Immigration Considerations for Startups
Tuesday, February 20 | Noon | Live Webinar
1 Substantive credit

Pennsylvania and the Electoral Count Reform Act of 2022
Wednesday, February 21 | Noon | Live Webinar
1 Substantive credit

Ethics and Tips for Running Your Own Practice and Developing a Book of Business
Thursday, February 22 | 4 p.m. | Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP in One Oxford Centre | 1 Ethics credit
**Happy Hour at Club Pietro to Immediately Follow CLE*

Cybersecurity for Attorneys: Common Attack Strategies and Best Practices
Tuesday, February 27 | Noon | Koppers Building
1 Substantive credit

The Gift That Doesn't Keep Giving: When Charitable Trusts Fail
Wednesday, February 28 | Noon | Live Webinar
1 Substantive credit

Environmental Law Update: 2023 Year in Review
Tuesday, March 5 | Noon | Live Webinar
1 Substantive credit

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In Memoriam

David K. Rudov



David K.
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David K. Rudov passed away on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023. He was born in 1956 in Fort Lee, Virginia, the first child of Dr. Melvin Rudov and Elaine Keller.

He spent his early years moving around the country with their growing family – adding brothers Cornell and Teddy – until they all settled in their parents’ hometown of Pittsburgh in 1969. It was the city that he would proudly call home for the rest of his life.

He graduated from Taylor Allderdice High School in 1974 and went off to college at Wittenberg University. He finished in 1978 with a degree in Political Science. Three years later, he graduated from Capital University Law School, returned to

Pittsburgh, and was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar.

Rudov spent more than 30 years practicing at Rudov & Stein, then opened Rudov Law in 2016. He was a respected and admired attorney in the Pittsburgh legal community and an active member of the Bankruptcy Bar. He was deemed a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer from 2008-2024 and listed with the Best Lawyers of Pittsburgh by *Pittsburgh Magazine* in 2019.

He will be remembered by his children, Daniel, Lindsey (Dylan), and Roxanne Rudov, and their mother, Hollie Bernstein Machen; by his brothers, Cornell (Susan) and Ted (Lynne); by his aunt, Sheila Golding, by his family and friends, as they remember those who have passed before him – his parents, Mel, Jeanne, and Elaine; his former wife and children’s stepmother, Jane Jaffe Rudov.

David loved his career, musicals, comedy, beach vacations, bike rides, boating shenanigans, ski trips, and (re)building homes where you could host friends and family.

Admissions Ceremony



PHOTO BY JENNIFER PULICE

Chief United States District Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania Mark Hornak posed with the new attorneys who were admitted on Dec. 7 at the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania’s admissions ceremony.

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