

LAWYERS JOURNAL

ACBA to celebrate 60th annual Bench-Bar Conference

By Ron Cichowicz

It’s an event that has stood the test of time. Through the British Invasion led by the Beatles, the turbulent Sixties, the Moon Walk, Vietnam, the Space Race, Watergate, Disco, the fall of the Berlin Wall, Rodney King, 9-11, Hurricane Katrina and more, for 60 years the annual Allegheny County Bar Association Bench-Bar Conference has been the ACBA’s premier gathering for the area’s legal community.

And it’s only getting better with age. “If you can only attend one bar association event each year, Bench-Bar is it,” said Holly Deihl, a Partner with SWMW Law and this year’s event Chair. “It is a really good time. I’ve been attending for a number of years.”

This year’s Bench-Bar Conference again returns to the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in the Laurel Highlands, June 13-15.

Despite experiencing a two-year hiatus in 2020 and 2021 and a bit of a rough relaunch in 2022, Bench-Bar came roaring back in 2023, with 535 attendees. The goal is 600 for 2024.



“Last year we changed it up a bit,” said Deihl. “The Conference was well received, and we loved much of what happened in 2023, so we didn’t want to change it dramatically. We will, however, be incorporating a diamond theme in celebration of our anniversary.”

Mary Ann Fiorilli, ACBA Director of Marketing, CLE and Events, agreed with Deihl’s assessment.

“Last year was a fabulous success,” she said, “so we want to make sure that happens again but pump it up a bit to reflect this milestone.”

For example, the Conference’s popular CLE schedule has been expanded from 18 to 21 sessions, after requests were received to include some from the Sports Law Committee, Real Property Section and Nonprofit Law Committee. Also returning is the “for judges only” CJE. Another special add-on: Sharon Geller, a comedic actress who has been teaching improv to lawyers for over 15 years will be the keynote speaker for the Feature Presentation on Friday morning. Her program, “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Arbitration,” outlines some great communication techniques for lawyers along with lots of laughs!

“It’s going to be a good time,” said Deihl. “There again will be sports options, including skeet shooting and golf, along with a ramped up pickleball tournament. It was a hit last year and, with so many of our members wanting to participate, we knew we

needed to expand and create its own time slot. We also added a craft beer event this year and the Chairman’s Select Wine Tasting on Thursday night.”

“There will be other surprises, but you’ll have to attend to find out what they are,” she said.

The biggest draw each year for Bench-Bar is the opportunity to network with colleagues, both formally and informally. Many ACBA members representing a broad spectrum of the law attend each year, as do many judges.

“We have the Breakfast with Judges program, with one judge at each table to enable the attorneys to interact with a judge and get to know them,” Deihl said.

“I don’t think people understand how important collegiality and networking is in our legal community,” Fiorilli said. “Our attendees include a variety of attorneys and judges from the various courts. Networking opportunities are endless. It truly is the most important event to attend during the Bar year!”

For more information about the 2024 Bench-Bar Conference, visit www.ACBA BenchBar.com. ■

YLD Bar Leadership Initiative Class to host Fight Night Gala

By Michael O. Bethune

On Wednesday, April 3, the ACBA Young Lawyers Division’s 2023-2024 Bar Leadership Initiative Class is hosting its Fight Night Gala. The Gala is a fundraiser event in support of Team 412 Boxing.

Overview of Team 412 Boxing

Team 412 Boxing is a Pittsburgh National Youth Boxing non-profit organization “founded to give under-



resourced Pittsburgh city youth an opportunity to learn to box and nationally compete.” Team 412 Boxing’s Mission is “to provide a boxing program for financially limited city youth, one in which each participant learns ‘first-hand’ how such values as hard work, discipline, respect, and integrity are key to living a good life.”

With its gym located on 3rd Avenue in downtown Pittsburgh, the organization holds an after-school training program, with training sessions every Monday through Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. Through the leadership and coaching of James Hoy, and through the determination of the team’s

members, the team has obtained significant successes, including: various members being nationally ranked for their individual weight classes, winning championship belts in fights across the country; and an opportunity for one of the team’s members to compete in Olympic trials for the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympics. To learn more about the organization and the team, visit www.412boxing.com.

Opportunities to Support the Gym

There are numerous ways for members of the ACBA to show their support for Team 412 Boxing. ACBA

members can sign up to participate in “Boxing with Barristers,” in which Team 412 Boxing opens its doors to ACBA members to participate in boxing classes led by the coaches and members of the team. Team 412 Boxing began hosting these “Boxing with Barristers” training sessions in January and February, and will be holding two more training sessions for ACBA members on the following dates:

- Saturday, March 16, 2024 – at 12:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 20, 2024 – at 6:00 p.m.

The cost of each class is \$25, with payments made direct to the gym through either its Venmo account (@team412) or its PayPal account (Pittsburgh National Youth Boxing). Classes are limited to ten participants, so if you are interested, register as soon as possible on the ACBA website.

In addition to the training sessions, individuals can support Team 412 Boxing by donating to the item drive, which began in February. Members can purchase requested items from an online list and donate them to the gym. These donations will go a long way in helping provide the gym with necessary equipment and supplies. The site for the item drive will be available for approximately two months leading up to the Gala.

The Fight Night Gala

The primary event for this year’s Bar Leadership Initiative’s project is a formal “Fight Night” Gala on April 3; which is set to take place at 5:30 p.m. at Kingfly Spirits in the Strip District. The Gala will be retro boxing themed, and attendees are encouraged to dress up in their retro/vintage attire. During the Gala, attendees can enjoy drinks,

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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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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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The latest cases loaded into the database involve the issues of:
Arbitrator’s Award – Coordinate Jurisdiction Rule

Professional Ethics Committee shares important ethics opinion with members

The following Ethics Opinion was prepared by the ACBA Professional Ethics Committee to assist members in addressing ethical issues that arise from the practice of law. Other ethics opinions that address frequently asked questions will be shared with ACBA members in the future. Members of the Professional Ethics Committee take month-long shifts as Duty Officers throughout the year, and during their shifts, these individuals commit to taking calls and addressing ethics questions from any member of the ACBA. For more information, or to obtain the contact information of this month’s Duty Officers, visit ACBA.org/officerassignments.

Ethics Issues Presented: May or must a lawyer withdraw from representation after client seeks refund of paid or costs paid by filing a claim with the PA Lawyer’s Fund for Client Security. And, in that situation, to what extent can a lawyer reveal information that may otherwise be protected as confidential?

Facts Presented: Lawyer was retained on a hybrid fees and costs retainer whereby client paid a nonrefundable retainer of \$5,000, was responsible for paying costs, and agreed to pay lawyer 40% of any recovery. Partway through litigation, client agreed to release some but not all adverse parties which resulted in the original case being dismissed from federal court for lack of jurisdiction. Continuing the case against the remaining defendants would require refiling a “smaller” case in state court.

Client now wants a refund of at least some of the nonrefundable retainer and/or costs paid by client because client is unhappy with the litigation outcomes to date. Client has made a claim to the PA Lawyer’s Fund for Client Security but has not fired the lawyer.

Rules At Issue: Rule 1.16 addresses declining or terminating representation, Rule 1.7 addresses concurrent conflicts

of interest, and Rule 6 addresses client confidentiality.

Advice Given: Lawyer has a conflict and **must withdraw**. Lawyer **may** reveal confidential information as reasonably necessary before the PA Lawyer’s Fund for Client Security, any resulting disciplinary proceedings, or direct litigation with client.

Rule 1.7(a)(2) provides that a lawyer **shall not** represent a client if:

- there is a significant risk that the representation of one or more clients will be materially limited by the lawyer’s responsibilities to another client, a former client or a third person or by a personal interest of the lawyer.

To the extent the client has filed what amounts to a fee-dispute claim with the PA Lawyer’s Fund for Client Security, the lawyer and the client have a direct conflict under Rule 1.7(a)(2). There is a significant risk that the ongoing representation will

be materially limited by the lawyer’s own personal interest in protecting the nonrefundable fee and costs. Additionally, to the extent the lawyer believes the substantially reduced state law case has no merit, the lawyer may be tempted to preserve resources that might other be expended in a contingency fee matter with little prospect of recovery. This desire to stop spending resources on the state court case presents a second Rule 1.7(a)(2) conflict. The lawyer **must withdraw** from this representation.

Rule 1.16(a) which **requires** withdrawal in the context of representations that will violate the rules, be limited by the lawyer’s physical or mental condition, and when a lawyer is fired does not apply here. Rule 1.16(b) which **permits** withdrawal where the representation

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Advice for oral arguments – Think F.A.S.T.

By Brendan Lupetin

Thinking back on when I first started fumbling through the practice of law, I recall being in court daily, arguing preliminary objections and motions. And I (of course) remember being persuasive, professional, and fast on my feet. Is my memory a bit exaggerated? Sure. But there is no doubt I was more comfortable and competent then than I am today.

Putting aside my melodramatic memory, time marches on and I do not argue before judges as much as I used to. Like anything in life, when you do it less frequently, you become rusty and out of step. On the rare, recent occasions that I have argued motions I found myself feeling like a first-year and anxiously asking, “how’s this go again?”

Because I hate cognitive overwhelm and the unwarranted fear of failing, I love heuristics and better yet, a good mnemonic.

And so, you can imagine the child-like look of joy that flowed over my face when I read a tutorial from trial consultant Ken Broda-Bahm about his F.A.S.T. method for effective oral arguments.

Dr. Broda-Bahm noticed that many attorneys put forth arguments that contain pertinent information but lack clear structure and purpose. In their worst form these word salad arguments feel like the infamous “such as, like” speech of South Carolina’s Miss Teen USA 2007. In their most common construction, we get a point but not the point. I have been guilty of both at



Brendan Lupetin

different flop sweat inducing moments in my career.

A structured approach to articulating your argument and answering questions in court is vital. To help ease your mind and get your point across, consider Dr. Broda-Bahm’s F.A.S.T. (Frame, Answer, Support, Target) response structure to ensure clarity and focus at your next argument. Here is the F.A.S.T. framework in a nutshell:

1. Frame: Begin by contextualizing the question or issue you must address. Frame the issue through a persuasive lens or question that immediately orients the judge to your point of view.

2. Answer: Directly and succinctly answer the framed question you have posed. Clarity is key. The aim here is not to showcase your knowledge on a topic broadly but to address the specific query.

3. Support: This is where you delve into details. Provide evidence, legal precedents, and logical reasoning to back up your answer. Anticipate potential follow-up questions or concerns the judge might have. This part of your response demonstrates your depth of understanding and critical thinking skills.

4. Target: Conclude by linking back to your main argument. This step is about showing the relevance of your response to the broader case. It’s your chance to steer the conversation back to your narrative, reinforcing your position and strategy in the frame.

Inevitably you may get peppered with questions from the Court. Consider these foundational concepts when contemplating how best to respond:

Listen Actively: Before responding, ensure you fully understand the question. Active listening is crucial.

Adapt to Your Audience: Tailor your responses to the specific judge or panel you’re addressing. Understanding their perspectives and concerns can make your argument more persuasive.

Practice Clarity and Brevity: While supporting your answers with evidence is essential, avoid overloading with unnecessary information. Be concise and focused. Everyone, even judges’, attention spans are growing shorter and shorter. Get to the point and get out.

Use Plain Language: Legal jargon can obscure your point. Whenever possible, use clear, straightforward language.

Body Language and Tone: Non-verbal cues and the tone of your voice are also part of your communication. Remain calm, confident, and respectful. Pause. Take a deep breath and look at the big picture.


Like trial, your success in oral arguments greatly depends on how well you can articulate your position. By adopting the F.A.S.T. response structure, you can provide clear, structured, and persuasive arguments and responses. Remember, every question is an opportunity to reinforce your argument and persuade the court. With practice and mindfulness, you can master the art of effective (or at least competent) oral advocacy. ■

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YLD CHAIR’S MESSAGE

YLD ensures that spring is MORE than just a change of Sease-ns

By Tara M. Sease

It’s springtime in Western Pennsylvania...the time of the year when traveling to work in the morning means wearing a winter jacket and scarf, and then, by the time to commute home, the temperature is at least 60 degrees. Other than the highly predictable unpredictable weather, spring has a reputation for being a symbol of beautiful changes, new beginnings, and hope. The late-great Robin Williams once said, “Spring is nature’s way of saying ‘Let’s Party!’” and the YLD could not agree more.

1. Headshots & Happy Hour: On March 13, the YLD will be hosting a brand-new event called “Headshots & Happy Hour” starting at 5 p.m. in the Koppers Building Conference Center. The cost to mingle is only \$5 per person. The bonus is that headshot photographer Jordan Bellotti will be offering an exclusive deal for \$100 for a six-minute headshot photo session. Bellotti specializes in headshot photography, and he is known for assisting his clients in finding his or her presence in front of the lens. Not only are headshots usually expensive, but a photo is worth a thousand words...so the words might as well be compliments about your fabulous photo.

2. Boxing with Barristers: In March, the 2024 Bar Leadership Initiative (BLI) Class will co-host the final two Boxing with Barristers classes at Team 412 in downtown Pittsburgh. Team 412 is a Pittsburgh non-profit



Tara Sease
YLD Chair

youth organization that provides support and guidance for under-resourced City of Pittsburgh youths. Boxers and instructors will be teaching the classes. Each class is limited to ten participants, so do not waste any time booking your spot. For a mere \$25 (all proceeds being donated to Team 412), you will sweat for a great cause!

3. Fight Night: More than co-hosting boxing classes, eh? The BLI Class will also host “Fight Night” on April 3, at Kingfly Spirits in the Strip District. The theme of the event will be a vintage style Gala, so break out your floor-length gowns, vintage boxing jackets, or sleekest suits! All the proceeds from the event will also be donated to Team 412, and there may even be an Olympian or two in attendance!

4. Suits for (Law) Suits: After months of planning, I am very proud to debut my YLD Chair project, which will blend two of my passions – the law and fashion. On April 17, please join me for a fashion show – Suits for (Law) Suits – at the Westin Pittsburgh downtown. Local boutiques, designers, and vendors will be featured in the show, and members of the bar will be walking the catwalk! Immediately following the show will be an opportunity to shop the looks featured in the show. The YLD will also be collecting gently worn professional clothing to be donated to a local charity. Stay tuned for more updates!

5. Strike Out Hunger: Once again, the YLD will be pairing with the Allegheny County Bar Foundation to raise awareness and funds for Attorneys Against Hunger. On April 30, please join us for a night of food, fun, and fundraising at Shorty’s Pins x Pints in the North Shore. Sponsorship opportunities are available for this event.

6. Family Feud with the Judges: The ever-popular Family Feud with the Judges will occur on May 9, at the Rivers Club. This annual event has stood the test of time, and once again, the YLD is asking our local judiciary for their participation in this highly competitive game. The reigning Family Feud champions were led by the Honorable Hugh McGough...will there be a repeat?

7. YLD Spring CLEs: On April 24, the YLD will be pairing with the Workers’ Compensation Section to host a one credit CLE. On May 1, the

YLD will be hosting Tim Edris, who is an expert in effective leadership, for an in-person noon CLE called “Expectations of Those You Manage and Lead” at Koppers. On June 6, the YLD and the Real Property Section will be hosting a CLE at Kingfly Spirits.

This spring, the YLD has something for everyone. All YLD events and CLEs are listed on the YLD calendar at www.acbayld.org. Signing up in advance is highly encouraged. ■

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

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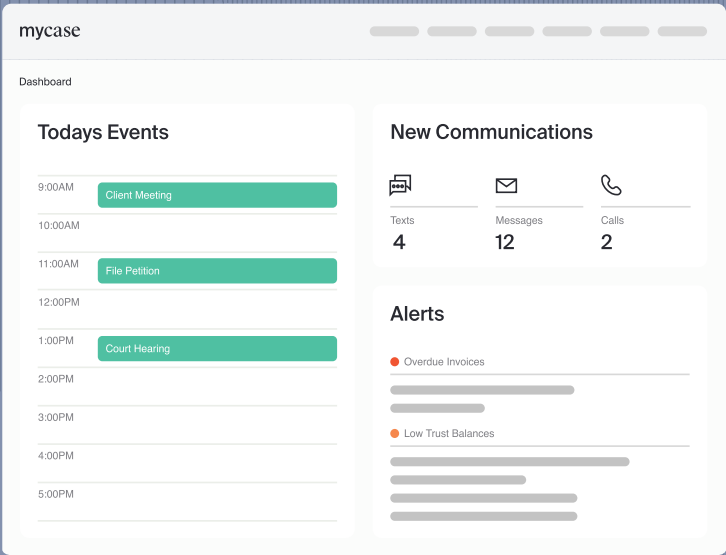
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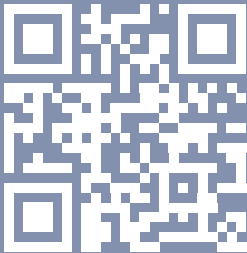
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Introduction to Denial of Service attacks

By Von Wooding

The most pressing risk facing the legal profession today is not the advent of new technology, but rather a lack of technological competence.

Pennsylvania's state court system website got DoS'd in early February. Attackers targeted PACFile, online docket sheets, PAePay, and the Guardianship Tracking System. Just over a week ago, technology infrastructure in Washington County faced a critical incident that rendered significant segments either inaccessible or inoperable.

These incidents highlight the imperative for legal professionals to deepen their understanding of technology, not just to leverage its benefits but to safeguard against its vulnerabilities.

What is a Denial of Service Attack?

A Denial of Service (DoS) attack is a malicious attempt to disrupt the normal functioning of a targeted server, service, or network by overwhelming it with a flood of internet traffic. This cyber-attack seeks to render the website or service unavailable to its intended users, causing significant disruption and potential financial losses.

The Mechanism Behind DoS Attacks

DoS attacks primarily function by inundating the target with excessive requests, surpassing the system's

capacity to handle them. This overload can prevent legitimate requests from being fulfilled, effectively taking the service offline.

Types of DoS Attacks

- Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) Attacks

The Evolution of DoS to DDoS

A Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack is a more complex form of DoS attack. It involves multiple compromised computer systems attacking a single target, thereby amplifying the attack's effectiveness and scale.

Mitigation Challenges

DDoS attacks present significant challenges for mitigation as the traffic originates from multiple sources. DDoS attackers obscure their true location and identity which can make it extremely difficult to distinguish between legitimate and malicious requests.

Application Layer Attacks

- Targeting the Application Layer
- Unlike attacks that flood the network, application layer attacks aim to exhaust resources at the application layer, targeting web applications with seemingly legitimate requests that consume excessive server resources.

Advanced Persistent DoS (APDoS) Attacks

- Persistent and Sophisticated Attacks

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APDoS attacks are characterized by their long duration and focus on multiple targets, including the network, application, and infrastructure layers. They require a more sophisticated response due to their persistent nature.

Legal Implications of DoS Attacks

- Cybercrime Legislation
- DoS Attacks as Criminal Acts

Many jurisdictions have enacted laws that explicitly criminalize DoS and DDoS attacks, recognizing them as forms of cybercrime that can lead to severe penalties, including fines and imprisonment.

Legal Challenges in Prosecuting DoS Attacks

- Jurisdictional Issues

The global nature of the internet adds complexity to legal proceedings, as attackers often operate across international borders. These factors tend to complicate jurisdictional authority and enforcement.

- Identifying Perpetrators

The anonymity afforded by the internet and the use of spoofed IP

addresses can make it challenging to identify and prosecute attackers. This typically requires sophisticated forensic techniques.

Defending Against DoS Attacks

- Technical Defense Mechanisms
- Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS)

IDS can monitor network traffic for signs of a DoS attack, enabling proactive responses to mitigate potential damage.

Firewalls and Anti-DDoS Solutions

Advanced firewalls and specialized anti-DDoS solutions can filter out malicious traffic in order to protect the target from being overwhelmed.

Cooperation with Law Enforcement

Victims of DoS attacks are encouraged to report incidents to law enforcement agencies.


Regulatory Compliance

Organizations must comply with industry-specific regulations that may mandate specific cybersecurity measures to mitigate the risk of DoS attacks.

Navigating DoS Attacks

DoS and DDoS attacks represent significant threats to the availability and integrity of online services, with substantial legal and financial implications. Attorneys specializing in cyber law must understand the technical aspects of these attacks and

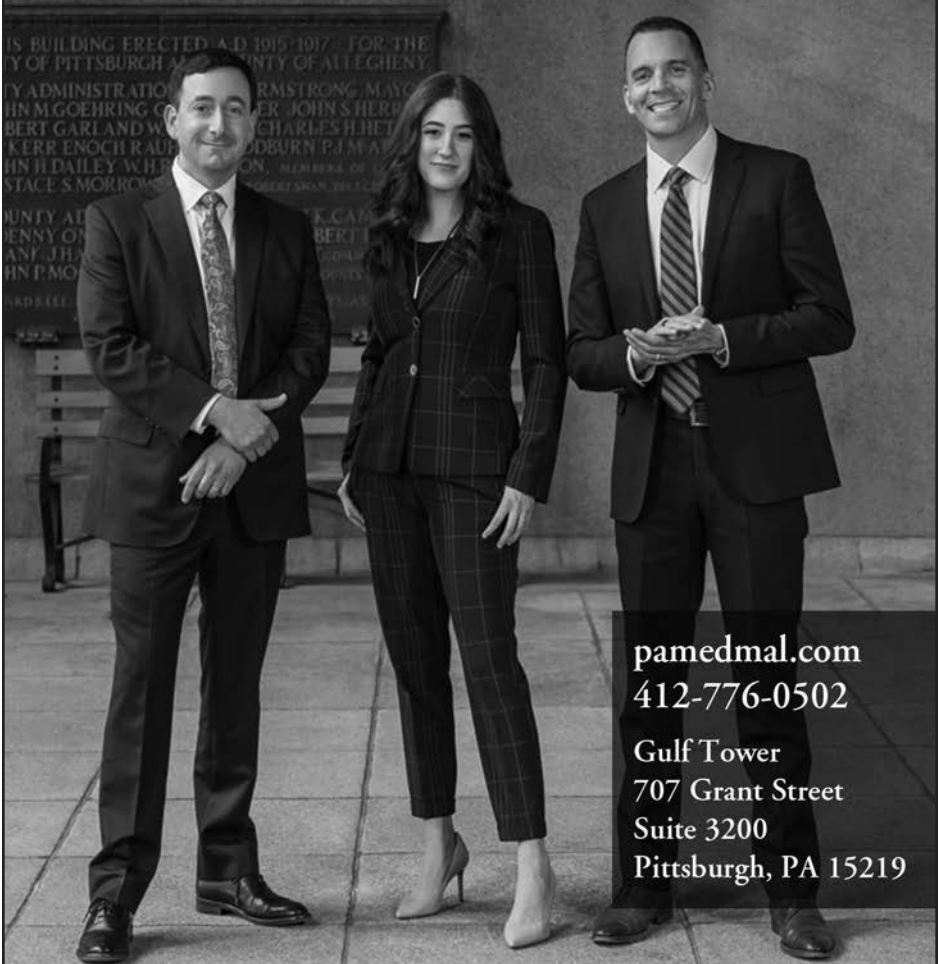
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WLD CHAIR’S MESSAGE

Members encouraged to get involved in the WLD

By Amber Archer

When I took on the position of chair, one of my goals was greater outreach to the ACBA at large and greater participation within our division. I am often surprised that those outside our division do not really know what we do or how we work.

The WLD stands for the Women in the Law Division. Our division was created as a place for women when their voices were lost in the male dominated bar association at large. We are a powerhouse of legal minds dedicated to overcoming the barriers for women in the profession. We currently have over 1,800 members and our numbers are rising! But our membership is not limited to women and our influence is not limited to women’s issues. While women see the brunt of gender-based problems, men, in increasing numbers, also experience harassment, or discrimination and also struggle with issues of family leave, elder care and childcare. One of our core beliefs is the more we work toward parity on these issues, the better life as an attorney will be for people of all genders.

Our council meetings are open to all members of the bar association. My favorite marketing plug is that we have free lunch at our monthly meetings, so join our division and come down to the ACBA’s President’s Conference Room on the fourth Wednesday of the month or join on Zoom. We encourage non female



Amber Archer
WLD Chair

attorneys to join our division, attend our events, support our causes, be our ally, and attend meetings. Admittedly, attendees may be nudged for committee participation as I am more than happy to volunteer people for projects or make needed connections. Our committees usually serve one to two meeting hours a month and we hope our enthusiasm for our objectives translates to their enthusiasm and support of our efforts.

We offer the Gender Bias Hotline where persons of **any gender** can anonymously report and seek help addressing gender bias or harassment issues. This is particularly important in a profession where bias comes from the other side of the dispute as often as the other side of office and HR departments are few and far between.

The Hotline is entirely confidential, and the reporting person has final say over any resulting action.

Every year we host a plethora of events for women and men across the bar association. We hold regular lunch meetings with our Lean in Circle where a small group meets to discuss issues facing attorneys today. Our Let’s Do Lunch program is an opportunity to connect with other lawyers over lunch for a social and networking opportunity to make this profession seem just a bit warmer and a bit more collegial. We also host happy hours, a holiday party and a summer picnic. Our 2023 holiday party collected gift cards and held a raffle to benefit the Women’s Center and Shelter.

The WLD creates at least four CLE hours per year. This is in addition to our annual Bench-Bar presentation. The WLD CLEs often touch on issues that are traditionally women centered but with larger impacts. Last year we hosted a series on the Dobb’s decision’s ripple effect across the legal fields. We have touched on financial planning, family leave policies, discrimination, implicit bias, harassment and law firm management to name a few. Our March CLE featured a program on practice areas with historic underrepresentation of women.

This year we are hosting a series called “So, I hear You’re a Lawyer” where panelists will discuss those issues that strangers ask about when they hear someone is a lawyer. We have all experienced that person at

the party that starts asking about their third cousin’s custody dispute or DUI. Our first CLE focused on Family Law and Landlord-Tenant issues. On June 3 we will look at Lemon Law and we expect to schedule a presentation in July on Criminal Law and Trusts and Estates. We are also planning a fall program on Pro Bono activities.

I will end this article on a shameless plug for involvement. When I first became active in the ACBA, I was looking for a way to increase my network, find leads for new career opportunities and connections within the field. The more involved I became, the more I grew my network, the more I grew my skills and the more I connected with lawyers from a wide range of disciplines. Those connections sometimes help professionally, but also expand my personal network and increase my satisfaction in my career. It all started with a single committee participation. That experience led to chairing committees, which led to a recommendation to run for division chair. I lost the election twice before becoming chair and have no shame in the loss to two incredible division chairs that came before me. As chair, I further connected to the ACBA Board of Governors and more committees and sections. One step into the ACBA at a time expanded my reach like ripples in a pond.

The ACBA makes it easy to get involved. The WLD makes it more so.

Continued on page 8



Left to Right: Scott Porterfield, VP, Wealth Advisor;
David Finui, President & CEO;
Alyssa Zottola, J.D. AVP, Personal Trust Officer;
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Hens-Greco returns as Admin. Judge of the Family Division

By Zandy Dudiak

As she settles into her new role as Administrative Judge of the Family Division of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Kathryn Hens-Greco has realized what a difference a decade can make.

Designated as the Family Division’s administrative judge by the state Supreme Court last year, she began her new duties on Oct. 1, 2023. Hens-Greco, who was elected to the court in 2005 and retained for a second 10-year term in 2015, also served as the administrative judge from 2011-13.

Where civil and criminal courts deal with who did what and accessing penalties or monetary awards, Family Court centers around problem solving.

“My job is more of a conductor,” she explained. “I’m listening to the tone of the whole place.”

Over the past two decades, Hens-Greco has seen a shift to a trauma-informed court, changes in technology and in the experience level of the staff, many of whom have 25-30 years of service.

“It’s actually interesting to circle back at a new time in our court,” Hens-Greco said. “We’ve changed some of our focus over the years. We are in a state of constant improvement.”

Hens-Greco brings to the role a wealth of experience gained through her years of being a judge and serving in other capacities. She has served on the Supreme Court’s Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee, the Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee, the Statewide Leadership Roundtable and chaired the statewide



Hon. Kathryn Hens-Greco

Psychotropic Medications Workgroup. She has also served in the ACBA Family Law Section.

One pressing concern facing the county is the need for an improved juvenile detention facility. When it closed in September 2021, the former Shuman Center had only 15 youths housed – juveniles who had done something egregious or were out of control to the point of putting others in danger, Hens-Greco said.

In an effort to deal with overcrowding at the former Shuman Center, the facility had used a score-based system to determine which juveniles were likely to commit another crime before their hearing date.

“Over time, it became clear that our front door was a problem,” Hens-Greco said.

The Latrobe-based Adelphoi will be the new service provider when the facility reopens this spring. Hens-

Greco said the facility will provide behavioral health and physical assessments, look at what goes on in a youth’s family, determine why an offense occurred and then figure how to proceed. The goal will be to handle cases rapidly, with a preliminary hearing in 72 hours and a hearing date 10 days later.

“The new Shuman will be focused on that,” the judge said. “Who we are going to be accepting into Shuman are kids who steal cars or put a gun to someone’s head.”

Since assuming the lead role in the Family Division, Hens-Greco’s focus has been on her leadership team and helping them access the tools they need to do their jobs.

“I have a very renewed appreciation of our staff,” she said. “We have the most talented team devoted to our Family Court.”

Hens-Greco said because of the court staff, she has the ability to focus on how

Continued on page 8

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FIGHT NIGHT GALA
continued from front page

appetizers and other food, and an exciting retro-themed atmosphere.

On top of that, the Gala will feature a silent auction of various gift baskets from both large and small businesses here in the Pittsburgh area. Throughout the night, attendees will be able to place bids on the gift baskets, with the winners being chosen at the end of the night. All proceeds from the Gala will go solely to the benefit of Team 412 Boxing.

The “Fight Night” Gala is a perfect opportunity for ACBA members to enjoy a fun night out with members of our legal community, all while supporting an incredible cause.

If you are interested in sponsoring the BLI “Fight Night” Gala, email YLDCommunications@gmail.com. For registration information, visit ACBA.org. ■

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE
continued from page 2

creates a financial burden on the lawyer, the representation has been rendered unreasonably difficult, or where other good cause exists does apply. Each of those portions of Rule 1.16(b) have potentially been satisfied here. The lawyer must, however, comply with the remainder of Rule 1.16 which requires taking care not to harm the client through the process of withdrawal and to seek permission to withdraw from the tribunal.

Rule 1.6(c)(4) permits the lawyer to reveal client confidential information as reasonably necessary “to respond to allegations in any proceeding concerning the lawyer’s representation of the client.” The comments, especially Comment 22, counsel lawyers to take

steps to limit the amount of information disclosed and where possible to limit access to the information that is disclosed through the imposition of protective orders and similar devices when permitted. ■

LAW PROJECT MANAGEMENT
continued from page 5

the legal frameworks designed to combat them. By staying informed about the evolving nature of cyber threats, legal professionals can better advise their clients and pursue justice in cases involving malicious disruptions of service. ■

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WLD CHAIR MESSAGE
continued from page 6

The easiest involvement is to attend our meeting on Zoom or come down in person for lunch! Find me at a bar association event. I am always looking to chat with someone at events instead of being left to my natural state as the awkward wall flower and always welcome new Bench-Bar buddies. The more you get involved in the ACBA the more you get out of it. Get involved with us. ■

JUDGE HENS-GRECO
continued from page 7

the court can adapt to its changing needs, provide staff training opportunities and identify those employees who are ready for promotion within the court. She hopes to foster an atmosphere of collegiality.

A huge change since her last time in the role was brought about in large part by the pandemic. Hearings are now available virtually via Teams in many cases, eliminating some of the barriers, such as transportation, that make it difficult for litigants and expert witnesses to appear in court.

“The technology piece has been incredible,” Hens-Greco continued.

In the past, Hens-Greco said, Juvenile Court judges focused on dependency and delinquency cases while Adult Court judges handled divorce, support, custody and PFA cases. A family’s issues might be complicated by being involved with different judges who make different decisions.

Now, the court operates with a “one judge, one family” system, Hens-Greco said. The court provides cross training so that judges are familiar with best practices.

“We want to be really clear that people should stay with the judge they are most familiar with,” she said. “Our primary focus is developing skills to resolve conflict, developing a solution for the moment and identifying the ongoing pattern of behavior for the issue brought to court.”

Another change since Hens-Greco last served as administrative judge is the shift to being a trauma-informed court. She credits Judge Jennifer McCrady for spearheading the effort, starting with the entry into and navigation through the court process.

With safety starting at the front door, weapons are prohibited in the building. The front desk is conveniently next to the Client Services Department. New signage provides for better navigation and video monitors explain where the judges are located.

The waiting room for dependency cases has been remodeled and has a

children’s room with tablets and a sensory room within that space. A therapy dog is provided through the sheriff’s office has become popular among litigants and staff.

Instead of having to take children elsewhere for entrance or exit physicals, UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh now provides a doctor and nurse on site. Hens-Greco said DNA testing can be performed within the court, providing a quick answer in paternity cases without having to bring a new baby back into court multiple times.

To ensure children have access to behavior health, the Family Division works with the county Department of Human Services. Drug and alcohol screening is available on site, a plus because substance use can factor into a judge’s immediate decision-making, Hens-Greco said.

When a child can’t be returned to the parents immediately, the court looks to family members to provide guardianship. Hens-Greco credits grandparents with stepping in and providing stability for their grandchildren as they hope the parents achieve recovery.


She said Allegheny County leads the state with 56% of children placed with kin instead of foster care, keeping them connected to their biological roots. That’s important, Hens-Greco said, because when a child turns 18, that doesn’t mean they are self-supporting and don’t need guidance and advice.

“People step up in ways that are just incredible,” she said. “The heroes we see in this work are what makes it possible to continue doing this. For me, the way it happens is that I have this constant hope – a built-in optimism.” ■

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U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pa. to transition to electronic attorney civil case openings



SUBMITTED PHOTO

By Rick Shrum

Attorneys in the Pittsburgh Division of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania soon will be required to open their own civil cases electronically.

Electronic civil case openings will launch in the Pittsburgh Division on Monday, March 18, 2024. On this date, following the success of their legal peers in the Erie and Johnstown Divisions had during the Pilot Program, Pittsburgh Division attorneys will

have the opportunity to open their civil cases electronically.

There are advantages to electronic case opening, such as receiving a case number upon the filing, even after business hours, and reducing the time it takes from filing to the assignment of a judge.

In advance of this transition, the Clerk’s Office will offer Zoom training sessions to attorneys, paralegals and other legal staffers who file documents electronically. The training schedule is on the Court’s website, located at www.pawd.uscourts.gov. ■



Summer Clerkship Program Meet-and-Greet

PHOTOS BY JAMES PIAGGIO

Dani Harrington of Neighborhood Legal Services spoke with students about her organization during the ACBA Summer Clerkship Program’s “Meet and Greet” on Feb. 15. Employers and students participating in the Summer Clerkship Program met at the Union Trust Building to network.



Ron Jones of event sponsor Frost Brown Todd speaks with Ed Kim about opportunities at his firm this summer.



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Bar Briefs

News and Notes

Houston Harbaugh has announced the promotions of two of its attorneys for the year 2024. **Corey Bauer** has been promoted from Senior Attorney to Director, while **Maura Perri** has been promoted from Associate to Senior Associate.



Arthur Stroyd

Leadership Pittsburgh Inc. is proud to announce **Arthur Stroyd** as the recipient of its Aradhna Award in recognition of his exceptional leadership and significant contributions to community affairs. Stroyd, a partner at Del Sole Cavanaugh Stroyd, LLC, exemplifies the values of Leadership Pittsburgh through his dedication in serving and enriching the community. A graduate of Leadership Pittsburgh, Stroyd has demonstrated unwavering commitment to various community organizations, leaving an indelible mark on the region's landscape.



Kenneth J. Horoho Jr.

Kenneth J. Horoho Jr., partner and chair of the Family Law Practice Group at Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP, has been appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court as Vice-Chair of its Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee. Horoho's term began on

Feb. 1, 2024. The Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee advises and assists the Supreme Court on matters related to the practice of family law in Pennsylvania including procedural rules related to divorce, support, custody, paternity, and protection from abuse. The primary goal of the committee is to simplify family law practice by recommending new rules or amendments to existing procedural rules relating to family law matters.



Brian Knavish

Brian Knavish – the ACBA's Director of Marketing, Media Relations and Strategic Partnerships – has written his first full-length play, "So, There's a Leprechaun Now?" – an adult comedy about parenting. The play is being produced by R-ACT Theatre Productions, a production company in Rochester, Beaver County. The world premiere of the adult comedy is March 14-17 at the Segriff Stage. For more information, visit www.ractproductions.com.

People on the Move



Peter H. Schnore

Peter H. Schnore recently formed Schnore Law LLC, with an office in Upper St. Clair. Schnore's new firm focuses primarily on Pennsylvania commercial real estate tax

assessment appeals and eminent domain cases. He currently serves as Treasurer of the ACBA's Real Property Section, is a member of the ACBA's Committee for Diversity and Inclusion, and is recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the Real Estate Law Section for 2024 by BL Rankings.



Ashley Folio Morgan

Family law attorney **Ashley Folio Morgan** has joined ARM Lawyers as a partner in their Cranberry Township office. Folio Morgan's primary focus will be on family law matters, including complex divorce, custody, support and adoption. In addition, ARM Lawyers will continue to handle consumer law, tax, social security disability, estates and trusts, workers compensation, and personal injury from its Cranberry Township office, serving all of southwestern PA.



Alyson J. Kirleis

Medical malpractice litigator, **Alyson J. Kirleis**, has joined Marshall Dennehey's Pittsburgh office as a shareholder in the Health Care Department. Kirleis has 35+ years of experience defending physicians, nurses and dentists, hospitals and long-term care facilities when claims and lawsuits are brought against them.



Gregory M. Reichart

Maiello Brungo and Maiello, LLP is pleased to welcome **Gregory M. Reichart** to its accomplished team of attorneys. Reichart will serve as an Associate member of the firm's Litigation practice group. He joins MBM with 13 years of legal experience and substantial courtroom skill.



Natalia A. Holliday

The attorneys of Rothman Gordon are pleased to announce that **Natalia A. Holliday** has joined the firm. Holliday is an Estates, Trusts & Taxation attorney who works with clients to develop a comprehensive estate plan.



Blaine Lamperski



John Bonaccorsi

Clark Hill announced today that **Blaine Lamperski** and **John Bonaccorsi** have joined its real estate team as Members. Lamperski and Bonaccorsi

Continued on page 11



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Bar Briefs (cont.)

Continued from page 10

are both based in the firm's Pittsburgh office. They serve clients from Fortune 100 companies and national real estate developers to local companies, developers, and family-owned businesses in matters involving acquisition, disposition, and leasing nationwide.

Eckert Seamans has welcomed three Members to its Commercial Litigation practice: **Ray F. Middleman**, **Amy J. Roy** and **Shane D. Valenzi**. Middleman focuses his practice on a diverse and broad range of litigation matters, including products liability cases, oil and gas disputes, non-competition suits, Municipal Tort Claim Act cases for local authorities and municipalities, common carrier cases, construction claims, and shareholder rights litigation, among other civil litigation matters. Roy concentrates her practice on food liability and product liability matters, representing manufacturers in the defense of product liability claims and in state and federal courts in national, regional, and local counsel roles. Valenzi focuses his practice on a wide range of commercial litigation matters, including fiduciary duty claims, oil and gas litigation, construction litigation, business divorce disputes, and intellectual property litigation.



W. Chad Pociernicki

The law firm of Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C. is pleased to announce **W. Chad Pociernicki**

has been elected as a Managing Shareholder and Director of the firm. He joins the other current Managing Shareholders & Directors, Eric Springer and Matt Jarrell, on the Management Committee. He has been with the firm since 2018, is Chair of the Estates and Trusts practice area, and a member of the Corporate Services, Technology Transitions, Litigation and Dispute Resolution and Tax practice areas.



Ian S. Michel

Tax, Corporate Services and Real Estate practice groups. His practice includes estate and trust planning and administration and related tax, business, family, and charitable trust and foundation issues. Michel also assists the tax, corporate and real estate practitioners with the resolution of issues.

On Feb. 6, 2024, Kraus Jenkins celebrated the completion of its first year in operation by welcoming attorneys **Edmund Olszewski**, **Holly DiCesare**, **Alexa Gervasi** and **Samuel Beaver** to the firm. Olszewski is a veteran trial lawyer focusing his practice on professional liability defense, toxic torts, and product liability. His environmental/toxic tort practice is national in scope and

The law firm of Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C. would like to welcome **Ian S. Michel**. Michel is an Associate with the firm and a member of the firm's Estates and Trusts,

includes trial defense of mass tort claims. DiCesare represents clients in both corporate transactions and litigation matters. Her extensive corporate transactional experience includes mergers and acquisitions, corporate formation, partnerships, business reorganization, divestments, and related financing agreements. Gervasi's practice focuses on civil rights and constitutional matters, as well as healthcare and criminal defense litigation. Gervasi comes to Kraus Jenkins from Georgetown Law, where she served as the Executive Director of the Georgetown Center for the

Constitution. Beaver represents clients in state and federal criminal trial matters, as well as civil matters involving healthcare. Before joining Kraus Jenkins, Beaver served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Office of District Attorney for Westmoreland County, where he handled hundreds of cases and numerous trials, working closely with government investigators.

Change in Status

Thomas Edward Weiers Jr. has been suspended from the practice of law.

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).

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Hon. Andrew F. Szefi (ret.) has joined Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C.’s Pittsburgh office to focus on alternative dispute resolution in federal and state courts, both in-person and remote.

Judge Szefi brings a fresh and current perspective to the dispute resolution process. During his tenure as a judge in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, he conciliated hundreds of civil cases and presided over both jury and non-jury trials.

Before serving on the bench, Judge Szefi held the position of Allegheny County solicitor for a decade and also worked in private practice, specializing in litigation, governmental practice, land use, and real estate.

Judge Szefi joins a team of 40 attorneys that has provided practical solutions to businesses, families, public entities, and nonprofit organizations for more than 65 years.

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