

# Monroe County Brief

Published for the Monroe County Bar Association  
March 1, 2008  
Volume 13 Issue 1

What do you get when you put 24 lawyers in a room?

## *President's Message*

**By Gerard J. Geiger, Monroe Bar Association President.**

I am proud to be writing to you today as president of the Monroe County Bar Association. While my path to the presidency was not the ordeal faced by the presidential candidates seeking a home in the White House, I am honored that the nominating committee selected me to head this distinguished organization. More importantly, no fights broke out when the voice vote was taken to install me to this post. While the idea of a contested presidential election in Monroe County may not be very believable, I was recently told by the Chancellor-elect of the Philadelphia Bar Association, the largest Bar in the country, that their elections are so heated, that fist-fights have broken out. Thanks for making my assumption of duties less painful.

I just had the opportunity to attend the Conference of County Bar Leaders (CCBL) in State College with members of our Executive Board. This was an opportunity to network with other Bar Leaders across Pennsylvania. I was amazed at the notoriety of our Bar Association, our Executive Director, Susan Kenny, and our past President, Tom Casale. When I introduced myself to other bar leaders as an officer of the Monroe County Bar, I had instant credibility. We should all be proud that the Monroe County Bar is well known and well respected by bar associations throughout Pennsylvania. Today, the Monroe County Bar has approximately 270 members and our 2008 budget for the Bar Association and the Legal Reporter is more than \$200,000. We are in great financial health and we look forward to paying off the Bar Building in the very near future. As a Bar Association, we are seen by many as a social organization to promote networking and collegiality between members of our Bar. While this is certainly an important function of our association, we have much more to offer. We all know about the problems relating to growth in Monroe County and their effects on not just the County's residents but on our Court system and our law practices. Many of our members have a direct role in dealing with these problems caused  
*Contd. On page 2*



## Monroe County Bar Foundation to restore Courthouse Bell Tower

This year in an effort to promote and enhance the image of the legal community, the Monroe County Bar Foundation is committed to a project that will restore the bell tower of the Monroe County Courthouse. The Monroe County Courthouse was built in 1890 and for many years, the bell tower overlooking courthouse square has been in disrepair and nonfunctional. Restoring the bell tower will enhance the image of the courthouse and contribute to the historical features of courthouse square. The Bar Foundation is asking for your help in asking for your donations and support in making the restorations of the bell tower possible. These donations, made to the Foundation, are tax deductible and will be earmarked for the Bell Tower Restoration. By restoring the bell tower to its original condition, the legal community will have given Monroe County back a vital piece of its legal history.

You can be a part of that history with your donation. Please make your check payable to the Monroe County Bar Foundation and note "Bell Tower Restoration" in the memo line.

Turn to page 3 for the first installment of the history of the Monroe County Courthouse.



# Membership Updates

## New Members:

Kim M. Diddio  
Attorney at Law  
17 North 6th Street  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
570-801-1336 Fax: 570-421-8757  
Email: kdiddio@diddiolaw.com

Keith J. Figured  
Merwine, Hanyon & Kaspszyk  
HC 89, Box 105, Route 940  
Pocono Summit, PA 18346  
570-839-8050 Fax: 570-839-6723  
Email: KJF1@poconolaw.com

Jason LaBar  
Public Defender's Office  
Monroe County Courthouse  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
570-517-3042

P. Patrick Morrissey, Jr.  
Attorney at Law  
1318 North Fifth Street  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
570-420-1991 Fax: 570-213-0528

Robert E. Patterson, III  
Attorney at Law  
135 Scotrun Drive  
Scotrun, PA 18355  
570-839-0414  
Email: yankswin@ptd.net

## Contact Info Changes

Kevin Hardy  
Attorney at Law  
134 Broad Street, P.O. Box 818  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
570-424-3312 570-424-3316  
Email: kevinahardy@verizon.net

Michael Ventrella  
Email: Michael.ventrella@gmail.com

Bill Watkins  
570-839-6493 Fax: 570-839-6436

Rebecca (Craggs ) Young  
King, Spry, Herman, Freund & Faul  
One West Broad St., Suite 700  
Bethlehem, PA 18018  
570-424-8031 Fax: 610-332-0314  
Email: ryoung@kingspry.com

## Lunch & Learn

The following upcoming Lunch and Learn Programs have been scheduled. To register, call the MCBA office.

### March 25, 2008 at Pocono Inne Town

MCBA Free Members Meeting and CLE.

*Luncheon* -- 12:00 Noon

*Business Meeting* -- Immediately following luncheon

*CLE Seminar:* 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

**Topic: "Pro Bono and Legal Assistance for Military Personnel: A Look at the New Desktop Reference Manual"**

**1 Ethics CLE Credit**

**Presenter: David K. Trevaskis, PBA Pro Bono Coordinator**

**ALSO Special Guest: PBA President Andrew F. Susko and Bylaw Change on Membership Dues**

### April 14, 2008 at the Bar Center.

Handling the Difficult Client

Presented by Samuel D. Miller, III

Early Bird Reg \$25.00

Late and Non Reg \$35.00

If you are interested in presenting a CLE program or have suggestions on topics which may be of interest to our membership, please do not hesitate to contact the MCBA office.

### President's Message, contd.

by accelerated growth. Monroe County attorneys hold positions as members of Zoning and Planning Boards, as directors of non-profit corporations and as solicitors to local government. We have a direct role in the management of this County. However, as a Bar Association, we can do more.

I would like for us to begin the process of putting in place a strategic plan for our Bar with an offer to County leaders and the bench to partner with them in dealing with growth. We now have six full-time judges on the bench and office space in the Courthouse is at a premium. When it is my time to retire, I fully expect that the system then in place will have changed more than it has changed since I first started practicing more than 20 years ago. Electronic filing and video-conferencing is likely to be commonplace. A family court located outside of the Courthouse has been discussed and a solution to our juvenile problem is necessary. We can be a part of those discussions and influence the future form of our system. As County leaders, we have an obligation to participate and lead those discussions. In so doing, we need to help our members deal with the changes in their practices that will necessarily occur.

Our foundation recently solicited you for donations to renovate the Courthouse Bell Tower. This is a symbolic acknowledgement of the appreciation we have for the history of the County and our Court. It is now our time to influence its future history. At the CCBL conference I attended, one of the speakers began his presentation with a lawyer joke. He asked, "What do you get when you put 24 lawyers in a room?" His answer: "The Declaration of Independence."

First, it was nice to hear a lawyer joke for a change that was positive about lawyers. Second, it sets the tone for demonstrating that when we act together, we can affect positive changes in our County. What better way to paint a positive image of lawyers. I hope you will all join with me and with your Bar Association in beginning this important process in planning for the County's future.

--Jerry Geiger



## Membership Updates, cont.

William B. Cramer  
Email: wrcramer@csmlawyer.com

James A. Swetz  
Email: jaswetz@csmlawyer.com

Timothy J. McManus  
Email: tmcmanus@csmlawyer.com

Jeffrey L. Wright  
Email: jwright@csmlawyer.com

Todd W. Weitzmann  
Email: tweitmann@csmlawyer.com

Gretchen Marsh Weitzmann  
Email: gweitmann@csmlawyer.com

Michael E. McHale  
Email: mmchale@csmlawyer.com

Deborah L. Huffman  
Email: dhuffman@csmlawyer.com

Be sure to check the members information area of the MCBA website for up to date member contact information. It is updated daily!!

## On a personal note..

### Congratulations to-

**Greg and Mary Kay Malaska** on the birth of Baby Girl Maura Katherine, born on January 15, 2008 and weighing in at 7lbs, 8 oz.

**Lou Powlette** on the birth of his grandson, David Craft, born December 2007.

**Graig and Helen Corveleyn** on the birth of Baby Girl Grace Elisabeth, born on November 6, 2007

**Tom Casale** on his recent marriage.

**Andy Worthington**, recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Award.

### Condolences to-

**George Westervelt** on the loss of his mother.

**David Martino** on the loss of his father.

**Zac Christman** on the loss of his father.

## Upcoming PBI CLE Programs

To register call the Pennsylvania Bar Institute at 800-937-4637

### Wednesday, March 5, 2008

#### School Law

4 hours substantive/0 hour ethics  
9:00 am to 1:15 pm Reg at 8:30 am  
Members \$224/Nons \$244

### Thursday, March 6, 2008

#### Tax Consequences in Family Law: Avoiding the Pitfalls

5 hours substantive/1 hour ethics  
9:00 am to 5:00 pm Reg at 8:45 am  
Members \$129/Nons \$149

### Friday, March 7, 2008

#### The Mortgage Crisis

2 hours substantive/0 hour ethics  
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Reg at 11:45 am  
All Registrant \$134

### Wednesday, March 12, 2008-Satellite via the internet

#### 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Civil Litigation Update

5 hours substantive/1 hour ethics  
9:00 am to 4:45 pm Reg at 8:15 am  
Members \$244/Nons \$264

### Friday, March 14, 2008-Replay of group-cast cancelled due to weather

**Trials! Tips, Tactics & Practical Tales**  
5 hours substantive/1 hour ethics  
(integrated throughout the program)  
8:30am to 3:30 pm Reg at 8:15 am  
Members \$314/Nons \$334

### Wednesday, March 19, 2008

#### Intersection of Divorce and Bankruptcy

2 hours substantive/1 hour ethics  
9:00 pm to 12:30 pm Reg at 8:45 am  
Members \$119/ Nons \$139

### Wednesday, March 26, 2008-Groupcast

#### Commercial Documents Series 2008-Acquisition Agreements

2 hours substantive/0 hour ethics  
12:30 pm to 2:30 pm-Lunch served at 12:00 pm  
Reg at 11:45 am  
All Registrants \$99.00

### Tuesday, April 1, 2008

#### PBA Professionalism Committee Update

0 hours substantive/1 hour ethics  
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm Reg at 11:45 am  
Members \$39/Nons \$49

### Wednesday, April 2, 2008-Groupcast

#### Trial Evidence: Artistry & Advocacy in the Courtroom

6 hours substantive/0 hour ethics  
8:30 am to 3:30 pm Reg at 8:00 am  
Members \$314/Nons \$334

### Thursday, April 3, 2008

#### How to Win Your First (or next) Civil Jury Trial

6 hours substantive/0 hours ethics  
9:00 am to 5:00 pm Reg at 8:45 am  
Members \$169/Nons \$189

### Wednesday, April 9, 2008

#### Handling the Workers' Comp Case

5 hours substantive/1 hour ethics  
9:00 pm to 5:00 pm Reg at 8:45 am  
Members \$129/Nons \$149

### Tuesday, April 15, 2008-Groupcast

**The New Reality of Business: The Lawyer's Active Role in the Transformation of the Corporation**

6 hours substantive/0 hour ethics  
8:30 pm to 3:30 pm Reg at 8:15 am  
Members \$314/Nons \$334

### Wednesday, April 16, 2008-Groupcast

#### Internet Law Update

5 hours substantive/1 hour ethics  
8:30 pm to 4:30 pm Reg at 8:45 am  
Members \$254/Nons \$274

### Monday, April 21, 2008

#### Ethics Jeopardy

0 hours substantive/1 hour ethics  
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm Reg at 11:45 am  
Members \$39/Nons \$49

The Monroe County Courthouse-A History  
 By John C. Appel, Professor of History,  
 East Stroudsburg State College  
 An Address to the Monroe County Museum Association  
 Friday, October 2, 1981

Monroe County was created and organized in 1836. It was the 53<sup>rd</sup> county out of 67 to be created by this Commonwealth. A movement to that end had begun five years earlier. The State legislature created the county on April 1, 1836, requiring that the county government be organized and operational by the end of that year. An election of the first county officers would take place in the fall; but in the meantime an important question had to do with the location of a county seat for the government. Three communities bid for the honor: Kellersville, Dutotsburg (Delaware Water Gap), and Stroudsburg. A vigorous group of Stroudsburg's advocates, including Daniel Stroud, his nephew Stroud J. Hollinshead, and Stogdell Stokes, promised to donate the land and build the essential county buildings without cost to the county. Kellersville landowners made a similar offer of land. It required two public polls to determine a winner. The first vote, taken on July 6, 1836, eliminated Dutotsburg. In the second balloting on July 26, Stroudsburg won over Kellersville 1132-1062. Each side charged the other with stuffing the ballot box. A trial on fraud charges was conducted in the Pike County courts. The judges quashed the indictments, allowing the Stroudsburg victory to stand.

Stroud J. Hollinshead, a grandson of Jacob Stroud donated to the county a plot of land for its public buildings. The property was 165 feet long, parallel to Elizabeth Street (Main Street) and 133 feet wide, embracing the present courthouse square, and ground occupied by the jail and assessor's building. Daniel Stroud, a son of Jacob Stroud, joined five other citizens in posting a \$10,000 bond to guarantee the erection of the public buildings at no cost to the taxpayer. They proposed to construct a courthouse, an office building, and a jail, or some combination of facilities into one or two structures. The interim trustees (commissioners) accepted their offer to erect three buildings. The courthouse was a two-story fireproof structure of brick and stone, 50' x 30'. A cupola with a bell mounted therein was located in the middle of the roof. The County House for offices (present assessor's building) and a jail 30' x 26' completed the county seat.

While the courthouse was under construction, the court did its business in the second floor rooms of Edward H. Walton's house across the street from Stroud Hollinshead's hotel, the Stroudsburg House. The court crier John W. Burnett opened the first court session there on December 19, 1836. The presiding judge was the Honorable David Scott of the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. (His associates were Jacob Brown and John T. Bell.) The first case on the docket was a civil suit by John Murphy against Jacob Goer, Sr. It never came to trial because the attorneys worked out an out-of-court settlement.

Two of the succeeding presiding judges left their names on the map of this growing county: Nathaniel Eldred, 1849-1853; George R. Barrett, 1855-1870. In the fall elections of 1836 the voters chose the first commissioners of Monroe County: Henry Fenner, Joseph Track and Jacob Shoemaker. The county enlarged its property in 1860 when the commissioners bought from the borough council the adjoining brick pave-

ments for \$61.25. The first major change in the county facilities was the construction of a new jail in 1875 on the site of the old jail. Commissioner Peter Edinger supervised the project in July and August. The principal contractors were Simon Barry (stone), Stewart Shook and Samuel Shively (brick) and G.W. Drake (slate).

In the 1880's it became apparent that the courthouse was no longer adequate for the political and social activities of the county. When talk of a new building circulated, a movement developed to relocate the county-seat in East Stroudsburg. There were persuasive arguments set forth. A contest was initiated to change the name of East Stroudsburg to establish a unique identity; and the name "Dreher" was the winner. But as you know the new courthouse was built in Stroudsburg and the old courthouse was reassembled in East Stroudsburg.

On April 5, 1889, the Board of Commissioners purchased land on which to erect a new courthouse. It was a vacant lot 106 ¾ x 75' behind the old court house at the northeast corner of Monroe and Franklin (7<sup>th</sup>) Streets. The commissioners paid Mr. and Mrs. Amandus O. Greenwald \$2500 for the lot; and then added a strip 15' wide on the east side. They paid Jacob K. Shafer \$950 for this land with the requirement that Shafer put up a fence along with the boundary with materials furnished by the County. The Board of Commissioners at this time consisted of Jerome Frantz, John Palmer and Jonas Snyder. They consulted with the President Judge, Samuel S. Dreher, then and through the courthouse construction. Judge Dreher, the first native Monroe Countian to hold that position, had been elected in 1870 and twice reelected.

On July 2, 1889, the Commissioners contracted with the Stroudsburg construction firm of R. Shiffer and Sons to do the building for \$55,000. The architects were T.I. Lacey and Son of Binghamton, New York. They had already drawn "full and complete plans for a new court house" for a fee of \$850. In the planning process, the Commissioners and architects had viewed other court houses including one in Woodbury, New Jersey, and the ten-year old Lackawanna County courthouse in Scranton. They finally decided to build with sandstone from the Nicholson, Lackawanna County, quarries, and that county had done.

Next time-construction begins on the Monroe County Courthouse.

**4th Annual Spring Swing  
 Great Bear Golf And Country Club**

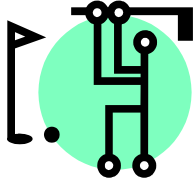
3 CLE Credits

"Will Preparation and Estate Planning for Dummies"  
 "Updates in Family Law"

Auditing both sessions -\$50: no CLE credits, includes continental breakfast & deli style lunch  
 Young Lawyers (YLD) & Law Clerks-\$50: includes 3 CLE ethics credits, continental breakfast, and deli style lunch.

Standard Registration-\$80-includes 3 CLE ethics credits, continental breakfast, and deli style lunch  
 Add 18 holes of golf, cart and green fees, at Great Bear Golf Course designed by Jack Nicklaus for an additional \$77.00

For more information or directions, please contact the Monroe County Bar Association at 570.424.7288.



The Monroe County Bar Association presents

“The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Swing”

A Day of Continuing Legal Education and Golf at Great Bear Golf & Country Club  
East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Session #1

“Will Preparation and Estate Practice for Dummies”

Presented by Alex L. Bensinger, Esquire  
Bensinger & Weekes, P.C.

Session #2

“Updates in Family Law”

Presented by the Family Law Section of the Pennsylvania Bar Association

SCHEDULE

CLE – Registration and continental breakfast begins at 8:00 am.  
Program begins at 9:00am until 12:15pm. Deli Style Lunch 12:15pm.  
GOLF - Tee times begin at 1:00 pm.

Costs:

- \*Auditing both sessions - \$50: no CLE credits, includes continental breakfast & deli style lunch
- \*Young Lawyers (YLD) & Law Clerks- \$50: includes 3 CLE ethics credits, continental breakfast, and deli style lunch.
- \*Standard Registration- \$80- includes 3 CLE ethics credits, continental breakfast, and deli style lunch  
Add 18 holes of golf, cart and green fees, at  
Great Bear Golf Course designed by Jack Nicklaus for an additional \$77.00

For more information or directions, please contact the Monroe County Bar Association at 570.424.7288.

.....  
Complete and return this form to: MCBA, 913 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Attorney ID# \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
# \_\_\_\_\_

\$50.00-Auditing Sessions No CLE credits \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 YLD/Law Clerk CLE only  
\_\_\_\_\_

\$80.00-Standard Registration CLE only \_\_\_\_\_ \$77.00 Golf at Great Bear \_\_\_\_\_  
(Total \$157.00- for CLE and Golf)

Additional information for golf:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Make checks payable to the Monroe County Bar Association. Reservation deadline: May 1, 2008

## Upcoming Events

March Member Meeting-Tuesday, March 25, 2008

Pocono Inne Town (570) 421-2200  
700 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Luncheon -- 12:00 Noon  
Business Meeting -- Immediately following luncheon

CLE Seminar: 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM  
Topic: *"Pro Bono and Legal Assistance for Military Personnel:  
A Look at the New Desktop Reference Manual"*  
Ethics CLE Credit  
(You must be present for the entire hour to receive credit)  
Presenter: David K. Trevaskis, PBA Pro Bono Coordinator

ALSO Special Guest: PBA President Andrew F. Susko  
Bylaw Change on Membership Dues

Free to all members current in their 2008 dues

\*\*\*\*\*

*The Monroe County Bar Association  
cordially invites you to attend*

*an Anniversary Celebration for:*

*Bernard M. Billick  
Harry F. Lee  
James F. Marsh  
Samuel W. Newman  
Robert G. Williamson*

*Friday, April 18, 2008  
at*

*The Shawnee Inn and Conference Center  
Shawnee on the Delaware, PA*

*Cocktail Hour: 6:30 pm*

*Dinner: 7:30 pm*

*Dinner*

*(Choice of one entrée)*

*Roast Prime Rib of Beef with Horseradish and Rosemary Au Jus  
American Red Snapper with Potato-Horseradish Crust  
Vegetarian -upon request*

*Price: \$35.00 per person  
(YLD \$17.50 per person)*

*RSVP: April 9, 2008*

Call the MCBA office at 424-7288 for more information or to register for these events

Statewide Mock Trial Competition  
February 25-28, 2008

The MCBA would like to thank the following attorneys and judges who volunteered their time on the Mock Trial Committee, advising students or who acted as judges/scorekeepers during the Mock Trial:

Chandra Bleice  
Daniel Corveleyn  
Diane Dagger  
John Dewitsky  
Michelle Farley  
Tim Fisher II  
Gerard Geiger  
Dave Gordon  
Kevin Hardy  
C. Daniel Higgins, Jr.  
Steve Higgins  
Paul Kramer  
T. Axel Jones  
Jason LaBar  
Don Leeth  
Jason Leon  
Susan Lyons

Michael Mancuso  
Judge Jon Mark  
Chad Martinez  
Robert Maskrey  
Mark Matthews  
Carolyn Moser  
MDJ Mike Muth  
Brandon Reish  
C. William Shilling  
Lola Swaby  
Richard Tomsho  
Mike Ventrella  
Todd Weitzmann  
Ysabel Williams  
Dave Williamson  
Alan Young  
Judge Art Zulick

**Look for new changes on the  
Monroe County Bar Association website.  
New look. New layout. Easier Navigation. Online Lawyer Referral. [www.monroebar.org](http://www.monroebar.org)**

Monroe County Bar Association  
913 Main Street  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360