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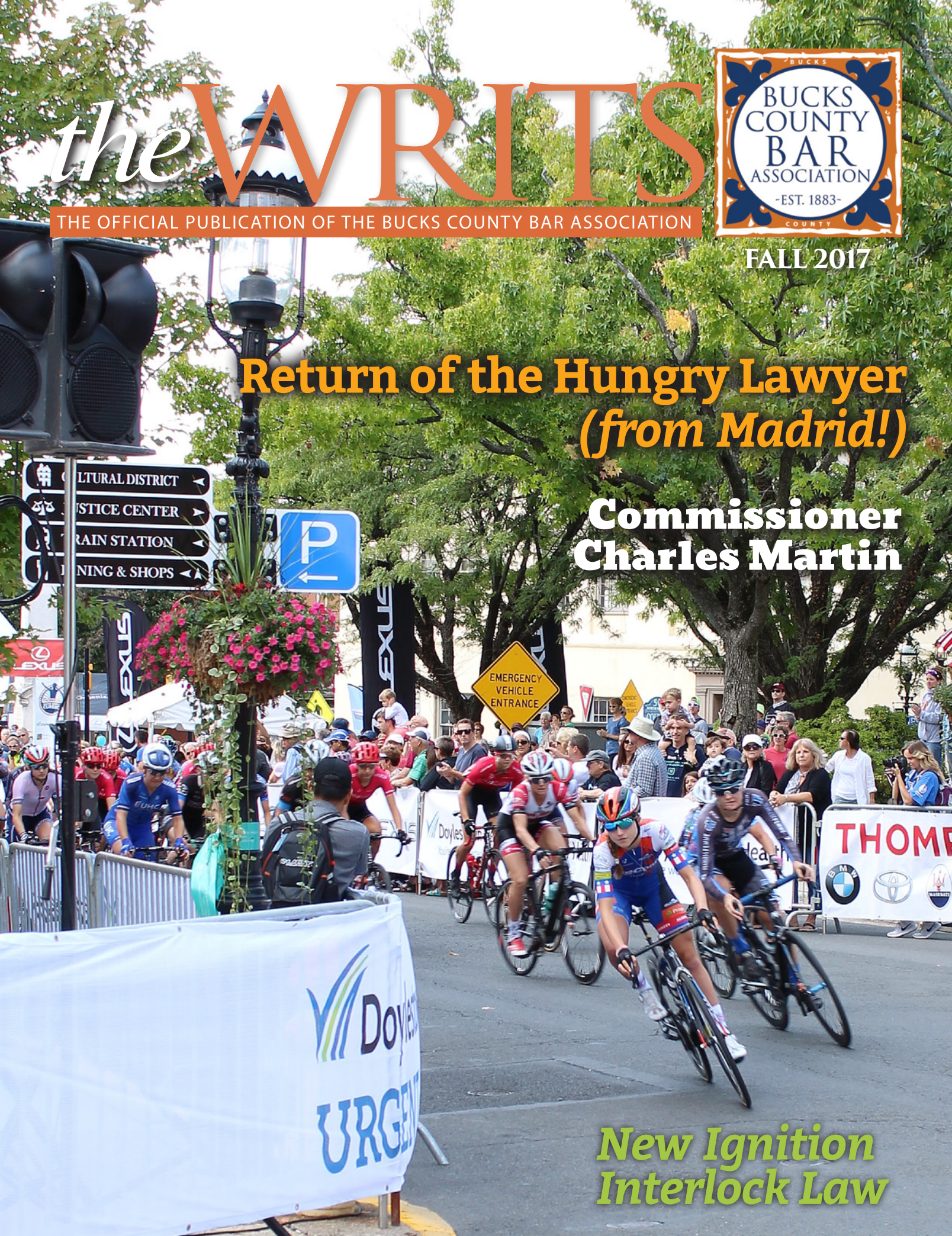
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BUCKS COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



FALL 2017

Return of the Hungry Lawyer (from Madrid!)

**Commissioner
Charles Martin**



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Reading, PA 19608

610.685.0914 x201

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ON THE COVER: **The Bucks County Classic (100 km) races through Doylestown, 9/10/17**

COVER PHOTO: Dylan Gilheany

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David Truelove
Bucks County Bar
Association President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear BCBA Members:

On October 2, 2017, The Honorable Cynthia M. Rufe, U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of PA, presided over the Naturalization Ceremony held at Pearl S. Buck International, in Perkasié, at which 34 people from 17 different countries were sworn in as U.S. citizens. The ceremony was emotional,

and a reminder of the promise this great nation has for so many around the world. Judge Rufe, Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick, and Pearl Buck Center Executive Director Janet Mintzer all issued prepared remarks. In my capacity as the President of the Bucks County Bar Association, I was pleased to offer the following speech.



You are about to become part of “The American Story” — a narrative with a beginning, somewhere four centuries ago, but a story with no definitive ending. It is an evolving, changing, fascinating story — one of struggle, hope, determination, accomplishment, optimism.

II. The American Story

You are about to become part of “The American Story” — a narrative with a beginning, somewhere four centuries ago, but a story with no definitive ending. It is an evolving, changing, fascinating story — one of struggle, hope, determination, accomplishment, optimism. Its authors are the millions of Americans who have come before us, those present in our country today, and our children, and our children's children.

The story has many heroes, from all ages and walks of life. The “prose,” as it were, of this story, are the legal documents that form the foundation of our society — most notably, the Constitution, which to many, including me, is a “living document,” about which Thomas Jefferson stated: “...Laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths disclosed, and manners and opinions change with the circumstances, institutions must advance also, and keep pace with the times...”

As lawyers we struggle with balancing the text of the document, with the ever-changing challenges of technologies, inventions, and ideas. We work in the laws and statutes each day, part of the story that is necessary, providing order, balance and, we hope, at times, direction.



The Pearl S. Buck House, Perkasié

I. Intro/Thanks

May It Please the Court, Honored and Distinguished Guests. Welcome to this wonderful and significant event. Welcome, as well, to our brothers and sisters, citizens (to be).

As the President of the Bucks County Bar Association, I am honored to represent that organization of lawyers in greeting all of you, and participating today. It is appropriate that we are here at Pearl Buck's home, the place where she welcomed many from far-away lands, providing refuge and hope to those who stayed.



The “poetry” of the American Story is made up of the new dynamic of the contributions of all to our society — businesspeople, artists, inventors, writers, musicians. What it means to be an “American” is also changing — a fascinating tapestry that changes its hue and weave, but always remains the envy of the rest of the world, despite our own admitted shortcomings.

We are that envy because of the contributions of citizens — old and new. Emma Lazarus’ sonnet “The New

So, what will be your contribution to this American Story? While it may not seem significant — don’t ever underestimate how you, your children, will become part of this wonderful story.

Colossus” is engraved in part on the Statue of Liberty, stating: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, the tempest-tost, to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door.” That phrase is still noteworthy and relevant.

While many of us don’t claim ancestor entry through Ellis Island, nearly all of us descended from immigrants, unless Native American. All contribute to this story. In my personal case, a rather typical narrative: arriving in America before 1700, my family settled first in the South, some here in Pennsylvania, then moved to Indiana, tilling the soil as farmers, my grandfather being the first to go to college. It is the familiar “salt of the earth” story — one which is not remarkable, but which traces at various points the common heritage of many. My wife, my best friend, presents a different narrative: born in Torino, Italy, she was adopted

at sixteen months, coming to this country to new parents, to new opportunities. One would never say that I was “more American” than she, merely due to generational longevity or because of the homeland of my ancestors. Her love and devotion to this country and its ideals are no less fervent or genuine than mine. And her contributions to her community and family further reflect this.

III. Conclusion

So, what will be your contribution to this American Story? While it may not seem significant — don’t ever underestimate how you, your children, will become part of this wonderful story. Who knew that Steve Chen, originally from Taiwan, and Jawed Karim, from Germany, would create YouTube after arriving in the U.S.? Or that Israel Baline, from Russia, would become Irving Berlin, who wrote the classic “God Bless America”?

One doesn’t need to be a famous inventor or entertainer to contribute to this American Story. The American Story is one of promise and, eventually, acceptance, encouragement, and opportunity. It is perhaps best expressed by former President Ronald Reagan:

“I received a letter just before I left office from a man. I don’t know why he chose to write it, but I’m glad he did. He wrote that you can go to live in France, but you can’t become a Frenchman. You can go to live in Germany or Italy, but you can’t become a German, an Italian. He went through Turkey, Greece, Japan, and other countries. But, he said anyone, from any corner of the world, can come to live in the United States and become an American.”

Welcome to our story. It is now your story. Write your chapter. We look forward to reading and sharing it.

Thank you. 🖊️

From the Editor...



A Rite of Passage

Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans.

(John Lennon, "Beautiful Boy")

Time does have a way of moving forward. Sometimes sideways, but inevitably, forward. As lawyers, we are often involved in the life cycle events of our

clients. They marry (and divorce); they have children; they get hired and fired; they plan for retirement. We can provide beneficial legal services each step of the way. We sometimes draw on our own experiences with these events and through a combination of empathy and legal know-how, we give value to our clients. We know that it is usually easier to give advice than to follow — and it pays better too!

I recently experienced a life cycle event of my own. The boy born to suburban parents in the last millennium, a month after Columbine and two years before 9/11, has somehow grown and started college. As parents, our role is somewhat narrowly focused for those intervening eighteen or so years: teach, support, encourage, set a good example, and of course, save up money for college! Create an environment for his success, while allowing him to experience failure. In a whirlwind of time, teaching my son to ride a bike gave way to teaching him how to drive a car. One day, I could barely fit my fingers in his little league glove, so when exactly was it that he became taller than me?

Over the years, my advice on so many topics seemed to be ignored. Procrastination was a way of life. I nagged — yeech! Have I really become *that* guy? Yet, SATs were prepped for and taken. College applications were somehow completed (one on the last possible day). Decisions came in: some positive, some negative, and of course, one on the dreaded wait list.

So eighteen years of well-intentioned but sometimes flawed parenting somehow culminates in boarding an early morning August flight to Phoenix, Arizona. Three of us would fly west; only two would return. My son had enrolled in the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism in the downtown Phoenix campus of Arizona State University, majoring in Sports Journalism. Although it is quite a mouthful, each syllable is important. You can not leave



Over the years, my advice on so many topics seemed to be ignored. Procrastination was a way of life. I nagged — yeech! Have I really become *that* guy?

out the Cronkite name any more than the name of the University, nor its unique location in a growing urban hub (which recently surpassed Philadelphia as the fifth most populous city). And the sports part; well, that indeed was the ticket! The move itself was akin to a military operation: certain items were shipped ahead of time, two suitcases of mostly warm weather clothes came with, and Bed Bath and Beyond and Target would supply the rest. We had planned well and were excited.

Then the reality. Our flight was delayed. One of my son's suitcases was lost by the airline! Forms were filled out as time was wasting. Finally stepping outside the airport, the 107 degree heat smacked us in the heads. Undeterred, we claimed our rental car and set off. We opened a bank account, obtained his school ID and headed off to the shopping areas. Our rental car was soon stuffed to the gills with our belongings and essential purchases. We finally sat down for a late lunch, but with the time difference, it felt like dinner time and we were already spent. A few errands later, we checked in to our hotel and a well-deserved shower. One of Dad's final pieces of parental advice paid off: my son had fortunately packed a change of clothes in our suitcase.

The tide soon turned. Just as we were dozing off to sleep, the front desk called to inform us that the missing suitcase had been delivered. Ahhh, sleep. Our alarms sounded at first light, yet our scheduled six in the morning move-in time seemed ideal. We were up and about prior to the desert heat and ahead of the crowds. A well organized and surprisingly peppy group of upperclassmen assisted the



Introducing Jennifer Pierce as LASP's New Pro Bono Coordinator



The pro bono community welcomes Jennifer Pierce as Legal Aid of Southeastern PA's new Bucks County Pro Bono Coordinator. As a LASP staff attorney for almost three years, Jennifer practices family law out of LASP's Doylestown office. Her main focus is representing parents in Juvenile Court dependency matters. Jennifer

also manages the custody clinics that are located in LASP's Doylestown and Bristol offices and advises walk-in clients seeking Protection from Abuse orders.

"I am so excited to work with the pro bono community in Bucks County," Pierce said. "There's been an established tradition here of attorneys volunteering their valuable time to meet the civil legal needs of our most vulnerable neighbors. I've witnessed first-hand the positive impact

our pro bono attorneys have on the situations of our clients. We're lucky to have so many attorneys who continually volunteer their time year after year. If it weren't for our volunteers, Legal Aid would not be in a position to help many of our clients. I look forward to partnering with new and tenured attorneys to continue to build the pro bono community in Bucks County."

Pierce is a member of the Bucks County chapter of the American Inns of Court and sits on the advisory committee of the Bucks County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division. Jennifer is a Temple Law graduate and attended Bucknell University, where she was captain of the track and field team. She enjoys running in her spare time and completed the Boston Marathon in 2016. She recently got married and lives with her husband, Andy, and dog, Charlie.

To learn more about pro bono opportunities in Bucks County, Ms. Pierce can be reached at jpierce@lasp.org or 215-340-1818 x205.

The excitement and exhaustion soon ebbed, allowing room for a little apprehension to creep in. Sure, we can help make his bed and hang posters, but soon we will be gone and he remains.

newbies. We were soon fourteen stories up in a freshman dorm tower, unpacking and organizing. And, of course, we made one more final trip to Target.

The excitement and exhaustion soon ebbed, allowing room for a little apprehension to creep in. Sure, we can help make his bed and hang posters, but soon we will be gone and he remains. How will he manage his time without us? Will he make good decisions? Will he make friends? Will he survive this unbearable heat!?!

The final step was orientation. The students were ushered into the "First Amendment Forum" while the parents were separated to an event space three floors up. The Dads looked stoic; the Mothers looked pale; the younger siblings looks bored. Nervous laughter was heard. Emotions were

about to bubble to the surface as the Dean began his remarks. He spoke confidently and hit all the right notes. The incoming class of 251 journalism students was the first to have more attending from out of state than in state. The facilities are state of the art. Internship opportunities abound. The questions the students asked him downstairs proved that they were the best freshman class he's ever had and were destined for great things. After a rousing applause — which seemed like an emotional release — we heard from the "Director of Student Success" (yes, that what it says on her business card!), and she further put us at ease.

It seemed like we had made more good decisions than bad, and the future indeed looked promising.

And that's the way it is. 🍷

—*Scott L. Feldman*

We Welcome Your Feedback!

Thanks for your interest in *theWRITS*. Please send all comments, questions, submissions to: WritsEditor@BucksBar.org.



A Goodbye and Sincere Thanks

TRINA BECKER

It is with excitement for the next chapter in my life, but also some sadness, that I will soon be ending my career at the Bucks County Bar Association. On January 3, 2018, towards the end of the day, I will answer the Lawyer Referral phone for the last time.

I mostly know those attorneys in the Bar Association who have been members of the Bucks County Bar Association's Lawyer Referral and Information Service. Before my time here comes to an end, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank the Bar Association, as well as a number of you, for the opportunity and privilege to have worked at the Bar Association since July 9, 2001.

It truly has been a pleasure working for the Bar Association. For my first fifteen years working here as the Director of the Lawyer Referral and Information Service, I am proud to have been an integral part of changing, building and improving this arm of the Bucks County Bar Association. For the past two years, I am thankful to have had the opportunity to ease my way into retirement, working part time just three days a week.

For those of you who are not that familiar with the Lawyer Referral and Information Service, the LRIS generally receives about 5,000 calls in a year. This means for the last sixteen plus years that I've been answering the Lawyer Referral phone, there have been approximately 80,000 calls!! I, of course, didn't handle all those calls myself, but I did handle many,



For those of you who are not that familiar with the Lawyer Referral and Information Service, the LRIS generally receives about 5,000 calls in a year. This means for the last sixteen plus years that I've been answering the Lawyer Referral phone, there have been approximately 80,000 calls!

many, many of them. While a lot of my focus was always to maximize profits for the LRIS arm of the BCBA, another very important aspect of my LRIS job was to serve those clients well. I hope my legacy shows I was successful in meeting both those goals.

The position could sometimes be stressful, day after day dealing with difficult issues and clients. However, more often than not, it has been a very fulfilling and satisfying job. Quite often, there were clients who touched my heart with their sad stories. Being able to help these individuals find an avenue to help solve their legal issues has always given me a tremendous sense of accomplishment throughout my career at the Bucks County Bar Association.

I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to all of the BCBA attorneys who have been members of the LRIS during my tenure. It has been a pleasure working with all of you, some of whom have been members for as long as I've worked here! I would also like to thank all the attorneys who have served on the Lawyer Referral and Information Service Committee. I have been very appreciative of the generosity of your time, efforts and wisdom to help make the LRIS what it is today.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to particularly thank Chris Serpico, Scott Feldman, Adrian Meyers and

Barbara Kirk who, year after year, have given me their support while serving on the LRIS Committee and *almost never* missing one of our Committee Meetings. Also, a thank you to Greg McCarthy, whose efforts contributed to getting the LRIS Committee votes needed to increase the LRIS Remittance Fee formula (a feat I had been trying to accomplish for a number of years, but hadn't been successful). *My sincere thanks to each of them.*

Likewise, I would like to thank all of the many staff members whom I have worked with at the Bar Association over the years. I have always been impressed with the work ethic of my co-workers, no matter what the circumstances. I am thankful to have known and worked with them. Some closer friends than others, but all contributed in one way or another to each chapter and memory of my working life at the Bar Association.

Likewise, I would like to thank all of the many staff members whom I have worked with at the Bar Association over the years. I have always been impressed with the work ethic of my co-workers, no matter what the circumstances.

On a personal note, as I've thought about the years that I have worked at the Bar Association, I realized these years coincided with some of the most memorable and happiest moments of my personal life. During my time at the Bar Association, I had the pleasure of seeing each of my three children, David, Brian and Lisa, get married and attend their beautiful weddings. Since then, I have been truly blessed with eight wonderful grandchildren — Alexandra, Lucas, Colston, Grayson, Logan, Jack, Sara and Hayden. Today they are ages 2 through 11 years old. Each and every one of them is such a *special* gift!

It truly has been a privilege to work for the Bucks County Bar Association. During my time here, I have always worked hard to do my best to make the Lawyer Referral Service a successful arm of the Bucks County Bar Association. It is my sincere hope that I have accomplished this.

Thank you for the opportunity. 🐦

“THAT THE POWER TO TAX INVOLVES THE POWER TO DESTROY...(IS) NOT TO BE DENIED”

JUSTICE JOHN MARSHALL
MCCULLOCH VS. MARYLAND, 1819



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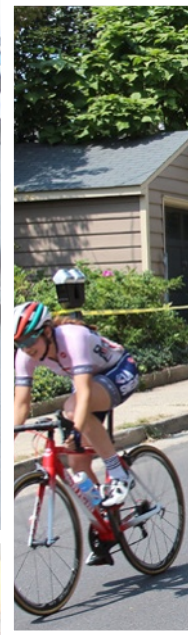
Persons identified as needing legal representation and who do not claim inability to pay an attorney will be referred by LRIS to a participating attorney. LRIS participation is open to all Bucks County Bar Association members having their primary office in Bucks County.

You can contact
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GONE TO THE “DOGS!”

— By Thomas P. Donnelly, Esquire

I have a great dog. Her name is Scarlett. Scarlett likes to hold hands. She sits at attention, paw extended, with anyone who is willing to so much as acknowledge her presence. She has penetratingly dark eyes that still say puppy despite her K-9 adolescence. She regularly rolls over and throws herself in your path lest you walk by without a rub of her belly. She is the definition of sweet and embodies everything we love about pets. Scarlett is a Roxy Therapy Dog and one of thirty-six trained and certified members of the Courthouse team providing comfort to children facing the stress of legal proceedings in the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas.

Scientists have not been able to explain the connection between animals and stress management, but have repeatedly confirmed it exists. Most recently, a 2017 study conducted by researchers from the University of Florida concluded that dogs provide valuable social support for kids who are in stressful situations. The relationship between dogs and a child's ability to focus on tasks is well documented. Dog admirers know even without scientists that the wag of a tail is an entré to a meaningful and fulfilling, even if short term, relationship.



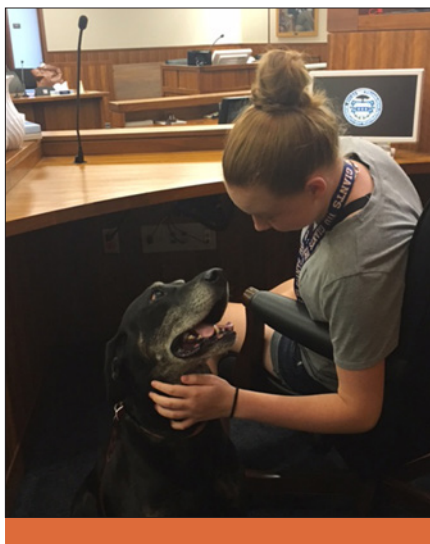
More than seven years ago, Judge Mellon became aware of courthouse therapy dog programs in other jurisdictions and solicited the Roxy Therapy Dog organization to broaden its service to the community and extend its existing reading program to the Courthouse. Roxy Therapy Dogs is a local nonprofit providing support and comfort to children in Bucks County through interaction with trained therapy dogs and their volunteer companions. His Honor regards the program as a tremendous success. He believes the program brings incredible value to the public, the court system and to the administration of matters before the Court. Judge Mellon clearly sees the impact of the dogs in Dependency Court where children are often required by circumstance to relive some of the worst times of their lives, and testify about the very reasons why they may be separated from family. His Honor recently relayed to me at the Bench Bar Conference that “the dogs bring stability and calm to an

otherwise very stressful situation.” They change the atmosphere of the courthouse and can even help the parties to interact with each other with greater civility. The impact of the dogs is readily apparent and infectious such that the courthouse staff regularly make special visits to the dogs and their volunteer handlers when they are in service.



Certainly, children are the focus of all of the Roxy Therapy Dog programs. Roxy Therapy Dogs as an organization not only provides trained, certified, non-threatening and friendly animals of character, but they also provide other distractions from the trauma of court proceedings as well. There is a designated safe space in the Justice Center where children can read or play under the kind and watchful eye of a therapy dog which helps manage the stress of waiting (which we, as lawyers, can attest adds to the tension). Children are also presented with their very own stuffed therapy dog to hold in court and take home.

As a member of the Bucks County Bar Association and the "father" of a therapy dog, I am proud to announce a new joint program between the Orphan's Court Section and Roxy Therapy Dogs. Dependency Court, where therapy dogs are frequent visitors, falls under the



"The dogs bring stability and calm to an otherwise very stressful situation. They change the atmosphere of the courthouse and can even help the parties to interact with each other with greater civility. "

Bucks County Court of Common Pleas Orphan's Court jurisdiction. On October 10, 2017, the Orphan's Court Section of the Bar Association voted to assist Roxy in designing and acquiring K-9 coloring books and crayons for distribution to children during courthouse visits. Both the coloring books and crayons will be custom printed and emblazoned with the logos of both Roxy Therapy Dogs and the Bucks County Bar Association.

So if you see a Roxy Therapy Dog wearing the orange vest or bandana in the Courthouse, stop by and give the four-legged public servant a pat on the head and a scratch behind the ear. Don't forget to thank the volunteer handlers for their public service as well.

More information about the Roxy Therapy Dogs, their service to the community and the courthouse program can be found at www.Roxytherapydogs.org. 🐾

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Pennsylvania's New Ignition Interlock Law

How to Continue Driving Legally After a DUI

— By —
*Theresa Martin
Golding*

AS THE HOLIDAYS APPROACH, the alcohol will be flowing at office events and family gatherings alike. Many happy revelers will then get behind the wheels of their cars and drive while legally intoxicated. Some of them may later show up in your office after their arrest, hopefully chastised, but certainly concerned about the possible loss of their driver's license with all the attendant worries of how they will get to and from work or pick up the kids after basketball practice.

An ignition interlock may be the answer to soothe your client's concerns. The interlock is a device that, once installed, prevents the operation of a vehicle if the driver's breath indicates a blood alcohol concentration above the threshold limit of .025%. The use of ignition interlocks, while not widespread, is growing in popularity. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, while

installed, interlocks reduce drunk-driving recidivism by a median of 67 percent. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that, in 2015, 10,265 people died in drunk-driving related crashes, representing nearly one-third of all traffic fatalities in the United States. Pursuant to the CDC, one effective measure for reducing impaired driving deaths is the use of ignition interlocks.

Pennsylvania's new ignition interlock law became effective on August 25, 2017 and permits more offenders to participate in the ignition interlock program. Under this program, eligible participants, rather than totally losing their ability to drive during a suspension period, pay to have an interlock system installed in their vehicle. The cost is approximately \$1,000 per vehicle per year. PennDOT provides a list of approved vendors for such installation. An offender who complies with the law's requirements receives a special driver's license which contains a red banner and the words "LIMITED LICENSE" on its face. Such license holders are prohibited from operating any vehicle not equipped with an interlock system.



A final sobering fact: recidivism reduction lasts only as long as the ignition interlock system is installed in the vehicle.
Our first and best counsel to our clients and friends alike — don't drink and drive!

ignition interlock. However, the employer must be notified of the offender's restricted license and the offender must carry proof of such notification at all times while operating the employer's vehicle. The offender may not use the employer-owned vehicle for personal use and may not have any ownership or control of an employer entity. The employer-owned vehicle exception does not apply to school buses or vehicles designed to transport more than 15 people.

- Family members and friends of the offender may operate a car with an ignition interlock system. However, as drivers, they will be required to breathe into the device at all times when prompted by the system.

Some of the highlights of the ignition interlock law:

- The interlock system is leased from the vendor. The driver is required to blow into the device to start the car and also at certain intervals while driving.
- The interlock system remains on the car for a period of one year.
- Ignition interlock systems are required for certain offenders. An offender will receive information regarding the requirement in his or her license suspension or revocation notice.
- Those who cannot afford the ignition interlock system may apply for a hardship exemption and the state will pay for the installation of the device.
- There is an exception for offenders who, in the course and scope of their employment, drive an employer's vehicle. The offender may drive the employer's vehicle even though that vehicle is not equipped with an

- Every vehicle owned by the offender must have the ignition interlock system installed. If the offender owns more than one vehicle and does not want the system installed in each vehicle, the ownership of those other vehicles must be transferred.
- An application for an ignition interlock limited license is made by petition filed with PennDOT on a form provided by PennDOT on its website.
- The application fee for an ignition interlock limited license is \$65.

For more information, see PA Act 33 of 2016, 75 Pa. Stat. and Cons. Stat. Ann. § 1556 and PennDOT's answers to frequently asked questions on the topic at <http://www.dmv.pa.gov/Pages/FAQ%20Pages/Ignition-Interlock-FAQ.aspx>.

A final sobering fact: recidivism reduction lasts only as long as the ignition interlock system is installed in the vehicle. Once removed, recidivism rates return to their unacceptably high levels. Our first and best counsel to our clients and friends alike — don't drink and drive! 🍷



Charles H. Martin

The Chairman of the Board

— By Susan E. Dardes

It was my recent privilege to sit down in Commissioner Martin's office, and speak with him about his work, both before and after his tenure as the Chairman of the Board of Bucks County Commissioners.

Heretofore, I only knew him from photo ops and newspaper clippings, when a road was being dedicated or when the new Justice Center broke ground. Now, I got to sit with the gentleman who has served as one of three Bucks County Commissioners since 1995. And has loved every day of it.

Chairman Martin is not a native of Bucks County, having been born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, some years back. When he was 7 years old, his family moved to Ivyland, "the country," as he referred to it, and he attended elementary school in a two-room school house. The building is still there, although it now serves as headquarters for a family-run business.

Ivyland was a great place to grow up, Mr. Martin said. The family eventually moved to Warminster and later to Upper Southampton where he graduated from William Tennent High School. And Lebanon Valley College, as it turns out, recruited from Tennent. The Commissioner's high school class of some 200 graduates had six Lebanon Valley incoming freshmen. Commissioner Martin double-majored in political science and education while at college. He briefly thought about going to law school after graduation but the promise of a paycheck was more appealing at the time. He was hired by PECO to work with various municipal projects — which carried its own political feel — and enjoyed a 30-year career with them, until the early 1990s when they offered him a retirement package.

But retirement was not on Charlie Martin's mind then. The citizens of Upper Southampton had elected him to the Board of Supervisors beginning in 1983, while he was still at PECO. He served the residents of Upper Southampton for two terms, focusing much of his energies on the purchasing and use of park land, which was a "hot topic" in the mid-1980s. It was the time of the "Dump the Pump" movement in Point Pleasant, when activists for preservation were most vocal. He then was asked by fellow Republican Party officials to run for County Commissioner after Andy Warren's seat opened up in 1995. And now, Charlie Martin has the distinction of being the longest tenured Commissioner in Bucks County history.

He's also one of the most accessible, if I had to guess. The Commissioner answers every email and telephone call from citizens and county employees, and he'll meet to discuss issues or concerns with anyone requesting an appointment on a topic of local interest. He was quick to point out the 2,400+ Courthouse and county-wide employees are hardworking, conscientious people, and pointedly praised the staff of Neshaminy Manor for their exceptional patient care and teamwork.

Open Space initiatives would have to be one of Chairman Martin's highlights during his time in Doylestown.

Much of that is due to Martin's great accomplishments in preservation over the last two decades; in fact, the 202nd farm, more than 17,000 acres of farmland, and, most recently, another park in Bristol Township have been preserved as "open space" in Bucks County.

Over the last twenty-two years that Commissioner Martin has held office, Bucks County has only grown in popularity, and change continues in our school districts, our roads and our business centers. The County Government is unique in operating a tile works, horse park, hostel, public golf course and a grass strip airport.

I asked the Commissioner what he would say to what are now, and what had been, the biggest issues facing Bucks County. The problems high on the list in 2017 would be

different from those issues facing our county when Martin first assumed office. Now that Bucks is so desirable and diverse a community, traffic and congestion make the top five list, along with taxes, unemployment, drug addiction and quality of life.

From the mid-90s through 2008, the biggest problem concerning local residents was controlling sprawl; that is, keeping developers from buying up farm land for yet another residential housing development. The Chairman, a lifelong advocate of open space initiatives, was instrumental in getting two referendums passed in 1997 and in 2007, by more than a 75% margin of bi-partisan support. It's safe to say that his open space initiatives were well received.

Open Space requisitions are further down on the Commissioner's agenda than they were even 10 years ago, Martin said. Yet, those Open Space initiatives would have to be one of Chairman Martin's highlights during his time in Doylestown. Much of that is due to Martin's great accomplishments in preservation over the last two decades; in fact, the 202nd farm, more than 17,000 acres of farmland, and, most recently, another park in Bristol Township have been preserved as "open space" in Bucks County, as of this writing.

Martin is also pleased to report that in the last eleven years, Bucks County residents have not seen a raise in property taxes in ten of those years. He prides himself on being fiscally prudent and on keeping the County at an AAA bond rating. But he was quick to point out that the recognition is not all his to enjoy. He said, more than once, that "We did it," meaning it was a joint effort between himself and fellow Commissioners Rob Loughery and Diane Ellis-Marseglia.

And what does Charlie Martin do when he is not in his office on East Court Street? He and his wife of 40 years, Jean, and their beloved English bull dog spend time relaxing at their house in Brigantine, New Jersey, with their children and grandchildren. Plus, he enjoys the occasional game of golf.

He always liked politics, he told me. Just not on a state or a federal level. Too much bickering and red tape to get anything done in Harrisburg or along the beltway.

So, Charlie stayed here, in Doylestown. And, we're glad he did.

Thank you, Commissioner. 🐕

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DOMESTIC RELATIONS UPDATE

— By Nancy Larkin Taylor

The Family Law Section was recently treated to one of its favorite lunch events: the Domestic Relations Section Annual Update, with Laura LoBianco, Director; Gina Grisafi, Supervisor; Jan Fly, Supervisor; Frank Filipovits, Supervisor; Mike Cianfichi, PACSES Administrator/Training Supervisor; and Karen Winkler, Deputy Director.

- Laura told us that Bucks County DRS is ranked fifth in Pennsylvania for collection of Monthly Support Owed, collecting \$81 million in 2016; and has 11,300 active cases and only 280 outstanding bench warrants. Each of the 18 officers has an average caseload of 627. New officers include DRS Lauren Berke and Tom Smith. Patricia Gretzinger and Melissa Lombardo were promoted to Supervisor and Fiscal Manager, respectively.
- Gina Grisafi discussed the “First Time Payment Program,” which requests defendants make a payment at the conferences. Since its inception in 2007, this program has collected \$1.3 million. All defendants now meet with caseworkers who explain how to make payments, that they are due on the first and how a wage attachment works. The payment window is open 8:00 am to 4:45 pm every day.
- Gina shared good news for payors: Employers can now only charge a one-time \$50 wage attachment fee, instead of a 2% per pay fee. Gina said the Judges approved Qualified Domestic Relations Order payments as an enforcement tool. Gina stressed that all stipulations must be on a PACSES-generated 4-page order. DRS can attach savings, checking and money market accounts, but not investment accounts without a court order.
- Jan Fly shared that video conferences now allow DRS Officers to hold conferences, court settlements, and bench warrants with incarcerated parties while the parties are in the holding cell, which saves money since Sheriff Deputies no longer need to bring incarcerated parties to DRS. Eventually, they will be held from the Bucks County Prison. DRS Bench Warrant hearings are heard every Wednesday by the PFA Judge in Courtroom #560 at 11 am.
- DRS now accepts Inpatient Release Forms from several rehabilitation centers to confirm a party’s admission as an inpatient to prevent Bench Warrants. Similar to a Physician’s Verification Form, the form verifies the time period of inpatient placement. No confidential information is provided.
- When a language interpreter is needed, DRS now uses Propio Language Services via telephone. However, if an interpreter or hearing impaired help is needed in the courtroom, the attorney must make the arrangement through Court Administration.
- Frank Filipovits announced the elimination of Relist Days since conferences are listed within 3 to 4 weeks. DRS is piloting extended hours on the third Wednesday of each month, August through December, when clients and attorneys can file complaints and modifications, speak with the Officer of the Day, and make payments until 7:00 pm.
- DRS now uses texts to alert clients of upcoming events and emails client and attorney correspondence. DRS encourages clients and attorneys to communicate and E-file. Remember that DRS and Prothonotary are separate entities. Include copies of Divorce Decrees, MSAs with support filings to expedite processing. Also, both parties must be represented for an agreement to be entered without a conference. If one party or neither is represented, a conference must be held.
- Mike Cianfichi shared that the new PACSES Statewide Imaging links all 65 county DROs for full staff access. Attorneys can access child support dockets via www.childsupport.state.pa.us. For more detailed dockets, email csbucks@pacses.com. Mike touched on the upcoming Public Access Policy effective January 1, 2018. Complaints can no longer include confidential information (minor’s names and dates of birth). The options available are to file a complaint with an accompanying Confidential Information Sheet, or file two



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complaints, one with confidential information and one without. Bucks Courts will announce which method is chosen before January.

- This means tighter restrictions on third party access to public information, such as orders and motions. Third parties' requests must be approved by the Director. Counsel who have entered their appearance are entitled to this data.
- DRO Karen Winkler passionately described DRS partnership with PA CareerLink Program. Our user friendly DRS now assists unemployed and under-employed clients. CareerLink serves as a state-wide employment clearinghouse, providing free career advice, counseling, and training opportunities.
- Since the amount and variety of services are overwhelming, Karen has arranged for Richard Rodriguez, a CareerLink representative, to meet with clients on the third Thursday of every month on the Justice Center's 5th Floor, from 8:30 am-11 am. Mr. Rodriguez will personally direct clients to local Hiring Events and match clients with local jobs paying \$12 to \$18 an hour.

If you want a handout from the presentation, email csbucks@pacs.com. 📧

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The HUNGRY Lawyer

**El Club Allard
Madrid, Spain**



W

hen the Hungry Lawyer learned that he had qualified to participate in an international competition to be held in Madrid, Spain, there was nothing to hold him back, except maybe for the case that was specially listed to commence right in the middle of the tournament. But the travel gods were with me when the court, sua sponte, continued the matter to allow dispositive motions to be filed. There would be plenty of time to complete the motion after the return from Europe. With no time to waste, tickets were obtained, a hotel reservation was made, and the necessary permits were secured. Off we went to Spain. Alas, delusions of glory were soon replaced by the mediocrity of reality. Nonetheless, we were in Madrid. Museums and fine dining abound. And we took advantage of it.

Of course, we wanted to dine at El Club Allard, perhaps Madrid's best restaurant with two Michelin stars to its credit. Unfortunately, the only dinner reservation I could get was at 11:00 pm. Dining times in Madrid are not like in the United States. Restaurants generally close from lunch no later than 5 pm and reopen for dinner at 8 pm. And walking into a Madrid restaurant at 8 is lonelier than an American restaurant at 5 where at least there are a few blue hairs to join you. But dining at 11, although considered a quite good slot, was not for us. There was an alternative, however, that we eagerly accepted. There was a lunch reservation available at 3. Perfect! We didn't expect to be hungry any time later in the day but if we were, tapas are always available.

The most fascinating aspect to its back-story is that the head chef, Maria Marte, started at Club Allard as a dishwasher after emigrating from the Dominican Republic! Today, she is the only Michelin-starred female chef in Spain.



El Club Allard was founded as a private club in 1998. It is in a beautiful building around the corner from the Plaza de Espana in central Madrid. In 2003 the restaurant opened to the public. In 2007 it received its first Michelin star and its second was awarded in 2011. But the most fascinating aspect to its back-story is that the head chef, Maria Marte,

started at Club Allard as a dishwasher after emigrating from the Dominican Republic! She worked her way up over the following years to second in command of the kitchen. When the position of head chef became available, Maria assumed it. Under her charge, Michelin has continued to find her food worthy of their two-star rating. Today, she is the only Michelin-starred female chef in Spain. Her patrons are the beneficiaries as she relentlessly pursues her third star.

From the moment we arrived until we were helped on with our jackets when it was time to leave, service was spectacular. The staff was extremely attentive but never stuffy or annoying. It was made clear that our comfort and enjoyment of the experience was all that mattered. For such an elegant restaurant it had a home-y vibe. We were seated and immediately offered a glass of champagne. It was delicious and a perfect harbinger of more good things to come.

While we relaxed we were served the most delicious bread we have ever had in Spain and accompanied by a superb olive oil. We were also encouraged to eat the "business card" for Club Allard on the table. Indistinguishable from the real thing, it is actually a potato wafer. It was perfect for the hummus-like dip that was provided. Lunch at Club Allard is a tasting menu consisting of 10 courses. The staff was very helpful, despite their limited English, in



explaining all the dishes. Despite the gastronomic breadth of the offerings, they were very solicitous of being sure there were neither food allergies nor other objections to anything being served. My wife did balk at some of the items. Completely unfazed, the waiter made a number of suggestions for substitutions and they were all great. The champagne, of course, was gone by now so it was time to make a decision on wine. We could have had our choice of many different wines by the glass but we elected to enjoy a bottle instead. Upon the sommelier's suggestion, we chose an Alberino that was simply splendid. It worked perfectly with the wide variety of foods we enjoyed that afternoon.

Some dishes were memorable for the presentation, some for the taste, most for both. Everything was enjoyable, nothing disappointed. The smoked eel with rocoto and white coconut is an example of the unusual combinations that worked so well. The shot of butterfish and white asparagus was unique. A "shot" glass that contained a butter-based emulsion with fish and asparagus tastes accompanied delicious morsels of butterfish. It was served with a small piece of toast covered with caviar and globules of olive oil made to look like eggs. My next course was the quail egg and truffle cupcake. And a cupcake is exactly what it looked like. After what turned almost into an assault, I allowed my wife to have a small taste. She rhapsodized on her first bite. The impact of the truffles was perfect.

The sea rice is actually bits of squid cut to perfectly mimic the size of a granule of rice. Surprisingly, after so many dishes from the sea, the last entre was wagyu picanha, a form of kobe beef. The picanha is the sirloin cap from the rump. It is very popular in Brazil, not so much here in the

***Some dishes were memorable
for the presentation, some
for the taste, most for both.
Everything was enjoyable,
nothing disappointed.***

U.S. Prepared perfectly as it was by Club Allard, there is no reason why Americans wouldn't enjoy it.

Time for dessert! Three courses! The Hungry Lawyer and his wife rarely eat sweets at the end of a meal but...when in Madrid, you know. And just because we don't usually eat dessert doesn't mean we don't enjoy dessert. These were spectacular, not just for their artistic presentation but for their taste, as well. Fruits, sorbets, and chocolate; look at the photos and just allow your imagination to run wild. I assure you the reality was better.

It was almost two and a half hours since we first sat down. We were full. Our wine was all gone. A cup of cafe con leche' and a complimentary Spanish sherry tied up the luxurious threads of one of the most spectacular meals we ever enjoyed. The presentation was like the Zifferelli production of La Boheme. The plating was worthy of the best contemporary artists. And each of the flavors danced on our tongues in a joyous celebration. We didn't care that the bill was only slightly less than a year's college tuition. We had just had one of our best culinary experiences as a couple. We enjoyed! 🍷





2017 BENCH BAR AT OMNI BEDFORD SPRINGS A BIG SUCCESS

— By Chris Serpico



The Bucks County Bar Association held its annual Bench Bar Conference this year at the historic Bedford Springs Hotel on October 5th thru October 7th, and I was fortunate to have attended with my lovely wife, Maureen.

Over one hundred members of the Bar and their significant others, along with twelve members of the Bench and assorted sponsors, congregated to get a better insight into diverse areas of the law; earn CLE credits; play golf at one of Pennsylvania's most celebrated public courses; and enjoy the fellowship of their colleagues.

BCBA Executive Director Stacey Mulholland was very pleased with the way things turned out. She credits this year's event co-planners, Bob Repko and Kevin Zlock, with working zealously to make sure that everyone in attendance got their money's worth. Featuring timely and informative CLEs on such topics as: Confronting the Opioid Epidemic; Third Party Custody; Capturing More Time and Billing It Too; and nationally recognized political pollster Terry Madonna's perspective on the current political climate in Pennsylvania and in Washington, there was more than enough to keep even the most discerning attendee engaged.

Originally known for the medicinal value of the mineral springs nearby, Bedford Springs Hotel is nationally recognized and is on the Register of Historic Places. It has hosted twelve American Presidents, ranging from Thomas Jefferson to Ronald Reagan. For a time, it actually served as the "Summer White House" for the only US President born in Pennsylvania, James Buchanan, during his one term in office from 1857 through 1861, immediately preceding Abraham Lincoln.

The hotel's location also afforded those who chose not to play golf an opportunity to visit the Flight 93 National Memorial in nearby Somerset County. My wife and I decided to extend our stay in order to celebrate our wedding anniversary by staying at the nearby Nemacolin Resort. We used that extra day to fulfill a life-long desire to tour Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural masterpiece, "Fallingwater," and we stopped at the Flight 93 Memorial on our return trip home. Needless to say, the Memorial was extremely moving, especially the audios of cellphone messages which several of the passengers on the doomed flight made to loved ones. Incredibly sad.



For me, the highlight of the weekend was the chance to play golf at the famous course, designed by A.W. Tillinghast and Donald Ross. These two golf architects are among a handful of the most acclaimed course designers in history, and I only wish that I could report that we did their design justice. But with apologies to my playing partners, Maureen Serpico, Adrian Meyer, and Melissa Bond, I will have to admit that we were lucky to finish somewhat chastened, but proud in the knowledge that we can all say we survived to play another day. Until next year's Bench Bar in Hershey, we will treasure the memories of another fine gathering of the Bucks County Bench and Bar. 🦋



Brian W. Schaller

BENCH BAR CONFERENCE

October 5-7, 2017





Pro Bono Honor Roll

July 1 through September 20, 2017

The names below represent Attorneys who have provided financial assistance to or pro bono representation for Legal Aid of Southeastern PA (LASP) during the period of July 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017. Without the support of these Attorneys, LASP could not continue to provide high quality legal assistance to indigent people in our community. I am amazed at the generosity of the Attorneys in Bucks County and truly grateful for all your efforts. Thank You All!!

Jennifer Pierce, Esquire, Pro Bono Coordinator

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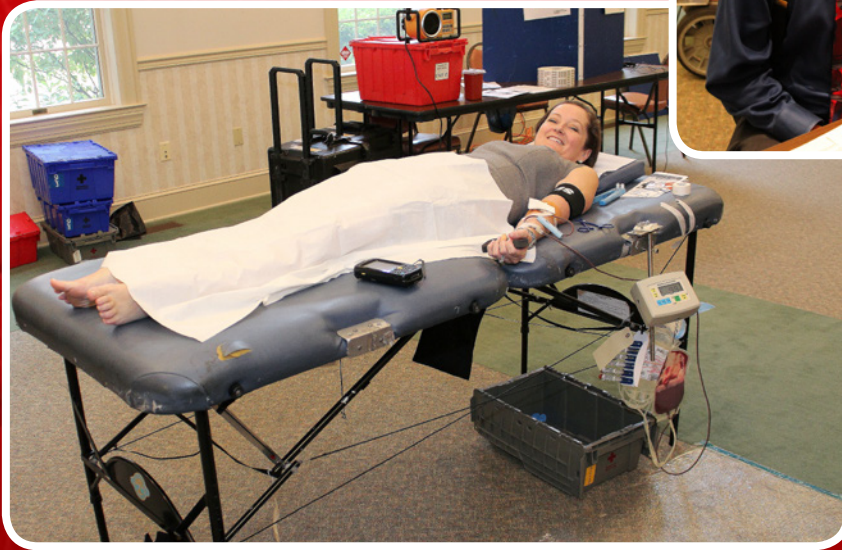
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Tech Tips from a Recovering Geek: Encrypting Documents

— By Jason R. Weiss, Esquire



When working on a sensitive and/or confidential document, encrypting and placing a password on the file to prevent unwanted individuals from viewing the contents is vital. Essentially, encryption is used to protect digital files that other individuals may inten-

tionally or unintentionally encounter or for documents intended to be sent outside of a known network (i.e., emailed or copied to a thumb drive). Once a document is encrypted and protected, it is very difficult for someone to open the document without the password, even with available password-cracking software.

Microsoft Office has integrated a very easy-to-use method to encrypt a file. For a Word document, simply click on the File Tab and then select "Info" from the list on the left-hand side. In the main window, you will see a button labeled "Protect Document." Click this button and then select "Encrypt with Password" and a window will appear to enter a password for the document. Enter your desired password, click the OK button, then re-enter the same password to confirm. It is important to note that the password is case sensitive and cannot be recovered if forgotten. Thus, it is imperative to remember the password exactly as written. The "Info" screen will now show that a password is required to open the document. Close and reopen the file and you will be prompted to enter the password. Simply enter the password you created and the document will open and function without restriction.

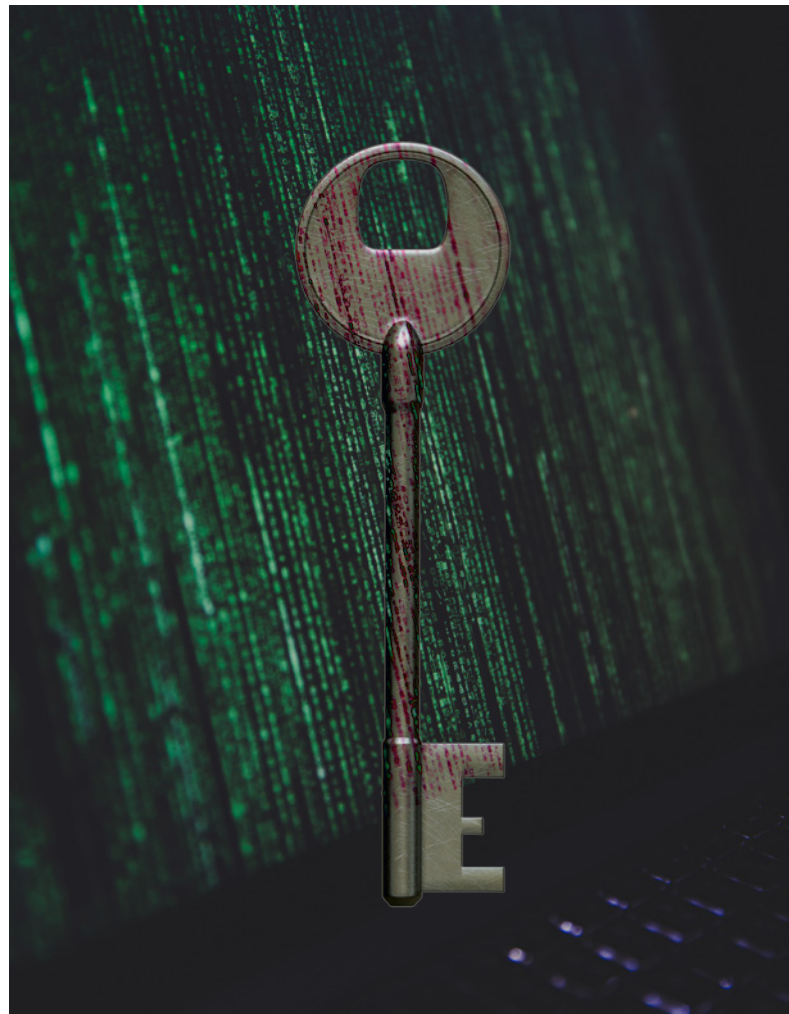
To remove the password and encryption, with the document open, click the File Tab and return to the "Info" screen. Click the "Protect Document" button and the password prompt will appear once again, but with the

password already entered. Simply delete the password and click OK. The document will no longer be encrypted or protected. The same process to set and remove a password can be used with Excel Workbooks as well.

Finally, Microsoft Office has built-in password protection for creating PDFs. To create a PDF from a Word document, select the File Tab, "Save As" on the left, and choose your desired location. In the "Save as type" drop down menu, select PDF and then click the "Options..." button. In the pop-up window, check the box labeled "Encrypt the document with a password" and then follow the prompts to enter and confirm the password and save the file. When opening the newly created PDF, you will be greeted by a prompt to enter the password to open the document.

While encryption is certainly not necessary for every document created, it is certainly useful for sensitive information. Use the methods above to protect yourself and your clients by safeguarding private data.

Happy computing. ↩





Better See Paul

— By Nancy Larkin Taylor

As a longtime John Lennon fan, I was ambivalent about seeing Paul McCartney in concert. But so many friends raved about his shows and saw him repeatedly. So, when I was offered a ticket, I trained it from Hamilton Station to Newark's Prudential Center on a recent Tuesday night to see for myself.

The entrance steps were full of panhandlers and scalpers. Tickets ranged from \$87 to \$763 on Stub Hub. One Soprano-esque seller loudly berated fans who waited too long to pay \$150 for his \$250 face value seats, "Right up front!! You are f*** ing crazy not to jump on this deal!"

The Pru was impressive, shiny and brand new with Seton Hall NCAA banners hanging from the rafters. I sat in section 128, a comfortable seat with a good view. Most of the time I watched him on the TV anyway.

Paul did not disappoint. He was entertaining musically, charming and sweet, not to mention still gorgeous. Walking in, when I heard "Can't Buy Me Love," I was hooked. I even sang along to Band on the Run tunes although I am not a Wings fan. I find Wings songs catchy but forgettable.

Paul wore a navy-blue military jacket with a sergeant stripe on the sleeve and black jeans. He took off the jacket and wore his white shirt during the rest of the show. He looked more fit than ever, very thin actually, sporting his still impressive hair, smiling with that familiar, adorable face and captivating the audience with his Liverpool accent in between songs.

Then, "For the Benefit of Mr. Kite," "I've Just Seen a Face" and "I Saw Her Standing There." Paul threw in stories about seeing Jimi Hendrix play Sgt. Pepper tunes two days after the album was released and expressing true shock that it was already 50 years old. "I Want To Be Your Man" was apparently gifted to the Stones during a cab ride by the Beatles in '67 when the Stones needed a single. Who knew?

He rolled up his sleeves to croon about his "Joisey Gurl" wife, Nancy, a lovely "My Valentine," with sincerity only Paul can muster.

Paul laughingly revealed that when he sang on stage, he could not help but be distracted by the clever audience signs, reading a few out loud. "I saved for a year to buy these tickets for my fiancé." Awww. "This is my 111th

Concert!" "Ballroom Dance with a Vegetarian Librarian." "Please sign my butt." "Let's have a look," quipped Paul.

His band was energetic and tight. The guitarist was a young, more handsome Ron Wood and the bald bejeweled drummer was crazed. "Lady Madonna." By this time, the audience was singing along unashamedly.

The most interesting song for me was "In Spite of all the Dangers," a Quarrymen song I never heard before that John and Paul wrote when they were 16 and 17. It had a skiffle country twang with delicious harmony.

Paul reminisced about Abbey Road and George Martin. I never knew "Blackbird" was written to honor the U.S. Civil Rights struggle. I was moved by "If You Were Here Today," which related a conversation he imagined with John after October 1980.

During his new songs, the screen behind him showed slick videos of pretty young girls in black miniskirts and off-the-shoulder tops. Also on screen were photos of old Russia during "Back in the USSR." He projected the words to his new songs on the prompter so the audience could sing along even though the songs were unfamiliar.

During "Something," loving images of George appeared. No one was not singing. "Let it Be" played perfectly on keyboard and had everyone swaying. This was followed by serious pyrotechnics for "Live and Let Die." Fireworks, flames, multiple explosions. Where was the Newark Fire Department?

With no break, the concert lasted over two hours; "Hey Jude," a medley from Abbey Road, "Carry that Weight," "Polythene Pam." My personal favorite was "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely-Hearts Club Band." Behind him on the screen, the iconic figures from the infamous cover came to life and danced about. Marilyn Monroe, Stan and Ollie and friends.

By this time, I had fallen in love all over again. I pictured those *Tiger* magazines we surreptitiously passed around and swooned over during recess in the parking lot of St. Peters Grammar School in Pt. Pleasant Beach, NJ. And along with millions of fans throughout the world, I savored his talent, the history we shared and his wonderful music. My recommendation is, if you have not, "Better See Paul." 🐾



Top 5 “Guilty Pleasure” Songs

The Music Snob’s Top 5 List:

1.

I Wanna Dance with Somebody
Whitney Houston



2.

Amie
Pure Prairie League

3.

Angel of the Morning
Juice Newton



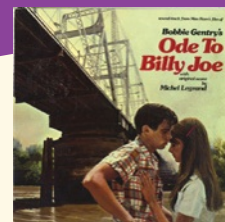
4.

Call Me Maybe
Carly Rae Jepsen



5.

Ode to Billie Joe
Bobby Gentry



fi·du·ci·ar·y

n. from the Latin fiducia, meaning “trust”.



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