

*the*WRITS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BUCKS COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



FALL 2021

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ADVICE
for Those New to the Profession!

✦ JUDGE SUSAN DEVLIN SCOTT MEMORIAL ✦

✦ SALUTE TO WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE: YWCA GALA HONORS ✦



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Sean Gresh
*Bucks County Bar
Association President*

Greetings fellow members of the Bucks County Bar Association.

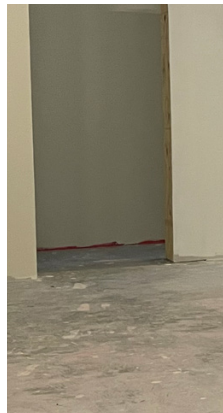
I was recently offered the opportunity to join President Judge Bateman in touring and reviewing the progress being made on the construction in the Justice Center. As many will recall, when the building was first constructed, only one courtroom (560) was built out on the 5th floor of the building.

Since the Justice Center opened, the size of our bench has increased by 2 judges, and our courts are now busier than ever working through the issues that were caused by the global pandemic of 2020. The County and the Courts, realizing the need for additional space, have begun construction on additional space on the 5th floor to ensure that the building grows with the needs of the legal community.

I am happy to report that this construction will add four (4) new court rooms and three (3) new conference rooms to the 14 courtrooms we currently have. Among these new rooms will be a new ceremonial court room, a multi-party jury court room, a non-jury courtroom, and another jury courtroom. The ceremonial courtroom is to be located immediately above courtroom 410, using a similar, but larger, footprint. This extended footprint stretches the new courtroom almost the entire width of the building, adding several rows of seating to the gallery.

Next to this ceremonial courtroom will be the multi-party jury room. This room will be fitted out with several (6-7) large counsel tables, and a jury box. This room is intended to accommodate multiple party litigation like jury trials for medical malpractice cases, or multiple defendant criminal trials. Located above courtroom 420, this room will be positioned such that when entering from the hallway, you will be on the side of the room (not at the rear), and the bench will be to your left with the jury box located on the opposite side from the hallway.

There will be a non-jury courtroom added which will be located above, and appear substantially similar to,



Since the Justice Center opened, the size of our bench has increased by 2 judges, and our courts are now busier than ever working through the issues that were caused by the global pandemic of 2020.

courtroom 440. Finally, an additional jury trial court room is being added on the far side of courtroom 560, and directly above courtroom 460. This jury room is being referred to as courtroom 570 in order to maintain the nomenclature currently in the building.

It may be difficult to notice unless you are attending an arbitration, but there are currently no dedicated arbitration rooms in the Justice Center. This is about to change. A group of three (3) arbitration and conference rooms is being added in the space located directly above courtroom 430. These will consist of one (1) large room, and two (2) that are slightly smaller. When not in use for arbitrations, these rooms may be used as conference rooms.



In discussing this construction with members of County General Services, I have been advised that the work is progressing ahead of schedule, and that the renovations and additions to the 5th floor are currently scheduled to open for the Court's business in April 2022.

I'd like to thank Judge Bateman, and the entire bench, for keeping us informed of these developments. I am proud of the current state of our relationship with the Bucks County Bench, and look forward to strengthening this relationship further at the Bench Bar Conference September 23–25. 🦋

— Sean Gresh
Bucks County Bar
Association President

We Welcome Your Feedback!

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



Bucks County Mediation and Arbitration Center

The Bucks County Mediation and Arbitration Center (BCMAC) is owned and operated by Barbara N. Lyons, Esq. She is certified, skilled and experienced in neutral arbitration, mediation and case evaluation. Attorneys work closely with Barbara from initial contact to the conclusion of their case.



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From the Editor...



Jason R. Weiss
Editor, Bucks Writs

Advice for the everyday lawyer.

In this edition of *The Writs*, you will see great advice for those who are new to the legal profession from many of our members. However, I implore everyone to read the tips and information provided. In my humble opinion, they apply to new and veteran attorneys alike. Over time, many of us become complacent in our routines and forget the basics.

Much of the advice provided will remind you why you became a lawyer or how you became successful many years go. Sometimes we all need a refresher after the many battles we have had over the years.

One of the most important things that I tell new attorneys is that we are in a service and people-based

industry. Sure, we deal with the law and a great deal of paperwork. But, in the end, we represent and answer to the people and businesses we represent. Personalities matter. We communicate and work with opposing counsel, judges and their staff members frequently. The community in which we work is much smaller than many think. We encounter the same names and faces on a regular basis. All of this leads to the same conclusion – lawyering is as much about relationships as it is about the law. While cases can be contentious, it is important to remember that you may see opposing counsel on another case in the near future or while attending a BCBA event.

I could go on and on about all of the great advice provided, but I'll spare you from any further ramblings. But, if there is anything you need or if you ever have questions and you are not sure where to turn, I would suggest contacting the amazing staff we have at the BCBA! ⚡

— Jason R. Weiss

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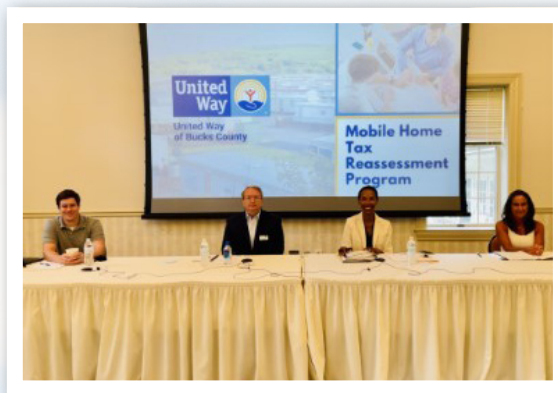
Need a Lawyer?

Welcome to the **Bucks County Bar Association's Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS)** serving all of Bucks County. The LRIS is a public service of the non-profit Bucks County Bar Association. Each year the LRIS responds to thousands of callers, referring them to attorneys with experience in the appropriate area of law or to area agencies able to provide assistance.

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 the LRIS at **215-348-9413**. ⚡



CLEs



MEMORIAL JUDGE SUSAN DEVLIN SCOTT

By Chris Serpico

**JUDGE SUSAN DEVLIN SCOTT
PASSED AWAY ON MAY 28, 2021,
AT THE AGE OF 76.**

Although her death was noted at the time by the Bar Association, the editors of *The Writs* believed that given her stature in Bucks County legal history, a more thorough examination of her legacy was called for. I would like to credit Nancy Larkin Taylor for much of the material in this column that originally appeared in a profile several years ago.

Born in Philadelphia, Susan was the daughter of the late Charles and Hazel Roberts Devlin. She was the beloved wife of 51 years to William (Bill) R. Scott. She graduated from Temple University (which she attended on a full scholarship) with a degree in Microbiology. After spending a year as an instructor in Temple's Biology Department, and being awarded a graduate fellowship in Temple Hospital's Microbiology Department, she recognized that her career aspiration of becoming a tenured college professor was unlikely given the scarcity of available college teaching positions at that time.

So following the birth of her son Bill, she enrolled in law school — at the suggestion of her husband. She attended classes at Temple Law School's night program where her classes were based primarily upon the schedule of the fellow law student she commuted with from Bucks County. A serious scholar, she was selected as a member of the Temple Law Review while attaining her Juris Doctorate. Upon graduation she worked for one year as a clerk in the Federal Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania whereupon she was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar.

In 1976, she entered into legal partnership with her law school friend, Kathryn Carlson (who had been Bucks



County's Master in Divorce), in what was the first all-female law firm in Bucks County. For fifteen years, she practiced family law at Court & Pine streets, before her election in 1989 as a Democrat to the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas.

She was elected without opposition, having won both party primaries earlier that spring when she defeated Republican Peter Glascott. However, the groundwork for her triumph had been in the works for several years. She first ran for judge in 1985, but dropped out of the campaign after two weeks when the Democratic Committee endorsed other candidates. In 1987, she was endorsed by the party for a court vacancy, and Governor Robert P. Casey nominated her to fill the vacancy. However, the Legislature eliminated the judicial seat when President Judge Isaac Garb suggested that there was no need to fill the vacancy because there was no backlog in the courts. When the Legislature complied, Scott found herself with a gubernatorial nomination, a party endorsement and no seat to run for!

But as the saying goes, "Good things come to those who wait," and when Judge Oscar Bortner announced his intention to retire in 1988, Scott easily won the backing of the Democratic Party for the open seat and campaigned heavily during the 1989 spring primary to capture both party nominations, much to the surprise of most Courthouse observers at the time. She was subsequently retained as Judge in elections that occurred in 1999, and 2009. She retired in 2014.

Although her extensive background in family law made her an immediate fit for Family Court, she quickly developed expertise in other areas, and her judicial assignments became more diverse as she gained judicial experience. She especially enjoyed zoning, real estate and other more

Among members of the Bucks County Bar, she was respected for her knowledge, preparedness, and dry wit. The latter was exemplified by her courtroom “pet peeves.” Never touch the jury box, hover near the witness, begin an address to the court with the phrase “With all due respect” or begin a cross examination with “Would it surprise you to learn?”

esoteric civil law topics. Judge Scott was known to enjoy the camaraderie of her fellow judges, an element that she lamented was sometimes lacking in solo practice.

Judge Scott developed a reputation as a practical, compassionate jurist with a holistic view of litigants’ circumstances. On the bench, she would listen intensely and studiously observe the testimony of witnesses, deftly getting to the heart of the case with her pointed questions.

Among members of the Bucks County Bar, she was respected for her knowledge, preparedness, and dry wit. The latter was exemplified by her courtroom “pet peeves.” Never touch the jury box, hover near the witness, begin an address to the court with the phrase “With all due respect” or begin a cross examination with “Would it surprise you to learn?”

In 2009 she was selected by her fellow judges to be the first female President Judge in Bucks County. In her role as President Judge which she held until 2014, she successfully represented the interests of the Bench and the bar in the planning of the Justice Center and oversaw its implementation.

Much of her time as President Judge was taken up with development of the Justice Center. Meeting with project managers, architects, designers, court administrators, and the Board of Judges, she was a prime player in designing the current courthouse which is projected to effectively



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meet the future needs of the courts and the citizens of Bucks County for decades to come. One of Judge Scott’s primary concerns was the need to outfit the fifth floor of the Justice Center, especially when the Commissioners at the time decided to leave the fifth floor unfinished in order to save money. Judge Scott made the argument, both in person and in newspaper guest editorials, that failing to complete construction of the fifth floor at that time was shortsighted and would ultimately lead to safety issues; inhibit necessary expansion; and increase costs. Over time, she would be proved right on all three of her concerns.

After reaching the age of mandatory retirement in 2014, Susan continued to serve as a Senior Judge for several years, before stepping away to spend more time with her family and friends. She and her husband loved to travel. She also enjoyed music and gardening. Together they transformed their Bucks County farmhouse into a lovely garden.

Funeral services were held privately at Forest Hills Cemetery in Huntingdon Valley, PA.

“For to live in hearts we leave behind is not to die.” ✍

WE ASKED, YOU ANSWERED:

Advice for those new to the legal profession!

If you could send a message to yourself back when you first became an attorney, what one piece of advice would you give to yourself? Our members offer their perspective for those considering or are new to the legal profession.

Many members encouraged those new to the profession to ensure they are in it for the right reasons and had their eyes open to the realities of the profession, finding the right practice area, and building a new career. Of course, there is a lot of advice on client interactions, court room behavior, and building relationships with others in the profession. In addition to the advice focused on the profession there is also the ever-present focus on Work-Life Balance to ensure a new professional enjoys what they are doing and keeps some focus on their family and friends outside of their professional life.

And our members are always full of candor. While the profession has been fulfilling to a super-majority, there are some who provide warnings to really, really, really make sure that the legal profession is the right path.

The reasons you are in the profession in the first place

Don't follow the money.

– **J. Davy Yockey, Esq**

Always stay true to yourself. Be authentic. And be the best version of yourself that you can be.

– **Matthew D. Weintraub, Esq,**
Bucks County District Attorney

Follow your passion and enjoy the ride. This profession can be whatever you want it to be — that is the beauty of it. But, that being said, so many new graduates fall into the path of what they believe they “should” do — clerk/intern, then big law, where they often stay... thinking they are set up. What I have learned is, that this is not the path for everyone. Success comes in many shapes and sizes, and must include a balance of working on what you love on the one hand and life on the other. Once you learn that, and find it, you will find fulfillment and ultimately success will follow.

– **Christina M. Reger, Esq,**
Law Offices of Christina Reger, LLC

Practicing law is not like you see on tv and neither are the clients.

– **Nancy J. Harrold, Esq,**
Law Offices of Jennifer Courtney, P.C.

Take heart. One day, over ten years from now, your loans will be paid... down to half of their current enormity.

– **Nicole J. O'Hara, Esq,**
Semanoff Ormsby
Greenberg & Torchia, LLC

Finding the right practice area and growing in that area

Working in areas of the law that you may not have an interest in will make you a stronger lawyer, and you may find that you actually like that discipline.

– **Tina Mazaheri, Esq**

Try as many different kinds of types of law that you can — you never know where you will find something you really enjoy.

– **Julie D. Goldstein, Esq,**
Fox Rothschild LLP

My one message would be to specialize and develop expertise in a single area of law.

– **John Kazary, Esq**

I supposed I'd like to tell myself to ask every question I have, regardless of whether it sounds idiotic or not.

– **Melanie J. Wender, Esq,**
Antheil Maslow & MacMinn, LLP

Don't tie yourself to one single partner or department. Try everything until you are satisfied. If for some reason that partner you are working with decides to leave the firm to go elsewhere, don't automatically decide to leave with him or her. You might be better off staying where you are and starting anew. After all, you decided to join that firm before you even knew that one partner.

– **Jill Manuel-Coughlin, Esq,**
Powers Kirm, LLC

I would tell myself to plan on having partners or associates heading into retirement age. I regret being a solo practitioner now.

– **Joseph J. Marinaro, Esq**

Importance of Networking

As you learn something legally interesting, if you share with others (lawyers, www, other soccer parents) they will know you are a sharp, enthusiastic and generous lawyer; this may attract the legal business you enjoy.

– **Mary Cushing Doherty, Esq,**
High Swartz

1. Network. Network. Network! Join Bar committees, discuss cases with other attorneys, join attorney group chats and forums. Do all of this early in your career. And 2. Force yourself to take those challenging cases and ask for assistance along the way. It will help you grow as an individual and as an attorney!

– **Ms. God-Is C. Ike, Esq,**
Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania

Get involved in an organization for lawyers, e.g., BCBA.

– **Frank Mazzeo, Esq.**
Ryder, Mazzeo & Konieczny LLC

My one piece of advice as a new solo practitioner would be to get a good mentor.

– **David J. Juall, Esq.**

Work-Life Balance

Try and spend more time with family.

– **Barbara N. Lyons, Esq.**
Bucks County Mediation and Arbitration Center

Spend time with your family. Life is too short.

– **Samuel C. Totaro, Jr. Esq.**
Curtin & Heefner LLP

Take vacation time. It's as simple as that. Vacation is meant to recharge and no matter what the managing partner says, you should not work during vacation. It won't matter if you make partner if you're too burned-out to be effective.

– **Gina F. Rubel, Esq.**
Furia Rubel Communications, Inc.

The Law is a Jealous Mistress. This idiom, believed by and religiously followed by many, including myself; I would write and suggest that making time for my family is more important.

– **Adrian L. Meyer, Esq.**

Do not allow the profession to become all-encompassing. Make time for your family, friends and self.

– **Christopher B. Chandor, Esq.**
Doylestown Commerce Center

Other advice for practicing law and life...

Be confident and don't sweat the small stuff.

– **Jeffrey A. Liebmann, Esq.**
Liebmann Family Law

Learn patience... if you don't already have it.

– **Kevin Hand, Esq.**
KRH Law

I would tell myself to speak up for myself more and not accept every single assignment from my firm. I would question more and advocate for myself.

– **Kathy Thomas, Esq.**
High Swartz LLP



Working with others in the profession

Client Interactions

Listen to your clients, but don't believe everything they say.

– **J. Todd Savarese, Esq.**
Savarese Law Office

Be cautious when accepting clients who have gone through prior attorneys.

– **Greg Emmons, Esq.**
Goldstein Law Partners

If a client (or co-worker or any other person) makes you uncomfortable, follow your instinct. You don't have to take them as a client.

– **Jessica Pritchard, Esq.**
Antheil Maslow & MacMinn, LLP

If you can't be bothered to accept a retainer before accepting a new client, you should not be bothered when that client fails to pay their fee.

– **Honorable (Retired) John Rufe**

Court room

Do not be afraid to speak up in Court, it is your responsibility, but always show respect while doing so.

– **Karen Ulmer, Esq.**
Karen Ann Ulmer, PC

READ THE RULES... and trust your intuitions. I know, I know, that's 2 things!

– **Kasey Daniel, Esq.**
Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania

As a plaintiff's lawyer, avoid claims and arguments that make it seem like you're resorting to a "kitchen sink" approach. Focus on your strongest arguments, rather than spending too much time litigating over issues that don't have a significant chance of a beneficial outcome.

– **Honorable Jordan B. Yeager, Judge,**
Court of Common Pleas of Bucks County

1. Always be over-prepared whether it is for a meeting with a client, judge or opponent or for trial or a deposition; and 2. Be courteous to your opponent even in the heat of a trial. Juries pay attention to this as do judges and ultimately, you get more flies with honey so the saying goes....

– **Joanne D. Sommer, Esq.**
Eastburn and Gray, PC

Working with other attorneys

I would tell myself not to take anything personally. The opposing attorney is just doing their job and your clients are your clients — it's not you. Relax. Calm down and try to keep emotions to a minimum. Also remember there are multiple sides to every story.

– **Susan Levy Eisenberg, Esq.**

An oral commitment from someone you trust is better than a detailed written agreement with ones you don't know whether to trust; be trustworthy and look for trustworthiness in others.

– **Robert Naragon, Esq.**

Talk less listen more.

– **John K. Shaffer, Esq.**
Law Office of Lester G. Weinraub

Treat others as you want to be treated. Leave the place better than you found it.

– **Nancy Larkin Taylor, Esq.**

Trust. But verify.

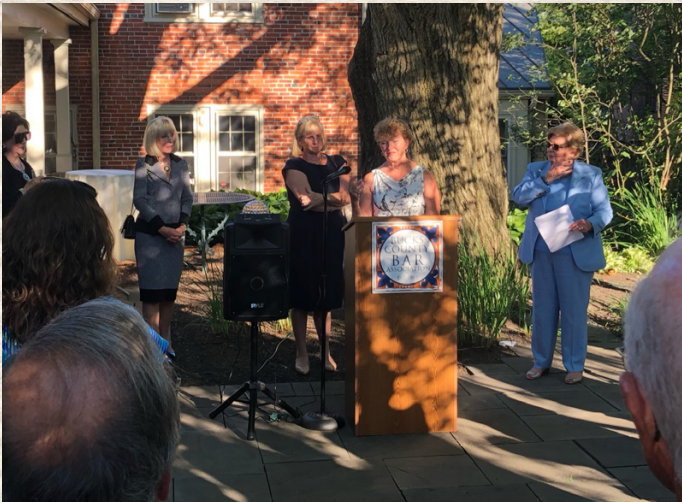
– **Steve Brush, Esq.**

It's all about truth — not winning or losing. God is a just judge; seek His Truth, His law is perfect.

– **William A. Gross, Esq.** ✍️

BCBA -FEDERAL COURTS RECEPTION-

June 17, 2021





Judge Charissa Liller

By Susan Dardes

IT TOOK ME A BIT OF TIME, but I managed to get on Judge Charissa Liller's schedule, for a catch-up telephone call to see how she has been since her induction as a Judge of the Bucks County Common Pleas Court over a year ago, and her goings on throughout the trying year-plus of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Judge is now busier than ever, with the reopening of the courthouse, although she and Judges McMaster, Bowman and Yeager have all been doing ex-parte hearings, in person, even while the pandemic shut down our County and our Commonwealth. When she looks back over the last year, and all the challenges that COVID brought to our region and to the world, we have to remember that the courthouse business carried on because it was so essential. She worked in person, the entire time the rest of us were working (and "zooming") from home due to travel and other restrictions, and her schedule was full throughout the pandemic and now.

Cases in family court make up between 85% and 90% of her overall case load, and at that, most are child custody disputes, support matters and Protection from Abuse proceedings (PFAs). Generally speaking, most property matters between divorcing couples settle at the master or conciliation stage. An overriding theme during her judicial campaign was that she had a broad depth of experience in family law as a partner at Curtin and Heefner. Once elected, she would as a new Judge (as is commonplace in Bucks County) be presiding over family law matters. After all, there is no training for a newly elected judge in our common pleas system. But, because of that prior law practice, occasionally it becomes necessary for her to recuse herself from the occasional case and reassign it to Judges Bowman, Yeager, McMaster, or Rubenstein.

The other 15% of her court docket is comprised of criminal complaints and miscellaneous days. Her first job after having passed the Pennsylvania Bar was with the Bucks County District Attorney's office, then she practiced criminal defense. With this background, Judge Liller is no stranger to criminal court proceedings. Emergency PFA and bail hearings proceeded without interruption through 2020, pandemic notwithstanding.



The Judge is now busier than ever, with the reopening of the courthouse, although she and Judges McMaster, Bowman and Yeager have all been doing ex-parte hearings, in person, even while the pandemic shut down our County and our Commonwealth.

She is deeply familiar with all domestic matters and pro se litigants, but from the other side of the table. Now, she has taken that experience to the bench. Two pro se litigants can be challenging, she said, mostly in that they need to



Campaigning alongside her mother came with valuable lessons. The take away was that if you work hard for something worthwhile — as she did — then the victory when you obtain that something will be all the sweeter.

learn process and procedures; courtroom decorum, if you will. She carefully explains the “hows” and the “whys” to both parties, instructing them that they must take turns in speaking, maintain a respectful tone and volume, avoid interruptions, and then, at the end of the case, each will have a chance to summarize their points. While she knows firsthand how frustrating it is to be unable to get on a Judge’s docket, sometimes a telephone call between opposing counsel can resolve things, which Judge Liller does as frequently as possible.

Before November 2019, Judge Liller was working full time, campaigning full time and parenting full time. At the height of the pandemic, she was working full time and parenting, inside her courtroom. The same childcare crisis that hit so many others during 2020 affected her family as her daughter, Cydney’s, school was virtual. Daycare and after care were closed and her family is in Pittsburgh. Cydney, wearing her mask, and with an iPad and a head set, went to the courtroom everyday with her mom, and completed her lessons until restrictions were lifted. With this new year, Cydney is back to her routine. The Judge drives her to school, then begins her own day in the courtroom.

The path to the 6th floor of our Justice Center started out for the Judge from her hometown of Pittsburgh, where she had set her sights on getting an MSW degree. In fact, after graduation from the University of Pittsburgh, she worked

as a CYS social worker for two years, and then planned on getting a Master’s in Education at Duquesne, to eventually work counseling children. But she had in the back of her mind that she wanted to be a child advocate, to determine the best course for an abused or neglected child; thus, she needed to go to law school. For a law degree to be attainable, she commuted from the family’s home to class each day and held down two part-time jobs to make her tuition at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

Hard work and family continue to be front and center in her life. Her mom and dad helped her during her campaign by advocating for her platform and by providing wonderful childcare for the Judge’s now nine-year-old daughter, Cydney.

I recalled the print ads showing Cydney as her mom’s mainstay in the run up to the election. I asked the Judge how the stress of a campaign came to bear on Cydney. Was it hard for her, coming to events, being with “grown-ups” much of the time, being away from her mom? It was at times, Judge Liller said, but campaigning alongside her mother came with valuable lessons. The take away was that if you work hard for something worthwhile — as she did — then the victory when you obtain that something will be all the sweeter. Cydney has a wonderful role model in her mom.

And how is her pace of work now different from private practice, aside from being the trier of fact, rather than counsel? She was able to take her trusted assistant, Stacey, with her, but their calendar is not in her control as it was when she was a partner at her firm. Conferences and hearings are scheduled from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. to keep pace with the County’s burgeoning domestic proceedings. Judge Liller, like attorney Liller, takes work home with her. Just not as often now, because the courtroom doesn’t lend itself to it. She will review custody evaluations and work on drafting opinions on her laptop after hours.

When she has occasion to seek advice on procedures and protocol she usually goes to Judge Baldi for his thoughts. The two Judges worked together years prior in private practice in New Hope and have a long-standing respectful relationship. For family court consultations, she defers to Judge McMaster, who is the Administrative Judge for Family Court. I also gather that even our judiciary partakes of a “brown bag” lunch on occasion, to exchange “war” stories, I am sure, but also ideas, and to provide mentoring to the incoming judiciary.

For a community-minded, accomplished attorney whose practice was informed by experience first in social work, and later as a mother and as an advocate for children, this robe seems like a perfect fit. ✎



Pro Bono Honor Roll

April 1 through June 30, 2021

THANK YOU for volunteering your valuable time to provide high quality legal representation to Bucks County residents. Your efforts help bring justice for all. Favorable outcomes included obtaining final Protection from Abuse (PFA) orders for victims of domestic violence, preparing wills for senior citizens, obtaining bankruptcies and expungements to give someone a second chance, and so much more. Thank you, too, to those who provide financial assistance through donations and arbitration allowances. Your contributions allow Legal Aid of Southeastern PA to assist more local residents.

— Megan Reinprecht, Pro Bono Coordinator

A

Anonymous
Anita Alberts
Hugh Algeo IV
Judith Algeo
Jane Anastasia
Wendy Ashby

B

Timothy Barton
Cynthia Bashore
Mitchell Baylarian
Tiffanie Benfer
Clifford Bidlingmaier, III
Thomas Blackburn
Albert L. Blackman, Jr.
Melissa V. Bond
Kevin Bradway
H. Jeffrey Brahlin
Christopher J. Brill
Sarah Brucie

C

Brendan Callahan
David Caro
Dale Caya
Jahn Chesnov
Ernest Closser
Andrew Cordes
John Cordisco
Stephen Corr
Jennifer Courtney
Christopher Coval

D

Henry Dantzig, Jr.
Grace Deon
Jennifer Dickerson
Robert Donovan
William Dudeck
Timothy Duffy

E

Susan Eisenberg
James Esposito

F

Adam Fein
Scott Feldman
Bryan M. Ferris
Rachel Fingles
Jacqueline Fishman
Grace Flanagan
Georgeann R. Fusco

G

Martin Ghen
Noah Gladstone
Terry Goldberg
Jennifer Gould
Colby Grim
Gregory Grim
Mary Ann Grossman
Kyong Ha Growney

H

David Hamilton
Kevin Hand
Virginia Hardwick
Nancy Harrold
Judith Hayman
Gregory Hill
James J. Hollawell

I

Dean Ibrahim

K

Morris Kaplan
Robert Katzenstein
Daniel Keane
Barbara Kirk
Emma Kline
Gretchen Kolb
Michael Ksiazek
James Kuhn

L

Gregory Lawton
Larry Lefkowitz
Kimberly Litzke

M

William MacMinn
Nicholas Mancini
Tina Mazaheri
Christopher Mazullo
Michael Meginniss
Diane Mellott
Barbara R. Merlie
Kristine Michael
Hillary Moonay
William Moore
Sandra W. Morris
Charles Morrone
Joanne Murray
Robert Muscara

N

Katelyn Naso
Stephanie Needles
Brian Newman

P

William Penglase
Jessica Pritchard
Hayley Purcell

R

Joseph Ramagli
Peter Reiss
Robert Repko
Jennifer Ryan

S

Russell Sacco
Jennifer Sagot
Sara Salvo
William Scott
Christopher Serpico
Carol Sharp
Carol A. Shelly
Michael Shelton
Stephanie Shortall
Chris Little Simcox
Tiffany Thomas Smith
Jeffrey Solar
Amir M. Stark
Christopher Staub
Gregory Sturn
Edward R. Sutton

T

Adam Tanker
Eric Tobin
Jeffrey A. Toner
David Truelove

U

Karen Ulmer

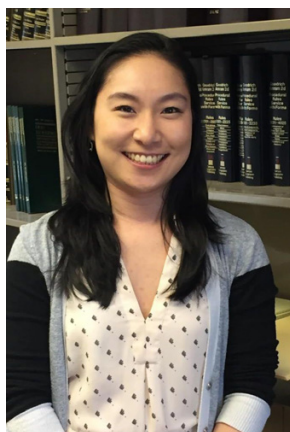
W

Alan Wandalowski
Sara Webster
Jason Weiss
Melanie Wender
Donna Wengiel
Keith Williams
Shari Williams
Clair E. Wischusen
Steven E. Wolfe
Jeffrey Wong
David Woosley

Meet LASP's new Bucks County pro bono coordinator

Hoping to start the autumn with a gift of time? Bucks County Bar Association members have a new contact at Legal Aid of Southeastern PA to connect you with a pro bono project that meets your schedule!

Megan Reinprecht, Esq., is LASP's new Bucks County Pro Bono Coordinator, in place of Jennifer Pierce, VOCA Supervising Attorney. Megan is a Staff Attorney in the Community Engagement Unit. She was highly involved in pro bono work in law school, where she coordinated public interest clinics and fundraising events. Megan has also supervised and trained volunteers in the Community Engagement Unit, where she also interned during law school.



Megan Reinprecht, Community Engagement Unit Staff Attorney & Bucks County Pro Bono Coordinator for Legal Aid of Southeastern PA

“Volunteering is a great way to learn an area of law that you haven’t practiced before, and help our clients in their time of need at the same time.”

“I’m excited to work with the Bucks County Bar Association both to recruit more attorneys to join our current pro bono efforts and to create new opportunities in different practice areas for attorneys. Volunteering is a great way to learn an area of law that you haven’t practiced before, and help our clients in their time of need at the same time.”

To learn about pro bono volunteer opportunities in Bucks County, please contact Megan at 484-206-8101 or mreinprecht@lasp.org or visit LASP's pro bono webpage at www.lasp.org/pro-bono. 📧

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Salute to Women Who Make a Difference

YWCA Gala Honors Community Leaders

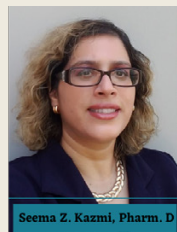
By Nancy Larkin Taylor

The annual YWCA Salute to Women Who Make a Difference Gala honors female leaders who live, work or volunteer in Bucks County and make exceptional contributions to their businesses, organizations, and communities. For almost 30 years, the YWCA has honored hundreds of women while raising funds to support its mission of eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

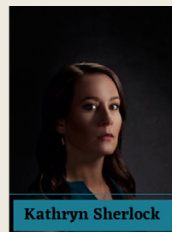
This year's honorees include: Kathy Boockvar, Esq., Seema Z. Kazmi, Pharm.D., and Kathryn Sherlock for Advocacy and Civil Engagement; Deborah Camp-Frye, Alisa Oglesby, Robin Robinson for Community Engagement; Grace M. Deon, Esq., for Corporate Social Responsibility; Carrie Nork Minelli and Kristin Smedley for Media and Journalism; Melissa E. Bennett, MD, and Celia Sharp for Racial and Social Justice; Stephanie Schwartzberg and Denise Allen Williams for Women's Empowerment; and Victoria Sullivan for #Girl Power.



Sec. Kathy Boockvar



Seema Z. Kazmi, Pharm. D



Kathryn Sherlock



Deborah Camp-Frye



Victoria Sullivan



Alisa Oglesby



Robin Robinson



Grace M. Deon, Esq.



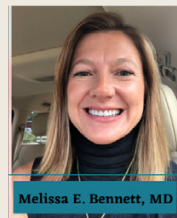
Carrie Nork Minelli



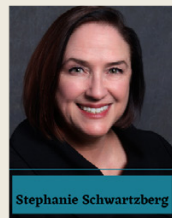
Kristin Smedley



Celia Sharp



Melissa E. Bennett, MD



Stephanie Schwartzberg



Denise Allen Williams

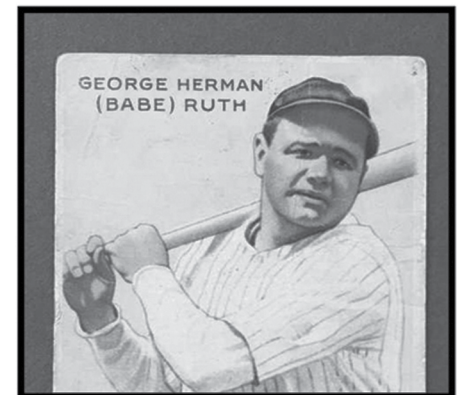


Cathy Janoson

The Gala is scheduled for Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 6:00 pm at Spring Mill Manor in Ivyland. There will be a VIP Reception beginning at 5:30 pm, providing guests with the opportunity to meet YWCA Board, staff, event sponsors and honorees. Individual tickets or full table reser-

ervations of 8 or 10 are available by contacting gstewart@YWCAbucks.org. Sponsorships, ads and raffle/silent auction donations are available. Karen Ulmer is chairing the event this year and is past President of the YWCA Board. Thank you and congratulations to the honorees! 🌟

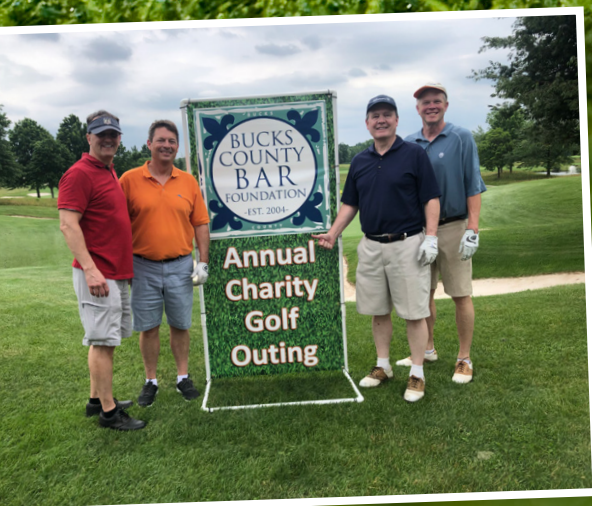
APPRAISALS

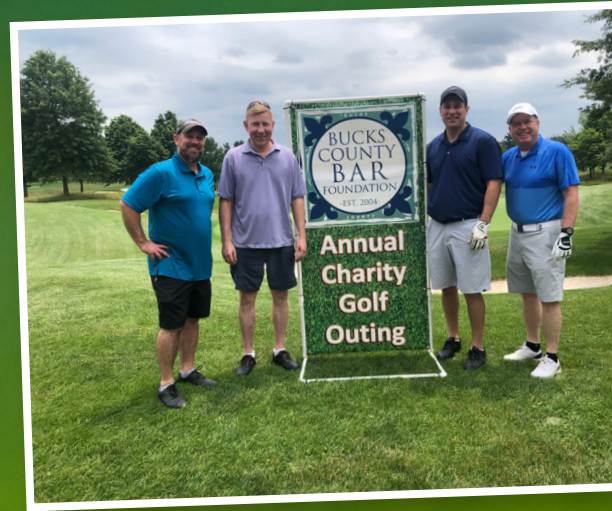




BCBF Golf Outing

June 14, 2021





PBA Launches Pennsylvania Free Legal Answers for Pro Bono Opportunities, Access to Justice

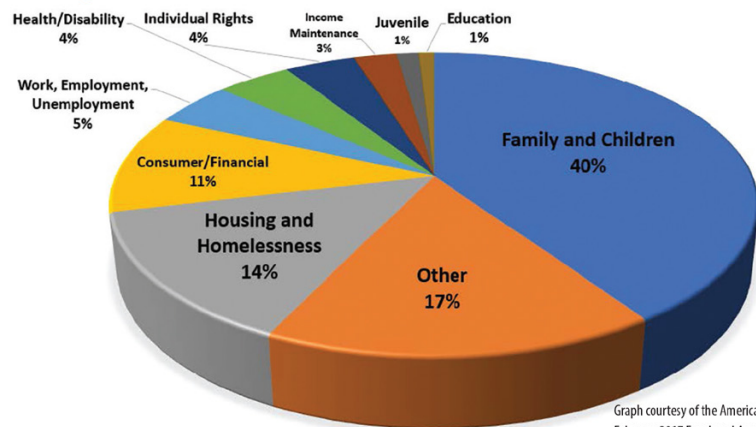
Each year, the PBA pro bono office receives more than 6,000 requests for legal advice from people who either cannot afford it or don't know where to get it.

In 2017, Legal Services Corporation reported that 86% of low-income people with civil legal problems got no or insufficient help; the need for pro bono legal services continues to increase.

The PBA is currently gearing up for a new initiative offering pro bono help that will be easy to use by those seeking advice and those lawyers willing to provide it. In collaboration with American Bar Association Free Legal Answers (ABA FLA), the PBA has launched Pennsylvania Free Legal Answers. The program offers attorneys a convenient pro bono opportunity and, more importantly, narrows the access to justice gap.

PBA President Kathleen D. Wilkinson said the need for pro bono service is especially acute. "The pandemic has had a profound impact upon low-income people, and has caused financial and family stressors to continue to mount. Pennsylvania Free Legal Answers has the potential to help thousands of people who qualify for pro bono assistance. Rule 6.1 of the Rules of Professional Conduct calls on us to render public interest legal services. Pennsylvania Free Legal Answers is convenient and flexible and a

Types of Questions Submitted



Graph courtesy of the American Bar Association, February 2017 Free Legal Answers Report

"The pandemic has had a profound impact upon low-income people, and has caused financial and family stressors to continue to mount. Pennsylvania Free Legal Answers has the potential to help thousands of people who qualify for pro bono assistance."

way to give back to the community by helping those in need. Please volunteer for this important program," she said.

PBA Pro Bono Coordinator David K. Trevaskis said, "It is a great opportunity for lawyers across the state to provide the pro bono service envisioned by Rule 6.1 of the Rules of Professional Responsibility. With malpractice insurance provided by the ABA and an easy-to-access format, with training on how to use the site available as needed, it is a

self-contained platform that may transform how we approach pro bono service."

Once registered and approved on the site, lawyers may log in at any time to review a list of user questions and select the one(s) they want to answer. Lawyers will use the categories provided by the user (such as "housing" or "debt") to help determine which questions they would like to answer. A lawyer will have the opportunity to read the full

question before deciding to take it from the list and answer it.

Once a lawyer takes a question from the list, the lawyer has three days to provide, at minimum, one answer to the question. Lawyers will be allowed to ask follow-up questions if they need additional information in order to answer the user's question. The lawyer's identity is not revealed to the user unless the lawyer decides to do so. Once a lawyer answers a question, the user will be sent an email to alert them they have a response waiting.

Pennsylvania is now the 45th jurisdiction committed to this program. In the four years since ABA launched Free Legal Answers, more than 9,000 lawyer volunteers have answered 160,000 questions. Under the principle that the provision of brief legal advice can prevent larger legal crises from developing, the program allows users in rural areas access to legal resources from across the state. Limited scope advice can make all the difference, Trevaskis said.

A project of the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service, Free Legal Answers provides a national administrator, server space and malpractice insurance to participating jurisdictions. It is partially funded through ABA general

“It is a great opportunity for lawyers across the state to provide the pro bono service envisioned by Rule 6.1 of the Rules of Professional Responsibility. With malpractice insurance provided by the ABA and an easy-to-access format, with training on how to use the site available as needed, it is a self-contained platform that may transform how we approach pro bono service.”

revenue, with the balance of funds coming from a combination of personal contributions, corporate support and grants.

Volunteer lawyers can log into the system 24/7/365 from anywhere with internet. National staff maintains the site, manages the question queue and collects and analyzes data.

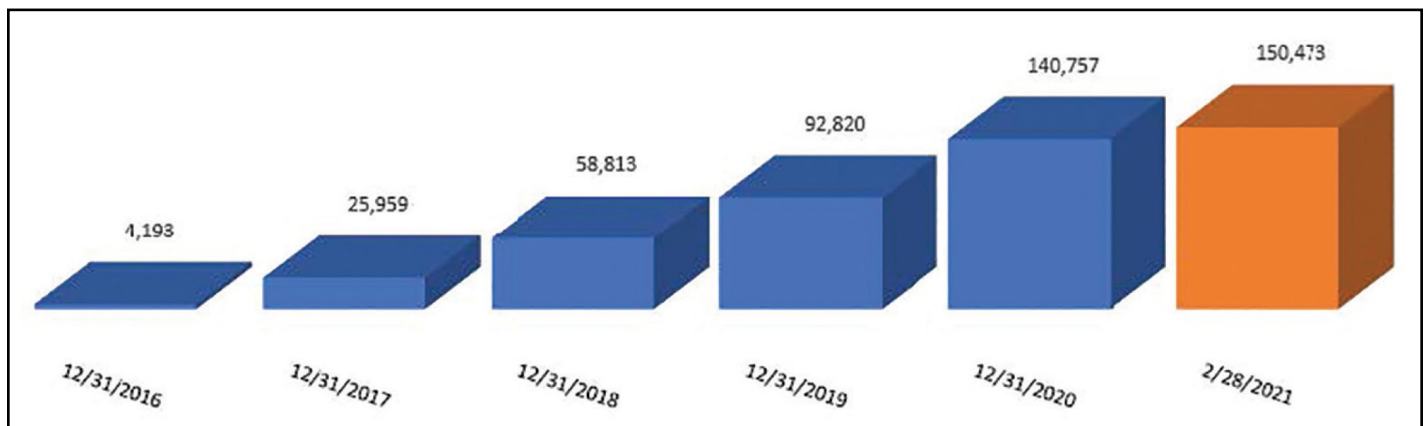
“Users must meet income eligibility guidelines, and the questions must be regular civil legal matters,” Trevaskis said. “This is great for lawyers who want to do pro bono. It's very flexible. You don't need specialized training. It is the right movement at the right time.”

Cheryl L. Young of Hangley, Aroncheck, Segal, Pudlin and Schiller, Norristown, is one of the first people

that Travaskis contacts when he gets a call asking for family law help. “Often, there isn't enough information initially to be able to answer the question. David has to contact the person to get more information, then call me again, so there is a delay. Pennsylvania Free Legal Answers is cutting out the middle man,” she said. The direct communication allows the lawyer to get the information needed to be able to respond.

She said Free Legal Answers “will help people get started and understand the process better. At least they will learn where to get the legal help they need.”

Young said it is good that the lawyer answering the question can remain anonymous. “What you don't want





in these situations is for the person to think he is being represented. There have been cases where people show up in court with an email from an attorney and think they are represented. This is especially true in family law where emotions are often high," she said.

Trevaskis said the Dauphin County Bar Association's Public Services Committee, chaired by James P. DeAngelo of McNees, Wallace and Nurick LLC, Harrisburg, was instrumental in encouraging the PBA to join Free Legal Answers. In July 2020, DeAngelo began the conversation. In November 2020, Sandra A. Ballard, public services coordinator for the Dauphin County Bar Association, presented a request to the PBA Board of Governors.


In the Dauphin County Bar Association newsletter article about the program, Ballard said, "With malpractice insurance and no requirements for minimal hours or prior training, there's no reason not to register. Free Legal Answers is an automated tool that uses modern technology to help more people."

Trevaskis gives credit to the Dauphin County Bar Association for PBA's adoption of the program. "When they brought it to the PBA board, it became policy. It is time for this. Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network has a new executive director. There is a huge push from the Disciplinary Board. Supreme Court Chief Justice Max Baer wrote a letter to members about pro bono. We saw how useful this would be. The bottom line is this is one more thing we can do to make it better for other people."

ProSocial Valuation Service measured the impact of the ABA FLA and found that providing legal services is more than just a public service. Client

"With malpractice insurance and no requirements for minimal hours or prior training, there's no reason not to register. Free Legal Answers is an automated tool that uses modern technology to help more people"

outcomes, pro bono service, advocacy and improved health and well-being are all drivers of social capital created by ABA FLA. For every \$1 invested in ABA FLA, \$7 worth of capital is created, producing \$7.3 million in social capital in just a year.

- Free Legal Answers data shows that the number of submitted questions increased within the past 16 months.
- Since March 2020 ABA FLA has received 49,414 submitted questions, representing a 48% increase over the previous year. In February 2021 alone, 4,330 questions were submitted on ABA FLA, many related to the pandemic, representing a 56% increase over the previous year. To serve more individuals affected by the pandemic, ABA FLA temporarily increased its question limit per client and the income/asset cap was increased in many states.
- Overall, legal questions in matters commonly associated with the pandemic increased since March 2020. For instance, 7,045 housing-related questions and 3,113 employment-related questions were submitted, representing a 64% and 131% respective increase over the previous year.
- ABA FLA attorney registrations have also increased since the pandemic hit. Since March 2020, 2,012 volunteer attorneys registered to answer civil legal questions on ABA FLA, representing a 68% increase over the previous year. (Stats from the ABA FLA February 2021 Report) Lawyers who would like to participate can sign up as a volunteer attorney at <https://pa.freelegalanswers.org/Attorneys/Account/Agreement>. They can read through the material on the page and check out the Frequently Asked Questions from Pennsylvania Volunteer Attorneys before clicking on the I Agree button at the bottom of the Attorney Agreement page. To complete the signup process, volunteers must:
 - Create a password to set up a volunteer account;
 - Provide contact information and their Pennsylvania Attorney ID number;
 - Sign the Attorney Use Agreement. Before the lawyer's account is activated, the website administrator checks to ensure the lawyer is licensed in Pennsylvania and is in good standing with the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Once a lawyer has been approved by the website administrator, the lawyer receives an email notification and can begin answering user questions. Lawyers will be able to view a log of questions they have previously answered in their history. 

Veterans Affairs Committee





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SUMMER OF SOUL

Movie Review

By Scott L. Feldman

IT TOOK SOME FIFTY LONG YEARS, BUT QUESTLOVE MADE IT HAPPEN. High quality footage from a series of Summer 1969 concerts finally saw the light of day in a new music documentary that was exciting, informative and danceworthy for its entire two hours.

The Harlem Cultural Festival was a series of six free Sunday afternoon concerts which took place from June 29 to August 24, 1969. It featured some of the greatest voices and bands of the day, including Stevie Wonder, the Fifth Dimension, Nina Simone, Mahalia Jackson, Gladys Knight and the Pips and B.B. King.

First time director, Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, best known as the drummer for The Roots, felt great responsibility in presenting the archival footage along with contemporary performer and attendee interviews. "I want artists to know the lesson that we need to learn is that message and activism, those things matter. Those things matter. We can't lose that."

The original event and the movie are somewhat unfortunately referred to as "the Black Woodstock." This first came about courtesy of the Producer and original filmmaker, Hal Tulchin, who used the moniker as he unsuccessfully tried to market his video recordings at the time. It seems misguided, in large part as the mythology of the seminal Yasgur's Farm concert seems to have eclipsed the reality and was more a creation of the widely celebrated Woodstock movie, released a year later. And yet, there are certain comparisons and contrasts to be made. To this viewer, the greatest difference performance-wise was in the number of female artists performing at the Harlem concerts, both as named front women and ensemble members. In all, over half of the musicians were female. At Woodstock, female artists were very much the exception: Joan Baez, Melanie, Janis Joplin and Grace Slick.

Sly and the Family Stone's performance was particularly electrifying. Perhaps the only contemporary band that was both interracial and mixed gender, Sly Stone was always ahead of his time. Of course, Sly was Prince before Prince was Prince: a slightly built but prolific, prodigious and dynamic singer, songwriter, performer, multi-instrumentalist, bandleader and personality. And he wore a lot of purple!



Other Summer of Soul highlights include Stevie Wonder playing drums (worth the price of admission right there), The Staples Singers (Mavis Staples' interview is enlightening) and David Ruffin (as a solo act, having recently left the Temptations). Perhaps the most memorable segment was current interview footage of Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr. watching their performance as The 5th Dimension for the first time ever. They were emotional



and generally speechless. They remembered their concern that they would not quite fit in with the Harlem Cultural Festival bill due to their creamsicle colored matching outfits and decidedly crossover (read, white audience) appeal. Yet the crowd, then and now, loved them and danced and sang along with every word to Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In.

The event and the movie go well beyond the music. There were speakers (Rev. Jesse Jackson), comedians (Moms Mabley) and a sense of community. There was no epic New York State Thruway traffic jam; rather, it seemed that most attendees simply walked to the neighborhood park. Questlove does a fine job of capturing the social

and political climate of the day and effectively demonstrating that very little has changed in the intervening years. Interviews at the time had people remarking that the recent moon landing had little impact on their lives and seemed to be an indulgent and wasteful use of resources by rich people. There was much discussion of police violence in the black community. The impact of poverty, drug use and race relations was also very much on people's minds. Again, it seems that little has changed.

Thankfully, the music lives on, and then as now, serves as a fine distraction from the daily stresses of our collective lives.

Summer of Soul is available for streaming on Hulu. ↗

"The OPPOSITE of what gives ATTORNEYS a bad name."

In the stack of notes of appreciation I have accumulated over 28 years, none stands out to me as much as the client who said, "You're the opposite of what gives attorneys a bad name." What is it about our profession that seems to equate being a zealous advocate with being obnoxious?

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Having resolved over 1500 personal injury cases, my hope remains to provide the type of legal service which warrants the continued respect and recommendation of fellow professionals. Let me know how I can help you.



JONATHAN J. RUSSELL

*SuperLawyer 11 years (2011–2021), Plaintiff's Personal Injury • Member Million Dollar Advocates Forum
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Penn State Cooperative Extension
Prison Oversight Board
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Saint Mary Hospital Authority
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