

*the*WRITS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BUCKS COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



SPRING 2021

A photograph of three people skiing on a snowy mountain slope. In the center is an adult wearing a white and black striped ski jacket, a black helmet, and goggles, with their arms raised in a celebratory gesture. To the left is a child in a pink and white patterned ski jacket, a white helmet, and goggles. To the right is another child in an orange and blue patterned ski jacket, a black helmet, and goggles. They are all on skis and holding ski poles. The background shows a forest of bare trees under a cloudy sky.

**Like Being
a Kid Again**

**BCBF WORKS TO ADDRESS GROWING COMMUNITY NEEDS
WELCOME TO THE BENCH, JUDGE JORDAN YEAGER**

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contents

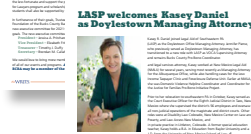
SPRING 2021



BCBF Works to Address Growing Community Needs

The Bucks County Bar Foundation is excited to start a new year of fundraising events and activities! Oh wait, there

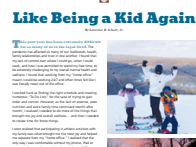
Page 8



LASP welcomes Kasey Daniel as Doylestown Managing Attorney

Kasey R. Daniel joined Legal Aid of Southeastern PA (LASP) as the Doylestown Office Managing Attorney. Jennifer

Page 9



Like Being a Kid Again

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Page 15



Welcome to the Bench, Judge Jordan Yeager

It was my honor and pleasure, as it always is in doing interviews for the Writs, to speak with the attorneys and

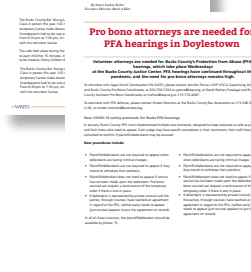
Page 16



Santa at The Bar

The Bucks County Bar Young Lawyers Division fashioned a solution to the problem of kids not being able to visit Santa Claus in person this year. YLD members, under the

Page 18



Pro bono attorneys are needed for PFA hearings in Doylestown

Volunteer attorneys are needed for Bucks County's Protection from Abuse (PFA) hearings, which take place Wednesdays

Page 22

Also in This Issue:

- President's Letter 4
- From the Editor... 6
- In Memoriam 7

- Annual Meeting & Wine Tasting 10
- Pro Bono Honor Roll 14
- IP Section Beer Tasting 20

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Sean Gresh
*Bucks County Bar
Association President*

My Fellow Members of the Bar:

When you stop to think about it, a lot can happen in 138 years. When our Bar Association was founded in 1883, I am sure that the thoughts of its founding members ran toward some challenges that none of us would really understand. Who will run against President Arthur next year? When will Doylestown get some of those fancy electric streetlights? Where can I park my horse?

Regardless, I am sure that the founders of the BCBA also had many of the same concerns that each of us have. Will my client go to jail? Will the jury believe the Plaintiff? Will the buyer sign this agreement? To some extent, the concerns of lawyers and the solutions to those concerns never change.

As we have seen over the last year, some of our concerns are less common than others. COVID-19 has changed so much about our world. During the pandemic, we have used the Bar Association as a conduit between practitioners and the Courts, keeping you apprised of the latest news and information concerning the closures, precautions, and procedures that practitioners need to know about to continue providing access to justice during a public health crisis.

We have relied upon the Bar Association to adapt to the times and continue providing us with valuable and safe CLEs. Sometimes, we have utilized the Bar Association as a means of continuing socialization with our peers, because we all need to know that others are feeling the same way we are. The feedback we have received for all of our programming during the last 12 months has been overwhelmingly positive. I credit this success to my predecessor, Dan Keane, who met the pandemic and its challenges with diligence and hard work, and to the staff of the Bar Association for their continued dedication to serving the needs of our members.

In preparing for my upcoming year as the 81st president of the Bucks County Bar Association, I began thinking of what our Bar Association can do to help our members

outside the practice of law. As I have said many times before, our Bar Association is first and foremost a member service organization. As many of you know, a portion of my practice deals with healthcare. The last several months have seen each of us display a heightened concern for our physical health as well as our mental well-being.

**As I have said many times before,
our Bar Association is first and
foremost a member service
organization.**

I am excited to announce the creation of the Bucks County Bar Association Wellness Program. As we roll out this program for you over the next few months you can expect to see some new and exciting programming, including CLEs dealing with topics like stress management, mindfulness, and civility in the practice of law. You will also learn about some new partnerships which will allow our members to receive significant discounts on things like online exercise programming. I have received a lot of very enthusiastic feedback from members who are looking forward to this program. I can't wait to get it started.

I am looking forward to seeing you all (hopefully) at some of our exciting upcoming in-person events, including the Bench Bar Conference at Crystal Springs in Hamburg, NJ from September 23–25, and the Golf Outing in June to benefit the wonderful work of our Bucks County Bar Foundation.

The BCBA has been here for the lawyers of Bucks County through 26 US Presidents, 2 World Wars, and 2 global influenza pandemics. Our tradition of service remains the same. I am proud to continue that tradition of diligent service to our over 800 members. 🦋

— 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.





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JUNE

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Municipal Law Colloquium

JULY

Elder Law Institute
Federal Securities Law
Forum

AUGUST

Animal Law Conference
Annual Contracts Workshop

SEPTEMBER

Medical Marijuana &
Hemp Law Symposium
Civil Rights Symposium
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OCTOBER

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From the Editor...



Jason R. Weiss
Editor, Bucks Writs

Zooming all over again.

It should come as no surprise that the legal profession has adapted to the pandemic by using various means of remote connections. As we continue into year two of the Covid Pandemic, those who were once unfamiliar with remote work are now as comfortable with Zoom as they are with parsing the holding from a Supreme Court decision.

The Bench and the Bar Association have both provided guidance to our members over the last year. From CLEs and regular communications regarding emergency orders, all parties involved have done their best to keep our courts open and cases moving along. For a refresher on BlueJeans, the platform in use by the courts in Bucks County to conduct remote hearings, check out this webinar from June 16, 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLVmeYL2gIM>. Also available for your viewing pleasure is the latest State of the Bucks County Courts. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkiv4xLeEd4>. While on the Bar Association's YouTube page, don't forget to watch the 2020 Annual Meeting award presentations!

Although I believe most of us have grown tired of the remote proceedings and lack of in-person interaction, I hope this time has opened up some eyes to the benefits of technology in the legal profession. Though attorneys are generally slow to adapt to the latest technological trends, the Pandemic forced very quick changes throughout the profession. Using what has been learned throughout this difficult time would also be in our collective best interest. Perhaps allowing employees to work from home as needed isn't such a bad idea. We now know that remote hearings and conferences work.

Though we would all prefer to be in person every day, I am hopeful that our members will see the benefits and advantages of technology, even once the Pandemic passes us by. Change can be good. 🐘

— Jason R. Weiss



Using what has been learned throughout this difficult time would also be in our collective best interest. Perhaps allowing employees to work from home as needed isn't such a bad idea. We now know that remote hearings and conferences work.

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**. 🐘





In Memoriam

Remembering and honoring the members we lost in 2020

The year 2020 was one of painful loss. We said goodbye to respected leaders and lawmakers, to friends and colleagues, to people who have inspired us and enriched our lives even if we didn't know them personally. In some cases, people were taken from us far too soon, victims of a pandemic that has caused death and suffering around the world. We also had to postpone one of our treasured traditions of honoring our departed members at our Annual Meeting. While we were not able to do this in December, our BCBA leadership is looking for an opportunity to do this in person as soon as possible in 2021 as conditions improve. Despite the temporary delay, the pandemic caused us to rethink our tradition and add something new. This year we published a special edition of *The Law Reporter* — BCBA's weekly legal journal. This edition contained all of the Memorial Resolutions honoring those members we lost in 2020. Going forward, we will continue to publish this special edition in order to benefit the entire membership and other readers of our journal. While the reading of the resolutions at the annual meeting will continue, only those in attendance at the meeting are able to hear them. Publishing them in *The Law Reporter* allows the entire membership to honor, remember, and memorialize our departed members. They will be missed.

— 2020 MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS —

William J.F. Bell
William J. Bolla
Joseph S. Britton
Charles J. Conturso

Hon. Michael G. Fitzpatrick
Ralf E. Gilbert
Michael Hagstotz

Thomas R. Hecker, Jr.
Jack Hetherington
Jay Karsch
Nicholas A. Leonard

Facts Matter

In Criminal and Family Law

Contact Tom Blackburn for experienced representation in Criminal and Family Law.

Tom gained valuable trial experience as a prosecutor in Montgomery County, and through the years has participated in over 30 trials in various counties including Bucks, Lehigh, Northampton, Monroe and Philadelphia.

Tom also represents churches, schools and other non-profit organizations concerning a myriad of issues including child reporting, liability reduction, and Covid advice.



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BCBF Works to Address Growing Community Needs

THE BUCKS COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION IS EXCITED TO START A NEW YEAR OF FUNDRAISING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES!

OH WAIT, there remains a pandemic and events and activities most likely will remain socially distant, if not virtual. Despite these limitations, the needs of our community continue to grow. More and more the citizens of Bucks County need access to justice. It is the specific goal of the Foundation to increase legal representation and legal assistance for those in need. **The BCBF is the charitable arm of the members of the BCBA and a critical partner in the association's efforts to increase access to justice.**

The Foundation can only survive with the generosity of our donors. In 2020, an endowment was established and \$70,000 raised in that first year. Ultimately, the Foundation's child advocacy initiative, also started in 2020, and other programs will be supported with this endowment. **As this endowment grows, we hope to add paid staff to increase the number of needy clients assisted through this program.**

A modified St. Patrick's Day event and the annual golf outing will proceed this year (absent unforeseen circumstances). For those who can muster the enthusiasm, the events will bring together the legal community in support of the less fortunate and support the program. The Learning for Lawyers program and scholarships for high school students shall also be supported by the Foundation.

In furtherance of their goals, Trustees of the Charitable Foundation of the Bucks County Bar Association have a new executive committee for 2021 to lead their fundraising goals. The new executive committee is:

- President** – Jessica A. Pritchard
- Vice President** – Elizabeth Fritsch
- Treasurer** – Timothy J. Duffy
- Secretary** – Brendan M. Callahan

We would love to bring more members into the planning of all of our events and programs. **Any member of the BCBA may be a member of the event committees.**

2021 BCBF Executive Committee



Pritchard



Fritsch



Duffy



Callahan

We have committees to help plan our fundraisers (St. Patrick's Day event and the Golf Outing) and the Learning with Lawyers program (our civics program with 5th grade classes in the county). **If you would like to get involved, please get in touch with Greg Nardi** (greg.nardi@bucksbar.org or 215-348-9413).

Of course, we appreciate the continued support of so many of our members and community partners in furtherance of increasing the community's access to justice. If you would like to make a donation to the Bucks County Bar Foundation, please contact the Bucks County Bar Association at 215-348-9413 or go to:

<https://buckscountybarfoundation.salsalabs.org/donateonlineform/index.html> ➡

LASP welcomes Kasey Daniel as Doylestown Managing Attorney



Kasey R. Daniel joined Legal Aid of Southeastern PA (LASP) as the Doylestown Office Managing Attorney. Jennifer Pierce, who previously served as Doylestown Managing Attorney, has transitioned to a new role with LASP as VOCA Supervising Attorney and remains Bucks County Pro Bono Coordinator.

An experienced manager and legal services attorney,

Kasey worked at New Mexico Legal Aid (NMLA) for several years, serving most recently as Managing Attorney for the Albuquerque Office, while also handling cases for the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic and Foreclosure Defense Unit. Earlier at NMLA, she was Domestic Violence Helpline Coordinator and Coordinator for the Justice for Families Pro Bono Initiative Project.

Prior to her relocation to southeastern PA in October, Kasey served as the Court Executive Officer for the Eighth Judicial District in Taos, New Mexico where she supervised the district's 56 employees and oversaw all non-judicial operations of the magistrate and district courts. Other roles were at Disability Law Colorado, New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, and Law Access New Mexico, and in private practice in Littleton, Colorado. A former special education teacher, Kasey holds a B.A. in Education from Baylor University and a J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law. 🐾

Kasey is based at LASP's Almshouse site. She can be reached at 267-488-1862 or kdaniel@lasp.org.

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2020 Annual Meeting & Wine Tasting

— December 10th, 2020 —





Mitigating Risk Through Disability Income Insurance

Disabilities that affect someone's ability to work can be a serious issue for businesses and organizations of all sizes. Whether you're a business owner or a benefits manager, disability income (DI) insurance can help replace a portion of your employees' income if they become too ill or injured to work. Businesses can use DI as an effective planning tool to mitigate risk. Offering DI can also help you to recruit and retain employees.

Income Protection for Employees

If you offer group long-term disability benefits, the coverage may only protect about half of an employee's net monthly income. You can help your employees reduce the coverage gap by making supplemental individual DI insurance policies available to them. By offering this valuable coverage as a voluntary benefit, your employees can have added protection to help them meet their financial obligations during a disability, at little or no cost to the business. MassMutual offers different DI products to meet the needs of both small and large businesses and organizations. Depending on your company's needs, a DI offering can be either voluntary or employer-paid, and might be eligible for simplified underwriting. Regardless of the design, your employees enjoy discounted premiums and policy portability.

Retirement Protection for Employees

Your employees have worked hard to save for retirement, and you can offer a way to help them protect the nest eggs they have built. A major derailer for many people approaching retirement can occur if they become too sick or hurt to work, and are forced to tap into their retirement savings to meet the expenses of everyday life. A disability income policy can not only replace a portion of one's income when a disability occurs, but it can also be designed to help your employees continue saving for retirement if they become too sick or hurt to work. In this way, offering DI policies can help your business attract talent and build loyalty.

Protect Your Business and Select Employees

For a small business, a key employee's disability can impact the company's bottom line. However, if you choose to continue paying that employee's salary without having a pre-existing plan in place, tax reporting issues may arise as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) would generally not recognize those payments as a business expense. A Qualified Sick Pay Plan (QSPP), which is recognized by the IRS and can be funded with DI, sets company policy before a disability occurs. Funding a QSPP with DI, you transfer the risk of a portion of that employee's salary to MassMutual. The owner can choose which employees will be included in a QSPP, making it ideal for family businesses looking to offer disability income protection for non-owner family members.

Fund Buy-Sell Agreement

If your business has multiple owners, you can use DI to fund a buy-out option if one partner becomes disabled, allowing for an orderly transition of ownership. Additionally, this allows the insurance carrier to serve as an objective third party to determine whether a disability has occurred. If you're in a partnership that has an existing buy-sell agreement, it's important that you review the agreement to ensure that disabilities are addressed and funded.



Cover Business Overhead Expenses

As a business owner, you have expenses to pay and obligations to meet. So if you were to become disabled, the future of your company could be in jeopardy. However, with a business overhead expense (BOE) disability policy in place, the business can continue to operate even while you are unable to work. A BOE policy can help by paying a portion of overhead expenses, such as leases and salaries, in the event of a business owner's disability. Premiums for a BOE policy are generally tax deductible and the benefits paid, which are subject to taxation, are used to pay for expenses that are commonly tax deductible.

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- Wednesday, April 21, 2021 @ Noon
Register at <https://tinyurl.com/ygjqrhwb>
- Thursday, April 22, 2021 @ 9am
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Pro Bono Honor Roll

October 1 through December 31, 2020

THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who gave their valuable time to provide high quality legal representation to Bucks County residents to ensure justice for all. Favorable outcomes range from obtaining final Protection from Abuse (PFA) orders for victims of domestic violence, to preparing wills for senior citizens, to obtaining bankruptcies and expungements in order to provide someone a second chance, and so much more. A special thanks to volunteers for continuing to make a difference during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you also to those who provide financial assistance through donations and arbitration allowances that allow Legal Aid of Southeastern PA (LASP) to continue to provide high quality legal representation. We could not assist as many individuals without all of you. Thank you to donors who gave to LASP in memory of longtime Bucks County attorney Ralf E. Gilbert, Esq., who died Nov. 10, 2020.

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Like Being a Kid Again

By Lawrence R. Scheetz, Jr.

This past year has been extremely difficult for so many of us in the legal field.

The pandemic has affected so many of our livelihoods, health, family relationships and trust in one another. I found that my lack of control over where I could go, when I could work, and how I was permitted to spend my free time, to be extremely challenging to my overall mental health and wellness. I found that working from my “home office” meant I could be working 24/7 and often times felt like I was literally never out of the office.

I worked hard at finding the right schedule and creating numerous “To Do Lists” for the sake of trying to gain order and control. However, as the lack of exercise, poor nutrition and extra family time continued month after month, I realized I needed to do more of the things that brought me joy and overall wellness... and then I needed to create time for those things.

I soon realized that participating in athletic activities with my family was what brought me the most joy and helped me separate from my “home office.” I realized that the only way I was comfortable without my phone, iPad or computer by my side was when I was “playing.” The adventure, laughter, fresh air and camaraderie with my twin six-year-old children and wife was my best stress relief. This past year we biked around Lake Galena at least once a week in the spring; kayaked and paddle boarded on the weekends in the summer; hiked, golfed and fished in the fall; and skied many weekends in the winter.

After identifying my best form of stress relief, I no longer felt trapped indoors or stuck in the “home office,” instead I felt lucky to be able to make the time to teach my children how to bike, paddle board, golf and ski and grateful that they taught me how to play again. 🧡



As the BCBA focuses on wellness in 2021, the Member Services Committee will be sharing stories of how our members integrate wellness practices into their already busy lives. We hope these stories will inspire you with new ideas and offer encouragement as you pursue wellness in your own life. If you have an interesting wellness practice you'd like to share in a future column, please email Erin Aronson at earonson@eastburngray.com.

Welcome to the Bench, Judge Jordan Yeager

By Susan E. Dardes

It was my honor and pleasure, as it always is in doing interviews for *the Writs*, to speak with the attorneys and judges who make up our court system. It was no different, then, when I spoke at some length to the Honorable Jordan Yeager as he reflected back on almost a year on the Bucks County Common Pleas Court.

I asked him straight away, how his candidacy came to be — was he actively recruited? Had this always been a career goal? In fact, after having been a busy litigator for over 26 years, appearing in 23 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, and several federal courts, colleagues had encouraged him to think about a judicial career. Those friends and colleagues had a view of what makes a good judge, which requires having an open mind and an ability to listen. Adversaries told him that even when they were crossing swords in highly contentious litigation, they respected him as smart, hardworking, fair, and honest. As he thought about the judges he respected most, he kept coming back to those hardworking judges who genuinely had an ability to keep an open mind, to listen, and to bring a practical approach to problem solving.



As he thought about the judges he respected most, he kept coming back to those hardworking judges who genuinely had an ability to keep an open mind, to listen, and to bring a practical approach to problem solving.

Judge Yeager credits the professors in his law school's clinical program for teaching "active listening" skills. While a third year at the American University's Washington College of Law, Yeager participated in the school's highly acclaimed Criminal Justice Clinic. In addition to the advocacy experience he gained — he had his first jury trial while still in law school — he learned equally important client

counseling skills, such as active listening. Over the years, Judge Yeager grew to appreciate that active listening techniques, such as communicating back to someone what you are hearing them say, is an important tool beyond client counseling; it's also very effective in advocacy and negotiations.

Now on the bench, Judge Yeager's belief in the importance of active listening has only grown. He describes it like this: "When we communicate back what we are hearing from each other it has tremendous power. It helps make sure we have heard the other person correctly, and when we have, it lets them know that we have. People want to be heard. People want to be understood. We need to let them know that they are. When people appreciate that they have been heard and understood, it makes it much easier for them to listen. When everyone is truly listening to and understanding each other, it makes it much easier to problem-solve and to find common ground. And when that common ground can't be found and the parties need the Court to make a decision, it makes it much easier for people to accept the results."

Judge Yeager has always felt that it was his responsibility to play a positive role in his work and life. His parents instilled this sense of responsibility when he was young. Judge Yeager is an Upper Bucks native, having gone to Palisades High School, prior to attending Cornell University. He felt, though, as one of the few Jewish students at Palisades, that he was different; an outsider. The grandson and great-



Judge Yeager had a sense at an early age that, “in the United States it wasn’t supposed to matter what your background was. It wasn’t supposed to matter where you came from, what your religion was, what your racial or gender identity was. That was the American promise of justice for all. No one is supposed to feel like an outsider in the United States.”

grandson of Eastern European immigrants who came to this country to escape religious persecution, Judge Yeager had a sense at an early age that, “in the United States it wasn’t supposed to matter what your background was. It wasn’t supposed to matter where you came from, what your religion was, what your racial or gender identity was. That was the American promise of justice for all. No one is supposed to feel like an outsider in the United States.” He knew, though, that “the American promise of justice for all and the American reality don’t always match up.”

But the American promise matters, and it is what Judge Yeager takes with him to Court every day — that promise of due process, the right of every person to be heard, and the promise of justice for all.

In his current judicial assignments Judge Yeager is primarily presiding over a mix of Family court cases — from custody, equitable distribution, child and spousal support, to protection from abuse (PFA) orders. He is also resolving a wide range of civil disputes, land use matters on appeal from local governments, summary appeals from magisterial district courts, and bench warrants.

As a judge he has to be in the moment, he said, focused on the case in front of him, and not multitasking, as he always was in private practice. Now, his email inbox is under control, and he feels caught up at the end of a day. At home, he enjoys more down time, is able to catch his breath, and maintain perspective on the matters he must decide.

Overall, his elevation to the bench meant a change in his style of working. To do the job well, he says, it’s important to slow down. It is far from the often harried, fast pace of his life prior to taking the bench. And, while he does sometimes miss the adrenaline rush of advocacy, the warm client relationships he had built, and the camaraderie with

his former partners and colleagues at Curtin & Heefner, he is happy in his new position of service.

As he told me, there’s something about putting on the robe, that when you do so, you are getting into a role. Often times it is the role of conciliator and mediator. He spends a lot of effort trying to get parties (and attorneys) to resolve cases. It can be frustrating when people have a hard time shifting from fighting to problem solving. Judge Yeager said, “While clients often have trouble understanding that you can wage war and talk peace at the same time, I expect lawyers to be able to counsel their clients through that dynamic; lawyers and parties need to be able to put aside advocacy at times and engage in problem-solving. It won’t work in every case, but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t try.” While some attorneys have a hard time knowing when to stop talking and when to “switch gears” from argument mode to cooperation mode, Judge Yeager praises members

The American promise matters, and it is what Judge Yeager takes with him to Court every day — that promise of due process, the right of every person to be heard, and the promise of justice for all.

of the local bar for understanding that there are many different paths to obtaining a fair result for their clients.

I asked if there were days, especially when he first arrived at the Justice Center, when he thought a case or two had gone a completely different way than he had originally expected. And, of course, he said yes — a few, in fact. There have been what he described as “the classic Perry Mason Moments,” when a witness makes a revelation that he hadn’t seen coming. The take away was a reminder that until you have heard it all, you *haven’t* heard it all.

If he needs someone with whom to discuss issues, Judge Yeager is comfortable reaching out to any one of his colleagues on the Bucks bench. He looks to President Judge Wallace “Skip” Bateman and Judge James McMaster, the Administrative Judge for Family Court, as his immediate supervisors, and he has found all of the judges to be welcoming, friendly, and helpful. They are a supportive and collegial group, it appears.

So, in reality, he didn’t lose his law partners, he just gained a new firm. ✍

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“wife, kids, grandkids.”
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Roth IRA, overfunded as described in #2, but
move from taxable to tax free - then move into
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SANTA AT THE BAR



By Nancy Larkin Taylor
Executive Director, Bucks 4 Kids

The Bucks County Bar Young Lawyers Division fashioned a solution to the problem of kids not being able to visit Santa Claus in person this year. YLD members, under the leadership of Erin Aronson and Thomas Nolan, helped 25 or so temporary Santas make dozens of calls to over 80 girls and boys on December 17, 2020. All their Moms, Dads and Grandparents had to do was pay \$10 and fill out a form for each child, containing their first name, age and wish list. From 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm, on that Thursday evening, parents and grandparents sat back as their child talked by phone with the volunteer Santas.

The calls took place during the YDL Holiday Zoom party after a trivia contest. Santas rang bells, ho-ho-hoed and talked to each child for 15 minutes. In some households, one child was a believer while another was not. So, some Santas had to be creative. Many children demanded to

One nine-year-old boy complained that Santa sounded “too young” and requested to talk to “Santa’s Daddy.”

Face Time with Santa, even hanging up and calling Santa back to do so. One nine-year-old boy complained that Santa sounded “too young” and requested to talk to “Santa’s Daddy.”

The calls were as enjoyable for the Santas as for the children. Everyone was in the holiday spirit as they took on the role of St. Nicholas. All proceeds realized from the event will benefit Bucks 4 Kids. Established in 1991, Bucks 4 Kids is an all-volunteer charity that financially supports Bucks County’s most vulnerable population: kids and teens in the care of Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency. Grant Applications are made on behalf of individual children by their caseworkers. Bucks 4 Kids

Bucks 4 Kids works to interrupt the well-worn path from foster home to incarceration by funding enrichment activities for child victims of abuse and neglect.

works to interrupt the well-worn path from foster home to incarceration by funding enrichment activities for child victims of abuse and neglect by helping them deal with past trauma and learn how to thrive. Bucks 4 Kids is extremely grateful to the Young Lawyers Division and its members for the efforts made on their part. It was not an easy gig to organize and pull off, but everyone involved was certainly happy to do so. ↗



Bucks County Mediation and Arbitration Center

The Bucks County Mediation and Arbitration Center (BCM MAC) 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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Pro bono attorneys are needed for PFA hearings in Doylestown

Volunteer attorneys are needed for Bucks County's Protection from Abuse (PFA) hearings, which take place Wednesdays at the Bucks County Justice Center. PFA hearings have continued throughout the pandemic, and the need for pro bono attorneys remains high.

To volunteer with Legal Aid of Southeastern PA (LASP), please contact Jennifer Pierce, LASP VOCA Supervising Attorney and Bucks County Pro Bono Coordinator, at 610-756-7264 or jpierce@lasp.org, or Randi Riefner, Paralegal and Bucks County Assistant Pro Bono Coordinator, at rriefner@lasp.org or 215-770-4067.

To volunteer with PFA defense, please contact Kristen Norcross at the Bucks County Bar Association at 215-348-9413 x100, or kristen.norcross@bucksbar.org.

New COVID-19 safety protocols for Bucks PFA hearings

In January, Bucks County PFA court implemented multiple new protocols, designed to keep everyone as safe as possible and limit those who need to appear. Each judge may have specific procedures in their courtroom; their staff should be consulted to confirm if plaintiffs/defendants may be excused.

New procedures include:

- Plaintiffs/defendants are not required to appear when defendants are facing criminal charges;
- Plaintiffs/defendants are not required to appear if they intend to withdraw their petitions;
- Plaintiff/defendant does not need to appear if service has not been made upon the defendant. Pro bono counsel can request a continuance of the temporary order if there is one in place.
- If defendant is represented by private counsel and the parties, through counsel, have reached an agreement in regard to the PFA, neither party needs to appear (just counsel appears to put the agreement on record).

In all of these instances, the plaintiff/defendant should be available by phone. 📞

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