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ON THE COVER: Dave Swartz of the Bucks
County Gilbert & Sullivan Society performing
in "Trial by Jury" as part of Law Day

COVER PHOTO: Dylan Gilheany

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**David Truelove** *Bucks County Bar Association President* 

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### **Dear BCBA Members:**

This column is being penned in the middle of the Summer — a time for some rest, relaxation, and reflection. Fortunately, I was able to accomplish the first two items in a recent Western Mediterranean vacation with my wife and step-sons, the highlight was climbing Mount Vesuvius, looking on one side

in to the volcano crater, and on the other, the panorama of the Bay of Naples. That, followed by a visit to Pompeii, and a sample of Limoncello (invented in Naples), capped off a great get-away.

Insuring that the (BCBA) operates in all of its facets on a daily basis requires commitment, creativity and interpersonal skills. Scheduling CLEs, looking to make the Bar more relevant and prominent within the legal community, as well as in the community at large, takes effort and time.

Of course, upon return I was greeted with emails, correspondence, phone messages, and numerous catch-up tasks for clients and firm administration. Among these duties included reviewing any necessary Bar Association matters that I might need to address. Fortunately, as I quickly discovered, BCBA is a smoothly-operating enterprise, which functions very well (perhaps even more effectively) in the absence of its President. Thanks to the efforts of Executive Director Stacey Mulholland, and our terrific staff, the ongoing BCBA activities continue, without a hitch. Of course, oversight and occasional appearances by my Executive Board colleagues (Jessica Pritchard, Bob Repko, Dan Keane and Grace Deon) also keep the Association humming along.

None of this should be surprising. BCBA plays an important role in the professional lives of Bucks

County lawyers. The internal work — conducting CLEs, performing Lawyer Referral work, providing a place for professional and social interaction — these activities occur daily. Employing a staff that performs these tasks effectively is something I may have taken for granted for years, until now. Being directly involved in the operations has provided insight and perspective that demonstrates how fortunate we are to be members of this Association. Insuring that the facility operates in all of its facets on a daily basis requires commitment, creativity and interpersonal skills. Scheduling CLEs, looking to make the Bar more relevant and prominent within the legal community, as well as in the community at large, takes effort and time. Stacey and her staff should be commended for their work

Despite some public derision aimed at our profession, it's clear that the vast majority of lawyers are hardworking, civic-minded, productive and conscientious members of society.

on our behalf. The same should be said for the Executive Board and our Board of Directors, and Committee, Section and Division leaders, all of whom dedicate a great deal of time to bring services to the members — speakers, events, and social gatherings. Anyone who is not taking advantage of these opportunities is really missing out.

Externally, BCBA is also performing several important functions. One certainly would be to highlight to the public at large the good work BCBA and its members do in the community — Wills for Heroes, Pro Bono representation in numerous matters, the Traffic School, Young Lawyers' Division Birth Certificate Initiative, the Bar Foundation's Scholarship Program, and so many other endeavors. Despite some public derision aimed at our profession, it's clear that the vast majority of lawyers are hard-working, civic-minded, productive and conscientious members of society.

Other important external initiatives performed by BCBA include advocacy and timely information-sharing with the members. Through our lobbyist (we partner with the Montgomery County and Delaware County Bar Associations in retaining the lobbyist), we monitor legislation involving a potential tax on legal services, the persistent funding plight of Legal Services, the addition of two more judges to the County bench, and other relevant matters affecting our profession. Our recent Legislative Roundtable,



attended by lobbyist Dick Gmerek, and State Senator Chuck McIlhinney and State Representative Marguerite Quinn, provided a terrific opportunity to share our profession and Association concerns, in direct and effective dialogue.

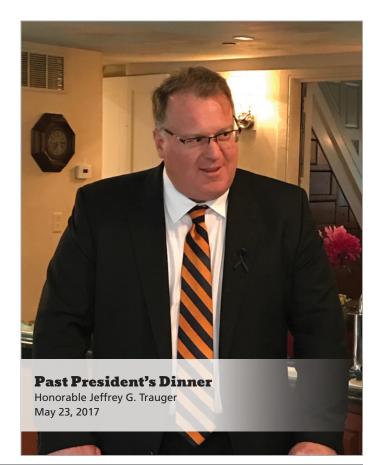
In addition, this publication, ably edited by Scott Feldman, provides lawyers and non-lawyers with timely and important information about our members, as lawyers and in other roles — food critics, movie critics, musicians, community leaders.

Clearly, our Association has a lot to offer. So, during this summer of rest and relaxation, don't forget to reflect on membership in the BCBA — become a member or, if already a member, take greater advantage of the opportunities provided.

A safe and healthy summer to everyone.

#### We Welcome Your Feedback!

Thanks for your interest in *theWRITS*. Please send all comments, questions, submissions to: <a href="mailto:WritsEditor@BucksBar.org">WritsEditor@BucksBar.org</a>.



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JUSTICE JOHN MARSHALL MCCULLOCH VS. MARYLAND, 1819



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#### From the Editor...



The Lawyer Referral and Information Service is Big Business

Q. What local group of attorneys has over 100 members and sees over 1,000 new clients each year?

A. The Bucks County Lawyer Referral and Information Service

The Bucks County Bar Association offers a tremendous benefit to its member attorneys and the community alike through its Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS). Each year, interested Attorneys sign up for one to three (of seven) various "law panels" and related subcategories, indicating their areas of practice. The two most popular panels are Civil Litigation and Family Law, with a total of 548 client referrals in 2016. Potential clients call the LRIS to schedule a half-hour appointment with

The phones ring continually with potential clients. Intake is rarely straightforward as it can take a number of questions – and an awful lot of patience – to ascertain the correct practice area.

a qualified attorney in their geographic area. The client pays the LRIS \$40.00, of which the attorney receives \$25.00. The business model is quite simple. The reality of playing matchmaker between client and attorney over 1,000 times a year not so much!

The LRIS would not function very well without the right individuals to run it. Lynn Abbonizio is the Administrator and chief matchmaker and has served in this capacity for more than two years. The phones ring continually with potential clients. Intake is rarely straightforward as it can take a number of questions — and an awful lot of patience — to ascertain the correct practice area. Then begins the fun of tracking down the appropriate attorney and coordinating their respective schedules.

Lynn loves having the opportunity to speak with many different people from many different backgrounds. She remarks that it is rewarding to be able to help someone in need who doesn't know what their next step should be.

Trina Becker is the more senior member of the team, having served the LRIS for more than 17 years. She acknowledges the challenges inherent in such a fast paced and stressful environment, but states it is very satisfying dealing with the clients and meeting their needs.

It is highly satisfying when a client appears in my office with a bona fide legal need in my area of practice.

In my experience, when the telephone rings, and Lynn or Trina's pleasant voice is on the other end, I know that a referral has been properly screened and an appointment is ready to be scheduled. It is highly satisfying when a client appears in my office with a bona fide legal need in my area of practice. The other day, it was young lady who was recently terminated from her employment but was denied Unemployment Compensation benefits. I was retained to file an Appeal and represent her at a Referee's Hearing. It is equally gratifying when a client appears with some questions, or a document or letter to review, and in a half-hour's consultation, I am able to address the legal issues presented and the client leaves satisfied.

The LRIS does a terrific job tracking all of its referrals and fees. Attorneys pay a referral fee equal to ten percent of all fees received, so the LRIS generates significant revenues for the Bar Association. Trina mentions that a recently acquired software program is more user friendly, allowing greater access to statistics and enabling the creation of custom reports. Finally, the LRIS is looking to implement a new program specifically geared to Veterans. Stay tuned!

-Scott L. Feldman









#### Join Us for Bench Bar!

The 2017 Bucks County Bar Association Bench Bar Conference is quickly approaching.

Scheduled for October 5–7 at the beautiful Omni Bedford Springs in Bedford, Pennsylvania, the Bench Bar Conference is an annual event that

allows Bucks County lawyers and judges (and guests) to come together in a social and collaborative atmosphere to learn about recent legal developments and discuss ways to improve the practice of law. This year's event will continue the tradition of offering

informative seminars, providing opportunities for attendees to build and strengthen professional and social relationships, and will feature a practice management presentation by **Ellen Freedman** as well as a presentation by **Dr. G. Terry Madonna**, political pollster and professor at Franklin & Marshall College, on the recent presidential election and the state of American politics and government.





# APPELLATE COURT CANDIDATE MEET AND GREET

June 14, 2017

Left to right: Daniel M. Keane (BCBA Secretary), Jordan Yeager (BCBA Appellate Law Section Chair), The Honorable Maria McLaughlin (Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia), The Honorable Carolyn Nichols (Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia), Jessica A. Pritchard (BCBA Vice President/President Elect), The Honorable Craig Stedman (Lancaster County District Attorney), and The Honorable Emil Giordanoano (Judge, Northampton County Court of Common Pleas).



### 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.

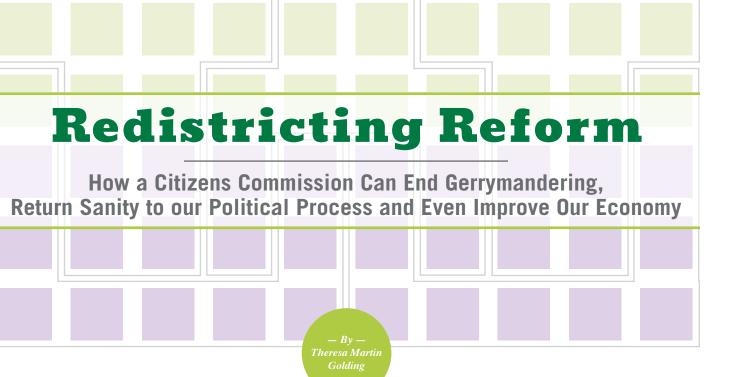
LRIS participation is open to all Bucks

County Bar Association members having their primary office in Bucks County. You can contact the LRIS at

215-348-9413.







t has famously been described as Goofy kicking Donald Duck. Is it a cartoon drawing? A Rorschach inkblot test? No, it's Pennsylvania's 7th Congressional District, one of the most gerrymandered congressional districts in the country. It stretches, dips, cuts, and curves in a highly contorted fashion over five separate counties, lumping together Pennsylvania voters from the Maryland border with voters north of Reading and those living east of Blue Bell.

Is there a reason anyone should care? Haven't politicians been engaging in gerrymandering since Eldridge Gerry, its namesake, approved a salamander shaped district in Massachusetts back in 1812? Whether you are a Republican, a Democrat or an Independent, there is plenty of reason to care.

#### **Competitive Elections Create Robust Representation**

With the advent of mapping technologies and voter sorting software, partisan legislators now use very precise tools to draw the district lines around the voters that they want, creating exceptionally safe seats. When legislators are in safe seats, they have no incentive to work with their colleagues across the aisle or even to address the

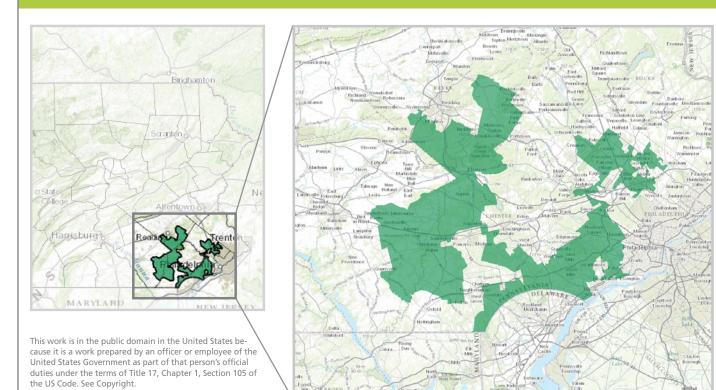
Pennsylvania is one of the most gerrymandered states in the country — and there are numbers to prove it. Quantitative analysis found Pennsylvania to be one of three states with consistently extreme levels of partisan bias.

concerns of constituents. Elections are not competitive and are usually decided in the low-voter-turnout primaries. In 2016, in a shocking 57% of Pennsylvania state house general election races, there was just one person on the ballot. The opposition party did not even field a candidate. Over 91% of races had an incumbent running for reelection and 86% of races had no primary opponent. Pennsylvania voters feel disenfranchised, and rightly so.

Pennsylvania is one of the most gerrymandered states in the country — and there are numbers to prove it. The Brennan Center for Justice, a nonpartisan law and policy institute dedicated to improving our democracy, analyzed



#### PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT 7



the 2012, 2014 and 2016 congressional elections using three separate quantitative measures of partisan bias.<sup>1</sup> That quantitative analysis found Pennsylvania to be one of three states with consistently extreme levels of partisan bias.<sup>2</sup> The Brennan Center considers this level of gerrymandering to be an alarming threat to democracy.<sup>3</sup>

Without competitive elections, legislators pander to their extreme base to stay in office. Compromise becomes impossible, the important business of governing is mired in gridlock, and our infrastructure, educational system, economy, and prosperity suffer. A September 2016 report of Harvard Business School's U.S. Competitiveness Project includes this key finding: "The U.S. political system was once the envy of many nations... Today, we believe that our political system is now the major obstacle to progress on the economy..." How to fix that broken political

system? Harvard Business School alumni believe that gerrymandering reform is the top priority.<sup>5</sup>

#### **How to Solve the Gerrymandering Problem**

As lawyers, we are trained to look for and to avoid conflicts of interest. Shouldn't legislators do the same? Drawing the boundaries of their own districts, choosing the people they want to vote for them, is a clear conflict of interest. Voters should choose their legislators, not the other way around. The good news is that there is something we can do about this problem.

The Pennsylvania Constitution currently provides for state house and senate redistricting to be accomplished by a reapportionment commission consisting of five legislators, two each from the majority and the minority party with the fifth member, the chairperson, to be selected by the four members.<sup>6</sup> If the four are unable to agree on the fifth member, which has historically been the case, a majority

<sup>1</sup> Brennan Center for Justice, Extreme Maps, published May 2017 (Efficiency Gap Analysis, Seats-to-Votes Curve Analysis and Means-Median Difference Analysis).

<sup>2</sup> *ld.* at page 15.

<sup>3</sup> *ld.* at page 1.

<sup>4</sup> http://www.hbs.edu/competitiveness/Documents/problems-unsolved-and-a-nation-divided.pdf, page 48.

<sup>5</sup> http://www.hbs.edu/competitiveness/Documents/problems-unsolved-and-a-nation-divided.pdf, page 55.

<sup>6</sup> Section 17 of Article II of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.



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#### feature

of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court appoints the fifth member. The fifth member tilts the balance in favor of one party or the other, and the gerrymandering begins.

A bipartisan group of Pennsylvania legislators is seeking to reform this broken system. Senate Bill 22, introduced by Senators Lisa Boscola (D) and Mario Scavello (R) and co-sponsored by 10 other senators, and House Bill 722, introduced by Steve Samuelson (D) and Eric Roe (R) and cosponsored by 90 other representatives, would put redistricting into the hands of an independent citizens commission that would redraw the district lines in an open and fair manner. The commission would be composed of 11 willing citizens randomly chosen from a vetted pool of registered voters, four of whom are registered with the largest political party, four of whom are registered with the second-largest party, and three of whom are unaffiliated with either of the largest political parties.

The process for redistricting would be transparent, with opportunity for public input, and the commission would not be permitted to consider prior election results, the party affiliations of voters or the addresses of any individual.

#### **Time is Critical**

To accomplish these common-sense reforms, the Pennsylvania Constitution must be amended. In order to do so, a bill establishing the citizens commission must pass both the Pennsylvania House and the Senate in two consecutive legislative sessions and then be approved by voters. Both SB22 and HB722 have been introduced and referred to committee. Each is waiting to be scheduled for action by the committees' chairs. Time is of the essence as the decennial census, and hence redistricting, is only a few short years away.

As lawyers, we are well-positioned to advocate for passage of redistricting reform by getting involved in the process, making our views known to our legislators and spreading the word about this crucial issue. Tired of partisan extremism and bickering? Don't just complain, get involved! Redistricting reform, a bipartisan cause, is a vitally important first step to ending the fanatical partisanship that has gripped our state and country and created virtual gridlock in our legislatures. Our democratic system deserves better. It is time to return the power to the people of the Commonwealth and to make our political system, once again, the envy of the world.





hen I was a young lad, 19 or 20, I spent a good portion of the summers in my older brother Hart's company. Hart Rufe was then a lawyer who was active in the County Democratic Party. He later became a Judge and is now retired. I had the privilege of working side by side with him first as a lawyer and then as a Judge for our County. In his company, I was introduced to a lot of people as we travelled from Court House to Justice of the Peace offices. (It was in 1973 that the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania created District Courts and eliminated the old Justice of the Peace practice), and from political committee meetings to kids' games, ice cream sodas and other places unknown.

One Saturday afternoon in June, Glenn Supplee and I were roving the streets of New Hope in search of a pair of dates.

While I was looking around in a New Hope Gift Shop, Glenn was on the pay telephone which was at the end of the small hallway. Glenn got a little bit loud and said, "The one girl's OK, but the other is a real dog." I looked up and noticed a lady staring at me intently. Because I was in New Hope, on the other side of the world, I thought I would say something silly about the remark. But I just said, "He's right; she is a dog." The lady continued to look at



Judge Garb was fair, he was pithy, he explained his decisions, and he was unfailingly courteous to attorneys and parties alike. ADAs were almost willing to pay to be assigned to his court room.

me, and finally said, "Aren't you Hart Rufe's brother?" I had been found out: here! on the other side of the world! I learned from that, that you're never far enough away to be free to act like a fool, a lesson well learned! The lady turned out to be Joan Garb, Zeke's wife.

I became reacquainted with Zeke in the summer of 1965. My brother was chairman of the Upper Bucks Democratic Committee and I was in that Neverland between law student and lawyer where passage of the Bar Exam meant admission to the profession. The Bar Exam at that time was a two day, sixteen hour, all essay exam and I was exhausted by the time the two days were over. While the terrible wait for results was on, I was travelling with Hart to various venues in the Democratic cause.

At this time, Bill Eastburn was the Republican Party nominee for D.A., having defeated Ward Clark in the primary. Disgruntled Republicans who supported Ward in the primary would not go quietly into the dark, dark night, and so negotiated a fusion ticket, uniting with Democrats in the hope of overcoming the Republican Registration and straight party choices. Ward replaced Isaac S. Garb on the Democratic ticket. Zeke, humbly and gracefully bowed

#### feature



out and became Ward's campaign manager in the critical final months leading up to the election. He spoke for the candidate frequently at rallies and "meet the candidates" meetings. His introductory remarks were always humorous, but his comments about the race and the importance of electing Ward were always eloquent and persuasive. Ward was elected, and, pursuant to an agreement worked out when the fusion ticket was hatched, hired an equal number of Democrat and Republican secretaries, detectives, and Assistant District Attorneys — three (3) each. It was the start of a non-partisan prosecutor's office which has become the standard ever since, as hiring today presumably continues without regard to political affiliation.

Zeke did not go unrewarded. He was sworn in as Bucks County's fifth judge, replacing John P. Fullam who rose to a seat on the Federal bench of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Zeke took office in November, 1966.

I too became a county employee in November 1966 as a law clerk to Judge Edward G. Biester. In those days, one week per month was devoted to Argument Court. The list of cases to be argued lasted two or three days, and then the judges and their law clerks convened en masse to discuss the arguments and assign cases for writing opinions. Although Zeke became a judge close to the time I became a law clerk, in those arguments and deliberations he was already regarded by the other judges as a leader for his wide knowledge of the law, and his application of the law to the facts. He was an early rising star in the judicial galaxy.

When I moved from being a law clerk to being a part time attorney in the DA's office in 1968 (at that time the DA and all six of his Assistants were part time), I again came in contact with Judge Garb, this time in a different context: as a lawyer appearing in front of him.

Once again, "in those days" we had about twenty criminal trial weeks per year. Every Friday before those weeks we alternated between miscellaneous summary criminal matters and non-support, with the DA's office representing those seeking support, usually women, who did not have private attorneys. As young ADAs we competed for the right to represent the Commonwealth in front of Judge Garb. He was fair, he was pithy, he explained his decisions, and he was unfailingly courteous to attorneys and parties alike. We were almost willing to pay to be assigned to his court room. It was 1968 – the whole country was in ferment: James Earl Ray shot Martin Luther King; Sirhan Sirhan shot Bobby Kennedy; riots broke out at the Democratic Convention in Chicago; the Viet Nam



It was 1968 – the whole country was in ferment. All around, people distrusted other people. In this highly charged atmosphere, young people were being arrested and brought into Court, where Judge Garb was giving good citizenship lessons to young people who were prone to join the rioting. His words were inspirational and reassuring to all of us who listened and encouraged sanity in a time of insanity.

War was escalating; all around, people distrusted other people. It was the age of "Don't Trust anyone over 30." In this highly charged atmosphere, young people were being arrested and brought into Court, where Judge Garb was giving good citizenship lessons to young people who were prone to join the rioting. His words were inspirational and reassuring to all of us who listened and encouraged sanity in a time of insanity.

I tried several cases before him then, and always felt that the Commonwealth and defendants were getting a fair hearing. His charges to the jury were delivered without the use of notes.

In 1972, I left the DA's office to pursue a private practice with my brother. I regarded Zeke as a judge and a man to be emulated and admired. What is more, I considered him a friend.

Within a couple of years, however, I heard complaints about him, how he was rude to attorneys and perpetually in a grumpy mood. I said they had to be wrong, that his court room was a place where any attorney longed to



be. But people continued to complain about him, even suggesting that he had a nervous breakdown, whatever that was. And then I was told the following was the reason why he was occasionally cynical and rude to attorneys.

It was now 1973–74 and illegal drugs were just beginning to flood our communities. Two men, I will call them M and M, because I'm not sure who they were, but I believe both of their last names started with the letter M. Well M. & M were arrested for drug sales in three different jurisdictions. The Justice of the Peace on the first case to be filed set bail at \$50,000.00, 10%. The defendants posted it. The Justice of the Peace in the second jurisdiction set bail at \$50,000.00 and the defendants again posted it. The Justice of the Peace in the third district likewise fixed bail at \$50,000.00 — and the defendants were unable to post it a third time. After they languished in jail for a time, someone brought a petition to Judge Garb seeking to reduce the bail. The petition came to Zeke, who, once the facts were disclosed, reduced bail in the third case to \$1.00, leaving a total of \$100,001.00 bail in place for each defendant. The newspapers, especially the Bucks County Courier, who covered the Court House much more aggressively than has become their wont, got wind of the bail reduction and falsely wrote misleading articles and editorials castigating Garb for letting drug pushers out on bail of \$1.00. When this misinformed story got to the public, Zeke received threatening phone calls, poison mail and was a victim of hateful, venomous contacts of all sorts.

He went to District Attorney Ward Clark and asked him to publicly clarify the record in regard to the bail, explaining that the defendants still had bail posted in the sum of \$100,000.00, probably comparable to a million dollars today. The DA said, "Look, I sympathize with you, but I've got my own public relations to fight." Judge Garb felt betrayed and apparently he let it show in the court room. Never again was Judge Garb seen as the judge with the perfect judicial temperament.

When PECO Energy dreamed up the idea to construct a pipeline to pump water for cooling towers from the Delaware River over to Limerick in Montgomery County to cool the nuclear reactor it proposed to build there, there were various theaters of opposition. Conservationists opposed the pipeline, thinking it would tear Upper Bucks asunder. Anti-development groups opposed it fearing a whole new wave of development energized by nuclear power. Naturalists believed it would divert the water off from the Delaware River as a result of which the river



One protestor went so far as to dump a pickup truck load of manure on the front walk of the entry to the Court House, but nearly all protests were peaceful.

would become a creek. Provincials opposed, supposing they were giving a Bucks County treasure to Montgomery County. And politicians opposed it, recognizing that they could see a lot of votes to be plucked from the opposition to the pump and pipeline.

Sensing he could revive his career as a firebrand leading the forces through civil disobedience came Abbie Hoffman, the most outrageous of the Chicago Seven in the trial following the riots outside the Democratic Presidential Convention of 1968 to organize the opposition.

Multiple areas of litigation were raised by multiple attorneys, and it fell to Judge Garb to handle all of the issues of the Limerick cooling tower and pump litigation. However, long before the litigation began, the Bucks County Commissioners had entered into airtight contracts with PECO Energy and the contracts had to be honored, allowing the pump and pipeline to be built. Ah! But getting there was most of the drama.

Protestors at the construction site were arrested and hauled off to prison. They were given hearings on the same day before Judge Garb. Most protestors were also released on the same day, after a promise was extracted from them that they would not block the construction site again. One protestor went so far as to dump a pickup truck load of manure on the front walk of the entry to the Court House, but nearly all protests were peaceful, Abbie Hoffman notwithstanding. Judge Garb handled all of the issues surrounding the dump, from standing interpretation



and sanctity of contact, from the exercise of free speech as to the number of disputes Sheriffs needed to guard the dump site, providing for a consistency that may not have been available if various issues had been heard by different Judges. No one questioned his impartiality.

Nonetheless there were elements in the legal community who felt they were being beaten up by Zeke each time they entered his court room, and they set out to defeat him when he was up for his ten-year retention vote in 1985.

Leaders in the Bar Association met and determined that the Bar Association risked its non-profit status if it raised money and contributed to Garb's campaign for retention. Therefore, they decided to form an independent committee for fund raising and related campaign activities. The committee successfully raised thousands of dollars to support Judge Garb's candidacy, raising far more than had ever been raised for any judicial election in Bucks County. Many, many more lawyers manned the polls, contributing their time as well as their cash for Garb. The turnout in that election was impressive. And his retention was overwhelming.

Through it all, the picketing, the civil protests, the quasi-criminal displays, coupled with myriad Petitions for Injunction, suits being filed, discovery sought; with all the emotions occasionally boiling over, Zeke was unflappable. He remained stern but fair. His handling of the combined cases, and the trust in his fairness was significant in bringing the litigation to a peaceful conclusion. The fact that PECO was the ultimate winner does not affect Judge Garb's singular role in bringing peace to a set of circumstances where violence could easily have broken out.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court turned to him and made frequent assignments as the trial judge to handle contentious litigation where full bench recusals required the substitution of a judge from another county. He was the judge who sorted out the offenses committed by coal interests and banking interests by the Reading Anthracite Coal case.

Briefly, the Reading Anthracite Coal case involved a struggle for control of a business between two powerful families, the Currans and the Riches. The two families held almost all the stock in the corporation, but one Tornetta had enough shares to favor one or the other family. The Currans were a family of lawyers, with the senior Curran the President Judge of the County Court. The Riches were extremely wealthy and controlled a local bank. Charges of



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unethical conduct were hurled back and forth, including fraud, intimidation, forgery, and worse. The case cried out to be heard by a courageous and incorruptible Judge: the Supreme Court chose Zeke.

He wrote the opinion that decriminalized adultery by finding the Criminal Conversations statute unconstitutional. His opinion has never been challenged and has been accepted as the law of the Commonwealth by all of Pennsylvania's courts.

He was assigned to try the case of Commonwealth vs. Joseph Smith, a case made famous by the novel by Joseph Wambaugh, a case in which the defendant was convicted of murder although the bodies of the victims were never found.

Even as he lost his judicial temperament in the face of lying witnesses and overpaid, unprepared attorneys, he always did what was fair and just. He was fearless, scholarly, a mentor to lawyers and judges alike. He continued to study and learn the law all his life. We may not see a judge of his intelligence and work capacity if we look for 100 years; I do not expect we will see the likes of Zeke ever again.



### 2017 Bucks County Bar Foundation Scholarship Recipients

The Bucks County Bar Foundation, the charitable arm of the Bucks County Bar Association, recently held a reception to honor the 2017 recipients of the Thomas E. Mellon, Jr. Scholarship Fund and the William Penn Scholarship Fund.

The Foundation holds events throughout the year in support of these scholarship funds, including the St. Patrick's Day party and the recent Golf Outing at Commonwealth National Golf Club. The scholarships are awarded to Bucks County residents pursuing a career in law or a related field. Eligibility requirements include a record of academic excellence and a strong commitment to public service.

Specifically, the Thomas E. Mellon, Jr. Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to candidates attending a four-year liberal arts education program who have shown extraordinary commitment to public and/or community service. Applicants for the Thomas E. Mellon, Jr. Scholarship must demonstrate academic excellence, financial need, Bucks County residency and the potential for making a contribution to society and/or the legal profession, either through anticipated legal study or other efforts as discussed in the applicant's essay and evidenced by the applicant's recommendations or a history of extraordinary commitment to public service or community service.

The William Penn Scholarship Fund awards scholarships to applicants demonstrating academic excellence, wide ranging extracurricular activities, leadership, dedicated community service and an interest in and intent to pursue a career in law or a law related field.

This year's recipients of the Mellon Scholarship Fund were: Olivia Cantrell, a recent Central Bucks West graduate who will be attending George Washington University this Fall, Olivia Tempesta, also a recent C.B. West graduate who will be attending Temple University, Tyler School of Art. and Rhiannon Gilley, a recent Quakertown Community High School graduate who will be attending Penn State in the Fall. The recipient of the Penn Scholarship Fund was Mariah



Bryson, a recent graduate of Pennridge High School and Upper Bucks County Technical School. Each scholarship winner was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

These scholarships are only possible through the outstanding ongoing efforts of the members of the Foundation, our Association and our staff. Thank you to all for contributing to the Foundation and please consider the Foundation in your future charitable endeavors.

The mission of the Bar Foundation, consistent with its charter and as a 501(c) (3) charitable entity, is to promote and support programs, organizations, and individuals throughout Bucks County who are engaged in activities designed to foster respect for the rule of law, the advancement of rights, liberties and protections under the law, as well as activities which have as a principal purpose the advancement of social justice for the individuals, families and communities of Bucks County.

Tina Mazaheri, President Bucks County Bar Foundation









# **ORPHANS' COURT RULE CHANGES**

- By Dianne C. Magee

Then I arrived as a baby lawyer in Bucks County in the Stone Age, my legal career to date consisted of one year of practice in New Mexico, where, conveniently, the state rules of court were modeled after the federal rules, and local, county rules essentially were limited to proclamations which constrained the number of pages for a brief. New Mexico, the 47th state, having been admitted to the Union in 1912, as opposed to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which was admitted in 1787, had a seemingly modern court system. Imagine my surprise and confusion upon being confronted by courts still using Latin! What in heaven's name was a Prothonotary (most lay people still don't know this one) or a praecipe? And why did I have to be admitted to practice in the County court when I already was admitted to Pennsylvania? I soon discovered that the reason was that the practice before the courts varied dramatically, and it was imperative to read, study and know the local rules of practice.

Well over 20 years ago, though, hope arrived when Paul Kester, Bucks County's first and longest serving court administrator announced that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court was embarking upon a novel mission to eliminate local rules and to usher in an era of essentially statewide rules and practice. Then, years, indeed, many years, passed,

# The practice before the courts varied dramatically, and it was imperative to read, study and know the local rules of practice.

with a few fits and starts, time stood still, and nothing happened. Thankfully, at least for the Orphans' Court, the time seemed to arrive when new Pennsylvania Orphans' Court Rules went into effect September 1, 2016 to cover all areas of practice in the Orphans' Court, except for guardianships and adoptions, and those missing rules are supposed to be coming this year! The new rules eliminated local court rules, which had to be re-promulgated, but only with review and approval by the Supreme Court Rules Committee. Bucks County did promulgate new local Orphans' Court rules, which were approved.

he new rules have changed the practice before the Orphans' Court in some fairly dramatic (a non-sequitur, yes, in this "watching-paint-dry context") ways. I recommend a thorough reading of the new rules. In the meantime, here are the highlights of which you must be aware.



#### Stay alert and read your rules, but know that we are inching towards a more modern court system where practice from county to county will be more uniform.

First, use of the Supreme Court's forms is mandatory for petitions for adjudication, all pleadings before the Register of Wills, and guardianship annual reports. You may find these forms on the Bucks Register's/Clerk's website.

Next, accounting and audit procedure is guite different. A petition for adjudication must be filed concurrently with a formal account for audit. You may no longer wait to prepare and present the petition at the time of audit before the Court. Also, the rules now clarify that at least 20 days' notice of the audit must be mailed by first class mail in counties with a separate Orphans' Court Division, such as Bucks. The old Bucks rules only required a 10-day notice, and many believed that notice by certified mail was required. No longer need we worry about collecting green cards or about delays caused by unclaimed certified mail. The notice of the audit must be given to all claimants and parties in interest, such as beneficiaries, unless their interests already have been satisfied in full (e.g., beneficiaries of paid pecuniary bequests need not be given notice of the audit). The precise content of the audit notice is contained in Rule 2.5(h). Verified objections to the account must be filed by the time of the audit, with notice given to all interested parties. Within 20 days after service of the objections to the account, answers may be, but are not required to be, filed to the objections, and preliminary objections, limited to lack of subject matter jurisdiction and standing, may be filed, as well. An answer may then be filed to the preliminary objections.

he new Chapter III of the Rules brings Orphans' Court pleading practice substantially into line with civil practice. The Rules follow civil practice and expressly allow for preliminary objections, answers, and new matters and specifically address the consequences of failing properly to plead. Rule 3.5 helpfully spells out the difference between proceedings where a Citation is required to obtain jurisdiction over necessary parties and where only notice is required. Even better, where all parties are petitioners or have filed joinders or consent to the petition, no citation nor notice is required.

Rule 5.1 expressly allows the filing of a petition for declaratory judgment in the Orphans' Court.

Pursuant to Rule 7.1 and Bucks Rule 7.1A, discovery in the Bucks County Orphans' Court continues to require either agreement of the parties or leave of court on petition upon cause shown. The practice thereafter is governed by the state and local rules of civil procedure.

Critically, no exceptions or post-trial motions may be filed to final orders by the Orphans' Court, although timely motions for reconsideration, except in the cases of involuntary termination of parental rights or adoption, may be filed, without tolling the appeal period. A copy of the motion for reconsideration must be provided to the court.

Finally, Register of Wills hearings are now governed by the Rules of Evidence.

So, stay alert and read your rules, but know that we are inching towards a more modern court system where practice from county to county will be more uniform. Be aware, too, that movement toward sweeping changes to guardianship and adoption practice statewide is afoot. Change is a good thing!





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#### What

### Lawyers & Fishermen

#### Have in Common

- By Scott Fegley

Dare I draw a parallel between two seemingly dissimilar pursuits as lawyering and fishing? One is a vocation practiced, for the most part, indoors. The other a recreation practiced, for the most part, out of doors. When I asked Google to compare lawyers and fishermen, the search returned only an unflattering article comparing lawyers to a certain species of fish. Wade deep into both worlds, however, and one can appreciate the traits that make a good fisherman also make a good lawyer and vice versa.

#### **The Art of Presentation**

A good fisherman knows he cannot throw anything into the water and expect a fish to bite. A fisherman practices the art of persuasion as much as any courtroom lawyer. His objective is to persuade a fish that his offering looks, smells and acts just like its natural quarry that it gulps down without hesitation. If the bait or lure presented looks or smells bad or acts unnatural, the fish will swim away. It is much the same in the courtroom. If a lawyer's evidence looks or smells bad or seems unnatural, he is unlikely to persuade a jury to swallow his line.

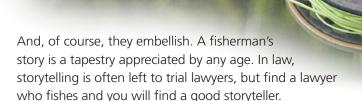
Thought and preparation must precede the presentation. Careful selection of a dry fly to match the hatch along a stream is as important to the trout angler's success as a lawyer's selection of his words before oral argument. A novice angler often allows the line to smack the water alerting every fish present to his posturing. But the skilled placement of flies or words in an alluring manner is a sign of craftsmanship.

Perhaps there is some similarity about making a cast and making a sentence – both must be accurate, graceful, rhythmical and neat.

- John Moore

#### The Art of Storytelling

Good fishermen tell good stories. They draw from the richness of their experience, the humor of their gaffes, the wisdom of their years, and the beauty which inspires them.



#### **The Quest for Your Best**

There hasn't been a fisherman in history who has won the battle with every fish he hooked, nor a lawyer that hasn't felt the disappointment of one that got away. Success is temporary. Failure is motivation. And learning is continual.

Optimism is fuel for the fisherman as it is for the lawyer. Each occasion is another opportunity to apply one's skills against a worthy opponent. And as he ages, I suspect both the fisherman and the lawyer find more satisfaction in passing on his craftsmanship to another so that someone else's life may be equally enriched.

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# Law Day May 1,2017





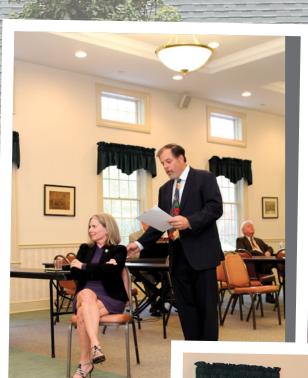




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# - Law Day / Trial by Jury-















# **Judge Rea Boylan**

- Chris Serpico

#### Rea Boylan was sworn in as a judge of the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas on January 3, 2000.

So as difficult as it may be for some of us "old-timers" to imagine, she's now been a judge on the Bucks County Bench for over seventeen years. These days, she spends most of her time sitting in criminal court and Juvenile Court, as well as administering Drug Court and several of the Court's diversion programs.

Judge Boylan is a graduate of Dickinson College and Law School. She served initially as a Bucks County Assistant Public Defender and later as an Assistant District Attorney in this county. For eight years she practiced law with the firm of Curtin and Heefner. She was also a partner in the law firm of Boylan and Serpico for five years. During her later years in private practice she served for several years as Bucks County's Controller until she was named to the judiciary.

My interview with Judge Boylan focused on several of the programs, primarily aimed at helping youthful offenders, in which she has devoted much of her time and attention. There are three programs she's been continually involved with: The Youthful Offenders Program; Drug Court; and the Community Accountability Program, or "CAP".

Given her vast experience in presiding in Juvenile Court, it's not surprising that she's particularly interested in using early intervention methods to address young offender's criminal behavior. The Youthful Offender's Program is geared to criminal defendants, aged 18 to 24 years, who fit the profile of persons who may benefit from alternatives to traditional sentencing practices. For example, if a group of three young people are arrested for stealing a case of beer out of a residential garage, they may be charged with felony burglary. Let's assume that two of the youngsters are 17 years old. As juveniles, not only are they eligible for an array of intervention programs offered by the Juvenile Court system, if they comply with the conditions of Juvenile Probation, they

Given Boylan's vast experience in presiding in Juvenile Court, it's not surprising that she's particularly interested in using early intervention methods to address young offender's criminal behavior. The Youthful Offender's Program is geared to criminal defendants, aged 18 to 24 years, who fit the profile of persons who may benefit from alternatives to traditional sentencing practices.

will most probably emerge from their situation without a felony criminal conviction. Not so for the 19 year old who was their co-conspirator. He or she carries a felony conviction for life, with all the attendant consequences that "scarlet letter" can carry. Whereas if that young offender is deemed eligible for the Youthful Offender Program, he or she can potentially have the felony dismissed. In order to qualify for that result, following a risk assessment, there might be sanctions involving community service hours; a drug and alcohol assessment with treatment as recommended; and, in some cases, a thirty day program at Diakon, which requires an Outward Bound type experience. In some cases, scholarships are awarded to eligible applicants, as the costs for a thirty day stay at Diakon can range from \$6,000 to \$8,000.

Judge Boylan also supervises Drug Court. Along with Senior Judge John Rufe, a total of approximately seventy defendants facing serious drug charges may be deemed eligible to participate in Bucks County Drug Court. The program, which has now been in existence for seven years, requires eligible defendants to undergo intensive supervision, involving frequent court hearings, scheduled to monitor the progress each defendant is making in his or her battle to escape the scars of addiction. She is proud of the program's 133 graduates to date. Often times the motivation to apply for Drug Court is the defendant's desire to avoid a possible state prison sentence which tends to sharply focus the offender's goal of getting and remaining clean. With so many years of experience in dealing with drug offenders, Judge Boylan has learned that "it's important not to sanction the relapse, as much as sanction the lie that led to the relapse in the first place".

We also discussed the harsh reality that mentally ill people are more likely to end up in jail when they can't get proper



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Boylan also believes there's a need for Emergency Crisis Centers that can deal immediately with drug or alcohol emergencies, and after stabilizing a client, can find a suitable living arrangement where the person in crisis can recover.

treatment for their underlying mental health issues. She believes society must do a better job in accounting for public dollars spent on treatment and she recognizes that there is no "one size fits all" treatment. Although it's difficult to find time away from her busy court schedule, she's not averse to paying unannounced visits to treatment providers to ensure that the facilities are in fact providing the services advertised.

She also believes there's a need for Emergency Crisis Centers that can deal immediately with drug or alcohol emergencies, and after stabilizing a client, can find a suitable living arrangement where the person in crisis can recover.

She points out that it's important to remember that the cost of treatment should not be compared solely to the cost of jail. We should compare the costs of treatment to the "total" costs of jail, including the cost of placement of the addict's children; juvenile court costs in supervising the addict's children; and medical costs for treating the addict's underlying drug and/or alcohol problem. When added together, it's a sound argument for doing a better job with initial treatment.

The other program we discussed was the Community Accountability Program, or CAP. Under the supervision of the DA's Office, this program enables eligible young offenders to avoid having their misdemeanor cases proceed to County Court if they agree to appear before a panel of community members who consider a suitable penalty for their criminal behavior. Most often, sanctions might include community service; letters of apology; restitution; or drug and alcohol counseling. The advantage of the program is that it immediately addresses the issues that may have led to the young offender's criminal behavior rather than delaying attention to possible underlying issues for the four to six months that it ordinarily takes for a criminal case to work its way through the justice system.





The program also focuses on

#### A felony criminal record affects a person for a lifetime

— whether it forecloses employment and education opportunities, financing for a home, or personal relationships. But for some young offenders in Bucks County, the stigma

associated with a felony conviction will not inhibit them for rest of their lives.

The Bucks County District Attorney's Office "Youthful Offender Program" is a pre-trial program for first time non-violent individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 who have committed a felony. Successful completion of the program provides the offender the opportunity to

have the felony reduced to a misdemeanor. In recognizing that these individuals are young adults, the program aims to blend the goals of both the juvenile and adult court systems: rehabilitation and accountability.

Acceptance into the program is at the discretion of the District Attorney's Office. Once accepted, participants are placed on pre-trial supervision and are court ordered to complete certain requirements. Examples of these requirements include community service, full time employment, full time enrollment in post-secondary education, and a drug and alcohol evaluation and treatment. Participants are

assigned a pre-trial probation officer and appear regularly before the Honorable Rea B. Boylan during the course of their supervision. This regular and frequent oversight by the Court of Common Pleas requires the young offenders

> to engage in activities that are designed to improve the future quality of their lives.

> The Youthful Offender Program is unique in that it can be tailored toward each participant's needs. In some instances, participants are required to obtain their GED or to seek counseling. The program also focuses on an offender's decision-making in an effort to ensure that

each participant is able to identify what decisions led to the commission of his or her offense, with the hope of decreasing the risk of reoffending.

The keystone to the program for many participants is a requirement that they must attend the Diakon Wilderness Challenge, in Boiling Springs, PA. Diakon is a 30 day wilderness experience where individuals work as a group to learn outdoor survival skills, gain leadership experience and focus on accountability for their past criminal activity. Most participants return from Diakon with a new-found insight

and a motivation to better themselves. Upon successful

an offender's decision-making in an effort to ensure that each participant is able to identify what decisions led to the commission of his or her offense, with the hope of decreasing the risk of reoffending.



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completion of Diakon and all pre-trial requirements, the District Attorney's Office will withdraw the felony charge allowing the young offender to plead guilty to only misdemeanor offenses.

"A non-violent, single felony conviction can affect a young person for the rest of his or her life," says District Attorney Matthew D. Weintraub, "but the Youthful Offender Program gives these young adults the opportunity to work past this isolated non-violent criminal incident, and to transform into law abiding and productive members of society."

For more information on the Youthful Offender Program, or to request an application, please contact Assistant District Attorney Jessica Bryant at jlbryant@buckscounty.org or Assistant District Attorney Megan Brooks at mbbrooks@ buckscounty.org.



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# BCBA -ANNUAL SOFTBALL GAME-

June 8, 2017









Past the storage units, the used car dealers, the Walmart's, the CVS's, the pawn shops and the outlet centers towards the middle of the Sunshine state on this late Spring Saturday was the Okeechobee Rodeo. It was a gorgeous day with bright blue skies no clouds, a nice breeze, warm but not hot. I had secured two Groupons, which included hot dogs and four beers.

We parked and settled into the stands, right behind the corrals. Three hours later, we had seen a real western extravaganza. It started with the mini muffins, a dozen or so five year olds who rode sheep for four or so seconds. Most of them, girls too, wore cowboy hats and little leather chaps. They ran to their moms after they were thrown off, as proud as could be.

The local state representative gave a pep talk, ten Junior Misses rode horses around the ring as fast as they could, in gem colored fringed cowboy blouses and white hats, carrying huge flags. The crowd was primed.

The first cowboys chased calves with lassos, jumped off their horses, flipped the animals over and quickly tied three of its feet with a rope, jumped up, threw their hands in the air and waited for the cheer. 11 seconds, 16, seconds, the winner was 9.8 seconds. They made it look easy.

Next were the lady barrel runners. The crowd gasped as one horse and its rider fell over, and many barrels hit the dust. After all, we were there to see a disaster between man and beast but we knew man would triumph.

Finally, the bull riders. These are crazy folks. They poke the genitals of these beasts, purposely making them angry as they try to sit on their necks for as long as possible. Few stayed on more than three seconds. After the riders crashed to the ground, they ran for their lives to get out of the way of the charging bulls. Enter the clown. A daredevil among daredevils.

Men from Nevada, Montana, Kissimmee, Calvary, Texas and many from Florida all wearing the same uniform,

boots, jeans, a heavy belt, a cowboy shirt and chaps. Many spitting tobacco. Walking to claim my beer I saw many men backstage with arms in slings, necks in collar boards, walking casts. There should be an Emergency Room on site. No one wore a helmet.

The emcee on a lovely white horse ran a constant corny banter with the clown in the Corrs barrel. Afterwards the bevy of Cowgirl beauties sat at a table signing autographs and posing for pictures for the little cowgirl wannabees. "I wanna be a cowboy," said a little boy, "I want to be a man."

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highest defamation jury award in Pennsylvania for a business client.

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SUMMER 2017



### Pro Bono Honor Roll

January 1 through June 30, 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 January 1 through June 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!!

Rodlena Sales, Esquire, Pro Bono Coordinator



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# **Tech Tips From a Recovering Geek: Held Hostage**

- By Jason R. Weiss, Esquire -



"The data on your computer has been encrypted and cannot be restored without a special key, which you can purchase by following the instructions below." If you have ever seen a message similar to this on your computer, you are undoubtedly, and unfortunately, familiar with

ransomware. You are not alone. Most recently, the Petya and WannaCry ransomware attacks wreaked havoc on tens of thousands of computers worldwide. The attacks caused temporary closures at Britain's public health system, Russia's Interior Ministry, pharmaceutical conglomerate Merck, and many other companies around the globe.

#### What is Ransomware?

Ransomware is a type of malware that holds your computer hostage until you pay a fee for a decryption key — the ransom. Payment is often a few hundred dollars and requested as gift cards and more recently, Bitcoin. Instructions are clearly laid out to assist the victim to acquire the key. Some cyberattack organizations even go so far as to provide a phone number for "customer support" if you have trouble following the onscreen instructions. While seemingly there for you, the agent on the phone has every incentive to help – if you want to pay, they want to ensure you can. While there are organizations and groups that create viruses and malware to cause chaos and steal information, the individuals that create ransomware attacks are, for the most part, in it solely for the money. For some, it has been a very lucrative business model.

Like most other types of viruses and malware, ransomware can be distributed through numerous mechanisms. Users unknowingly download the ransomware by visiting an infected website or, more commonly, by downloading attachments and clicking on links in emails from malicious senders or previously compromised email accounts.

#### How can I protect myself?

First and foremost, do not open emails from unknown individuals. If you do, absolutely do not click on any links or download any attachments. Attackers know you cannot resist the temptation to click that blue link and prey on your curiosity. Additionally, if you have read any of my previous articles, you should know how important it is to have proactive virus and malware monitoring. There are numerous free and reasonably priced options for individuals and businesses to ensure your protection. Finally, as most of these attacks exploit vulnerabilities in software and applications installed on your computer, it is critical to update all of your software packages as security updates are released. I know how much you dislike Windows Updates, but they are important for your security.

Even if you take the above steps, it is possible your computer will be compromised by a virus, malware, or ransomware. Thus, in addition to the above precautions, it is also important to backup your files. You most likely have thousands of pictures, a music and movie library, and financial documentation on your computer that you cannot live without. There are services that will automatically backup your data to an online storage system (the cloud) for a minimal monthly fee. Or, you can use physical media such as DVDs or flash drives to periodically backup your data manually.

Be vigilant and protect yourself. Don't be held hostage. Happy (and safe) computing.





# The Music Snob's Top 5 List:

#### **RollingStone.com** —

a so-so magazine now features an impressive digital presence with up to date music, political and pop culture content



4.

#### Jambase.com —

the latest music news, concert announcements, and reviews (with ample audio and video links)



#### Pollstar.com -

a complete listing of every concert in every venue worldwide a great resource



#### Setlist.fm -

a great source for current and historical concert tours and setlists (what songs did Pink Floyd play at Veterans Stadium in the '90s?)



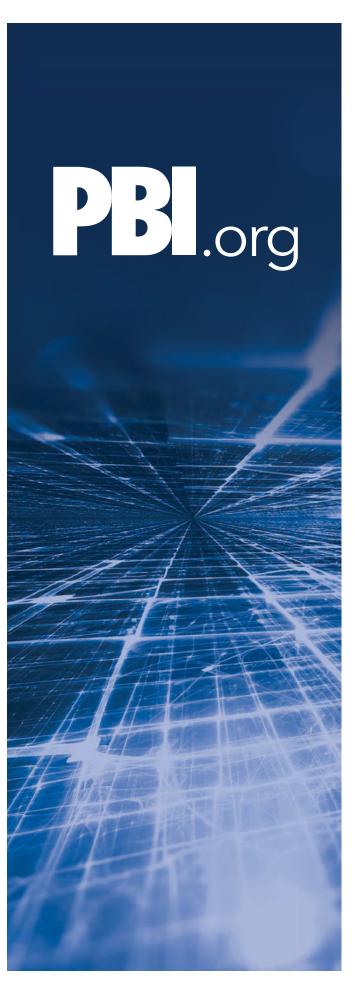
Every band and every album has its own article (so easy to get lost in!)





#### The Music Snob Remembers... Donald and me

In December, 1989, I was fortunate enough to attend the Rolling Stones concert at the Atlantic City Convention Center (now Boardwalk Hall). This was the final show of the epic Steel Wheels tour, and was played in the smallest venue of what had been exclusively a stadium tour. The show featured special guests such as Eric Clapton and Axl Rose and was broadcast live on pay per view. My good friend's father was a high roller in the casinos, and we were seated in a VIP section not too far from Donald Trump and his then wife, Ivana. I vaguely recall him being a bit overdressed for a rock concert, but otherwise, back then he was pretty harmless. 🔦



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