

**LACKAWANNA BAR ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2016
MINUTES**

The Annual Meeting of the Lackawanna Bar Association was held on January 7, 2016 at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel. President Matthew P. Barrett called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and welcomed the membership.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jeffrey Sunday, Retired Captain of the U.S. Navy.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Barrett requested a moment of silence from the membership for those members of the Bar Association who had passed away since last year's Annual Meeting:

Robert T. Gownley, Esq.
Paul M. Jennings, Esq.
Harry P. McGrath, Esq.
Stewart Moskowitz, Esq.
Peter T. O'Malley, Esq.
Harry E. Smith, Esq.

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS AND COLLECTION OF BALLOTS

President Barrett acknowledged the newly admitted members of the Bar Association. These members completed the collection of the ballots.

EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD

President Barrett introduced President Judge Michael J. Barrasse who presented the Equal Access to Justice Award to the following firms: Abrahamsen, Conaboy & Abrahamsen, Polishan & Solfanelli, the Pisanchyn Law Firm, and Powell Law.

ATTORNEY SAMUEL FALLK EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD

President Barrett called upon the Honorable Michael J. Barrasse, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Lackawanna County, to also present the Attorney Samuel Fallk Equal Access to Justice Award to Robert J. Murphy, Esquire.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS REPORT

After referring to his previously distributed written Report of the President Judge to the Annual Meeting of the Lackawanna Bar Association, President Judge Barrasse expanded upon the Report to the membership. In his remarks, President Judge Barrasse thanked the past President Judge Thomas Munley, for his service to the bench. President Judge Barrasse also recognized Judge Carmen D. Minora and Judge Robert A. Mazzone, who recently took senior status on the bench.

President Judge Barrasse also noted that the court would face obstacles in the future in attempting to keep up with its past pace of moving cases through the court system given a potential shortage of judges on the bench. President Judge Barrasse requested the membership to consider contacting their Senate representatives to request that another judge be appointed to the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas.

Highlights of the President Judge's written Report includes the following:

- In 2015, Lackawanna County's civil court filings again were expected to reach over 3000 docketed cases. A slight increase has been seen in the age of pending cases.
- Since the increase of the arbitration to \$50,000.00, Lackawanna County has seen a significant increase in arbitration filings.
- The court noted that this past year was the fourth consecutive year that over 1,500 arguments/hearings were held in the Lackawanna County civil courts.
- The President Judge also recognized the excellent efforts of Attorney Thomas Helbig as the Lackawanna County Mediator for civil cases. In 2015, 70 cases were referred to Attorney Helbig for mediation, of which, 60 were settled, saving the trial court an estimated 150-200 days of court time.
- Also included in the President Judge's Report is a copy of Amendments to the Local Rules pertinent to the civil courts particularly with respect to protracted cases as well as with respect to discovery motions court.
- In his Report, President Judge also provided statistics relative to the criminal court system. This information continues to confirm that the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas criminal justice system moves its cases in a rapid fashion.
- The report also indicates that the number of new cases filed in the Domestic Relations office in 2015 was 1,192.00. That office has collected \$23,256,497.00 total.

INVOCATION

President Barrett introduced Deacon Robert P. Sheils, Jr., Esq. who offered the Invocation.

EXEMPLARY SERVICE AWARDS

President Barrett announced two recipients of the Lackawanna Bar Association Exemplary Service Award:

- Tim Holland for excellent service to the Bar Association over many years including two terms on the Board of Directors.
- Greg Pascale for his tireless work with helping the Bar Association for years to finally secure a building purchase.

BUSINESS MEETING

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2015 Annual Meeting was made by Timothy Hinton and seconded by Sid Prejean. The motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND ADOPTION OF 2016 BUDGET

LBA Treasurer John J. McGovern, Jr. gave the Treasurer's Report. Mr. McGovern referred to the previously distributed 2016 Budget. The 2016 Budget is balanced with total receipts and total expenses of \$973,625.00.

Mr. McGovern thanked the LBA Executive Director Lee Ann Munley and staff members for their assistance in preparing the 2016 budget. Mr. McGovern commented on several expenses incurred during the past calendar year, including the most significant purchase of the building to house the Lackawanna Bar Association offices.

A motion to approve the 2016 budget as presented was made by Robert P. Sheils, Jr., Esquire and seconded by Joseph Grady, Esquire. The motion carried unanimously.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA REPORT

The Honorable Malachy E. Mannion presented the report of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. He noted that the Court is at full strength and proudly noted that four of the judges on the Middle District bench were aged 90 or over. These judges were Judge Conaboy, Judge Kosik, Judge Nealon, and Judge Caldwell.

Judge Mannion generally noted that the civil filings were up and criminal filings were down. The judge noted that the average civil case lasted approximately 11.6 months from beginning to end and the average criminal case was known to last 17.1 months from beginning to end. He also noted that the Federal Middle District Court is known as a "writing District" in that the court had issued approximately 7,500.00 Opinions in the past year.

Judge Mannion also pointed out an important Federal Rule of Civil Procedure change with respect to proportionality of discovery. This new Rule fostered the splitting of discovery cross and, at times, will require the judge to make a determination as to the value of the case to be compared to the expenses of discovery in making a decision on whether or expensive discovery should be allowed.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Barrett acknowledged Executive Director Lee Ann Munley and the LBA staff, Cathy Egan, Will Ambrose and Gianna Cancelli for their dedication and hard work. He noted that the LBA is fortunate to have such great workers and that it was a pleasure to work with them.

President Barrett expressed thanks to his predecessors and other officers as well as members of the Board. President Barrett also acknowledged Dan Munley, Jane Carlonas, and Tim Holland for their service to the Board as their terms ended.

President Barrett noted the biggest decision of the past year was the decision to buy the building to house the Lackawanna Bar Association. He noted an anticipated February 1, 2016 date of occupancy and stated that an Open House would be held thereafter. President Barrett stated that it was anticipated that the new LBA offices would conduct its CLE's in-house. He also confirmed that plenty of meetings space and conference space would be available to the membership. Additionally, the new building will also provide space for Lackawanna Pro Bono and possibly North Penn Legal Services.

President Barrett also thanked the judges of the Court of Common Pleas for putting on the CLE seminar that took place immediately prior to the Annual Meeting.

President Barrett extended congratulations to Shane Scanlon for being appointed as the new District Attorney of Lackawanna County.

President Barrett also thanked his wife and family for their support as well as the members of the Lackawanna Bar Association for the opportunity to serve as their President.

President Barrett called upon YLD past President, Jennifer Menichini to install Julianne Zaleski as the next President of the Young Lawyers' Division.

President Barrett welcomed newly elected President, Mary Theresa Gardier Paterson.

YOUNG LAWYERS' DIVISION PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

YLD President Jennifer Menichini thanked the Executive Director, Lee Ann Munley and the LBA staff for their assistance over the past year. President Menichini also thanked LBA President Matthew Barrett, the LBA Board of Directors, and the membership for its support of the YLD events over the past year.

INSTALLATION OF YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION PRESIDENT

YLD Past President Jennifer Menichini introduced Julie Ann Zaleski, incoming President of the Young Lawyers Division, and administered the oath of office to her.

The newly installed YLD President Zaleski acknowledged the successful year under President Menichini's leadership and stated that she looked forward to the coming year. She reminded everyone about the upcoming Mock Trial and requested volunteers. She also hoped that the membership would continue to support YLD events, including but not limited to, Operation Dear Santa at Christmas time.

INSTALLATION OF LACKAWANNA BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Outgoing President Barrett introduced Mary Theresa Gardier Paterson incoming Bar Association President and administered the Oath of Office to Attorney Paterson.

President Gardier Paterson offered thanks for the privilege of serving as the President of the Lackawanna Bar Association. During her comments, President Gardier Paterson thanked her family, mentors and the members of the Association for their support.

PRESENTATION OF PAST PRESIDENT'S PIN AND PLAQUE

Newly installed President Gardier Paterson thanked outgoing President Barrett for his hard work and dedication over the past year and presented him with a commemorative plaque and pin.

ELECTION RESULTS

President Paterson announced the results of the Bar Association election. The results are as follows:

Vice President	Gregory A. Germain, Esquire
Executive Committee	Kimberly Kost Scanlon, Esquire
Senior Director	Robin B. Snyder, Esquire

The results of the Young Lawyers Division election were announced as follows:

Vice-President	Jason A. Shrive, Esquire
Secretary	Colleen P. Kearney, Esquire
Treasurer	Michael A. Dempsey, Esquire
Board members:	Virginia Barrett, Esquire
	Maria Bertha, Esquire
	Timothy Corbett, Esquire
	Mark J. Kozlowski, Esquire
	Matthew J. Perry, Esquire
	John M. "Jack" Price, Esquire

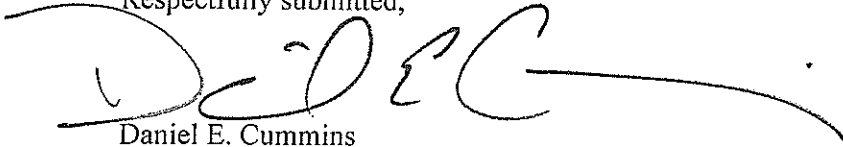
OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel E. Cummins
Secretary