



The Gavel



Newsletter of the Lycoming County Paralegal Association

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The purpose of the LCPA is to promote the paralegal profession and encourage interaction with the local attorneys and other paralegals.



HAVE YOU TURNED IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION YET? IT'S DUE NOW! IF YOU NEED AN APPLICATION, CONTACT REBECCA AT:
rebecca.a.hovenstine@usdoj.gov

2017 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

This year, the LCPA's community service project hit close to home. The LCPA decided to donate \$300 to Noah Joy to help with his medical expenses. Noah is the son of Rachael Lepley Joy, who has served as an LCPA board member for many years. Noah had his first stroke in 2015. He had bypass surgery and was doing well until January of this year. He spent several months at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He recently came home but he will need a second surgery. The LCPA is wishing Noah the best with his surgery and we hope he gets well soon!



NEW MEMBER

The LCPA extends a warm welcome to **Julie Morlock!** Julie is currently employed at Lepley, Engelman, and Yaw. She is working in the family law area under Attorney Janice Yaw. Julie graduated in December 2015 from Pennsylvania College of Technology and received her Associates Degree for Paralegal. Her hobbies include being a mom and a wife. She is a softball/t-ball mom and her entire family loves ball season!

Next meeting will be held on April 12, 2017 at 12:00 at Susquehanna Law Group. All members are invited to come! Meetings are usually held the 2nd Wednesday of each month.



2017 PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

In January, February, and March, high school students statewide participated in the Mock Trial Competition at the Federal Courthouse in Williamsport. This year the trials were criminal cases; last year they were civil cases. The students are required to follow the Rules of Conduct and Rules of Evidence. The trial is held before an actual judge and the students conduct themselves just like real attorneys in the courtroom. Many of the students' presentations this year were very impressive.

The trials usually last 2-3 hours. Jurors are asked to score the students and choose the winning team. Local attorneys, paralegals, and paralegal students are needed to serve as mock jurors for these competitions. Please consider volunteering to serve as a juror for the 2018 Mock Trial Competition.

A special thanks goes out to the following LCPA members who volunteered their time to serve as jurors at this year's Mock Trial Competition: **Stephanie Tempesco, Sprite McLaughlin, and Lindsay Collins.**





Recent CLE Events:

Thank you for hosting a Lunch & Learn!

On January 25th, Geoffrey MacArthur, Assistant U.S. Attorney, hosted a Lunch and Learn event titled "Introduction to the Federal Judicial System."

Geoff began with an overview of the U.S. Attorney's Office and went over the steps in a criminal proceeding within the federal system. He explained that the federal government has limited jurisdiction and gave some examples of cases in which the federal government would have an interest, such as a crime occurring on federal land. As far as sentencing, Geoff explained that a federal sentence is ultimately up to the judge.

The Lycoming County Paralegal Association sponsored a Lunch and Learn event on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 reviewing changes made to the Orphans Court Rules. The presenters were Attorney James G. Malee of *Malee Law Firm, P.C.* and Attorney Susan Roinick, Law Clerk to President Judge Nancy L. Butts of the Lycoming County Court of Common Pleas. Attorney Malee and Attorney Roinick highlighted some of the most significant changes to the rules and what local attorneys and paralegals should consider before filing a petition to the Orphans Court.

Attorneys Malee and Roinick cautioned that some of the new rules are unclear or conflicting. For instance, under Chapter VIII, Reconsideration, the timeline for a Motion to Reconsider and appeal conflict with one another and it may be best to file both in order to secure the appeal request within the 30-day limit. Additional attention was given to completing the new Orphans Court Motions Cover Page, notice, and service section.

Watch your email for announcements regarding the 2017 Lunch and Learn schedule. Remind the lawyers that you know that the LCPA offers 2 free CLE credits to the attorneys that host our Lunch and Learn events.



Volunteers Needed for LYCOMING COUNTY LAW DAY!

Volunteers are needed to come to the Lycoming Law

Association on April 7th at 12:00 to judge the students' projects for LAW DAY. Pizza will be provided for lunch. The topic this year is: "The 14th Amendment – Transforming American Democracy."

The reception to honor the winners will be held on May 5th at 4:00 in Courtroom #1 at the Lycoming County Courthouse. The LCPA sponsors this reception. Volunteers are needed to serve drinks and snacks. Anyone willing to help should call or text Rebecca at (570) 419-4416.

NOTARIES NEEDED AT WILLS FOR HEROES EVENT!

On Saturday, April 29, 2017, the Pennsylvania Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and the Lycoming Law Association are holding an event in order to provide free estate planning services to military veterans and first responders and their spouses/partners. If you would like to volunteer as a notary, please contact Michele Frey at mfrey@lycolaw.org.



Please consider joining a committee when you renew your membership!

Committees: Membership, NFPA, Continuing Education, Job Bank, Service Project, Finance, Newsletter.

The LCPA has a facebook page!

Please “like us” on Facebook and you will receive updates on the LCPA lunch and learn schedule as well as membership news and events.



The 2017 editor of *The Gavel* is Rachelle Horning. Please submit any articles or contributions to Rachelle Horning at rachelleh@lepleylaw.com.

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PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION