

The President's Message

Chris Baylinson

I am dictating this while I am on the Parkway driving to the New Jersey State Bar Association Officers and Trustees meeting in New Brunswick, which meetings I attend every month. Coupled with everything else we have to do as lawyers, including work obligations, family obligations, civic involvement, attempts at a social life, etc., some may say that I'm crazy for wanting to serve on the State Bar Board of Trustees while at the same time serving the Atlantic County Bar Association as President. I don't see it that way. In my role at the state level and county level, I have learned more about what it means to be involved in this profession, rather than just having a job which happens to be that of a lawyer. Like anything, the people that you associate yourself with, whether in your social life or in your professional life, are what make or break that experience. The people I have had the pleasure of meeting while serving as State Bar Trustee and County Bar President have made this period of time in my professional career one of the best.

One of the perks of being involved at the state level is attending the annual meeting in Atlantic City and the mid-year meeting in a location which changes every year. This year the mid-year meeting was in Rome.

Unfortunately, I was the only Atlantic County attorney there, but on the other hand it gave me the opportunity to meet

and socialize with lawyers and judges from around the State. Not only is Rome just an awesome City, but the company was fantastic.

Again, you may say I'm crazy for wanting to travel to Europe with 400 other lawyers from New Jersey, but it's really



to the contrary; the experience of meeting new and interesting people and hearing their perspectives, not only on the practice of law but on a variety of issues, is an invaluable learning experience that is critical to recognizing that the practice of law really is a profession rather than just a job.

As evidenced by the lack of local attendance at the mid-year meeting, we as a group need to become more involved and establish a greater presence at the state level. This year we have the opportunity to elevate a South Jersey lawyer to an officer's position at the state level. Kevin McCann of Chance & McCann in Bridgeton is running for Secretary and seems to have the momentum necessary to earn the position. It would inure to all of our

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benefits to have South Jersey representation at the state level, so I would encourage everyone to support Kevin in this endeavor. To that end, you can forward letters of support for Kevin's candidacy to Charles J. Uliano, Chair, Nominating Committee, New Jersey State Bar Association, New Jersey Law Center, 1 Constitution Square, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901-1520, Attn: Carol A. Howardson, Staff Liaison.



At the county level, this past Thursday night the Young Lawyers hosted their annual holiday party at Steve & Cookies in Margate. I've learned as County Bar President that the way to get older lawyers to attend County Bar functions is to advertise them as Young Lawyer functions. There was more grey hair there than most of us would like to admit, but what a great time we had. The event was very well attended, there were a lot of smiles and laughter and it really

appeared that everybody was in the holiday spirit and having a good time. In the last couple of years I see a gradual change for the positive in that attendance at County Bar functions has been increasing and the functions are really turning back into enjoyable social events rather than obligatory work functions. For those of you who haven't been attending dinners lately, I would encourage you to do so; I think you'll see a nice change.

Along these lines, Judge Armstrong and I had the distinct pleasure of meeting with Chief Justice James Zazzali last week in the courthouse. The Chief took time out of his schedule to come to Atlantic City simply to say hello and let us know that he has an open door policy should there be any concerns or questions at the county level. In our discussions, the Chief emphasized the relevance of the bar association to the practice of law, he having been involved at the county, state and national level. He encouraged both Judge Armstrong and me to emphasize to each of you the importance of Bar Association participation.

Wishing everyone,

Merry Christmas.

Happy Hanukkah.

Happy New Year.

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Atlantic County Bar Association

“Kid’s Holiday Party”

We are planning the annual Holiday Party for needy children in Atlantic City to be held at the Civil Courthouse on December 15, 2006.

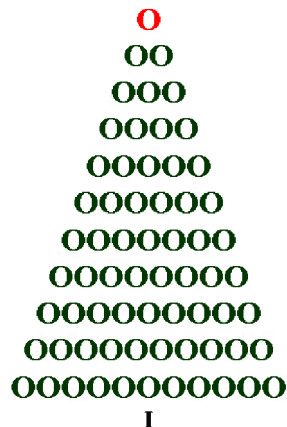
The children will come to the Courthouse for a pizza party, be entertained by Penny the Clown, and receive a present from Santa (who looks a bit like George Coan).

Members of the Bar Association have generously donated money for us to provide food, gifts and entertainment.

Your continued support would be greatly appreciated.

Please send donations to Mary Berard
at the Atlantic County Bar Association,
1201 Bacharach Blvd., Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Please make checks payable to Atlantic County Bar Association
Children’s Holiday Party



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