

MEMORANDUM

TO: LYCOMING LAW ASSOCIATION

FROM: JOHN P. PIETROVITO, ESQUIRE

DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2008

RE: LYCOMING LAW ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2007

I had the honor and privilege of serving as the President of the Lycoming Law Association during the year 2007 and I report the following to the members of the Lycoming Law Association:

1. The LLA began the year in good financial condition and will end the year in good financial condition primarily due to the net income generated by the Lycoming Reporter. Some revenue was produced by the Lunch and Learn seminars and the seminars presented by "outside providers" throughout the year and it is anticipated that this source of income will increase in 2008. The Pennsylvania Bar Association will increase its dues in the amount of \$15.00 per member for 2008 and this increase will be passed on to the members of the LLA. There will be no increase in the LLA dues in 2008.

2. The LLA office will move from its current location to the 6th Floor of the Penn Tower Building in March of 2008. The new office space is easily accessible to everyone by means of an elevator. There will be a conference room which will provide sufficient space for Executive Committee meetings, depositions, meetings and, possibly, PBI video replay seminars. The use of the conference room for depositions and PBI seminars could generate additional revenue for the LLA.

3. During 2007, I attended the annual Conference of County Bar Leaders in Hershey, Pennsylvania along with our Executive Director, Jessica A. Engel, and our President-Elect, Tammy L. Taylor, Esquire. I also attended the House of Delegates meetings in June and November of 2007. The statewide conference telephone calls initiated by former PBA President, Kenneth Horoho, were continued in 2007 by current PBA President, Andrew Susko. Tammy L. Taylor, Jessica A. Engel and I participated in these conference calls which provided a current source of information and guidance regarding such matters as the judicial elections and legislative issues of concern to attorneys. In 2007, the PBA launched an advertising campaign designed to improve the public's perception of attorneys. The campaign consisted of television and radio advertisements demonstrating how attorneys protect the rights of citizens. The LLA made

a financial contribution to the campaign and, in return, was listed as a sponsor of the advertisements.

4. The LLA provided its members with several opportunities to socialize and get to know one another in a non-professional setting. These events included the Annual Banquet, Picnic, Crosscutters/Spikes baseball game and the Lawtoberfest. The Executive Committee attempted to increase attendance at the Annual Banquet and Picnic by reducing the amount paid by those who attended. Unfortunately, the goal was not achieved in 2007. For the first time, the LLA and Centre County Bar Association joined together and served as hosts to one another for a combination picnic and baseball game. The LLA hosted Centre County members and their families for a Crosscutters game (Spikes won the game) and Centre County hosted LLA members and their families for a State College Spikes game (Cutters won).

5. Once again, the Young Lawyers committee sponsored and organized the Lawtoberfest which was held at the Bullfrog Brewery in, you guessed it, October. In addition to providing an opportunity for LLA members and their families to socialize, the Lawtoberfest raised more than \$1,900.00 for the Lycoming Law Association Foundation through its silent auction. The Young Lawyers Committee also continued its annual participation in the Toys for Tots program. It is my hope that the hard work and enthusiasm of the Young Lawyers will continue in 2008 and become contagious for all members of the LLA.

6. In 2007, Mary C. Kilgus, Esquire, and some of the female members of the LLA approached Jessica A. Engel about the possibility of forming a Women In the Profession Committee. I was very glad to honor the request and appointed Mary C. Kilgus, Esquire, and Patricia Bowman, Esquire, as chairpersons of the Committee. It is my hope that the Women In the Profession committee will become an active and integral part of the LLA in 2008 and thereafter.

7. The Honorable Kenneth D. Brown pointed out that there are no portraits of the Honorable Dudley N. Anderson and the Honorable Richard A. Gray on display in the Jurors' Lounge in the Courthouse. Judge Brown also noted that there are several historic portraits of former Lycoming County judges that could and should be displayed in the Courthouse. The portraits of Judge Anderson and Judge Gray should be completed and ready to be displayed along with the portraits of the former judges in the Jurors' Lounge and the Lawyers' Lounge in the near future. All of the names of the past and future

Presidents of the LLA will be placed on a plaque which will be displayed on the second floor of the Courthouse.

8. The LLA renewed its status as an approved Continuing Legal Education provider for another two (2) years. Thus, the LLA will be able to continue to provide localized CLE opportunities for its members which include Lunch and Learn seminars, the Bridge the Gap seminar for new attorneys, seminars presented by “outside providers” and video replays of PBI seminars.

9. At the 2007 Annual Meeting, the LLA membership voted to have the LLA file complaints with the Disciplinary Board of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court against four (4) law firms with principal offices outside Lycoming County. The basis of each complaint was an alleged violation of the rules pertaining to published advertisements as set forth in the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct. All four (4) complaints were filed. The LLA received notification from the Disciplinary Board that two (2) of the law firms have agreed to change their advertisements published in the yellow pages of the telephone books to bring them in compliance with the Rules of Professional Conduct, and, accordingly, the complaints have been dismissed without any disciplinary action being taken against the law firms. Michael Zicoello, Esquire, will be asked to monitor the future advertisements of the two (2) law firms to ensure that they do, in fact, comply. The complaints against the remaining two (2) law firms are still pending before the Disciplinary Board. The LLA was advised by counsel for the Disciplinary Board that these matters must be kept confidential for liability purposes.

10. In November of 2006, David Keeffe, Esquire, and his wife, Carol, were murdered at their home in Bradford County, Pennsylvania. At the 2007 Annual Meeting, the LLA membership authorized the Executive Committee to pledge as part of the reward fund established by the Bradford County Bar Association and/or make a memorial contribution up to a total of \$5,000.00. I telephoned Melissa Keeffe who is the daughter of David and Carol Keeffe and discussed the matter with her. At the suggestion of Melissa Keeffe, the Executive Committee decided to make a contribution of \$2,500.00 to Mr. and Mrs. Keeffe’s favorite charity, the local UNICO chapter, and to pledge the sum of \$2,500.00 to the reward fund established by the Bradford County Bar Association.

11. A member of the LLA contacted Jessica A. Engel, Executive Director, and me about the alleged unauthorized practice of law by an individual working as a paralegal and an officer of a corporation. The Executive Committee referred the matter to the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee to investigate the allegations and make a

recommendation to the Executive Committee regarding the handling of the matter. The Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee reported its finding to the Executive Committee and recommended that legal action be taken against the individual to enjoin the unauthorized practice of law now and in the future. The Executive Committee decided to follow the recommendation and hire legal counsel to represent the LLA and, if necessary, litigate the matter. It is possible that the PBA will reimburse the LLA for some of its legal fees and expenses.

12. In July of 2007, I appointed an ad hoc committee to review the By-Laws of the LLA and to consider whether changes were required. The By-Laws Committee consisted of Tammy L. Taylor, Esquire, Charles G. Brace, Esquire, Gary L. Weber, Esquire, and John P. Pietrovito, Esquire who is the Chairperson. The Committee recommended certain changes to the By-Laws that were approved by the Executive Committee on December 10, 2007. The proposed revisions to the By-Laws will be submitted to a vote of the general membership of the LLA at the Annual Meeting on January 14, 2008. On December 11, 2007, the proposed revisions to the By-Laws were posted on the LLA web site for review and comment by the general membership of the LLA.

13. In October of 2007, the general membership was anonymously surveyed and asked whether the Honorable Dudley N. Anderson should be retained for another 10-year term as a judge for the Court of Common Pleas of Lycoming County. The results of the survey were published in an advertisement in the Williamsport Sun-Gazette and paid for by the LLA. The advertisement stated that the LLA supported the retention of Judge Anderson who easily won the retention vote in the November 2007 election. Congratulations to Judge Anderson.

14. The year 2008 will be the first year in my memory that there will be four (4) new persons elected to the Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee attempted to provide the LLA with four (4) individuals who are hard-working, enthusiastic, active participants in the LLA and dedicated to advancing the goals of the LLA. I am confident that the four (4) nominees, J. Howard Langdon, Esquire, Brian J. Bluth, Esquire, J. Michael Wiley, Esquire, and Julieanne E. Steinbacher, Esquire, will exceed the hopes and expectations of the Nominating Committee.

Our Executive Director, Jessica A. Engel, has far exceeded my hopes and expectations both at the time of her initial hiring, during my years on the Executive Committee and, in particular, during my year as President of the LLA. I am impressed by

her ability to handle the daily operations of the LLA and the Lycoming Reporter, oversee the financial affairs of the LLA and the Lycoming Reporter, and generate, in a timely fashion, the documents necessary for Executive Committee Meetings, CLE seminars and the various activities of the LLA. I am very thankful to Jessica for her hard work, dedication and enthusiasm during 2007 in advancing the goals of the Executive Committee and the LLA and making the LLA better than it was a year ago. I am glad that I did not have to serve as President of the LLA without Jessica as the Executive Director and words cannot express my gratitude for the peace of mind that I experienced knowing that Jessica was there for me to rely upon and assist me throughout the year. Thank you very much, Jessica, for a job well done.

Thank you to all of the members of the LLA for allowing me to serve as President of the LLA this past year. I also thank those members of the Executive Committee who will not be returning to the Executive Committee in 2008: Richard A. Gahr, Esquire, for his nearly five (5) years of service, John R. Zurich, Esquire, for his three (3) years of service, Charles G. Brace, Esquire, for his two (2) years of service and, most importantly, L. Craig Harris, Esquire, for his seven (7) years of service which included the offices of Treasurer, President Elect, President, and Past President of the LLA. Finally, I thank the returning members of the Executive Committee with whom I will have the privilege of serving for one (1) more year: Tammy L. Taylor, Esquire, Joy Reynolds McCoy, Esquire, Jonathan E. Butterfield, Esquire, and Michael H. Collins, Esquire.

It is my great pleasure to welcome Tammy L. Taylor as President of the LLA for 2008. I am confident that Tammy will put forth her very best effort and that the LLA will continue to grow and improve under her leadership. My best wishes, support and assistance to you, Tammy, during your Presidential year.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Pietrovito, Esquire
President