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Executive Director's Report to the General Membership

12 January 2009

I am pleased to report that 2008 marked another successful year for the Lycoming Law Association.

The LLA continues to be financially viable and stable.

In January, we held our first "Board Retreat" – something I hope will become an annual event for the incoming Executive Committee. It has been my goal to establish an event such as this to provide an opportunity for the incoming Board to review the issues before them, review the By-Laws of the Association, discuss the mission of the LLA, and begin developing its goals for the year. The response to the first Retreat was very favorable, and I am glad to say we are moving forward with the second Retreat on Monday, January 19, 2009.

January also saw the signing of the lease for our new "professional" office space. The LLA now resides, as of February 7, 2008, on the 6th Floor of the Penn Tower Office Building. We have conference space now, in which all Executive Committee meetings are held. The space is also available for any other committee meetings of the LLA, of which many have taken advantage. Lunch can (and generally is) ordered in. The space is also available to any LLA Member without charge, and we have also found ourselves an income source from non-members of the LLA. The space may be used for depositions, and we have already been able to rent it to out-of-town attorneys. Most importantly, however, we have brought the PBI Video Replay Seminars in house as a result of this move, and have been able to recoup some of our increased rental costs through a "fee for space" charge to PBI. This has been a great offset.

We have completed our third successful year of Lunch & Learns. Attendance has been higher than ever before, with averages approaching 30 per seminar. Feedback and evaluations continue to fall in the "excellent" range. We continue to hold regular PBI Video and Satellite seminars, and Sandy Thomas, our local PBI Registrar, continues to handle the day-to-day operations most efficiently.

In August, 2008, I applied to the PA Bar Insurance Trust Fund for a Grant which would allow us to purchase a new laptop, a projector, and projection screen in order to begin holding Groupcast PBI Seminars (among other things) here in the LLA Offices. In September, the Grant was approved, and I am pleased to say that as of the end of November, all equipment has been purchased. It's my intention to have the Groupcasts up and running soon this year to benefit the membership. This will allow even more opportunity for CLE credit locally, as well as giving us more technological advancement in our association.



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The LLA was charitable again this year, donating \$5,000 to the Foundation, and in making a \$2000 donation to the Pennsylvania Bar Association, both of which the LLA Finance Committee have entered as regular line items in the budget.

We have approximately 15 committees which are actively functioning throughout the year. The Young Lawyers Division hosted another rousing "Lawctoberfest." This dinner and auction event raised over \$1400 which the YLD donated in full to the Lycoming Law Association Foundation. Thanks to Ryan Tira, Chair of YLD, for his hard work and commitment this year, as well as to the other members of the Committee.

Our New Attorney Admission Ceremony in December, 2008, saw the addition of 9 new attorneys.

I'd like to thank President Tammy Taylor and the Executive Board for their unequalled support over the past twelve months. Working with Tammy this year has been great. My thanks, as well, to Gary Weber – every year, I repeat this: without Gary, I could not do my job, and LLA would cease to function! Without the support of all of these individuals, LLA would not be able to grow and flourish, and I would not be as successful in my tasks as I am.

A big welcome to Jon Butterfield in his Presidential year. I look forward to what we will accomplish in 2009.

Sincerely,

Jessica A. Engel
Executive Director