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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2012

I am pleased to report that 2012 was another good and active year for the Lycoming Law Association. It was a pleasure to serve with all members of the Executive Committee – their dedication and commitment to the organization is very much appreciated. A special thank you is in order to Gary Weber for his excellent work as Web Master and his detailed stories and photographs from each of our events this year provide an even better account of our activities this year. It is also appropriate to recognize the efforts of Brian Bluth who will be rotating off of the Executive Committee at the conclusion of this year. Throughout his tenure on the Executive Committee, Brian has provided excellent leadership and his sound advice and counsel throughout my year as president has been extremely helpful and appreciated. In addition, our organization is well-served by its Executive Director and, as usual, Jessica Engel kept the Association on track throughout the year.

The 2012 Annual Banquet was well attended and was a strong start to the year. The highlights of the Annual Banquet included the presentation of the initial William E. Nichols Community Service Award. This award was created to recognize outstanding and sustained commitment to community service and for fostering the positive role of attorneys in our community beyond the practice of law. By honoring William E. Nichols as the first recipient of the award, beyond recognizing the outstanding dedication to community service of the award's namesake, it is hoped that we will be able to continue to recognize the significant contributions attorneys make beyond the practice of law in Lycoming County. Judge Gray was also recognized by North Penn Legal Services for his efforts with creation and implementation of the Mortgage Foreclosure Program which has become a model for other counties throughout the Commonwealth.

We welcomed new members with the first of two New Admission ceremonies this year on January 13, 2012. The Lycoming County Court of Common Pleas sat, en banc, for a special session of court at which four new attorneys, Christopher Kenyon, Joshua Wilkins, Heather Willis, and Ashley Nichols, were admitted. A second New Admission ceremony was held on December 14, 2012 at which time Jonathan L. DeWald, Jason L. Wiemann, Jessica Lynn Harlow, Neil B. Mahalingam, Kathryn E. Bellfy, and Nicole M. Ippolito were admitted to practice in Lycoming County before the Court, en banc. While technically no longer a requirement to practice before the Lycoming County Court of Common Pleas, each year this event is a sound reminder of how special it is to practice in Lycoming County, and continued and increased membership support of this event is encouraged particularly given the strong commitment of the Bench to the ceremony.

While not as extensive or comprehensive as last year's retreat, this year's Annual Retreat, held at the Pennsylvania College of Technology on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, provided a good opportunity for the Executive Committee to build on the momentum of the 2011 SkyTop Lodge Retreat. A continuing theme moving forward is to find ways to promote the good work our members do beyond the practice of law throughout Lycoming County and positive steps have been made in this regard moving forward in terms of the use of our Website and other media outlets to share the news of our membership's community activities and accomplishments and with the creation of the William E. Nichols Community Service Award.

The LLA hosted its traditional community events in 2012. The Mock Trial Competition and Law Day Art and Essay competitions attracted quality area students with an interest in the law. The high quality of work product at both events is a testament to the students and volunteers who make these events possible. As always, members are strongly encouraged to support each of these events in the years ahead.



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Our annual picnic had a change of venue this year and the event on the Hiawatha on July 16th was well received and attended. It is hoped the venue change will provide a catalyst to renewed interest in the annual picnic and continued increased attendance in the years ahead. As always, the Court's participation in the event is very much appreciated. As with all of our events, members are encouraged to attend as these events provide an excellent opportunity to socialize, network and build relationships between and among the members of the Association.

On November 2nd, the Honorable Malcolm Muir's memory was honored with a fitting and well-attended Portrait Dedication Ceremony. The judges of the Federal District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and members of the Muir family were well-represented and the accounts of Judge Muir's sense of humor and the import of his contributions as a jurist were appropriately noted.

Our YLD renewed involvement this year and its sponsorship of an Angel Tree toy drive involving the collection of toys, books, games and clothes from lawyers and law office staff in Lycoming County for donation to families in need through the Salvation Army was very well received. According to the Salvation Army, its donations were down this year and the YLD's donations provided a much needed boost to support the Salvation Army's efforts for the holidays.

Along with all the traditional and special events this year, our membership was appropriately represented at the Pennsylvania Bar Association Annual Meeting on May 10th as well as the Pennsylvania Bar Association Meeting and Azen Dinner on November 15th. Thank you to our House of Delegate Representatives for their effort at the Pennsylvania Bar Association House of Delegate meetings this year on May 11th and November 16th. Our Association was also well represented at the Conference of County Bar Leaders held in State College from February 23rd through February 25th. I encourage future leadership of the Association to continue the tradition of attendance to these events as an opportunity to learn what other bar associations are doing throughout the Commonwealth but also share our Association's accomplishments.

The Association remains financially secure. The Reporter remains the primary source of revenue for the Association and it remains important to stay involved and focused on any legislative efforts to curtail mandatory notices in county law journals and reporters.

The Association continues to offer local, competitively priced CLE opportunities. Members can obtain all CLE credits through the LLA via live seminars (including the "Eat-N-Earn" Series), video replays, simulcasts and other special events. Participation in LLA-sponsored CLEs supports the activities of the Association and members are encouraged to look for LLA CLEs to meet credit requirements.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as the Association's president in 2012. I have no doubt that we are embarking on another successful year and that the Association is in good hands with Julie Steinbacher at the helm.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Michael Wiley, President

The mission of the Lycoming Law Association is to promote the practice of law using the highest ethical standards and to advance the public image of our profession. We accomplish this by communicating within our profession and throughout our community, providing continuing legal education, encouraging collegiality among attorneys and the Court, providing *pro bono* legal assistance, and through community involvement.

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