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Executive Director's Report to the General Membership January 2014

We had another great year and marked the beginning of my 10th year as Executive Director of the LLA. What a lot we've accomplished in 10 years!. I am pleased to report that the LLA continues to be financially viable and stable.

At the Annual Meeting in January, we honored longstanding Committee Chairs – those of you down in the trenches working tirelessly (and often thanklessly) to keep LLA running. Bill Carlucci received the Second Annual William E. Nichols Community Service Award, created to recognize an attorney who exemplifies outstanding and sustained commitment to community service and for fostering the positive role of attorneys in our community beyond the practice of law. As part of the honor, LLA committed to making a donation of \$1,000 to a charity of the award winner's choice; and in this case, Mr. Carlucci chose to split the donation between the Boy Scouts and the Lancer Foundation.

A week later, we held our fifth annual Board Retreat for the incoming Executive Committee, returning to Penn College's Professional Development Center for a workday retreat. The Retreat was a success and built upon the work done at the previous year's building retreat.

In late February, 2013, we assisted financially in Federal Judge Brann's Investiture Reception. Those who attended thought it was a very nice event. In mid-March, several LLA Members and I traveled to Harrisburg to accept the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network's Excellence Award, presented to the Lycoming Law Association and the Lycoming Law Association Foundation, "in recognition of outstanding commitment to equal justice for those who have nowhere else to turn." Our *pro bono* panel should give itself a big pat on the back. In late June I attended the National Association of Bar Executives (NABE) Small Bar Conference in Charlotte, NC. I have had the good fortune to attend these NABE seminars before, and they are always excellent. I came back with lots of good information I've already put to use.

Two major things took up my time during the Fall of 2013: preparing for and pulling off a United States Supreme Court Admission Ceremony, and looking at space, obtaining architectural drawings, and helping to determine where our new offices would be. The US Supreme Court Admission was by far the most moving and amazing professional experience I have ever had. Ten attorneys were admitted, and LLA facilitated a hotel block, an lovely reception the night before the ceremony, a breakfast at the Court prior to the admission, and the organization of the Admission itself. Thanks to Mike Wiley's foresight during his Presidential year in 2012, we had been scheduled for an admission date for more than 18 months, and it all came together beautifully on November 18, 2013.

We held all normal events as usual this year. Our President and Treasurer and I attended the three-day Conference for County Bar Leaders in State College at the end of February. Law Day was, as always, a great success, and we've now begun a tradition of presenting the Mock Trial awards at the Law Day ceremony – another nice way to bring students into the Courthouse and get them involved in Law Day. The Annual Picnic was again held on the the Hiawatha, and while our turnout was a little light this year, everyone who attended had a great time. It was a hot evening, but nice and cool on the river. PBA YLD assisted in sponsoring the annual Crosscutters game in 2013; we tried something new by moving the game to a Sunday afternoon to make it easier for families with young kids to attend – and we had a great turnout!

We have completed our eighth successful year of "Eat & Earns." Attendance remains steady, and feedback and evaluations continue to fall in the "excellent" range. We continue to hold regular PBI Video and Groupcast seminars on site at the LLA Office, as well as offer room rentals to out-of-town attorneys. We saw rental income of over \$10,000 for the LLA



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conference space, an increase of \$3,000 from 2012. CLEs either held by LLA or managed by LLA netted approximately \$4,800.00.

Another big occurrence in 2013 was the redesign of the *Lycoming Reporter*. Gary Weber and I worked hard on bringing the look of the *Reporter* well into the 21st Century, and from the feedback we've gotten, we've succeeded! We understand you all like it and find it more useful. Of course, we are always taking suggestions on how we can improve.

The LLA was charitable again this year, donating \$5,000 to the Foundation, and \$2000 to the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Our committees continued to function successfully this year.

We have exciting things coming up in 2014, including the move to a new, larger space on the 8th floor of Penn Tower. This space will allow us to bring our Eat & Earns in-house, significantly enlarge our seminar space, and provide us with a separate conference room for meetings.

I'd like to thank President Julie Steinbacher and the Executive Board for their support over the past twelve months. It's been a pleasure working with you all.

I also look forward to working with Tom Waffenschmidt in his Presidential year, and am excited to see what we will accomplish in 2014.

Sincerely,

Jessica A. Engel
Executive Director

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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