

## Report from the President:

In 2009, I had just completed working my third year for the Lycoming County Public Defender's Office. I was the chair of Young Lawyer's Division (YLD) of the Lycoming Law Association (LLA), and I was the zone 4 YLD delegate for the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA). In October of that year, the YLD had just completed another successful Lawtoberfest, where we were able to raise approximately One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the Lycoming Law Association Foundation (Foundation). In November 2009, Bill Carlucci, from the LLA Nomination Committee, contacted me at home and asked that I serve on the LLA Executive Committee.

As a member of the Executive Committee, I had the privilege of working with a number of great attorneys, who served this organization as President. These attorneys are (in order of year of service): John Butterfield, Mike Collins, Brian Bluth, Mike Wiley, Julie Steinbacher, Tom Waffenschmidt, and Tammy Weber. All of these attorneys have focused their careers on ensuring the growth of the profession. However, Tammy Weber, who preceded me, so I could go to Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina in January 2015, was very instrumental in developing the building blocks I needed to have a successful year as President of the Lycoming Law Association in 2016. I will be saddened that Tammy will no longer be able to serve on the Executive Committee, but I am proud that she has agreed to continue to serve our profession by being a member of the Foundation.

Tammy has served a great number of years on the Executive Committee ensuring that the LLA continues to fulfill its mission statement. We are proud that Elizabeth White has agreed to follow Tammy's footsteps by becoming a member of the Executive Committee in 2017 and forward.

Though I started 2016 feeling I was in a daily photoshoot thanks to the number of awards, donations, and public interest events by the LLA, this year could not have been as successful without the services of the true face of the LLA, Executive Director, Michele Frey. Michele was instrumental in preparing everything needed. At the beginning of the year, Michele was instrumental in the success of the Annual Meeting at the LLA office and the Annual Dinner at Morrone's. Throughout the year, Michele was tasked with scheduling and attending committee meetings, working arduously on the Law Reporter and the Eat and Earn events, ensuring the finances of the LLA, and working directly with Pennsylvania Bar Institute (PBI) in ensuring the success of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs for our members. During the spring, Michele worked directly with Kristine Waltz and the PBA to ensure the success of the Wills for Heroes event. During the summer, Michele worked directly with the Social Committee and YLD in scheduling social events, including Quizzo, Knoebels, the Annual Picnic and a Social function at the Old Corner. During the fall, Michele ensured the timely release of the Member Directory, which includes a picture of each attorney. Finally, the LLA was able to finish the year with a successful New Attorney Admission Program and by working tirelessly with the YLD, Michele was able to ensure the success of the Angel Tree Toy Drive (which was the most successful since the program began). Without Michele, the LLA would not be where we are today.

In 2016, the LLA was able to see the growth of services it was able to provide to its members. During the Spring, the Committee chairs all met to discuss their 2016 goals, and meeting and events schedule. The LLA offers a number of committees, including at least 4 substantive practice areas: Criminal Law, Family Law, Real Estate, and the Estate Committee. All of our committees all were able to provide great insight to each of its members regarding the practice of Law in Lycoming County.

As a result of meetings with the committees within the four substantive areas, the LLA was able to identify at least two consumer issues which would affect the clients of our membership. The Real Estate Committee, chaired by Fred Holland, was able to identify a national practice of companies who charge exorbitant fees to retrieve the deed for a new home purchaser, when these deeds are generally already provided to them by the closing attorney. The Estate Committee, chaired by Eric Ladley, identified a Revocable Trusts event held by an outside agency. Through this, the Estate Committee identified consumer concerns regarding the legality of these documents and the appropriate funding of these programs. These warnings can be found on the website. Additionally, in conjunction with the Estate Committee, the Rules Committee, chaired by Gary Weber, was instrumental in ensuring Lycoming County's compliance with changes in Pennsylvania's Orphan's Court Rules.

Another member benefit is the [lycolaw.org](http://lycolaw.org). The LLA is moving forward in its technological progress. Though Gary Weber has been instrumental in ensuring that our website has the best content (in addition to all his duties, Gary ensures that the website is updated on a regular basis with the newest court opinions, news stories, and memorials for deceased members), the Executive Committee identified a membership concern regarding the accessibility of the mobile website. The LLA has begun steps to ensure that the mobile website will be better accessible by its members.

During the year, the Executive Committee established the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee in anticipation for our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2019. The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is chaired by Magisterial District Judge Christian Frey, who is scheduled to rise to the role of LLA President for 2019. In conjunction with the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, the Bar History Committee has taken great steps towards the goal of updating our Historical Sketches in time for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Skip Greevy and his members have met on a monthly basis since October to ensure the successful publication.

John Peitrovito has provided great services to the legal community. During 2016, in addition to being the Zone 4 Governor for PBA, John was the chair of the Mock Trial Committee, Education Committee, and Legal Services for the Indigent Committee. He also served on the Nomination Committee.

In 2016, the Mock Trial program saw great involvement by Montoursville High School. In December, the Lycoming Law Association Foundation provided a grant to the Montoursville High School Mock Trial program to further ensure its future success.

The Education Committee, in conjunction with the Executive Committee, saw numerous changes in the Eat and Earn programs scheduled each month. Money from the Eat and Earn programs

goes directly back to the LLA, so that we can continue to provide great services for our members. In 2016, the LLA provided its first video replay event of the Eat and Earn programs. This event ensured that attorneys, who faced a December compliance, were able to successfully meet their CLE requirements. In 2017, the LLA will be providing two Eat and Earn programs each month, to provide better services to our members. Each member of the Executive Committee has agreed to present a CLE program in 2016 or 2017.

The LLA saw growth in its membership. On December 2, 2016, the Lycoming County Court of Common Pleas held a special session of court at which Susan Saba Roinick, Scott J. Werner, Jessica Feese, and Wesley S. Speary were admitted to practice before the several Courts of the County of Lycoming.

However, the LLA also saw the loss of four influential members, including the loss of two retired judges, Thomas Raup and Clinton Smith, the loss of Allen Ertel, who served this community as a District Attorney and U.S. Representative, and Thomas Max Hall, who served the legal community for 57 years. The loss of these members will have a long lasting impact. They all will be missed. I know I am honored to have known and worked with these attorneys.

It is in their honor and all my predecessors' honor that I was able to serve the legal community this year.

The Executive Committee this year was apprised of the following members: Tammy Weber, Immediate Past President; Ryan Tira, President-Elect; Jennifer Heverly, Secretary; Magisterial District Judge Christian Frey, Treasurer; Corey Mowrey; Angela Lovecchio; Don Martino; and Yvonne Campbell; Michele Frey, Executive Director; and Gary Weber, Law Reporter. I am certain that the LLA will continue its great progress with these attorneys.

Finishing my presidential year is bittersweet. It feels like I am finally just understanding my role and responsibilities to the association, just in time for the Association to be placed into the hands of our President, Ryan Tira. I will do my best to aid Mr. Tira in fulfilling his duties as President. I am confident Ryan will serve with honor and integrity.

Truly and always yours,

Robert Cronin