## Mercer County

# Lawyer

August, 2018

A Publication of the Mercer County Bar Association

Volume 37, Issue 4

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Save the Date: XTREME CLE October 11, 2018 Mercer County Community College

## From the President's Desk.....

e find ourselves in that familiar time of year again: as summer bids us farewell, the new court year arrives and brings with it new opportunities and fresh faces to the Mercer County Bar Association. Before summer left us, however, it welcomed some successful programs and events, all of which reflected the distinction of our Bar and served as a wonderful preview for what the MCBA has in store for the fall.

July treated us to a taste of summer, as we participated in a modified version of America's pastime: slow-pitch softball. On July 14, the Young Lawyers Committee hosted a day of co-ed softball games at Veterans Park in Hamilton. Many MCBA members and nonmembers played in the blazing sun for glory and for charity. We are happy to have donated hundreds of dollars in proceeds from the event to the Garv Sinise Foundation and LifeTies. Thank you to Joe Paravecchia and Andrew Ferencevych for organizing the games, and a big thank you to our sponsors and corporate partners for making the event a success.

The Municipal Bench-Bar also contributed to a productive July by featuring its 2018 New Jersey Arrest, Search and Seizure Review at the Ewing Municipal Courthouse. Thank you to all who attended and to the Municipal Bench and Bar for putting on an informative



event.

August remained true to its nature as a quiet month overall. But it did allow for MCBA members to register for an exciting opportunity in September. This year marks ten years since the MCBA last arranged a professional composite of our membership. MCBA Executive Director Samantha Iraca and her staff collaborated with RCL-JRussell Portrait Design to schedule portraits of most of our current members for various dates in September. Thank you to everyone who will participate in the composite, especially our friends at the Mercer County Criminal Courthouse, Stark & Stark, Hill Wallack, and the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office, who have generously offered their office space to have the portraits taken.

September promises to be as colorful for the MCBA as the changing leaves of fall. On September 4, we will celebrate commencement of the new court year with the Opening Ceremony and Memorial Service in Judge Jacobson's courtroom at the Mercer County Criminal A Publication of the Mercer County Bar Association

Mercer County

## Lawyer

August 2018

Volume 37, Issue 4

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Courthouse. Each year at the ceremonies, we introduce the distinguished members of our Bench and Bar, welcome new members, and honor the late lawyers and jurists who nobly contributed to the practice of law in Mercer County. This year, at the memorial service, we remember Judge A. Jerome Moore, Lowell Curran, J. Raymond Dietrich, and Lawrence F. O'Hara.

On September 17, we proudly join in recognizing Mercer County's very own Judge Linda R. Feinberg, as she receives the Medal of Honor Award — the New Jersey State Bar Foundation's most prestigious honor — at the Palace in Somerset Park. My personal biases aside, I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this recognition than Judge Feinberg. She epitomizes the professionalism and legal acumen of the most esteemed practitioners; it's simply no fluke that the Learning Center in the Criminal Courthouse bears Judge Feinberg's name. The MCBA is truly privileged to associate with and practice alongside Judge Feinberg. Congratulations, Judge Feinberg, on this well-deserved honor, and thank you for continuing to represent Mercer County with impeccable integrity.

September continues to impress with the annual Judges and Law Clerks Reception at Mercer Oaks Golf Club on September 26. The event will also serve as the September General Membership Meeting. I encourage all members to attend as we welcome the judges of Mercer County and their incoming law clerks. Mercer County has a rich tradition of judicial clerkships. Indeed, many of our members began their legal careers clerking for the distinguished judges of the Mercer County Superior Court. Please join us and help welcome the MCBA's newest and youngest members to the legal profession.

While on the topic of young professionals, the Judges and Law Clerks Reception will also include the MCBA's Young Lawyer of the Year Award. This year, we honor Ross Switkes, Esq., a partner of Trenk, DiPasquale, Della Fera & Sodono, P.C. Ross is an MCBA rising star, who currently serves as a trustee and co-chair of the Bankruptcy Committee, Young Lawyers Project, and Golf Committee. He has developed a strong reputation in the legal community statewide, and is a worthy recipient of one of the MCBA's finest awards. Congratulations, Ross.

Finally, with the fall comes anticipation of the MCBA's premiere event: Xtreme CLE. This year, on October 11, Xtreme will feature the best courses, sponsors, and giveaways to date. Please mark your calendars for this exciting event.

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. I look forward to engaging in a productive and eventful fall with each and every one of you.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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## **Mercer County Bar Foundation News**

he Mercer County Bar Foundation is proud to support Mercer County charities by making the following donations:

On July 18, 2018, Mercer County Bar President, Angelo Onofri presented a donation to The Newgrange School. This donation was made in memory of David (Topper) Rhoads. On August 6, 2018, Samantha and I presented donations to Kathy DiCostanzo from the Sunshine Foundation, Danielle Gletow from One Simple Wish, and Heather Bell Anderson from Special Olympics.

The Foundation will be making additional donations to TASK and Meals On Wheels. These donations will be presented the next time that our Community Project Committee members volunteer at these charities.



Cathy DiCostanzo stopped by the Mercer County Bar Association office to pick up a donation for the Sunshine Foundation. Tanya L. Phillips Esq. and Samantha Iraca presented her with a donation on behalf of the Mercer County Bar Foundation.

## **Mercer County Bar Foundation News**



Tanya L. Phillips, Mercer County Bar Foundation President, and Samantha Iraca deliver a donation to One Simple Wish Director, Danielle Gletow and her staff.



Mercer County Bar President Angelo J. Onofri, Esq. delivered a donation on behalf of the MCBF to our friends at the New Grange School in Trenton NJ.



From left to right: Samantha Iraca, Tanya L. Phillips Esq. and Heather Bell Andersen, President and CEO Special Olympics New Jersey.

## **Drug Court Update**

By, Judge Timothy Lydon, J.S.C.

he recent opiate crisis has brought renewed attention to New Jersey's drug court program. The program was initiated in 1996 to provide an alternative to incarceration for drug dependent offenders. Since its inception, the drug court system has diverted thousands of criminal defendants into treatment, with over 5,000 participants successfully graduating from all phases of the program.

The creation of the drug court program represented a dramatic shift in the way the State's criminal justice system addressed substance abuse and addiction. For years, policymakers emphasized deterrence to reduce increasing levels of drug-related offenses. These policies affected many defendants who were trapped in a cycle of substance abuse and criminal activity. Drug courts, however, offered a revolutionary alternative to the deterrence model. The program evolved from the belief that drug treatment and intensive supervision could reduce recidivism, improve public safety, and avoid the cost of lengthy prison terms.

Drug court is generally available for most nonviolent offenders who are drug or alcohol dependent. A defendant may apply to drug court at any time prior to sentencing. Applicants must undergo a substance use evaluation to determine whether they are dependent, i.e., suffer from a moderate or severe substance use disorder. If the defendant is accepted, he is sentenced to a term of drug court probation. Although most defendants apply to drug court voluntarily, certain offenders are subject to mandatory drug court sentencing. Drug dependent defendants who are convicted of an offense that carries a presumption of imprisonment or have previously served a term of incarceration are usually required to enter drug court.

New drug court participants must comply with a rigorous set of conditions. Participants must complete a treatment program that often lasts

from 12 months to 24 months. Many individuals with severe substance use disorders receive long-term inpatient services. Participants are required to submit to random urinalysis, make regular court appearances before a judge, meet with probation officers, and attend support groups. Probation officers make regular home visits, and new participants usually have curfews. After spending a few months in the program, most individuals must obtain employment or perform community service. The failure to adhere to these conditions may result in any number of sanctions. Serious violations of drug court policies include brief periods in jail or ultimately termination.

The program consists of four phases. They include: 1) Stabilization, 2) Positive Change, 3) Relapse Prevention, and 4) Commencement. Participants must remain in the program for a minimum of two years, and the maximum term is five years. The goal for every participant is to advance through the four phases and "graduate" from drug court. An individual may advance from phase 4 to graduation if they meet the following requirements:

- maintain one year of continuous clean time prior to the date of graduation;
- successfully complete all recommended treatment programs;
- obtain full-time employment, or obtain parttime employment and be actively engaged in a full-time trade or vocational school;
- establish a regular payment history on all court ordered fines including child support;
- demonstrate the establishment of a sober network of support in the community; and
- remain free of any pending criminal charges or active bench warrants.

Most participants spend three years in drug court

## **Drug Court Update**

By, Judge Timothy Lydon, J.S.C. (continued)

before they are eligible for graduation. Each drug court employs a specialized multidisciplinary "team" to monitor the participants and ensure the integrity of the program. The team includes a judge, court staff, a prosecutor, a public defender, substance abuse evaluators, treatment providers, and probation officers. The members of the team collaborate and draw upon their expertise to facilitate the participants' path to graduation. The team convenes weekly to review the status of the participants and various programmatic issues. The meetings are also used to conference any issues concerning a participant's conduct. The team works to build a consensus before making any recommendations concerning a response to a participant's behavior. The judge often accords considerable weight to team recommendations but remains responsible for all final decisions.

Every participant must appear before the team during regular court sessions. These sessions are usually held in presence of other drug court participants on a weekly basis. Participants must stand behind a lectern in open court and provide an update on their progress. They are encouraged to discuss their accomplishments, recent developments, or any difficulties they are facing in their lives outside of drug court. The judge and the other members of the team offer feedback to the participant and ask questions about any recent developments. They also acknowledge the participant's achievements and address any misconduct.

These appearances are a distinctive feature of drug courts. They provide a significant level of accountability for the individuals in the program and contribute to their long-term success. According to the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), regular court appearances lead to higher rates of drug abstinence and completion of the program. Judicial involvement is also critical. Several studies show that a drug court judge can have a measurable impact on participants. The NADCP reports "outcomes were significantly better when the

judges spent an average of at least three minutes, and as much as seven minutes, interacting with the participants during court sessions." Judicial demeanor appears to improve these results. Notably, "significantly greater reductions in crime and substance use were produced by judges who were rated by independent observers as being more respectful, fair, attentive, enthusiastic, consistent and caring in their interactions with the participants in court."

Drug Court's innovations have produced a number of positive benefits for the State. The rate of recidivism for drug court's graduates is dramatically lower than the statewide average for all other offenders. Within three years of graduation, less than seven percent of drug court graduates were convicted of a new indictable offense. The comparable rate for an individual who is released from incarceration is 40 percent. The implications of this disparity are significant, considering that 99 percent of drug court participants were prisonbound, that is, they would have been sentenced to a state prison term but for the drug court program. In addition, the drug court program has realized considerable cost savings. It costs less than \$13,000 annually to supervise a drug court participant, while the annual cost of incarceration is approximately \$55,000 per inmate.

The participants and their families, however, are the true beneficiaries. Drug court monitors the participants' recovery and adjusts their treatment regimen in the event of a relapse. The program's vigilance yields a high rate of abstinence from drugs and alcohol. Within the last 12 months, 95 percent of all participants' drug tests were negative. Drug court supervision also inspires participants to reach professional and personal milestones. Most individuals who enter drug court do not have fulltime employment or a driver's license. However, 88 percent of participants are employed at the time of graduation, and 68 percent possess their driver's license. Because they are no longer abusing drugs or alcohol, some participants are able to repair relationships and take better care of loved ones.

## **Drug Court Update**

By, Judge Timothy Lydon, J.S.C. (continued)

Since the statewide implementation of Drug Court, statistics from the Administrative Office of the Courts show that over 625 babies were born drug free from previously addicted participant mothers, and over 200 participants obtained custody of their children.

Although drug court has generated many positive outcomes for its participants and the public, the program actively evaluates its performance and implements reform. The Judiciary is in the process of developing a set of best practices to guide drug court operations across the State. The proposed standards are based on a national model that is supported by decades of research. In addition, representatives from the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) traveled to New Jersey to conduct a multi-day seminar for drug court teams from each county. NDCI worked with the teams to make improvements to their programs and ensure that the drug courts' operations were consistent with evidence-based standards. After the completion of the training, the teams prepared and implemented action plans in consultation with NDCI.

During this review process, employment opportunity was identified as an ongoing challenge for drug court participants. Criminal histories are the major impediment to finding employment. Participants obtain interviews, but they are routinely denied after the employer conducts a background check. Many of the participants get discouraged, and the failure to find work can have a deleterious effect on their recovery.

The Judiciary is currently looking to develop partnerships with companies to identify full-time employment for successful Drug Court participants. In his remarks to the State Bar Association in Atlantic City, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner encouraged employers to work with the Judiciary to open doors to participants "who are looking for a second chance at life." The Chief Justice noted a recent initiative with the Hard Rock Casino and Local 54 to create at least 30 full time

positions for individuals who are making significant progress in Drug Court. The Judiciary is hoping to build similar relationships in the coming months and meet with employers who are willing to discuss employment opportunities.

The public and members of the bar are welcome to attend an upcoming graduation ceremony at the Mercer Criminal Courthouse. The ceremony is a celebration of the graduates' achievements and their recovery in drug court. The graduates deliver emotional speeches that offer compelling evidence of the program's effectiveness. They describe how drug court helped them escape the spiral of addiction, reunite with their families, and restore their reputations. The graduates proudly recite their accomplishments and hopes for the future. In their own words, they show that drug court intervention has the propensity to rebuild lives and deter crime without the costs and societal consequences of incarceration.

I would like to thank the Mercer County Bar Association for allowing me to contribute to the newsletter. Please contact me or the Honorable Mary C. Jacobson, Assignment Judge for the Mercer Vicinage, if you know any employer who wishes to discuss employment opportunities for drug court participants.



## Central Jersey Legal Services Update

By, Susan Knispel, Esq.

WE NEED YOU TO TAKE A PRO BONO CASE AND YOU NEED US SO YOU CAN FULFILL YOUR MADDEN REQUIREMENT

f you want to be exempt from court -ordered appointments, you need to fulfill the requirement each year of 25 hours of voluntary qualifying pro bono service pursuant to R. 1:21-12. Central Jersey Legal Services, Inc. (CJLS) is an entity authorized to provide pro bono opportunities so that attorneys can claim an exemption from court appointments. Once the court appoints you to represent a client in a case, it is too late to find a way to become exempt. The twenty-five (25) hours needs to be completed by December 31st of the year prior to the year in which you are claiming the exemption.

If you specialize in family law cases you might get appointed in a case involving a DUI. If you practice real estate law you could be required to represent an alleged incapacitated individual in a guardianship case. Do you really want to be in a situation where you are required to represent a client outside your area of expertise?

But we can help! You can take pro bono cases from our organization through the Volunteer Lawyer's Project (VLP) of the Mercer County Bar Association (MCBA). At the present time we are referring out the following types of cases: Chapter 7 bankruptcy cases, criminal record expungements, guardianship matters, and family law cases (usually uncontested divorces, post-judgment motions and domestic violence restraining order matters). However, occasionally, we do have eligible clients who might need assistance with an appeal, a name change, a probate or equity court matter, a real estate matter or a tort defense. If you do not see referrals in one of your practice areas, you can always call our office to discuss the types of cases you would be willing to accept.

The MCBA maintains an email list of attorneys interested in accepting cases in each substantive area discussed above, and when they receive a referral from our office they send out an email looking for an attorney to accept the case. If you wish to be added to any of the email lists, contact either MCBA at sdelorenzo@mercerbar.com, or CJLS at sknispel@lsnj.org.

There are other ways to help our client population. Here is an example of how the law firm of Pepper Hamilton is assisting our clients. In conjunction with the firm, we set up a clinic whereby clients can receive a consultation in matters of concern to low-income tenants. Clients consult with an attorney from the firm at the offices of CJLS. The attorneys from the firm rotate. They come twice a month and see four or five clients each time. We, at CJLS, screen and schedule the clients. The Pepper Hamilton attorneys give advice on rent withholding in habitability matters, security deposit returns and rent increases along other issues affecting low-income tenants. There can be other similar opportunities for your firm, just call and ask.

In conclusion, it is the obligation of the private bar to offer pro bono assistance to those clients who cannot afford private counsel. Our legal system should provide equal access for all regardless of ability to pay. CJLS can only provide assistance to a fraction of the eligible client population in Mercer County. Please help us ensure equal justice for all by volunteering to handle pro bono cases from our Volunteer Lawyer's Project.

Susan Knispel, Esquire is currently the Deputy Director of the Trenton office of CJLS.



### XTREME REGISTRATION - October 11, 2018

One Day-One Place - One Year of Credits - The Conference Center at Mercer County Community College



Early Registration Pricing Through <u>September 21, 2018</u> Registration After September 21<sup>st</sup> add an additional \$15.00 Per Seminar

Each seminar is 2.0 NJ/NY Credits and 1.5 PA Credits
PA Credits for members \$15.00 for each seminar -Non-member \$30 \*\*\*\* NY Credits for members \$10 for each seminar -Non-member \$20 Printed Materials \$15 per Seminar

Members Must be in Good Standing to Receive Member Pricing

Flease choise only on			
Session I – Includes Breakfast – 8:00am-9:45 am  1) Real Estate – Breaking Developments in Real Estate, Blockchain & Legalized Cannabis	<b>Member</b> \$50.00	Non-Member \$100.00	Attending Seminar No
Ethics – Nuts & Bolts of Attorney Discipline     Environmental Law – Environmental Issues in Real Estate	\$50.00	\$100.00	Amount Paid \$
Session II – Includes Lunch – 10:05am-11:50am  1) Real Estate – Title Insurance – Commitment to Closing	Member	Non-Member	Attending Seminar No
Insurance – Auto Insurance Essentials     Taking Tech to Trial	\$65.00	\$115.00	Amount Paid \$
Session III – Includes Lunch – 12:10pm-1:55pm  1) Estate/Probate- New Laws & Sizzling Probate Trends	Member	Non-Member	Attending Seminar No.
Bankruptcy – Real Estate Issues in Bankruptcy Cases	\$65.00	\$115.00	Amount Paid \$
3) Arbitration – NJ Arbitration Law – Tips from the Masters			Amount Paid \$
Session IV – Includes Lunch 2:15pm-3:55pm  1) Cannabis – Rolling Out Legal Weed in New Jersey 2) 19th Annual Criminal Law Update (Law Enforcement) 3) Land Use – 2018 Land Use and Zoning Update	<b>Member</b> \$65.00	Non-Member \$115.00 Law Enforcement \$35	Attending Seminar No
Cassian V. Includes Dinner 4:00nm E-EEnm	Member	Non-Member	-
Session V – Includes Dinner – 4:20pm-5:55pm  1) Municipal Court Practice 2) Worker's Compensation – Case Law Update 3) Ethics - Hon. Linda R. Feinberg (ret)	\$90.00	\$140.00	Attending Seminar No
Session VI – Includes Dinner – 6:30pm-8:10pm  1) Family Law – The New Tax Code and Its Impact on the	Member	Non-Member \$140.00	Attending Seminar No
Matrimonial Practice 2) Opioid Awareness (Law Enforcement) 3) Sexual Harassment – Litigating Sexual Harassment Claims in the "Me Too Era"  Members Only – Sign Up For 3 and Save \$	\$90.00	Law Enforcement \$50	Amount Paid \$

SIGN UP FOR 6 AND SAVE \$100.00

XTREME REGISTRATION		October 11, 2018
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Address:		
Firm:	Email:	
CLE Credit (check all that apply):   NY PA #	Total enclosed	
Credit Card Number:	Exp. Date:	
Signature:	Security Code:	

A 48 Hr. written notice is required for cancellation and refund. • A \$15 processing fee per course will be applied to all cancellations.

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or Fax to (609) 585-5537, email to info@mercerbar.com, or register online at <a href="www.mercerbar.com">www.mercerbar.com</a>

Thanks to our Corporate Partners!









## XTREME CLE SPONSORSHIPS

## OCTOBER 11, 2018 MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONFERENCE CENTER

Each year the Mercer County Bar Association hosts **Xireme CLE**, an 18 seminar conference from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for attorneys. Approximately 3:00 attorneys participate in this conference and it is the premiere opportunity to market your business and network with our members. Your brand will reach more than 8:00 members. Afterward, we will provide you with a mailing list of attendees. **Bring a prize for your table!** 

#### PREMIER TABLE SPONSOR \$1,500

- Promotion on mailed and emailed MCBA flyers and advertising as the event sponsor
- O Signage as Sponsor at Event
- Oisplay at the Premier Table at Event (entire day) and ability to mingle with all attendees. This table sees the most flow of foot traffir throughout the day as attendees must pass it to go to the auditorium, 2nd floor seminar rooms, restrooms and banquet room for meals.
- Food for two presenters at Event
- Right to place ¼ page ad in MCBA newsletter twice during next year.
- O Right to include marketing materials in attendee folders

#### GIFT SPONSOR \$850

- These items will be a give away to all attendees and may be a bag, mug, etc.
- Promotion on mailed and emailed MCBA flyers and advertising as Item Sponsor.
- Signage as Item Sponsor at Event
- Right to include marketing materials in attendee folders

### BEVERAGE SPONSOR \$750

- Promotion on mailed and emailed MCBA flyers and advertising as beverage sponsor on day of Event, Signage as Beverage Sponsor at Event and cocktail napkins with your logo imprinted during breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- Display Table at Event (entire day) and ability to mingle with all attendees
- Food for two presenters at Event
- Right to include marketing materials in attendee folders

#### BREAK SPONSOR \$600

- O Promotion on mailed and emailed MCBA flyers and advertising as Break Sponsor
- Signage as Break Sponsor at Event
- Display Table at Event at entrance to banquet room (entire day) and ability to mingle with all attendees
- Food for two presenters at Event
- Right to include marketing materials in attendee folders

### TABLE SPONSOR \$500

- O Signage at Event
- Display Table at Event (entire day) and ability to mingle with all attendees
- Food for two presenters at Event
- Right to place business card ad in MCBA newsletter once during next year.
- Right to include marketing materials in attendee folders

#### WELLNESS SPONSOR \$500

- O Signage at Event & Display Table at Event (entire day) and ability to mingle with all attendees
- Food for two presenters at Event
- Right to include marketing materials in attendee folders

## 2018 Medal of Honor Award Hon. Linda R. Feinberg, A.J.S.C. (Ret.)

By, Samantha Iraca & Joe Paravecchia, Esq.

n September 17, 2018, the New Jersey State Bar Foundation will award retired Mercer County Superior Court Assignment Judge Linda R. Feinberg with its highest honor: the Medal of Honor Award. The award, given annually, honors those who have made exemplary contributions to improving the justice system and enhancing New Jersey's legal legacy. The Mercer County Bar Association (MCBA) can think of no one more deserving than our own Judge Feinberg.

Judge Feinberg received her bachelor's degree from Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, and her law degree from the University of Akron Law School. She began her legal career as a labor attorney with the U.S. Department of the Army. In 1975, she served as an Assistant Mercer County Prosecutor and, in 1977, joined the faculty of The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) as part of the law and justice department.

While teaching at TCNJ, Judge Feinberg entered private practice and was also appointed to serve as a municipal court judge in Lawrence, Hopewell and West Windsor townships. In 1998, she was named presiding judge of the municipal courts in Mercer County. That same year, she was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from Rider University.

In 1992, Governor James Florio appointed Judge Feinberg to the New Jersey Superior Court, where she served as the presiding judge of the Family Part in Mercer County, and then as the Assignment Judge for the Mercer County Vicinage. She served as Assignment Judge until her retirement in 2012. Shortly afterwards, Judge Feinberg returned to private practice as of counsel with the firm Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein & Blader in Lawrenceville.

In 2013, the MCBA presented Judge Feinberg with the prestigious Michael J. Nizolek Award. This award, the MCBA's highest honor, recognizes one lawyer each year for his/her unselfish contributions to both the legal profession and community.

Judge Feinberg possesses the characteristics of the most admirable attorneys and jurists. Her professional contributions to the New Jersey legal community alone demonstrate how worthy she is of the Medal of Honor Award. But, as Judge Feinberg has always shown, professionalism extends beyond competency and career success. We were fortunate to discuss with Judge Feinberg her personal and professional accomplishments. True to her character, and much to our surprise, Judge Feinberg humbly noted, that despite a lifetime of professional achievements, she is most proud of her three sons.

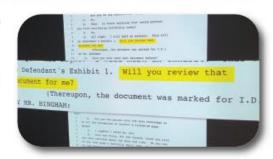




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### Calendar of Events

### September

Tuesday, September 13th: Lawyers Care 5:30-7:00 pm @ Mercer County Connection Wednesday, September 19th: Law Clerks Luncheon.

Wednesday, September 26th: Judges & Law Clerks Reception 5:30–8:30pm @

Mercer Oaks. Registration form included

Thursday, September 27th: Serve lunch, 10:30-1:00 pm @ TASK

### October

Collect new and used coats

Senior's event – Halloween Party – date to be determined.

Thursday, October 11th: Xtreme CLE 2018 8:00 am-8:00 pm @ Mercer County Community College Conference Center. Registration form is included.

Thursday, October 11th: Lawyers Care 5:30-7:00pm @ Mercer County Connection.

Thursday, October 18th: Professionalism Day. More information to follow.

Thursday, October 25th: Women Lawyers Committee Event at Honor Yoga in

Hamilton. 5:15 pm class. More information to come.

Friday, October 26th: MCBA Halloween Parade and Party. Details to follow.

Tuesday, October 30th: Divorce Arbitration CLE @ the Mercer County Bar

Association office. 5:30 pm. More information to come.

### November

Collect new and used coats

Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>: November General Membership Meeting & Casino Night 5:30-8:30 pm @ The Stone Terrace.

Thursday, November 8th: Lawyers Care 5:30-7:00 pm @ Mercer County Connection.

Tuesday, November 13th: Deliver lunch for Meals on Wheels 10:30-noon.

Wednesday, November 14th: Young Lawyers Bowling event @ Colonial Bowling Lanes. More information to come.

Wednesday, November 28th: Family Meet and Greet 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm @ Mountainview Golf Course. Registration form is included

### December

Tuesday, December 11th: Serve lunch 10:30-1:00 pm @ TASK.

Tuesday, December 11th: Holiday Party 5:30-8:30 pm @ Cobblestone Creek (formerly Green Acres Country Club)

Thursday, December 13th: Lawyers Care 5:30-7:00 pm @ Mercer County Connection.

## November General Membership Meeting, Casino Night & Nizolek Award



## JOIN US!

November 2, 2018 at 5:30pm prizes drawn at 8pm

The Stone Terrace | 2275 Kuser Road | Hamilton NJ

## THE 2018 NIZOLEK AWARD PRESENTATION

Judge Maria Sypek (Ret.)

Join your friends and colleagues for a night of fun and entertainment at one of the casino tables/games all while enjoying delicious Hors D'Oeuvres, pasta stations and a cash bar.

"Funny Money" can be "purchased" then used on casino games for coupons to win a Tricky Tray basket.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit Mercer County Bar Foundation which supports citizens who cannot afford legal assistance, law students with financial needs, and the children and their parents who participate in our K.I.T.E.S. anti-bullying programs. Additionally, you will be assisting us with other Community Projects such as Meals on Wheels, the Sunshine Foundation, TASK, Special Olympics, Homefront, and One Simple Wish as well as many other Mercer County charities.



## **Registration Information**

BEFORE October 24, 2018: \$80 for MCBA members; \$130 for non-members

Includes \$500 funny money

AFTER October 25, 2018: \$95 for MCBA members; \$145 for non-members

Includes \$500 funny money

Tuscany Table, Pasta Stations, Hors d'Oeuvres, Soft Drinks & a Cash Bar

Mail Reservations to: Mercer County Bar Association

1245 Whitehorse-Mercerville Rd., Suite 420, Hamilton, NJ 08619

**Fax Reservations to:** (609) 585-5537

Register online at: www.mercerbar.com

All members must be in good standing to receive member rate.

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#### MERCER COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION'S CASINO NIGHT ••• NOVEMBER 2, 2018

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48 hr, written notice required for cancellation and refund - A \$15 processing fee on all cancellations Payment is not deductible as a charitable contribution for Federal Income Tas purposes but may be deductible under other provisions as a business expense.

## MCBA 2018 Young Lawyer of the Year Ross Switkes, Esq.

By, Samantha Iraca

he Mercer County Bar Association has selected Ross J. Switkes, Esq. as the Young Lawyer of the Year. He is a partner in the Trenton office of Trenk, DiPasquale, Della Fera & Sodono, P.C., and he concentrates his practice in the areas of bankruptcy, debtor/creditor rights, corporate restructuring, and commercial litigation.

Ross regularly appears in the federal and state courts on behalf of a wide range of clients, including bankruptcy trustees, debtors, secured, and unsecured creditors, purchasers of assets, officers and directors, non-debtor spouses, landlords, transferees in avoidance actions, insurance companies, financially distressed companies, and municipalities.

He is active in local and state-wide community and bar organizations. Ross serves as a member of the Lawyers Advisory Committee for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey; a Trustee of the Mercer County Bar Association; Co-Chair of the Bankruptcy, Volunteer Lawyers Project, and Golf Outing Committees of the Mercer County Bar Association; a member of the NJTMA NextGen Committee; and a Barrister in the Bankruptcy American Inn of Court.

Ross served on the planning committee for the first annual "Run on the Reservoir" 5K to benefit the New Jersey Bankruptcy Lawyers Foundation, and from 2010 to 2014, he served as an Executive Board Member of the Young Lawyers Division of the Essex County Bar Association.

In 2017 and 2018, Ross was named a "New Jersey Rising Star" by New Jersey Monthly Magazine. Also, in 2018, Ross was named a "New Leader of the Bar" by New Jersey Law Journal.

Finally, Ross is a member of the New Jersey Bar Association, New York State Bar Association, American Bankruptcy Institute, American Bar Association, International Council of Shopping Centers, and MIDJersey Chamber of Commerce.





2018 Young Lawyer of the Year, Ross Switkes, Esq.

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### 2018 Judges and Law Clerks Reception, 2018 Young Lawyer of the Year Award and

### September General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, September 26, 2018 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Mercer Oaks Golf Course 75 Village Road West Princeton Jct., New Jersey

Continue the MCBA tradition and join us as we welcome the Judges and their incoming Law Clerks.

The evening provides members of the bench and bar with an opportunity to meet and greet the new clerks. Also, join us to celebrate our 2018 Young Lawyer of the Year.

## The Young Lawyer of the Year Award

### Ross Switkes, Esq.

Trenk, DiPasquale, Della Fera & Sodono, P.C.

#### Registration Information:

**Before September 19, 2018:** \$75.00 for MCBA members; \$125.00 for non-members **After September 20, 2018:** \$90.00 for MCBA members; \$140.00 for non-members Price includes Appetizers, Beef Steak Buffet Dinner, Dessert, Soft Drinks and a Cash Bar

### Add \$50 to your registration fee and sponsor a Law Clerk!

☐ Send or fax your reservations to:

Mercer County Bar Association, 1245 Whitehorse-Mercerville Rd., Suite 420 Hamilton, NJ 08619 - (609) 585-6200 TFAX (609) 585-5537 Register online at www.mercerbar.com

All members must be in good standing to receive member rate.

### Program Booklet Advertising Rates

If you would like to place an advertisement and congratulatory message in the Program Booklet, it must be in PDF or JPEG format and should be sent to info@mercerbar.com prior to September 19, 2018.

Full Page 5" X 8" \$350 Half Page 5" X 4" \$200 Quarter Page 5" X 2" \$100 Well-Wisher - Your Name \$10

2018 Young Lawyer of the Year and Judges and Law Clerks Dinner			September 26, 2018
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## Mercer County Bar Association's Family Law Committee presents

## Family Bar Meet & Greet

With Mental Health, Custody, Financial & Other Experts

Wednesday November 28, 2018 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mountain View Golf Club

850 Bear Tavern Road, Ewing, NJ 08628

A chance to meet regularly appointed and newly recognized experts. A great opportunity for Judges, experts and lawyers to ask questions, make suggestions and build better working relationships.

Regular Pricing: \$60 Members/ \$90 Non-Members

Late Payment after November 21, 2018—\$80 Members/ \$110 Non-Members

Mental Health Professionals, Financial and Other Experts will be offered the Member Rate

Includes Abundant Appetizers, Beer, Wine & Soda

Send or fax your reservation to: Mercer County Bar Association 1245 Whitehorse Mercerville Rd., Suite 420 Hamilton, NJ 08619

(609) 585-6200 FAX (609) 585-5537 email info@mercerbar.com

Or register on our website www.mercerbar.com

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## Young Lawyers Softball 7/14/18

n July 14, 2018, the MCBA Young Lawyers Committee (YLC) hosted a day of softball games, open to members and non-members, at Veterans Park in Hamilton Township. The event was well-attended by players and spectators and included delicious catering from Fred and Pete's Deli. Several MCBA notables, including President Angelo Onofri, Trustee Sam Toma, and Executive Director Sam Iraca, dusted off their gloves and participated in a day filled with fun and good food. Importantly, proceeds from

the event benefitted the Gary Sinise Foundation and LifeTies.

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The YLC would like to thank everyone who participated in and generously contributed to the softball games, including our corporate partners and, especially, our event sponsors: The Mercer County Prosecutor's Office, VFW Post 5700 (Hightstown), Gaylord Popp, RedEye, Szaferman Lakind, Rue Insurance, All State Investigators, Northfield Bank, Sixthirteen Creative, and Stark & Stark. The YLC looks forward to an even more successful event next year.

Joe Paravecchia pitches for the Blue team.



Dan Matos hits a line drive.



Tim Trainor waits for a hit.









## Mercer Vicinage Phone Update

Effective Monday, April 30, telephone numbers for Superior Court offices and chambers in the Mercer Vicinage will change. The new phone system will require callers to dial the main telephone number followed by a five-digit extension. The main telephone number is 609-571-4200. An automated attendant will guide callers through the main menu and a spell by name telephone directory. Generally, extensions will be a 7 plus the last four digits of the old phone number. Fax numbers will not be changed.

A complete listing of new telephone numbers can be found at https://www.njcourts.gov/courts/vicinages/mercer.html.

Superior Court of New Jersey, Mercer Vicinage CIVIL DIVISION TELEPHONE DIRECTORY April 2018

### MAIN TELEPHONE NUMBER: (609) 571-4200

You must dial the main number to access the courts. Once connected, you may select a prompt or dial an extension.

TEAM LEADERS:	Extensions
Margaret (Peggy) Busse	74432
Michele Sebastiano	74475
Theresa (Terrie) Cook	74456
Theresa Jackson	74455
Zena Lallo	74454
COURT SERVICES OFFIC	ER:
Jessica Stock	74479
Joseph Herring	74496
Katherine Stott	74314
Kelley Conner	74481
Nancy Ruggeri	74292
CDR TEAM COORDINATO	OR:
James Milton	74458
ARBITRATION:	74470

## Mercer Vicinage Phone Update

Superior Court of New Jersey, Mercer Vicinage
CIVIL DIVISION TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
April 2018

### MAIN TELEPHONE NUMBER: (609) 571-4200

You must dial the main number to access the courts. Once connected, you may select a prompt or dial an extension.

JUDGE	STAFF	EXT	FAX
Mary C. Jacobson, A.J.S.C.	Erika Rodriguez	74499	609-571-4463
	Ivette Vargas (LC) Dianna Shinn (LC)	74492 74493	Water Control of the
Paul Innes, P.J.CH.	Jena Hreha	74204	609-571-4233
	Andrew Arthur (LC)	74206	A and a second second
Douglas H. Hurd, P.J.Civ.	Laurie Douyon	74825	609-571-4826
717-41	Emily Schmitt (LC)	74822	
William Anklowitz, J.S.C.	Karen Snow	74838	609-826-7223
Supervising Judge SCP	Digisha Bhavsar (LC)	74835	
Janetta D. Marbrey, J.S.C.	Jill Dickerson	74305	609-571-4808
	Palmer Richardson (LC)	74303	
R. Brian McLaughlin, J.S.C.	Heidi Loforese	74919	609-571-4808
7.0.00.00.00.00	George Flammer (LC)	74917	II.
Kay Walcott-Henderson, J.S.C.	Barbara Richards	74320	609-571-4386
	Brian Gilligan (LC)	74319	1.74.00.00
F. Patrick McManimon, J.S.C. Ret. On Recall	Celeste Givens Supervisor	74491	609-571-4489

MERCER COUNTY CIVIL COURTHOUSE
PO BOX 8068, TRENTON, NJ 08650-0068 • 175 SOUTH BROAD ST., TRENTON, NJ 08650

**Contact:** 

Paula Sollami Covello Office of the Mercer County Clerk: (609) 989-6465

www.mercercounty.org

August 27, 2018

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Law Change Makes Vote by Mail a Convenient Option for All Elections

TRENTON – Between work, school, family, and traveling to a polling place – taking the time to vote on Election Day might seem daunting, if not impossible, to fit into many voters' schedules. The Mercer County Clerk's Office wants to ensure that everyone can vote in future elections by offering the option to Vote by Mail. And with a new law in place, voters can now automatically receive mail-in ballots for every, not just the General, upcoming election.

On the Vote by Mail Application, there are now two options in regards to receiving future mail-in ballots. The first is to receive a ballot for a single election. The other option you can select is to request a Vote by Mail ballot for all future elections. This is a change in the previous law, which only allowed mail-in ballots to be sent for (A) all elections in one calendar year or (B) all November General Elections.

If the multiple ballot option is selected, the voter will receive all ballots for all elections, the request would remain on their registration record until a written request is received by our office indicating that they no longer wish to receive ballots.

Any registered voter can Vote by Mail in New Jersey. The week after Labor Day we will send out applications in the mail to all registered voters. The completed Vote by Mail application can either be mailed or hand delivered to our new location at 209 South Broad Street, Trenton, NJ 08650.

The Mercer County Clerk's Office wants to make voting as convenient as possible, and the Vote by Mail option gives the electorate a larger window of time to cast a vote. Even if a voter receives a Vote by Mail ballot and decides not to use it, they may go into a polling place and request to vote by provisional ballot.

There are several ways to obtain a Vote by Mail application if it is not received in the mass mailing. Applications can be obtained at the Clerk's Office, municipal clerk's office, www.mercercounty.org/countyclerk or in multiple languages on the NJ State Division of Elections website at http://www.njelections.org/voting-information-vote-by-mail.html. If there are any other questions feel free to call our office at (609) 989-6494 or visit the websites above.

#### About the Mercer County Clerk's Office

The County Clerk's Office offers many services that Mercer residents and businesses use every day. The Clerk's Office files and records all documents concerning real estate ownership and transfer, registers small business trade names, processes U.S. passport applications, and swears in notary public applicants.

The office offers photos for people seeking passports and County and Veteran ID cards, and Gold-Star Parent ID cards as well. The County Clerk also has certain election responsibilities – including the printing of ballots, counting of votes cast by electronic machines and the issuance of vote-by-mail ballots. Elections information can be found on our website at http://www.mercercounty.org/government/county-clerk/elections.

We also offer passport services with extended hours at our Trenton office and at the County's satellite office, the Mercer County Connection, located in the Hamilton Square Shopping Center, Route 33 and Paxson Avenue, Hamilton Township.



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