



# THE STRAIGHT WORD

BURLINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
FEBRUARY 2026 / VOLUME 2-2026

FEBRUARY 2026

mark ✓ your **Calendar**

## February 2026

- 3 Mock Trial Day #3
- 5 Mock Trial Day #4
- 11 SEMINAR: Military Committee: Military Separations and Impact on Benefits and Employment  
4 p.m. to 6 p.m. (ZOOM)
- 12 Mock Trial (Snow Day)
- 17 TRIVIA NIGHT for Black History Month at 5:30 p.m.
- 18 Monthly Board Meeting at 4:30 p.m. (ZOOM)
- 25 LUNCH & LEARN: Civil Mediation Tips With the Masters  
12:30-1:30 p.m.
- 27 Happy Hour with Rutgers Law School at  
Miller's Ale House from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

## March 2026

- 2-6 Read Across America (See Flyer for details)
- 6 LUNCH & LEARN: LGBTQ+ Cases Before U.S. Supreme Court at 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- 17 Monthly Board Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
- 17 AWARDS GALA beginning 5:45 immediately following monthly BCBA Board Meeting

## April 2026

- 15 Monthly Board Meeting at 4:30 p.m.



**It's Award Season!**

**Mark your calendars for  
the Annual Awards Gala  
on March 17th!**

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Nicholas Trabosh- Trabosh & Trabosh



**Congratulations to Christina Groves, Esquire, who spoke at the "New Jersey Family Law Practice for Paralegals" webinar hosted by Half Moon Education on February 10, 2026**



*If you or a BCBA member is being recognized in the community and wants to be acknowledged here, please contact Stacey R. Gorin or Maggie McHugh*

## The Straight Word

Published by

**The Burlington County Bar Association**

137 High Street, 3rd Floor

Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Email: [bcba@burlcobar.org](mailto:bcba@burlcobar.org)

Website: [www.burlcobar.org](http://www.burlcobar.org)

Phone: 609.261.4542 Fax: 609.261.5423

### OFFICERS

Diana R. Sever.....President  
Stacey R. Gorin.....President-Elect  
Eli Eytan.....Vice President  
Victoria D. Britton.....Treasurer  
Jay Keesler.....Secretary  
Megan K. Balne.....Immediate Past President

### TRUSTEES

2025 - 2026	Janice L. Heinold Timothy O'Brien
2023 - 2026	John C. Gillespie Hon. Marie E. Lihotz (Ret.)
2024 - 2027	Tessa E. Wagoner Maggie E. McHugh Zachary Green Hon. Ken Domzalski (Ret.)
2025 - 2028	Solaris A. Power Ryan R. Slocum Heshim J. "Chip" Thomas

### YOUNG LAWYER TRUSTEES

2024 - 2026	Jazlyne Caban
2025 - 2027	Brian M. Sever

### 2025-2027 AFFINITY BAR TRUSTEES

Nilaja Ford  
Katina Chase

*New Jersey State Bar Trustee: Brenda Roman Maneri*

*Executive Director: Lisette Gonzalez*

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Lisette Gonzalez & Diana R. Sever .....Designer, Editor;  
Communications Committee: Stacey R. Gorin and Maggie L. McHugh

### STATEMENT OF POLICY

Opinions expressed in signed articles appearing in The Straight Word are those of the author alone and not necessarily of the Burlington County Bar Association, its officers, or its Board of Trustees.

The existence of the Burlington County Bar Association is made possible by your financial support. However, our success in fostering professional growth and improving the practice depends on your participation in meetings, programs, seminars, and the work of committees, as well as your support of The Straight Word by way of suggestions and contributions. Contributions are welcome, subject to the deadline of the 10th day of each month. The Straight Word is published ten times a year. The right to edit and publish is reserved.

# Coming In Out of the Cold

## by Diana R. Sever, Bar President



February is the month where many of us are still in professional hibernation. The year has started, the workload is real, the weather is FREEZING, and it can feel easier to keep your head down and push through rather than look up and engage.

That instinct is understandable. After the rush of year-end deadlines and the reset of January, February often becomes about endurance. But hibernation is only useful if it ends.

This is the point in the year where stepping out of the cold matters. Getting back into court, attending seminars, and showing up at professional events and informal gatherings all play a role in reconnecting us with our legal peers. Court lists and corridors remain one of the few places where the profession regularly comes together in person—where conversations happen before and after matters, insights are exchanged, and professional relationships are quietly strengthened.

The BCBA's continuing legal education seminars and Lunch & Learns offer something different but equally valuable. They create space to step back from individual files and look at broader trends, recent decisions, and emerging issues across practice areas. Often, it is the discussion around the formal presentation—rather than the slides themselves—that provides the most practical insight.

The BCBA also offers a full complement of social events to get you out of the house/office. Professional gatherings, whether large conferences or smaller networking events, serve as reminders that legal practice is not a solitary exercise. These activities allow us to reconnect with colleagues we may otherwise only encounter in correspondence, to share experiences, and to build the trust that underpins a healthy profession.

February doesn't demand a dramatic reset. It just asks for movement. One court appearance, one seminar, one conversation over coffee. The days will get longer soon enough—but the momentum starts now. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at one of the variety of events and seminars we offer!

# EQUITY FOLLOWS THE LAW

by: Noah A. Schwarz, Esq.

One year ago I submitted an article to The Straight Word on the equitable maxim “equity follows the law,” promising a second installment regarding Judge Dreier’s use of the phrase “extraordinary circumstances or countervailing equities” in the case *Seavey v. Long*, 303 N.J. Super. 153, 160 (App. Div. 1997). Seavey involved distribution of widow’s pension benefits between the decedent’s first wife and second wife.

For those of you who remembered the promise, here is my fulfilment of it in the context of breach of contract actions.

For those of you who don’t remember, the question posed in the last installment was how to avoid getting caught with no good answer to the judge’s question “how can I do what you’re asking the court to do?” when calling upon the court to use its equitable powers. I concluded with the thought that Judge Dreier’s use of the phrase “extraordinary circumstances or countervailing equities” is rooted in pre- 1947 Constitution cases and equitable doctrines that are underutilized today.



The primary ancient case cited by Judge Dreier in *Seavey* is *Camden Tr. Co. v. Handle*, 132 N.J. Eq. 97, 98 (1942). Handle involved use of property secured by a mortgage. It appears that when the mortgage was entered into, the property owner operated a theater on the mortgaged premises. At some point the property owner decided to stop running the theater which upset the bank (as well as the property owner’s failure to pay taxes) which then sought damages for this permissive waste. To define the phrase, the court helpfully cited to Sir Edward Coke’s *Institutes of the Lawes of England* (published between 1628 and 1644) which defines permissive waste as “waste by reason of omission or not doing, as for want of reparation \*\*\* for he that suffereth a house to decay which he ought to repair, doth the waste. \*\*\*”

Focusing on the bank’s upset that by not continuing operation of the theater, the property owner had impaired the value of the property as security, the court made a simple differentiation between nonpayment of taxes and failure to operate a theater, both of which constituted permissive waste. It also differentiated permissive waste from active waste, a situation where the property owner takes affirmative action to impair the property. As to nonpayment of taxes, the court ruled that the property owner had agreed to pay them in the mortgage. As to the failure to operate the theater, there was no such agreement and the court would not read into the mortgage

# EQUITY FOLLOWS THE LAW

by: Noah A. Schwarz, Esq. (cont'd)

a duty to keep it open. Thus, in Handle, the court would not read into a written contract an equitable duty to act, finding no countervailing equities.

This conclusion regarding the application of the maxim “equity follows the law” in the context of breach of contract claims was summarized succinctly by Judge Pressler (writing on an appellate panel with Judge Dreier): “[I]n this context, we understand that maxim to mean that while equitable principles may, in the interests of justice, be applied to expand statutory rights, they may not be applied to contract or otherwise constrict those rights.” Hadden v. Eli Lilly & Co., 208 N.J. Super. 716, 721 (App. Div. 1986)(citing to Lavin v. Hackensack Bd. of Ed., 90 N.J. 145, 152 n.1 (1982)). These holdings are aligned with the fundamental principle that “it is not the function of the court to make a better contract for the parties, or to supply terms that have not been agreed upon.” Graziano v. Grant, 326 N.J. Super. 328, 342 (App. Div. 1999).

Indeed, in the bulk of matters before the equity court which are more honestly described as breach of contract cases, the plaintiff is seeking something the contract did not provide for and is calling upon equity to grant it. But even in early cases decided in the aftermath of the passage of the 1947 constitution, New Jersey courts recognized that breach of contract cases only belonged in equity in “peculiar value” cases or where legal damages were elusive. See, e.g. Fleischer v. James Drug Stores, Inc., 1 N.J. 138, 146-47 (1948).

In Wood, the Supreme Court noted that:

New Jersey traditionally has deemed it “elemental that . . . equitable processes are available only to the party who cannot have a full measure of relief at law,” and that it is “[t]he lack of an adequate remedy at law [that forms] the basis of the appeal to equitable jurisdiction[.]” Bolte v. Rainville, 138 N.J. Eq. 508, 512, 48 A.2d 191 (E. & A.1946). That is because “[e]quity rectifies the invasion of existing primary rights not so cognizable or adequately redressable at law; and thus it is that, in all such instances, only the party who cannot obtain a sufficient remedy at law may enlist the aid of equity.” Ibid.

Wood v. N.J. Mfrs. Ins. Co., 206 N.J. 562, 578 (2011). The lesson of Wood is simple, as is the lesson which Judge Dreier and his predecessors have been communicating to practitioners for decades: in a breach of contract action, where a plaintiff is looking for the court to grant something the contract doesn’t provide for or for something better, resorting to equity isn’t going to yield that plaintiff an improved result because equity follows the law.

# February 2026 Wine Column

## by Janice Heinold, Esq.

In January, my American Wine Society Chapter met at the home our Chapter President in Columbus, NJ, for a blind tasting of Chardonnays from around the world. Chardonnay is the most planted grape, world-wide. It's extremely diverse, used in everything from crisp blanc-de-blanc Champagnes to buttery-rich Chardonnays from Napa County, California.

Chardonnays can be oaked or unoaked. If you prefer your Chardonnay oaked, with flavors of vanilla, butter, caramel, crème brûlée, coconut, and praline, many warmer-climate regions oak their Chardonnays. Look for wines from Napa Valley, Paso Robles, South Australia, Mendoza, and Puglia. If you prefer your Chardonnays unoaked, with flavors of apple and lemon (less ripe) or pineapple and figs (more ripe), with a mineral finish, many cooler-climate regions do not oak their Chardonnays. Look for Chardonnays from Sonoma Coast, Loire Valley, Chablis, Chile, and Western Australia. If you prefer your Chardonnays somewhere in the middle, lightly oaked but still fruit-forward, look for Chardonnays from Burgundy and Oregon.

In January, my American Wine Society Chapter met at the home our Chapter President in Columbus, NJ, for a blind tasting of Chardonnays from around the world. Chardonnay is the most planted grape, world-wide. It's extremely diverse, used in everything from crisp blanc-de-blanc Champagnes to buttery-rich Chardonnays from Napa County, California.

Chardonnays can be oaked or unoaked. If you prefer your Chardonnay oaked, with flavors of vanilla, butter, caramel, crème brûlée, coconut, and praline, many warmer-climate regions oak their Chardonnays. Look for wines from Napa Valley, Paso Robles, South Australia, Mendoza, and Puglia. If you prefer your Chardonnays unoaked, with flavors of apple and lemon (less ripe) or pineapple and figs (more ripe), with a mineral finish, many cooler-climate regions do not oak their Chardonnays. Look for Chardonnays from Sonoma Coast, Loire Valley, Chablis, Chile, and Western Australia. If you prefer your Chardonnays somewhere in the middle, lightly oaked but still fruit-forward, look for Chardonnays from Burgundy and Oregon.

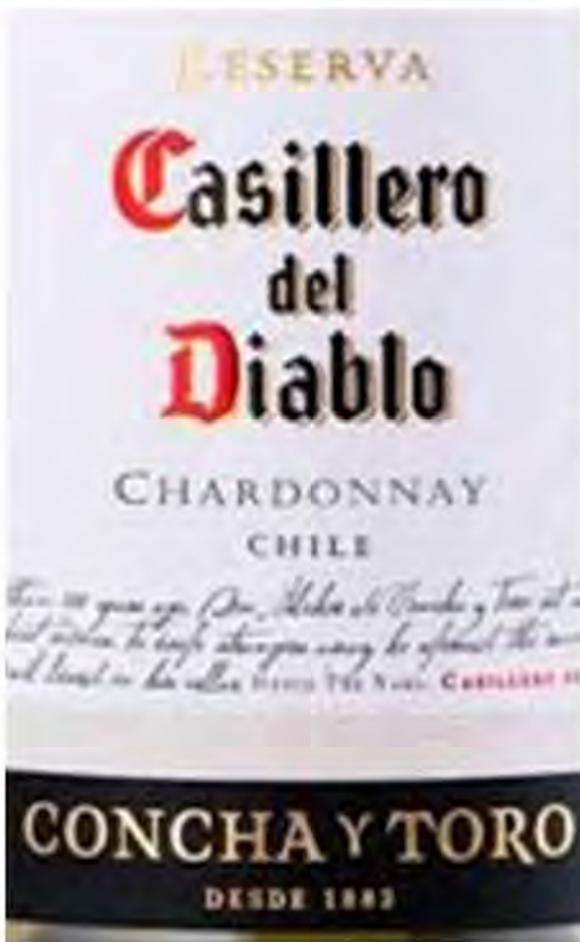


Why do some Chardonnays taste like buttered popcorn? After the wine is fermented, some Chardonnays undergo a second fermentation called "malolactic fermentation." Malolactic fermentation ("MLF" or "malo") turns tart malic acid (the acid in apples) into smooth lactic acid (the acid in milk). Malolactic Fermentation creates a creamy, buttery Chardonnay. If you don't like that style of Chardonnay, check for oak or unoaked on the label, or ask the server/bartender if it underwent malolactic fermentation. Fun fact: nearly all red wines undergo malolactic fermentation.

Before the tasting, we had dinner, so that the flavors of the food would not interfere with the flavors of the wine. (I had made Ina Garten's baked shrimp

## February Wine Column (cont'd)

by: Janice Heinold, Esq.



scampi and served it over a bed of couscous. Don't ask how much butter goes into that dish! Came out great.)

We tasted ten bottles of Chardonnay (covered in brown bags, so no one could see any of the labels). The tasting contained a several surprises, including a Chardonnay that turned out to be from Chile that tasted like a Burgundy: a 2022 Casillero del Diablo Reserva Chardonnay from Casablanca Valley, Chile. Yes, a \$10 bottle of wine fooled all of us!

Before I tasted it blind, I would have walked right past this in the store, assuming it would be nondescript at best, and a butter bomb at worst. With aromas of green apple and flint, flavors of green apple and a touch of malolactic fermentation, giving it a rounder mouthfeel, most of us thought this was a classic Burgundy. Ridiculous at this price point! 13.5% ABV; \$10 at Wineworks.

The second surprise of the night was that the \$100 Burgundy from Puligny-Montrachet was so minerally that it wasn't even

in my top three! I thought it was a mid-level Chablis. The wine I rated #2 in the blind tasting was a 2016 Handpicked Version Chardonnay from Yarra Valley, Victoria, Australia. (My guess was that this was from Northern Italy.) This wine has aromas of red apple, lemon, and copper penny, following by flavors of red apple, lemon, ginger, and a chalky finish on the palate, and higher acidity (making it food-friendly). Another surprising value at only \$13 a bottle from Wine Library. 13% ABV.

My #3 wine was a 2022 Catena High Mountain Vines from Mendoza, Argentina. I had pegged this wine as being from Australia, with its tropical aromas of pineapple with a flinty finish, and flavors of pear and citrus, with a rounder mouthfeel on the palate. 13.5% ABV; \$17 at Total Wine. Another successful blind tasting, teaching me that I should not judge a wine by its label!



# Don't Assume You Can't Avail Yourself of a Home Office Deduction

by: Martin H. Abo, CPA/ABVCVA/CFF



Boy, we can't tell you how many people we speak to, even accountants, who assume they don't qualify for a home office deduction or that it's an audit red-flag. Well, Abo and Company is here to tell you it is often a viable approach to tax reduction.

First, if you operate a business, you may qualify for home office deductions.

However, if you are a W-2 employee, the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) effectively eliminated such deductions. Before the TCJA, if you met the primary requirements (we'll discuss in a bit), you used to qualify for deductions as a company employee if the home office was used for the "convenience" of your employer. Essentially, you

had to establish that the home office was necessary for the business operation. However, as an employee, you could claim qualifying home office expenses as "miscellaneous itemized deductions" (albeit limited to the excess over 2% of your "Adjusted Gross Income").

The TCJA eliminated all "miscellaneous itemized deductions" while the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) enacted this past July made the change permanent. If you are an employee who incurs home office expenses out of your own funds, you now reap no tax benefit. Alas, we've had to inform many a client that employees who work remotely for a company are not eligible to claim the home office deduction unless they also have self employment income. Abo and Company's possible workaround? Find out if your employer can restructure your "compensation/reimbursement package" by reimbursing you for these home office expenses under either an "accountable plan reimbursement" or a "rental agreement" where employer corporation might pay rent for the home office and the employee might deduct related expenses. In this fashion, you won't be taxed on reimbursements (which is the same as so deducting them from your gross compensation), while the employer can deduct the payments. Either way, credible substantiation is suggested (i.e. receipts, logs, etc.).

*You are well advised to re-read and even give your employer a copy of Abo and Company's email alert since you need to ensure an "accountable plan" is in place where you incur expenses while performing duties as an employee. Contact us for a copy or go to our website.*

# Home Office Deduction

by: Martin H. Abo, CPA/ABVCVA/CFF (cont'd)



Here's the lowdown on the home office deduction (great for self-employed individuals and gig workers filing schedule C). To qualify, you have to use the office regularly and exclusively as (1) your principal place of business (i.e., the place where you conduct most of your income-earning activities or the place where you conduct all your administrative chores) or (2) a place where you meet with customers, clients or patients in the normal course of business. If you meet one standard, it entitles you to deduct direct expenses for your home office plus a proportionate share of indirect expenses like mortgage interest, property taxes, utilities, repairs and insurance. (Mortgage interest is generally deductible anyway by most itemizers, while a limited itemized deduction may be available for property taxes under

TCJA and OBBA.) In addition, you can claim a deduction for the part of the home used as an office. The IRS established a simplified safe-harbor method for calculating home office deductions. The safe-harbor method should reduce the administrative, recordkeeping, and compliance burdens of determining allowable home office deductions under the more complicated actual-expense method. This safe-harbor method allows an eligible taxpayer to claim a home office deduction of \$5 per square foot of space used for qualified business use, limited to 300 square feet, with no questions asked about actual expenses and no required documentation of expenses. Therefore, the maximum annual safe-harbor allowance is limited to \$1,500 ( $\$5 \times 300$ ).

Oh yes, we almost forgot to mention it may be possible to qualify for a home office deduction for a space where you don't even perform any work. You can deduct the cost of an area used to store inventory or product samples for a self-employed business (even your garage). Also, partners or LLC members may claim such home office deductions as "Unreimbursed Partnership Expenses (UPE) on schedule E of their 1040 if the expenses are "ordinary and necessary" under section 162 of the Internal Revenue Code, the operating agreement permits such deductions and the partner/member must pay these expenses personally.

# Home Office Deduction

by: Martin H. Abo, CPA/ABVCVA/CFF (cont'd)

Another possible advantage of a qualified home office is that increased deductions for driving can be achieved. Specifically, if a home office qualifies as a principal place of business, all of your commuting from home to various temporary work locations (i.e. client or customer locations, your accountants at Abo and Company, Staples, FedEx, post office, etc.) counts as business mileage. The point is, when your home office qualifies as a principal place of business, it's usually easy to rack up lots of business mileage, which makes it easier to clear the over 50% business-use hurdle and qualify for the generous first-year vehicle depreciation write-offs. A higher business-use percentage also means bigger (perhaps much bigger) annual vehicle depreciation deductions. The home-office deduction itself is icing on the cake. Without a bona-fide home office, driving from your home to your first place of business is considered commuting and the IRS considers commuting similar to non-deductible personal use of the auto.

Also, if you meet the requirements, you can take the deduction for a side business. If your home office is also used for personal reasons, you're out of luck. The more space you legitimately devote only to your business, the more your deduction will be worth.

As alluded to earlier, qualified home office expenses include direct expenses which are those you incur specifically for your home office (i.e. painting/wallpapering your home office, paying someone to clean it, carpeting it, etc.). Such direct expenses will be 100% deductible. Qualified indirect expenses include expenditures that benefit the entire home times the percentage which relates to the home office (i.e. allocable rent, mortgage interest and property taxes, depreciation, utilities, insurance, repairs and maintenance, snow removal, etc.)

Home office deductions are limited to the gross income from the business activity reduced by: (1) other expenses for which deductions are allowed absent business use (such as qualified residence interest, real estate taxes, and casualty losses) and (2) business deductions that are not allocable to using the home (such as advertising and supplies). Deductions disallowed under this business income limitation not otherwise allowed (such as interest and taxes) are carried forward to the following year and have the same business income limitation in that following year, whether or not the home is a residence during the carryover year.

Despite all the limitations and caveats discussed above, Abo and Company knows a great tax planning opportunity when we see one.

---

Abo and Company, LLC and its affiliate, Abo Cipolla Financial Forensics, LLC, Certified Public Accountants – Litigation and Forensic Accountants, are Featured Business Partners of the Burlington County Bar Association. The above article was retrieved from the “E-mail alerts” disseminated to clients and friends of the firm. With offices in Mount Laurel, tips like the above can also be accessed by going to the firm's website at [www.aboandcompany.com](http://www.aboandcompany.com) or by calling 856-222-4723 if you would like to be placed on their email list.

# The Right to Disconnect

by: Solaris Power, Esq.

The right to disconnect is a proposed human right regarding the ability of people to disconnect from work after working hours. The modern working environment has resulted in a non-stop barrage of emails and communications.

Once upon a time, attorneys could disconnect by traveling to remote



locations to become unavailable for work. I often traveled to the remote island of Kauai, which is still known on the north shore for intentionally poor-quality internet with no signal internet areas. I relished the opportunity to disconnect from the world.

But as technology has increased access, the boundary has continued to blur between work and the rest of our lives. If an attorney takes a vacation but must wait for or respond to communications by email, this is not a disconnection from work. We all need a break.

In 2016, France passed into law, a right to disconnect law for companies with 50 or more employees. This was premised on several years of case law, including a 2004 ruling stating that an employee's failure to answer work calls outside of regular hours could not be deemed misconduct.

An inability to disconnect causes stress, burnout, trauma, anger, and substance abuse. A nationwide study on lawyer mental health was conducted in the summer of 2025, by the American Bar Association with New Jersey participation facilitated by the New Jersey Judiciary. This survey covered stress, burnout, access to resources, and workplace culture, and built upon the landmark 2016 ABA-Hazelden study.

The New Jersey Supreme Court is now addressing these issues of lawyer wellbeing: high rates of anxiety, burnout, isolation and substance misuse. The Court through various committees has provided resources to support attorneys' well-being. Wellness topics are being featured at vicinage gatherings, CLE's and confidential listening sessions. In 2023, Chief Justice Rabner established the Committee on Wellness in the Law, which now includes attorneys, judges, court administrators, the NJ Lawyers Assistance Program ("NJLAP"), Council on Problem Gambling and bar leaders.

In addition, through amendments to the Court Rules, anyone can now make third-party referrals to the NJ Lawyers Assistance Program for attorneys and judges in need. The Office of Attorney Ethics

# The Right to Disconnect

by: ----- (cont'd)

can refer law professionals. The referral can be made anonymously, if desired. The referral's outcome always remains confidential. No update will be provided to the referring party.

Also, now there is training and resources for attorney succession planning available on the judiciary website. This effort to address succession planning, which is another source of stress for attorneys, is particularly helpful for solo practitioners and small firms.

In an effort to help our members exercise their right to disconnect, the Burlington County Attorney Wellness Committee will continue to host in-person wellness events, in addition to a virtual CLE event on April 2, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.





**APPROACHING OUR CENTENNIAL YEAR! Est. 1932**

**\*\*\*\*UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION ONLY\*\*\*\***

(Please Type Or Print Clearly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Personal Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you would like to make changes to your Committee Selections, please indicate so below:**

I am interested in: (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Civil Practice Section	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Practice Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction Law Sub- committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Immigration
<input type="checkbox"/> Employment Sub- committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Lawyer Referral/Pro Bono/Legal Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury Sub- committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Practice Section	<input type="checkbox"/> Military Law Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Part Section	<input type="checkbox"/> Mock Trial Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> General Equity Section	<input type="checkbox"/> Professionalism Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Court Section	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Probate/Estate Planning Section	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Attorneys Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> CDR/ADR Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Civil Part/Landlord-Tenant
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Legal Education Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Wellness
<input type="checkbox"/> Debtor/Creditor/Bankruptcy Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Women in the Profession Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Diversity, Inclusion & Leadership Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Workers Compensation Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Education & Administrative Law Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Young Lawyers Committee

**Return your completed form to:**

**BURLINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

**137 High Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**Mount Holly, NJ 08060**

**Phone: 609.231.4542**

**Fax: 609.261.5423**

**Scan/email: [bcba@burlcobar.org](mailto:bcba@burlcobar.org)**



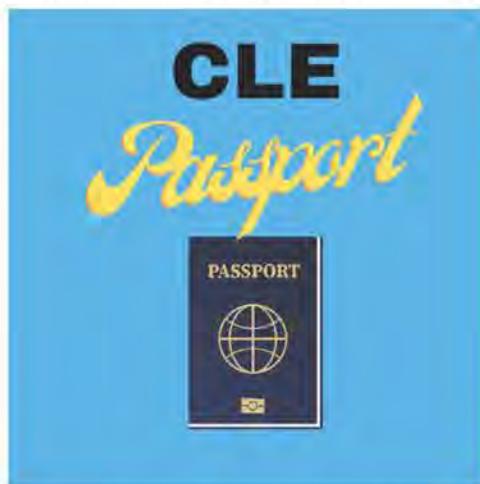
# CLE PASSPORT



Did you know that the average local cost for 24 NJ CLE credits is \$900 or more?

Did you know that you can earn ALL 24 NJ CLE credits with BCBA for just \$300?

Take advantage of this incredible savings opportunity by enrolling in our Passport Program today! Simply complete the form below and mail, fax, or scan with payment information to Bar Headquarters. Registering for seminars is simple, and can be completed by checking the PASSPORT option under payment, or by choosing the Passport Holder option online. Last year we held 40+ CLES including multiple seminars covering the NJ Diversity and Inclusion Ethics Requirement.



The Details: Passport is valid thru 5/31/26; Non-transferable; This promotion is available to BCBA members only; Passport is good only for BCBA-sponsored seminars and does not include joint seminars or luncheon seminars; PA CLE credit fees are in addition to Passport fee; seminar schedule subject to change. Excludes seminars held outside Courthouse, Bar Headquarters, and Zoom. \*Passport is \$300;

BCBA CLE PASSPORT 2025-2026. Complete and return to 137 High Street, 3rd Floor, Mt. Holly, NJ 08060		Method of Payment
Name _____		Passports are \$300*
Address _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed
Phone _____	Email _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa/MC
Credit Card # _____		<input type="checkbox"/> AMEX
Signature (credit card only) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Discover
		Security Code _____
		Exp. _____
Questions? 609.261.4542 Fax: 609.261.5423 Scan <a href="mailto:bcba@burlcobar.org">bcba@burlcobar.org</a>		



**BCBA MILITARY COMMITTEE PRESENTS  
MILITARY SEPARATIONS AND THEIR IMPACT  
ON BENEFITS AND EMPLOYMENT**

**SPEAKERS**

**ODISE CARR, UNDERSHERIFF, BURLINGTON  
COUNTY**

**CHRIS ST. JOHN, LAW OFFICE OF CHRISTOPHER  
ST. JOHN**

**ON FEB 11, 2026 FROM 4PM-6PM VIA ZOOM  
PLEASE REGISTER AT [BURLCOBAR.ORG](http://BURLCOBAR.ORG)  
DIRECTLY TO RECEIVE NJ AND PA  
CREDITS**

JOIN DIAL IN CELEBRATING

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

02/17/26 — 5:30 PM

TRIVIA NIGHT  
SMALL BITES &  
DRINKS INCLUDED

MASQUERADE THEATRE, 301 WEST  
WASHINGTON ST #100, RIVERSIDE NJ

PLEASE  
REGISTER AT  
[BURLCOBAR.ORG](http://BURLCOBAR.ORG)

FREE  
ENTRY



# **BURLINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION ADR/CDR COMMITTEE PRESENT, CIVIL MEDIATION WITH THE MASTERS: PREPARE YOURSELF AND YOUR CLIENTS**

**This is a Lunch and Learn on February  
25<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-1:30pm Via Zoom**

**Speaker : Hon. Georgia M. Curio, AJSC (Ret.)  
Mediations, Vineland , New Jersey**

**Speaker: Hon. Jeanne R. Covert, AJSC (Ret.)  
Weir Law, LLP, Mount Laurel**

**Moderator: Hon. Marie E. Lihotz, (Ret.)  
Archer & Greiner, Voorhees, New Jersey**



**Please Register ONLINE at [burlcobar.org](http://burlcobar.org)  
Member fee is \$25 and the Non-Member fee is \$40.  
Please add \$7.50 for PA Credits. (Passports do not include  
PA Credit Fees)**

**PLEASE REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE.  
(ZOOMS LINKS ARE SENT THE EVENING  
BEFORE)**

**[BURLCOBAR.ORG](http://BURLCOBAR.ORG)**

# HAPPY HOUR WITH THE BURLINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

*in partnership with Rutgers Law School—Camden SBA*



❖ FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27 ❖

**5 PM – 7PM**

Miller's Ale House,  
554 Fellowship Rd,  
Mt Laurel, NJ 08054

Join us to unwind at the end of the week, connect with peers, and engage with members and leaders of the Burlington County Bar Association!





JOIN THE BURLINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION FOR

## READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK

HOW: Read a book to local school children

WHEN: Monday, March 2 - 6, 2026

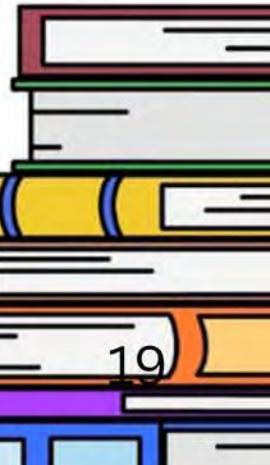
\*opportunities available each day

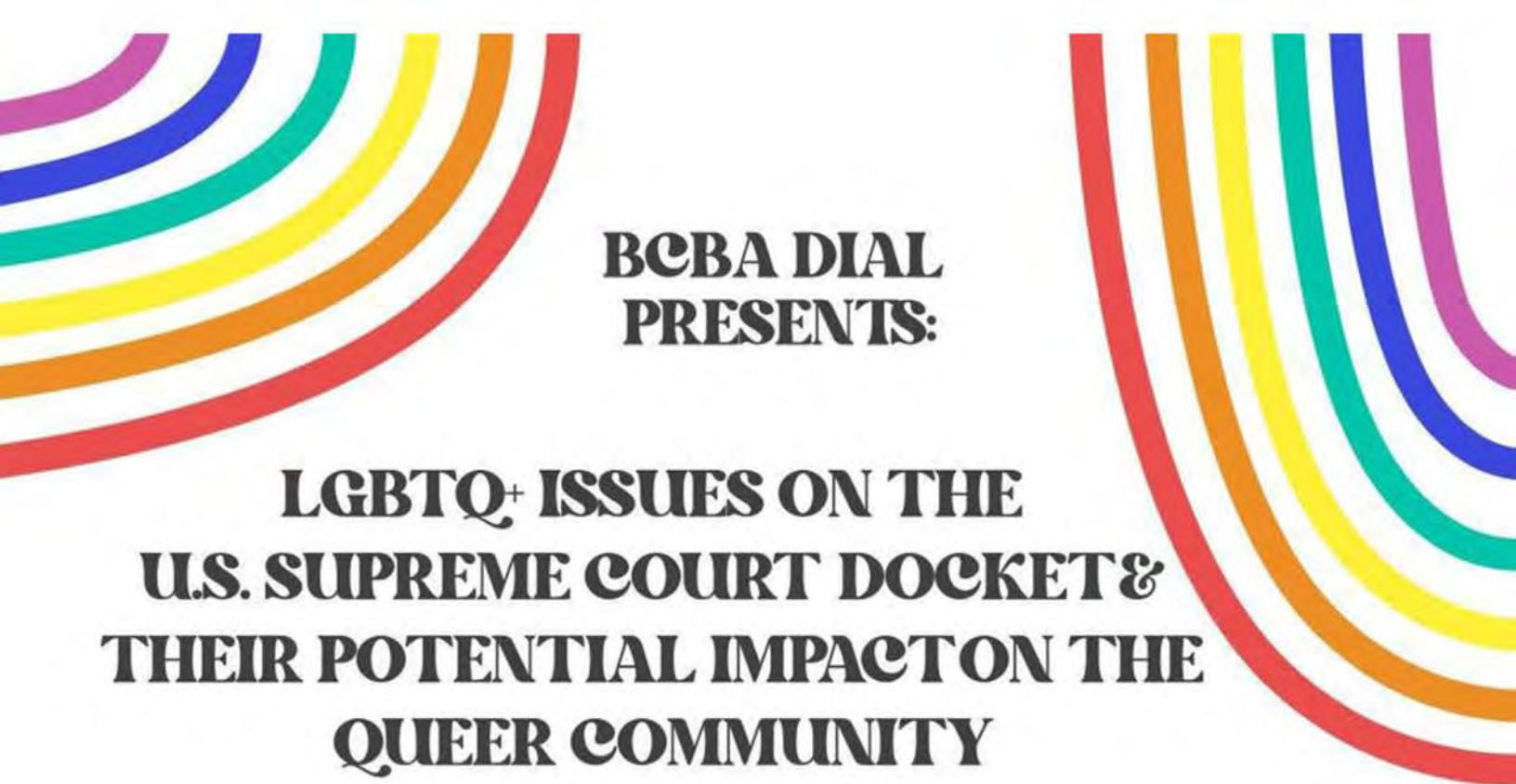
[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

or scan me to sign up



EMAIL: Mariane Gardner with questions  
gardner@hylandlevin.com





**BCBA DIAL  
PRESENTS:**

**LGBTQ+ ISSUES ON THE  
U.S. SUPREME COURT DOCKET &  
THEIR POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE  
QUEER COMMUNITY**

**MARCH 6, 2026 12:30-1:30PM  
LUNCH AND LEARN  
VIA ZOOM**

**SPEAKERS:**

**DEREK DEMERI, ESQ., WEISSMAN & MINTZ, LLC**

**DINA CASTILLO, PRIDE CENTER PROGRAM  
SUPERVISOR AT THE CENTER FOR FAMILY  
SERVICES**

**PLEASE REGISTER DIRECTLY AT  
[BURLCOBAR.ORG](http://BURLCOBAR.ORG) FOR NJ AND PA CREDITS**

*Save  
the date*

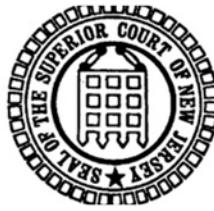
FOR THE AWARDS GALA DINNER

**MARCH 17TH, 2026 AT 5:45PM**

AT THE BRADFORD ESTATES  
AT 5:45PM

**1910 MARNE HWY, HAINSPORT,  
NJ 08036**

Burlington Vicinage  
Civil Jury Trial Verdicts –December 2025



<i>Parties</i>	<i>Case Type</i>	<i>Date of Verdict</i>	<i>Judge</i>	<i>Arb. Award</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
<u>Telemaque vs Broadbent</u> L-457-23	Auto Neg	12/10/25	Friedman	NA	No Cause in favor of Defs.

Attorneys: PA: Jeremy M. Weitz, Esq.  
DA: Steven Antinoff, Esq.

# Thank You to our Gracious Sponsors!

## Law Offices of Andrew Ballerini



As Certified Civil Trial Attorneys, we have and will pay one third referral fees to those attorneys who give us the opportunity to serve their clients.

Accepting Referrals of Serious and Catastrophic Injury Cases Including:  
**Nursing Home, Medical Malpractice, Product Liability, Premises Liability, Truck & Automobile Injuries**

**Andrew A. Ballerini**

Certified Civil Trial Attorney

Million Dollar Advocates Forum Member



### Recent case results include:

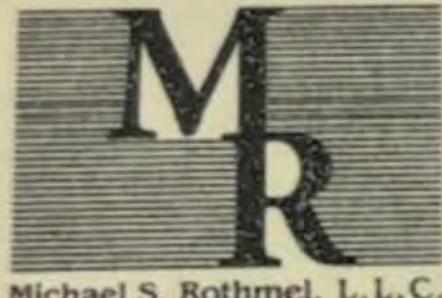
- \$990K Nursing Home & Assisted Living Facility Neglect - Multiple Pressure Ulcers
- \$400K Recovery - Pain & Suffering for Fatal Fire (Verdict of \$375K plus \$25K Settlement)
- \$500K Jury Verdict - Excess Over Remainder of \$100K CSL Policy Against Allstate Insureds with Offer of Judgment for Policy - Herniated Discs
- \$500K Nursing Home/Hospital Neglect - Pressure Ulcers
- \$750K Nursing Home Neglect During Rehab Admission - Infected Pressure Ulcer-Surgery
- \$950K Nursing Home Neglect - Failure to Recognize and Act Upon Signs of Stroke
- \$400K Nursing Home Neglect - Pressure Ulcer Developed on Cancer Patient During Rehab Admission
- \$400K Hospital and Nursing Home Neglect -Pressure Ulcers
- \$300K Nursing Home Neglect/Violations of Rights -Bedsores for About 40 Days
- \$300K Nursing Home Neglect/Violations of Rights - Medication Error-Hypoglycemic Event
- \$550K Nursing Home Neglect/Violations of Rights - Fractured Hip During Transfer-Pressure Ulcers
- \$850K Nursing Home Neglect/Violations of Rights -Bedsores
- \$950K Nursing Home Neglect/Violations of Rights - Hypoglycemia
- \$225K (before fees & costs) Verdict NH Violations of Rights & Negligence-Hyperglycemia-No Permanency Claimed



See other exhibits @ [www.ballerinilaw.com](http://www.ballerinilaw.com)

We RELENTLESSLY represent our clients using our valuable resources to help prove the significance of OUR CLIENTS' INJURIES!

**535 Route 38 • Suite 328 • Cherry Hill, NJ 08002**



Michael S. Rothmel, L.L.C.

**Michael S. Rothmel**  
Attorney at Law

33 Grant Street Mt. Holly, New Jersey 08060  
ph: 609-261-9100 fx: 609-261-9103  
e-mail: [mrothmel@mrothmel.com](mailto:mrothmel@mrothmel.com)



GUARANTEED **BEST** SERVICE  
1-800-PROCESSES WE USE  
or 800.776.2377

**BODY CAMS**

Reasonably Priced Where Available

24

(FAX) 800.236.2092 - [info@served.com](mailto:info@served.com) - [www.served.com](http://www.served.com)



**KULZER & DIPADOVA, P.A.**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

*A Tax-Boutique Law Firm Since 1971*

Estate Planning • Estate & Trust Administration • Estate Litigation  
Business Transactions • Business Tax Planning & Compliance  
State & Local Taxes • Shareholder Disputes • Employee Benefits  
Individual Tax Planning & Compliance • Civil & Criminal Tax Controversies  
Guardianships • Nonprofit & Tax-Exempt Organizations  
International Tax • Real Estate Tax Appeals • Elder Law

**HULSE  
&  
WYNTER**

HELPING PEOPLE FOR OVER 50 YEARS

HELPING PEOPLE  
FOR OVER 50 YEARS

REAL ESTATE

PROBATE

BUSINESS LAW

WILLS & TRUSTS

MEDIATION

509 S. Lenola Road, Bldg. 1, Moorestown, NJ 08057 | web: [HulseWynter.com](http://HulseWynter.com) | ph: 609.387.5300

25



Since 2010  
**The IT Firm Law Offices Trust**

**Cybersecurity**

**Managed IT**

**Microsoft 365**

**(800) 440-2805**

**[www.LawFirmITCo.com](http://www.LawFirmITCo.com)**

**Cherry Hill, NJ** (856) 444-7001  
**Philadelphia, PA** (215) 770-3003

# Relationship Money Market

# 4.50% APY\*

## Growing Financial Success Together!



First Commerce Bank



855-FCB-OPEN [firstcommercebk.com](http://firstcommercebk.com)

\*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) listed is available as of May 20, 2024. Minimum deposit to open Money Market account is \$1,000.00. If unable to maintain a daily balance of \$25,000.00, a \$15.00 monthly maintenance fee will be imposed. Interest rates are subject to change at any time without prior notice before or after the account is opened. Fees may reduce earnings on this account. Some restrictions apply. Member FDIC.





Matthew Maressa

Charles H. Nugent, Jr.  
Certified Civil Trial Attorney



## Our Services

- Personal Injury: auto accidents, premises liability, product liability, professional malpractice, DRAM Shop, construction accidents
- Workers' Compensation
- Criminal Defense
- Municipal Court

Go to

[www.nugentlaw.net](http://www.nugentlaw.net)  
for a list of verdicts



in

NATIONWIDE  
TITLE  
INSURANCE  
SERVICES



RESIDENTIAL



COMMERCIAL



FORECLOSURE



NATIONAL

 **SURETY**<sup>TM</sup>  
TITLE COMPANY

-  **Office Locations:** [locations.mysurety.com](http://locations.mysurety.com)
-  **Online Order:** [order.mysurety.com](http://order.mysurety.com)
-  **Title Quote:** [quote.mysurety.com](http://quote.mysurety.com)
-  **Sales Team:** [sales.mysurety.com](http://sales.mysurety.com)

## INDUSTRY OF EXPERTS

Surety's thorough title searches, title clearance and title insurance policies help to produce clear property titles and enable the efficient transfer of real estate. As one of the largest local title insurance companies in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Surety also offers title insurance and settlement services throughout the United States.

# KEATING

---

## LAW FIRM

NEW JERSEY EMPLOYMENT ATTORNEYS

KEATINGLAWFIRMLLC.COM • 856-519-5011

### REPRESENTING WORKERS:

- Wrongful Termination
- Whistleblower Retaliation
- Sexual Harassment
- Unpaid Wages
- FMLA Interference
- Pregnancy Discrimination
- Disability Discrimination

7 East Main Street, Suite 2A  
Moorestown, NJ 08057

CALL TODAY

856-519-5011





I am accepting new clients! I complete psychological evaluations for adolescents and adults, ADHD Assessments, ADHD Coaching, Psychosexual, Fire-setter, Substance Abuse, and Risk Assessment in addition to form N-648- Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions.

Office Location:  
703 White Horse Road  
Suite 3  
Voorhees, NJ 08043  
Website: [majetteadolescentservices.com](http://majetteadolescentservices.com)  
Email: [doc@majetteadolescentservices.com](mailto:doc@majetteadolescentservices.com)  
Phone: (856) 522-3123



As one of the leading providers of litigation services, U.S. Legal Support is the only litigation support company that provides a full suite of in-person and remote court reporting solutions, record retrieval, interpreting & translations, trial services, and transcription services to law firms, major corporations, and insurance companies nationwide.

## Litigation Support By the Numbers

Serving the legal industry for nearly 25 years, we have unmatched experience, expertise and resources to deliver the litigation support services you need. We have you covered with complete remote and in-person service options.



**Colleen McGinley**

Director of Business Development

215.570.7333 | cmcginley@uslegalsupport.com

 Network of <b>5,000+</b> court reporting professionals	 Network of over <b>3,000</b> U.S.-based transcribers
 <b>27 Million+</b> pages of records retrieved annually	 Translation services in more than <b>150</b> languages
 Access to <b>12,000+</b> on-demand offices nationwide	 <b>6 Million+</b> trial graphics produced
 <b>160,000+</b> remote proceedings scheduled each year	 Consulting on more than <b>53,000</b> trials, hearings, and arbitrations
 More than <b>5,000</b> interpreters fluent in <b>200+</b> languages	 Unparalleled security measures including <b>SOC 2 Type 2</b> and <b>HIPAA</b> compliance

USLEGALSUPPORT.COM

U.S. Legal Support operates in all 50 states and is licensed where required. Nevada Firm Registration # 0676.

## EXPERIENCE THE **Garden State Trust** DIFFERENCE

### Garden State Trust...

Spanning generations with integrity  
and experience you can trust.

Trustee Services  
Executor Services  
Wealth Management



**Garden State**  
Trust Company  
Spanning Generations

[gstrustco.com](http://gstrustco.com)





**PARKER McCAY**  
COUNSEL WHEN IT MATTERS.™

# Parker McCay is proud to support the Burlington County Bar Association!

Banking and Financial Services | Business and Corporate  
Commercial Litigation | Compliance | Construction  
Creditors' Rights | Economic Development  
Energy and Utilities | Environmental | Insurance Defense  
Labor and Employment | Medical Malpractice Defense  
Municipal and Government | Public Finance  
Real Estate | School Law

## ParkerMcCay.com

Hamilton  
609.896.4222

Mount Laurel  
856.596.8900

Camden  
856.596.8900



Hyland Levin Shapiro LLP is a multi-practice firm with attorneys who have decades of experience in the region. Our practice areas include business and transactions, real estate, environmental law, zoning and land use, franchise and licensing, food and beverage industry matters, general and commercial litigation, community associations, employment, business planning and tax, trusts and estates, leasing, eminent domain and real property taxation



**Hyland Levin Shapiro**<sup>LLP</sup>  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



[www.javerbaumwurgافت.com](http://www.javerbaumwurgافت.com)

***Attorneys Certified by the Supreme Court of New Jersey  
in Civil Trial Practice  
and Criminal Trial Practice***

JAVERBAUM  WURGAF<sup>T</sup>  
HICKS KAHN WIKSTROM & SININS

Y=====



CHEN-GRAY  
LAW GROUP LLC  
IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY LAW

## Immigration Law



525 NJ-73, Suite 119  
Marlton, NJ 08053



(856) 888-7005



[www.chengraylaw.com](http://www.chengraylaw.com)



Shereen C. Chen, Esq.



## *Pursing Justice for Elderly*

For Injuries Sustained at:  
Nursing Homes  
Assisted Living Facilities  
Rehabilitation Hospitals  
Group Homes



Schall At Law LLC  
8 E. Main Street  
Moorestown, NJ 08057  
856-310-6782  
<https://schallatlaw.com/>

**YOUR  
AD  
COULD BE  
HERE**

**Abo and Company, LLC  
Abo Cipolla Financial Forensics, LLC**

**Certified Public Accountants / Litigation & Forensic Consultants**

We are proud to be sponsors of the Burlington County Bar Association. As part of this program, we offer member lawyers our most prized assets: our time, our insight and our expertise. Should you wish to confer on a complex technical issue, or simply get a second opinion, we welcome the conversation.

**Remember! It doesn't cost you anything to call us on a matter. It  
May cost you dearly by not calling us on that matter. We can  
help, so why not give us a call!**

We have carefully focused and developed our practice to specialize in the complexities of tax planning and compliance; financial consulting; accounting and review services; estate planning and compliance. We assist our judiciary and legal colleagues in any and all matters involving your clients or you personally.

- Contract disputes
- Matrimonial litigation
- Shareholder disputes & partnership dissolutions
- Lost profit claims & damage measurement
- Business interruption claims
- Business valuations
- Fraud investigations
- Critique of other expert reports and Interrogatory assistance
- Document requests & productions
- Arbitration and Mediation
- Tax related valuations
- Lost earnings from wrongful death, termination or personal injury claims

South Jersey Office  
307 Fellowship Road, Ste 202  
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054  
(856) 222-4723

[www.aboandcompany.com](http://www.aboandcompany.com)

North Jersey Office  
851 Franklin Lake Road  
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417  
(201) 490-1117

law offices of

**POSTERNOCK ||| APELL**  
PC

**Relieving Your Stress Defines Our Success**



**ESTATE  
PLANNING,  
PROBATE,  
GUARDIANSHIP,  
& ESTATE  
LITIGATION**



**BUSINESS  
LAW**



**LITIGATION**



**REAL  
ESTATE**

[WWW.POSTERNOCKAPELL.COM](http://WWW.POSTERNOCKAPELL.COM)

856.642.6445

At Posternock Apell, we know that legal matters aren't just about paperwork and procedures—they're about people, families, businesses, and futures.

That's why we take a thoughtful, client-first approach to every case. Whether you're navigating your small business, planning your estate, or protecting your home, our team brings experience, compassion, and clarity to the table.

When life gets complicated, you can count on us to simplify the process and stand by your side.



Established in 1876, Capehart Scatchard is a diversified full service law firm practicing in more than a dozen major areas of law including alternative energy, business transactions and litigation, cannabis, estate planning, healthcare, insurance defense, labor and employment, land use, non-profit organizations, real estate, and workers' compensation.



**CAPEHART  
SCATCHARD**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Mt. Laurel, NJ • Hamilton, NJ • Montville, NJ  
Additional offices in PA and NY  
856.234.6800 • [www.capechart.com](http://www.capechart.com)

The only way to get to the TRUTH once and for all is to call  
**800-94-TRUTH**

[www.allstateinvestigations.com](http://www.allstateinvestigations.com)

# ALL STATE INVESTIGATIONS

Anthony "Tony" DeLorenzo has almost 50 years of experience dealing with Investigations, involving Matrimonial, Child Custody and Cohabitation. All State Investigations, Inc. is based in New Jersey and covers Metro New York, with access to 20 Investigators locally and has successfully built a network of over 200 agents, in the U.S. and Worldwide.

Tony has appeared on over 150 national talk shows such as Oprah, 20/20, Today Show, ABC, 20/20, BBC, and so many others. He has hundreds of radio interviews and dozens of magazine articles. Tony has also authored two books; The 28 Tell -Tale Signs of Cheating Spouse, and Warning Signs.

All State Investigations, Inc. has always been the #1 agency specializing in infidelity, divorce, child custody, child support, cohabitation and even catching Catfish.



## Specializing in:

Cohabitation Investigation Surveillance according to the Act N.J.S. 2A: 34-23 ACS for A1649

Child Custody, Child Custody & Support

Bank & Asset Searches - National and Worldwide Searches

Surveillance – National and Worldwide Operatives

Global Perspective. Personal Attention.



With over 175 attorneys, Archer & Greiner, P.C. has grown to become one of the largest and most respected full-service law firms in New Jersey. Along with our offices in Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware and Texas, we have been a big part of the changing legal landscape throughout the Mid-Atlantic region for over 95 years.

Serving local, national and international clients, we offer the depth and breadth of services consistent with that of a large law firm, yet we remain committed to providing the responsiveness, efficiency, flexibility and personal attention expected from a mid-size law firm.

**Partnering with our clients every step of the way.**

We continue to partner with clients on matters that are redefining practices and industries and having a positive impact on our communities. We take great pride in delivering the highest quality results.



[visit archerlaw.com](http://visitarcherlaw.com)



The Minimally  
Invasive Spine  
Surgery Institute

## Advanced Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery

- Dr. Branko speaks fluent Spanish
- Transportation Available
- LOP's Accepted
- Narrative Reports
- Polk Analysis
- Expert Testimonials
- Arbitration for Denied Work
- Dedicated Attorney Representative
- White-Glove Service
- Telemedicine Available
- Same-Day Appointments
- Weekend and Evening Appointments



**Branko Skovrlj, MD**

Board-Certified in  
Neurosurgery  
Dual Fellowship-Trained  
in Complex Spinal  
Deformities & Minimally  
Invasive Spine Surgery

[NU-Spine.com](http://NU-Spine.com)

(732) 640-8203

[info@nu-spine.com](mailto:info@nu-spine.com)



# The Straight Word

The Straight Word is published 10 times per year. Advertising is available. Submissions are due the 10th of the month prior to publication. There is a \$75 ad set-up fee for all ads that require layout/design. To place an ad, contact Lisette Gonzalez at [lisette@burlobar.org](mailto:lisette@burlobar.org).

## Advertising Rates

Full Page (7.5" x 10").....	\$300
Half Page (7.5" x 5").....	\$200
Quarter Page (3.75" x 5").....	\$150
Per Column Inch.....	\$25/inch
Per Column Inch (if 6 inches or more of copy).....	\$20/inch
<u>Classified Ads:</u> \$25 for first 30 words; \$1 each additional word	

10% Discount if ad runs for six months or longer

5% Discount if ad is prepaid  
(discounts can be combined)

*Thank you!*  
TO OUR SPONSORS