



THE STRAIGHT WORD

BURLINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
JANUARY 2026 / VOLUME -

mark ✓ your **Calendar**
JANUARY 2026

January 2026

- 12 L&L: Open Public Records Act (OPRA) Update
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. (ZOOM)
- 13 L&L: How to Prove a Premises Liability Case
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. (ZOOM)
- 14 L&L: Real Estate Committee: 'Til Death Do Us Part: Real Estate and Probate Cross Over
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. (ZOOM)
- 14 SEMINAR: Federal Practice Committee AI Seminar
4 p.m. to 6 p.m. (ZOOM)
- 15 SEMINAR: Demystifying Chancery Practice
4 p.m. to 6 p.m. (ZOOM)
- 21 Monthly Board Meeting (4:30 at Headquarters)
- 27 Mock Trial Day #1
- 29 Mock Trial Day #2

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)

March 2026

- 17 AWARDS GALA beginning 5:45 immediately following monthly BCBA Board Meeting



- **It's Award Season!**
BCBA is seeking
nominations for the
BCBA Awards.
- **Nomination Forms**
included in this issue.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Martin McAndrew, Margolis Edelstein

Charles Ropka, Ropka Law LLC

Bradley K. Schlar

Jennifer P. Hrulinski



Congratulations to Jeffrey S. Apell, Esq. on his reappointment to the Supreme Court Committee on Attorney Advertising for a new three-year term starting January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028.



Congratulations to Megan Knowlton Balne, Esq., who was recently honored as 2025 Instructor of the Year by the Latin American Economic Development Association (LAEDA) honored as the 2025 Instructor of the Year.

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@burlcoabar.org

Website: www.burlcoabar.org

Phone: 609.261.4542 Fax: 609.261.5423

OFFICERS

Diana R. Sever	President
Stacey R. Gorin	President-Elect
Eli Eytan	Vice President
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Jay Keesler	Secretary
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2025 - 2027	Brian M. Sever

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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.

Restoration Not Resolutions

by Diana R. Sever, Bar President



January is long associated with resolutions—ambitious promises to change habits, overhaul routines, and somehow emerge by year's end as the most improved, disciplined version of ourselves. In the legal field, resolutions often take on an especially weighty character: bill more hours, grow the practice, publish more, network harder, manage stress better, give back more. While well-intentioned, this can feel less like a fresh start and more like another list of expectations.

This year let's consider a different approach—one that feels lighter, more sustainable, more human. Instead of sweeping resolutions, maybe we turn our focus to a simpler goal: do one nice thing each day and pay it forward.

At first blush, this idea may seem goofy, even trivial, when compared to the scale and seriousness of legal work. But small, consistent acts of kindness can have a meaningful impact—on clients, colleagues, the justice system, and ourselves.

In a profession defined by deadlines, adversarial postures, and high stakes, kindness is not always the default setting. But it is often the quality people remember most. A brief call to explain a confusing process to a client. A moment of patience with a young lawyer finding their footing. A courteous extension to opposing counsel when circumstances genuinely warrant it. None of these actions require a resolution or a dramatic change in professional identity, but each can alter the tone of an interaction—and sometimes its outcome.

Paying it forward also aligns naturally with our legal practice's ethical foundations. At its core, the law exists to serve people. Acts of kindness reinforce public trust in legal institutions and professionals, particularly at a time when that trust can feel fragile. When we lawyers choose empathy alongside advocacy, clarity alongside technical precision, and respect alongside zealous representation, they strengthen not only individual relationships but the profession as a whole.

Doing good deeds is also good for the soul. Burnout and stress remain major challenges in the legal field. Resolutions often fail because they demand too much, too quickly, from already stretched professionals. In contrast, the practice of doing one kind thing a day is achievable even on the busiest schedules. It invites presence rather than perfection. Over time, these small acts can quietly improve workplace culture, reduce friction, and remind us why many of us were drawn to the law in the first place.

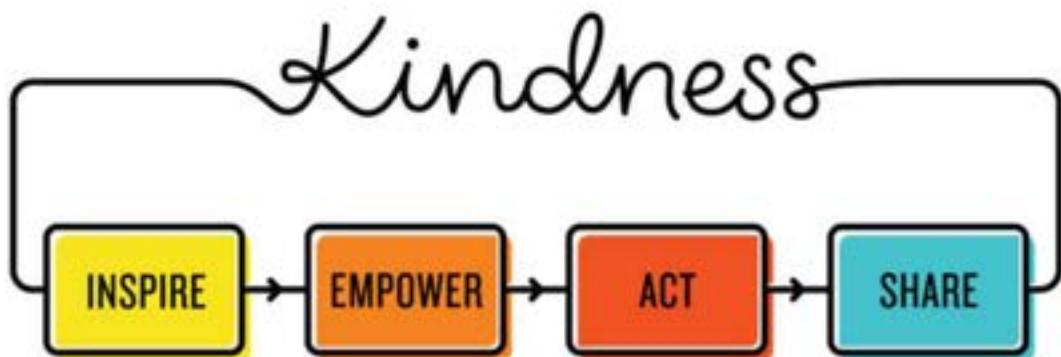
Restoration Not Resolutions

by Diana R. Sever, Bar President (cont'd)

Importantly, “one nice thing” needn’t be performative or public. Maybe it’s mentoring someone without expectation of credit, sharing a resource with a colleague, volunteering an hour of pro bono advice or simply acknowledging someone else’s effort. The value lies not in recognition, but in continuity—the cumulative effect of daily choices to act with generosity and professionalism.

January is often framed as a month of pressure: new year, new goals, new benchmarks. But it can also be an opportunity to reset expectations. By shifting away from heavy resolutions and toward small, forward-looking acts, we give ourselves permission to grow incrementally. Paying it forward is not about lowering standards; it is about redefining success in a way that is sustainable, humane, and quietly powerful.

As the year unfolds, the legal challenges ahead will undoubtedly be complex. But the way we meet them—one interaction at a time—can still be shaped by intention. Perhaps this January, the most meaningful commitment we make is simply this: to leave each day, and each person we encounter, a little better than we found them.





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: _____

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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, 3rd Floor

Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Phone: 609.231.4542

Fax: 609.261.5423

Scan/email: bcba@burlcobar.org

MISSED EXAMS, NOT MISSED RIGHTS: USERRA Compliance in Civil Service Promotions

by: Odise Carr, Esq.

Nearly three-quarters of a million Americans serve in the National Guard and Reserves while maintaining civilian careers. For New Jersey public employers operating under civil service, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Right Act of 1994 (USERRA) is not theoretical; it is a recurring administrative obligation with tangible consequences for promotions and eligibility lists. A persistent source of USERRA noncompliance arises when service members miss promotional examinations due to military orders and are disadvantaged in eligibility list placement, an issue implicated in approximately 10% of referred DOL investigations.



USERRA requires returning servicemembers be reemployed in the position they would have attained but for military service and prohibits adverse actions motivated by that service, preempting any state or local rule that limits these protections. Central to the statute is the “escalator principle,” which requires placement on the career trajectory that would have occurred with reasonable certainty absent military service. Civil service systems struggle to apply this principle within fixed examination cycles and ranked eligibility lists.

New Jersey statutes and civil service rules preserve permanent status, seniority, and benefits for employees on military leave, and the framework generally functions well. Difficulty arises when a servicemember misses a promotional examination due to military orders. Regulations do not consistently specify examination access, scoring, or eligibility list placement, leaving these issues to Civil Service Commission determinations that are equitable but not uniform.

The absence of standardized examination access rules shifts USERRA compliance from a predictable process to an individualized remedy. Although agencies generally act in good faith, the lack of clear procedures invites inconsistency and unnecessary legal exposure. More significantly, it risks transforming the promotional examination itself into a barrier imposed by military service. When access to testing is foreclosed by military orders, the denial of the opportunity to compete constitutes the adverse action, even where promotion isn't guaranteed.

A solution is needed. The most effective and narrowly tailored solution is the adoption of uniform rules governing examination access and eligibility list treatment for servicemembers on military leave. The employee should be afforded constructive access to the promotional process through a make-up examination after return from service or deferred scoring and eligibility list placement tied to the examination cycle the employee would have reasonably

MISSED EXAMS, NOT MISSED RIGHTS: USERRA Compliance in Civil Service Promotions

by: Odise Carr, Esq. (cont'd)

entered but for military service.

Consistent with USERRA's purpose, the servicemember should be treated as though they never left the workforce; ranked among the cohort they would have competed against and considered for promotion on a provisional basis pending examination and scoring. This approach allows employers to proceed with operationally necessary promotions while preserving the servicemember's place in the promotional process. Any provisional status would resolve upon examination, aligning final list placement with demonstrated merit rather than the happenstance of military orders.

This approach does not expand USERRA rights or confer preferential treatment. USERRA guarantees opportunity, not promotion. Standardized examination access rules simply operationalize the escalator principle within a merit-based civil service system. If USERRA is to function meaningfully where advancement depends on testing and eligibility lists, access to those examinations must be treated as a substantive right rather than an administrative accommodation.

Private employers should address USERRA compliance by adopting promotional policies that account for military leave through deferred evaluations, retroactive promotion review, and objective advancement criteria. Where promotion would have occurred with reasonable certainty absent service, employers should adjust title, pay, or seniority accordingly, supported by clear written standards and documentation.

NOTE:

New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination independently prohibits discrimination based on military service obligations, providing a parallel source of liability where missed examinations or list placement disadvantage returning servicemembers.

January 2026 Wine Column

by Janice Heinold, Esq.

Happy New Year to one and all! I hope the holidays were a time of celebration, with a few days of relaxation for you. My December was full of celebratory meals, accompanied by some great wines.

The final dinner at Park Place before it closed for good was a bittersweet affair. The food was phenomenal, as always, and we were celebrating a friend's 55th birthday, yet it was hard to forget that this would be our last ever dinner at Park Place.



The first wine of the night was an NV Olivier Marteaux Blanc des Sables Champagne. Olivier Marteaux is a grower-producer. Unlike major champagne houses such as Moet & Chandon that purchase grapes from farmers and then make wine from them (negociant-manipulant), Marteaux grows the grapes and makes the wine on his estate (recoltant-manipulant). RM Champagnes are small batch, farm-to-table, artisanal Champagnes.

The Blanc des Sables is a brut nature (zero dosage/very dry) champagne made from 100% Chardonnay grown in the Vallée de la Marne, near Azy-sur-Marne, a village located about an hour southwest of Reims. With notes of apricot, peach, tea, and brioche, fine bubbles,

and a good balance of acidity, this was an elegant start to the evening. It paired wonderfully with the American Red Snapper Crudo with shaved wild mustard root and seeds, magic oil, and Atlantic Sea Salt. 12% ABV. I found it online for about \$60.

The last wine of the evening was a 1970 Chateau d'Yquem Sauternes, the birthday boy's birth year bottle. What can be said about Chateau d'Yquem that hasn't already been said? It's the nectar of the gods. 1970 was a good vintage, with aromas of toffee, apricot, honey, with a finish lasting minutes, not seconds. It is dessert in and of itself, but paired perfectly with a foie gras filled crepe with New Jersey Red Maple Syrup. A spectacular way to finish a nine-year run of incredible meals. 13% ABV. I found it online from \$300 to \$1000.

We will sorely miss Park Place, but wish Chef Phil the best in his new endeavor, whatever it will be.



January Wine Column (cont'd)

For Festivus, several of us met in Chinatown for an Omakase dinner at Nakama. In my mind, sushi means Champagne and Riesling. There were several delightful Champagnes opened during the 15 course tasting menu, but I brought a 2023 Schäfer-Fröhlich Monzinger Halenberg Grosses Gewächs (GG) from the Nahe region in Germany. The Nahe river flows through the Rhineland-Palatinate, and the village of Monzingen was mentioned as a wine village as early as 778.



Tim Schäfer-Fröhlich is an incredibly talented winemaker, one of the top ten in Germany. Tim's wines are my favorite Rieslings, and I splurge for a couple of his Grosses Gewächs each year. A Grosses Gewächs is a classification for dry, single-vineyard wines of the highest quality of a region, similar to France's Grand Cru designation.

While I should have aged this a bit longer, I couldn't wait to share it. It had that classic Riesling flinty aroma, and on the palate, slate minerality and citrus notes, with great structure and tension. 12.5% ABV; I paid \$89 for it, and found it in other vintages available online for about \$80.

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2026, full of good food paired with great wines! Cheers!



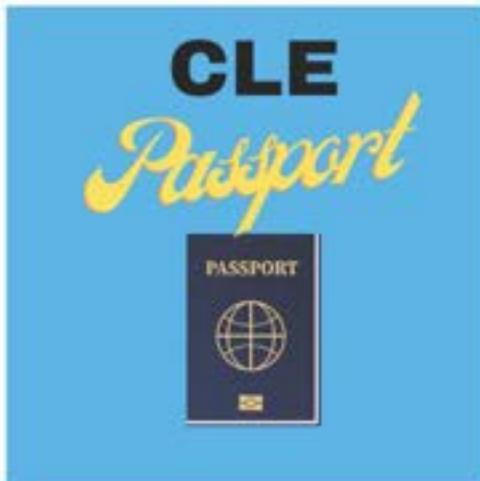
CLE PASSPORT



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	
Exp. _____		Security Code _____
Questions? 609.261.4542 Fax: 609.261.5423 Scan bcba@burlcobar.org		



The BCBA Local Government Subcommittee
proudly presents:

Open Public Records Act Update Lunch & Learn

Jan. 12, 2026

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

ZOOM

*zoom link sent
the day before event.*

Cost

\$55 BCBA Members \$90
Non-member Attorneys
\$25 Paralegals

Free to Law Students, Burlington Co. Law Clerks, Judges, and Passports

For PA credits, please add a credit fee of \$15.00 to your registration and provide your PA I.D. number.

Speakers

John C. Gillespie, Esq.

Of Counsel, Parker McCay, PA

Doug L. Heinold, Esq.

Partner, Raymond Coleman Heinold, LLC

Margaret E. McHugh, Esq.

Associate, Brown & Connery, LLP

**A review of recent amendments to
the Open Public Records Act
(OPRA) and general related
practice considerations**

This program has been approved by the Board on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for 2.4 hours of total CLE credit. Of these, 0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism. Actual credits earned may be less if seminar is less than 60 minutes. 2.0 hours of Substantive credit from the PA CLE Board are also available. For PA credits, please add a credit fee of \$15.00 to your registration and provide your PA I.D. number.

CDR/ADR Seminar - 1/12/26 Clip & Return

Name: _____ PA Credits? Yes No I.D. # _____

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Signature (credit card only): _____

Method of Payment

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- Check enclosed
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- AMEX

Add donation to BCBF - \$5 \$10 \$25 Other _____

You will receive letter for tax purposes

Deadline for reservations/cancellations is 1/12/26 Fax your registration to 609.261.5423 | Questions? Call 609.261.4542

Burlington County Bar Association
137 High Street, 3rd Floor
Mount Holly, NJ 08060



The Burlington County Bar Association
Personal Injury Committee is pleased to present:

PROVING A PREMISES LIABILITY CASE

Jan. 13, 2026

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

ZOOM

zoom link sent

the day before event.

Cost

\$55 BCBA Members \$90

Non-member Attorneys

\$25 Paralegals

Free to Law Students, Burl Co. Law Clerks, Judges, and Passports

For PA credits, please add a credit fee of \$15.00 to your registration and provide your PA I.D. number.

Speaker & Moderator

Wesley T. Amaefuna, Esq.
Jacobs & Comerata

This Lunch & Learn will cover the required elements of a successful premises liability case, how to beat immunity if and when it applies, and deposition strategy

This program has been approved by the Board on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for 2.4 hours of total CLE credit. Of these, 0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism. Actual credits earned may be less if seminar is less than 60 minutes. 2.0 hours of Substantive credit from the PA CLE Board are also available. For PA credits, please add a credit fee of \$15.00 to your registration and provide your PA I.D. number.

CDR/ADR Seminar - 1/12/26 Clip & Return

Name _____ PA Credits? Yes No I.D. # _____

Billing Address _____

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Method of Payment

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- Visa/MC
- AMEX

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Deadline for reservations/cancellations is 1/15/26 Fax your registration to 609.261.5423 | Questions? Call 609.261.4542

Burlington County Bar Association
137 High Street, 3rd Floor
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

BCBA REAL ESTATE Committee Presents

A Lunch & Learn on January 14th at 12:30 Via ZOOM

Til' Death Do Us Part-Real Estate
Probate Crossovers: Addressing the
challenges of settling real estate
matters when the owner is deceased

SPEAKER

Chandra Betner-Gray, Esq.
Betner Gray Law

MODERATOR

El-Rhonda Alston, Esq.
Williams Alston Law, LLC

Please Register on
Burlcobar.org



The Burlington County Bar Association
Federal Practice Section is pleased to present:

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE USE OF AI!

Jan. 14, 2026

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

ZOOM

Cost

\$55 BCBA Members \$90

Non-member Attorneys

\$25 Paralegals

Free to Law Students, Burl

Co. Law Clerks, Judges,

and Passports

For PA credits, please add a

credit fee of \$15.00 to your

registration and provide

your PA I.D. number.

This program has been approved by the Board on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for 2.4 hours of total CLE credit. Of these, 0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism. Actual credits earned may be less if seminar is less than 60 minutes. 2.0 hours of Substantive credit from the PA CLE Board are also available. For PA credits, please add a credit fee of \$15.00 to your registration and provide your PA I.D. number.

CDR/ADR Seminar - 1/9/26 Clip & Return

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Billing Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Credit Card# _____ Exp. _____ Code _____

Signature (credit card only) _____

Method of Payment

- CLE Passport
- Check enclosed
- Visa/MC
- AMEX

Add donation to BCBF - \$5 \$10 \$25 Other _____

You will receive letter for tax purposes

Deadline for reservations/cancellations is 1/9/26 Fax your
registration to 609.261.5423 | Questions? Call 609.261.4542

Burlington County Bar Association
137 High Street, 3rd Floor
Mount Holly, NJ 08060



The Burlington County Bar Association
General Equity Committee is pleased to present:
**General Equity:
Demystifying Chancery Practice**

Jan. 15, 2026

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

ZOOM

*zoom link sent
the day before event.*

Cost

\$55 BCBA Members \$90
Non-member Attorneys
\$25 Paralegals

*Free to Law Students, Burl
Co. Law Clerks, Judges,
and Passports*

*For PA credits, please add a
credit fee of \$15.00 to your
registration and provide
your PA I.D. number.*

Hon. Richard J. Nocella, P.J. Ch. Hon. Robert G. Malastein, P.J. Ch.
Burlington County Superior Ct. Gloucester County Superior Ct.

Hon. Paula Dow, P.J. Ch. (ret'd)
Burlington County Superior Ct.

Moderators

Noel Schwartz, Esq.
O'Hanlon Schwartz

Solaris Power, Esq.
Kulzer & DiPadova, P.A.

**Let's Demystify Chancery Practice,
including what is an Order to Show
Cause and what filings are
required?**

This program has been approved by the Board on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for 2.4 hours of total CLE credit. Of these, 0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism. Actual credits earned may be less if seminar is less than 60 minutes. 2.0 hours of Substantive credit from the PA CLE Board are also available. For PA credits, please add a credit fee of \$15.00 to your registration and provide your PA I.D. number.

CDR/ADR Seminar - 1/15/26 Clip & Return

Name- _____ PA Credits? Yes No I.D. # _____

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Credit Card# _____ Exp. _____ Code _____

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registration to 609.261.5423 | Questions? Call 609.261.4542

Burlington County Bar Association
137 High Street, 3rd Floor
Mount Holly, NJ 08060



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
DIRECTLY TO RECEIVE NJ AND PA
CREDITS



MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

Volunteer as a Mock Trial Judge!

The Burlington County Bar Association is looking for attorneys to serve as judges for this year's Mock Trial Competition. All volunteer judges can receive up to six credits (three per night) per compliance period for their participation. This season's mock trial case is criminal and deals with "swatting," the false report of emergencies.

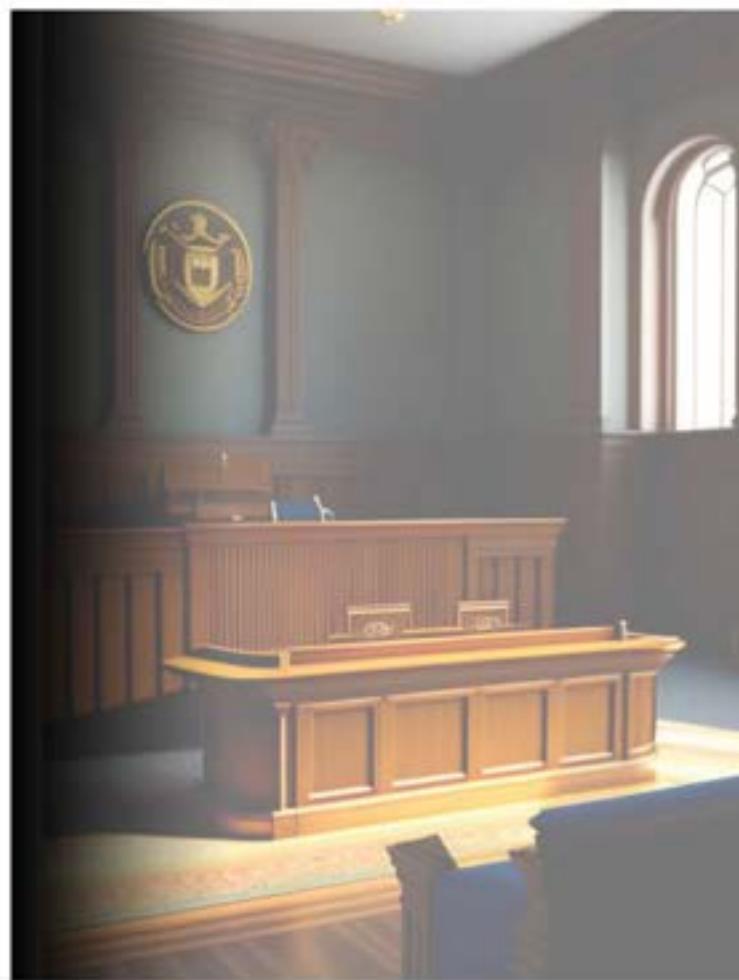
scan me to sign up



Dates:

Tuesday, January 27
Thursday, January 29
Tuesday, February 3
Thursday, February 5
Thursday, February 12 (Snow Date)

or click the link [HERE](#)



The Vincent J. Apruzzese High School
**MOCK TRIAL
COMPETITION**



17



Hon. Martin L. Haines Award Nominating Form

In honor of Judge Haines' accomplishments as an attorney and judge, the BCBA's Board of Trustees established an award to be given annually to an attorney or retired judge (cannot be a currently sitting judge) who best exemplifies and displays the qualities of Judge Haines: personal and professional integrity, devotion to the legal profession and legal scholarship, and dedication to the justice system and the people of Burlington County. It is the Association's highest award.

Nominees must be members of the Burlington County Bar Association and cannot be members of the current Burlington County Judiciary as sitting Judge. Criteria for selection will include but not be limited to the following:

- attitude, demeanor and relationship between the recipient and the general public;
- active fellow member of the BCBA, and admitted to the Bar for at least 10 years;
- quality of performance as a lawyer;
- nature of public service, whether elected, volunteer, pro bono, etc.
- respect commanded by fellow members of the Association, and the Bar;
- participation in philanthropic or civic activities; and
- advancement of issues of public concern and of legal scholarship.

Past Haines Award Recipients:

2007 – Francis J. Hartman	2015 – John C. Gillespie	2024-Christopher Musulin
2008 – Hon. Dominick J. Ferrelli*	2016 – James A. Ronca	2025-Hon. Judith H. Wizmur &
2009 – James Logan, Jr.*	2017 – Katherine D. Hartman	Len Wizmur
2010 – Hon. Marvin E. Schlosser* & William J. Kearns, Jr.	2018 – Hon. Marie White Bell	
	2019 – Harold B. Wells, III	
2011 - Hon. Lawrence A. Eleuteri*	2020 - Kevin Walker	
2012 – David D. Gladfelter	2021- James Gerrow	
2013- Cynthia S. Earl	2022- Hon. Marie Lihotz	
2014- Hon. John A. Sweeney	2023- Erwin D. Apell	<small>*deceased</small>

Please include an explanation of why proposed nominee should receive the Award.

Complete and return form by February 4, 2026 and attach additional sheets as necessary

Nominee's Name: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Mail form and any attachments to:

Burlington County Bar Association
c/o Haines Award Committee
137 High Street, 3rd Floor
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Fax to 609.261.5423 ~ or E-mail to: Lisette@burlcoabar.org



THE 2026 ROBERT W. CRISCUOLO AWARD NOMINATION FORM

the Robert W. Criscuolo Award Committee, chaired by 2025 award-winner Marianne Gardner, is accepting nominations for the 2026 award. To be eligible, candidates must be a member in good standing of the Burlington County Bar Association, under the age of 36 at the time of presentation of the award and/or involved in the practice of law 5 years or less, and demonstrate significant involvement and contributions to the Burlington County Bar Association, community service, and other civic activities.

To submit a nomination, complete this form and send to Bar Headquarters by mail, fax, or scan no later than February 4, 2026.

2025	Marianne Gardner	2018	Matthew Schorr
2024	Tessa Wagoner	2017	Samantha Vander Wielen
2022	Andy Jong	2016	Stephen Raymond
2021	Allison Burkhardt	2015	Brett Gorman
2020	Stacey Gorin	2014	Ethan Ordog
2019	Kathryn Rivera		

**Nominations should include a brief explanation of why
the proposed nominee should be the recipient of the award.**



Complete and return form by Feb 4, 2026

Please include a brief explanation of why you feel the proposed nominee should receive the award.

Nominee's Name: _____

Your Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Send form and attachments to:

Fax to (609)261-5423 / email to bcba@burlcoabar.org or mail to:

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137 High Street, 3rd Floor

Mount Holly, NJ 08060

NOMINATION FORM



New Jersey Commission on Professionalism
CHARLES J. HOLLENBECK AWARD



Award Criteria: Nominees for the Hollenbeck Award must be licensed to practice law in the state of New Jersey; employed by a governmental agency at the federal, state, county or municipal level, or by a nonprofit organization that serves the needs of the legal community; and have served with diligence, competence and dedication in the profession. (Please note: Sitting judges are not eligible for nomination. Former judges are eligible only if they meet the criteria based on contributions outside of their judicial tenure.)

Contact Information for the Nominee:

Full Name of Nominee

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (include area code)

E-mail Address

Contact Information for the Nominating Organization or Individual:

Nominating Organization (With Contact Person) or Individual

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (include area code)

E-mail Address

About the Nominee: Name and address of Governmental Agency or Non-Profit Organization that serves the needs of the legal community where Nominee is employed:

Please summarize how the Nominee has served his/her organization, the legal community or underserved members of the public and why the Nominee should be considered as an award recipient (You may use additional sheets, if necessary):

I have enclosed the following information about the nominee:

Biographical sketch/Resume/C.V. of Nominee
 Any additional information about the Nominee that should be considered by the Commission on Professionalism in its evaluation and selection process.

Please return this form and accompanying information by **Friday, February 27, 2026** to:

By regular mail: New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law

Attn: Christina Pateman
New Jersey State Bar Association
One Constitution Square
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Or by email: professionalism@njsba.com

Please call Sharon Balsamo at 732-937-7505 with any questions or for further information.

NOMINATION FORM



New Jersey Commission on Professionalism DANIEL J. O'HERN AWARD



Award Criteria: Nominees for the O'Hern Award must be a senior member of the bar of outstanding character and career achievement who has continually displayed a firm commitment to the ideals of professionalism as epitomized in the Commission's aspirational code, the *Principles of Professionalism*. (Please note: Sitting judges are not eligible for nomination. Former judges are eligible only if they meet the criteria based on contributions outside of their judicial tenure.)

Contact Information for the Nominee:

Full Name of Nominee

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (include area code)

E-mail Address

Contact Information for the Nominating Organization or Individual:

Nominating Organization (With Contact Person) or Individual

Street Address

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Additional Information:

I have enclosed the following information about the nominee:



Biographical sketch/Resume/C.V. of Nominee

Any additional information about the Nominee that should be considered by the Commission on Professionalism in its evaluation and selection process.

Please summarize how the Nominee has continually displayed a firm commitment to the ideals of professionalism as epitomized in the Commission's aspirational code, the *Principles of Professionalism* and why the Nominee should be considered as an award recipient (You may use additional sheets, if necessary):

Please return this form and accompanying information by **Friday, February 27, 2026** to:

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- \$75K Nursing Home Neglect During Rehab Admission - Infected Pressure Ulcer-Surgery
- \$95K 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
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- \$300K Nursing Home Neglect/Violations of Rights - Medication Error-Hypoglycemic Event
- \$35K Nursing Home Neglect/Violations of Rights - Fractured Hip During Transfer-Pressure Ulcers
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Michael S. Rothmel, L.L.C.

Michael S. Rothmel
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