# The Straight Word

Burlington County Bar Association

November 2026 / Volume 9-2026


## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**November 5**
Litigating Firearms Cases After Bruen 4-6pm on Zoom

**November 10**
The People's Law School Fourth Amendment Panel at Burlington County Library

**November 12**
Professionalism Seminar "Working Across Generations: Building Better Legal Teams for the Future" 3-5pm at the Burlington County Library

**November 12**
Last Year's SCOTUS Rulings that are Reshaping Federal Practice CLE Lunch and Learn on Zoom

**November 13**
BCBF Wine, Beer and Bourbon Event at Medford Village Country Club

**November 17**
New Jersey Animal Cruelty Law & Animal Rights 4-6pm on Zoom

**November 22**
Thanksgiving Meal Drive at Burlington County Social Services Building

**November 24**
Real Estate: When Probate Meets Property-Navigating Real Estate Transactions in Estate Administration from 4-6pm on Zoom

**November 24**
Thanksgiving Meal Drive at Burlington County Social Services Building

**December 3**
CLE Extravaganza on Zoom

**December 10**
BCBF Wrapping Party at Bar Headquarters

**December 11**
Oath of Admission Ceremony at the Olde Courthouse

**December 15**
Wellness Committee Presents- Motion to Pause: An Experiential CLE in Mindfulness 12:30-1:30pm on Zoom

**December 16**
Holiday Soiree at Union House




## Inside this Issue:


*President's Message*

*Past President's Message*

*Wine Article*

*Tax Article*

*Professionalism Article*
(Generational Lawyers)

*Artificial Intelligence Article*




# *President's Message*



As summer came to a close, we found ourselves entering one of the busiest and most exciting seasons of the year. The fall calendar is packed with committee meetings, networking events, continued educational programs, community initiatives, and the many professional responsibilities that demand our attention every day. For me, this season has also included year-end billable goals, keeping up with my husband and son, serving as BCBA President, and, as a bonus, my third trimester of pregnancy.

This busy time of year serves as an important reminder that our profession can be demanding. As attorneys, we are often conditioned to put the needs of our clients, colleagues, and communities ahead of our own. Yet effective advocacy begins with taking care of ourselves.

Having previously served as Chair of the Wellness Committee, I remain passionate about the importance of attorney well-being. Wellness is not a luxury. It is a necessity. It enables us to be better lawyers, better leaders, and better family members. As our schedules become increasingly full and the holiday season approaches, I encourage you to be intentional about maintaining the habits, activities, and relationships that bring balance to your life.

Whether that means spending time with family, exercising, enjoying a favorite hobby, volunteering, reading, traveling, or simply taking an evening away from emails and deadlines, those moments matter. They help us manage stress, maintain perspective, and avoid the burnout that can all too easily accompany the practice of law.

I have been asked numerous times these past couple weeks, “how are you doing it all?” The honest answer is that I have embraced the “glass ball/plastic ball” theory. The "glass ball/plastic ball" theory teaches that while we all juggle many responsibilities, not every ball is equally important. Some of those balls are made of plastic. If we drop them, they may bounce, and we can pick them up again later. Others are made of glass. If we drop them, they may crack or shatter, and the damage can be difficult or impossible to repair.

As attorneys, it is easy to treat every deadline, email, and obligation as a glass ball. Yet, as we move into the busy fall and holiday season, it is important to recognize that our health, our families, our closest relationships, and our personal well-being are often the true glass balls in our lives. I get through each day making sure all of the glass balls are addressed, and maybe a plastic ball or two can wait until tomorrow.

My message this month is this: during a time of event overload and a push towards the new year, remember to take care of yourself. Let us continue building a bar association that not only supports professional excellence but also recognizes the importance of personal well-being. When your calendar starts to fill up, make sure you leave room for rest, reflection, and a reset.

November is a month of gratitude, and I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to say what I am grateful for this year. Thank you to our members for your continued support of the BCBA. Whether you attend our educational programs, serve on committees, or join us at networking events, your engagement is what makes this Association successful. Thank you to our incredible Board of Trustees and Executive Director, Lisette Gonzalez. Working alongside such dedicated and talented individuals is both inspiring and fun, and I am excited for our members to see the ideas and initiatives still to come. Finally, thank you to my family, especially my parents for their unwavering support and my husband, who is truly my best friend, thank you for your unwavering encouragement, patience, and support throughout another busy season.

By the next time you hear from me, I am hopeful that I will be thirty pounds lighter and no longer responsible for carrying a baby human everywhere I go.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Happy Thanksgiving.

# *Past President's (2013-14) Message*

## *Katie Hartman*

When Stacey asked me to write a column as a former President of the Bar Association I went back and reviewed some of the columns I had written during my presidency. I came across a column which I think is as true today as it was then and I am going to largely plagiarize myself. (Can you do that?)

This may come as a huge surprise, but I have quite a few lawyers in my family. You may think that isn't worth much more than a lively debate at Thanksgiving dinner, but it has instilled in me an appreciation of the law as a profession and avocation, not just a business. In fact, I was the third person in my family to be installed as President of the Burlington County Bar Association, my grandfather, Judge McGann was installed in 1958 and my father was President in 1975.

I consider the Burlington County Bar Association my professional family and I encourage you to do the same. The Bar Association provides many of the same benefits that our families do.

**Shelter** - The Bar Headquarters is available to any member who has down time at court, needs to fax something, or a quiet place to review a transcript over lunch. Our conference rooms are also available to hold depositions for anyone who needs a central location.

**Education** - The BCBA offers more than thirty CLE programs throughout the year, and offers them at the lowest price of any association in the State. If you purchase a Passport, you can go to an unlimited amount of the seminars for one low price.

**Social Outlet** - Breaking bread with our colleagues fosters relationships and discourages personal attacks during litigation. We are the only bar association in the state who sponsors two free dinners each year, Law Day and State Bar Night. Additionally, we have numerous other events during which we can "Meet the law clerks," honor award recipients, and celebrate the holidays.

**Assistance** - Like a family, we help our members who need it. For those with larger problems there is the Lawyers Assistance Committee. For everyday issues, I encourage you to call another member of the association for advice, a second opinion, or a bit of encouragement. I feel confident you will get any and all of those things if you ask for them.

**Introductions and Networking** - Our lawyer referral service introduces you to potential clients and them to you. It is our hope that those introductions will lead to an increase in business and therefore income for you.

Margaret Kennedy said, “In truth a family is what you make it. It is made strong, not by number of heads counted at the dinner table, but by the rituals you help family members create, by the memories you share, by the commitment of time, caring, and kindness you show to one another, and by the hopes for the future you have as individuals and as a unit.”

My advice to you is to either establish or re-establish your commitment to the Bar Association by creating rituals, sharing memories, caring for each other and working for both your future and the future of the association.

# Welcome New Members

**Shaan Desai**
Student Boston Law School

**Kira Shcherbakova**
Shcherbakova Law LLC

**Kenneth Green**
Green Law Group

**Jennifer A. Dollinger-Woods**
Broder Law Group

**Julianna M. Kearney**
Boudwin Roy Leodori PC

## Help Us Give Thanks This Thanksgiving



The Burlington County Bar Association is proud to partner with the Burlington County Action Program (BCAP) and the Culinary Program at Burlington County Institute of Technology (BCIT) to provide Thanksgiving meals to some of Burlington County's most needy families.

This holiday season, we invite you to make a difference by contributing to our Thanksgiving Meal Drive. Your donation will help provide families in our community with a warm, nutritious holiday meal prepared by Burlington County culinary students! No contribution is too small. Together, we can ensure that local families facing hardship have a reason to be thankful this Thanksgiving- a season of gratitude and giving. Scan the QR code below to learn more about making a donation.



# *Wine*

**By: Janice L. Heinold, Esq.**

In October, I was fortunate enough to attend and speak on a panel for the NJSBA Mid-Year Meeting in Portugal. After the conference, we went to Porto for two days. I have been to Lisbon before, but this was my first time in Porto. If you think Lisbon is hilly, wait until Porto! Quite the workout.

Porto is famous, of course, for its port wine lodges, which are actually not located in Porto, but across the Douro River in Vila Nova de Gaia (often called just "Gaia"). Historically, grapes grown in the Douro Valley were transported on boats called rabelos to the port lodges in Gaia, which is on the southern side of the Douro and slightly cooler than Porto. There are 60 port lodges located in Gaia, but only about 20 of them are open for tastings or tours.

Many of the port lodges bear British names, such as Taylor, Graham, Cockburn, Croft, Dow, Warre, and Sandeman. This is because the entire port industry was founded and financed by British merchants. During the 1600s and 1700s, Britain and France were often at war. Every time they were, the British government would ban or heavily tax French wine. British merchants looked to import wines from elsewhere, including Portugal.

In 1703, Britain and Portugal signed the Methuen Treaty, with Portugal agreeing to give British wool textiles preferential treatment, and in return, Britain slashed taxes on Portuguese wines. British merchants swarmed Porto and built warehouses in Gaia, so that they could buy grapes from the Douro Valley farmers, age the wine in their own warehouses, and ship them overseas. To prevent the wine from spoiling in the hot hold of a ship during transport, they began fortifying the barrel of fermented wine with a bottle of grape brandy. The winemakers soon discovered that adding the brandy during the fermentation, rather than after, stopped the fermentation, leaving residual sugar. The rich, slightly sweet, high alcohol wine became a sensation back in Britain.

We did a tour and tasting at Taylor Fladgate Port Cellars, established in 1692, and still family-owned. In 1744, the family purchased land in the Douro Valley, which was briefly used as a hospital by the Duke of Wellington during the peninsular campaigns of the Napoleonic Wars. Taylor's survived the French army's invasion by transferring 1/6 ownership into an American employee, Joseph Camo, and leaving him in charge while the rest of the owners retreated to Britain, and he managed to keep the enterprise going until the British returned.












*continued*

After passing the seal hanging to the left of the door indicating that Taylor Fladgate is “By appointment to his Majesty King Charles III, Suppliers of Port Wine, Taylor’s Port, Portugal,” the tour begins in a museum, laying out the history of Port wine and of Taylor Fladgate, before moving on to the cellars, and how port wine is made. The tour finished in a rose garden, with resident peacocks and hens milling about. We tasted three ports: Chip Dry White Port, a 10 year old Tawny, and a Late Bottle Vintage.

White Port was a discovery for me on this early fall trip to Portugal, with temperatures still reaching the 80s (the last time I was in Lisbon, it was February), with many sidewalk cafés and rooftop bars still open, serving Porto Tonicos in place of gin and tonics. Porto Tonicos are a refreshingly light summer cocktail, swapping out gin for White Port: 2 ounces of Chip Dry White Port, 4 ounces of high-quality tonic water, garnished with a sprig of mint and a slice of orange, lemon or lime, served over ice cubes in a large wine glass. Chip Dry White Port was created by Taylor Fladgate in 1934, using white grapes (primarily Malvasia Fina), and the brandy is added after fermentation, creating a fortified, dry white wine. Chip Dry is 19.5% ABV, and available at Total Wines & More in Cherry Hill for $26.

The second port sampled was a 10 Year Old Tawny Port, meaning that the Port has been aged an average of 10 years. Tawny ports and Ruby (red) ports are made the same way; Tawny Ports are aged for a much longer time (10, 20, 30, even 40 years) in small oak casks called pipas (pipes). More of the wine is exposed to wood, undergoing controlled oxidation, losing its red color while it ages, and fading to a tawny (golden-brown) color. A Tawny port tastes nutty, with dried fruits, and notes of butterscotch and toffee. Since Tawny ports have already been oxidized, they are very stable, and an open bottle can still taste good 2-3 months after opening. Taylor Fladgate’s 10 year old Tawny is 20% ABV, and available at Total Wine & More for $34.
The final port we sampled was a Late Bottle Vintage (“LBV”) Ruby Port. LBV ports are the step between everyday inexpensive ports and Vintage ports. Like Vintage ports, LBV ports are all made from one vintage. Rather than aging in wood for 2 years and then in bottles for many more years like Vintage ports, LBV ports are aged in large wood vats for 4-6 years before being bottled. Upon bottling, they are ready to drink right away. LBV ports typically have dark berry flavors such as blackberry, black currants, and plums, followed by fig, dark chocolate, herbs, and spices. The tannins are softer than a young Vintage port. Once opened, an LBV port will stay good for 2-3 weeks. Taylor Fladgate’s Late Bottled Vintage Port is 19.5% ABV, and available at Total Wine & More for $26.

Saúde!

# *Burlington County Bar Association*
# *Committee Chair Members*

| | |
|---|---|
| **CRD/ADR** | Judge Lihotz, Judge Covert & Chris Keating |
| **CLE Committee Chairs** | Maggie McHugh, Victoria Britton, & Katina Chase |
| **Civil Practice Committee** | Tim O'Brien, Joe Gable & Megan Balne |
| **Construction** | Vacant |
| **Criminal Practice Section** | Robert Perry & Courtney O'Brien |
| **Parker McCay** | Tahmina Chowdhury |
| **DIAL (Diversity, Inclusion, & Leadership)** | Brenda Maneri & Chip Thomas |
| **Education & Administrative Law** | Zach Green & Swati Kothari |
| **Employment Law** | Immon Shafiei & Dan Thornton |
| **Family Part Section** | Kim Greenfield & Allison Burkhardt |
| **Federal Practice** | Beau Wilson |
| **General Equity Section** | Solaris Power & Noah Schwartz |
| **Immigration** | Shereen Chen-Grey |
| **Law Day** | Stacey Gorin & Eli Eytan |
| **Local Goverment** | Doug Heinhold & Maggie McHugh |
| **Military Law** | Odise Carr & Chris St. John |
| **Mock Trial** | Mariane Gardner, Grace Ricciotti-Molishus & Rachel Tavani |
| **Municipal Court Section** | Vacancy |
| **Personal Injury** | Wesley Amaefuna & Zach Green |
| **Probate/Estate Planning Section** | Lori McNeeley & Ethan Ordog |
| **Professionalism** | Judge Lihotz & Scott Cofina |
| **Real Estate** | El-Rhonda Williams Alston & Chandra Betner Gray |
| **Social Media/Technology Committee** | Taylor Nacci & Dennis Frazier |
| **Senior Attorneys** | Judge Domzalski & Joe Pinto |
| **Special Civil (LL/T)** | Ryan Slocum & Natalie Zisa |
| **Wellness Committee** | Richard Orr & Solaris Power |
| **Women in the Profession (WIP)** | Katie Hartman, Melanie Levan & Megan Balne |
| **Worker's Compensation** | Ed Magram & Judge McNamee |
| **Young Lawyer's Committee** | Brian Sever & Bailey Gunner |

# *Shameless Plugs and Shout-outs*

Thank you to our friends, State Bar President Norberto Garcia, Executive Director Angela Scheck, and Second Vice President Craig Hubert for joining us at last month's State Bar Dinner.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to Shereen Chen-Gray, Megan Knowlton Balne, Beau Wilson, and moderator Lisette Gonzalez for sharing their time and expertise during the inaugural People's Law School program. Their engaging and informative discussion on immigration law was exceptional.

A special thank you as well to Judge Belgard, Dan Rosenberg, Jay Keesler, Mark Westfall, and moderator Judge Cook for presenting our second People's Law School program on the Fourth Amendment. Their insightful and dynamic presentation provided attendees with a deeper understanding of an important constitutional topic and continued the strong momentum of this exciting community initiative.

If anyone has a shameless plug or shout-out, please email srgorin@mdwcg.com.



Congratulations to Krista Kibler for organizing a successful meet and greet with Judge Cook and the presiding judges with Rutgers Law evening students. Way to go Krista for creating this excellent networking opportunity between our judiciary leaders and the next generation of lawyers.

# *TAX ISSUES?.....WHO YA GONNA CALL.....*



***Submitted by Martin H. Abo, CPA/ABV/CVA/CFF***

Welcome to the frustrating world of tax practitioners! We at Abo and Company have been trying to advise clients on new IRS self-service online tools to avoid long phone wait times. We also try to leverage the newly expanded "Tax Pro Account" for us tax people to manage the IRS-designated CAF numbers (standing for Centralized Authorization File) and client authorizations more efficiently, reducing paper-based processes.

**It ain't been easy!**

Until recently, getting information from the IRS meant paper forms and long telephone hold times. We traditionally relied on mailing or faxing forms like Form 4506-T (Request for Transcript of Tax Return) to get tax records, often waiting weeks for a response. As representatives, we need access to client information, which requires filing Form 2848 (Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative) or Form 8821 (Tax Information Authorization) to link the practitioner to a client's account through the Centralized Authorization File (CAF) system.

Sure, Abo and Company, along with our tax colleagues, have the "Practitioner Priority Service" (PPS) phone line that supposedly offers a dedicated resource line for professionals. Alas, it is frequently overwhelmed, especially during filing season (that includes the new April 15th - September 15th and October 15th), leading to significant unproductive wait times. We often try to contact this service, which is available to all tax professionals with valid third-party authorizations, i.e., Form 2848, Form 8821, and/or 8655 (Reporting Agent Authorization).

**Again, it ain't been easy!**

Unfortunately, accessing basic information like a client's Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) or confirming a payment could turn into a time-consuming task even when we use PPS.

Abo and Company's word to the wise? Please be patient.

**IRS Doubles Down on Digital Transformation and e-Services**

In 2026, the IRS underscored its commitment to modernization by significantly expanding digital self-service options for both taxpayers and tax professionals. These changes were designed to provide faster answers, reduce reliance on paper, and free up IRS phone lines for more complex issues. Yeh, right!

In February 2026 we were alerted that the IRS was strongly encouraging taxpayers to use a suite of online tools available 24/7 on its website, https://www.irs.gov , rather than calling. The agency highlighted the "Let Us Help You" section of its website as a primary resource for answering common questions and performing routine tasks (as we did; try going to https://www.irs.gov/help/let-us-help-you). This taxpayer-facing initiative aimed to deflect call volume by empowering individuals to find information themselves.

The IRS even announced a major expansion of the Tax Pro Account. This enhancement moves beyond sole practitioners and now provides business-level capabilities for tax firms, accounting practices, and other organizations that use a business CAF number. This is a foundational step toward digitizing the management of client authorizations for entire firms, not just individual preparers. Again, it ain't been easy!

**Abo and Company's Take on the Impact**

The dual focus on taxpayer self-service and professional-facing digital tools represents a significant shift in how the IRS interacts with all of us. While these changes promise greater efficiency, they also require us to adapt our workflows and client communication strategies. For you as taxpayers, the expanded online tools offer immediate access to information that previously required a phone call or a formal request. The IRS Individual Online Account allows taxpayers to view your balance, get their AGI, access transcripts, and manage payments. Tools like "Where's My Refund?" (https://www.irs.gov/wheres-my-refund) and the "Interactive Tax Assistant" (ITA) (https://www.irs.gov/help/ita ) can resolve common inquiries instantly. The benefit for the IRS is a reduction in costly call center traffic. The benefit for you as a taxpayer is immediate access to your data, provided you can navigate the required identity verification process, ID.me. The benefit to us and our tax colleagues is obviously we can spend more time on important tax return preparation and planning rather than have to incur professional time charges in areas where, frankly, the client receives little benefit from such inefficiency.

For tax professionals like Abo and Company, the impact could be twofold. First, by educating clients on how to use the taxpayer-facing tools for basic questions, we hope to reduce the number of routine inquiries we receive, freeing up time for more substantive advisory work. Calling us to ask, *"Did the IRS get my estimated-tax payment?"* or *"Can you tell me what my AGI was last year?"* are perfectly reasonable questions. But if you can obtain the answer securely online in a few minutes, there is little reason to incur professional fees by having us chase the same information. Second, and more critically, the expansion of the Tax Pro Account offers a direct path to modernizing firm operations. When both the tax professional and the individual taxpayer have online accounts, POA and Tax Information Authorization requests can be handled electronically, reducing the need to mail, fax, or upload those authorization documents. (Abo hint: you as an individual taxpayer are also encouraged to have your own IRS individual account.) Try going to https://www.irs.gov/payments/online-account-for-individuals. That's real progress.

**Don't Throw Away the Fax Machine Just Yet**

There is, of course, an important reality check. The Tax Pro Account does not make Forms 2848 and 8821 obsolete for us. The IRS itself continues to identify those forms as alternative methods when the Tax Pro Account isn't appropriate for a particular authorization. Despite what we've learned and read to put this article together, we don't believe digital tools will eliminate every situation requiring practitioner assistance, contacting PPS or direct IRS intervention. We wouldn't disconnect the office fax line quite yet.

**The Bottom Line**

The IRS is clear in its direction: the future of tax administration is digital, e-services-based. The recent push for taxpayer self-service tools and the significant expansion of the Tax Pro Account for us tax firms are not minor updates; they are fundamental changes aimed at reducing IRS operational burdens and improving efficiency for everyone. We just read that the IRS even describes linking the CAF number to the Tax Pro Account as the step that turns the account into a digital workspace for us practitioners.

Will all of this eliminate telephone calls, processing problems, and tax practitioner frustration? Let's not get carried away. Still, technology is finally reaching a point where practitioners and clients who learn how to use these tools may be able to spend less time tracking down information and more time dealing with the tax and financial issues that actually require professional judgment.

Unfortunately, folks, we're still in the adjustment period. Please bear with us.

***And when the online account doesn't solve the problem? Well... now you know who ya gonna call.***

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. Tips like the above can also be accessed by going to the firm's website at www.aboandcompany.com or by calling 856-222-4723.

# *Can we Talk?*
# Bridging the Communication Gap Among Intergenerational Attorney Teams.

***Submitted by Marie E. Lihotz****

The tools for the delivery of legal services continue to change. Court filings are electronic, and many hearings are presented through Teams. We hold initial client conferences through Zoom and execute contracts through DocuSign. Today, essential tools for trials involve computers, multiple screens, PowerPoints, videos and AI reenactments. Gone are the days of suits in the office, using a Lawyers Diary, fax machines, and too often, face-to-face meetings and phone calls.

Another noticeable change among those in the legal profession is our worklife-span. Lawyers who went straight to law school after college may be as young as 25. At the other end of the working spectrum are New Jersey recall judges working until 80, active federal judges in their 90s, and firm attorneys ignoring what was the traditional retirement age of 65.

What do these two developments share? The need for modifications in the manner of addressing communication.

To achieve effective lawyering -- whether between colleagues working on the same case, adversaries exploring options for resolution, senior attorneys addressing needs of a young entrepreneur client, or openings to jurors who might be ages 18 to 80 -- all members of our multigenerational legal force must master understanding each other and being understood because effective communication drives decision-making and sets priorities. Too often we read or hear the lament between those with decades of experience and those recently admitted to the profession: “I don’t understand why they do or say that.”

In part, miscommunications relate to the style each generation is most accustomed to using. Many “senior” lawyers grouse about technological challenges, avoiding Zoom and rejecting email, opting instead to have a chat, or ask a legal assistant to “email” an actual letter they prepared. Younger attorneys are “digital natives” using instant communication, like text messages that might include acronyms and abbreviated initialisms rather than lengthy textual recitations. Such informal authenticity may be mistaken for disinterest. When lawyers on each end of this legal work-age spectrum are assigned to assist each other on the same matter, the prospect of clashing communication styles risks the reality that vital information regarding the matter may be missed.

Today, to succeed, multigenerational legal teams need to problem solve how to tackle possible differing communication styles in order to meet every attorney's first objective, that is, to efficiently address a client's needs. For example, a text message sent by a younger attorney to a senior one may be misconstrued as "an emergency," rather than just a requested response. So too, when the supervising attorney shows up at the associate's office, chills run down their spine believing a confrontation will result.

Thus, inefficiencies and misunderstandings must be avoided if the team establishes at the outset, the most preferred method to present questions, comments and urgent issues.

Commencing assignments by sending an email to a young associate identifies objectives, needs, and deadlines; it provides the initial framework but gives them time to review. It also should seek for input. I often end an email regarding a new issue with the simple proposal: "Thoughts?" This expressed invitation opens the door for ideas. We then set a time and method to communicate follow-up, to clear up questions, and exchange feedback.

To my colleagues who are Baby Boomers (age 62 or older): technology is here to stay, and its pace of development will continue to increase. You can't ignore it and you must discard age-based assumptions suggesting its use reflects a lackadaisical approach to lawyering. All lawyers need to incorporate technology use in how we solve problems and learn from savvy associates and young partners by asking about AI benefits for necessary workflow, idea drafting, or the need to check for hidden AI prompt injections and deepfakes. Such cross mentoring maximizes each side's skills and increases confidence. To my new colleagues joining the profession: the "war stories" carry a message loaded with experience. Skills for negotiation, persuasive arguments, or judicial navigation are nuanced and can best be gleaned from human knowledge. One-on-one interactions and communication are integral to learning "soft skills," such as how to approach a difficult client or adversary. Lawyering is centered on relationships and strategically some things are better handled over a phone call.

The November 12, 2026 Bench-Bar Professionalism Seminar, "Working Across Generations: Building Better Legal Teams for the Future," started this conversation to create these connections. Afterall, each generation complements the abilities of others. When properly melded, together they incorporate a myriad of ideas, legal strategies, and strengths, so we all benefit.

*Marie E. Lihotz is a retired Presiding Judge of the Appellate Division, now Of Counsel to Archer and Greiner, providing Alternative Dispute Resolution Services through Archer's offices in Voorhees, Hackensack, Red Bank. Princeton, Philadelphia, and New York City.

# *Artificial Intelligence, Facial Recognition, and the New Frontiers of Criminal Discovery*

***By Robert Perry, Esq.***
*Co-Chair, Criminal Practice Committee*
*Burlington County Bar Association*

Artificial intelligence is rapidly changing the manner in which law enforcement investigates criminal offenses. Facial recognition technology, algorithmic analysis, and increasingly sophisticated digital investigative tools present opportunities for law enforcement, but they also raise significant questions concerning reliability, transparency, and the constitutional rights of criminal defendants.

On June 24, 2026, the New Jersey Supreme Court addressed these competing concerns in *State v. Miles*, 264 N.J. 209, 357 A.3d 903 (2026). In a unanimous decision, the Court established the principles governing a defendant's right to discovery when law enforcement uses facial recognition technology ("FRT") during a criminal investigation. The ACLU of New Jersey, which participated as an amicus, described the ruling as one of the first of its kind from a state high court.

Although the Court's opinion speaks specifically to FRT rather than to artificial intelligence generally, the framework it applies offers guidance to prosecutors and defense attorneys confronting any algorithmic investigative tool. This article reviews the decision and offers practical observations for practitioners.

**The Facts and Procedural History**

*Miles* arose from a June 2021 fatal shooting in Jersey City. The day after the shooting, police showed a confidential informant, who had not witnessed the shooting, closed-circuit television footage recorded approximately two blocks away a few minutes before the shooting. The informant identified two men in the footage by their street names and provided their Instagram usernames.

Police retrieved the Instagram profile photograph of one of the men and ran it through the NJ/NY High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas ("HIDTA") Facial Recognition Module. The search returned defendant Tybear Miles as a "match," along with multiple other possible matches. After the FRT search, police interviewed four individuals, including Miles's sister and former girlfriend, both of whom identified him in still images and video from nearby surveillance footage recorded well before the shooting. None of the interviewees witnessed the shooting, several men appeared in the footage, no video captured the shooting itself, and no witness identified Miles as the shooter.

A grand jury indicted Miles for first-degree murder, second-degree possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, and second-degree unlawful possession of a weapon. Relying on *State v. Arteaga*, 476 N.J. Super. 36 (App. Div. 2023), defense counsel moved to compel FRT discovery, reproducing verbatim the thirteen items the Appellate Division had ordered produced on the facts of that case. Those items included the name, manufacturer, and version of the software; the system's error rates and performance on federal testing; the original and edited "probe" photographs; the candidate list and confidence scores; the parameters of the database searched; the analyst's report and qualifications; and the source code for the algorithm.

The trial judge granted the motion and adhered to that ruling on reconsideration. The State's initial production was limited. It consisted of four pages reflecting what appeared to be two separate FRT searches. In one, Miles was ranked eighth on a list of ten possible matches. In the other, five images of Miles occupied the top five positions. The State also produced a letter from a New Jersey State Police representative reporting no record of any request related to the case, leaving the origin of the search results unclear. The Appellate Division denied the State's motion for leave to appeal, and the Supreme Court granted leave. 260 N.J. 197 (2025).

**The Supreme Court's Decision**

Writing for a unanimous Court, Justice Douglas M. Fasciale rejected a mechanical application of *Arteaga* to every case involving FRT. The Court held that FRT discovery cannot be reduced to a fixed thirteen-item checklist; a defendant's entitlement depends on the specifics of the case and turns on whether the information sought is relevant and whether its production is necessary to ensure a fair trial.

Under the facts of *Miles*, the Court held that the State must produce two categories of discovery. Significantly, although the Court declined to adopt a rigid checklist, it observed that this basic information will, in most cases, "constitute the minimum necessary to safeguard a defendant's right to a fair trial."

***First, discovery identifying the FRT tools and materials the State used***.

The Court described this category as basic identifying information, such as the name and manufacturer of the software used to conduct the search or searches, the version numbers, the years of development, key performance metrics (including publicly available documentation related to error rates), and information about the database and the operator of the system. The Court emphasized that these examples are not exhaustive, and it indicated that the discoverable information in this case would include the Arteaga items covering the software's identity and version, the report and notes of the analyst who ran the search, and the analyst's name, training, and qualifications. This category is relevant to developing a record regarding the reliability of the FRT used in the case.

***Second, discovery on how the State used those FRT tools and materials.***

This category includes the original "probe" photograph submitted for analysis, any edited copies of that photograph, and the photographs the system returned as "matches." The Court found this information potentially relevant for, at a minimum, three purposes: impeaching the identifications made by the interviewees, challenging the State's investigation (including the officers' use of the technology and their knowledge of its reliability), and demonstrating potential third-party guilt. On the last point, the Court noted that the State's own production showed other individuals ranked as closer matches to the probe image than Miles in one of the searches.

***The "investigative tool" argument.***

The State argued that FRT was merely an investigative tool, that it would not use FRT evidence at trial, and that the informant's information alone would have led officers to Miles. The Attorney General, appearing as amicus, opposed discovery into the technology's inner workings but conceded that basic information about how FRT was used (the image submitted, the matches returned, and the general context of the search) is prudent to disclose. The Court nonetheless required disclosure of both categories, reasoning that law enforcement chose to use FRT in its investigation and that a meaningful defense includes the State's use of that technology.

This aspect of the opinion is particularly significant. The fact that technological evidence will not be introduced at trial does not eliminate the State's discovery obligations concerning its investigative use.

**Proprietary Information and Source Code**

The Court drew an important distinction between basic investigative information and proprietary technological materials. Although the State was required to disclose information identifying the technology and explaining how investigators used it, the Court reversed, without prejudice, the portion of the trial court's order compelling production of the FRT source code and similar proprietary information.

The Court relied on *State v. Pickett*, 466 N.J. Super. 270 (App. Div. 2021), in which the Appellate Division addressed a defendant's request for the trade secrets of DNA analysis software in order to challenge its reliability at a *Frye* hearing. *Pickett* establishes a two-step, burden-shifting framework. First, the party seeking to shield information from discovery as confidential or proprietary bears the burden of showing good cause. Second, if that showing is made, the burden shifts to the defendant to demonstrate a particularized need for the information. In assessing particularized need, courts consider four fact-intensive factors:

•whether there is a rational basis for ordering production, including the extent to which proffered expert testimony supports the request;

•the specificity of the information sought;

•the available means of safeguarding the company's intellectual property, such as a protective order; and

•any other relevant factors unique to the facts of the case.

The trial judge in *Miles* had read *Arteaga* as automatically compelling disclosure of proprietary information whenever FRT is used, without applying either step of the *Pickett* analysis. The Supreme Court explained that the *Arteaga* court's finding of particularized need rested on that defendant's specific record, including a detailed declaration from a proposed FRT expert, and did not render proprietary FRT information discoverable in all future cases.

The Court found the issue premature for two reasons. First, the record had not been developed to address reliability questions concerning the particular FRT used. Second, defense counsel acknowledged at oral argument that he did not yet know whether the source code was relevant or helpful to the defense. On remand, the defendant may renew his request for proprietary information upon a showing of particularized need. The Court also left it to the trial judge's discretion to fashion an appropriate remedy if the State fails to produce the categories of information the Court held discoverable.

The distinction is critical. The use of proprietary technology does not automatically entitle a defendant to examine its underlying programming. At the same time, because *Pickett* recognizes that proprietary information is discoverable to the extent necessary to ensure a fair trial, commercial confidentiality does not create an absolute barrier to discovery.

**Practical Implications for Criminal Practitioners**

The importance of *Miles* likely extends beyond facial recognition technology. The *Pickett* framework on which the Court relied arose from DNA analysis software, and the same principles can be expected to inform discovery disputes involving other algorithmic investigative tools.

***For defense attorneys:***

•**Ask early.** Determine whether police used facial recognition or other algorithmic tools at any stage of the investigation, including to develop a suspect who was later identified by witnesses.

•**Treat the two *Miles* categories as the floor.** Information identifying the technology and showing how it was used will, in most cases, be the minimum necessary for a fair trial. Request the probe image and any edits, the full candidate list with rankings and scores, the analyst's report and notes, and the analyst's identity and qualifications.

•**Tailor the request.** Rather than reproducing the *Arteaga* list verbatim, as the motion in *Miles* did, articulate how each item relates to identification, the reliability of the investigation, alternative suspects, or another specific defense.

•**Build the record before seeking proprietary material.** The source-code portion of the order in Miles did not survive in part because the defense could not yet say whether it needed the code. Retain an expert early, obtain a declaration addressing the reliability concerns specific to the system used, and be prepared to address each Pickett factor, including a proposed protective order.

•**Examine the identification procedures that followed the FRT search**. In *Miles*, the informant was later shown a single mugshot of the defendant. The Court did not address the identification procedures, but counsel should consider whether the procedures used after an FRT search raise separate issues under *State v. Henderson*, 208 N.J. 208 (2011).

***For prosecutors:***

•Identify the investigative technology used by law enforcement, including technology the State does not intend to introduce at trial, and be prepared to produce basic information about it and its use.

•Confirm the source and provenance of FRT results before discovery disputes arise. In *Miles*, the State Police reported no record of the search, leaving the origin of the results unclear.

•Where proprietary information is sought, be prepared to make the threshold good-cause showing required by *Pickett*, and recognize that failure to produce information the Court has deemed discoverable may result in a remedy fashioned by the trial court.

The decision also illustrates the continuing importance of Rule 3:13-3(b)(1), *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963), and the judiciary's inherent authority to order discovery beyond the court rules when doing so furthers the truth-seeking function or ensures the fairness of a trial. See *State v. Hernandez*, 225 N.J. 451, 463 (2016).

**Conclusion**

Artificial intelligence and algorithmic investigative tools will undoubtedly assume an increasingly prominent role in criminal investigations. As these technologies evolve, courts will continue to confront difficult questions concerning accuracy, transparency, proprietary information, and the constitutional protections afforded to individuals accused of crimes.

*State v. Miles* represents an important step in developing the legal framework governing these issues. The decision establishes a meaningful baseline of disclosure whenever the State uses FRT, while reserving access to proprietary materials for cases in which the defense demonstrates a particularized need on a developed record.

For New Jersey criminal practitioners, the central lesson is clear: the increasing sophistication of investigative technology does not diminish the importance of traditional discovery principles. Rather, it makes their careful application more essential than ever.

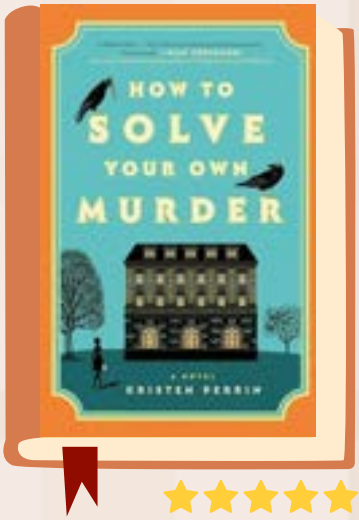
# The Young Lawyers Book Corner

**Fall called. It wants you horizontal, wrapped in a blanket, and ignoring your inbox.**

Welcome back to the Book Corner, where the pages are crisp, the plots are juicy, and where one more chapter is a lifestyle. Grab a mug, pick a book, and let the leaves pile up for another day.

Your to-do list can wait. Your TBR pile cannot. Here's a couple of BCBA reads including some that have been on my nightstand. I welcome any book suggestions you think the people need to know about! -Jazlyne Cabán

## Murder Mystery

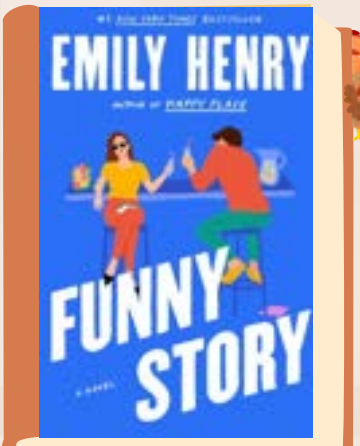



Recommendation Courtesy of Victoria Britton:

The first in a murder mystery series where the great niece, Annie Adams, has to solve her great aunt's, Frances', murder in order to inherit her estate. The catch is that her great aunt has believed that she was going to be murdered since a fortune teller predicted her future at 16/17 years old.

"Thanks to Frances's lifelong habit of digging up secrets and lies, it seems every endearing and eccentric villager might just have a motive for her murder."

## Contemporary Romance




Daphne is a children's librarian whose fiancé leaves her for his best friend, and Daphne ends up living with Miles, the best friend's ex. The two of them stage a fake relationship to save face, and the roommates-to-lovers slow burn does the rest. This was a very easy read, you could finish this in a day if you lock in.

"You can't force a person to show up, but you can learn a lesson when they don't."

## Psychological Suspense/Thriller

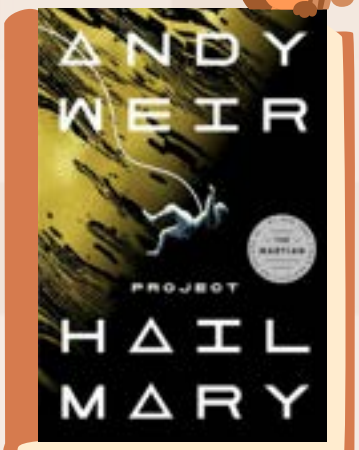



*TriggerWarning*

This is a gripping, unsettling dive into 1950s suburbia, where Lulu Mayfield's perfect housewife routines begins to crack and she is labeled "hysteterical" by the people around her. This book is a domestic horror with no monsters, just suffocating expectations around womanhood, motherhood, and mental health.

"Of course, sometimes we forget that dreams and nightmares are two sides of the same coin."

## Science Fiction




Recommendation Courtesy of Rachel Tavani:

This science fiction novel centers around the power of human perseverance in the face of apocalyptic adversity and alien encounters. Humorous, inspiring, and literally out of this world, this book is an easy read even with the detailed scientific descriptions, and it gives hope that the world can band together to save itself, no matter the consequences.

"Human beings have a remarkable ability to accept the abnormal and make it normal."

## Romantasy




Recommendation Courtesy of Sara Myers:

This is Book 1 in a duology in which Brynn has to find her identity and her true powers. She grew up amongst the Alaha people on an island in the middle of the sea. Everything changes for her when she touches land for the first time. She has to determine who is friend and who is foe in order to survive and fight for her people.

"I looked for you. In every market and podunk town, in every corner of every land, I searched each face for yours."

New Jersey Courts
Independence • Integrity • Fairness • Quality Service

Burlington Vicinage

# Civil Jury Trial Verdicts - September 2026

| Parties | Case Type | Verdict Date | Judge | Arbitration Award | Outcome |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Mathis Karima v Laurel Green Apartments***<br>Attorneys: PA: Adam Segal<br>DA: Renee Rivas<br>DA: Jeffrey Talbot<br>L-979-24 | Personal Injury | 9/2/26 | Friedman | $445,000.00<br>50%/50% | No Cause |

New Jersey Courts
Independence • Integrity • Fairness • Quality Service

Burlington Vicinage

# Civil Jury Trial Verdicts - October 2026

| *Parties* | *Case Type* | *Verdict Date* | *Judge* | *Arbitration Award* | *Outcome* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Danilchenko OksanavGoodwin Kevin***<br>Attorneys: PA: Clancy Boylan<br>Matthew Magid<br>Philip Granite<br>DA: Roberto Paglione<br>Anthony Losardo<br>L-1183-24 | Auto Neg – PI | 10/5/26 | Hertzberg | 3,000,000.00<br>70%Def/30%PL | 350,503.20 Def |
| ***Rosser Stephen v Nieuwenhuizen Jennifer***<br>Attorneys:PA:BenjaminSmith<br>DA:Steven Antinorr<br>L-345-25 | Auto Neg – PI | 10/7/26 | Fikry | 17,500.00/PL | No Cause |
| ***Miller Robin v Diperi Steven***<br>Attorneys:PA:Michael Glassman<br>DA:Ada Gallicchio<br>Julie Robinson<br>L1520-23 | Med Mal | 10/21/26 | Hertzberg | NA | 186,000.00 split 50/50 |

# DISTRICT IIIB
## (BURLINGTON COUNTY)
# FEE ARBITRATION COMMITTEE



# NOW RECRUITING
## ATTORNEY AND PUBLIC MEMBERS
### FOR THE 2027-2028 TERM
### BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2027

**ASSIST YOUR COMMUNITY**

**HELP RESOLVE FEE DISPUTES FAIRLY**

**SERVE A VITAL ROLE IN THE PROFESSION**

**ATTORNEY MEMBERS ARE EXEMPT FROM MADDEN PRO BONO ASSIGNMENTS**

The District IIIB (Burlington County) Fee Arbitration Committee provides an important service to the public and the legal profession by helping to resolve fee disputes between attorneys and clients in an efficient and fair manner. Committee members make a meaningful difference in their community and help promote public confidence in the profession.

## INTERESTED?

Please contact the District IIIB Secretary or Vice Chair by **February 1, 2027.**


**Victoria Britton, Esq.**
Secretary
vbritton@meese-edwards.com

**Nicole Donoian, Esq.**
Vice Chair
ndonoian@charnylaw.com




ID: MEMBER RENEWAL TIME FROM JUNE–MAY

**It's that Time of Year! Prevent paying non member fees by Renewing your membership and updating your information if you have changed firms**

**Time to Renew your CLE Passport**

**Time to Renew your Lawyer Referral Service**

**Please go to Burlcobar.org**

Burlington County Bar Foundation
Largest Fundraiser

# Wine, Beer & Bourbon

November 13th at 6pm

Medford Village Country Club



$85 Per Person
$160 Per Couple
Tickets on sale Now

If you would like to donate raffle items and/or baskets, please email us by Oct 29th at bcba@burlcobar.org

BCBF IS COLLECTING NEW AND GENTLY USED WINTER COATS. ALL COATS ARE WELCOME BUT CHILDRENS COATS HAVE GREATEST NEED.

COATS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR FAMILIES AT THE CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY



# Donate Your Coats Today!

***DROP OFF AT STATE BAR NIGHT***
***WINE, BEER AND BOURBON NIGHT***
***November 13 or***
***Posternock Apell, PC***
***302 Harper Drive, Suite 103 Moorestown, NJ***



# BCBA CLE EXTRAVAGANZA

## December 3rd 8:00 am–5:45 pm

### An opportunity to increase your CLE Credits and meet the reporting deadline.

Family CLE at 8:00 am and Immigration CLE at 8:00 am

Employment CLE at 10 am and Municipal CLE at 10 am

Civil CLE w/ Ethics and Domestic Violence CLE at 12 pm

Criminal CLE at 2 pm and Probate CLE at 2 pm

Dial CLE and Education/Administrative CLE at 4 pm

Member fee is $55.00 each | Non-Member fee is $90.00 each

PA Credits for each CLE: $15.00

**Please register directly on the website burlcobar.org**

# Burlington County Bar Association

# Holiday Soiree

**December 16 at 5:45 PM**

**Union House,**
**19 E. Union St., Burlington,**
**New Jersey**

**Cost: $70.00**

**Feel Free to Wear your Ugly Sweater**






# Wrapping Party

December 10th, 4:30-7:00pm

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

## ALL ARE WELCOME!

WRAP GIFTS • BUILD COMMUNITY • SPREAD JOY

PLEASE REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER AT BURLCOBAR.ORG

CRIMINAL COMMITTEE PRACTICE PRESENTS

# Litigating Firearms Cases After Bruen

Learn the quickly evolving landscape of criminal firearms cases following the 2022 landmark decision *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen.*

er

**NOVEMBER 5** | 4:00-6:00 PM

2.4 CLE CREDITS

VIA ZOOM

**PRESENTERS:**

Courtney O'Brien, Esq.,
Burlington County Prosecutor's Office

Robert Perry, Esq.,
Rosenberg | Perry & Associates




**REGISTRATION**

Register at buricobar.org

- Member Fee: $55
- Non-Member Fee: $90
- PA Credits: $15

Burlington County Bar Association
Federal Practice Section Presents

ZOOM LUNCH AND LEARN

# Last Year's SCOTUS Rulings That Are Reshaping Federal Practice




This CLE will unpack the Court's legal reasoning, identify practical implications for practitioners and lower courts, and highlight emerging doctrinal shifts and how the Court's decisions are already reshaping federal practice.

**November 12, 2026 at 12:30 PM**

Presenter:
**Beau Wilson, Esq.**
Partner at Hyland Levin Shapiro, LLP

1.2 CLE Credit

1.0 PA Credit

Member Fee $25
Non member Fee $40
PA Credit $7.50

**REGISTER NOW AT BURLCOBAR.ORG**

LEARN | CONNECT | STRENGTHEN FEDERAL PRACTICE

EDUCATION
INSIGHT
ADVOCACY
A STRONGER
FEDERAL BAR



# THE PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL

THE PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL IS AN INITIATIVE DESIGNED TO BRING THE LAW OUT OF THE COURTROOM AND INTO OUR COMMUNITY.

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, WE WILL HOST FREE PROGRAMS ON TIMELY LEGAL TOPICS, GIVING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FROM MEMBERS OF THE BENCH AND BAR, ASK QUESTIONS, AND BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW THE LAW IMPACTS THEIR EVERYDAY LIVES.

## OUR GOAL IS SIMPLE: TO MAKE THE LAW MORE ACCESSIBLE, UNDERSTANDABLE, AND USEFUL TO THE PEOPLE WE SERVE.

- IMMIGRATION PANEL OCTOBER 27, 2026
- FOURTH AMENDMENT PANEL NOVEMBER 10, 2026
- AI & CYBER SECURITY MARCH 9, 2027
- MUNICIPAL COURTS NUTS & BOLTS APRIL 13, 2027

5:30–6:30 PM

BURLINGTON COUNTY LIBRARY AUDITORIUM
5 PIONEER BLVD. WESTAMPTON, NJ 08060

bcls
Burlington County Library System

# Burlington County Bar Association presents to you the Bench & the Bar "The People's Law School Series"

**Sessions are for BCBA Members and the Community**

**This is FREE to the community — please join us and ask questions!**

***Sessions are from 5:30–7:30 pm at the Burlington County Library***

**5 Pioneer Blvd, Westampton, NJ**

- **October 27 — Immigration**
- **November 10 — The Fourth Amendment**
- **March 9 — Municipal Court**
- **April 13 — Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence**

**BCBA Members must register at burlcobar.org in order to receive CLE credits.**

BCBA IN-PERSON CLE

PRESENTED BY

# Professionalism Committee

# Working Across Generations:

## Building Better Legal Teams for the Future




November 12, 2026
3–5PM

2.0 Ethics Credits

Burlington County Library

**Explore how to capitalize on the varied skills and connect the different perspectives of multi-generational attorneys to build a better legal profession.**

### PRESENTERS

**Hon. Terrence R. Cook, A.J.S.C.**
Assignment Judge Burlington Vicinage

**Hon. Paula T. Dow, PJ. CH. (retired)**

**Scott A. Coffina, Esq.**
Pietragallo, Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti LLP

**Sharon A. Campbell-Suplee, Esq.**
Office Managing Partner, Marshall Dennehey, Mt. Laurel

**Hannah M. Franke, Esq.**
Pietragallo, Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti LLP

### MODERATORS

**Stacey R. Gorin, Esq.**
Marshall Dennehey &
BCBA President

**Christine A. Hoffman, Esq.**
National Association of
Attorneys General

**Free to Renewed**
BCBA Members ONLY

**$90** for
Non- Renewed
and Non-
Members

Please register on our website

**BURLCOBAR.ORG**

SPECIAL CIVIL COMMITTEE

# New Jersey Animal Cruelty Law & Animal Rights



Learn about how animal abuse charges are brought, what to do if you suspect animal cruelty, and learn about the rights of animals in recent NJ legislation.

**November | 17, 2026**

**4:00 PM–6:00 PM**

**Via Zoom**

**2.4 CLE Credits**
**PA Credits: $15.00**

**Members: $55**
**Non-Members: $90**

**Presenters**

**Brian Hackett,**
Director of Government & Community Relations, Associated Humane Societies

**Nicole Handy, Esq.**
Assistant Burlington County Prosecutor

**Moderator:** Ryan Slocum, Esq., AmTrust Insurance Company

BCBA Real Estate Committee Presents

# When Probate Meets Property—
## Navigating Real Estate Transactions in Estate Administration

**November 24th | 4–6pm**




This CLE examines real-world cases where real estate and probate intersect, highlighting common pitfalls, litigation risks, and best practices for attorneys.

**SPEAKERS:** Chandra Betner-Gray, Esq. and Chancery Judge (TBA)

**MODERATOR:** El-Rhonda Alston, Esq.

| MEMBER FEE: | NON MEMBER FEE: | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| $55 | $90 | 2.0 CREDITS | PA Credits: $15.00 for 2.0 Credits |

Virtual via Zoom

Register at BURLCOBAR.ORG

WELLNESS COMMITTEE

VIRTUAL LUNCH-AND-LEARN CLE

# Motion to Pause:

## An Experiential CLE in Mindfulness.



**12/15/26 | 12:30–1:30 PM**

Join us during your lunch break for restorative mindfulness exercises and explore how attorney well-being supports ethical and effective lawyering.

**Virtual on Zoom.**

**Member fee: $25.00**
**Non-Member Fee: $40.00**
**PA Credits: $7.50 | 1.0 credits**

Please Register on
**BURLCOBAR.ORG**

**Speakers:** Courtney Shulnick, Esq., Michael Pappano, LCSW & Dario Nardi, Ph.D.

**Moderators:** Solaris A. Power, Esq. | Kulzer and DiPadova, P.A.
Richard M. Orr, Esq. | Orr Law Office

# 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 5/31/27; 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 2026-2027. Complete and return to 137 High Street, 3rd Floor, Mt. Holly, NJ 08060**

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____ Email_____

Credit Card #_____ Security Code_____

Signature (credit card only)_____ Exp._____

Method of Payment

Passports are $300*

- ❑ Check Enclosed
- ❑ Visa/MC
- ❑ AMEX
- ❑ Discover

**Questions? 609.261.4542 Fax: 609.261.5423 or BURLCOBAR.ORG Scan bcba@burlcobar.org**

# 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.

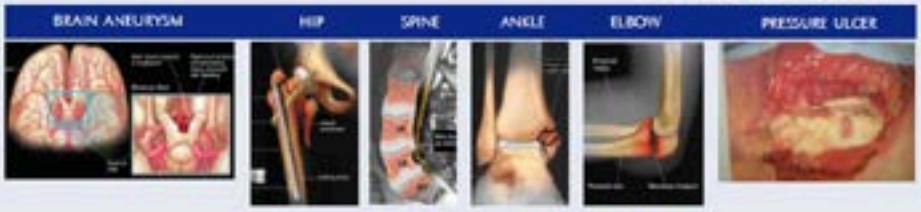
Accepting Referrals of Serious and Catastrophic Injury Cases *including:*

**Nursing Home, Medical Malpractice, Product Liability, Premises Liability, Truck & Automobile Injuries**



Andrew A. Ballerini
Certified Civil Trial Attorney
Million Dollar Advocates Forum Member

Richard J. Talbot
Certified Civil Trial Attorney
Million Dollar Advocates Forum Member
N.J.A.J. Board of Governors
A.A.J. Nursing Home Litigation Group Member




See other exhibits @ **www.ballerinilaw.com**

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

## Recent case results include:

- $690K 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

**535 Route 38 • Suite 328 • Cherry Hill, NJ 08002**
**856.665.7140**

---

MR

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@mr-law.com

BODY JOINTS
THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE
RESTORE | MOVE | FEEL BETTER

RELIEVE
TENSION
IMPROVE
MOBILITY
LIVE
BETTER

# THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE
## FOR A STRONGER YOU

Targeted, results-driven massage to relieve tension, reduce pain, and support your overall well-being. Whether you're recovering, managing chronic discomfort, or just need to reset — our therapeutic approach is designed to help you **move** and **feel better.**

YOUR
BODY
IN GOOD
HANDS

### THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE
Relieve tension. Reduce pain. Improve movement. Feel better.

- Targets problem areas
- Helps with chronic tension and pain
- Supports recovery and wellness
- Customized to your needs

### STRETCHING & MOBILITY
Improve flexibility. Move easier. Support a healthier you.

- Assisted stretching techniques
- Improves range of motion
- Reduces stiffness and tightness
- Complements your massage
- Great for active lifestyles

**MALE & FEMALE THERAPISTS**
PROFESSIONAL.
EXPERIENCED.
WELCOMING.

**FOCUSED ON YOUR WELL-BEING**
HELPING YOU MOVE,
FEEL, AND FUNCTION
AT YOUR BEST.

**LOCATED IN CHERRY HILL, NJ**
CONVENIENT.
ACCESSIBLE.
A HEALTHIER YOU
IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK.

BOOK YOUR SESSION ›

BODYJOINTS.NET

MOVE
BETTER
FEEL
BETTER
LIVE
BETTER

THERAPEUTIC CARE FOR A HEALTHIER TOMORROW



K&D 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




REAL ESTATE PROBATE BUSINESS LAW WILLS & TRUSTS MEDIATION

509 S. Lenola Road, Bldg. 1, Moorestown, NJ 08057 | web: HulseWynter.com | ph: 609.387.5300

LAW FIRM
IT COMPANY

Since 2010
The IT Firm Law Offices Trust

## Cybersecurity

## Managed IT

## Microsoft 365

# (800) 440-2805

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

# NUGENT LAW

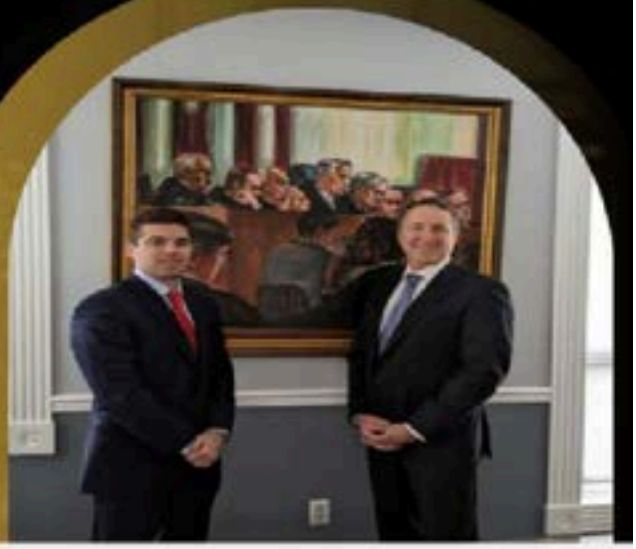
Matthew Maressa

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
for a list of verdicts



NATIONWIDE TITLE INSURANCE SERVICES













# SURETY™ TITLE COMPANY

**Office Locations:** locations.mysurety.com

**Online Order:** order.mysurety.com

**Title Quote:** quote.mysurety.com

**Sales Team:** sales.mysurety.com

1 (800) 90-title | www.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 ATTORNEY**

KEATINGLAWFIRMLLC.COM • 856-519-5011

**REPRESENTING WORKERS**

- Wrongful Termination
- Unlawful Discrimination
- Whistleblower Retaliation
- FMLA Interference
- Unpaid Wages



**CALL TODAY**

7EastMainStreet, Suite2A
Moorestown, NJ 08057
856-519-5011

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



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 LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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 | Mount Laurel | Camden |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 609.896.4222 | 856.596.8900 | 856.596.8900 |

ARCHER & GREINER PC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

# Comprehensive Counsel. Collaborative Approach.

Archer & Greiner delivers strategic, practical legal counsel to businesses of all sizes, organizations, and individuals. With more than 175 attorneys and a broad range of practice areas, our firm brings together deep experience and multidisciplinary perspectives to address complex legal challenges and provide thoughtful, effective solutions.

With a strong regional presence and national reach, Archer combines the depth and resources of a full-service firm with a collaborative approach tailored to each matter.

# New Jersey's Trusted Probate Mediators

## Bringing Decades of Experience to Probate Part Mediation.

Archer partners Steven Mignogna and Anthony La Ratta have over 60 years of combined probate litigation experience with a deep understanding of the complex legal, practical, and interpersonal issues driving estate and trust disputes.

Known for their meticulous preparation, trusted reputation, and responsiveness, they are especially recognized for handling cases where prompt scheduling and active case management are critical to success.

## Focused on resolution. Grounded in experience.



Steven Mignogna

- Chair, Archer Alternative Dispute Resolution Practice Group
- Member, ACTEC Executive Committee
- Principal Author, Leading Estate and Trust Litigation Treatise
- Immediate Past Chair, ACTEC Fiduciary Litigation Committee
- Member, American Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section



Anthony La Ratta

- Chair, Archer Estate & Trust Litigation Practice Group
- Member, New Jersey Roster of State-Approved Probate Mediators
- ACTEC Fellow
- Past Chair, American Bar Association Probate & Fiduciary Litigation Committee
- Serves on Probate Committees of Multiple County Bar Associations
- Over 120 Hours of Mediator Training

For availability and scheduling inquiries:
Steven Mignogna at 856.354.3024 and Anthony La Ratta at 856.354.3094

SCHALL AT LAW

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

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

www.aboandcompany.com

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 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.

---

The only way to get to the TRUTH once and for all is to call

## 800-94-TRUTH

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

# WHITE GLOVE
## PROFESSIONAL CLEANING

CLEAN • LAUNDRY • A BRIGHTER YOU

*Excellence in Every Detail*

CLEAN SPACES.
*Healthier*
LIVES.





**RESIDENTIAL CLEANING**
A fresh, clean home you can count on.

**COMMERCIAL CLEANING**
Professional spaces that make an impact.

**MOVE-IN / MOVE-OUT**
Stress-free transitions.

**MOBILE LAUNDRY**
Clean clothes, more time for you.

RELIABLE & TRUSTED | HIGH QUALITY CLEANING | PROFESSIONAL & TRAINED STAFF | A CLEANER, HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT

**GET A FREE QUOTE**

CALL OR TEXT

**(877) 341-1041**

www.wgpcleaning.com | whiteglovecleaningoffice@gmail.com

SERVING NJ • PA • DE • VA • FL

# 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@burlcobar.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

Classified Ads: $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