



# THE STRAIGHT WORD

BURLINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
JUNE 2026 / VOLUME 6-2026

*June 2026*

mark  your **Calendar**



**DON'T MISS  
INSTALLATION DINNER  
AND  
BCBA BBQ!**

## June 2026

- 10 LUNCH & LEARN: 2026 Hearsay: The Essentials  
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. via ZOOM
- 10 SEMINAR: Attorney Wellness: How to Manage  
Stress in an Organizational Environment  
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Via ZOOM
- 26 Annual Bar BBQ at Flying W from 1:00 - 5:00  
p.m.

## July 2026

- TBD BCBF Christmas in July Fundraiser
- TBD BCBA Board Retreat

## August 2026

- 3 BCBA Phillies Baseball Night





Michael James, Law Clerk  
Hon. Christina Y. Emery, J.S.C.

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## The Straight Word

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**The Burlington County Bar Association**  
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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.



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# **It's Been a Pleasure**

## **by Diana R. Sever, Outgoing Bar President**



It has been my honor and privilege to serve as the 94<sup>th</sup> President of the BCBA this year. I stepped into this role filled with both nostalgia and gratitude, reflecting on accepting a clerkship with Judge Bookbinder 32 years ago, and with a determination to carry forward what I quickly learned was the “Best Bar Association” in New Jersey.

This year, we set out to make our Association more relevant, more responsive, and more connected—and we delivered. We revitalized The Straight Word into something people genuinely want to read: timely, thoughtful, and focused on the issues shaping our profession right now.

We expanded our legal education programming so that, regardless of practice area, every member could find something of real value. Our programs extended beyond substantive legal topics to include issues affecting the profession itself, including attorney wellness, succession planning, and managing online presence. And we balanced that substance with meaningful community and social engagement, because a strong bar is not only informed — it is connected.

We were also proud to partner with our outstanding Bench to revive Bench/Bar Meetings for each Court Division. These meetings provide invaluable insight into how to navigate the courts more effectively, while also creating opportunities for attorneys to engage directly with both the judiciary and one another. We are uniquely fortunate to have judges so willing to dedicate their time and effort to promoting efficiency and collegiality, minimizing pitfalls, and strengthening the practice of law in Burlington County.

We also grew! Through intentional, direct outreach, we welcomed new members into our ranks, and will continue to do so. Our robust Young Lawyers Committee played a critical role in that effort, focusing on connecting with law students and reengaging newer lawyers to ensure the continued growth and vitality of our Association. Because at the end of the day, we are only as strong as our membership. Thank you to ALL members for being part of that strength.

We also participated in many outreach programs such as Read Across America, Juvenile Justice programming, and the Civics Initiative, serving as a resource and beacon within our broader community. It remains our mission to help restore meaningful civics education in our public schools, particularly at the middle school level.

# It's Been a Pleasure

by Diana R. Sever, Outgoing Bar President

This Association has long been a source of learning, leadership, and friendships for me. It has shaped my growth not only as a lawyer, but as a person committed to service and community. To have had the privilege of captaining the ship this year has been one of the greatest honors of my career.

I leave the Bar Association deeply grateful and reassured knowing it is in exceptionally capable hands with incoming President Stacey R. Gorin, President Elect Eli Eytan, Vice President Victoria D. Britton, Treasurer Margaret E. McHugh, and Secretary Katina Chase. Their leadership, together with the remarkable energy and commitment of our Board of Trustees, leaves me incredibly thankful and optimistic for the Association's future. We were fortunate this year to have an abundance of dedicated, talented professionals eager to serve, and that enthusiasm promises continued strength and growth for the Association in the years ahead.

Thank you.



# June Wine Pick of the Month

by: Janice Heinold, Esq.



Another one of the wine seminars at the Dionsysian Gathering was of Sicilian producers, presented by Giacomo di Lisi. In last decade, Sicily has emerged as one of Italy's most interesting wine regions. With the volcanic soils thanks to Mount Etna, cooling sea breezes, plenty of sun, and a history of winemaking dating back to before the Roman Empire, Sicily produces wines that combine freshness and minerality. Despite being from a hot climate, these are not "hot" wines; they are fresh and have a bright minerality. The native varietals, including Gillo, Cattarratto, Carricante, and Nero d'Avola, express Sicily's unique terroir.

We tried seven wines in all, starting with white, of course. First, we tried a 2024 Baglio Ingardia Sisili Bianco, comprised of 80% Grillo and 20% Zebibbo. The wine is organic, and grown in Western Sicily. This "summer in a bottle" bright yellow wine, with notes of white flowers, peach, citrus, and herbs, is fresh and aromatic, making it an excellent wine to drink on its own, or pair with seafood. 12.5% ABV; about \$20/bottle. Available online.



The second white we tasted was a 2023 *Gaetano Di Carlo Lù Catarratto*, produced from 100% Catarratto grapes grown near Corleone, about 2,500 feet above sea level. Catarratto is one of Sicily's oldest and most widely planted white varieties, prized for its ability to retain freshness in the island's warm climate. On the nose, lemon, Mediterranean herbs, saline minerality. On the palate, the wine's crisp acidity and elegant mineral finish make it a great pairing partner for seafood, light pasta dishes, and appetizers. 12.5% ABV; about \$30/bottle. Available online and in PA Fine Wine and Spirits stores.

The first red wine we tasted was a 2024 Tenuta Gorghetti Dumè Frappato. Frappato is one of Sicily's most distinctive red grapes. Gorghetti Winery is owned by two sisters, Clara and Anna Maria Sala, who farm organically on the Gorghetti nature reserve on Sicily's Southwest Coast. The wine is light ruby in color,

# June Wine Pick of the Month (cont'd)

by: Janice Heinold, Esq.

with a floral, aromatic nose, with notes of blackberry, raspberry, pomegranate. The palate is fresh, juicy, and velvety, with soft tannins and bright acidity that make it perfect to serve slightly chilled, and pair with oily fish, pesto, charcuterie. Frappato is one of Sicily's most versatile and food-friendly red wines. 12.5% ABV; about \$21/bottle. Available at Wineworks. Gorgi Tondi also have a delightful Grillo.

Another red wine in the tasting that I put a star next to was a 2024 *Baglio Ingardia Perricone DOC Sicilia*, made from the historic Perricone grape, which was once widely planted throughout western Sicily. This organic wine was made via spontaneous fermentation using native yeasts. Deep purple in color, the wine has notes of bramble, blackberry, blueberries, herbs, and higher acidity and tannins – this wine has structure. Perricone's combination of acidity, dark fruit notes, and savory structure makes it an excellent pairing for grilled meats, aged cheeses, and heartier Sicilian dishes. 13.5% ABV; about \$17/bottle. Available at Roger Wilco and Canal's Pennsauken.



Saluti!



# Food For Thought: The Rise of Remote Lawyering

by: Jazlyne Cabán, Esq. and Brian Sever, Esq.

As we all know, the COVID-19 pandemic has had lasting effects on the practice of law from municipal courts to the Supreme Court of the United States. Two of the main effects have been the rise of work from home and the use of video conferencing through Zoom or similar platforms rather than in-person appearances. These shifts in the profession have had both positive and negative effects and still have consequences we have yet to see.

We've all been in a meeting that could have been an email. Now, instead of having to drive to the office or the courthouse for that meeting, that meeting might be by Zoom instead. In addition, if there's a snow day or courthouse closure, most of the calendar is typically converted to Zoom hearings. The use of Zoom and video conferencing to handle less consequential court proceedings or client meetings such as status conferences or the like has enabled attorneys to expand their practice. Attorneys can now practice in distant counties that previously would have been inaccessible because of the logistics of frequent travel to that county, we can take on more cases, and have less scheduling conflicts. Additionally, the time and resources attorneys save with remote hearings can extend to clients as well, as travel time and costs are non-existent if a hearing can be done from the comfort of a home office.

Albeit remote work sounds like the future of the profession, there are also significant downsides. There are the obvious technical difficulties that appear from time to time, poor signal, the technology randomly deciding to be difficult, we've all been there. Also, it can be difficult to create a clean record when both parties and the judge are all trying to speak and make a record at the same time, or when audio is cutting in and out, it is very difficult to get an accurate transcript of the proceeding. Moreover, the lack of in-person connection can hinder an attorney's ability to quickly resolve certain cases. Furthermore, some attorneys may expect the courts to be accommodating and provide a Zoom link for a hearing, but that is not always the case. We have all received an email 5 minutes before a hearing asking for a Zoom link, when we know the Judge expects opposing counsel to appear in person.

Perhaps most significantly, the Gravitas of court may be lost with the future generation of lawyers when hearings are held remotely. There is still something special about going into a courthouse, sitting down at counsel table, standing when the Judge enters, and arguing in the well of the courtroom with all eyes on you. The pressure cooker that is the courtroom brings out the best in every practicing attorney that can't be re-created virtually.

# Food For Thought: The Rise of Remote Lawyering (cont'd)

by: Jazlyne Caban, Esq. and Brian Sever, Esq.

Final thoughts, remote hearings are not going away. Zoom likely is programmed onto all of our computers and cell phones, and it most likely will remain that way for the foreseeable future. Outside of the massive financial gain Zoom has had due to the rise remote work and remote court proceedings, the profession has benefited as a whole because of the ability to meet with clients, meet with partners across the country, and to be in multiple different “courtrooms” in one day from anywhere in the world. To mitigate the loss of the in-person experience, including the ability to think on your feet, being confident in your responses, and being held accountable at in-person court proceedings, attorneys may want to consider not solely relying on the Zoom platform in their practice; pick up the phone and call opposing counsel, bring your clients into the office for meetings, and whenever possible be physically present in court. There can absolutely be a balance between the convenience of remote work and the accountability and pressure cooker experience of in-person proceedings.





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FORGET**

ID: MEMBER RENEWAL TIME FROM JUNE–  
MAY

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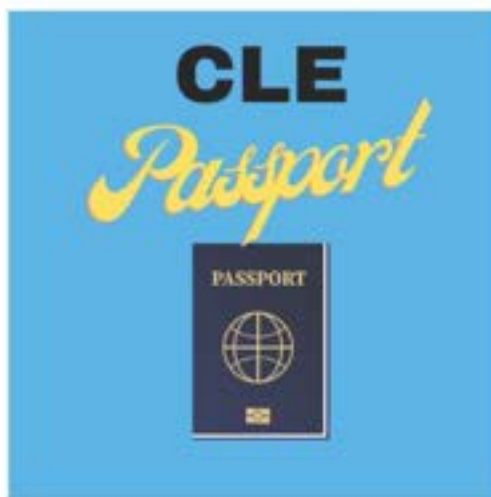
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**2026**

**HEARSAY:  
THE ESSENTIALS**

This CLE will provide a review of the Rules of Evidence governing hearsay and give practical guidance from a Civil Trial Judge in making and arguing hearsay evidentiary objections during trial.

**Moderator:**

**Megan Knowlton Balne, Esq.**  
Partner at Hyland Levin Shapiro LLP

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**The Honorable James J. Ferrelli, J.S.C**  
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June 10, 2026  
4:00 - 6:00 pm

Location:  
ZOOM

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The Burlington County Bar Association,  
Wellness Committee Presents:

# How to Manage Stress In An Organizational Environment

## Featuring Panelists:

Hon. Reema Y. Scaramella, J.S.C.

Bianca Gennaoui, Law Clerk  
to Judge Scaramella

Stacey R. Gorin, Esq.  
Marshall Dennehey

Annie Donahue, LCSW  
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Melissa Rider Carson  
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This diverse panel will explore practical strategies for managing stress in the legal profession. Attendees will gain insight into recognizing burn out, setting boundaries, improving work-life balance, and fostering resilience, while also learning actionable techniques to enhance both personal well being and professional performance.

This program has been approved by the New Jersey Supreme Court's Board on Continuing Legal Education 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 \$15.00 credit fee to your registration and provide your PA ID number.

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*let's get all fired up*

# IT'S BCBA BBQ TIME!

Join us for a summer BCBA BAR COOKOUT on June 26th at 1pm  
at the FLYING W  
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Tickets are \$70

*Please Register by June 15th*

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

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20  
26

DATES

SAVE THE

JUNE

4

Installation  
Dinner at 5:30pm

JUNE

11

NJSBA  
PROFESSIONALISM  
LUNCHEON

JUNE

26

BAR COOKOUT AT  
1PM

AUGUST

3

Phillies Game

Dates are subject to change

for more info, please contact  
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*Night*

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ALL TICKETS ARE  
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<i>Parties</i>	<i>Case Type</i>	<i>Verdict Date</i>	<i>Judge</i>	<i>Arbitration Award</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
George Staffer v Virginia Transportation Corp. Attorneys: PA: Michael Foster DA: Douglas Suplee L-125-24	Auto	4/20/26	Hertzberg	\$2,600,000.00 50% Def 50% PL	No cause Dismissed with prejudice
Barbara Berry v Lisa Dessiato Pa Attorneys: PA: Gary Ginsberg DA: Christophm Wolk L-1167-22	Med Mal	4/1/26	Ferrelli	NA	No cause Dismissed with prejudice

## Civil Jury Trial Verdicts - May 2026

<i>Parties</i>	<i>Case Type</i>	<i>Verdict Date</i>	<i>Judge</i>	<i>Arbitration Award</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
Jazenia Sanchez v Paul Quattrocchi Attorneys: PA: William Graham DA: Brooke Bonett L-1876-23	Auto	5/13/26	Friedman	\$83,000.00/Def 100%	No Cause
Beverly Bellinger v Tami Jackson Attorneys: PA: Richard Astorino DA: John Law	Personal Injury	5/19/26	Ferrelli	\$60,000.00/PL 70% - DEF 100%	No Cause

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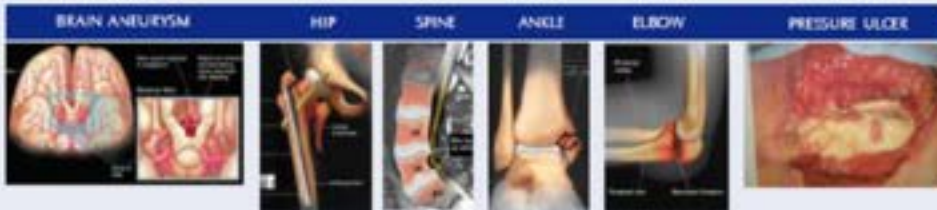
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- \$40K Recovery - Pain & Suffering for Fatal Fire (Verdict of \$375K plus \$25K Settlement)
- \$500K Jury Verdict - Excess Over Remainder of \$100K CSL Policy Against Allstate Insureds with Offer of Judgment for Policy - Herniated Discs
- \$500K Nursing 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



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