The Straight Word

Burlington County Bar Association

October 2026 / Volume 8-2026

UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 6
Expungement Clinic CLE on Zoom

October 7
Judge Call's Last Call CLE at County Building 1st Floor

October 8
Lunch & Learn: The Settlement 'Blitz" Initiative on Zoom

October 9
BCBA, CCBA, Rutgers Alumni YLD, Rutgers Law School Networking Mixer at Chickies and Petes

October 13
Lunch & Learn: Interplay of Worker's Compensation and Superior Court CLEon Zoom

October 13
DIAL Happy Hour for Hispanic Heritage Month at Luna Y Sol

October 14
Expungement Clinic at two (2) locations, John F. Kennedy Recreation Center & Palmyra Community Center

October 20
Lunch & Learn: An Introduction to Burlington County's Mental Health Diversion Court Presented by Brenda Roman Maneri on zoom

October 22
Judge Tarantino's Retirement Dinner at Medford Village Country Club

October 27
The People's Law School Immigration Panel at Burlington County Library

October 29
State Bar Night at Carlucci's

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

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

December 3
CLE Extravaganza

December 10
BCBF Wrapping Party

December 16
Holiday Soiree



Inside this Issue:

President's Message

Past President's Message

Wine Article

Marty Abo Tax Article

Book Corner by
Young Lawyer's Committee

Halloween Costume Flyer by
Diversity Inclusion and Leadership Committee



President's Message



At our annual Meet the Judges, Secretaries and Law Clerks event, I had the opportunity to reflect on what makes the Burlington County legal community so special. I want to thank our Judges, Law Clerks, and secretaries for taking the time to join us, and all of our members for coming out to support this fan-favorite event. We know that the relationship between the Bench and Bar are what make Burlington County "better."

At the event, I shared a little about my own journey—not to talk about myself, but because I believe my career is a testament to what makes Burlington County such a special place to begin and continue a career in the law. I'm excited to welcome Past President Doug Heinold as my co-author for this month's Past President Message. Doug's career is another great example of what makes Burlington County such a special place to practice law.

For our current law clerks, my advice is simple: take the opportunity to get to know all of the Judges, not just the Judge to whom you are assigned. Ask questions, observe different approaches, and take advantage of the experience and wisdom around you. You never know which relationships will shape your career.

Speaking of relationships that shape our careers, the Association's CLE programming kicked off in October with "The Last Call," Judge Call's final CLE presentation on Domestic Violence. Congratulations to Judge Scaramella and the Family Law Committee on an excellent program and a wonderful turnout.

How fortunate are we to have a jurist like Judge Call in Burlington County? Judge Scaramella opened the program by asking the audience, "Raise your hand if you had Judge Call help you with an issue, come to him when you had a difficult question or sought his wisdom and guidance regarding a matter?" Almost every hand in the room went up—including mine. Judge Call has had a lasting impact on my career. He taught me that I can take my work seriously without taking myself too seriously. He encouraged me to be unapologetically myself, even in a profession that can sometimes feel very serious. The practice of law demands a great deal of us, but that doesn't mean we have to take ourselves quite so seriously. (Insert the sound of a rubber chicken here.)

Our calendar of events this October is jam packed with CLE programs, networking events and community events.

- On **October 9** the Young Lawyer's Committee kicks off their first mixer at Chickie's and Pete's with the Camden County Bar Young Lawyers, Rutgers Alumni Association YLD and Rutgers Law School Students.
- On **October 8** Judge Fikry and Megan Knowlton Balne start us off with the first lunch and learn discussing the Settlement 'Blitz" Initiative.
- On **October 13**, the Worker's Compensation Committee continue the lunch and learn fun with: Interplay of Worker's Compensation and Superior Court.
- That same day, join the DIAL Committee for a Hispanic Heritage Month Happy Hour at Luna Y Sol.
- On **October 14**, the Annual Expungement Clinic will be held at two locations, John F. Kennedy Recreation Center & Palmyra Community Center.
- On **October 20**, Brenda Maneri and Melissa Tirone host a lunch and learn on an Introduction to Burlington County's Mental Health Diversion Court.
- On **October 22** our Association celebrates Judge Tarantino's career and his retirement at Medford Village Country Club. Congratulations, Judge Tarantino!
- On **October 29** we meet and greet with our State Bar colleagues at State Bar Night at Carlucci's.

Lastly, this month marks the launch of my presidential initiative, The People's Law School, with our first community panel focusing on immigration. Thank you to my mentors, Board Members, our Executive Director Lisette Gonzalez, and most importantly, the panelists who have helped bring this initiative to life. I look forward to seeing you at the Burlington County Library on October 27 as we as we bring our legal community's knowledge and expertise to the public.

Enjoy the crisp fall weather, sip on your favorite seasonal drink (hot apple cider for me!), and embrace all things spooky. Happy Halloween season!

Past President's (2017-18) Message

Doug Heinold, Partner,
Raymond Coleman Heinold, LLP

In the summer of 1996 I received a telephone call and the person on the other end of the line said, "I'm Ronnnnnie Bookbinder. Do you know who I am?" And I did. I had sent him my resume enough times that I was either going to get a restraining order or a job. Fast-forward a month or so, and I was hired as Judge Bookbinder's law clerk for the 1996–97 term. On the first day of that clerkship, in our first conversation, he handed me an application form for the Burlington County Bar Association and told me to join. For every event that the Bar held throughout the year, he would make sure I was signed up and attending.

This past September marked my thirty year anniversary in the profession, and I owe so much to that phone call and what Judge Bookbinder and that clerkship taught me.The Burlington County Bar Association has played a significant role along the way. My active participation beyond membership started as a Trustee for the Bar Foundation at the encouragement of Judge Hoffman (then in private practice). I later became a Young Lawyer Trustee for the Association, Bar Foundation President, and ultimately stuck around long enough to eventually become the President of the Association. To this day, I still serve as a Trustee for the Bar Foundation and as a Chair of the Local Government Section.

But the formal roles and appointments have really been secondary to the import of the Bar Association in my career. It is the interactions with fellow attorneys that make the difference. Being a lawyer day-to-day can sometimes be a lonely experience. The routine slog before the computer screen drafting documents or briefs.The client phone calls. The zoom meetings. Days can roll into weeks and weeks into months.

Depending upon your practice area, you may see and deal with the same group of attorneys every day. I know in the local government and land use world, that is certainly the case. And while there is collegiality in our respective practice groups, involvement in the Bar Association will bring contact with attorneys from all practice areas. And through that diversity rises a common thread of the pursuit of the profession. The practice of law. Involvement in the Bar Association is the secret sauce in turning the job into a profession. Something deeper and more meaningful. A meaning that extends beyond us, undertaken in the example and in honor of those that came before us, and carried forth in service to those that will come after us.

I know in writing this in the Straight Word, I am likely “preaching to the choir.”But if you are a younger attorney or just someone new to the Association, I can’t encourage you enough to join, to attend, to get involved in your practice section, and to offer to volunteer. Reach out to your section chair or to the Bar leadership and let them know you are ready to serve. Every time you finish one task for the Bar, a newer and bigger call will come. Keep showing up. I promise, it will make all the difference.

Welcome New Members

David Kim
McCrink, Kehler & McCrink

Donald Stein
Margolis Edelstein

Donnette Brown
Ford Brown Law Firm

Arden Walker
Parker McCay

Melissa Kolaski
Parker McCay

Jacob Riley
Parker McCay

Callie Ward
Law Student-Widener

Carly K Fowler
Fowler Law

Nicholas DiPadova
Burns White LLC

Jenise M. Rivera
Hyland Levin Shapiro

Sarah Silvey
Parker McCay

Franklin Unger
Rosenberg Perry & Associates

Jacob L. Jaeger
Jung & Jaeger Law, LLC

Rebecca Rose
Ogletree Law Firm

Lauren J. Zarillo
Boudwin Roy Leodori, PC

Michael Hodgson
Hulse & Wynter

Theresa Lemke
Parker McCay

Carolina Iglesias
Martine, Katz, Scanlon, & Schimmel

Mahir Saiyed
Burlington County Law Clerk

Zaniya Kanai Lewis
New Lawyer

Misha Singh
Law Clerk, Judge Belgard

Uyi Oni
Law Clerk

Rahim Mahmoud
Law Clerk, Judge Cook

William Tarpine
Law Clerk, Judge Danks Fox

Ruthie Douglass
Law Clerk, Judge Fattorini

Steven Irvin
Law Clerk, Judge Ferrelli

George Schmidling
Law Clerk, Judge Fikry

Declan Urffer
Law Clerk, Judge Freidman

Anthony Pasquarello
Law Clerk, Judge Hertzberg

Morgan Dietz
Law Clerk, Judge Hoffman

Angebeth Destouches
Law Clerk, Judge Howard

Asheley Dorzin
Law Clerk, Judge Hynes

Davonna Burriss
Law Clerk, Judge James-Beavers

Carleigh Ellis
Law Clerk, Judge Nocella

Allison Wolters
Law Clerk, Judge O'Brien

Katrina Tacconelli
Law Clerk, Judge Scaramella

Mary M. Katt
Law Clerk, Judge Tarantino

Wine

By: Janice L. Heinold, Esq.

First, a reminder about the Bar Foundation's Wine, Beer, and Bourbon Tasting being held November 13, 2026 at Medford Village Country Club. In addition to some wines you hopefully have not tasted before, beers and bourbons, there will be lots of great auction items. The money raised is used for the Children's Holiday Party, and other charitable causes such as local foodbanks, scholarships, and high school volunteer organizations.

Last month I wrote about the wineries we visited in Chile. What I didn't write about was the wine we drank the most of: Carménère, the wine grape that grows better in Chile than in anywhere else in the world. Originally grown in Medoc, Bordeaux, Carménère is one of the six permitted varietals for red Bordeaux wines (the others being Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, and Malbec). 8,800 hectares of Carménère, 98% of the world's production, are now planted in Chile's Central Valley, and grows particularly well in the Colchagua Valley, Maipo Valley, and Rapel Valley.



Carménère was first imported from Bordeaux to Chile in the 19th Century, prior to the Phylloxera outbreak, which eventually wiped out the varietal in France. For decades, Carménère was planted and harvested with Merlot, and mistaken for being a clone of Merlot. In 1994, Jean Boursiquot, a French ampelographist (scientist specializing in the identification and classification of grape vines) re-discovered Carménère as a distinct varietal in Chile.

Generally, Carménère wine is deep red in color, with aromas of red berries, red fruit, and berries, and flavors of red fruit, spice, and earthy notes. The tannins are softer, and the body is medium. It was often used in Bordeaux to deepen the color of wine. For high quality Carménère, look for bottles from Colchagua Valley.

An easy-drinking, everyday value Carménère is Amigo Perro's "La Junta" Carménère. Bright cherry and herbal notes on the nose, joined by pepper on the palate. 13% ABV; $10 at Wineworks or Traino's.
Root 1 is another budget-friendly choice, with notes of plum, blackberry, cocoa, herbs, and a hint of white pepper. 13% ABV: $11 at Wineworks.



For a step up, Montes Alpha Carménère is a great buy. Aromas of blackberry, plum, pepper, and mocha, are joined by flavors of dark cherry and dark chocolate on the palate. Lush body, with a spiced finish. 14.5% ABV; $20 at Total Wine.

For really high quality Carménère, look for bottles from Colchagua Valley. Two highly-rated Carménère are Montes Purple Angel ($114 at Total Wine) and Lapostelle Clos Apalta ($119 at Total Wine). ¡Salud!

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



- Congratulations to Susan and John Dargay celebrating 50 Years of marriage and the addition of their newest family member, Kobe Dargay.
- Last month, Shereen Chen Gray was the keynote speaker of the Naturalization Ceremony at the Olde Courthouse.
- Masquerade Theatre, owned by Megan Knowlton Balne is running Avenue Q from September 25 though October 17.
- Megan was also named President-elect of the SHRM Southern New Jersey Chapter. Congratulations, Megan!
- Congratulations Ryan Slocum and his wife, Nikki, for getting married at the Franklin Institute this month.



Tax Planning Around Divorce
A CPA Perspective

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

Happily married? Perhaps pass this along to a friend, colleague or even your accountant (if not Abo and Company - just not Janie Abo).

For divorcing or separating parents, few issues are more contentious than those surrounding the children. However, the significant tax benefits associated with them are often overlooked. After a divorce, parents can no longer file a joint return and must determine who is entitled to claim the dependency exemption and the host of related tax credits and deductions. These benefits, including the Child Tax Credit (CTC), head of household filing status, and the Earned Income Credit (EIC), can substantially reduce a parent's tax liability, making their allocation a critical financial issue. Both parties should work with their attorney(s) to make sure these issues are resolved as part of the divorce settlement (wouldn't it be nice if you invited your accountant(s) to the party?

The IRC establishes a framework to resolve child-related tax matters, primarily by designating one parent as the "custodial parent." Generally, the custodial parent is the parent with whom the child resides for the greater number of nights during the year. This parent is automatically entitled to claim the child as a dependent, along with all related tax benefits. However, the rules allow the custodial parent to release the right to claim the dependency exemption to the noncustodial parent by signing Form 8332 (Release/Revocation of Release of Claim to Exemption for Child by Custodial Parent).

Note: This crucial step often leads to significant confusion, as many taxpayers and practitioners mistakenly believe that releasing the dependency exemption transfers all child-related tax benefits to the non-custodial parent. However, this is not the case.

State Courts vs. IRS Authority

No, we are not lawyers, but we accountants try to recognize when advising divorcing clients, that state courts can make determinations in the divorce (such as allocating marital assets, imposing sanctions, or enforcing settlement agreements).We understand that they do not have authority to determine federal tax matters. State courts can order a spouse to sign Form 8332, but the IRS will not treat a court order as a substitute for that form. State courts do not determine federal tax liabilities, establish innocent spouse status, or override IRS collection actions. Instead, their role is typically confined to equitable remedies arising from divorce, such as between parties.

As a result, disputes involving federal tax obligations must often be resolved directly with the IRS, while state courts may address the economic consequences of those disputes through divorce-related orders and enforcement actions. Your "team" should therefore carefully distinguish between issues that fall within federal tax jurisdiction and those that can be addressed through state court proceedings when structuring divorce settlements and considering potential tax exposure.

Dividing the Benefits: What Transfers and What Stays?

The tax law creates two distinct baskets of child-related tax benefits. One basket is tied directly to the dependency exemption, while the other is tied to custody. Understanding this division is essential for the divorcing couple.

When you, if a custodial parent, properly execute Form 8332, you release only the benefits in the first basket. The noncustodial parent who attaches this form to his/her return becomes eligible to claim:

- The Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Credit for Other Dependents (ODC): This allows the noncustodial parent to claim the per-child credit subject to phase-out rules.
- Education Tax Credits: The noncustodial parent can claim the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC) or the Lifetime Learning Credit for the child's qualified education expenses.
- Student Loan Interest Deduction: A parent can deduct up to $2,500 of qualified student loan interest paid for a child they claim as a dependent.

Conversely, several of the most valuable tax benefits remain exclusively with the custodial parent, regardless of who claims the dependency exemption. These benefits are tied to where the child lives, not who claims them on a tax return. The noncustodial parent can never claim the following based on the child:

- Head of Household Filing Status: This advantageous filing status is available only to the parent who maintains a household for the child for more than half the year.
- Earned Income Credit (EIC): The EIC is a refundable credit for low-to-moderate-income working individuals, and only the parent with whom the child resides for more than six months can claim it.
- Child and Dependent Care Credit: This credit, for expenses paid for the care of a qualifying individual to enable the parent to work, is only available to the custodial parent.
- Exclusion for Dependent Care Assistance Benefits: This allows for the tax-free receipt of employer-provided dependent care benefits.

The Critical Role of Form 8332

As tax practitioners at Abo and Company/Abo Cipolla Financial Forensics, we try to impress upon clients that a state divorce decree, on its own, is not sufficient to transfer the dependency exemption for federal tax purposes. While a decree can order a custodial parent to sign Form 8332, it does not replace the form. We understand the IRS will deny the noncustodial parent's claim without a properly executed Form 8332 or an equivalent written declaration.

To be valid, the release must be unconditional. Recalling a Tax Court Memo as far back 2013, if a release is conditioned on the noncustodial parent being current on child support payments, the IRS will deem it invalid. The declaration must be a standalone document executed for the sole purpose of releasing the claim and must be attached to the noncustodial parent's tax return for each year the exemption is claimed. Seasoned matrimonial attorneys have alerted us accountants that a common pitfall is simply incorporating release language into the divorce decree itself which does not satisfy the "separate document" rule. Rather, Form 8332 should be one of the documents exchanged when the divorce becomes final.

The custodial parent can also use Form 8332 to revoke a prior release. A revocation generally takes effect in the tax year following the year the noncustodial parent is provided with notice of the revocation.

Deducting a Child's Medical Expenses

One unique exception to the strict division of tax benefits relates to medical expenses. A child of divorced parents is treated as a dependent of both parents for purposes of the medical expense deduction. This means either parent can deduct the medical expenses they personally pay for the child, regardless of who claims the dependency exemption.

For example, if the noncustodial parent pays $5,000 for their child's braces, they can include that amount in their own medical expense deduction calculation [subject to the 7.5% of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) floor], even if the custodial parent claims the child as a dependent. This allows parents to allocate the payment of major medical costs to the parent who can derive the greater tax benefit from the deduction.

Example of Splitting Child-related Benefits

Ima and Ura Taxevader got divorced on 3/1/25. Their son, Ima Jr. (age 10), lived with his mother, Ura, for 250 nights and his Dad, Ima, for 115 nights during 2025. Ura is the custodial parent. Their divorce decree states that Ima can claim Ima Jr. as a dependent in odd-numbered years. Ura signs an unconditional Form 8332 releasing the claim for 2025 and gives it to Ima.

For the 2025 tax year:

- Ima (Noncustodial Parent): Attaches Form 8332 to his return. He can claim the $2,200 Child Tax Credit for Ima Jr. (assuming his income is below the phase-out threshold).
- Ura (Custodial Parent): Because Ima Jr. lived with her for more than half the year, she is eligible to file as Head of Household, which offers a lower tax rate and higher standard deduction than filing Single. She may also be eligible to claim the Earned Income Credit and the Child and Dependent Care Credit, depending on her income and expenses.
- If Ima had not obtained the signed Form 8332 from Ura, the IRS should deny his claim for the Child Tax Credit, even if the divorce decree supported his position.

Abo and Company/Abo Cipolla Financial Forensics Action Steps

- Suggest that your accountant collaborate with your divorce attorney during negotiations to ensure the tax implications of dependency allocations are fully understood and correctly documented.
- Review divorce decrees to identify which parent is designated to claim the dependency exemption, but again, take note that the decree alone is not sufficient for the IRS.
- Educate yourself and perhaps your tax preparer on the two baskets of tax benefits: those that transfer with a Form 8332 (CTC, education credits) and those that remain with the custodial parent (HofH, EIC, dependent care credits).
- Ensure that you understand that a noncustodial parent cannot claim Head of Household status or the EIC based on their child.
- Noncustodial parents should obtain a signed, unconditional Form 8332 from the custodial parent and attach it to their tax return for every year they claim the exemption.
- Verify with your attorney that any written declaration conforms to the substance of Form 8332 and is a separate document, not merely a clause within the divorce decree.
- Both parents should realize they can each deduct the medical expenses they personally pay for a child, regardless of who claims the dependency exemption.
- Custodial parents should be reminded of the proper procedure for revoking a prior release using Form 8332, noting it is effective for future, not current tax years.

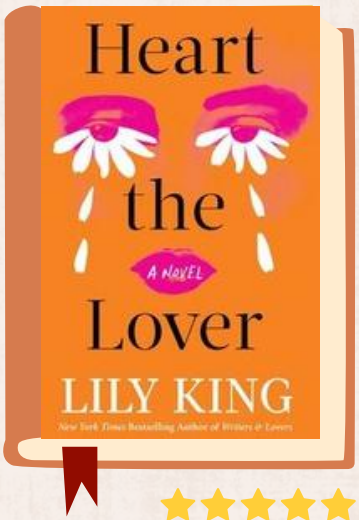
The allocation of child-related tax benefits in a divorce is far more complex than simply deciding who claims the child. The law splits these benefits into distinct categories, with some following the dependency exemption and others remaining firmly with the custodial parent. By understanding this division and the strict procedural requirements of Form 8332, your Team can provide crucial guidance, help you secure the tax benefits to which you are entitled, and prevent costly and frustrating disputes with both your former spouse and the IRS.

Abo and Company, LLC and its affiliate, Abo Cipolla Financial Forensics, LLC, Certified Public Accountants – Litigation and Forensic Accountants, are Featured Business Partners of the Burlington County Bar Association. The above article was retrieved from the "E-mail alerts" disseminated to clients and friends of the firm. With offices in Mount Laurel, tips like the above can also be accessed by going to the firm's website at www.aboandcompany.com or by calling 856-222-4723.

The Young Lawyers Book Corner

Welcome, bookworms! We arestarting the season of cozy sweaters, pumpkin everything, and staying up too late with a good book. Here's a few titles that have been on my nightstand recently, and yes, I am giving you all unscolicited book recommendations. Tell me what you think of them, and send me your own favorites, so I can feature your picks as well. Consider this your official invitation to ignore your to-do lists and unread emails and talk books with me. -Jazlyne Cabán, BCBA Trustee

Literary Fiction

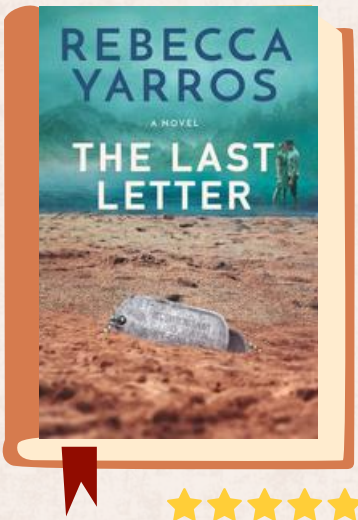


★★★★★

This was an easy and quick read. Jordan, Sam, and Yash were college friends that quickly became huge parts in each other's lives. Especially Yash, who was a pillar in the lives of Jordan and Sam in ways neither of them realized at the time.

"I am so in love with him it is hard to take a full breath. His absence feels like losing a lung."

Contemporary Romance

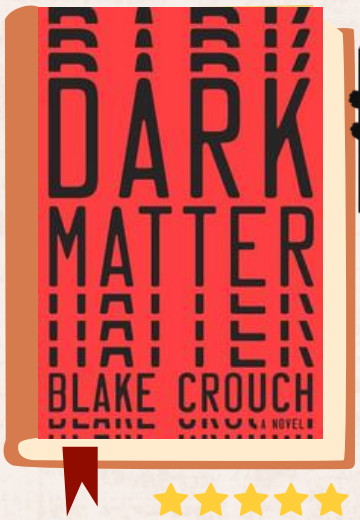


★★★★★

Ella, a single mom running a Colorado resort, and an Army soldier who fall for each other through letters before her brother's death in action. The Army soldier quickly becomes an integral part of Ella's family. This book wrecked me in the best way, and I'm still not over it.

"We can either breathe through the pain or we can let it shape us."

Sci-Fi Thriller





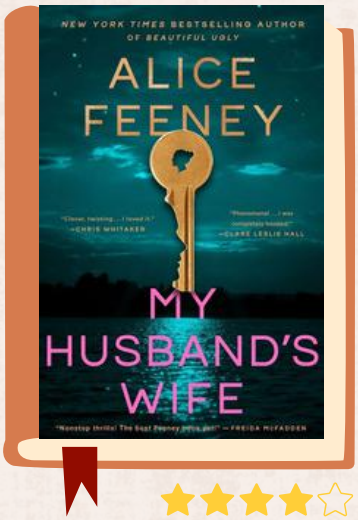
★★★★★

I was hooked from the first chapter. This is a nonstop thriller that kept me turing the pages way past my bedtime. I loved how it mixes mind-bending science with a deeply human story about family, regret, and the lives we don't get to live.

"We're more than the sum total of our choices, that all the paths we might have taken factor somehow into the math of our identity."



Psychological Thriller

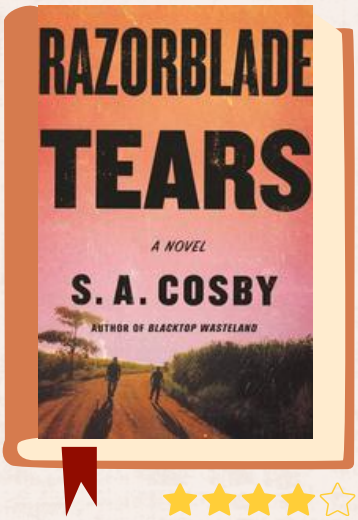


★★★★☆

This book kept me guessing from the first page and every time I thought I had it figured out, the rug was pulled from under me. This is a dark, twisty psychological thriller that I couldn't stop reading.

"Home isn't always where the heart is; sometimes home is where the hurt lives."

Southern Crime Thriller



★★★★☆

Razorblade Tears hit me hard. This is a gritty, heart-pouding thriller that is as emotional as it is violent. Two grieving fathers hunt for answers about their sons' murders while facing their own prejudices and regrets. It is raw, powerful, and suprusingly tender, and recommend to anyone that like crime fiction.

"Folks like to talk about revenge like it's a righteous thing but it's just hate in a nicer suit."

BCBA DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND LEADERSHIP COMMITEE

- Is my Halloween costume offensive?
- What is cultural appropriation?
- Am I mocking religious symbols or beliefs??
- Am I making fun of oppression, human suffering, or genocide??





Cultural Appropriation is the unacknowledged or inapprorpate adoption of the customs, practices, ideas, etc. of one people or society by members of another and typically more dominant people or society

ex: wearing sombreros, blackface, Pacific Islander traditional tattoos/ hula skirts, Naive American headdresses, traditional African, Asian, Native American, Indigenous, etc. clothing as a costume likely is inappropriate

Hispanic Heritage Month Happy Hour

Hosted by the BCBA DIAL COMMITTEE

Luna Y Sol

91 E. Mains st. Moorestown

October 13th at 5pm

Food specials | **BYOB**

Join us for an evening of celebration



BCBA Workers Comp Committee Presents

Interplay of Worker's Compensation and Superior Court

Learn how to address and resolve various issues that arise involving both Worker's Compensation and Superior Court Actions

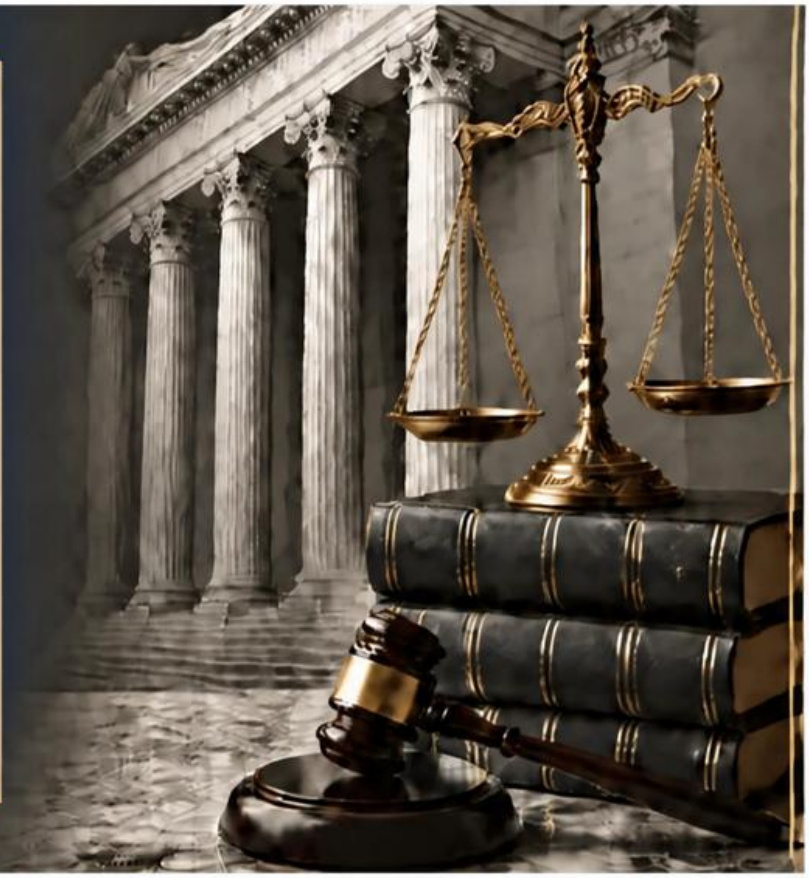
OCTOBER 13, 2026

12:30-1:30 PM

Members: $25

Non-Members: $40

PA Credits: $7.50



Speakers

Hon. Eric Fikry,
Judge, Superior Court,
Burlington County

Hon. Robert Prisco,
Judge, Workers Compensation,
Supervisor, Burlington County

Adam Kotlar, Esq.,
Kotlar Cohen, LLC

Moderators

Hon. Dolores McNamee,
Judge, Workers Compensation,
Retired

Edward J. Magram, Esq.,
Smith Magram Michaud Colonna, PC

NETWORKING MIXER

A JOINT EVENT FROM:

RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL

YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISON

YOUNG LAWYER COMMITTEES OF BURLINGTON AND CAMDEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATIONS



Join us for a night of

NETWORKING BETWEEN FUTURE, YOUNG AND EXPERIENCED ATTORNEYS AND JUDGES!

Chickie's & Pete's
Marlton, NJ

Friday, October 9 at 6:00 p.m.

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

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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



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Civil Jury Trial Verdicts - September 2026

Parties	*Case Type*	*Verdict Date*	*Judge*	*Arbitration Award*	*Outcome*
Mathis KarimavLaurelGreen Apartments Attorneys:PA: Adam Segal DA: Renee Rivas DA: Jeffrey Talbot L-979-24	PersonalInjury	9/2/26	Friedman	$445,000.00 50%/50%	No Cause

BURLINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



BCBA Presents:

The President's Special Outreach Mission/Project — The People Law School: Immigration Panel

October 27, 5:00–7:00 PM

In Person at the Burlington County Library Auditorium, 5 Pioneer Blvd., Westampton, NJ 08060

SPEAKERS:

- **Megan Knowlton Balne, Esq.** — Hyland Levin Shapiro, LLP
- **Beau Wilson, Esq.** — Hyland Levin Shapiro, LLP
- **Shereen Chen, Esq.** — Chen Gray Law Group, LLC

2.4 CLE Credits

Real-Life Immigration Issues Currently Important to the People

Member Fee: $55

PA Credits: $15

Non-Member Credit: $90

Moderator: Lisette Gonzalez, M.Ed.,
Executive Director of the Burlington County Bar Association

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

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- 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

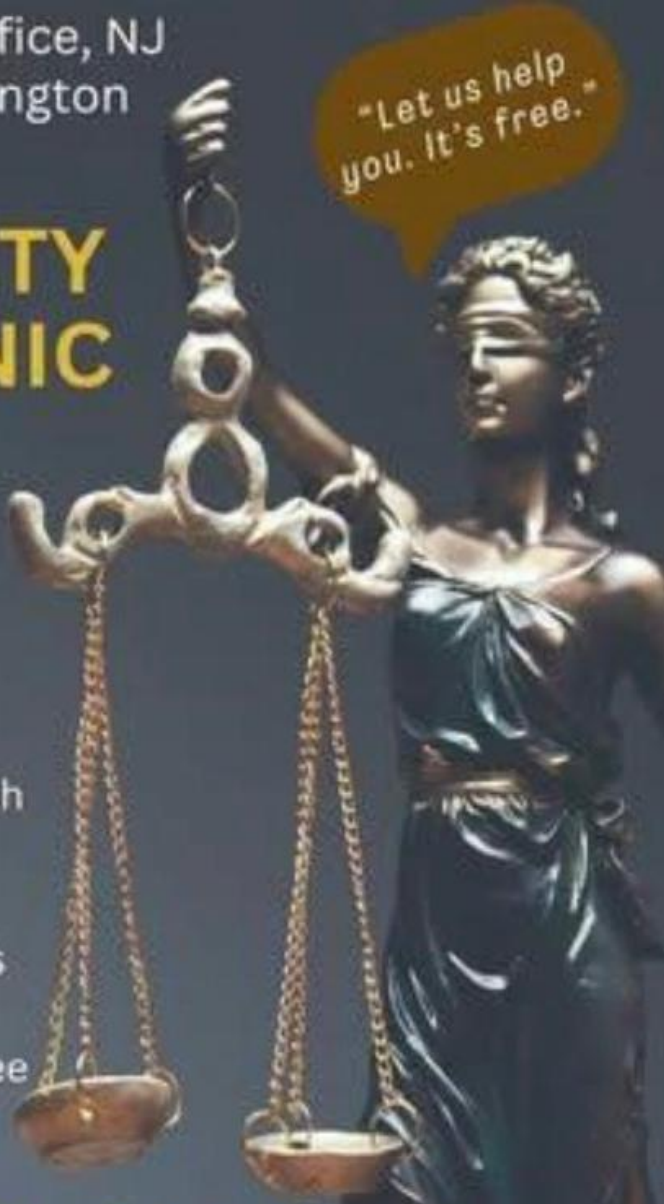
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BURLINGTON COUNTY EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC

& Resource Fair



October 14, 2026
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Have a non-violent offense in your past that is holding you back in life? Come out and meet with an attorney to see whether it can be removed from your criminal history. Applicants do not have to live in Burlington County. Registration is not required, but will save you time once you arrive at the clinic. This service is completely free and so is lunch. Come out and see us on 10/14!

More Info
burlcoexpungement.com

Registration
tinyurl.com/expungeme

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BCBA Bar Presents a Lunch & Learn: An Introduction to Burlington County's Mental Health Diversion Court



October 20th
12:30pm - 1:20pm via Zoom
Zoom Link will be emailed the evening before

Active Renewed Members are $25
Non Members are $40

PA Credits are $7.50

Presenters: Melissa Tirone, Assistant Prosecutor, Burlco & Oaks Integrated Care

Moderator: Brenda Roman Maneri, First Assistant Prosecutor Burlco

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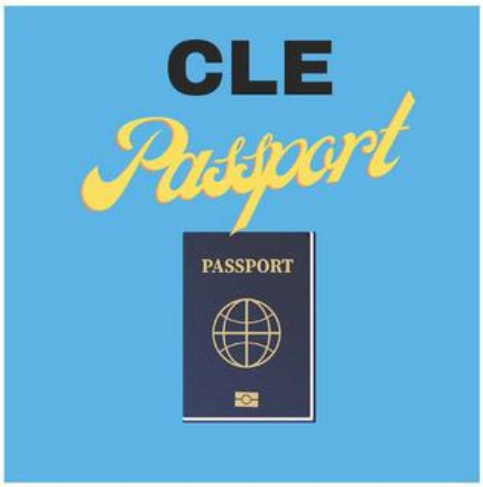
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Training or Refresher for the Expungement Clinic Volunteers

October 6th from 4–6pm

For the Expungement Clinic on October 14th



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- $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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MR

Michael S. Rothmel, L.L.C.

Michael S. Rothmel
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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.

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