



The Gavel



Newsletter of the Lycoming County Paralegal Association

2016 Officers and Board of Directors

President	Nicole Oeler	noeler@dingeswaltz.com
Vice President	Rebecca Hovenstine	rhoenstine@comcast.net
Treasurer	Pam Toseki	ptoseki@comcast.net
Secretary	Shelby Weber	sweber@paelderlaw.com
Director	Rachelle Horning	rachelleh@lepleylaw.com
Director	Jenn West	jenn@susqlaw.com
Director	Rachael Lepley Joy	RachaelJ@lepleylaw.com

Message from 2016 President

WELCOME MEMBERS! Last year was an exciting year for the LCPA. We participated in a variety of events and plan to continue our great success in 2016!

Our CLE-approved Lunch & Learns continue to be successful! I am hopeful that we can schedule at least six this year – three are tentatively scheduled so far! ☺ Thank you to everyone who has helped thus far. I encourage all members to attend the Lunch & Learns as well as share the invitation with others. Also, if there is a topic you would like to learn more about or if you know of someone who would like to present a topic, please get in touch with myself or any board member.

In addition to the Lunch & Learns, the LCPA hosted a Membership Event, participated in the annual Law Day activities and hosted the Law Day reception, celebrated Paralegal Day, and engaged in a Christmas service project where gifts were presented to Susquehanna Valley CASA for children.

We have awesome things planned for this year as well! I urge ALL members to get involved in 2016 as this is your Association! If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact myself or any board member. I would like to personally thank everyone for their continued support and assistance!

~Nicole Oeler, LCPA President

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Lycoming County Paralegal Association presented toys and clothing to Susquehanna Valley CASA as part of an initiative to provide for local children who would otherwise be without.

The Susquehanna Valley CASA organization provides volunteer advocates for abused and neglected children.

“The LCPA chooses a charity to donate to each holiday season and we felt that Susquehanna Valley CASA was the perfect choice,” said Jenn West.



LCPA Members (from left to right) Jenn West, Michele Frey, Rebecca Hovenstine and Stephanie Tempesco are seen here with just some of the toys that were donated.

High School Mock Trial Competition

Across Pennsylvania hundreds teams of high school students act as lawyers and witnesses in simulated trials before actual judges and panels of juries comprised of lawyers and paralegals.



The high school Mock Trial competitions were held in the Federal Courthouse in Williamsport on March 10th, 14th and 15th.

Local lawyers, paralegals and paralegal students are invited each year to volunteer as members of the mock jury. Volunteers score each of the participants and select the winning team.

If you have never served as a juror at one of the mock trial events, you should consider volunteering next year. Watching Pennsylvania's youth debate legal issues is both rewarding and enjoyable.

Law Day 2016

MIRANDA

more than words

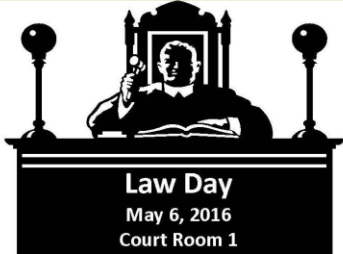
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

The LCPA sponsors the reception for the winners of the Lycoming County Law Day Competition.

The Law Day Ceremony is May 6th at 4:00PM in Courtroom #1. The reception for the students will immediately follow.

Please assist the LCPA honor the winners!

If you are available to help out, please contact Michele Frey at 323-8287 or by email at MFrey@lycolaw.org.



Law Day
May 6, 2016
Court Room 1

4:00PM AT THE LYCOMING COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Cash prizes of \$75.00 will be awarded to multiple winning entries. There will be a \$125.00 cash prize for the Best Essay and Best Art entry. This year's theme is: "Miranda Rights – More Than Words." The topics for the essays and art projects are as follows:

Essay Contest for Grades K-5
Write an essay, not to exceed 300 words, on the subject:
Someone who is arrested has the constitutional right to remain silent. Is this important and why?

Essay Contest for Grades 6-12
Write an essay, not to exceed 1,000 words, on the subject:
The established Miranda Rights are:

MIRANDA WARNING

1. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT.
2. ANYTHING YOU SAY CAN AND WILL BE USED AGAINST YOU IN A COURT OF LAW.
3. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO TALK TO A LAWYER AND HAVE HIM PRESENT WITH YOU WHILE YOU ARE BEING QUESTIONED.
4. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE A LAWYER, ONE WILL BE APPOINTED TO REPRESENT YOU BEFORE ANY QUESTIONING IF YOU WISH.
5. YOU CAN DECIDE AT ANY TIME TO EXERCISE THESE RIGHTS AND NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS OR MAKE ANY STATEMENTS.

WAIVER

DO YOU UNDERSTAND EACH OF THESE RIGHTS I HAVE EXPLAINED TO YOU?
HAVING THESE RIGHTS IN MIND, DO YOU WISH TO TALK TO US NOW?


*What suggestions do you have to keep, change, eliminate or add to these Miranda Rights?
Support your position by referencing the Constitution and its Amendments.*

Art Contest (All Grades)
Art projects include posters, dioramas, videos, poems, creative writings, etc. Art submissions should not be any larger than 4 feet by 4 feet. Video submissions may not exceed five minutes.
Art Contest Theme: Miranda Rights – More than Words

The following information must be placed on the back of all entries: Student's Name, Grade, Teacher, School and School Telephone Number. All entries are subject to public presentation, display and/or viewing. For additional information, please visit the Facebook page for Lycoming County Law Day.

Deadline: All entries must be submitted to the Lycoming Law Association, 25 West Third Street, Suite 803, Williamsport, by April 1, 2016 at 1:00PM. It is preferred that entries be submitted by mail; however, arrangements can be made to personally deliver to the Lycoming Law Association by contacting Michele Frey at 570-323-8287.

Celebration: The winners of the 2016 Law Day Contest will present their essays and art at the Lycoming County Law Day Celebration held on May 6, 2016 at 4:00PM in Courtroom #1.



Lycoming Law Association

New Member

The LCPA welcomes a new member from the Malee Law Firm, P.C., **Christine True**. She works for Attorney Timothy Reitz and assists him in a myriad of matters including criminal, personal injury, property dispute, workers' compensation, and family law. She graduated from the Paralegal Studies program at Penn College in 2015. Christine resides in Newberry with her husband, three children, two cats, and a dog.

What's Happening

Topic: SORNA
Date: March 23rd at 12PM
Place: Water Tower Square Cafe
Host: Attorney Lori Rexroth

Topic: Negotiating Equitable
Distribution Settlement
Date: April (TBA) at 12PM
Place: Water Tower Square Cafe
Host: Attorney Meghan Young

Topic: New Orphan's Court Rules
Date: May 18th at 12PM
Place: Water Tower Square Cafe
Host: Attorney Jim Malee



PA Courts Collect \$464.5 million in 2015



Pennsylvania courts collected more than \$464.5 million in fees, fines, costs and restitution in 2015, including a record \$92 million paid online through PAePay.

The state received \$226 million of the total \$464.5 million collected by the courts. Counties received \$154.3 million and municipalities \$46.5 million to support local government programs. Crime victims received a total of \$33.9 million in restitution, and various entities received \$3.8 million.

The money distributed to support government programs and crime victims came from fees, fines, costs and restitution collected by 517 magisterial district courts and the criminal divisions of the 67 Common Pleas Courts and the Philadelphia Municipal Court.

Sealing Records from Public View for Nonviolent Offenders in PA

Some criminal offenders in Pennsylvania will now have fewer roadblocks to getting employment or housing thanks to a new law.

Recently Governor Tom Wolf signed into law a bill which expands criminal record sealing in Pennsylvania in order to reduce recidivism, relieve the pardon system, and provide offenders with greater opportunity to join the workforce.

Now, individuals who have served their punishment and remained free of arrest or prosecution for 7 to 10 years for nonviolent misdemeanors can petition the court for their record to be sealed from public view (law enforcement and state licensing agencies will continue to have access to criminal records).



"The United States is the world leader in incarceration and a criminal record often carries a lifetime of consequences that often lead to poverty or re-incarceration," said Gov. Tom Wolf while signing the bill.

A criminal record often carries a lifetime of consequences, and even a minor criminal record can be a serious impediment to employment, housing, education and training, public assistance, financial empowerment, and more.

This law aims to help offenders find better employment, housing, education and training, public assistance, financial empowerment, and more.

Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence in Lycoming County

Domestic abuse is a serious problem and it is imperative that legislators, police and the courts work to assist victims with getting help, staying safe and recovering from abuse. Each year there are brutal and unnecessary fatalities as a result of domestic violence.

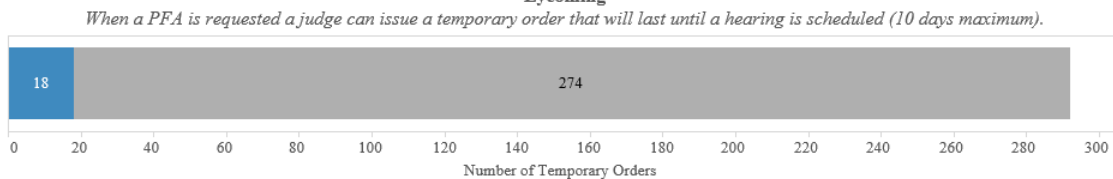
According to the YWCA of Northcentral PA, fourteen people have died in Lycoming County as a result of domestic violence since 1996.

Family law judges, attorneys and advocates struggle with whether the PFA law strikes the right balance to protect victims while also limiting false claims of abuse. Unfortunately, people frequently misuse PFAs to evict, harass, or to gain leverage in a divorce/custody case.

2014 PFA Cases Filed and Processed
Lycoming

Cases Pending at the Beginning of the Year	32
New Cases Filed	292
Cases Processed	304
Cases Pending at the End of the Year	20

2014 PFA Temporary Orders
Lycoming



With the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and Domestic Violence Task Force, Lycoming County is determined to reduce domestic violence. Both these organizations were developed to correct weaknesses in the services and systems designed to protect victims of domestic violence.

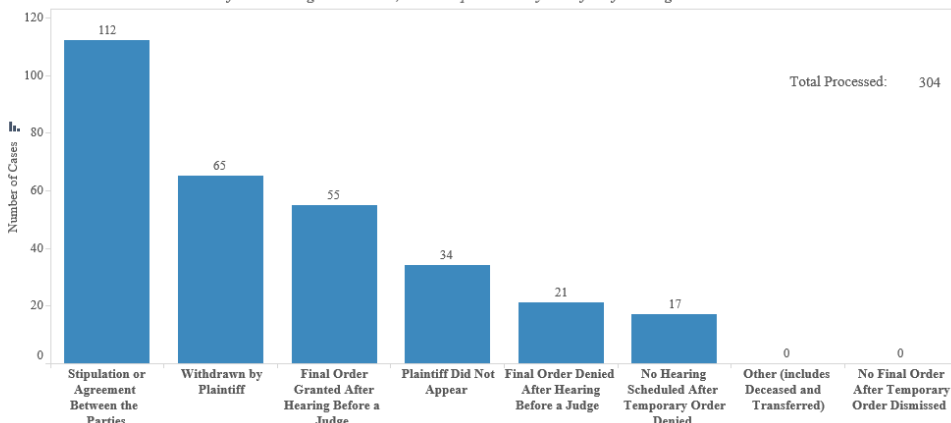
However, misuse of the PFA action will continue unless there are means to deter exploitation of the PFA system (such as making it easier for a defendant to recover attorney fees when a PFA is withdrawn or dismissed, urging the district attorney to prosecute "serial filers" of bogus PFA actions and/or removing all

record of a temporary PFA from the public database when said PFA is withdrawn or dismissed (a PFA is a public record that can haunt people like a criminal conviction)).

Pennsylvania needs to work to limit the damage caused by bogus PFAs without weakening any protections for victims of domestic violence.

2014 PFA Processed
Lycoming

After a hearing is scheduled, a case is processed by one of the following outcomes:



dates to Remember



Like us on Facebook

March 10th LCPA Board Meeting

March 23rd Lunch and Learn

April TBA Lunch and Learn

April 14th LCPA Board Meeting

May 6th Law Day

May 7th Wills for Heroes

May 12th LCPA Board Meeting



Lawyers and firms may place employment notices in the LCPA job bank at no cost. LCPA members are invited to put their resumes in the LCPA job bank for consideration by local attorneys.



Job Bank!

Legal Laughs



LCPA Membership Applications are due!

**LCPA members strive to promote the paralegal profession
and bolster relations with the local attorneys.**

**If you did not get an application for membership,
please email any member of the 2016 Board of Directors.**

Membership Benefits

- Free Education Offerings to Members
- Lunch and learn meetings
- Professional recognition
- Networking with other paralegals who share the same interests and goals
- Exchanging of ideas, concerns and challenges within the profession
- Membership with NFPA
- LCPA newsletter *The Gavel* containing the Association business, seminar information, articles, local state and national paralegal professional news and more
- Working with the Lycoming County Bar Association's Law Day and annual Christmas Service project
- Receiving notices of job openings and Job Bank to place your resume
- Scholarships for NFPA's PACE and NALA's CP/CLA exam

Disclaimer: Views and opinions expressed in *The Gavel* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Lycoming County Paralegal Association or its sponsors.