Mount Lebanon Resident Bryan S. Neft to Take Over as President of Allegheny County Bar Association July 1

Neft Practices Commercial, Toxic Tort Litigation at Spilman Thomas & Battle

PITTSBURGH – Attorney Bryan S. Neft will officially become the 110th President of the Allegheny County Bar Association this Sunday, July 1. His one-year term will end on June 30, 2019.

Neft attributes his desire to practice law and dedication to the profession to his mother, Rhoda Neft.

“When my brother and I were teenagers, my mother entered law school. That wasn’t the typical career path many women took in those days, and that made quite an impression on me,” Neft said. “Not only did it show me what a person can do when fueled by determination and character, it also showed me the importance of her chosen profession.

“I was proud to follow in her footsteps and become a lawyer myself. And now, to become president of the ACBA – the bar association she is still a member of today – is an honor beyond words. I am privileged and excited to serve my fellow Allegheny County attorneys and the legal profession overall.”

Neft is an attorney in the downtown Pittsburgh office of Spilman Thomas & Battle; his practice focusses on commercial litigation, health care and toxic tort. Neft was elected President-Elect of the 6,000-member ACBA in 2017 and served in that capacity for the past year. He replaces Hal D. Coffey, who completes his term on June 30.

“Bryan has significantly contributed within every aspect of the bar association over the scope of his career,” said Coffey. “Becoming president is the culmination of his venerable professional, philanthropic and personal accomplishments within and outside of the ACBA. The future of our bar association is bright with Bryan taking over the helm.”

Neft said that among his primary goals for his term as President is promoting diversity within the legal profession overall and, in particular, expanding the ACBA’s minority law student Summer Clerkship Program.

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“For more than a decade, the ACBA’s minority law student Summer Clerkship Program has been a successful initiative, helping to place minority first-year law students in internships at law firms, corporate legal departments and government agencies so they can get crucial legal experience,” Neft said.

“We recently expanded the program to also include LGBT law students and those with disabilities, and now we hope to increase the number of employers who participate in the program to create more opportunities for these students. There’s a gap between the number of applicants we receive and the number of positions available, and I’d like to help close that gap.”

Neft also hopes to facilitate ways Pittsburgh-area attorneys can engage in pro bono work and to continue to make the ACBA a greater resource for attorneys throughout Allegheny County, not only those working at downtown firms, by bringing bar association programing into the suburbs.

About Bryan Neft

A Fox Chapel native, Neft earned a bachelor of arts degree in 1986 from the University of Pennsylvania and his juris doctorate in 1989 from the Boston University School of Law.

Early in his legal career, Neft practiced litigation and general counseling in Pittsburgh and West Virginia. Neft then spent 13 years at Pittsburgh firm Pietragallo, Gordon, Alfano, Bosick and Raspanti. He and his partner, Robert L. Leight, joined the Pittsburgh office of Spilman Thomas & Battle – a full-service, “super-regional” law firm with locations throughout the Mid-Atlantic – in August 2017.

His practice is focused on commercial litigation and toxic torts, which includes experience in areas such as healthcare, antitrust, banking and lender regulatory matters, business torts, competition and trade secrets, consumer protection, contractual disputes, environmental law, ERISA, false advertising, insurance coverage, medical malpractice, shareholder and corporate control disputes, products liability, accountants’ liability, and insurance bad faith and unfair insurance practices.

Since the beginning of his legal career, Neft has been extensively involved in numerous facets of the Allegheny County Bar Association and the Allegheny County Bar Foundation.

He is a former ACBA treasurer and chair of the ACBA Bench-Bar Conference Committee. He is a current or former member of the ACBA Corporate, Banking and Business Law Section; Civil Litigation Section; Federal Court Section; Homer S. Brown Division; LGBT Rights Committee; and the Task Force on Gender Equality, among numerous other roles.

Neft’s involvement in charitable efforts of the ACBF have been just as extensive. He is a former ACBF treasurer and for 11 years chaired the organization’s successful Attorneys Against Hunger Campaign – which has raised nearly $2 million to fight hunger in Allegheny County. He also is an ACBF sustaining fellow, a recognition reserved for attorneys who have shown a commitment to excellence in charitable, community, professional and/or public service activities.
In addition to his legal work, Neft has been involved in an array of community and charitable endeavors. He previously served on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh and the Board of Trustees for Beth El Congregation of South Hills.

Neft lives in Mt. Lebanon with his wife, Julie Cohen. They have three children: Simon, 21, Justin, 19, and Zoe, 15. The family enjoys traveling; particularly to the various destinations won by Cohen and her mother in an array of sweepstakes contests.

Additional New Officers

In addition to Neft serving as President, the Allegheny County Bar Association also announced the following officers for 2018-19: Lori E. McMaster will serve as President-Elect, Hal D. Coffey will serve as Immediate Past-President, Nicola Henry-Taylor will serve as Secretary, and James R. Mall will serve as Treasurer.

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About the ACBA
Chartered in 1870 and headquartered in downtown Pittsburgh, the Allegheny County Bar Association is a professional organization with approximately 6,000 member attorneys, judges, district justices, legal administrators, and paralegals.

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