ACBA renovations expected to be completed by the end of 2020

By Zandy Dudiak

The renovations to the ACBA offices in the Koppers Building are expected to be completed by the first or second week in November, if the project remains on schedule.

Renovations to the ACBA’s offices began in February, and the demolition of the fourth floor space was completed before the pandemic hit in March. The upgrades are part of a new, 10-year lease agreement with Rugby Realty that extends through December 2030. According to the terms of the agreement, work has to be completed by January 2021.

The office improvements, which include new walls, carpeting, tile, paint and wallcoverings, are the responsibility of Rugby Realty and are included in the turnkey renovation budget, Blaner said.

“We’re getting smaller in terms of our footprint,” Blaner said. “The office space will have a different look. The space is much brighter with glass panels on the doors and lighter colors, generally.”

ACBA’s Legal Employment Service and Lawyer Referral Service offices will be moved from the third floor to the main offices on the fourth floor. Information systems is also being moved from the third to the fourth floor, where phone and computer equipment will be housed in a secure, climate-controlled room, Blaner said.

While the landlord is handling the physical renovations, office and conference room furnishings, audio visual equipment, etc. are being purchased by the ACBA. Those expenses include flat screens and panels, an HVAC upgrade, wiring for information systems and server room equipment.

The refrigerator has been upgraded for ample storage for the many events the ACBA hosts. For countertops in serving areas, he said plans call for an upgrade to granite countertops because of their durable surface.

The 11th-floor space occupied by the Juvenile Court Project will be refreshed with new paint and wallpaper, remodeled restrooms and an HVAC-system upgrade. Some of the more traditional firms in the city have undergone renovations and the ACBA decided to upgrade to a more modern look, too.

“Given that our space is getting smaller, the furniture we have on the third and fourth floor will not fit. The new furniture is more contemporary than the previous traditional furniture.”

The conference room furniture, purchased in 1984, has had a “useful life,” Blaner said.

The current stationery conference room tables have limited the ability to allow for a multipurpose room or classroom. Prior to the renovations, the ACBA would have to rent space in the Koppers Building for those purposes.

The existing conference room furniture, along with the ACBA’s existing office furniture, will be donated to Neighborhood Legal Services.

ACBA Tavern Trivia Night slated for Sept. 17

By Brian Knavish

Q: Will the ACBA’s Tavern Trivia Night be held in an actual tavern?
A: No, but it will still be a lot of fun.

The ACBA has scheduled Tavern Trivia Night for Thursday, Sept. 17 at 5 p.m. on Zoom, and all members are invited. There is no cost to attend, thanks to event sponsor Thomson Reuters.

The plan is for it to be just like one of those pub trivia nights that were so popular back when people socialized in person … only it won’t be in a pub. Instead, it will be held online, as the ACBA prioritizes safety and adheres to social distancing protocols.

The event will be conducted by Buzz Worthy Pub Trivia, a local company which has presented pub trivia nights in more than 60 actual brick-and-mortar bars and restaurants. When the pandemic hit, Buzz Worthy shifted to holding online trivia nights, and the events have been very well-received.

Buzz Worthy was scheduled to host an in-person trivia night at the Bench-Bar Conference in June. When the conference got cancelled, the ACBA continued with the trivia event anyway, shifting it to Zoom. Some 30 members attended, and the reviews were very positive.

“It was a fun, fast-paced way to spend an hour,” said ACBA member JD Mazzocco of Babst Calland, who participated in the virtual Bench-Bar event.

Mazzocco added that he and several of his colleagues were looking for ways to interact and network, but with limited in-person options these days, they decided to give the ACBA Trivia Night a shot.

“Everyone enjoyed,” he said. “Buzz Worthy was good at putting it together so it flowed. It was not awkward.”

Since that Bench-Bar event, the ACBA’s LGBT Rights Committee held a Pride Trivia Night in June and the Women’s Institute for Leadership in
Pitt AD Heather Lyke to talk college sports with ACBA members Sept. 9

By Brian Knavish

If you’re a college sports fan, recent weeks have been anything but dull. The COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on college athletics is one of the hottestly debated topics on the national scene these days, as certain conferences opt out of fall sports — including football — while others proceed.

Which teams are playing? Which aren’t? Are certain sports safer to play than others? What safety measures can be put into place? Is a “bubble” approach even plausible in college sports?

From programs “going rogue” against their conference edicts to the notion of a spring college football season, the topics and layers to the discussion are seemingly endless.

That’s why the ACBA is presenting “College Sports and the Pandemic: An Evening with Heather Lyke” on Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 5 p.m. on Zoom. The event is free for ACBA members, thank you event sponsor Dollar Bank. Registration is required at ACBA.org/Calendar.

The date of the event is a case in point of the ultra-fluid state of affairs within the college sports world. Sept. 9 is just three days before what was to be the Pitt football team’s season opener against Miami of Ohio, but the Mid-American Conference — of which Miami is a member — suspended all fall sports. As of this writing, the football schedule was still in flux, as is the entire landscape of college sports.

Lyke, a lawyer herself, will discuss the latest with the athletic department plans for Pitt and its fellow Atlantic Coast Conference schools. She’ll offer a behind-the-scenes peek at some of the discussions that have gone on and continue to proceed as colleges across the country try to collaborate during an unprecedented environment.

Additionally, she’ll discuss the robust safety measures Pitt is taking, as well as some of the varied legal considerations involved.

This is the fourth consecutive year that Lyke will join the ACBA for a season kickoff discussion. The first three installments were in-person at the Rivers Club.

A Canton, Ohio native, Lyke was a championship softball player at the University of Michigan. She graduated from the University of Akron School of Law in 1995 and worked in NCAA compliance at the University of Cincinnati and Ohio State University.

She quickly rose through the athletic department hierarchy, then became the athletic director at Eastern Michigan in 2013. Lyke was hired by Pitt in March 2017, becoming the first woman to hold the university’s athletic director job full-time. She’s one of only four women to currently hold the athletic director position at NCAA “Power 5” conference institutions.
YLD continues to provide opportunities for public service, networking and education

By Amanda Thomas

From graduating law school during the recession to practicing during a global pandemic, adaptability is a must-have quality for today’s successful young lawyers. The members of the Young Lawyers Division are no strangers to adversity and view the current global challenges as an opportunity to creatively change our programming to best serve our members. While in years past the YLD would take a summer hiatus, this year many of its leaders forged ahead to begin brainstorming ideas for new programming in this changing epoch.

To address institutional racism and disenfranchisement of black people and people of color that has been brought to the forefront of our nation’s attention, the YLD created an Ad Hoc Anti-Racism Committee. Young lawyers, as the future of the legal profession, are uniquely positioned to champion social change and justice reform.

The committee’s mission is to meet this goal by providing programming and events that educate and train lawyers in anti-racism and anti-bias tools and tactics, promoting opportunities for lawyers to listen and speak out, and creating an environment of allyship. The committee will also serve as a check on the YLD to ensure that all

YLD programming promotes these same goals. The committee will also liaise with other ACBA committees, sections and divisions as well as outside organizations to meet its mission.

In addition, the YLD will continue to provide opportunities for public service, networking and education for its members and is working through the logistics of providing these opportunities with the health and safety of its members in mind.

The YLD’s contribution to public service and philanthropic efforts are exceptional. Among other programs, the YLD has sent care packages to troops through the Military and Veterans Project, has drafted pro bono wills and other legal documents for members of our local police and emergency medical response professionals through the Very Important Papers program, has created a mentorship program for local teens through Big Brothers Big Sisters called “Lawyers and Littles,” and has supported local shelters through the Children’s Gift Drive event by donating hundreds of gifts at holiday time and throwing a holiday party at each shelter. Additionally, the YLD will begin presenting to local high school students on the legal rights and responsibilities of teenagers when they turn 18 through the Stepping Out program.

The YLD will continue offering many CLE opportunities, including our well-known series on practice areas of law for the attorney who does not practice in that area. These CLEs will support base knowledge on an area of law and can be used as refresher on legal issues an attorney may not have encountered for some time. The YLD’s first CLE will be on corporate law for the non-corporate attorney and will address legal advice on the creation of a corporate form and will also include information on COVID-19 legislative-related advice for small businesses.

As for the YLD’s standing promise to offer creative and relaxed networking opportunities for our members, we will be hosting a virtual trivia night on Sept. 2 at 5 p.m. sponsored by Timothy Cummings, financial advisor. Registration is free to YLD members, so sign up at ACBA.org to reserve your spot soon!

The YLD will continue its tradition of cultivating leaders within the bar through its Bar Leadership Initiative. The YLD had a record-breaking year with the number of applicants for consideration in the BLI program. This year’s class includes 15 young lawyers who will participate in numerous YLD-sponsored programs and events with the ultimate goal of becoming a leader in the YLD and the ACBA.

Additionally, the YLD understands the unique position that law students are in without the ability to network in a face-to-face setting with young lawyers and established members of the bench and bar. This summer, the YLD held a virtual networking event where law students met with six lawyers at a time in a virtual speed networking setting. Approximately 40 law students and 20 young lawyers attended. The YLD plans to hold more of these networking events in the future.

Amanda Thomas  
YLD Chair

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Hardy confirmed as judge for U.S. District Court for Western District of Pennsylvania

By Ron Cichowicz

W. Scott Hardy, a shareholder with Ogletree Deakins since 2010, has been confirmed as a judge for the U.S. District Court for Western District of Pennsylvania.

Hardy, 49, was confirmed July 27 and assumed his duties in August. A resident of Gibsonia, he and his wife Kathleen have two daughters, Elizabeth and Kaitlyn.

“I am both honored and humbled by this appointment,” said Hardy. “I am eager to begin serving our country, the judiciary and the people of Western Pennsylvania. It has felt overwhelming at times, but it is an honor of a lifetime.”

Hardy said he was encouraged by friends and colleagues to seek this appointment, which he considers another big step in a lifetime dedicated to public service.

“I draw my inspiration from my family,” he said. “My dad was a Pittsburgh firefighter; my grandfather also was a firefighter. All of them also served in the military and each dedicated his life to serving the public, often at great personal sacrifice.

“They are an inspiration to me to serve the public. I love having practiced law for the past couple of decades and now I can serve country and community by using my God-given gifts to administer justice fairly to others.”

Hardy described the path to his appointment as “quite extensive.” It included meetings with a bipartisan selection committee, both Pennsylvania U.S. Senators and the White House counsel’s office, all of which was followed by the Senate confirmation process. Hardy was approved by a 65-30 vote, with both Pennsylvania Senators – Democrat Bob Casey and Republican Pat Toomey – voting in favor of the nomination.

“Our Senators have a long history of bipartisan collaboration on judicial appointments,” Hardy said.

Hardy brings an outstanding career in the legal profession to his new position. He earned his J.D. from the University of Notre Dame and his B.A., magna cum laude, from Allegheny College. Hardy was elected to the Ogletree Deakins’ Board of Directors in 2018. He has counseled employers on all aspects of their employment relationships to achieve their organizational goals.

Hardy has also represented employers as lead counsel in federal and state court litigation (including class and collective actions and appeals), commercial and labor arbitrations, and administrative proceedings. Hardy has earned accolades throughout his career, including being recognized as a Best Lawyer in America, a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer, and an Acritas Star.

“I’ve handled legal matters all over the country, but I couldn’t imagine practicing law any place but here,” Hardy said. “It is so much more collegial than other places and our bench is a big part of that. I hope to continue contributing to that same legacy.”

In a news release about the appointment, Matt Keen, managing shareholder of Ogletree Deakins said, “Strong intellect, good judgment, integrity and empathy are important qualities for a judge, and I know of no one who possesses them in larger measure than Scott. It is a proud day for Scott and the firm. We wish him all the best as he transitions to the bench in August.”

When asked about any philosophy he brings to his new role, Hardy points to the U.S. Constitution and the rule of the judiciary to decide cases and controversies.

“My job is not to be an activist,” he said. “I will always endeavor to decide cases that come before me in a fair-minded way. What I hope most to accomplish is that every litigant and advocate who appears before me, whether they won or lost, will say I treated them fairly, administered justice faithfully and that they walked away believing they were treated appropriately.”

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Will COVID-19 change data visualization adoption in complex disputes?

By Daniel Gold and Bryan Bellack

It was once said by a legal industry author that the legal profession is a “data wasteland.” Many may agree with this assessment in an industry that is notoriously slow to embrace technology and yet so reliant on digital evidence to overcome the appropriate burden of proof (see https://bit.ly/3itCHLF). Yet, some legal professionals have begun leveraging various forms of artificial intelligence for litigation, investigations, and regulatory compliance matters to quickly identify critical information early in a case to reduce the time and costs associated with document review.

What most in the legal profession cannot dispute, however, is that with the ever increasing size of data, the disparate forms of data being created, and the multiple devices that need to be collected continues to balloon year after year. As a result, the legal profession needs greater data transparency to improve on their ability to discover the right data and act upon it to their clients’ advantage. For example, lawyers that turn to data visualization to integrate and place various data points into context through absorbable charts, diagrams, and pictures have greater control over the story the data is trying to tell. When data becomes consumable and easier to understand and explain, it becomes a compelling narrative that influences colleagues, opposing counsel, and juries.

What has become increasingly evident irrespective of one’s industry during this catastrophic pandemic is that it has created highly substantial and significant changes to the way we work, the way we communicate, how we travel and how we live. As a result, there has been an unprecedented increase in the use of video technology and online collaborative applications to get more done while working from home. The legal technology industry is not immune to these changes. Video hearings are on the rise, and as a result, it requires lawyers to pivot and embrace change. Leveraging data analytics to decrease the overall data and then use data visualizations to tell the story better during video hearings will simply empower lawyers to help their clients win in a whole new way.

Understanding the Data First

A great example of leveraging data to tell better stories is to use a visual dashboard designed to integrate with a lawyer’s e-discovery review platform. Dashboards can help legal professionals not just manage the business of e-discovery but optimize it. These types of technology solutions provide visibility into where data resides and how it is used, from the moment a legal hold is initiated all the way through to analysis, review, and production. Harnessing this data in a dashboard view gives legal professionals critical information to ultimately create better business outcomes. By providing transparency and detailed analytics throughout the data lifecycle, a dashboard can empower a legal professional to make better, more informed decisions at every step of the e-discovery process.

Data Visualization Exemplar

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We encourage everyone to grab a drink or a snack, log on to Zoom after work and enjoy some ACBA-style networking.”

Law program held a similar event in August, both with Buzz Worthy.

“This was really fun,” said ACBA President Elizabeth Hughes, who attended the Pride Month event. “We were on teams and, in true lawyer fashion, the competition was fierce.”

The questions aren’t legal related. Instead, the topics range from history to pop culture.

Participants are divided into teams, and the entire group is presented with questions. Each team then breaks off into private “rooms” to discuss the question. After a brief period, everyone is brought back into the “main room” where they submit answers and earn points. There are typically five rounds of trivia.

The winning team will earn prizes and – perhaps even more significantly with this group – bragging rights over their fellow attorneys.

The Sept. 17 Tavern Trivia Night is open to the entire ACBA, and the hope is that members will embrace this as a chance to safely enjoy networking and camaraderie, things that have been dearly missed by many in recent months.

“Our members tell us that networking and social interaction are among the primary reasons they join the bar association,” said Executive Director David Blamer. “Obviously finding safe ways to get together to socialize is challenging right now. But these trivia nights have been a hit, so we decided to promote this one on a bigger scale. We encourage everyone to grab a drink or a snack, log on to Zoom after work and enjoy some ACBA-style networking.”

To register or for more information, visit ACBA.org/Calendar.

Expert and Vendor Guide available to members

The ACBA Expert and Vendor Guide lists dozens of business contacts – organized by business category – that Pittsburgh-area attorneys frequently partner with. This publication is available to members distributed to ACBA membership via email four times per year, and it is available 24/7 at ACBA.org/EVG. Vendors interested in being listed in future editions of the Expert and Vendor Guide should contact Brian Knavish, the ACBA’s Director of Marketing and Media Relations, at bknavish@acba.org or 412-402-6620.

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Forensics from a distance – defensible collection of remote data

By Brett Creasy and John Unice

Defensible collection of evidence is the critical foundation to the successful prosecution or defense of every case. Whether that evidence is a blood covered glove or a fleeting digital transmission from a computer, without preserving evidentiary integrity, the collected information does not become evidence. So, what are some of the best practices, practical steps and even missteps which every lawyer should be cognizant, particularly when it comes to electronic evidence that must be preserved remotely? Following some of the key evidentiary practices discussed below will help lawyers navigate the sometimes-murky waters created by key electronic evidence that, due to either its ephemeral nature or other logistical challenges, must be collected remotely.

Relevant and Authentic

Of course, a key tenet of entering evidence at trial is taking the right steps to ensure that it satisfies the evidentiary structures governing relevance and, key to our discussion, authenticity. The offeror item is what the offeror claims it to be. In the context of electronically stored information (ESI), examples might be an email or other form of electronic document, a log file generated by the operating system of a computer or a document, a log file generated by the server that could not be shut down (and then physically sent out for imaging), third-party web-based services that the client could access but didn’t own, negating the ability to provide the data directly to a forensic firm. Even before COVID-19 forced the world into remote-work scenarios, for example, litigants have had a need to preserve ESI from corporate business servers that could not be shut down (and then physically sent out for imaging), third-party web-based services that the client could access but didn’t own, negating the ability to provide the data directly to a forensic firm, and traveling employees who could surrender work devices that served as the only means of conducting day-to-day work. For those remote-collection needs, different methods may be necessary.

Methods for Collecting ESI that is “Remote”

The news with remote ESI is that most of the same principles of relevance and, key to our discussion, authenticity apply. Data maps can still be built, albeit with slightly more complexity, and many of the same tools used to capture a laptop in a forensic lab can be used to tackle a laptop that is across the country. Third-party providers such as Onna for Slack data and X1 Social Discovery for social media accounts are also catching up to the needs of the legal industry and are building tools and processes designed to facilitate the collection of ESI for legal proceedings. Some other practical examples of remote options include:

- Shipping a USB hard drive that contains forensic collection software to the target custodian, and then follow up with a phone call and remote screenshare session between the custodian and a forensic consultant to collect the data.
- A forensic consultant can utilize a combination of collection tools to access cloud-based repositories such as Dropbox, Google Drive and others for data collection.
- Built-in tools such as the discovery features of Microsoft 365 may be leveraged to collect email or SharePoint documents or other data stored within Microsoft services.

Because business-class services often have additional features not available in free or personal versions of the same service, in addition to the actual data or “documents,” logs and other ancillary information may be available to address actions the user took while signed into the service, e.g. sharing of company documents or deleting data. It is important to point out however, that all solutions are not created equal. For example, the search capability of a built-in tool of a service provider such as Microsoft or Google may not have the robust features or auditing and reporting capability necessary for every case. Likewise, the act of collecting various ESI forms could impact the integrity of the data if not handled appropriately, i.e. metadata such as creation or modification dates, could be altered.

Proper planning for ESI collection is something every lawyer should be familiar with, even if the work itself is to be performed by properly trained in-house IT professionals or third-party forensic experts. Bar associations in many states, including Pennsylvania, have even adopted ethics rules imparting upon lawyers a duty of technical competence, which could certainly come into play with ESI collection efforts. The above examples provide a brief look into just a few of the options available for remote ESI collections and should lead to more detailed discussions between the stakeholders to satisfy the unique needs of the case at hand.

Brett Creasy, CCE, CISSP is President and Director of Digital Forensics at bit-x-bit LLC. John Unice, Esq. is Executive Vice President and General Counsel at bit-x-bit LLC.

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Slaugenhaupt reflects on time as ACBF Pro Bono Center Gismondi Fund summer fellow

By Shelly Anderson

Pitt law school student Devin Slaugenhaupt stopped short of labeling his path the past few years as serendipity, but he certainly found his time as the ACBF Pro Bono Center Gismondi Fund summer fellow to be seemingly made for him.

Not to mention rewarding. “It was just what I was interested in doing,” Slaugenhaupt said.

Even with the restriction of working at home and communicating by video conferencing, texts, emails and phone because of the COVID-19 pandemic, he helped with divorce complaints, client communication, PFAs and, perhaps most gratifying, he helped write a brief in an assault and battery case.

“That was really cool, and I was super proud,” he said. “He handled everything brilliantly,” said Pro Bono Center attorney Patricia Jones. “He has compassion, and he has empathy, and that’s not something you can teach a person. He’s hard-wired that way. He goes over and beyond the call of duty.”

That Slaugenhaupt landed the fellowship was just one element of a steamrolling mission that began a few years ago and, after a series of events, steamrolled his original plans.

His father, Tracy, a lineman for a power company, went to Florida to volunteer in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in 2017. An accident cost him an arm, caused extensive burns and left him a paraplegic. “I was going back and forth to Florida, doing school, working three jobs,” Devin Slaugenhaupt said. “And then came the inevitable ‘We’ve got to find a lawyer to help us.’” They had this chance to work in Europe. A difficult family situation intervened. His father, Tracy, a lineman for a power company, went to Florida to volunteer in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in 2017. An accident cost him an arm, caused extensive burns and left him a paraplegic.

Slaugenhaupt was already aware that there were underserved sectors. He grew up in an area that fit that description. He remembers a decade ago when his grandparents wanted to draw up a will and found that there was just one lawyer in the region who could help them.

His experience at Pitt has reinforced Slaugenhaupt’s desire to go into public service as an attorney. That includes not only the curriculum but also an internship last summer in the U.S. Attorney’s office, where he was encouraged to apply for this summer’s fellowship.

The John P. Gismondi Fund, established in 2014, places a rising third-year Pitt law school student with a public interest non-profit organization that provides legal services to those in need. It is a paid internship.

Slaugenhaupt has discovered there are public service areas he never realized were so integral to people’s lives. Divorce cases, for instance.

“It’s incredible the stories that people have about how this one simple thing that you’re doing – it’s a 30-page complaint – is going to help them out,” he said.

The experience at the Pro Bono Center was so rewarding that Slaugenhaupt planned to stay on past the paid period that ended at the close of July, a welcome gesture.

“Every assignment I’ve sent to him has been executed with attention to detail,” Jones said. “He’s got a standard of excellence that I don’t think I’ve ever seen on his level. I think he’s going to go on to great things. I hope he will look back on his time with us as something that means something to him.”

Coming out of Georgetown, Slaugenhaupt thought he had a plan. Now, based on his life experience, his law school experience, and most recently his experience as a Gismondi Fund fellow, he has a new plan.

“Right out of law school, the goal is if everything goes OK with COVID, I’m in the process of commissioning with the Marines as a JAG,” he said. “And then what I’d like to do is come out and either find an organization to work with or start my own organization that focuses specifically on child welfare, child abuse, stuff like that – victim representation, especially children.”

Everything is just kind of falling in place.”
Pro Bono Center and Juvenile Court Project continue work throughout pandemic

By Zandy Dudiak

The effects of the pandemic shut-down have been very different for the ACBF’s Pro Bono Center and the ACFB’s Juvenile Court Project.

The Pro Bono Center (PBC) staff, which have been working remotely since Gov. Tom Wolf’s shutdown order in March, is tentatively anticipating a return to staggered scheduling in their Koppers Building offices after Labor Day.

Having a remote office at home hasn’t really changed the nature of the work done by the two full-time lawyers who staff the center along with a part-time law student or fellow. “So much of what we do is giving advice by telephone,” said Barbara Griffin, PBC director. “We’ve been able to continue that very smoothly.”

On the other hand, the Juvenile Court Project (JCP) got off to a bit of a rocky start.

The JCP advocates for and protects the legal rights of indigent parents whose children are the subjects of parental rights proceedings in Juvenile Court. “We weren’t really equipped to work remotely,” said Cathly Volponi, JCP Director. “For everyone, this has been a unique situation with challenges.”

While some staff members were able to log into their office computer desktops from their home computers, others had only cellphones to conduct business at the beginning of the COVID-19 shutdown. They were approved at the August 5, 2020 Board of Governors meeting.

Welcome New Members

The following new ACBA members were approved at the August 5, 2020 Board of Governors meeting.

Active Members:

- Angela Y. Hayden, Esq.
- Maura K. Perri, Esq.
- Nicholas J. Raker, Esq.

Active Government/Legal Services Members:

- Michael D. McDowell, Esq.
- Francesca Iovino, Esq.
- Ryan S Kiray, Esq.
- Micah T. Wright, Esq.

Law Student Members:

- Katherine R. Andrews
- William D. Foltz
- Alah S. Hash
- Ashley R. James

Prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, the DLP required those being served to complete an in-person intake process at its Koppers Building office. Now, everything is handled remotely. After a phone screening, those who qualify are sent an application through email, which is also returned electronically. “We may never go back to in-person intakes,” Griffin said. “This is one change I think we’ll keep.”

Volponi said it saves applicants time off work, which is sometimes harder for low-income workers to arrange, and also the cost of bus fares or parking.

Volponi said. Though the court procedures have allowed for in-person hearings, there was also a provision to permit attorneys who did not feel comfortable to participate remotely. “All of our clients’ hearings have been done either through Microsoft Teams or teleconference,” she said.

Volponi said her staff has done “zooman’s way” adjusting to the pandemic. “Normal” of working remotely. “Microsoft Teams - that was the game changer,” Volponi said. “People are pretty proficient with it now.”

The Microsoft Teams video conferencing provides both the video and voice, which is more accommodating for remote hearings than teleconferencing, Volponi said.

Though most clients participate over phone for adjusting to the pandemic, some download Microsoft Teams to their phones. Volponi said the feedback back she has received from clients is that they appreciate not having to travel during the pandemic.

“I don’t think it could replace all hearings and all situations,” Volponi noted. “I can’t imagine being a parent with children removed and not seeing the judge or looking at them. Despite the challenges, she said hearings have been “meaningful” and “substan5tive.”

“Everyone did pitch in to make it work,” Volponi added. “In our system, the efforts of collaboration are there. People try to work together. It comes down to communicating with each other.”

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Through the ACBA’s partnership with Office Depot and OfficeMax, individual members and entire firms can enjoy discounts of up to 55 percent on the purchase of office supplies and discounts of up to 70 percent on printing and copying services. Firms that spend $6,000 or more on office supplies annually are eligible for additional discounts. For more information or to enroll, see www.ACBA.org/OfficeDepot or contact David Jarvis at David.Jarvis@officeDepot.com.

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LAW PRACTICE MANAGEMENT
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international law firms to help with a complex construction matter in arbitration before the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). Their client, a global construction company, was involved in a heated dispute with the owners of a major infrastructure project concerning hundreds of millions of dollars of unpaid invoices.

Disputes like this are not uncommon in the construction industry, but this case was particularly data-intensive, with numerous data points to consider. The consultant needed to analyze a large volume of project data, including contracts and subcontracts, and thousands of scanned invoices with supporting documents. If this was integrated into a visual dashboard for context, this allowed both the experts and legal professionals to understand and develop their findings.

Using a visualization platform, the data was integrated into a visual dashboard for context. This allowed both the experts and legal professionals to interact with and manipulate the data at both the macro and micro level, providing an ability to see the big picture or drill down directly to an individual invoice, contract, subcontract or other supporting documents. If this had been pieced together manually, the client’s legal and expert fees would have been multiple times higher, and the process would have taken much longer.

As this case demonstrates, data visualization techniques give experts, attorneys and their clients a clear advantage over their less data-savvy opponents. With clients demanding adoption of innovation during the COVID-19 crisis, legal professionals who embrace and exploit data visualization techniques will give their clients the winning advantage now and into future matters.

Daniel Gold, Esq., is the managing director of BDO’s Managed Services practice and developer of BDO’s Athenagia, a proprietary business intelligence software platform for e-discovery. Daniel’s passion for managed services has made him a known thought leader in e-discovery. He is an expert in continuing legal education (CLE) speaker topics ranging from e-discovery managed services to the ethical requirements in e-discovery to the convergence of cybersecurity and legal technology. Daniel can be reached at dgold@bdo.com or 704.975.9869. Bryan Bellack, Esq., is an attorney and globally recognized sales executive at BDO trained in litigation, expert services and technology driven solutions. Bryan serves as a strategic advisor to corporations and legal counsel on complex litigation matters, information risk issues, cybersecurity matters, and the adoption of advanced technology to solve critical business and legal challenges for complex disputes, global investigations and compliance. Bryan can be reached at bbellack@bdo.com or 917.975.2375.

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and convincingly, with supporting facts at their fingertips for opposing counsel and the ICC.

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In Memoriam

Allan Cohen


Robert R. Leight

Unexpectedly, on Sunday, July 26, 2020, age 68, of Franklin Park. Son of the late Ruth (Fichter) and Robert A. Leight; beloved husband of Kathleen Leight; also survived by nieces and nephews, Frayda Cohen and Herb (and his wife Sue) Cohen and great-nieces, Mara and Esther Cohen.

Bar Briefs

People on the Move

Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani welcomes Shannon Voll Poliziani as partner in the Pittsburgh office. She joins the firm’s Health Care and Professional Liability Defense practice groups. She concentrates her practice in the defense of professional liability and medical malpractice claims, representing physicians, hospitals and other healthcare personnel.

Change in Status

Pittsburgh attorney Samir George Haded has been reinstated to active status from a six month suspension, effective upon compliance with attorney registration requirements.

By Order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania dated August 10, 2020, Allegheny County attorney Darren Keith Hare, formerly of Pittsburgh, PA, has been suspended on consent from the practice of law for a period of one year and one day, effective September 9, 2020.

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