

THE BARRISTER



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CCBA WINS NATIONAL CLE AWARD

As members know and hopefully appreciate, the Camden County Bar Association has been a leader among local bar associations in providing inexpensive continuing legal education for area attorneys. "Long before mandatory New Jersey CLE, our Association saw the need to provide attorneys in our area with top quality seminars that not only enabled practitioners to enhance their skills, but also to enable those admitted in Pennsylvania to obtain credits essential to fulfilling their annual CLE requirements," noted Executive Director Larry Pelletier. "We have been a leader among local bar organizations in developing and presenting both live and online seminars in a wide array of practice areas, including, of course, ethics, an area which, along with professionalism, long has been an important topic we chose to address."

As CCBA President Eric Fikry, observed, "We all know just how many organizations vie for our CLE dollars. The fact that our organization is able to offer such high-quality programs at incredibly reasonable prices is a

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Cocktails & Conversation Bench/Bar Cocktail Party Returns

MEMBERS ONLY

If you're looking for a great opportunity to relax with colleagues from the bench and bar while enjoying a two hour open bar and terrific Italian party fare, then Cocktails & Conversation fits the bill.

Scheduled for 6-8 pm, **Monday, May 14th** at Il Villaggio in Cherry Hill, this "Member Only" event will include the presentation of the

(Continued on Page 3)



6 Free CLE Credits Await!

Dues notices for the 2018-19 membership year will soon arrive in your mail, and are payable by **June 1**. Paying promptly ensures that your Association continues to serve you and the community with its many important programs and services.

As a CCBA member you receive numerous benefits, which more than justify the low cost of dues:

- **6 complimentary CLE credits;**
- **Member-only professional networking events with colleagues and Jurists;**
- **The Barrister and electronic updates;**
- **75% discount on meeting/deposition facilities;**
- **60% discount on CLE Seminars;**
- **50% discount on Camden County Vicinage lawyer ID cards;**
- **Discounted online CLE programs;**
- **20 substantive practice area committees;**
- **Discounted products & services from our Partners in Progress and other retailers;**
- **Advocacy initiatives and more!**

Now, more than ever, your membership in the CCBA provides the value-added benefits you want and need. **Don't Delay, Renew Today!**

SAVE THE DATE • LIP SYNC BATTLE



April 19 • VERA • Cherry Hill

See Page 9 for more information



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Advertise in the 2018 Dinner Dance Program Book

Support the Bar Foundation's Community Service Programs



This year's Annual Installation of Officers & Trustees will take place on **Thursday, June 7th** at the Katz Jewish Community Center in Cherry Hill featuring a two-hour, upscale cocktail party. Celebrating the Association's 137 years of service to the legal profession and community, **Ronald G. Lieberman** will be sworn in as the Association's 92nd President, as **Louis R. Moffa, Jr.** takes the helm of the Bar Foundation and the other new officers & trustees take their oaths of office.

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THE DOCKET

Saturday, April 7

Anna Sample House Easter Party
11:00 – 1:00pm
Anna Sample House, Camden

Tuesday, April 10

Hon. Gloria M. Burns Annual Bankruptcy
Bench Bar Conference
4:00 – 7:15pm
Tavistock Country Club, Haddonfield

Wednesday, April 18

The Tax Cuts & Job Act: How it Affects Your
Clients and Practice
12:00 – 2:15pm
Tavistock Country Club, Haddonfield

CCBA Board of Trustees Meeting
4:00 pm
Bar Headquarters

Thursday, April 19

Lip Sync Battle
6:00 – 9:00pm
Vera, Cherry Hill

Tuesday, April 24

Hot Topics in Commercial Litigation
4:00 – 6:15pm
Tavistock Country Club, Haddonfield

Wednesday, April 25

Young Lawyer Committee Meeting
12:30 – 1:30pm
Bar Headquarters

Thursday, April 26

Bridge the Gap - NJ Criminal Trial Preparation
– Newly Admitted Attorneys
3:00 – 6:15pm
Tavistock Country Club, Haddonfield

Tentative agenda for April 18, Trustees Meeting

A tentative agenda for this month's regular Board of Trustees meeting follows. The meeting will begin at 4 pm, at Bar Headquarters in Cherry Hill. Meetings are open to the membership. Anyone interested in attending should notify and confirm their attendance by calling Bar Headquarters at 856.482.0620.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Minutes from Previous Meeting
- III. Treasurer's Report
- IV. President's Report
- V. Executive Director's Report
- VI. Membership Committee Report
- VII. Young Lawyer Committee Report
- VIII. Standing Committee Reports
- IX. Foundation Update
- X. NJSBA Update
- XI. New Business (if any)
- XII. Old Business
- XIII. Adjourn

CCBA WINS NATIONAL CLE AWARD

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testament to our members and the professionals with whom we have aligned, as well as the organizational culture that developed over many decades to provide such a meaningful benefit to practitioners both within and outside our county."

In a formal ceremony held at the ABA Bar Leadership Institute in Chicago on March 15th, President-Elect Ron Lieberman accepted the award for "Best County Bar Association Continuing Legal Education Programming" given annually to one county bar organization nationwide by the Associations Providing Resources in Lawyer Fundamentals Offering Ongoing Legal Studies, a subcommittee of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Continuing Legal Education. "Even when reflecting on the acronym of the organization conferring this award," Ron noted, "I am extremely proud of the role our Bar Association plays in promoting competence in our profession at such affordable prices."

Nominations sought for Judge John F. Gerry Award

The Judge John F. Gerry Award was established by the Camden County Bar Foundation to acknowledge the continuing outstanding contributions of a member of the Bar of the State of New Jersey, or a member of the State or Federal Judiciary in New Jersey, to the administration of justice in the State of New Jersey, who exemplifies the spirit and humanitarianism of the individual in whose honor this award has been named.

The Foundation invites members of the bar and the public to nominate individuals to receive the 2018 Gerry Award, which will be presented at the Annual Gerry Awards Presentation in October. Nominations should be made in writing and sent to: Laurence B. Pelletier, Executive Director, Camden County Bar Association, 1040 N. Kings Highway, Suite 201, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034, no later than **May 15, 2018**.

Nominations may also be emailed to Mr. Pelletier at: lbp@camdencountymbar.org.



THE BARRISTER

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AND FUNCTIONS!**

Nominations for Camden County Bar Foundation Board of Trustees

Lawyers Strengthening our Community

The legal profession is committed to helping others and to further that ambition the Camden County Bar Foundation (CCBF) was created in 1986 as the Association's charitable partner. Through a wide range of annual community service programs and projects, the Foundation provides joy, comfort and hope to members of our community who most need and deserve it, while fostering a greater understanding of the legal system.

If you enjoy making smiles happen, letting others know that there are people who care about them, and helping deserving law students

find the financial resources necessary to complete their education, then you should consider taking a leadership position as a Bar Foundation Trustee.

We're looking for members who want to make a difference, who have creative and new ideas to expand and improve existing programs while developing new ones, who find satisfaction in helping others and who are interested in taking a leadership position.

If this is YOU, then please submit a letter of interest and resume to Bar Headquarters by **Friday, April 27th**. You CAN make a difference!

Bench/Bar Cocktail Party Returns

Continued from page 1

official judicial portrait to Hon. Robert G. Millenky, J.S.C. (Ret.), and the Foundation's 2018 Law School Scholarships. Come early and earn 2.4 NJ CLE credits by attending an important and timely seminar: **Best Practices in ADR**, featuring a panel of four retired judges, from 3:15-5:30. Register for both and enjoy a discounted package price!

Cocktails & Conversation is also the final opportunity to mix and mingle with colleagues and Camden County jurists of the Superior, US District, Bankruptcy and Workers' Compensation Courts, in a relaxed and festive atmosphere until the Meet the Judges & Law Clerks Reception in September.

Refer to the Cocktails & Conversation Bench-Bar Cocktail Party insert for additional information and to make your reservation(s). **This is a member only event and early registration is encouraged for this traditionally "packed house" evening.**

Cocktails & Conversation



Bench/Bar Cocktail Party

With a shot of CLE!

Members Only

6-8 pm • Monday, May 14th
Il Villaggio • Cherry Hill
\$65 (\$75 @ the door)
\$55* (\$65 @ the door)

* Admitted to the bar 5 years or less.

Special package price for the seminar & party combo!

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Working Together . . . Lawyer Referral, Law Firms & Lawyers

Open Enrollment Begins for 2018-2019 Lawyer Referral Service Panel

Enrollment is now open for the Association's successful Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) for the coming year. Panel membership is open to any lawyer who meets the necessary qualifications. The new LRS Panel will begin on June 1, and will continue through May 31, 2019. **Members serving on the current panel must re-enroll for the new LRS year.**

Each year, the LRS makes more than 5,000 referrals for callers with legal problems who are able to afford a private attorney to LRS Panel members; many of them fee generating cases. You can be a part of this growing venture that helps expand your client base through pre-qualified referrals for the cost of a good dinner at one of the area's fine restaurants. This is the only Lawyer Referral Service sponsored and operated by the Camden County Bar Association, and provides a terrific community service for individuals requiring legal services.

The annual registration fee remains only \$75 for those admitted to the New Jersey Bar for up to five years or \$150 for those admitted six years or more. Please note that LRS panel members are subject to a fee sharing arrangement whereby attorneys are required to remit 10% of fees in excess of \$500 for all matters received from the LRS back to the Association. The fee applies to any referral received from the LRS and is payable when the participating attorney receives payment for services rendered.

A completed application, together with the appropriate enrollment fee and required original certificate of malpractice insurance coverage, must be returned to the Bar Association before any referrals can be made.

Applications may be downloaded from the Association's website, www.camdencountybar.org, or by calling Roseanne Riley at Bar Headquarters at 856.482.0620. Questions about the LRS? Contact Roseanne by phone or via e-mail at rry@camdencountybar.org.

MEMBER ON THE SPOT



NAME: Charles Dennen
PRACTICE AFFILIATION: Archer & Greiner, PC
YEAR ADMITTED TO BAR: 2013
OTHER BAR ADMITTANCES: Pennsylvania (2013)
RESIDENCE: Philadelphia, PA

HIGH SCHOOL: Woodbury HS

COLLEGE: Rutgers—New Brunswick, Rutgers College '08

LAW SCHOOL: Rutgers Law – Camden, '13

WHAT LED YOU TO A LEGAL CAREER: My father is an attorney and, I think at least in large part due to that, it's always something I was interested in. My time as a paralegal in New York solidified by desire to become an attorney.

BEST PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTE: Loyalty. I pride myself on never forgetting the people who have helped, loved, and supported me along the way.

GREATEST FAULT: I have a tendency to get too bogged down in the minutiae. Sometimes it's more important to see the big picture.

WHAT I DO TO RELAX: Spend time with my fiancé. I'm also a big sports fan and enjoy exercising to blow off some steam.

HOBBIES: Traveling, running, cooking, wine, eating at new restaurants, sports.

FAVORITE RESTAURANT: Tinto

FAVORITE TELEVISION SHOW: The Wire. Breaking Bad is a close second.

FAVORITE MOVIE: Braveheart

FAVORITE AUTHOR/BOOK: *Last of the Mohicans* or *The Killer Angels*. I give a different answer to this all the time so I'm taking the easy way out and listing both.

FAVORITE VACATION PLACES: California Wine Country and Paris

FAVORITE WEBSITE: TripAdvisor

FAVORITE MUSEUM: The Smithsonian, the Barnes Foundation, and the Rodin.

FAVORITE WEEKEND GETAWAY: Cape May

ENJOY MOST ABOUT PRACTICING LAW: The law is always providing new challenges or problems that need to be tackled—I think that is especially true in the environmental litigation field. Every case has its own set of intricacies and nuances that make it unique and challenging.

MOST ADMIRER PERSON AND WHY: My parents. I have always emulated the balance they struck between demanding careers and being wonderful parents. As I have gotten older, I have grown to appreciate more all the time and sacrifice it took for them to be so involved in our family while also maintaining successful careers. My goal every day is to strike that balance as well as they did. I also need to sneak in a shameless plug for how much I admire the person my sister has become.

WHEN AND WHERE HAPPIEST?: A Friday or Saturday night with nothing to do but hang out with my fiancé, cook a nice meal, and open a bottle of wine.

CHERISHED MEMORIES: I feel very fortunate that I am surrounded by wonderful people who have given me so many great memories. To name a few: car-ride conversations with my dad on the way to soccer games/tournaments all over the east coast; nights around a fire with my high school friends; living in a house with my college friends during senior year; and countless family gatherings.

GREATEST FEAR: Disappointing the people who have always loved and supported me.

ALTERNATE CAREER CHOICE: General manager of a Major League Baseball team.

GREATEST LESSON LEARNED FROM PRACTICE OF LAW:

You can never be too prepared. The more prepared you are, the more comfortable and confident you can be in letting your natural ability take over. Also, treat everyone with courtesy and respect. Although the practice of law can be adversarial, the world is round.

PERSON YOU'D MOST LIKE TO DINE WITH: Barack Obama

PET PEEVE(S): Tardiness. Also, when drivers don't wave to acknowledge that I moved over to let them pass.

LIFE'S HIGHLIGHTS: Graduating from law school, traveling, and spending time with family and friends have all been pretty great so far, but meeting my fiancé and developing the relationship I now have with her daughter stand out above else. I hope to have many more highlights ahead.

GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: Being happy in both my personal and professional life. I like to think that my greatest accomplishments are yet to come, but you can't ask for much more than happiness and balance as a 32 year-old attorney.

#1 PROFESSIONAL GOAL: To make partner at Archer and be well-respected by my colleagues, peers, and adversaries alike.

#1 PERSONAL GOAL: To be as good a parent as my parents and raise children who turn out as well as my sister has. It is also very important to me that I maintain and grow the friendships that have meant so much to me.

LIFE EXPERIENCE(S) WITH GREATEST IMPACT: Two experience stand out above all others: (1) Early on in college, I was not as focused on my academics as I should have been. I had a moment of clarity during my sophomore year that I was not on track to become the person I always wanted to be. I promised myself in that moment that I would do everything I could to never feel that way again. (2) Meeting my future wife and becoming such a big part of her daughter's life.

ADVICE TO YOUNG LAWYER: Work hard and never lose sight of what you want. Being a lawyer requires a lot of hard work and some long hours but it also has incredible rewards. If you are doing something you enjoy, it makes that hard work and those long hours much more tolerable. Also, take a moment every so often to assess where you are compared to where you want to be.

HOPE TO BE DOING IN 10 YEARS: In 10 years, I would like to be a partner at Archer and coaching my kids' sports teams.

FAVORITE QUOTATION: "Play for the name on the front of the jersey and they will remember the name on the back." Tony Adams, soccer player. It applies in so many contexts.

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PERSONAL INJURY LAW

The Impact of Crowd-Funding on Individuals Receiving Public Benefits

By Thomas D. Begley, Jr., CELA

Crowd-Funding

People often utilized an online device known as "crowd-funding" to raise money for certain purposes. Popular online websites include GoFundMe, Indiegogo, and Crowdrise. These websites allow users to fundraiser for individuals and personal causes. They are often very effective ways to raise money. On other occasions, crowd-funding is done outside of online sites, such as 5k runs, potluck dinners, etc. Typically, the funds from these events are deposited into a "trust" in a bank for the benefit of the ultimate beneficiary.

Public Benefits

Sometimes the beneficiary of the crowd-funding is an individual receiving means-tested public benefits such as SSI, Medicaid, Food Stamps (SNAP), heating assistance (LIHEAP), federally-assisted housing (Section 8), pharmaceutical assistance, etc. Many of these benefits have income and asset limits. For example, an individual receiving SSI and Medicaid can only have \$2,000 of assets in his/her name. If the individual benefits from crowd-funding and receives more than \$2,000, the individual will be over-resourced and will lose those benefits.

Alternatives

There are five alternatives for the individual receiving means-tested public benefits:

1. *Accept the Money.* This option means that the beneficiary will accept the money and forego public benefits. Before making this decision, an analysis should be made as to the value of the public benefits being lost. For example, in New Jersey the maximum SSI payment is \$766.65 per month. Over a year, this is \$9,199.80. For five years, the total would be \$45,999.00. Actually, it would be a little more, because the SSI payment is indexed to inflation. What is the cost of replacing Medicaid including premiums for private insurance, deductibles, copays, etc.?
2. *Spend Down.* If the amount realized through the crowd-funding is not large, the individual may be able to spend the money down in the month received. There would be an overpayment for that month, but as long as the money is spent before the first day of the next calendar month, benefits would not be lost. Typical spend down items include: cars, houses, home improvements, debt repayment, clothing, etc.
3. *Transfer the Funds.* If the individual with disabilities transfers the funds received from the crowd-funding to a third party for less than fair market value, there is a transfer of asset penalty. For all practical purposes, the transfer of asset penalty for SSI is three years. During that three years, SSI is lost and Medicaid is lost as well. This is not usually a good solution.
4. *Special Needs Trust.* A Special Needs Trust will protect the individual's public benefits, because the money in the Special Needs Trust is not counted as an asset. If the amount raised is relatively small, i.e., \$150,000 or less, consideration should be given to depositing the money in a Pooled Trust administered by a non-profit disability organization. If the amount exceeds \$150,000, the money should be deposited in a standalone Special Needs Trust administered by a professional trustee.

If the money from the crowd-funding is payable to someone other than the individual with the disabilities, such as the parents, then the parents can establish a Third Party Special Needs Trust and deposit the amount raised into that Trust. These trusts are more flexible to administer and do not require a Medicaid payback on death.

If the money from the crowd-funding is payable to the individual receiving public benefits, then a First Party Special Needs Trust is required. Again, the money in the trust is not counted as an asset of the beneficiary, but there are strict rules. One rule is that the money can be used only for the sole benefit of the individual with disabilities. Another is that any money remaining in the trust on the death of the beneficiary must be first used to repay Medicaid.
5. *ABLE Account.* An ABLE account is an account that can be managed by the individual with disabilities or a family member. There is a limit of one account per individual. The maximum contribution in any one calendar year is the amount of the federal gift tax annual exclusion, which for 2017 is \$14,000. ABLE accounts are a very useful tool, because the individual can control some of the assets. In addition, monies paid from the ABLE account for food and shelter do not impact the amount of the SSI payment.

Establishing the Special Needs Trust

So long as the individual with disabilities is not the creator of the campaign and the funds from the crowd-funding campaign have not been paid to the individual, a Third Party Special Needs Trust can be established. If the funds have been paid to the individual, a First Party Special Needs Trust must be established. The best situation is to have the funds payable from the crowd-funding campaign directly to the trustee of the Third Party Special Need Trust. If the beneficiary is the creator of the crowd-funding campaign, the funds will belong to that individual and a Self-Settled Special Needs Trust will be required. If a third party is the creator of the campaign, proceeds can be paid to a Third Party Special Needs Trust. Prior to launching the campaign, the creators must understand these ramifications. At the time the trust is funded, the beneficiary, the trustee, and any attorney involved in

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PERSONAL INJURY LAW

The Impact of Crowd-Funding on Individuals Receiving Public Benefits

(Continued from Page 5)

drafting the trust should meet and determine what immediate cash needs the beneficiary has and develop a monthly budget. If possible, a credit card should be obtained for the beneficiary. The beneficiary can then charge budget items to the credit card and forward the credit card bill and receipts to the trustee on a monthly basis. If items are required that are not on the budget, the beneficiary must contact the trustee in advance. For a Third Party Special Needs Trust, it is recommended that someone other than the beneficiary establish the trust. This could be a parent, a family member or friend. The establishor simply signs the trust document. The trustee of a Special Needs Trust, whether Third Party or First Party, should always be a professional or a disability organization. Administration of Special Needs Trusts is complex. First Party Special Needs Trusts receive a considerable amount of oversight from the State Medicaid Agency.

Advertise in the 2018 Dinner Dance Program Book

(Continued from Page 1)

Pay tribute to Ron and the incoming Officers and Trustees and thank them for the time and effort they give to both organizations by placing an ad in the 2018 commemorative program book.

Proceeds from the Dinner Dance and Adbook support the Bar Foundation's many community service programs and projects that improve the quality of life for local residents, such as parties and picnics for disadvantaged kids, scholarship awards for deserving high school and law school students and scholarships for disabled students attending the Larc School.

Use the Ad Reservation flyer in this month's inserts to reserve a display ad for your firm or place your own personal display ad. Ads must be received by Bar Headquarters no later than **Thursday, MAY 24th** to be included.

In addition there are sponsorship opportunities available to show your support for Ron and the Foundation. Please call bar headquarters to discuss the available sponsorships and look for your invitation in the mail.

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Do you Want to Help Bridge the Justice Gap in New Jersey?

South Jersey Legal Services, Inc. (SJLS) serves the legal needs of the poor in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem counties and provides free legal services in some civil cases to clients whose income and assets are within established limits. SJLS always has a need for bankruptcy attorneys, family law attorneys, attorneys willing to help children who have been denied disability benefits and attorneys willing to help individuals expunge their criminal records. Below are some of the volunteer opportunities available. Thank you to all Camden County attorneys who consistently volunteer their time. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Michelle T. Nuciglio, Esq. SJLS Director of Pro Bono Services, at 856-964-2010 ext. 6229 or MNuciglio@lsnj.org.

The **Pro Bono Bankruptcy Project** refers bankruptcy cases in two ways (1) through our joint program with the bankruptcy bench/bar and Rutgers Law School – Camden where attorneys work with law students to help our clients file for Chapter 7 and (2) through individual referrals directly through SJLS, outside of the Rutgers Project. Applicants are currently waiting 4-5 months to get assigned an attorney. SJLS works with the clients prior to making any referral to get much of the necessary document gathering done before the file is referred.

To participate in **The Divorce Project**, a client must be seeking dissolution of the marriage only. There can be no asset or debt issues and child support and/or custody must already be established by court order.

The **Family Assist Project** provides 30-minute advice consultations to individuals in need of family law advice. Appointments are held once per month either in the SJLS local office or at the attorney's office if the attorney prefers. Attorneys are provided with any relevant court orders. There is no obligation for further assistance beyond the advice consultation.

The **SJLS Expungement Project** helps individuals who need to expunge their criminal records. Because of the recent changes in the law, SJLS has received a large number of expungement requests. Many of these individuals need the expungements in order to secure employment or better housing.

The **Children's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Project** assists children who have been denied disability benefits. This Project was started in 2006 and has resulted in many favorable decisions for children in New Jersey and their families. SJLS provides training materials if needed.

Attorneys who certify that they have performed at least 25 hours of voluntary qualifying *pro bono* service in New Jersey are exempt from being appointed to take a *Madden v. Delran pro bono* case for the following year under Rule 1:21-12.

Make YOUR association work for you!
Get Involved in a Committee.

LEGAL BRIEFS



The law firm of Borger Matez is pleased to announce that **Gary L. Borger** participated as a panelist at the New Jersey Association for Justice's Meadowlands Seminar 2017 on Matrimonial Law. He presented on "The Intersection of Tort and Family Law." Attendees learned how to spot, investigate and prepare for the trial of tort (injury) claims in conjunction with a divorce.

Mr. Borger has concentrated on family law since entering private practice in 1977, gaining substantial experience in handling complex divorces involving alimony claims, child custody and parenting issues, child support, relocation applications to the court for a parent to move out of state with children, property and debt distribution, and applications to the court for protection from domestic violence and abuse. Mr. Borger also has extensive experience in preparing and negotiating pre-marital and cohabitation agreements.

Archer Partner, **John C. Connell**, was awarded the top honor of "2017 Outstanding IP Litigator—New Jersey" by Managing Intellectual Property (Managing IP) at the publication's Americas Awards ceremony on March 15th, 2018 at the Essex House in New York City.

Managing IP Americas Awards recognizes the best firms and individuals for intellectual property nationally and regionally in the US, Canada and Latin America. Mr. Connell was recognized for his role as counsel of record in *Matal v. Tam*, arguing before the Supreme Court of the United States in his successful representation of Simon ShiaoTam, lead singer of the Asian dance-rock band THE SLANTS. In addition, Mr. Connell was also honored by Managing IP by being nominated for the "2017 US IP Appellate Practitioner" award.

Constitutional law has been at the center of Mr. Connell's 32-year career. Mr. Connell practices civil litigation as a first-chair attorney in jury and bench trials and appeals in State and federal courts.

We rely on members to provide announcements for the Legal Briefs section. If you have a new member of the firm, you've moved or you or a member of your firm has received an award or recognition for a professional or community activity, we want to know and share it with fellow bar members. Please email your submissions to lbpc@camdencountybar.org.

Seminar



The new Bridge the Gap for newly admitted lawyers series was recently launched with *New Jersey Basic Estate Administration*. Program faculty were **Janifer Fowler**, Eisner & Fowler, Haddonfield; and **Andy Kushner**, Andrew B. Kushner, LLC, Gibbsboro.

YOUNG LAWYER HAPPENINGS



YOUNG LAWYER CHAIR

By Tom Hagner

Despite the inclement weather, 2018 has been a productive and busy year for the Young Lawyers of Camden County thus far, and it appears as though that trend will continue throughout! In addition to business as usual, the Young Lawyer Committee has had the opportunity to branch out and make some new friends. In February, we co-hosted an event with the Hispanic Bar Association's Young Lawyers Committee at Devil's Creek Brewery in Collingswood. The event was an overwhelming success and was heavily attended by our membership—a trend we hope to continue at all future events.

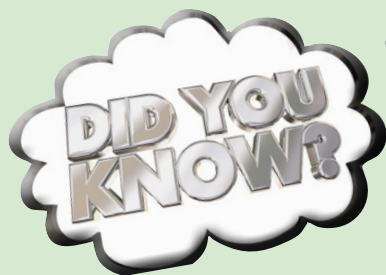
Also in February, the Young Lawyer Committee hosted the Fifth Annual Chili Cook-Off For A Cause at American Legion Post 371 in Gibbsboro. For the first time ever this year, a vegetarian chili won first prize—congratulations **Eva Becker!** I would also like to thank our 'Big Jalapeno' sponsor, Brenda Lee Eutsler & Associates, P.A.; our Dash 'O' Tabasco sponsors, McDowell Law, P.C., Dawnn E. Briddell, Eisenberg, Gold & Agrawal, P.C., Jacobs Schwalbe & Petruzzelli, P.C., and Kulzer & DiPadova, P.A.; refreshment sponsor Brian K. Herman; all of our many donors; our competitors; and last but not least, all of the attendees (including Loren Kagan one of our Partners in Progress - Pennworth Financial Services) for making the night a memorable one. For those who are unaware, this event – which is free for veterans – is a cooking competition fundraiser to benefit New Jersey Veterans Haven of Camden County. This year's event boasted nearly a dozen chili recipes,

and provided all of the guests an opportunity to win one of more than a dozen raffle baskets! Thanks to all of your support, we netted almost \$3,000. We will again be able to provide Veterans Haven with a generous donation which they will put to good use.

On April 7th, we hosted our annual Easter Party for the residents of the Anna Sample House in Camden. As always, members of the Young Lawyer Committee came together to spread joy to those who are in need. Much like the Halloween party, magician Jim Combs and his Easter Bunny stole the show! Jim puts on a wonderful show that lights up the faces of the children and parents alike. Also in April, on the 19th the Young Lawyer Committee will be well represented at the first annual Lip Sync Battle at Vera Restaurant & Lounge. Prepare to be awestruck.

Continuing our trend of creating new friendships, we are planning a spring networking event with the Young Lawyer Committee for New Jersey's chapter of the Federal Bar Association. We hope to host the event in May of this year, and it will be open to all members of the Camden County Bar Association who are in their first ten (10) years of practice.

Finally, mark your calendars for the **Third Annual First Tee Golf Outing** at Merchantville Country Club! We have again partnered with the First Tee of Greater Philadelphia to host a fantastic afternoon of charity and fun. This year's event will take place on **July 9, 2018**, with more details to come at a later date!



- The CCBA offers **FREE advertising** on our website for members and firms with a position to fill, or who are seeking a position? Visit camdencountybar.org to view available positions or to see who is in search of a position. Email your posting to info@camdencountybar.org or fax it to 856.482.0637.

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- The CCBA has a number of benefits to save you money and make the practice of law easier? From exclusive CCBA discounts from our **Partners in Progress** to savings on clothing at Jos. A. Bank and Brooks Brothers, our partnership with NPP and more, we can save you money. Check out our website for ALL of the benefits that add value to your CCBA membership.

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FOUNDATION UPDATE

Give us some **lip**!

By Jenifer G. Fowler

It is hard to believe spring is here. March was a brutal month weather wise but now it is time to celebrate spring. First order of business for the spring is the Foundations spring fundraiser event which is happening on **April 19, 2018** at Vera on Route 70 in Cherry Hill from 6pm until 9pm. This year we thought we would try something new for our spring fundraiser. This year's event is guaranteed to be an entertaining evening.

The Foundation is having a Lip Sync Battle for the spring fundraiser. For those of you that have never had the opportunity to either see or participate in a Lip Sync contest before I encourage you to take 30 minutes out of your day and watch "Lip Sync Battle" on the Paramount Network. LL Cool J hosts, and model Chrissy Teigen provides color commentary. "Lip Sync Battle" brings together some of the biggest performers in entertainment, including Anna Kendrick, Dwayne Johnson, Emily Blunt, Anne Hathaway, Justin Bieber, Jennifer Lopez, and Terrence Howard.


In the same vein as the actual "Lip Sync Battle" the Camden County Bar Foundation is going to bring together some of the biggest and greatest attorneys that practice in the area to battle it out and be judge by their peers while they lip sync to their favorite song. Critics are calling this year's CCBF spring fundraiser event "THE TALK OF THE TOWN," "THE EVENT OF THE YEAR," "A MUST SEE!" In addition to great entertainment this event will raise funds for the Foundations numerous causes which include educational scholarships, assisting those in need in Camden County with events such as the annual children's Christmas Party held at the Boys and Girls Club in Camden, as well as, the annual children's picnic held at Challenge Grove in Cherry Hill in June.

Not only will the event be an evening of great entertainment (a performance by yours truly with 5 other female Barristers), the evening will also include a silent auction so all in attendance have an opportunity to bid and walk away with amazing baskets. In that regard, we are not only seeking performers but we are

looking to our members to put together baskets or simply donate items of \$100 or more and allow the Foundation to put together a basket for you. There are also sponsorship opportunities available for attorneys and firms. We hope that all of you will support the CCBF and be part of the event in any way that you can.

Save The Date!

Lip Sync Battle



April 19th ♦ **VERA** ♦ Cherry Hill

CCBA's own **Matt Portella** will be stepping into the ring as MC when the **Bar Foundation's Lip Sync Battle** pits South Jersey's most talented lip sync artists against each other in a fight to the finish! Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy an entertaining evening of song, fun and laughter as colleagues and friends share their non-lawyering talents for the **Bar Foundation's Big Spring Fundraiser**.

See the **Lip Sync Battle** inserts at the end of the Barrister.



SEMINAR

The Women in the Profession Committee celebrated National Women's History Month in March with the CLE program *A Lawyer's Guide to Dealing with Difficult Clients, Adversaries & Experts*. Held at the Voorhees Branch of the Investors Bank, the Association's newest Partner in Progress, attendees enjoyed a pre-seminar reception and used the opportunity to support **Distributing Dignity**, a Cherry Hill organization which distributes feminine clothing and products to women in need throughout the country. Program faculty included **Jenifer Fowler**, Eisner & Fowler, Haddonfield; **Tommie Anne Gibney**, Andres & Berger, Haddonfield; **Shayna Slater**, Anapol Weiss, Cherry Hill & Philadelphia and **Brenda Eutsler**, Brenda Lee Eutsler & Associates, P.A., Cherry Hill.

WINE & FOOD

By Jim Hamilton

March is a busy month for tasting wine, particularly if one has access to the many opportunities offered to those in or connected to the wine trade. I headed-up to NYC for two of the three tastings to which I had access during five days early last month, enabling me to search out wines for us to discuss this month.

The first tasting is an annual one I enjoy attending presented by the Slow Wine organization, the vinous equivalent of the "slow food" movement that began 30 years ago in northern Italy. The concept is to focus more attention on responsible production of agricultural products, in this case wine. In the past, the organization promoted only Italian producers and their wines. This year, six California wineries were invited to attend. While there were some very nice wines offered by these U.S. producers, their cost puts them beyond most people's idea of good value, so I shall focus on some of the Italian wines made by wineries that enjoy good distribution in our country.

One of the features of this tasting is that a number of the wineries pouring their wines do not have, but are looking for, a U.S. distributor. While it can be fun to taste wines that currently are not available in our country, they would be of little interest to those who find a wine described here interesting enough to search out. So, let's talk about a few wines that, fingers crossed, will be found in our market.

Initially, let's focus on a grape that often is overlooked when American consumers are buying wines from Italy's Piedmont region. **2014 G.D. Vajra Barbera d'Alba Superiore** offers some very high-toned fruit



resembling blackberries, presented within a nicely supple and fairly bountiful body. The acidity really is mouthwatering, making this a wine poised to pair with meat and pastas. I made a point to visit with Giovanni Pasquero Elia, one of the brothers behind the Paitin label that long has been a part of the Moore Brothers select inventory. The **2015 Barbera d'Alba Serra** is, perhaps, a bit redder in its fruit impression than the Vajra, but again it offers nice acidity, particular for this vintage, with the broad and expansive flavor profile a warmer year can offer. **2014 Casa E. di Mirafiore Barbera d'Alba Superiore** is in many ways similar to the Vajra. It offers more of the black fruit, although perhaps showing a touch more black cherry, with a medium body that, again, is framed by brisk acidity. The finish in this wine is perhaps the most enduring of these Barberas.

(Continued on Page 11)



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WINE & FOOD

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If Barbera is not in your wine sights, I suspect a wine made from a blend of Barbera, Sangiovese and Sagrantino may seem even more foreign. However, if you run across the **2014 Tabarrini Montefalco Rosso Boccatone**, and the price is attractive, you may want to consider it. The flavor profile is a bit darker than the above wines and, owing no doubt to the Sagrantino in the blend, there is an earthy gaminess to the very dark, black fruit. To add complexity, there are nuances of graphite and underbrush commanding one's attention.

If we venture south to Italy's Tuscany, the **2015 Badia a Coltibuono Chianti Classico** is a complete and lovely wine. The fruit is red cherry with a touch of mulberry and it extends broadly from opening to the finish without any sharp edges. While the wine displays the acidity one looks for in the Sangiovese grape, it does not intrude on the fruit impressions, but rather escorts them with a firm but velvety grip through the long ending. Another winner from the very fine 2015 Tuscan vintage is the **2015 Poggio al Sole Chianti Classico**. My impression of, and thus notes for, this wine is that it shares many of the attributes of the Badia a Coltibuono. The fruit and grip are really quite similar, with the most noticeable difference seeming to be a slightly lower level of fruit intensity. Both, however, are fine examples of top flight Chianti.

Let's now focus on a few white "Slow Wines" for your warmer weather enjoyment. A venerable Veneto producer of white wines is Pieropan. It is a fairly large estate that focuses on making Soave, and their entry level wine almost always is reliably good. **2016 Pieropan Soave Classico** is a crisp wine that offers lithe rather than broad vanilla and citric fruit

exhibiting veins of almonds. It is crafted from the two main grapes of Soave wines, Garganega and Trebbiano. In Italy's Marche region, a grape that thrives is Verdicchio, and a nice rendition of this varietal is offered by **2016 Pievalta Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore**. Verdicchio is thought to share DNA with Trebbiano, although as a varietal it is fairly limited in the regions in which it is grown. There are two primary types of Verdicchio in the Marche, that which, like this one, is grown around the commune of Jesi, and those from grapes grown around Macerata, called Verdicchio di Matelica. The Matelica versions tend to be regarded more highly, in part because the allowable grape yields are lower increasing the potential for quality. Candidly, my notes for this wine are not much longer than its name. I found the wine that to show spicy notes over citric fruit that is crisply delivered. It is a clean wine that will be compatible with lightly sauced chicken and fish dishes.

The other early March tasting I attended was the Skurnik Grand Portfolio tasting. As you may recall from past reports, the Skurnik brothers have built and maintained an enviable portfolio of producers during the past 31 years, and each March they bring together many of the winemakers/owners to pour their wines (and increasingly spirits and beer). With 194 tables of wine, spirits and beer (thankfully for us, mostly wine), it is possible in four hours to barely scratch the surface of what is on offer. I'll save many of the wines I managed to taste for another column, but I wanted to mention a few as we close out this month's discussion.

I had a nice visit and chat with Laely Heron, a very genial and ambitious producer of both domestic and foreign wines. I made sure to stop at her table because her focus is



on value, and she manages to hit that sweet spot in the marketplace with regularity. While all the wines being poured were very good, I thought the best was the **2016 Heron Wines Mendocino Sauvignon Blanc**. Sauvignon Blanc has become increasingly popular, thanks in great part to the success of those brought to us from New Zealand. The hallmarks of many New Zealand versions are their impressions of green grass and boxwood (less gently characterized as cat pee). These wines may have as many detractors as fans. If that style is not to your liking, perhaps this wine will work for you. It conveys a richer presentation, with ripe fruit that largely lacks the aggressively herbal notes that can be found in wines from this grape. Unlike many U.S. Sauvignon Blancs, which often are more expensive, this wine does not use oak to please Chardonnay fans but is a clean melon and apple fruited wine that is easy to like.

Another wine producer to look out for is Andrew Latta and his relatively new project, Disruption Wine Company. His motto pretty much sums up his approach—"more wine, less ego." Andrew cut his teeth working for Charles Smith, about whom I have written in the past. Charles achieved tremendous success (and wealth) with his Washington State wine ventures, building a strong following for well-made and cleverly marketed wines, five of

which he sold in 2016 for a reported \$120,000,000. Andrew undoubtedly had a hand in that success, and, realizing the potential, left Charles Smith and began producing his own wine. Not unlike Smith's (now Constellation Brand's) popular Kung Fu Girl Riesling, the **2016 Disruption Washington State Riesling** has crowd pleasing potential. It offers peachy Riesling flavors that are round with (and likely because of) a touch of residual sugar. It is a fleshy wine for those who really prefer something slightly off-dry and eminently quaffable. Cheers!



SEMINAR

Marketing Through Social & Electronic Media was the topic of the day at a recent CLE Lunch & Learn program at Tavistock. Program faculty were **Jon Bernstein**, General Manager, Creative Web Group in Pennsauken; **Craig Becker**, Craig David Becker-Attorney at Law, Mt. Laurel.



FINANCIAL FORENSICS

CCBA Members are Givers...

By Martin H. Abo, CPA/ABV/CVA/CFF

Yep, it's Abo. But not reciting forensic or valuation insight or ideas. Nope. With tax returns and damages reports flying about me, I had to break away last month to see the Camden County Bar's presenting the highest honor it can bestow, the Hon. Peter J. Devine Award, to its greatest "giver", Brenda Lee Eutsler, Esq. (a/k/a CCBA's Energizer Bunny). With tax season here and many concerns expressed about charitable contributions in 2018, what a perfect time of year to remind you, as charitably inclined professionals, to at least think taxes now rather than merely wait for the preparation of your income tax returns. Those attorneys who incur out-of-pocket expenses while volunteering may be well advised to request any required acknowledgements from the charity well before it's time to actually file your return.

A little background

A charitable deduction is not allowed for a contribution of services (we get this question all the time, from many an attorney, without fail). However, unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenditures made to render volunteer services to a charitable organization may be deductible. The expenses are treated as direct payments to the charity, rather than for the use of the organization. To be deductible, the out-of-pocket expenses must be nonpersonal, directly connected with, and solely attributable to providing the charitable services. Expenditures that primarily benefit

you that are incurred in a charitable purpose are not deductible as charitable contributions. For example, baby-sitting fees your esteemed President-Elect, Ronald Lieberman, may incur are just not deductible even if his munificent volunteer work cannot be performed without the expense.

Examples of deductible out-of-pocket expenses include uniforms unsuitable for everyday use, copying charges, office supplies, long distance phone charges, postage, local transportation from your home to the place charitable services are performed, and other travel incurred while providing services for the charitable organization. Travel expenses incurred while away from home, such as meals (subject to the 50% travel and entertainment limitation) and lodging, are deductible only if (a) there is no significant personal pleasure, recreation, or vacation in the travel, and (b) the performance of services is substantial.

You, as a volunteer, incurring out-of-pocket expenses must keep detailed records for those expenditures to be deductible. If the total of such expenses is \$250 or more for a single charitable activity, you really should have a written acknowledgement from the charity describing the services provided and indicating whether you received any goods or services (including value) from the charity in consideration. The amount of out-of-pocket expenses need not be shown on the acknowledgement.

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CCBA Members are Givers...

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The acknowledgment must be obtained *before* the earlier of (a) filing the return or (b) the return's extended due date. You should have the acknowledgment when the return is filed, even if this is before the extended due date. You can't amend a return to include contributions for which an acknowledgment is obtained after the original return is filed.

2018 Tax Law Changes

Ever since passing the new tax act, all charities became concerned about the dampening effect on charitable deductions due to lowering tax brackets and increase of the standard deduction (not even considering the major increase in estate tax exemption). Many a taxpayer will not itemize since the standard deduction effectively doubles to \$12,000/\$24,000. This dialogue will ensue even while we prepare 2017 returns and look to 2018 where we've at least suggested they at least consider "bunching" charitable donations (i.e. instead of \$5,000 in 2018 and \$5,000 in 2019 where they might get no benefit if they are still under the standard deduction, consider paying \$10,000 in one year to get over the \$12,000 or \$24,000 threshold for that year). They can at least reap some benefit. While fewer taxpayers may take itemized deductions for their charitable giving in 2018 and on, the individual income tax changes will clearly reduce the average marginal tax benefit of charitable giving from 20.7 percent to 15.2 percent. While the marginal tax benefit of charitable giving will decline significantly for low- and moderate-income itemizers, it will hardly change for the higher-income taxpayers. Also, appreciate those subject to the dreaded Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT), including yours truly, still get a benefit from charitable contributions (albeit not at the maximum 37% rate). If you are subject to AMT, your tax bracket is 26%-28% for AMT.

Bottom Line: It is imperative for you to have all required receipts before filing your return, even if that means extending the return. Although many charities automatically provide written acknowledgements to their donors, except with certain quid-pro-quo donations (where the volunteer received goods or services because of the volunteer services), they do not have to do so. Therefore, it is usually you as the donor responsible for requesting and obtaining this documentation from the charity. In the case of your volunteering and incurring out-of-pocket expenditures, the charity receives no check, so it will often not know that the acknowledgement is needed until it is requested.

Abo's Conclusion: Unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenses incurred while rendering volunteer services to a charity may be deductible, but only if the expenses are properly documented and, if the expense exceeds \$250, a proper acknowledgement is received from the charity. This acknowledgement must likely be requested by you. If you'd like a sample letter to send to a charity requesting written acknowledgement, feel to contact us at 856-222-4723 or marty@aboandcompany.com

Many happy returns!

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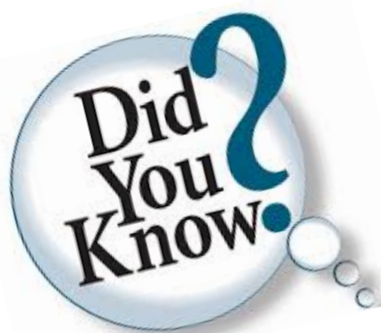
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for the Bar Foundation's second gift basket competition and support a great cause!

We're looking for bar members - sole practitioners, large and small firms - to participate in this year's Silent Auction "Gift Basket Competition" by donating gift baskets to be auctioned. The basket that brings the highest price WINS, and the donor gets their choice of one of the following:

- 2 tickets to next year's Spring fundraising event & Silent Auction Event;
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- Full page ad in the Installation of Officers Dinner Dance Adbook.

The rules are simple and you don't have to attend the event to participate. The value of the basket should be between \$100 and \$200, and multiple baskets may be entered. So get creative, pick a basket theme and may the best basket win!



VERDICTS OF THE COURT *February 2018*

Superior Court of New Jersey

VERDICT: Liability Verdict: \$15,000 100%
Defendant: 21st Century Centennial Insurance (2/2/18)
Case Type: Auto Negligence
Judge: Michael J. Kassel, J.S.C.
Plaintiff's Atty: Scott Goldberg, Esq.
Defendant's Atty: Jessica Adams, Esq.
L-371-16 Jury

VERDICT: No Cause (2/9/18)
Case Type: Auto Negligence
Judge: Michael E. Joyce, J.S.C.
Plaintiff's Atty: Erik S. Neiman, Esq.
Defendant's Atty: Robert Kaplan, Esq.
L-51-16 Jury

VERDICT: No Cause (2/14/18)
Case Type: Auto Negligence
Judge: Steven J. Polansky J.S.C.
Plaintiff's Atty: Jeremy Weitz, Esq.
Defendant's Atty: Emma Bradley, Esq.
L-3620-15 Jury

VERDICT: No Cause (2/14/18)
Case Type: Law Against Discrimination
Judge: Francisco Dominguez, J.S.C.
Plaintiff's Atty: Julia Clark, Esq.
Defendant's Atty: Laura Ruccolo, Esq.
L-698-15 Jury

VERDICT: Liability Verdict: \$90,000 100%
Defendant: Allstate Insurance (2/15/18)
Case Type: Uninsured Motorist
Judge: Anthony M. Pugliese, P.J.Cv.
Plaintiff's Atty: Donald K. Snyder, Esq.
Defendant's Atty: Raymond F. Danielewicz, Esq.
L-13-16 Jury

VERDICT: Liability Verdict: \$60,000 Defendant:
Carol Genetta (2/15/18)
Case Type: Auto Negligence
Judge: Michael E. Joyce, J.S.C.
Plaintiff's Atty: Michael Schlaghaufer, Esq.
Defendant's Atty: Laura Gilford, Esq.
L-4843-15 Jury

VERDICT: Liability Verdict: \$50,000 100%
Defendant: Geico (2/21/18)
Case Type: Auto Negligence
Judge: Michael E. Joyce, J.S.C.
Plaintiff's Atty: Justin H. Sperling, Esq.
Defendant's Atty: Thomas J. Murphy, Esq.
L-1137-16 Jury

VERDICT: No Cause (2/27/18)
Case Type: Auto Negligence
Judge: Steven J. Polansky J.S.C.
Plaintiff's Atty: Henry Doner, Esq.
Defendant's Atty: Brittany McCloskey, Esq.
L-3923-15 Jury

VERDICT: No Cause (2/23/18)
Case Type: Auto Negligence
Judge: Francisco Dominguez, J.S.C.
Plaintiff's Atty: Mark W. Ford, Esq.
Defendant's Atty: Stephen C. Wolf, Esq.
L-1695-16 Jury

VERDICT: No Cause (2/28/18)
Case Type: Auto Negligence
Judge: Michael E. Joyce, J.S.C.
Plaintiff's Atty: Scott C. McKinley, Esq.
Defendant's Atty: John A. Dingle, Esq.
L-678-16 Jury

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Professional office building with attached apartment. Ample Parking (20 Spaces). Monument sign on Chews Landing Road. Attractive building in good condition. Two offices, conference room, kitchenette, reception area. For sale: \$220,000. Call George Wisnoski at Equity Retail Brokers. 609-502-1350.

<http://www.equityretailbrokers.com/gloucester-township>

MARLTON OFFICES FOR RENT

Route 73 So at Ardsley Drive (across from Target) 1 or 2 window offices in private rear alcove, each approx.. 120 SF with adjacent secretarial work area and two workstations. Ample parking. Some furnishings available. Network-wired and internet access provided. Shared use of 2 conference rooms included. Call 856-596-2828 and ask for Steve Neuner or Joanne Ventura. Neuner

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