



IN LIMINE

Academy of Trial Lawyers
of Allegheny County

P.O. Box 14744
Pittsburgh, PA 15234-0744
Phone: 412-343-9266
Fax: 412-343-0192
academy@atlac.org
www.atlac.org

Newsletter of the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County

Volume 12, No. 1
November/December, 2008

ANNUAL ACADEMY HOLIDAY GATHERING

Monday, December 8, 2008

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. ≈ Renaissance Pittsburgh Hotel

Our Academy is characterized by a membership that works hard during the year to promote professionalism and improve the judicial system while advocating aggressively for its clients. This involves a lot of time, which consumes long days and nights and which comes with a great deal of personal sacrifice. Our Holiday Gathering is an excellent opportunity for all of us to slow down the pace, if only for a short time, to take a breather, reflect on our friends and profession, and think about how lucky we are to do what we do on a daily basis.

In that spirit, come chat with your fellow Academy members and members of the judiciary and just relax. Spouses or significant others are welcome for a charge of \$30.00.

PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE ACADEMY

As we return to our offices and our trial practices, hopefully revitalized from another exciting, entertaining and truly informative Retreat at Nemaquin, we begin a new Academy year. It will be a year in which I have set as one of my goals to keep you informed as to what the Academy is doing and informed of the opportunities that are available for you to become involved in your Academy during the year. If there will be a theme to what I hope to accomplish this year it will be a theme of "**BE INFORMED and TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE INVOLVED.**"

Along these lines, our Retreat Board Planning Session had a different twist than past meetings. We invited **David Blaner**, Executive Director of the Allegheny County Bar Association, and the **Honorable Joseph M. James**, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, to speak with the Officers and Board of Governors about ways in which the Academy can become more informed and involved in endeavors through which members can pursue the mission and objectives of the Academy, while at the same time work with various, but

In This Issue

Membership Participation Report (page 4)

New Membership Guidelines (page 5)

Retreat Committee Report (page 6)

Retreat Annual Tennis Tournament (page 6)

Retreat Annual Golf Tournament (page 7)

Retreat Annual Hike (page 7)

Member Judith F. Olson Appointed to Bench (page 7)

*Presentation of Joseph F. Weis Jr. Distinguished
Service Award to Thomas Hollander (page 9)*

2008/2009 Academy Calendar of Events (page 11)

different, pro bono opportunities as well as new areas in which we can aid the judiciary. An additional guest at the Retreat Board Planning Session was **Stanley J. Parker**, 2009 Spring Symposium Chair, who was invited to discuss the possibility of incorporating some aspects of the Annual Spring Symposium into the Retreat's Annual Friday morning CLE program on a going-forward basis.

As for the Retreat, we owe a great deal of thanks to Chair **Mike Manzo**, who stepped in and helped bring about a well-organized and fine-tuned Retreat program under the ever-competent guidance and direction of Debbie Smith. Additionally, thanks are due to **Judges Alan N. Bloch** and **Thomas M. Hardiman** for putting together another great Thursday morning CLE program; to **John Gismondi**, whose work at setting the backdrop for the program put on by our invited guests was, as one would expect from John, first class; and to our invited guests for their very informative and entertaining presentation. The Academy would also like to thank **Chief Judge Donetta W. Ambrose, Laura Ellsworth, David Cohen,** and **Ellen Doyle** for their timely and excellent E-Discovery Program and their ability to take a subject not all that exciting and make it entertaining. We also want to thank **Honorable and Past President Nora Barry Fischer** for her tribute to member **Tom Hollander**, a truly deserving recipient of the Academy's Joseph F. Weis, Jr. Distinguished Service Award. Nora's remarks are reprinted on page 9 of this newsletter. Thank you, Tom, for being who you are, and a model for the rest of us.

As a final comment on the Retreat, I want to thank all of our members who attended. This year's Retreat had the largest attendance ever. The Academy also extends a special thanks to all of the law firms and members who contributed to this year's very successful Retreat -- this year's law firm contributions were the largest ever.

While there was a new format for this year's Retreat, Wednesday - Friday, an old tradition was carried on during the formal dinner. That tradition, as we have all come to look forward to, was the welcome to our new members:

John A. Bass

Grogan Graffam

Bernard J. Caputo

Caputo Cox Schwarzwaelder & Melton

Samuel J. Cordes

Ogg Cordes Murphy & Ignelzi

Matthew L. Kurzweg

Kurzweg Law Offices

Deborah S. Maliver

Biancheria & Maliver

Anthony C. Mengine

Chiurazzi & Mengine

M. Brian O'Connor

Matis Baum Rizza & O'Connor

Bruce Rende

Robb Leonard & Mulvihill

David J. Rosenberg

Weber Gallagher

John G. Wall

Burns White & Hickton

In an effort to put action behind my words, over the last couple of months, you have received and will continue to receive over the balance of my term, "e-mail blasts" regarding inquiries as to as to areas of focus you would like to see the Officers and Board consider and pursue, and inquiring of any concerns. Comments were received relative to an interest in pro bono programs. This led to our invitation to **David Blaner** to attend the Board Planning Session. It also has led to the Academy contacting and establishing meetings with the Deans

of Pitt and Duquesne Law Schools in an effort to explore how the Academy and the law schools might partner on various programs. Once these meetings take place and ideas are developed, members will have an opportunity to participate in these programs.

Over the past year, the Academy has been working with the **Honorable Eugene B. Strassburger** in developing a new approach to voir dire for the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County. Consistent with our mission, objectives and history of working with the Bench, it is the current plan to schedule meetings over the course of the year not only with **Judges James and Strassburger**, but with groups of judges in order to explore how we can continue to work to improve our judicial/trial system.

For those members who have an interest in contributing some personal time towards helping those who are struggling in our community, I am working with Debbie Smith in exploring opportunities where members can participate in one of the local co-ops or inter-faith ministries around Thanksgiving time. This is an area in which the Academy has not been active before, and it will be an opportunity for us to give a little back to our local community.

Looking ahead for the year, be **INFORMED** that:

1. Our *50th Anniversary Dinner Dance* (a black tie event) will be held on **Friday, March 20, 2009** at the Omni William Penn Hotel. Although this is being listed out of chronological order, I am doing so because it is such an important event in the Academy's history and I want to make sure you save the date!
2. Our *Annual Holiday Gathering* will be held on **Monday, December 8, 2008** at the Pittsburgh Renaissance Hotel.
3. Our *20th Annual Federal Practice Program* will be held on **Tuesday, December 16, 2008** under the capable leadership of Chair **Russell J. Ober, Jr.**
4. The *Annual Mock Trial Competition* will be held **February 25-27, 2009**, and the *Membership Awards Dinner* will be held on **Thursday, February 26, 2009**. Members are needed to serve as scoring judges. I urge you to contact Debbie Smith (academy@atlac.org or 412-343-9266) as soon as you can so that we can have a full roster of member volunteers to once again put on a premier competition.
5. The *10th Annual Spring Symposium* will be held on **Tuesday, April 21, 2009** under the capable leadership of Chair **Stanley J. Parker**.
6. **Chair Rick Hosking** and the Program Committee have scheduled various programs throughout the year (see the *Calendar of Events* on page 11 of this newsletter).

Over the past year, through **Bill Caroselli's** leadership and through the efforts of Membership Chair **John P. Gismondi** and his Committee, significant improvements were made in the membership process. (See the *New Membership Guidelines* on page 5 of this newsletter.) Over the course of the year, it will be necessary for all of us to focus on our obligation to the

membership process. (See the *New Membership Guidelines* on page 5 of this newsletter.) Over the course of the year, it will be necessary for all of us to focus on our obligation to the Academy to look for candidates for membership who fulfill the membership requirements. It is the obligation of each and every one of us to advise Academy leadership, particularly the Membership Committee, of worthwhile candidates who meet the criteria.

We have a strong organization and our objective is to make it stronger. If all of us stay **INFORMED** and become **INVOLVED**, the building blocks for the next 50 years will be successfully laid. In approaching this year from a "being involved" perspective, we have a number of members who have never before served in either a Board or Committee Chair position now holding positions of leadership. This serves to bring new ideas and strength into our organization and creates leaders in training.

To quote a closing paragraph from former President **Michael Louik** (Michael, I apologize for borrowing your quote, but it is appropriate here): *"And so as we begin another year of Academy activities, I trust all of you will, as you always have, join in our important work as together we strive for what's best for the legal and judicial system, as well as what's best for society as a whole."* [Michael Louik, President, *In Limine*, November/December 2005]

In closing, I urge you to respond to the email blasts, **stay informed** and **become involved**. Let's have a great year!

Samuel W. Braver, President

**SPECIAL THANKS TO
THOMAS G. MARTIN, JR.
THOMAS MARTIN PHOTOGRAPHY**

Once again, through Tom Martin's continuing generosity and assistance, we have many wonderful photographs taken of our members at the 20th Annual Masters of Trial Advocacy Retreat at Nemaquin. These photographs will be posted to the Academy website shortly.

Tom is truly a good friend to the Academy - please consider using Thomas Martin photography skills and services in preparing your cases for trial! Tom can be reached at 412-892-2520.

MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION REPORT

We are pleased to report that almost all Academy members are in compliance, or almost in compliance, with the participation requirements this year. We are also pleased to see the tremendous efforts and response put forth by the various Committees! Please keep in mind that in order for the Academy to reach its goal of bringing together skilled and respected trial lawyers, we must have an active and working membership. This requires participation of **ALL** members of the Academy.

Participation includes attendance at our meetings, CLE programs, and the Annual Retreat, as well as work in one or more of our Committees. The requirements are as follows:

Monthly Meetings and CLE Programs

Over a rolling two-year period (meaning two immediately preceding years), members need to attend one-half of the scheduled meetings. In addition, a member will receive one meeting credit for each three-hour non-Retreat CLE program attended.

EXAMPLE: there will be 12 meetings and 4 CLE programs over the rolling two-year period. Members need to attend 6 meetings/CLE programs over that two-year period.

NOTE: attendance at two additional meetings over the required number in the two-year period provides a Retreat credit.

Annual Masters of Trial Advocacy Retreat

Over the same rolling two-year period, members need to attend a minimum of one Retreat.

NOTE: attendance at two consecutive Retreats provides two meeting credits.

The Academy has had an extremely busy year. Our programming, as well as CLE, has been well received. The Officers and Board sincerely thank all Academy members who have generously given their time and efforts to Academy functions.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ACBA SERVICES

Thank you to ACBA Services and in particular, DONNA BETZA, Manager of Court Reporting and Video, for their continuing generosity and assistance with the Academy's programs. At the recent Retreat, video operator David Gal from ACBA Services created the visual presentation and provided technical support at the Friday CLE program at no charge to the Academy.

As a token of our appreciation to Donna Betza and ACBA Services, we would ask all Academy members to consider using ACBA Services the next time you need litigation support. Please call Donna at 412-261-5588 for a list of available services or to schedule support services.

NEW MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

Over the Summer, a special subcommittee, appointed by **President Bill Caroselli**, authored and the Board approved, new detailed guidelines governing the process for selecting new members for the Academy. The subcommittee, which included several past Chairs of the Membership Committee, was composed of the following Academy members: **Stanley M. Stein, Patricia L. Dodge, The Honorable Christine L. Donahue, John P. Gismondi, Vicki Kuftic Horne, Deborah D. Olszewski, and Joseph A. Macerelli**. Some of the significant changes included in these guidelines are the following:

- **Shelf Life of Application** – Extended from two years to three years.
- **Negative Comments** – Right to confront is provided to applicant.
- **Private Caucus** – Specific agreements among Membership Committee members to “trade” votes is prohibited.
- **Private Solicitation** - Academy members are prohibited from contacting persons on the Membership Committee to solicit support for an applicant. Letters of Recommendation are still permitted.

- **Evaluation Criteria** - Specifically enumerated criteria are to be utilized by Membership Committee in rating an applicant or casting a vote.
- **Pro Bono Activities** - Not a “stand alone” criteria for membership, but may be considered in reference to personal character of applicant.

These guidelines represent the most comprehensive written standards and procedures ever adopted by the Academy for use in admitting new members. Their overall goal is to enhance the level of fairness, uniformity and integrity in our selection process.

A complete copy of the new guidelines will be available shortly for your review on the Academy’s website at www.atlac.org.

20th ANNUAL MASTERS OF TRIAL ADVOCACY RETREAT

The 20th Annual Retreat was another resounding success. Many thanks to the members of the Retreat Committee for their efforts, and special recognition to:

- **Judge Alan Bloch** and **Judge Thomas Hardiman** for bringing us another remarkable program, *JamSports v. Clear Channel and AMA Pro Racing*;
- **Judge Matthew F. Kennelly**, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, **Jeffrey Singer** and **Chris Gair** for their engaging and insightful presentations regarding the *JamSports* trial;
- **John Gismondi** for moderating the presentations by the guest speakers and facilitating discussion of the case;
- **Chief Judge Donetta Ambrose, Laura Ellsworth, David Cohen, Ellen Doyle** and **Sam Braver** for the Friday morning CLE program on e-discovery;
- Those Academy members and law firms who responded so generously to the requests for contributions necessary to maintaining the unique character of the Retreat;
- All Academy members in attendance for their fellowship, as well as for their friendliness and hospitality shown to our guests.

The sentiments of our out-of-town visitors regarding the warm reception from Academy members is reflected in the following note received a few days after the Retreat: “. . . I truly appreciate the privilege of attending the Retreat this last week . . . Accommodations were superb, [we] were treated like royalty and the attendees were so kind and genuine, unlike any professional conference I have ever attended as a speaker in over three decades of practicing law and giving presentations at professional meetings. . . A wonderful experience for me and my significant other. . .”

Michael J. Manzo, Chair

RETREAT TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Nemacolin rolled out the green carpet for the Annual Tennis Tournament. Debbie promised sunshine and delivered. News that Roger Federer and Andy Roddick were going to play scared away the timid, and only twelve brave soles arrived at the courts for the Competition. After

grueling preliminary rounds, the final match featured **Steve Baicker-McKee** and **Ed Beachler** against **Pat DeMay** and **David Cohen** (our e-discovery guest). Steve and Ed won the tournament with strong forehands and "artistic" serves, while those watching were treated to strong drinks and "artistic" stories by **Billy Goodrich**. Join the fun next year!

Kenneth M. Argentieri, Tennis Coordinator

RETREAT GOLF TOURNAMENT

There certainly was no controversy surrounding the winner of the Closest to the Pin Contest for Hole Number 7. **Wayne Churazzi's** Hole-In-One, which to my knowledge is a first at the Academy Golf Tournament, sealed the deal. The team competition was very close with the top three teams sharing the same score. A comparison of cards resulted in a victory for the team captained by **Ronald Punttil**, which included **Judge Christine L. Donohue**, **Alan Perer** and **Robin Wertkin**. Congratulations! We kept the rain at bay for another year, and so long as you wore a windbreaker, the weather was perfect. The Nemaclin staff and of course our own Debbie did wonderful job facilitating the tournament. We look forward to a great time again next year.

Michael Rosenzweig, Golf Coordinator

2nd ANNUAL RETREAT HIKE

This year's hike lured almost twenty Academy members and guests onto the trails near Ohiopyle on Thursday afternoon. The weather, which had threatened early in the day, turned fair and crisp for this year's event. Proceeding out from the campground parking lot near Kentuck Knob, hike leader **Ginny Scott** set a moderate pace that allowed participants the opportunity to commune with nature and their fellow hikers. Civility and collegiality characterized the mood of the intrepid band of merry woods people. Their route for the afternoon was planned by **Judd Crosby**, one of the Academy's leading outdoor activists, and included paths through stands of 200 year old trees, 100 year old trees, stunning vistas, and grassy knolls, accompanied by the excited howls of Judd's dog Hanna. One of the highlights of the hike was the identification of several "tulip trees" of varying sizes. Winner of the contest to "Name That Plant Based Tea" was Academy guest, **Patricia Carmen**, who easily identified both the leaves of the plant from which the tea was distilled and the tree which was the source of the leaves as we passed it on the trail. At the end of the hike, Ginny led the successful participants in a self-congratulatory hike completion ritual to celebrate our fine efforts.

Michael Louik and Ellen M. Doyle, Hike Coordinators

MEMBER JUDITH F. OLSON APPOINTED TO THE BENCH

Member **Judith F. Olson** has been appointed by Governor Rendell and affirmed by the Senate as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County.

Judy was raised in the surrounds of Pittsburgh and graduated from North Hills High School. Judy, an excellent student in college and Law School, was a *Magna Cum Laude* graduate of St. Francis College of Loretto, Pennsylvania and thereafter a *Cum Laude* graduate of Duquesne Law

School, where she was a member of the *Law Review* and finished second in her Law School class.

In college Judy studied and aspired to be a stage actress—but instead went to Law School and as we all know has become an outstanding litigator and trial lawyer. It was quite a loss to the theater, but what a win for the legal profession!

Her career began as a law clerk to our friend, Judge Cohill, who she reports, “was my first mentor and the person I most admired in the law because of his sharp legal mind, unwavering dedication, impeccable integrity and sense of fairness.”

Next, Judy’s talents caught the eye of David Armstrong and she then joined our law firm, Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote. I had the good fortune to work closely with Judy for almost fifteen years—first as an associate and then as a partner. She was an exceptional lawyer from the day she began with us—bright, conscientious, helpful, articulate, personable, enthusiastic and fearless. It was a real pleasure for me to have the good fortune to work closely over those years with such a fine person and excellent lawyer as Judy.

Judy has successfully juggled a full-time legal career, charitable work and her family responsibilities. Her family consists of her husband, Jim, her seventeen year old son, Grant, and her fifteen year old daughter, Sophia—all of whom are enthusiastic supporters and proud of her career and outstanding accomplishments.

Judy has it all—and will unquestionably serve as an exceptionally able Judge.

We, Members of the Academy of Trial Lawyers, are very happy that she is ascending the Bench and extend to her and her family our congratulations and best wishes for this next step in her illustrious career.

David B. Fawcett

20th Annual Academy Federal Practice Program

Tuesday, December 16, 2008

Monongahela Room, 17th Floor, Omni William Penn Hotel

Registration Fees:

\$120.00 Academy Members

\$135.00 Non-Academy Members

Watch your mail for further details and brochures!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Academy Members **William G. Boyle, William B. Mallin, John J. Repcheck, Harvey E. Robins and Theodore O. Struk** who are celebrating their “Golden” Anniversaries as members of the Bar! They will be honored by the ACBA for 50 years of service to Allegheny County’s legal community at a reception from 5:00-6:30 p.m. on **Monday, November 17th** at **The Duquesne Club**. Academy members are encouraged to attend and share

this special occasion with fellow members as well as many other 50 and 60-year practitioners. To register, please email Marlene Ellis at the ACBA at mellis@acba.org.

2008 JOSEPH F. WEIS, JR. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

*(At the 20th Annual Masters of Trial Advocacy Retreat Dinner on Thursday evening, October 2, 2008, member and Past President, **Honorable Nora Barry Fischer**, presented the Joseph F. Weis, Jr. Distinguished Service Award to Academy member **Thomas Hollander**. With her permission, following are her remarks.)*

Terrific trial lawyer; great Dad and Granddad; friend of the arts and community doer all describe Tom Hollander, our Joseph F. Weis, Jr. Distinguished Service Award winner this year.

Serving on the Committee which selected Tom (I should say – “Tom Terrific”) for this Award this year, I was more than impressed with Tom’s extensive resume. Although I have known Tom for thirty years and my husband and I have interacted with him in various ways through the years, I was truly amazed at the extent of Tom’s activity and the depth of his commitment. Ultimately, the Committee honed in on his work to level the playing field for those less fortunate, for women and minorities as they work within the legal system and for causes that need to be heard. His hard work in each of these areas merits this Award tonight.

Let me tell you more about Tom and you will quickly understand why he was chosen as our Distinguished Service Award winner this year. Hailing from Monessen, PA, Tom attended Penn State where he earned his Bachelor of Arts, while serving as a class leader. He was President of the Senior Class as well as a leader of a national scholastic and leadership honorary society, Omicron Delta Kappa. Moving on, Tom attended Pitt Law School and received his JD in 1961. Once again, he served as Chairman of the Moot Court Board. And, he distinguished himself earning numerous awards; a scholarship and a fellowship.

Upon graduation from Pitt, Tom served again as a law clerk, to not one but two Common Pleas Court Judges – the Honorable J. Frank McKenna and the Honorable Ralph H. Smith, Jr.

Throughout Tom’s legal career as a terrific trial lawyer, Tom demonstrated professionalism, civility and the best advocacy skills both in and out of the courtroom, representing his clients. I can personally attest to those skills having represented clients sued by Tom. (Moreover, back in the late 1970’s and early 1980’s, he and I were involved in parallel cases involving wrongful birth and wrongful life claims, and I marked his arguments and the progress of his case as I defended mine.)

As the title implies, the Weis Award recognizes service. Tom has served time and time again and always very ably, making an impact in all he did and does. He has served our profession as a hearing officer and Chairman of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania from 1978 to 1986. He was also one of the first Special Masters for the Court of Common Pleas as well as an Adjunct Settlement Judge for the District Court.

Tom has also served this Academy as President. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. In our local Bar Association, Tom has been exemplary in his activity. He has served repeatedly on numerous committees and projects. He achieved the Presidency of our Bar Association in 1988. Most noteworthy to this Award, he established the Committee on Opportunities for Minorities in the Legal Profession now the Diversity Collaborative Committee, which he continues to tirelessly serve, working as a mentor. Simultaneously, he worked to establish and is one of the founders of the Women in the Law Committee, now a division of the Allegheny County Bar Association. He also continues to serve this

Division of the Bar as a member of its Executive Committee. Moreover, he was instrumental in establishing the Council on Professionalism during his term as ACBA President.

Recognizing again, the needs of those less fortunate and our profession's duty to the underserved, Tom has served the Allegheny County Bar Foundation as a Fellow and as a Trustee. He's also a Life Fellow of the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation and the American Bar Foundation.

Tom has also served in statewide and national efforts of the Bar. Here in Pennsylvania, he was a member of the Bar's House of Delegates for 14 years. He was also active as a member of its Civil Litigation Section Council. In the ABA, he was aptly an industrious member of the Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities. For PATLA, he lectured and organized programs.

For all of these efforts and more Tom has been the recipient of a number of awards prior to tonight's. In 1992, he received the annual IOLTA Leadership Award. More recently, he received the Carol Los Mansmann Helping Hand Award from the Women in the Law Division of the ACBA. Finally, on numerous occasions, he has listed among "the Best Lawyers in America." And, he truly is!

But being a lawyer – a very good lawyer, in fact – is not all there is to know about Tom. As I said at the outset, Tom is a friend to the arts and a community leader.

Tom has helped the youth of our region as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Western Pennsylvania Youth Development Centers. He was President of this Board from 1976 to 1980.

Through my husband, I first learned of Tom's musical talent, in that they briefly shared choir practice with the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh. (Sad to say Don's career was cut short when our son Adam was born). Tom performed as a choir member for 12 years then held a number of leadership positions in the organization. Attending City Theater one evening I spied Tom and learned of his love of the theater especially the City Theater, where he has served on the Board of Directors for over 20 years.

Tom has also given back to both Pitt and Penn State. As a Nittany Lion, he was president of the Alumni Association from 1995 to 1997, and a member of the Council Executive Board from 1990 to 1999. At Pitt, he was an active member of the Alumni Association Board, and has worked on behalf of the George E. Schumacher Memorial Fund since 1990.

As we discussed in our Committee meeting, Tom has also been and continues to be active in the Pittsburgh Chapter of the ACLU, serving as its most recent President. (In this vein we had hoped to have Roz Litman make this presentation but sadly she had prior travel plans. As always, she sends her very best wishes and congratulations to Tom).

Tom has also served the Jewish Community here in the Pittsburgh area; first, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Chronicle, a weekly newspaper and, secondly, as a member of the Board of Directors of the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh. Thirdly, he has become very involved in our region's health care. In that regard, he and my husband have reconnected. In fact, they may be going to Israel together as part of a trip sponsored by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation to study electronic record keeping among other health-related matters next April. He has also been involved with the Consumer Health Coalition and the Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation.

Now, I also need to talk about Tom – the husband, Dad and Granddad. I am very pleased to say that Tom has some of his talented family here with us tonight. Let me introduce them. Scott, a lawyer and the inspired leader of Kids Voice, with his lovely wife, Teo; and Leslie, a wonderful stage actress based in North Carolina. Unfortunately, David, screenwriter extraordinaire, who gave us "The Guardian" among

other TV shows and movies he has written, could not be with us. But, fortunately, we have been able to toast Tom for this achievement with champagne, compliments of David, to whom we all send thanks!

I was fortunate to know Tom's wife, Barbara Hollander. Dr. Hollander, as some of you may know, was an expert on small and family business. I came to know her through the National Association of Women Business Owners in the late 1970's/early 1980's. I had become a partner at Meyer Darragh, and Lou Loughren, then a partner there, suggested that I join a women's business group, and I took his advice and did. It was through NAWBO and the Executive Women's Council, and other groups of the same ilk, that I heard of, learned from and was guided by Barbara Hollander, just like she guided other women and business owners. Sadly, we all lost her guidance when she passed away on September 13, 1993, just over fifteen years ago. But what a legacy she had left behind. Her children and six grandchildren owe much to her and to Tom. And wouldn't she have been proud of Tom tonight!

Back to service. One very strong reason why Tom was chosen for this year's Award is his record of service to the legal profession as a whole – not just the personal injury lawyers or the graduates of Pitt and Dickinson - but to all who chose the law as their profession. Tom has strived throughout his career to make this profession of ours more diverse and more welcoming, to women and minorities. As I noted, as President of the Bar, Tom established the Committee on Opportunities for Minorities in the Legal Profession, now known as the Diversity Collaborative. He has been a Minorities Mentor. He worked tirelessly to establish the Women in the Law Committee, now a Division of the Bar. He worked then and he works now to continue the work of eliminating bias, to promote all members of the Bar.

As a women member of the Bar, as a woman who practiced law in this community, and now as a woman judge, I thank you, we all thank you for your service and we congratulate you on this most deserved award – the Joseph F. Weis, Jr. Distinguished Service Award, 2008.

Honorable Nora Barry Fischer

United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

2008/2009 Academy Calendar of Events

<i>December 8, 2008</i>	<i>Annual Holiday Gathering</i> <i>Pittsburgh Renaissance Hotel</i>
<i>December 16, 2008</i>	<i>20th Annual Federal Practice Program</i> <i>Omni William Penn Hotel</i>
<i>February 22, 2009</i>	<i>Schweers Essay & Mock Trial Competition Awards Dinner</i> <i>Omni William Penn Hotel</i>
<i>March 20, 2009</i>	<i>50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner Dance</i> <i>Omni William Penn Hotel</i>
<i>April 21, 2009</i>	<i>Membership Lunch Program</i> <i>Omni William Penn Hotel</i> <i>Annual Spring Symposium Seminar</i> <i>Omni William Penn Hotel</i>
<i>May 14, 2009</i>	<i>Membership Lunch Program</i> <i>Rivers Club</i>
<i>June 15, 2009</i>	<i>Membership Breakfast Program</i> <i>Rivers Club</i>