

# MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

OF THE



Federal Bar Association

## Mission Statement

Consistent with the mission of the FBA, the mission of the Chapter is to advance the science of jurisprudence and to promote the welfare, interest, education, and professional growth and development of the members of the federal legal profession.

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## A Message from Our Chapter President

*By: Keli M. Neary, Esq. (Executive Deputy Attorney General — OAG)*

As I reflect on the first half of the year, our Chapter highlights are far too numerous to count. We were fortunate to celebrate the investitures of three judges in just four months, each one welcomed as phenomenal additions to the bench. We are lucky to practice in a District that continues to attract highly qualified jurists dedicated to administering compassionate and fair justice for all.

I hope you noticed the return of our “Brown Bag Lunch” series – coming to a vicinage near you. After nearly a decade in hiatus, these much-loved lunch events are finally back on track. Make sure to check out the info in this newsletter to find out more about the next of three more lunches to be held and all the other fantastic opportunities our Events Committee has in store for our members (page 15)!

In April, we marked the one-year anniversary of the new Sylvia H. Rambo Courthouse (page 4). If you have not visited yet, the Chapter is hosting at least one tour with limited attendance available. Keep reading for details on how to sign up (page 15).

You may have noticed a break in the Chapter's offering of live CLE programming this spring. Please bear with us while the CLE Committee is working extremely hard on planning CLEs for our upcoming bench/bar conference. In the meantime, if you need to catch up on CLEs before the conference, check out our new On-Demand portal ([link](#)) that allows you to stream previously broadcasted CLEs. Our CLE Committee really knocked it out of the park with this new membership perk, and taking advantage of it is a prime benefit that I am proud to support.

Though I am only halfway through my presidency term, I would also like to promote the Chapter Leadership Team, which is actively soliciting recommendations for new officers, committee chairs, and committee members. Please reach out to me at [kneary@attorneygeneral.gov](mailto:kneary@attorneygeneral.gov) or any MDPA FBA officer to nominate yourself or another chapter member. We highly encourage you to join our team!

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you all at the bench/bar conference in a few months!

Sincerely,

Keli M. Neary

*MDPA Chapter of the Federal Bar Association  
President | 2023-2024*

## 2023-2024

### Executive Committee

#### **Officers:**

- *President* — Keli M. Neary, Esq., Executive Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
- *Vice President* — Michael A. O'Donnell, Esq., O'Donnell Law Offices
- *Treasurer* — Sara Myirski, Esq., Associate Attorney, Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney, PC.
- *Secretary* — Stefanie Pitcavage Mekilo, Esq., Litigation Associate Attorney, Babst Calland
- *National Delegate* — Casey Coyle, Esq., Shareholder, Babst Calland

#### **Committee Chairs:**

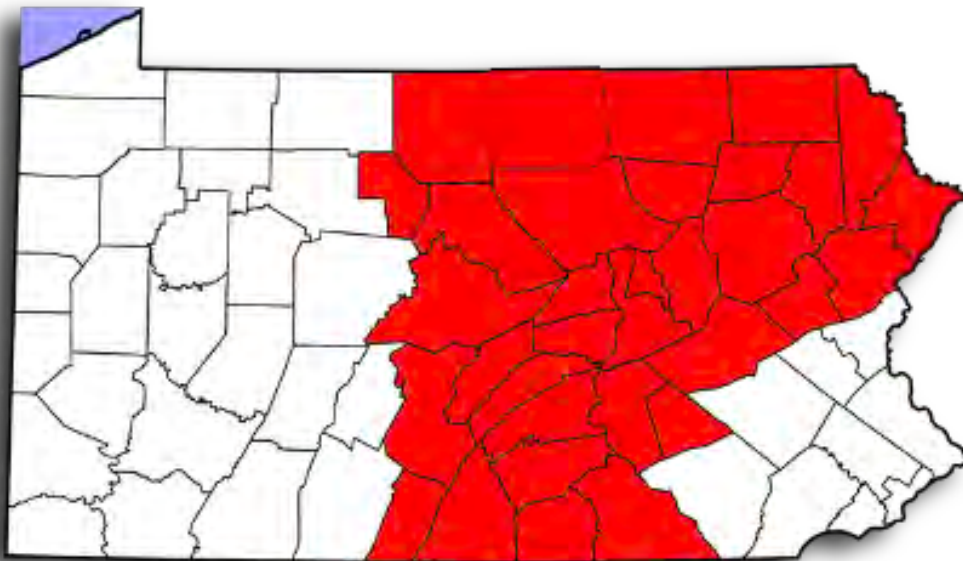
- *CLE* — Casey Coyle, Esq., Shareholder, Babst Calland & Stefanie Pitcavage Mekilo, Esq., Litigation Associate Attorney, Babst Calland
- *Communications* — Jennifer Menichini, Esq., Partner, Joyce, Carmody & Moran, PC.
- *Events & Programs* — Sarah Hyser-Staub, Esq., Member, McNees, Wallace & Nurick, L.L.C.
- *Membership* — Matt Haar, Esq., Managing Partner, Saul Ewing, L.L.P.
- *Pro Bono* — Michael A. O'Donnell, Esq., O'Donnell Law Offices
- *Newsletter Chair* — Ezza Ahmed, Esq., ADA, DCDA

## About the Chapter

### *History*

The Middle District of Pennsylvania Chapter of the Federal Bar Association is the successor to the Central Pennsylvania Chapter, having changed its name and charter in 1997 to more closely identify with the local federal court in which its members practice.

The Chapter has a long history, but it emerged in its present, most active form in 1992. From that time, the Chapter has grown from a handful of members to its present roster, which is currently the largest chapter in the Third Circuit.



Pennsylvanian Counties Comprising the FBA Middle District Chapter

### *Membership*

Our members come from private practice, government, the military, law schools, and local courts. While we are largely comprised of attorneys residing in one of the 33 counties that make up the Middle District, membership in our Chapter is open to attorneys actively admitted to practice in any state, as well as law students.

Just designate the Middle District of Pennsylvania Chapter as your affiliate, and pay the membership fee applicable to your years in practice—fees are lower for newer lawyers. [Please join us!](#)

## Chapter News

### *Sylvia H. Rambo United States Courthouse Reception*

The FBA Middle District of Pennsylvania Chapter combined efforts with the Third Circuit Bar Association and the Federal Practice Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association to bring attendees together for a Commemorative Reception on October 19, 2023. This was held in recognition of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals' historic first sitting in the Middle District of Pennsylvania in the new Sylvia H. Rambo United States Courthouse.

Law students and practitioners were welcomed into the Courthouse throughout the day to observe oral arguments regarding a variety of issues before the Honorable Judges of the Third Circuit, followed by the Reception.



Chief Judge Chagares



Chief Judge Brann

The Reception was held in the grand new Courthouse atrium, and featured welcoming remarks from the Honorable Michael A. Chagares, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and the Honorable Matthew W. Brann, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.



### Want to Learn More? Join us!

The Chapter is committed to serving the needs of the federal practitioners employed or residing in the Middle District. We invite you to [join](#) the FBA and the MDPA Chapter, and look forward to seeing you at one of our events!

Link: [www.fedbar.org](http://www.fedbar.org)

*Celebration of the Honorable Judge Yvette Kane*

In October of 2023, the Honorable Judge Yvette Kane celebrated reaching 25 years of service to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania by hosting a reunion of her law clerks. Twenty-five law clerks gathered for a weekend of events, including a cocktail party, a tour of midtown Harrisburg and the new Sylvia H. Rambo United States Courthouse, a celebration dinner at Mangia Qui, and a farewell brunch. Judge Kane’s law clerks, many of whom have distinguished themselves in the practice of law and other fields, traveled from across the country and globe to celebrate the exceptional Judge Kane.



The Honorable Judge Kane and her law clerks

After receiving her law degree from the Tulane University School of Law in 1976, Judge Kane embarked on a lengthy career in public service, including positions with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the State of Colorado Attorney General’s Office, the Denver District Attorney’s Office, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office, the Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission, and as Secretary of the Commonwealth, Pennsylvania Department of State, before her investiture on October 27, 1998.

Judge Kane served as Chief Judge of the MDPA United States District Court from September 1, 2006 through August 31, 2013. While Chief Judge, she instituted a pioneering Court-assisted reentry program (CARE Court) to assist criminal defendants with adjustment to life after incarceration. During her time on the Court, Judge Kane also served the community through her participation on boards of numerous community organizations, including Theatre Harrisburg, Open Stage, the Art Association of Harrisburg, and the Cleve J. Fredricksen Library. Judge Kane assumed senior status in late 2018 and was succeeded on the Court by the Honorable Jennifer P. Wilson in the fall of 2019. As a senior judge, Judge Kane continues to carry a significant civil caseload as well as to sit periodically by designation with the Third and Ninth Circuit Courts of Appeals.

*Virtual CLE program: "Full House: Ethical and Other Challenges Facing In-House Counsel"*

On December 13, 2023, the Chapter presented the virtual CLE program, "Full House: Ethical and Other Challenges Facing In-House Counsel." The program featured as panelists four seasoned in-house lawyers from a range of industries across the country (pictured below): Vince Champion (top left), Vice President and General Counsel for Dickinson College; Jill Cohen (bottom left), General Counsel and Vice President of Administration for Hoshino USA; Richard Diaz (top right), Chief Counsel for Energy Transfer; and Ashley Park (bottom right), Senior Corporate Counsel for Amy's Kitchen.



Our esteemed panelists (as mentioned above)

Moderated by Magda Patitsas, a product liability and mass tort defense partner at Husch Blackwell, the panel discussed: (1) the varied roles and responsibilities of in-house counsel across industries; (2) the hybrid legal- and business-mindedness perspectives of in-house counsel; (3) ethical questions unique to in-house counsel, including issues relating to internal investigations and in-house counsel wearing multiple hats; and (4) best practices for building effective partnerships between in-house and outside counsel.

We had over 115 attendees, and they had nothing but high praise for the program. Comments included: "[p]henomenal group of speakers who provided great practice advice;" "[g]reat variety of experiences from the speakers, and they were all very well-prepared;" "I loved the honesty and the breadth of companies that the speakers come from. I really loved this CLE;" "[t]errific practical advice and practice tips. Not a moment wasted.;" "[t]he practical approach to the ethics topic was very refreshing;" and "GREAT panel members. Thoughtful presentations. Well prepared." One attendee described it as "one of the best" CLE programs they've ever attended.

**Notice: Increase in Civil Filing Fees**

The Judicial Conference of the United States approved inflationary adjustments to the miscellaneous fees schedules of the federal courts. Pursuant to these increases, the Middle District of Pennsylvania increased the following fees, which became effective on December 1, 2023.

- Complaint or Notice of Removal (Administrative Fee increase from \$52 to \$55): increased total fee amount from \$402 to \$405
- Miscellaneous case will increase from \$49 to \$52
- Notice of Appeal will increase from \$505 to \$605
- Misdemeanor Appeal will increase from \$39 to \$41

Additional fee schedule increases can be found at the following link: [Fee Notice](#)



Magda Patitsas, Esq.

## *Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition - Student Reflection*

*By: Sophia Soifer — Widener University Commonwealth Law School, J.D. Candidate, Class of 2025*

*The MDPA FBA sponsored teams from Penn State Dickinson Law and Widener Commonwealth Law School who participated in the Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition occurring in Washington D.C. on March 20-21, 2024. Visit the [Moot Court Competition Page](#) for results. The following article is a student reflection on the experience:*

Competing in the Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition this year allowed me the opportunity to grow both personally and professionally. My teammates and I spent weeks researching and writing our brief and preparing for our arguments. We were thankful to have the time and help of wonderful local attorneys who stepped in as practice judges to help us identify our weaknesses and improve our composure, knowledge, and strategy. Along with the support for our team's competition readiness, they also spoke with us about their career paths, successes, and lessons learned. We truly could not have done our best at the competition without the help of these local practitioners. Special shoutout to coaches Jonathan D. Coltish and Tricia Springer. To all local practitioners who made a direct impact on us, thank you!



Widener Law School Moot Court Competitors in Washington D.C.:  
Gretchen Fullmer, Nicholas Kahler, Marisa Swartley, and Sophia Soifer

While at the competition itself, we were also able to meet Widener Commonwealth alumni, both members of the MDPA and beyond. We are grateful to you all for the support and opportunity you gave us to compete. To the MDPA FBA, thank you for your support of law school students' dreams and endeavors! The opportunity to argue in real courtrooms in a true advocacy setting was invaluable. I look forward to competing again next year with your support and coaching!

### *Meet the Judges Panel & Happy Hour Event*

On Tuesday, April 2, 2024, the MDPA FBA in conjunction with the Penn State Dickinson Law and Widener Commonwealth Law student FBA Chapters hosted its third annual “Meet the Judges” event in the Sylvia H. Rambo U.S. Courthouse. The first part of the event was a panel of our esteemed Middle District judges.



Left to right: Judge Conner, Judge Schwab, Judge Kane, Judge Wilson, Judge Bloom, and Chief Judge Brann

It was our pleasure to have our judges join us for the evening. The discussion was as lively as in past years, with moderators Charlotte Thompson (Dickinson Law FBA President) and Magali Gonzalez-Salas (Widener Law FBA President) asking our judges a variety of thought-provoking questions. This was followed by a reception at The Millworks in Midtown Harrisburg.



Thank you to our Panel Judges for their time and wisdom and our students for their insightful questions and respectful presence. Finally, a sincere thank you to all who made this event possible through coordination and collaboration, including Casey Coyle, Sarah Hyser-Staub and Ezza Ahmed.

### **Judgeships Legislation Update**

FBA remains in contact with Representative Issa’s staff about plans for the introduction of a House version of the JUDGES Act.

The Congressman has secured a Democrat cosponsor and is close to finalizing the text of a bill that would add 66 federal district court seats, plus two 9th Circuit seats, as recommended by the Judicial Conference in March of 2023. Similar to the plan set forth in the JUDGES Act ([S. 2759](#)) pending in the Senate, the seats would be added in the future, but the timing would be slightly different.

FBA urged the Congressman to introduce the bill before Capitol Hill Day, so FBA members can seek support for the bill during their meetings that day. However, this bill has yet to be introduced in the House as of May 2024.

**Standing Order  
2023-19: Procedures  
Regarding Possession &  
Use of Electronic  
Devices in MDPA  
Federal Buildings and  
U.S. Courthouses**

On November 6, 2023, the Court issued a new Standing Order regarding procedures surrounding the possession and use of cameras and personal electronic devices by visitors to Federal Buildings and U.S. Courthouses within the Middle District. Most notably:

- The order applies to those entering the William J. Nealon Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, the Sylvia H. Rambo U.S. Courthouse, the Herman T. Schneebeli Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, and the Max Rosenn U.S. Courthouse
- All camera and personal electronic devices are subject to inspection and may not be used if not within exceptions (law school moot court, bar-sponsored events, etc.)
- These personal devices are required to be powered off and stored in a locked pouch that remains in the possession of the owner, with the exception of barred attorneys and other defined persons.

Further details can be found within the Order, which came into effect on December 1, 2023.

Link: [Standing Order 2023-19](#)

*Brown Bag Lunch Series - First Event*

The Middle District Chapter of the Federal Bar Association was graciously hosted by Judge Kane, Judge Schwab, and Judge Bloom for the first brown bag lunch event of the year on April 10, 2024. The lunch took place in the Judicial Conference Room in the Sylvia H. Rambo Courthouse.

Discussion was dynamic and lively between the judges and attendees, and topics of conversation ranged all the way from informal and light-hearted to more practice-focused and professional. Attendees asked about the judges' preferences on discovery disputes, the most impactful appearances they have seen in court, and their personal heroes, talents, and favorites.



Judge Schwab, Judge Kane, and Judge Bloom among the Brown Bag Lunch Attendees

MPDA encourages all to keep at eye out for the announcement of the next three Brown Bag Lunch Events in this series! The next event has already been set, with Chief Judge Brann as our next host. Space is limited for each event, so don't hesitate to sign up!

### *Widener Law School Speaker Event - R.I.C.O. Panel*

*By: Magali Gonzalez-Salas — Widener University Commonwealth Law School, J.D. Candidate, Class of 2025  
President — Widener Commonwealth Law School Chapter, FBA*

On April 12, 2024, Widener Law Commonwealth hosted the Honorable Judge Yvette Kane, Deputy Attorney General Robert Smulkis, Chief Disciplinary Counsel Thomas Farrell, and Assistant United States Attorney Michael Consiglio for a discussion about R.I.C.O. This esteemed panel discussed their personal experiences handling R.I.C.O. cases from the perspectives of a prosecutor, former defense attorney, and judge. The panel's focus centered around educating students on the requirements and complexities of R.I.C.O., which has become a national discussion topic due to high profile cases including the state prosecutions of the YSL Street Gang and against former President Donald Trump in Georgia.



FBA Widener Law School Chapter Members



Panelists: Thomas Farrell, Esq., The Honorable Yvette Kane, Michael Consiglio, Esq., and Robert Smulkis, Esq.



A consensus among all speakers was the meticulous work and decision-making process required to bring a R.I.C.O. case to both an indictment and to trial. Furthermore, the panelists emphasized the R.I.C.O. statute comes with the expectation of this level of quality of work and dedication to ensure that when the statute is used, it continues to be an effective tool against corrupt organizations. One of the central questions for our panelists was whether R.I.C.O. in their eyes, is still an effective tool. Without hesitation all of the panelists agreed the word R.I.C.O. in and of itself highlights to defendants and the general public the seriousness of the offenses and the punishments associated with the charge, continuing to make it a valuable tool for dismantling criminal organizations in our society.

## Articles

### *Judicial Profile: The Honorable Magistrate Judge Daryl F. Bloom*

*By: Ezza Ahmed, Esq. — MDPA FBA Newsletter Chair (Assistant District Attorney, Dauphin County)*

On September 28, 2023, the Honorable Judge Daryl F. Bloom was sworn in as the newest full-time United States Magistrate Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Judge Bloom entered duty on October 2, 2023, and has since been a gracious and well-reasoned judge in the matters before him.

Judge Bloom spent his youth as the youngest of five children in Strasburg, a Lancaster County village known throughout the Commonwealth for its many railroad attractions and large Amish community. His father was a design engineer, and his mother was a schoolteacher. As a boy, Judge Bloom's first career dreams involved joining the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In his senior year, he committed to Temple University's undergraduate program and intended to play football for the Owls. However, before he moved to campus, doctors discovered an Osteopathic Sarcoma in the bone surrounding his knee. The tumor removal was fortunately successful but prevented him from pursuing his initial F.B.I. goal. Despite this, a young, determined, and energetic Judge Bloom matriculated at Temple with a transformed vision: pursuing a legal career.

The values that fostered Judge Bloom's interest in the law were the same values that drove his F.B.I. aspirations – the promotion of justice and fairness. Namely, the prosecutorial profession closely aligned with Judge Bloom's values and became the driving factor in his career decisions as he entered higher education. In 1991, Judge Bloom completed his joint philosophy and criminal justice undergraduate degree. He went on to receive his Juris Doctorate from Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law in 1994, where he demonstrated exceptional aptitude and dedication to both legal studies and high ethics standards. He notably served as the Chairperson for the Villanova Law Honor Board in his final year, after having served as an Honor Board representative twice.



The Honorable Judge  
Daryl F. Bloom

Judge Bloom's experiences in undergrad and law school reinforced his values and goal to become a prosecutor. Those involvements began with an undergraduate summer internship with a homicide trial division judge. In law school, he worked at the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of

Pennsylvania, then the Delaware County District Attorney's office, and finally trained incoming interns for the same District Attorney's office during his post-J.D. summer. During his final year, Judge Bloom provided a statement to the Villanova Law Docket newspaper, exemplifying his commitment to justice even as a law student:

“As a law student and attorney[,] it is easy to be consumed with being at the top of your class or winning a case. Often this means overlooking what is the “right thing” to do... it is important to keep things in perspective by balancing legal knowledge with knowledge and values which make up who you are today... values which have propelled you into a position to help other[s] and to make change.” – Judge Daryl F. Bloom as quoted in “Someone You Should Know: Daryl Bloom”, by Nathan Murawsky, The Villanova Law Docket, February 1994.

Upon his admission to the bar, Judge Bloom became the first lawyer in his family. As he ventured into his career, he carried his dynamic personality, positive attitude, and professionalism with him beyond Villanova's halls into his legal practice.

Prior to his appointment, Judge Bloom amassed extensive legal experience, honing his skills in public service. He began his career in the Honors Program at the United States Department of Justice, where he was a Trial Attorney. Aptly, he spent his first seven months at the Strategic Information and Operations Center at F.B.I. headquarters, where he served on the Pentagon Twin Towers Bombing (PENTTBOM) Task Force. He concentrated on terrorism and special interest cases and was able to travel across the globe in that position. He was then promoted to Assistant United States District Counsel and remained at the DOJ in that position until 2002.

Soon after, Judge Bloom accepted an Assistant United States Attorney position in the Middle District of Pennsylvania. He committed to being a prosecutor to its fullest extent, successfully litigating criminal cases for the next 19 years. Following this, he focused on prosecuting child exploitation and violent crimes, as well as a large volume of drug trafficking cases. Most notably, he was one of two prosecutors that litigated cases arising from the investigation of “Operation Precious Cargo”, a human trafficking prostitution ring involving truck stops throughout Pennsylvania and Ohio. To this date, prosecution supported by Operation Precious Cargo has resulted in fifteen pimps, two chief prostitutes and two corrupt state troopers receiving convictions.

“As a prosecutor,... [being a part of the Operation Precious Cargo prosecution] was personally very rewarding... because my goal in life was always to make the world a better place, and I really felt like I was doing that in that role.” – Judge Daryl F. Bloom



Judge Bloom achieved senior positions during his commitment to the office, including Chief of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force as well as Deputy Criminal Chief. After a long and rewarding career as a prosecutor, his Honor felt that a Judgeship was the right move to continue his part in upholding justice and fairness.

(Left) Judge Bloom during his time as an Assistant United States Attorney (April 2017)

As a new judge, Judge Bloom is evolving and enjoying the job tremendously. He has already learned from his judicial colleagues and makes it standard practice to give parties his full attention, staying engaged throughout their appearances to ensure a fair proceeding. He is guided by a judicial philosophy rooted in integrity, impartiality, and respect for the rule of law. He approaches each case with a personal standard, citing the importance of his own preparation as much as counselor preparation. He holds his own legal and factual knowledge to a high standard as he strives to ensure that the parties involved in litigation and their arguments are being properly represented.

While he takes all matters before him seriously, Judge Bloom does also find joy in some of the more wholesome opportunities of judgeship as well. Being able to support others' life journeys is a great honor to him, as he presides over naturalization proceedings, marriages, and attorney admissions. In his personal time, Judge Bloom loves to do yard work, participate in Police Unity Tour bicycle rides, and spend time with his family.

Judge Bloom's advice to young attorneys and law students is that a lawyer can be a zealous advocate and still be a nice person. The most effective attorneys that he has come across in his career were those that were very good at advocacy, but also were trustworthy and kind. Finally, Judge Bloom notes that an important practice in a courtroom is to maintain your composure, even when things are going awry.

It is no question that Judge Bloom will continue to make invaluable contributions to the administration of justice and our district's well-being. We at the Middle District of Pennsylvania Chapter of the FBA are grateful for his pledge to be fair and just throughout his judicial tenure. Thank you Judge Bloom!

### *Attorney Profile: Kevin Foley, Esq.*

*By: Kiera Flannery — Widener University Commonwealth Law School, J.D. Candidate, Class of 2025*

*MDPA FBA Liaison — Widener Commonwealth Law School Chapter, FBA*

Attorney Kevin Foley is a seasoned personal injury lawyer with the Foley Law Firm in Scranton, PA. He earned his J.D. from the Dickinson School of Law in 1988. After graduating, he served as a Law Clerk to the Honorable James T. McDermott, Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, until 1989 when he began practicing personal injury law. As an active member in the legal community, Attorney Foley has served on the Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association and is a member of several committees and associations. As a result, he emphasizes the importance of forming and nurturing connections with other lawyers outside of the courtroom.

Attorney Foley grew up in a family of renowned, well-respected lawyers in the Middle District of Pennsylvania. He credits his grandfathers Michael J. Egan, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and Thomas J. Foley, Sr., a practicing trial attorney in Scranton as the main reasons why he chose to pursue a legal career. Throughout college, Attorney Foley worked in his father's law firm where he came to appreciate the counsel and support that the profession provides to people every day, and recognized it as an opportunity to leave positive impacts on his community.



Kevin Foley, Esq., Foley Law Firm

Throughout the years, Attorney Foley has worked on countless personal injury cases and brought successful verdicts to numerous clients. In Lackawanna County, he achieved the largest settlement in a trucking collision case — \$14.75 million. Attorney Foley often reflects on specific cases that truly make his practice fulfilling. One success story that he related was a matter in which a young mother had been severely disabled from an automobile accident. He was fighting for the worker's compensation company to build her a new, accessible home on the same lot next to her family so that she could live at home rather than in a personal care facility. The bilevel home her family lived in was not properly equipped, and Attorney Foley was successful in securing the new build for her. His time and effort kept a family together, something that never would have been possible without his dedication.

Attorney Foley's advice to young lawyers and law students is to maintain integrity, as lawyers exist in the profession to protect their clients and uphold the law. Finally, he encourages all lawyers to pursue areas of law that they are really passionate about to ensure a fulfilling career.

## Middle District of Pennsylvania Presents: Courthouse Tours

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June 14, 2024 from 12-1:30 PM

Sylvia H. Rambo U.S. Courthouse

First come first serve! The FBA MDPA chapter is organizing its first courthouse tour for the new courthouse. An intimate catered lunch will follow the tour, and parking validations will be provided. There are very limited spots for this tour, but there may be more opportunities in the future if there is enough interest! Please sign up below.

Link: [June 14 Courthouse Tour](#)

## Upcoming Events and Announcements

### *SAVE THE DATE: Middle District of PA Bench/Bar*

October 2-4, 2024

Skytop Lodge, Skytop, PA

For the first time in eight years, the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania will be hosting a Bench/Bar Conference. The conference will take place at the beautiful Skytop Lodge in Skytop, Pennsylvania. It will begin on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 2, 2024, and will conclude before lunchtime on Friday, October 4, 2024. The organization of this event and its agenda is being finalized, and we all look forward to seeing you for a robust Conference filled with interesting speakers, fun activity, and memorable fellowship. Conference registration and lodging information will be announced in the near future. Block the dates in your calendars until then!

### *Brown Bag Lunch Series: Chief Judge Brann*

June 4, 2024 from 12-1 PM

Williamsport, PA

We are pleased to announce the second Brown Bag Lunch event of 2024, which will take place in the Herman T. Schneebeli Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. We will be hosted by Chief Judge Matthew W. Brann. The Brown Bag Lunch Series consists of four lunch events providing attorneys with an opportunity to interact with the District and Magistrate Judges of the Middle District of Pennsylvania in a more relaxed setting. The Brown Bag Lunch events are open to younger attorneys (admitted to practice within the past 10 years) or more experienced attorneys who are new to the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

The deadline to sign up is this **Friday, May 31 at 2PM**. Seating is VERY limited. If your circumstances change and you are no longer able to attend, please release your reservation as soon as possible so someone else may be able to attend in your place. Secure your seat at this [link](#).

*Opportunities in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania*

The Pro Bono Committee Wishes to Acknowledge and Thank the following attorneys who have recently volunteered and accepted appointments:

- Harry T. Coleman, Esquire - Law Office of Harry Coleman
- Matthew M. Haar, Esquire - Saul Ewing
- Michael Libuser, Esquire - Babst Calland
- Curt M. Parkins, Esquire - Comerford Law
- Joseph Toll, Esquire - Troutman Pepper
- Justin G. Weber, Esquire - Troutman Pepper
- Julian N. Weiss, Esquire - Troutman Pepper

Below are the open cases currently with the pro bono committee for placement. Volunteers are asked to contact program coordinator, Michael O'Donnell, at 570-821-5717 or by email at [michael@odonnell-law.com](mailto:michael@odonnell-law.com) if interested in assisting. Thank you!

**CURRENT OPEN CASES:**

Kenyon v. Dr. Guiteriez., et al., No. 4:24-cv-00426 (MWB)

Morrison v. U.S.A., et al., No. 1:20-cv-01571 (YK)

Reaves v. Rossman, et al., No. 3:21-cv-1282 (MCC)

**Helpful Reminders  
When Considering Pro  
Bono Work**

1. Most cases arise under Section 1983. As such, volunteer attorneys are authorized to submit a fee bill upon a successful outcome;
2. Inquiries into matters of interest are strictly confidential;
3. All cases sent to the pro bono program involve pro se individuals;
4. All cases have been pre-screened by the Court for arguable merit;
5. On request, volunteer attorneys may view pertinent docket entries free of charge prior to accepting representation;
6. The pro bono program and Court will assist with reimbursement of litigation costs; and
7. Pro bono cases are an excellent opportunity to for new and veteran attorneys to practice and try cases in Federal Court! No prior experience required!



# Federal Bar Association

Middle District of Pennsylvania Chapter

## 2023-2024 Chapter Leadership & Committees

### *Executive Leadership*

President	Keli Neary
President-Elect	Michael A. O'Donnell
Vice President	K. Wesley (Wes) Mishoe
Treasurer	Sara E. Myirski
Secretary	Stefanie Pitcavage Mekilo
National Delegate	Casey Alan Coyle

### *CLE Committee*

Casey Alan Coyle, Committee Co-Chair  
Stefanie Pitcavage Mekilo, Committee Co-Chair

### *Communications Committee*

Jennifer Menichini, Committee Chair  
Ezza Ahmed, Newsletter Subcommittee Chair  
Jonathan D. Koltash  
Devin J. Chastwyk  
Thomas R. DeCesar

### *Events & Programs Committee*

Sarah Hyser-Staub, Committee Chair  
Magda Patitsas, Brown Bag Lunch Subcommittee Chair  
Ezza Ahmed, Meet the Judges Subcommittee Chair  
Casey Alan Coyle  
Stefanie Pitcavage Mekilo

### *Membership Committee*

Matt Haar, Committee Chair  
Katherine Dixon  
PJ Best

### *Law School Coordinator*

Ezza Ahmed