

CAPE MAY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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I hope this message finds each of you doing well and thriving both personally and in your individual practices. While we currently find ourselves at the end of the winter doldrums, the Cape May County Bar Association is actively working to plan events for our members that will allow us to experience the beauty of Cape May County and the benefits of collegiality amongst colleagues, even during the "offseason" months. We are actively working on scheduling events spanning from Cape May to Ocean City over the course of the next year and it is my hope and desire that each of you will consider attending these events, while also inviting associates and colleagues from both Cape May County and beyond to experience the many extraordinary benefits that membership in the Cape May County Bar Association provides to each of our members. Thank you and I look forward to seeing you all very soon!

President, John Amenhauser

THE CAPE MAY MAY COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES (2023-2024)

The Cape May County Bar Association held our Annual Installation Event this year at Mudhen in Wildwood. Aside from our returning board of trustees, the Bar welcomes our newest trustee Stephanie Albrecht-Pedrick, as well as our new President for 2023-2024 term - John Amenhauser!



Spring Social
April 24, 2024
5:30 - 7:30pm

SLACK TIDE
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LAW CLERKS IN CAPE MAY

Courts across New Jersey change law clerks every September for a year-long position of grinding out memos and being a significant part of keeping dockets running smoothly. Please strike up a conversation with some of the law clerks below who have already been an integral part of the Cape May County Superior Court.

Francesca Collins - Law Clerk to the Hon. J. Christopher Gibson, J.S.C.

Francesca Collins is a South Jersey native and grew up coming down to Cape May County every summer. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from Elon University in North Carolina and attended Widener University-Delaware Law School. During law school, she was an associate editor for Widener Law Review and was the Vice Justice of Phi Alpha Delta. Currently, she is clerking for Judge Gibson in the criminal division. She has thoroughly enjoyed her clerkship and learning all about criminal law and procedure. Her legal experience includes work for a plaintiff's personal injury law firm; a real estate law firm; and a defense firm specializing in professional negligence suits against architects and engineers. In addition to her criminal clerkship, she interned for the Honorable Judge Michael O'Neill of Hunterdon Superior Court. Following her clerkship, she hopes to practice in some area of civil law. In her free time, she enjoys going on hikes, listening to music, and playing piano.

Kira Kelly - Law Clerk to the Hon. Jeffrey J. Waldman, J.S.C.

Kira W. Kelly is currently clerking for Judge Waldman. The first half of the clerkship was spent between Cape May and Atlantic Counties doing Recovery Court, but a recent switch to a new trial team has her staying in Mays Landing and working on F-Team matters and the mental health diversion program. Kira received a B.A. in Sociology from the Catholic University of America and a J.D. from Rutgers Law School—Camden. While at Rutgers, she worked as a teaching assistant for the Estates and Trusts and Elder Law courses and as a legal writing fellow for the Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research course. She was an executive editor of the Rutgers University Law Review and was recently published in the journal's state constitutional law issue. She also spent a year working for the Rutgers Housing Advocacy Clinic representing tenants in landlord-tenant proceedings and creating a program to better inform New Jersey

residents about tenant rights and landlord responsibilities. She is a lifelong Ocean City resident and is hoping to stay in the area after her time with Judge Waldman comes to an end. As for post-clerkship plans, she is leaning toward criminal law but has not ruled out civil. In the more distant future, Kira would like to become a law professor or work with students in a law school clinic or pro bono program.

Joseph Cerra - Law Clerk to the Honorable Daniel Kurkowski, J.S.C.

My name is Joseph Cerra and I am a family law clerk for the Honorable Daniel M. Kurkowski. I am originally from Scranton, Pennsylvania. My clerkship has been an extremely rewarding experience. Every day I get to come in and observe court hearings - learning from experienced litigators zealously advocating for their clients. It's also very rewarding to know that the work I'm engaging in has an immediate effect and changes the lives of the litigants involved. I've found that helping families reunify is one of the most rewarding experiences of working in family law and it is a privilege to do so. After my clerkship, I hope to continue the practice of law here in South Jersey or Philadelphia. I'm primarily interested in pursuing a career in either civil or family law.

BARRY•CORRADO & GRASSI, PC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

BARRY, CORRADO & GRASSI, PC

is pleased to announce

Erika Lezama-Simonson & Shauna L. Friedman

as the firm's newest partners.



Erika and Shauna are both graduates of Rutgers-Camden Law School and experienced in complex civil litigation and transactional matters. Erika is admitted to practice in the State of New Jersey and United State District Court for the District of New Jersey. Shauna is admitted to practice in the State of New Jersey, State of New York, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Barry Corrado & Grassi, PC is a general practice law firm with a concentration on litigation. The firm has offices located at 2700 Pacific Ave, Wildwood, NJ 08260 and 901 Longwood Ave, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 and can be found online at www.capelegal.com

Contact: Erika Lezama-Simonson or Shauna L. Friedman at (609) 729-1333

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YOUR OPPORTUNITY

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Bar Association*

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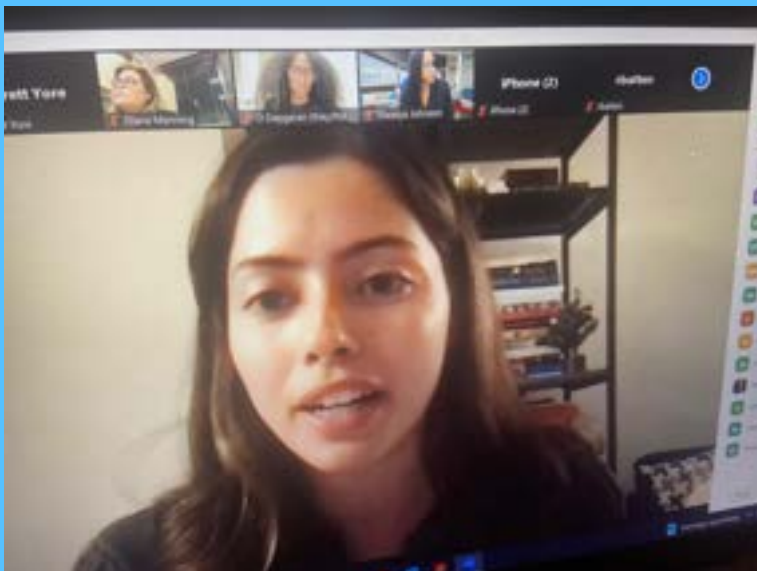
2023 Adopt-A-Family

She's done it again! Former Bar President, Jennifer Belles, single-handedly buys and wraps presents every holiday season and this year she outdid herself. Alongside a partnership with Caring for Kids out of Cape May Court House - and donations from numerous members of our Bar - Ms. Belles was able to help five families have a deserving holiday. Thank you to everyone who contributed and to Ms. Belles for her tireless efforts!



CAPE MAY COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP EVENT

Early last year, several diverse female attorneys shared their experience in the legal community at a virtual event that helped raise funds for the Cape May County Bar Foundation Diversity Scholarship. Speakers included President of NJ Women's Lawyer's Association, Diana C. Manning; President of the Garden State Bar Association, Natalya G. Johnson; Vice-President of NJ Muslim Lawyers Association, Amani Taha; and D Dangaran, Co-Chair of the National Trans Bar Association. Their personal experiences shed light on the diversity in our legal community and the scholarship will be given out for a third time to a law student from New Jersey who has been affected by diversity, inclusion, and allyship. Thank you to those in attendance!





CMCBA LAW DAY

"Voices of Democracy" *

Superior Court House
9 North Main Street
Courtroom J
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

May 3, 2024 8:30am-12noon

**2 CLE Credits Pending*

**CLE FREE to Members, nonmembers \$50*

Frank L. Corrado, Esquire
Partner at Barry Corrado & Grassi, P.C.

Raymond L. Baldino, Esquire
Zazzali Law, P.C.

EVENT ALSO INCLUDES:

*CMC Bar President John Amenhauser

*Honorable Michael Blee, A.J.S.C.

*In Remembrance -Jeffrey April, Esq. and Doreen Corino, Esq.

*Volunteer Mediator Recognition

*Gibson Batten Spirit of Community Award Presentation

*2024 CMC Mock Trial Winner Reception

Our Bar lost two legends of the local legal community over the past year. Doreen Corino passed away on February 14, 2024, and Jeffrey April passed away on September 23, 2024. Both left indelible marks on our profession and will be honored at Law Day. Please see the kind words written about Jeff April by friend and local attorney Carol N. Goloff, Esquire.

*In Memory of Jeffery A. April, Esquire
By Carol N. Goloff*

On September 23, 2023, we lost a dedicated member of the Cape May County Bar. Jeffery April loved his professional community. Jeff grew up in the Carmel section of Cumberland County. After graduating from law school, Jeff clerked for the Honorable James A. O'Neill, in Cape May County. He cherished the memories of that year. Every September, Jeff made the rounds to personally meet the new law clerks, especially Judge O'Neill's.

After working with his brother, Lewis, at Cooper Perskie in Atlantic City during the first years of casino gaming, Jeff was an associate at Perskie & Callinan, and then started his own practice in Marmora. That firm eventually became April, Maudsley & Goloff. Over the years, Jeff served many municipalities as prosecutor, public defender, planning board, and municipal solicitor. Jeff also served on various boards including the Cape May County Bar Foundation, Cape Mediation, and was a long-time commissioner for the New Jersey Transportation Authority.

Jeff was a general practitioner who served his community with honor and generosity. Jeff never turned anyone away who really needed him because of finances and he happily served the Bar in many ways. Jeff was honest to a fault, patient, and very tolerant. But, perhaps the best word to describe Jeff is affable. He was a people person and liked almost everyone he met. In the 38 years I knew Jeffery, I can only think of three people with whom he





had a beef. Not many of us can say that and let the musings begin!

Jeff loved walking on the boardwalk for hours. He also loved horse racing and was not happy when I scheduled my wedding on Kentucky Derby Day. All was well, though. Jeff stopped at a local watering hole located between the church and the reception. He caught the race, his horse won, and he shared his winnings with me.

With Jeff's passing, we have lost another member of a generation of funny, personable, and generous lawyers who guided many of us in the art of practicing law in wonderfully intimate Cape May County. Jeff joins the likes of Ken Calloway, Bob Fleming, Jeff Israelow, and Skip Kay. They are missed but forever in the hearts of those who knew them.



MIDDLE TOWNSHIP IS CAPE MAY COUNTY'S MOCK TRIAL WINNER!

The young legal minds were at it again for the Vincent J. Apruzzese Mock Trial Competition in Cape May County. The time and energy spent by local attorneys coaching local high schools is tremendous - and for our coordinators as well. Our Bar thanks Justin Turner and Paul Stanton for another fantastic competition! But also, each and every one of our volunteers who devoted a significant amount of time prepping and judging the competition.

Thanks to the following for your participation as Judges in the Mock Trial Competition:

Dottie McCrosson, Michael Pender Jonathon McCrosson Jim Lee Katrina Tattolli Carol Goloff Rachel Goloff Richard King James Birchmeier Marian Rugusa John Amenhauser Michael Lario Raymond Batten Joseph Grimes Norman Briggs Alexis Batten Michelle DeWeese Susan Sheppard



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - Stephanie Albrecht-Pedrick

Our Bar is full of interesting and talented individuals in and out of the court. To highlight some of our members, not just for their legal successes, but for their personal accomplishments and interests as well, we'd like to point the spotlight on Stephanie Albrecht-Pedrick, who was recently appointed as a trustee to the Cape May County Bar Association.

Hello friends! Have we met? What do you do? I help people through what can be one of life's most stressful experiences: Divorce. I am not a "shark", or a "bulldog" (I hate those comparisons!), but I am assertive, strong, objective, and practical. I really enjoy what I do. I often see people at their emotional worst, in the midst of a storm, and I guide them through it so they can start fresh with a bright perspective after the storm is over. Divorce is a bitter-sweet event. I always try to remember that no matter how nasty a divorce can be, those two people were once in love and thought they had the fairytale. A divorce is definitely a loss, even when it is something the client wants. My practice encompasses almost all aspects of Family Law, including custody, spousal and child support, equitable distribution, post judgment issues, modification motions, and domestic violence.

I own and operate my own practice in Pleasantville, NJ. I am Certified as a Matrimonial Law attorney by the Supreme Court of New Jersey; one of only four in the Atlantic/Cape May County region. I enjoy networking and engaging with my colleagues at Bar Association events, and believe we all benefit individually when we help each other together.



I grew up in Ocean City, NJ and graduated from Ocean City High School. Outside of the law, I stay busy with my husband and two boys. You can find me watching my boys at the street hockey courts, lacrosse fields, or basketball court. My quiet hobby is knitting – it is peaceful and meditative, and provides a nice break from the chaos of sports and the law.



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


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2024 Cape May County Bar Foundation

NATHAN C. STALLER SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION



The Honorable Nathan C. Staller Law School Scholarship Award

was established to honor the late Nathan C. Staller, a member of both the Cape May County and New Jersey State Bar Associations. The Scholarship is awarded to qualified law school students who hail from the three Southern New Jersey Counties, Cape May, Cumberland, and Atlantic. It is awarded on the basis of academic achievement and financial need.

**PLEASE SHARE
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Applications must be received by 5/1/2024

Submit to CMCBA.ED@Gmail.com

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Do you have an article you'd like to share with our membership? Or an idea that you think would work for the newsletter? Or maybe you'd like to advertise to our membership of nearly 150 attorneys? Don't hesitate to reach out to our Executive Director, Pam Kaithern, via email at cmcba.ed@gmail.com, for more information. We'd like this newsletter to be a platform for our membership to generate discussion, opinions, and maybe some entertainment, so don't be afraid to share something!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT
OF THE CAPE MAY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION.**

