

Montgomery Bar Association Welcomes New Leaders

Bar Association's Annual Business Meeting Luncheon marks the installment of Pottstown's first Montgomery Bar Association and honors attorneys, community leaders and local heroes.

On Friday, January 10, 2020, the Montgomery Bar Association (MBA) held its Annual Business Luncheon Meeting at Blue Bell Country Club in Blue Bell, PA. Nearly 300 local dignitaries, legal professionals and community leaders attended the event which included the election of the MBA's officers for 2020, an awards presentation to honor area attorneys and judges, as well as the installation of its new president, **Patrick J. Kurtas, Esq.**, with the ceremonial passing of the gavel.

Patrick J. Kurtas, Esq. is a partner with the firm of Prince and Kurtas. Mr. Kurtas graduated from Ursinus College in 1999 with a degree in Political Science. He thereafter attended both Villanova University School of Law and Villanova College of Commerce and Finance earning a Juris Doctorate as well as a Masters in Business Administration in 2002. Kurtas opened his own law practice, Kurtas Law, in 2003, and thereafter merged forces with the oldest law firm in the Pottstown area, Prince and Prince, in 2006, to create Prince and Kurtas.

During his inauguration speech, Mr. Kurtas acknowledged Mr. Gifford, his fellow officers, and past presidents of the bar association for their support, inspiration and guidance. Mr. Kurtas also shared stories from his upbringing in Chester County, where his first job was working on a farm at 14 years old. It was during this time that Mr. Kurtas first aspired to become a lawyer, the true profession of the farm's owner and Mr. Kurtas' first professional mentor, John Frazier Hunt. The first MBA President from Pottstown, Mr. Kurtas also acknowledged the guidance of his law partner, Paul Prince, and praised the work of his fellow Pottstown attorneys.

Mr. Kurtas also implored those in attendance to stay involved in the bar association, and to encourage their colleagues to do so as well. He praised the many benefits of membership and the important initiatives and programs offered by the bar association, especially its diversity efforts, leadership programs, and many CLE offerings.

Mr. Kurtas concluded his speech by crediting his current position to the love and support of his incredible family, especially his mother Alice, brother Peter, Jr., sister Alyson, and his father Peter, who unfortunately passed in September.

For the 2020 Bar Year, **Jacqueline M. Reynolds, Esq.** will serve as President-Elect, **Sarinia M. Feinman, Esq.** will serve as Vice President, **Justin A. Bayer, Esq.** will serve as Treasurer and **Lisa A. Shearman, Esq.** will serve as Secretary.

Also of Note: **Justin A. Bayer, Esq.**, of **Kane, Pugh, Knoell, Troy & Kramer, LLP** in Norristown will also serve as President of the MBA's Trial Lawyers Section, **Joseph A. McNelis, III, Esq.** of **Fox Rothschild, LLP** in Blue Bell was named Chair of the MBA's Young Lawyers Section, **Gerald L. Shoemaker, Jr., Esq.**, of **Hangley Aronchick Segal Pudlin & Schiller** in Norristown was named Chair of the MBA's Family Law Section, and **Obadiah G. English, Esq.**, of **Mannion Prior, LLP** in King of Prussia, will continue as Chair of the MBA's Probate and Tax Section.

In addition to new leadership being appointed, the following awards were distributed:



2019 MBA President Gregory R. Gifford, Esq. (right) passes the gavel to 2020 President Patrick J. Kurtas, Esq. (left)

About The Montgomery Bar Association

Established in 1885 to professionalize the county's practice of law, the Montgomery Bar Association (MBA) is one of our nation's oldest and most respected bar associations, representing over 2,100 legal professionals in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Now, as then, the MBA exists to uphold legal and ethical standards in our legal community. As the third largest Bar in Pennsylvania, the MBA has a longstanding tradition of service to its membership and the community. For members, the MBA offers an important arena for networking, professional development and education. For the community, the MBA serves as a legal resource offering education, legal assistance and funds and resources for individuals and agencies in need. The Association is actively engaged in public service through community outreach, free educational events offered throughout the year, programs like the Montgomery Child Advocacy Project, the Mock Trial Competitions for high-school students, and more. For more information on the Montgomery Bar Association, visit www.montgomerybar.org.

2020 ANNUAL BUSINESS LUNCHEON AWARDS

The Honorable Horace A. Davenport Diversity Award

Recipient: **Jimmy Chong, Esq.**

About the Award: Named for the first African-American judge in Montgomery County, the Honorable Horace A. Davenport Diversity Award is given to an individual or organization who has championed diversity within the Montgomery County legal community.



Above: Lansdale attorney Jimmy C. Chong (left) receives the Inaugural Hon. Horace A. Davenport Diversity Award from 2019 MBA President Gregory R. Gifford, Esq. (right).

The Honorable Milton O. Moss Public Service Award

Recipient: **Dr. Valerie A. Arkoosh, Chair, Montgomery County Commissioners**

About the Award: Since the beginning of the Bar Foundation in 1987, the Bar Foundation has honored Judge Moss by presenting the award to a Montgomery County resident who has provided exceptional service in support of the justice system.



Above: Dr. Valerie A. Arkoosh (right) receives the Hon. Milton O. Moss Award.

The Honorable Louis D. Stefan Law Enforcement Award (two recipients)

Recipients: **Whitpain Township PD Detective Beth Sanborn, DPA and MC Warden Julio M. Algarin**

About the Award: Since the beginning of the Bar Foundation in 1987, the Bar Foundation has honored Judge Moss by presenting the award to a Montgomery County resident who has provided exceptional service in support of the justice system.



Above: Det. Beth Sanborn (left) Montgomery County Warden Julio M. Algarin (right) receive the Hon. Louis D. Stefan Award from Montgomery Bar Foundation President Carl N. Weiner, Esq. (center).

Montgomery Bar Association Young Lawyers Section Award

Recipient: **Michael J. Lyon, Esq.**



Above: 2019 Chair of the Young Lawyers Section Michael J. Lyon, Esq. (left) receives the Young Lawyers Section Award from 2019 Vice-Chair Joseph A. McNelis, III, Esq. (right).

Montgomery Bar Association President's Award

Recipient: **Jessica Gambone, Montgomery County Law Reporter Desktop Publisher (no photo available / unable to attend)**

Montgomery Bar Association Committee of the Year Award

Recipient: **MBA Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee**

Right: 2019 MBA Solo & Small Firm Practice Committee Leadership. Pictured from left to right are: Emeritus Chair C. Dale McClain, Esq., and Committee Co-Chairs Cary B. Hall, Esq., Kenneth P. Milner, Esq., Leno P. Thomas, Esq., and Joanna M. Furia, Esq.

