

# *Res Ipsa Loquitur*

**Newsletter of the Wicomico County Bar Association  
Vol. I, Issue 6 - December 2011**

## **President's Message by Heather Konyar**

As this year draws to a close, I am proud that our Bar Association has grown in the way that it has – we are coming together as a group again, for charitable, social and even educational purposes. We have established firm lines of communication through email, a beautifully executed newsletter, and now a website. We have increased our pro bono participation and have engaged with local schools by personally appearing to hand out our scholarships. Thanks to everyone who has so generously contributed to our team spirit.

So now you may ask – what next? What does 2012 hold for the Bar Association? We're looking to expand our scholarship program – not only in terms of the money we award, but also by enhanc-



ing the application process to better ensure that our money will help assist those actively pursuing a career in the law. We're continuing in our project to update the library – major changes have already begun (stop in when you have a chance). We're looking forward to the new list serve and better utilization of the website. We're hoping that you all attend the final meeting of this year, as not only will we be holding elections, but we will also be

discussing possible changes to our by-laws and our future growth.

Now that we've taken the time to look back, and a look ahead, let's look to now. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our Holiday Party on December 10, 2011

## **WCBA Calendar**

- ❖ **December 10, 2011: Holiday Party! The Bistro at Salisbury University; 6 pm - 10 pm, \$50 per person. See you all there!**
- ❖ **December 15, 2011: General Membership Meeting and Elections at La Tolteca Restaurant; 4 pm. This is an extremely important meeting. Please plan to attend.**

**Happy Hour snacks and drink specials included at both events.**

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## Call for Meeting

The WCBA Board calls a General Membership Meeting and Elections for Thursday, December 15, 2011. The meeting will be held at La Tolteca Restaurant at 4 p.m.

Put this date in your calendar and plan to attend this important meeting.

This will be the final meeting of the year and in addition to holding elections, we will be discussing plans for the new year and improvements to the Wicomico County Bar Association. Your input is important and we need the entire Association to attend this important meeting. See you there!

## Advertising Information and Rates

*Res Ipsa Loquitur* is published bimonthly and contains substantive legal articles, announcements and Association News. Advertisements are subject to approval by the Res Ipsa Loquitur staff and the Executive Board of the Wicomico County Bar Association. Advertisements can be accepted in PDF, Word, or WordPerfect format.

**Rates** (Full color or black/white). Limited advertising space is available in the next four issues at these rates: 1/2 page \$75.00 each; 1/4 page \$40.00 each; 1/8 page \$20.00 each.

**Deadlines:** 2011 - November 20; 2012 - February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15.

## Not a member?

Not a member of the Wicomico County Bar Association? Dues slipped your mind? Contact Nicole at [attygrl@aol.com](mailto:attygrl@aol.com) for information.

## **WCBA 2011 Officers**

**President:** Heather Konyar

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**Vice-President:** Angie DiPietro

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**Secretary:** Susan J. Land

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## **Res Ipsa Loquitur Staff**

**Editor:** Susan J. Land

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### **Committee Members:**

Barbara Trader

Melissa Kilmer

James Respass

Patricia Harvey

The Honorable Leah J. Seaton

Mark Tyler

To contact Res Ipsa Loquitur, please e-mail the Editor or Co-Editor. Res Ipsa Loquitur is a bi-monthly publication of the Wicomico County Bar Association informing its members about current events related to law and the community. Articles do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Association, and publication does not demonstrate an endorsement of views expressed herein.

The contents of advertisements and articles are the responsibility of the advertisers and writers, and do not represent any recommendation or endorsement by Res Ipsa Loquitur or the Wicomico County Bar Association.

## **Publication of Nominations**

The following members have been nominated and accepted their nominations:

*Angie DiPietro* for President

*Susan Land* for Vice-President/President elect

*Roscoe Leslie* for Secretary

*Nicole Greene* for Treasurer

Nominations can also be made from the floor. Elections will be held 4:30 p.m. on December 15, 2011 at La Tolteca. *Please Note the Location and the Date.*

## **Committee Notes**

### **Memorial Committee**

We are moving forward and planning the memorial service for Spring of 2012. If you would like to help, contact Angie DiPietro.

### **Social Committee**

The holiday party will be December 10th, 2011 from 6-10 p.m. in the Bistro Room at Salisbury University.

### **Newsletter Committee**

The Newsletter Committee is pleased to present our 6th issue. We are always looking for contributors and advertisers. Please contact any of our members to contribute. We plan to continue *Res Ipsa Loquitur* next year, with quarterly issues.

## **Member News**

*Do you have news you would like to share with your colleagues? Personal or professional, let Res Ipsa Loquitur spread the word. Send news and announcements to sjland@akmanpc.com.*

## ***Call for Articles***

Come one, come all! Submit your articles, or ideas for articles, for inclusion in future newsletters. If you would like to do a regular column or be a regular contributor, we welcome you! Articles should be relevant to law or our community. We are also looking for information regarding our members, such as moves, new hires, new jobs, etc. This newsletter will be only as great as the contributions you make to it.

## **Get your firm the marketing and research tools for success!**

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## ***Speakers Bureau***

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc., the Wicomico County Bar Association is joining with the Bureau to create a Speakers Bureau for the Lower Eastern Shore. If you are interested in joining the Speakers Bureau, please send your name, contact information and areas of law that you are qualified to speak on to Susan Land at [sjland@akmanpc.com](mailto:sjland@akmanpc.com). This is a wonderful opportunity for members of the Association to help the community and get in those Pro Bono hours as well.

## ***Wicomico County Bar Association Committee Lists***

Are you on a committee? Would you like to be included? Join your fellow members on these committees:

**Library Committee:** John C. Seipp, Kenneth Gaudreau, Melvin J. Caldwell, Jr.

**Newsletter Committee:** The Honorable Leah Seaton (Co-Chair), Susan J. Land (Co-Chair), Barbara R. Trader, James W. Respass, Mark Tyler, Melissa Kilmer, Patricia Harvey

**Social Committee:** Laura Hay (Chair), Amy Sevigny, Ashley Bosche, Kimberly C. Dumpson, Michael Crowson, Robert Lee Marvel

**Memorial Committee:** Sharon Donahue, Amy Sevigny, The Honorable David B. Mitchell, Elizabeth Ireland.

## ***News from the District Court***

Our winter schedule will start on January 1, 2012 when we will reopen Courtroom 3 four days a week.



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## Holiday Memories with Vic Laws, Sr.

by Mark Tyler

When Judy Garland sang, Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, she charmed everyone with the lyrics, “no good times like the olden days, happy golden days of yore.” Indeed, each holiday season, we all spend some time, however brief, remembering times gone by. As the holidays approach us once again, we pause to remember those “happy golden days of yore” as recounted by one senior member of our Bar Association, Victor H. Laws, Jr., who is 92 years old. As the following stories demonstrate, the holidays were colored by many memorable moments for the attorneys practicing in and around Salisbury.

However, as he recounted to this writer, those days were often not very “golden” from a financial standpoint. As a boy growing up in the 1920’s in Wango, located in the southeastern corner of Wicomico County, he remembers that “almost nobody had any money.” People, like his own father, took care of their daily living needs by growing their own vegetables, and owning livestock to eat. Among other local traditions, Mr. Laws remembers that every December, the whole neighborhood gathered together for a “hog killing.” He recalls that the people that gathered together would do everything from the slaughtering of the animal, to the grinding of the meat to make sausage and scrapple. It was quite the community event.

With the on-set of the Great Depression causing many to lose their businesses and homes, Mr. Laws recounts just how poor the community of Salisbury was in those days. He recalled how Cambridge was far more prosperous because it had a major packing plant, whereas Salisbury just

did not have the same level of industry. He remembers the days of soup kitchens and food lines well. But even in the height of the Depression, when he was a student at Wicomico High School in 1935, he remembers that the Downtown area of Salisbury was a focal point where people would go to shop for Christmas and run into neighbors.



Upon graduating from the University of Maryland, School of Law in 1941, and on the eve of World War II, Mr. Laws returned to Salisbury and began working for the local firm of Miles, Bailey & Clark. He started working there as an associate for \$5.00 a week. However, the concept of a Christmas bonus was in existence by then because he recalls the firm gave him one that holiday, deciding to permanently increase his

salary to \$10.00 a week. Not long thereafter, however, after being lured to Baltimore by the firm Miles & O’Brien, Mr. Laws was drafted into the war effort.

At the outbreak of the war, Mr. Laws recalls that Salisbury had about twenty active lawyers including one Circuit Court judge, a County Attorney, a City Solicitor, one elected State’s Attorney. Real estate practice was the foundation of most everyone’s practice with the exception of the government attorneys listed above. A typical work week was a six day week, with Saturday being the busiest day. All legal work was done using, as he recalled, a rotary phone, manual typewriters, carbon paper, and a very meager law library (which included the Maryland Reports). In those days, lawyers did their own title work so he

*Continued on pg. X*

**Vic Laws, Sr.**  
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recalled many members of the bar would congregate in the Clerk's Office (land records) and, at times, he observed that it was "a jovial gathering place." Sometimes, he recalled, "it went beyond jovial."

Upon his return stateside, he continued working in Baltimore, taking the Red Star Line bus from the city on occasion to visit with his family in Salisbury. It was a five hour bus ride, including the time spent on the ferry. Eventually, however, Mr. Laws returned to Wicomico County and continued practicing law here.

He recalls that each year, the Wicomico County Bar Association would hold a Christmas Dinner, usually at the Green Hill County Club. Drinks, of course, were always available at these annual gatherings and at times, things would get a little out of hand. Of course, it is hard for people to leave work animosities and grudges at the door and after a few drinks, some of the more senior members of the Bar would have to take some of the more rowdy younger members and tell them to settle down or take things outside. But beyond the occasional incident, these annual gatherings of the Bar afforded members a chance to spend some relaxing and enjoyable times together as they geared up for the start of a new year.

Although Mr. Laws has seen Salisbury grow from being a poor little town on the Eastern Shore with only a handful of lawyers, to the size that it is today, he fondly remembers that Christmas has always been "a family occasion." And so, it is only appropriate that Res Ipsa Loquitur wishes each of you a happy holidays with your family and loved ones. May the holidays give us each rich memories that we can re-tell as our "golden days of yore."

## **Top Ten Things to Do to Keep Your Judge Listening**

**By: The Honorable Cindy Callahan**

1. Don't Read and/or Answer Emails While at Counsel Table!
2. Exhibits in aid of argument are extremely helpful to a judge, especially in a complicated case, but good in any case.
3. Be accurate in your time estimates. If you ask for ten (10) minutes, take ten, not twenty-five (25).
4. A prepared witness is much more likely to be credited, and tends to move through the relevant testimony more quickly.
5. Confine your comments to the facts of the case. Attacks on opposing counsel really don't get you anywhere.
6. Refrain from using a judge's ruling the last time you were before him/her as general precedent.
7. If you intend to use a computer during your court appearance, be sure you have silenced pop-up reminders. Also, see No. 1 above.
8. Simple but true: come to court with copies of exhibits. The court's budget (money and time) doesn't including copying your evidence.
9. If you are going to be late for court, *Call and Say So*. And see No. 3 above about how long it will be until you arrive.
10. Don't repeat yourself. One time well said is enough.

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*2011 WCBA Group Photo*







## Pictures From WCBA Beer Tasting at Evolution November XX, 2011

On November 17, 2011, the WCBA hosted a beer tasting at Evolution Brewery. The beer was wonderful and owner Tom Knorr gave us a fascinating tour of his facility. We are looking forward to Evolution's move to Salisbury and another beer tasting next year! Thanks to Michael Crowson for pulling this together.



*Amy Sevigny and Colleen Jennings listen to Tom Knorr during the tour of the brewery.*



*Enjoying the tasting: Amy Sevigny, Susan Land, Angie DiPietro, Richard Catlin, Colleen Jennings, Andrew Illuminati, Barbara trader, Michael Crowson, Roscoe Leslie, Gregory Pickett, Tom Knorr and Kristin Smith. Thanks to Pam Correa for taking this picture.*



*Tom Knorr of Evolution Brewery explaining the bottling process, and what to expect at the new facility in Salisbury.*



*Barbara Trader, Richard Catlin, Angie DiPietro and Andrew Illuminati learn about making craft brews.*

## ***News from the Courts***

Please take note that the Courts will be closed on these dates:

*Christmas Day* Sunday, December 25, 2011  
(Observed on Monday, December 26, 2011)

\*Offices will also be closed on Friday, December 23 and Friday, December 30, 2011

*New Year's Day* Sunday, January 1, 2012  
(Observed on Monday, January 2, 2012)

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday* Monday, January 16, 2012

*Presidents' Day* Monday, February 20, 2012

*Memorial Day* Monday, May 28, 2012

*Independence Day* Wednesday, July 4, 2012

*Labor Day* Monday, September 3, 2012

*Columbus Day* Monday, October 8, 2012

*Election Day* Tuesday, November 6, 2012

*Veterans' Day* Sunday, November 11, 2012  
(Observed on Monday, November 12, 2012)

*Thanksgiving Day* Thursday, November 22, 2012

Friday after Thanksgiving Day Friday, November 23, 2012

*Christmas Day* Tuesday, December 25, 2012

\*Offices will also be closed on Monday, December 24 and Monday, December 31, 2012



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