

CAPE MAY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM CMCBA PRESIDENT **CHRISTOPHER GILLIN-SCHWARTZ**

The Cape May County Bar Association was formed in 1906, and since that time has remained an organization promoting diligence and civility in the practice of law, community involvement, and promoting education for both the legal community and the community at large. For attorneys, the Cape May County Bar Association offers opportunities for education, professional development, and networking among a tight knit community. The CMCBA remains an indispensable asset for attorneys who seek to practice in South Jersey. We hope that you join us and become involved as part of our legal community.

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Michael Pender

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Paul M. Stanton

PO Box 425
Cape May Court House, NJ,
08210
609-463-0313

cmcba.ed@gmail.com

2022 - 2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES INSTALLATION

The CMCBA celebrated the installation of President Christopher Gillin-Schwartz at the Ocean 7 Restaurant in Cape May. The CMCBA Board also welcomed new Young Lawyer Representative, Paul M Stanton, Esquire, and new trustees Timothy J. Mooney, Esquire and Michael Pender, Esquire.





2023 Cape May County Bar Association Membership Application



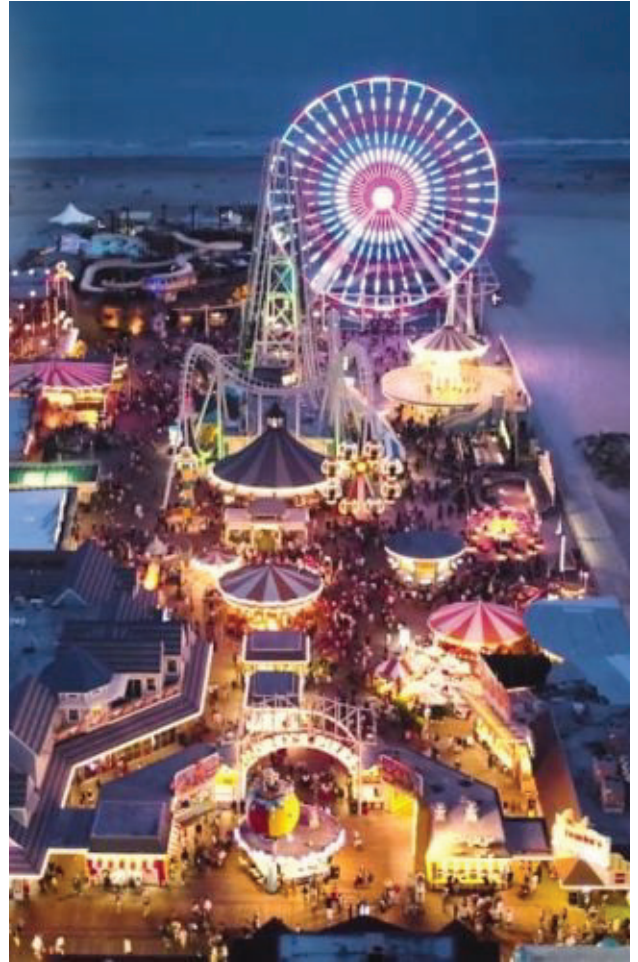
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CONGRATULATIONS TO CAPE MAY COUNTY'S NEWEST SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

Two longtime members of the Cape May County Bar have taken the oath! Right before the end of 2022, Judge Daniel M. Kurkowski and Judge Dean R. Marcolongo became the newest judges in vicinage one. Judge Kurkowski has been assigned to the Family Division while Judge Marcolongo has been assigned to the Civil Division. Both Judge Kurkowski and Judge Marcolongo have been active members of the CMCBA and we wish them great success in their new roles in the judiciary.



Hon. Daniel M. Kurkowski, J.S.C.



Hon. Dean R. Marcolongo, J.S.C.

THE CMCBA AT THE CAPE MAY LEWES FERRY
(Summer & Holiday Events!)





MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - ERIKA LEZAMA-SIMONSON!

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 Erika Lezama-Simonson. Erika recently obtained a \$4 million dollar jury verdict for a permanently injured client in a Cape May County Superior Court trial. Erika was lead trial counsel on the case along with attorney Oliver Barry of the firm. Be sure to strike up a conversation with her sometime. Together, we can make this small bar feel smaller!

Erika Lezama-Simonson is from North Brunswick, New Jersey but has quickly come to love Cape May County since moving to the area nearly 4 years ago. Erika has been with the law firm Barry, Corrado & Grassi since 2021 where she practices plaintiffs' personal injury law. Prior to entering the field of personal injury law, Erika practiced plaintiffs' consumer law, primarily focusing on consumer protection laws. Prior to entering private practice, Erika served as a Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Colleen A. Maier, J.S.C. and to the Honorable Sandra Lopez, J.S.C.



While at Rutgers Law School, Erika used her fluency in Spanish and English to advocate for people throughout South Jersey and was an Advanced Clinical Student Representative for the Immigrant Justice Clinic. During her time at Rutgers Law School, she was also the Associate Managing Editor of the Rutgers Journal of Law and Religion and was a Maida Public Interest Fellow. In 2017, Erika was awarded the Dean's Pro Bono Publico Award for dedicating over 100 pro bono hours to address the unmet legal needs in the community of Camden County.

As a first-generation attorney, Erika continues to use her bilingual skillset to serve the Hispanic community of South Jersey and volunteers her time as a translator for St. Damien Parish in Ocean City. Starting this February, Erika will be mentoring students at Atlantic City High School who come from families that have immigrated to the United States that aspire to one day go to law school.

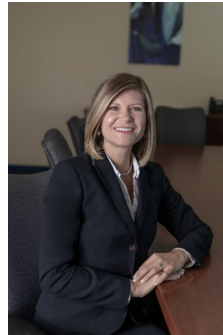
A devoted homebody, Erika loves to cook for friends and family— especially Mexican food with her signature dish being tres leches cake. She and her husband, Edward Simonson, another attorney in Cape May County, have a rambunctious parti-poodle named Fin who is hard to miss. You can catch this trio on the beach year-round enjoying the surf or trekking through downtown Ocean City.



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CAPE MEDIATION SERVICES, INC

The Board has two seats currently open to be filled by members of the CMCBA.

In addition, there is one board seat open to a member of the community.

Please reach out to Pam Kaithern if interested at cmcba.ed@gmail.com

CAPE MAY COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION

The CMCBF is looking for interested members to join the board.

Please reach out to Pam Kaithern if interested at cmcba.ed@gmail.com

WELCOME NEW LAW CLERKS TO THE VICINAGE!

Dennis Tuohy – Clerk for the Honorable Michael J. Blee, A.J.S.C.

Dennis is an Atlantic County native. He graduated from The College of New Jersey majoring in Political Science with an Economics minor. He graduated with honors from Widener-Delaware Law School where he had the privilege of being the External Managing Editor of the Delaware Journal of Corporate Law, as well as a judicial extern to Justice Solomon in the New Jersey Supreme Court. He is a member of the N.J. Bar and currently seeking admission in other UBE jurisdictions by way of score transfer. Dennis is clerking for the Honorable Michael J. Blee, A.J.S.C., and is loving every moment of his time seeing how the courts work firsthand as well as meeting all the awesome people who keep the courts running. In his free time, Dennis loves rowing, the boardwalk, and visiting the beaches in Atlantic City where he used to lifeguard. He remains excited to see what the rest of his clerkship has in store.

Rachel Koutishian - Clerk for the Honorable Judge M. Susan Sheppard,

Rachel is an Ocean County native who graduated from Lacey Township High School. Rachel earned her Bachelor of Arts in Music, her principal instrument being the flute. Rachel then graduated from Delaware Law School, with a pro bono distinction. Rachel currently clerks for the Honorable M. Susan Sheppard, P.J.Ch., where she works on foreclosures, chancery matters, and probate disputes. Rachel is also a member of the Inn of Courts as well as the Young Lawyers Division, where she is the Executive Chair of the Mentorship Committee. Rachel is very grateful to Judge Sheppard for her wisdom, perception, and humor. Rachel has learned a great deal from Judge Sheppard and continues to strive to emulate the many positive qualities of Judge Sheppard.

Brooke Zelig - Clerk for the Honorable Bernard E. DeLury, P.J.Cr.

I am born and raised in Atlantic County. While studying political science at Penn State University, my major developed into a passion for politics and the law. I spent a semester of my junior year at George Washington University, working on Capitol Hill. After graduating college in 2019, I started law school at Widener University – Delaware Law School.

Throughout law school, I gained experience in several different types of law, ultimately gravitating toward criminal. I started my clerkship working for the Honorable Bernard E. DeLury, Jr., P.J.Cr. this past August, in both Atlantic and Cape May County. The clerkship has been extremely rewarding, providing me invaluable knowledge and the opportunity to grow both personally and professionally.

Outside of work, I enjoy watching Philadelphia sports and being active. I am usually walking the bridge, bike path, or beach with my dog, Captain.

Kyle A. Gornick - Clerk for the Honorable James H. Pickering, Jr., J.S.C.

Kyle is a native of Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania but is delighted and honored to be serving the people of Cape May County through this clerkship. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Duke University in 2019 and obtained his Juris Doctor from Rutgers – Newark in 2022. As a Civil Division law clerk for Judge Pickering, Kyle has gained invaluable experience in legal facets ranging from litigation to small claims mediation. Kyle loves going on walks, taking care of his cat Sox, and hanging out with friends. He hopes to work in civil litigation following his clerkship.

Emanuel Sanfilippo III - Clerk for the Honorable Michael J. Blee, A.J.S.C.

Emanuel Sanfilippo III is an Atlantic County native from Hammonton, New Jersey. He graduated with Cum Laude honors from Seton Hall University, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Emanuel went on to attend Widener University Delaware Law School, graduating in May of 2022 with a Juris Doctor. While attending Delaware Law School, Emanuel interned for the Hon. Bernard E. DeLury, Jr., P.J.Cr., and clerked for Hankin Sandman Palladino Weintrob Bell, P.C. Since graduating, he has passed the Bar Exam and currently clerks for the Hon. Michael J. Blee, A.J.S.C., where he experiences a variety of Law Division Matters. Emanuel has also been fortunate enough to handle certain Chancery Matters under the Hon. M. Susan Sheppard, P.J.Ch.

Emanuel visits the Cape May County Courthouse weekly, working on Law Division Matters and the Probate Docket, where he worked closely with the Hon. Dean R. Marcolongo, J.S.C. during his time as the Cape May County Surrogate. Emanuel is involved in both the Young Lawyers Division of the Atlantic County Bar Association and the Vincent S. Haneman American Inn of Court, where he has volunteered time to the community and gained valuable knowledge from the esteemed Judges and Attorneys of Vicinage 1.

In his free time, Emanuel enjoys baking cookies and cakes, a hobby he picked up from his grandmother. Emanuel also enjoys spending time with friends and family. Upon completion of his clerkship, Emanuel hopes to continue to work in Southern New Jersey, but is open to any possibility the future may hold.

Samantha Geisinger, Esq. - Clerk to the Honorable J. Christopher Gibson, J.S.C.

Samantha (Sammy) is a Cape May County native, born and raised in Middle Township. She graduated from MTHS in 2014 where she was involved in Student Council, the Middletonian Yearbook, and the high school's Relay for Life. In 2018, she graduated Penn State, University Park, with a B.S. General Science and a B.S. in Psychology. Following her time at PSU, Sammy went to the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, and graduated with a J.D. in May 2022. During law school, Sammy worked for the Law Office of Paul Baldini, the United States Office of Special Counsel, Maryland Legal Aid, interned with Judge Geller in the Baltimore City Circuit Court, and was a student clinic lawyer for the Civil Rights of Persons with Disabilities Clinic. Following her clerkship with Judge Gibson, Sammy hopes to pursue a career in human and civil rights law, specifically focusing on international humanitarian issues.

Hunter Elizabeth Hurst- Clerk for Honorable Steven Scheffler, J.S.C

As a South Jersey native, I travelled south and attended the University of Maryland, graduating in 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology. I continued farther south, attending Campbell University Law School in Raleigh, North Carolina where I focused my studies on trial advocacy and restorative justice. I was afforded the opportunity to study international human rights in Ghana during a summer semester and had the opportunity to graduate early. I continued my path even farther south, as my husband's military service took us to Fort Benning, Georgia. There I became a member of the Georgia Bar and began my career as a Public Defender.

However, as any native of South Jersey knows, you can't stay away from the Shore for too long; and my husband and I moved back to New Jersey at the conclusion of his military service this past summer. Currently, I am clerking for the Honorable Steven Scheffler in the Family Division. I am a member of the North Carolina, Georgia, and New Jersey State bars, and am so grateful for the opportunity this clerkship has given me. It has allowed me to return home, to refamiliarize myself with the legal community here, and has allowed me to gain invaluable experience on this side of the bench. When I am not at work, I have three large dogs who I love to spend time with outside, I love to read and write poetry, and to spend as much time as close to the ocean as I can after spending too long landlocked. I am eager to continue my adventure assisting Judge Scheffler, and to continue my legal career in a place where I grew up.

MESSAGE FROM SOUTH JERSEY LEGAL SERVICE

The South Jersey Legal Services, Inc., Private Attorney Involvement Program (“PAI”) would like to thank the attorneys of the Cape May County Bar Association for their generous support and pro bono work throughout 2022.

As we enter 2023, we would like to remind everyone of the various volunteer opportunities within our program. As always, all volunteer hours count towards an attorney’s Madden hours for the year and our organization provides malpractice coverage for pro bono cases. Below are the current opportunities. If you would like to volunteer or if you would like a 15-minute Zoom presentation explaining any or all of our projects, at a time convenient for your firm, please contact SJLS Director of Pro Bono Services Michelle T. Nuciglio, Esq. at 856-403-8620 or at MNuciglio@lsnj.org. You can also visit our website at <https://sjlslaw.org/attorney-volunteer-opportunities/>. We would also like to encourage you that if anyone sees a need for a new pro bono project and would like to discuss the possibility with us, we would be very happy to discuss the logistics of creating a new project! Thank you and Happy New Year to all of you!

The Bankruptcy Project – volunteer attorneys assist individuals in filing for Chapter 7 bankruptcy. The attorney will receive most of the information needed to complete the bankruptcy petition and schedules including asset and debt information, tax returns, pay information, credit reports, bills, etc. The filing fee is the responsibility of the client if not waived by the court.

The Children’s Supplemental Security Income Project – volunteer attorneys assist child claimants in appealing a denial of their Supplemental Security Income benefits. Typical types of disabilities in these cases include autism, severe attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and other serious disorders that affect the child’s daily functioning. Attorneys receive some medical and education records for the child. Typically these cases are referred at the hearing level where the attorney can advocate before an administrative law judge.

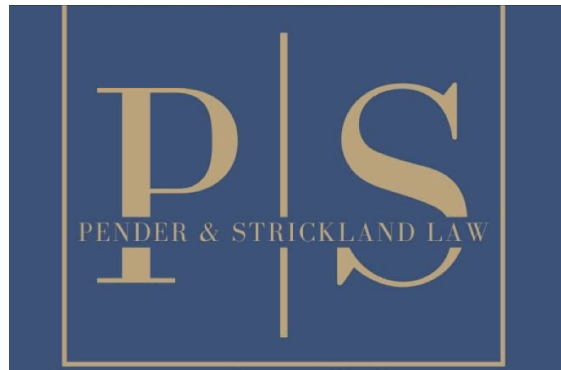
The Divorce Project – volunteer attorneys assist individuals who have no issue, uncontested divorces. The parties cannot have any debt or asset issues and if there are children born of the marriage, custody and support must already be established by court order. The attorney will receive a divorce questionnaire with the information needed to file the complaint, a completed Certification of Insurance Coverage and Confidential Litigant Information Sheet, any relevant orders, a copy of the marriage certificate and proof of income. The filing spouse must have a good address for his or her spouse. The filing fee is waived by court rule. Attorneys are not expected to complete publication divorces and if any issues develop, the attorney can return the file for closure.

The Expungement Project – volunteer attorneys assist individuals who need to clear their criminal records, often to obtain better jobs or housing. Attorneys will receive the individuals New Jersey Criminal History Background Check, PROMIS/Gavel records, Municipal Court Case Search Records, the Party Court History from eCourts along with any other records the client provides. There is no filing fee for expungement in New Jersey.

The Family Assist Project – volunteer family law attorneys provide 30-minute telephone advice consultations to individuals in need of family law advice. Typical issues clients need advice on include custody, divorce, relocation, adoption and support. The attorney is not required to perform any services beyond the consultation.

The SJLS Guardianship Project for Children – volunteer attorneys help parents with disabled children who will soon be 18 years of age obtain guardianship. In New Jersey, when a child reaches the age of 18, his or her parents can no longer make decisions legally on behalf of the child. This applies even to children who have disabilities. The attorney will receive a guardianship questionnaire completed by the parent, the Individualized Education Program if applicable and any records that show what the child’s issues are. The filing fee is waived by court rule. Attorneys may ask the fee for the guardian ad litem to be waived; however, if it is not, this fee is the responsibility of the parent.

Michelle T. Nuciglio, Esquire
Director of Pro Bono Services
South Jersey Legal Services, Inc.
Private Attorney Involvement Program
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Pay your dues online or payment may be mailed to:

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Cape May Court House, NJ, 08210**

www.cmcba.org/membership

CONTINUING THE DIALOGUE: A VIRTUAL DIVERSITY CLE EVENT

Thursday, February 23, 2023

5:00 to 6:00 pm

(Pending 1.0 Diversity CLE)

Diana C. Manning, *President of NJ Women's Lawyers Association*

Natalya G. Johnson, *President of Garden State Bar Association*

Amani Taha, *Vice-President of NJ Muslim Lawyers Association*

D Danganaran, *Co-Chair of National Trans Bar Association*



Join our panel of diverse attorneys for a discussion regarding diversity, inclusion, and allyship within the legal community!

All donations fund the CMCBF Diversity Scholarship for NJ law students!

CLE ADMISSION: \$30
ADDITIONAL DONATION: Optional



REGISTER for CLE & DONATE with link below:

<https://www.paypal.com/biz/fund?id=NAX28B4BBGG5L>

Questions? Contact: CMCBA.ED@Gmail.com

THE CAPE MAY BAR AT THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

The U.S. Supreme Court allows Bar Associations to have a limited amount of members sworn in before arguments are heard or decisions made public. The CMCBA had a date that was moved not once, but twice, for pandemic related reasons. We were finally able to attend an argument date on November 30th,



Photograph courtesy of Da'Von Perkins.

The argument heard that day was Wilkins v. United States, which involved whether the Quiet Title Act's statute of limitations is a jurisdictional requirement or a claim-processing rule. The U.S. Supreme Court swore in several of our members including: Jeffrey Sutherland, Dan McCann, Michelle DeWeese, Jeffery Lindsay, and Kyle Weinberg. In addition to the Cape May County Bar, the Supreme Court also swore in members from the Hudson County Bar, and the National Trans Bar Association.



Photograph courtesy of Da'Von Perkins.

**CMCBA "Winter Chill" Social
Returns!**

March 2, 2023

Thursday 5:00-7:00pm

**The
Bellevue
Tavern**

9 South Main Street
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We're putting
the **"free"** in
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Chase the Chill...
**Bring a Friend or
Colleague!**



Enjoy

A complimentary Drink

and

**Free Hors D'oeuvres,
to include:**

Assorted Cheeses
Italian Meats
Veggie tray
Shrimp Cocktail
Boneless Wings &
Cheesesteak Spring Rolls

RSVP by February 28, 2023

WILDWOOD CATHOLIC ARE CAPE MAY COUNTY'S MOCK TRIAL WINNER!

It was a battle again this year, but Wildwood Catholic Academy have won the Vincent J. Apruzzese Mock Trial Competition for Cape May County. We would like to thank our coordinators who made the whole process run seamlessly - thank you Ed Simonson, Justin Turner, and Paul Stanton! We would also like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers this year who allowed the local high school students an opportunity to be on their feet and argue in a courtroom.

Thanks to the following for your participation in the Mock Trial

Jeffrey Sutherland, Esquire

Michael Lario, Esquire

Hon. Daniel Kurkowski

Hon. Dean Marcolongo

Dorothy McCrosson, Esquire

Michael Pender, Esq.

Michael Stanton, Esquire

John Amenhauser, Esquire

Teddy Strickland, Esq.

Gretchen Pickering, Esquire

James Birchmeier, Esquire

Katrina Tattoli, Esquire

Joseph Grimes, Esquire

T.J. Mooney, Esquire

Erika Appenzeller, Esquire

Jim Lee, Esquire

Carol Gollof, Esquire

Marian Ragusa, Esquire

*~ADOPT a FAMILY
2022 ~*



THANK YOU!

Thanks to the generosity of our members we raised over \$3,900! This money went to helping five families, seventeen children, and ten adults, who were able to receive gift cards, toys, and grocery store gift certificates to make their holidays a little bit brighter!

Some words of remembrance from attorney David Stefankiewicz, Esquire in regard to the passing of Vincent Simone, Esquire.

The Cape May County Bar Association mourns the loss of long-time practitioner and friend, Vincent N. Simone.

Mr. Simone departed this world on his own terms on Monday, January 30, 2023. During his lengthy legal career spanning over 40 years, he was a prominent member of the Cape May County legal community, beginning his career as a law clerk for the Honorable Nathan Stahler in 1981 and finishing it with the Law Firm of John Zarych in 2022. He graduated from Georgetown University and Wake Forest Law School with honor and distinction.

Always a pugnacious litigator and colorful figure at the court house, he was renowned for his eloquent legal prose and impassioned pleas on behalf of his clients, many of whom were among the downtrodden and less

fortunate. He had no tolerance for racial, sexual, or economic prejudice. In arguing a cause, he was equally comfortable quoting Shakespeare or legal precedent, and would often do so interchangeably. Outside of the practice of law, he was a humble man of deep faith. He was lover of classic literature, poetry and music, and above all, food, and had a wonderful sense of humor. Please keep Mr. Simone in your thoughts and prayers.



SUBMISSIONS/IDEAS

Do you have an article you'd like to share with our membership? Or an idea that you think would work for the newsletter? Why not share it? Don't hesitate to reach out to our Editor, Brett Yore, via email at BrettYore@Yahoo.com, and we may run it in a future newsletter. 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!

ADVERTISEMENTS

Have something to share with our membership of nearly 150 attorneys? Business advertisement? Job posting? Want to introduce a new associate to our membership? Get your message out there! Don't hesitate to reach out to our Executive Director, Pam Kaithern, via email at cmcba.ed@gmail.com, for more information about how to be included in our next newsletter.



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