



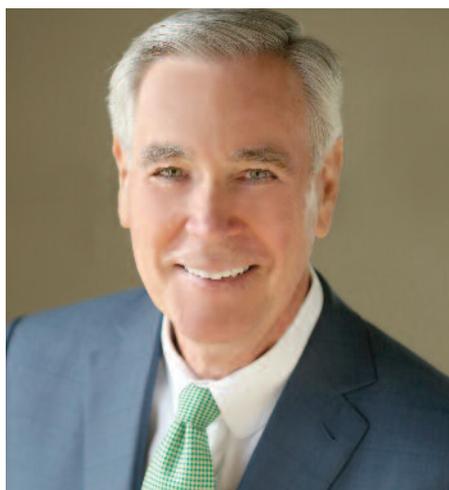
Icon in NJ's legal profession earns top recognition

The only attorney **THOMAS CURTIN** knew growing up was a customer at a Boonton pharmacy where he stocked shelves and swept the floor to help earn money for college.

The thought of becoming a lawyer didn't cross his mind until the start of his junior year at Fairfield University in Connecticut. A class tracing the history of the U.S. Constitution captivated Curtin, an American history and government major.

"A light went off. I thought, if this is what being a lawyer's about I'm hooked," said Curtin, a 1968 graduate of the University of Notre Dame Law School in Indiana.

As he built a successful career over decades, Curtin generously gave of his time to improve the legal profession and to support causes he believes in. In the New Jersey legal community, he



THOMAS CURTIN

Photo by Jim Beckner

is held up as a role model for young attorneys.

"Tom personifies what's the very best in our profession," said NJSBA

Second Vice President John E. Keefe Jr., a partner at Keefe Bartels LLC in Red Bank. Keefe was one of several attorneys to nominate Curtin for the prestigious Daniel J. O'Hern Award, given annually in memory of the esteemed state Supreme Court justice.

The New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law will honor the 72-year-old Curtin for his lifetime achievements and commitment to the highest ideals of the profession at its annual awards ceremony on Oct. 29 at The Imperia Banquet and Conference Center in Somerset.

In addition to the O'Hern Award presentation, dozens of attorneys from every county and specialty bar association in the state will be honored for professionalism at the lunch.

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Ballots must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Oct. 26

Voting concludes on proposed bylaws amendments to open nomination process and make elections shorter

Monday is the final day to cast a vote on proposed bylaws amendments that aim to make the selection of future leaders more transparent and reduce the time and acrimony of campaigns.

All general members of the New Jersey State Bar Association are eligible to vote. Voting on changes to the bar association's bylaws closes at 5 p.m. Oct. 26. Intelliscan, Inc., is administering the election.

The proposals were made in response to members' call to action and requests for changes following several years that included elections and runoff elections and aim to refine the process so effective leaders can be selected through a system the members can have faith in. The changes are the result of exhaustive evaluation and study. The Board of Trustees overwhelmingly approved the proposals.

For more information about the proposals and voting, visit njsba.com's Bylaws Vote 2015 section.

Anyone with questions about the voting can reach out to the NJSBA's dedicated election hotline at 732-964-1839 or email election2015@njsba.com. ■

Board takes action

The New Jersey State Bar Association's Board of Trustees voted on several measures at its recent meeting.

The meeting was held at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick on Oct. 16.

The trustees adopted the draft audit for fiscal year 2015, which ended in June. The audit determined the association has a strong financial base and is a thriving home to the state's largest lawyers group and the leading continuing legal education organization, a draft auditor's report from Withum, Smith + Brown showed. The auditors found no issues of concern and expected to issue a clean and unmodified opinion when the report is finalized later this month.

The board also approved a resolution that sets out a road map for President-Elect Thomas H. Prol's agenda as president next year to advance the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The amendment was first introduced in

1923, and has been introduced in every session of Congress since that time. The NJSBA resolution declares the association's full and unequivocal support for "equality of rights based on sex, and calls for immediate ratification" of the amendment. The resolution will be submitted to the American Bar Association so its delegates can consider action in February. Meanwhile, the state bar association will form an *ad hoc* committee to study the issue and propose a strategy for ratification.

Nation's first female Judge Advocate General offers keynote at Military Law Symposium

The 14th Annual Military Law Symposium featured Flora D. Darpino, the first woman to serve as judge advocate general of the United States Army.

Darpino, who is a graduate of Rutgers School of Law-Camden and has served multiple tours of duty in Iraq and earned numerous awards, includ-

ing the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Bronze Star and Meritorious Service Medal with a Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, gave keynote remarks.

The gathering, held on Saturday and co-sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Association's Military Law and Veterans' Affairs Section, provided an overview of laws that matter to military personnel and veterans.

The symposium addressed the needs of lawyers who offer legal guidance to military service personnel and veterans. In addition to the educational sessions, the NJSBA's Fifth Annual Military Service Award will be presented to George T. Hanley, of Wiener Lesniak.

Criminal Law Section forms White-Collar Crime Subcommittee

The New Jersey State Bar Association's Criminal Law Section formed a White-Collar Crime Subcommittee.

See *Board* on page 33

NJSBA

New Jersey State Bar Association

One Constitution Square
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1520

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Information in The Bar Report is compiled by the New Jersey State Bar Association, which welcomes tips and story ideas from its readers and members. Contact Kate Coscarelli at kcoscarelli@njsba.com or 732-937-7548.

General Council elects Remson and Quinn to NJSBA Nominating Committee

Nina C. Remson and Thomas Quinn won elections held at the recent General Council annual meeting to fill vacancies on the New Jersey State Bar Association's Nominating Committee.

The General Council membership selected Remson for a two-year seat on the committee that interviews and selects a slate of future leaders. She is a Bergen County criminal defense lawyer who is a former chair of the association's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights Section.

The group's membership also elected Quinn to serve the remainder of a term of a General Council seat vacated by an Essex County member. He is a litigator with Wilson Elser and former president of the Essex County Bar Association.

The council held its annual meeting



Photo by Jim Beckner

on Oct. 16 at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick. The program also featured an educational seminar

about the ethical issues surrounding the use in some jurisdictions of limited license legal practitioners, who are not

trained attorneys. The speakers on the panel were: NJSBA Immediate Past President Paris P. Eliades, David Rubin, Association Trustee David Wolfe, and paralegal Jennifer Smith. Anthony J. Murgatroyd, who is chair of General Council and an association trustee, moderated the program.

The General Council includes leaders of the association, New Jersey State Bar Foundation, and county and specialty bar associations, as governed by the association's bylaws. The group makes recommendations to the association's Board of Trustees on matters affecting the membership and the legal community at large.

No resolutions were put forward by members or participating bar associations. ■



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- and register...
 - ...TO ATTEND THE MEETING
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NJSBA

Capitol Report

This is a status report provided by the New Jersey State Bar Association on recently passed and pending legislation, regulations, gubernatorial nominations and/or appointments of interest to lawyers, as well as the involvement of the NJSBA as *amicus* in appellate court matters. To learn more, visit njsba.com.

Senate Committee Releases Romeo and Juliet Exception to Megan's Law for Young Offenders

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee released S-2724 (Barnes), which would exempt from registration under Megan's Law certain people convicted of a sex offense. The bill creates a so-called Romeo and Juliet exception to Megan's Law that would exclude from the registration requirement a person who is convicted of a second-degree crime of sexual assault and a third-degree crime of sexual contact if the crime involved sexual penetration between a victim who is at least 13 but less than 16 years old and a defendant who is at least four years older than the victim if: 1. the offense involved no more than one victim; 2. the defendant was no more than five years older than the victim; and 3. the victim assented to the commission of the offense but by reason of age was not capable of giving lawful consent.

This limited exception was meant to address a situation where an older teenager was involved in a consensual sexual relationship with a younger teenager. Therefore, a 17- or 18-year-old convicted of sexual assault for having a consensual sexual relationship with a 13-year-old would be exempt from the registration and notification requirements under Megan's Law.

Bill Barring Real Estate Licenses and Lifetime Revocations of Existing Licenses to Megan's Law Offenders Advances

The Senate Commerce Committee

unanimously voted to advance S-3024 (Scutari)/A-4463 (Giblin), which would bar the issuance of real estate licenses to Megan's Law offenders. It also requires a lifetime revocation of licenses for those who are convicted of certain Megan's Law crimes.

The bill specifically bans those classified as tier 2 or 3 offenders under Megan's Law from holding a real estate broker, broker-salesperson, salesperson, or referral agent license. Any individual classified as tier 1 would be required to go to the New Jersey Real Estate Commission, which would determine whether to issue a license to the offender. The bill also stipulates that the commission shall immediately revoke a license for any person convicted and classified as a tier 2 or 3 Megan's Law offender. A tier 1 offender would be subject to an immediate hearing by the New Jersey Real Estate Commission to determine if he or she is permitted to retain a license and whether conditions should be imposed.

The bill also relaxes the requirement that real estate organizations whose membership consists of over 50 percent real estate brokers, broker-salespersons, and salespersons that mandate continuing education submit the names of continuing education courses and instructors for approval to the Volunteer Advisory Committee of the New Jersey Real Estate Commission. Instead, courses and instructors would be automatically approved by the commission.

The bill also requires that these same membership organizations make

continuing education instructor and course recommendations to the commission and create a committee to approve continuing education courses or instructors.

Finally, the bill revises current law to prohibit continuing education courses through correspondence courses. A new core continuing education category for real estate licensee safety would be established. In addition, the bill would impose a mandatory two hours of continuing education courses in ethics.

The bill is pending in the Assembly Regulated Professions Committee.

Bill Establishing Motor Vehicle Surcharge Community Service Program Advances Out of Committee

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee voted to advance the Motor Vehicle Surcharge Community Service Program, which would allow a person who is unemployed but has enrolled in an education or job training program to perform community service in lieu of paying motor vehicle surcharges. S-2828 (Rice)/A-4304 (Mainor) would require the chief administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission to waive motor vehicle surcharges imposed on applicants who complete a community service project in participating counties and municipalities.

Under the proposed legislation, an applicant would have to demonstrate that he or she is unemployed, has been assessed and is unable to pay a motor vehicle surcharge or surcharges, and is

enrolled in a job training or education program. If the driving privilege of an applicant has been suspended for failure to pay surcharges, the chief administrator is required to reinstate the applicant's driving privilege when the applicant begins the community service program. The bill allows a governing body of any county or municipality to apply to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to participate in the program. Eligible community service projects would include, but would not be limited to, improvements to county and municipal buildings, grounds, roads, streams, and other county or municipal property. The volunteers are not permitted to displace or remove from employment any paid public or private employee or reduce the workforce within a county or municipality.

Applicants whose outstanding surcharges include levies imposed for a drunk driving conviction or refusal to submit to a blood alcohol content test would not be eligible to participate in the program.

The bill was reported out of the committee and referred to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. It is currently pending in the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee.

Bill Increasing Fee Paid to Provide Legal Representation for Crime Victims Advances

Legal representatives of crime victims would see a three-fold increase in fees under S-3076 (Weinberg)/A-4621 (Johnson). Under current law, the Victims of Crime Compensation Office may allow a payment of up to \$1,000 at an hourly rate set by the office to an attorney who provides legal assistance to a victim in any legal matter, including domestic violence, victims' rights assistance, family law issues, and landlord/tenant matters. This fee cap has remained the same for over a decade.

The fee increase is designed to encourage private attorneys to represent crime victims who would otherwise be unable to afford an attorney. The bill was voted out of the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee. It is currently pending before the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee.

Military Legal Assistance Program

Attorney Volunteers Needed: The New Jersey State Bar Association's Military Legal Assistance Program provides free legal advice to veterans who encounter legal issues before their deployment or upon their return home. Members of the military who have served in active duty or in the reserve units can receive assistance with family law, debtor-creditor issues and employment law matters. Any attorney who annually volunteers 25 or more hours of *pro bono* service can earn a *Madden* exemption. To find out more, visit njsba.com or email mlap@njsba.com. ■

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NJSBA

NJSBA celebrates National *Pro Bono* Week Oct. 25–31

The state's largest organization of judges and lawyers will hold several events to honor National *Pro Bono* Week.

Oct. 26 and 27

The NJSBA's Young Lawyers Division (YLD) will draft wills and estate-planning documents for first responders in Oceanport. The YLD has held dozens of Wills for Heroes projects around the state in recent years. At each, volunteer attorneys provide free legal guidance to members of police, fire, rescue and first aid squads.

Oct. 27

At the eighth annual *Pro Bono* Conference on Oct. 27, at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick, the NJSBA will honor three attorneys and a Hackensack-based tax law firm for their extraordinary efforts to provide people without means access to justice. The event will also feature a continuing legal education seminar. Attendees who

agree to volunteer on a matter with one of the organizations taking part in the event will have admission costs waived.

Oct. 29

The New Jersey State Bar Foundation will offer a free program to the public on wills and estate planning. The program will be held at the Law Center from 1–3 p.m. ■

Curtin

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This year's event also marks the first time the Charles J. Hollenbeck Award will be presented in honor of the longtime executive director of the commission who retired last year. The recipient is Diane K. Smith, a trustee of the association who is also executive director of Legal Services of

gen Beetle. "There were tanks parked on Broad Street but no one was around," Curtin said, recalling the strangeness of the solitude.

The firm hired Curtin after graduation. After two years, he moved to its Kinnelon office, and worked furiously to build his client base, often speaking at community events about various legal topics. By 1974, he made partner.

An athlete, Curtin organized basketball and softball teams for lawyers,

likes of Joe Torre, Tiki Barker and Dan Marino to wear and endorse Ermenegildo Zegna, an Italian luxury fashion house. (Curtin, himself, is a sharp dresser).

As successful as his practice became, Curtin always made it a priority to give back to the community and elevate the way the public views lawyers.

"Tom is a clear, forceful and efficient voice for the good of our profession," said attorney Stephen "Skippy" Weinstein, a friend for more than four decades. "He carries himself with dignity and pride, and dedicates his life to doing good things."

Curtin has served as a trustee for the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Cancer Hope Network, Legal Services of New Jersey, Morris Catholic High School (his alma mater), the Morris Area YMCA, St. Clare's Health System, and the National Football Foundation.

As a member of the state bar, Curtin helped create the New Jersey Lawyers Assistance Program, which provides support to attorneys and judges struggling with addiction and depression, and later served on its board. Curtin currently chairs the U.S. District Court of New Jersey's Lawyers Advisory Committee.

"If you need someone in a foxhole, who would you want? I'd want Tom Curtin," said longtime friend Stephen M. Orlofsky, a former U.S. district judge and partner at Blank Rome, LLP in Princeton. Orlofsky also nominated Curtin for the O'Hern Award.

Curtin is a lot of fun, and goes to great lengths to get a laugh. When the NJSBA held its Mid-Year Meeting at Disney World, Curtin did introductions at a dinner in a near-perfect Donald Duck voice. He's often called upon to emcee events. Orlofsky, however, was quick to point out: "Tom Curtin hasn't told an original joke in 30 years!"

Peter Laughlin, the managing partner at Graham Curtin, said Curtin's dedication to the interests of his clients and the profession has always set the tone at the firm.

"We are proud of Tom. He is the best example I know of why this is a noble profession," said Laughlin, calling the recognition an honor for the law firm.

A FAMILY MAN

What Curtin values above all else is family.

"Beyond all the cool people he's met and things he's done, he's always been an amazing father and grandfather," said Amy Curtin Pini, the youngest of his three children.

These days, Curtin spends much of his time with his longtime sweetheart Sandy Skirven (they have been together since 2007), and his six grandsons who, like Curtin, live in Mendham Borough. Dylan, 16, Collin, 14, and Ryan, 13, are his daughter, Alison and her husband Frank Euvino's children; Joshua, 10, Matthew, 5, and Tommy, 3, are the children of Amy and Josh Pini. Dylan, the eldest, will introduce his grandfather when he receives the award.

"Those boys are the joy of my life," Curtin said.

Earlier this month, Curtin took the five eldest grandchildren, his son, Paul Dunnder, and his two sons-in-law on a getaway weekend to Notre Dame University, another love of his. (He's a past president and current board member of the Notre Dame Law Association, the law school's alumni organization, and has served 15 years on the Notre Dame Law Council.)

The nine of them took in a football game, a soccer game, a hockey game, basketball and lacrosse practices, and a pep rally. "I was in my glory," Curtin said. ■

"He is a worthy adversary who never lets the heat of the moment get in the way of his professionalism."

JOHN E. KEEFE JR.
NJSBA SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Northwest New Jersey.

"I admired and respected Justice O'Hern, who was kind and always sought out lawyers to talk with them and solve problems for the benefit of the profession," said Curtin, a founding member of Graham Curtin, a 37-attorney law firm in Morristown. "Justice O'Hern was a consummate professional, and for me to get an award in his name is very meaningful to me."

Keefe recalled watching Curtin in action in the Chancery Division of the state superior court in Morristown in 1990, when Keefe was a law clerk.

"He was calm and so steady, like a quarterback in the two-minute drill," said Keefe, who later faced off against Curtin in class action cases. "He is a worthy adversary who never lets the heat of the moment get in the way of his professionalism."

A CONSUMATE PROFESSIONAL

Curtin had never stepped inside a law firm until the summer before his senior year at Notre Dame Law School, when he got an internship at a Newark law firm. Shortly after he started, the unrest over civil rights that simmered in Newark erupted in riots. The firm moved its operation to its Morris County location. Curtin, who had never driven to the city before, was sent to collect case files and typewriters from the main office.

He took his sister's green Volkswa-

which introduced him to members of the Morris County Bar Association. He became active in the local bar, serving as president in 1978-79, and later in the New Jersey State Bar Association and the American Bar Association (ABA).

Among his many roles as a "bar junkie," Curtin was president of the NJSBA in 1993-94, and served 25 years in the ABA House of Delegates, including 10 as the New Jersey state delegate. Most recently, he was governor for New Jersey and Pennsylvania on the ABA Board of Governors.

Former NJSBA President Lynn Fontaine Newsome, another attorney to nominate Curtin for the Daniel J. O'Hern Award, said Curtin mentored her as she ascended the hierarchies of the Morris County and state bar associations.

"I'm referred to as his 'bar wife' because we've been to so many events together," said Newsome, a partner at Newsome O'Donnell, LLC. "He's smart, he's successful, and he's a leader. People are devoted to him, and his loyalty is extraordinary."

GIVING BACK

Curtin eventually found a way to combine his love of sports and the law, representing athletes and coaches. He parlayed those connections as his practice branched into the fashion world. He represented Tommy Hilfiger for years, and arranged for the

Board

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Former Trustee Brandon Minde, of Dughi, Hewit & Domalewski, was appointed chair. The subcommittee was formed out of a need the section saw to provide educational programming, networking and other opportunities for members, focusing on white-collar criminal law practice. It kicked off with a continuing legal education seminar called "Handling Official Misconduct Cases," which included a panel that offered the viewpoints of prosecutors and defense attorneys. Another program will be held in February. ■