



NJSBA's next president looks to preserve local law practices and remove obstacles for young attorneys

Incoming New Jersey State Bar Association President Robert Hille scored his first courtroom victory a year before he started law school.

Hille interned at a Bergen County law firm the summer before his senior year at Bucknell University, and when two Sigma Chi fraternity brothers got into legal trouble over a frat party fight, they insisted Hille represent them in court.

"So when I should have been studying for my exams, there I was in the library researching Pennsylvania criminal state laws," Hille recalled.

With a police officer as his adversary, Hille got one of his friend's acquitted, and the story became fraternity house folklore. When he walked into the courtroom for the second friend's trial, "a deputy attorney general was sitting there. I knew this wasn't good," he said. The friend was convicted—of what, Hille can't recall nearly 40 years later—but to their relief, he was only fined at sentencing.

Colleagues and friends who've had a front-row seat to Hille's career say he is one of the most conscientious attorneys they know, and will make an excellent leader of the NJSBA, the state's largest organization of attorneys, judges and other legal profes-



Incoming 2017-2018 NJSBA President, Robert B. Hille



sionals, with 18,200 members.

"He will be the most prepared person in the room in any discussion," said Anthony Carlino, a fellow partner at McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP (MDM&C), based in Morristown. "When he commits to learning a subject, he leaves no stone unturned."

Hille said he is humbled to serve the association's members.

"My term is not about me. It is a one-year honor to serve the members. I am prepared to take up the ongoing efforts set out by my predecessors to continue to make gains for the profession, protect it and preserve its important role in society," he said.

Passionate advocate

Hille specializes in insurance and healthcare law, a niche he developed as Congress began passing laws in the late 1980s attempting to control healthcare costs, causing an explosion in regulations. "When HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) came on the scene in 1996, I could see this was going to be a big deal," he said.

While Hille has been involved in many high-profile and complicated legal battles over the years, a wrongful death case is still one he considers most memorable. In the mid-1990s, a mother

See Hille on page 37

NJSBA proposed 2017-2018 budget

The New Jersey State Bar Association's trustees in March approved a preliminary budget that projects roughly \$12 million in revenue and a nearly equivalent amount in expenses for the coming fiscal year.

The plan reflects no increase in dues, and continues to invest in infrastructure upgrades and producing events, seminars and conventions that keep members up-to-date and provide benefit to their practice and professional endeavors.

The trustees are expected to make final recommendations and adopt the budget in June. The fiscal year begins on July 1.

REVENUE

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership Dues	3,120,898
Section Dues	386,191

YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

YLD Dues	31,000
Seminars	1,200
Annual Meeting	2,000
Entertainment	5,500
Community Service/Other	500

MEETINGS

Mid-Year Revenues	234,120
Annual Meeting Revenues	920,835
General Council	3,500
Law Ctr Meet.-Outside Grp.	110,000
Meetings Rev.-Sect & Comm	340,000
Meetings Rev.-Offsite	275,000

OTHER INCOME

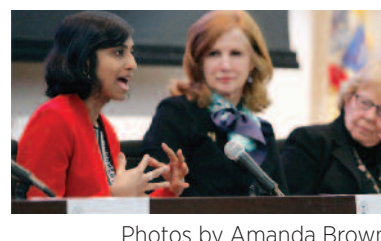
Advertising	82,000
Interest On Investments	40,000
Foundation Agreement	47,940
LAP Agreement	49,512
Royalty/Misc. Income	70,000
Ethics Diversionary Program	25,000
Corporate Partner Program	70,000
Leadership Academy	6,500

ICLE Revenue	6,220,300
TOTAL REVENUE	12,041,996

See Budget on page 37

Gender, the law and the 2016 presidential election

An all-star panel of legislators, scholars and experts discussed the impact of the 2016 election on women and gender equality at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick recently. The association's Women in the Profession Section also presented its Justice Marie L. Garibaldi Award to Seton Hall University Professor Paula Franzese, who moderated the discussion. See additional coverage of the event in the Capitol Report on p. 36. ■



Photos by Amanda Brown



NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

2017 ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION

Thank you to the justices, judges and speakers whose insights and guidance will serve all those who attend the 2017 Annual Meeting and Convention, May 17-19 at the Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa in Atlantic City.

SPEAKERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE



Join the conversation #NJSBAAC@NJSTATEBAR@NJICLE@YLDNJSBA.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
Justice Barry T. Albin
Justice Anne M. Patterson
Justice Lee A. Solomon
Justice Virginia Long, (Ret.)
Chief Judge Jerome B. Simandle
Chief Judge Russell Wojtenko Jr.
Governor James E. McGreevey (former)
Senator Patrick J. Diegnan Jr.
Assemblyman Jon M. Bramnick
Assemblyman Anthony M. Bucco
Assemblyman Joseph A. Lagana
Assemblyman John F. McKeon
Assemblyman Raj Mukherji
Assemblyman Troy Singleton
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C. Vivian Stringer
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CAPITOL REPORT

NJSBA Annual Meeting features legislators

The New Jersey State Bar Association's Annual Meeting begins this week and promises to provide up-to-the-minute topical continuing legal education (CLE) programs on a variety of topics, from opioid treatment to concussions in school sports, as well as legislators discussing their work in various areas of the law.

Wednesday's programming starts with "A Practical Guide to Being a Trial Lawyer: Communication Skills In and Out of the Courtroom," presented by Assembly Minority Leader Jon M. Bramnick. Dubbed the funniest lawyer in New Jersey by his peers, the program promises to be humorous. Bramnick gave a glimpse into the program when he participated in the NJSBA's Town Hall Program in March. His comments drew laughs and praise from the audience.

Also on Wednesday, the association will hold an "Inside Trenton" program, featuring legislators discussing top-of-mind legislation in this upcoming lame duck session. The panelists will include Assemblyman John McKeon, Assemblyman Anthony Bucco and Senator Patrick Diegman.

Assemblyman Raj Mukherji will present a program on "Cannabis Law in the Age of Trump," discussing policy and tax law as it relates to growing and selling marijuana. He will be joined by Jeremy M. Vaida in discussing this timely topic. This program is also scheduled for Wednesday.

On Thursday, Assemblyman Troy Singleton will join family law attorneys to discuss the status of domestic violence legislation and the law in New Jersey. Singleton, an outspoken advocate for domestic violence reform, has sponsored key legislation presenting broad solutions to the problem, including specific domestic violence counseling, greater supervision of offenders and behavior modification programs.

On Friday, Assemblywoman Joann Downey will join the Workers' Compensation Bench Bar Conference to discuss the "Ethics of Pain Management." Downey has sponsored both workers' compensation legislation and legislation to reduce opioid addiction and provide treatment.

The Annual Meeting starts this Wednesday at the Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa in Atlantic City. For more information, visit njsba.com.

Women, Gender and the 2016 Elections

The NJSBA hosted a program addressing the impact of the 2016 elections on women and gender equality last week. The program featured Seton Hall University School of Law Professor Paula Franzese, who was also awarded the Justice Marie L. Garibaldi Award for Distinguished Service and Excellence during the event. The award was presented by Federal District Court Judge Madeline Cox Arleo, who lauded the professor's years of service to women and the legal profession.

On the panel to discuss demographics and trends in the 2016 election were Senator Loretta Weinberg, Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz, Immediate Past President of the American Bar Association (ABA) Paulette Brown, Director of the Eagleton Institute of Politics Ruth Mandel, Director of Workplace Equality Maya Raghu and ABA Commission on Women Chair Michele Coleman Mayes. Each gave a presentation on their notable views on issues related to how women are referred to in elections, the voting trends of women, the women's movement today, pay equity, and a number of other issues.

In her initial presentation, Franzese discussed "the new soft war on women," pointing out that today the biases toward women are subtle, rather than overt. "Today, nobody says,

'No women need apply,' but people may say, 'You're just not as likeable as he is,'" said Franzese. She highlighted some critical statistics that showed the vast differences in salary compensation between men and women:

- A college-educated woman 25 years of age or older, working full-time, earns \$50,000 a year. Her male counterpart in the same age group earns \$70,000 a year.
- Over a lifetime of work, a woman with a bachelor's degree will earn a third less than a man with the same degree, in all fields of endeavor.
- Women with professional degrees in law, medicine and business earn, on average, 30 percent less than their male counterparts.
- Only 21 percent of Fortune 500 board seats are occupied by women.

Senator Weinberg discussed her pay equity bill, which has been vetoed by Governor Chris Christie. She talked about the efforts being made for a compromise on the bill to ensure pay equity. Referencing her campaign for lieutenant governor, Weinberg discussed her feelings about being called "the feisty grandmother" by her running mate, Governor Jon Corzine. "I let it go, but my daughter was very upset," said Weinberg.

Assemblywoman Munoz discussed the importance of reasonable voices on both sides of the aisle, underscoring the value of different perspectives.

Rounding out the program, the panelists remained after the program ended to answer questions and talk with attendees. The program was co-sponsored by the New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education, the NJSBA, the association's Women in the Profession Section, the New Jersey

Women Lawyers Association and Seton Hall Law School.

Attorney Volunteers Sought for Military Legal Assistance Program

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 more than 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.

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. ■

NJSBA

New Jersey State Bar Association

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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.

Law Center Portico

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For more information, contact Cynthia Pellegrino at 732-937-7507 or cpellegrino@njsbf.org.

Hille

Continued from page 18

of two young children died of an asthma attack at a Union City grocery store. Hille invested \$20,000 to see the case through because he felt so strongly about it. A jury came back with a nearly \$1.4 million verdict for the daughters (although the amount was reduced in a settlement to end an appeal).

"These kids lost their mom, and I felt the case was stacked against them," he said. Of all the cases he's tried, that one "probably had the most positive impact on lives shattered by tragedy."

Hackensack attorney Michael J. "Jerry" Breslin hired Hille as an intern while he was still an undergraduate, at the recommendation of Hille's high school principal.

"He had a great attitude, he was eager, and he learned quickly," Breslin said. That summer, he was answering interrogatories and summarizing briefs—sometimes while in line getting an attorney's car inspected, Hille recalled.

Hille grew up in Dumont, a blue-collar Bergen County town. His parents' strong belief in education—his mother earned a master's degree from Hunter College and his father a master's degree in finance at New York University, both in New York—has been a driving force in his life, he said. He knew in grammar school that he wanted to become an attorney, believing the profession offered an even playing field. He double-majored in history and economics at Bucknell, and earned his J.D. at Seton Hall University School of Law.

"Even as a young attorney, I got to go up against some big-name attor-

neys, including William Kunstler, whom I idolized," he said. "That makes you step up your game. Where else do you get that kind of opportunity?" Hille said he also saw the law as a career independent of the vulnerability of the corporate environment.

He joined the Bergen County Bar Association early in his career to make connections, and served as president starting in spring 2003. While in that position, he negotiated a contract that greatly reduced the cost of legal malpractice insurance for members, according to Carlino, who also grew up in Dumont and has known Hille since they were kids. Hille subsequently negotiated a similar deal for the state bar association, Carlino noted.

Joseph P. LaSala, another MDM&C partner, first met Hille while defending a law firm accused of malpractice in a case headed to the state Supreme Court. Hille handled the case on behalf of the NJSBA, serving as *amicus*.

"As in all things, he put 100 percent effort into it. He treated the case like this was a long-term client," LaSala said.

"Loyalty, dedication, competence, compassion, intelligence, judgement—Bob will bring all these qualities, as well as vision, to the job of bar president," LaSala said. "He has a deep commitment to the profession and those who practice it."

Protecting the profession

As NJSBA president, Hille said he wants to "preserve the local nature of the practice of law and strengthen and protect the small business that serves most of our local communities." He also wants to make it easier for young attorneys to practice their profession.

"I look at the next generation of lawyers struggling under crushing debt, increasingly bureaucratic and costly obstacles and a constricting job market, and see the need to work toward trying to alleviate those challenges," he said.

In New Jersey, two-thirds of attorneys in private practice work in firms with 10 or fewer lawyers, according to the most recent annual report of the state Office of Attorney Ethics.

"By making it easier for them to do their job, we allow them to do a better job for the public they serve," Hille said. He has raised red flags about the movement toward both arbitration and allowing attorneys based outside New Jersey to practice law here.

Hille also intends to pursue efforts to fortify the NJSBA's efforts on behalf of veterans, and help steer the launch of a diversionary program, similar to drug court, for veterans accused of offenses that are related to their military service. He also plans to energize efforts to adopt professional malpractice reforms to level the playing field for all professionals, and take a proactive look for ways to help court officials and legislators craft court policies and state statutes that will address the needs of the public while being practical for the profession. A task force will also examine cyber security issues from the practice standpoint, as well as the safeguards and regulations that lawyers must consider.

"I know my role is limited...but hopefully I can initiate changes that can carry forward. We serve the public and look out for their rights: we advocate for their rights and their protec-

tions on a day-to-day basis," he said.

MDM&C partner James A. Robertson said Hille "is focused on the good of society, and on the contributions he can make."

After the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, he joined the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and is currently serving as assistant district staff officer for legal-parliamentarian, which assists active duty and reserve personnel in patrolling waterways. In the wake of the Boston Marathon bombings in 2013, Hille did security duty at the Verazano-Narrows Bridge during that year's New York City Marathon.

Robertson likens the unassuming Hille to "The Most Interesting Man in the World" in Dos Equis' beer commercials. Hille is an outdoorsman, former college football player, scholar and musician. At a party at Robertson's house, Hille sat down at the piano and played classical music for 45 minutes.

"I didn't know he could do that," Robertson said. "He's full of surprises like that!"

To relax, Hille plays bass guitar with a neighborhood band. While they haven't come up with a name yet, the group entertains friends with the Beatles "Come Together," "Amie" by Pure Prairie League, "Chain Gang" by the Pretenders, and Neil Young's "Ohio," among other songs.

Hille and his wife, Leslie, live in Berkeley Heights and have two adult daughters.

"You can be sure he'll be a strong leader, but one who appreciates others' opinions and perspectives," Robertson said. "He'll take all that into consideration and develop a direction that makes sense for everybody." ■

Budget

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EXPENSES		BUILDING OPERATIONS		Website Dev/Hosting		ABA-Mid-Year	
PERSONNEL/TRAVEL		Building & Contents Insur.	78,000	Law Journal Pages	32,000	Bar Leadership	4,000
Salaries/Bonus	3,884,200	Law Center Rent & Other Exp.	604,760	Daily Briefing	36,900	Mid-Atlantic Conf.	6,000
Part-time/Temporary Staffing	20,000	MEETINGS DEPT—MID-YEAR		SECTIONS & COMMITTEES		Board of Trustees Expenses	30,000
Federal/State Payroll Taxes	311,000	Meeting Functions	105,800	Misc. Sect. & Committee Exp.	23,000	E & O Insurance	26,000
Group Insurance	705,000	Speakers & Guests	3,000	Sect./Committee Newsletter	25,000	Leadership Academy	5,000
Retirement Plan	226,300	Staff	33,750	Election Expense	7,500	OTHER EXPENSES	
Education	2,000	Miscellaneous	44,850	MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION/SERVICES		Contingencies	20,000
Staff Association Travel/Hosp	45,000	ANNUAL MEETING		Member Solicitation/Retention	60,000	Depreciation Expense	160,000
Assn. Auto Expense	12,000	Meeting Functions	543,673	LEGISLATIVE/LEGAL		Comm. On Professionalism	74,000
ADMINISTRATIVE		Officers & Guests	5,000	Legislative Research/Reference	6,100	Legal Research	48,000
General Postage	115,000	Staff	40,000	Legislative Operations/Events	10,000	Public Relations	7,500
General Printing	20,000	Printing & Mailing	25,000	Legislative Lobbying Expenses	48,000	Ethics Divers. Program	4,750
Delivery Service	10,000	Miscellaneous	142,160	YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION		Bad Debt Expense	10,000
Office Supplies	30,000	Exhibits	44,000	YLD Operating Expenses	4,000	Diversity Initiatives	50,000
Miscellaneous Expense	260,000	GENERAL MEETING EXP.		YLD Travel Expenses	5,200	CLE Direct Expense*	2,512,750
Audit	52,000	General Council	3,500	Seminars	1,500	TOTAL EXPENSES	11,987,803
Association Dues	6,000	Law Ctr Meeting—NJSBA	77,250	Community Service/Other	1,500	OPERATING INC/(LOSS)	54,193
EQUIPMENT & SERVICES		Law Center Mtg—Outside Grp.	90,000	Entertainment	10,000	Real Gain/(Loss) Sale Invst.	0
Telephone	30,000	Law Ctr Meet.—Sect.&Comm.	257,500	Annual Meeting	18,000	TOTAL NET INCOME/(LOSS)	54,193
Equipment Rental & Maint.	43,000	Offsite Meeting Expense	275,000	OFFICERS & BOARD OF TRUSTEES		*not inclusive of operational expenses	
Computer Expense	270,000	COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT		Officers Expenses	52,000		
Copier Expense	70,000	New Jersey Lawyer Magazine	115,000	Presidential Initiatives	2,000		
		Directory Printing	500	Reg. County Bar Meetings	12,000		
		Photography/Video	12,000	ABA—Annual	17,360		
		Graphic Design	15,500				