

# The Luzerne Legal Register

---

**Established 1872**

**(Cite Vol. 113 Luz. Reg. Reports)**

---

**VOL. 113 Wilkes-Barre, PA, Friday, December 22, 2023 No. 51**

---

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE LUZERNE LEGAL REGISTER,  
200 N. River Street, Room 23, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-1001  
Periodical postage paid at Wilkes-Barre, PA and additional office.

---

**Price \$125 Per Year**

**Single Copies \$3.00**

---

Bar News Must Be Received by 12 O'Clock Noon, Friday for the Following Week of Publication.  
Legal Notices and Ads Must Be Received by 12 O'Clock Noon, Monday in the Week of Publication.

---



(USPS 322-840)

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

The Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association

Back Issues of *The Luzerne Legal Register* are posted  
on the Bar website at **Luzernecountybar.com**  
and may be viewed and/or downloaded.

Legal Ads published in this issue may be electronically  
searched online at **www.palegalads.org**.

“JB” Joseph Paul Justice Burke, III  
Reporter of Decisions of the Court of  
Common Pleas and Editor-in-Chief

Kristin R. Shimonis  
Editor  
Commercial Advertising,  
Legal Notices and Bar News

Gail Kopyak  
Bar Website Editor

Tel. 570-822-6712 Fax 570-822-8210

WEBSITE ADDRESS:

[www.luzernecountybar.com](http://www.luzernecountybar.com)

All legal notices must be submitted in typewritten form  
and are published exactly as submitted by the advertiser.  
Neither *The Luzerne Legal Register* nor the printer (Clare  
Printing) will assume any responsibility to edit, make  
spelling corrections, eliminate errors  
in grammar, or make changes to content.



**W-BLLA Component Parts:**

Bar Association,  
Hon. Max Rosenn Memorial Law Library,  
*The Luzerne Legal Register* and  
Luzerne County Lawyer Referral Service.

## Bar Contacts:

<b>President:</b>	Girard J. Mecadon, Esq.	gmecadon@mecadonlaw.com
<b>Vice President:</b>	Cheryl Sobeski-Reedy, Esq.	Cheryl.Reedy@luzernecounty.org
<b>Treas./Sec./Ex. Dir.:</b>	Joseph P.J. Burke, III, Esq.	Joseph.Burke@luzernecounty.org
<b>YLD President:</b>	Jessica Miraglia, Esq.	Jessica.Miraglia.da@luzernecounty.org

**Executive Staff:**

Gail Kopiak

**Deputy Executive Director**

Oversees: Bar Association and Lawyer Referral Service  
Gail.Kopiak@luzernecounty.org

Kristin R. Shimonis

**Deputy Executive Director**

Oversees: Legal Register & Law Library  
law.library@luzernecounty.org

**Please e-mail All Legal Ads and  
Notices for Publication to  
law.library@luzernecounty.org**

Tel.: (570) 822-6712

Office: 200 North River Street, Room 23  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711

# **HOLIDAY HOURS**

The Register & Bar Offices  
will be

**CLOSED**

**Friday, December 22nd,  
Monday, December 25th,  
Tuesday, December 26th,  
Friday, December 29th,  
Monday, January 1st.**

Dec. 8, 15, 22, 29



## **HOURS**

**Daily**

**8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

**The Law Library is OPEN to  
W-BLLA Members 24/7.**

To be Vetted by the Sheriff's Office for  
specific After hours Courthouse  
Building Access, submit the Form on  
the next page whenever access is  
necessary.



**W-BLLA MEMBERS REQUEST TO BE VETTED FOR  
AFTER HOURS COURTHOUSE BUILDING ACCESS  
FOR USE OF THE LAW LIBRARY**

**SUBMIT THIS REQUEST TO THE  
LUZERNE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
SEND TO: [eugene.gurnari@luzernecounty.org](mailto:eugene.gurnari@luzernecounty.org)**

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SUPREME COURT I.D. #: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL # \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

---

**PLEASE STATE SPECIFICALLY THE DATES FOR THE  
NIGHT TIME OR WEEKEND  
AFTER HOUR ACCESS BEING REQUESTED:**

---

---

---

**(The Sheriff's Department will let you know if your request for After Hours Access to the Building is granted and for the time period it has been granted for. Your Library Access Card will then be programmed to let you into the building for this period of time so that you may have After Hours Access).**

# Luzerne County Sheriff's Department



Brian M. Szumski

Sheriff

Luzerne County Courthouse  
200 North River Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711  
Phone: 570-825-1651 Fax: 570-825-1849

## REAL ESTATE DIVISION

### Sale Dates and Filing Periods

(10 day filing window)

#### 2024

*FEBRUARY 9, 2024	OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 10, 2023
APRIL 5, 2024	DECEMBER 24, 2023 - JAN 4, 2024
*JUNE 14, 2024	FEBRUARY 26 – MARCH 8, 2024
AUGUST 2, 2024	APRIL 29 - MAY 10, 2024
*OCTOBER 7, 2024	JULY 1 - JULY 12, 2024
DECEMBER 6, 2024	AUGUST 26 – SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

#### 2025

FEBRUARY 7, 2025	OCTOBER 25 – NOVEMBER 6, 2024
------------------	-------------------------------

\*DATE CHANGE DUE TO A CONFLICT WITH A NEIGHBORING COUNTY.

Oct. 27—Jan. 26

## Winning Appellate Strategies



**Karl S. Myers**  
215.751.2864  
karl.myers@stevenslee.com

**Hon. Thomas I. Vanaskie (Ret.)**  
570.969.5360  
thomas.vanaskie@stevenslee.com

- **Exceptional Practice**  
Led by a former judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and a highly distinguished appellate litigator
- **Esteemed Reputation**  
Highly regarded among state and federal appellate judges and practitioners nationwide
- **Pragmatic Solutions**  
Cost effective approaches backed by high-profile, precedent-setting successes

**Stevens & Lee**  
Powerful partnerships. Standout solutions.

[www.stevenslee.com](http://www.stevenslee.com)

## ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY / ETHICS MATTERS

Representation, consultation and expert testimony in disciplinary matters and matters involving ethical issues, bar admissions and the Rules of Professional Conduct

### **James C. Schwartzman, Esq.**

Judge, Court of Judicial Discipline (retired) • Former Chairman, Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania • Former Chairman, Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of PA • Former Chairman, Continuing Legal Education Board of the Supreme Court of PA • Former Chairman, Supreme Court of PA Interest on Lawyers Trust Account Board • Former Federal Prosecutor • Selected by his peers as one of the top 100 Super Lawyers in PA • Named by his peers as *Best Lawyers in America* 2022 and 2015 Philadelphia "Lawyer of the Year" Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law and Legal Malpractice Law

**1460 Wyoming Avenue, Forty Fort, PA 18704**  
**(570) 343-1827**



## Guardianship Tracking System Online workshops: Winter 2024

### > Overview

The Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) is offering a series of online workshops that show court-appointed guardians how to use the new Guardianship Tracking System (GTS). The GTS makes it possible for guardians of adult incapacitated persons to file inventory and annual reports online from any internet-accessible computer.

These online workshops are conducted through WebEx. Registration is required. You are welcome to attend any session that fits your schedule.

### > Workshop Topics

- Overview of the GTS
- How to log in to the GTS
- How to navigate the GTS Dashboard
- How to submit guardianship reports online
- How to determine if a report was accepted by the court
- Discuss additional support for GTS submissions

*\*This is the same subject matter covered in all past workshops.*

### > Online Workshop Schedule

<b>January 3</b>	<b>8am</b>
<b>January 18</b>	<b>2pm</b>
<b>February 6</b>	<b>10am</b>
<b>February 21</b>	<b>5pm</b>
<b>March 8</b>	<b>9am</b>
<b>March 25</b>	<b>1pm</b>


Both registration and the workshop are completed through WebEx. Attending a session requires a computer or laptop with an internet connection.

*Registration instructions appear on the next page.*

## GTS Workshop Registration Instructions

Any person planning on attending a workshop must register for their preferred session through WebEx.

Registration can be completed using the following steps:

1. Go to the registration webpage: <https://pacourts.webex.com>
2. On this webpage, click on the three horizontal lines  appearing to the left and select **WebEx Training** from the menu. *Note:* The WebEx Training page may try to open in a new browser page or tab. If you have popup blockers enabled, the page may not open. You may need to disable popup blockers, or authorize one-time access if prompted, and then try opening the page again.
3. A full list of training classes offered by the AOPC display – Look for classes with a topic name starting with the acronym **GTS**. If needed, hover your mouse pointer over any of these topic names to see the full name of the class.
4. Click on the **Register** link for the preferred training class.
5. Complete the registration page. All fields are required. Please provide as much registration information as possible. If there are items that do not apply to the person registering, enter **NONE** in the field.
6. Click the **Register** button at the bottom of the screen. You will receive an e-mail confirming your registration and a reminder e-mail will be sent a few days prior to training.

You will receive instructions for logging into the online classroom and printable training documents will be e-mailed to you prior to your scheduled session.

*Cancellations: If you register for a class and later decide not to attend, instructions for cancelling a registration are included in the confirmation and reminder emails.*



**AOPC**  
Administrative Office of  
the Pennsylvania Courts

IN RE:	:	IN THE COURT OF
	:	COMMON PLEAS
JOAN HOGGARTH,	:	OF LUZERNE
DIRECTOR OF JUDICIAL	:	COUNTY
SERVICES AND RECORDS	:	
OF LUZERNE COUNTY	:	CIVIL DIVISION
	:	
REQUEST TO INCREASE	:	No. 2023-11567
FEES OF THAT SECTION	:	
OF THE DIVISION OF	:	
JUDICIAL SERVICES AND	:	
RECORDS, FORMERLY	:	
REFERRED TO AS THE	:	
OFFICE OF THE	:	
PROTHONOTARY	:	

---

***ORDER***

**AND NOW**, this 9 day of November, 2023, upon consideration of the within Petition, and pursuant to 42 P.S. § 21071.1, which authorizes the Prothonotary to increase fees consistent with the percentage of increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Workers for the immediate three-year period preceding the last increase, the Court takes judicial notice that the proposed increase in fees is within the allowed percentage increase (4.9% max).

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND DECREED that the Court approves the increases in the fee schedule for that section of the Division of Judicial Services and Records, formerly referred to as the Office of the Prothonotary, effective January 1, 2024, as per the Prothonotary Fee Schedule attached hereto and marked as Exhibit “A”. The Director of Judicial Services and Records of Luzerne County is hereby directed to file this Order and this Order shall be published

on the Luzerne County website and in the Luzerne County  
Legal Register and *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

**BY THE COURT:**

/s/ Michael T. Vough

IN RE	:	IN THE COURT OF
	:	COMMON PLEAS
JOAN HOGGARTH,	:	OF LUZERNE
DIRECTOR OF JUDICIAL	:	COUNTY
SERVICES AND RECORDS	:	
OF LUZERNE COUNTY	:	CIVIL DIVISION
	:	
REQUEST TO INCREASE	:	No. 2023-11567
FEES OF THAT SECTION	:	
OF THE DIVISION OF	:	
JUDICIAL SERVICES AND	:	
RECORDS, FORMERLY	:	
REFERRED TO AS THE	:	
OFFICE OF THE	:	
PROTHONOTARY	:	

---

**PETITION OF JOAN HOGGARTH, DIRECTOR  
OF JUDICIAL SERVICES AND RECORDS  
OF LUZERNE COUNTY, TO INCREASE THE  
FEES OF THAT SECTION OF THE DIVISION OF  
JUDICIAL SERVICES AND RECORDS,  
FORMERLY REFERRED TO AS THE OFFICE  
OF THE PROTHONOTARY**

Joan Hoggarth, Director of Judicial Services and Records of Luzerne County, through her counsel, Mark Makowski, Esquire, respectfully requests this Honorable Court increase the fees of that section of the Division of Judicial Services and Records, formerly referred to as the Office of the Prothonotary as proposed in Exhibit “A” which is attached hereto, and avers as follows in support thereof:

1. This Honorable Court has the authority to increase the Prothonotary’s fees pursuant to 42 P.S. §21071.1.

2. Pursuant to 42 P.S. § 21071.1, the Prothonotary has the right to petition for an increase in fees every three years provided that the amount of the increase is not greater than the percentage of the increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Workers for three years immediately preceding the last increase. 42 P.S. §21071.1.

3. The Luzerne County Prothonotary has not raised its fee since January 1, 2021.

4. Section 12.04 of Luzerne County's Home Rule Charter, effective January 1, 2012, eliminated the Elective Office of the Prothonotary.

5. Section 12.07(E) provides, as follows: "The Division of Judicial Services and Records shall be responsible for: the services and functions that prior to the effective date of this Charter were performed by the Clerk of Courts, Coroner, **Prothonotary**, Recorder of Deeds, Register of Wills, and Sheriff, and any other powers, duties, programs, services, or functions that may be assigned by the Administrative Code." **Emphasis added.**

6. Joan Hoggarth is the duly appointed Director of Judicial Services and Records of Luzerne County.

7. The proposed fee bill with proposed increases that do not exceed 4.9% is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit "A".

8. The current fee bill is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit "B". [Not published herein.]

9. It is believed and therefore averred that the proposed percentage increase is within the range authorized by 42 P.S. § 21071.1 in that it does not exceed the percentage of the increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Workers for three years immediately preceding the last increase, i.e., January 1, 2021.

**WHEREFORE**, Joan Hoggarth, Director of Judicial Services and Records of Luzerne County, through her counsel, respectfully requests this Honorable Court, pursuant to 42 P.S. § 21071.1, approve the fees as set forth in Exhibit "A" effective January 1, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,  
By: /s/ Mark Makowski  
Mark Makowski, Esquire  
Attorney for Petitioner

**VERIFICATION**

I, JOAN HOGGARTH, Director of Judicial Services and Records of Luzerne County, verify that the statements made in the foregoing PETITION are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

The undersigned understands this Verification is made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. §4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

/s/ Joan Hoggarth

**EXHIBIT A**  
**PROTHONOTARY'S FEE BILL**  
**LUZERNE COUNTY**

*Pursuant to ACT 98-164 of January 21, 1999, the following fees are fixed by the Prothonotary and effective:*

**EFFECTIVE: January 1, 2024**

APPEALS: From the Court of Common Pleas to any Appellate Court .....	\$71.00
Plus Appellate Court Fee (separate check) .....	\$90.25
ARBITRATIONS: Where arbitration proceedings are processed by the Prothonotary's Office (\$50,000.00 Limit) .....	\$64.00
APPEAL OF ARBITRATOR'S DECISION .....	\$473.50
ASSIGNMENTS .....	\$12.50
AUDITOR'S REPORT: (School, etc.) .....	\$69.00
BUILDING AGREEMENTS: Stipulations .....	\$32.00
Waivers .....	\$32.00
CERTIFICATIONS:	
Certifying copy of any paper – First Page .....	\$9.00
Additional pages .....	\$4.75
Certification of Notary Public, Justice of Peace, Motor Vehicle or similar paper .....	\$6.75
CERTIFICATION OF TRIAL READINESS .....	\$11.50
COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIONS (by Summons, Petition or Complaint):	
Civil Actions, Declaration of Taking, Equity, Lis Pendens, Name Change, Mortgage Foreclosure, Quiet Title, Minors Compromise Settlement, Petition to Open/Strike Judgment, Suspension of Motor Vehicle, Tax Assessment Appeal, Transfers from Other Jurisdictions, Notice of Appeal from Magistrate, Appeal from Zoning Hearing Board, Miscellaneous .....	\$178.50
Statement of Objection: (Magistrate) .....	\$69.50
PFA .....	\$141.50
PFA State surcharge .....	\$100.00
COPIES: (Made by customer) .....	\$0.50



COPIES: (Made by employees).....	\$2.25
DECLARATORY JUDGMENT .....	\$192.00
DECREEES: (Entry of any decree which is final) .....	\$14.50
DISCONTINUANCE: (On any case filed before January 3, 2005) .....	\$12.50
DIVORCE ACTION: (basic no-fault)..... (Add \$45.50 for each count after the first)	\$190.00
DIVORCE COUNTER CLAIM: (Additional Count).....	\$45.50
DIVORCE: (Additional: Count of Custody).....	\$47.00

**Special Note:**

*\$9.50 is to be collected on all custody case filings. The fee is the result of Act 119 of 1996 (commonly referred to as the Jen and Dave fee). The purpose of the fee is to fund a new automated system to make criminal charge information available to parties involved in custody cases.*

CUSTODY ACTION.....	\$189.00
EXECUTIONS: Money Judgment, Mortgage Foreclosure & Municipal.....	\$36.25
Possession, Writ of .....	\$36.25
Attachment.....	\$36.25
Seizure, Writ of .....	\$36.25
Judgment (Out of County Execution) .....	\$17.25
EXEMPLIFICATION OF RECORDS .....	\$24.50
FAX: Long Distance... (per page).....	\$3.00
Local..... (per page).....	\$3.00
FINANCIAL STATEMENT.....	\$29.50
JUDGMENTS: Complaint in Confession of Judgment .....	\$150.00
New Filing: Entry of any Judgment or Decree, which is final whether by Agreement, Demurrer, Non Pros, or Preliminary Objection or Motion on Verdict of Award, by Court Order, Finding Opinion, Default, Etc. ....	\$23.25
Notes (DSB).....	\$41.00
Transfer of Judgment from other Counties .....	\$41.00
Transcripts J.P. or Magistrates .....	\$33.00
LIENS:	
Municipal.....	\$40.50
Mechanics .....	\$40.50

Federal .....	\$40.50
Flood Protection Authority Lien .....	\$41.00
Commonwealth .....	\$41.00
<b>MASTERS FEE:</b>	
Moving Party .....	\$400.00
Responding Party .....	\$400.00
<b>NOTARY PUBLIC: Registration of Signature of Notary Public .....</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>NOTICE TO RETAKE MAIDEN NAME .....</b>	<b>\$11.50</b>
<b>NOTICE TO RESUME PRIOR SURNAME .....</b>	<b>\$22.75</b>
<b>POUNDAGE: For handling of money put into Court:</b>	
For each dollar of the first \$1,000.00 .....	\$0.45
For each additional dollar over \$1,000.00 .....	\$0.15
<b>PRAECIPE TO DISSOLVE ATTACHMENT .....</b>	<b>\$13.50</b>
<b>PRAECIPE FOR LIS PENDENS: (Subsequent filing) .....</b>	<b>\$28.50</b>
<b>PRAECIPE TO REISSUE WRIT OR REINSTATE COMPLAINT .....</b>	<b>\$6.75</b>
<b>PRAECIPE TO TRANSMIT RECORD .....</b>	<b>\$49.25</b>
<b>RECORDING: Filing any paper, account of document required by law to be recorded, not otherwise provided for or included herein .....</b>	<b>\$12.50</b>
<b>REVIVALS: Reviving the lien of any Judgment by Amicable Proceedings .....</b>	<b>\$23.25</b>
Reviving the lien of any Judgment by Adverse Proceedings .....	\$36.25
<b>RELEASE OF JUDGMENT .....</b>	<b>\$8.25</b>
<b>RETURN CHECK CHARGE .....</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>
<b>SUBPOENA (under seal) Each .....</b>	<b>\$5.75</b>
<b>SATISFACTION:</b>	
On any case filed before January 3, 2005 .....	\$12.50
Commonwealth Satisfaction on any case filed before January 3, 2005 .....	\$12.50
Federal Lien Release .....	\$12.50
Clerk of Courts Satisfaction .....	\$41.00
<b>SEARCH: Five Years .....</b>	<b>\$28.50</b>
Each Additional Year .....	\$5.75
Naturalization Search (Per Person) .....	\$28.50
<b>WRIT OF CERTIORARI .....</b>	<b>\$140.75</b>

IN RE:	:	IN THE COURT OF
	:	COMMON PLEAS
JOAN HOGGARTH,	:	OF LUZERNE
DIRECTOR OF JUDICIAL	:	COUNTY
SERVICES AND RECORDS	:	
OF LUZERNE COUNTY	:	CIVIL DIVISION
	:	
REQUEST TO INCREASE	:	No. 1165 MD 23
FEES OF THAT SECTION	:	
OF THE DIVISION OF	:	
JUDICIAL SERVICES AND	:	
RECORDS, FORMERLY	:	
REFERRED TO AS THE	:	
OFFICE OF THE CLERK	:	
OF COURTS	:	

---

***ORDER***

**AND NOW**, this 9 day of November, 2023, upon consideration of the within Petition, and pursuant to 42 P.a.C.S.A §1725.4, which authorizes the Clerk of Courts to increase fees consistent with the percentage of increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Workers for the immediate three-year period preceding the last increase, the Court takes judicial notice that the proposed increase in fees is within the allowed percentage increase (4.9% max).

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND DECREED that the Court approves the increases in the fee schedule for that section of the Division of Judicial Services and Records, formerly referred to as the Office of the Clerk of Courts, effective January 1, 2024, as per the Clerk of Court Fee Schedule attached hereto and marked as Exhibit “A”. The Director of Judicial Services and Records of Luzerne County is hereby directed to file this Order and this Order shall be published

on the Luzerne County website and in the Luzerne County  
Legal Register and *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

**BY THE COURT:**

/s/ Michael T. Vough

IN RE:	:	IN THE COURT OF
	:	COMMON PLEAS
JOAN HOGGARTH,	:	OF LUZERNE
DIRECTOR OF JUDICIAL	:	COUNTY
SERVICES AND RECORDS	:	
OF LUZERNE COUNTY	:	CIVIL DIVISION
	:	
REQUEST TO INCREASE	:	No. 1165 MD 23
FEES OF THAT SECTION	:	
OF THE DIVISION OF	:	
JUDICIAL SERVICES AND	:	
RECORDS, FORMERLY	:	
REFERRED TO AS THE	:	
OFFICE OF THE CLERK	:	
OF COURTS	:	

---

**PETITION OF JOAN HOGGARTH, DIRECTOR  
OF JUDICIAL SERVICES AND RECORDS OF  
LUZERNE COUNTY, TO INCREASE THE FEES  
OF THAT SECTION OF THE DIVISION OF  
JUDICIAL SERVICES AND RECORDS,  
FORMERLY REFERRED TO AS THE OFFICE OF  
THE CLERK OF COURTS**

Joan Hoggarth, Director of Judicial Services and Records of Luzerne County, through her counsel, Mark Makowski, Esquire, respectfully requests this Honorable Court increase the fees of that section of the Division of Judicial Services and Records, formerly referred to as the Office of the Clerk of Courts as proposed in Exhibit “A” which is attached hereto, and avers as follows in support thereof:

1. This Honorable Court has the authority to increase the Clerk of Court fees pursuant to 42 Pa.C.S.A §1725.4.
2. Pursuant to 42 Pa.C.S.A §1725.4, the Clerk of Courts has the right to petition for an increase in fees every three years provided that the amount of the increase is not greater than the percentage of the increase in the Consumer Price

Index for Urban Workers for three years immediately preceding the last increase. 42 Pa.C.S.A §1725.4.

3. The Luzerne County Clerk of Courts has not raised its fee since January 1, 2021.

4. Section 12.04 of Luzerne County’s Home Rule Charter, effective January 1, 2012, eliminated the Elective Office of the Clerk of Courts.

5. Section 12.07(E) provides, as follows: “The Division of Judicial Services and Records shall be responsible for: the services and functions that prior to the effective date of this Charter were performed by the **Clerk of Courts**, Coroner, Prothonotary, Recorder of Deeds, Register of Wills, and Sheriff, and any other powers, duties, programs, services, or functions that may be assigned by the Administrative Code.” **Emphasis added.**

6. Joan Hoggarth is the duly appointed Director of Judicial Services and Records of Luzerne County.

7. The proposed fee bill with proposed increases that do not exceed 4.9% is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit “A”.

8. The current fee bill is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit “B”. [Not published herein.]

9. It is believed and therefore averred that the proposed percentage increase is within the range authorized by 42 Pa.C.S.A §1725.4 in that it does not exceed the percentage of the increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Workers for three years immediately preceding the last increase, i.e., January 1, 2021.

**WHEREFORE**, Joan Hoggarth, Director of Judicial Services and Records of Luzerne County, through her counsel, respectfully requests this Honorable Court, pursuant to 42 Pa.C.S.A §1725.4, approve the fees as set forth in Exhibit “A” effective January 1, 2024.

By: /s/ Mark Makowski  
Mark Makowski, Esquire  
Attorney for Petitioner

**VERIFICATION**

I, JOAN HOGGARTH, Director of Judicial Services and Records of Luzerne County, verify that the statements made in the foregoing PETITION are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

The undersigned understands this Verification is made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. §4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

/s/ Joan Hoggarth

# EXHIBIT A

## Luzerne County – Clerk of Courts Fees

EFFECTIVE January 1, 2024

Appeal Processing for Clerk of Courts (\$62.75 + \$5.00 automation fee) .....	\$67.75
Appeal Processing for Superior Court .....	\$90.25
<i>Superior Court Raised Fee as of 11-1-17 (Per AOPC)</i>	
Appointment to Fill Vacancy of Office .....	\$18.50
ARD Dismissal Rule 319 (\$19.00 + \$5.00 automation fee) .....	\$24.00
Bail Bondsmen renewal .....	\$10.75
Certifications .....	\$9.00
Civil Judgment Satisfaction (\$19.00 + \$5.00 automation fee) .....	\$24.00
Constable Deputy and Constable Bonds .....	\$18.50
Copies .....	\$0.50
Detective License Applications (Incorporated) .....	\$453.50
Detective License Applications (Individual) .....	\$340.75
Expungements Rule 320 (\$19.00 + \$5.00 automation fee) .....	\$24.00
Expungement Fee Under Pa.C.S. Section 1725.7 (Act 5) .....	\$132.00
Filing Petition & Order (\$19.00 + \$5.00 automation fee) .....	\$24.00
Filing of Orders/Motions (2 <sup>nd</sup> Filing) .....	\$9.00
Filings of Resolutions/Ordinances .....	\$19.00
Filing of Tax Collector's Bonds .....	\$12.25
Limited Access (19.00 + \$5.00 automation fee) .....	\$24.00
Liquor License Appeals .....	\$25.00
Microfilm Copies .....	\$1.50
Motion & Order (All Nolle Prose) .....	\$24.50
Poundage on Bail ... 3% on the first thousand, 1% on the balance .....	



Processing all Misc. or Felony Cases During or After Trial .....	\$155.25
Processing all Misc. of Felony Cases During or Before Trial .....	\$87.00
Record Checks (Per Individual) .....	\$18.50
Short Certificate .....	\$8.50
Subpoenas .....	\$3.50
Summary Appeal (\$50.25 + \$5.00 automation fee).....	\$55.25
Writ of Habeas Corpus Petitions (\$62.50 + \$5.00 automation fee).....	\$67.50

**Case Assessments:** (Applied by Probation)

Administrative Fee on MD Numbers (\$42.75 + \$5.00 automation fee) .....	\$47.75
Clerk of Courts Filing Fee (\$128.00 + \$5.00 automation fee).....	\$133.00
Luzerne County cost each additional count .....	\$27.75



COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
Luzerne County, Pennsylvania

**TREATMENT Court Application Instructions**

QUALIFYING FACTORS FOR TREATMENT COURT

- Applicant must be a resident of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.
- Applicant must **non-violent** charges that are drug related/motivated.
- Applicant must meet clinical criteria for substance abuse treatment.
- Applicant must voluntarily agree to placement into Treatment Court
- Applicant must demonstrate a willingness and commitment to work on recovery.
- Must apply during the time period immediately after arrest.

DISQUALIFYING FACTORS FOR TREATMENT COURT

- Applicant must not have a present or past felony conviction for a crime defined as violent by federal regulations or deemed violent by the Luzerne County District Attorney's office (including Burglary F-1, or conspiracy to same and Strangulation (F), as of 8/4/2020).
- Applicant must not have a present/past conviction for felony sexual offense.
- Applicant must not have a current charge of DUI (alone or with other charges).
- Transfer cases from other counties will not be accepted as of **2/2022**: Luzerne County does not transfer cases to other counties for Treatment Court.
- Applicant must not have a current charge of Indirect Criminal Contempt of a PFA order (alone)
- Applicant must not have a charge for which the mandatory minimum is being sought by the DA.
- Applicant must not have additional charges or Probation/Parole sentence outside of Luzerne County/PA/or any other state.
- Applicant must not have a pending Probation/Parole Revocation hearing.
- Applicant may not be serving a sentence of imprisonment (inmates may apply 30 days prior to their minimum date, but we will not render a decision until after parole is granted).
- Applicant must meet the criteria for substance abuse treatment \* ***offender needs to admit to having a drug abuse issue\****

Please process this Treatment Court application as follows:

- Complete and sign the application.
- Attach copies of all supporting documents.
- Forward entire completed packet to:

Aleesha Whitaker  
Assistant Coordinator  
200 North River Street  
Wilkes Barre, PA 18702  
Fax: 570.825.1720  
Email: [Aleesha.whitaker@luzernecounty.org](mailto:Aleesha.whitaker@luzernecounty.org)  
Or [treatmentcourt@luzernecounty.org](mailto:treatmentcourt@luzernecounty.org)



COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
Luzerne County, Pennsylvania

**DUI TREATMENT Court Application Instructions**

QUALIFYING FACTORS FOR DUI TREATMENT COURT

- Applicant must be a resident of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.
- Applicant must **non-violent** charges that are drug related/motivated.
- Applicant must meet clinical criteria for substance abuse treatment.
- Applicant must voluntarily agree to placement into Treatment Court
- Applicant must demonstrate a willingness and commitment to work on recovery.
- Must apply during the time period immediately after arrest.
- Current DUI offense is a Second Offense Third Tier; Third offense Second Tier or a Third Offense Third Tier within ten years.

DISQUALIFYING FACTORS FOR DUI TREATMENT COURT

- Applicant must not have a present/past conviction for felony sexual offense under PA 3104 Chapter 31.
- An accident occurred in connection with the events surrounding the current offense and an individual other than the applicant was killed or suffered serious bodily injury as result of the crash will **NOT** be considered.
- Passenger under the age of 14
- Applicant must not have other pending charges which would deem an individual ineligible.
- Applicant must not have any felony crimes of violence (i.e. Aggravated Assault, Arson, Robbery).
- Crimes committed with a firearm will **NOT** be considered under any circumstances.
- Other crimes that include threat and/or violence against another individual not listed as mandatory exclusion will be considered on an individual case basis at the discretion of the District Attorney's office.
- Possession of controlled substances in amounts exceeding the mandatory amounts will be considered on an individual case basis at the discretion of the District Attorney's office.
- Transfer cases from other counties will not be accepted as of 2/2022: Luzerne County does not transfer cases to other counties for Treatment Court.

- Applicant must not have a current charge of Indirect Criminal Contempt of a PFA order (alone)
- Applicant must not have a charge for which the mandatory minimum is being sought by the DA.
- Applicant must not have additional charges or Probation/Parole sentence outside of Luzerne County/PA/or any other state.
- Applicant must not have a pending Probation/Parole Revocation hearing.
- Applicant may not be serving a sentence of imprisonment (inmates may apply 30 days prior to their minimum date, but we will not render a decision until after parole is granted).
- Applicant must meet the criteria for substance abuse treatment \* **offender needs to admit to having a drug abuse issue\***

Please process this Treatment Court application as follows:

- Complete and sign the application.
- Attach copies of all pending criminal complaints and probable cause affidavits to the DUI Treatment Court application.
- Attach CRN evaluation.
- Forward entire completed packet to:

Aleesha Whitaker  
 Assistant Coordinator  
 200 North River Street  
 Wilkes Barre, PA 18702  
 Fax: 570.825.1720  
 Email: [Aleesha.whitaker@luzernecounty.org](mailto:Aleesha.whitaker@luzernecounty.org)  
 Or [treatmentcourt@luzernecounty.org](mailto:treatmentcourt@luzernecounty.org)



COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
Luzerne County, Pennsylvania

**SPECIALTY Court Application Instructions**

QUALIFYING FACTORS FOR SPECIALTY COURT

- Applicant must be a resident of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.
- Applicant must have a persistent serious mental illness primary diagnosis falling within the spectrum of Major Depressive Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder, or Other Specified Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorder. ◦ Rarely, but with sufficient cause, other disorders may be considered. ◦ If applicants do not have a current diagnosis (a diagnosis made in excess of 2 years without ongoing treatment is considered outdated), s/he must complete an appropriate psychological/psychiatric evaluation to document a diagnosis.
- The applicant's criminal charges must demonstrate a relationship between the diagnosed mental illness and the criminal behavior.

Participants must at least meet MH.IDD standards for Resource Coordination services, as defined by one of the following:

- Six or more days of psychiatric inpatient treatment in the past twelve months
- Met the standards for involuntary treatment within the past twelve months
- Currently receiving or in need of mental health services and receiving or in need of services from two or more human service agencies or public systems such as Drug and Alcohol, Vocational Rehabilitation, Criminal Justice, etc.
- At least three missed community mental health service appointments or two or more face to face encounters with crisis intervention/emergency services personnel within the past twelve months, or documentation that the consumer has not maintained his/her medication regimen for a period of at least 30 days.

Applications must include:

- Completed application form.
- Any of the following documents supporting a qualifying diagnosis ◦ Psychiatric evaluations (within the past 2 years) ◦ Psychological evaluations (within the past 2 years)
  - Progress notes from a treating physician (within the past 2 years)
  - A letter from a treating psychologist/psychiatrist indicating the diagnosis, period of treatment, and level of compliance

Please process this Treatment Court application as follows:

- Complete and sign the application.
- Attach copies of all supporting documents.
- Forward entire completed packet to:

Aleesha Whitaker  
Administrative Assistant  
200 North River Street  
Wilkes Barre, PA 18702  
Fax: 570.825.1720  
Email: [Aleesha.whitaker@luzernecounty.org](mailto:Aleesha.whitaker@luzernecounty.org)



**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
Luzerne County, Pennsylvania**

**Application to Treatment Court Programs**

DEFENDANT INFORMATION			
Name:		Alias: (or maiden name)	
<small>First</small>	<small>Middle</small>	<small>Last</small>	
Physical address:			
Street		City	State    Zip Code
Mailing address: Same as above <input type="checkbox"/>		City	State    Zip Code
Street/PO Box			Zip Code
County of residence:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Divorced* <input type="checkbox"/> Living Together* <input type="checkbox"/> Married* <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Separated* <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed* *Name of spouse or partner:			
Date of birth:		Social Security Number:	
Cell phone:		Home phone:	
Work phone:			
Email:			
Race: <input type="checkbox"/> African American <input type="checkbox"/> Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Racial <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Other:			
Ethnicity: <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown/Unreported		Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Primary language spoken: <input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Other:			



Disability Accommodations:  Yes  No If yes, state need:

**LEGAL REPRESENTATION**

Select one:  Private Attorney  Public Defender  Public Defender Pending

Attorney's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Firm (if private): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
street Zip Code

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**CRIMINAL/CHARGE INFORMATION**

List all pending dockets below. You may attach an additional page if necessary.

Docket Number	OTN	Offense(s)

Are you currently serving a County Restrictive Probation sentence?  Yes  No

On probation? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	On parole? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Probation / Parole officer's name: Agency: _____
Do you have any matters pending in any other court? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, name of court:		

Have you ever participated in a treatment court (Drug, DUI, Mental Health, Veterans, etc.) before?  Yes  No If yes, name of court:

Do you have any detainers?  Yes  No If yes, list jurisdictions:

Are there any outstanding court orders pending against you?  Yes  No  
 ("Court orders" include, but are not limited to: protection from abuse (PTA) orders, bench warrants, support orders, other judgments.) If yes, list orders:

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE HISTORY**

Have you ever used drugs or alcohol? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Have you ever received substance use disorder treatment? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
---	--

Please list all treatment you have received. You may attach an additional page if necessary.

Facility	Level of Care (Inpatient, IOP, OI, etc)	Dates	Completed Successfully? Sobriety Time?

Primary drug of choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> drug of choice	3 <sup>rd</sup> drug of choice
Have you ever been an IV drug user? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Are you currently an IV drug user? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Age began using drugs:	Age began using alcohol:	
Are you currently in a substance use disorder treatment program? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

MENTAL HEALTH		
Have you ever received psychiatric mental health inpatient/outpatient treatment? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Are you currently in treatment? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Primary diagnosis:		
Secondary diagnosis:		
Other diagnosis:		
List any mental health hospitalizations, if any:		
Have you ever received other mental health services? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Type:	When:	Where:
Type:	When:	Where:

Type:	When:	Where:	
<b>MEDICAL</b>			
List any current medical conditions:			
Are you currently engaged in medication assisted therapy for substance abuse? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
If yes, list medication: (Methadone, Suboxone, Vivitrol, etc.)			
If female, are you pregnant? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		What is your medical insurance status? <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid <input type="checkbox"/> Medicare <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
Do you have a history of medical conditions? If so, please list:			
List all prescribed medications below: You may attach an additional page if necessary.			
Name:	Doctor:	Dosage:	Frequency:
Name:	Doctor:	Dosage:	Frequency:
Name:	Doctor:	Dosage:	Frequency:
Name:	Doctor:	Dosage:	Frequency:

Name:	Doctor:	Dosage:	Frequency:
Name:	Doctor:	Dosage:	Frequency:
Name:	Doctor:	Dosage:	Frequency:
Name:	Doctor:	Dosage:	Frequency:

**FAMILY/CHILDREN**

Number of children:	Number of children under the age of 18:
Number of children currently involved in the child welfare system:	
Do you have custody of all your children? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Do you have visitation rights of children not residing with you? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Do you have contact with your primary family? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	

**EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND HOUSING**

Housing Status <input type="checkbox"/> Dependent <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless <input type="checkbox"/> Incarcerated <input type="checkbox"/> Independent
Highest education completed (select one): <input type="checkbox"/> Any grade up to 11 <sup>th</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> GED <input type="checkbox"/> High School Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> Some Trade School <input type="checkbox"/> Trade School Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> Some College <input type="checkbox"/> College Graduate 2 year program <input type="checkbox"/> College Graduate 4 year program <input type="checkbox"/> Some Post Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Degree <input type="checkbox"/> Not in School
Current employment status (select one): <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed <input type="checkbox"/> Employed Part Time (Less than 35 hours/week) <input type="checkbox"/> Employed Full Time (35 hours or more/week) <input type="checkbox"/> Not in labor force <input type="checkbox"/> Retired <input type="checkbox"/> Student Full Time <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled

Primary source of support (select all that apply):

- Adoption Subsidy  Disability  Family  Foster Care Subsidy  Retirement Plan  Salary/Wages   
Social Security (SSI)  Social Security Disability (SSD)  Unemployment  Veterans Benefits  Welfare  
 Workers Compensation  None  Other:

#### MILITARY HISTORY

Have you ever served in a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces?  No  Yes If yes, please answer the questions below.

Branch:

Enlistment date:

Discharge date:

Rank at discharge:

- Discharge type (select one):  Still serving, not yet discharged  Honorable  Entry level separation\*  
 General (forcludes medical)\*  Other Than Honorable\*  Clemency\*  Bad conduct\*  Dishonorable\*  
 Dismisal (Commissioned Officer only)\* \*Discharge

details:

Any criminal convictions prior to military service?  Yes  No

Incarcerated while in military?  Yes  No

Were you deployed abroad?  Yes  No If yes, total months:

Locations:

Have you ever been exposed to military combat?  Yes  No If yes, specify the number of deployments:

Conflict Era of Service (select all that apply):  WW II (1941 - 1946)  Korea (1950 - 1955)  Vietnam (1962 - 1975)

Persian Gulf - Iraq/Kuwait ODS (1990 - 2003)  Persian Gulf - Afghanistan OEF (2001 - present)

Persian Gulf - Iraq OIF (2003 - 2010)  Persian Gulf - Iraq OND (2010 - present)

Afghanistan - Operation Freedom Sentinel (OFS)  Islamic State - Operation Inherent Resolve (OIS)

Do you suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) because of your military service?  Yes  No If yes, please explain:

Do you suffer from traumatic brain injury (TBI) because of your military service?  Yes  No If yes, please explain:

Are you a victim of military sexual trauma? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please provide number of times and locations:	
Eligible for VA benefits? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Do you have access to your DO 214? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Additional Information:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

I understand that the information contained in this application is confidential and will be used solely by the Luzerne County Treatment Court team to determine my eligibility for the Treatment Court program. No information contained within this application may be used in any proceeding against me.

I further understand that I have a right to a speedy trial under the U.S. and Pennsylvania constitutions and that by applying for participation in the Treatment Court program I am waiving my speedy trial rights between the date of this application and either the date of my entry into the program or the date of my arraignment if my application is denied.

This is only an application for Treatment Court. I understand I will not be accepted into Treatment Court until the Luzerne County Treatment Court team determines I am an acceptable candidate and I plead guilty to the crimes with which I am charged.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Counsel for Applicant Signature





**North Penn**  
LEGAL SERVICES

## **HOLIDAY HOURS**

In observance of the upcoming holidays,  
**North Penn Legal Services** will be closed on  
the following days:

Christmas:

**Monday, December 25th and  
Tuesday, December 26th.**

New Year's:

**Friday, December 29th and  
Monday, January 1st.**

Dec. 15, 22, 29

## Photos of the 2023 Attorney Admissions

We had two attorneys admitted to Federal Court this year, with one being admitted in person at the Max Rosenn U.S. Courthouse in Wilkes-Barre at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Shown in the photo below is Attorney Matthew T. Finnegan and his sponsor, Attorney Catherine R. O'Donnell, with the Federal Judges and Bar Officers, including Attorney Michael J. McDonald, President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Michael's parents and Attorney Barry H. Dyller.



At 10:30 a.m. that same morning, the W-BLLA held the admissions into the Association. A total of six attorneys were admitted this year at the *en banc* Court ceremony held in Courtroom No. 1 on the Third Floor of the Luzerne County Courthouse.

The attorneys and their sponsors were as follows:

**Gabrielle Hartzel, Esq.**

Sponsored by: Hon. Tina Polachek Gartley.

**Ryan Kelleher, Esq.**

Sponsored by: Hon. Lesa S. Gelb.

**Katlin R. Humenansky, Esq.**

Sponsored by: Hon. Joseph M. Cosgrove (Ret.).

**Matthew T. Finnegan, Esq.**

Sponsored by: Catherine R. O'Donnell, Esq.

**Rachel Insalaco, Esq.**

Sponsored by: Joseph D. Burke, Sr., Esq.

**Rachel A. Jones, Esq.**

Sponsored by: Jarrett J. Ferentino, Esq.

Judge Gelb administered the oath to the admitted members, while Judge Toohil delivered the remarks of the Court.

Attorney Girard J. Mecadon, President of the Wilkes-Barre Law & Library Association, and Attorney Jessica Miraglia, President of the Wilkes-Barre Law & Library Association Young Lawyers' Division, then presented remarks. Following these remarks, Andy Molitoris (the W-BLLA Bar Photographer) took this keepsake group photo of the admitted attorneys with the Court and the W-BLLA Officers and W-BLLA YLD Officers.



A reception was then held in the Law Library for the participants and their families.

It was a very festive and great day for everyone who celebrated and took part in these events!

Dec. 22

# SAVE THE DATE:



**TO:** MEMBERS OF THE  
WILKES-BARRE LAW  
& LIBRARY ASSN.

**FROM:** JOSEPH P.J.  
BURKE, III, ESQ.,  
SECRETARY.

**Notice** is hereby given that the  
**ANNUAL MEETING** of the Wilkes-Barre  
Law and Library Association will be held on ***Friday,***  
***January 19, 2024, at Noon***  
at the Westmoreland Club, Wilkes-Barre.

***W-BLLA MEMBERS' COST IS \$15.00.***

**Details and  
a registration ad  
will run after  
the New Year!**

Dec. 22, 29

---

THE LUZERNE LEGAL REGISTER

---

**DECEDENTS' ESTATES**

Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary or of administration have been granted in the following estates. All persons indebted to said estates are required to make payment and those having claims or demands to present the same without delay to the administrators or executors named or their attorneys

**FIRST PUBLICATION**

ESTATE OF PATRICIA ANN BINIEK a/k/a Patricia A. Biniek a/k/a Patricia Biniek, late of Plains (died November 14, 2023), Lisa M. Titus, Executrix; Angela F. Stevens, Esquire, 400 Third Avenue, Suite 101, Kingston, PA 18704

ESTATE OF PHILIP CONLON, late of Lehman Twp. (died November 20, 2023), Philip J. Conlon, Executor; David E. Schwager, Esquire, 183 Market Street, Suite 100, Kingston, PA 18704-5444

ESTATE OF LINDA JEAN DIANESE a/k/a Linda Dianese, late of Hazleton (died September 21, 2023), Sandra A. Hoppay, Administratrix; James V. Senape, Jr., Esquire, Catherine A. McGovern, Esquire, Michael B. Senape, Esquire, Senape & Associates, 612-614 Main Street, P.O. Box 179, Freeland, PA 18224-0179

ESTATE OF ALBERT G. ENDRES, JR., late of Hughestown (died September 13, 2023), James R. Endres, Administrator; Saporito, Falcone & Watt, 48 South Main St., Pittston, PA 18640

ESTATE OF JOHN PAUL FLADD, late of Dallas Township (died September 16, 2023), William Paul Sudol, Administrator; Rosenn, Jenkins & Greenwald, LLP, 1065 Highway 315, Suite 200, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

ESTATE OF LOUIS F. GOERINGER a/k/a Louis Goeringer a/k/a Lou Goeringer, late of Kingston (died November 21, 2023), Louise Kondracki and Anne Gates, Co-Executrices; Hourigan, Kluger & Quinn, P.C., 600 Third Avenue, Kingston, PA 18704

ESTATE THOMAS P. HUGHES a/k/a Thomas Parry Hughes, late of Mountain Top (died October 29, 2023), Megan P. Maguire, Esquire, Executrix; Megan P. Maguire, Esquire, 590 Rutter Avenue, Kingston, PA 18704

ESTATE OF PEDRO PABLO LOZANO, late of Freeland (died April 4, 2020), Maria Bueno Coronado, Administratrix; Lorine Angelo Ogurkis, Esquire, Ogurkis Law, LLC, 21 North Locust Street, Hazleton, PA 18201

ESTATE OF MARITA M. MARCHETTI a/k/a Marita Marchetti, late of Conyngham (died October 31, 2023), Leslie A. Marchetti, Executrix; Susan Sernak-Martinelli, Esquire, Law Office of Susan Sernak-Martinelli, 199 North Church Street, Hazleton, PA 18201

ESTATE OF MARK F. MILLER, late of Drums (died September 29, 2023), Ursula A. Uhrin, Administratrix; Susan Sernak-Martinelli, Esquire, Law Office of Susan Sernak-Martinelli, 199 North Church Street, Hazleton, PA 18201

ESTATE OF DONALD J. MORGANTINI, late of Wright Township (died September 24, 2023), Rita J. Morgantini, Administratrix; John J. Terrana, Esquire, 400 Third Avenue, Suite 216, Kingston, PA 18704

ESTATE OF SARA A. MURTHA, late of Jenkins Township (died October 18, 2023), Thomas M. Murtha

## THE LUZERNE LEGAL REGISTER

---

and Mary Ellen Schulze, Executors; Saporito, Falcone & Watt, 48 South Main St., Pittston, PA 18640

ESTATE OF DOLORES NORTON a/k/a Dolores A. Norton, late of Wilkes-Barre (died November 25, 2023), Charles John Norton, Executor; Elliot B. Edley, Esquire, 37 N. River Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

ESTATE OF ELEANOR ROGERS, late of Hazleton (died September 18, 2023), Daniel Rogers, Executor; The Seach Law Offices, 466 State Route 93, Sugarloaf, PA 18249

ESTATE OF MATTHEW JOHN TEMCHATIN a/k/a Matthew J. Temchatin, late of Butler Township (died October 26, 2023), Melissa Lynn Temchatin, Administratrix; Saporito, Falcone & Watt, 48 South Main St., Pittston, PA 18640

ESTATE OF DONNA MARIE VRHEL a/k/a Donna L. Vrhel, late of Lehman Township (died November 18, 2023), Renee Vrhel and Andrew Vrhel, Executors; Michael J. Bendick, Esquire, P.O. Box 1733, Shavertown, PA 18708

### SECOND PUBLICATION

ESTATE OF MICHELE AURISANO, late of Hazleton (died October 22, 2023), Michele R. Aurisano, Executrix; Joseph R. Baranko, Jr., Esquire, Slusser Law Firm, 1620 North Church Street, Suite 1, Hazleton, PA 18202

ESTATE OF GEORGE JOHN BECKER, JR. a/k/a George Becker, late of Plymouth (died September 10, 2023), John Anthony Becker, Executor; Thomas P. Brennan, Esquire, Gallagher, Brennan & Gill, 220 Pierce Street, Kingston, PA 18704-4641

ESTATE OF ROSE MARY BEHM a/k/a Rosemary T. Behm, late of Plymouth (died October 13, 2023), George Mizzer, Sr., Executor; Thomas Patrick Hogan, Esquire, Law Office of Thomas A. O'Connor, PC, 601 Wyoming Avenue, Kingston, PA 18704

ESTATE OF CAROL A. BLOOM, late of Kingston (died October 17, 2023), Charles Bloom, Administrator; Samuel A. Falcone, Esquire, 900 Rutter Avenue, Box 24, Forty Fort, PA 18704

ESTATE OF MARY JANE COOPER a/k/a Mary J. Cooper, late of Wilkes-Barre (died July 21, 2022), David Cooper, Executor; David W. Saba, Esquire, 345 Market St., Kingston, PA 18704

ESTATE OF ANNA ESPOSITO a/k/a Anna M. Esposito a/k/a Anna Mary Margaret Esposito, late of Hazle Township (died November 7, 2023), Joseph P. Esposito, Executor; Barbara Sumple-Sullivan, Esquire, 549 Bridge Street, New Cumberland, PA 17070

ESTATE OF VICTORIA GIOVANNUCCI, late of White Haven (died October 28, 2023), Debra Zahay, Executrix; Donald J. Karpowich, Esquire, 85 Drasher Rd., Drums, PA 18222

ESTATE OF HELEN HARRISON, late of Kingston (died November 4, 2023), John Harrison, Administrator; Hourigan, Kluger & Quinn, P.C., 600 Third Avenue, Kingston, PA 18704

ESTATE OF MICHAEL EDDY JOHN-SON, late of Freeland (died August 20, 2023), Jeremiah Shane Johnson, Administrator; Hiscox & Musto, 400 Third Ave., Suite 201, Kingston, PA 18704

## THE LUZERNE LEGAL REGISTER

---

- ESTATE OF DOLORES A. KEELER, late of Duryea (died May 19, 2019), Allison Grazious and Katie Grazious, Co-Administratrices; Kelley, Polishan & Solfaneli, LLC, 259 S. Keyser Ave., Old Forge, PA 18518
- ESTATE OF JASPER KIRKLAND, late of West Pittston (died September 30, 2023), Karen Luff, Administratrix; Hiscox & Musto, 400 Third Ave., Suite 201, Kingston, PA 18704
- ESTATE OF ROSEMARIE KRAVITS, late of Kingston Twp. (died November 11, 2023), Corinne Kravits and Stefanie Parulis, Co-Executrices; Donald P. Roberts, Esquire, Burke Vullo Reilly Roberts, 1460 Wyoming Avenue, Forty Fort, PA 18704
- ESTATE OF JAMES M. McDERMOTT, late of Laffin (died September 21, 2023), Thomas E. Winarski, Executor; Jonathan A. Spohrer, Esquire, 279 Pierce St., Kingston, PA 18704
- ESTATE OF PHYLLIS A. NORMAN, late of Hazleton (died March 3, 2023), Craig W. Norman, Executor; Gregory J. Pavlovitz, Esquire, Pavlovitz & Fackenthal, LLC, 408 W. Market Street, 1st Floor, Pottsville, PA 17901
- ESTATE OF KEITH M. ROGERS, late of Kingston (died September 24, 2023), Alan L. Rogers, Executor; Michael J. Bendick, Esquire, P.O. Box 1733, Shavertown, PA 18708
- ESTATE OF URAYOAN I. LOPEZ ROSADO a/k/a Urayoan Lopez, late of Butler Twp. (died August 20, 2023), Myriam E. Horchar, Administratrix; Mary E. Podlogar, Esquire, 608 W. Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446-2012
- ESTATE OF ALICE H. SALLADA, late of Dallas (died October 26, 2023), John F. Sallada, III, Executor; Chad J. Sweigart, Esquire, Dyller & Solomon, LLC, 88 North Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
- ESTATE OF ROBERT C. SPATHELF, SR. a/k/a Robert Spathelf, late of Duryea (died April 27, 2023), Ellen Spathelf, Administratrix; Patrick N. Coleman, Esquire, Tellie & Coleman, P.C., 310 East Drinker St., Dunmore, PA 18512
- ESTATE OF DAVID M. STAUB, late of Lehman Twp. (died February 9, 2023), Cindy Staub, Administratrix; Hiscox & Musto, 400 Third Ave., Suite 201, Kingston, PA 18704
- ESTATE OF DAVID S. TWARDOWSKI, late of Larksville (died September 23, 2023), Jeffrey M. Twardowski, Administrator; Michael J. Bendick, Esquire, P.O. Box 1733, Shavertown, PA 18708
- ESTATE OF NANCY A. WILLIS a/k/a Nancy Willis, late of Hazleton (died November 10, 2023), Christopher D. Cavenas, Executor; Peter O'Donnell, Esquire, 305 South Church Street, Suite 175, Hazleton, PA 18201
- ESTATE OF REBECCA A. ZDANCEWICZ, late of Luzerne (died November 12, 2021), Thomas P. Zdancewicz, Administrator; Ralph J. Johnston, Jr., Esquire, Johnston and Johnston Law Office, 250 Pierce Street, Suite 308, Kingston, PA 18704

### THIRD PUBLICATION

- ESTATE OF FRANK D. ANCHARSKI a/k/a Franklin D. Ancharski, late of Butler Township (died October 20, 2023), Randall J. Ancharski, Executor; The Seach Law Offices, 466 State Route 93, Sugarloaf, PA 18249

- ESTATE OF DIANE C. BASTA, late of Edwardsville, Holly Devenney, Administratrix; Stephen T. Elin-



## THE LUZERNE LEGAL REGISTER

---

- ski, Esquire, Salvo Rogers Elinski & Scullin, 510 E. Township Line Rd., #150, Blue Bell, PA 19422
- ESTATE OF GEORGE W. BEREZNAK, late of West Hazleton (died July 14, 2023), John Berezna, 23 Paul Revere Dr., Hanover Twp., PA 18706, Executor
- ESTATE OF ANITA MARIE BOU-TEILLER, late of Pringle (died November 12, 2023), Richard Rutkowski, Executor; Bregman & Lantz, LLC, 1205 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort, PA 18704
- ESTATE OF GLORIA ANN CHESLOCK, late of Hazleton, (died October 30, 2023), Craig Lukatch and Loni Cinoski, Executors; Lorine Angelo Ogurkis, Esquire, Ogurkis Law, LLC, 21 North Locust St., Hazleton, PA 18201
- ESTATE OF BETH ANN DELANEY, late of Union Township (died November 5, 2023), Holly Sod, Executrix; Carlo A. LaMonica, Esquire, LaMonica Law Firm LLC, 3218 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, PA 18505
- ESTATE OF WILLIAM A. FELKER, late of Swoyersville (died October 10, 2023), Lisa M. Felker, Executrix; Kelley, Polishan & Solfanelli, LLC, 259 S. Keyser Ave., Old Forge, PA 18518
- ESTATE OF STEPHEN A. GAVRISH, late of Plymouth (died August 12, 2023), Gary J. Gavrish, Administrator; The Blazick Law Firm, Cross Creek Pointe, 1065 Hwy. 315, Suite 402, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
- ESTATE OF BENJAMIN F. GREGORY, III, late of Wilkes-Barre (died April 17, 2022), Susan Murphy, Executrix; Gregory S. Skibitsky, Jr., Esquire, Skibitsky & Molino, 457 North Main St., Suite 101, Pittston, PA 18640
- ESTATE OF CLIFFORD L. JONES, late of Wilkes-Barre (died September 9, 2023), Kathy Ann Margavitch, Executrix; Kevin R. Grebas, Esquire, Colbert & Grebas, PC, 210 Montage Mountain Road, Suite A, Moosic, PA 18507
- ESTATE OF MARY ROSE KOVAL a/k/a Mary R. Rauscher Koval, late of Wilkes-Barre (died November 8, 2023), Marie Koval Nardone, Executrix; Robert V. Davison, Esquire, New Bridge Center, 480 Pierce St., Suite 216, Kingston, PA 18704
- ESTATE OF DAVID BRIAN LEEDS a/k/a David B. Leeds, late of Larksville (died October 16, 2023), Lori Ann Menzel, Executrix; Frank J. Aritz, Esquire, 23 West Walnut St., Kingston, PA 18704
- ESTATE OF JOSEPH W. MULLEN, III a/k/a Joseph W. Mullen, late of Dupont (died September 10, 2023), Michael Coyle, Sr., Executor; Brenda D. Colbert, Esquire, Colbert & Grebas, PC, 210 Montage Mountain Road, Suite A, Moosic, PA 18507
- ESTATE OF THOMAS P. MURPHY, late of Wilkes-Barre (died August 24, 2023), Emily Murphy Walsh, Executrix; Alexander B. Russin, Esquire, 1516 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort, PA 18704
- ESTATE OF JEANETTE PETERS a/k/a Jeanette Louise Peters a/k/a Jeanette L. Peters, late of New Columbus (died January 29, 2023), Kelly Newhart, Administratrix; Kreisher, Marshall & Associates, LLC, 401 S. Market St., Bloomsburg, PA 17815
- ESTATE OF DELLA ROMANCZUK a/k/a Della A. Romanczuk, late of Pittston Twp. (died November 7, 2023), Michael Romanczuk,

THE LUZERNE LEGAL REGISTER

Executor; Biagio V. Musto, II,  
Esquire, 171 William St., Pittston,  
PA 18640-1719

ESTATE OF DONALD SHAPIRO  
a/k/a Donald M. Shapiro a/k/a  
Donald Michael Shapiro, late of  
Wilkes-Barre (died March 18,  
2023), Kelly Ashton, Executrix;  
Thomas Patrick Hogan, Esquire,  
Law Offices of Thomas A.  
O'Connor, PC, 601 Wyoming Ave.,  
Kingston, PA 18704

ESTATE OF ANDREW SCOTT WA-  
NAT, late of Plains (died November  
5, 2023), Joan Wanat, Executrix;  
Stephen A. Menn, Esquire, 37  
North River St., Wilkes-Barre, PA  
18702

ESTATE OF GERALD J. WILLIAMS,  
late of Avoca (died November 3,  
2023), Patrick Williams, Executor;  
Joseph A. Dessoye, Esquire, 9  
North Main Street, Suite 6, Pitt-  
ston, PA 18640

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN  
that on December 6, 2023, a  
Petition has been filed in the  
Court of Common Pleas of Lu-  
zerne County requesting an order  
to change the name of minor  
child from Sophia Rose Stokas to  
Sophia Rose Svab.

The Court has fixed the day of  
Friday, March 22, 2024 at 9:15  
a.m., at the Luzerne County  
Courthouse, 200 North River  
Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylva-  
nia 18711, as the time and place  
for the hearing on said petition,  
when and where all interested  
parties may appear and show  
cause, if any, why the request of  
the petitioner should not be  
granted.

Dec. 22

ORDER OF COURT

IN THE COURT OF COMMON  
PLEAS OF LUZERNE COUNTY  
CIVIL ACTION—LAW

NO: 07753 OF 2022

IN CUSTODY

ROCIO ENCARNACION-ARIAS  
Plaintiff

vs.

EMMANUEL  
DE LA CRUZ SANTOS  
Defendant

TO: EMMANUEL DE LA CRUZ  
SANTOS, Defendant

You, EMMANUEL DE LA  
CRUZ SANTOS, Defendant, have  
been sued in Court to obtain  
Primary Physical and Sole Legal  
Custody of the minor children  
A.D.C.E., age: 6, born June 9,  
2017, Y.D.C.E., age: 5 born No-  
vember 23, 2018 and Y.E., age:  
1 born February 24, 2022.

You are ordered to appear in  
person at the Luzerne County  
Court House, Bernard Bromin-  
ski Building, 113 West North  
Street, Third Floor, Wilkes-Barre,  
Pennsylvania, on February 9,  
2024 at 9:00 A.M. for

A conciliation or media-  
tion conference

A pretrial conference

A hearing before the court

If you fail to appear as pro-  
vided by this Order, an Order for  
Custody may be entered against  
you or the Court may issue a  
warrant for your arrest.

You must file with the court a  
verification regarding any crimi-  
nal record or abuse history re-  
garding you and anyone living in

THE LUZERNE LEGAL REGISTER

---

your household on or before the initial in-person contact with the court (including, but not limited to, a conference with a conference officer or judge or conciliation) but not later than 30 days after service of the complaint or petition. No party may make a change in the residence of any child which significantly impairs the ability of the other party to exercise custodial rights without first complying with all of the applicable provisions of 23 Pa. C.S. §5337 and Pa. R.C.P. No. 1915.17 regarding relocation.

If you are incarcerated, you may participate in the Conference before the Master by telephone. You must provide in writing the telephone number at which you may be reached at the time scheduled for the hearing and the name of the counsellor prior to the hearing date. Please mail to Orphan's Court, Brominski Building, Third Floor, 113 West North Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711, Attention: Clerk.

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER. GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW. THIS OFFICE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT HIRING A LAWYER.

IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE A LAWYER, THIS OFFICE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT AGENCIES THAT MAY OFFER REDUCED FEE OR NO FEE LEGAL SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS.

NORTH PENN LEGAL SERVICES  
33 North Main Street  
Pittston, PA 18640  
(570) 299-4100

- or -

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE  
Wilkes-Barre Law and Library  
Assoc.  
200 N. River Street  
Room 23  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711  
(570) 822-6029

AMERICAN WITH  
DISABILITIES ACT OF 1980

Luzerne County Court House Annex II is a facility accessible to persons with disabilities. Please notify the ADA Compliance Officer if special accommodations are required, who may be contacted by telephone at (570) 830-5135. All arrangements must be made at least 72 hours prior to any hearing or business before the Court. You must attend the scheduled conference or hearing.

BY THE COURT :

/s/Jennifer Rodgers

Dec. 22



---

---

**PERIODICAL PUBLICATION**

\* Dated Material. Do Not Delay. Please Deliver Before Tuesday, December 26, 2023