Message from the President . . .

By Eugene Wishnic, Esq.

As I sit here contemplating what to say in this, my final message as President of our beloved Bar Association, I say to myself – thank goodness this is the last time I need to write one of these! Though I have said it before, it bears repeating - it has truly been an honor and privilege to serve in this capacity. I was humbled by the selection and am now eternally grateful to have been given the opportunity.

There is a long list of those to whom I owe an enormous debt of gratitude. At the very top of that list are Jonathan Cowles (pronounced “COLES” people, get it right!) and the Robin to his Batman, Elaine Miller (pronounced Miller). Jonathan and Elaine work tirelessly to ensure the MCBA runs like the well-oiled machine it is. If there was a program, event, CLE, email blast, social media post, or anything else “MCBA”, you can be sure Jonathan had a hand in making it come to life. Jonathan is truly the MCBA’s real-life Wizard pulling the levers and strings, all the while being the first to tell you to pay no mind to the man behind the curtain. It is not easy making a guy like me look good in a job like this. If that was ever the case, it was thanks to the wizardry of Cowles, and for that I am eternally grateful.

To Judge Toto and the entire Judiciary, your incredible understanding and willingness to listen and work cooperatively with the bar cannot be overstated. Despite the challenges and roadblocks, you never missed a beat and kept the wheels of justice turning while navigating completely uncharted waters. While we are grateful for all you do, we are keenly aware of the desperate need to fill judicial vacancies to keep the doors of justice open to the citizens of Middlesex County. The MCBA stands ready to help in any way we can to encourage our Senators to work together to nominate judicial candidates to fill our depleted bench.

I must also thank those responsible for bringing BARESJ and the LGBTQ+ committee to the Association. I am proud to report that the membership voted overwhelmingly to approve BARESJ as a standing committee of the MCBA and ratified it via amendment to our by-laws. While acknowledging there is still a long road ahead, these committees represent important statements in the promotion of diversity and inclusion in our Association and society at large. These small, yet meaningful, steps are the first in what I hope to be a trend in the right direction, and I am confident this work will continue, into the future, with the help of our committed leadership.

Thank you to the energetic and enthusiastic members of the executive committee and board of trustees for all you have done this past year. While I will likely go down in history as the first, and hopefully only, virtual president the Association has ever seen, I will truly miss seeing you all in the Zoom “Brady Bunch” boxes on my laptop. The good news is that the Association and its members can look forward to an excellent year ahead as I proudly pass the torch to the eminently capable and supremely talented hands of your new President, and fearless leader, Ed Testino. Ed, you are a good man who will lead with dignity, poise, and grace. May your year ahead be one of success and accomplishment, riddled with normalcy and a return to business as usual, live and in-person.

To my fellow bar members, we are all in this together. Let’s be respectful and civil to one another and do our parts to make the practice of law an equitable and positive experience for each other, and those we represent. Thank you for listening and for having me. Wishnic out!
Calendar of Events

May 6 – Thursday @ 1:30 p.m.  
FAMILY LAW TRIAL PRACTICE SKILLS  
(2.4 Credits) - Openings; Direct and Cross-Examination; & Closing Arguments. Speakers: Hon. Daniel Brown, JSC; Marcia Silva, JSC; Glynn Dwyer, Jr., Esq.; Frank Tournour, Esq.; and Elliot Solop, Esq.  
Cost: $35-Members; $65-Non-Member Attorneys; and Free-Law Clerks.

May 7 – Friday @ 11:30 a.m.  
MINI-WEBCAST ON PLI - Top 10 Things to Know When Renewing Your PLI. Speaker: Gary Pinckney, Esq., Couch Braunsdorf Insurance Group. Moderator: Peter Hendricks, Esq.

May 10 – Monday @ 4:30 p.m.  

May 11 – Tuesday @ 5:00 p.m. - 5 Tickets Left!  
SPRING CELEBRATION EVENT – MuckleyEye Distillery, 304 Route 34, Colts Neck. Members Only Event. Sponsored by Document Solutions. 3-hour open bar (spirits & soft drinks) and hot & cold hors d’oeuvres. Cost: $15-MCBA Members. To RSVP call the Bar Office at 732.828.3433, x. 102.

May 12 – Wednesday @ 9:00 a.m.  
ELDER LAW COMMITTEE MEETING - The Committee will discuss current practice-related issues and CLE program ideas for the coming year. There is no cost to attend. To RSVP and get a link to the meeting send an email to jcowles@mcbalaw.com.

May 14 – Friday @ 12:15 p.m.  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING – Bar Members are welcome to attend via webcast. To RSVP please send email to jcowles@mcbalaw.com in advance.

May 25 – Tuesday @ 9:00 a.m.  

May 25 – Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.  
FAMILY LAW WEBCAST (1.2 Credits) – Women Aware Presents: A Conversation with Author Rachel Snyder - What We Don’t Know About Domestic Violence Can Kill Us. Co-sponsored by the MCBA. For details and/or to RSVP go to: https://givebutter.com/WomenAwarePresents.

May 26 – Wednesday @ 6:00 p.m.  
ASSOCIATION & FOUNDATION ANNUAL INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & TRUSTEES  
The Park Chateau, East Brunswick. Installation of 2021-22 Boards of Trustees. 2021 David Pavlovsky "Service to the Bar" Award. See page 7 for details.

June 9 – Wednesday @ 9:00 a.m.  
ELDER LAW COMMITTEE MEETING - The Committee will discuss current practice-related issues and CLE program ideas for the coming year. There is no cost to attend. To RSVP and get a link to the meeting send an email to jcowles@mcbalaw.com.

June 10 – Thursday @ 3:00 p.m.  

June 11 – Friday @ 12:15 p.m.  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING – Bar Members are welcome to attend via webcast. To RSVP please send email to jcowles@mcbalaw.com in advance.

June 17 – Thursday @ 1:30 p.m.  
FAMILY LAW TRIAL PRACTICE SKILLS  
(2.4 Credits) – Examining Experts. Speakers will include experienced trial attorneys and judges. Cost: $35-Members; $65-Non-Member Attorneys; and Free-Law Clerks.

June 22 – Tuesday @ 9:00 a.m.  
TAX LAW CLE (1.5 Credits) – Topic & Speaker TBA.

June 24 – Thursday @ 4:00 p.m.  

September 11 @ 12:00 p.m.  
BAR FOUNDATION ANNUAL "DAY AT THE RACES" TRACK OUTING – Monmouth Park Racetrack, Oceanport. Details TBA.

October 4 – Monday, 11:30 a.m.  
ANNUAL GOLF OUTING – Royce Brook Country Club, Hillsborough. Cost TBA.

All events will be held via Zoom unless otherwise indicated. The MCBA is an approved provider of continuing legal education in New Jersey and all CLE programs listed above will meet the requirements of the BCLE of the Supreme Court of NJ.
How to Say It: Legal Writing That Persuades

The Readable Brief: Three Tips

by Hon. Robert J. Jones, J.S.C.¹

I’ve written about readability before, but it’s such a vital topic that I thought I’d spend more time on it this month. It’s that important.

When you submit a hard-to-read brief, the judge wastes valuable time trying to understand your argument instead of considering it. Case in point: I recently had to read a brief four times before I could figure it out. The first time left me confused. The second time I had a pad alongside me for notes. After the third time I questioned the application’s merit. Then, after the fourth try, eureka! I finally understood what the writer was trying to say. And it wasn’t complex. In fact, it actually had merit—something the writer buried. Don’t be that type of writer.

With all this in mind, here are three tips for a more readable brief.

Keep your subject, verb, and object close

Think back to kindergarten and learning to read. You started out with simple subject-verb-object sentences like Jane kicked the ball. These types of sentences trained your mind: After you learn the subject of the sentence, you immediately start looking for the verb. And once you discover the verb, you want to know its object. The more words between the subject, verb, and object, the more difficult the sentence.²

So, if you want a more readable sentence, keep your subject, verb, and object close. Put conditions, qualifiers, and clauses at the end of the sentence. Or better yet, try putting them in a separate sentence. Here’s a before-and-after example:

Before
Smith, who in 2020 was president of Material Data Corporation, which is a subsidiary of Maxwell International, sold, before the news of its 2020 losses were released to the public, his 20,000 shares of stock in the company.

After
Smith sold his 20,000 shares of Material Data Corporation stock before news of its 2020 losses went public. In 2020, Smith was president of Material Data, which is a subsidiary of Maxwell International.

The reworked version is easier to read, and the edits don’t change the content. In fact, the reworked version is less ambiguous. In the original we don’t know whether the company refers to Material Data or Maxwell. The lesson? The closer your subject, verb, and object, the better.

But let’s take things to the next level. Like with most writing advice, there are exceptions. Sometimes—for strategic reasons—you may want to put information between your subject, verb, and object. For example, you can highlight the information by placing it there:

Smith—who by law could not benefit from insider trading—sold his 20,000 shares in the company before news of its 2020 losses went public.

This is a great technique, but employ it sparingly; otherwise, you’ll lose the effect.

It boils down to this: If you keep your subject, verb, and object close, your writing will be easier to read and understand. You can make a strategic decision to depart from this on occasion, but you’ll have a more readable brief if you heed this advice.

State parallel ideas in parallel form

Parallel ideas should be expressed in parallel grammatical form. Don’t worry: I’m not going to tax your grammar skills—just explain why parallel form is important and show a few examples.

Readers expect two or more items in a series to be grammatically parallel. So, for example, if the first two items appear as noun phrases, the third should too. When you do this, your writing becomes more effective and easier to grasp.³ Conversely, when items are not parallel, your sentence becomes awkward and difficult to read. Parallel form also gives your sentence rhythm.⁴ Here are two before-and-after examples:

Before
To prove negligence, a plaintiff must show a duty, a breach, causation, and there must be damages.

After
To show negligence, a plaintiff must show a duty, a breach, causation, and damages.

Before
Smith showed up late to the deposition, forgot his medical records, and the date of the accident was something he couldn’t recall.

After
Smith showed up late to the deposition, forgot his medical records, and failed to recall the date of the accident.

Each before version starts out with a grammatical pattern and then breaks it. That break trips the reader up and slows the reading process. In the reworked versions, though, each element in the list follows the same grammatical pattern which makes the sentence easier to read.

Here’s a more complex sentence where I’ve highlighted the start of each verb phrase.

Stare decisis is the preferred course because it promotes the evenhanded, predictable, and consistent development of legal principles, fosters reliance on judicial decisions, and contributes to the actual and perceived integrity of the judicial process.⁵

This sentence would be a mess absent parallel form. Yet it

(Continued on page 12)
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Joseph Benedict, Esq.
2021 David Pavlovsky “Service to the Bar” Award Recipient

In recognition of his continuous outstanding contributions and service to the Middlesex County Bar Association, Joseph J. Benedict, Esq., will receive the MCBA’s 2021 David Pavlovsky “Service to the Bar” Award. The award presentation will be held at The Park Chateau in East Brunswick during the MCBA’s 107th Annual Installation of Officers & Trustees Dinner on May 26, 2021. (See page 5 for event details.)

Joe is a partner and founding member of Benedict and Altman in New Brunswick. After graduating from law school during the height of the Vietnam War, he became an Airborne Ranger Infantry Captain in the U.S. Army. In Vietnam, he was assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He served in their JAG unit, where he prosecuted and defended over a hundred criminal cases. In his last trial, he defended a Sergeant accused of a triple homicide. The Sergeant was acquitted.

Upon returning home to New Jersey, he joined the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office, where he rose to become the Chief of the Trial Section. He left the Prosecutor’s Office to enter private practice, forming a partnership with Steven Altman in 1978. Ever since, Joe has handled innumerable criminal cases of all magnitudes. He has represented defendants in trials for murder, aggravated sexual assault, public corruption, and more.

He is certified by the New Jersey Supreme Court as a Criminal Trial Attorney. He has been named in New Jersey Monthly’s annual “Super Lawyers” issue every year since 2005. He has been listed in “Best Lawyers in America” every year since 1995, and is currently listed as the “Lawyer of the Year” in criminal law in our geographic area. He has received Martindale Hubbell’s AV rating every year since 1983. In 2009, he received the Middlesex County Bar Association Criminal Trial Practice Award.

His contributions to the Bar and the community at large have been substantial. He has been Chair or Co-Chair of the MCBA’s Criminal Practice Committee since 1983 and is a frequent lecturer of Continuing Legal Education presentations for the State Bar Association. He has been a member and Chair of the District VIII (Middlesex County) Ethics Committee. He has been attorney for the South Brunswick Board of Ethics, where he also served as Township Attorney for 14 years. He was a founding member and first President of the South Brunswick Chamber of Commerce. A longtime volunteer for the American Cancer Society, his other charitable contributions, while significant, are too numerous to recount.

Most importantly to Joe, he has been husband to his wife Linda for 53 years, and father to son Jonathan and daughter-in-law Catalina. He is currently competing to be world’s greatest grandparent, as judged by Luca (8) and Mia (6). As always, he is confident the jury will return the right verdict.

The Pavlovsky Award was created in honor of the late David Pavlovsky, an active member of the Bar Association from 1935 until his passing in April of 1995. David was the quintessential “Middlesex County” attorney, dedicated to his family, his profession, his community and the Association. The award is presented to a lawyer who carries on David’s commitment to service and represents the best of the Middlesex County Bar Association.

Brian Molloy Appointed General Counsel at Wilentz Goldman & Spitzer, PA

Brian J. Molloy has been appointed as the General Counsel of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A. As General Counsel, Molloy serves as the firm’s key advisor concerning the law governing lawyers, governance matters, risk management, and policy implementation. From 2008 until 2021, Molloy served as President and Managing Director; he has been a shareholder at Wilentz since 1986. Molloy takes the reins from Frank M. Ciuffani, retired Presiding Judge of the New Jersey Superior Court, General Equity Division, and Of Counsel at Wilentz, who has served in the position since 2018. Judge Ciuffani will continue to provide mediation, arbitration and consultation and discovery master services.

AN INVITATION TO THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY CHANCERY DIVISION EARLY SETTLEMENT PROGRAM

The Middlesex County Chancery Division Early Settlement Program is a program instituted by the Court in conjunction with the Chancery Practice Committee of the Middlesex County Bar Association (“MCBA”). The purpose of the program is to assist the Court in attempting to resolve by settlement cases pending before the Chancery Division in the County.

Members of the panel are generally practicing attorneys in Middlesex County who volunteer their time and effort to assist the Court in disposing of matters without the necessity of a plenary hearing. In the current climate, sessions are scheduled by the panelists at their convenience and take place virtually. Hopefully, the future will allow the panels to be conducted either virtually or in person in the courthouse.

The purpose of this article is twofold. First, to make attorneys aware of the Program as a possible way to resolve a Chancery Division matter. The second purpose is to seek attorneys to volunteer as panelists.

In the words of the Honorable Vincent LeBlon, P.J. Ch.: “The program has great value to the attorneys in the Middlesex County Chancery Court. It gives them an opportunity to obtain the opinions of other practitioners in the field. It will certainly assist the lawyers and their clients to attempt to expeditiously resolve their differences. The Court very much appreciates the assistance of the dedicated volunteers to the Early Settlement Program of the Middlesex County Bar Association Chancery Practice Section and encourages more to join.”

If you have any questions concerning the program or would like to volunteer to become a panelist, please contact Chancery Practice Committee Chairperson Daria Venezia at dariaannevenezia@verizon.net.

The Middlesex Advocate — May 2021 — Page 5
Judge Happas brings twenty years of distinguished judicial service to her mediation and arbitration practice. During her tenure she served with distinction as the Middlesex Vicinage Civil Presiding Judge for eleven years and was also one of three designated Mass Tort Judges in the State of New Jersey.

Judge Happas can be reached at: (732) 906-1500 | jhappas@lombardilandlombardi.com
107th Annual Installation of Officers & Trustees
Wednesday, May 26, 2021
The Park Chateau, 678 Cranbury Road, East Brunswick

Event Agenda
Cocktails/Hors d’Oeuvres
Food Stations/Dessert
Networking
6:00 p.m.
Open Bar

Event Program
7:30 p.m.
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Federal Reserve and Interest Rates
From Provident Bank

Few financial issues receive more attention in the press than the actions of the Federal Reserve Board (the Fed) with interest rates. It seems there is always some mention of what the Fed’s chair, Jerome Powell, is saying or might say about the economy, interest rates or the markets in general.

The Federal Reserve is the independent central bank established by Congress in 1913. One of its primary functions is to help maintain the economic soundness of the US economy by setting the interest rates banks charge each other for overnight loans.

Thousands of banks in the country frequently borrow money or lend money to other banks for short periods, often just overnight. The Fed oversees that activity and sets the interest rates on the borrowing and lending. This type of institutional borrowing helps to keep liquidity in the financial system and the banking system strong.

How it works
The Federal Reserve has a 12 member Federal Open Market Committee that meets 8 times a year to review the economy and make changes to the "overnight loan" rates. For the past few decades, the Fed has tried very hard to keep inflation under control by managing the overnight interest rates.

The members review all types of information and keep their meetings and decision-making process secret. At the end of their meetings, there is an announcement of any changes they make. These announcements are anxiously awaited and studied very carefully by financial professionals to get a glimpse into the thinking of these decision-makers.

Why is this important?
The cost of borrowing has direct effects on the costs of businesses and individuals. By raising or lowering this central interest rate, the Fed can influence how fast or how slow the economy will grow or contract. However, it usually takes many months to see the full effect of any changes they make.

How does the Fed affect consumers?
Many consumer interest rates are strongly influenced by changes made by the Fed. Usually when the Fed raises or lowers rates, the prime rate (the rate charged to large corporations by banks) changes almost immediately. Many credit card and consumer loan rates are tied directly to the prime rate. In addition, mortgage rates are also greatly influenced by the Fed rate changes.

Since the stock and bond markets are closely interwoven, changes by the Fed can also affect the stock market. While there is no direct link, the market tends to react positively to rate cuts and negatively to rate increases. Usually, the markets are already sensing what actions the Fed may take and prices may rise or fall long before the Fed actually meets and announces any changes.

Fed Actions
In 2008, the Fed reduced rates several times in response to a weakening economy and to provide additional liquidity as financial markets dealt with uncertainties in the sub-prime mortgage and other credit markets. By January, 2009, the Fed had reduced their targeted rate to a range of 0% to 0.25% and kept that target through early 2015. From December 2015 through December 2018, they raised rates five times to a range of 2.25% to 2.50%. Starting in August 2019, they began decreasing rates by a quarter point through October 2019 to a range of 1.50% to 1.75%. Then in response to recession fears due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fed lowered rates twice in March of 2020.

In the late summer and fall of 2008, Congress granted the Federal Reserve significantly more authority to deal with the turmoil in the financial markets. This includes purchasing illiquid securities from institutions, making loans to troubled firms, and making investments in banks and other institutions to provide additional capital for their operations.

Beginning in 2010, the Fed started buying U.S. Treasury obligations and other government debt as part of their efforts to keep interest rates low, make credit available and stimulate the economy. In the summer of 2013, the Fed indicated they were planning to reduce their purchases. Their purchases ended in late 2014. As the COVID-19 pandemic gripped the U.S. economy in March and April of 2020, Congress authorized the Fed to purchase up to $4 trillion in Treasuries.

What should you do?
There is probably nothing specific that an individual investor should do about the Federal Reserve Board’s actions. However, it makes sense to watch what they say and do and try to put their actions into your overall financial thinking.

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MCBA SENDS A HEARTY THANKS
To all our faculty and participants in the Middlesex County Bar Association
Continuing Legal Education program

We sincerely wish to thank all of you for contributing to the great success of the MCBA’s commitment to provide our members (and non-members) with quality continuing legal education at convenient hours and at an affordable cost. The MCBA Continuing Legal Education webcasts have been a huge success, thanks to you. Without your commitment and dedication, the Association would not be able to provide its members with the finest continuing legal education programs presented by any county bar association in the State of New Jersey. The breadth and depth of the topics presented by you in the MCBA CLE programs have helped the MCBA serve its core commitment to improve the practices of its members and in turn, to help the public who require our members’ services.

Once again, thank you for your participation, and we sincerely hope that we may call upon you again. Please do not hesitate to suggest any CLE programs that you feel would benefit our membership and enhance your reputation as a leader in your field of specialty.
works because the writer is disciplined and comes back to the same grammatical structure for each idea he sets out.

Now, let’s take this technique to the next level too. Chief Justice John Roberts is a master at using parallel structure. For example, take a look at this opening sentence from an important voting-rights case:

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 employed extraordinary measures to address an extraordinary problem.6

Justice Roberts not only uses parallel form, but he also uses repetition within it. The sentence is easy to read and has rhythm. Speech writers capitalize on this technique, but it’s effective for writers too. Justice Roberts could have—but thankfully didn’t—write the sentence this way:

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 employed remarkable measures to address a problem that was extraordinary.

The sentence loses its appeal without the parallel structure and the repetition.

The lesson? When you place parallel ideas in parallel form, you boost your sentence’s readability.

Don’t fear contractions
In law school they told us to eschew contractions—that they’re too informal for legal writing. Nonsense. While you don’t want to overuse contractions, nothing bars you from using them. In fact, when used in the right spots, they can help you talk to your reader in a smoother, more natural tone. Without them, your writing can come off wooden, even stilted. I’m not alone in this assessment. A quick Lexus search shows that at least a majority of the current U.S. Supreme Court justices use contractions in their opinions. In fact, I found opinions dating back to 1956 where justices used them.7 New Jersey judges also use them.8 This should burst the notion that contractions are a no-no.

Yet some legal writers still fear them. They shouldn’t. As legal-writing expert Bryan Garner points out, contractions help you sound more natural and confident.9 As he explains in Legal Writing in Plain English, “[t]he point about contractions isn’t to use them whenever possible, but rather whenever natural.”10 Studies show that they increase your writing’s readability.11 So my advice? Abandon this legal-writing myth. Contractions can help you write a more readable brief.

Next month: Three more readability tips.

1 Thank you to my former law clerk, Sam Howie, Esq., for his help with this article. I also want to express my thanks to Donna Timko, my eighth-grade English teacher, who still comes to the rescue of her former student after all these years.
3 Id. at 28; Roy Peter Clark, Writing Tools: 50 Essential Strategies for Every Writer 41 (2006).
8 See, e.g., N.J. Dep’t of Children & Families v. L.O., 460 N.J. Super. 1, 18 (App. Div. 2019) (“Since an appeal is available for those who can pay for it, it must also be provided for those who can’t”).
9 Garner, supra note 5, at 49-50.
10 Id. at 49.
11 Id.
Life has a way of changing in an instant.

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Monthly Newsletter
The Association’s newsletter is published monthly from September to May and contains law-related articles, important notices from the court, a calendar of events and other news from around the legal community. Access to current and past editions is available via the website (www.mcbalaw.com) and members who advertise in the newsletter receive 50% off the published rates.

LRS Reduced Fee Program
Panel members provide legal services at reduced fees to those individuals who do not qualify for Legal Services but whose income barely exceeds the official poverty threshold. The Program provides a great way for bar members to provide a public service to those in need and for younger lawyers to gain valuable experience.

LRS for RU Students
In conjunction with Rutgers University Office of Student Legal Services, participating panel members provide legal services at reduced fees to RU students.

Lawyer Referral Service (LRS)
Participate in the MCBA’s ABA-approved lawyer referral service which provides assistance to over 5,000 callers each year. For a nominal fee, members can join the computerized service and receive referrals.

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One of the MCBA’s newest sponsors, LawCash provides the following services:
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Copier & Office IT Program
Starting May 1st, the MCBA and Document Solutions have joined forces to help with all of your office & technology needs. For detail on the program contact Kevin O’Connor at 877-937-6977 Ext. 210 | kevino@dsbls.com.

Career Center
Find the best jobs in the legal profession. Search for jobs quickly and easily, set-up Job Alerts, place your job openings in front of highly skilled bar members.

Annual Bar Awards
The MCBA recognizes outstanding contributions made by bar members in the following areas: Service to the Bar; Lawyer Achievement, Family Law, Pro Bono, Transactional, Civil Trial Practice, Criminal Trial Practice, Municipal Court Practice, Chancery Practice and Young Lawyers. The Family Law Awards are presented in January, the other practice area awards are presented at the March Awards Dinner, and the David Pavlovsky “Service to the Bar” Award and Arthur H. Miller Lawyer Achievement Award are presented at the May and/or September General Membership Meetings.

Attorney Mentor Program
Through this new program lawyers seeking advice and guidance will be matched up with experienced attorneys willing to help. Having someone you trust to ask questions as you navigate the professional world, can make the difference between struggling and success. Mentorship will cover practice specific areas as well as general practice, ethics, and more.

Committees & Sections
Committee/Section participation offers opportunities to play an active role in shaping events which influence the practice and the profession, and also provides a social setting in which to share ideas and hear speakers with expertise in varied practice areas. Visit the website for a complete list of committees.

Middlesex County Bar Association
Membership Benefits
www.mcbalaw.com

Lawyer Referral Service (LRS)
Participate in the MCBA’s ABA-approved lawyer referral service which provides assistance to over 5,000 callers each year. For a nominal fee, members can join the computerized service and receive referrals.

LRS Reduced Fee Program
Panel members provide legal services at reduced fees to those individuals who do not qualify for Legal Services but whose income barely exceeds the official poverty threshold. The Program provides a great way for bar members to provide a public service to those in need and for younger lawyers to gain valuable experience.

LRS for RU Students
In conjunction with Rutgers University Office of Student Legal Services, participating panel members provide legal services at reduced fees to RU students.

Monthly Newsletter
The Association’s newsletter is published monthly from September to May and contains law-related articles, important notices from the court, a calendar of events and other news from around the legal community. Access to current and past editions is available via the website (www.mcbalaw.com) and members who advertise in the newsletter receive 50% off the published rates.

New Bar Office Conference Room Facilities
Members get free use of the Bar Office conference room, located in New Brunswick (1/2 block from the courthouse). Join the growing list of attorneys who use the room for depositions, mediations, private meetings, etc.

Professionalism Program
Designed to resolve complaints regarding unprofessional behavior on the part of attorneys, judges and court personnel, the program is a good faith effort to work with attorneys who are in conflict over professional matters, and to attempt to improve the general quality of professional life by encouraging cooperative, constructive, civil behavior.

Continuing Legal Education (CLE)
The MCBA was the first NJ County Bar Association to be granted Accredited Service Provider Status by the Supreme Court of NJ Board on Continuing Legal Education for both live and online CLE. You can now earn all of your mandatory CLE credits conveniently and affordably at the MCBA. Members enjoy a 50% discount on live seminar tuition and get members-only pricing for online seminars! There is no better CLE value anywhere!
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