

Lawrence Bar Association
Founded 1905 -- Our 100th Year
Newsletter - June 2004

STAMPING OUT AUTO INSURANCE FRAUD

The Lawrence Bar Association is committed to eliminating fraudulent automobile insurance claims. In May, the LBA issued a public statement condemning automobile insurance fraud (see attached statement).

Our words are only as good as our deeds. **At 1 p.m. on June 23, in Housing Court conference room at the Lawrence District Court, the LBA is hosting a brown-bag roundtable discussion on legal and ethical issues involving auto insurance fraud.**

The discussion will be led by an eminent panel, including Professor Connie Rudnick (a member of the BBO), Laura Kessler (General Counsel of the Insurance Fraud Unit), and Chief John Romero of the Lawrence Police Department.

All attorneys are urged to attend, as we attempt to stamp out auto insurance fraud and protect the integrity of our profession.

LBA WEBSITE/EMAIL

The Lawrence Bar Association has gone "interactive!" Please check out and use our website at www.lawrencebar.org.

In addition, we are attempting to improve communications while reducing mailing costs by sending out

announcements via email. Please contact Laurie Levy at Gilbert & Renton LLC (llevy@gilbertandrenton.com) to provide your current email address.

LBA SUMMER EVENT LOWELL SPINNERS

Mark your calendars ... and return your sign-up form!!

The LBA Summer Outing will be held on Monday, August 2, 2004 at the Lowell Spinners. **Family members welcome!!** For the low price of \$22 per person, guests will enjoy a buffet dinner (including grilled ribs, sausages, hot dogs, chicken wings, salads, corn on the cob, dessert and beverages), premium box seats, and a guaranteed good time.

Tickets are limited -- we have reserved only 80 seats. To make reservations, please return the attached form and your check to Laurie Levy, Gilbert & Renton LLC, 23 Main St., Andover, MA 01810.

Final deadline is July 2. See you at the game!.

SAVE THESE DATES

**june 23 - brown bag
lunch on auto fraud**

**Aug. 2 - lba night at
the Lowell spinners**

nov. 17 - fall dinner

Jan. 11 - annual mtg.

AN ACTIVE SPRING....

The LBA has experienced a busy half-year since our Annual Meeting in January.

Spring Dinner: Nearly 100 members, judges, clerks and guests enjoyed the hospitality of North Andover Country Club on April 6, 2004. Employing facts and passion, our keynote speaker, Superior Court Justice Robert Bohn, implored the LBA community to attack educational inequalities that, 50 years after *Brown v. Board of Education*, continue to plague our society.

Law Day: The Lawrence District Court and the LBA celebrated Law Day 2004 on April 30, with the annual speech contest at 10:30 a.m. followed by our Law Day luncheon at One Mill. Congratulations go to:

Liberty Bell Award recipient,
Kingman Webster

LBA Leadership Award recipient, the
Hon. John E. Fenton, Jr. (whose
reflections on 50 years of *Brown v.*
Board of Education reminded us of the
challenges ahead)

Josiah Carter (Greater Lawrence
VoTech), the winner of the LBA
Student Speech Contest.

Special thanks to Judge Stella and his
assistant, Jeanette Caux, Law Day Chair
Jeff Tomlinson, Speech Contest Chair
Sheila Casey, Scholarship Committee
Chair Richard D'Agostino, and Alanna
Caffrey, who helped with everything.

LAWYERS CONCERNED FOR LAWYERS

Addiction? Health? Depression,? Burn-
out? Stress? Finances? Lawyers, judges,
clerks, or law students can turn to
Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers
1-800-LCL-0120

REMEMBERING OUR COLLEAGUES

We have had some difficult losses this
year: Hon. Reno J. Orlando, James H.
Eaton III, and Thomas R. Barbieri.

Memorial services were held at the
Lawrence District Court for each of
these fine attorneys and gentlemen. To
their families, we offer our heart-felt
condolences. They are missed.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Perhaps there is no mandatory CLE in
Massachusetts ... but that has not
deterred the LBA!! Our Brown Bag
Lunches since December have included:

- * Procedure in the District Court, led
by Judge Ostrach and Jeff Renton
- * The US Supreme Court's ruling in
Crawford v. Washington to expand
Confrontation Clause rights, led by
LBA's Jim Krasnoo and ADA Alex Cain
- * Summary Process procedures, led by
Housing Court Justice David Kerman

**Next Brown Bag Lunch: June 23 at 1
p.m. in the Housing Court conference
room, to discuss legal, ethical and law
enforcement issues surrounding the
auto insurance fraud problem**

LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

The LBA OPPOSES a Legislative
proposal to change the appointment of
Assistant Registers of the Probate and
Family Court. Currently, the Chief
Justices make merit-based appointments.
The legislation would shift authority to
the Register of Probate, which could
politicize appointments and dilute the
quality of Assistant Registers. We urge
members to contact their senators and
representatives to oppose this plan.