

# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



By Michael J. Dennin

'Tis the season for our Bar Association. This is the season where we give thanks for all that we have. More importantly, this is the season where

we help other people who do not have what we have. The holidays are about giving: giving clothes, food, toiletries, gifts to children and less fortunate in our community and giving our Lobster Bake proceeds to The Larc School.

I want to sincerely thank our Camden County Bar Association and Foundation Boards for all of the work they do. Thanks to **Marci Hill Jordan** and **Michael Ward** for their hard work for the Adopt-a-Family. Thanks to the Rutgers Law and undergrad students who are now on board with our Young Lawyers Committee and have started food and gift drives at their school. Thanks to the Judiciary for being there to work with us on many important issues in the community. Thanks to all of the past Bar Presidents for all of the work they have done to get us to where we are today.

I want to thank our Bar Association members for coming to events, CLEs, and charity causes. All of the work we do for the Bar is free and out of the kindness of our hearts. Thanks for everyone at the Bar for having the faith in me to steer the ship this year. Thanks for coming to sometimes long meetings (but with pizza and refreshments) each month. Thanks to our A+ executive director **Kara Edens** and our staff **Roseanne Riley** and **Krystal Widman**. Thanks to the children and adults at the Anna Sample House in Camden for allowing us to be there twice a year (Young Lawyer shout out) to throw parties and have fun with the kids. Thanks to Larc School for the yearly invitation to their Thanksgiving lunch. Thanks to all of the volunteers who help adopt families, wrap gifts, and come to the Children's Holiday Party. Thanks to our advertisers and Partners in Progress. Thanks to our newest partner, **Fulton Bank**, for coming on board. Our partners and advertisers are crucial to what we do in terms of helping our lawyers and the people of Camden County.

## 'GIVING THANKS'

Thanks for reading this article and helping me. Thanks to everyone for getting our Bar in the best shape it has been in a few years. We have examined each cost, each dollar spent, and have continually reduced costs that we spend. This goes for internal costs, event costs, and even storage costs. We have, at the same time, increased our revenue. We increased our CLE events, changed up locations and topics and times, and have gone to great lengths to increase revenue. We rented space at Bar Headquarters to another law firm, **Kasprzyk and Yellareddigari**, are clearing out our storage unit, and even discussing our future space for the Bar. We are proud to report that, thanks to everyone's efforts, things are looking up for our Association and Foundation. Thank you to our Continuing Legal Education Committee for giving their time to create CLE programs and for speaking at the programs. Thank you to our Young Lawyers who do more as a committee than many Bar Associations do. We are all so thankful for so much. This is not to mention being thankful for our families, friends, for our jobs and work, for being blessed and fortunate to be one of the few professions that allow us to help clients and those in need. As lawyers, and as people, we have a duty and obligation to give back. I cannot keep stressing this enough. Life is not about the daily grind. At the end of life you will be remembered not for writing a nice brief, or arguing a special point of law. Of course people will know what you did for work and how "good" of a lawyer you are. But that is not enough. Not when we all are privileged to have law licenses. The license to practice is not just to practice law. It is a license to use your practice and your skills for good. You want to be remembered for all you did in life. In the "life resume", giving back to charity and helping the less fortunate will get you more points than your legal writing. Thank you all for being a part of this great organization. You should all be proud of who you are and what you do. Many lawyers think they are not good enough. We will get to that topic next month. But now we give thanks. **Come aboard with us and I promise you will be rewarded.**

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## LEGAL BRIEFS

Capehart Scatchard Shareholder, **Sanmathi (Sanu) Dev**, received the Rutgers Law-Camden Alumni Association's 2019 Recent Graduate Award. The award was presented at the 10th Annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Celebration held on November 14, 2019 at the Laurel Creek Country Club. Ms. Dev graduated from Rutgers Law-Camden in 2011. The Recent Graduate Award recognizes alumni who graduated within the past 10 years and have made significant contributions to the legal profession, local community, and the law school. Ms. Dev concentrates her practice on school law and labor and employment law. She is experienced in representing, advising, and defending boards of education and charter schools in all areas of school law including: labor and employment, special education, Section 504, student discipline and civil rights. Ms. Dev is the Chair of the Firm's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, which seeks to facilitate the Firm's efforts to achieve and maintain a diverse and inclusive workplace at every level of our organization. Ms. Dev also serves as the Firm's Hiring Shareholder.

On October 29, 2019, Capehart Scatchard shareholder, **Lauren Tedesco**, participated in the first annual Practice Area Fair held at Rutgers Law School in Camden. The Practice Area Fair offered practicing attorneys the opportunity to educate students about a particular area of law practice. The event was intended to give participants a better understanding of the work involved in the various types of law practice. During the event, Ms. Tedesco discussed her work in the area of School Law with the students.

Ms. Tedesco concentrates her practice on the representation of boards of education and charter schools in all areas of school law including: labor and employment, special education, Section 504, student discipline, FERPA, Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, student residency, civil rights, tenure, OPRA, OPMA, and teaching staff tenure matters under TEACHNJ and ACHIEVENJ.

We rely on members to provide announcements for the Legal Briefs section. If you have a new member of the firm, you've moved or you or a member of your firm has received an award or recognition for a professional or community activity, we want to know and share it with fellow bar members. Please email your submissions to [kee@camdencountybar.org](mailto:kee@camdencountybar.org).