

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



By Michael J. Dennin

BIGGER THAN YOU

Become a part of something bigger than you. It is that time of year. New Year's resolutions and promises of change and personal growth. What is your resolution? Is it about you? Something you love that you are giving up. While it is a really big deal to give up chocolate, will you not be replacing

that with something else that you should also probably be giving up? I suggest that instead of giving up something you love, that you give back to something that needs love. Our Bar Association needs your love and promises. Our Bar needs your resolutions and help. Our Bar helps our fellow lawyers, we help the people of Camden County. We help the people of New Jersey. We help children. We help the less fortunate. We help veterans. We help lawyers. We help law students. We help the Court. We help those struggling with addiction. We help regular college students. We help each other. We help the future. We are PROUD to help the future. The future needs our help.

There are so many ways that you can resolve to be a better lawyer. Are you the best lawyer you can be? Are you the best person you can be? What are you missing in your life? Do you feel empty sometimes, like you have more to give? Well, we are exactly what you need. We are here for you. We are here to help you grow. How do you do it? Just like jumping in a swimming pool or the ocean. Just jump in! We have countless ways for you to be a better you while at the same time helping other people. We have the Chili Cook-off coming up (I will not steal our star Young Lawyer Chair Chris Keating's thunder) that you can sponsor and/or attend. That

event raises money for veterans who need help with mental problems and substance abuse. You can come to our Devine Award Reception and get the chance to see two special people receive appropriate honors. You can teach a CLE on your favorite legal topic. You can come to a happy hour and mingle. You can send your associates or young lawyers at the office to the events or to our monthly meetings.

You can also **APPLY TO BE A BOARD MEMBER!!!!** Now is the time to apply to become a member of the Association or Foundation Board of Trustees. Becoming a board member is one of the most rewarding experiences of a lifetime. You have a direct line to voice your opinions and make changes. You have a direct line to meet like-minded people who like to give back and help people. You have the chance to not "build your resume" but, rather, to build your reputation and your identity. The deadline to apply is February 28. Contact Kara Edens at kee@camdencountybar.org for more information.

So, do not waste your New Year's resolution on giving up chocolate. Eat all the chocolate you want. If you really want to resolve to be better, then join our Bar Association and come to our events. Come help people. When the time comes to look back on your life, you will not remember billing hours. You will not remember giving up chocolate. However, you will remember giving back to your community, putting smiles on children's and veterans' faces. You will remember the relationships you developed, and how you became a better person. Because before you become a better lawyer, you must become a better person.

HON. FRANCINE I. AXELRAD AND BARRY W. ROSENBERG NAMED DEVINE AWARD CO-RECIPIENTS

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presiding judges in the Appellate Division in 2007. She published 23 opinions as a trial judge and published 94 opinions on the Appellate Division. Judge Axelrad retired on September 1, 2013. She returned to the Camden County Superior Court as a recall judge on March 10, 2014.

Throughout her career as a lawyer and judge, Judge Axelrad has been a lecturer at various bar association and judicial education programs and professional symposiums. She was appointed to the Supreme Court Committee on Women in the Courts in 1996 and served as its Chairperson from 2002 to 2012. She was appointed to the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Access and Fairness in the Courts in 2009 and served as Vice-Chair until 2012. She was also appointed to the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Judicial Financial Reporting in 2002 and was appointed an Appellate Division Domestic Security Review Judge in 2003; in both instances she served until her retirement. She has served on the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Extrajudicial Activities since 2016. Judge Axelrad also serves as a judge for the New Jersey State Bar Association High School Mock Trial Competition and elementary and middle school trial programs. She is a former Chancellor of the Rutgers University - Camden

Alumni Association, a recipient of the Nardi Distinguished Service Award, and has been a guest lecturer at Rutgers Law-Camden on a variety of topics during her judicial career. Judge Axelrad is currently volunteering in her sixth year as an adjunct professor at Rutgers Law-Camden teaching Trial Advocacy. Judge Axelrad was inducted in the Lakewood High School Alumni Hall of Fame in 2001. She previously volunteered as a cardio-pulmonary resuscitation instructor with the American Heart Association, Adult Leader and Merit Badge Counselor for Boy Scout Troop 147, and girls' soccer coach. She has been a longstanding participant with the Literacy Volunteers of America and Jewish Federation as an instructor of English as a Second Language.

Judge Axelrad is happily married to Barry W. Rosenberg, with whom she has two children, four grandchildren and one dog. She continues to be involved in a number of volunteer activities in the local community including monthly visits to New Lisbon Developmental Center (a residence of developmentally disabled men and women), making sandwiches for Cathedral Kitchen and other similar charities to distribute, and participates in the Foundation's annual Adopt-a-Family. Many members also know Judge Axelrad for her nearly 30-year tenure volunteering at the

Foundation's annual Children's Holiday Party in December and Children's Picnic in June, at which she happily runs the cotton candy machine.

Barry W. Rosenberg joined the Camden County Bar Association in 1978 and has served as the Association's Special Civil Part Committee Chair and the Association's representative on the Court's Special Civil Part Court Officer Committee for about 20 years. During this time, he presented numerous seminars and penned several articles for the Barrister regarding the Supreme Court's fee arbitration process and Special Civil Part practice.

Barry graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Political Science and earned his Juris Doctor from Rutgers University School of Law-Camden in 1977 when he was admitted to the New Jersey State and Federal Bars. He served as law secretary to the Honorable Rudolph J. Rossetti, J.S.C. and the Honorable Barry M. Weinberg, J.S.C. from September 1977 to September 1978 before joining the firm of Beck, D'Elia and Rosenberg where he remained until 1987. Barry formed the Law Offices of Barry W. Rosenberg in 1990 and continues his practice to this day. He is currently serving his fourth term as a member of the Supreme Court's Fee Arbitration Committee. During the last two years,

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