

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

'WHAT DO YOU TAKE FOR GRANTED?'

By Michael J. Dennin

Your family? Your friends? Your job? Your house? Your clothes? Your wealth? Your Earth? Your freedom? Surely, we all take many things for granted. We are humans.

Now stop. Close your eyes. Take a deep breath - in through your nose, and out through your mouth. Now do it two more times, breathing deeply in and out. Keep your eyes closed and think about what you have. Now, think about all of these same things that many people do not have.

Hard work gets you far in life, but there comes a point where we are lost in hard work, then we retire. Along the way, we miss countless opportunities to make changes in the world around us. We miss the chance to help someone. To help a child, a neighbor, the homeless, the poor, the oppressed, a veteran, a low-income individual, a single parent.

The good news is that you can stop taking things for granted and you can start making a change in yourself and the world around you. This past month has been extremely busy both on the Bar Association end, and on my end. However, it is a good busy because I have seen so many good people making change around them. Let us discuss some examples.

We had the Opening of Courts on September 9 at which we memorialized many great lawyers. They were not great because they were lawyers. They were great because they were great people. One cannot be a

great lawyer without first being a great person. We heard about how these people made changes around them that carry on far beyond their legal practice.

We had the Lobster Bake on September 15. I will not steal our Young Lawyers' thunder so I will not get into it except to say that every time I turn around, I am in awe of our young lawyers. They were able to, in meticulous planning, have an event that will change the lives of children with the most significant disabilities.

We had a naturalization ceremony where 19 men and women fought and succeeded in becoming American citizens. And it is ironic that these 19 people know more about our history than 50% of America. They are proud, grateful, happy, and take nothing for granted.

We had a spirited committee meeting and lined up many CLEs to provide information and knowledge to our members. We have had wonderful meetings with our board, and we have set the course for a terrific year.

We have plenty for you to do to help you not take things for granted. Please hold our hands and come with us during this year. Join us in effecting change. Join us in smelling the roses. Join us in our quest to become great humans, because it is from there that we become great lawyers. And as we stop and close our eyes each day, think of what we have and what others do not. Think of how we can help, and then help. Only then do we stop taking things for granted.



Members in the News

Charny Karpousis Altieri & Donoian, P.A. is pleased to announce that partner **Rebecca A. Berger** has been named Secretary on the Board of Trustees for the Center for Family Services. Ms. Berger has been a board member for the past two years for the century-old non-profit organization headquartered in Camden, NJ. She is a strong proponent of its commitment to uplifting individuals and families through an innovative continuum of care and supports the empowerment of individuals, families and communities to achieve better lives. Rebecca A. Berger represents clients in divorce, child custody, spousal and child support, property settlement agreements, prenuptial agreements, domestic violence and municipal court matters. Admitted to practice law in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Ms. Berger is an Associate member of the Thomas S. Forkin Family Law Inns of Court and has also been an active volunteer with the Domestic Violence Project and State of New Jersey Mediator and Community Dispute Resolution Committee.

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Nominations Sought for Devine Award

The Hon. Peter J. Devine, Jr. Award Committee is accepting nominations for this year's award. The Devine Award is the highest honor afforded to the membership and is bestowed upon a member for distinguished service to the Camden County Bar Association. The Committee is chaired by Past President Louis R. Moffa, Jr. Please use the Devine Award Nomination Form included in this month's Barrister inserts to nominate a colleague who has provided distinguished service to the Association and the legal community in Camden County.

Nominations must be received by October 31 to be considered.

