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LEGAL GUIDE

2025



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Carbon County Magisterial District Courts

Magisterial District Judges are authorized to hear the following types of cases:

Civil Cases:

1. Claims for money up to \$12,000 (not including interest and court costs).

Note that a Magisterial District Judge does not have jurisdiction to hear any claim in which legal ownership of real estate is at issue.

2. Claims under the Landlord and Tenant Act.

Criminal Cases:

1. Summary offenses, including motor vehicle violations.

2. DUI cases if: (a) it is a first offense, (b) there are no personal injuries, and (c) the defendant pleads guilty.

3. Third degree misdemeanors if the defendant

pleads guilty. Magisterial District Judges also preside over arraignments, fix bail, and issue arrest and search warrants.

They also issue Emergency Protection from Abuse Orders on nights, weekends and holidays when the Court of Common Pleas is closed.

District Court

#56-3-01

340 Center Avenue

P.O. Box 356

Jim Thorpe, PA 18229

Phone: (570) 325-2751

Fax: (570) 325-5538

Magisterial District Judge: Eric M. Schrantz
Office Supervisor: Kym Houser

Boroughs of Jim Thorpe, Lehighton and Weisport; Packerton; Jamestown; and Townships of Mahoning and Penn

Forest.

District Court

#56-3-02

401 Delaware Avenue - 2nd Floor

Palmerton, PA 18071

Phone: (610) 826-3707

Fax: (610) 826-6914

Magisterial District Judge: William J. Kissner

Office Supervisor: Jamie Graver

Boroughs of Palmerton, Bowmanstown and Parryville; Townships of Towamensing, Lower Towamensing and Franklin.

District Court

#56-3-03

417 East Ridge Street

P.O. Box 203

Lansford, PA 18232

Phone: (570) 645-3024

Fax: (570) 645-5544

Magisterial District Judge: Beth A. Dodson
Office Supervisor: Donna Peck

Boroughs of Lansford, Nesquehoning, Summit Hill and Townships of Mahoning, East Penn and New Mahoning.

District Court

#56-3-04

71 West Main Street

Weatherly, PA 18255

Phone: (570) 427-4100

Fax: (570) 427-8730

Magisterial District Judge: Joseph Homanko, Sr.

Office Supervisor: Diana Berry

Boroughs of Weatherly, Beaver Meadows, and East Side and Townships of Packer, Lausanne, Lehigh, Banks and Kidder.



Carbon Public Defender Office

Chief Public Defender:

Eric Wiltrout

P.O. Box 128, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229

Phone: (570) 325-2343

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Lehigh County Magisterial Districts

District 31-1-01

Magistrate:
Linda D. Vega
1201 Sumner Ave
Allentown, PA 18102
Phone: 610-432-3080
FAX: 610-433-0130

District 31-1-08

Magistrate:
Kyle B. Miller
2851 South Pike Ave
Allentown, PA 18103
Phone: 610-797-8724
FAX: 610-791-1401

District 31-1-02

Magistrate:
Rashid Santiago
501 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18101
Phone: 610-432-8700
FAX: 610-432-0140

District 31-2-01

Magistrate:
Karen C. Devine
501 Hamilton St
Allentown, PA 18101
Phone: 610-782-3834
FAX: 610-871-2793

District 31-1-03

Magistrate:
Ronald S. Manescu
1428 Hamilton St
Allentown, PA 18102
Phone: 610-434-7903
FAX: 610-434-0213

District 31-2-02

Magistrate:
Jacob E. Hammond
3900 Hamilton Blvd
Allentown, PA 18103
Phone: 610-434-2070
FAX: 610-434-0215

District 31-1-04

Magistrate:
David M. Howells, Jr.
1501 Lehigh St
Suite 104
Allentown, PA 18103
Phone: 610-797-0906
FAX: 610-797-3292

District 31-1-05

Magistrate:
Michael D. D'Amore
1007 Union Blvd
Allentown, PA 18109
Phone: 610-439-0661
FAX: 610-439-1257

District 31-3-01

Magistrate:
Tom Creighton
106SWalnut St
Slatington, PA 18080
Phone: 610-767-8641
FAX: 610-767-0164

District 31-1-06

Magistrate:
Amy Zanelli
623WUnion Blvd
Suite 4 & 5
Bethlehem, PA 18018
Phone: 610-691-3950
FAX: 610-691-0471

District 31-3-02

Magistrate:
Michael Faulkner
Green Hills Commerce
Center
5925 Tilghman, Suite 500
Allentown, PA 18104
Phone: 610-398-1167
FAX: 610-398-2185

District 31-1-07

Magistrate:
Todd P. Heffelfinger
3678 Crescent Court East
Whitehall, PA 18052
Phone: 610-437-6096
FAX: 610-437-3462

District 31-3-03

Magistrate:
Daniel Trexler
21NMain St
Coopersburg, PA 18036
Phone: 610-282-1555
FAX: 610-282-2642

District 31-1-09

Magistrate:
Mark A. McCants
413 N. 3rd St.
Allentown, PA 18102
Phone: 610-778-5410
FAX: 610-778-5403



Lehigh Judges of the Court

President Judge J. Brian Johnson
Judge Robert L. Steinberg
Judge James T. Anthony
Judge Michele A. Varricchio
Judge Douglas G. Reichley
Judge Melissa T. Pavlack
Judge Anna-Kristie M. Marks
Judge Thomas M. Caffrey
Judge Thomas A. Capehart
Judge Zachary J. Cohen
Senior Judge Carol K. McGinley
Senior Judge Edward D. Reibman

The District Court Administrator, Kerry R. Turzto, and the Deputy District Court Administrator, John Sikora, are responsible for the supervision of all court-related departments of the Judiciary, to include Adult Probation, Juvenile Probation, Domestic Relations, Magisterial District Court personnel, the Law Library, the Court Transcription Unit, and court staff personnel.

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(610) 821-8580



Carbon Judges of the Court

President Judge Roger N. Nanovic

Lead Judicial Secretary:
Joanne M. Maurer
Law Clerk: Kailey Jones
Telephone: 570-325-3661
Fax: (570) 325-4552

Roger N. Nanovic was sworn into office as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Carbon County on August 1, 2001. Endorsed by both the Carbon County Republican and Democratic parties, he was elected on November 6, 2001, and was retained for another

10 years in 2011 and 2021. Judge Nanovic is a life-long resident of Carbon County. He is a 1972 graduate of the Palmerton Area High School, a 1976 graduate of the University of Notre Dame, and a 1979 graduate of the Dickinson School of Law of The Pennsylvania State University.

Prior to being a member of the judiciary, Judge Nanovic was engaged in the general practice of law for 22 years. During this

period, Judge Nanovic was actively involved in a broad range of legal issues. Judge Nanovic has extensive experience in municipal law and civil litigation in both the state and federal courts. He served as Carbon County Solicitor from 1992 to 1996.

Judge Nanovic resides in the Jim Thorpe area with his wife, Cindy. Judge Nanovic and his wife are the parents of three children.



Judge Joseph J. Matika

Judicial Secretary:
Carla Hill
Law Clerk: vacant
Phone: (570) 325-9419
Fax: (570) 325-9449

On November 8, 2011, Joseph J. Matika was elected as the nineteenth judge to serve on the bench of the Court of Common Pleas of Carbon County.

Judge Matika began his duties as judge after being sworn in on January 2, 2012.

See **MATIKA** on Page 5



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Learn more about this exciting growth and Gross McGinley, LLP at GrossMcGinley.com.

MATIKA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

On January 2, 2022, after having been retained, began his second ten-year term on the bench.

Judge Matika is a 1980 graduate of Panther Valley High School. He furthered his education at King's College in

Wilkes-Barre where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice and Government. Judge Matika obtained his Juris Doctor (J.D.) Degree from the University of Bridgeport School of Law in Bridgeport, Connecticut in June 1987.

Judge Matika served as Assistant District At-

torney from 1994-2011. Additionally, prior to taking the bench, he was a sole practitioner from 1988 until 2000.

In 2001, Judge Matika along with Attorney Joseph Velitsky established the law firm of Velitsky and Matika in Summit Hill where for 12 years they maintained a general practice of law.

He has also held many solicitorships throughout Carbon and Schuylkill counties over the years.

Judge Matika handles a variety of civil, criminal and orphan's court matters along with children & youth and domestic relations cases. He also oversees the County's Veterans and Drug Treatment Court.

Judge Steven R. Serfass

Judicial Secretary:
Rayonna Fedor
Law Clerk:
Daniel Woodman
Phone: (570) 325-3791
Fax: (570) 325-3288

Judge Steven R. Serfass is currently serving his sixteenth year on the Court of Common Pleas, having been elected by the voters of Carbon County in 2009. He became Carbon County's eighteenth Judge when

he was sworn into office on January 4, 2010. He was retained to another 10 year term in 2019.

During his tenure on the bench, Judge Serfass has attained extensive experience in handling all types of civil and criminal proceedings.

A lifelong resident of Carbon County, Judge erfass graduated from Lehigh Area High School and continued his education at Dickinson College where he ob-

tained a bachelor of arts degree in political science and history, cum laude. He went on to earn his juris doctor degree at Temple University School of Law.

Judge Serfass maintained general law practice in Palmerton for fourteen years concentrating on municipal law, business law and civil litigation.

He served as Carbon County Solicitor from 2000 to 2004.



Judge Serfass and his wife, Jenny, reside in Palmerton with their children, Benjamin and Hannah.



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**The Law Office of
Kim M. Gillen, P.C.**

Attorney Kim Gillen received her Juris Doctor degree from Widener University School of Law — Harrisburg Campus in 2007 and was admitted to the Pennsylvania bar the same year. Through many years of practice, she has acquired deep experience in essential legal disciplines, with particular concentrations in family law, estate planning, labor law, landlord/tenant law and contracts. On the criminal side, her caseload includes defense for traffic offenses, misdemeanors, felonies, DUI offenses, and juvenile cases.

She is appointed as Conflicts Counsel in Carbon County for criminal cases and is also a court-appointed arbitrator, having served as chair on arbitration panels. In 2021, she was named the first dependency review Hearing Officer in Carbon County; she continues in this role today.

Attorney Gillen is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Carbon County Bar Association, where she has been association secretary since 2015. From 2012 through June 2021, Attorney Gillen was solicitor for the Carbon County Office of Children and Youth Services. In addition, in January 2023, she joined the Juvenile Court Hearing Officer Committee. In March of 2023, she began working as a GAL/Parent Attorney in Lehigh County.

She has served as the Carbon County Bar Association Zone II Delegate to the state bar association. Since 2009, she has been a member of the Carbon County Board of Directors.

A 2000 graduate of Pocono Mountain High School, Kim received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Sociology from Penn State University in 2004 with honors. At university, she performed with the Penn State Blue Band at Beaver Stadium. She resides in Lehighton with her husband, Jim, and their two young sons.

Carbon County Jury Department

Administrative
Assistant: Sherry Snyder
Phone: (570) 325-4759
Fax: (570) 325-9449
Email: juryadmin@carboncourts.com

JURY DUTY INFORMATION

Carbon County's Jury Department, with the help of a state-of-the-art computer system, selects, qualifies, and summons jurors each month for civil and criminal trials.

The Court is very sensitive to the convenience of jurors as well as the sacrifice made in serving as jurors. If you are selected as a juror, you will serve for the duration of that trial only.

Jury selection is normally completed in one day. If you are not selected, you will be dismissed. In either case you will have fulfilled your jury service obligation.

Prior to their scheduled appearance jurors log on to the Jury Portal website OR telephone the Jury Information Telephone System to determine if they are required to report, or if inclement weather or other developments require a change in the court date or time.

Jurors report on the first day of the trial term (session) and are selected for all cases scheduled for that term. They are assigned a specific trial date during the trial term.

SELECTION FOR JURY SERVICE

Each session (approximately 11 per year), jury questionnaire summons are mailed to prospective jurors. Juror names are randomly selected by the computer from registered licensed drivers, voter registrations, school census lists, etc. Instructions are provided for jurors to complete their Jury Questionnaire with 10 days by going online to the Jury Portal internet address.

In order to qualify for jury service, you must meet the following requirements:

- You must not have been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for more than one year.
- You must be able to read, write, and speak the

English language.

- You must be physically and mentally able to perform the functions of a juror.
- You must be a United States citizen at the time you are summoned.
- You must be a Carbon County resident and at least 18 years of age to serve on Jury Duty in the 56th Judicial District of Carbon County.

IF YOU QUALIFY FOR JURY SERVICE:

• Bring the Summons with you when you report for service. Be sure to carefully read all of the instructions before you report for service. Report to Carbon County Courthouse, Courtroom #1 on the 2nd Floor.

• Persons with disabilities should notify the Jury Department within 10 days from receipt of summons for jury service of any request for accommodations.

• **YOU MUST BRING THE ORIGINAL SUMMONS WITH YOU WHEN YOU REPORT FOR SERVICE. DO NOT GIVE YOUR ORIGINAL SUMMONS TO YOUR EMPLOYER. PROOF OF JURY SERVICE IS PROVIDED UPON REQUEST TO EACH JUROR.**

• **PLEASE REMEMBER: WEAPONS, INCLUDING PENKNIVES, CUTTING INSTRUMENTS, PEPPER GAS AND MACE ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE BUILDING AND WILL BE CONFISCATED AND NOT RETURNED. CELLULAR PHONES SHOULD BE SILENCED OR TURNED OFF IN THE COURTHOUSE.**

REQUESTING AN EXCUSAL OR POSTPONEMENT

All requests for postponement or excusal from jury service can be made online as the juror completes the online questionnaire process. If your request is approved, an excusal will be sent to you either electronically or by USPS.

If you are mentally or physically unable to serve as a juror, your doctor should fax or email a medical certification form to fax number (570) 325-9449 or the email address of juryadmin@carboncourts.com.


If you are requesting a job-related excuse, your employer should certify the hardship by letter and include the nature of your work, role with the company and state that your role is too vital for the company to allow you to attend jury duty.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN 10 DAYS OF RECEIPT WHETHER YOU QUALIFY OR DO NOT QUALIFY.

All qualified prospective jurors are placed on a stand-by list. A reminder to appear is sent electronically or by USPS to each juror about 2 weeks before your service date. The reminder instructs you to log into the Jury Portal or call the Jury Information Telephone System, the weekend before your service for stand-by instructions.

JURY SERVICE IN THE COURTHOUSE

• **DRESS CODE:** Proper attire is required in Court. Individuals wearing shorts, tank tops, swimwear, and any other inappropriate garment will not be allowed into the courtrooms.



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Lehigh County Jury Duty

CONTACT INFORMATION
Juror Reporting Information
(610) 782-3433

GENERAL INFORMATION
24 hour taped message (610) 782-3950
QUESTIONS TO DISTRICT COURT
Administrator (610) 782-3014

The Importance of Jury Service

When our ancestors came to the United States, they brought with them the concept of trial by jury. This great privilege, which they regarded as their birthright, protected them from the oppressive power of the king and the arbitrary or partial judgment of the court. It is not surprising, then, that the Founding Fathers incorporated the concept of trial by jury into the Constitution of the United States. Article III, Section 2, and the Sixth and Seventh Amendments provide each of us with this fundamental and basic right. Accompanying this right and privilege, however, is the obligation to participate actively in the judicial process as a juror. The successful operation of the judicial system which is designed to protect the rights of each of us de-

pends upon the willingness of men and women of sound judgment and absolute honesty and fairness to serve.

Each month approximately 2,000 prospective jurors are summoned under the direction of the Court Administrator and the Board of Judges. The selection is at random by computer from the drivers' license list.

Serving as a juror is one of the fundamental rights and privileges of being a United States citizen. You should welcome the experience. Most people who actually serve as a juror on a trial will tell you that it is a very educational and interesting experience.

The Court recognizes the inconvenience jury service may cause. However, the success of the jury system depends upon the willingness of men and women of integrity and intelligence to accept jury service, and upon the fidelity with which they discharge that responsibility.

Lehigh County Departments / Divisions

Adult Probation & Parole Department
 Phone (610) 782-3933
 Fax (610) 871-2784

CASA
 Phone (610) 782-3858
 Fax (610) 782-3734

Clerk of Orphans' Court
 Phone (610) 782-3172
 Fax (610) 782-3928

Court Administration
 Phone (610) 782-3014
 Fax (610) 871-2779
Court Transcription Unit

Phone (610) 782-3300
 Fax (610) 782-3648

Custody Office
 Phone (610) 782-3390
 Fax (610) 782-3866

Divorce Master
 Phone (610) 782-3820
 Fax (610) 871-1456

Domestic Relations
 Phone (610) 782-3185
 Fax (610) 782-3725

Juvenile Probation Department
 Phone (610) 782-3143
 Fax (610) 871-2781

Lawyer Referral Service
 Phone (610) 433-7094
 Fax (610) 770-9826

Library and Information Services
 Phone (610) 782-3385

Marriage License Office
 Phone (610) 782-3173

PFA Office
 Phone (610) 782-3390
 Fax (610) 782-3866

Pretrial Services
 Phone (610) 289-2410
 Fax (610) 289-2440

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Attorney at Law



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Jason M. Rapa, Esquire, is a lawyer licensed and admitted to practice law in the State of Pennsylvania and before all three Pennsylvania Federal Courts, the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of Pennsylvania and the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Jason attended King's College and Widener University School of Law where he graduated cum laude. He started Rapa Law Office, P.C. in 2005, with the mission to assist clients struggling with legal and financial difficulties. Jason focuses his practice in the areas of bankruptcy, consumer protection, personal injury and estate planning and administration.

Since his admission to the practice of law in 2002, Jason has represented thousands of clients in the areas of bankruptcy, consumer protection, personal injury and estate planning and administration. Since opening Rapa Law office, P.C. in 2005 he has recovered millions of dollars for his clients. Super Lawyer Magazine has recognized Jason as both Rising Star (under 40) and a Super Lawyer for the legal services he has provided his clients. Jason maintains memberships in the National Association of Consumer Advocates and the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, keeping him on top of the latest developments and trends in the fields of bankruptcy and consumer protection law. He routinely lectures on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act at state and national consumer law conferences, as well as Continuing Legal Education seminars of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute and local bar associations.

Jason enjoys devoting his time to the residents of Carbon County. Jason has participated in the Wills for Heroes Program, providing no-cost estate planning documents to veterans and first responders and assists Carbon County Area Agency on Aging by preparing wills, powers of attorney and healthcare powers of attorney for Carbon County senior citizens.

Matthew J. Rapa, Esquire, is an attorney licensed to practice in the state of Pennsylvania, as well as in Federal Court for the Eastern and Middle Districts of Pennsylvania. He attended East Stroudsburg University, where he graduated summa cum laude and was a captain of the East Stroudsburg University football team. Following college, Matthew continued his

education at Widener University School of Law. While at Widener, Matthew participated in the Trial Advocacy Program and discovered his passion for criminal law. Before graduating, he volunteered at the Widener Law Clinic to assist indigent citizens and interned at the Monroe County Public Defender's Office.

Upon graduation, Matthew joined his brother at Rapa Law Office, P.C. and began dedicating himself to criminal defense. In addition to representing individuals privately in criminal cases, Matthew served as a part time public defender in Carbon County for three years in order to assist indigent individuals while gaining invaluable experience in cases ranging from traffic offense to homicide charges. Through his training and experience, Matthew has learned that no two cases are exactly alike and each case deserves an individualized strategy based on the facts of the case and each client's needs. With keen attention to detail and relentless work ethic, Matthew has achieved countless victories in the courtroom which include numerous trial acquittals and complete dismissals based upon violations of clients' constitutional rights.

As a result of his accomplishments in the courtroom, Matthew has received various awards recognizing his skill as a defense attorney. From 2013 through 2018, Matthew was named a "Rising Star" by Super Lawyers Magazine. Only 2.5% of the attorneys in Pennsylvania are selected to Rising Stars. The American Society for Legal Advocates has recognized Attorney Rapa as one of the Top 40 Under 40 Criminal Lawyers in Pennsylvania. Most recently, Matthew was named a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer in the area of criminal defense by Super Lawyers Magazine.



Carbon County Adult Probation/Parole Department

Chief Adult Probation Officer:
Dr. Janene Holter, PhD
Phone: (570) 325-4226
Fax: (570) 325-4250

"Building Stronger and Safer Communities"

DUI Coordinator: As of January 1, 2025, the Adult Probation department was named the DUI Coordinator. This enables the department to complete all Court Reporting Networks (CRNS) on persons charged with a DUI in Carbon County. This department also conducts all Alcohol Highway Safety Program (AHSP) classes for the County as the DUI Coordinator.

Adult Probation prepares **Pre-Sentence Investigations (PSI) and Sentencing Guidelines**. When requested by the Court, the department prepares a PSI report that is biographical in nature. It covers such areas as prior convictions, family history, educational and employment history, as well as prior treatment history for any type of substance use disorder or illness. The PSI report also includes recommendations for appropriate sentencing. The Court uses the PSI report as a tool in determining the appropriate sentence for the offender, as well as, all Sentencing Guidelines for all criminal matters to aid the Court in sentencing.

The primary mission of the department is to partner with the community in providing evidence-based and appropriate supervision to enhance public safety. This is done by holding offenders accountable while providing offenders with the tools to make positive change and to become productive members of society.

The Department provides numerous levels of supervision: Pretrial Services, Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) Program, Community Supervision, General Supervision and Restrictive Conditions.

Pretrial Services enables the Department to supervise offenders ordered by the Magisterial District Judges to supervised bail. Offenders must comply with standardized conditions. This allows lower risk offenders to be released from the jail and to address any treatment needs.

Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) Program: This program is only available to defendants recommended by the District Attorney. This program is designed to divert first-time DUI or minor offense offenders from having a criminal conviction. Upon successful completion, the program allows for the dismissal of criminal charges and the expungement of their criminal record.

See **ADULT** on Page 11

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WELCOME TO HEINTZELMAN LAW OFFICES

For more than thirty years, Attorney Heintzelman has provided legal services to her Clients in Carbon County.

A lifelong resident of Lehighon, Pennsylvania, Attorney Heintzelman earned her law degree from Dickinson School of Law. Her experience in her chosen field has given her the edge when it comes to professional legal representation.

All clients deserve personalized service and attention to detail. Attorney Heintzelman believes that the best results are achieved when lawyer and client work together to achieve your goals.

Attorney Heintzelman can provide you with legal advice on a wide range of subjects, including but not limited to elder law, wills, estates, family matters and business matters.

Protect the life you have created. Avoid taking unnecessary risks with your family, your business or your assets. Call today for an appointment, and have your legal questions answered by an attorney with knowledge and experience. Attorney Heintzelman can help you understand and solve your legal issues.

ATTY. HOLLY A. HEINTZELMAN
 192 South First St., Lehighon PA 18235
610-377-3331

ADULT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Community Supervision: The Department has geographically assigned Probation Officers who provide general supervision services to offenders who reside in Carbon County.

General Supervision: This requires the Probation Officer to meet and counsel offenders in a variety of settings, which include the Adult Probation Office, the offender's home and various community settings.

As part of the supervision, the officer assesses the offender risk and needs, determines the level of supervision and recommends placement in the appropriate programs and/or services when deemed necessary. In the event an offender violates any of the conditions of supervision, the

officer will file a petition to revoke the sentence.

Restrictive Conditions: The Department is currently responsible for the supervision of those offenders sentenced to Restrictive Conditions of Probation. This program includes house arrest, home electronic monitoring, intensive supervision and residential inpatient treatment. These sentencing options divert offenders from incarceration.

Specialty Courts: The Department provides support and supervision to both the Veterans Treatment Court and the Drug Treatment Court. Specialty Courts represent a collaborative effort with Veterans and those with substance use disorder to promote a path to recovery. This gives each participant the opportunity to become a healthy, productive member of society.

Office of the District Attorney

District Attorney:

MICHAEL S. GREEK, Esquire

Carbon County Courthouse, 2nd Floor

Phone: (570) 325-2718 • Fax: (570) 325-3525

Website: carboncountyda.com

First Assistant District Attorney:

Cynthia A. Dyrda-Hatton, Esquire

Special Assistant District Attorney:

Gary F. Dobias, Esquire

Assistant District Attorney:

Jennifer L. Rapa, Esquire

Assistant District Attorney:

Joseph D. Perilli, Esquire

Assistant District Attorney:

Brian B. Gazo, Esquire

Assistant District Attorney: Kara M. Beck, Esquire

Chief County Detective: Jack Soberick

County Detective: Timothy Wuttke

Victim/Witness Coordinator: Marcella Reeser

Office Administrator: Renee Russell

Legal Secretary II: Denise Williams-Amill

Legal Secretary I: Robert DeFuso

Clerical Specialist/Discovery Coordinator:

Samantha Whitehead

Part Time Legal Secretary: Roberta Bales



**Family Law - DUI Defense
Probate/Estates**

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Sebelin & Sebelin P.C.

"People often think that in order to change the world you have to do something big, something heroic like a superhero, but that's not true. Being a good parent, overcoming addiction for the sake of your family – These are the things that matter. That's why I give it my all in every custody case and criminal trial I litigate." - Joseph V. Sebelin, Jr., Esquire

Sebelin & Sebelin P.C. opened its doors in the summer of 2018 with a mission – to fight hard for their clients and their community. Founded by two life-long residents of Carbon County, Joseph and David Sebelin, who practice in areas of divorce, custody, support, criminal defense, and estate litigation. Whether you need someone to draft you a simple Will or have been accused of a crime you didn't commit, the Sebelin brothers are there to guide you through the legal process.

"A law firm should be more than just a business, it should be a refuge of the accused and an advocate of the community." - David M. Sebelin, Esquire

Sebelin & Sebelin P.C. represent members of the community in courtrooms across Northeastern Pennsylvania and the Lehigh Valley. Located at 301 South 3rd Street in Lehighton, Pennsylvania, Sebelin & Sebelin P.C. can serve all your legal needs. For more information, or if you want to schedule a free consultation, please call 610-379-4499 or visit their website at SebelinNow.com.

As a thank you to the community, every veteran and first responder receives a 25% discount on their legal needs.

Carbon County Juvenile Probation

**Chief Juvenile
Probation Officer:
Joseph Greco**
Phone: (570) 325-2417
Fax: (570) 325-8827

The mission of the Juvenile Probation Office is to provide delinquent youths with programs of supervision, care, and rehabilitation utilizing a balanced approach of protection of the community, accountability for offenses committed, and development of competencies in order to become responsible and productive members of the community. All misdemeanor and felony charges filed against minors, age 10 to 17, are processed by this department. This Department of the Court of Common Pleas provides the following services to the public and the youths of Carbon County:

COMMUNITY PROBATION

Two Juvenile Probation Officers visit the Senior and Junior High Schools of Lehigh, Palmerton, Weatherly, Panther Valley, and Jim Thorpe as well as the Carbon County Vocational Technical School on a regular basis to deal with juveniles who are under the Juvenile Probation Office's supervision.

Meeting weekly helps the juveniles deal with their problems and ensures that the juveniles are in compliance with the conditions of their supervision. As a member of the schools' Student Assistance Programs, information is exchanged relative to probation clients and results in the development of appropriate treatment plans for juveniles.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

This program enhances the Balanced Approach of Restorative Justice by assisting area non-profit organizations, such as fire companies, churches, local schools, townships, boroughs, and civic organizations with numerous projects that benefit the community. Juveniles can also participate in the restitution program completing community service hours. Juveniles work for minimum wage with that money being paid directly to the juvenile crime victim.

INTAKE

The intake procedure expedites the intake process on all referrals received by having one Probation Officer review all case material, conduct an intake interview with the juvenile and his/her guardian, recommend a disposition for each case,

See **JUVENILE** on Page 13

Bowe & Odorizzi Law Offices

**Attorneys Tony Odorizzi,
Erik Helbing, Jeff Bowe
& Marty Cerullo**

- **Estate Planning**
- **Estate Administration**
- **Real Estate • Bankruptcy**



**109 West Broad
Street, Tamaqua, PA**
(570) 668-1241

**450 West Market
Street, Pottsville, PA**
(570)-622-0767

JUVENILE

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and then assigns the case to the appropriate Juvenile Probation Officer for final disposition.

VICTIM/WITNESS SERVICES

A Victim/Witness brochure provides information on how to participate in all phases of the Juvenile Court process. A Victim Claim Form allows each victim an opportunity to submit a restitution claim against the juvenile and provides an avenue to express his or her expectations regarding disposition of the case. A grant was received from the Federal government in which the Victims' Resource Center provides additional services to victims of juvenile crime.

STUDENT VISITATION PROGRAM

In an effort to expose students to the Judicial System, the Juvenile Probation Office extends to all area schools an opportunity to witness actual court proceedings. This program allows students to observe criminal court proceedings, to ask questions of both Court personnel and the Judges, and to witness real life by enlightening them on the consequences of their behavior. Hopefully, this experience will help serve as a deterrent to high-risk behaviors such as crime and drug and alcohol abuse.

Carbon County Prothonotary

PROTHONOTARY KAYLA SEMMEL

First Deputy: Kelly S. Solt

Second Deputy: Amanda Rowe

PFA Clerk/Coordinator: Denise Buchanan

Automation/Passport Clerk: Alyssa Matika

Phone: (570) 324-2481 • Fax: (570) 325-8047

In November of 2019, Kayla Semmel was elected as Prothonotary of Carbon County and was re-elected to office in 2023.

Family matters of Divorce, Custody, and Protection from Abuse account for the largest areas of case filings. The office also processes over 40 various Civil Case types. Passport applications and notary affidavits are part of the daily process that takes place in this office.

Electronic imaged documents are available to the Court since 2000. Since December 2014, all civil cases can now be viewed on the Internet for a yearly fee.

The Prothonotary's Office has seen significant growth in their caseload since 2020. Mental Health cases doubled from 2022 to 2023 and there has been an upward trend for all case types filed in the office.

Bowe & Odorizzi Law Offices

Bowe & Odorizzi Law, with its main office at 109 West Broad Street in downtown Tamaqua, carries on its proud tradition of serving the legal needs of area residents for over six decades.

Attorneys Tony Odorizzi, Erik Helbing, Jeff Bowe and Marty Cerullo offer experienced, quality legal services in the areas of:

- estate planning
- estate administration/probate
- real estate
- personal injury
- bankruptcy
- business related law from start-up and financing to sale/dissolution

Attorneys Odorizzi, Helbing and Bowe operate out of our Tamaqua office, while Attorney Cerullo operates out of the firm's satellite office at 450 West

Market Street (at Garfield Square) in Pottsville. Marty has been practicing in that location for over 40 years and has built a sterling reputation as a top-notch business, real estate and probate attorney.

Bowe & Odorizzi Law is proud to serve as solicitors to the Tamaqua Area School District, Borough of Tamaqua, Tamaqua Area Water Authority, Tamaqua CRIZ Authority and the Schuylkill County Airport Authority.

PHONE: (570) 668-1241

(Tamaqua Office)

PHONE: (570) 622-0767

(Pottsville Office - for Attorney Cerullo)

When you need a lawyer, put our more than 100 years' experience to work for you.

Carbon County Domestic Relations

Domestic Relations Director: Carla Ferguson
Phone: (570) 325-2681
Fax: (570) 325-2443

MISSION STATEMENT

The functions of the Domestic Relations Office are to:

- Establish paternity
- Establish and maintain Support Orders
- Enforce Financial and Medical Orders
- Locate absent parents.

Since July 1, 1998, the Carbon County Domestic Relations Office has been a part of the Pennsylvania Child Support Enforcement System, known as PACSES. All counties in Pennsylvania are a part of this statewide-computerized system. As of October 1, 1999, a centralized office in Harrisburg, known as the State Collection and Disbursement Unit (SCDU), handles all support payments and check processing. This has changed the way support money is collected and disbursed in Carbon County. All other services are still

provided through the Carbon County Domestic Relations Office.

The Domestic Relations Office does not address problems with custody and visitation. The appropriate legal authority to handle these matters is either an attorney or the Court. You can contact the Prothonotary's office for more information at (570) 325-2481, or go to the Court website, www.carboncourts.com, for forms and instructions on filing a custody complaint.

How to Contact Us

The Carbon County Domestic Relations Office is located at 76 Susquehanna St., 2nd floor, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 30, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. You can contact the office by phone at (570) 325-2179 or (570) 325-2681 or by fax at (570) 325-2443. You can contact SCDU for payment information at their toll-free number, 1-877-727-7238. You can also access your case through the internet by using the PACSES portal at www.support.state.pa.us.

Victims Resource Center

VRC SERVICES INCLUDE:

- A 24 hour hotline
- Information about the criminal justice system
- Advocacy for victim's rights
- Accompaniment to hospitals, police stations, and Courts
- Assistance in filing for Crime Victims Compensation
- Counseling to handle the fear, anger and depression
- Emotional support
- Referral to community resources and social service agencies for additional help

All services are free and confidential. Services are available to men, women, teens and children.

You can contact VRC in person at: 1001 Mahoning Street, Lehighton, PA 18235, or by calling toll-free at 1-866-206-9050 or call the local hotline at 610-379-0151.

Lehigh Domestic Relations

Domestic Relations
455 W. Hamilton Street - Room 320
Allentown, PA 18101
(610) 782-3185
Fax (610) 782-3725
Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lehigh County Domestic Relations Section is to provide services to dependent children and spouses through establishment of paternity, establishment of support orders, and enforcement of support orders. This mission is accomplished with respect for the needs of all parties involved in the support case.

The Domestic Relations Section provides all services in compliance with Federal, State, and local laws, and local Rules of Court.

Introduction

The Domestic Relations Section (DRS) is part of the Family Court of the Lehigh County Court of Common Pleas which provides support services to custodial parents seeking financial support from an absent or non-custodial parent. Additionally, the DRS establishes support orders for dependent spouses.

The DRS consists of judges, managers, hearing officers, conference officers, and various technical and clerical support staff. The DRS staff is assisted by the PACSES (Pennsylvania Child Support Enforcement System) statewide computer system and is trained to make recommendations to the Court for support amounts when the parties involved in the support case are unable to come to an agreement.

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610-377-7731

141 S. 1st St., Lehighton, PA 18235
 609 Hamilton St., Allentown, PA 18101

WWW.RAPALEGAL.COM
FACEBOOK.COM/RAPALEGAL
 "We are a debt relief agency"

Welcome to Strubinger Law

The attorneys of Strubinger Law, P.C., are local lawyers who have aggressively represented clients in the courts of Carbon County, Monroe County, Lehigh County, Northampton County and Schuylkill County. Also, our attorneys have represented clients in the Federal Courts in the Eastern and Middle Districts of Pennsylvania. In addition to trying jury trials in the state and federal courts, the attorneys of Strubinger Law, P.C. have extensive experience handling cases before governmental agencies. Specifically, our attorneys regularly appear before the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Judges and the Federal Administrative Law Judges hearing Social Security cases representing the injured and disabled.

Our attorneys have vigorously acted on behalf of their clients with respect to work related injuries, auto accidents, and slip and falls. These instances have resulted in cases for workers' compensation benefits, personal injury and social security disability.

With more than 30 years of experience, Attorney Strubinger is the only lawyer in Carbon County to be certified as a specialist in the practice of Workers' Compensation as authorized by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. This is an accomplishment of a limited amount of attorneys throughout the Commonwealth.



STRUBINGER LAW_{P.C.}

Attorneys At Law

In case you need us.



Atty. Matthew G. Strubinger, Atty. Gerald F. Strubinger, Jr., Atty. Matthew G. Schnell

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**PERSONAL
INJURY**



**SOCIAL SECURITY
DISABILITY**

**505 Delaware Avenue, Palmerton
610-826-7678**

www.strubingerlawoffices.com