

An Open Letter to the Citizens of Allegheny County

from the Allegheny County Bar Association



Donald L. Very
President

WE SHOULD GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER

Every part of your day brings you in contact with the law. When you buy a loaf of bread, cash a check, drive your car or go to work, you are involved with the law. Yet the law and lawyers are the most misunderstood of all of the subjects and people that affect your lives.

WE'RE STARTING AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM TO TURN THIS AROUND !!

Do you know a lawyer?

If you do, do you know what he or she does, how legal fees are set and when you need one?

I venture to say you don't!!

I also believe that the lawyer-members of the Bar Association do not have a complete understanding of all of the problems of the community, the attitudes of our people about the law and how we can improve the availability of legal services for all the people.

To better educate our community, we offer the following services which are available:

(a) **FREE PUBLIC INFORMATION PAMPHLETS**—These easy to read pamphlets are available to you, simply by clipping the form below and returning it to Bar Association Headquarters:

- WHEN YOU NEED A LAWYER . . . and HOW TO FIND ONE
- TIPS TO PROSPECTIVE LAW STUDENTS
- WHO NEEDS A WILL? YOU DO
- HANDBOOK FOR JURORS
- HOW DO LAWYERS CHARGE?
- YOUR FAMILY LAWYER

(b) **LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE** — If you need a lawyer but don't know one or how to find one, I suggest you call the Bar Association's Lawyer Referral Service. Telephone the Service at 261-0518 and ask for the Lawyer Referral Service. State your problem and a representative will advise you. The Service will direct you to one of the more than 500 area lawyers on its panel for a half-hour consultation for just \$12. If you need additional legal services, you can agree upon the fee arrangements and additional services at the first interview.

The Lawyer Referral Service is located at 920 City-County Building, corner of Grant and Forbes Streets, downtown Pittsburgh. If it is inconvenient for you to visit the Service's offices, you may request a telephone referral to a participating attorney in your neighborhood. These attorneys are willing to see you in their day or evening offices, possibly in their homes or yours, or at your place of business.

(c) **SPEAKER'S BUREAU** - Traditionally, lawyers are good speakers. When you or any organization to which you belong need a speaker for a program, call the Bar Association's Speaker's Bureau. Experienced lawyers are available at no charge to speak on a wide variety of subjects, including the Court System, wills and estates, family law, estate law, juvenile law, marriage and divorce, and many, many more educational and enlightening topics.

Just clip the coupon below for a Speaker's Bureau pamphlet, or call 261-0518. Your inquiry will be promptly answered.

(d) **COURT HOUSE TOURS** - An actual trial in progress can be a very interesting experience. If any of your organizations desire to see an actual trial, whether civil or criminal, it can be arranged. The Allegheny County Association of LAWYER'S WIVES conducts fall and spring tours for groups of no more than 50 at a time. A brief introductory lecture is given prior to the actual visit, explaining the court system in our County. It's an educational and highly entertaining experience.

Just telephone Bar Association Headquarters, 261-0518, for a time and date.

(e) **OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE THROUGH THE BAR ASSOCIATION.**

Use of CREDIT CARD to pay for the services of your attorney.

Scholarship loans for needy law students residing in western Pennsylvania.

A Legal Secretarial and Paralegal Placement Service.

The screening of candidates for the local trial Courts and issuing public endorsements of the persons believed to be qualified.

A Professional Ethics Committee for the maintenance of professional integrity.

The conduct of more than 80 post-graduate educational seminars to maintain the highest level of professional competence of lawyers.

TO HELP US GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER!!

We have invited representatives from various area corporations and businesses, chambers of commerce, civic agencies, governmental representatives, trade unions and professional organizations, and other community groups to attend a series of community meetings to discuss your needs and further our educational exchange. You can help us to get to know you better by giving us the benefit of your comments and suggestions about the County Courts, legal services and how they can be improved. If you have comments and suggestions, let us hear from you in the form below.

I hope you have found this message interesting and informative, and thank you for taking the time to read it. May I suggest that you save this message and refer to it often.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Very
President

(Cut Off, Fill Out and Return)

TO: The Allegheny County Bar Association
920 City-County Building Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

Please send the following:

- "When You Need a Lawyer and How to Find One"
- "Tips to Prospective Students"
- "Who Needs a Will? You Do"
- "Handbook for Jurors"
- "How do Lawyers Charge?"
- "Your Family Lawyer"
- "Speakers Bureau" brochures

Your Comments, Questions and Suggestions

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____