

## The Bar Around The Corner: Schenectady County Bar Association

### Association Address/Phone:

P.O. Box 1728, Schenectady NY 12301-1728  
518-393-4115 | info@schenectadycountybar.org

Website: www.schenectadycountybar.org

Founded: 1916

Members: 300

**Vision/Purpose.** To promote collegiality among members of the bar, to advance education within the profession, and to assist members of the public with the legal system.

**Brief History.** Incorporated in 1916, the Schenectady County Bar Association (SCBA) has a long history of professional development and community service, including continuing legal education, mentoring, public information

and legal services programs.

This long history includes aiding soldiers in completing documents as they entered the service from World War I to more recent conflicts; creating legal services programs in coordination with area civic organizations, including SCBA's current award-winning modest means matrimonial service; and public education ask-a-lawyer programs and speakers.

The Association has advocated for improvements in court facilities and procedures in practice. Professional development courses have been a part of the SCBA over its century of service, including today's annual real estate practice and trusts and estates/elder law seminars popular in the Capital District.

**What is your association's most popular outgoing/social event?** The SCBA's annual awards reception reflects the collegiality and mentoring aspects of membership, with award recipients often expressing appreciation for the availability of other members in sharing their experience



and knowledge, when they were beginning practice or entering new fields.

**What is your association's goal for next month? Next year?** A goal is to continue and enhance the Association's provision of services and resources to assist members in their work. For example, we have established monthly "brown bag" CLEs at the county courthouse available at no charge to members as a benefit and open to others at a fee. Membership outreach also is an ongoing goal.

**What is your association's most important current project/initiative?** As this is our anniversary year, we have had the opportunity to share, at our May gala, a bit of its history and profile the members of the bar who have shaped the Association.

In reviewing accomplishments, we also are working to ensure the



**Celebration**—Then-President David P. Miranda was on hand to help Patricia L. R. Rodriguez, vice president of the SCBA, celebrate the bar's 100th anniversary May 18.

Association continues to present high-level CLE, practical resources and opportunities for mentoring and networking; provide the experience of our members in commenting on and proposing measures for the effective functioning of the legal system; and work to increase public education.

**How has your membership over the years helped to improve your association?** The SCBA membership, governance and committees include lawyers at various points

in their careers, in different settings and areas of practice. This strengthens the Association's ability to identify and develop initiatives to meet the needs of the profession. A number of members, throughout the years and at present, are active in the community in government and civic activities. ♦

*The Bar Around the Corner is a project of the Committee for Bar Leaders of New York State.*



**100 years**— From left, Schenectady County Bar Association President Hon. Mark Powers, SCBA board member Jean Carney, Hon. Guido Loyola, Hon. Leslie Stein of the N.Y. Court of Appeals and Leonard Herman enjoy the festivities during the SCBA's 100th anniversary.