

LAWYERS JOURNAL

THE FLAGSHIP PUBLICATION OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Gismondi and *The Gismondi Foundation* launch scholarship fund to send young lawyers to Bench-Bar Conference

By Lorrie K. Albert

Through the generosity of ACBA Past-President John P. Gismondi and *The Gismondi Foundation*, an endowment has been created that will allow the Allegheny County Bar Foundation to provide up to ten annual scholarships enabling ACBA young lawyers (ten years or fewer in practice) with financial need to attend the annual Allegheny County Bar Association Bench-Bar Conference at no cost.

The Bench-Bar Conference remains one of the Pittsburgh Legal Community's most valued traditions – and with good reason. For more than five decades, this premier gathering has brought lawyers and judges from across Western Pennsylvania to Seven Springs Mountain Resort for several days of meaningful networking, top-tier education, collegiality, and professional camaraderie. The conference offers ACBA members uncommon access to build relationships and expand their professional circle beyond the courtroom and traditional workplace.

The upcoming Bench-Bar Conference will take place from Thursday, June 18, 2026, through Saturday, June 20, 2026, and will include 18 CLE programs, offering participants nine opportunities to earn up to eight CLE credits, and six opportunities to earn up to six CJE credits.

Attorney Gismondi's dedication to advancing legal education has been a defining hallmark of his career. His passion for teaching, mentoring, and strengthening the profession is evident in his decades of work – whether teaching trial tactics or moderating panels and seminars.

"The Bench-Bar is such a rewarding event for young lawyers to attend, and it is unfortunate that cost may prevent some of our young members from having that opportunity," said Gismondi. "The aim of these scholarships is to remove that financial hurdle."

These scholarships will allow young attorneys who otherwise could not attend to experience first-hand the extraordinary benefits of earning CLE credits in a single setting while engaging in extended, uninterrupted networking with colleagues and members of the judiciary. For many, these connections have proven invaluable to their growth as professionals in our region.

Pittsburgh's legal community is close-knit, and the Bench-Bar Conference has long been the signature event where meaningful professional relationships are formed in a relaxed and collegial setting. Seasoned attendees consistently attest to its lasting impact on their practice and professional trajectory in Allegheny County.

"The Bench-Bar is vital to the legal culture in Pittsburgh, and it's also a great way to cultivate and engage the next generation of bar leaders, so in that sense this is an investment in the future of the ACBA," said Gismondi.



John P. Gismondi



THE
Gismondi Family
FOUNDATION
REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY

Each scholarship will cover full conference registration as well as room and board for the duration of the event.

Eligibility requirements

Applicants must:

- be active members of the ACBA;
- have practiced for ten years or less;
- preferably be first-time attendees; and
- demonstrate interest in full participation in the Bench-Bar Conference.

Application requirements

Applicants must submit a completed application form including:

- a personal statement of 500 words or fewer describing financial need, motivation for attending, anticipated professional benefits, and how attendance will strengthen their engagement with the ACBA; and
- a current resume or curriculum vitae.

The Scholarship Committee will select recipients based on financial need, demonstrated dedication to professional development, and engagement in bar association activities. Preference will be given to first-time attendees and applicants who show strong potential for future leadership in the legal community. All scholarship selections will be made using objective and nondiscriminatory criteria.

All applications must be received by February 27, and recipients will be notified by March 15.

Apply today! Don't miss this chance to participate in one of the premier professional experiences in our legal community. For more information or to apply, contact Lorrie Albert at lalbert@acba.org or visit www.acbabenchbar.com/awards-scholarships. ■