

Vol. 102 No. 19
Wednesday, May 15, 1991

Election Special

Race for four county judgeships draws crowded field

17 candidates are in the race for four seats on the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas. The primary could result in anywhere from four to eight candidates winning a spot on the November ballot, since all 17 have cross-filed on both the Democratic and Republican tickets.

The same four candidates win on each ticket, they will be virtually guaranteed to win the general election. If different candidates win the Democratic and Republican primaries, they will face off in November.

serves as an Elected Member of the House of Delegates of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and as Committee Member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Judicial Selection and Reform Committee. Since 1984, he has served as First Assistant Luzerne County Solicitor. He is also Solicitor to the Luzerne County Housing Authority and Assistant Solicitor to the Luzerne County Industrial Development Authority.

Attorney Bufalino is a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Luzerne County Community College; Board Member of the Luzerne County Tourist Promotion Agency; and Board Member of Northeast Baseball, Inc., Citizen Advisory Group to Triple A, Wilkes-Barre Scranton Red Barons.

He is associated with many charitable and community activities including Mental Health, Rotary and UNICO.

Attorney Bufalino is married to the former Loretta Ann Knorr and is the father of five sons: Attorney Charles J. Bufalino, III; Dr. Kevin T. Bufalino; James C. Bufalino (Journalist); Brian A. Bufalino (student at Villanova University); and Mark W. Bufalino (student at Villanova University). Attorney Bufalino and his son, Charles III, maintain offices at Garden Village Professional Center, 16 Luzerne Avenue, Suite 200, West Pittston, Pennsylvania.

He served as Assistant Solicitor for the City of Wilkes-Barre in 1968-1969, and for a number of years in the early and mid 1970's was law clerk to the late Judge Richard L. Bigelow of the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas. He was Solicitor for Edwardsville Borough in the late 1970's and has been Solicitor for the Jackson Township and Dallas Township Zoning Boards.

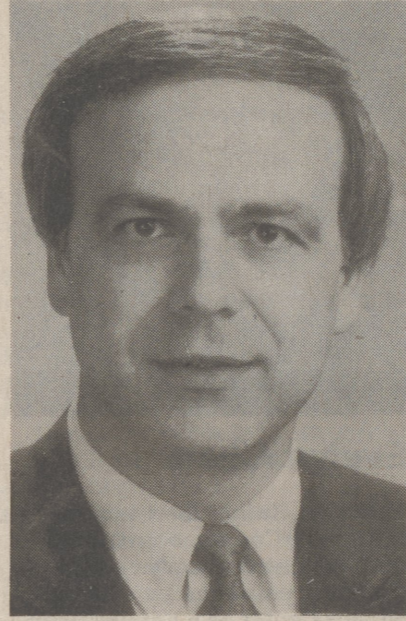
He has a broad background of experience, including civil and criminal trial work. Representing a group of local citizens opposing the taking of a portion of the Wilkes-Barre River Common for highway purposes a number of years ago he tried one of the first cases before the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, created as the third appellate court in the State under the 1968 Constitution. In 1980 he successfully obtained a Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision holding a provision of the Election Code unconstitutional as a prior restraint contrary to the First Amendment. In other cases he has represented Harveys Lake shore line owners in successfully fending off an attempt by the Commonwealth to impose a dock tax and residents of the Southern Columbia Area School District in having an occupation tax being declared unconstitutional.

Attorney Geddes is a graduate of Haverford College and Georgetown University Law School. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves, completing duty with the 322 MP (CID) Detachment. He is a member of the legal staff and insurance committee for Irem Temple and has been Judge Advocate for American Legion Post #132, Wilkes-Barre since 1986. He is a member of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association, having served as Law Day Chairman and on other committees, and the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Chairman of his campaign committee is Dr. James S. Butcoski and treasurer is J. David Roskos.

Agency of Northeastern Pennsylvania; served as member and chairman of several committees of United Way of Wyoming Valley; served on Alumni Board of Directors at King's College.

He serves as lecturer at Church of Saint Therese in Wilkes-Barre and has been active in local Republican party politics.



Joseph Giovannini Jr.

Atty. Joseph P. Giovannini, Jr., of Kingston, Pa. is a Democratic candidate for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, 11th Judicial District.

He received a degree in Accounting from the University of Scranton and University of Detroit School of Law-Juris Doctor.

He served 11 years as a Criminal Prosecutor for the District Attorney's Office of Luzerne County; 4 years as First Assistant District Attorney; Appointed Chief Appellate Counsel and argued landmark cases before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; taught Police Officers as a Pennsylvania State Police Certified Instructor; legal advisor to the Luzerne County Coroner's Office.

Admitted to the following courts: Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas since 1972; Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas since 1972; Supreme Court of Pennsylvania since 1972; United States District Court for The Middle District of Pennsylvania since 1972; U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit since 1981.

Giovannini holds memberships in the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers' Association; Luzerne County Bar Association (Wilkes-Barre Law & Library Association); Lackawanna County Bar Association; Lions Club, Victims Resource Center, Spark of Life Cancer Organization; League of Women Voters; Exeter Hose Co. No. 1; Exeter Ambulance Association.

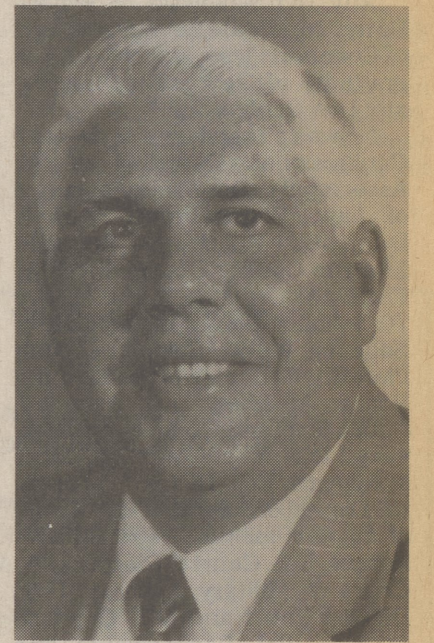
He is married to Joanne Bruno, R.N., and has three children.

The February two-week civil trial list in Luzerne County, Attorney Harris was trial counsel in seven of the 60 cases appearing on the trial list (11.6% of the list of cases), and she spent the entire two weeks in trial as sole counsel and tried two cases to jury verdict.

She is an officer in the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Luzerne County Bar Association, and has lectured on the rules of evidence for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. She is also active in the League of Women Voters, where she served on the Board of Directors for 2 1/2 years.

Harris has coordinated the high school Mock Trial Competitions in Luzerne County and, in 1991, in the Northeast Regional Competitions for six years. She has spent two years compiling a Senior Citizens Handbook for the PBA, which is scheduled for distribution late in the Summer of 1991. She has actively campaigned that the position of Common Pleas Judge requires the knowledge and experience of a lawyer accustomed to trying cases; in short, a litigator, as well as active involvement in the legal community and in the community in which she lives.

sands of Individual Retirement Accounts, Keogh and other pension plans; Associate Council, Commonwealth Telephone Enterprises, Wilkes-Barre; General Corporate and Public Utilities Work; Associate, Hourigan, Kluger, Spohrer and Quinn, Wilkes-Barre, Commercial Litigation; private practice in Dallas.



William R. Keller

William R. Keller, 56, of Yeager Avenue, Forty Fort is a graduate of the University of Rochester and the Dickinson School of Law.

I have practiced law for over 25 years in Wyoming Valley and presently the Senior Trial Attorney in the District Attorney's Office. I have tried well over 100 jury trials in both the Civil and Criminal Courts of Luzerne County.

During my 13 years as an Assistant District Attorney, I have tried six homicide cases gaining convictions in all, the most recent being a third degree murder conviction of Dr. Glen Wolsieffer in November, 1990.

Joseph M. Augello

Judge Joseph M. Augello of Pittston, has served as a Judge of the

Court of Common Pleas since February 1990, assigned to preside in civil and criminal trials including murder cases. Prior to becoming judge, Augello had 15 years experience as a district justice and trial attorney in Luzerne County.

He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Scranton, Juris Doctor, Temple University School of Law.

James P. Blaum

James P. Blaum of Dallas, is a graduate of Coughlin High School and University of Notre Dame and received his Juris Doctorate from the Duquesne University School of Law.

He has been a practicing attorney for 15 1/2 years in the civil criminal courts of Luzerne County and United States District Court; nine and a half years as Asst. Luzerne County Solicitor defending the county taxpayers against over 100 suites by criminals seeking money damages from our county without one judgment being entered against our county; 10 years teaching at King's College. Determined qualified and recommended for nomination to court by non-partisan Trial Court Nomination Commission. Nominated to Court by Governor.

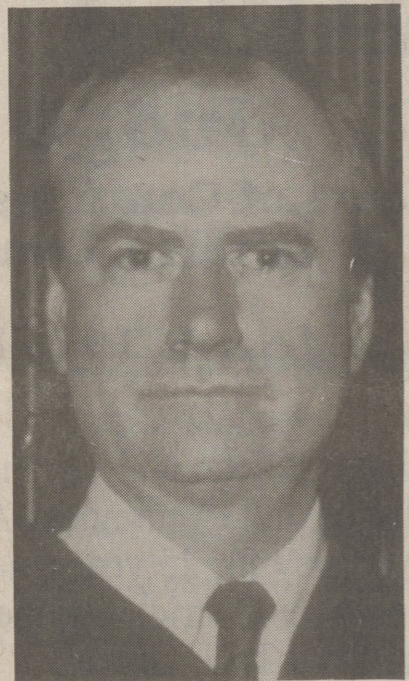


Charles Bufalino

Attorney Charles Bufalino, 60, a lifelong resident of West Pittston, is a graduate of Wyoming Seminary Preparatory School, Villanova University and University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Actively engaged in the practice of law for 34 years, he has experience in both civil and criminal areas of the law. He served as Law Clerk to the late President Judge J. Harold Flannery of the Luzerne County Court and assisted him both in the courtroom and in the drafting of legal opinions. For the past several years, he has served as trial counsel for the Department of General Services of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the trial of condemnation cases.

Attorney Bufalino presently



Michael Collins

The candidacy of Attorney Michael Collins is unique in that he is in the contest with more than 22 years of judicial experience, more than any of the 17 others running on the Democratic and Republican tickets.

District Justice Collins, who serves in Wilkes-Barre, has repeatedly won election to that position.

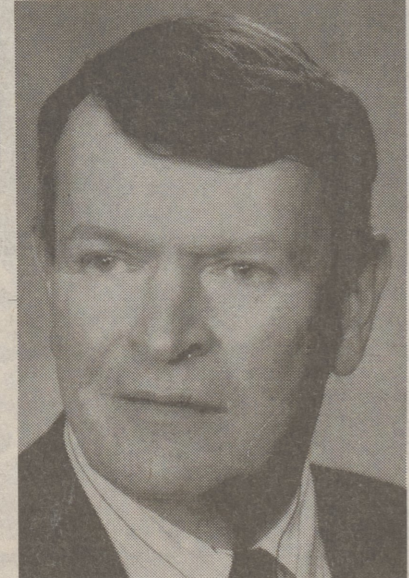
Justice Collins comes from a strong legal background. His late grandfather, Thomas Farrell served as a judge of Luzerne County. Collins' father, John H. Collins, and uncle, J. Campbell Collins, were prominent lawyers.

Collins has demonstrated time and time again his ability and experience, having handled more than 62,000 cases.

Collins, 49, is a resident of Wilkes-Barre. He began his private practice in 1967 after receiving his juris doctorate degree from American University, Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C.

He is associated with numerous organizations.

He and his wife, Karen, are parents of three sons and three daughters.



James Geddes

Attorney James F. Geddes, a Wilkes-Barre native, presently residing in Kingston, has been a practicing attorney in Luzerne County for over 23 years with firm of Silverblatt and Townend.



Edward Geist

Edward J. Geist, 54, son of Edward E. Geist and the former Catherine E. Yurko of Larksville now residing in South Wilkes-Barre with his wife, the former Josephine Balas and seven children: Valerie, MaryJo, Edward, Christine, Rudy, Stephen and Caroline. He graduated from Larksville High School, King's College and Villanova Law School.

As a practicing attorney in Luzerne County for 25 years, Geist has knowledge of the law and experience. He has tried approximately 100 criminal/civil trials; served as a Luzerne County District Attorney in 1968-'69 and 1973-'74; served as municipal solicitor in Larksville, Laflin and Forty Fort Borough and is currently the solicitor for the Larksville Sewer Authority; serves as the designated attorney for AFSCME employees and retirees since 1986; was a member of the Luzerne County Judicial Selection Committee from 1979-'87 and Chairman from 1979-'81.

Geist served as an Air Force Staff Sergeant during the Korean War; is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association; a member of the State Appellate Court; admitted to practice in the United States District Court, Middle District of Pennsylvania; admitted to practice in the United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals; is a certified attorney in the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Farmers Home Administration; one of founding members of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Association of Pennsylvania, where he served as president for several terms; one of the first members of the Board of Directors of the Health Systems



Enid Harris

Enid Harris was born on July 27, 1954, in Kingston, and has lived in Kingston and Wilkes-Barre her whole life. She has been actively engaged in the practice of law since graduating from law school in 1979, and she is admitted to the Bars of Pennsylvania, Florida, Colorado, and the Middle District Court of Pennsylvania, and the Third Circuit Court.

The emphasis of her practice as a trial lawyer for the past 12 years has been the preparation and the trial of jury cases in Luzerne County, as well as nearby counties and the Federal Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. She has also been trial counsel in a first degree murder case and most recently tried to verdict a civil case in Luzerne County during the trial term of May 6, 1991. During



Diane Kopcha Katlic

Atty. Diane Kopcha Katlic, was born and raised in Washington, Pa. Her grandparents immigrated from Poland; grandfather died in the mines; father drove truck and later built a successful small business. Married for 17 years, husband Mark is a general and thoracic surgeon.

She is active in community service and volunteer organizations in Luzerne County, (e.g., Association for Retarded Citizens; Osterhout Library; Children's Theatre Festival; N.E. Pennsylvania Philharmonic.)

B.A. Political Science and Sociology, Chatham College, Pittsburgh, J.D., University of Baltimore School of Law. Worked days and attended law school at night while husband was a medical student.

Her professional experience includes: Assistant District Attorney for Middlesex County, MA. Trained and supervised 42 full-time staff attorneys working in 12 courts throughout the county. Assisted in implementation and operation of Jury of Six trial system in MA (as proposed for utilization in Luzerne County); implemented Victim/Witness Program to assist victims of crime and witnesses throughout the trial process; prosecuted 100s of criminal cases, including murder, rape, armed robbery, drugs and domestic violence; Staff Attorney, State Ethics Commission, MA; Vice President and Department Head, State Street Bank and Trust Company, Boston; supervised a department of over 150 people; administrative responsibility for processing thou-



Ann H. Lokuta

Ann H. Lokuta, of Dupont received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government and Politics from King's College, Maxima Cum Laude; Juris Doctorate, Hofstra Law School, Hofstra University. She is a practicing attorney.

She was a Federal law clerk in the United States District Court as well as an Assistant District Attorney in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. She says her most important assets are the values her parents instilled in her as a youth; values of honesty, integrity, hard work and compassion.

Correale F. Stevens

Correale F. Stevens has been District Attorney of Luzerne County since 1988. Prosecutions include the Glen Wolsieffer and Jose Sanchez murder cases. Stevens has been an attorney for 19 years and served as State Representative.

He is a graduate of Wyoming Seminary, Penn State University and the Dickinson School of Law.

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