

A growing group Grupa si powiksza

Polish-American Bar Association sees bright future Stowarzyszenie prawników widzi lepszą przyszłość

By BRIAN M. JOHNSON

STAFF WRITER

NEW BRITAIN — The Polish-American Bar Association will meet Dec. 1 at the Belvedere Cafe and Restaurant and is looking for new members to help it foster camaraderie and promote Polish culture.

The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at the restaurant, at 82 Broad St.

The Polish-American Bar Association was founded in 2015 as an affiliated group of the Polish American Foundation. Agnes Romanowska, second vice president of the Polish American Foundation and a business litigation attorney working in Hartford for Reid & Riege PC, said the group has recently seen considerable growth.

"There are 300,000 people of Polish heritage in Connecticut and hundreds of them are lawyers," said Romanowska. "There is a very active Connecticut Bar Association and also an Italian-American Bar Association and a Hispanic Bar Association, so we thought, 'Why not a Polish Bar (Association)?' We have since

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Members of the Polish-American Bar Association, with Agnes Romanowska fifth from left. Członkowie Polsko-Amerykaskich Izb Adwokackich z Anges Romanowska pit od lewej.

Courtesy of Agnes Romanwska

Polish-American Bar Association continues to seek new members

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added 400 people to our mailing lists and we have held several meetings, which have seen 20 to 30 lawyers attend, from solo practices to small firms, to regional firms and national firms. We have received some very positive feedback from lawyers in the state, with many saying that they are excited our organization exists. Several judges have also expressed their interest in what we're doing. There is a lot of enthusiasm."

Romanowska said the association will meet at different locations, but most will be Polish restaurants, since the association wants to support them.

"We have some fantastic Polish restaurants in Connecticut and we feel we should take advantage of that and support them," she said. "Our meetings usually begin with mingling; giving people a chance to get to know each other and meet our founding members. Then, there is a dinner portion. For our upcoming meeting at Belvedere, they have crafted a fantastic fixed-price, three-course meal. Over dinner, we discuss each of our practices, which is a huge benefit to the Bar Association. It allows us to refer clients to other Polish-speaking attorneys in other fields."

Romanowska said that those who become members will be informed of upcoming Polish cultural events sponsored by the Polish American Foundation, including concerts and festivals.

"I was born in Białystok, Poland, and I came over here when I was 10 years old," said Romanowska.

"From personal experience, it's nice when you're able to find ways to connect to your roots and speak with others about where you grew up."

Romanowska said that her goal is to further grow the Polish-American Bar Association. She encouraged anyone who is interested in helping them further their goal of promoting Polish heritage and camaraderie, regardless of whether or not they are Polish themselves, to attend a meeting or to contact her.

The Polish-American Bar Association's headquarters is at the Sloper-Wesoly House at 27 Grove Hill St. To sign up as a member or view upcoming meetings and events, visit pabact.com.

For more information on the association, call Romanowska at [860-240-1088](tel:860-240-1088) or email pabact@gmail.com.

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