FAYETTE LEGAL JOURNAL

VOL. 82

APRIL 6, 2019

NO. 14



FAYETTE LEGAL JOURNAL

The FAYETTE LEGAL JOURNAL is published weekly by the Fayette County Bar Association, 45 East Main Street, Suite 100, Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401, 724-437-7994. Legal advertisements should be submitted online at www.fcbar.org no later than 12:00 noon on Friday for publication the following Saturday. No date of publication is promised, however. Legal notices are published exactly as submitted by the advertiser. Copyright 2001 Fayette County Bar Association. All rights reserved.

Co-Editors: Garnet L. Crossland and Melinda Deal Dellarose

Cover Design by Marvin R. Mayle, 207 Lick Hollow Road, Hopwood, PA

FAYETTE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION Board of Directors

President: James E. Higinbotham, Jr. *President Elect:* Louise D. Monaghan *Vice-President:* Gretchen A. Mundorff *Secretary:* Timothy J. Witt *Treasurer:* Vincent J. Roskovensky, II *Past President:* Gary N. Altman

Executive Director: Garnet L. Crossland

ETHICS HOTLINE

The Ethics Hotline provides free advisory opinions to PBA members based upon review of a member's prospective conduct by members of the PBA Committee on Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility. The committee responds to requests regarding, the impact of the provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct or the Code of Judicial Conduct upon the inquiring member's proposed activity. All inquiries are confidential.

Call (800) 932-0311, ext. 2214.

Directors Jennifer M. Casini Jeremy J. Davis Benjamin F. Goodwin Robert A. Gordon Sheryl R. Heid Margaret Zylka House Wendy L. O'Brien Douglas S. Sholtis Charles O. Zebley, Jr.

LAWYERS CONCERNED FOR LAWYERS

Our assistance is confidential, non-judgmental, safe, and effective

To talk to a lawyer today, call: 1-888-999-1941 717-541-4360

ESTATE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary or of administration have been granted to the following estates. All persons indebted to said estates are required to make payment, and those having claims or demands to present the same without delay to the administrators or executors named.

Third Publication

CHARLES BASINGER, late of Connellsville,

Fayette County, PA (3)

Executor: Dora Hager 357 West Catherine Street Somerset, PA 15501 c/o Stewart McArdle Sorice Whalen Farrell Finoli & Cavanaugh, LLC 229 South Maple Avenue Greensburg, PA 15601 *Attorney*: J. Douglas Farrell

IRENE A. FILIAGGI, late of Uniontown,

Fayette County, PA (3) *Executor*: Michael Hanzes c/o 4 North Beeson Boulevard Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Carl E. Micarelli

MICHAEL SIMON JOHN, a/k/a MICHAEL

S. JOHN, late of North Union Township, Fayette County, PA (3) *Personal Representative*: Kathleen Miller c/o George & George, LLP 92 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Joseph M. George

HAROLD L. KING, late of German Township,

Fayette County, PA (3) *Executrix*: Christina L. Keffer c/o 51 South Street Uniontown, Pa 15401 *Attorney*: Anthony S. Dedola, Jr.

MARGARET J. KING, late of South Union

Township, Fayette County, PA (3) *Executor*: Stephen B. King c/o Radcliffe Law, LLC 648 Morgantown Road, Suite B Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: William M. Radcliffe

SARAH E. KUHNS, late of Melcroft, Fayette

County, PA (3) *Executor*: Brian K. Swaney 9 Guthrie Avenue Fairchance, PA 15436 c/o 76 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Douglas S. Sholtis

MARY JEAN LACONA, late of Masontown,

Fayette County, PA (3) *Executrix*: June Lacona 374 Thomas Road McMurray, PA 15317 c/o Pion, Nerone, Girman, Winslow & Smith, P.C. 1500 One Gateway Center Pittsburgh, PA 15222 *Attorney*: Angela R. Winslow

MILDRED IRENE ORAVETS, a/k/a MILDRED I. ORAVETS, late of Nicholson

Township, Fayette County, PA (3) Personal Representatives: Fred J. Oravets, Jr. and James E. Oravets c/o George & George, LLP 92 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Joseph M. George

WALTER E. RIPKO, JR., late of Cardale,

Fayette County, PA (3) Personal Representative: Patricia A. Ripko c/o 111 East Main Street Uniontown, Pa 15401 Attorney: Robert R. Harper, Jr.

JACK RAY RUSKO, a/k/a JACK R.

RUSKO, late of Hopwood, Fayette County, PA *Executors*: Jack M. Rusko (3) c/o 4 North Beeson Boulevard Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Carl E. Micarelli

ELIZABETH WYATT, a/k/a MARY E.

WYATT, late of Luzerne Township, Fayette County, PA (3) *Co-Executors*: David Lee Wyatt and Dixie L. Bennett c/o 51 East South Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Anthony S. Dedola, Jr.

Second Publication

JOSEPH BERCINI, a/k/a JOSEPH M.

BERCINI, late of South Union Township, Fayette County, PA (2) *Executor*: Jo Ann Bercini c/o Higinbotham Law Offices 45 East Main Street, Suite 500 Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: James Higinbotham

TERESE BURKETT, late of Wharton

Township, Fayette County, PA (2) Administrator: Robert Burkett c/o 42944 National Pike Road P.O. Box 2P.O. Box 245 Chalk Hill, PA 15421 Attorney: Charles C. Gentile

PATRICIA PEPERAK, a/k/a PATRICIA L.

PEPERAK, late of Connellsville, Fayette County, PA (2)

Personal Representatives: Cynthia D. Peperak and Donald R. Peperak c/o Riverfront Professional Center 2008 South Arch Street, Suite 2 Connellsville, PA 15425 *Attorney*: Richard A. Husband

PAUL E. REED, late of Connellsville, Fayette

County, PA (2) *Executor*: Christopher M. Roley c/o Molinaro Law Offices P.O. Box 799 Connellsville, PA 15425 *Attorney*: Carmine V. Molinaro, Jr.

LOUISE E. ZELINA, late of Masontown,

Fayette County, PA (2) *Executrix*: Marilyn L. Butcho 603 Main Street Masontown, PA 15401 c/o 76 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Douglas S. Sholtis

First Publication

DORIS M. ANDERSON, late of Washington

Township, Fayette County, PA (1) *Co-Executors*: Barry William Anderson 1549 Walter Street Monongahela, PA 15063 Cheryl Jean Nagy 209 Otto Street Belle Vernon, PA 15012 c/o Bassi, Vreeland & Associates, P.C. P.O. Box 144 111 Fallowfield Avenue Charleroi, PA 15022 *Attorney*: Bradley M. Bassi

MICHAEL E. DIMARCO, SR., a/k/a MICHAEL E. DIMARCO, late of Uniontown,

Fayette County, PA (1)
Co-Executrix: Michele P. DiMarco
Co-Executor: Michael E. DiMarco, Jr.
Co-Executrix: Meribeth DiMarco Briggs
c/o 51 East South Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
Attorney: Webster & Webster

JANICE LYNN ELLIOTT, late of Masontown, Fayette County, PA (1) Personal Representative: Emily Elliott 103 Harbison Avenue Masontown, PA 15461 c/o 84 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Vincent M. Tiberi

LOUIS FINLEY MCCORMICK, a/k/a FINLEY MCCORMICK, late of Uniontown,

Fayette County, PA (1) *Co-Executrices*: Nancy L. Poli and Lisa Poli Rose c/o Zebley Mehalov & White, P.C. 18 Mill Street Square P.O. Box 2123 Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Daniel R. White

PATSY PATRICELLI, late of Connellsville, Fayette County, PA (1) Personal Representative: Sandra Lee Sison c/o Watson Mundorff & Sepic, LLP 720 Vanderbilt Road Connellsville, PA 15425 Attorney: Charles W. Watson

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Articles of Incorporation were filed in the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on February 19, 2019 for the purpose of incorporating a nonprofit corporation under the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988, as amended.

The name of the corporation is: Fayette County Youth Charities, Inc.

Jarod Illar, Esquire Watson Mundorff & Sepic, LLP 720 Vanderbilt Road Connellsville, PA 15425 IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA CIVIL DIVISION-DIVORCE No. 2367 of 2018 G.D.

ASHTON FIKE, PLAINTIFF Vs. RICHARD PAUL FIKE III, DEFENDANT

NOTICE TO DEFEND AND CLAIM RIGHTS

You, Richard Paul Fike, III, Defendant herein, have been sued in court. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take prompt action. You are warned that if you fail to do so, the case may proceed without you and a decree of divorce or annulment may be entered against you by the court. A judgment may also be entered against you for any other claim or relief requested in these papers by the plaintiff. You may also lose money or property or other rights important to you, including custody or visitation of your children. When the grounds for the divorce indignities or irretrievable are breakdown of the marriage, you may request marriage counseling. A list of marriage counselors is available in the Office of the Prothonotary at the Fayette County Courthouse, 61 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401. IF YOU DO NOT FILE A CLAIM FOR ALIMONY, DIVISION OF PROPERTY. LAWYER'S FEES OR EXPENSES BEFORE A DIVORCE DECREE OR ANNULMENT IS GRANTED, YOU MAY LOSE THE RIGHT TO CLAIM ANY OF THEM. YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER OR CANNOT AFFORD ONE, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP.

> Lawyer Referral Service P.O. Box 186 Harrisburg, PA 17108 Telephone No. (800) 932-0311

Southwestern PA Legal Services 45 E. Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 Telephone No. (724) 439-3591 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA NO. 2721-OF-2018-GD

UNITED BANK, INC.

V.

BRANDON BOWERS A/K/A BRANDON J. BOWERS

NOTICE TO: BRANDON BOWERS A/K/A BRANDON J. BOWERS

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

Being Premises: 1 LOCH LOMOND STREET, UNIONTOWN, PA 15401-4007

Being in SOUTH UNION TOWNSHIP, County of FAYETTE, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 34-13-0018

Improvements consist of residential property.

Sold as the property of BRANDON BOWERS

Your house (real estate) at 1 LOCH LOMOND STREET, UNIONTOWN, PA 15401 -4007 is scheduled to be sold at the Sheriff's Sale on 05/16/2019 at 2:00 PM at the FAYETTE County Courthouse, Fayette County Courthouse, 61 East Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, to enforce the Court Judgment of \$113,233.66 obtained by UNITED BANK, INC. (the mortgagee) against the above premises.

PHELAN HALLINAN DIAMOND & JONES, LLP Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA CIVIL ACTION – LAW No. 105 of 2019, G.D. The Honorable Judge Joseph M. George, Jr.

IN RE: IN THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF JENNIFER LYNN KEPPLE CHANCEY

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on March 15, 2019 the petition of Jennifer Lynn Kepple Chancey was filed in the above named Court, requesting an Order to change the name of Jennifer Lynn Kepple Chancey to Jennifer Kepple Chancey. The Court has fixed June 11, 2019 at 11:00 A.M. in Courtroom Number 5, Fayette County Courthouse, Uniontown, Pennsylvania as the time and place for a hearing on the merits of said Petition, when and where all interested parties may appear and show cause, if any they have, why the prayer of said Petition should not be granted.

JUDICIAL OPINION

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA CRIMINAL DIVISION

:
:
•
:
: No. 2000 of 2018
: Honorable Judge Nancy D. Vernon

OPINION AND ORDER

VERNON, J.

March 18, 2019

Before the Court is the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus filed by Defendant, Kenneth Dwayne Shaffer, Jr., alleging that the video evidence from the police dashboard camera establishes Defendant did not commit the crimes and requests this Court dismiss all charges. At the time set for hearing, the Commonwealth offered into evidence the transcript of the preliminary hearing dated, August 28, 2018, and two discs containing dashboard video identified as having been recorded from police cars B04-26 and B04-30. The Court has reviewed all evidence and makes the following findings of fact.

On June 17, 2018, Pennsylvania State Police Corporal Leslie Wilson was dispatched to 313 Hopwood-Fairchance Road on information that a black male dressed in black clothing was carrying a knife. Preliminary Hearing N.T., 8/28/2018, at 8.

Corporal Wilson arrived at the scene where PSP Trooper James was idling his car downhill behind Defendant. Id. at 11, see also Car B04-26 video. The audio recording on Trooper James's dashboard was activated contemporaneously with Corporal Wilson's arrival.

Defendant is viewed walking alongside the berm of the road with an object in his left hand that Corporal Wilson believed, at the time, to be a rusted steak knife, later identified as a Sawzall blade. Id. Corporal Wilson parked his SUV on the road in front of Defendant's path to stop him. Id. Corporal Wilson, dressed in full uniform, quickly exited his police vehicle and immediately began commanding Defendant to "stop." On the second "stop" command, Corporal Wilson unholstered his firearm, pointed it at Defendant and continued commanding him to stop. Ignoring the Corporal's repeated directive to "stop," Defendant continued walking with the knife in his hand but changed his path towards the police vehicle and directly at Corporal Wilson. Corporal Wilson stepped back several paces and Defendant continued toward him. Defendant verbally responded to Corporal Wilson three times saying, "Shoot me." Id. at 11-13. Corporal

Wilson allowed Defendant to come within six feet of his person when he discharged his firearm shooting Defendant in the chest. Id. at 13-14. Defendant dropped to the ground and Corporal Wilson was viewed kicking the blade away from his person. Corporal Wilson later located a half of a piece of metal scissors on Defendant. Id. at 15.

Corporal Wilson testified that he was concerned for his safety. Id. at 15. Corporal Wilson was questioned by Defendant's counsel whether he believed Defendant attempted to cause injury to him, to which the Corporal answered that he did believe that Defendant was intending to cause injury as evidenced by Defendant continuing to advance towards him with the knife in his hand. Id. at 29.

Defendant was charged with aggravated assault, simple assault, recklessly endangering another person, and resisting arrest. A person may be convicted of aggravated assault graded as a first-degree felony if he "attempts to cause serious bodily injury to another, or causes such injury intentionally, knowingly or recklessly under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to the value of human life." 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 2702(a)(1). For aggravated assault purposes, an "attempt" is found were an "accused who possesses the required, specific intent acts in a manner which constitutes a substantial step toward perpetrating a serious bodily injury upon another." Common-wealth v. Gray, 867 A.2d 560, 567 (Pa.Super. 2005).

"Serious bodily injury" has been defined as "[b]odily injury which creates a substantial risk of death or which causes serious, permanent disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ." 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 2301.

To support a prima facie case of aggravated assault on a police officer, the Commonwealth does not need to establish that the police officer actually suffered bodily injury; instead, the Commonwealth needs to establish an attempt to cause serious bodily injury, and the intent may be shown by circumstances reasonably suggesting the defendant's intent to cause such injury. Commonwealth v. Marti, 779 A.2d 1177 (Pa.Super. 2001).

Intent must ordinarily be proven through circumstantial evidence and inferred from acts, conduct or attendant circumstances. Commonwealth v. Fortune, 68 A.3d 980 (Pa.Super. 2013). A totality of the circumstances test is to be used to evaluate whether the defendant acted with the necessary intent to sustain an aggravated assault conviction. Id.

In cases where the victim does not actually suffer serious bodily injury, the Superior Court has explained that "the charge of aggravated assault can be supported only if the evidence supports a finding of an attempt to cause such injury." Id. at 985. "An attempt under Subsection 2702(a)(1) requires some act, albeit not one causing serious bodily injury, accompanied by an intent to inflict serious bodily injury." Id.

Here, Corporal Wilson was performing his duties as a Pennsylvania State Police Officer when the Defendant engaged in conduct which constituted a substantial step toward causing serious bodily injury to him. The evidence establishes that on June 17, 2018, after ignoring Corporal Wilson's commands to stop, Defendant continued towards Corporal Wilson while displaying a Sawzall blade in his hand and responding verbally "shoot me." In doing so, Defendant took a significant and substantial step toward inflicting serious bodily injury on the officer and placed Corporal Wilson in fear of being injured. The lesser elements of the charges of simple assault and recklessly endangering another person are encompassed within this same analysis, and as such, the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus is denied.

As to the charge of resisting arrest, the Commonwealth alleges that the Defendant failed to obey the commands to stop and drop the knife and thereby created a substantial risk of bodily injury to the officer which justified or required a substantial force to overcome the resistance. A defendant may be convicted of resisting arrest if he, "with the intent of preventing a public servant from effecting a lawful arrest or discharging any other duty, ... creates a substantial risk of bodily injury to the public servant or anyone else, or employs means justifying or requiring substantial force to overcome the resistance." 18 Pa.C.S. § 5104. This statutory language "does not require the aggressive use of force such as a striking or kicking of the officer." Commonwealth v. McDonald, 17 A.3d 1282, 1285 (Pa.Super. 2011). Again, the overt action by Defendant of continuing towards Corporal Wilson with a knife in hand, while ignoring the commands to stop, constitutes actions sufficient to sustain the charge of resisting arrest.

WHEREFORE, we will enter an Order denying the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus.

ORDER

AND NOW, this 15th day of March, 2019, upon consideration of the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus filed by Defendant, Kenneth Dwayne Shaffer, Jr., it is hereby ORDERED and DECREED the Petition is DENIED in accordance with the foregoing Opinion.

BY THE COURT, NANCY D. VERNON, JUDGE

ATTEST: Clerk of Courts

The Institute for Law & Public Policy April CLE Seminars – <u>New Location</u>

Frank Sarris Public Library

35 North Jefferson Avenue Canonsburg, PA 15317 Conveniently located off of the I-79 Canonsburg, PA Exit Free Parking in Murdock Street Lot *April 25 & 26, 2019*

April 25, 2019 - 9 AM-12:15 PM Conflict Skills for Lawyers: Get Empowered to Artfully Navigate Difficult Conversations with Staff, Clients, and Other Attorneys Selina J. Shultz, Esquire, LL.M / The Conflict Lab 3 Substantive Credits - \$75

April 25, 2019 - 1 PM-4:15 PM Unanticipated Fallout, the Practice of Law Since the Creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau – the "CFPB" James P. Valecko, Esquire / Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A. 2 Substantive Credits/1 Ethics - \$79

April 26, 2019 - 9 AM-12:15 PM **Hiring, Firing, and Everything In-Between: Best Practices to Guide You Through the Employee Life Cycle** Jaime Tuite, Esquire / William P. Lewis, Esquire / Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, P.C. **3 Substantive Credits - \$75**

April 26, 2019 - 1 PM-4:15 PM

The Matrix for Maximizing Recovery For the Injured: Workers Compensation – Long Term Disability – Personal Injury – Social Security Disability – Veterans Disability Brian Bronson, Esquire / Michael Quatrini, Esquire / Jeff Monzo, Esquire / Quatrini Rafferty, P.C. 3 Substantive Credits - \$75

> PA CLE approved To register: <u>www.calu.edu/ilpp</u> <u>speer@calu.edu</u>/724-938-4054 California University of PA

250 University Avenue, Box 6| California, Pennsylvania 15419 The Institute for Law & Public Policy is a PA CLE Accredited Provider (Provider # 5872) Join our mailing list to keep up with our latest offerings – email Speer@calu.edu

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

FCBA LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

The Fayette County Bar Association's next presentation in its Lunch & Learn Series will be:

- Date: Wednesday, April 17th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Location: Courtroom No. 1 of the Fayette County Courthouse
- Discussion topic: Family Law Duo: The 2019 Changes in Alimony Pendente Lite & How to Prepare for a Master's Conference in a Divorce Case
- Presenter: Sheryl R. Heid, Esquire, and Chris Edenfield, D.R. Hearing Officer

Topics will include: major changes to Alimony Pendente Lite; a system's approach to preparing for a Master's hearing; how to collect and organize your client's financial materials before the Master's prehearing conference making settlement more likely and the best use of the Master's time; etc.

CLE Credit

1.5 hours of Substantive CLE credit for the program. The fees are as follows: Members of the FCBA

- No charge for attendance without CLE Credit
- \$10 fee for attendance with CLE Credit

Attorneys admitted to practice in Pennsylvania after January 1, 2012

• No charge for attendance with CLE Credit

Non-members of the FCBA

- \$10 fee for attendance without CLE Credit
- \$20 fee for attendance with CLE Credit

** All fees to be paid at the door ** A light lunch will be provided.

If interested in attending, please call Cindy at the Bar office at 724-437-7994 or by email to cindy@fcbar.org on or before Monday, April 15th.

-Professional Ethics/CLE Committee

LAW LIBRARY NOTICE

The Pennsylvania Association of Justice has donated the following books to the Fayette County Law Library that are now available as resources:

Personal Injury Subrogation Handbook 2017 Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Insurance Pennsylvania Medical Malpractice Law & Forms

BAR BANQUET INVITATION

THE 126TH ANNUAL FAYETTE COUNTY BAR BANQUET The Fayette County Bar Association invites you to an Evening of Fellowship and Gaming

> FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2019 AARON'S BUILDING 139 Pittsburgh Street Connellsville, PA 15425

Hors d'œuvres and Open Bar at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

> Honoree: ANNE N. JOHN, ESQUIRE 125th PBA President

Here's the deal, take a chance Roll the dice, spin the wheel Or mix it up . . . Join us for Casino Night Following dinner With prizes for the Big winners!



KINDLY REPLY BY FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019 Please Specify Entree Selection: Peppered Bacon Wrapped Filet Candied Pecan Crusted Salmon Eggplant cakes

> RSVP TO THE ASSOCIATION 724-437-7994 or cindy@fcbar.org No Charge for FCBA Members

Law-related Guests Welcome - \$100 per Guest





412-281-2200

www.gislaw.com

700 Grant Bldg., 310 Grant St., Pgh., PA 15219