

Legislative Dinner

On February 16, 2012, the Atlantic County Bar Association held its Third Annual Legislative Update Dinner at Harbor Pines Country Club. The wonderful evening was hosted by Bar Association President Donna Taylor, who introduced the local legislators and emceed the event. Although the suggested topic of discussion was the Atlantic City Tourism District, the speakers utilized the opportunity to address a wide range of issues that were important to Atlantic County's legal, business and residential communities. The first speaker was Assemblyman Christopher Brown, who, amongst other things, discussed proposed legislation establishing a conditional dismissal program in our State's Municipal Courts. In essence, the conditional dismissal program appears to be tantamount to the Pretrial Intervention Program in our State's Superior Courts. Next, Assemblyman John Amodeo spoke in detail about the tourism district legislation and the positive effect that the legislation should have on Atlantic City. Assemblyman Amodeo stressed that a revitalized Atlantic City would have an important, positive impact on all of South Jersey. Senator James Whelan then spoke about a varying array of pending legislation, including windmills and other alternative energy solutions for New Jersey. Senator Whelan also echoed the sentiments of Assemblyman Amodeo regarding the importance of the successful revitalization of Atlantic City. Last, but certainly not least, County Executive Dennis Levinson provided a historical perspective. His thesis centered upon the substantial contribution that lawyers (e.g., Abraham Lincoln) have made throughout the history of the country. In the end, County Executive Levinson strongly urged all of the members of the Atlantic County Bar Association and all members of the legal community to get involved and to positively affect the region. Overall, once again, the Legislative Update Dinner was an excellent opportunity for members of the Bar Association to interact with and to support our local legislators. It also was an enjoyable and informative evening. If you were there, thank you for attending. If you missed it, please plan on attending the dinner next February.