

Member Expert Luncheon (June 1)

Jeff Ernico has had a long and illustrious 52 year and counting career as a lawyer in Pennsylvania. Jeff was a German major in undergraduate school and happenstance caused him to enroll in law school at the suggestion of a friend. In his senior year in college, he worked in the campaign for Dick Thornburgh for congress (lost) and later for governor (won). In his third year of law school the state Supreme Court started a program wherein third year law students could try cases. He was assigned the first case in the state. One of the key parts of his work was creating a huge pro bono program to serve the poor in the state for which he was recognized by the state Bar Association having an annual award in his name.

Early in his career he defended criminals and won cases which pushed him to not do this anymore. He did not want to defend people he knew were guilty. He defended in a Black Panthers case, a case with a defendant was fighting with police and chewed their car seat and also many horse racing cases.

Upon graduation he wanted to focus on needy clients and planned to work with Vista. However, learning of the mess that Nixon was making of Vista, he then worked as a Deputy Attorney General in Consumer Protection (Nader's Raiders) on a turning back odometers case and then trained people throughout the nation on how to prosecute these cases- He won a case against F. Lee Bailey who was a very impressive attorney and a tireless worker for his clients. Jeff worked on Ponzi schemes similar to Amway which are pyramidal in that money is made by getting more people to buy into the sales program until it falls under its own weight. He shut down many other schemes such as gutter and aluminum siding (however, they would pop up again with a new name and scheme). The FDA asked Jeff to take another fraud case which was Hushtone which defrauded thousands of people with faulty - hearing aids. Overall, Jeff states that it is essentially impossible to keep up with the rampant fraud in this country.

Jeff then transitioned to tax law and developed an ethics program to train IRS agents.

Our next Member Expert Luncheon is Wednesday September 7. ***If you are interested in providing a presentation overview of your career please contact Richard Hammes, richardhammes1978@gmail.com. All career types can be interesting so please do not hesitate to contact Richard.***