

TO: MS. JUDY SEDESSE
FROM: TOM CARTWRIGHT
RE: HR 110 / SUMMARY OF WRITTEN REMARKS OF TOM CARTWRIGHT
FOR SEPTEMBER 6, 2002 PUBLIC HEARING IN PITTSBURGH, PA
DATE: SEPTEMBER 3, 2002

- 1) The current discussions most likely do not affect the Cambria County Legal Journal
- 2) If entities are looking for cost effective notice then publishing in the legal journal should be the only requirement
- 3) If the law is to be changed to possibly eliminate the publication of any legal notice then an important publication serving the business, financial and legal community would be out of business.

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My name is Tom Cartwright. I am an attorney in the law firm of Spence, Custer, Saylor, Wolfe & Rose in Johnstown PA. I am a member of the Cambria County Bar Association Board of Managers and currently act as the Chairperson for the Cambria County Legal Journal Committee. My purpose for being here today is to give the committee a bit of an insight into the workings of our small county legal journal. My reason for joining this public forum is based upon my conversations with Senator Wozniak and Representative Wojnarowski from my district. These discussions revealed some thoughts or impressions that weren't quite accurate especially as to their perception of costs.

The Cambria County Legal Journal is a 5½" x 8½" paper booklet published weekly. It is distributed to 192 lawyers and 24 financial institutions. Also 31 copies are sent to the Cambria County Law Library situated in the county courthouse in Ebensburg for distribution to the row offices and for public review.

The hearing today is focused upon current practices and costs associated with the publication of legal notices.

I don't see where a change in the law that would affect entities subject to the Sunshine Law would have any affect upon our legal journal. I concur with the other small county legal journal participants on this matter. Our legal journal does not receive any revenue from public notices for public hearings. Our legal notices consist generally of sale notices, estate notices, corporation notices and a miscellaneous notice every so often regarding an ordinance or court rule change. The cost to publish an estate is \$44.60. The cost to publish an incorporation is \$48.10. Other notices cost \$1.62 - \$2.35 per line. The cost of a subscription is \$60.00 per year. These costs are far below the cost of publishing the same information in the largest local paper of general circulation, the Tribune Democrat. If the sole basis for determining where a notice should be published were cost, then every notice should be published in the legal journal.

Obviously, this journal is not in general circulation. But it serves a very valuable purpose in targeting the entire legal and financial community in Johnstown and the surrounding Cambria County area. The feedback I receive from subscribers is that it is a very satisfactory publication that effectively disseminates essential legal information to the parties seeking that information in a timely manner. It also provides an opportunity for some businesses to advertise. It provides a monthly schedule of bar association activities and CLE. One page is set aside for

anyone who wants to submit an article or comment that would be of interest to the subscribers. When we can afford it, we publish court opinions and other information deemed important for the subscribers to review.

The point I hope I'm making here is that the Cambria County Legal Journal is a timely, efficient, cost effective publication that gets the necessary legal information to the people who need it and use it the most. The legislation under discussion today more than likely does not affect the legal journal now. It could affect us in the future. If all notices eventually become subject to publication in a general circulation newspaper only or not subject to publication at all then obviously we are out of business and an important part of the business, financial and legal community would be lost.