



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **LAW LIBRARIAN SHARING KNOWLEDGE BEFORE RETIREMENT**

**Uniontown, PA** – Tucked away on the second floor of the Fayette County Courthouse in Uniontown, among stacks of countless law books, you'll find a hidden treasure named Barbara Pasqua.

If you visit the Fayette County Law Library, Pasqua will undoubtedly greet you with a beaming smile, quiet demeanor and a fascinating story about our local history.

"I tell visitors about the courthouse jury dormitories that we had here and, if they're from the Uniontown area, I tell them about the Uniontown Princess," Pasqua said. "I only tell adults about the Fayette Thirteen, who were hung in the jail yard."

Pasqua, of Merrittstown, became the county's assistant law librarian in March 2006. A Fayette County native, Pasqua left the area in 1972, eventually earning her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of the State of New York and Virginia's Liberty University, respectively.

She received her paralegal certificate from Fairleigh-Dickinson University and librarian certificate from Westmoreland County Community College. Before returning to Pennsylvania for good in 2004, she spent 13 years working as a business contractor in New Jersey.

"I had to come back home to Fayette County," Pasqua said. "It took about 32 years to find the best job and the happiest life I could have ever imagined."

Last month, Pasqua began her final year as the county's law librarian, with plans to retire in April 2021. Her dedication to serving the legal community and honoring local history has earned her the title of May "Face" in the Fayette County Public Relations Initiative's Faces and Places series.

"My favorite part of what I do is when someone comes in for the first time and I get to tell them the library has two floors. Most people don't realize it until they look up," Pasqua said. "We average about 5,700 visitors a year, and I tell them we have 17,014 books - which took a week for me to count them all. We have weddings under the arches on the second floor."

Before her departure, Pasqua is working hard to share her love for Fayette County's rich history through a unique radio show, "Pages From Fayette County Past."

Broadcast at 10:30 a.m. every other Thursday on WMBS Radio, the show was first funded in August by donations from attorneys Sheryl Heid and Phyllis Jin, who support Pasqua's efforts to share her knowledge through storytelling.

"The radio show came about after several years of young people asking me about Fayette County history. Before becoming the law librarian, I would give tours of the courthouse and the people just wanted to know more about the courthouse and the county," Pasqua said. "One day, I just decided to call WMBS and ask how I could get a half hour program on the air."

Thus far, Pasqua's show has featured a number of special guests for themed episodes, including Dennis Balas, Chris Buckelew, Frank LaCava and Meghan Thompson Grimm. Pasqua and her cohost, Bill Madden, conduct extensive research on their topics before each broadcast.

She said it's important for her to keep sharing her historical knowledge, because "most people just want to know the history of their hometown."

"We had 31 millionaires that lived in the area at one time, and some of the older homes still have dumbwaiters and elevators in them," Pasqua said.

Pages From Fayette County Past episodes can be streamed through WMBS' online archives at [www.wmbs590.com](http://www.wmbs590.com); on SoundCloud at WMBS590; and on Facebook. You can listen to it live on WMBS 590 AM or WMBS 101.1 FM.

In addition to her radio show, Pasqua enjoys combining her love of art with her passion for the library through her Artist of the Month program.

"Judge Capuzzi let me start the program in 2007, and it will end in November. We are the only law library in the state of Pennsylvania that has an art program," Pasqua said. "The program has received a Fayette County proclamation, and it's been featured in the American Association of Law Libraries; the State, Court and County Law Libraries; and the Administrative Office of PA Courts' AOPConnected."

To date, the program has featured the work of 148 local artists on display throughout the library - many of whom are county employees with hidden creative talents.

Upon her retirement, Pasqua said she will most miss "the best job in the courthouse and the best bosses (she's) ever had."

"One of the best things I have done in my life was come back home to Fayette County," she said. "I have lived in many places - Chicago, New York, Washington, D.C. and many small towns - but there is no place like home."

To learn more about Fayette County, visit [www.FayetteCountyPA.org](http://www.FayetteCountyPA.org).

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