Enthusiasm Replaced by Anger at Washington, King Tells Members

By Ria C. Momblanco

The wind has shifted away from enthusiastic support of the Democratic Party and President Obama’s hopeful and optimistic message of change in Washington, to one that is disenchanted with big government and the way things are being run in Washington, CNN’s John King told Bar Association members at the March 17 Quarterly Meeting.

King’s keynote remarks, which came just four days before the passage of landmark national health care reform legislation, included his own thoughts on the Obama Administration and the challenges that it faces going forward. Statistically speaking, King said recent polls show that 56 percent of Americans believe that the government is so large and powerful that it poses a threat to individual rights; nine in 10 Americans believe that government officials are influenced by special interests; 81 percent say federal government officials are out of touch with average Americans; and 86 percent say that the federal government is broken.

“Think what you will about Sarah Palin,” King said of the 2008 Republican Party vice presidential nominee. “Count me as one of those skeptical of her potential national reach, but her authenticity at a time when people don’t like politicians, strikes a chord with a lot of disaffected Americans.”

King believes that Obama’s current political slump “is in an odd way much of his own making. … It is his overriding promise, and his failure to achieve it, … to make Washington different, that is undermining him across the political spectrum.”

According to King, there are two areas that Democrats need to focus on in order to regain the support that they once had at the beginning of Obama’s term. First, Democrats need to address the “economic anxiety” that is gripping many Americans who, due to rising unemployment, ...
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Bar Academy Keeps Members Plugged In to World Around Them

I am very pleased to announce that our Bar Association Academy is here! After months of planning, we are proudly launching a truly revolutionary educational service for our Association.

As I outlined during my inaugural remarks last December, the Bar Association Academy is a bold initiative linking our attorneys and the city’s vast resources. In its simplest form, it will be a series of member-driven courses that connect our members with Philadelphia’s leading cultural and civic institutions. It will include behind-the-scenes access to cultural institutions, shared interest groups such as cooking and other non-CLE learning for life. The courses will be offered at no charge or at cost to the participating member. As such, we are building this Academy without drawing from general operating funds.

Using our state-of-the-art technology platform, the Bar Association Academy offers online registration for courses through its new Web site at BarAcademy.philadelphiabar.org. Members and local institutions are able to suggest programming. We also plan to offer a number of educational courses via video library through the Web site.

When I spoke of a “bold agenda” during my inaugural remarks last December, this project was at the forefront of my thinking. We live in a world in which attorneys need to know more than just technical skills to succeed, but employers often cannot afford such training. We must keep ourselves constantly “plugged in” to the world around us in order to represent our clients knowledgeably.

In a strained economy, a well-rounded attorney will have a competitive edge. This is increasingly important as our profession shares information more and more through social media channels and sites such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. At the same time, a more educated attorney is also a better problem solver for both clients and the city in which we all practice.

This is an area in which our Bar Association can and must fill the void. With our vast membership, we are able to gain access to many organizations, so our members get the benefits without doing all the leg work.

But these are not just social activities. Can you imagine the impact our Association would have on professional development if an associate who knows nothing about wine – and who is closed out of those discussions with clients and senior lawyers – could learn from the sommelier of one of the city’s finest restaurants?

Suddenly, the ostracized become the conversation carriers.

Since January, we have founded a Board of Trustees that includes a former justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, members of the judiciary, some of our leading practitioners, representatives from our leading educational institutions and top Bar Association staff.

This group will design and maintain the highest level of educational programming.

The interconnectivity of the law requires us to anticipate all approaches and interpretations, in order to make sound judgments on behalf of our clients.

American-Swiss geographer and cartographer Waldo Tobler coined the phrase, “everything is related to everything else.” This fundamental first law of geography has been applied in scientific circles for decades. But we also hear it used in the business world to suggest a kind of strategic thinking. Your Bar Association is now ready to help bring this concept directly to our members.

Our Academy “kickoff” event on March 29 featured the Philadelphia Union soccer team. Registration was

Plenary Session with Author Amy Bach April 13

Attorney and journalist Amy Bach will discuss her groundbreaking new book, *Ordinary Injustice: How America Holds Court* at a Tuesday, April 13 plenary session of the Public Interest Section, in partnership with the Criminal Justice Section and the Young Lawyers Division.

A wine and cheese reception will follow the discussion, which begins at 4 p.m. in the 11th floor Conference Center of Bar Association headquarters, 1101 Market St. Copies of her book will be available for purchase and there will be an opportunity to have books purchased signed by the author.

In her critically acclaimed book, Bach describes her eight years spent investigating the various failures that occur each day in courtrooms across the country and how these failures affect the lives of those most involved: the accused, their families and their communities.

She discusses why the problems in our justice system are so widespread that they have become invisible to the professionals who work in the system. Bach believes that this blindness is due to a system that looks to maintain order, even at the expense of justice. She describes the overworked public defenders, prosecutors and judges who work together toward compromises with all too often a tragic result that bypasses due process and shortchanges the rights of those involved.

Bach’s observations show that those most affected are the poor and minorities and that the problems in our courts must be addressed for justice to be truly served. Her call for transparency in our judicial system, with new methods of checks and balances, is an important step to help reform, and restore confidence in, our justice system.
Oil’s Impact Reaches Further Than Your Car

By Jenimae Almquist

The size of our carbon footprint is augmented not only by the cars we drive, but also by the distance various goods travel to reach us. Meanwhile, crude oil is a component in a surprising number of everyday products. For instance, petrochemicals are found in a wide range of synthetic fabrics. Although such wash-and-wear items may not require dry cleaning with harsh chemicals, most commercial detergents contain petroleum products in some form. From the shampoos we use to the rubber soles of our shoes, many companies are ensuring that we use oil-based products from head to toe. Even the carpet below your feet contains synthetic fibers made from oil.

Almost every meal that comes to your table has had some connection to petrochemicals beyond the fuel used to transport it. Fertilizers and pesticides that contribute to crop growth and quality stem from petrochemicals. The food preservatives used to retain freshness are also oil derivatives, rendering our portion-sized, pre-packaged food even less environmentally friendly. At the end of the meal, the dishwashing liquid used to clean your plate is also oil-based.

And we have not yet scratched the surface. Look around you – every single plastic item you see contains some form of petrochemicals. Your car interiors, toys, plastic bags, computers and many types of furniture rely upon plastic, which in turn requires refined oil. The compact disc or DVD that you pop into one of those plastic players is yet another product containing oil. Of course, the electricity to run the player comes from burning fossil fuels, a process that presents one of the largest challenges to controlling climate change.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration reports that the United States consumed 7.14 billion barrels of oil in 2008, totaling approximately 23 percent of the entire world’s consumption. T. Boone Pickens, the Texas oil tycoon turned environmentalist who could likely afford to fuel his own vehicles with pure gold, proclaims that the “cheap and easy” pockets of oil have been exhausted; our reliance upon foreign oil and the cost entailed in oil extraction are both on the rise. Although estimates of the remaining oil stock vary, some experts predict that the “easy oil” will be gone by 2030. By 2035, much of the world’s oil will be “unconventional” oil, the last oil resources that are not easily extracted. The “easy oil” is gone forever.

The United States is a significant oil consumer, consuming approximately 9.5 million barrels of oil per day in 2008. Of this total, the United States produces approximately 4.6 million barrels per day. Most of the remaining 4.9 million barrels per day are imported, mainly from Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, and Mexico. The United States imports an average of 40 percent of its oil. Although attempts are being made to increase domestic oil production, the United States is expected to consume more oil than it produces by 2020.

For More Information

Philadelphia Bar Association’s Green Ribbon Task Force, contact co-chairs Michael Hayes at mhayes@mmwr.com or Kim Jessum at kjessum@stradley.com.

For questions, or to order by phone please contact Kaitlyn Finley in the Phillies Sales Office at 215.463.9878.

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Philadelphia Bar Association

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@ 7:05 p.m.
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For More Information

For more information about the Bar Association’s Green Ribbon Task Force, contact co-chairs Michael Hayes at mhayes@mmwr.com or Kim Jessum at kjessum@stradley.com.

Tree Planting

Set for April 24

The Philadelphia Bar Association will mark the 40th anniversary of Earth Day by planting trees on the morning of Saturday, April 24.

Please join the Green Ribbon Task Force in helping make Philadelphia greener. We will be planting root trees at one or more locations in Philadelphia and no experience or heavy lifting is necessary. You and your family and friends are all welcome and encouraged to participate. If you are interested in volunteering, register online at philadelphiabar.org. For questions, contact Kim Jessum at kjessum@stradley.com. More details about exact locations and times will be forthcoming.
Make Marketing Goals Attainable, Solos are Advised

By Edward P. Kelly

“Failure to plan is planning to fail” was Kimberly Alf ord Rice’s constant reminder to the Solo and Small Firm Committee during her “Marketing on a Budget” presentation on March 4. And she provided plenty of suggestions for what should be in every solo or small firm lawyer’s plan.

Rice encouraged every lawyer to prepare a written marketing plan that is S.M.A.R.T.: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Reasonable and Timely. In order to give yourself the best chance of success at generating business, you need a cohesive, coordinated plan that is flexible. Putting the plan in writing gives you focus and direction. But Rice cautioned that there is no “magic bullet” when it comes to marketing and business development.

Rice pointed out that we are all in the relationship business, and you need to figure out how to find the “right” relationships. The most important part of the plan is face-to-face interactions with qualified prospects. And the best piece of advice in this regard is to work with and interact more deeply with your current clients. You need to ask yourself how well you know your clients, and develop a system that will help you get to know them better. Be proactive and schedule lunches, site visits and in-office educational programs for these clients. At the same time, make sure that your clients know the full breadth of your practice. You can create your own “internalized” sales force if you can educate your clients about what it is that you do. Make a point of contacting your clients and always have their needs in mind. As Rice said, “You must give, give, give to receive.” The rule of thumb is that it takes about seven to 10 “touches” per year for you to be “top of mind.” You must make the time to forge these relationships and give an opportunity for your clients and business prospects to know and to like you, in addition to providing top-notch legal work.

Effective networking is an acquired skill and can be learned. It is vitally important to make new connections and maintain current ones. During this process, your sole focus should be “How can I help somebody?” Constantly assess and inventory your network, and give some thought as to the target you are trying to reach. While attending a networking event, spend five to seven minutes with any one person, and employ active listening skills. Focus on the other person and ask open-ended questions. Ask for their business card and, when the conversation has ended, write something about that person on the back to help your memory.

When you make a promising connection, be sure to follow-up with an e-mail soon after the event, and suggest getting together for coffee or lunch in order to get to know each other better. Then maintain persistent, consistent regular follow-up.

Rice ended by noting “social media is more powerful than you can imagine.” Facebook and LinkedIn should be used as supplementary tools that augment the face-to-face portions of any integrated marketing plan.

ABA WILL Academy April 29-30

The American Bar Association’s Commission on Women and Young Lawyers Division will present the fourth Women in Law Leadership (WILL) Academy on April 29-30 in Philadelphia. Realize your leadership potential, learn how to develop business and take your career to the next level.

The WILL Academy empowers and trains women lawyers to achieve success and leadership skills. You will receive practical advice from and have the opportunity to network with prominent judges, general counsels and practitioners from around the country. You will participate in a number of interactive and highly informative programs that address a wide range of important and cutting-edge subjects.

Keynote speakers include Lynn Laverty Ellenb ngs, chair and chief executive officer, Sunoco, Inc., and Mary E. Snapp, corporate vice president, deputy general counsel, Microsoft Corporation.

The Academy will be held at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel, 1200 Market St. and is co-sponsored by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Roberta D. Liebenberg, a senior partner at Fine, Kaplan and Black, R.P.C., is chair of the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession.

Maria A. Feeley, a partner at Pepper Hamilton LLP, is co-chair of the 2010 Women in Law Leadership Academy, as well as the Philadelphia liaison to the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession.
Heard Chief Judge Michel ‘Unplugged’ June 8

By Jeff Lyons

Retiring Federal Circuit Chief Judge Paul R. Michel will be the speaker for “Unplugged: First Thoughts Post-Retirement,” at a Tuesday, June 8 event presented by the Association’s Intellectual Property Committee. The event will be held at The Union League of Philadelphia, 140 S. Broad St., beginning at 5:30 p.m. and is co-sponsored by the Philadelphia Intellectual Property Law Association.

“We are very fortunate to have members of the Philadelphia IP community who were able to facilitate this event for us,” said Committee Co-Chair Nicole Galli. “This is a spectacular event that will help highlight the activity and involvement of all IP lawyers in Philadelphia, which is one of the missions of our committee,” she said.

“During the short time of its existence, the standing committee on Intellectual Property has enjoyed considerable growth, due in large part to great interest among bar members in this practice area,” added Committee Co-Chair Michael J. Berkowitz.

“Having the opportunity to host the chief judge of the most important and closely watched court in the nation on patent matters, particularly the chief judge of the most important court in the United States, the governing of the United States, the governing body of the judicial branch. In 2005 he was appointed by the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court to serve on the seven-judge Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference. Chief Judge Michel has written more than 800 opinions in the diverse legal areas covered by his circuit: patent, government contracts, international trade, veterans’ benefits, government takings of private property, tax, childhood vaccine injuries, military promotions, trademark, civilian government personnel, and whistleblower cases. By designation of the chief justice, he has also regularly sat with the Second, Third and Ninth Circuits, where he decided constitutional, criminal, administrative, securities, immigration and state law cases. Prior to his appointment, he served in the executive and legislative branches of the government for 22 years.

The University of Virginia Law School graduate served as assistant district attorney and then deputy district attorney for investigations under Arlen Specter in Philadelphia, where he was responsible for investigating police and public corruption. As assistant special Watergate prosecutor in 1974-1975 under Leon Jaworski, he was responsible for investigating President Nixon’s slash fund, Howard Hughes, Bebe Rebozo, and Nixon’s secretary, Rosemary Woods. From 1975 to 1976 he was an assistant counsel for the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (Church Committee), assisting Chief Counsel Frederick AO Schwarz in investigating abuses of civil liberties by U.S. law enforcement and intelligence agencies targeting American citizens. Michel also helped draft legislation to ensure that NSA, CIA and IRS practices conformed to the Constitution and statutes. From 1976-1978, he served under Dick Thornburgh as deputy chief of the Justice Department’s new Public Integrity Section, where he directed the “Koreagate” investigation. In 1978 he was appointed by Benjamin Civiletti as an associate deputy attorney general, helping to supervise U.S. attorneys, the Criminal Division, the FBI, and the Marshall Service. He was one of the authors of the legislative charter proposed in 1978 for the FBI and of revisions to Attorney General’s guidelines authorizing and constraining certain FBI investigative practices.

In 1980 he briefly served as acting deputy attorney general. From April 1981 until March of 1988, he served on Sen. Arlen Specter’s staff, including as counsel and chief of staff. There, he worked on legislation dealing with career criminals, arms control, gun control, mining safety, nuclear arms summit meetings and many other subjects. Most recently, Judge Michel conducted a mock trial on the clash between the president and Congress over the power to wage war for the American Bar Association Section on International Law in 2008, was the keynote speaker at the Dec. 5, 2008 Federal Trade Commission hearing on patent law reform, and served as a panelist for the American Constitution Society on immigration law reform in 2007.

Bench-Bar at Borgata October 15-16

The Philadelphia Bar Association’s popular Bench-Bar and Annual Conference is returning in 2010, moving back to The Borgata in Atlantic City, N.J. for the weekend of Oct. 15 and 16. Vice Chancellor John E. Savoeh and Board of Governors Vice Chair Regina M. Foley are conference chairs. The Association’s Bench-Bar Conference traditionally features a large selection of continuing legal education seminars for practitioners in a variety of specialty areas. There is always ample opportunity for attorneys to mingle and network with their colleagues and members of the bench. Visit philadelphiabar.org for more details about the 2010 Bench-Bar Conference as they become available.

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Training Program Targets Business Development

By Chuck Polin and Evan Polin

Last year, the Philadelphia Bar Association partnered with The Training Resource Group to provide business development programs for its members. The program was created in response to market conditions and a need for attorneys in the region to develop or refine their client acquisition skills.

We’ve now successfully run our four-session program that focuses on developing new business a total of four times and we’ve noticed a very interesting trend. Our business development program is attracting a very diverse population of attorneys. Participants in the program have included attorneys ranging in experience from one year removed from law school to attorneys who have been practicing for more than 40 years. They are involved in complex litigation, family law and personal injury matters. Some of the participants come from solo practices and some are with the largest firms in the city. We have had an equal number of male and female participants as well as attorneys from different races and ethnicities. The participants have been commuting from Philadelphia, the suburbs and New Jersey.

The one common trait of the participants in this workshop is that they are all looking to improve their business development skills. They understand that whether they are running their own firms, or they are with the largest firms in the region, business development has become an important aspect of growing their practice and moving their careers forward. Although each attorney’s background is different, many face the same challenges. Everyone who is participating in the program is looking to find ways to find new potential clients, develop new opportunities, leverage their current relationships into more files, generate more referrals and increase their book of business. All of the attorneys are trying to do this while still balancing the hours that they are required to bill.

The workshop consists of four, two-hour sessions at Bar Association headquarters and one individual one-on-one coaching session for each participant. The program helps each attorney develop a plan of attack, track that plan, and learn the business development skills that were never taught in law school. Some of the specific skills that these attorneys are learning include developing and tracking a plan, differentiating themselves from their competitors, developing more business from their current relationships, more easily identifying cross-selling opportunities between practice groups, and better qualifying opportunities.

Some of the results that participants are reporting include a more focused plan of attack for business development, increased referrals, more new files and increased revenues. Participants are finding that the individual coaching sessions are really helping them to get on track and work smarter rather than harder.

For more information or to register for upcoming programs, contact Chuck Polin or Evan Polin at the Training Resource Group at 215-320-4650 or visit www.trainingresourcegroup.com.

Chief Justice Helps Mark Formation of Veterans Court

By Chuck Polin and Evan Polin

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FJD Training Session on Electronic Filing April 22

The First Judicial District will hold a training session on electronic filing on Thursday, April 22.

Electronic filing of all civil matters became mandatory in January 2009. This program will provide in-depth instruction on the use of the electronic filing system. It was designed to allow for the filing of all civil cases and legal document via the Internet from anywhere at any time. The system currently provides attorneys and litigants with unlimited online access to all papers and legal documents filed in their cases.

The faculty for the program includes President Judge Pamela Pryor Dembe, Administrative Judge D. Webster Koogh, Supervising Judge William J. Manfredi, Deputy Court Administrator Charles A. Mapp Sr., Deputy Court Administrator Dominic J. Rossi, Prothonotary Joseph H. Evers, and Deputy Prothonotary Deborah E. Dailey, along with Harold Palmer, director of application systems development and Steven Wulko from Palmer, director of application systems quality assurance.

The cost of the program is $125 and includes the program and electronic version of the e-filing manual. The program has been approved for 3 substantive CLE credits.

The program begins at 9 a.m. in Conference Room 380 of City Hall. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Registration forms can be downloaded at courts.phila.gov. E-mail completed forms to Kara.behlau@courts.phila.gov.

The program has been approved for 3 substantive CLE credits.
Panelists Offer Thoughts on UM/UIM Practice

By Andrew D. Swain

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court held in 2005 that the state Department of Insurance did not have the authority to require mandatory binding arbitration for uninsured motorist (UM) and underinsured motorist (UIM) claims. Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania, Inc. v. Koken, 889 A.2d 550 (Pa. 2005). While insurance carriers have had the option to exclude arbitration, the consensus of speakers at the March 3 meeting of the State Civil Litigation Section found that carriers continue to opt for alternative dispute resolution solutions rather than require their insureds to commence jury trials. The carriers have offered different options for UM/UIM claims since 2005 so it is important to review the policy for the accident year in question.

Panelists for the program included Harris T. Bock, director of the Dispute Resolution Institute; Scott Cooper, a partner at SchmidtKramer; Katherine Cole Douglas, a member of Bennett, Bricklin & Salzburg LLC; and John A. Livingood Jr. of Margolis Edelstein.

Cooper explained that after Koken each carrier was required to obtain permission from the Insurance Department to modify its arbitration provision. To enforce that revised policy the carrier must prove that notice to the insured was provided. In the absence of such proof a plaintiff can demand arbitration under his or her prior policy. Cooper also recommended contacting the carrier’s adjuster to see if the carrier would agree to arbitration even if the policy was amended. Bock commented that a lot of companies are agreeing to arbitrate these cases and that Koken has allowed them to serve as the gatekeeper in determining how cases will be resolved. Douglas concurred from her experience as a defense attorney and found that carriers tend to prefer a sole arbitrator.

When should an action be filed? While the UM/UIM statute of limitations is four years (the statute of limitations begins to run when the insured settles his claim with or obtains an award from the underinsured driver), Cooper explained that a plaintiff could unintentionally waive a bad-faith claim by not filing a writ in a timely manner within two years. Under some post-Koken policies, the UM/UIM claim must be commenced with the third-party lawsuit. Douglas said that in her experience the majority of bad-faith claims were filed merely to preserve the rights of the plaintiff and that

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Developments in Investment Management

Investment Companies Committee
Co-Chair David F. Connor (from left) joins Amy B. R. Lancellotta and Karrie McMillan of the Investment Company Institute and Committee Co-Chair Michael D. Mabry at the Committee’s March 22 meeting. Lancellotta and McMillan discussed regulatory developments in the investment management industry.

Podcast Spotlight
Visit philadelphiabar.org to listen to the podcast from this meeting.

VIP Honors S. Jerry Weissman

This month Philadelphia VIP recognizes S. Jerry Weissman for his outstanding volunteer assistance to VIP clients.

Weissman has been volunteering with VIP since 1998. He consistently treats his family law clients with genuine kindness and tireless commitment. He consistently goes beyond the scope of what is expected to ensure that all of his clients’ legal issues are addressed. Recently, Weissman accepted a pro bono divorce case. He called VIP shortly thereafter to say that a support and a custody matter would need to be opened as well, and that he would be happy to assist the client with all three. Later, when an issue arose for the client that involved a criminal law matter, Weissman sought advice on the best course of action for her.

As a mentor, Weissman also goes above and beyond the call of duty. Recently he agreed to mentor a new attorney on a family law case. He took her under his wing and has continued to work with her on a variety of VIP and fee-based cases. Less than a year out of law school she now has three of her own VIP cases and is gaining experience, skills and confidence in Family Court thanks to Weissman’s tutelage and support.

For his commitment and dedication to our clients and fellow volunteers, Philadelphia VIP offers its heartfelt appreciation to Jerry Weissman.
Each year, the Young Lawyers Division coordinates the annual Law Week events on behalf of the Philadelphia Bar Association and the community at large. This year, Philadelphia will celebrate Law Week from April 26 to May 3 with the theme “Law in the 21st Century: Enduring Traditions, Emerging Challenges.”

Law Week is the Philadelphia Bar Association’s expansion of Law Day, which is codified at 36 U.S.C. § 113 and defined as a special day of celebration by the people of the United States in appreciation of their liberties and of their reeducation to the ideals of equality and justice under law and for the cultivation of the respect for law that is so vital to the democratic way of life.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established the first celebration of “Law Day.” In 1961, Congress issued a joint resolution designating May 1 as the official date for the annual Law Day celebration. The Philadelphia Bar Association expanded Law Day into Law Week in order to accommodate a large number of programs and extend the reach of the bar throughout Philadelphia.

A main objective of the YLD is to introduce law and the legal profession to the public. To do this, the YLD organizes Legal Advice Live!, an ABA award-winning program that is a free ask-a-lawyer event spanning across Philadelphia. Attorneys will provide answers to legal questions and referral information on a broad range of topics. Legal Advice Live! will take place on Monday, April 26 at select Free Library of Philadelphia branches. The YLD also organizes LegalLine, a service in which volunteer attorneys provide free legal advice over the telephone and make referrals to attorneys who participate in the Bar Association’s Lawyer Referral and Information Service. This program will take place on Wednesday, April 28, from 5-8 p.m. On Monday, May 3, the winner of the Edward F. Chacker Essay Contest will read his or her essay at a naturalization ceremony welcoming dozens of new U.S. citizens at the U.S. Courthouse. The winner is also provided with a $1,000 college scholarship.

Another large focus of Law Week is on reaching out to local school students to positively reinforce a strong work ethic and to help them better understand law and the legal profession. Throughout the week, the Lawyer in the Classroom program coordinates attorneys visiting area schools to enthusiastically address students’ concerns about the law and the legal issues that affect them as they enter adulthood, and answer questions about the legal profession.

On Friday, April 30, the Lawyer for a Day program pairs attorneys with high school students to enable the students to see what it is like to be a lawyer by observing in city courtrooms. The students are able to learn more about the process of the judicial system as well as the roles lawyers, judges and juries play in our community. All participants are invited to a lunch program, which includes a guest speaker from the community. This year’s speaker will be former Philadelphia Flyers player Bob Kelly, a member of the 1973-1974 and 1974-1975 Stanley Cup champion teams.

The YLD also partners with several Court of Common Pleas judges to provide volunteer attorneys in cases where the facts of the well-known fairytales “Goldilocks and the Three Bears” and “The Three Little Pigs” are used as the basis for mock criminal trials during the “Trials of Goldilocks” and the “Big Bad Wolf.” Volunteers act as prosecutors, defense attorneys and witnesses in the criminal trials, which include opening statements, examinations and cross-examinations of witnesses, closing arguments, and instructions of the jury in seven different City Hall courtrooms. At the conclusion of each trial, the students act as the jury and determine whether the Big Bad Wolf or Goldilocks is guilty of a crime.

For Law Week to be a success, the YLD needs several hundred volunteer attorneys, law students and paralegals. I encourage and invite attorneys of any age who practice all areas of law and from all practice settings, including large firms, solo practitioners, in-house counsel, prosecutors, public defenders, civil trial attorneys as well as attorneys in non-traditional jobs, to participate in the 2010 Law Week activities.

I have participated in Law Week activities for the past five years. Every year I am reminded of the importance of making time to introduce law to those in the community as well as provide an opportunity to instill enthusiasm for law and the legal profession in Philadelphia’s students.

If you are interested in volunteering or finding out more about Law Week, contact the 2010 Law Week Co-Chairs Carey Choplos at cchoplos@feldman-shepherd.com or Kelly Gastley at kgastley@phillyvip.org.

Albertine “Abbie” DuFrayne, adufrayne@petrellilaw.com, an associate with Petrelli Law, P.C., is chair of the Young Lawyers Division.

YLD Comedy Night May 22 with Dan Cummins

Comedian Dan Cummins, who has appeared on Comedy Central’s “Live at Gotham,” the Late, Late Show with Craig Ferguson” and “Last Comic Standing,” will be the headline performer at the 5th Annual YLD Comedy Night and Silent Auction on Saturday, May 22 at the Franklin Institute, 222 N. 20th St. The event begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are $65 if purchased by May 7 and $80 after May 7. The cutoff for ticket sales is May 17. No walk-up sales will be available.

All proceeds will benefit the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. A link for registration will be available soon at philadelphiabar.org.
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Philadelphia Bar Association

10 Philadelphia Bar Reporter April 2010 philadelphiabar.org
Superior Court Busy with Custody Issues in 2009

By Julia Swain

Jurisdiction, grandparents’ rights and mental health records were just some of the custody issues decided by the Pennsylvania Superior Court in 2009. The Family Law Section’s Custody Committee reported on these cases at the Section’s March 1 meeting. The presenters were Michael Bertin, Elaine Smith, Kristine Calalong, John Zarzola and Lee Schwartz.

A record hearing is required in a jurisdictional dispute involving a determination of the home state of a child who is 6 months old or less. Boussen-Reilly v. Reilly, 980 A.2d 643 (Pa. Super. 2009). Under the UCCJEA, 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5402, “home state” is the state in which a child lived for at least six consecutive months immediately preceding the commencement of a custody proceeding. In Boussen-Reilly, the father challenged jurisdiction in a custody action involving a 6-month-old child, who had resided in Pennsylvania for three months, and in New York prior thereto. The Pennsylvania judge conferred by phone with the New York judge, after which the Pennsylvania court granted the father’s motion to dismiss the custody action. The Superior Court reversed and remanded the case for a full hearing to determine whether mother’s move to Pennsylvania was indefinite or temporary.

Despite the “Primary Caretaker Doctrine,” which holds that positive consideration should be given to the parent who has acted as a child’s primary caretaker, primary physical custody was transferred to the father based upon his and his family’s significant involvement in raising the child and the child’s preference. Gianvito v. Gianvito, 975 A.2d 1164 (Pa. Super. 2009).

An agreement for Pennsylvania to have jurisdiction is only one factor in determining if jurisdiction is proper under the UCCJEA, 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5427. A.D. v. M.A.B., --- A.2d ---, (Pa. Super. 2010). In A.D., the parents entered into an agreement that Philadelphia would be the forum for any custody filings, although mother and the child had resided here and moved to numerous residences, in and outside the United States. The Superior Court affirmed a Common Pleas Court judge’s decision to relinquish jurisdiction in favor of Michigan, where the mother and the child resided, holding that Pennsylvania was no longer a convenient forum.

A court cannot order a parent to consent to the release of his/her mental health records. Gates v. Gates, 967 A.2d 1024 (Pa. Super. 2009). Under the Mental Health Procedures Act, 50 P.S. §7111(a), the mother did not waive her statutory rights of confidentiality, despite previously acknowledging the court’s ability to order her to submit to a mental health exam and despite failing to specifically invoke the Act when she challenged the release of the records. The Superior Court found that the mother’s refusal to disclose her records was justified; that she did not act with wrongful intent; and, could not be held in contempt. The Superior Court stated that the mother would likely suffer irreparable harm if she complied with the court order and released her confidential records.


Under 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5303(c), a court is required to appoint a “qualified professional” to provide counseling to an incarcerated parent who petitions to exercise custodial rights. Cooper v. Zgela, 969 A.2d 621 (Pa. Super. 2009). The qualified profession must testify to assist the court in determining if the incarcerated parent poses a risk of harm to the child.

One year of residence in Pennsylvania coupled with a local custody order was sufficient for Pennsylvania to retain jurisdiction and issue contempt findings and sanctions against a mother who took a child to Turkey, despite all parties being in Turkey when the contempt proceeding was initiated. Hanca v. Hanca, 982 A.2d 1230 (Pa. Super. 2009).

Julia Swain, a partner at Fox Rothschild LLP, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

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By Manny D. Pokotilow

There’s a bounty out on Neill W. Clark, the winner of 11 straight legal team competitions at the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Annual 5K Run/Walk.

The first registered Philadelphia Bar Association runner to beat Clark at the 31st Annual 5K Run/Walk on Sunday, May 16 will receive $200 courtesy of Philadelphia Runner.

The 5K Run/Walk, which benefits the Support Center for Child Advocates, begins at 8:30 a.m. on the Martin Luther King Drive, adjacent to the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

“Bryan Mahon, my close friend, training partner and co-owner of Philadelphia Runner, can’t seem to beat me in races so I guess he has to pay others to do it,” joked Clark.

“Seriously, the bounty adds both pressure and excitement, and that’s the combination you need to race well. I’m sure there are some faster lawyers lurking in the halls of some Philadelphia firms who just haven’t bothered to show up on race day, so perhaps the money is the motivation they need to come out and beat me,” Clark said.

There will be several competitive divisions with a 5K run competition for all runners, a 5K run competition for members of the Philadelphia Bar Association only and there will be both a legal team competition and a corporate team competition. In addition, there will be a kids’ dash sponsored by Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney P.C. for children ages 5-10. This free 200-yard non-competitive dash will begin after the run. All participants will receive a giveaway.

All participants who complete the run or walk will receive a short-sleeve T-shirt. The registration fee for the 5K run is $25, if postmarked by Wednesday, May 12, or delivered in person on Thursday, May 13 or Friday, May 14. For those who register on the day of the run, the fee will be $35.

If you are a member of the Philadelphia Bar Association and would like to have your time also placed among only members of the Bar, the registration fee is $40, if postmarked by Wednesday, May 12, or delivered in person on May 13 or 14. The registration fee on race day will be $50.

For the 5K walk, registration for each individual is $20. If you wish to run as a family, the 5K walk will be $60 and that includes all immediate family members at the reduced rate. Pre-registration is encouraged.

Online registration is available until May 14 at www.active.com, where a service fee will apply.

Checks should be made payable to the beneficiary of the run, the Support Center for Child Advocates.

For company and legal team competition applications, please call Michael Berkowitz at Caesar, Rivise, Bernstein, Cohen & Pokotilow, Ltd., 215-567-2010 (ext. 132), or via e-mail at mjberkowitz@crbcp.com.

This year, the Bar Association is being joined by corporate sponsors FirsTrust, Wawa, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney P.C., Iron Mountain, Philadelphia Runner, Brooks, The Legal Intelligencer, Landmark Legal Solutions, USI Affinity, Vertext, Reliable and CPMI.

The event is also being joined by legal sponsors Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP; Anapol Schwartz Weiss Cohen Feldman & Smalley, PC; Archer & Greiner, P.C.; Caesar Rivise Bernstein Cohen & Pokotilow Ltd.; Cozen O’Connor; DLA Piper; Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP; Fox Rothschild LLP; Marshall, Denneny, Warner, Coleman & Goggins; Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP; Panitch Schwarze Belsario & Nadel LLP; Pepper Hamilton LLP; Ratter Prestia; Raynes McCarty; Sandals & Associates, P.C.;Thorpe, Reed & Armstrong, LLP; and Zarwin Baum DeVito Kaplan Schaer Toddy P.C., along with legal supporters, Barrack, Rodos & Bacine; and Berger & Montague, P.C.

For more information, contact Eric Marzlufl at 215-567-2010 (ext. 146) or via e-mail at esmarzluf@crbcp.com or Kristyn DiDominick at 267-546-9211 or via-email at kdiddominick@advokid.org.

Manny D. Pokotilow (mpokotilow@crbcp.com), managing partner with Caesar, Rivise, Bernstein, Cohen and Pokotilow, Ltd., is co-chair of the Charity Run Committee.

Defeat Champ, Win $200 at Bar 5K May 16

Neill W. Clark (1001) has won 11 straight legal competitions at the Bar Association’s 5K race. This year’s race is May 16.
Ladov Reflects on Her Year Leading Bar

By Jeff Lyons

SAYDE J. LADOV ACCEPTED THE GOLD box presented annually to the immediate-past Chancellor at the March 17 Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon and looked back at the highlights of her year as leader of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

“Wikipedia tells us that the box was presented to Andrew Hamilton in 1735 by the people of New York and the other colonies as they hailed the verdict in the John Peter Zenger case with delight, since it insured free discussion of the conduct of public men. I am sure that they would have included women had they thought about it,” Ladov said.

“A group of prominent residents contributed to the production of a 5½-ounce gold box that was presented to Hamilton as a lasting mark of their gratitude to him. The box was preserved as a family heirloom for many years and is now in the collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania,” she said.

Chancellor Scott F. Cooper made the presentation. The gold box is inscribed with the message “acquired not by money, but by character.”

Ladov looked back at the struggles the Association faced in 2009. “Who could have envisioned the economy taking its toll on the profession to the extent that it did? Who would have known that as a result, new and extraordinary financial burdens would be placed on the Association? Who would have thought that highly skilled competent professionals who accept court appointments to serve the underserved would be thought of as vendors and not get paid? Who would have envisioned the possibility of a doomsday scenario where courts would be closed one day a week if not more? Who could have foreseen judges behaving badly in Luzerne County? Who could have expected that the press would have thrown a federal court judge under the bus for just doing his job? Who could have foreseen the implosion of a legendary law firm?”

2009 also was marked by many new and successful accomplishments. “On the other hand, Upon Further Review has celebrated its first anniversary as the Bar’s newest electronic publication, serving the needs of lawyers – making sure that they keep pace with the newest developments in the law. Civil Gideon has moved from a vague idea into the Bar’s stated policy with a task force that pushes forward to make policy a practice. The Military Affairs Committee serves the needs of returning service members and those left behind to make sure that no one is left out. This year the committee will work hand in hand with the newly established Veterans Court,” Ladov said. She also talked about new leadership brought into the Association providing a fresh perspective and the success of the first-ever Diversity Summit.

She also touted the work of the Association’s Judicial Commission, where 16 of 17 candidates who were recommended by the Commission were elected to the Court of Common Pleas and Municipal Court.

“Our members who were directly impacted by the economy have been well served by the Lawyers in Transition program. Through our collaborative efforts, the financial burdens placed on the Bar Association have resulted in locating additional long-term sources of revenue that resulted in budget surplus as well as a successful annual conference that ended in the black. Further, as a result of collaborative leadership efforts, our court-appointed lawyers and arbitrators got paid. And yes, the mayor, the governor and the chief justice of the Commonwealth all support the construction of a new unified Family Court building,” Ladov said.

QUARTERLY MEETING AND LUNCHEON

John King meets with Ria C. Momblanco (from left), Assistant Secretary Sophia Lee, Judge Phyllis W. Beck and Roberta D. Liebenberg before the March 17 Quarterly Meeting. Mayor Michael Nutter (above) also addressed Bar members.

Quarterly continued from page 1

ment, foreclosures and personal bankruptcies, fear that the American Dream is slipping out of reach. Second, Democrats must address the growing sense among Americans that there is a disconnect – an incongruity between the cost-cutting measures that towns and cities are making and the large spending measures that appear to be coming out of Washington.

King refused to predict whether the president’s current struggles – which range from pushing the healthcare reform bill through Congress, to deciding on the appropriate forum in which to try the accused 9/11 conspirators – will adversely affect Democrats in the 2010 House of Representatives elections. At this point, it could still go either way, King said.

A journalist for 25 years, King, the anchor of the new CNN prime-time show “John King, USA,” has covered six presidential elections and has traveled the globe interviewing political leaders and reporting firsthand on major international events. He is probably best known in recent years for his coverage of the 2008 presidential election in which he explained demographics and polling data through the use of a multi-touch collaboration wall. King’s deft manipulation of the “magic wall” was so impressive that his renown crossed over into the pop-culture arena where he and the giant LCD screen were parodied on “Saturday Night Live” and “The Daily Show.”

Despite what some may perceive as a glamorous life, King never forgets his humble beginnings. He opened his speech by recalling his childhood in Dorchester, a blue-collar neighborhood of Boston. Growing up in a place where families lived paycheck to paycheck, King is familiar with the dream of everyday Americans “to work hard, play by the rules, and pass on to your children a better life.” It is perhaps this modest background that motivated King to spend last year visiting each of the 50 states so that he could report on the stories and political views of ordinary Americans.

Ria C. Momblanco, an associate at Fine, Kaplan and Black, R.P.C., is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
You’ve probably seen the headlines in The Legal Intelligencer the past few months: “Law Firm X Increases PPP Percent,” “Law Firm Y Cuts Expenses but Increases Revenues,” “Law Firm Z’s Headcount Down; Impacts Revenue.”

This reporting only confirms the rollercoaster economic year the legal community has experienced. The private firms have had to be creative and make some hard choices to keep ahead during the economic challenges of the past year.

But I want to publish a headline of my own: “Despite Everything, Law Firm Generosity is Still in Place.”

I know this because last year, 66 Philadelphia law firms pledged more than $1 million to the Raising the Bar campaign to help our public interest grantee agencies. Although the number of firms was fewer than in past years, the generosity of those firms was just as robust.

The “Raising the Bar” campaign represents the primary mechanism for structured, coordinated law firm charitable giving to the Philadelphia legal services community. The original purpose of this campaign when it was begun in 2006 was to increase law firm giving.

Before the advent of Raising the Bar, it was estimated that Philadelphia law firms contributed just $200 per attorney for legal services. Now, with $300 per attorney being the minimum pledge, and many firms contributing much more than that, the campaign has made a huge impact on the public interest agencies.

And our grantees need all the help they can get. If you’ve been reading my columns this past year, you’ve heard my drumbeat that because of the economic crisis, the need for the no-cost or low-cost legal services provided by our public interest colleagues has increased while like a lot of us, their organizations have had to cut staff and resources. The Raising the Bar campaign is one way to help bridge gaps in funding for our grantees. That translates into legal services that have helped to save homes from foreclosure, to save kids from unfair and illegal incarceration, to save women, children and seniors from abuse and to help many, many more of the most vulnerable in our communities.

Now that we are all starting to breathe a little more freely, the co-chairs of the Raising the Bar Committee, Bar Foundation trustees Steven Bizas of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, and Wendy Bentlestone of Hangley Arscichot Segall and Pudlin, are rolling out the campaign for 2010. They are asking again for the institutional support of the legal community for the Raising the Bar campaign.

The campaign plans to acknowledge those firms who have gone beyond the minimum goals set by the Raising the Bar campaign. Some firms, hers included, often give more than the basic $300 per attorney. “Watching the Winter Olympics gave us the idea to award gold, silver and bronze medals for different levels of giving. This year we are going to acknowledge those firms that contribute more.”

Being part of Raising the Bar is easy; it requires committing to donate $300 (or more) per Philadelphia attorney to the Foundation and/or any of its 33 grantee organizations. And, this commitment can be fulfilled by doing things that the firms have already been doing. For example, when your firm sponsors a Bar Foundation or a Legal Clinic for the Disabled event, that sponsorship counts toward your Raising the Bar pledge. When your firm makes a direct contribution to the Bar Foundation or to Philadelphia VIP, that counts. Or, the Bar Foundation can help with the administration of your charitable donations by distributing funds through a “donor option” program to any of the 33 legal services agencies that are grantees of the Bar Foundation.

Philadelphia law firms have repeatedly recognized the importance of our nonprofit legal services organizations – the 33 grantees of the Foundation – by their participation in the Raising the Bar Campaign. As Steve, who like Wendy, has twice led the Raising the Bar Campaign, recently said, “All our firms receive many credible requests for support from worthy organizations in our community. But law firms are economic and charitable forces in Philadelphia and have a unique obligation to support the justice represented by the Bar Foundation and its network of legal services agencies.”

When Steve, Wendy or another member of their Committee call this year, whether you are one of the 66 firms which signed on for 2009, or one that has not yet committed, please take their call and continue the legal community’s institutional support of the Raising the Bar Campaign.

Memorial Gifts Recognized

From time to time, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation receives contributions or a fund in memory of someone who has died or, on a happier note, to mark a special occasion or honor an achievement. Philadelphia lawyers are a special breed. We honor them when we make a gift to the Bar Foundation that is then used to assist Philadelphia’s public interest lawyers and the clients to whom they provide legal services.

In Memory

Given by A. Harold Datz, in memory of Frank H. Nitro, father of retired Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice, the Hon. Russell M. Nitro.

Given by A. Harold Datz, in memory of Frank “Chic” Bucciarelli, father and father-in-law of Dominick J. and Mary Bucciarelli.

Given by G.A. Taylor Fernley, Arlene Fickler, Susan M. Herschel, Janet Hershey, Robert P. Lawrence, Linda A. Matrunich and Samuel W. Morris, Jr., in memory of R. Nicholas Gimbel, a partner at McCarter & English, a Philadelphia litigator and a man of varied talents, interests and friends. We thank all who have made donations to the Foundation’s R. Nicholas Gimbel Fund for Legal Excellence in his memory, including those recent contributors.

By Amy B. Ginensky

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We’ve all heard the adage – the only constant in life is change. Today we face the early stages of what is proving to be a cataclysmic change in the way that Americans view themselves and how we are viewed by others around the world. America’s assumed role as the world leader in business and technology is being challenged by competitive forces from every corner of the globe. The world has gone flat, and the reach of the individual now extends beyond national and electronic borders. The uncertainty this causes is ominous to some, but should signal opportunity. Because the only constant in life is change, we and future generations must embrace the challenge. Which leaves the question: how do we best prepare for this change?

When I think about what this global pluralism means for my children, especially my teenage son, Geoffrey, I consider the advice I give him about his future. What skills and profession will best prepare Geoffrey for a future that may very well take place somewhere other than the U.S.? Medicine immediately comes to mind when considering a valued and geographically transferrable profession. Before you accuse me of professional treason, ask yourself – who would you vote off the island first: the person that can set a broken limb and unclog an artery, or the person trained to see all sides of an issue and write a tight brief?

Assuming medical school is not in Geoffrey’s future, however, I would encourage him to be a lawyer. Not to follow in his dad’s footsteps or to become a Supreme Court justice, but to develop skills that will help him compete in an evolving global marketplace.

A law degree is the professional school equivalent of a liberal arts degree. The analytical and logical reasoning skills learned in law school and developed during legal practice are fundamental to success in any professional endeavor, and transferrable to other disciplines. Not to say that these traits are unique to lawyers, but they are the essential tools of the legal trade. These attributes can be assets beyond the practice of law, and have application in any job where critical thought is necessary. Developing a flexible skill set that can be utilized in other employment contexts is important because the typical student today can expect to have as many as 14 jobs and three careers during the course of their lifetime.

Lawyers routinely process large amounts of data and extract the information relevant to their task. For litigators, this often means reviewing tens of thousands of documents in search of the nugget needed to advance their client’s position. For transactional lawyers, this can mean learning your client’s business inside and out so that you can negotiate effectively on their behalf. For each case or transaction, the lawyer must become an expert in that field. This requires the analytical skills to process large amounts of information, and the judgment to determine what is relevant to your case or deal. Once these mental muscles are developed, they can be flexed in any number of ways.

Like a liberal arts education, legal training teaches you to think in a broad sense. The concept of “thinking like a lawyer” is designed to provide you with the intellectual tools necessary for success in a variety of settings, rather than any one particular environment. As we enter a time when a premium will be placed on being adaptive and resilient, the fundamental skills required for success as a lawyer will continue to be valuable beyond the practice of law. To put this in a way a 15-year-old can appreciate, you get a lot of different apps (i.e., applications) with a law degree.

Hopefully, I can convince Geoffrey that if he doesn’t end up saving lives through medicine, he can help make lives better through the practice of law. Moreover, the skills and training developed as a lawyer will serve him well throughout his professional careers, whatever they all end up being. Assuming, of course, the guitar thing doesn’t work out.

Joel C. Trotter (joel.c.trotter@gsk.com) is senior counsel with GlaxoSmithKline.

The analytical and logical reasoning skills learned in law school and developed during legal practice are fundamental to success in any professional endeavor, and transferrable to other disciplines.

Green Ribbon continued from page 4

finite supply of oil vary widely from 60 to 80 to 100 years, the EIA confidently predicts that we have a sufficient worldwide supply of oil to last for the next 25 years. That’s hardly reassuring.

Needless to say, burning, refining, and transporting oil and all of its related products contributes dramatically to climate change. Here are some simple steps to decrease your petrochemical consumption:• Just say “no” (politely, of course) to packing purchases in umpenny plastic bags. Use reusable bags, go bagless, or at least recycle any plastic bags and dry cleaning bags at the bins that are now available at grocery stores.
• Buy products that have less plastic packaging and steer clear of synthetic fibers when possible. Stores now carry more environmentally friendly products, from cat litter to cleaning supplies to the new SunChips’ 100 percent compostable packaging.

Reduce gasoline consumption by taking public transportation, carpooling or walking. Be sure your tires are filled to an appropriate pressure, as tires low on air force a vehicle to consume more gasoline. Consider a hybrid car – the payback curve will likely become more attractive as demand for fuel-saving vehicles increases.

• Consider alternative energy sources and cut down your electricity usage in any way possible. Solar power is becoming more affordable given Pennsylvania and New Jersey rebates, and power companies now offer packages that rely upon wind turbine, geothermal and other non-petrochemical electricity sources. Also, the federal tax credit for home energy efficiency improvement (certain windows, insulation, doors, roofs) for 30 percent of the cost (up to $1,500) has been extended until Dec. 31, 2010.

• As a last resort, buy carbon credits or invest in environmentally friendly technology. You have already used the oil, but at least you can devote resources to cleaner energy in the future.

A few moments of mindfulness will create more markets for renewable energy sources that do not pollute our earth, do not increase our reliance upon foreign oil, and do not deplete the rapidly diminishing supply of natural resources.

Jenimac A. Alquiqit (jalnqiqit@raynesmcarrty.com) is an associate at Raynes McCarty and a member of the Green Ribbon Task Force.

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Brandejs Scholarship Luncheon April 20

The Louis D. Brandeis Law Society Foundation will hold its Second Annual Scholarship Luncheon on Tuesday, April 20 at 12 p.m. at the Union League of Philadelphia. The Foundation is the charitable arm of the Brandeis Law Society.

At the luncheon, scholarships will be presented to local law students, one in the name of the Hon. Abraham J. Gafni (Retired) and one in honor of the Hon. Sandra Mazer Moss. The event provides assistance to worthy law students who

Social Media continued from page 1

Twitter is a “micro-blog” that allows for the mass dissemination of messages consisting of 140 characters or less, enabling the Bar Association to instantly and succinctly reach members with important legal news and event coverage.

Both outlets encourage the exchange of information on a whole new level and allow members to interact with the Association and colleagues like never before. Every post to the Facebook page includes a comments section ideal for feedback and general discussion while messages delivered via Twitter can be further distrib-

The Philadelphia Bar Reporter reaches over 3.5 times as many professionals within the greater Philadelphia legal community as any other legal publication. And PBR’s one-month shelf life means your important message won’t wind up in the trash on the same day it appears!
Entries are now being accepted for the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Eighth Annual Legal Writing Competition in honor of the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

The co-chairs of the competition are Kathleen D. Wilkinson, partner at Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP and secretary of the Association, and Diane Penneys Edelman, assistant dean for international programs and professor of legal writing, Villanova University School of Law.

The Bar Association recognizes the importance of excellence in legal analysis and writing skills, and seeks to award a student enrolled in an American Bar Association-approved or provisionally approved area law school for authoring a top-quality competition submission.

“This competition was created eight years ago. It gives law students the opportunity to show off their legal writing talents. The winner is invited to the October Quarterly Meeting to be recognized and presented with the award,” said Wilkinson. “This is an excellent way for a law student to distinguish oneself.”

“We are thrilled that the Bar Association has demonstrated a strong commitment to the development and recognition of excellent legal analysis and writing abilities among Philadelphia-area law students. These skills must have always been important to a lawyer’s success, and have become even more crucial in this economy,” said Edelman.

This competition is open to full- and part-time law students who are in their second or third year of study during the 2009-2010 academic year at one of the following six institutions: Drexel University Earl Mack School of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School, Rutgers University School of Law – Camden, Temple University Beasley School of Law, Villanova University School of Law and Widener University School of Law (Delaware Campus).

Part-time law students in their third or later year of study are also eligible. Students must be in good standing at their institutions. The submission may not have been published previously, although it may have been prepared in connection with a law school course or for a law journal. The submission also may not have been submitted for any other competition during the time when it is under consideration for this competition, until after the time when awards are announced. The submission must be the work of one author alone (joint submissions will not be considered), and the author must certify that the submission has been prepared without substantial editing from others.

Candidates may submit a law review quality submission on any topic relating to rights, privileges and responsibilities under federal law. Entries must be received by Monday, May 10 at 4 p.m.

The author of the winning submission will receive a cash award of $2,500, the publication of the winning submission on the Bar Association's Web site and/or in an appropriate Bar Association publication. The winner will be presented with the award at the Association's Quarterly Meeting in October.

Entries Sought for Ginsburg Legal Writing Contest

Visit philadelphiabar.org for more information about the Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg writing competition.

Get Advice on Submitting to Editorial Pages on April 22

The Association’s BAR-NEWS Media Committee will host “How and When to Share Your Opinion with the Press – Submitting to Editorial Pages” on Thursday, April 22.

Members will hear from editorial page editors from several area newspapers. Panelists will include Bernard Dagenais, editor of the Philadelphia Business Journal; Hank Grezlik, associate publisher and editor-in-chief of The Legal Intelligencer; Lisa Hostein, executive editor, Jewish Exponent; Irv Randolph, managing editor of The Philadelphia Tribune; Idele Howitt, managing editor, Metropolitan Corporate Counsel; and Guy Petrizio, editorial page editor, Bucks County Courier Times.

“The panel will answer questions regarding what they are looking for in terms of commentary, how best to contact them and build relationships, the types of stories that catch their attention and what not to do or say when communicating with the media,” said Committee Chair Gina Furia Rubel.

The program will take place from 12 to 1:30 p.m. at Bar Association headquarters, 1101 Market St., in the 11th Floor Conference Center. For more information about the BAR-NEWS Media Committee, contact Gina Furia Rubel at gina@furiarubel.com.
Latest Political Recounts Get Down and Dirty

By Marc W. Reuben

A casual glance at the list of bestselling books about the 2008 presidential follies is enough to show that it is old home week in Gomorrah, and three new books tell the story.

Game Change, by reporters John Heilman and Mark Halpern, depicts in newspaper style the backstage wrangling that produced the Obama candidacy after Hilary Clinton managed to do her campaign to death. The pickings in 2008 were rancid on all sides, and it took the urging of the inconsequential Democratic Senate leader to urge an inexperienced young senator into the national race.

Harry Reid, a nonentity given to halting, mumbling speech and who sincerely believes that the Senate is a place for professional officeholders, could not imagine the place fit for an ombudsman written by a minor writer, who recounts the story of John Edwards love child as a way of protecting Edwards’ chances of winning the 2008 nomination and, in that event, the chances of the author, who worked in the campaign. Pfft!

Elizabeth Edwards suffers from incurable but treatable cancer, and Young writes that she was no pleasure to work with. This could explain why Edwards treated her in the Gingrichian manner.

The extramartial affair with Rielle Hunter was more than a departure from fidelity. To paraphrase Bogart in “Casablanca,” “a crook is tolerable whereas a cheap crook

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Friday, April 2
Good Friday: Bar Association offices closed.

Monday, April 5
Family Law Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.

Tuesday, April 6
Philadelphia Bar Foundation Board of Trustees: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Compulsory Arbitration Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $8.

Wednesday, April 7
Delivery of Legal Services Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Rules and Procedure Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.
Intellectual Property Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

Thursday, April 8
Legislative Liaison Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.

Friday, April 9
LGBT Rights Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
Business Development Series: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
The Philadelphia Lawyer magazine Editorial Board: meeting, 12:15 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Monday, April 12
Business Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Tuesday, April 13
Criminal Justice Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Real Property Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., Gibbons PC., 1700 Two Logan Square, 18th and Arch streets.
Calendar Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Investment Companies Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.50.
Public Interest Section: plenary session, 4 p.m, 11th floor Conference Center.

Wednesday, April 14
Appellate Courts Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.
Women in Intellectual Property Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.
Young Lawyers Division: meeting, 1 p.m., 10th floor Cabinet Room.

Thursday, April 15
Family Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Friday, April 16
Social Security Disability Benefits Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.
Business Development Series: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Monday, April 19
Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.
Public Interest Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Tuesday, April 20
Cabinet: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Employee Benefits Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $8.

Wednesday, April 21
Workers’ Compensation Section Executive Committee: meeting, 10:30 a.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
Workers Compensation Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.
Federal Courts Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.

Thursday, April 22
Bar-News Media Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

Friday, April 23
Business Development Series: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Monday, April 26
Green Ribbon Task Force: meeting, 12

Register online for most events at philadelphiabar.org. Unless otherwise specified, all checks for lunchrooms and programs should be made payable to the Philadelphia Bar Association and mailed to Bar Headquarters, 1101 Market St., 11th fl., Philadelphia, PA 19107-2955. Send Bar Association-related calendar items 30 days in advance to Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19107-2955. Fax: (215) 258-1159. E-mail: reporter@philaba.org.

Arts & Media continued from page 20

is not.”

The Death of American Virtue, written in exquisite detail by journalist Ken Gormley, follows the battle between Bill Clinton and Ken Starr. Those two men proved themselves genetically incapable of detaching their privates from public activities. The story of how an investigation of a land deal tainted by discredited financial practices, turned unto a lurid investigation of silly sexual hanky-panky would be stomach turning, but for the Palin phenomenon and other reactionary follies. Gormley tries to treat his subjects in a balanced manner. But the protagonists here are so shabbily that no amount of fairness can lift their sordid images. Gormley tries to treat his subjects in a balanced manner. But the protagonists here are so shabbily that no amount of fairness can lift their sordid images.

Marc W. Reuther (marcwreuther@yahoo.com), a sole practitioner, is an advisory editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter. He has been writing about the arts and media since 1973.

Flower Show Reception

Sam Lhemey, show designer for the Philadelphia International Flower Show (from left) joins J. William Mills III, regional president, PNC, and Chancellor Scott F. Cooper at a March 4 reception at the Flower Show for the leadership of the Bar Association as part of the ongoing relationship PNC has with the Association.
Dawn M. Tancredi, a senior associate with Mattion, Ltd., has been appointed officer and secretary of the Lawyers’ Club of Philadelphia for a three-year term.

Ned Mark, a member of the Law Firm of Howard M. Goldsmith, P.C., recently testified before the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Subcommittee on Family Law concerning proposed custody legislation.

Teresa Cavenagh, a partner with Duane Morris LLP, served as a panelist for a “Women in Leadership” symposium organized by the Pennsylvania Diversity Council on March 4, where she spoke about mentoring, particularly with regard to identifying and being a mentor.

David N. Hofstein of Hofstein Weiner & Levit, P.C., was the moderator for a panel of psychologists speaking on “Dissecting a Custody Case from the Psychologists’ Perspective” presented at the Pennsylvania Bar Association Family Law Section January meeting in Hershey, Pa.


Theodore Simon, principal in the Law Offices of Theodore Simon, appeared on NBC’s “Today Show” and ABC’s “Good Morning America” on March 5 to discuss his representation of Amanda Knox, the American college exchange student convicted in Perugia, Italy of the murder of her British roommate.


James C. Schwartzman, a shareholder of Stevens & Lee, has been unanimously re-elected as vice chair of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority.

Evan Y. Liu, M.D., J.D., of Feldman, Shepherd, Wohlgelernter, Tanner, Weinstock & Dodig, was a planner for the health law/health care panel discussion at the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s annual Minority Attorney Conference on March 18-19.

Michele Grant of Grant Myers LLC has been appointed to the board of B. Someday Productions, a nonprofit theatre arts company in Kensington.

Ned E. Barlas of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP was recently appointed to represent the United States and Canada as an international delegate to the Licensing Executives Society International.

Brian M. Pinheiro, a partner with Ballard Spahr LLP, has been named to the Philadelphia Business Journal’s 2011 “40 Under 40” list, which recognizes professional excellence and outstanding community involvement.

Howard M. Goldsmith, principal in the Law Firm of Howard M. Goldsmith, P.C., has been appointed by the Board of Judges of Philadelphia County to serve on the Board of Revision of Taxes.

Brenda Hustis Gotanda, a partner at Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, was recently re-elected chair of the Radnor Township Environmental Advisory Committee. She served as a speaker at the Sustainability Series: Issues in Sustainable Living and Growth in Radnor Township on March 9 where her topic was “Discovering Your Carbon Footprint and How to Tread More Lightly.”

Patricia Giordano of Feldman Shephard Wohlgelernter Tanner Weinstock & Dodig participated in the Rutgers School of Law-Camden’s first-ever speed networking event on Feb. 18. The event provided law students with the opportunity to meet with a variety of attorneys and to learn about career opportunities.

H. Ronald Klasko, founding partner of Klasko, Rulon, Stolz & Sezler, LLP, spoke at a congressional briefing hosted by Congressmen Jared Polis of Colorado and Lincoln Diaz-Balart of Florida on March 4 on “The EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program and American Job Creation.”

Lisa Eldridge and Robert J. Fitzgerald, shareholders with Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, were faculty members at the Insurance Society of Philadelphia program “Workers’ Compensation Updates” on March 5.

Todd Kantorczyk, a partner with Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, hosted a webinar on March 18 where he discussed the Environmental Protection Agency’s endangerment finding and its potential impacts on GHG regulation.

Jill R. Whitelaw, of counsel to Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads, LLP, was a featured speaker at Widener University’s Annual Sports and Entertainment Law Symposium, where she detailed the steps for finding investors to fund a motion picture.

Wayne Sachs, a sole practitioner, was a featured speaker at the Penn State Dickinson School of Law symposium “Immigration Adjudications: Court Reform and Beyond” sponsored by the Penn State Center for Immigration’s Rights. Sachs spoke on the panel “From the Prison to the Courthouse” and discussed representing immigration detainees before the U.S. Immigration Court.

“People” highlights news of members’ awards, honors or appointments of a community or civic nature. Information may be sent to Jeff Lyons, Senior Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th fl., Philadelphia, PA 19107-2955. Fax: (215) 238-1159. E-mail: reporter@philabar.org. Color photos are also welcome.
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SPEAKERS: Thomas A. McDevitt, CFA, CFP® & William Kline, CFA
WHEN: Friday, April 23rd, 2010. 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
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CREDITS: 7 Substantive
COST: $125 For Live Seminar (7 Substantive CLE) *
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This day-long seminar provides an overview of the Intelligence function, its history and development, its use by military establishments, and its adoption by business and legal professionals. It provides case studies – Procter and Gamble, Polaroid, Kodak, Microsoft, Cisco, and General Electric – to demonstrate the efficacy and power of an in-place Competitive Early Warning system as the keystone of an effective CI program.

Dr. Ridgley is Assistant Professor of Strategic Management and International Business at Temple University’s Fox School of Business. He holds a Doctorate and Masters in International Relations from Duke University and an International MBA from Temple University. He has also studied at Moscow State University and the Institut de Gestion Sociale in Paris. Dr. Ridgley is a former Military Intelligence Officer and served five years in West Berlin and near the Czech-German border, where he received the George S. Patton Award for Leadership from the 7th Army Academy in Bad Toelz, West Germany.

WHEN: Saturday, April 24th, 2010. 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
WHERE: Temple University, Fort Washington.
        401 Commerce Drive. Fort Washington, PA 19034
CREDITS: 7 Substantive
COST: $125 For Live Seminar (7 Substantive CLE) *
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