Chancellor A. Michael Pratt joins National Urban League President and CEO Marc H. Morial after he delivered the Judge A. Leon Higginbotham Memorial Public Interest Lecture at the Association’s June 30 Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon.

Law a Means to Establish Justice for All, Morial Tells Bar Members

By Heather J. Holloway

Judge Aloysus Leon Higginbotham, a former engineering student, made a decision to pursue a career in law when he was a student at Purdue University. According to Marc H. Morial, presenter of the Judge A. Leon Higginbotham Memorial Public Interest Lecture at the June 30 Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon, Judge Higginbotham and other black students were not permitted to reside on the Purdue University campus. Instead, they were required to stay in the unheated attics of private homes. When Judge Higginbotham challenged the president of the university to address this injustice, he was told, “like it or leave it.” He then decided to become a lawyer.

Morial said when he asked Judge Higginbotham what it takes to be a great lawyer, Judge Higginbotham simply responded by pointing to his heart.

Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League, said Judge Higginbotham became a great lawyer by embracing the notion of excellence, pursuing perfection and combining those concepts with a passion and a fire for justice. For Judge Higginbotham, the United States Constitution was not merely a collection of words to be studied but rather a document that was meant to live and breathe.

As a student at the University of Pennsylvania, Morial enrolled in a law school course that was taught by Judge Higginbotham and that was open to undergraduate students. Based on Judge Higginbotham’s book, In the Matter of Color, the course involved an exhaustive, detailed and careful analysis of ordinances continued on page 22

Anchors to Moderate Conference Programs

By Jeff Lyons

NBC 10 News anchor Renee Chenault-Fattah and truTV (formerly Court TV) anchor Jami Floyd will moderate panel discussions on the presidential election and attorneys representing high-profile clients at the Association’s Bench-Bar and Annual Conference on Sept. 19 – 21 at Bally’s Atlantic City.

Chenault-Fattah will moderate the Saturday, Sept. 20 panel “2008 Presidential Election, Politics and the Law,” with panelists including pollster Terry Madonna; Montgomery County Democratic Party Chairman Mark Newgard; Larry Eichel, senior writer for The Philadelphia Inquirer; and Philadelphia Daily News continued on page 17

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Bar’s A.C.E. Program to Enrich Students and Lawyers Alike

By A. Michael Pratt

The Philadelphia Bar Association’s A.C.E. Program to Enrich Students and Lawyers Alike is a notable initiative that aims to address the lack of civics-minded lesson that ties into the curriculum already in place. By using a civics lesson in tandem with each teacher’s lesson, we will enrich each student’s academic year.

The committee has developed a top-notch, creative and fun curriculum. The curriculum is equipped with classroom exercises to fully engage the students and make the experience an interactive one. Each team of volunteers will work closely with an assigned classroom teacher for the 2008-2009 school year. At the conclusion of the school year, the committee will host a culminating activity that will bring together everyone involved in the program and incorporate all of the lessons the students learned throughout the year.

The idea for this was to memorialize what we already have adopted informally as a principle of this Bar Association. People took this very seriously and the discussion was deep and intense in nature. We wanted to make sure we came up with a document that is as pristine and clean and clear as we could make it. We are also pleased with the final result,” Pratt said.

Pratt told the Board at its meeting. The statement says:

The Philadelphia Bar Association is committed to advancing diversity in the profession, so that all members of the bar can fully participate in all aspects of the profession. This Statement of Diversity Principles evidences a renewed commitment to promoting diversity, a broad concept that includes race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity, and many other aspects of diversity. Increased diversity and inclusion benefits the profession in many ways.

Tell Us What You Think!

By Jeff Lyons

The Association’s new Statement of Diversity Principles recognizes and acknowledges that diverse attorneys are and have been under-represented in the Philadelphia legal community, in large firms, mid-size firms and corporations.

Women in the Profession Committee Co-Chair Danielle Banks told the Board of Governors moments before the Board adopted the measure on June 26.

“The statement reaffirms this association’s commitment to increasing diversity in all aspects of the Philadelphia legal community. Chancellor Pratt has expressed his view that the statement of diversity will become the ‘cornerstone’ of this association. Similarly, our executive director, Ken Shear, views the statement as ‘a core principle.’ Other bar associations, including Chicago, Columbus, Kansas City, Los Angeles and New York City have adopted similar statements of diversity principles,” Banks said.

She said the Women in the Profession, Minorities in the Profession, Legal Rights of persons with Disabilities, LGBT Rights, Large Firm Management and Mid-Size Firm Committees and the Board’s Diversity Committee all worked to finalize the statement.

“As Chancellor-Elect Sayde Ladov said, it’s time,” said Banks.

Pratt said that Dr. Sean Kathleen Lincoln, director of the Association’s Office of Diversity, wrote the original draft of the statement. Banks said Lincoln worked tirelessly on the statement. “The spirit and substance of this statement came from Sean.”
Sims Named Association Staff Counsel

Brian K. Sims is just weeks into his new position at the Bar Association and has jumped in head first. Hired in July as staff counsel for policy and planning, Sims certainly feels up to the task.

“This is an incredible opportunity for me to work with many of Philadelphia’s leaders in the legal community from the Chancellor and Board of Governors to the Bar Association staff,” Sims said.

As staff counsel, Sims is responsible for providing professional substantive support to all those committees and sections of the Association that are not otherwise presently staffed. He is charged with coordinating the monthly Cabinet and Board of Governors meetings and helping to guide and coordinate the work of multiple sections and committees moving resolutions through the Board of Governors.

In addition to his activities with the Board, he will work closely with the director of legal services with regard to legislation pending on the local, state and federal levels and assist in preparing any testimony required at public hearings by leaders of the Association.

“Chancellor Pratt set an aggressive agenda for the year and I am coming in with more than half the year already over. My goal for the next several months is to make sure that I can be equally aggressive in making sure his agenda is realized, from the formation of the new Elections Committee to continuing his push for diversity in the legal community,” Sims said.

Sims comes to the Association with a background in ERISA disability law. Having opened his own firm earlier in the year and after practicing in the same area for the last 3 1/2 years, he has represented physicians, attorneys and business professionals in individual and group disability insurance claims and bad faith litigation.

In addition to his practice, Sims was recently named the legal editor of M.D. News magazine in Philadelphia and has been an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter since early 2006. He has written for The Legal Intelligence, The New Jersey Law Journal and The National Jurist as well. Sims also sits on the Board of Directors for Gay and Lesbian Lawyers of Philadelphia and The Bloomsburg University Alumni Association.

A graduate of the Michigan State University School of Law, Sims worked as both an extern and law Clerk for Legal Aid of South Central Michigan where he worked in public benefits, family, and housing law for low-income residents. He also served as the senior law clerk at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, for the Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance at EPA Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Sims holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Bloomsburg University where he was a scholar athlete and the captain of the football team. That year, he also worked as a homicide intern at the Santa Clara County Public Defender’s Office in San Jose, Calif.

By Sean Kathleen Lincoln

Office for Diversity

The Journey Toward Diversity Continues

Recently, The Legal Intelligence and the Philadelphia Business Journal printed significant articles on diversity in the legal profession. Both newspapers focused their attention on diversity at large firms. The Legal Intelligence compared 2007 diversity rates with those obtained in 2000 and compared 100 firms. The Business Journal went back another two years to 1998 and focused exclusively on Philadelphia firms. They received complete data from only 12 firms.

Both publications surmised that there have been slight improvements in the hiring and retention of women and people of color at these firms in the past few years. Hiring and retention for women was higher – The Legal Intelligence reports that 55 of the top 100 firms queried were at least 25 percent female. Only seven of the top 100 firms, however, consisted of 10 percent or more minority attorneys.

The Philadelphia Business Journal’s Book of Lists 2008 provides the “Percent of Female Attorneys” for Pennsylvania for the top 88 firms and the “Percent of Minority Attorneys” for Pennsylvania for the top 62 firms. The highest percentage rate for females in any one firm is 69.44 percent; conversely, the highest rate for racial and ethnic minority attorneys in any one firm is 15.15 percent. Using the 15.15 percent as a comparison point, 77 of the 88 firms listed surpass this comparison point for the percentages of women employed.

Only 11 firms had similar or lower rates when comparing percentages of women to percentages of minorities.

Two arguments can and have been made in response to the above.

The first is that, although the numbers for racial and ethnic minorities look bleak, the numbers for women, although better, are still not where they should be, particularly at the partnership level. All underrepresented groups need to continue to have access to growth and career opportunities. That is, the pie is big enough for all underrepresented groups to have a piece.

The other argument is that one group has been allowed access at a differential rate than others. Women, in particular white women, have been allowed the opportunities that people of color have not – one underrepresented group appears to be more acceptable in the workplace than another for recruitment and retention purposes. That is, there really is only one piece of pie and it’s being given to a specific group.

The first argument is certainly true – one group’s success does not equate to failure for the other group. We do not need to have different minority groups at odds with each other because of access issues in the workplace. The focus should be on equity for all and not on who or which group is getting treated better.

The numbers appear to support the second argument – we must not lose sight of and must continue to acknowledge that the acceptance of some groups is occurring at a higher rate than others. We must continue to question why this differential is taking place and how we might best create the mechanisms that incorporate all groups at the same rate.

We must also be clear that diversity and inclusion components and programs are not a “one-size-fits-all” design for all groups and all individuals. We are all prepared for success in different ways; that is, we all have innate, individual talents that we need to supplement with personal and professional experiences. Some of us have been fortunate enough to have had life experiences that better prepare us for success in the legal field. Others need assistance with one or more of the necessary skills that comprise the components of success. This assistance may come by way of mentoring and coaching, help with business development or critical writing skills. But these talents and skills do not come attached to a specified gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or physical capability or other attribute.

Under the vision of the Chancellor A. Michael Pratt, the Office for Diversity is working on programs that will help to address these issues. I have had the opportunity to speak with many of you regarding your thoughts on how we can promote a more inclusive and accepting environment for all practitioners, and look forward to hearing from more of you and continuing this important conversation.

It has been said that “Diversity is a journey and not a trip.” We’ve begun the journey.

Sean Kathleen Lincoln, Ph.D., is director of the Office for Diversity for the Philadelphia Bar Association.
A Lesson on Disaster Preparedness, Aftermath

By Thomas Bryan

Just when we had all begun to recover from the shock of Hurricane Katrina and the Monsoon in Southeast Asia, along came 2008. China was hit by a massive earthquake, a cyclone rocked Myanmar, and the Mississippi River burst levees up and down the Midwest.

The Rules and Procedure Committee’s July 2 meeting focused on how lawyers can prepare for a disaster and how to resume their practice in the aftermath.

Brett Schaeffer, editor of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Web site, discussed the disaster planning and prevention resources available on the Association’s site, including a recently updated and augmented Business Continuation Resources section. The Web site offers checklists for disaster planning, as well as sample emergency plans. With only two attendees present reporting that their firms had disaster plans, these resources could be of use to a great many Philadelphia firms.

The planning materials presented focused on two main areas. First, setting up clear lines and methods of communication in times of disaster; with a clearly designated decision making structure, to avoid chaos and improve a firm’s ability to quickly respond to a flood, fire, or other disaster. The second area of focus was operational recovery. If a fire or flood were to hit your firm, what plans does your firm have in place to recover operations and begin to handle client business quickly and effectively?

Committee Co-Chair Mark Cohen pointed out that with regard to the legal profession, disaster planning has to address two broad levels: the individual practice of lawyers and law firms, and the regional impact such a disaster could have on the court system. Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Markene F. Lachman mentioned the importance for all lawyers, their families and their staff, of having personal disaster plans, with emergency contact information and medical decision-maker contacts. She talked about the trouble that Louisiana courts faced after Katrina, where lack of disaster planning left many of the courts with no physical buildings in which to convene.

For the final portion of the meeting, Kevin M. Masucci, an associate at Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP (one of the two lawyers in attendance whose firm did have a disaster plan) shared information about the recent difficulties the firm faced when one of its servers nearly crashed, and about the step that the firm has taken since the incident to better prepare itself to avoid and respond to disasters in the future.

To help them better prepare for the future, Stradley Ronon brought in a consultant who specializes in disaster planning for law firms. Masucci pointed out that there is a cost to disaster planning, and that bringing in a consultant can be helpful in controlling those costs as they can help determine what steps are necessary and appropriate for your firm.

Thomas Bryan is an associate with Geroldamo McNulty Divisi & Lewbart, PC.
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE

Modern-Day Practice and the Philadelphia Lawyer

By Raymond M. Williams

A panel of local law firm leaders discussed how expansion and globalization have changed the practice of law as it once existed in Philadelphia at the July 1 meeting of the Professional Responsibility Committee.

Panelists for the discussion were Mark Alderman, chair of WolfBlock LLP; Lawrence J. Fox, partner at Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP and a nationally recognized expert on legal ethics; and John J. Soroko, chair of Duane Morris LLP. Jeff Blumenthal of the Philadelphia Business Journal served as moderator.

In a very lively debate, the panel first tackled the billable hour system. In Fox’s opinion, the billable hour system has failed in a number of ways. For example, the system creates an inherent conflict of interest between lawyer and client. It also discourages efficiency by creating incentives to spend more time on work than may be necessary. Fox added, however, that law firms are unlikely to abandon the billable hour system because they would otherwise be forced to evaluate their attorneys subjectively.

Soroko opined that the system is problematic in that increased pressure to bill hours has eliminated time for other, equally important activities, such as pro bono work, community involvement, and recreation. Meanwhile, Alderman commented that the larger problem with the system is its eradication of the contemplative aspect that has been a hallmark of the legal profession. He also expressed his concern with the “disconnection” between the use of billable hours as a tool for attorney evaluation inside the law firms and its utility as a method of charging clients for services rendered, since regardless of the billable rate, clients will pay up to a certain amount, forcing the firm to “eat the rest.”

Fox concluded by commenting that another problem with the billable hour system is the mindset that it engenders – a mindset wherein one rejoices when he or she receives a boring, mindless, but time-consuming assignment because it will ensure a large bonus.

The panel then discussed the ethical ramifications of law firm growth. In Alderman’s assessment, there is a disconnect between the ethical conflict rules and the realities of large law firm practice, as most lawyers are not aware of what other lawyers are doing such that the protections of the client loyalty rule should be triggered. In addition, the rule fails to reflect the realities of financial rewards and incentives in the big firm context. Consequently, from an ethical perspective, pressure increases to strategize one’s way around that rule.

While Fox agreed that incentives to circumvent the rule have increased, he countered that client loyalty – and not continued on page 19.
Nominations are being accepted for the Association’s prestigious Justice William J. Brennan Jr. Distinguished Jurist Award. The award will be presented at the Association’s October Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon.

The award recognizes a jurist who adheres to the highest ideals of judicial service. Any member of the state or federal bench, whether active or retired, who has made a significant, positive impact on the quality or administration of justice in Philadelphia is eligible for consideration. Examples of accomplishments worthy of nomination include innovations in court administration, implementation of pioneering case management techniques, assumption of a leadership role in areas affecting the administration of justice, publication of a significant opinion, article, or other scholarly work, or the like.

This year’s Brennan Award Committee is chaired by Rhonda Hill Wilson. Nominations for the Justice Brennan Distinguished Jurist Award should be forwarded to: Brennan Award, Attn: Tracey McCloskey, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

All nominations should include the full name, address and telephone number of both the nominee and the person submitting the nomination, a summary of the nominee’s accomplishments, and any pertinent supporting material the committee should consider. All nominations must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 5, 2008.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan Jr. was the first recipient of the award in 1995. Other recipients of the award, which is now named in honor of Justice Brennan, include the following: President Judge Alex Bonavitacola of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas (1996); Judge Phyllis W. Beck of the Pennsylvania Superior Court (1997); Chief Judge Edward R. Becker of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit (1998); Judge Louis C. Bechtle of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (1999); Chief Judge James T. Giles of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (2000); Justice Russell M. Nigro of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court (2002); U.S. District Court Judge Louis H. Pollack (2003); Judge James R. Melton, retired U.S. Chief Magistrate (2004); U.S. District Court Senior Judge Edmund V. Ludwig (2005); Philadelphia Municipal Court President Judge Louis J. Presenza (2006); and Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Sandra Mazer Moss (2007). The Brennan Award was not given in 2001.

Bar Night at the Phillies Aug. 5

Join your colleagues at Bar Association Night at the Phillies on Tuesday, Aug. 5 as the National League East champion Phils take on the Florida Marlins at Citizens Bank Park at 7:05 p.m. Seating (subject to availability) with fellow Bar Association supporters will be located on the Field Level Baseline (Sections 108 & 109). Enter the promotion code BAR when ordering tickets online.

To purchase tickets for Bar Association Night at the Phillies on Aug. 5, visit phillies.com/philibar.

Peyton to Lead Legal Clinic for Disabled

Linda Peyton has been selected as the new executive director at The Legal Clinic for the Disabled, Inc. Since 2003, Peyton has served as project director of LCD’s Anti-Violence Initiative for People with Disabilities.

Before joining LCD, she served 20 years as a trial and appellate attorney for the Defender Association of Philadelphia.

“With her legal skills and experience, Linda has achieved ‘super lawyer’ status. She was clearly the outstanding candidate in terms of legal acumen, not to mention her passion, commitment and sense about the Legal Clinic’s mission, and her vision for the future. We look forward to working with her in the coming years,” said Amy Slater, president of LCD’s Board of Directors.
The best way to keep inmates from returning to jail once they’ve been released is “for a guy to have a job,” deputy mayor of public safety Everett A. Gillison told members of the Criminal Justice Section.

Gillison, a former public defender, is the central point for all arms of Philadelphia’s criminal justice system, including the police, fire department, prisons and re-entry, the District Attorney’s office, the courts and probation.

One of Gillison’s top priorities is to resolve Philadelphia’s prison overcrowding problem. At a burgeoning 9,300 inmates, the prison population exceeds the city facilities’ design capacity of 6,300. According to the deputy mayor, one step toward resolving the issue is to develop a plan that will combat recidivism. Speaking from his experience of 19 years as a public defender who has seen many repeat offenders, Gillison observed that “the best tool for anti-recidivism is for a guy to have a job.”

To that end, Gillison plans to start a program that will work with the business community and facilitate the employment of ex-offenders. In addition, Gillison is working on an initiative that will re-tool the Mayor’s Office for the Re-Entry of Ex-Offenders so that supportive services will be in place to aid newly released individuals in transitioning back into society.

Another goal for Gillison and Mayor continued on page 11
Long-Term Care Insurance Available from USI Colburn

Start shopping for long-term care insurance at age 50. Why? Current costs of care today are at least $80,000 per year. In 25 years when most will be needing care, costs are expected to exceed $250,000 per year.

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• Tax qualified long-term care policies purchased by sole proprietors, self-employed individuals and/or their spouses, are eligible for substantial tax incentives that reduce your plan’s cost.
• Shared benefit coverage for couples. You may access benefits individually or at same time. This shared personal benefit account remains available after one dies so that the survivor has the remaining benefits to use during their lifetime. In many cases the survivor will qualify for a paid up-plan with no future premiums due.

If you have questions about how long-term care works and what the cost can be, call Chuck Kindt, long-term care senior account executive at USI Colburn Insurance Service, at 610-537-1387 or by e-mail chuck.kindt@usi.biz

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!

CLS’ Carr Takes Sabbatical for Fellowship

Catherine C. Carr, executive director of Community Legal Services, has started a six-month sabbatical and will be teaching at Iliria Royal University law school in Prishtina, Kosovo for part of the fall.

Carr has been awarded a senior lawyer fellowship by the Independence Foundation and is teaching as part of the fellowship.

Carr said she plans on reading and writing on poverty and legal services issues, along with teaching and traveling. She will return to CLS in February 2009.

The CLS Board has appointed Debby Feldman as acting director during Carr’s absence. Feldman has been managing attorney at CLS Law Center North Central since 2006 and has been a member of the CLS legal management team since 1999. “In addition to Debby, we have a strong, experienced management team and great administrative staff and I’m confident that things will go smoothly in my absence,” Carr said.

In June, Carr marked her 13th year as executive director at CLS. “I plan to return in February for many years more. I am looking forward to bringing new insights and energy to CLS upon my return. There is still much I want to do to improve access to equal justice.”

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Catherine C. Carr with Mayor Michael Nutter at CLS’ Breakfast of Champions in May.

CLS’ Carr Takes Sabbatical for Fellowship
Volunteers Needed for People’s Law School

This fall, the Young Lawyers Division will again reach out to the Philadelphia community and offer its popular “People’s Law School.” In its ongoing efforts to foster access to justice, the YLD, through the People’s Law School, will provide the public with an affordable means of obtaining basic, non-technical knowledge in various areas of the law in clear, easy-to-understand terms.

The People’s Law School is part of the YLD’s mission to educate and empower the general public while increasing the visibility of young lawyers and enhancing the image of lawyers as a whole in the community. Many of the classes taught during the People’s Law School truly empower citizens so that they know the basics of the law and so they are not taken advantage of by the landlords, employers, police, etc.

The People’s Law School will be held in the Jury Assembly Room of the Criminal Justice Center in Center City Philadelphia on Tuesday evenings throughout September and October. Although there is a nominal cost of $40, students will receive a detailed course book and receive two to three hours of education each Tuesday night in a wide range of legal topics including labor and employment law, family law, municipal courts/small business claims, personal injury law, landlord/tenant law, real estate law, criminal law, constitutional law, criminal procedure and immigration law. Each week, local attorneys from both the public and private sectors will teach topics related to their own area of practice/expertise.

The YLD is looking for volunteer young lawyers to teach a subject (each young lawyer teacher will provide an outline of the subject they will teach) and volunteer young lawyers to work the door (greet and seat). Young lawyer volunteer teachers will have their biographies along with their class outlines published in a book for each student.

The People’s Law School is part of the YLD’s mission to educate and empower the general public while increasing the visibility of young lawyers and enhancing the image of lawyers as a whole in the community.

Musicians Needed for Oct. 2 Concert Event

The Young Lawyers Division is looking for solo music acts and bands of all ages for its lawyers’ night of music on Thursday, Oct. 2 at the legendary J.C. Dobbs on South Street.

If you are interested in performing on Oct. 2, contact Stephanie Mensing at smensing@wm-law.net.

The People’s Law School is an important component of the YLD’s outreach that allows newer attorneys an opportunity to develop their presentation skills by teaching a course in their particular field of expertise while educating the community at large. It is a great program that we hope to continue year after year, but we need good volunteers and to get the word out. Please do your part and encourage anyone you know who may be interested in participating to sign up.

For more information about becoming a member of the faculty for People’s Law School, contact Stephanie Mensing at smensing@wm-law.net.

Scott P. Sigman, chair of the Young Lawyers Division, is an associate at Bochetto & Lentz, P.C. and may be reached by e-mail at sigman@bochettoandlentz.com or by telephone at (215) 735-3900.

BlogLink

Visit philAWdelphia.wordpress.com to see what the Association’s young lawyers are saying.
Black, R.P.C., is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar. Momblanco, an associate with Fine, Kaplan and Rosen, has been instrumental in organizing the committee. The executive committee, which will then section off work to be done in ad hoc and standing committees. A majority of the decisions will be made by a smaller department that has a stake in the criminal justice system. That department will be made up in order to facilitate communication between the various branches of Philadelphia’s criminal justice system.

The initiative, introduced in late April, works with local clergy members to encourage fugitives to turn themselves in. According to Gillison, the majority of fugitives are non-violent offenders with misdemeanors, whose crimes will probably not result in any jail time. Yet, “they are running, and causing a very fearful environment. We want to step up and tell them that they don’t have to run. We can help them at least get past where they are today,” he said. Gillison has reached out to the District Attorney’s office, the Public Defender’s Office and private attorneys, asking them to assist with this initiative.

Gillison also gave an update on the status of the Criminal Justice Advisory Board, which he is setting up in order to facilitate communication between the various branches of Philadelphia’s criminal justice system. Gillison said he plans to structure the board so that there will be a representative from every city department that has a stake in the criminal justice system. A majority of the decisions will be made by a smaller executive committee, which will then section off work to be done in ad hoc and standing committees.

This program has had tremendous support from the legal community and I know, with your help, it will be a great success. By bringing our knowledge of civics to the classrooms, I am confident that each student will learn the importance of their role in a democracy, the rule of law, dispute resolution and the value of citizenship.

U.S. Bankruptcy Court Chief Judge Stephen Raslavich welcomes participants to the court’s “Bring Your Children to Work Day” event on June 27. Chief Judge Raslavich delivered opening remarks on the history and purpose of the bankruptcy court system and led the group on a behind-the-scenes tour of his chambers. The group also toured the various departments of the clerk’s office and heard a presentation by Deputy U.S. Marshal Robert Kostenbader. Deputy Marshall Kostenbader brought along a special guest - Kai, a bomb-sniffing dog trained to detect more than 19,000 explosive substances. More than 50 children participated in the event.

E-Filing Begins Aug. 4 in Court’s Civil Division

Litigants in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, Civil Division, will be permitted to file documents electronically, effective Aug. 4. Commonly known as “e-filing,” the program is optional until Jan. 5, 2009, at which time all filings must be made in electronic form.

The new civil e-filing system is modeled after the successful program that has operated in Orphans’ Court since Jan. 1, 2005, and may be accessed through the First Judicial District’s Web site at courts.phila.gov. The court welcomes input from the bar, and requests that comments and suggestions be sent to ecf@courts.phila.gov.

To access the e-filing process, counsel and pro se parties must electronically apply for a user name and password. After registering, users will log on to the court’s Web site with their usernames and passwords, and the filing process begins. “The process is as simple as attaching a document to email,” said attorney Daniel J. Siegel, a member of the court’s E-Filing Planning Committee.

Once a document is filed, it will be integrated into the court’s case management and document management systems. The court will immediately serve notice to all counsel that a document has been e-filed. Counsel can then review the document online and save it on their own computers or servers. The only documents that the court will not serve are initial process such as complaints and writs of summons, which must still be personally served according to the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure. The court also will issue and serve other court notices and orders electronically.

This program has had tremendous support from the legal community and I know, with your help, it will be a great success. By bringing our knowledge of civics to the classrooms, I am confident that each student will learn the importance of their role in a democracy, the rule of law, dispute resolution and the value of citizenship.

A. Michael Pratt, a partner at Pepper Hamilton LLP, is Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. His e-mail address is ampratt@philabar.org.

For more information about the A.C.E. program, visit philadelphiabar.org.

WebCheck

For more information about the A.C.E. program, visit philadelphiabar.org.

Ria C. Manhlanon, an associate with Fine, Kaplan and Black, R.D.C., is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

Gillison continued from page 8

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Frontline continued from page 3

Aside from the valuable substantive information the A.C.E. program will impart, the Bar Association’s sponsorship is important for another reason. It exposes our public school children to sorely needed professional role models, and perhaps more importantly, it exposes more Philadelphia lawyers to the Philadelphia School District. The District needs more advocates. My ultimate hope is that Philadelphia lawyers will become educated, active and vocal advocates for its success.

Though the A.C.E. program is the first of its kind led by the Association, Philadelphia lawyers have a prominent history of being actively involved in the enrichment of Philadelphia school educational experiences. From the Mock Trial Program for high school students run each year by the Association’s Young Lawyers Division, to Law Week activities that include a Lawyer in the Classroom program and a Lawyer for a Day program, the A.C.E. program is a continuation of a solid foundation that the Bar has already laid. I believe the A.C.E. program can and will succeed. The City of Philadelphia is great, but our public schools continue to lag behind with grossly insufficient resources to provide the quality of education our children need and deserve. Research has shown that 9th graders have the highest dropout rate in Philadelphia, which is why I know it is important to reach these students now. As Philadelphia lawyers, each of us knows the importance of a great education, so it is imperative that we help make a difference in the lives of these students.

If you have not yet volunteered for the A.C.E. program and would like to, please contact Amy Muldoon at the Bar Association at amuldoon@philabar.org to sign up for one of our August trainings. You will be making a difference in the life of a child.

A. Michael Pratt, a partner at Pepper Hamilton LLP, is Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. His e-mail address is ampratt@philabar.org.

For more information about the A.C.E. program, visit philadelphiabar.org.

WebCheck

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Law a Secular Faith to Former Chancellor

By Jeff Lyons

For former Chancellor Seymour Kurland, the law has been a secular faith and the fact that he was licensed to practice made him a priest or rabbi of this faith.

“And I have carried that with me throughout all of the years that I’ve practiced,” Kurland told the audience at the June 30 Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon at the Park Hyatt at the Bellevue. Kurland was speaking on behalf of his fellow new members of the Association Year Clubs, which honor attorneys in practice for 50 years or more.

“I remember, as if it was yesterday, when I started law school. I walked in with a suit and a tie, which was required, a fountain pen with which to write, and a lot of books, none of which made any sense. It was a very terrifying experience,” said Kurland, who served as the Association’s Chancellor in 1987. “During that first year, the late Judge Horace Stern came to speak to our class. He said, ‘I know how you feel and I understand your confusion. But you’re looking at a house where you can only see the basic foundation. When it’s all built, then you’ll understand it and it’ll all make sense.’ And that happened. And I did understand it. And I personally fell madly in love with the law,” he said.

“When I graduated, I was sent to Wolf Block, because that’s where the Jewish boys were. Leon Higginbotham, whom we honor here today, couldn’t even get an interview with a big firm. And the women in my class, none of them could expect to become partners. I don’t remember any Hispanic lawyers from that time. But all of that has now changed. I finished my career at Dechert. Those boundaries have been surpassed. My generation has helped produce that for your generation,” Kurland said.

At that time, Kurland said there was also no Community Legal Services and no public defender’s office.

“My generation has helped produceCLS and the pro bono work that we enjoy and is so needed. But, unfortunately, along came the computer and time sheets and billable hours. You used to be able to sit and talk with a fellow lawyer about a problem and not worry about how long it took and who you would have to bill,” he said.

“But with billable hours and timesheets, the pendulum between business and profession has swung much too much to business. I’m hopeful that your generation will change that, and bring back the concept of value billing and not just mechanical billing that increases each year so that you have to be 10 percent ahead or else you’re a failure as a firm. So how do you do it? You raise the rates or increase the hours. That’s no way to be a professional. And unfortunately, that I’ve passed on for you to deal with,” Kurland said.

Kurland talked about how the practice of law has changed since his early days.

“When I had a case out of town, it was in Norristown or maybe New York. Next week, one of you may be practicing in Singapore. You’ll have to make adjustments that far transcend the adjustments that we had to make in my generation.”

“But I ask you, the one thing that matters, is to hold onto your legal soul. Hold on to that part of you that belongs to something greater than yourself. Whatever the challenges may be, if you just spend your time billing hours and making money, you will not be what you should be, a man possessed with a legal soul. Don’t give that away,” he said.

Following is a list of new members of the Association’s 50-, 60-, 65- and 70-Year Clubs:

50-Year Club


60-Year Club

William D. Harris, Judge Charles P. Mirarchi Jr. and John H. Wood Jr.

65-Year Club

John A. Eichman III and Joseph Shanis.
ACE Club Hosts Bar Foundation Golf Classic

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille (left photo) tees off at the 20th Annual Philadelphia Bar Foundation Golf Classic on July 15 at The ACE Club in Lafayette Hill. Vice Chancellor Scott F. Cooper (above, from left) along with Richard L. Kreminick and Matt MacMichael watch Dennis Lawnor’s putt on the 10th green. More than 100 golfers participated. The Foundation expects revenue from the event to exceed $85,000.

Gallery
For additional photos from the Bar Foundation Golf Classic, visit philadelphiabar.org.

Former U.S. Attorney Patrick L. Meehan (left) meets with Sam Katz at the reception following the golf outing.

Judge Gene Cohen (left) and Judge D. Webster Keogh, administrative judge of the trial division of the Court of Common Pleas, prepare for the golf outing.

Golfers had the opportunity to win a Lexus RX (above) or the use of a private Citation V Ultra jet for 10 hours from Maquis Jet Partners for a hole in one.

Chris Chimicles (above) blasts his way out of a sand trap. Kimberley Donaldsen (right) lines up a putt.
ways. For example, increased diversity enables law firms, legal departments, and other legal organizations to better understand their diverse client base, fostering better communication and representation. Continued diversity and inclusion efforts will help to ensure the representation of more varied perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds in the profession, and to create a more equitable environment that is critical to the continued success of law firms, legal departments, law schools, and other legal organizations.

Diversity and inclusion can be achieved through initiatives with respect to the recruitment, retention, and promotion of lawyers, irrespective of visible or perceived differences, and through the expansion of recruitment, retention and promotion efforts of racial and ethnic minorities, women, disabled individuals, and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender and other diverse individuals. Diversity also can be accomplished by training and educating our members, and our current and future leaders.

Creating a diverse and inclusive environment is a long-term commitment to the future of the profession, and achieving diversity is a continuing process that requires a continued commitment by the bar.

For these reasons, the Philadelphia Bar Association reaffirms its commitment to diversity, and agrees to:

• Support the diversity goal the American Bar Association adopted, as follows: “Goal IX: To promote full and equal participation in the legal profession by minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and persons of differing sexual orientation and gender identities;”

• Work to promote meaningful diversity, including increased representation of racial and ethnic minorities, women, disabled individuals, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender and other diverse individuals in law firms, legal departments, law schools, and other organizations in the legal community;

• Work to increase growth and promotional opportunities and leadership roles for racial and ethnic minorities, women, disabled individuals, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender and other diverse individuals in law firms, legal departments, and other legal organizations to reflect the increased recruitment, retention and promotion of diverse lawyers; and

• Provide educational opportunities for all individuals, particularly racial and ethnic minorities, women, disabled individuals, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender and other diverse individuals, to help them prepare for entry into and advancement in the profession.

Globalization continued from page 6

growth - should be the paramount concern. He added that imputed conflicts are real and the ethical rule should be preserved to maintain client loyalty.

In Soroko’s opinion, there is more pressure to “work around” the conflict rules as the size of the target increases, since the larger the group to be acquired, the larger their potential impact on the firm’s bottom line. Thus, it is easier to turn away one or two attorneys due to conflicts than it would be to turn away an entire practice group or firm because of the same conflict.

With respect to the concept of the “Philadelphia Lawyer,” Fox lamented that the changing face of law firm practice in Philadelphia has affected the Philadelphia Bar Association as law firms’ roles and functions have changed. He added that ever-rising billable hour expectations for young attorneys have erased any incentive and/or time for those lawyers to become active in the local bar associations. Fox recalled an earlier time in Philadelphia, where law firms required their attorneys to participate in three bar associations. Such expectations have vanished, however, as the legal landscape has changed, he said.

Raymond M. Williams, a partner at DLA Piper US LLP, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Landscape Littered with Offensive Language

By Marc W. Reuben

The awful clangor over the offhanded remarks made on the “open” microphone by the Rev. Jesse Jackson justifies the observation by Barnum about the taste of the American public. No one ever went broke by saying a bad word into an active recording device. It is a sure recipe for spectacular publicity to utter an unwarranted epithet over the ether. It provokes lots of publicity, not to assume that the reverend is averse to publicity or even craves it. His use of the “n” word raises the hackles of every right-thinking patriot. Or, at least, of every politically correct commentator with a guilt complex.

What there is wrong with a well-intended insult has always eluded me. I used them when warranted. The fact is that a good slight is often worth its weight in dirt. When used sparingly, slights of every sort arouse the kind of indignant response the user intends. It’s when insults, scatological or sociological, are overused that they lose their punch and become a boring sign of bad taste and poor literacy.

I used to think that the use of the “n” word in the greatest (so I say) American novel was an essential device that needed to be used to contrast the attitudes of ignorant people with the kindness of Huck Finn. How the same word could find different meaning in the context of Huckleberry Finn without understanding the artistic value of using a bad word to show that attitudes create the evil that accompanies bad words. Children do not understand this until they have reached a certain age and can be spoken to in a manner that exemplifies the high thought that went into the creative process of Samuel Clemmons when he wrote the book. But to a small child, seeing an offensive word, no matter what the context, can be devastating – which is why the book should be listed as essential reading in college. And leave The Prince and the Pauper for the kids.

I doubt very much if the reverend uttered his magic message by true accident. Every flea-bittenucker who profits from leading the unwashed has an interest in seeing that the unwashed have leadership with which they are comfortable. No Harvard, and heaven forbid Princeton, graduates can stir up the duck pond. Talking to congregants in rhyme and haranguing them with ancient tales of woe (to contrast with the updated tales still in circulation) is a style. It is the kind of leadership that is found in the Bible Belt, where superstition and fear play as much a role in faith as does the weather. Keeping the yokels amused is a goal for every ersatz messiah. Using old and hurtful word is a subtle way of reminding people just how bad things were and maybe still are. If any commentator had interest in reporting something other than sex and money, this issue might be subject for fair comment. But, alas! Just as a note, I remember standing in line in a market somewhere near the road exit I used, and while I was there, a tradesman standing in front of me was talking. He used the “F word” as punctuation. I never heard so much disagreeable garbage out of a mouth since the last time I heard Rush Limbaugh. I felt like having him thrown out of the store for indecency. But I seriously wondered how many other patrons were offended enough to be bothered by this horrid man. Who is alone in wanting people to speak properly and act decently?

The fact is that the Rev. Jackson made his comments because he felt he could get away with them. Not just because generations of African Americans were denied consideration in a racist society, but because this issue plays well to people who find victimhood more comforting. That is why Mr. Obama, for all his humorless pomposity, stands out among political figures. He bucks the trend. Like Adlai Stevenson, he brings grace to public discourse and he does it without being an idiot or deliberately mispronouncing words. The only problem was that Stevenson, with all his natural drawbacks, was so far above the fray that people feared him. The same people who, by the way, eschew educated discourse and are fond of political leaders who use ignorance as if it was bad language.

In the American picture, the context of stupidity has replaced foul language as a coin of the political realm. Be it the offense of the reverend or the flaccid stupidity of our chief drinkin’ buddy. No one ever said that the place for reason and class was in the Congress. Heaven knows that is as true today as in Jackson’s time. Bignmouthed morons abound there, reigned in by a doity housewife who claims that because she is a woman, her accomplishments amount to something more than toadying to lobbyists. It is all foul, bad language notwithstanding, and the simpleminded imprecations of idiots are just as hard to take as the obscene punctuation of that man in the market.

Respect for education is an answer. Tocqueville noted that Americans fear education and hate educated people. Mr. Obama is not one of those people. He is, for all the vague notions he puts forth, a man proud of what he has accomplished. Not to be diminished by a professional windbag whose day is over. Not to be belittled by Americans who think that if you speak eloquently and are well read, you are suspect. The use of bad words is something children know before college. The way to contextualized them is the path to the future.

Marc W. Reuben, a sole practitioner, is an advisory editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

YLD Presents Minority Law School Scholarships

The Young Lawyers Division and minority bar associations presented scholarships to students from area law schools at a July 9 Diversity Happy Hour at Vango. The recipients (from left) included Khurram Gore, South Asian American Bar Association, Temple University Beasley School of Law; Alexandra Marin, Hispanic Bar Association, Rutgers University–Camden; Shaka Johnson, The Barristers’ Association of Philadelphia, Rutgers University School of Law – Camden; Caroline Kim, Asian Pacific Bar Association of Pennsylvania, Villanova University School of Law. The presentations were made by Nikhil Heble of the YLD Executive Committee. Not pictured is scholarship recipient Mark Qian, Gay and Lesbian Lawyers of Philadelphia, Drexel University Earle Mack School of Law.
Each attendee must fill out a registration form in its entirety (non-attorney guests may be included on the form). Make checks payable to Philadelphia Bar Association and mail to: 2008 Bench-Bar Conference, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19107, or pay with your credit card below and fax to (215) 238-1159. Online registration is also available at philadelphiabar.org. NOTE: Hotel reservations must be made separately by calling (800) 345-7253. Mention "Philadelphia Bar Association" to take advantage of the special room rate of $99 per night on Thursday, $144 on Friday and $189 to $209 on Saturday (plus taxes). A limited number of rooms are available for $189 on Saturday, Sept. 20. Hotel reservations must be made by Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008.

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**Online registration available at philadelphiabar.org**

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Reflections on a Career in Public Service

By Michael L. Levy

All but six of my 39 years in practice have been in public service. The things that influenced me are obvious. First, my father had enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 34, saw combat and rose to the rank of captain. His example left a mark on me. Equally important was coming of age in the 1960s. I watched John F. Kennedy’s inaugural address on television when I was 16 – a speech that set themes and goals for much of my generation. Even today, when I read his words, I get chills. I have been a public defender, an assistant district attorney, an attorney general for the Commonwealth, and, for most of the last 28 years, an Assistant United States Attorney. I have handled violent crime, fraud, tax, union corruption, and organized crime cases. Most recently, I have added computer crime to the repertoire.

While leading this career has had some financial consequences, I cannot say that they have been onerous. Our three children have graduated from college debt free.

The satisfaction has been enormous. First, working for a client who asks that I do the right thing is challenging and gratifying. It does not mean prosecuting everything to the fullest extent, or winning everything. It means trying to achieve justice. Second, I must size up a problem and solve it, quickly. Delay in prosecution does not benefit the public. I can speak softly, for I carry a big stick. I have no need to be bellicose or discourteous. And, after seeing television images of police attacking civil rights demonstrators in the 1960s, it is a pleasure to work with federal law enforcement agents who have a commitment to working within the law.

Before returning to Court TV, Floyd joined the California law firm of Morrison & Foerster and began a civil practice. She then joined the California Supreme Court as a law clerk. In 1998, covering such major national legal stories as the O.J. Simpson trial and the Oklahoma City bombing trials. She reported live for the network the verdict in the trial of Oklahoma City bomber Terry Nichols and the $206 billion tobacco settlement.

When I began to write this, I wanted to pick some events that captured the breadth of experiences that this career has given me. I have chosen two meetings and not any trials. These are not everyday matters, but they are experiences I doubt I would have had elsewhere. The first was in a conference room with the president of an international pharmaceutical company, negotiating a corporate guilty plea in a multi-million dollar health care fraud case. The second was in an unheated meeting room in a village in Eastern Europe, where families had no running water and no central heat. We were there to persuade the parents of eight teen-aged boys that it would be safe for their sons to travel to the United States to testify against an American defendant, who had come to their village to molest them.

When I chose to answer President Kennedy’s challenge to ask what I could do for my country, I had no idea that the rewards would be this great.

Michael L. Levy is an Assistant United States Attorney with the Department of Justice. The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the United States Department of Justice.

Conference continued from page 1 columnist Elmer Smith.

Chenault-Fattah co-anchors NBC 10 News weeknights at 11 p.m. In March 1995, she began co-anchoring the 6 and 11 p.m. newscasts for WCAU. She joined the station in September 1991 after reporting and hosting a public affairs program for WXIA in Atlanta. Prior to working in Atlanta, Chenault-Fattah was the science correspondent for the Fox Network program “Beyond Tomorrow” and a noon anchor and reporter for WTEN in Albany, N.Y. She started her broadcasting career in as the host and field producer for New Jersey Network’s “Another View.” From 1982 to 1986, she practiced law in New York City and remains a member of the New York Bar.

During her career as a journalist, Chenault-Fattah covered politics, trials and tragedies. Memorable stories include the O.J. Simpson trial, both 1992 and 1996 political conventions, and the Columbine High School massacre in Littleton, Colo., her hometown.

Chenault-Fattah is a member of The National Association of Black Journalists and the NAACP. For several years, she served as a board member of The Caribbean American Mission for Education Research and Action. She serves on the board of trustees of the Philadelphia Art Museum. She has received numerous awards for her civic and professional contributions. She speaks at local schools, church congregations and civic organizations about journalism, law and ethics and the importance of education.

Chenault-Fattah graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1979 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. She earned her degree in law from the University of Pennsylvania and a Masters of Arts in Journalism from the University of Missouri. She lives in East Falls with her husband, Congressman Chaka Fattah, and two daughters.

Floyd, who anchors her own daily program on truTV (“Jami Floyd: Best Defense”), will moderate the Sunday, Sept. 21 program “Caught in the Public View: Representing High-Profile Clients.” The panel will feature national and Philadelphia-area trailblazing criminal defense attorneys and corporate litigators who will discuss the challenges and implications of representing celebrity clients, television in the courtroom and the influences of new media. The panel will include attorneys Theodore V. Wells Jr. (representing former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer); Theodore Simon, who has represented Ira Einhorn; Neal R. Sonnett, who has represented Gen. Manuel Noriega; and Billy Martin, who has represented Michael Vick.

Floyd joined Court TV in February 2005 and worked as an anchor and correspondent at the network from 1996-1998, covering such major national legal stories as the O.J. Simpson trial and the Oklahoma City bombing trials. She reported live for the network the verdict in the trial of Oklahoma City bomber Terry Nichols and the $206 billion tobacco settlement.

Before returning to Court TV, Floyd was a correspondent for ABC News. An honors graduate of the Berkeley Law School at the University of California at Berkeley, Floyd began her career at the California Supreme Court as a law clerk to the late Hon. Allen E. Broussard. She then joined the California law firm of Morrison & Foerster and began a civil and criminal law practice. In 1993, Floyd joined the Office of the San Francisco Public Defender, where she continued her work as a trial attorney. In late 1993, she moved to Washington, D.C., to serve as a White House fellow, assigned first to the office of First Lady Hillary Clinton and later to the office of Vice President Al Gore.

Floyd holds a BA in political science from Binghamton University. In addition to her JD, she holds a Master of Laws degree from the Stanford Law School, where she also served as a teaching fellow.

Both programs have been submitted to the Pennsylvania Bar Institute forCLE credit. Please note that programs are subject to change. There are 24 differentCLE sessions planned for the conference. A total of 13 CLE credits are available.

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I went to a diversity conference in mid-June and fell in love. No, not “fell in love” in the romantic sense, but in the sense of having fallen completely under the spell of a charismatic and inspiring speaker. The object of my admiration was a trial lawyer named Robert H. Alexander Jr. from Oklahoma. Now, I can’t stand anyone who speaks for more than 20 minutes – I think that should be the maximum amount of time anyone should ever speak and people should pay attention. But Bob held my rapt attention for over an hour. In fact, his storytelling, peppered with homily and wrapped in hominess, captivated everyone in the audience. I never before heard lawyers laughing so sincerely at something another lawyer said.

Bob began his own law firm after working at an insurance defense firm for 15 years. He was candid about his fears and an infant daughter to support. He said he had nightly conversations with his newborn where he imagined her talking back to him and demanding, “Daddy, how are you going to pay for my Pampers?” Ultimately, it was his belief in himself – plus, of course, a lot of hard work and years of struggle – that pulled him out from his humble beginnings as the “Law Office of Robert H. Alexander and His Momma.” Today, he serves as the national counsel for the nation’s biggest retailer in a high-profile pharmaceutical litigation. After I heard him speak, I could see why juries routinely hand him defense verdicts – the man was a natural-born storyteller.

I never even thought about owning my own law firm. The closest I came to hanging my own shingle was an assignment in my first year of law school – we had to partner with the person sitting next to us to form a law office. I don’t remember what the point of the assignment was – the only thing I remember was the name of our law firm – “Park & Bang” (the young lady who sat next to me also happened to be Korean with the perfect last name for our fictional law firm). Just to have that on my business card, I would have gone into practice with her. Maybe my years of running a restaurant with my sister before law school makes me less inclined to run my own firm. I remember the amount of time and energy and work that went into owning your own business. Maybe because I was only 22 years old and working more than 14 hours a day, I didn’t appreciate the costs of running my own business. Of course, I can’t regret anything about the experience since my being a lawyer resulted directly from my restaurant experience. (Plus, running a restaurant definitely had its advantages since I was fed five square meals a day). But I have to admire those who can take the chance, bear the risk and take a plunge into owning maybe if I meet someone with the perfect last name, I may be inspired to revisit the idea of having a new business card one day.

**By Sunah Park**

Sunah Park, a partner at Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP, is editor-in-chief of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Bar Association Team Cycles for a Cure

John E. Savoth (above, center) is joined by his wife, Nancy, and son, Nate, along the route of the American Cancer Society Bike-a-Thon on July 13. The Savoths were among more than 145 members of the Philadelphia Bar Association team riding from Philadelphia to Buena Vista, N.J. The event raised funds for the American Cancer Society. The Bar Association team raised more than $70,000.
JLC Helps Teens and Expands Impact

By Elaine Rinaldi

Tina B. grew up in foster care. She entered the system because of neglect, but unfortunately became the victim of sexual abuse in one of her placements. Tina has been placed in 15 different sites, including foster homes, group homes, and residential treatment centers. At 17, she ran away and ended up in a shelter. It was there that Tina met a JLC attorney who helped her go to court so that she could continue to receive services from the foster care system and find a placement that met her needs. JLC also helped Tina to accomplish her goal of graduating by placing her in an alternative high school that gave her individual attention and support.

Tina is now 22, a high school graduate who attends community college. “Aged-out” of the foster care system, she is determined to make a life for herself but continues to struggle because her tumultuous upbringing did not equip her with the tools to make it on her own. JLC continues to work with Tina and simultaneously tries to reform the system so that other youth like her are given the support they need to succeed as children and adults.

The theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote, “The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children.” Since 1975, the Juvenile Law Center, a nonprofit public interest law firm and a grantee of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, has affirmed society’s decency by promoting and protecting the rights and welfare of children.

The Philadelphia Bar Foundation is proud to support JLC as it uses the law in a variety of ways to help children in jeopardy—by litigating cases in state and federal courts; leading and supporting amicus efforts on key issues; working to develop sound public policy; training lawyers, judges and professionals; and advocating to reform and improve the child welfare and juvenile justice systems at the local and national level.

Every year, several thousand teens grow up in foster care in Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania juvenile court hears about 45,000 cases. Foster kids are more likely to end up in the juvenile justice system and the older they get, the more at-risk they are. For almost a decade, JLC has turned its attention to this vulnerable segment of the population and focused its efforts exclusively on teenagers. JLC’s Executive Director Bob Schwartz explains, “In working with teens we have developed a distinctive competence representing youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. There is a crossover between the two systems that doesn’t exist below the age of 10, so working with teens expands our impact and enables us to do more.”

With its multifaceted strategies, the Juvenile Law Center seeks justice on both a small and large scale. JLC regularly represents abused and neglected children below the poverty line in Philadelphia Family Court who would otherwise have no one to advocate for them. In addition to helping these individual children in need, JLC’s systemized litigation also benefits thousands of kids at a time. Operating as amicus curiae in 2005, JLC argued that the PA Juvenile Act authorizes child welfare courts to retain jurisdiction over foster kids aged 18 to 21 and to order agencies to continue to serve youth in a course of treatment or instruction, an argument with which the Supreme Court agreed.

For young people pursuing a high school equivalency certificate or involved in a vocational program, this means the chance to get a diploma or to learn a trade that will provide them with better opportunities for the future.

JLC’s involvement with this case reflects its commitment to protecting all children—especially those without relatives to support them. At an age when many youth are beginning college, embarking on independence with the safety net of school and family, foster children are abruptly emancipated from the system and declared independent. JLC rightfully asserts that it is unrealistic and unfair to expect an 18-year-old foster kid to survive and succeed without a support system when we as a society do not expect this of our more privileged youth.

Right now, 2,500 young people in Philadelphia face the challenge of transitioning from foster care to independent living. Unfortunately, the odds are against them. Twenty-five percent of former foster kids between the ages of 18 and 21 become homeless; 25 percent become incarcerated; 46 percent have not completed high school; and 32 percent of females have been pregnant. The statistics are scary and the reality is bleak: without the proper resources and skills, these vulnerable adolescents do not succeed as adults. JLC is dedicated to helping...continued on page 21
Feasts to Famine

Tre Scalini - A Jewel in the Heart of South Philly

By Skinny D’Bockol

The move to new quarters almost two years ago has kept all the culinary goodness, with visual rewards and expanded graciousness.

Tre Scalini 1915 E. Passyunk Ave. (between McKean and Mifflin) (215) 551-3870

This showcase jewel of a ristorante in the right aorta of South Philadelphia has had its heart successfully transplanted from its former South 13th Street location up to Passyunk Avenue’s diagonal artery. Six or seven years ago, the owners had attempted on 11th Street to heighten circulation by adding a second story to the former first floor’s den-shelby ambiance. Notwithstanding, this refurbishing step merely changed what had then been a first floor eight-tabled Italian paneled dining room, into simply more of the same, just with a new floor above. The amendments added little complement to the interior concept except to triple the number of tables and to add a cardiologically challenging set of nearly vertical steps to the second floor above. Only ascending the spiral staircase to Betsy Ross’ upstairs bedroom was more formidable.

The move to new quarters almost two years ago has kept all the culinary goodness, with visual rewards and expanded graciousness. Fortunately, even through enlargement and transplant, the heartiness of the food served at this “Abruzzian BYOB” has remained the same: traditional and supererogatory. A great third step. “BYOB” has remained the same: tradition and supererogatory. A great third step.

Black-framed posters greet you to your left. “CONTRATTO” or “PANGIANI,” they advertise, over light wood flooring, and under a sound-absorbing ceiling. The area to your right brings, ab initio, a room-length eye-level mural of a seacoast village.

Presently, there are three or four well-mannered waitpersons even on a weekday night (closed Monday), because this place is always packed. They are dressed in white shirts that gleam off sunny yellow walls. The establishment becomes “family” to its patrons. Frequently, you may be allowed to complete your meal and leave only after having been kissed by one or another of the owners on both sides of your face.

Once seated, be patient. The wine you’ve brought from home will shortly be uncorked. Pre-appetizers include complimentary sliced breads on a doily, olives and a humus paste plate. Close your eyes as you place the thin oblong crisp of bread between your unpursaded lips. Melodious notes of “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desire” resound between your ears as if communion were self-swallowing. Swallow reverently as heavenly fragrances from the olives and humus cause eyelashes to flutter and nostrils to flare.

Please don’t forget to order a side of risotto with wild mushrooms (although the menu may offer it only with seafood). A few years ago, I had spent an afternoon at Harry’s Bar in Venice tasting its varieties of risotto. None comes close to the perfection of Tre Scalini’s riso. Risotto is a labor of love where the rice, broth, onions, garlic and cheeses must be melted, mixed, stirred, added and restirred and readded at just the right culinary moments. The results depend upon the quality of ingredients and the fortitude and fortune of the chef. Tre Scalini’s owner-chef, Franca DiRenzo, cooks with a passion, so her version glisters and sparkles. A fulgent foral induces a swoon.

“It’s more exceptional than any I’ve ever tasted,” I tell her. “What’s the special trick?” “Me,” she reports triumphantly, adding that she throws herself into it.

Nor should you avoid a tuna steak bedazelled in peppercorns, almost purpley raw at its middle and lavender to a fault at its edges. The freshness of it makes your steak knife tremble when your utensil apportions the fish’s mass to bite size. Emerald string beans or asparagus accompany the tuna, sweating in buttery fear of being overshadowed.

Polenta with broccoli rabe is worth a one-way trip on one-way Passyunk. A mound of perfectly prepared commesal is grilled to resemble French toast on a barbecue. The verdant green leaves of broccoli rabe have lost all their bitterness in DiRenzo’s holistic hands. When melded together into a mouthful, the rabe and corn become a cornucopia on your tongue.

The broth at the bottom is clear and fresh, as if the mollusks had been stewed over their pilting. If co-owners Francesca (Francesca’s gorgeously dimple-checked daughter) or Francesca’s husband Michael, should mention the veal chop as still available, don’t hesitate. It will arrive thick as a Martindale-Hubbell, smothered in woody mushrooms as thin as some litigators’ skins, and just as tender as a heartfelt closing argument. There’s always a cutting edge nearby.

I need not mention that the prices here are set by “neighborhood” standards. So you can go for less than broke.

Attorneys satiate hunger here with freshest and simplest elegance, exquisite renditions of cherished recipes; a restaurant made famous by its roisterous hominess.

NON MIHI, NON TIBI, SED NOBIS.

Skinny D’Bockol, a sole practitioner, is a contributing editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter. Find his reviews online at bockol.com.

Bar Foundation continued from page 20

kids avoid homelessness, crime and poverty by targeting adolescents in transition and offering programs that prepare them to become productive adults and contributing members of society.

One such program, the legal clinic at Covenant House, promotes self-sufficiency by protecting an adolescent’s right to assistance. A JLC staff attorney spends one day a week offering legal services to older youths at this shelter. There, a JLC attorney may advise a girl who has been inappropriately discharged from foster care about her options. Another day, an attorney may help a young man to obtain supportive housing and to receive behavioral health services.

For someone struggling with mental illness and unable to afford a place to live, access to counseling, medication and an apartment program can be lifesaving. In this way, JLC addresses the special legal needs of youth as they exit childhood and provides them with tools to succeed as they enter adulthood.

In April 2008, the Juvenile Law Center was one of eight organizations in six countries to receive the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Award for Creative and Effective Institutions. This prestigious, international foundation has recognized what we at PBF have known for years: the mission of advancing the rights and well-being of children in jeopardy is a worthy and essential goal and one that JLC pursues with skill and compassion. PBF’s unrestricted funding of JLC is critical to this endeavor because it “contributes to JLC’s flexibility and the capacity to respond instantly to problems,” says Schwartz.

Please make a donation to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation today and allow us to continue our support of the Juvenile Law Center as it supports some of our city’s most vulnerable citizens.

Elaine Rinaldi, a partner at Cozen O’Connor, is president of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.
Friday, Aug. 1
LGBT Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
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: $7.50.
Law School Outreach Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Monday, Aug. 4
Family Law Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.
Zoning and Land Use Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Tuesday, Aug. 5
Law Practice Management Division: meeting, 8 a.m., 11th floor Conference Center.
Committee on the Legal Rights of Persons with Disabilities: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Wednesday, Aug. 6
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: $7.50.
Intellectual Property Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Thursday, Aug. 7
Civil Rights Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.
Environmental Law Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Friday, Aug. 8
Law School Outreach Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.
The Philadelphia Lawyer magazine Editorial Board: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Monday, Aug. 11
Business Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Young Lawyers Division Cabinet: meeting, 10th floor Cabinet Room.

Thursday, Aug. 14
Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $7.50.
Legislative Liaison Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

Friday, Aug. 15
Corporate In-House Counsel Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Monday, Aug. 18
Public Interest Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Tuesday, Aug. 19
Cabinet: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Employee Benefits Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $7.50.

Wednesday, Aug. 20
LegalLine: 5 p.m., 11th floor LRIS offices.

Thursday, Aug. 21
Law Practice Management Division Technology Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.
Family Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
City Policy Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Friday, Aug. 22
Diversity Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Monday, Aug. 25
Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

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

VIP Honors James O’Connor

James C. O’Connor, a member of Cozen O’Connor, has been recognized as Philadelphia VIP’s Volunteer of the Month for his outstanding volunteer assistance to his VIP clients.

During the past five years O’Connor has taken 15 cases with VIP, including his current active case. O’Connor is described as a “go-to” guy, and never hesitates at the opportunity to represent a VIP client in an auto accident or tort matter. He is consistently handling a pro bono case, and is ready to assist a new VIP client as soon as a need arises. Last year, O’Connor handled more than 90 pro bono hours, mostly on VIP cases. O’Connor’s contributions are not only being recognized by Philadelphia VIP. In May, he was honored by the Pennsylvania Bar Association with its annual Pro Bono Award.

Philadelphia VIP understands the everyday demands and time constraints that its volunteer attorneys face. VIP values all volunteers and recognizes with this honor those who handle multiple VIP cases, dedicate numerous hours to complex matters and take on cases outside of their general practice area.

Philadelphia VIP volunteers serve their clients with compassion and offer them assistance. VIP is proud to recognize volunteers who are helping achieve access to justice for all.

and statutes from colonial states that used race as a barrier to prevent African Americans from achieving success. Judge Higginbotham, however, supported affirmative action, a concept that was under attack in the 1970s. He viewed affirmative action as the government’s effort to open the doors of opportunity. He challenged those of his time to coach, counsel and encourage young people. Morial said now is the time for lawyers to pursue community involvement and promote the principles that underlie the profession by lifting up the lives of the giants, such as Judge Higginbotham, who opened the doors and changed the course of history in this nation. “If we allow their history to diminish and die, then the forces that they fought against will give rise again,” the former mayor of New Orleans said.

Heather J. Hollingsworth, an associate at Thropp Reed & Armstrong, LLP, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Danielle Banks, a partner with Bradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, has been appointed to the Pennsylvania Bar Association House of Delegates.

Ann Thornton Field, a member of Cozen O’Connor, has been named vice chair of the Board of Visitors of the National Judicial College.

Marc S. Raspani, a partner with Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspani, LLP, presented at Hamline University School of Law on April 25, 2008 in St. Paul, Minn.

Kenneth J. Warren, a shareholder with Hangley Aronchic Segal & Puddlin, recently served as a panelist at the Eastern Water Resources Conference in Charlotte, N.C. sponsored by the American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources. Warren has also been named a trustee of the Academy of Natural Sciences.

Timothy R. Lawn of Raynes McCarty was recently inducted into the Bishop McDevitt High School Alumni Hall of Fame.

Michael M. Manko, a partner with Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP recently participated in a panel on “Climate Change: New Thinking for New Weather” at the University of Delaware inaugural Forum in Newark, Del.

Aaron Krauss, a member of Cozen O’Connor, recently lectured at the Chilean and American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia.

Michael A. Schwartz, a partner with Pepper Hamilton LLP, has been appointed by Gov. Edward G. Rendell to the Franklin American Inn of Court.

Curtis L. Golok, a partner with Fox Rothschild LLP, recently presented at the Main Line Association for Continuing Education CPE for CPAs seminar on Succession Planning on May 8.


Peter J. Tucci, a partner with Fox Rothschild LLP, presented “Tips for Complying With the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act” at a Delaware Valley Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel event on June 17.

Gary D. Bressler, a member of Eckert Seamans Cherin and Mellott, LLC, was recently elected to serve as chair of the Pro Bono Committee of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania Bankruptcy Conference.

Fred Blume of Blank Rome LLP was honored as Man of the Year at the Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Chapter of the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation of America’s 32nd Annual Renaissance Ball, held at the Hyatt Regency at Penn’s Landing in Philadelphia on May 3.

Joseph M. Manko, a founding partner of Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, has been recognized for his environmental endeavors and service to the community by the Lower Merion Environmental Advisory Council, which has created the Joseph M. Manko Lifetime Achievement Award.

H. Ronald Klasko, the founding partner of Klasco, Rulon, Stock & Seltzer LLP, recently addressed more than 75 corporate HR managers and relocation specialists on “Hot Business Immigration Topics” at a program sponsored by the Bay Area Professionals in Relocation Management and the Alliance of Business Immigration Lawyers.

Marc Furman, a partner with Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhill & Furman, PC, was a co-presenter for the Associated Builders & Contractors of Southeast Pennsylvania seminar “The Unions Are Coming - Are You Ready” on May 15.

Anthony R. La Ratta of Archer & Greiner, P.C. spoke on “Litigation Aspects of Accounting” at Accounting for Estates and Trusts in New Jersey, a Lorman Education Services seminar presented June 27. He has been installed as treasurer of the Estate and Financial Planning Council of Southern New Jersey.

Shannon S. Levin, a shareholder with Hangley Aronchic Segal & Puddlin, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Children’s Alliance.

Justice Sandra Schultz Newman, a member of Cozen O’Connor, recently served as a panelist for “The Perils and Pitfalls of 1925(b)” a seminar presented by the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. She recently served as the moderator for a roundtable discussion of “Women in the Profession,” sponsored by The Legal Intelligence and Pennsylvania Law Weekly.

Christopher Lee and Walter S. Zimolong of Jacoby Donner, P.C., were presenters with the construction insurance specialists of the Graham Company on “The New AIA Documents and the Introduction to the ConsensusDOCS” in Atlantic City on May 16.

Deborah J. Zateeney, a partner at Zateeney Lofts, LLP, was a panelist at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s 6th Annual Nonprofit Institute in Philadelphia on May 13.

Claudia Z. Springer, managing partner of Reed Smith LLP’s Philadelphia office, has been named to the Board of Directors of the National Adoption Center.

David N. Hofstein, a shareholder with Hofstein Weiner & Levitz, P.C., was a guest on the “Michael Smerconish Show” on WPHT 1210 AM, where he spoke on the custody litigation regarding the Fundamentalist Church of Latter Day Saints.

Richard D. Steel, a partner with Steel, Rudnick & Ruben, addressed attorneys at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., on various matters involving immigration laws on May 15.

H. Robert Fiebach, a member of Cozen O’Connor, recently lectured on the “Tripartite Relationship Between Lawyer and Insured” for the 2008 Legal Malpractice and Risk Conference.

Dennis R. Supplee, a partner with Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP has been elected to a four-year term to the Saint Joseph’s University Board of Trustees.

Daniel J. Revner, a partner at Post & Post L.L.C., has recently been appointed as a member of the Hearing Committee for the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Carl A. Solano, a partner with Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP, received a Pennsylvania Bar Association Pro Bono Award in recognition of his respective record and dedication to pro bono work and public service.

Marc P. Weingarten, a partner in the Locks Law Firm, made the presentation “Trial Strategies and Techniques From Both Sides of the Bar” to a joint seminar of the Kentucky Justice Association and the Kentucky Defense Counsel on May 16 in Louisville, Ky.

Michael F. Barrett, managing shareholder of Salz, Mongilloz, Barrett & Bendesky, P.C., has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Louis D. Brandeis Law Society Foundation.


Mary Theresa Metzler, a partner with Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP, was recently elected director/board member of the Labor and Employment Relations Association Philadelphia Chapter.

Stewart M. Wiener, senior intellectual property counsel at Motorola, Inc., organized a debate on “The Reporter’s Privilege vs. National Security,” presented by the Federalist Society at Blank Rome LLP on June 2. On May 22, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Benjamin Franklin American Inn of Court.

**Names Are News**

“Names Are News” 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.
Polished stainless steel 39 mm case. Self-winding mechanical movement, Cartier calibre 049 (21 jewels, 28,800 vibrations per hour). Water-resistant to 100 meters. Scratchproof sapphire crystal. Featuring a Cartier patented interchangeable bracelet system with titanium inserts for quick change from bracelet to strap.