The Philadelphia Bar Association’s Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention has released the results of a poll made available earlier this year to all practicing Philadelphia lawyers. More than 900 attorneys completed the poll. Under the bylaws of the Association, this poll is not binding upon the Commission’s deliberations, though it must be published along with the Commission’s findings. In addition to poll results, the Commission evaluates each candidate based on criteria including integrity, legal ability, judicial temperament and efficiency.

Sayde Ladov, Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association and a member of the Judicial Commission, says she hopes that “voters will understand why judicial elections are so important and why we invest so much time and energy in reviewing and rating these candidates.”

Referring to the Bar Association’s web continued on page 18
- Commercial
- Office
- Multi-family
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Elite Ivory Tower View Misses Diamonds in the Backyard

By Sayde J. Ladov

Imagine my surprise when I picked up a recent issue of Bar Leader, a magazine produced by the American Bar Association, and read an article about U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia stating his belief that an individual who did not graduate from an elite law school really has no shot for success. Or success as he defines it.

Justice Scalia was addressing law students at American University Washington College of Law in April. The article states, “Scalia took some questions from the students, including from a student who asked how she could become successful without a degree from an ‘elite’ law school.”

Justice Scalia said that while hard work would help, it was unlikely that the student or any student who didn’t graduate from one of the law schools that are “the hardest to get into” would get a clerkship at the Supreme Court, which considered a valuable line on a resume. Justice Scalia said that even if the students were taught poorly at the elite schools, “you can’t make a sow’s ear out of a silk purse. If they come in the best and the brightest, they’re probably going to leave the best and the brightest, OK?”

Now picture Steve Martin, with an arrow on his head, giving the perfect response: Well, excuse me!

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2009 Election Candidates Determined

At the close of the nominations deadline for the Philadelphia Bar Association’s 2009 elections, the following individuals became candidates for Bar Association officers: John Savoth, Vice-Chancellor; Kathleen Wilkinson, Secretary; Sophia Lee, Assistant Secretary; Joseph Prim, Treasurer; and Wesley Payne, Assistant Treasurer.

In addition, the candidates for three-year terms on the Board of Governors are Stacy Tees, Brandi Brice, Scott Sigmund, H. Marc Tepper, and Kimberly Buch-Alegant.

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The Philadelphia Bar Reporter welcomes letters to the editors for publication. Letters should be typed. There is no word limit, but editors reserve the right to condense for clarity, style and space considerations. Letters must be signed to verify authorship, but names will be withheld upon request. Letters may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to: Ken Lyons, Senior Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2955. Telephone: (215) 238-6300. Fax: (215) 238-6345. E-mail: reporter@philabar.org.

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One topic that is perpetually on everyone’s mind is the best way to plan financially for the future. Whether it’s for planning to buy a new home, planning to start a family or planning for retirement, many search for the smartest and most efficient way to start, grow and maximize a nest egg. The Women in the Profession Committee’s Public Service Task Force hosted a presentation Oct. 1 by Jessica Newell and Harry Mentonis from Northwestern Mutual Financial Services, who provided useful tips on what steps can be taken immediately to meet financial goals.

What is the most important thing to keep in mind when planning for your financial future? To “put your money where your heart is” – simply meaning that when planning for your future, you should allocate your money to those goals that are most important to you. According to Newell, the easiest way to begin implementing this idea is to determine your priorities, get informed, and then create a plan and start putting money there. Newell offered that it is never too late to change your financial habits and that those habits can always be changed starting as soon as today.

Mentonis provided even further insight into how we can incorporate this idea of “putting your money where your heart is” into our daily lives. In order to create an effective savings plan, you must make sure that you don’t spend more than you make. While this advice seems like common sense, he warned that often, especially because of credit cards, many people fall in the habit of overextending their financial resources. Mentonis explained that we should aim to save between 15 and 20 percent of our gross income each year. This savings should be distributed among short-term, mid-term and long-term savings. Also, over time, about three to six months of cash should be saved in a short-term savings/emergency fund.

Next, he offered that an important part of financial planning is to ensure that financial “foundations” are strong. A financial foundation is comprised of risk management accounts, i.e., life insurance and disability insurance. These accounts are important because they help shield against whatever financial stress can come as a result of unexpected sickness or loss of a loved one. Mentonis cautioned that we should not assume that the benefits provided by employers are sufficient. For many, an excess plan may be necessary.

Finally, both Newell and Mentonis gave the following guidance on some actions that should be incorporated into a savings strategy: (1) pay yourself first; (2) maximize your tax qualified accounts, such as your 401K; and (3) bank any financial windfall that comes your way.

Newell and Mentonis concluded by stressing that everyone’s financial situation and goals are unique. Despite individual differences, these general tips can help anyone plan and reach a better financial future.

Nicole C. Edwards (nicole.edwards@dlapiper.com) is an associate with DLA Piper LLP.
Immigrants are uniquely victimized in domestic violence situations. Language barriers, fear of authorities and deportation, and an inability to legally secure employment often prevent abuse victims from reporting incidents of domestic violence and seeking help. The abuser frequently reinforces the immigrant victim’s heightened apprehension of coming forward to report domestic violence by threatening to disclose or revoke the victim’s status in the United States.

Lisa Hurlbut of HIAS and Council and Deborah Culhane of Women Against Abuse discussed the remedies available to immigrant victims of domestic violence at the Oct. 5 meeting of the Family Law Section.

Hurlbut advised that the federal government has developed domestic violence immigrant relief programs through the Violence Against Women Act, passed in 1994. This act applies to both men and women. Many of the programs can provide legal status to victims who self-report incidents of domestic violence. Hurlbut explained that some of the requirements under VAWA include a valid marriage to a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident (or a divorce from such a person within the past two years), no criminal record, and an incident of battery or extreme cruelty (which includes psychological abuse such as the abuser refusing to file necessary immigration papers for the immigrant victim). Under a Form I-360, if certain requirements are met, an immediate visa is available to a domestic violence victim, even if she or he is not eligible for derivative status under their spouse or former spouse.

Another form of relief is the issuance of a “U” visa. Such a visa is available to victims of specifically listed crimes, including domestic violence, aggravated assault and sexual assault. In such cases, the victim must have suffered physical and/or psychological harm; the victim must have information to assist law enforcement; and must be willing to cooperate with the authorities in prosecuting the abuser. The U visa is not contingent upon marriage to the abuser.

A family lawyer can significantly assist an immigrant victim of domestic violence by first recognizing that several forms of immigration relief may be available and referring the client appropriately and also by gathering evidence and information through a protection from abuse case that can be used by the immigration attorney to document the immigrant victim’s application(s) for relief under VAWA. The type of evidence that is useful includes a copy of the petition for protection from abuse and any corresponding order, police reports, documents for any corresponding criminal case, photographs of injuries; medical records, evidence about the abuser such as copies of a passport or green card, proof of cohabitation, financial records and birth certificates.

Domestic Violence Unique for Immigrants
By Julia Swain

LRIS Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Chancellor Sayde Ladov (left) addresses a crowd gathered to celebrate the Philadelphia Bar Association Lawyer Referral and Information Service’s 60th anniversary at the Radisson Plaza Warwick Hotel on Oct. 5. More than 300 attorneys accept referrals through LRIS. LRIS is a resource for all Philadelphia area residents who can afford to pay for an attorney and are looking for one to help them with their legal needs. Over the years, LRIS has evolved from a walk-in service to a telephone referral service and now has a web site, www.philadelphiabarlawyers.com. Attorneys (below, from left) Sherrie Cohen, Virginia Gutierrez, Philadelphia Bar Association director of public and legal services Charles Klitsch, Jeffrey Lichtman and Joni Berner enjoy the reception.
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Mary T. Kranzfelder (MKranzfelder@rawle.com) is an associate with Rawle & Henderson LLP.
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“Build meaningful relationships” was the overriding message of Susan Letterman White’s presentation about building a book of business to the Solo and Small Firm Committee on Oct. 9.

Letterman White stressed that marketing is about making the right connections. Social capital is important, as it leads to an easier time finding employment, faster promotions, and more clients. In one exercise, audience members paired off and took turns answering the question “What do you do?” This provided an opportunity for everyone to think about and practice their “elevator speech,” a quick summation of your skills and experience.

Letterman White asked the group that they must switch their mindset and ask potential connections “How can I help you?” Attorneys need to build meaningful relationships with those who either need your services or who can put you in a position to market to those who do. She said that it takes at least seven “bumps” with another person before it will lead to business, so it is important that you build these relationships over time and stay interested.

There are a few questions every lawyer should ask himself or herself before creating their “brand.” What does the client want? How is the brand linked to the social values of the client? Who should I talk to? Where should the conversation take place? What should I ask? Each person needs to find their own voice, and then use it to explain who they are and what they do.

Letterman White repeated the old saying that 80 percent of new business comes from 20 percent of a lawyer’s existing clients. That is why it is important to spend time to find out about your client’s needs and to truly understand your client’s business. This will require some investigation that should be easy if you take the time to listen and develop a relationship with your client.

And for those who are hesitant about getting out there and building their book of business, Letterman White assured the group that everyone will make mistakes while marketing but that is the only way you will learn what works. It is important to be flexible and change or tweak your marketing plan if something is not working.

On the topic of Facebook, Twitter, blogs and other social media, Letterman White said attorneys need to find a balance and be smart while integrating these various marketing tools into a marketing plan. Other helpful hints included finding a mentor, joining industry and trade groups, speaking or writing articles, and joining organizations concerning something that you enjoy and/or believe in.

Edward P. Kelly (ekelly@Astorweiss.com), a partner with Astor Weiss Kaplan & Mandel, LLP, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

It is important to spend time to find out about your client’s needs and to truly understand your client’s business. This will require some investigation that should be easy if you take the time to listen and develop a relationship with your client.
Technology now pervades the legal profession as well as the lives of attorneys and clients alike. Most of us experience the application of communication technology on a daily basis. We are drawn to it for reasons from personal interest and curiosity to the desire to develop business, enhance learning, or simply a fear of being left behind. This reliance on technology brings both promise and problems.

Application of new technology to the legal profession has led to greater efficiency, flexibility and accessibility. It also tends to be more attractive to younger generations. However, with the good comes the bad. Technology can be impersonal, costly, and, sometimes, an intrusion into our non-lawyer lives.

Young lawyers are in a very unique position. As we have grown, both as attorneys and as people, we have been at the forefront of technological development, usage and growth. Unfortunately, with that growth, it seems that social awkwardness and unintended rudeness have become more of a norm than an exception. Now, it is common to see attorneys sitting in court checking their e-mail while a jury is being charged. And, attorneys sitting in court checking their e-mail at the same time a juror is being charged.

As firms and attorneys have come to rely more heavily on technology, personal development and growth has been put on the backburner. Technology does not promote interactions that develop personal and professional growth beyond the transfer of information. Concepts of mentorship and the development of professionalism, ambition, and motivation become second fiddle to electronic information exchange. Rather than picking up the phone to discuss an issue, short text messages or e-mails are exchanged. The tone of these messages is easily misconstrued and open to misinterpretation.

It is important to remember that balance does not just apply to work/life issues, but it also applies to our reliance on technology and our need to interact with each other. If we cannot exhibit basic social courtesies and if we cannot hold a simple conversation without some level of awkwardness, then our ability to represent and to serve our clients is diminished. If we are to ensure younger attorneys are in a position to carry the proverbial torch of our profession, we must make sure that we take time out to assist in personal development.

Some of the most important career experiences occur in a few minutes of one-on-one, face-to-face discussions in someone’s office, over a desk or a cup of coffee. Recall the time that someone offered a few words that changed your direction on a case or project and made you look at things differently. Now or in the future, these events are unlikely to happen through text messaging or over the Internet.

As my career has progressed, I have come to value opportunities for one-on-one interaction with my fellow attorneys and clients. I was lucky enough to have someone take an interest in my development and truly believe it is my duty to pay it forward. Sometimes, even the smallest efforts or a few well chosen words at the right time can impact a person or influence that person’s development. Some of the major steps in my career began with a few words from people I respected.

In a perfect world, we should use technological advances to complement rather than replace our personal relationships.

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**YLD Update**

***Technology Provides Social Challenges***

By Brian S. Chacker

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**Mock Trial Camp Trains High School Students**

By Joshu Harris

The 2009-10 high school mock trial season, easily the biggest in Philadelphia history, is already under way. Not only will Philadelphia proudly host the national high school mock trial championships for the first time this spring, citywide competition and programming has greatly expanded.

In August, the mock trial season got off to its earliest start yet with an inaugural weekend mock trial camp. Over the course of five days, 20 students handpicked from schools with little or no mock trial competition history received instruction in trial advocacy from more than 30 experienced trial lawyers while preparing in teams for a formal mini-competition at week’s end. By all accounts, the camp’s first year was a resounding success and sent participating students away inspired and equipped to lead their schools in competition.

With this year’s statewide competition materials about to be released, the Young Lawyers Division and Temple University Beasley School of Law’s LEAP Institute are busy matching lawyer coaches with new teams and preparing the annual day-long mock trial camp. On Saturday, Nov. 7, more than 100 students and dozens of lawyers will come together to officially kick off the mock trial season with a full day of lectures and small-group sessions in trial advocacy.

In January and February, the citywide John S. Brady High School Mock Trial Competition will take place at Temple and the Criminal Justice Center. This year is expected to feature the largest field of competitors in Philadelphia history.

Given the unprecedented scope of this mock trial season, the Young Lawyers Division and Temple University...
Philadelphia Zoo Hosts YLD Family Fall Festival

Lexi Brenner gets her face painted as Kristine Brenner looks on.

Kathleen Wilkinson and son Michael were among the attendees.

Jonathan Goldman (left photo), wife Rachel and son Max tour the Small Mammal House at the Zoo. Mike McKeon (above), wife Jennifer and daughters Alyssa and Ava wore costumes to the event, as did Lucy Sternthal (right photo).

Lisa Getson and son Adam (left photo) were among the more than 100 people who attended the YLD Family Fall Festival on Oct. 3 at the Philadelphia Zoo, as were Heather Small and daughter Brier (right photo).
By Thomas L. Bryan

Since becoming administrative judge for the trial division of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas in April 2007, Judge D. Webster Keogh has seen a significant drop in the number of uninsured and underinsured arbitrations. Judge Keogh talked about his work at the Oct. 6 meeting of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee.

Judge Keogh credits this drop, in part, to the fact that it has become practice in the insurance industry to exclude the issue of coverage from UM/UIM arbitration provisions in insurance contracts. According to Judge Keogh, insurance companies seem content to litigate coverage issues.

Addressing the process that he uses when called upon to select a neutral arbitrator, Judge Keogh admitted that it helps him to be familiar with the plaintiff’s and defense arbitrators already involved in the case. He believes that knowing the individuals helps him to appoint the most effective neutral arbitrator.

Though there is no formal appointment process for selecting neutral arbitrators, such as there is for judges pro tem in the Commerce Program, Keogh explained that he feels more comfortable selecting arbitrators he has come to know personally, and with whose experience and character he is familiar. This is quite different from the judges pro tem in the Commerce Program, who must be certified, must meet certain requirements, and must submit a request to the court, before they are approved to be on a list of judges pro tem. The qualifications and requirements for judges pro tem were set in place by Judge Keogh last year.

Judge Keogh reviewed one of his recent creative solutions to handling a UM/UIM arbitration where there were three plaintiffs and one insurance company involved in a consolidated case surrounding the same accident. He set up a full arbitration panel with three plaintiff’s arbitrators, one defense arbitrator, and a judge as the neutral. There was only one arbitration hearing, so that the plaintiffs were only needed to present their cases once, and the panel then split up to issue three separate decisions.

He was asked about the spartan time frame allowed for discovery in the arbitration cases. He said the time frames are designed to keep the cases moving expeditiously, and that the time frames are guidelines rather than hard and fast rules.

He was also questioned whether the court would ever intervene where an attorney refuses to pay a neutral arbitrator’s fee. He seemed disinclined to involve the court in this type of dispute, but expressed that he would be open to trying to reason, in an informal way, with the parties.

Judge Keogh highlighted the success of Philadelphia’s nationally recognized Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program, and Judge Sandra Mazer Moss’ new Landlord-Tenant Appellate Mediation Process.

Mayer Horwitz, a former Secretary of the Bar Association and former president of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association, talked about the history of the Association’s ADR Committee. He said the ADR Committee started about 25 years ago with approximately 150 volunteer mediators, who were originally certified in a two-day program.

Horwitz pointed out that Philadelphia’s arbitration and mediation programs became examples and models to lawyers worldwide, and explained that at its height the Philadelphia arbitration program conducted more than 30,000 hearings in a year and disposed of in excess of 50,000 cases.

Horwitz, who volunteers for the Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program, congratulated the “life blood” of all these programs (arbitrations, mediation, the Mortgage Foreclosure Program), the volunteer attorneys from the Philadelphia Bar.

Thomas L. Bryan (tbryan@gmdlfirm.com), an associate with Gerolamo, McNulty, Divis & Lewbart P.C., is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

Visit philadelphiabar.org to listen to the podcast from this meeting.
By Asima Panigrahi

One good way for lawyers to supplement their incomes is by teaching, members of the Government and Public Service Law Committee learned at an Oct. 1 meeting.

Speakers Kathleen Smith, chair of Social Science and Director of the Center for Law and Society at Community College of Philadelphia, and Edwin Miller, dean of the Paralegal Program at Peirce College, told committee members about opportunities for adjunct faculty at their respective institutions.

Miller explained that Peirce started out in 1865 as a school for people transitioning from the Civil War to business, but that their current curriculum covers business, legal and technology courses. He stressed how one of their “lifelines” is their adjunct faculty and that teaching can be an excellent way for lawyers to supplement their income. Most of Peirce’s student population are adults who never went to college and are seeking to make a career change, so “school is very important to them and they really want to be there.” He noted that “so much of the field of law is lifelong learning – teaching clients, people who report to you, etc.”

Smith noted that Community College of Philadelphia has been around for more than 40 years and has 40,000 students and 77 majors, most of which are 2 year Associates Degrees. A number of CCP’s classes are taught by attorneys, including paralegal, justice, computer forensics, English and sociology courses. She indicated that CCP gets about five resumes a week from attorneys looking to teach, but that they are not just looking for great attorneys. They want “someone that has a passion for teaching.” They are very willing to give people a chance that have not taught before if they have that passion.

Miller stressed Peirce’s strong support structure. All of the courses have already been through the development process and there is a full-time person in charge of the course, who can be used as a “sounding board.” Teaching is a lot of work, Miller said, but “the true reward you get is building and shaping someone’s plan or goal.” Peirce also has an advisor committee with lawyers and paralegals. He suggested the advisor committee as a good way for people interested in teaching to get started.

CCP wants people who can “relay real-life experience” but they are also amenable to other types of people. Smith noted that under American Bar Association guidelines, teaching in the paralegal program requires previous experience as a paralegal or supervision of paralegals. Miller stated that Peirce has retired attorneys teaching research and writing, but the majority of adjuncts are attorneys that are currently practicing.

As far as flexibility, once you are hired as a teacher, CCP has syllabus guidelines and course goals, but other than that, “there is a fair amount of autonomy.” At Peirce, the courses are already built so there is less autonomy than other places, but it is “a collaborative process.” Miller said that “an adjunct faculty member will bring a fresh, new perspective, but will not feel overwhelmed like they are starting from scratch.”

Smith noted that “once people start teaching, they usually stay.” Miller added, “when people think that teaching is a good fit for them, it usually is, and to trust your instincts.”

Asima Panigrahi (panigrahia@whiteandwilliams.com), an associate with White and Williams LLP, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

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A few weeks ago, I thought we would publish a “Top 10” list of the reasons to attend the Andrew Hamilton Benefit to be held on Saturday evening, Nov. 21. But given David Letterman’s recent troubles and my inclination to stay away from controversy, I thought better and decided to do something different: give you the Seven Best Reasons out of the Top 10 to attend the Benefit, each one of which should convince you to join us at the Please Touch Museum to support the Foundation.

7. Mayor Michael Nutter, Chancellor Sayde Ladov and City Solicitor Shelley Smith will be “Dancing for Justice.” (Now this is really not “seventh,” but we want to make sure you see it.) Mayor Nutter, Sayde and Shelley have been practicing a “Dancing with the Stars”-like routine choreographed by the Society Hill Dance Academy to be performed with their partners (David Ladov and professional dancers from the Dance Academy). Not only will these good and professional dancers from the Dance Society Hill Dance Academy to be performing with their partners, but the routine will be “Dancing for Justice.” The routine was choreographed by members of the Bar Foundation’s executive committee.

6. You’ll get to see the newly renovated Please Touch Museum at Memorial Hall.

If you don’t have kids, or your kids are past the age to go to Please Touch, you probably haven’t seen the new museum and the renovation of Memorial Hall, one of the few buildings remaining from the 1876 Centennial Exhibition, the first American world’s fair, held in Fairmount Park. The Hamilton Hall area of the Museum, where the main part of the Benefit will be held, is one of Philadelphia’s grandest and most beautiful public spaces.

I should mention that in response to my earlier article on the 1876 Centennial Exhibition, we received a letter from the executive director of the Fairmount Park Commission, concerning what he explained was the shameful treatment of African American and Native Americans at the Exhibition. Quite frankly, I was not aware of this aspect of the history and figuring most of the readers of this column are not either, I asked him if he could give us a web site so that those wanting to learn more could. Visit http://www3.villanova.edu/centennial/oldum01.htm.

5. There will be a raffle drawing for five incredible prizes.

The planning committee for the Andrew Hamilton Benefit has gathered five exciting donated prizes—a painting by a leading member of the New York School of Abstract Expressionists; a dinner for eight cooked in your home by a personal chef trained with master chef Eric Ripert; a hand-woven Turkish rug donated by Material Culture; a dress designed for you by an award-winning Philadelphia University design student; and a dance party for 20 at the Society Hill Dance Academy. And every dollar of the $100 raffle ticket price goes to Bar Foundation grants for legal services.

4. You’ll have a chance to spend time with your colleagues outside of boardrooms and courtrooms.

How often is it that you say to a colleague you meet on the street, wow, we should have lunch and catch up? Well, the Benefit provides that opportunity. It is a gathering of terrific people, whom you otherwise have too little time to enjoy.

3. It is a “relative” bargain.

In recognition of the “great recession” and the havoc it has wrought on the legal community, we have slashed in half the ticket price for the night. We have done so by making the party “less fancy,” but keeping the fun and purpose of the night. Don’t worry, there will still be good music, drink and food.

2. The Andrew Hamilton Benefit gives you and the legal community a chance to show that Philadelphia lawyers care.

The Andrew Hamilton Benefit is the public symbol of the Philadelphia legal profession’s commitment to the notion that lawyers have a special responsibility to help the poor, children and those who are especially vulnerable have access to legal representation. By showing that it cares about our justice system and the assistance it provides to the community, the profession grows in stature.

But the most important reason to attend the Andrew Hamilton Benefit continued on page 15

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**Phila. VIP Honors Miriam Jacobson as Volunteer of the Month**

Phila. VIP has recognized Miriam N. Jacobson as Volunteer of the Month for her outstanding assistance to VIP clients. Jacobson began “volunteering” with VIP as a part-time tanged title staff attorney in 2003, putting in many, many more hours than were asked as in-house homeownership expert, while still maintaining a private practice. When her formal relationship with VIP ended in 2008, she was quick to continue her commitment to VIP and our clients as a private attorney. Since VIP’s Philly FReE program began in June of 2008, she has attended 17 conciliation conference sessions and assisted 15 mortgage foreclosure clients. With her extensive knowledge of real estate law, she is particularly well-suited to assist those mortgage foreclosure clients who have ancillary title problems.

She has also continued to mentor VIP staff on substantive real estate issues and is a crucial resource when complex homeownership matters arise.

Jacobson is also a very active member of the Tangled Title Fund Advisory Committee, reviewing applicants’ cases every month and offering her expertise in tanged title issues to volunteer attorneys. She approaches every matter she handles with great care, deliberation, and patience, giving every client the time and consideration that they deserve. Because of her dedication to VIP and her immense expertise, innumerable VIP clients’ homes have been saved over the years.

For her commitment and dedication to VIP’s homeownership and mortgage foreclosure clients, Philadelphia VIP offers its heartfelt appreciation to Miriam N. Jacobson.
Foundation
continued from page 14

1. Nearly half of the low-income people who need legal services can’t get them because the nonprofit organizations serving them lack resources.

All the Bar Foundation grantee agencies are reporting increased demand for legal services at the same time that the economic crisis squeezes their ability to meet the demands. As one executive director put it, “It feels like we’re performing triage as the need for our services far outweighs our capacity.”

And when people can’t get the legal help they need, bad things happen to them and our community. The family whose home is foreclosed for lack of legal representation may end up homeless. The person who loses health benefits because he couldn’t get a lawyer to help decipher the insurance regulations ends up in the emergency room without coverage and impacts the entire health care system. The abused child who could have been saved if she had a lawyer is not just a statistic, but a shattered human life.

For better or worse, we are the stewards of the American justice system. It is up to us to make sure that “equal justice for all” is not an empty promise. Supporting the Andrew Hamilton Benefit with tickets or sponsorships helps the Bar Foundation – the Philadelphia lawyers’ foundation – give needed funding to the public interest organizations who make that guarantee a reality.

So, join us, our Mayor, the City Solicitor and Chancellor, and together, we can make a difference.

Amy B. Ginensky (ginenskyab@ pepperlaw.com), a partner at Pepper Hamilton LLP, is president of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

Frontline
continued from page 3

our social fabric, history and culture.

The Philadelphia region is blessed to have six local law schools: Drexel, Rutgers, Temple, Villanova, Widener and Penn, which is ranked eighth in the nation. While each program is unique, all provide relevant and practical education, graduating law students who bring energy, optimism and experience to our legal community.

At our recent Bench-Bar and Annual Conference, we heard City Council members speak about what it will take to make Philadelphia the next great city. To avoid brain drain, we must root our talent here, making sure that graduates grow, flourish and share in economic prosperity.

That is not to say that we don’t want to lure others to our community to increase our diversity. But neither should we exclude our local talent.

Let us also keep in mind a recurring theme – “How do we define success?” – that was repeatedly heard at our groundbreaking Diversity Summit in September. For many in the room, success was defined as the ability to have control over their destiny, to have meaningful relationships with clients, to be valued for their own unique experience. And, most importantly, for permission to occasionally falter, then pick up and go on.

Clearly, the cookie-cutter mold of one-size-fits-all no longer works in a multicultural world. A prep school education followed by a small, elite liberal arts college education plus an elite law school education is a wonderful thing, But it is not the only thing.

With respect to Justice Scalia, I believe that the elitism expressed earlier is outmoded, ivory tower thinking. Economics has leveled the playing field. Frankly, it’s a brave and brand new world. I suggest that anyone with smarts, ambition, talent and willingness to think outside the box can succeed, especially when we keep in mind that success is defined in different ways.

Looking forward as my year as Chancellor draws to a close, my greatest hope is that the economic recovery truly takes hold, and that firms who have either laid off lawyers or delayed hiring will look again in their own backyards. Together, let us make a concerted effort to keep Philadelphia’s best and brightest here in the City of Brotherly Love.

I wish you all a wonderful season of thanksgiving and reflection!

Sayde J. Ladon, a principal with OffitKurman, is Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. Her e-mail address is chancellor@philabar.org.

Mock Trial
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Division, in collaboration with Temple Law’s LEAP Institute, welcomes volunteer participation by all members of the bar. Volunteers may commit as little as a few hours at a time and will leave impressed by the students and rewarded by the volunteering experience.

Volunteer coaches and instructors are needed for the Nov. 7 camp, as well as volunteer judges. Camp instructors will set aside the full day of Nov. 7 to lead small group sessions that will apply trial advocacy concepts introduced in brief lectures. Coaches will typically meet about once a week with their teams, either on a weekday afternoon or weekend day. Volunteer judges will commit to judge a three-hour round of competition during a weekday, weekend or between Jan. 25, 2010 and Feb. 27, 2010. Judges can choose to judge as many rounds as schedules permit and judges do not need trial experience to participate.

All volunteers need is a willingness to give some time and be wowed by the high school students.

Joshu Harris (Joshu.Harris@phila.gov) is an assistant district attorney and co-chair of the Young Lawyers Division’s Mock Trial Committee.

Become a Volunteer
To volunteer as a coach, instructor or judge for the Nov. 7 Mock Trial Camp, contact Joshu Harris at jhh67@georgetown.edu.

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Moore Finds Comedy in Tragic ‘Capitalism’

By Marc W. Reuben

The conceit of Michael Moore’s latest thumb-in-the-eye documentary, “Capitalism – A Love Story,” derives from the absurd actions of heedless financiers who, after causing the collapse of the markets, fought for bonuses to those responsible for it. The bonuses were, so they complained, a matter of holy contract, and invidious. This way of using civil society to promote indecent gain is redolent of what popular culture ascribes to Nazi agents, or communist stooges or, more popularly, vampires. The payment of huge bonuses to Wall Street vandals is like giving Dillinger more money from the till, because he wore trousers to the robbery.

The irony of this thievery tells us that the current economic disaster is an example of turgid regulatory policy overseen by a Congress that takes cash from those it is supposed to regulate. It would have been far more beneficial if Moore had allowed this theme to pervade his diffuse film, overdone in that it urges an end to benign capitalism and laissez faire. It also uses the same devices (e.g., a megaphone in front of corporate headquarters) Moore provided us in all his films from “Roger and Me” onwards. Much of the time it is funny.

Released some months after the death of Don Hewitt, creator of relentless “60 Minutes,” this film is also a model of information-as-entertainment. Capitalism is its author’s jibe at the national dream of getting money without working for it. It is an outrageous glance at a nation living far beyond its means. The movie, heavy with working for it. It is an outrageous glance at a nation of capitalists who dream of wealth without a reasonable scheme of how to earn it.

This is Moore’s personal look at what has happened to average burghers as a result of corporate misdeeds, and it harkens back to decades past to show the slow decline of an America in which getting is more valued than working. The result is not too difficult to imagine. According to Moore, the nation is going to hell. We are seeing the gilded age in repeat. But the notion that it must end in destruction if something socialist isn’t done is a bit too much. Some of the bits, even if overdone, are quite amusingly funny. Trying to arrest the guiding hands at AIG is something that would happen in nations where recipients of corporate largesse do not write laws. The name Goldman Sachs pops up with alarming regularity. Oddly, it is Moore’s humor that deflects genuine rage. A humorless appraisal of the manner in which the business community and Congress “protect” common citizens (by allowing interest rates and fees previously the province of organized crime) could lead to conflict.

Moore pictures the upper end of the business class as an enemy. This is classic scapegoating, even if the target is accurate. “Capitalism” is a particularly vivid look at how Americans rationalize and deny their history. Nothing is actually their fault. Someone else is to blame. In this case it is, with a degree of truthfulness, the unprincipled rascals in the financial markets and banks (who used to be forbidden from risking depositor funds by the evil Roosevelt, the one true hero of this film). According to Moore, Americans do not really run their government. The big interests do. What Moore should have told us is that it took reactionaries 70 years to undo Glass-Steagall and other regulatory protections. They had to wait until the generation devastated by the Great Depression had perished and their ignorant grandchildren took over. Now that the regulations are gone the great financial scandals of recent decades have come. The incessant cries to deregulate savings and loan offices allowed a financial collapse to rival the South Sea Bubble, and taxpayers were forced to pay for it by the Congress that allowed the collapse to begin with. The recent fallout from under-regulated financial institutions has resulted in a repeat of the same situation featuring the same cast of players, so Moore tells us. And still the public overlooks brazen politicians who stuff their pockets with corporate cash in the name of “free speech,” or however Congress characterizes it. Oddly, the most prominent person of rectitude speaking about this awful situation is Sen. John McCain, and not in the movie. He provides an honest assessment, if no solution. And he speaks with more force as a conservative than the great marshmallow in the presidential manse.

As a filmmaker, Moore is not a great mind, even if he is very entertaining and creative. His films have the power to enrage with laughter.

The current cry of reactionaries responding to watered-down financial regulation is an image of the hysterical old woman who thinks the burglar will put chloroform under her door and then ravish her.

While Moore lambastes, the picture of working-class citizens who actually champion Wall Street manipulators is largely absent. These are the people who quack like ducks in hopes that they’ll fly. They appreciate corporate welfare more than aid to the poor because they envy the rich. There is really no tip of the hat to responsible conservatives, who face heavy seas in this age. The most thoughtful comments made in this film are those of F.D.R. in 1944. Sick and weak, he advised that democracy is threatened by economic abuse. It is a shame his life was not photographed in 3-D.

Marc W. Reuben (marcreuben@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.

A.C.E. Kickoff

The Advancing Civics Education program held its kickoff event for the 2009-2010 school year on Oct. 5 at the University of Pennsylvania Law School’s Levy Conference Center. Attendees met and mingled with team members and teachers and participated in an orientation session. Pictured (from left) are Audrey Allen, David Trevaskis, A.C.E. Co-Chair Jenimae Almqvist, Mary Russell, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Genece Brinkley, Paul Kaufman, Elvin Ross, and Christopher Lowe. More than 60 people attended the event.
Sunah in the City

Life Comes Full Circle with Move to Korea

By Sunah Park

The last time I was unemployed was back in 1990. Having graduated from Brown with a degree in East Asian Studies, I had no idea what to do with my life (friends who also had no idea what to do with their lives suggested I go to law school, but I mixed that idea). So I moved back in with my parents and proceeded to watch TV, particularly soap operas, day in and day out (that was the pre-Internet era). Dismayed that their daughter transformed into a human slug, my parents suggested an extended and open-ended visit to Korea to see my relatives.

My family and I came to the United States (Philadelphia, specifically) in 1974 and we had never gone back to visit. I had little to no memories of Korea (I had had some vague notion of having lived in a traditional g indefinite house in a remote village as a child but it turns out I had borrowed my memories from “M*A*S*H” – my parents told me we lived in an apartment in Seoul). My parents are each one of seven children so I had many aunts and uncles whom I had never met or had no recall of meeting. Numerous cousins were born after we left Korea so I was a stranger to most of them. Therefore, I was looking forward to meeting my relatives in Korea and most of all, my siblings and me to a language barrier.

Small digression here – shortly before my return trip to Korea, I was texting on my phone and crossing the street near Whole Foods without looking where I was going (yes, stupid and dangerous) when I heard someone in a car shouting at me to watch where I was going and to go back where I belonged. Mea culpa – I crossed in front of a moving car so I suppose he had every right to be angry at me, but was it such an egregious offense that I should be made to leave this country for it (even Bernie Madoff wasn’t sentenced to Siberia)? Never mind that I have lived in America for almost my entire life and that I speak English much better than in Korea. And this is my last column as editor-in-chief of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter. I’d like to thank all of you who read my monthly column and to those who have dropped me a note or an e-mail letting me know you enjoy reading it – it always surprises and humbles me when

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Brian S. Chacker, an associate with Gay Chacker & Mittin, P.C., is chair of the Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee. He can be reached at (215) 567-7955, or by e-mail at bchacker@gaychackermittin.net.
Families with Disabilities: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room.
Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee: meeting, 12:15 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $8.

Wednesday, Nov. 4
Delivery of Legal Services Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Intelectual Property Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $8.
Rules and Procedure Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

Thursday, Nov. 5
Health Care Law Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.50.
Women in the Profession Committee Public Service Task Force: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Friday, Nov. 6
LGBT Rights Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Monday, Nov. 9
Business Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Tuesday, Nov. 10
Section Chairs: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Criminal Justice Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
Philadelphia Bar Foundation Board of Trustees: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Professional Responsibility Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.

Wednesday, Nov. 11
Women in Intellectual Property Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.
Appellate Courts Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.

Thursday, Nov. 12
LRS Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., Legislative Liaison Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Friday, Nov. 13
Secrets to Business Development: seminar, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
The Philadelphia Lawyer magazine Editorial Board: meeting, 12:15 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Monday, Nov. 16
Public Interest Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Young Lawyers Division Cabin: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Cabinet Room.
Law Practice Management Division Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Tuesday, Nov. 17
Attorney Career Development Committee: meeting, 9 a.m., 11th floor Conference Center.
Employee Benefits Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
DLSRC Resource Management Committee: meeting, 3:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Wednesday, Nov. 18
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.
LegalLine: 5 p.m., 11th floor LRIS offices.

Thursday, Nov. 19
Family Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
Law Practice Management Division Technology Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

Real Property Section Annual Meeting: 12 p.m., Loews Philadelphia Hotel, 1200 Market St. Tickets: $45, philadelphia.org.
Environmental Law Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Board of Governors: meeting, 4 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Friday, Nov. 20
Social Security Disability Benefits Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.
Secrets to Business Development: seminar, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Saturday, Nov. 21
Andrew Hamilton Benefit: 7 p.m., Please Touch Museum, 4231 Avenue of the Republic. Tickets: philadelphia.org.

Monday, Nov. 23
Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Tuesday, Nov. 24
Criminal Justice Section: meeting, 11:45 a.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.
Women in the Profession Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.

Wednesday, Nov. 25
Medical Legal Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

Thursday, Nov. 26 – Friday, Nov. 27
Thanksgiving: Bar Association offices closed.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Note: While the following listings have been verified prior to press time, any scheduled event may be subject to change by the committee or section chairs.
Kerry Smith, an attorney with Community Legal Services, was recently appointed to a new consumer advisory council at the Association of Residential Mortgage Regulators.

Daniel J. Siegel, principal in the Law Offices of Daniel J. Siegel, LLC, has been named to the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence Legal Action Project Honor Roll.

Bruce S. Katcher, a founding partner of Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, presented a seminar on New Jersey’s New Site Remediation Reform Act on Aug. 5 at the Builders League of South Jersey in Cherry Hill, N.J.


Barbara Binis, a partner with Reed Smith LLP, has been named to the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia’s newly formed Law Center Advisory Board, composed of leaders in the region’s legal and business communities who will provide strategic advice and guidance to the Law Center.

Allan M. Dabrow, a partner with Jackson Lewis LLP, was nominated by Gov. Edward G. Rendell and subsequently confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate as a board member of the Pennsylvania Economic Development Financing Authority.

Shiloh D. Theberge, an associate with Saul Ewing LLP, has been elected to the Board of Directors for the Briar Bush Nature Center.

James J. Eisenhower, a partner with Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP, spoke to the Philadelphia Committee on City Policy on Sept. 24 on emerging issues on ethics and politics in Philadelphia. He has also been elected to the American Law Institute.

Cassandra J. Georges, principal of Above & Beyond Dispute Resolution, has been named Dispute Resolution Chair of the American Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division.

Howard D. Scher, a shareholder with Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, discussed the federal rules of evidence with a group of 25 Chinese judges visiting the country as part of the 7th Annual Judicial Education Program on Sept. 17.

Dorothy K. Phillips, founder and managing partner of Dorothy K. Phillips & Associates, LLC, was a presenter at the Sterling Education Seminar “Divorce After 50” on Sept. 15 in Wilmington, Del.

Jocelyn Gabrynowicz Hill, an associate with McCarter & English, has been appointed as the American Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division’s liaison to the ABA Section of Environment, Energy and Resources. She has also been appointed a member of the Task Force on Outreach to Young Lawyers in the Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section.

James G. Logue, a shareholder with McAullas Keen & Buckman, has been elected to the Board of Directors of Inglis Foundation.

Marc S. Raspani, a partner with Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick and Raspani, LLP, has been reappointed by Gov. Edward G. Rendell as a member of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing.

James S. Ettelson, a partner with Thorp Reed & Armstrong, was the sole presenter in a National Constitution Center Audio Conference, “Everything Easements: Drafting Fundamentals & Key Practice Pointers” on Sept. 9.

Rhonda Hill Wilson, principal in The Law Offices of Rhonda Hill Wilson, PC, has been honored with the American Association for Justice’s Distinguished Service Award for the second consecutive year. She also received the Marie Lambert Award from the AAJ’s Women’s Caucus.

Lisa D. Eldridge, a shareholder with Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, was a speaker at Pennsylvania Bar Association Workers’ Compensation Law Section’s 25th Annual Fall Section Meeting, a Pennsylvania Bar Institute seminar held Sept. 10-11 in Hershey, Pa.

Frank Emmerich, a shareholder with Conrad O’Brien PC, has been named to the Board of Trustees of Cabrini College.

James B. Dougerty Jr. of the Dougerty Law Offices in Philadelphia has been elected Chair of Drexel University’s Alumni Board of Governors.

John B. Langel, a partner with Ballard Spahr LLP, has been named the 2009 recipient of City of Hope’s Spirit of Life Award.

Monica E. O’Neill, managing partner of the Philadelphia office of Thomas, Thomas & Hafer, discussed “The Use of Financial Records as an Investigative Tool in Commercial Property Claims” at the International Conference of the International Association of Special Investigation Units on Sept. 21 in Palm Desert, Calif.

Louis W. Fryman, a shareholder with Conrad O’Brien PC, has been appointed president of the Louis D. Brandeis Foundation, the charitable arm of the Brandeis Law Society of Philadelphia.

Robert H. Louis, a partner with Saul Ewing LLP, has been elected president of the Philadelphia-based Senior Artists Initiative.


Morgen Cheshire, an associate with Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP, was recognized by the Pennsylvania Bar Association Legal Services to the Public Committee for her dedication to pro bono work and awarded with a 2009 PBA Pro Bono Award for her commitment to public service.

Bruce Lette of Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP has been selected by Ignites, one of the pre-eminent sources for news about the mutual fund industry, as a 2009 “Fund Titan” in the category of outside counsel.

NAMES ARE NEWS

Bruce Lette of Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP has been selected by Ignites, one of the pre-eminent sources for news about the mutual fund industry, as a 2009 “Fund Titan” in the category of outside counsel.

Nicole D. Galli, a partner with Pepper Hamilton LLP, recently was appointed chair of the CLE Teleconferences Committee of the American Bar Association Section of Intellectual Property Law. Her term began in August 2009 and she will serve until July 2010.

Sapna K. Anderson, an associate with Ballard Spahr LLP, has been named a “Rising Star” by the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Minority Bar Committee.

Douglas K. Rosenblum, an associate with Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick and Raspani, LLP has attained the Certified Fraud Examiner credential.

Joseph Manko, a founding partner of Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, was presented with the 2009 Horatio Alger Award for his dedication to the nonprofit Golden Slipper Camp.

A. Peter Prinsen, vice president and general counsel of The Graham Company, has been elected to The Graham Company Board of Directors.

Melissa Wojtylak, counsel to Reed Smith LLP, has been elected treasurer of the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia for 2009-2010.


*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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