Savoth to Address Plans for 2012 as He Becomes Bar’s 85th Chancellor

“If you want to meet people, you have to get involved in the Philadelphia Bar Association,” says John E. Savoth. “It really gives added depth and meaning to your life, both professionally and personally.” And Savoth should know. He recognized the value of being active in the Association early in his career.

Now he’s about to become the Association’s 85th Chancellor.

Savoth is proud to be a Philadelphia lawyer. Philadelphia, he observes, is fortunate to have a vibrant legal community filled with people of diverse backgrounds, cultures and geographic roots — who have chosen to make the city their professional home. “This gives an added dimension to the life and work of a Philadelphia attorney,” he says.

The new Chancellor, who will detail his plans on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at the Hyatt at The Bellevue, wants 2012 to be a year highlighting Philadelphia lawyers’ work on behalf of the community at-large. He will also continue the Association’s strong commitment to public interest efforts that serve the city’s disadvantaged.

A native of Neptune City, N.J., Savoth learned the importance of family, self-reliance and a strong work ethic at an early age. His grandfather immigrated from Greece and eventually founded the family business selling bananas at the New Jersey shore in 1924. The business, later run by Savoth’s father Edward — and subsequently by his older brother of four years, Bill — employed John during his high school years, as well as his mother, Catherine, and older brother of two years, Tom.

A graduate of Dickinson College and Widener University School of Law, Savoth began his legal career as a law clerk for the late Hon. James T. McDermott of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, thereafter working for his legal mentor, Bill Keller, at Keller & Associates, which later became Keller & Savoth. In 1996, he formed the law offices of John E. Savoth, and in 2003 merged practices with William Fedullo to create Fedullo & Savoth.

In 2007, he became of counsel to Saltz Mongeluzzi Barrett & Bendesky PC. He

Alva to Receive Fidelity Honor Dec. 6

Daniel-Paul Alva, former chair of the Association’s Board of Governors and Criminal Justice Section, will receive The Fidelity Award Presented By PNC Wealth Management at the Association’s Dec. 6 Annual Meeting Luncheon.

“Danny is being recognized for his lifetime commitment to the legal profession,” said past Chancellor A. Michael Pratt, chair of the award committee. “He’s an outstanding advocate and member of the criminal justice bar. He’s an extraordinary individual who has mentored numerous young lawyers without fanfare or recognition.”

The award honors significant accomplishments in improving the administration of justice (preferably in Philadelphia); the absence of prior recognition for this work by the Philadelphia Bar Association; and distinguished service consistently rendered over a considerable period of time or a single outstanding achievement in a particular

continued on page 13

Chancellor’s Reception is Wednesday, Jan. 4

All members of the Philadelphia legal community are invited to attend a complimentary reception on Wednesday, Jan. 4 from 5 to 7 p.m. in honor of John E. Savoth, 85th Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, at the Hyatt at The Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets. No RSVP is necessary.

continued on page 13
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By Rudolph Garcia

Four Big Events Stand Out as High Points of a Successful Year

It’s hard to believe, but it’s almost time to pass the baton.

It seems like several years have flown by since January. Somehow, dozens of major events, 14 television appearances, four radio shows, scores of newspaper and magazine interviews, countless speaking engagements and hundreds of meetings were squeezed into a single year.

And in the midst of all that, we managed to achieve the goals I outlined last December. We institutionalized a Long-Range Advisory Council, which is hard at work planning our future. We established a Bar Leader Institute to help our section and committee chairs improve their leadership skills, expand active participation and plan even more dynamic programs for their members. We reconstituted our Diversity in the Profession Committee as a forum with collaboration with and among the leaders of Philadelphia’s minority bars. We formed a Membership Task Force and added Fastcase and Legal Classifieds as new member benefits. And these are just a few of our more tangible accomplishments.

In addition, we had terrific conferences, receptions, luncheons, forums and speaker programs throughout the year, four of which stood out as major highlights.

The first was our Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon with Justice Sonia Sotomayor in March. Her frank and open discussion with the audience was like nothing we had ever experienced before. It was described by attendees as ‘AMAZING’ ‘terrific and moving,’ ‘one of the most thrilling days of my life’ and ‘the most successful luncheon I have ever attended.’

The second was welcoming new citizens with Justice Sandra Day O’Connor and Judge Cynthia Rufe at the National Constitution Center on Constitution Day. The standing-room-only crowd was beaming with excitement and pride, reminding us all that the American dream is still alive and well, despite our temporary economic woes.

The third was our Bench-Bar & Annual Conference in October. In addition to all the lawyers, about 80 judges attended the conference, including a majority of our Pennsylvania Supreme Court justices. The CLE programs and networking were outstanding, and the party at the pool was fantastic.

And the fourth was our National Symposium on Diversity in the Legal Profession in November. With a lot of hard work, especially by our director of diversity, Naomi McLaurin, we brought together chief legal officers of major companies, managing partners of large law firms and diversity thought-leaders from across the nation, to collaborate on ways to improve the recruitment, retention and advancement of women and diverse attorneys.

The event was sold out and very well received, positioning our bar as a leader in the nationwide effort to improve diversity and inclusion.

Another hallmark of the year was the exceptional work performed by our Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention. The commission and its investigative division spent about 2,000 hours evaluating 47 new judicial candidates and 27 judges running for retention. Editors of the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Daily News strongly supported the commission’s ratings. We also urged the public to follow them in a series of newspaper, radio and television interviews. The result could not have been more satisfying – 100 percent of the newly elected judges were recommended by our commission.

We also improved the perception of the public with the Philadelphia Bar Association, the oldest bar association in the nation.

Television appearances included our Fifth Annual Symposium on Diversity in the Profession in November. With a lot of hard work, especially by our director of diversity, Naomi McLaurin, we brought together chief legal officers of major companies, managing partners of large law firms and diversity thought-leaders from across the nation, to collaborate on ways to improve the recruitment, retention and advancement of women and diverse attorneys.

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We also improved the perception of the public with the Philadelphia Bar Association, the oldest bar association in the nation.
Collaboration was the main theme of Robert J. Grey Jr.’s keynote speech at the National Symposium on Diversity in the Legal Profession. The purpose of the Nov. 8 event, hosted by the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Office of Diversity at The Union League in Philadelphia, was to discuss ways to promote diversity in the Philadelphia legal community. For instance, recruiting and retaining women and minority lawyers is an essential component to any firm or corporation’s diversity initiative.

Grey, the executive director of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD) and a past president of the American Bar Association, likened the practice of law to playing sports by asserting that you are either on the field, or you are getting ready to go out on the field. As one of the team players, you need to be aware of opportunities around you and be ready and able to take on additional responsibilities. The coaches in this analogy must be on the lookout for opportunities for the team. Together, the team is built by giving people these opportunities, he said.

“This is our country, and it is our responsibility to keep it strong,” Grey rallied those in attendance. There is power in a unified country, and about taking charge, being leaders and sharing responsibilities, Grey said. He acknowledged the importance of everyone encountering the occasion to reach their potential and loftiest goals. Collaboration involves listening to a mentor, who is older and wiser, and has lived through achievements and experiences to which you have yet to be exposed, he said.

Grey, a 1976 graduate of the Washington and Lee University School of Law, for which he currently sits on the Board of Trustees, reflected that none of us arrived at this point in our careers alone. He highlighted the importance of working together and collaborating in order to make a difference in the legal profession. “Everyone can make a difference in someone’s life,” Grey proclaimed.

Grey lauds a long and prosperous legal career. He is a partner at Hunton & Williams LLP, where he serves as vice chair of the Community Service Committee. He was appointed by President Obama to the board of the Legal Services Corporation in 2009. As a part of his role with LCLD, Grey maintains a blog – Open Minded – where he expresses his thoughts and ideas regarding diversity in the American legal practice. The LCLD was formed nearly three years ago to promote diversity in the American legal profession. The organization is comprised of corporate chief legal officers and law firm managing partners who recognize how critical a diverse legal workforce is to a successful legal practice. These leaders share a common goal which is to recruit, retain and promote diverse legal talent.

The inspiring keynote speech was full of rich personal anecdotes from which Grey drew to illustrate his role at the event and in the legal community at large. Grey remembered fondly his time spent as a professor of business law teaching three nights a week at his undergraduate alma mater, Virginia Commonwealth University. At the time Grey was also working as a full-time attorney at a law firm that he created. During class, he was regularly asked legal questions by students while discussions revolved around sales, commercial papers and contracts. Realizing the pipeline of business he had sitting astutely before him, Grey began to encourage his students to discuss their legal matters further with him during the day, at his office, where he could provide proper guidance.

The practice of collaboration, and listening to his mentor, allowed Grey to become the first African-American chairman of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, as well as the youngest chairman at age 31. As chairman, Grey was challenged by major law firms in Virginia regarding alcohol regulation. Collaboration, and disputes with some of the best lobbyists in the country, enabled Grey to brand himself and demonstrate to his peers in the legal community what it meant to do a job well done.

“The legal profession cannot afford to leave talent on the table,” advised Grey. “To be competitive in a global economy, leaders in the legal community need to “change the trajectory” of their expectations. Women and minority lawyers are the future of the profession. “What we do today will have an effect on the history of this nation. What we do today sets the course for the next generation.”

Mary-Kate Breslin (marykatebreslin39@gmail.com), judicial clerk to Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Albert J. Snider Jr., is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DIVERSITY IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

John L. Latham (from left), Michael K. Tucker, Mark S. Stewart and David Smith were panelists for "White Men and Diversity: A Candid Conversation."

Nolan N. Atkinson Jr. (top, from left), Sophia Lee, Ruthe Catolico Ashley and (seated from left) Mary Gay Scanlon, Millicent Bond, Virginia G. Essandoh and Anthony K. Greene discussed "Pipeline and Mentoring Programs: Models for Success."

Tabitha R. Jenkins (from left) Halima Horton, Paul Lancaster Adams, Leroy J. Watkins Jr., David R. Jimenez and Hinton J. Lucas Jr. discussed "A Legal Update: Diversity or Discrimination?"

Joseph K. West and Temple University Beasley School of Law Dean JoAnne A. Epps offered remarks at the networking reception following the breakout sessions.

Roberta Jacobs-Meadway (from left), Joel C. Trotter, H. Eric Hilton, Robin H. Sangston, Taylor Ocasio, Wilma E. Beatty and Gerry L. Williams were panelists for the program "Generational Diversity: An Inescapable Reality." Sponsor Leslie Zaikis of PWC (right) introduced the panelists.

Thomas E. Cabaniss (from left), Alan J. Hoffman, Karl A. Racine, Robert A. Nicholas and JoAnne A. Epps were among the speakers for "A Vision for Collaboration."

Other speakers included Sherry D. Williams, Robert J. Grey Jr., Mark Hershey, Ramona E. Romero, Robin Sangston, Michael K. Tucker, Deborah Epstein Henry, James G. Leipold and Sandra S. Yamate.
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While most states in the U.S. restrict marriage as being between one man and one woman, the tide is slowly turning in a small number of states in favor of legally recognizing relationships between same-sex couples. Tiffany Palmer and Richard Bost presented “Crossing Borders/Shifting Rights: Same-Sex Marriages, Civil Unions & The Legal Challenges for Pennsylvania Couples” to the Family Law Section on Nov. 7.

Presently, same-sex marriage is permitted in: Massachusetts (2004); Connecticut (2008); Iowa (2009); Vermont (2009); New Hampshire (2010); District of Columbia (2010); and New York (2011). Civil union, considered a marriage equivalent, is permitted in New Jersey (2007); Illinois (2011); Delaware (effective 2013); and Hawaii (effective 2012). Domestic partnership, with varying rights, is permitted in California (2005); Oregon (2008); Washington (2008); and Nevada (2008).

In Pennsylvania, however, due to the state’s DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act), legal relationships between same-sex couples are neither permitted nor recognized. Issues arise when Pennsylvania residents travel to a nearby state, such as New York or New Jersey, enter into a same-sex marriage or civil union and then return to Pennsylvania. Problems include dissolution of the relationship, estate planning and employment benefits. Philadelphia County has long recognized domestic partnership status and permitted couples to formally register as domestic partners. Such registrations are not limited to same-sex couples but are defined broadly where one partner is financially dependent upon the other. Couples registered as domestic partners in Philadelphia are exempt from real estate transfer tax. Also, registrants who are city employees can enroll his/her partner for health insurance benefits and designate the partner as a pension beneficiary. However, Philadelphia domestic partnership registration does not confer rights of financial support or inheritance.

Pennsylvania residents who enter into a marriage, civil union or domestic partnership must beware that upon returning to live in Pennsylvania their legal relationship formed elsewhere will not be honored here. There are several steps such couples can take, however, to confer certain rights to each other and protect themselves. Estate planning is crucial. Same-sex couples are encouraged to have powers of attorney for health care directives and finances, burial designations and wills. Cohabitation agreements are important to address property rights and finances during the relationship term and upon its cessation. But, even with the best planning, nothing can be done in Pennsylvania to dissolve the relationship. For dissolution, the same-sex couple must return to the state where they entered into their legal relationship, fulfill the residency requirement (which can be one year) and then file for dissolution with the court.

Under very limited circumstances where parties agreed upon jurisdiction, property division and all other issues, the Pennsylvania courts using its equity power has dissolved same-sex marriages. However, in contested cases, Pennsylvania courts have refused to recognize same-sex marriage based on constitutional grounds (Kern v. Tenny, Berks County, No. 09-10738, March 15, 2010) and, based on a limited-basis recognition theory (Schlegelmilch v. Eckert, Philadelphia County, August Term, 2009, No. 008528, Jan. 20, 2011). Currently, the issue of recognizing same-sex marriage is working its way through the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in the matter of Cozen O’Connor v. Toibin and Farley (Case No. 2:11-cv-00045), which involves a dispute over ERISA survivor benefits among the decedent’s same-sex spouse, the decedent’s parents and the decedent’s employer.

Julia Swain (jswain@foxrothschild.com), a partner with Fox Rothshild LLP, is chair of the Family Law Section and an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
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Panel: Relationships Key for Negotiations

By Heather J. Austin

The most effective negotiators, according to Judge Diane M. Welsh, are the best persuaders. They are charged with the task of persuading an opponent who has vastly different views. Judge Welsh, a former U.S. magistrate judge, moderated the Fourth Annual Women in the Profession Summit “The Art of Negotiation” on Oct. 27 and explored the ways clients and opponents prepare for negotiation and mediation. Panelists included Jamie Sheller, a plaintiff’s attorney with Sheller, P.C.; Stephanie Resnick, a corporate litigation attorney and partner with Fox Rothschild LLP; and Catherine C. Carr, executive director of Community Legal Services.

Building a relationship with her client is an important part of Sheller’s preparation. She tries to understand the client’s state of mind and know what they want. However, Judge Welsh, now a neutral with JAMS – The Resolution Experts – cautioned against identifying a bottom line before negotiation because your client will think that you failed if a great result falls short of the predetermined figure. Instead, identify a range and manage your client’s expectations. Resnick thoroughly analyzes the case with her clients so they know the risks and understand the basis for settlement authority requests. Further, according to Carr, clients need to know that expectations may need to change over time.

Sheller prepares her clients for the informality of mediation, as compared to trial. The client, Sheller explained, needs to recognize that you are tenacious but that during mediation it may be beneficial to cooperate. Working with your opponent ensures they appreciate the strength of your case so that they can appear with adequate authority. Judge Welsh added that being forthcoming fosters good will.

Success depends on preparation of your opponent as much as your client. Well before mediation, Sheller discusses the parameters of the mediation, including high/low agreements and whether the decision will be binding. According to Judge Welsh, counsel should communicate prior to mediation to identify client representatives that will attend. It is problematic when an excess carrier representative fails to appear for a mediation in a case where damages are in the excess level. The lawyer should recommend to her client the best representative and/or expert to attend the mediation. These can be beneficial to cooperate.

Instead, identify a range and manage your client’s expectations. Resnick thoroughly analyzes the case with her clients so they know the risks and understand the basis for settlement authority requests. Further, according to Carr, clients need to know that expectations may need to change over time.

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A Silver Celebration for Women

Past and present chairs of the Women in the Profession Committee gathered on Nov. 16 to mark the committee’s 25th anniversary. The attendees included (seated, from left) Vice Chancellor Kathleen D. Wilkinson, current Co-Chairs Nikki Johnson-Huston and Emily B. Marks, and Maria A. Feeley as well as (standing, from left) Deborah Weinstein, Joan W. Schwartz, Rochelle M. Fedullo, Roberta D. Liebenberg, Roslyn G. Pollack, Roberta D. Pichini, Francine Friedman Griesing and Mary F. Platt. The event was held at Estia in Center City.

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Tips, Insight from Superior Court Judge Gantman

By Angie Halim

At the Nov. 11 meeting of the Appellate Courts Committee discussing the nuts and bolts of appellate practice, Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Susan Gantman provided a treasure trove of useful advocacy tips and shed light on the use of strategy in the appellate process. As a sitting Superior Court judge, Judge Gantman’s advice and insight is particularly helpful to practitioners seeking to maximize their appellate advocacy skills.

The Pennsylvania Superior Court is a “hot court,” Judge Gantman said. Each judge is well prepared, thoroughly reviews briefs and records, and comes to court with questions prepared. Appellate advocates should keep in mind that judges only have copies of the briefs during oral argument, not the entire reproduced record. If an advocate intends to rely on a specific document or exhibit during oral argument, it must be attached to the brief. The court recently began specifying the author of each memorandum opinion.

Judge Gantman reminded practitioners that not all memorandums are published; that is, they are not precedential. The vast majority of memorandum cases are only important to the litigants, the judge explained. They are fact-specific and do not introduce new law or any major changes. Perhaps the main reason the vast majority of opinions are not published is due to the sheer volume of cases the Superior Court decides each year. If an attorney wishes to have a memorandum opinion published, the court often grants Petitions for Publication so long as they are timely filed within 14 days of the judgment.

With respect to oral argument, Judge Gantman listed her top three advocacy tips. First, maintain eye contact with each of the panel judges because eye contact is “essential to direct communication.” Second, advocates must be confident. Third, don’t say more than necessary. “Make your two best arguments and get out.”

As a matter of general advice, the judge instructed lawyers to be aware of what the appellate court can and cannot do. An appellate court is an error-correcting court only. Before the court can consider a fact or a document, it must be part of the record. It is therefore critical to preserve the record at the trial level for a successful appeal. It is important to craft a well-reasoned brief because it “counts for at least 85 percent” of the court’s decision. Judge Gantman cautioned that oral argument rarely persuades a judge to change his or her mind on the outcome of a case.

Judge Gantman emphasized the importance of familiarity with the rules of appellate procedure. She explained that the court follows the rules so it is imperative to know and adhere to them. In giving parting words of advice, Judge Gantman said to apply the rule of law to the facts of your case, clearly articulate what you want the judges to do, and always be honest with the court.

The Trustees of the Campaign for Qualified Judges would like to thank the following firms and individuals for upholding the quality of the Judiciary through their contributions:

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Billions of Pens, Pencils Add Tons to U.S. Landfills

By Henry Balikov

Your desk might be a whole lot greener. Not everyone who has a computer uses it for all their writing needs. One would think that pens and pencils have become an endangered species in the electronic age, but any trip down the aisle of Office Depot or Staples verifies that writing tools continue to generate big business. Eberhard Faber, Bic, Paper Mate and others are still thriving, and law firms are right up there supporting this industry. That is not what I want to cramp anyone’s creative style, but, consider this: Americans buy more than 5 billion pens each year and dispose of them at various stages of their useful life. Conservatively, that adds over 700 tons of plastic waste to landfills. Is this necessary? Plenty of longer life, refillable pens made from materials like recycled plastic are readily available. Even some disposable pens are made from totally biodegradable plastics (mostly cornstarch-derived).

Pencils don’t present the same problem of degradability when made from wood. However, there are plenty of refillable pencils available as well. More than 3 billion wooden pencils are bought each year, which are more likely than not imported from China. If you can’t kick the No. 2 habit, then you might want to elevate your “green quotient” by checking whether those pencils are manufactured from sustainably harvested timber. If you are willing to compromise a little, check out pencils made from recycled paper, wood offcuts, etc.

Sustainability is simply being more conscious about what you do and how you do it. Little changes add up, just like those 8 billion discarded pens and pencils. Questions? Write hbalikov@goldmanenvironmental.com.

Henry Balikov is Vice President at Goldman Environmental Consultants and Chair of the Climate Change Focus Group at The Auditing Roundtable. He is a member of the Bar’s Green Ribbon Committee.
Board Approves 2012 Budget

The Board of Governors has unanimously approved a $4.44 million budget for 2012, a decrease of 0.6 percent from this year.

The approval came at the Board’s Oct. 25 meeting and followed several months of meetings and discussions with the Association’s professional staff and elected leadership.

Chancellor Elect John E. Savoth called the budget conservative but added, “I’m confident, based upon past years, that we’ll have sufficient funds to meet the expenditures.”

Bench-Bar Chairs Thanked

Chancellor Rudolph Garcia thanks Bench-Bar & Annual Conference Co-Chairs Shelli Fedullo and Jeffrey Gross for their work in organizing the annual event following the October 14-15 program in Atlantic City.

2011 Philadelphia Bar Association Budget

Sources of Funds

<table>
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Application of Funds

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Support Services

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<td>Employee Salaries</td>
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Change in Net Assets $87

2011 Philadelphia Bar Association Budget

Change in Net Assets $87

Support Services

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Sources of Funds

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Editors: Build Relationships Among Lawyers, Media

By Aimee Cirucci

The Internet helps expand readership but relationships bring stories to life according to area editors who met on Nov. 10 to discuss the role of lawyers in the media on a panel hosted by the Bar-News Media Committee.

Gina Furia Rubel, president and CEO of Furia Rubel Communications, Inc. and chair of the committee, moderated the discussion with Craig Ey, editor of the Philadelphia Business Journal; Hank Grezlak, editor-in-chief of The Legal Intelligencer; Gar Joseph, city editor of the Philadelphia Daily News; and Sarah Blazucki, editor of the Philadelphia Gay News.

Karen Araiza, managing editor of NBC10, was scheduled to participate but was unable to attend due to the unfolding Penn State scandal. The panelists used the Penn State news as a backdrop to begin discussing how lawyers may better work with the media.

Joseph explained that the Daily News is a general interest tabloid that seeks lawyers to provide legal advice and act as “an objective third party” on different topics often involving government.

He stressed that tabloids are more sensational than other publications and “want to grab the reader by the lapels.” When pitching story ideas to him Joseph encouraged lawyers to use “email with a provocative subject line” saying that he receives 600 messages a day.

Blazucki encouraged lawyers to include pitches in the body of emails, not as an attachment, of which journalists are wary. And all of the editors stressed the importance of reading their publications before pitching a story idea.

The panelists agreed that the online component of their publications makes deadlines less relevant though some days/times are better for making contact with them.

Blazucki explained that the Philadelphia Gay News is a niche publication focused on LGBT issues. She encouraged lawyers to pitch her on Mondays and Tuesdays ahead of the paper’s Wednesday evening deadline.

Ey also requested news earlier in the week since the Business Journal adheres to a Thursday print deadline. Both the Daily News and The Legal Intelligencer are daily papers with daily print deadlines.

While the editors spoke to the benefits of the Internet including expanding readership, conquering geography, leveling the playing field among publications and providing space for longer pieces and an instant venue for breaking news, they also reaffirmed the importance of personal relationships. Ey counseled lawyers hoping to provide expert comment to “reach out and get to know the person covering the beat in any particular industry you want to be a source for.” Grezlak said that the best stories come from talking to people and encouraged human contact in developing long-term sources. “Never lose sight of the old-fashioned methods,” he stressed.

All the editors encouraged potential sources and readers to contact them. Grezlak suggested lawyers and firms schedule informal meetings with him and said that The Legal is seeking lawyers to provide comment on statewide political issues and state judiciary and state appellate law.

Ey seemed to capture the sentiments of all on the panel when he said, “We want to hear from you, we want to talk to you. Call us and tell us how you think we’re doing.”
Panel: Avoid Obstacles in Career Transitions

By Edward P. Kelly

Culture shock is one of the biggest obstacles facing attorneys who move from public service to private practice, a panel of attorneys said at the Nov. 9 Public Interest Section program “Career Transitions: Moving Between Private Practice and Public Service.” Panelists included Shelley R. Smith, Philadelphia city solicitor; Mary Catherine Roper, staff attorney at the ACLU of Pennsylvania; Amara Chaudhry, civil rights director for the Council on American-Islamic Relations Pennsylvania; and Geoffrey D. Bruen, an associate in the labor and employment group at Ballard Spahr LLP.

Smith returned to the city Law Department after a two-year stint at Ballard Spahr. She said that her most significant transition was not the move from public to private sector work (and back again), but instead being asked to become chair of the Corporate and Tax Group after a career as a litigator. Her superiors recognized that she had developed managerial skills during her time in the Law Department, and it was those managerial skills that made her a credible candidate for city solicitor to Mayor Michael Nutter. She said that you will not know where you are in a position to seize those opportunities when they come along.

Roper was a partner at Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP prior to joining the ACLU. She stressed that those thinking of making a switch from private to public practice need to prepare for the eventual transition. During her time at Drinker, she did a tremendous amount of pro bono work on a wide variety of cases and also made financial preparations for the inevitable decrease in salary. In her current role, she finds lawyers are willing to work a “second job” for free in order to get the experience needed to sell themselves. She also suggested joining a relevant board and talking to others who do different kinds of work.

Chaudhry at one time was with a law firm in Charleston, W.Va., and more recently the public defender’s office in Montgomery County prior to joining CAIR. Although only with the firm for a short time, she also made sure to take on a wide variety of pro bono matters in addition to her criminal defense work. And Chaudhry may be the exception to the rule of “networking” in that all of her jobs were obtained through cold resume sends. She also emphasized the point that you need to be willing to do the work for free before someone will pay you to do it. Bruen served as an assistant city solicitor in Philadelphia prior to joining Ballard Spahr. He found that his experience with the city helped him to get his current position since the big firms have reduced their summer associate programs and instead are looking for experienced attorneys. Many times, the most experienced candidates are from the public interest realm.

Among the obstacles faced by the panel were the lack of a “legal community” at smaller public interest organizations, the change in one’s social circle, and the culture shock whether you go to or leave a big firm.

Panelists Mary Catherine Roper (from left), Shelley R. Smith, moderator Lawrence S. Felzer, Geoffrey D. Bruen and Amara Chaudhry discussed moving between public service and private practice.

Cirucci Joins Bar Association Staff

Aimee Cirucci has joined the Philadelphia Bar Association staff as Communications Manager. She started work in September. Cirucci previously served as web communications specialist for K’NEX Brands, L.P., a global toy company. At K’NEX she managed the company’s social media, blogger outreach and public relations efforts. She previously worked in communications at two national associations in Washington, D.C. Cirucci holds a Bachelors Degree from Wake Forest University and a Masters Degree in Strategic and Organizational Communications from Temple University where her research focused on the intersection of corporate communications and blogging. She teaches communications as an adjunct instructor at Temple and serves as chair of the social media committee of the Philadelphia Public Relations Association. Her essays on topics ranging from college to family appear in three published anthologies.

In her new role, Cirucci assists with public relations, reporting to Associate Executive Director Mark Tarasiewicz. She also contributes to Bar publications, serves as the staff liaison to the Young Lawyers Division and will spearhead the Bar’s efforts to create a social media 2.0 plan.
Savoth continued from page 1

focuses his practice on personal injury matters including construction, motor vehicle, and premises and products liability.

At the Bar Association, Savoth has served in numerous leadership roles including chair of the Board of Governors, secretary and assistant secretary of the Association, chair of the Young Lawyers Division and co-chair of the Bench-Bar & Annual Conference, as well as chair or member of various committees. He is a member of the Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention and a trustee of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, as well as a charter member of its Andrew Hamilton Circle.

Among his other service roles, he is a member of the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program and the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia.

Savoth resides in Swarthmore with his wife of nearly 30 years, Nancy, an author who serves as an instructor in Widener University’s Writing Center, tutoring students from freshmen to doctoral candidates. They have three sons: Alex, a graduate of Syracuse University with a BFA in film art, who is also a musician; Nate, a student in the Honors Program at Temple University who studies literature and plays jazz guitar; and Evan, an 8th grader at Strath Haven Middle School, a piano player who spends his free time on the soccer field.

As he prepares to lead his colleagues through 2012, Savoth will advance initiatives that carry forward the proud tradition and reputation of the Philadelphia Bar Association for the Indigent Program and the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia.

In 1998 he served as Chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Criminal Justice Section, and did so again in 2002. Alva also has served on the Bar Association’s Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention for 10 years. In 2003, he was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Governors. In 2006, Alva served as the Chair of the Board of Governors. In 2008, 2009 and 2010, Alva chaired the Municipal Court Committee.

For the last 15 years, Alva has served as an adjunct professor at Temple University’s Beasley School of Law, teaching in the nationally rated number one School of Trial Advocacy. For the last four years, he has been selected to teach the Advanced Trial Advocacy Course.

Alva graduated from the Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville in 1972. He began his career in the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office assigned to the newly formed Narcotics Unit, which followed cases from investigation through trial. He became associated with Stephen Robert LaCheen in 1974 and thereafter became partner in the firm of LaCheen and Alva. He founded his own firm in 1987, now known as Alva & Associates, which handles all areas of trial work, concentrating in state, federal, local and national criminal trials.

Alva belongs to the National and Pennsylvania Associations of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the National Organization to Reform Marijuana Laws. He was selected by Philadelphia magazine as one of the “78 for 78.” He has tried more than 5,000 cases, the majority in Pennsylvania, but also in 11 other states.

In 1998 he was appointed by Mayor John Street as a member of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee representing all Philadelphia attorneys, a position he held until 2007. This committee oversaw the Philadelphia Criminal Justice System (courts, prisons, judges, attorneys, etc.)

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In 1984, Alva received an honorarium to speak at his alma mater, Brandeis School of Law, to much acclaim. The topic “Life after Law School” has been modified (to fit various topics) at Temple University Beasley School of Law, and most recently at Widener School of Law in 2006. Although the motivational speech was titled “Trials and Tribulations of a Criminal Trial Lawyer,” it dealt heavily with ethics and civility in the courtroom. Alva has appeared on the Comcast Network’s “It’s Your Call” with Lynn Doyle on a variety of topics as a legal expert.

Wayne Wallpaper Company on a Roll Overseas

By J. Michael Considine

Wayne-based Wallquest now has more than $30 million in sales with brands such as Sandpiper Studio, Pelican Prints, Carl Robinson and Studio 465. Thirty new collections were released in 2011. Each month two or three collections are released. Their market is mostly home and residential but expanding to hotels and hospitals.

The product is of high quality, the highest quality using rotary screen and surface prints, sometimes with imported grass papers and embroidery done in China. Wallquest is one of the only FSC-certified manufacturers in the world. Ink is water-based. The designs are traditional. The company’s design director is Carl Robinson, a third-generation designer from Manchester, England. The company’s collections are launched at Heimtextil, a major German trade show for fabrics and wallcoverings, where it has two booths. Customers from across the globe have come to the show, one of the biggest in the world. It has received offers from most countries in the world. China is very competitive, with more than 100 competitors. Its exclusive dealers throughout the world buy samples and inventory.

Wallquest is the biggest market in the world. Wallquest also sells in most of the former Soviet republics. The Middle East is a vital market. Sales are very good in Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Kuwait, Egypt and Lebanon with lesser sales in Israel and Libya.

The U.S. market is flat. Wallpaper was bigger in the 1970s than it is now. The U.S. market collapsed in the 1990s with the growth of Home Depot & Lowe’s.

The company’s factories operate 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. The Wayne site uses a rotogravure production technique with Cerutti presses made in Italy. These were acquired from a German publisher. The high-end screen printing is done in plants in Hawthorne, N.J. and Middletown, N.Y. It also uses laser printing to do designs with a repeat. It still uses surface presses from the 1870s for high-end florals. It has a warehouse and

Frontline

continued from page 3

lawyers in general and “Philadelphia lawyers” in particular, by seizing every opportunity to tout all the good things we do for the public. The example I used most often was our handling of 50,000 cases per year for disadvantaged Philadelphians who can’t afford to pay for legal services.

In addition, we have raised the stature of our bar by repeatedly noting that we are the oldest association of lawyers in the United States and one of the largest and most respected bars in the world, to the point where we are now being described that way spontaneously in the mainstream press.

And we have become an influential voice on important public policy issues, such as lobbying, immigration and judicial selection. In doing so, we also have become a stronger community leader, by forming coalitions with groups as diverse as the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, the Committee of Seventy and the ACLU.

I could not have achieved any of this on my own. We are blessed with a top-notch staff and hundreds of dedicated volunteers serving on our Board of Governors and as chairs of our nine Sections, our Young Lawyers Division, and more than 100 committees in every conceivable practice area. It has been a privilege and a great honor to lead such a magnificent team of talented individuals, and to watch them do such exceptional work for our members, our system of justice and the community we serve.

I am especially grateful to Regina Foley, who did a masterful job as chair of our Board of Governors. In addition to running great meetings of the Board, the Cabinet and our division and section chairs, Regina brought her rare blend of wisdom, efficiency, humility and dedication to all the behind-the-scenes maneuvering that keeps our work flowing. I am also grateful to our entire Board of Governors for consistently arriving at the right decisions through thoughtful and respectful debate.

Special thanks also to Frank Devine for chairing our Long-Range Advisory Council, Rich Seidel for chairing our Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention, Cathy Carr and Joe Sullivan for chairing our Civil Gideon Task Force, Matt Perks and Jackie Segal for chairing our Membership Task Force, Shelli Fedullo and Jeff Gross for chairing our Bench-Bar Conference, and the many chairs of our sections, division and committees, all of whom devoted countless hours of exceptional service to the betterment of our bar and our profession.

Thanks also to my wife Randi, for keeping me grounded and being a Chancellor’s spouse with good humor and grace.

And although I can’t thank all of the staff by name, I must tell you how lucky we are to have the enthusiastic and talented support of Ken Shear, Paul Kazazas, Mark Tarasiewicz, Tracey McCloskey, Charlie Kitlos, Naomi McLaurin, Susan Knight, Wes Terry and Dawn Pettit, all of whom work extremely hard to ensure that everything we do is a resounding success.

Soon it will be time for a new Chancellor. John Savoth will unveil his plans for next year at our Annual Meeting Luncheon on Dec. 6. John is a thoughtful, practical and charismatic leader, with a long record of distinguished service to our bar. I am confident that he will guide us well, and I look forward to watching his year unfold. John will be followed by Kathleen Wilkinson and Bill Fedullo, so we will be in very good hands.

Dedicating this year of my life to the bar has been a profoundly rewarding experience. I will remember it always. Yes, I met some wonderful people and received the respect that comes with the job, but more importantly, I had the opportunity to meaningfully contribute to the good of our profession and the city in which we practice. More than anything, that is what has made it all worthwhile.

In January, I will return full time to my commercial litigation practice at Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC. My firm has sacrificed a great deal by forgiving the billable value of my time for the benefit of our bar, most of all this year, but also in my years as Vice Chancellor and Chancellor-Elect. So to my colleagues at Buchanan, thank you for your generous support.

And to everyone else, thank you for entrusting me with the leadership of this great organization. In my informed opinion, it is the best of its kind, bar none.

Rudolph Garcia (chancellor@philabar.org), a partner with Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, is Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association.
Go Casual for Justice Program Raises $3,500

As part of the festivities organized in Philadelphia to celebrate National Pro Bono Week from Oct. 23-29, the Law Firm Pro Bono Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association spearheaded a new fundraising initiative to support the Philadelphia Bar Foundation and the grants it makes to Philadelphia’s nonprofit legal service providers.

The program was coordinated by Kathy Ochroch of Blank Rome LLP and Mary Gay Scanlon of Ballard Spahr LLP, and the staff and lawyers at more than 13 law firms and organizations donated a minimum of $5 in order to “Go Casual for Justice.” So far, more than $3,500 has been raised by the firms that sponsored the event in October with more to come from firms that are planning their “Go Casual for Justice” day at a later date.

“Go Casual for Justice” was just one of the many successful activities that took place during the Philadelphia National Pro Bono Week. Public interest agencies presented several “road shows” at area law firms to highlight the many pro bono opportunities available to lawyers. Attendance at the road shows was the best ever thanks to the hard work of Jodi Sacht, co-chair of National Pro Bono Week in Philadelphia.

The Bar Foundation co-sponsored a “sold out” CLE training on how to be a nonprofit board member. More than registered attendees learned the best practices in nonprofit board management and heard from young lawyers who currently serve on nonprofit boards. The CLE served as the kickoff to the Bar Foundation’s Board Observer project, an initiative designed to increase participation by young lawyers on the boards of Bar Foundation grantees.

Other Pro Bono Week events included trainings and legal clinics where volunteers provided direct legal services to those in need. “With the variety of activities and the hundreds of lawyers participating, the 2011 Philadelphia celebration of National Pro Bono Week was a huge success and helped highlight how our community is helping to promote equal access to justice for all,” said Sara Woods, local co-chair of National Pro Bono Week.

Section Seeks Replansky Nominations

The Business Law Section is seeking nominations from the Philadelphia legal community for the Section’s 2010 Dennis H. Replansky Memorial Award. The award will be presented at the Section’s Annual Reception to be held Wednesday, Jan. 25 at the Westin Philadelphia Hotel. The award recipient will receive the privilege of designating the recipient of the Section’s annual charitable contribution to a public interest organization.

Award criteria are superior legal talent in the area of business law; unique contributions to and significant achievements within the business law community in the Philadelphia area; a reputation for mentoring young attorneys; significant participation in and contributions to civic and charitable causes in the community; and uniform recognition in the legal community of the candidate’s honesty, integrity and professionalism.

Each candidate must be a member of the Business Law Section. The Section established the award in recognition of Dennis Replansky’s career as a lawyer and his contributions to legal, civic, religious and other charitable causes. Replansky was a 51-year-old senior partner at Blank Rome Comisky & McCauley LLP when he died in March 1994. He was a former chair of the Business Law Section.

The deadline for award nominations and letters of support is Friday, Dec. 2 at 12 p.m. Written nominations detailing the nominee’s qualifications for the award should be sent to: Dennis H. Replansky Memorial Award, c/o Graham R. Laub, Esquire, Dilworth Passon LLP, 1500 Market St., Suite 3500E, Philadelphia, PA 19102-2102; or emailed to glaub@dilworthlaw.com. For more information, contact Graham R. Laub at (215) 575-7277.

Bar Foundation Gifts Recognized

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

In Memoriam
• The Hon. Albert W. Sheppard Jr., a judge in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas for 29 years, was known for his knowledge, intellect, effectiveness, professionalism and courtesy on the bench. In 2008, Judge Sheppard was honored with the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Justice William J. Brennan Jr. Distinguished Jurist Award which recognizes a jurist who adheres to the highest ideals of judicial service. The following have made contributions in his memory: Mrs. Wendy Rosen and Paul R. Rosen, Joan C. McIlvaine, S. David Fine, Maxine M. Flock, Law Firm of Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhall & Furman, Jonathan E. Cross and Milton H. Cross, Mr. and Mrs. Dean E. Boal, Elizabeth McCabe and Terrence J. McCabe, Joseph A. Tate, Shannon and T.J. McCabe, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zuccarini, Stephanie Resnick, Edmond Morton, Edwin Harron, Sharon M. Zieg and Erin Edwards, and Sharon N. Humble.
• Judy Berkman sent a gift in memory of Maureen Rowley, former chief federal defender and advocate for the poor and the abused of our community.
• Deborah R. Gross sent a gift in memory of Anne Matchulet of Barrett Snyder Law Firm.
• A. Harold Datz sent a gift in memory of Rose Uscher.
• Nicholas E. Aversa sent a gift in tribute to Hon. Lisa A. Richette in memory of her work with the poor and disadvantaged in our community.

In Tribute
• Deborah R. Gross sent a gift in honor of grandparents Sheila and Ed Chacker and new parents Maureen and Brian Chacker on the joyous occasion of the birth of Maya Sara Chacker.
• Ruth Katz and Paula M. Kessler made gifts in memory of Nicholas Gimbels.

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• The Hon. Albert W. Sheppard Jr., a judge in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas for 29 years, was known for his knowledge, intellect, effectiveness, professionalism and courtesy on the bench. In 2008, Judge Sheppard was honored with the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Justice William J. Brennan Jr. Distinguished Jurist Award which recognizes a jurist who adheres to the highest ideals of judicial service. The following have made contributions in his memory: Mrs. Wendy Rosen and Paul R. Rosen, Joan C. McIlvaine, S. David Fine, Maxine M. Flock, Law Firm of Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhall & Furman, Jonathan E. Cross and Milton H. Cross, Mr. and Mrs. Dean E. Boal, Elizabeth McCabe and Terrence J. McCabe, Joseph A. Tate, Shannon and T.J. McCabe, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zuccarini, Stephanie Resnick, Edmond Morton, Edwin Harron, Sharon M. Zieg and Erin Edwards, and Sharon N. Humble.
• Judy Berkman sent a gift in memory of Maureen Rowley, former chief federal defender and advocate for the poor and the abused of our community.
• Deborah R. Gross sent a gift in memory of Anne Matchulet of Barrett Snyder Law Firm.
• A. Harold Datz sent a gift in memory of Rose Uscher.
• Nicholas E. Aversa sent a gift in tribute to Hon. Lisa A. Richette in memory of her work with the poor and disadvantaged in our community.

In Tribute
• Deborah R. Gross sent a gift in honor of grandparents Sheila and Ed Chacker and new parents Maureen and Brian Chacker on the joyous occasion of the birth of Maya Sara Chacker.
• Ruth Katz and Paula M. Kessler made gifts in memory of Nicholas Gimbels.

The deadline for award nominations and letters of support is Friday, Dec. 2 at 12 p.m. Written nominations detailing the nominee’s qualifications for the award should be sent to: Dennis H. Replansky Memorial Award, c/o Graham R. Laub, Esquire, Dilworth Passon LLP, 1500 Market St., Suite 3500E, Philadelphia, PA 19102-2102; or emailed to glaub@dilworthlaw.com. For more information, contact Graham R. Laub at (215) 575-7277.
In Year-End Estate Planning, Remain Consistent

By Jackie B. Lessman

There are also exceptions for payments made for tuition and medical care. A tax-free gift of tuition or medical care is a payment to a qualified educational organization or medical service provider for someone else's education or medical care. The payment can be made on behalf of anyone, but it must be for tuition or medical care only and made directly to a qualified educational organization or medical care provider.

As a reminder, all transfers to a spouse can be made free of a transfer tax.

Are there any other gifts that can be made to individuals that are not subject to a gift tax?

Yes. In addition to the annual gifts that we already discussed, there's also a gift tax credit that allows each person to make lifetime gifts totaling $5 million without incurring a gift tax. However, this credit is only in place through Dec. 31, 2012. Unless Congress acts to extend or change this law, starting on Jan. 1, 2013, you will only be able to make lifetime gifts totaling $1 million without incurring a gift tax.

If I give away my assets at my death isn't there also a credit that will eliminate tax on the first $5 million I transfer?

Correct. Whether you give away assets during your life or at your death, a total of $5 million may be transferred to someone other than a spouse free of a transfer tax. As discussed, absent changes to the law, this $5 million exclusion expires Dec. 31, 2012 and will be replaced with a $1 million exclusion. Although this exclusion amount applies during life or at death, continued on page 21.

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www.thehuntmagazine.com
We all experience delays that slow down and frustrate our daily lives, from traffic jams on a city street to long lines at a grocery store. But some delays are more than an inconvenience – these delays threaten the very core of our constitutional democracy.

For several years, the American Bar Association has identified a troubling trend in our state courts as a result of increasing workloads and declining budgets. State judiciaries handle approximately 95 percent of all cases filed in the United States, according to the National Center for State Courts. In 2008, the most recent year for which data is available, states reported 106 million incoming trial court cases – the most in 35 years. Anecdotally, we know that trend has continued as more people represent themselves and legislators add more laws to the books.

NCSC reports 32 states, including Pennsylvania, cut funding for their judiciaries in fiscal year 2010. The last six budgets included a shortfall of $94 million, according to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. In Philadelphia, the judicial budget has been cut 14 percent over the last five years.

However, in early 2011 all three branches worked together to recognize the underfunding crisis. Pennsylvania courts will now receive an additional $22 million this fiscal year. That funding, an extension of temporary fees and a loan from the Judicial Computer System reserve account, will fill the gap – for now.

Unfortunately, other states and localities have not been as successful in restoring much needed funds. New Hampshire delayed civil trials for a year. Massachusetts has laid off more than 1,100 trial court employees since 2008. Alabama closes its courts on Fridays. A municipal court in Ohio announced that no new cases could be filed unless the litigants brought their own paper to the courthouse.

People should never have to jump over budgetary hurdles to reach the courtroom. If our legal system isn’t accessible, then it can’t be just and it won’t be fair.

The constitutional argument for sustainable funding for our courts is simple: the judiciary is a co-equal branch of government responsible for protecting our rights. The practical argument is equally compelling. The courts decide matters that go to the very core of our daily lives: when a parent petitions for custody of a child, a family fights the foreclosure of a home or a business seeks remedy to a long-standing dispute.

The financial argument is stunning. Many state court systems receive less than 1 percent of the state budget pie, and few states receive more than 3 percent. In Pennsylvania, the courts receive about 0.5 percent. Members of the legal community are beginning to understand that these cuts undermine access to justice.

Courts in Pennsylvania are doing their part to show innovation and efficiency. Users can follow Philadelphia courts on Facebook and Twitter and sign up for text alerts on a cellular phone. The expanded use of videoconferencing in Pennsylvania has saved taxpayers an estimated $21 million annually in defendant transportation costs.

The ABA is doing its part by continuing the work of its Task Force on Preservation of the Justice System, bringing together those affected by this crisis to discuss strategies to help our judiciary. The task force has created a venue to share court funding stories and creative ideas at http://bit.ly/mPjNoc.

continued on page 19
2011 YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION ELECTION

9 Seek 7 Seats on YLD Executive Committee

Courtenay R. Dunn

Professional Background: Associate, Phelan Hallinan & Schmieg, LLP; Villanova University School of Law.
Candidate’s Statement: I have the experience, dedication and initiative to serve on the Executive Committee. Currently I am the Philadelphia Bar Association YLD ABA liaison, where I attend the Executive Committee Meetings and report news from American Bar Association meetings, pending/passed resolutions impacting our legal community, and ABA YLD events here in Philadelphia. I have organized a service opportunity for our Philadelphia YLD regarding domestic violence and actively reach out to new and upcoming members through law school/new admittee lawyers. Additionally, I am active with the ABA Women in the Profession and serve as a Pennsylvania ally, I am active with the ABA Women in School/new admittee lawyers. Additionally, I am active with the ABA Women in the Profession and serve as a Pennsylvania ally, I am active with the ABA Women in School/new admittee lawyers. I have thoroughly enjoyed planning and participating in the YLD activities and community service including Law Week, Casino Night and Harvest for the Homeless. If elected, I promise to continue to participate and promote the YLD’s community service and networking activities including partnering with the other bar association sections and committees and affinity bar associations.

Daniel J. Gillin

Professional Background: Associate, Landman Corsi Ballaine & Ford P.C.; Rutgers Camden School of Law.
Candidate’s Statement: My past experience makes me a well-qualified YLD Executive Committee candidate. In law school, my activities required commitments similar to committee members’, including LR&W Teaching Assistant, Marshall Brennan Fellowship (taught Constitutional Law in Camden High School), Trial Advocacy Team and Law Journal Business Editor (coordinated with alumni and organized social activities). Currently I am a volunteer CPR instructor and am working with Courage-to-Connect NJ, a grassroots organization aimed at NJ municipal consolidation. I work hard, am a team player and would make a valuable addition to the YLD Executive Committee.

Maria E. Harris

Professional Background: Associate, Martin Banks; Widener University School of Law.
Candidate’s Statement: I am running to be a member of the YLD Executive Committee to do my part in serving the community and to have a voice with respect to issues that affect young lawyers in the legal community. I have served on the YLD Executive Committee over the last year as a non-voting liaison and have thoroughly enjoyed planning and participating in the YLD activities and community service including Law Week, Casino Night and Harvest for the Homeless. If elected, I promise to continue to participate and promote the YLD’s community service and networking activities including partnering with the other bar association sections and committees and affinity bar associations.

Todd B. Jacobs

Professional Background: McCann, Schable & Wall, LLC; Candidate’s Statement: I know how to make connections and get things done. Despite only four years of practice, I have generated hundreds of clients and new business for the firm. I dedicate 100 percent of my energy to anything I am passionate about and believe these qualities will transfer well into the young lawyers division.

Benjamin F. Johns

Professional Background: Associate, Chirms & Tikellis LLP; Penn State Dickinson School of Law
Candidate’s Statement: I am seeking election because I believe my experience, enthusiasm and fresh set of ideas can contribute to the mission of the YLD. For example, I think we can increase membership and awareness by offering newly admitted lawyers an informal, open discussion session on what to expect in practice. Non-YLD members who are already practicing could be reintroduced to the YLD by having a happy hour where they can be reintroduced to the YLD by having a happy hour where YLD members are encouraged to bring a non-member. As a YLD Executive Committee member, I would contribute these and other ideas directed at increasing and retaining YLD membership.

Andrew J. Kornblau

Professional Background: Associate, Landman Corsi Ballaine & Ford P.C.; Rutgers School of Law - Camden
Candidate’s Statement: I believe I am qualified to serve as a member of the YLD Executive Committee because I never attempt to join an organization unless I am truly passionate about what they stand for. The YLD is committed to providing a forum for young lawyers to grow in the community. Having not had much guidance through my young legal career, I understand the importance of a group like this and based upon my experience working in this community and my leadership skills, I feel I would be an asset to the Committee. I believe in helping our legal profession and this is an amazing avenue to share this passion.

Erin Lamb

Professional Background: Law Clerk to the Honorable Annette M. Rizzo; Temple University Beasley School of Law.
Candidate’s Statement: I have been a volunteer with the YLD during the last few years and feel the YLD is an important part of the legal community. I believe I can contribute to the YLD in many ways and would like to help our legal profession.

Election Notice

Candidates For YLD Executive Committee

Balloting for members of the Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the Ballroom Level of the Hyatt at The Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets. This year, nine candidates are seeking election to seven seats available on the YLD Executive Committee. Committee members serve three-year terms.

Candidates for Office

Courtenay R. Dunn
Daniel J. Gillin
Maria E. Harris
Todd B. Jacobs
Benjamin F. Johns
Andrew J. Kornblau
Erin Lamb
Kaitlin E. Picco
Jeffrey N. Rosenthal

Note: Only members in good standing of the Association’s Young Lawyers Division may cast votes in this election. Attorneys are members of the Division if (1) they have not yet reached or reached in 2011 the age of 37, or (2) they have not yet reached or reached in 2011 the third anniversary of their first admission to the bar of any state.
A Year of Growth for YLD Chair

As my term as 2011 chair of the Young Lawyers Division comes to an end, I am amazed at how quickly this year has passed. This year has proven to be one of great growth for me, both professionally, through my involvement with the YLD, and personally.

When we outlined our plans at the YLD Summit in January, our Division set an ambitious agenda for the year. With the hard work of our Cabinet and Executive Committee, along with the contributions of several new members, we were able to achieve many of those goals. Special thanks are due to the members of our Cabinet, who helped to facilitate the YLD’s programs throughout the year – Melanie Taylor, Rachel Kopp, Anesh Mehta, Matthew Laver and Roxanne Crowley. Thanks are also due to the members of our Executive Committee and our liaisons. Their commitment and dedication helped to ensure the success of all of our programs this year.

I would also like to thank the partners at Feldman Shepherd Wohlgelernter Tanner Weinstock & Dodig, LLP, for their good faith and indulgence over this past year. They allowed me to donate my time without question and supported my leadership of the YLD, and personally.

Looking toward 2012, I am excited about what the YLD will continue to accomplish under Melanie Taylor’s leadership. Melanie has been a tremendous resource to me during my maternity leave. Not only did her hard work carry the YLD this year during my absence, I truly believe it positions her and the YLD for a terrific 2012. With the election of seven new YLD Executive Committee members, the appointment of several new liaisons and the return of those who have already given so much to our Division, I am certain the YLD’s agenda for 2012 will be stellar.

Finally, one of the important themes of the YLD this year was to make meaningful connections between our colleagues, since we recognize that the relationships we form now can serve as the foundation to meaningful careers in the Philadelphia legal community. Personally speaking, my involvement in the YLD has certainly fostered great friendships for which I am truly grateful. I hope that all of our members have enjoyed a similar experience.

Carolyn M. Chopko

YLD Harvest for Homeless

Members of the Young Lawyers Division gather on the loading dock at Mellon Bank Center to distribute clothing, blankets and non-perishable goods to homeless shelters on Nov. 5.

Kaitlin E. Picco

Professional Background: Associate, Ballard Spahr LLP; Temple University Beasley School of Law.

Candidate’s Statement: I have been very active in community and non-profit activities addressing issues ranging from community gardens to HIV education and animal rescue to domestic violence. I am passionate about law and the legal field and would appreciate the opportunity to expand my involvement in the legal community. I am organized, dedicated and eager to help the YLD implement and improve existing programs and develop new programs to benefit both its members and Philadelphians. My excellent time management skills will ensure that my duties as an Executive Committee member will never be waived in favor of other personal and professional obligations.

Jeffrey N. Rosenthal

Professional Background: Associate, Blank Rome LLP; Syracuse University College of Law.

Candidate’s Statement: I am running for a YLD Executive Committee position to have a voice in committee decisions. I currently serve as Liaison to the State Civil Litigation Section of the Bar. In this role, I attend YLD committee meetings and coordinate events with my Section. I also participated in the YLD’s “Legalline” event—offering free legal advice to callers—and will sponsor my own event through my Section this November. I was also an active member of the planning committee for the successful YLD Monte Carlo fund-raiser, and have consistently been named to the Pro Bono Roll of Honor since 2008.

YLD Election

continued from page 18

impressed with the YLD events I’ve attended, and see joining the Executive Committee as a natural progression from mere participant to planner and support staff. I have experience planning events such as Barrister’s Ball and the enthusiasm to work to get young lawyers involved in the YLD and motivated to volunteer within our community. Many seem willing but unable to actually link up with the organizations that need their time and effort. I have a strong public interest background and would love the opportunity to continue to build on the YLD’s great Community Outreach program.

Carolyn M. Chopko

By Carolyn M. Chopko

Carolyn M. Chopko (cchopko@feldmanshepherd.com), an associate with Feldman Shepherd Wohlgelernter Tanner Weinstock & Dodig LLP, is chair of the Young Lawyers Division.

YLD Election

continued from page 18

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The Supreme Court announced that it will hear arguments on the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). It is expected that oral arguments will be heard in March 2012 and a decision could be rendered by the summer.

The court has consolidated three cases, National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius (11-393), Florida v. Department of Health and Human Services (11-398), and Florida, et. al. v. Department of Health and Human Services (11-400) and will review the following issues:

1. Whether the requirement that all Americans obtain health insurance by 2014 is constitutional (minimum coverage provision of the PPACA);
2. Whether some or all of the law will fail if the individual mandate (1) is struck down (commonly referred to as severability);
3. Whether the Anti-Injunction Act bars some or all of the challenges to the minimum coverage provision; and
4. Whether the expansion of the Medicaid program for the poor and disabled is constitutional.

Recognizing the complexity of the issues, the court allotted what appears to be a record 5½ hours for oral arguments. It is expected that the oral arguments will be closely monitored as health care reform remains a significant political issue and the court's decision could have ramifications for the 2012 presidential and congressional elections.

We will continue to follow these cases and will update you with developments.


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Wallpaper

additional print site in King of Prussia. The company has 160 employees but markets with presentations that make it appear a lot bigger. Jack’s father is the sole owner. Many of its former U.S. competitors are now out of business. It markets multiple brands, each very distinct and specialized. This creates buzz. Its major competitors are in Germany, France and Italy.

Product is often shipped Ex Works (meaning all liability after it is delivered to a given point is on the buyer) either by ship or air. In a typical sale, price, a product description and quantity are mentioned in a bill of lading and there is no other written contract. Business is often conducted informally. The company has only two overseas employees, just independent distributors. Terms with the distributors are in writing but if any of those or verbal terms are not complied with, the company simply stops selling its brands to the distributor. A new distributor must invest a minimum of $50,000 to $100,000.

Intellectual property issues are a real problem, especially in China. Many of the sales of wallpaper in China are of knock-offs. In some instances the entire sample book for a new collection is pirated and sales made with its logo by unauthorized parties. It tries to avoid litigation but the company has been involved in expensive litigation in Shanghai for five years over illegal copying. Protecting the rights of designs is a challenge for the future.

It hires a blend of experienced and young, talented designers. It hires studio designers from Philadelphia University, formerly Philadelphia College of Textiles. The Made In America byline helps sales. The United States innovates and is creative. Quality U.S. products will sell well overseas. The product has an American look with adjustments for some countries, like Chinese red or gold for China. Import duties and value-added taxes make it hard to compete in Latin America and Brazil. The rising cost of commodities forced a 7 percent price increase. Wallquest has learned to adjust to the economy and market conditions.

Sales have increased 76 percent since 2008 and 65 percent of sales are international, up from 5 percent in 2001. Wallquest was the 2011 winner of the U.S. Export Import Bank’s Small Business Exporter of the Year. Companies should look for growth in the overseas market because their foreign competition is looking to win in the U.S. market. The U.S. government has many powerful financing programs that can take a lot of the fear and risk out of exporting.

J. Michael Considine Jr. (adventure7@juno.com), a sole practitioner, is chair of the International Business Initiative.

Help for Habitat

Real Property Section Chair Cheryl L. Gaston (left) and Secretary Judy Berkman are greeted by HGTV host Carter Oosterhouse at the Nov. 12 dedication of a house refurbished by Habitat for Humanity on the 2200 block of Latona Street in Point Breeze. Members of the Real Property Section volunteered at the house in May.

Their Own Words

We are also working with state and local bar associations to rethink how to sensibly spend taxpayer dollars to ensure public safety. In 1974, about 175,000 people were incarcerated in state prisons in the United States. In 2010, that number had risen to 1.4 million, an increase of 705 percent. We can’t sustain the costs of a system where states spend, on average, $23,000 per inmate per year.

Then there’s the issue of the punishment fitting the crime. In some states, fish and game violations, dog leash violations and feeding the homeless are offenses punishable by time in jail. We need to decriminalize minor offenses, utilize pretrial release and implement effective re-entry programs, among other reforms.

We also must articulate what courts do and why they are important to legislators and to the general public – but especially to young people, because that civic knowledge will drive a renewed dedication to the preservation of our justice system.

Even in times of extreme economic hardship, our courts need adequate financial support and essential resources to fulfill their constitutional responsibility. Let’s join together to fight for this access, otherwise … No courts. No justice. No freedom.

William T. (Bill) Robinson III is president of the American Bar Association and member-in-charge of the Northern Kentucky office of Frost Brown Todd, LLC.
there are advantages to making lifetime gifts. One benefit to a lifetime gift is that not only does this shift the value of the asset out of your estate, but it also removes all of the growth and income associated with such asset from your estate. Depending on the value of your estate and the tax laws in place at the time of your death, this may save you substantial estate taxes. Another advantage to making lifetime gifts is that you get to see your beneficiaries enjoy your gift.

Is there anything else an individual should do before year-end that may help to maximize their wealth?

One way of increasing your wealth is to reduce your expenses. One of the largest expenses for all us is income taxes. We recommend that taxpayers calculate their estimated taxable income for 2011 and 2012 so that they can determine the optimum year to recognize income and pay expenses. Shifting income to a year when marginal income tax rates are lower and expenses to a year when marginal income rates are higher can save you thousands of dollars. Year-end planning cannot be done in a vacuum. To do proper planning you need to review all aspects of your life, financial and non-financial. A coordinated effort will help you to achieve your goals and eliminate unwanted surprises during your life and at your death.

Jackie Byrne Lease, CFP® (jacqueline.lease@pnc.com; 215-585-5831), is senior vice president at PNC Wealth Management. For more information, visit pnc.com/wealthmanagement.

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Brian A. Berkley, an associate with Pepper Hamilton LLP, has been appointed co-chair of the Unfair Trade Practices Subcommittee of the Business Torts Litigation Committee of the American Bar Association’s Section of Litigation.

Charles Eppolito III, a partner with White and Williams LLP, presented a national webinar/telephonic CLE on Effective Oral Advocacy, with emphasis on opening statements and closing arguments, on Sept. 13.

Daniel Jeck, a partner with Eisenberg, Rothweiler, Winkler, Eisenberg & Jeck, PC., presented “New Rules for Screening” through the Pennsylvania Association of General Counsel Committee.

Carolyn Hochstadter Dicker, of E. Carolyn Hochstadter Dicker, LLC, was recently elected to serve on the Pennsylvania Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession.

Deena Jo Schneider, a partner with Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP has been elected to the Executive Committee of the American Bar Association’s Council of Appellate Lawyers.

Beatrice O’Donnell, a partner with Duane Morris LLP has been appointed to the board of visitors of Temple University’s School of Environmental Design at its Ambler Campus.


Lynn A. Marks, executive director of Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts, received the University of Pennsylvania Law School Alumni Award of Merit on Oct. 6.

Cathleen M. Devlin, a partner with Saul Ewing LLP, has been appointed as co-chair of the American Bar Association Section of Litigation’s Corporate Counsel Committee.

E. Harris Baum of Zarwin, Baum, DeVito, Kaplan, Schaer, Toddy, PC, represented the United States as a delegate in attendance at The International Conference of Honorary Consul Generals for the Republic of Korea, in Seoul, Korea, in October.

Michael Mattioni, president of Mattioni, Ltd., was the featured guest speaker at the Commercial Real Estate Investors of Pennsylvania group in September.

Jon Lambiras, an associate at Berger & Montague, PC, was a panelist at the HB Litigation/NetDiligence Cyber Risk & Privacy Liability Forum in October 2011.


Michael E. Bertin, a partner with Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel, lectured at the Family Law Society’s inaugural meeting at Temple University Beasley School of Law on Oct. 12.

Faye Riva Cohen, principal in the Law Office of Faye Riva Cohen, PC., was the moderator and presenter at a Lorman Seminar “Unemployment Insurance 1010: Assessing and Responding to Claims for UI Benefits in Pennsylvania” on Oct. 11.

Michele Grant, co-principal at Grant Myers LLC, taught “Legal Issues for Filmmakers,” a presentation for graduate and undergraduate film students at Temple University on Oct. 10.

Maxim Volchenko, an associate with Duane Morris LLP, has been appointed to serve on the INTA Bulletin Committee for the 2012–2013 committee term.

Justin Wineburgh, an associate with Cozen O’Connor, has been recognized as a member of the 2011 Greater Philadelphia MS Leadership Class.

Christopher Connell, a partner with Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, presented “Overview of Regulatory Initiatives Under Dodd-Frank.” at the 2011 Financial Institutions Conference in Harrisburg.

Deborah Hong and Brian Seaman of Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP presented at the second annual Diversity and Leadership Conference of Philadelphia.

Kevin F. Berry, a partner with Duane Morris LLP, received the Roland Kandle Award for Outstanding Volunteerism at the Burn Foundation’s 38th Annual Gala and Auction on Oct. 14.

Ellen D. Bailey and Veronica M. Nelson of Eckert Seaman Cherin & Mellott, LLC, have been selected for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Greater Delaware Valley Chapter MS Leadership Class of 2011.

Peter R. Spigel, managing shareholder of FlasterGreenberg PC, was a panelist at the 2011 American Bar Association Law Firm Marketing Strategies Conference on Nov. 8-9 in Philadelphia.

Steven N. Haas, a member of Cozen O’Connor, has been elected secretary of the Central Board of Settlement Music School.

Daniel F. Ryan III, managing partner at O’Brien & Ryan, LLP, recently discussed “Pennsylvania’s New Joint and Several Liability Law” for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute in Philadelphia.

Thomas J. Giordano Jr., a partner with Pond Lehocky Stern Giordano, will be a guest speaker at the “Epilepsy Education & Information Exchange” on Nov. 12.

Jerry M. Lehockey, a partner with Pond Lehocky Stern Giordano, was a moderator and speaker at the Pennsylvania Association for Justice’s Annual Update on Sept. 27.


Samuel H. Pond, managing partner of Pond Lehocky Stern Giordano, was a speaker at the Pennsylvania Chiropractic Association’s Annual Convention on Oct. 1-2 at the Mount Airy Casino Resort.

Alan H. Casper, a sole practitioner, recently spoke on “Matching: An Issue Under Dwelling and Commercial Policies” at the First Party Claims Conference in Warwick, R.I.

Val DiGiorgio, a partner with Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, has been elected chair of the Chester County Republican Committee.

“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.

NAMEs ARE NEWS
Auditing Anti-Money Laundering (AML)/ Terrorist Financing Controls: Know Your Customer ‘Outside – In’

While most significant to financial institutions and their auditors, Anti-Money Laundering & Terrorist Financing laws and regulations are everybody’s business. Jim Hallinan has a wealth of experience to share in this vital area of auditing, legal/regulatory compliance and internal control. In addition to his business consulting work, Jim is also an inspirational writer and speaker. Don’t miss out on this high-profile, enlightening, and ever relevant program.

When: Friday, December 2nd
Where: Temple University Fort Washington
401 Commerce Drive, Fort Washington, PA
Speaker: James D. Hallinan CPA, CIA, CFE, CBA
Credits: 1 Substantive CLE, 8 Auditing CPE
Cost: Live Seminar: $150 CLE, $135 CPE
Webcast: $130 CLE, $115 CPE

Everything You Need to Know About IFRS & U.S. GAAP Convergence

Dr. Regan Garey will discuss the major elements of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as well as the fundamental differences from U.S. GAAP. Dr. Garey, CPA, is a full-time faculty member at Immaculata University. She has also taught IFRS courses to CFOs and CFOs for other training organizations. Her courses incorporate real-world examples and exercises to help demonstrate the impact of IFRS on U.S. financial statements.

When: Saturday, December 3rd
Where: Temple University Fort Washington
401 Commerce Drive, Fort Washington, PA
Speaker: Dr. Regan Garey
Credits: 1 Substantive CLE, 8 Accounting CPE
Cost: Live Seminar: $150 CLE, $135 CPE
Webcast: $130 CLE, $115 CPE

Key Economic Indicators

In order to make sound investment decisions, business leaders must consider current and prospective economic conditions at the national and international levels. The purpose of this program is to provide participants with an introduction to key economic indicators that influence currency exchange rates, international capital flows, and financial asset values. In addition, we will provide a review of economists’ consensus expectations for 2012.

When: Friday, December 9th
Where: Temple University Center City
1515 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA
Speaker: Dr. Laura Shin
Credits: 1 Substantive CLE, 8 Other CPE
Cost: Live Seminar: $150 CLE, $135 CPE
Webcast: $130 CLE, $115 CPE

Med School 101

Join Doctor and Attorney Gerald E. Kaplan to learn about the workings of the human body. Do you get intimidated by medical terminology? Would you like to know more about the meaning of blood test results? X-ray reports? Come listen to our expert guest speaker to gain greater insight and understanding about how everyday medical issues intersect with medico-legal situations.

When: Saturday, December 10th
Where: Temple University Fort Washington
401 Commerce Drive, Fort Washington, PA
Speaker: Gerald E. Kaplan, MD, Esq.
Credits: 7 Substantive CLE
Cost: Live Seminar: $150 CLE, Webcast: $130 CLE

Foundations for Competitive Advantage: Technology and Innovation Management

This seminar covers the major areas of strategy in technology and innovation management. From a manager’s perspective, we cover the seminar research in innovation related to geography, organizational design, competitive dynamics and strategies for high-tech industries. More specifically, this course provides attorneys who are interested in patents and intellectual property rights with an in-depth review of innovation management. It also exposes CPA’s to the underlying drivers of intangible asset valuation, specifically knowledge-based intangibles in high-tech industries.

When: Friday, December 16th
Where: Temple University Center City
1515 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA
Speaker: Dr. Timothy Swift
Credits: 7 Substantive CLE, 8 Other CPE
Cost: Live Seminar: $150 CLE, $135 CPE
Webcast: $130 CLE, $115 CPE

Forensic Accounting 101

In this program, you will learn the basics of forensic accounting, including investigation techniques, the range of services offered, legal discovery, electronic evidence review, level of assurance, data mining, expert testimony and more. This introductory course is a broad overview of the practices and profession of forensic accounting – no prior knowledge is necessary.

When: Saturday, December 17th
Where: Temple University Fort Washington
401 Commerce Drive, Fort Washington, PA
Speaker: WithamSmith + Brown, PC
Credits: 7 Substantive CLE, 8 Accounting CPE
Cost: Live Seminar: $150 CLE, $135 CPE
Webcast: $130 CLE, $115 CPE

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER PLEASE VISIT WWW.CEWORKSHOPS.COM. YOU MAY ALSO REGISTER BY CALLING TOM MCDENVITT DIRECTLY AT 215-990-0781.

Price includes course materials, coffee, doughnuts, lunch, and reporting fees. Lunch will be prepared by Stephen Starr Restaurants Catering Group!

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