Platt Outlines 2018 Plans as She Becomes 91st Chancellor

Mary F. Platt, who is moving up to serve as our 91st Chancellor, is a litigator at Fineman Krekstein & Harris P.C., with extensive experience representing corporate clients in individual cases and class actions. She addressed attendees at the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Annual Meeting Luncheon at Hyatt at The Bellevue on Dec. 5. A longtime leader in the Philadelphia Bar Association, Platt looks forward to increasing member engagement, adding value to membership, and helping the Association develop a plan that will keep it focused on its core values and goals over time.

“As a trade association, we need to dedicate ourselves to serving the interests of our members, improving our system of justice, and supporting the rule of law, while ensuring that the Association has the financial wherewithal to carry out its mission,” said Platt.

In her leadership roles at the Association, Platt has served as Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and as a member of the Board of Governors. She also chaired the Law Practice Management Division and the Federal Courts, City Policy, Women in the Profession, Justice Brennan Distinguished Jurist Award and Fidelity Award (now known as the PNC Achievement Award) Committees. For several years, Platt served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Women’s Law Project, a volunteer for Philadelphia VIP and judge pro tempore in the Philadelphia Commerce Court Case Management Program.

Platt is an honors graduate of Mount Holyoke College and Georgetown University Law Center. She started her legal career and worked for 31 years at Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads LLP in Philadelphia, where she was an equity partner for 22 years, a vice chair of the Litigation Department, and a member of the Professional Responsibility and Technology Committees.

Platt and her husband, Earl Ekas, live in Newtown Square, Pa., and have a son and a daughter.

Also at the luncheon, President Judge Marsha H. Neifield of the Philadelphia Municipal Court was presented with the Justice William J. Brennan Jr. Distinguished Jurist Award, and the PNC Achievement Award was presented to both Alfonso Madrid, of the Law Office of Alfonso Madrid, and Bennett G. Picker, senior counsel at Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP and former Chancellor. The Association also honored Lizzy Wingfield, the winner of the 2017 Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg “Pursuit of Justice” Legal Writing Competition.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Show</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Les Misérables</td>
<td>JAN 9–21, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Second City</td>
<td>JAN 19–20, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Something Rotten!</td>
<td>FEB 27–MAR 4, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAIN: A TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES</td>
<td>MAR 23–25, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOL OF ROCK</td>
<td>MAR 27–APR 1, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAW Patrol: Live!</td>
<td>MAY 4–6, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aladdin: THE HIT BROADWAY MUSICAL</td>
<td>JUN 13–JUL 1, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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For a complete listing, visit: [KIMMELCENTER.ORG](http://KIMMELCENTER.ORG)

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Frontline

Wrapping Up a Whirlwind Year

By Deborah R. Gross

This truly has been a year that the Philadelphia Bar Association stood proud, spoke out and accomplished a tremendous amount.

In addition to the major projects undertaken, as I laid out in my November column, we sponsored and organized almost a dozen different Chancellor’s/Community Forums, including:

- Law School Deans Forum
- Cybersecurity: Hacking & Data Breaches Forum
- District Attorney Candidates Forum
- Take Action Philly Convening on Immigrant and Refugee Policy
- Appellate Court Candidates Forums (pre- and post-primary)
- Commonwealth Candidates Forum
- Take Action Philly Convening on Medicaid
- Forum with Attorney General Josh Shapiro
- The Behavioral Psychology of Giving and Unveiling of the 2017 Pro Bono Task Force Report
- Addiction and the Legal Profession Forum

The Board of Governors adopted 12 resolutions — on topics ranging from a bias CLE requirement, mandatory minimum sentences, sanctuary campuses and the creation of an advisory committee for youth courts, to the creation of a statewide alternative dispute resolution commission, amendments to the PA.R.Civ.P. governing parent coordination and eliminating the Chancellor’s stipend. The Board also recognized, with “In Memoriam” resolutions, the passing of Association leaders Harold Cramer, A. Harold Datz and Peter Hearn at meetings where their relatives were presented with beautiful plaques. We activated the Association’s Legislative Action Center to fight against a proposed sales tax on legal services, and to support and energize our legislators for the passage of an amendment to Pennsylvania “hate crimes” legislation.

Our Young Lawyers Division led the charge to help staff more than 30 polling places in the city with volunteers handing out copies of our Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention’s ratings during the primary election. This enabled us to participate in an economic analysis with Econsult to test the impact of the Commission’s ratings.

With more than 20 media statements ranging from the importance of judicial independence and the rule of law to the need for Seth Williams to step down as Philadelphia District Attorney, and from the condemnation of hate crimes and the fatal violence harming too many victims across the U.S. this year, to applauding the court system for its new language access plan, we were vocal on significant issues of importance.

Alongside representatives of the public interest community, I testified before Philadelphia City Council on the eviction crisis. I went to Washington D.C. to lobby our congress people to support Legal Service Corp. funding. I went to Harrisburg for a press conference to support amendments to Pennsylvania’s “hate crimes” law.

As part of the Take Action Philly initiative, I supervised more than a dozen immigration clinics to assist individuals with the process of becoming naturalized citizens. There were more than 200 attorney volunteers who assisted more than 200 clients with this process. Mayor Kenney recently honored the Philadelphia Bar Association, the attorney volunteers as well as the law firms and organizations that participated in this process.

This year was truly a whirlwind. I very much appreciate the many emails, telephone calls and conversations from many of you thanking me for making the Philadelphia Bar Association more visible and for taking a stand on issues of importance. I could not have accomplished as much as I did without the tireless efforts of the Association staff, which not only agreeable rose to the occasion, but also went beyond the call of duty. They cared dearly and deeply about the success and future of the Association, and I cherish the friendships we have developed.

Deborah R. Gross (dgruss@ker-law.com), of counsel to Kaufman, Caren & Res, PC., is Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

TAP VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED AT CITY HALL

Chancellor Deborah R. Gross and Take Action Philly volunteers were recognized by Mayor Jim Kenney for their hard work and dedication to the initiative at a ceremony at Philadelphia City Hall on Nov. 14. TAP organized convenings and immigration clinics (listed in this month’s Chancellor’s column above) to benefit underserved Philadelphians.

Above: Chancellor Gross (in yellow, at podium) with Mayor Kenney (at podium) and Take Action Philly volunteers at City Hall on Nov. 14.
Typically, the final column of the year by the Young Lawyers Division chair is a look back on the year, reflecting on how great it was, discussing all that we accomplished. We have done a great job putting on the events that have become the yearly YLD staples, as well as conceiving new programming to further our mission. I consider this year a successful one, however, in a vacuum.

However, the last year should not be viewed in a vacuum. I think that the true measure of “success” is really about the long term. Success is about continuing to build on what we have accomplished this year for the betterment of the city and the lawyers who practice here. Success is about continuing to grow the Philadelphia Bar betterment of the city and the lawyers who practice here. As a result, I do not think that it is accurate to proclaim that, as of this moment, we have had a successful year.

I do, however, want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to two groups of people who are integral to the YLD and its ability to operate at such a high level.

First, and most importantly, the staff at the Association, and in particular, Meredith Z. Avakian, Tracey McCloskey, Dawn Petit, Tara Phoenix, Tom Rogers and Wes Terry. They are critical in planning, implementing and promoting our programming, making sure that information is most effectively disseminated to YLD members and getting everything done what needs to be done behind the scenes. They are all great at what they do, and probably do not hear enough of how much we appreciate them.

Second, the YLD could not exist and flourish every year without its Executive Committee, the dedicated group of young lawyers who take the time out of their already busy schedules to help plan and execute our programming. Whether they are liaisons, elected at-large members of the EC or officers in our Cabinet, each person plays an important role in the YLD’s success each year, and I am truly grateful for each and every one of you.

The YLD’s success is not just viewed by our execution of programming and events, but how well we advocate for issues that are relevant and significant to young lawyers. To that end, I wanted to leave you with a New York Times article I read this past summer titled “A Judge Wants a Bigger Role for Female Lawyers. So He Made a Rule.” about a federal judge in Brooklyn who implemented a rule in his courtroom “urging a more visible and substantive role for young female lawyers working on cases he is hearing.” The judge put this rule in place after noting that younger lawyers, particularly women and minorities, were underrepresented in proceedings before him.

This is exactly right, and is something that we, as young lawyers, need to advocate for even more. More experienced lawyers need to do a better job at giving younger lawyers, especially women and minorities, practical experience. This holds just as true for transactional practitioners and their experiences interfacing with clients and negotiating with opposing counsel as it does for litigators and their experiences in the courtroom. As described in the article, perhaps the best way to effect meaningful change on this issue is not just to advocate for it, but to lobby and try to influence key decision-makers (i.e., judges or managing partners in law firms) to implement institutional directives that force these changes into place. While there may not be many young lawyers who have the ability to implement these changes directly, we increasingly have access to decision-makers who do as we progress in our careers. Whether we are clerking for a judge, rising through the ranks of a law firm, working in-house or any other number of other scenarios, we should be vocal and speak up about this issue, both individually and collectively.

To me, this speaks to perhaps one of the greatest values of the YLD and the Association - the ability to use our platform to advocate for meaningful changes and initiatives that benefit the Philadelphia legal community. While we, as a profession, have made great strides in recent times, we still have a long way to go. So I hope that you, like me, will continue to stay involved and use the platform provided to YLD and the Association to help effect change on this and other similarly important issues.

Matthew S. Olesh (molesh@chamberlainlaw.com), senior counsel at Chamberlain, Hrdlicka, White, Williams & Aughey, is chair of the Young Lawyers Division.

ABA Ratings
continued from page 1

Committee on the Federal Judiciary has been conducting independent, thorough and impartial evaluations of the professional qualifications of nominees to the federal bench since 1953.

Members of the committee are lawyers of the highest professional stature and integrity with varied professional experiences and backgrounds, well-suited to evaluate the professional qualifications of their peers. The committee evaluates each judicial nominee based on three criteria: integrity, professional competence and judicial temperament, and does not consider a judicial nominee’s philosophy, political affiliation or ideology.

Based on its investigation and application of the three criteria, the committee rates judicial nominees as “Well Qualified,” “Qualified” or “Not Qualified” for judicial office. It then transmits its rating to the nominee, the Senate Judiciary Committee, the White House and the Department of Justice.

Citing the Association’s long history of support and advocacy for a high-quality judiciary, the resolution urges the President, the Senate Judiciary Committee and all members of the Senate to adhere to the ratings of the American Bar Association’s Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, and to reject for confirmation any judicial nominee found “Not Qualified.”

To view the full resolution, visit PhiladelphiaBar.org.

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If You Have Someone You Cannot Help… Refer Them to Us!
On Nov. 4, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation held a successful 2017 Access to Justice Benefit at the Mütter Museum at The College of Physicians of Philadelphia. Thank you to the companies, firms and individuals who sponsored the event and donated auction items. Thank you to those who attended and to those who bid on the many available auction items. Through your support, this year’s Benefit raised the funds needed to provide our critical grants to the legal aid organizations that the Foundation supports – many of whom were also in attendance that night.

The trustees, staff and event committee members of the Foundation are grateful for the dedication that you gave to our mission of strengthening the provision of free legal services in our justice system.

You demonstrated your commitment to the extraordinary public interest attorneys and leaders at the Access to Justice Benefit and without you, our work would not be possible.

We appreciate everyone who supports our legal aid nonprofit partners and the Foundation. There is still time to participate in our very successful 2017 “Jeans for Justice” campaign, as well as our end-of-year annual appeal, “Funding the Future of Legal Aid.” Our Philadelphia community is remarkable in its devotion to #GettingJusticeDone, and with your inspiration, the Foundation has confidence in our abilities to meet access to justice challenges as we move forward into 2018.

Enjoy these photos of our presenters, speakers and admirable award recipients from the Benefit. It was our honor to present so many awards that night to so many deserving recipients and to hear the Mayor of our city speak directly and passionately about the benefits of legal aid to our whole community.

Thomas A. Brophy (tabrophy@mdwcg.com), president and CEO at Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin, P.C., is president of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

PHILADELPHIA BAR FOUNDATION ACCESS TO JUSTICE BENEFIT

The 2017 Philadelphia Bar Foundation Access to Justice Benefit was held at the Mütter Museum at The College of Physicians of Philadelphia on Nov. 4.

Clockwise: Chancellor-Elect Mary F. Platt and Meredith S. Auten, event cochair and Philadelphia Bar Foundation trustee, introduce Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney; Mayor Kenney delivers welcome remarks; Sozi Pedro Tulante, Philadelphia City Solicitor, presents the Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award to Ayodele Gansallo, senior staff attorney at HIAS Pennsylvania; and Stephen A. Cozen (left), chairman of Cozen O’Connor, and JoAnne A. Epps, executive vice president and provost of Temple University, present the Honorable Louis H. Pollak Champion of the Public Interest Award to Richard C. Glazer.
Left: Philadelphia Bar Association Board of Governors member Amber M. Racine with Hon. Gerald A. McHugh, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (center), and Hon. Lisa M. Rau, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, at the naturalization ceremony sponsored by the Philadelphia Bar Association at the U.S. Courthouse on Nov. 16. Right: Sixty-seven people from 35 countries became U.S. citizens at the ceremony.

COMMUNITY FORUM - APPELLATE COURT CANDIDATES

The Philadelphia Bar Association and Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts hosted candidates for the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Superior Court of Pennsylvania and Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania at a Community Forum at the Free Library of Philadelphia Parkway Central Library’s Skyline Room on Oct. 30.

Left: Chancellor Deborah R. Gross (left), Immediate-Past Chancellor Gaetan J. Alfano (second from left) and Maida R. Milone, president and CEO of Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts (right), with candidates Judge Christine Fizzano Cannon (left to right), Judge Deborah A. Kuselman, Judge Wade A. Kagarise, Judge Dwayne D. Woodruff, Judge Maria McLaughlin, Judge Irene M. Clark, Justice Sallie Updyke Mundy, Judge H. Geoffrey Moulton, Judge Ellen H. Ceisler, Craig Stedman, Judge Carolyn H. Nichols and Jules Mermelstein at the Parkway Central Library on Oct. 30.

For details on placing a Lawyer to Lawyer referral ad, contact Lana Ehrlich at 215-557-2392 or lehrich@alm.com.
MEMBER APPRECIATION WEEK

The Philadelphia Bar Association celebrated Member Appreciation Week from Nov. 6-10. The week kicked off with an Election Forum for Association Board of Governors and Cabinet candidates and an ice cream happy hour featuring Little Baby's Ice Cream.

Throughout the week, all meetings and CLE programming featured giveaways and raffles for members to win gift cards to a wide variety of local hotels, restaurants and retailers. The raffle winners were Lawrence W. Abel, Mark S. Cohen, Albert S. Dandridge III, Alex M. Dutton, Regina M. Foley, Joshu Harris, Priscilla Jimenez, Amber M. Racine, Gina Roswell, William Shuey, Stephanie Stecklair, Thomas D. Sutton, Michael T. van der Veen and Matthew I. Whitehorn.

Also, Sections and Committees were asked to choose a “Rising Star” from their membership. The 2017 Rising Stars were Geneva Campbell Brown, Business Law Section; Sophie Bryan, Delivery of Legal Services Committee; Katharyn L. Christian McGee, Public Interest Section; and Michaela Tassinari, Young Lawyers Division. Congratulations!

Clockwise: In addition to ice cream, members kicked off Member Appreciation Week with a Association-themed cake; Ernest D. Holtzheimer enjoys a cup of Little Baby’s Ice Cream during the Election Forum on Nov. 6; and four of Little Baby’s most popular seasonal flavors!

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2017

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Understanding Why We Give Time, Resources

By Benjamin C. Frommer

The Philadelphia Bar Association’s Pro Bono Task Force recently unveiled its 2017 report, the product of a year-long examination of the state of pro bono engagement throughout the Philadelphia region.

The report, commissioned by Chancellor Deborah R. Gross in December 2016, was unveiled at a Community Forum titled “The Behavioral Psychology of Giving” on Oct. 17. Panelists were Hon. Annette M. Rizzo (Ret.) and John P. Lavelle Jr., co-chairs of Philadelphia Bar Association 2017 Pro Bono Task Force; Syon Bhanot, assistant professor of economics at Swarthmore College; Jessica R. Hillburn-Holmes, executive director of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation; Rashida T. West, director for pro bono programs at University Thomas R. Kline School of Law; and Sophie Bryan, executive director of Philadelphia VIP. The report assessed the progress that has been made in the 15 years since the task force made its first recommendations under former Chancellor Allan H. Gordon in 2002.

Bhanot talked about a basic theory in behavioral economics, that most people tend to act in their own self-interest. However, he said this theory cannot account for systemic biases or the “irrational” decisions that people often make about how to spend their time and money. He encouraged the panel and attendees to consider the impacts of present bias, scarcity, and “the planning fallacy,” when designing pro bono programs.

The “present bias” is a natural inclination to defer an obligation to a future date. This bias toward immediate gratification and deferred obligation can be an important element to understanding the psychology of giving.

According to Bhanot, “the planning fallacy” also plays a significant role, assuming most people tend to underestimate the amount of time it takes to complete a task. Similarly, due to the scarcity of time, most people tend to prioritize things that they feel “must” be accomplished - such as their work obligations - and tend to de-prioritize things like charitable giving.

The task force established four subcommittees to examine areas for improvement: private practice, public interest, corporate in-house and government attorneys and attorneys-in-transition. The task force found common roadblocks among all groups including the tremendous time constraints attorneys face in their day-to-day practices and the natural hesitation to get involved in unfamiliar areas of the law.

Lavelle said that through the exploration and centralization of pro bono training programs and infrastructures, as well as the implementation of “one-day” or “one-stop” legal clinics, pro bono engagement could increase dramatically.

To view the complete report, visit PhiladelphiaBar.org.

Benjamin C. Frommer (bfrommer@lssh-law.com) is an associate at Langsam Stevens Silver & Hollander.

Section Lauds 2017 Educational Outreach Awardee

By Alexis C. Handrich

The Philadelphia Bar Association Workers’ Compensation Section is pleased to highlight Kayla Rodriguez, one of five recipients of the Section’s 2017 Educational Outreach Award. Kayla is a 15-year-old rising sophomore at Franklin Towne Charter High School. Over the past summer, she participated in an internship program with Hon. Linda Carpenter, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, Criminal Trial Division. Kayla was selected to receive the Education Outreach Award for her intelligence, enthusiasm and newfound passion for the Philadelphia legal community. She participated in the Youth Court program at A.M.Y. James Martin Middle School, where she served as a youth advocate and jury foreperson.

The establishment and implementation of the Educational Outreach Award is a joint venture between the Section’s Diversity and Inclusion and Community Service and Charitable Events subcommittees. It was created to promote the development of middle and high school students who exhibit excellence, have an interest in the legal field, and who have participated in their schools’ youth court programs. Each recipient is given the opportunity to intern with a Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas judge.

Through the internship, a recipient can learn about the legal system first-hand by witnessing hearings, trials and the behind-the-scenes work that goes on in the Philadelphia legal system. While interning with Judge Carpenter, Kayla had the opportunity to observe two trials involving claims for personal injury. She observed this type of proceeding, where there is inevitably a victim and a loser who is punished, in comparison to the process in Youth Court. In the Youth Court program, the respondent student is not treated as if he or she has committed some type of crime, allowing for an open discussion, and for the student respondent to be heard. An outcome is reached that is meant to hopefully prevent similar actions by the student in the future by offering alternative ways of reacting to the situation.

Kayla came in to the Youth Court program with an interest in pursuing a career in law, and her interest was bolstered by her experience with Judge Carpenter. She certainly has a unique and mature perspective. When asked whether she believes the proceedings she observed could benefit from any of the techniques utilized in Youth Court, she said that something as simple as a change in language, when possible, may be beneficial. To focus on the “restorative” rather than the “punitive” may help the parties feel more engaged in the process, and to feel that their concerns have been heard by the legal system.

The Section congratulated Kayla on her receipt of the award, and hopes she may one day join their ranks in the legal profession.

Alexis C. Handrich (ahandrich@pondlehocky.com) is co-chair of the Workers’ Compensation Section’s Communications and Marketing Committee.
Recent Developments in Cross-Border Competition Class Action Litigation
Wed., 12/6/16 - 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. (1 SUB)
Co-Hosted by the Business Law Section’s Antitrust Law Committee and the International Law Committee
Competition class actions, particularly those following on U.S. class proceedings involving allegations of price-fixing and other cartel conduct, are the most prevalent and important form of private competition litigation in Canada. Featured presenter, Davit Akman, a Canadian antitrust litigator, addresses the state of private cross-border enforcement, key developments affecting the competition antitrust environment and managing cross-border cases.

WHO IS MY CLIENT?
Fri., 12/8/17 - 9:00 - 11:15 a.m. (2 ETH) – SOLD OUT
Wed., 12/20/17 - 9 - 11 a.m. (2 ETH) – VIDEO ENCORE
Thu., 12/28/17 - 9 - 11 a.m. (2 ETH) – VIDEO ENCORE
This is the final FREE CLE of 2017 for Philadelphia Bar Association members in good standing.
Hosted by the Professional Responsibility Committee
Many excellent lawyers have identified the “client” too late, or incorrectly, resulting in dire consequences. Panelists will identify lessons to be learned from a number of courts’ decisions, enabling attendees to determine WHO is the “client” and WHEN an individual may become a “client.” Attend FREE as a Philadelphia Bar Association member in good standing and hear the answer to the aforementioned question and earn your required two ethics credits.

Current Topics in Investment Company and Investment Adviser Regulation
Fri., 12/8/16 - 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. (1 SUB)
Hosted by the Business Law Section’s Investment Companies Committee
In this luncheon CLE program, featured speaker, Mark J. Dowdell, assistant regional director, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), will address current topics of interest to practitioners in the investment company and investment advisory fields. He will offer guidance regarding SEC examination priorities and the focus of Office of Compliance Inspections and Examinations (OCIE) inquiries. If you practice in the investment company and/or investment advisory field, this is a “can’t miss” program!

Bridge the Gap
Sat., 12/9/17- 9:00 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. (4 ETH)
Program for all newly admitted attorneys in Pennsylvania
The Bridge the Gap program is intended to give all newly admitted Pennsylvania attorneys the “know-how” that is otherwise learned through trial and error. The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania approved a rule change requiring newly admitted lawyers to complete the Bridge the Gap program by their first CLE compliance deadline. This program focuses on key issues of ethics and professionalism that are essential for all attorneys admitted to practice law.

Mon., 12/11/17 - 3 - 5 p.m. (2 SUB)
Hosted by the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Tax Section
Held at the Ritz-Carlton, Ten Avenue of the Arts, Plaza Ballroom
The IRS historically has sought to tax foreign partners who sell interests in partnerships engaged in U.S. businesses. In its long-awaited decision in Grecian Magnesite Mining, Industrial & Shipping Co. SA v. Comm., 149 T.C. No. 3 (2017), the tax court reversed that long-standing position. Experienced tax practitioners will examine the tax court’s reasoning and the case’s potential implications on both income and estate tax planning, including whether tax advisers should rethink some commonly used investment structures and whether the decision should be read to affect the estate situs of partnership interests.

VIDEO ENCORE - Cybersecurity: The Top 10 Things Attorneys Need to Consider
Mon., 12/11/17 - 9 - 11 a.m. (1 SUB/1 ETH)
With the “Petya” attack that infected and affected DLA Piper’s operations for nearly a week, it is clear that cybersecurity for law firms cannot, will not and should not be ignored. Unlike other threats to our clients that are more sporadic, cybersecurity is a daily threat and the law firm is the front line of the assault on our client’s data. This video encore CLE will address the top 10 tips law firms should consider when assessing whether their systems are “secure” enough to satisfy their ethical obligations and how to approach cybersecurity.

For questions regarding Philadelphia Bar Association CLE, contact Director of Continuing Legal Education Tara D. Phoenix at 215-238-6349 or tphoenix@philabar.org.
Defensive Document Drafting: Driving Isn’t the Only Time to Keep Your Guard Up
Tue., 12/12/16 - 12:00 - 2:15 p.m. (2 SUB)
Words are used to advocate, inform, persuade and instruct. Drafting documents that accurately reflect what you mean requires planning, clarity, correct word choice, precise use of technical terms and as much simplicity as possible. Don’t let your documents raise questions later and put your client at risk! In this CLE program, panelists offer tips and techniques for drafting documents in all practice areas.

VIDEO ENCORE - The Million Dollar Sentence and Other Recent Trends in Employment Background Check Litigation
Wed., 12/13/16 - 9 - 10 a.m. (1 SUB)
In this educational and practical video encore CLE, panelists will provide insights from the plaintiff and defense perspective to explore the federal, state and municipal consumer laws governing employment background checks, recovery of damages in class action and individual contexts and an overview of trending theories as to both claims and defenses.

Nuts & Bolts of Pennsylvania’s Post Conviction Relief Act (PCRA): Practice and Procedure in Philadelphia
Wed., 12/13/16 - 12:00 - 3:15 p.m. (3 SUB)
Any experienced criminal law attorney knows there are different types of review possible following a conviction. Both Pennsylvania state law and federal laws give a convicted defendant such options. One such method is to file a petition under the Post-Conviction Relief Act (PCRA). The Act applies to individuals who believe they were wrongfully convicted or that their sentence is unlawful. This CLE certification program will provide a step-by-step approach to handling a PCRA case.

2017 Public Interest Law Day
Thu., 12/14/17 - 9:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (total credits: Substantive and ethics depends upon session attended)
Hosted by the Delivery of Legal Services Committee of the Public Interest Section
Held at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, 1701 Market St., Philadelphia
Experienced panelists will present a wide array of hot topics in public interest law for public interest attorneys, pro bono practitioners, judges and private practice attorneys who are interested in learning more about cutting edge issues affecting the pro bono legal community. Session topics include: race and racial justice in our work, landlord-tenant law, how and when to combat bias in the courtroom, immigration issues, improving access to justice, working with transgender and gender-non-conforming clients and community lawyering in Philadelphia. Immediately following the CLE program, register to attend the Public Interest Section Annual Awards Ceremony and Reception at The Westin Philadelphia at 99 south 17th street.

Cross-Examination Series Part 2: Intermediate Cross-Examination
Tue., 12/19/17 - 12:00 - 2:15 p.m. (2 SUB)
Attend one or all of the CLE programs in this series to make your first or next cross-examination the most effective cross-examination you’ve given. This series of CLE programs developed and presented by Hon. Mark I. Bernstein (Ret.) and Lawrence Bendesky, superb trial attorney from Saltz Mongeluzzi Barrett & Bendesky, among other skilled trial attorneys, will explore how to exercise essential legal, tactical and verbal skills to present an effective and successful cross-examination. In Part 2, panelists will discuss strategic considerations surrounding expert cross-examination, and will provide specific practical tips to guide practitioners. This CLE will offer guidance regarding how attorneys approach a cross-examination and succeed with a “professional” witness.

VIDEO ENCORE: Ethics and Malpractice Avoidance
Thu., 12/21/17 - 9 - 11 a.m. (2 ETH)
This video encore CLE program, applicable to attorneys in all practice areas, will provide guidance regarding how to protect yourself and minimize your chances of being sued for malpractice or being subject to other ethical issues. Panelists will address the primary reasons why attorneys are sued, the stages of a representation where attorneys get into trouble, practical steps an attorney can take to minimize risk, as well as professional liability insurance, which is critical in protecting the law firm and the attorney in the event of legal malpractice.

Evaluating an Economic Loss - Don’t Let “It” Scare You
Thu., 12/21/17 - 12 - 1 p.m. (1 SUB)
Hosted by the Medical-Legal Committee
Deciding whether it is worth your time and expense to take on a medical malpractice case can be difficult. Medical malpractice litigation is extremely costly and involves evaluating the complexity of the case, extensive expert witness fees, discovery and trial. This is a timely CLE program on economic damages primarily arising from medical malpractice claims.

VIDEO ENCORE - LIEN ON ME
Wed., 12/27/17 - 9 - 11 a.m. (2 SUB)
This video CLE program will identify the new lien amendments, explain their significance and demonstrate how they fit within the context of the existing lien law. An online demonstration of the new Pennsylvania State Construction Notices Directory will be provided to reveal how the registry is structured and how it can be used by owners, contractors, subcontractors and suppliers to protect their respective lien rights and remedies. Focus will also be placed on various unamended provisions of lien law to show how the new provisions dovetail into and complement the existing Lien Law framework.

VIDEO ENCORE - Disability Discrimination in Housing
Wed., 12/27/17 - 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. (2 SUB)
This video encore CLE program examines the rights of persons with disabilities under the Fair Housing Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the duties of housing providers under the federal law. The program will highlight defenses to discrimination claims and explore the area of reasonable accommodations.

VIDEO ENCORE - Examining “Ugly Prey:” Constructed and Communicated Stereotypes and the Impact of Bias on Juries
Thu., 12/28/17 - 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. (2 SUB)
The objective of this video encore CLE is to examine how clients can be wrongfully subjected to discrimination. In this program, featured speaker Emilie L. Lucchesi, Ph.D., introduces how stereotypes are constructed and communicated, and uses two case studies to demonstrate the profound impact such bias has on juries. Dr. Lucchesi’s work on the communication of stigma has also appeared in The New York Times. Her book titled “Ugly Prey: An Innocent Woman and the Death Sentence that Scandalized Jazz Age Chicago” recounts the wrongful conviction of Sabella Nitti, a Barsee immigrant.

VIDEO ENCORE - Ethics and Incorporating New Technologies in Your Law Practice Digital Marketing
Fri., 12/29/17 - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. (1 SUB/2 ETH)
Join your colleagues to learn the ethical considerations of what you can and can’t do when digitally marketing your legal services. Digital marketing is inevitably injected into the conversation as an integral part of a successful overall marketing plan. “Techy” or not, digital marketing remains a challenge for attorneys to implement given the limited amount of resources including the attorney’s time and money. Understanding the ethics involved with self or law firm promotion is important to comprehend before implementing any marketing campaign regardless of the medium. This video encore CLE program will provide ethical considerations when promoting a law practice in the digital environment.

VIDEO ENCORE - The Criminalization of Poverty in America
Fri., 12/29/17 - 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. (1.5 SUB)
The purpose of the criminal justice system generally is thought to be to punish people who commit crimes such as assault, theft and drug sales. But many low-income people are entangled in the system for issues related to their poverty. Poor people find themselves charged with crimes because of their mental illness, homelessness, noncompliance with public benefits rules or child support orders, and misbehavior in schools. In this video encore, panelists address these issues and possible solutions to them.

*Additional courses may be added within the month.

TO REGISTER visit the CLE page at PhiladelphiaBar.org.
Rights Under DACA, Implications of Executive Orders

By Elisa C. Advani

President Trump’s feelings toward immigrants were no secret during the 2016 campaign, but the executive orders he signed have caused a great deal of unrest and anxiety throughout the country. The Immigration Law Committee hosted a Philadelphia Bar Association CLE titled “Know Your Rights: Addressing Deportation, Detention and DACA” on Sept. 20 to address immigration issues of deportation, detention and the rescission of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Speakers Wendy Castor Hess and Anna Paciorek, Committee cochairs, and Steven Larín, senior director of legal services & immigration policy at the Nationalities Service Center, Philadelphia, discussed the changes to immigration that the Trump administration has proposed and what these changes mean for immigrants and their families.

“One of the first presidential actions to shock everyone was the travel ban and now the rescission of DACA is the next move that speaks to the overall sentiment of this administration,” Paciorek said. Currently under review in Congress is the Reforming American Immigration for Strong Employment Act that proposes to reduce the number of legal immigrants based on family relationships by limiting the definition of “immediate relative,” and by changing the age definition of “child” from under 21 to under 18. Since there is already a backlog in family immigration, these proposed changes, if enacted, would be detrimental to many people currently waiting for immigration papers. Castor Hess explained that there is a point system for becoming eligible for immigration. “If you do not speak English, you are going to be at the bottom of the list, which is hard to understand when so many of our grandparents did not speak English when they came here,” she said.

Larin said that “when DACA was enacted in 2012, it was the first time since 1986 that there was amnesty for undocumented immigrants, and the dreamers were on the forefront of being public, undocumented, and unafraid.” The DACA program was just a temporary status to protect certain people from deportation. It specifically protected those who entered the U.S. before the age of 16, who were in school or had a high school diploma, so that they could stay in the country and be able to work. “The argument of the Trump administration is that this action by President Obama was overbroad and should have been handled

continued on page 19
Neighborhood Revitalization Through Land Banks

By Mary-Kate Martin

“One of the best parts of the land bank enabling legislation, from my perspective, is that it looks at the end use,” said Winifred M. Branton of Branton Strategies LLC, a company that assists local governments and community organizations return blighted, tax-delinquent properties to productive use. Branton was one of three panelists at a Philadelphia Bar Association CLE hosted by the Real Property Section titled “Reclaiming Vacant Properties: What You and Your Clients Need to Know About the Philadelphia Land Bank” on Oct. 17. The other panelists were the Philadelphia Land Bank’s executive director Angel Rodriguez and senior counsel Steve Cusano.

A land bank is a governmental entity “created by ordinance, and its sole purpose is to convert these vacant, abandoned, tax-delinquent properties to productive use,” said Branton. The objective of the land bank is to “clear title, extinguish liens and end the cycle of vacancy and abandonment.” Key objectives are to extinguish tax liens, quiet title and negotiate sales.

Philadelphia City Council approved the Philadelphia Land Bank’s strategic plan earlier this year. City Council recognized that vacant and blighted properties do not generate tax revenue and decrease the market value of the surrounding real estate, costing government and residents. Cusano said that the Philadelphia Land Bank’s “mission is to return vacant and under-utilized property to productive use, revitalize neighborhoods, create socially and economically diverse communities and strengthen the city’s tax base.”

The land bank can acquire property through gifts, donations, purchases and most other legal means except eminent domain. One of the primary methods of acquisition is priority bidding at sheriff sales. A land bank does not have to compete with other bidders at the public auction. Plus, it can acquire properties free and clear of all liens and encumbrances, except for Commonwealth corporate taxes.

“I view the land bank in two different roles, one is asset-manager – we are the real estate asset-management group for the City of Philadelphia. It is incumbent on us to be really looking at it as a portfolio and really looking at how it’s performing,” said Rodriguez. “The next is we’re transactional. How many properties are we going to acquire? And when we acquire them, do we have a plan for disposition?”

The land bank accepts applications to dispose of properties. The applicant must be a qualified purchaser, meaning they must be compliant with all city taxes, utilities and other city-related obligations, and they cannot have an interest in a property subject to significant code or ordinance violations. “It does no one any good to have properties sitting in the land bank for a long period of time,” said Rodriguez. He said that local “neighborhood champions” and developers are the primary land bank clients. Once the applicant is deemed qualified, the next step is to determine if the bid is also qualified. Does the application adequately describe the plans for the property? Does the applicant demonstrate the financial and operational capability to carry out the plan? Lastly, the bid must receive the requisite approvals from the appropriate city authorities, as well as the land bank board of directors.

For more information, or to see properties available, visit philadelphialandbank.org.

Mary-Kate Martin (MaryKate.Breslin@Phila.gov), deputy city solicitor in the Philadelphia City Solicitor’s Office, is editor-in-chief of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

Insight Into the Motivations of a Scandal ‘Fixer’

By Jon-Michael Olson

“I’ve done what’s necessary to protect my clients,” said Tye Farley, principal and managing partner of Farley & Associates Crisis Management. Farley is a successful problem-solver; a crisis manager; a fixer.

Famously portrayed in the ABC network’s “Scandal,” a fixer is exactly that. They “fix” problems. The problems Farley solves for his clients, famous and infamous, are the crises found in screenplays and headlines and include kidnappings, ransom, murder, sexual harassment accusations, hacking, extortion and political and corporate intrigue.

Farley was featured during a Philadelphia Bar Association CLE, co-presented by The Barristers Association of Philadelphia, Inc., titled “The Real Life ‘Scandal’ Fixer” on Oct. 18. The program was moderated by Lawrence S. Felzer, senior director of finance and operations at the SeniorLAW Center. Using scandals as backdrops, from the Harvey Weinstein allegations to Rep. Tim Murphy’s resignation, Farley said that when facing a scandal, own it first, then be honest, transparent and respond in a timely manner to control the narrative. Farley said that it is best to have a procedure in place, just in case such an event occurs.

Farley said that his success thrives on operating in moral, ethical and legal ambiguity. “Not everyone can do what we do, because it’s not always within [your] moral and ethical range,” he said. When asked how he handles being subjected to accusations, hacking, extortion and political intrigue.

Farley said that his success thrives on operating in moral, ethical and legal ambiguity. “Not everyone can do what we do, because it’s not always within [your] moral and ethical range,” he said. When asked how he handles being subjected

continued on page 19
By Maureen M. Farrell

With the current climate and ongoing saga surrounding Pennsylvania’s budget, there has not been an emphasis on inheritance tax from a regulatory or legislative standpoint. The Probate and Tax Law Section’s Taxation Committee hosted the Philadelphia Bar Association CLE titled “Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax Update” on Oct. 24. Panelists included the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue’s acting chief counsel Thomas J. Gohsler, Inheritance Tax Division chief Suzanne Tarlini and Inheritance Tax Division manager Heidi Schultz. The panel discussed legislative updates, highlighted recent cases and discussed areas of interest.

Gohsler talked about the lack of legislative movement, but said that the business of agriculture exemption was the one piece that was part of the proposed budget. There are two agricultural exemptions, and if supplemental return exemptions are filed those exemptions will be retroactive. Leases being transferred to unrelated third parties will not qualify for the business of agriculture exemption, though. These leases will qualify for the S1 exemption if they are kept in farming and because they do not require the seven-year certification. There is ongoing dialogue with the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau about these exemptions. There are no other proposed rate changes, deductions or exemptions, according to Gohsler.

A personal income tax exemption addressing employee withholding and a special poverty exemption is in the works. Also, the threshold for electronic filing reconciliation reports related to employees is being revised downward for the number of employees from 250. Modifications to severance tax, hotel occupancy tax and taxes on rental storage are being considered, but according to the panel, what ultimately becomes part of the budget is uncertain.

A recent case of interest was about a gay couple that was married under common law, but both partners checked the box as “single” on their tax returns. The couple met the test for common law marriage, having joint wills, joint accounts and rings. However, at that point common law marriage had been abolished. Initially, the Department of Revenue disallowed the common law treatment. However, it was held that those rights are not new rights and they are now being recognized.

There are less than 2,000 inheritance tax liens according to Gohsler, usually within the context of real estate. With these types of liens negotiations are with the Department of Revenue directly, so it is essential to keep the department involved in the process.

Not specific to inheritance tax, but to note for business purposes, informal public outreach has been made regarding the realty transfer tax and leases that extend beyond 30 years. The Department of Revenue is in the process of drafting legislation, but it is not available on the website yet.

Maureen M. Farrell (maureen@maureenfarrellesq.com), principal of the Law Offices of Maureen M. Farrell Esq., is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

By Regina M. Parker

The time is now for Pennsylvanians to act to save our democracy by bringing an end to gerrymandering and creating voter integrity, panel members told attendees during the Philadelphia Bar Association CLE hosted by the Young Lawyers Division titled “Lines Drawn: The Modern Political and Legal Campaign Against Gerrymandering” on Nov. 6. The panel included Benjamin Geffen, staff attorney at Public Interest Law Center and Jamie R. Mogil, attorney and principal at JRMogil Law and representative of Fair Districts PA.

Gerrymandering is the practice of manipulating electoral maps and district lines for political advantage. This practice has resulted in lack of choice at the polls and an unaccountable legislature. Mogil said that Pennsylvania is one of the most gerrymandered states in the country with congressional representatives, state legislators and many local officials being elected from districts. Every 10 years, the national census recounts populations, and if there is a significant change, those districts will be redrawn. The panel warned that the problem with the current system is that politicians oversee redistricting and can choose their voters by drawing electoral district lines in their favor. This conflict of interest is at odds with the true meaning of democracy.

The panel further explained that politicians use several tactics to draw lines as a means of ensuring that they keep their seats and keep their party in power. These tactics include cracking, packing, sweetheart gerrymandering, and prison-based gerrymandering. Cracking is used to reduce the voting power of a certain party or community by splitting its population and spreading its members among several districts where they become an irrelevant minority. Packing concentrates voters of one party or community in as few districts as possible to reduce their influence in the remaining districts. Sweetheart gerrymandering is a deal between parties to maintain the status quo by protecting incumbents of both parties regardless of what the voters want. Prison-based gerrymandering counts incarcerated people, as continued on page 19.
PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION CLE - CROSS-EXAMINATION SERIES

Basics of Cross-Examination Always Relevant

By Stephanie Kammer Heimann

Cross-examination is the part of a trial that Hollywood mines for suspense and dramatic effect, and there is no reason why attorneys cannot exploit these qualities in their practice. The first CLE in the “Cross-Examination Series” titled “My First Cross-Examination” on Nov. 8 featured ways to use cross effectively, and the many ways to prepare to cross effectively. The panelists were Hon. Mark I. Bernstein (Ret.) and Robert N. Braker, partner at Salz Monguluzzi Barrett & Bendesky PC.

Cross-examination is the part of a trial where things are less predictable. You must think on your feet and it is critical to remember your “ABCs,” or to “Always Be Closing,” and support your closing arguments. The first question to ask is – what is the point to be made with the cross-examination? This can be as simple as showing that the witness is a partisan witness. When preparing, take stock of all the witness’s prior statements, and how these might inform the exam. Prior statements can include depositions, writings, recorded statements, social media, verified interrogatories, answers, admissions, websites, signed documents, prior testimony and the direct testimony of the witness at trial. The panelists told attendees to listen to the response and pivot accordingly, asking yourself about the facts that are assumed and the assumptions being made during the cross. You can go back and bring attention to these things during closing argument. During the examination, simple, clear language is most effective. When you ask a witness a question, make sure you have the unambiguous answer you want. Getting at the truth means protecting the jury’s right to do their job. Some broader points raised were remembering to be yourself, developing your own style, and adjusting the cross-examination to fit the witness. These all factor into making the cross-examination work for you the same way an opening, a direct, or a closing might, though the nature of a cross is more dynamic.

Judge Bernstein shared his “Ten Commandments of Cross-Examination,” know your objectives, control the examination, ask questions, establish self-interest, reveal assumptions, disclose selectivity, find the unsaid, confront the facts, respect trial integrity and save that “killer” last question. In the course materials, Superior Court of Pennsylvania Judge Anne E. Lazarus offered “Ten Commandments for Non-Jury Trials,” where counsel can have different considerations than when presenting a case. Her commandments were to evaluate the trier of fact, be brief, be focused, vary your questions, do not be overly dramatic – the judge has seen dramatics before, save the concluding question for argument, hostile tactics will not be appreciated, do not argue with opposing counsel or the judge over objections, limit the use of nonessential visual aids and assume familiarity with the case but nonetheless cover everything necessary.

The next CLE in the series will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 12 p.m. Register at PhiladelphiaBar.org.

By James C. Vandermark

On Jan. 1, 2018, the rules and procedures for auditing partnerships for compliance with the IRS will change dramatically. The Philadelphia Bar Association’s Tax Section hosted a CLE titled “Transactional Planning for New Partnership Audit Rules” on Nov. 9. The program was presented by Glenn Dance, managing director at Grant Thornton LLP, and Eric Sloan, partner at Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP.

The presenters said that the new rules were the result of IRS frustration with unsuccessful efforts to audit and collect under the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act. Under TEFRA, the IRS examines the partnership, but must pursue the individual partners for collection of amounts. The IRS was often unsuccessful in pursuing individual partners. As a result, the centralized partnership audit regime was enacted under the Bipartisan Budget Act. The BBA also eliminates the requirements for notice to individual partners and the role of the tax matters partner, which is replaced with a new partnership representative role. For liability reasons, Sloan said he suggests appointing the partnership as the partnership representative.

Partnerships will have a limited option to elect out of this regime, but for partnerships that do not, the BBA rules allow the IRS to assess and collect any imputed underpayment from the partnership, which was not permissible under TEFRA. The panelists said that the assessment of imputed underpayments will be favorable to the IRS. This is because it is based on the total amount of positive adjustments and will not account for netting of negative adjustments.

The presenters also addressed responding to an IRS Notice of Proposed Adjustment. A partnership will be entitled to request a modification. One basis for modifying the adjustments may be revising all tax returns and paying outstanding taxes for all partners. However, Dance said the IRS may refuse to consider revisions of tax returns as an acceptable modification. Once the final imputed underpayment is known, the partnership may then pay the amount or elect to push it out to its partners.

Dance and Sloan described the BBA rules as “payback” by the IRS. They said they believe the IRS is going to be aggressive about enforcing the new rules. Dance said, “it’s a new day” and the IRS is “just itching like thoroughbreds at the gate waiting for Jan. 1… they are gunning for you.” They said it is imperative that practitioners review the BBA now and begin preparing clients for compliance with the new rules to try to avoid an audit and possible imposition of the imputed underpayment against the partnership.

James C. Vandermark (vandermarkj@whiteandwilliams.com) is an associate at White and Williams LLP.

Chancellor-Elect continued from page 1

And solutions to address court inefficiencies, she has started and maintains the Domestic Violence Court. She works to empower victims and hold first-time misdemeanor offenders accountable while providing them with treatment and rehabilitation. President Judge Neifield also created and presides over Project Dawn Court, a problem-solving court established as an alternative justice and rehabilitation program for commercially exploited women in Philadelphia.

Alfonso Madrid, of the Law Office of Alfonso Madrid, has consistently represented clients of the Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project for the last 10 years. For two years, he served as supervising attorney for CBAP’s bankruptcy clinic program at Temple University Beasley School of Law. This was a commitment of 100 hours, requiring close supervision of a law student for 12 hours a week for the entire academic year. Madrid also was a loyal member of the CBAP board of directors for four years.

Bennett G. Picker, senior counsel at Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP has been a pioneer in the field of alternative dispute resolution. He has changed the ADR landscape regionally, nationally and internationally. Picker has worked tirelessly for more than 30 years to promote diversity in the legal profession. As Chancellor in 1986, he created the Philadelphia Bar Association’s first diversity initiatives, the Women in the Profession and Minorities in the Profession Committees. Additionally, during his Chancellorship he was a cofounder of Philadelphia VIP. A champion of merit selection and judicial reform, Picker was one of the signers of the charter creating Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts.
Law Dept. Celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month

By Caroline Cruz

This year marked the City of Philadelphia Law Department’s second year of acknowledging National Hispanic Heritage Month by joining the national commemoration and city-wide calendar of events. Law Department’s Diversity Committee hosted a celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month on Oct. 25.

Special guest of honor, acclaimed author and journalist Sabrina Vourvoulias, read from her book titled “Ink,” a dystopian novel depicting a world in which immigrants are tattooed as a method of border control. “Ink” was released in 2013, but is having renewed interest and acclaim as immigrant rights issues rise to the forefront of national debate. During the question-and-answer period, the unique overlap between the legal profession and journalism was explored. Vourvoulias talked about her commitment to expanding representations of immigrant communities and the Latino experience, as well as the process of identifying often untold stories in her work.

City Solicitor Sozi Pedro Tulante and Deputy City Solicitor Caroline Cruz welcomed all in attendance, including Department of Human Services Commissioner Cynthia Figueroa, Deputy Managing Director of Community Services Joanna Otero, Office of Immigration Affairs Director Miriam Enríquez and Office of Human Resources Director Pedro Rodríguez.

Students of Esperanza Academy Charter School who are interested in pursuing careers in law and criminal justice attended as part of a potential career building conversation and mentorship program. They received gift copies of “Ink,” compliments of former city solicitor and president of the Comcast Foundation, Charisse Lillie.

After the reading, Jezabel Careaga, a woman-owned immigrant business in Fitler Square founded by chef Jezabel Careaga, served Argentinian baked treats. Members of the Committee talked about the importance of seeing the mission of inclusion and diversity as a commitment to personal action. Attendees were asked not to think of inclusion and diversity as adjectives used to describe “others,” but rather to use the words in their verb form, to “include” and “diversify.” After the celebration, donations to UnidosPorPR were accepted toward ongoing Hurricane Maria relief efforts in Puerto Rico.

National Hispanic Heritage recognition started as a week-long commemoration by President Lyndon B. Johnson. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan expanded this celebration to a month-long recognition of days including Sept. 15, Independence Day in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras; Sept. 16, Independence Day in Mexico; Sept. 18, Independence Day in Chile; and Columbus Day, also known as El Día de la Raza or Indigenous Peoples Day, in early October.

Caroline Cruz (Caroline.Cruz@Phila.gov) is a deputy city solicitor in the City of Philadelphia Law Department.

PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT - PHILADELPHIA VIP

Untangling Violations of Tenant’s Rights

By Turner N. Falk

“Would you like to help a woman who returned home from the hospital and found that squatters had taken over her house?”

That compelling open was how Philadelphia VIP Staff Attorney Lindsay Schoonmaker pitched Ms. Rose’s case to me. Adding further detail, Lindsay explained that Ms. Rose was now renting an apartment – on her own dime – as she tried to evict squatters from her home. Schoonmaker enlisted two volunteers to assist Ms. Rose: one to assist with evicting the squatters, and the other (me) to defend her in the eviction action. As the city’s hub of pro bono, Philadelphia VIP recruits, trains and supports volunteer attorneys who provide quality, pro bono legal representation to low-income Philadelphians.

Ms. Rose reached out to VIP at a crisis point. The water in her rented apartment had stopped working several months earlier, but her landlord ignored the problem. As was her right to do, Ms. Rose withheld rent payments. Her landlord filed an eviction case against her based on the unpaid rent, and got a default judgment against her.

In my first meeting with Ms. Rose, it became clear that her landlord had not followed the rules. For a residential lease to be valid, the landlord is required to provide a certificate that the property is suitable for renting and a handbook describing the rights and duties of tenants and landlords.

I filed a motion to vacate the default judgment. When the judge granted the motion, we had to defeat the reopened eviction case. Our straightforward defense was that the landlord was not legally entitled to collect rent because he had never given Ms. Rose a tenant’s rights handbook and did not have a valid rental license. We won, and Ms. Rose emerged not owing any back rent and with an informal agreement to move out within 30 days.

The peace did not last long; the landlord turned around and filed a new eviction complaint. While the case was pending, he changed the locks. At the hearing on this second case, I argued that Ms. Rose had been illegally evicted and owed nothing. The judge again agreed.

Several months later, Schoonmaker sent the email I had been waiting for: the squatters were out and Ms. Rose was back in her home.

At the end of the day, I had prevented Ms. Rose from being saddled with a credit-ruining judgment and paying non-collectable rent. Imagine if this hard-working, rule-following woman could not get back into her house because evicting squatters was too hard, while she herself was evicted for legally withholding rent? Without pro bono volunteers, that absurd outcome might have been likely. Justice does not happen automatically, it requires a commitment from all of us in the legal community. It was realized in Ms. Rose’s case because pro bono volunteers were ready and willing to expend the effort to make it so.

*The client’s name was changed to respect her privacy and protect her identity.

PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION

PhiladelphiaBar.org

16 Philadelphia Bar Reporter December 2017
Timing is Everything During Bench-Bar Plenary

The state of the justice system in Philadelphia, and across Pennsylvania, is ripe for debate. Attendees were treated to just that during the plenary breakfast CLE titled “Courts Under Fire: Grits and Gripes” at the 2017 Bench-Bar & Annual Conference in Atlantic City on Oct. 14. Refereed by Hon. Karen Y. Simmons, Philadelphia Municipal Court, and Kevin Harden Jr., attorney at Ross Feller Casey, LLP, the panel was created as a mash-up of ESPN’s “Around the Horn” and “Pardon the Interruption.” The panelists were Hon. Susan Peikes Gantman, President Judge, Superior Court of Pennsylvania; Hon. Daniel J. Anders, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas; Kelley B. Hodge, interim Philadelphia District Attorney; and Marissa B. Bluestine, executive director, Pennsylvania Innocence Project, Temple University Beasley School of Law.

Each panelist had 90 seconds to answer questions from Judge Simmons and Harden. Panelists had not seen the questions prior to the program, encouraging panelists to think quickly and competitively. Harden specifically discouraged the panelists from “playing nice.” Topics included judicial neutrality, use of social media by lawyers and judges, diversity in the law and mass incarceration.

The panel agreed on the value of judicial neutrality and that diversity in the law has progressed, but still has a way to go. Answers aligned with President Judge Gantman’s response, that judges are finders of fact and bound by the rule of law. In terms of diversity, Bluestine talked about how public interest law is a welcoming place for diverse people, but like the other panelists gave suggestions on how to keep moving the needle to increase diversity across the practice of law.

Differences of opinion came through regarding the use of Facebook and how to remedy the problem of mass incarceration. Hodge had a social media presence before she entered public life, but subsequently shut it down. Her concerns of a perception of impropriety influenced her decision to disengage. On the other hand, Judge Anders is an active Facebook user. However, he said that a relationship over social media should be disclosed in any sort of courtroom interaction.

The question about mass incarceration was posed as a scenario with a $75 million budget to reduce the $10.4 million that Pennsylvania pays every 180 days to support its prison population. Judge Anders said he would fund reentry and deterrence programs. President Judge Gantman would split it among stakeholders, like the chief of police and public defender. Hodge would put it toward mental health and educational programs to keep people from winding up in the prison system in the first place. Bluestine said she would take the funds and abolish cash bail. The common thread was encapsulated by President Judge Gantman who said that there is not supposed to be a “debtor’s prison” in Pennsylvania, or anywhere in America. People often wind up in prison because they cannot afford to pay to get out, and the loss of jobs and family support are dangerous, said Bluestine. Across the panel, programs to get people out of prison, and keep them out, seemed to provide the most bang for the buck.

The Art of the Theme in Trial, From Start to Finish

Robert Mongeluzzi, one of the most respected and successful trial attorneys in the United States and founder of Saltz Mongeluzzi Barrett & Bendesky PC, presented the final plenary CLE titled “Using Themes Throughout Your Case - Opening, Direct, Cross and Closing” at the 2017 Bench-Bar & Annual Conference in Atlantic City on Oct. 14. His presentation guided attendees through the use of themes throughout a case. The theme is the lens through which the judge and jury will view a case and its evidence from beginning to end.

Left: Robert Mongeluzzi “interrogates” Larry Bendesky, managing shareholder, Saltz, Mongeluzzi, Barrett & Bendesky, P.C., as part of his presentation.
Crime, Punishment, Race Within Black Community

By Jesse Berwanger

How does a person acting with the finest of intentions and the largest of hearts create more problems than ones they solve? This question is common among the readers of Professor James Forman Jr’s book “Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America.” Professor James Forman Jr., Yale Law School, was the featured speaker at the plenary CLE “Locking Up One’s Own” at the 2017 Bench-Bar & Annual Conference in Atlantic City on Oct. 13. Thomas J. Innes III, Defender Association of Philadelphia, and Troy H. Wilson, Wilson Law Offices moderated. Forman is well-known for his commitment to public service and contributions to the civil rights movement. Advocacy for civil rights is in his lineage. His father was a pioneer in the civil rights movement as an executive secretary for the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, where his mother and father met. In his book, Forman discusses how black civil rights leaders unwittingly contributed to the mass incarceration of people of color, specifically black males, during the era of the war on crime. He started the conversation about his book by describing his two major motivations for his theory. He always found himself frustrated when a film or television show would not portray black people accurately or did not portray them at all. His other motivation grew from his experience as a public defender, particularly during a case where he defended a young black male named Brandon. Even though Brandon had only committed his first offense, he was still harshly sentenced even though the prosecutor and the judge were both black. He said that while black people had made it into positions of power, they contributed to racist stereotypes that harmed the black community. “How was it that only the last 50 years as this country embarked on an experiment the likes of which the world has never seen, an experiment in locking up people the likes of which the world has never seen either? How was it that so many of my own community went along for the ride, got caught up, ended up thinking that these policies made sense?” he asked.

Forman talked about the highlights of his argument presented in the book and the need for change. He said that the first thing to understand is how the rise in crime, violence and addiction, and the fear and the anger those created in black communities. The epidemic of drugs, crime, prosecution and the fear of prosecution lead many of the black community’s members living in cities to feel constantly unsafe, even in their own home.

Jesse Berwanger (berwangerjesse@gmail.com) is a law student at Widener University Delaware Law School.

Philadelphia Takes Steps to Close the Civil Justice Gap

By Julia O’Connor

A national movement has developed to address the “civil justice gap.” Philadelphia’s courts have responded by joining this movement and assisting in the creation and operation of several court-based help centers to aid unrepresented litigants. The Public Interest Section and the Civil Gideon and Access to Justice task forces presented the Philadelphia Bar Association CLE titled “Access to Justice in the First Judicial District: Achievements and Aspirations” at the 2017 Bench-Bar & Annual Conference in Atlantic City on Oct. 13. The panel, moderated by Anita Santos-Singh, executive director of Philadelphia Legal Assistance, included Hon. Anne E. Lazaras, Superior Court of Pennsylvania; Hon. Sheila A. Woods-Skipper, President Judge, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas; Hon. Marsha H. Neifield, President Judge, Philadelphia Municipal Court; Molly Callahan, legal director at Women Against Abuse; and Renee Danser, deputy director at Self-Represented Litigation Network and former district court administrator, 43rd Judicial District of Pennsylvania. The program addressed pressing questions about how the courts and legal aid community are dealing with a crisis in the civil justice system due to a staggering number of unrepresented litigants and a severe funding deficit for legal aid. This crisis makes a judge’s obligation to ensure fairness in the courtroom much more challenging.

The work of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas’s new Elder Justice and Civil Resource Center was highlighted by President Judge Woods-Skipper. The center has been operating weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. since October 2016. It provides unrepresented litigants pro se information, legal resources and free legal advice from volunteer attorneys and law students. President Judge Neifeld, talked about the Landlord/Tenant Legal Help Center, a collaborative project operated in Municipal Court. It is open weekdays from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and staffed by legal aid attorneys who provide advice and limited representation to tenants facing eviction. Callahan talked about the Family Court Help Center, where unrepresented litigants are assisted by volunteer family law and legal aid attorneys with information about custody proceedings. It is open on weekdays from 12 to 3 p.m.

Judge Lazarus spoke about the need to share information about these innovative initiatives and other best practices information across the Commonwealth. Danser provided an overview of best practices implemented in other jurisdictions. The presentation also showcased some of the shared aspirations of the Philadelphia judiciary and the legal aid community, including securing dedicated funding to support the operations and expansion of the help centers, increasing pro bono work and improving technology tools for unrepresented litigants. In closing, the panelists said that there is more to be done, and that there is a need to continue “moving the movement.”

Julia O’Connor (joconnor@philabar.org) is the public interest and communications intern at the Philadelphia Bar Association.
DACA
continued from page 12
through Congress,” Paciorek said, “but the Dream Act had been presented to Congress many times and there had been no significant legislation, so President Obama created DACA as temporary relief until Congress takes action."

Another highly debated proposal is the Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act, because its definition of a ‘gang’ was considered by the panel to be too broad. “Under the act, the government could deny visas to suspected gang members, but a gang can be any group of five or more people engaged in activity such as drug offenses, or harboring undocumented immigrants,” Paciorek said.

“Trump made certain promises when he ran for president, and he is going down the list of closing the borders and getting rid of supposed gang members,” Castor Hess said. “What took place in Charlottesville earlier this year shows that there is a part of our population that thinks DACA kids do not deserve deferred action.”

Elisa C. Advani (eadvani@paworkinjury.com), associate at Martin Law, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

‘Fixer’
continued from page 13
to the Rules of Professional Conduct, as an agent for lawyers and law firms, Farley was not phased. When asked whether he would divulge a client’s confidential information to mitigate the risk of reasonably certain bodily harm or death to a third party, Farley said that he has nothing to learn from his client that may cause someone bodily harm or death.

He said he is driven by what his clients need to keep their reputations, lives, companies and worlds intact. He has utilized hackers and con-artists and said he has no qualms making content from newspapers disappear by threats or intimidation.

Farley presented an image of a capable individual who can make anything happen at any given time. In doing so, he will cross lines that those in the legal profession would not. When faced with a world-crushing crisis, he may be the last resort to ensure tomorrow arrives.

Farley quoted from “Scandal,” “I am a monster, but I am your monster. So let me do these things for you.”

Jon-Michael Olson (Jon-Michael.Olson@Phila.gov) is an assistant city solicitor in the City of Philadelphia Law Department.

Gerrymandering
continued from page 14
who are not allowed to vote, in the district where the prison is located, and not in their home districts. These tactics give party leaders significant influence over the outcomes of the elections.

Geffen said that until we correct the flaw in the electoral process, our votes are essentially meaningless. The panel noted that House Bill 722 and Senate Bill 22 have been introduced in both the Pennsylvania House and the Senate. These bills are bipartisan redistricting reform bills aimed at ending gerrymandering in PA by putting an independent citizens commission in charge of redistricting.

The goal for the independent citizens commission would be to draw equitable lines to reflect an accurate depiction of the population and community, free from partisan and financial influence. In a fair district, voters can make real choices at the ballot box.

The panel agreed that there is a long road ahead and reiterated the importance of ending gerrymandering, including enacting the proposed bills and amending the PA Constitution. To change the law before the next redistricting process begins in 2021, a bill must pass both houses before the end of the session in July 2018. Pennsylvania residents are urged to contact their legislators in support of the bills. It’s about making sure that the politicians do not get to choose us, but we get to choose them.

Regina M. Parker (RParker@tthlaw.com), partner at Thomas, Thomas & Hafer LLP, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Using Responsible Investing to Engage the Next Generation

Much like discussions about philanthropy, conversations focused on responsible investing can help build bridges between generations. For this month’s interview, I sat down with Michael McIntyre, CFA®, senior investment advisor, PNC Wealth Management®, to discuss the benefits of starting a family dialog about responsible investing.

Mary Ashenbrenner (MA): How would you describe responsible investing?

Michael McIntyre (MM): Responsible investing covers a range of strategies. Generally it’s an approach to investing that aims to incorporate environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors into investment decisions. Other terms, such as socially responsible investing, impact investing, and activism have all been used to describe investment solutions that reflect investors’ values.

MA: What kind of impact can responsible investing have on the performance of an investor’s portfolio?

MM: ESG issues can be difficult to quantify monetarily and aren’t part of traditional financial analysis, but they do have the ability to affect the risk and return of an investment. ESG investing screens for investments that incorporate environmental (climate change, pollution, energy efficiency), social (human rights, community relations, data protection, privacy), and governance (how a company operates) factors.

MA: What is proxy voting service and how does it relate to responsible investing?

MM: Advisors may assist clients with voting proxies in accordance with their values and beliefs. Proxy advisory services can guide shareholders who may typically forgo voting because they feel uninformed on issues. Proxy guidelines are designed for investors seeking to support ESG shareholder resolutions and support the long-term social impact of the companies in which they invest. They are a form of activism.

MA: How can wealth holders engage the younger generation with the topic of responsible investing?

MM: With several responsible investing strategies available, it may be easier to engage heirs in conversations about topics they feel passionate about and how their values fit with their investment plans. This broad spectrum of options may make it easier for wealth holders who are hesitant about integrating investments with what they might consider a more philanthropic mandate to dip their toes in the water. Whether individual stocks, a mutual fund with a high rating for a particular ESG area of interest, or a private equity investment focused on making an impact in a specific area, responsible investing can connect with the values of younger generations and help accommodate their wealth levels and investment goals.

MA: Are millennials receptive to the idea of responsible investing?

MM: A hallmark of many millennials is their undeniable commitment to philanthropy and social responsibility. They typically have an earnest desire to create a lasting and positive impact on the world, infusing that desire into multiple aspects of their lives—their work, social lives, and community engagement. Many millennials are concerned about the effects of their actions and seek to proactively affect change. In our experience, millennials who are aware of a way to build their values into their investing will likely respond positively to conversations about responsible investing.

MA: How does a dialog about responsible investing unfold within a family?

MM: It’s important for parents and grandparents to listen to younger family members and understand not only what causes are important to them, for example, the environment, but also how they see themselves affecting change. It’s equally important to understand if they’re interested in acting proactively, passively, or both. Because millennials tend to be committed to actively making an impact, they might be most interested in conversations about the types of investments that address their cause—for example, excluding companies that employ practices considered harmful to the environment, making investments in opportunities that address solutions for environmental sustainability, or both.

MA: What can the older generation do to help confirm that their values are passed along to their children?

MM: Preparing heirs for their future responsibilities surrounding wealth is one of the most important steps a family can take to help navigate successful wealth transfer. Education takes many forms and should include topics that garner attention and interest. Responsible investments could provide a way to appeal to the next generation’s hearts and minds, creating pathways to explore family values and learn the wealth basics necessary to be successful wealth stewards.

MA: What role might the family’s wealth advisors play regarding responsible investing?

MM: Wealth managers can be a significant resource to help families build their knowledge base around responsible investing. They can work with individual family members and the family unit as a whole to help create an environment in which to explore issues important to successful wealth transfer, using responsible investing as a starting point.

Mary E. Ashenbrenner (mary.ashenbrenner@pnc.com or 215-585-1041) is a senior vice president with PNC Wealth Management.

The material presented in this article is of a general nature and does not constitute the provision by PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. (“PNC”) or its affiliates of investment, legal, tax, or accounting advice to any person, or a recommendation to buy or sell any security or adopt any investment strategy. Opinions expressed herein are subject to change without notice. The information was obtained from sources deemed reliable. Such information is not guaranteed as to its accuracy. You should seek the advice of an investment professional to tailor a financial plan to your particular needs. For more information, please contact PNC at 1-888-762-6220.
Individual LPL Coverage

Leaving a Firm? What Happens to Your LPL Coverage

From the Philadelphia Bar Association

PhiladelphiaBar.org December 2017 Philadelphia Bar Reporter

When a lawyer leaves a firm, he has more to think about than how long his new commute will be and what his new office will be like – more importantly, he needs to think about his lawyers professional liability (LPL) coverage, and whether or not it will follow him to his new place of employment.

If the law firm remains an ongoing entity after the lawyer leaves, he is usually covered as a former member of the firm for claims arising from services rendered while he was with the firm, assuming the firm retains its coverage.

Extended Reporting Coverage

However, if the firm divides or dissolves at some point thereafter and does not buy extended reporting period (ERP) or “tail” coverage for the term upon its termination, then there may be no coverage for the lawyer for any claims made after that. ERP is not typically made available to an attorney or law firm as a standalone product; it is only available in combination with a previously issued claims-made policy.

In most instances, his new firm’s insurance policy will cover only the lawyer’s acts on behalf of the new firm, leaving a potential gap. Most carriers will not provide coverage for claims arising from the acts or omissions of the lawyer prior to joining their client’s firm, even if the new firm wishes to do so. USI Affinity offers prior acts coverage available for lawyers joining a firm during the policy period (a new lawyer application and underwriting approval are required).

Going Solo?

A lawyer leaving a firm to go into solo practice may be able to purchase his own prior acts coverage in connection with a policy issued to cover his solo activities, and there may be an option under his former firm’s policy to purchase an individual ERP. A “part-time” policy might also be an option for lawyers who are doing a limited amount of work.

For more information about defending malpractice allegations, contact Rich Balasa, senior professional liability consultant at USI Affinity, today at (800) 265-2876 x 1144.

For more information about USI Affinity, visit the Philadelphia Bar Association Insurance Exchange at www.usiaffinityex.com/PhiladelphiaBar. For Lawyers’ Professional Liability and other business coverage, you can continue to visit the regular Philadelphia Bar Association Insurance Program website at www.mybarinsurance.com/PhiladelphiaBar. If you’d like to talk to someone about insurance and benefits options for Philadelphia Bar Association members, call USI Affinity Benefits Specialists at 1-855-674-0367.

For over 75 years, the divisions of USI Affinity have developed, marketed and administered insurance and financial programs that offer affinity clients and their members unique advantages in coverage, price and service. As the endorsed broker of the Philadelphia Bar Association Insurance Program, USI Affinity has the experience and know-how to navigate the marketplace and design the most comprehensive and innovative insurance and benefits packages to fit a firm’s individual needs.

LEGAL ADVISORY UPDATE FROM USI AFFINITY

Leaving a Firm? What Happens to Your Individual LPL Coverage

By David I. Grunfeld

If you make food an integral element of this trip, you will never view an American Italian restaurant or pizzeria the same way again.

Start in Florence, the capital of Tuscany, a magnificent city with many world-class museums, palaces, churches, plazas, shops (especially leather) and other attractions. It is a visually beautiful city and you will work up an appetite walking the narrow winding streets, many paved with cobblestones.

Any restaurant will have numerous pasta dishes. The pasta is al dente, nothing like the traditional over-boiled way we get it here. “The sauce (not gravy) or pesto, is mild but seasoned, not the heavy marinara we are used to. And there is no “spaghetti and meatballs.” There is Bolognese, with ground meat, veal, eggplant, boar or other meats.

An excellent and not over-priced restaurant walking distance (the whole town is walkable) from the famous Ponte Vecchio (“Old Bridge”) is Osteria Giovanni, on Moro Street, where you will be greeted by the diminutive owner, who will bring complementary appetizers and desserts. Fabulous porcini mushrooms were also in season.

I have not even mentioned the tasty bread, best when slathered with local olive oil instead of butter, or the thick and hearty minestrone and vegetable soups.

When I say lunch can be a ham-and-cheese sandwich, I mean Parma ham and prosciutto, and cheese like pecorino. When I say pizza, I mean thin crust, not overly tomato-ed, and with any topping imaginable.

For dessert, in the restaurants or in numerous storefronts, there is gelato unlike our ice cream - rich and creamy, with dozens of flavors, including almost every fruit.

In short, imagine a week of great pasta, white and meatballs. There is Bolognese, with ground meat, veal, eggplant, boar or other meats.

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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. Lunches are $9 for members and $15 for non-members, unless otherwise indicated. Register online for most events at PhiladelphiaBar.org. Unless otherwise specified, all checks for lunches and programs should be made payable to the Philadelphia Bar Association and mailed to Bar Headquarters, 1101 Market St., 11th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2955.

Dec. 1
Custody Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., O’Neill, 10 a.m., 11th Floor Committee Room South.
PhiladelphiaBar.org.

Dec. 4
Cabinet: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th Floor Board Room.

Dec. 5

Dec. 6
Delivery of Legal Services Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th Floor Board Room.
Law School Outreach Committee: meeting, 10 a.m., 11th Floor Committee Room.
CLE - Recent Developments in Cross-Border Competition Class Action Litigation: 12:30 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Center. Register: PhiladelphiaBar.org.
Criminal Justice Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th Floor Committee Room South.

Dec. 7
LRIS Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 11th Floor Committee Room South.

Dec. 8
FREE CLE – Who Is My Client?: 9 a.m., 11th Floor Conference Center. Registration is full.
CLE – Current Topics in Investment Company and Investment Adviser Regulation: 12:30 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Center. Register: PhiladelphiaBar.org.
The Philadelphia Lawyer Editorial Board: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th Floor Board Room.

Dec. 9
CLE – Bridge the Gap: 9 a.m., 11th Floor Conference Room. Register: PhiladelphiaBar.org.

Dec. 11
Civil Rights Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th Floor Board Room. Lunch: $9.

Dec. 12
CLE – Defensive Document Drafting: Driving Isn’t the Only Time to Keep Your Guard Up: 12 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Center. Register: PhiladelphiaBar.org.
Law Firm Pro Bono Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., Ballard Spahr LLP, 1735 Market St., 51st Floor, Philadelphia.

Dec. 13
Employee Benefits Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th Floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $9.

Dec. 14
Philadelphia VIP Board: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th Floor Board Room.
Senior Lawyers Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th Floor Committee Room South.

Dec. 15

Dec. 18
Public Interest Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th Floor Board Room.

Dec. 19
Business Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th Floor 10th Floor Board Room.

Committee Room South.
Foundation Board: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th Floor Board Room.

Dec. 20
Federal Courts Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Center. Lunch: $9.

Dec. 21
Family Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th Floor Committee Room South.
Solo, Small and Mid-Size Firm Management Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th Floor Board Room. Lunch: $9.

Dec. 25
Christmas: offices closed.

Dec. 26
Day After Christmas: offices closed.

Dec. 28

Dec. 30
Philly Jeans for Justice - 2017:

STAFF IN THE NEWS

Mark A. Tarasiewicz, executive director, Philadelphia Bar Association, was recognized as an Outstanding Voice of the LGBT Community by the Philadelphia Business Journal.

Meredith Z. Avakian, director of communications and marketing, Philadelphia Bar Association, received the DeAnn White Award for Excellence in Community Service from the Philadelphia Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

Charles J. Kiltch, director of public and legal services, Philadelphia Bar Association, presented on attorney experience requirements and on the importance of diversity and inclusion at the 2017 ABA National Lawyer Referral Workshop in Portland, Ore.
Jeanne Schubert Barnum, partner at Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP, was honored by her firm with the 2017 Earl G. Harrison Pro Bono Award on Oct. 19.

Lawrence S. Felzer, senior director of finance and operations, SeniorLAW Center, Reggie Shulford, executive director, ACLU of Pennsylvania, and Brian McInnis, associate, Fox Rothschild LLP were recognized as Outstanding Voices of the LGBT Community by the Philadelphia Business Journal.

Stephen A. Cozen, founder and chairman of Cozen O’Connor, has been appointed to the board of managers of The Philadelphia Foundation.

John Gullace, partner at Manker, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, accepted the Best 2016-2017 Committee Award as chair of the Superfund and Natural Resource Damages Litigation Committee of the American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy and Resources.

Suzanne Mayes, attorney at Cozen O’Connor, has been named to the board of directors for Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Montgomery.

Howard J. Davis, partner at Kleinbard LLC, was recently elected to serve as chair of the board of the Abramson Center for Jewish Life.

Roberta D. Liebenberg, partner at Fine, Kaplan and Black, was appointed by the president of the American Bar Association to serve as cochair of the ABA’s Presidential Initiative on Achieving Long-Term Careers for Women in Law.

“People” highlights news of members’ awards, honors, or appointments of a community or civic nature. Send news to Thomas E. Rogers, senior managing editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, at trogers@PhilaBar.org.

Former Chancellor David H. Marion, pictured with Chancellor Deborah R. Gross, received the 2017 James Wilson Award from the University of Pennsylvania Law School on Oct. 26.

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FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, Sidney L. Gold & Associates, P.C. has dedicated its practice to the field of employment law and civil rights litigation. The firm’s attorneys take great pride in serving as both aggressive and compassionate advocates for victims of unlawful discrimination and harassment. As a result, the Martindale-Hubbell® Bar Register has certified Sidney L. Gold & Associates as a pre-eminent law firm in the field of labor and employment law. More than 4,500 lawyers throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey look to Sidney L. Gold & Associates to refer their clients.

With a team approach, the firm’s attorneys represent clients in all aspects of employment law litigation, including all forms of workplace discrimination, sexual harassment, wrongful termination, retaliation, whistleblower, employment contract, wage and hour, and Family and Medical Leave Act claims. A boutique practice with a small-firm atmosphere, Sidney L. Gold & Associates provides personal attention to its clients, who, at the same time, benefit from the experience and expertise of the entire team.

Sidney L. Gold & Associates is proud of its skilled attorneys and is honored by the recognition Super Lawyers® has bestowed upon this year’s recipients.

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