By Jeff Lyons

U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia will present the inaugural Justice Antonin Scalia Award for Professional Excellence at the Association’s April 29 Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon.

For a limited time, tickets will be available only to Bar Association members and their guests. A more general sale will be available later for the event, which will be held in the Grand Ballroom at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets.

Tickets are $55 and can be ordered online at www.philadelphiabar.org or by using the coupon on Page 4 of this newspaper.

“Justice Scalia is a true gentleman and a scholar, always mindful of the old adage that one can disagree without knipes cohen

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Bar Association to Honor Justice Scalia

by Gabriel L.I. Bevilacqua

Benjamin Franklin said, “The door to wisdom is always open.”

Oh, I know Franklin said a lot of things: some clever; some insightful; some provocative and some downright silly. But I think this is one of his most insightful observations. Because when Franklin talked about the door to wisdom always being open I think he was trying to tell us that we never stop growing intellectually as long as we are willing to listen, share, discover and respectfully learn from the experiences, background and knowledge of others. Reference to and respect for the opinions and views of others are key markers of a true professional.

And I believe this willingness to learn and grow in a spirit of collegiality lies at the heart of what we have come to know as “professionalism.” Indeed, do any of us have the right to be called a professional if we do not treat our colleagues with respect and demonstrate civility by showing a willingness to understand others and learn from them? These qualities go hand-in-hand with integrity, high ethical standards and the unending pursuit of professional excellence. This is why continuing legal education for both the bar and the bench is so important. But CLE alone is not enough. We’ve got to be willing to incorporate everything we learn into the way we live our lives. To do this, it helps to celebrate exceptional role models along the way.

This is a great honor for our Association. When I explained this new award to Justice Scalia and asked him to join us, he did not hesitate to say “yes” and he’s very much looking forward to being with us.

Justice Scalia’s journey from nearby Trenton, N.J. to the nation’s highest court is a modern American success story. The son of a Sicilian immigrant and a first-generation American, he was imbued with the value of learning and respect for the opinions of others from the start. Both his parents were teachers. They taught him to be ever-curious and relentless in the pursuit of knowledge. They also imparted their own cherished values.

Justice Scalia’s dedication to scholarship, learning and high ethical standards remains unquestioned. The Chicago Tribune has noted that Justice Scalia pursues lively intellectual exchanges not just for the sake of argument but to challenge his own notions and beliefs as well as the beliefs of others. In fact the newspaper points out that Scalia annually hires a law clerk “whose views are at odds with his own and listens carefully to what the clerk has to say as a check on his natural inclinations.”

At the same time, Justice Scalia does not exalt mere knowledge itself as the font of enlightenment. He is suspicious of sophistry. To be sure, learning is of little worth without values and high ideals.

And here is another important characteristic of a true professional. To keep your life in balance; to understand the limits of scholarly pursuits, especially within your own discipline; to know that how much you do not know is the most important thing you need to know, to engage life fully and optimistically on all fronts with a constant willingness to embark on new endeavors. Oliver Wendell Holmes said a person “should share in the action and the passion of his times at the cost of being judged not to have lived.”

To all of these traits I would add a sense of humor – a vital human characteristic. In this regard, it has been reported that Justice Antonin Scalia is one of the few people who can make fellow Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg laugh (according to the justice herself).

On April 29 we will be celebrating the fullness of life that is exemplified by a true professional in our midst. We will honor one of our colleagues whose life demonstrates these worthy characteristics that we identify with “professional excellence.”

I hope you will join Justice Scalia and ABA President Dennis W. Archer and I at the luncheon when we present the first Justice Antonin Scalia Award. It will be an occasion to remind ourselves that “the door to wisdom is always open” and professionalism is the ideal we should all strive to achieve.

Gabriel L.I. Bevilacqua, a partner at Saul Ewing LLP, is Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. His e-mail address is chancellor@philabar.org.

Congratulations

To the Editor:

Congratulations to Mr. Gabriel Bevilacqua on being installed as the 77th Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. It was your interview on WHYY radio that prompted me to send this mail. Mr. Bevilacqua, you’re a symbol of the old-fashioned success story of the immigrant family who sought the great American dream and achieved it. You make me proud to be an Italian American. Good luck on achieving it. You make me proud to be the great American dream and the unending pursuit of professional excellence. This is why continuing legal education for both the bar and the bench is so important. But CLE alone is not enough. We’ve got to be willing to incorporate everything we learn into the way we live our lives. To do this, it helps to celebrate exceptional role models along the way.

In my remarks at the Annual Meeting I said that we would single out extraordinary accomplishment and commitment to professionalism within our legal community with a new award for professional excellence. Accordingly, the inaugural Justice Antonin Scalia Award for Professional Excellence will be presented by Justice Scalia himself at our Spring Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon on April 29.

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Gabriel L.I. Bevilacqua, a partner at Saul Ewing LLP, is Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. His e-mail address is chancellor@philabar.org.

Time Well Spent

Steve Liberti

To the Editor:

Long, overdue cheers for the Philadelphia Bar Reporter’s content, design and writing quality. In addition to the outstanding work of the staff, thanks to our colleagues for giving their time and talent to our publication. In particular, cheers and thanks to Bruce Bikin for his last commentary (January 2004) on the state of our nation. I hope our Bar Association carries his message to the outside media and our elected officials. It’s time we bring these constitutional concerns to our citizens.

-Arlene Jolles Lotman
Women in the Profession Committee

Insight, Hope From Breast Cancer Survivors

by Jeff Lyons

Even though breast cancer isn’t the leading killer of women in the United States, it is the disease women fear and dread the most.

“There’s no way to anticipate if we’re going to get it,” Lynn Yaekel, director of the Institute for Women’s Health and Leadership at Drexel University College of Medicine, told members of the Women in the Profession Committee at their Jan. 15 meeting. Yaekel moderated a panel discussion on breast cancer that included Dr. Lydia Komarnicky, chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Drexel, and breast cancer survivors Lynn A. Marks, executive director of Pennsylvanians for Cancer Survivors, and Lisa Kabnick, a partner at Reed Smith LLP.

Marks said she first discovered the lump in her breast while lying in bed one night and reading. “I found the lump and thought ‘oh no, that couldn’t be.’ I ignored it and hoped it would go away. One year later I was told I should have a double mastectomy,” she recalled.

Dr. Komarnicky said a breast cancer diagnosis is not a death sentence. “With early diagnosis, this is a very treatable disease,” she said. But she said patients need to realize that their treatment is key to survival.

“We try to accommodate patients’ schedules when it comes to treatment, but your life comes first. You have to come in for your treatments. We try to get patients to understand to get treatment right the first time,” she said.

Dr. Komarnicky, herself a survivor of a malignant kidney tumor said when patients are diagnosed with cancer, it becomes a time of disbelief. “You’re almost numb when you find out. You don’t even cry about it, you’re so floored by the whole thing,” she said.

Kabnick said she worked as an attorney for 14 years before she was diagnosed with breast cancer. But for her, it was important to keep her life going and not to slow down with work. Her main concern was what to tell her children, who were 5 and 9 at the time.

“The only advice I got was to maintain my routine and not disrupt anything with the kids. I was maintaining the status quo at work with my clients but I wasn’t doing any client development because of my treatments. My perspective was that I couldn’t let everything I worked for all those years fall apart because I got breast cancer,” she said.

Marks said there aren’t any rights or wrongs when it comes to telling people that you have breast cancer.

“For me, it was easier to tell people I had breast cancer. I felt it was important to tell the people I work with. You’re going to look and feel different when you have treatments. You have lots of medical appointments to keep. Your productivity will decline,” she said. “People at work are going to find out anyway, so you might as well tell...”

continued on page 9

SCALIA

continued from page 1

being disagreeable,” said Association Chancellor Gabriel L.I. Bevilacqua. “In my mind, he personifies the ideals of professionalism and collegiality: I can’t think of a better exemplar for this new annual award.”

Joseph V. Del Raso and William M. Janssen are co-chairs of the Scalia Award Committee. Details and criteria for nominations will be available at a later date.

Justice Scalia, a Trenton, N.J. native, is a graduate of Georgetown University (summa cum laude in 1957) and the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. He received his LL.B. from Harvard Law School and was a Sheldon Fellow of Harvard University from 1960 to 1961. He served as an editor of the Harvard Law Review.

Justice Scalia was in private practice in Cleveland from 1961 to 1967. He left private practice in 1967 to become a Professor of Law at the University of Virginia from 1967 to 1971.


Justice Scalia was appointed to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. by President Ronald Reagan in 1982. He quickly established himself as a leading conservative judge on what was generally acknowledged as the nation’s most liberal appellate court.

Frequently exercising his right to dissent, he remained faithful to his earlier published views of the judicial role. In cases concerning libel law, sexual discrimination under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Gramm-Rudman budget control measure, he wrote opinions that expressed his judicial philosophy: strict interpretation of the Constitution and legislative statutes and maintenance of the power of traditional institutions.

When Chief Justice Warren Burger announced his retirement in 1986, President Reagan quickly named Justice William Rehnquist as Burger’s successor and appointed Justice Scalia to succeed Rehnquist. Confirmed unanimously by the Senate, Justice Scalia became the first Italian-American to sit on the Supreme Court on Sept. 26, 1986.

Predicting judicial performance on the Supreme Court has always been a tricky and imprecise business. An article in the Nov. 5, 1990 issue of Newsweek noted that “Scalia sticks with his ideological cards. That tenacity, combined with a sharp pen and mind...also have made him the most provocative justice.”

Justice Scalia is married and has nine children.

Philadelphia Bar Association Spring Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon

Thursday, April 29 at Noon at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue, Broad and Walnut Streets

• Featuring U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia’s address to the Bar membership

• Presentation of the inaugural Justice Antonin Scalia Award for Professional Excellence

Please make: ___ reservations for the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon. Tickets are $50 for members and $55 for non-members. Checks should be made payable to the Philadelphia Bar Association.

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Looking for a special way to remember someone?

Through the Special Way to Remember program, you can honor a colleague or loved one with a contribution to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. Since 1964 the Bar Foundation has distributed millions of dollars in attorney gifts and other funds to public interest groups that provide counsel and assistance to the poor, disabled, elderly and children in our community. Your gift will help serve the needs of Philadelphians who have nowhere else to turn for legal services.

If you would like to make a gift to the foundation as a meaningful expression of respect, please call (215) 238-6554.

ABA Seminar Focuses on Race and Constitution

The American Bar Association held its 23rd National Law-Related Education Leadership Seminar on Race and the Constitution on Jan. 15 at the National Constitution Center. Speakers included (from left) Pennsylvania Bar Association President-Elect Michael H. Reed; Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Ida K. Chen; Chancellor Gabriel L.I. Bevilacqua; Peter Irons, professor of political science at University of California, San Diego; Mabel McKinney-Browning, director of the ABA’s Division for Public Education; and David A. Collins, ABA National Law Day Chair.

Bar Continues Annual Tradition

Chancellor Gabriel L.I. Bevilacqua (top left photo) is joined by (from left) Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice J. Michael Eakin, Vice Chancellor Alan M. Feldman and Chancellor-Elect Andrew A. Chirls. Chancellor Bevilacqua gets help (above) with his boutonniere from his wife Phyllis just before the reception at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue. Bevilacqua greets Third Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Anthony J. Scirica (left photo) at the reception. More than 600 people greeted the new Chancellor at the Jan. 8 event.

Photos by Jeff Lyons

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Looking for a special way to remember someone?

Through the Special Way to Remember program, you can honor a colleague or loved one with a contribution to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. Since 1964 the Bar Foundation has distributed millions of dollars in attorney gifts and other funds to public interest groups that provide counsel and assistance to the poor, disabled, elderly and children in our community. Your gift will help serve the needs of Philadelphians who have nowhere else to turn for legal services.

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PHILADELPHIA BAR FOUNDATION
Promoting Equal Access to Justice

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Photos by Jeff Lyons
Get Connected Through Mentoring

by Kim R. Jessum

For experienced attorneys, mentoring is an easy way to get connected to less experienced attorneys (proteges) and give something back to the profession. For proteges, mentoring provides a great opportunity to gain advice from professionals outside of their firms on topics spanning the gamut from career development to family life to Bar involvement.

Why should I be a mentor and/or protege?

Mentoring relationships can prove extraordinarily beneficial to both your career and your personal life. I speak from experience: over the past several years, I have had several mentors whose guidance deeply impacted my future. My first mentor, my supervisor at my first job after college, not only trained me at work, but also went beyond his job requirements and aided my efforts to enter law school. His assistance included arranging meetings with attorneys, reviewing my application essays and providing letters of recommendation. I continue to keep in touch with my first mentor even though he now resides in England.

As an attorney, I have had important mentors as well. Through the Women in Profession Committee mentoring program, I developed a close relationship with an attorney whose invaluable advice in areas ranging from the question of whether to change firms to enhancing communication with clients led me to make wise choices. Moreover, through our relationship, I became involved in the Business Law Section and made many new contacts in Philadelphia.

The tremendous influence of these and other mentors in helping me achieve such goals of attending law school and attaining success in my future. My first mentor, my supervisor whose guidance deeply impacted my years, I have had several mentors at different experience levels.

The YLD also provides several opportunities for young lawyers to mentor high school students. Those of us who have not been practicing very long can still provide mentoring to law students, high school students, and even younger students. I have personally mentored a first-year law student deciding what courses she should take and a college student making career choices. Extending myself in this way enabled the student to clarify her objectives and reach decisions, and thus, gave me great satisfaction.

How do I get a mentor and/or protege?

The YLD, like many other organizations, provides a mentoring program for young lawyers and law students. In this program, proteges and mentors first complete a mentoring questionnaire. Based on the information provided in the questionnaire, the proteges are matched with mentors in either traditional one-on-one relationships or group settings with attorneys at different experience levels.

This past fall, the YLD distributed the mentoring questionnaires through e-mail, the Association Web site and mailings. We received so many law student questionnaires asking for attorney mentors that we have been unable to provide mentors for all of these students. Therefore, the YLD is asking for your help by becoming a mentor to at least one law student. To download a mentoring questionnaire, visit www.philadelphiabar.org.

The YLD also provides several opportunities for young lawyers to mentor high school students. Those who are able to commit ample time, protege, make an effort to build the relationship. If you have not seen that person in a while, send an e-mail or pick up the phone to arrange a lunch meeting. It is important to keep the lines of communication open. Setting a schedule of meetings is a useful way to keep the relationship going.

Mentors, in particular, should strive to build trust in the relationship and to maintain that trust at all times. As a mentor, you should:

- Be a friend.
- Set realistic goals and expectations.
- Have a good time.
- Listen.
- Be positive.
- Allow your protege to select most of the conversation topics.
- Respect the trust your protege places in you.
- Remember that you are responsible for strengthening the relationship.

Following these simple guidelines will lead to a long and beneficial relationship.

Kim R. Jessum, an associate at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP, is chair of the Young Lawyers Division. She can be reached at kjessum@morganlewis.com.

Palawlibrary.com Discount Available

Palawlibrary.com – the most comprehensive and thorough online legal research service dedicated to Pennsylvania law – is now available to Philadelphia Bar Association members at special discounted rates.

The new service is now accessible at www.philadelphiabar.org, where full details are available.

Palawlibrary.com has more Pennsylvania county court opinions than any other online legal research tool. Additionally, it searches Pennsylvania court opinions, legal newspapers (The Legal Intelligencer and Pennsylvania Law Weekly), jury verdicts and settlements, trial listings and suit filing information.

The site also features daily court notices, Pennsylvania Dec Report, and Pennsylvania state and local court rules.

Philadelphia Bar Association members can now save nearly 50 percent off palawlibrary.com monthly and annual rates. As an added bonus, Association members receive exclusive discounts on Jenkins services, including CLE, (does not apply to Jenkins membership) and on annual subscriptions to The Legal Intelligencer, Pennsylvania Law Weekly and Law Journal newsletters. A 30-day free trial of the service is also available to members.

Web check

Become a mentor! To download a mentoring questionnaire, visit www.philadelphiabar.org.

What do I do once I have a mentor and/or protege?

Now that you have a mentor or protege, make an effort to build the relationship. If you have not seen that person in a while, send an e-mail or pick up the phone to arrange a lunch meeting. It is important to keep the lines of communication open. Setting a schedule of meetings is a useful way to keep the relationship going.

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Committee Offering Diverse Programming

by Nicole D. Galli

The Women in the Profession Committee will hold two additional programs on women’s health issues in 2004, covering the topics of heart health and stress management as well as mental health issues.

The series will continue to be moderated by Lynn Yeakel, director of the Institute for Women’s Health and Leadership at Drexel University College of Medicine, who will be joined by a panel of attorneys and health professionals for each program.

The Committee expects to have a health professional teach at least one stress management exercise during the program, scheduled for June 17. For the final installment of our health series, Janet Perry, special counsel and director of professionalism at Pepper Hamilton LLP will discuss recent ethics opinions in this area. That program is scheduled for Sept. 21.

Many other programs are also being planned. In February, a program on interacting with the media is planned. We expect to bring in representatives from various media outlets who often interview lawyers, as well as lawyers who appear in the media, to discuss the best way that one’s message can be conveyed and how to work well with the media.

In March, we are planning a program in conjunction with the conference of women judges that will be held in Philadelphia. In April, we will have a program with several women attorneys in Philadelphia who are “rainmakers” to hear how they achieved success in business development and hopefully learn from their experiences.

Then in May we will be joined by Joni Daniels, a prominent Philadelphia-area based consultant and trainer and the author of “Power Tools for Women,” to continue with our professional skill development efforts.

In July, we will host a second installment of our enormously successful panel featuring prominent Philadelphia women lawyers. Last year’s panel, attended by approximately 100 attorneys and summer clerks, was one of the highlights of our year, so be sure to mark your calendars and plan to bring your summer clerks. In October, we will have a program in conjunction with the 2004 Sandra Day O’Connor Award, hopefully including the 2004 Award winner. For November, we are planning a program on women attorneys in government. And finally in December, we will have our annual Holiday Celebration with past co-chairs.

Our ongoing activities include our mentoring groups. We have four active mentoring groups comprised of generally between 10-20 women of various experience levels and areas who meet on a regular basis under circumstances of complete confidentiality to discuss issues of concern. We frequently add members to these groups, so if you would like to join one or would like more information, please contact group mentoring program coordinator Kim Boyer at kboyer@mdwe.com or 215-575-2702.

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CANCER

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them."

Kabnick said that telling people about her breast cancer actually enhanced her practice: “Everyone has a story to tell. Everyone knows someone, whether it’s their sister, mother, aunt or cousin, who has had cancer. This disease touches so many people. And by telling people, it opened a lot of relationships for me,” she said.

All of the panelists agreed that breast cancer patients should reach out for help if they need it. They also said friends, family and co-workers should not feel awkward about offering help.

“Be open and honest and ask what you can do to help. That’s the easiest way to help someone,” Kabnick said.

“I really didn’t want to ask for support at first,” said Marks. I didn’t want to bother anyone. But there’s no reason for you to go through this alone. But people want to help.”

Women in the Profession Committee Co-Chairs Nicole M. Galli and Sayde J. Ladov (second and third from left) pose with panelists (from left) Lynn A. Marks, Lynn Yeakel, Dr. Lydia Komarnicky and Lisa Kabnick before the Committee’s Jan. 15 meeting. The meeting was the first in a series examining women’s health issues.

Kabnick also suggests having a friend or relative take care of updating people on your condition through an “e-mail tree.” She said relaying the story of treatment over and over can be exhausting for a patient.

When you’re being diagnosed, Dr. Komarnicky said it’s important to bring someone along with you to take notes and answer questions. I always encourage patients to have family members and friends come along,” she said.

Dr. Komarnicky also said technology and medicine are continually advancing and offering patients an even brighter outlook. “There are wonderful new drugs and diagnostic tools now available to help you,” she said.

Members of the Gay and Lesbian Lawyers of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Chapter of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association and local members of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association gathered for a joint Holiday Party on Dec. 6 at the National Liberty Museum. Pictured from left are Robert Drake, president, National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, Philadelphia Chapter; Michelle Rodriguez, GlaxoSmithKline Regional Sales Director, HIV; Jack Spradley, GlaxoSmithKline Direct for Sales Operation; and Lawrence S. Felzer, chair, Gay and Lesbian Lawyers of Philadelphia.
State Civil Committee Discusses Discovery Issues

The State Civil Committee discussed discovery disputes and heard Chancellor Gabriel L.I. Bevilacqua’s plans for a new Civil Litigation Section at the Committee’s Jan. 7 meeting.

Chancellor Bevilacqua said one of the primary reasons for the creation of the new section was to have a separate voice within the Association for civil litigators. The proposed section will be discussed in detail at a future meeting of the State Civil Committee.

Marc R. Steinberg, president of the Montgomery County Bar Association, discussed how his county assigns and handles discovery disputes. Steinberg, a Montgomery County Common Pleas Court discovery master, was joined by Montgomery County Pleas Argument Court Supervisor Jackie McAllister and Pat Ranieri, Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas deputy court administrator.

Steinberg said the program is staffed by five experienced lawyers who handle all civil discovery disputes, relieving the judges from resolving discovery disputes. For contested discovery matters, there is an approximate four-week period in which the matter proceeds to resolution before the discovery master. The discovery master then submits a recommendation to the judge who either adopts or rejects the recommendation.

Ranieri and McAllister said the use of discovery masters in Montgomery County has significantly reduced the backlog and delay in cases such that a matter proceeds to trial in short order after a praecipe is filed with the court. It has also helped in resolving complex discovery issues involving privileged or confidential documents.

Committee members wondered if discovery masters would be feasible in Philadelphia. Among the major issues discussed at the meeting were the volume of contested matters resolved by the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas on a weekly basis (approximately 200 per week); the number of discovery masters needed for any such program; the ability to obtain sufficiently qualified attorneys to serve as discovery masters; and the amount of time required to be committed by a discovery master without any compensation. After much discussion, the committee decided to appoint a subcommittee to analyze the use of discovery masters and to analyze other discovery court issues.

Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Sandra Mazer Moss spoke about a new test program in Philadelphia Discovery Court in which discovery disputes are separated into two separate lists, one beginning at 9 a.m. and the other at 11 a.m. As the test program progresses, the committee will hear more about whether the program is improving the amount of time attorneys wait before having contested motions decided. Judge Moss also advised the Committee that the court is reviewing proposed rule changes, which will be submitted to the committee for comment.

Bar Foundation Changes Hands

Edward F. Chacker, President of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, shakes hands with outgoing Foundation President Gerald A. McLough Jr. at the Foundation’s Jan. 6 meeting as Foundation Executive Director Maureen Mingey looks on. Chacker will lead the Foundation during 2004.

Examine Hi-Tech Courtroom Feb. 4

The State Civil Committee’s next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 4, in the new high-tech courtroom (Courtroom 625) in City Hall. Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Administrative Judge James J. Fitzgerald III and Supervising Judge William J. Manfredi will introduce the program.

Daniel Bupp, courtroom technologist for the Court of Common Pleas, will present a demonstration of the courtroom’s capabilities. The presentation will be followed by a wine and cheese reception in the City Hall Law Library, Room 600. Contact sschrenk@philabar.org for more information.
Burton’s ‘Fish’ Quite a Catch

by Marc W. Reuben

The average viewer of Tim Burton's latest bit of chiaroscuro, "Big Fish," might be inclined to find this eye-filling film a bit rambling, as it moves from reality to myth, carrying bits of each as it basses by. This is a rambling movie about a rambling storyteller. The film tracks the fantastic imagination of its protagonist, a character ominously named Bloom, played exquisitely by Albert Finney (the adult) and Ewan McGregor as the youthful Edward Bloom.

Bloom is a salesman who lived a life filled with giants and mermaids and journeyed through war and death with great charm. It seems as if Bloom is selling happiness, and fantasy played a large part in his oeuvre. His son, played by Billy Crudup, seems to have lost the ability to appreciate the big fish stories his father invented and the friction between the two men is the point at which the fascinating adventures of the father are unfolded as the son seeks to find the truth in his father's fantastic stories. That the movie reaches a totally predictable ending is not important, since the film is not so much plot as unfolded wonder and the ability of myth to enhance the ordinariness of life.

Those expecting to see a cohesive story in this strikingly artistic motion picture will probably come away only slightly satisfied. There are endings. But the movie is mostly about unanswered questions and how myth (or lying, as Crudup likes to remind us) can be used to juice up the unvarnished, and often dull, facts. Facts in this film are not always the truth.

What Burton has done is provide a beguiling picture of sentimental life, painted from an endlessly varied palate, to entice viewers through what is admittedly a fractured journey. The film, with its broken narrative and dreamlike production, mirrors the dream-filled stories of its characters as they progress through the telling. The result is extraordinary. The coalescence of fact and fiction would have been biblical had there been less humor in the production. There was not a bad performance in the entire film, and the canvas is painted in brighter hues than normally seen in a Burton opus. The result is hypnotic.

I do not think that an average viewer would likely appreciate the film in its entirety. While there are a number of explosions and monsters, much of the movie is about the manner in which myth can amplify reality and how it can be used creatively to provide prospective to the ordinariness of life. Those who follow mythological fairy tales as if they were fact are as ill served in this film as those who cannot see the useful charm in them. Spirituality and charm hardly seem the stuff of Hollywood success. Yet here are they both combined. Verily.

Reality intrudes into this film just often enough to show how the telling of tall tales unites people into understanding lots of things. That the tales are essentially untrue seems not to matter, and this is a very good result. Anyone who does not appreciate this object lesson will have to take this film on the basis of what is viewed from the screen. The movie is often funny (Danny DeVito and Steve Buscemi provide excellent and hilarious support), and the entire cast works perfectly.

If you choose to stay home on Fri.-continued on page 13
It’s been a while and I know I have a lot of catching up to do with you as to what’s been going on administratively with our Bar Association. A lot of changes have been made in our operations and there are more in the offing. We have dedicated ourselves to completely enhancing our technological capabilities. For example, the Association is now a “hot spot.” Those of you who come to Association offices for meetings, lunches and CLE programs will have the opportunity to bring your laptops with wireless capability connected to your office and the Internet. In addition, we are confident that 2004 will see a complete makeover of our Web site that will have as its overall mission providing our members with up-to-the minute news about the Association, its committees and sections, as well as links to research components, financial, national and international news.

We have completed a modest reconfiguration of our offices, adding a new conference room, as well as providing additional space for our Bar Foundation.

Yet, we have a long way to go. I perceive some disconnects from the Association. I guess I shouldn’t be surprised given the ample data suggesting that people generally do not appear to be the “joiners” their older colleagues were. Indeed, books such as Bowling Alone, pointed out with a great deal of specificity that the traditional associations, clubs and other voluntary commitments have been dropping off precipitously, calling into question America’s traditional involvement in civic and social life.

For us the anomaly is not a crisis in membership numbers – something we continually watch. It’s a crisis of “involvement” as real commitment and participation in the life of the Bar Association seems to be declining.

A paradox exists in which a totally connected technology-based society has simultaneously left us and other professional organizations deeply concerned regarding membership participation and continuation of the Association’s ethos and mission.

In the process of strengthening our own commitment to tech development are we helping ourselves in the long run ensuring personal involvement in the life of the Association? Do all the e-mails, e-alerts, chat rooms, Web sites, audio/video streaming, etc., add up to deeper personal commitment to “my” Bar Association; or are we choking off the future lifeblood of the Association with so much fiber optic cable?

The fantastic strength of this Association has been its diversified membership. Its meetings (committees, sections, special events) have been the breeding grounds for lively discussions eyeball to eyeball with colleagues leading to consensus and resolution. That’s three-dimensional! I worry that all this tech stuff will result in a regression to a boring two-dimensional society – devoid of involvement and passion.

So what’s it gonna be? I guess we’re too far down the road to sound any kind of retreat. Am I swinging the pendulum too far – one way or the other, or is there a mid-point of tech/personal involvement comfort? We’ll soon see.

Kenneth Shear is executive director of the Philadelphia Bar Association.
Pay Attention to Body Language in Job Interview

by James LaRosa and Gary Mintz

An important area to be aware of as you prepare for your job interview is your body language. Some experts say that nonverbal communication reveals more about a person than verbal communication. According to these studies, body language comprises more than half of the force of any response, whereas the verbal content provides a very small percentage, and “paralanguage,” or the intonation, pauses and sighs given when answering, represents just under half of the emphasis. Since nonverbal communication is more accurate than verbal communication, such actions can reveal a lot about you to an interviewer. While it is “easy” to say things that may be a slight embellishment, your body language is subconscious. Body language is more natural and less controlled, and it is therefore more likely to reveal what we are actually thinking and feeling. Body language is therefore a critical element in your presentation in a job interview.

When interviewing, it is important to realize that you are being judged from the instant you arrive at the office. It is therefore imperative that you arrive on time, preferably five to 10 minutes early. This will allow you to compose yourself and present yourself in your best image.

Once you have arrived and checked yourself in the bathroom mirror, sit in the waiting room and relax. Many experts suggest that when waiting for an interview, you should not review the notes you have prepared. This could create an impression of nervousness. Instead, read a magazine or newspaper. This creates the impression that you are relaxed, and can help you project confidence right from the outset.

Once the interviewer is ready to see you, don’t jump up and don’t be overly aggressive when offering a handshake. Try to be casual but confident. Look the interviewer straight in the eye, and shake hands firmly but not too forcefully.

If the receptionist leads you to the room where the interview is to take place, enter the room with confidence. Knocking on the door or peering in shows hesitation and can be seen as a sign of timidity and a lack of confidence. If directed, sit in the chair to which the interviewer directs you. If you are not directed to sit in a particular chair, choose a chair that is across from the interviewer’s desk. If you are interviewing with more than one person, try to choose a seat that allows you to easily see all of the interviewers. Try to avoid soft chairs or couches as it is difficult to maintain good body language in these types of chairs.

Another critical component of body language is eye contact. The amount of eye contact you make can depend upon whether you are the speaker or the listener. If you are the listener, it is important to maintain eye contact to indicate that you are interested in what the person is saying. Try to keep your eyes focused between the eyebrows and the nose of the person with whom you are speaking. Don’t keep eye contact for more than 7 to 10 seconds as this can cause the interviewer to be uncomfortable. Eye contact is not as important when you are speaking, as too much eye contact can convey that you are in charge and are requiring the listener to listen to you.

There are volumes of information on the art of body language. This article was written to give you a very general overview of the importance of good body language. It is important to be aware of the importance of body language and incorporate these pointers as appropriate. You don’t want to be so focused on your body language that you become anxious and are unable to relax.

James LaRosa, Esq. and Gary Mintz, Esq. are recruiters with JuriStaff, Inc., the exclusively endorsed legal staffing agency of the Philadelphia Bar Association. LaRosa can be reached at (215) 751-9100, extension 302 or via e-mail at jl@juristaff.com; Mintz can be reached at (215) 751-9100, extension 315 or via e-mail at gmintz@juristaff.com.

Committee Hears State of Court

Federal Courts Committee Chair Rudolph Garcia (from left) meets with U.S. District Court Chief Judge James T. Giles and Clerk of Court Michael Kunz before the Committee’s Jan. 21 meeting. Judge Giles reported on the state of the court.

ARTS & MEDIA

continued from page 11

day nights, you can tune into a program called “Joan of Arcadia.” (CBS, Fridays at 8 p.m.) a dangerously intelligent program that is far too metaphysical for public taste. Of all the popular programs that deal with spirituality, this one lacks the halos and harp strumming the usually provide the “uplifting” programs seen on the public airways. This one deals with some serious issues (fear, most specifically, and the power it has to bend human behavior) and doesn’t whisk them under a carpet of backlighting and inspirational music. Hope is the antidote, and it is found in the midst of imperfect endings.

Television melodrama does not compare with truly artistic creations like “Big Fish.” But it is nice, once in a while, to see some thought going into television programming.

Marc W. Reuben, a sole practitioner and advisory editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter, has been writing about the arts and media since 1973.
Board, Sections, Committees Reorganize

Association Officers
Gabriel L.J. Bevilacqua
Chancellor
Saul Ewing LLP
Centre Square West
1500 Market St., 36th Floor
Philadelphia, Pa. 19102
Phone: (215) 972-8448
Fax: (215) 972-1823
gbevilacqua@saul.com

Ronald A. Kovler
Chair
Kovler & Rush, PC
225 S. 15th St., 12th Floor
Philadelphia, Pa. 19102
Phone: (215) 755-5476
Fax: (215) 755-9057
kjlaw@aol.com

Patrice A. Toland
Vice Chair
Post & Schell, PC
1800 JFK Boulevard, 19th Floor
Philadelphia, Pa. 19105
Phone: (215) 587-1095
Fax: (215) 520-4776
ptoland@postschell.com

Board of Governors
Daniel-Paul Alva
Alva & Associates
1601 Market St., Suite 690
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103
Phone: (215) 665-1405
Fax: (215) 665-0185
dpalva@yahoo.com

Mark N. Cohen
Margolis Edelstein
601 Walnut St.
The Curtis Center, 4th Floor
Philadelphia, Pa. 19106
Phone: (215) 951-5848
Fax: (215) 922-1772
mcohen@margolisedelstein.com

Laura A. Feldman
Feldman & Pinto
1604 Locust St., #2R
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103
Phone: (215) 546-2604
Fax: (215) 546-9904
lfeldman@feldmanpinto.com

Richard F. Furia
Furia & Turner
1717 Rittenhouse Square
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103
Phone: (215) 985-4500
Fax: (215) 985-2824
rfuria1717@aol.com

Cheryl L. Gaston
City of Philadelphia Law Department
1515 Arch St., 16th Floor
Philadelphia, Pa. 19102-1595
Phone: (215) 685-5115
Fax: (215) 685-5097
cherylgaston@phila.gov

Alexander B. Giacobetti
117 S. 17th St., Suite 1600
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103
Phone: (215) 563-6800
Fax: (215) 563-6800
AGB1515@aol.com

Marla A. Joseph
Sacks, Weston, Smolinsky, Albert & Lubers
510 Walnut St., Suite 400
Penn Mutual Towers
Philadelphia, Pa. 19106
Phone: (215) 925-6200
Fax: (215) 925-0508
mjoseph@sackslaw.com

Marsha L. Levick
Juvenile Law Center
1315 Walnut St., 4th Floor
Philadelphia Building
Philadelphia, Pa. 19107
Phone: (215) 625-0551
Fax: (215) 625-2808
mlevick@jlc.org

Stephen A. Madva
Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads LLP
125 S. Broad St., 24th Floor
Philadelphia, Pa. 19109
Phone: (215) 772-7600
Fax: (215) 772-7620
smadva@mmwr.com

Gregory B. Mathews
Wachovia Corp.
125 S. Broad St., 17th Floor
Philadelphia, Pa. 19109
Phone: (215) 670-6088
Fax: (215) 670-6907
greg.mathews@wachovia.com

Robert W. Meek
Disabilities Law Project
1515 Walnut St., Suite 400
Philadelphia, Pa. 19107
Phone: (215) 230-8670
Fax: (215) 772-3126
RMeek@dlp-pa.org

Richard Negrin
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
1650 Arch St., 22nd Floor
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103
Phone: (215) 963-5000
Fax: (215) 963-5299
rnegrin@morganlewis.com

Molly Peckman
Pepper Hamilton LLP
3000 Two Logan Square
18th & Arch Streets
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103-2799
Phone: (215) 981-4265
Fax: (215) 981-4750
peckmann@pepperlaw.com

Mark W. Tanner
Feldman, Shepherd, Wohlgelernter & Tanner
1845 Walnut St., 25th Floor
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103
Phone: (215) 567-0553
Fax: (215) 567-8333
mtanner@fswtlaw.com

Honorary Members
Allan H. Gordon
Kolbsby, Gordon, Robin, Shore & Bezard
One Liberty Place, 22nd Floor
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103
Phone: (215) 851-9701
ahg@kgrn.com

Audrey C. Talley
Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
One Logan Square
18th & Cherry Streets
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103
Phone: (215) 989-2719
Fax: (215) 989-2757
audrey.talley@dbr.com

Jane L. Dalton
Dunne Morris LLP
1650 Market St., Suite 4200
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103
Phone: (215) 972-8448
Fax: (215) 972-1823
gdbevilacqua@saul.com

Patrice A. Toland and Ronald A. Kovler meet during a break at the Board of Governors Retreat on Jan. 17 in Atlantic City, N.J. Kovler is chair of the Board of Governors in 2004. Toland was named vice chair at the Retreat and will lead the Board in 2005.
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.

Monday, Feb. 2

Public Interest Section Executive Committee – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room.
Family Law Section – meeting, 4 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Tuesday, Feb. 3

Philadelphia Bar Foundation Board of Trustees – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room.

Wednesday, Feb. 4

Delivery of Legal Services Committee – meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
State Civil Committee – meeting, 4 p.m., Courtroom 625, City Hall.

Thursday, Feb. 5

Civil Rights Committee – meeting, 12:15 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee – meeting, 12:15 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Philadelphia Bar Reporter Editorial Board – meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room.

Friday, Feb. 6

The Philadelphia Lawyer magazine Editorial Board – meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Monday, Feb. 9

Business Law Section Executive Committee – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room.

Tuesday, Feb. 10

Criminal Justice Section Executive Committee – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room.
Solo and Small Firm Committee – meeting, 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Thursday, Feb. 12

Legislative Liaison Committee – meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
Lunch: $7.50.
Committee on the Legal Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men – meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room.

Friday, Feb. 13

Women’s Rights Committee – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

Monday, Feb. 16

Presidents Day – Bar Association offices closed.

Tuesday, Feb. 17

Board of Governors Cabinet – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room.
Wednesday, Feb. 18

Workers’ Compensation Section Executive Committee – meeting, 10:30 a.m., 11th floor Committee Room.
Workers’ Compensation Section – meeting, noon, 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.
Federal Courts Committee – meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

Thursday, Feb. 19

Family Law Section Executive Committee – meeting, noon, 11th floor Committee Room South.
Women in the Profession Committee – meeting, noon, 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.
Insurance Programs Committee – meeting, 10th floor Cabinet Room.

Friday, Feb. 20

Social Security and Disability Benefits Committee – meeting, noon, 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Tuesday, Feb. 24

Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room.
Criminal Justice Section – meeting, noon, 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Wednesday, Feb. 25

Committee on the Legal Rights of Persons with Disabilities – meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room.

Thursday, Feb. 26

Lawyer Referral and Information Service Committee – meeting, noon, 11th floor Committee Room.
Board of Governors – meeting, 4 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Friday, Feb. 27

Business Law Section Human Resources Committee – meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Exclusive offer for Philadelphia Bar Association members: Save up to 50 percent at palawlibrary.com

Unless otherwise specified, all checks for luncheons and programs should be made payable to the Philadelphia Bar Association and mailed to Bar Headquarters, 1101 Market St., 11th Fl., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-2911. Send Bar Association-related calendar items 30 days in advance to Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-2911. Fax: (215) 238-1267. E-mail: reporter@philabar.org.
Names Are News

“People” highlights news of members’ awards, honors or appointments of a civic or community nature. Information may be sent to Jeff Lyons, Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th floor, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-2911. Fax: (215) 238-1267. E-mail: reporter@philabar.org. Photos are also welcome.

Ronald A. Kovler, a partner with Kovler & Rush, PC, and chair of the Board of Governors, presented the CLE seminar “Automobile Insurance - The Nuts and Bolts of Coverage” at the Harcum College School of Continuing Studies on Dec. 11.

Benjamin E. Leace, a shareholder with RatnerPrestia, was a speaker at the Madrid Protocol 101 conference held Dec. 9 in Philadelphia.


Sharon Humble, managing partner at Linebarger Goggin Blair & Sampson, LLP, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Commercial Real Estate Women, Philadelphia Chapter.

Barry L. Cohen of Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP was a speaker at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute course “E-Commerce: Legal and Practical Issues” on Dec. 16.

Kevin R. Casey, a shareholder with RatnerPrestia, recently discussed opportunities for scientists in the corporate world at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute’s symposium “Biotechnology: Innovate, Opportunity and Commercialization.”

William B. Howard, a member of Cozen O’Connor, has been reappointed as co-chair of the Environmental Coverage Subcommittee for the American Bar Association Litigation Section’s Insurance Coverage Litigation Group.

John E. Gallace, a partner with Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, has been appointed vice chairman of the Lower Merion Township Environmental Advisory Council.

Gerald A. McHugh Jr., a partner at Litvin, Blumberg, Matusow & Young, has been elected to membership in the American Law Institute.

Jacob A. Hopkins, an associate with Kletz, Harrison, Harvey, Branzburg & Ellers LLP, has been elected to the Wilma Theatre Board of Directors.

Douglas J. Kent, a shareholder with Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, was a contributor to the recently published “AIC 55 Property Loss Adjusting,” 2003 edition, published by the American Institute for Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters and the Insurance Institute of America.

Theodore Simon, a sole practitioner, organized a fund-raising initiative in which approximately 100 members of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers donated $25,000 to the National Constitution Center. The attorneys’ names will appear on a plaque to be displayed inside the Center.

Law Offices of Windle & McLane, PC, has changed its name to Lamb McLane PC. The name change was prompted by the return of Justice William H. Lamb who recently completed a term on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Lamb will serve as chairman of the firm.

Gregory B. Williams, a partner at Fox Rothschild LLP, was honored by the Barristers’ Association of Philadelphia with the “Distinguished Under 40 Award” at the Association’s Jan. 19 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast.

Matthew H. Kamens, of counsel at Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen LLP, was awarded the Philadelphia Estate Planning Council’s 2005 Distinguished Estate Planner Award at the group’s Jan. 21 luncheon.

Neil Andrew Stein, co-founder and principal of Kaplin Stewart Meloff Reiter & Stein, P.C., has been appointed solicitor to Whittemarsh Township, Pa.

Kenneth E. Aaron, a partner at Weir & Partners LLP, has been elected chair of the Lower Merion Township Zoning Board.

Day of Service

Volunteers and staff members from Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program gather at Shiloh Baptist Church on Christian Street for a walk-in legal clinic to help mark the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 19.
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