Four New Standing Committees Established

By Jeff Lyons

Four new standing committees have been created by Chancellor A. Michael Pratt to better serve the needs of the Association's membership.

The new committees include Corporate In-House Counsel, Employee Benefits, Insurance Law and Intellectual Property.

“These are emerging practice areas for our membership that we felt were under-represented in our committee structure,” Pratt said. “These new committees will give even more Philadelphia lawyers the opportunity to get involved with our Association.”

Douglas Gaston and Marilyn Hefley are co-chairs of the Corporate In-House Counsel Committee. The Employee Benefits Committee is co-chaired by Albert D. Dandridge III, Molly Peckman and Rosemary Pinto.

Chancellor’s Reception

By Jeff Lyons

The Association’s Annual Bench-Bar Conference returns to Bally’s Atlantic City again this year, for two days of education and camaraderie on Friday, Sept. 19 and Saturday, Sept. 20.

Nearly 400 judges and attorneys attended the 2007 Bench-Bar Conference. This marks the fifth consecutive year the Conference will be held in Atlantic City. This year’s Conference is co-chaired by Albert D. Dandridge III, Molly Peckman and Rosemary Pinto.

“We’re looking forward to another fantastic weekend of education and socializing,” said Chancellor A. Michael Pratt. “The Bench-Bar Conference is a great venue for lawyers to get to know judges, and each other, better while gaining insight in their chosen fields of practice.”

Bally’s offers more than 1,700 seats, making Atlantic City the perfect destination for lawyers and judges to come together and enjoy two days of education, networking and socializing.

This year’s Bench-Bar Conference will be held Sept. 19 and 20 at Bally’s Atlantic City.
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Association Moves to Tear Down Impediments to True Diversity

By A. Michael Pratt

American attorney was promoted to partner. I hope that the roughly 350 African-American nonpartners currently employed at those 20 firms will have a better chance at partnership in the near future.

In the Philadelphia legal community, much attention has been focused on this issue.

Lawyers of color continue to make up a small percentage of law firm attorneys and less than three percent of law firm partners.

In some large firms, minority lawyers are now hired more aggressively but often find long-term success elusive due to a lack of mentoring and practice development opportunities.

Our law firms and legal departments can do better. Much better.

This is why it is not only important, but absolutely critical, that we enact bold, sweeping measures to tear down these impediments to real diversity. And your Bar Association is setting the standard on this issue.

This year, the Association will take decisive action to move us toward real diversity.

“...I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

As we celebrate the birth day of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., I honor his memory by listening again to a series of his most memorable speeches. This particular line is one of my favorites; it is also one of the most quoted (and misused) in America.

I, like all of you, long for the day when King’s dream that we judge people only by the “content of their character” becomes a reality. Unfortunately, we continue to have much more to do in this regard. We have made some progress in this country – and in the legal profession – in achieving a level of racial inclusion and acceptance. We need only look at Barack Obama’s historic performance in the Democratic caucus and primary and the overwhelmingly white states of Iowa and New Hampshire. No matter how cynical you are about the state of race relations, you must admit that Obama’s showing in these two states shows progress.

But for this country to truly move forward and break down the remaining barriers to racial inclusion, we must not be afraid to talk openly and honestly about how to achieve the meaningful inclusion of minorities in the upper mainstream of society.

In our legal community nationwide, studies show that while there have been small and consistent increases in the proportion of minority lawyers in large law firms, it has been slow progress at best. In many medium and small firms, the progress is even worse.

Last year, for the first time, the Minority Law Journal asked firms to report how many of the new partners added during the calendar year – whether promoted or hired laterally – were minority lawyers.

According to the results, some 2.1 percent of newly promoted partners were African American; 5.5 percent were Asian American; and 2.4 percent were Hispanic. That means in most cases that firms are far from promoting at rates that reflect the number of minorities in the general legal population.

And here’s the most telling statistic, according to the Minority Law Journal: Among the 20 most diverse firms on their scorecard, which together made 160 new partners last year, exactly one African-American partner.

The annual process of updating more than 18,000 attorney entries and nearly 1,700 law firm listings in Philadelphia and the surrounding Pennsylvania counties, southern New Jersey and northern Delaware is now complete.

The Legal Directory 2008 also includes all the indispensable information you’ve come to rely on – Bar Association by-laws, contacts and committees; information on federal, state and county courts and government agencies; judges’ indexes; corporate counsel listings; and a special business-to-business section tailored to the legal community.

Each copy of The Legal Directory 2008 comes with a free subscription to The Legal Directory Online! Online listings for both attorneys and law firms are updated year-round, making this resource an essential complement to your printed directory. The Legal Directory Online features links to court rules, area bar associations and more! All are only a mouse-click away.

Don’t be confused by imitators – this is the only official publication of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

It’s time to place your order for The Legal Directory 2008, the official publication of the Philadelphia Bar Association. With the addition of hundreds of new attorney listings, it’s the most comprehensive volume we’ve ever produced.

Order now at a special pre-publication price of $57.95 (plus shipping and tax) – that’s $20 off the regular price. Ordering early ensures you’ll have the most current information about the Philadelphia legal community as soon as it’s published and distributed, beginning in April. The price will soon increase, so take advantage of the special pre-publication savings!

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Don’t be confused by imitators – this is the only official publication of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Correction
A caption in the January edition of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter misidentified Terry Fromson, winner of the Public Interest Section’s Andrew Hamilton Award. Fromson is managing attorney at the Women’s Law Project. The Bar Reporter regrets the error.

To order The Legal Directory 2008, visit thelegaldirectory.org.
The Philadelphia legal community is known for its commitment to pro bono service. Philadelphia firms are often recognized for their outstanding pro bono number and strong pro bono policies, and individual Philadelphia attorneys are lauded both locally and nationally for their public service work. In 2007, we continued that tradition of excellent service.

The Pro Bono Committee, a sub-committee of the Association’s Delivery of Legal Services Committee, consists of members from both the private and public sectors, working together to support the development and delivery of pro bono services.

In 2008, we are pleased to report that our ongoing initiatives to support and deliver pro bono services continue, and we have worked tirelessly on a new calendar of trainings to facilitate the recruitment of new volunteers to pro bono.

The training calendar arose out of a discussion with area law firm pro bono coordinators who suggested having a calendar of pro bono training sessions. In addition, the coordinators recommended having the trainings on a more regular schedule, either the same day of the week or the same time each month.

We are pleased to announce the new training calendar. Each training is sponsored by one or more Philadelphia public interest agencies, to ensure both a diversity of training topics and to respond to emerging needs in the community. The training calendar, we hope, will serve as a bridge between the private sector and the public sector, as well as accomplish our goal of recruiting more volunteers for pro bono work.

In addition to our new initiatives, the committee continues to focus on its goals for 2007-2008, including offering regular Open Houses and Pro Bono Road Shows, continuing to promote poverty law practice groups at area firms, and involving pro bono service in special events, including the Bench/Bar conference in September. Finally, the committee again co-sponsored a legal clinic for the Martin Luther King Day of Service.

Sara Woods and Marsha Cohen are co-chairs of the Delivery of Legal Services Committee Pro Bono Subcommittee.

Best wishes to our friend and colleague, Stephanie Resnick, in her tenure as Chair of the Board of Governors of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

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Board of Governors Retreat

Former Chancellors (above, from left) Abraham C. Reich, Francis P. Devine III, Audrey C. Talley, Alan M. Gordon and Andre Dennis meet at the Board of Governors Retreat at Harrah’s Atlantic City on Jan. 11. The former Chancellors discussed the responsibilities of Bar leadership. Philadelphia City Council members (below, from left) James Kenney and Blondell Reynolds Brown, and Ahmeenah Young, executive vice president and general manager of the Pennsylvania Convention Center, were panelists for a program on working together to improve the city. The panel was moderated by Vice Chancellor Scott F. Cooper and also included Paul Levy of the Center City District and Brett Mandel of Philadelphia Forward.

City’s Leaders Star in Bar’s New Video Podcast Series

The Bar Association has crafted a new series of quick, sharp video podcasts, which complement an already extensive audio podcast lineup. The Leadership Video Podcast Series features prominent Philadelphians discussing their roles as leaders, revealing who inspired them as leaders, and outlining what kind of leadership the city needs right now.

The series kicks off with an interview with A. Michael Pratt, the Association’s new Chancellor, and also features interviews with Mural Arts Program Director Jane Golden, Wireless Philadelphia CEO Greg Goldman and School Reform Commission Chairwoman Sandra Dungee Glenn.

Pratt cites his mother and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as leaders who have inspired him. Golden says she drew tremendous inspiration from renowned Los Angeles muralist Judy Baca; Goldman points to local leaders who have inspired him, including Project H.O.M.E.’s Sister Mary Scullion; and Dungee Glenn draws her leadership inspiration from Congressman Chaka Fattah and her late brother.

Accessing these videos is as easy as accessing the audio podcasts: Current subscribers to the Bar Association’s “Hot Interviews with Very Cool People” audio podcasts will automatically receive these video podcasts. If you are not yet a subscriber, go to the Association’s Podcast homepage – philadelphiabar.org/page/Podcast – and sign up.

The videos can be downloaded and viewed on a video iPod, or similar handheld device. Of course, with a simple click, Web site visitors can watch the videos directly on their computer.

The Association has dozens of audio podcasts with programming featuring major bar events, speaker programs, law practice management advice and more.

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It’s a new year for a new Philadelphia! With Michael Nutter moving into the mayor’s office, Philadelphia is entering a new phase. The January 2008 Greater Philadelphia Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service program couldn’t have been a better way to help the city off on the right foot during the mayor’s first weeks in office.

As part of the Day of Service program on Jan. 21, The Homeless Advocacy Project, Philadelphia VIP and Senior-Law Center sponsored a free legal clinic for low income, homeless and senior residents of Philadelphia. Held at Germantown High School, the clinic gave people access to lawyers who offered legal advice and referrals.

The clinic assisted clients with matters like landlord tenant issues, emergency housing and shelter, advanced planning documents, birth certificates and identification and a whole range of other concerns.

HAP’s Marsha Cohen led this collaboration, and for the second year of the initiative the three agencies pooled their resources to recruit lawyers, to do outreach to the community and to get volunteers of all stripes to participate in this “one-stop-shop” for legal services. The clinic was a way for lawyers and the legal community to become involved in what is now one of the largest MLK Day of Service events in the country. For some of the 32 private bar attorneys who signed up to help, this was their first experience with pro bono work in the low-income community.

As members of the Bar Association’s Delivery of Legal Services Committee, the three participating organizations had easy access to other public interest legal organizations to recruit volunteers and to get the word out to potential participants. This effort was in keeping with the spirit of cooperation and collaboration that is the hallmark of the DLSC.

The Philadelphia Bar Foundation and the Bar Association make collaborative efforts like the MLK Service Day possible. Each month, we bring together more than 30 organizations that provide these legal services to network and to discuss emerging issues. These meetings promote the spirit of team-building and partnership that bring programs like the MLK Day to life.

Philadelphia has a terrific network of legal services providers. The Bar Foundation provides these organizations with critical general operating funds so that they are able to undertake new programs and seek new ways to serve at-risk members of the community.

The MLK Day of Service is just one example of the projects underway among our legal service providers. Your support of the Bar Foundation makes these efforts possible. With one gift, you are supporting more than 30 organizations, each of which is making an important difference in the community and in the lives of individual Philadelphians. As Marsha Cohen said, “The Foundation’s support of our three agencies makes our very existence possible, and without our existence, there wouldn’t be such a clinic to serve this low income community, in the community, on that day.”

There is a new enthusiasm about the future of Philadelphia. Make an investment in this future by making a donation to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation to make access to justice possible for those Philadelphians who need our help the most.

Elaine Rinaldi, a partner at Cozen O’Connor, is president of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

By Elaine Rinaldi

Volunteer attorneys gather for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service at Germantown High School on Jan. 21. More than 30 volunteers offered free legal advice at the event.

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

Philadelphia VIP volunteers serve their clients with compassion and offer hope to those without. Philadelphia VIP is proud to recognize volunteers who are truly helping achieve access to justice for all.

This month Philadelphia VIP recognizes Shanese Johnson of Shanese I. Johnson and Associates, PC, for outstanding volunteer assistance to her clients.

Johnson is a member of the executive committee of the Family Law Section and serves as secretary. She has been a volunteer with Philadelphia VIP since 2004. Johnson represents VIP clients in complicated and long-term family law cases. She shows her dedication to VIP clients by counseling them on their multiple legal issues involving property and personal finances.

In a recent divorce case that Johnson accepted, she worked patiently with the client to evaluate if the client qualified for bankruptcy. Johnson offered the client her representation when the client was ready to proceed with the divorce.

For more information about Philadelphia VIP or to become a volunteer, visit phillyvip.org.
Judges Laud Success of Commerce Program

By Heather J. Holloway

Judge D. Webster Keogh, administrative Judge of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, does not envision any dramatic changes to the First Judicial District’s Commerce Court program. “If it ain’t broke, don’t break it,” Judge Keogh told members of the Business Litigation Committee on Jan. 15.

Keogh, who was joined by Supervising Judge Esther R. Sylvester, commented on the success of the program, which has disposed of approximately 670 cases since its inception in 2000. The success of the program, according to Keogh, is apparent from the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas’ intent to implement a similar program modeled after the Philadelphia program. This, according to Judge Keogh, “is the highest form of flattery.”

Judge Sylvester provided an update as to the status of the electronic case filing system that is now being tested. Test commerce, medical malpractice, and complex civil litigation cases are being processed through the system by a select group of attorneys and their staff. Thus far, staff members have commented that the system is easy to use. Likewise, experienced court employees, under the supervision of Charles Mapp, deputy court administrator for the Civil Division, are also initiating cases through ECF and there have been no glitches. Committee meetings continue in an effort to finalize the system, which will mirror the system that has been successfully utilized by the Orphans’ Court since 2005.

Judge Keogh expects that the Civil Division’s ECF system will be operational during the first half of 2008. This is a delay from the expected January 2008 implementation; however, he noted that the primary concern is to make sure that the system functions properly. He said the court is using its best and brightest in-house personnel to finalize the system, an advantage over outside contractors who are not as familiar with the court’s computer systems.

According to Judge Sylvester, even after the case initiation aspect of the system is finalized, a discovery module will still need to be completed. It is intended that the ECF system will help to reduce the number of attorneys who appear for argument of discovery matters. Judge Sylvester envisions a paperless discovery practice, whereby the movant will file electronically; the court will serve the respondent electronically; the respondent may opt, electronically, not to oppose the motion; and the court will then issue an order without the need for court appearances on the uncontested matters. Only those discovery motions that are truly contested will require a court appearance.

Noting that the discovery module is still a work in progress, Judge Sylvester invited those interested in commenting or assisting in the planning to attend the Feb. 6 Rules and Procedure Committee meeting, during which the matter will be discussed. Similarly, attorneys and staff members who wish to learn more about the manner in which the ECF system will work are invited to attend Pennsylvania Bar Institute presentations on April 15, during which the system will be reviewed step-by-step. When the system is finalized, a manual also will be provided with comprehensive instructions for use.

Heather J. Holloway, an associate with Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Hundreds Greet New Chancellor

Well-wishers queue up to greet new Chancellor A. Michael Pratt (left) at the Annual Chancellor’s Reception on Jan. 9 at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia.

Chancellor-Elect Sayde J. Ladov (from left) and her husband, David, are joined by Vice Chancellor Scott F. Cooper and Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas President Judge C. Darnell Jones II.

Chancellor Pratt gets a hug from Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Annette M. Rizzo at the Chancellor’s Reception.

Superior Court Sharply Reduces Overdue Records

By Kathryn C. Harr

Addressing trends from the last year that raised issues for practitioners, Superior Court Prothonotary Karen Bramblett and Lenny Blazick of Central Legal Staff addressed the Appellate Courts Committee on Jan. 8.

Working with Judge Susan Gantman, Bramblett started a more “targeted effort” to address the problems of overdue records, including meeting with judges of the Court of Common Pleas. As a result of the effort, Bramblett cut the number of records that have been overdue for more than a year by two-thirds and is working to eliminate the problem altogether. Bramblett will take the program to the Western District next.

While Bramblett acknowledged that the transmission of incomplete records to the Superior Court continues to be a problem, she noted that it remains the responsibility of the appellant to ensure the record is complete, a responsibility of which lawyers are often unaware. Blazick added that to correct an incomplete record, lawyers may file a motion with the Superior Court noting the omissions. To address the issue, the Appellate Courts continued on page 23
To Make Rain, Get Out and Make Contacts

By Regina Parker

Successful rainmakers “get up, get out, get going,” the founder of the Delaware Valley Law Firm Marketing Group told attendees at a Law Practice Management Division networking program on Jan. 8.

Stacy West Clark explained that marketing and networking requires constant effort and preparation.

“Great rainmakers realize that relationships are where it’s at,” Clark said. She compared marketing to a contact sport and explained that marketing is putting yourself in situations where you will meet people who will buy your services. Clark stressed the importance of research and said that the most successful rainmakers understand their client’s business and industry.

To get and keep clients, Clark recommended the following marketing tools:

• Prepare a mailing list of all your contacts, including classmates, neighbors, anyone you get services from and everyone in clubs and associations you belong to. Also prepare a target list of potential clients.
  - Make a good first impression and dress the part.
  - When you dress properly, it says to your clients that you respect yourself, you’re detailed oriented and you care,” she explained. You want to demonstrate that you’re smart. Clark said that clothes for work should equal professionalism, enthusiasm and intelligence. “What they should not equal are sex appeal, coolness, current trends, your body,” she explained.
  - Clark stressed that everyone should have a 30-second elevator speech that describes what you do beyond the fact that you are a lawyer. She said the speech should be clear and concise. “What says something that makes people want to learn more is, ‘I keep people out of jail or I’m a tax lawyer to ensure that people pay the lowest taxes possible,’ ” she explained. Practice until you become comfortable with your speech.
  - Never leave home without your business cards.
  - Develop a marketing plan that is a “to-do” list for the next three months. The plan should identify three clients and three potential clients you will focus on to get work from; three referral sources you will meet with; industry and bar activities that you will participate in; and three things that involve raising your profile, such as writing an article or speaking at a CLE.
  - Formulate a great team approach with your secretary to deliver outstanding client service.

How do you select which networking event to attend? “Go to those events that present the best opportunity to make a new contact,” Clark said. Your focus should be on gathering information and starting relationships. How long should you network with someone? “The experts tell us that it’s anywhere from two to seven minutes because everybody at an event presumably would like to move on,” Clark said.

“After the networking event, you want to follow-up and fast,” she said, and plan to make contact with the person five to seven times per year. If you want to draw business, you have to put in the time and effort necessary to do it right. “Networking is a job and it requires thought for preparation because you want it to result in something,” Clark said.

The program was co-sponsored by the Philadelphia Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators.

Regina Parker, an associate with Mastioni, Ltd., is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

Podcast Spotlight
Visit philadelphiabar.org to listen to the podcast of this Law Practice Management Division program.
An attorney thinking about starting his or her own law firm should get guidance from someone who has already done it, a panel of lawyers and financial professionals told attendees of a Jan. 15 Young Lawyers Division program “How to Build Your Own Firm from Scratch.”

Moderated by May Mon Post of Cohen, Fluhr & Gonzalez, P.C., panelists included Richard K. Washington Jr. of R.K. Washington Jr. & Associates, P.C.; Adrian Harris of PNC Wealth Management; Alan Nochumson of Nochumson, PC.; and Joseph A. Prim of Duca and Prim, LLP. Introductions were made by John Conaway, the director of PNC’s Wealth Management Division. PNC was a co-sponsor and host of the event.

The first question - Why start your own firm? - was met with a range of responses from Prim’s reply that “I didn’t like where I was and decided to walk out the door” to Nochumson’s “I’m hard-headed and opinionated.”

One of the more notable responses came from Washington, who recounted the story of handing a young plaintiff’s attorney a check in excess of his own annual salary. “That makes you start thinking about other options,” he said.

Of course the advantages and disadvantages of starting a new practice drew the most attention during the discussion. Across the board every panelist agreed that starting their own firms offered them flexibility and control over their own careers.

Atop the drawbacks discussed was the pressure of maintaining the administrative component of a small business. “I spend a good part of each and every workday focusing on administrative duties,” said Prim. “Think of your own personal finances and multiply that by 10,” added Nochumson. “It can be overwhelming.”

Offering suggestions and advice for potential solos or start-ups, panelists stressed the benefits of good guidance. “Think of your own personal finances and multiply that by 10,” added Nochumson. “It can be overwhelming.”

Offering suggestions and advice for potential solos or start-ups, panelists stressed the benefits of good guidance. “Think of your own personal finances and multiply that by 10,” added Nochumson. “It can be overwhelming.”

One of the top concerns was the financial status ahead of time. Harris advises his clients to have a strong sense of their financial status ahead of time. “Go to a bank and get some guidance. Reach out to other attorneys making their own way and develop a strong business plan.”

Washington also discussed various options for physical location including virtual offices, shared spaces, and even home offices for beginners. “I have a good friend who runs a home office,” he said.

In an interesting moment of agreement, all three attorneys offered suggestions and advice for potential solos or start-ups. Panelists stressed the benefits of good guidance. “Think of your own personal finances and multiply that by 10,” added Nochumson. “It can be overwhelming.”

Offering suggestions and advice for potential solos or start-ups, panelists stressed the benefits of good guidance. “Think of your own personal finances and multiply that by 10,” added Nochumson. “It can be overwhelming.”

In closing, all of the panelists agreed that the decisions each made in starting their own firms have made them all better business people and better attorneys.

“Ultimately, success as a solo practitioner is just like success in any small business. It takes a lot of extremely hard work and a desire to do better,” said Nochumson.

Brian K. Sims is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
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continued on page 13
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continued from page 12

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Task Force on Equal Access to the Courts for Limited English-R proficient Persons
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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.

Friday, Feb. 1
Worker’s Compensation Section Executive Committee: meeting, 10:30 a.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
Worker’s Compensation Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.
LGBT Rights Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room.

Monday, Feb. 4
Family Law Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50, Tuesday, Feb. 5
Law Practice Management Division: meeting, 8 a.m., 11th floor Conference Center.
Committee on the Legal Rights of Persons with Disabilities: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Wednesday, Feb. 6
Delivery of Legal Services Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Rules and Procedures Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

Thursday, Feb. 7
Health Care Law Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.50.
Civil Rights Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Friday, Feb. 11
Business Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Young Lawyers Division Cabinet: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Cabinet Room.
Investment Companies Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.50.

Tuesday, Feb. 12
Criminal Justice Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Compulsory Arbitration Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $7.50.

Wednesday, Feb. 13
Appellate Courts Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

Thursday, Feb. 14
Bench-Bar Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.

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continued from page 17

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Thursday, Feb. 14
Bench-Bar Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Friday, Feb. 15
Social Security Disability Benefits Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Monday, Feb. 18
Presidents Day: Bar Association offices closed.

Tuesday, Feb. 19
Cabinet: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Wednesday, Feb. 20
Federal Courts Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.
Law Practice Management Division Executive Committee: meeting, 11:30 a.m., 11th floor Conference Center.
Law Practice Management Division Technology Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.
Family Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Thursday, Feb. 21
Probate and Trust Section Executive Committee: meeting, 9 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Law Practice Management Division Executive Committee: meeting, 11:30 a.m., 11th floor Conference Center.
Law Practice Management Division Technology Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Friday, Feb. 22
Public Interest Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Monday, Feb. 25
Bar-News Media Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.
Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Tuesday, Feb. 26
Criminal Justice Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.
Women in the Profession Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

Thursday, Feb. 28
Minorities in the Profession Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.
Lawyer Referral and Information Service Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room.
Elder Law Committee: meeting, 1 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.
Board of Governors: meeting, 4 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Friday, Feb. 29
Women’s Rights Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

Register online for most events at philadelphiabar.org. Unless otherwise specified, all checks for lunch 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. 19107-2955. Fax: (215) 238-1159. E-mail: reporter@philadelphiabar.org.
Leadership, Improving City are Retreat’s Focus

Spurred on by the invitation of Chancellor A. Michael Pratt, several members of the Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee participated in last month’s Bar Leaders Retreat at Harrah’s Atlantic City to learn how to be a better bar leader.

Chancellor Pratt discussed his four key initiatives - tax reform, civics education for Philadelphia students, legal services fund raising and a diversity initiative. The YLD already planned to work closely with Chancellor Pratt on the “Lawyer in the Classroom” program that had been a key component of Law Week, but now will be expanded to cover the school year and focus on teaching civics.

Many young lawyers at the retreat were especially impressed with the Bar Leadership Panel that included five distinguished former Chancellors including Andre L. Dennis (1993) and Audrey Reich (1995), Allan H. Gordon (2002), Francis P. Devine (1996), Abraham C. Ramos, former president of the Board of Education; James Eisenhower, chair of the Bar Association’s Education Funding Task Force; Shelley Yanoff, executive director of Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth; and Dr. Cassandra Jones, chief academic officer for the Philadelphia School District. Although money was highlighted as one of the greatest problems facing Philadelphia schools, Jones noted that if the Bar Association supports the Philadelphia School District, money will follow. As noted above, the YLD is committed to supporting the Philadelphia School District through “Lawyer in the Classroom” in addition to the High School Mock Trial Program and Law Week.

The final panel of the retreat involved how the Bar can work with city officials to improve the city. The panel, moderated by Vice Chancellor Scott F. Cooper, included City Council members James Kenney and Blondell Reynolds Brown; Paul Levy of the Center City District; Ahmeenah Young of the Pennsylvania Convention Center; and Brett Mandel of Philadelphia Forward. The panel focused on taxes, tourism and the service industry as the incubators for a revitalization of the city. Both Chancellor Pratt and I, through joint programming and the YLD, plan to further discuss tax reform and the revitalization of Philadelphia and its schools.

All in attendance left more informed and more focused on our mission to better Philadelphia and its schools and to support our members in the practice of law.

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In Their Own Words

Legal Talent Flourishes Throughout Our State

By Clifford E. Haines

I would imagine that every Chancellor has benefited from his or her experience in some way – whether it is personal or professional growth or just the psychic rush of such a special opportunity. While all of those things happened to me, serving as the Philadelphia Bar Association Chancellor in 1997 opened the door to my becoming the president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association in 2009. Every local bar president in Pennsylvania is automatically a member of the delegation to the PBA house of Delegates during their service and, as a result, exposed to the state Bar Association while serving the local bar. For me, that led to serving as the Zone One (Philadelphia) representative to the board of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and then my election to a leadership position.

While the Pennsylvania Bar Association serves a more professionally and culturally diverse population – most notably a large contingent of rural, small firm and solo practitioners – we in Philly too often downplay the significance of the statewide organization. Indeed it is the very opportunity to interact with lawyers from the different parts of the state that I have found so enriching. These lawyers are far from the “country bumpkins” we too often assume they are. Even assuming their politics are more conservative than ours in Philadelphia, they sat in the same classrooms we did in law school, wrestle with the same statutes and case law we do, and try to solve problems with the same deductive reasoning we do.

Putting aside the many friends I have developed in other parts of Pennsylvania, understanding that just because there are other issues more important to rural lawyers (land use, riparian rights, etc.) hardly means they just fell off the turnip truck.

There is such a wealth of talent and commitment to the same values we have throughout the commonwealth that we would all be better served by improving our respect for our professional colleagues elsewhere. That of course is a two-way street.

Lawyers in more distant places would be equally well served by improving their respect for Philadelphia lawyers. We are all in this profession together and working cooperatively is critical to our ability to be a unified voice for the profession in addressing issues like taxes on legal services.

The Pennsylvania Bar Association has been designated by the Supreme Court as the professional organization that speaks for the profession on a statewide basis. This designation in no way detracts from the significance of the Philadelphia Bar Association in the professional development of all of us, but it does establish the important place the state Bar Association holds in serving the interest of the Philadelphia lawyer in the state legislature and the Supreme Court. The unique role of the Pennsylvania Bar deserves the attention of all Philadelphia lawyers when considering the organizations to which they commit their energies.

Our professional lives are often profoundly affected by what the legislature or judiciary does, and involvement in the statewide bar, as well as the local bar, should have a meaningful place in everyone’s practice. It took becoming the Chancellor to see that simple fact for me, I hope to be able to pass it on to all Philadelphia lawyers when I become the 114th president.

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Bench-Bar
continued from page 1

guest rooms, 21 restaurants, six lounges, 14 shops and the acclaimed Spa at Bally’s Park Place. The Pier Shops at Caesar’s, featuring some of the world’s most famous merchants, is located just across the Boardwalk from Bally’s.

Whether guests are looking for a casual or elegant dining experience, Bally’s Atlantic City has a dining option to satisfy every taste. Arthur’s is a New York-style Italian restaurant featuring fresh seafood. Prime Place has been voted one of the top steakhouses in Atlantic City. Mr. Ming’s offers a menu of authentic Asian cuisines featuring recipes from Cantonese, Szechwan, Mandarin and Hunan regions. The Twenties Steakhouse is an elegant comfortable supper club, featuring prime steaks, chops, seafood and more. Casual dining destinations include Animations, open 24 hours daily, with everything from comfort foods to all-day breakfast to “eat-smart” selections. Pickles Deli has been rated the best deli in Atlantic City. Gatsby’s features hamburgers, frankfurters, homemade chowders, a raw bar and homemade pastrami. Johnny Rocketts offers guests a unique dining experience in a setting reminiscent of a 1950’s malt shop. Noodles & Zen Sum serves freshly prepared noodle soups and congees. The Sidewalk Buffet has everything from the gulf to the grill. Guests at the Virginia City Buffet can feast on favorites from the Last Chance Deli, John Wang’s Chinese cuisine, Chuck Wagon Steaks or Roasted Chicken and Italian Pasta. Lone Star Snack Bar features burgers, hot dogs, chili, barbecue chicken wings, barbecue spare ribs, onion rings and chicken. Gold Tooth Gerties fills the air with the smell of fresh baked bagels, doughnuts, muffins, fresh coffee, and more. Garden Café overlooks Brighton Park and the Atlantic Ocean and offers a wide variety of American and Asian cuisine.

The Blue Martini, Bally’s exciting new lounge, offers these and more than 100 unique martinis in an upscale, trendy setting. Billy’s Poker Lounge offers guests an opportunity to relax and enjoy the full service bar while playing poker, Keno or simulcast. Guests can relax with a specialty cocktails or cooling refreshment while watching their favorite televised sporting event in the Lobby Lounge. The Mountain Bar, located in the Wild Wild West Casino, is a watering hole inviting guests to cool off and, if they are hungry, have snacks from the Lone Star Snack Bar.

For a culinary jaunt on the lighter side, patrons at The Spa Café can enjoy calorie-controlled meals at the soup and salad buffet located in Bally’s world-class health spa.

The Spa at Bally’s offers facilities and services that have made this “resort within a resort” known as one of the most remarkable spas in the country.

The Spas indoor pool lies beneath a large atrium with rooftop skylights. Within the pool is a dazzling underwater lighting system and in-pool water aerobics classes are available.

The focal point of The Spa features seven mosaic-tiled whirlpools set in a raised park-like setting of lit fountains and tropical plants. An adjacent, specially equipped whirlpool for disabled patrons is also available.
New Committees
continued from page 1

The Public School Education Committee is chaired by Jenimae Almquist and Barbara Potts. Another new group, the Task Force on Equal Access to the Courts for Limited English Proficient Persons, will be chaired by Paul M. Uyehara. Pratt has also made the Raising the Bar Committee a standing committee, chaired this year by Ronald A. Kowler and Stephen A. Madva.

In addition, the Education Funding Task Force will continue and will be chaired by James Eisenhower.

WebCheck
For contact information about the Association’s newest committees, visit philadelphiabar.org.

YLD Update
continued from page 19

Shortly after the retreat, the YLD embarked on its mission to better Philadelphia and its schools and to support our members in the practice of law. Already in progress is the High School Mock Trial Competition with trials commencing shortly (please volunteer to be a judge).

Throughout the rest of the year, the YLD plans to have numerous programs to benefit our members in addition to programs to benefit Philadelphia and its schools.

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

February 2008

CLE COURSES

Feb. 1 PLI - Tenth Annual Real Estate Tax Forum – Live Simulcast
Private Placement: Legal and Practical Considerations
Feb. 5 Representing a Buyer or Seller of Residential Property
Feb. 7 Death and Taxes
Feb. 13 Immigration Through Film
Workplace Investigations of Sexual Harassment Claims
Feb. 14 Contempt of Court: A Lesson in Legal History
Feb. 20 21st Annual Civil Litigation Update
Feb. 21 Ethical Issues for Investment Management Lawyers
Feb. 22 Prisoner Civil Rights Litigation-2008
Trials! Tips, Tactics & Practical Tales – Live Simulcast
Feb. 26 9th Annual Estate & Elder Law Symposium
Feb. 28 ADR Institute 2008
How to Prepare the Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax Return – Live Simulcast
Feb. 29 Great! Adverse Depositions: Principles and Principal Techniques

For contact information about the Association’s newest committees, visit philadelphiabar.org.
A non-lawyer friend once asked me why there was a need for an Asian bar association or for that matter, any minority bar association. His question was genuine and not a challenge so I did not feel in any way defensive when I said, simply, “Because sometimes, people just want to feel like they belong.”

The irony of that answer, of course, was not lost on me.

To some, minority bar associations have been viewed as groups that did not foster a sense of community with the larger or majority bar association — they were viewed as promoting a sense of separation. People should see, however, that having minority bar associations are good for the general legal community because within those organizations, attorneys of color can simply feel like they belong.

I became active in the Philadelphia Bar Association at the same time that I served as president of the Asian American Bar Association of the Delaware Valley. As a representative of AABADV, I felt it was important to be visible not only within the Asian bar community but also to the larger bar membership. Therefore, even though I had to fight every shy bone in my body, I made a conscious effort to attend as many events as possible (preferably where food was being served) and to meet as many other attorneys as I could.

Today, I am no longer the only attorney of color at those section meetings. The Philadelphia Bar has committed to and has done a consistent job of encouraging and supporting active participation by minority attorneys.

“The Legal Edge” free legal advice forum for the city’s minority business owners last November was an excellent example of successful collaboration between the Philadelphia Bar and our minority bar associations. Sponsorship of such forums and the activities of the Minorities in the Profession Committee have encouraged greater involvement by minority lawyers. So, too, has the inclusion of minority representatives on the Bar Association’s Board of Governors and major committees such as the Judicial Commission.

I recently attended several events honoring our new Chancellor, Mike Pratt, and was gratified to see room after room full of attorneys and judges of all color.

Sunah Park, a partner at Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP, is editor-in-chief of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
The Justinian Society will honor Chancellor A. Michael Pratt at a luncheon on Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 11:30 a.m. at The Union League of Philadelphia, 140 S. Broad St.

A reception begins at 11:30 a.m. with the luncheon following at 12 p.m. Tickets are $50 per person for members of The Justinian Society and $45 for a table of 10 and $60 per person for non-members, $550 for a table of 10.

For more information or to purchase tickets for the luncheon contact The Justinian Society at 215-545-0706 or e-mail justinian-uta@att.net or visit justinian.org/events to place your reservation.

Appellate Courts
continued from page 8

Committee is working with the Pennsylvania Bar Association to revise Rule 1931 to make the requirement more equitable.

Bramblett observed that the number of notices of appeal filed in a single case has dramatically increased, perhaps in response to some recent decisions, including Mikkeleni v. Amwest Surety Co., 919 A.2d 306 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2007). The Mikkeleni opinion discussed, among other things, the propriety of filing one notice of appeal from multiple judgments. While Blazick agreed that if multiple orders are separately certified, a practitioner must file multiple notices, he cited K.H. v. J.R., 573 Pa. 481 (2003) as directing the filing of one appeal of the last order that disposed of the case, which would then subsume all previous interlocutory orders.

Although not permanent yet, the Appellate Mediation Program, currently featured only in the Eastern District for civil appeals, will continue and may expand to the Western District. The expansion will likely mean an increase in staff. Bramblett also clarified that in Superior Court, if a case is selected for mediation, it is not stayed unless a party moves the court for such a stay based on mediation, which is considered a good basis for such an extension.

Given the recent changes to the judges sitting on the Superior Court, a question was raised concerning the situation where a petition for re-hearing is filed, but only one judge from the original panel remained. Bramblett and Blazick clarified that the petition would likely be submitted to the commission of judges, since one judge cannot render a majority opinion.

Kathryn C. Harr, an associate with Trujillo Rodriguez & Richards, LLC, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Cresheim Cottage
7402 Germantown Ave.
(215) 248-4365
cresheimcottage.com

“C’Heart Blanche” is the only way to treat your darling on Valentine’s Day. At first blush, that may not seem to take you in the direction of Germantown Avenue (at Gowen Avenue) in Mt. Airy. But an olfactory oasis occurs at the historic and charming Cresheim Cottage, built on land purchased from William Penn in 1683. The building has housed, over the last centuries, says its restaurant owner, “butchers, weavers, stocking knitters, hatters, furriers, powder makers, printers, victullars,” and most importantly to lawyers: lawyers. The atmosphere is neoteric colonial in which a high original deeply set fireplace presides. Coyly colored glass bottles glow in reach of its mantle. The entrance’s door is Johnny T remain red. You enter upon a dazzling rectangular bar area above which dangle wine and champagne glasses. Cozy dining rooms appear in all directions, laden with candled lanterns in latticed windows. Every table is covered in white linen, topped with a swath of coloring paper and a small silver jug full of assorted Crayola crayons. Immediately draw a heart, add your initials, the initials of your lover and an arrow pointing to the latter. You may not be Cupid, but on Valentine’s Day you need not be stupid.

The next romantic maneuver is to order dessert first. “To start,” you advise your waitperson while holding your love’s hand, and gazing only into the eyes leveled at you across the table, “we’ll have key lime pie, pumpkin pie, pudding, and berries poached in port wine.” Purse your mouth slowly at every word beginning with “p.” Then add, after a heavy sigh, “And Champagne!” The person you adore is now giggling, blushing and caressing your fingers. Let go when the pies and berries arrive. You’ll want free hands. The Cottage’s slice of pumpkin pie ($6) is heavy, thick with caramel sauce, and spicy. It’s “mouthfeild” is luxurious with aftertastes, leaving layers of crusted tidbits upon one’s tongue. Your two lips insist that you fork and wrangle another piece between them as they quiver in anticipation, before the first molten brown flavors disappear. The key lime concoction ($6) is light and redolent of lime. A silken smar

Historic Cresheim Cottage Caters to Cupids
 Continued on page 25

By Skinny D’Bockol

PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION
29th Annual
5K Run/Walk
Sunday May 18, 2008

Benefits the Support Center for Child Advocates

Photos by Jeff Lyons

Business Law Section Chair Stephen M. Foxman (from left) joins Dennis H. Replansky Memorial Award recipient Justin P. Klein and 2007 Section Chair William H. Clark Jr. at the Section’s Annual Reception on Jan. 22 at the Pyramid Club. The Section also presented its Committee of the Year Award to the Bankruptcy Committee. Nancy Weinman and Shelley Goldner received the Committee Chair of the Year Award.

Year-End Honors

Bureau of Workers’ Compensation Judge Pamela Santoro is joined by Marc Jacobs, chair of the Section’s Martha Hampton Award Committee. Judge Santoro was presented with the award at the Section’s Annual Reception on Dec. 4 at the Pyramid Club. The award honors a workers’ compensation attorney or judge committed to the practice of workers compensation law.
Frontline
continued from page 3

inclusion in this legal community in a substantial way, once and for all. We have institutionalized our support for meaningful and real diversity in the profession with the creation of a new Philadelphia Bar Association Office for Diversity.

The new Office for Diversity will work with legal employers to foster more diverse work environments. It will serve as a resource for individuals seeking to advance and develop their careers. It will provide infrastructure, strategic leadership, coordination and continuity to diversity efforts.

As a key component of this effort, this month, we will welcome a new, full-time director of the Office for Diversity at the Bar Association.

The new director will provide the vision, leadership and support to develop and carry out programs and practices to bring true diversity to the Philadelphia legal community. The new Office for Diversity also will address issues of gender and sexual orientation with the new director serving as a liaison to the Women in the Profession Committee and LGBT Committee, in addition to the Minorities in the Profession Committee.

And for the first time, the Bar Association will be able to collect and analyze data, ensure data accuracy and report on the progress of the Philadelphia legal community in achieving diversity goals through studies and other means. We also will collect and disseminate information about evolving best practices aimed at recruitment, retention and promotion of a diverse and inclusive legal environment across demographic groups.

This new office will provide concrete support to build and maintain successful diversity efforts delivered in hands-on regular working sessions with targeted roundtables of diversity professionals, diversity chairs and managing partners. It also will foster community networking opportunities for people working on diversity issues across the legal profession.

In 1993, the Association's Statement of Goals of Philadelphia Law Firms and Legal Departments for Increasing Minority Representation and Retention, signed by more than 50 Philadelphia legal employers, underscored the Bar's commitment to addressing the disadvantages confronted by its minority constituents.

But it is long past time for firms, and the profession as a whole, to re-double their efforts on this front. We are a truly diverse legal community and I am asking everyone to embrace this challenge. The Philadelphia Bar Association has always been on the cutting edge and I want the Philadelphia legal community to set the national standard by ensuring that all of our legal institutions reflect the diversity of our communities.

Of course, in order for meaningful change to occur, we need the support of every law firm and legal department in the city. In the days ahead, we will be reaching out to legal institutions throughout the city to help us in our work. The Philadelphia Bar Association leadership is not satisfied with the status quo. We stand united in our determination to achieve meaningful diversity in our legal community in the immediate future.

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

Feasts to Famine
continued from page 24

for gay and lesbian patrons. The carryover of comfort classics and pleased patronage is unmistakable.

Split a croque monsieur ($12) to whet appetites. Gruyere cheese oozes lazily between a thin filet of naturally smoked salmon and glistening caviar. All is draped in warm toast. The cheese swirled forward in the Palate. The fries are especially scented to accompany strawberries catapult all the way up, half in the skinny, the breasts glissing in alternating mauve and pink hues. Morsels are rich and thickly textured. The accompanying strawberries catapult all your taste buds. The verts are veritably verdant.

This year's Valentine's Day prix fixe ($55) menu shall be displayed shortly on the Cottage's Website, and should include all of the luscious flavors of local farmers' best foods, most favorably enhanced by a cook so comfortable with naturally fine ingredients, that your comfort is simply contagious. There may even be some lovely leeway given for you and yours to order dessert first.

This leap year, on the last day of February, the restaurant under Ms. Robb's tutelage, shall also celebrate its fourth anniversary.

MACTE VIRTUE; FLOREAT

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

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Chancellor A. Michael Pratt was interviewed by CBS 3's Pat Carroccio on "Newsmakers" on Jan. 6. The Chancellor discussed the Bar Association's plans for the new year. Pratt also was interviewed on Jan. 12 on Power 99 FM radio. The interview also aired on Q102 FM and My 106.1.

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People

Dana Pirone Garrity, an associate with Stevens & Lee P.C., recently served on the faculty of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s 14th Annual Auto Law Update. She instructed on the topic of ethics as it applies to Auto Law and the practice of law in general.

Anne Ciesla Bancroft, a partner at Fox Rothschild LLP, spoke at the American Association of Governments of the City of Philadelphia’s financial affairs.

Josh M. Greenbaum and Paul K. Leary Jr., members of Cozen O’Connor, discussed life story rights and the litigation issues that can arise at the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association’s 14th Annual Large Loss Conference, hosted by the Property Loss Research Bureau and the Liability Insurance Research Bureau in Washington, D.C.

James Eisenhower, a partner with Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP, has been reappointed to the board of the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority, which is responsible for the review and oversight of the city of Philadelphia’s financial affairs.

Jonathan M. Grosser, a partner with Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, participated in “Real Estate Issues Affecting Religious Institutions,” at the Real Estate Institute held by the Pennsylvania Bar Institute on Dec. 6.

Gaetan J. Alfano, a founding shareholder of Miller, Alfano & Raspani and vice chair of the Board of Governors of the Philadelphia Bar Association, participated in a demonstration/presentation at the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers’ “For the Experienced” seminar on Nov. 9.

Howard L. Meyers, a partner with Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP, has been re-elected as chair of the Board of Directors of the Committee of Seventy, a non-partisan organization conducting a permanent campaign to improve the Philadelphia region by demanding ethical conduct of public officials, safeguarding elections, and promoting government efficiency and educating citizens.

Marc E. Needles, a partner with Fox Rothschild LLP, presented “Update on Eminent Domain in Pennsylvania” at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s Annual Real Estate Institute on Dec. 5-6.

Sozi P. Tulante, an associate with Hangley Aronchick Segal & Pudlin, has recently been selected by the Center for Progressive Leadership as a 2008 Pennsylvania Political Leaders Fellow.

James K. Kozych, a partner with Caesar, Rivise, Bernstein, Cohen & Pokitlov, recently served as a panelist at an engineering symposium sponsored by the Greater Philadelphia sections of The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and The American Society of Mechanical Engineers. His presentation was “Intellectual Property – Protection of Competitive Assets.”

David M. Dorot, of counsel to Cozen O’Connor, has been appointed to the board of directors of the Rosenbach Museum and Library. The museum is both a historic showplace for fine art and antiques as well as a research center that houses one of the nation’s greatest collections of rare books and manuscripts.

Michael O’Mara, a partner with Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, was recently appointed as secretary of the Board of Governors of the St. Thomas More Society of Philadelphia.

Rhonda Hill Wilson, of the Law Offices of Rhonda Hill Wilson, P.C., served as a panelist of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association and Temple Law School co-sponsored program “What is a Trial Lawyer?” in November, where she along with other panelists provided Temple University law students with a range of information associated with the trial lawyer profession.

John P. Dogum, a partner with Martin, Banks, Pond, Lehocky & Wilson, served as faculty with several leading attorneys in the field for a Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association’s Continuing Legal Education seminar “Liens & Subrogation” on Nov. 30.

James J. Defranco, a partner with Caesar, Rivise, Bernstein, Cohen & Pokitlov, recently served as a panelist at a seminar sponsored by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The museum is both a historic showplace for fine art and antiques as well as a research center that houses one of the nation’s greatest collections of rare books and manuscripts.

Marian A. Kornilowicz, a partner with Cohen, Seglias, Pallan, Greenhall & Furman P.C., has been elected as a trustee of the Kosciuszko Foundation, the premier American organization promoting Polish culture and an understanding and friendship between the peoples of Poland and the United States.

Justin B. Wineburgh, a member of Cozen O’Connor, discussed life story rights and the litigation issues that can arise at the panel “Film, Sports, Music and Ethics” for the Widener University School of Law Sports and Entertainment Law Association.

Judge Denis P. Cohen of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas has been selected as president-elect of the Boston College Law School Alumni Council. He is the first person from outside the Boston area to hold such a position in the more than 75-year history of the school.

Gina Rubel, president of Furia Rubel Communications, was named the recipient of the Public Relations Society of America Philadelphia Chapter 2007 DeAnn White Achievement Award for Community Spirit on Dec. 6.

Nichole L. Williams, an associate with Archer & Greiner, P.C., has been selected for membership in the National Coalition for 100 Black Women.

Philip K. Katasakis, of counsel to Semanoff Ormsby Greenberg & Torchia, LLC, recently participated as a faculty member at a National Institute for Trial Advocacy continuing legal education program on deposition skills at Georgetown University Law Center.

Thomas A. Muccifori, a partner with Archer & Greiner, P.C., served as moderator for “Demystifying Chancery Practice,” a seminar featuring presiding chancery judges on Jan. 31 in Mount Laurel, N.J.

Henry Ian Pass of The Law Offices of Henry Ian Pass was recently a featured speaker on WWDB-FM’s “Executive Leaders” where he addressed the types of legal issues investors might encounter in dealing with their securities investment professionals.

“People” highlights news of members’ awards, honors or appointments of a community or civic nature. Information may be sent to Jeff Upp, Senior Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th fl., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-2955. Fax: (215) 238-1159. E-mail: reporter@philabarb.org. Color photos are also welcome.
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