Get Admitted to U.S. Supreme Court May 17

The Philadelphia Bar Association will move up to 50 of our members for admission to the Bar of the United States Supreme Court on Monday, May 17. The admission ceremony will be made to the full court sitting in Washington, D.C.

The court’s requirements for a group admission ceremony are very comprehensive. To review these requirements and to download the forms for admission please visit the Supreme Court’s Web site at supremecourtus.gov. Select the Bar Admissions tab on the left-hand side and this will bring you to the link for the Bar Admissions Form and Bar Admissions Instructions. Please read the instructions carefully. Once you have determined that you are eligible for admission, please print out and complete the Admission Form. The instructions and guidelines are very specific and must be followed scrupulously. Do not fold the application or use staples. Use paper clips only.

continued on page 6

CNN Host John King to Speak March 17

By Jeff Lyons

John King, host of CNN’s “State of the Union with John King,” will be the keynote speaker at the Association’s Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon on Wednesday, March 17.

At the event, Immediate-Past Chancellor Sayde J. Ladov will be presented with a gold box, an exact replica of the one presented to Andrew Hamilton for his defense of John Peter Zenger in 1735. The gold box is presented annually to the immediate-past Chancellor and is inscribed with the message “acquired not by money, but by character.”

The Quarterly Meeting begins at 12 p.m. at the Hyatt at The Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets. Tickets are $55 and available at philadelphiabar.org.

“We’re very excited to have John King as our speaker,” said Chancellor Scott F. Cooper. “His ‘State of the Union’ program is one of the best Sunday news shows on television and our members will enjoy.

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Mayor Among Hundreds to Greet Chancellor

Mayor Michael A. Nutter (right) greets new Chancellor Scott F. Cooper at the Jan. 5 Chancellor’s Reception at the Hyatt at The Bellevue. An estimated 500 people waited in line to wish the Chancellor good luck during his year in office.
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Bar’s Green Ribbon Task Force to Work to Cut Carbon Footprint

We have all heard about the potential effects of global warming on our environment. But few among us have given serious thought to how this trend impacts us locally—and professionally. The legal profession often sees itself as unrelated to environmental issues. But we are very connected.

In my address to our membership in December, I emphasized that our agenda this year will call on us to think beyond where we are today. It will set a course that gives us the best possible chance to take control of our futures.

To this end, we are undertaking a new initiative—one that I have been inspired by my children to pursue: minimizing our impact on the environment by taking the Philadelphia Bar Association and our legal community “green.”

The range of information and discourse shared at our Bar Leadership Retreat last month framed this threshold issue. At that gathering, Kevin J. Coyle, vice president for education and training at the National Wildlife Federation, shared his candid insights on the practice of law in a clean energy economy.

According to the NWF, the global temperature has increased more than one full percentage point since 1860 – 0.6 percent just in the last 25 years. This trend is alarming and should serve as a catalyst to action. For a large metropolitan legal community that employs thousands, a reduction in our collective carbon footprint can make a measurable difference.

As a first step of our green initiative, I have created a Green Ribbon Task Force co-chaired by Michael Hayes of Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads, LLP and Kim Jessum of Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP. This group will first determine how the Philadelphia Bar Association itself can better reduce waste to decrease its carbon footprint, both in its internal operations and its external member support. The Task Force will then come up with recommendations on voluntary green standards tailored to each segment of our bar.

If a legal employer complies with those goals applicable to institutions of a particular size, it will be invited to post a designation that it has met the Bar Association’s green standards for legal practices. This will ideally encourage transactional lawyers to look at how they document deals and closings, litigators to scour the litigation process—especially in discovery, the rules of court, and hearing preparations—and every other class of attorney to evaluate how they can revamp all aspects of their operations with “green” in mind, from waste reduction practices to marketing, human resources, and more.

Get Mobile Device Access with Legal Directory Purchase

For years, the Philadelphia Bar Association’s official Legal Directory has kept attorneys and firms up-to-date with the content they need in print and online. This year, the directory’s huge database is also easily searchable on mobile devices, making it even more convenient and user-friendly. And it’s available at no additional cost with the purchase of The Legal Directory 2010.

Users of handheld devices can appreciate the streamlined interface that is ideally formatted to fit smaller screens. The mobile feature is also conveniently interactive. Just click on a phone number and the number is automatically dialed; select an e-mail address and an e-mail template is instantly generated.

It’s no surprise that thousands of attorneys and support personnel rely on The Legal Directory as their one-stop source for the most accurate information on the Philadelphia-area legal community. With this brand-new component, more people can use The Legal Directory than ever before – wirelessly, online and in print. It’s the ultimate multi-format resource for greater Philadelphia legal professionals who are constantly on the go.

Best of all, these fantastic, high-convenience features are all included with a single purchase. The Legal Directory 2010 offers much more than thousands of firm and attorney listings. It also provides a wide range of useful information, including:

• Attorneys listed alphabetically and indexed by area of concentration;
• An index of judges, with phone numbers and addresses;
• Federal, state and county courts and government agencies;
• A special section devoted to corporate counsel;
• Alternative dispute resolution resources;
• Bar Association bylaws, contacts and committees; and
• A business-to-business supplier section tailored to the legal community.

Updates to the database are made at www.thelegaldirectory.org throughout the year, so users with exclusive log-in privileges can be sure that the most up-to-date information available is only a mouse-click away.

And this is the only official publication of the Philadelphia Bar Association. No other resource gets the endorsement of the most respected legal organization in the five-county region.

Order The Legal Directory now and get the discounted pre-publication price of $59.95 (plus shipping and tax). This offer expires March 1, 2010. For more information, please e-mail legaldirectory@mediatwo.com or call 443-909-7843.
Youngest-Ever Chancellor Baccini 
a Steadfast Visionary for the Bar

By Daniel Cirucci

You could call him a public relations person’s dream.

He was young, bright, articulate, engaging and remarkably telegenic. On top of it all, he was quick, intuitive and took direction very well.

That’s the way I’ll always remember Laurance E. (Larry) Baccini, who served as Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association in 1988.

Yet, when Larry recently passed away after a long illness it was his endearing friendship, his steadfastness and his warmth and humor that first came to mind.

Larry was the youngest person ever to serve as Chancellor.

But, at 42 he was already one of Philadelphia’s most experienced Bar leaders. In extolling Larry’s many qualities the late Bernard G. Segal of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP noted that he “possessed a maturity and stability not common to one of his youth.” Segal saw in Larry “an ability to adjust to tense situations” and “sound judgment” along with a “cool and clear vision.”

Larry credited Alfred L. Luongo, then chief judge of the U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, with giving him an early foundation in the practical work of the profession. After serving as Luongo’s law clerk, Larry joined Schnader where he was made partner in just five years. A labor lawyer, Larry later practiced at WolfBlock and at Klehr Harrison Harvey Branzburg LLP before becoming a sole practitioner.

A determined believer in hard work and self-reliance, Larry adhered to a schedule that maximized his commitment to the profession. At his peak, he typically worked 17 to 19 hours a day, retiring at 10 p.m. only to awaken at 2 a.m. for more work followed sometimes by a short nap between 6 and 7 a.m. before getting back to work.

Larry maintained this pace for many years and remained crisp, clear-eyed and remarkably sharp. Trim, perfectly attired and blessed with a deep, resonant voice, he was certainly one of the most compelling figures I ever encountered.

He was a visionary who was not afraid to speak out when the need arose. One of the first lawyers to be recognized as a national authority on the rights of persons with AIDS, he did not hesitate to declare that lawyers and the organized bar had a “special responsibility” to AIDS victims. And he called upon the profession and the Philadelphia Bar Association to take the lead in that fight.

Larry’s theme for his year as Chancellor was “Our City, Our Future” and he stressed the Association’s involvement in the life of the city and the broader community. And since he became Chancellor on the heels of the infamous judges/roofers scandal, Larry was a stalwart champion of merit selection.

Larry pledged to enlist the membership of the Association in a “determined, sustained, all-out effort” to convince the governor and the state legislature to sunset judicial elections and embrace a merit selection system of choosing judges. Larry’s timing was good. And his talk about determination was real. In fact, he called all living former Chancellors together in an impressive public ceremony and had them sign a pledge to work for merit selection. As usual, Larry led the way and lobbied then-Gov. Bob Casey and legislative leaders relentlessly.

But veteran statehouse insiders knew that judicial reform was a long-term battle and enough of them bided their time to scuttle the dreams of reformers and force a return to politics as usual. Sadly, the window began to close before this

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After 10 Years, Commerce Court Still Going Strong

By Jeff Lyons

Since its inception in January 2000, the First Judicial District’s Commerce Case Management Program has become a model for business courts all over the nation. Judges from the program met with members of the Business Litigation Committee on Jan. 19 to discuss the state of the court.

Last year was “truly a banner year for the Commerce Program,” said Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge D. Webster Keogh, administrative judge of the Trial Division. Judge Keogh was joined by Trial Division Supervising Judge William J. Manfredi and Commerce Court Judges Marc I. Bernstein and Albert W. Sheppard Jr. The panel was moderated by Committee Chair Robert R. Baron Jr.

Judge Keogh said dispositions skyrocketed to 887 cases, up from 683 just a year before. “The Commerce Court judges have issued about 725 substantive opinions, which is a body of work that’s valuable, needed and has been shared with many.”

The number of filings increased in 2009 by 90 cases – from 595 to 685. That marked the highest number ever of new filings in the Commerce Court. “It speaks volumes of [the bar’s] belief in the system and the litigants’ belief in our Commerce Program. It has really enhanced the reputation of the Commerce Program over the last 10 years,” Judge Keogh said.

“If I had the time, I would welcome some return to the courtroom. There would be no program more important I think than the Commerce Program,” he said.

Judge Manfredi said the Commerce Program runs a little differently from all the other programs. “It doesn’t rely as much on the same type of case management that we have in the major civil program. Cases are assigned on a rotating basis to the three judges and become part of their individual calendars. All of these methodologies have been successful. The Commerce Program, I’m proud to say, is a national model. And without the members of the bar, the success of the Commerce Court would not have been possible,” he said.

Judge Shepherd said the attorneys and the bar deserve the credit for the court’s success. “Over the years we’ve only tweaked it. And we wouldn’t be able to do this program without our judges pro tem. “It’s fun to have bright people and courteous people in your courtroom. You have no idea what a pleasure that is for a judge. The 10 years has really evolved around the abilities of you people in making it what it is,” he said.
 Custody Laws Threatened, Family Law Section Told

By Julia Swain

Legislation is pending before the Pennsylvania House Judiciary Committee that could dramatically change the current custody laws. Several groups are submitting written comments and preparing to testify before the Judiciary Committee’s Family Law Subcommittee.

Ned Hark, representing the Pennsylvania Bar Association Family Law Section, will testify in Harrisburg to oppose sections of the proposed legislation. Terry Fromson, managing attorney at the Women’s Law Project, intends to submit written comments to the Family Law Subcommittee to express the positions of the Women’s Law Project. Both talked about their opposition at the Jan. 4 meeting of the Family Law Section.

The substance of the pending legislation was presented at the program by Lauren Sorrentino. The pending bills include HB 1639, an overhaul of the custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed custody statutes contained at 23 Pa.C.S.A. §5300 et. seq.; HB 463, which sets forth a rebuttable presumption of joint custody; and HB 418, a proposed...
John King
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hearing the behind-the-scenes perspective of this respected journalist.”

King joined CNN in May 1997 and was appointed chief national correspon-
dent in April 2005. He served as CNN’s senior White House correspondent from
1999 to 2005. He is well known for his use of CNN’s “multi-touch” board, which
allows him to delve into data on election nights.

King also contributed to CNN’s Emmy-winning 2006 mid-term election
coverage as well as coverage of the 2004 presidential race, the Iraq War, the 9/11
terrorist attacks and the tax-cut debates of 2001 and 2003. In 2006, he reported an
hour-long special on executive authority, “Power Play.” He has conducted one-on-
one interviews with many senior officials, including President George W. Bush, first
lady Laura Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, and former Secretaries of State
Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice.

Before joining CNN, King wrote for the Associated Press, which he joined in
1985. In 1991 he was named chief political correspondent and headed the AP’s
political coverage of the 1992 and 1996 presidential elections. During his tenure
there, King broke several major political stories, including Michael Dukakis’ selec-
tion of Lloyd Bentsen as his running mate in 1988 and Bill Clinton’s selection of Al
Gore in 1992. He broke the news of Gen. Colin Powell’s decision not to run for
president and Sen. Bob Dole’s efforts to obtain Ross Perot’s endorsement in 1996.

King earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Rhode
Island.

The Philadelphia Bar Association’s popular Bench-Bar and Annual Conference is returning in 2010, moving back to
The Borgata in Atlantic City, N.J. for the weekend of Oct. 15 and 16.

Chancellor Scott F. Cooper has tapped Vice Chancellor John E. Savoth and Board of Governors Vice Chair Regina M. Foley
to chair the conference.

“I am thrilled about the conference returning to The Borga-
ta. We just completed the Bar’s Leadership Retreat at The Borgata
and it is a top-tier venue. I think our attendees will be amazed at
the facilities and the level of service. It is the perfect location for a
conference of this caliber,” Cooper said. The Borgata last hosted
the Bench-Bar Conference in 2004.

The Association’s Bench-Bar Conference traditionally fea-
tures a large selection of continuing legal education seminars for
practitioners in a variety of specialty areas. There is always ample
opportunity for attorneys to mingle and network with their col-
leagues and members of the bench.

Visit philadelphiabar.org for more details about the 2010
Bench-Bar Conference as they become available.

Maximize Productivity, Time, Author Urges

By Mary T. Kranzfelder

Time is valuable to attorneys, whether measured in terms of billable
hours or otherwise. For attorneys with demanding work schedules and busy
lives outside of the office, it can often seem as though there are not enough
hours in the day to accomplish everything there is to do.

One solution to this problem is to increase productivity, both at work and
at home, as author and consultant Neen James told the Jan. 13 meeting of the
Women in Intellectual Property Committee. Increasing productivity can help
ensure the greatest amount of return for the time invested in a particular task,
whether professional or personal.

James and meeting attendees discussed productivity challenges that attorneys will
likely face this year. Balancing office work with marketing the business has become
increasingly difficult for many attorneys.

Networking, however, does not have to be time-consuming. Taking 15 minutes
to speak to someone on the telephone instead of a face-to-face meeting cuts
out travel time but still allows for real conversation. If taking the time to attend
a networking event, make the most out of it by meeting the speaker and organizer,
rather than simply handing out business cards and leaving. Internal networking is
also an effective way to engage in business development activities without taking
away time from work. There are likely sources at work that could provide busi-
ness opportunities.

Many times, productivity is affected when a project is started but the worker
becomes distracted by co-workers, phone calls, e-mails or thoughts of other work.
If a task is not particularly enjoyable, focusing on it for 15-minute increments
will be more productive than one hour of disjointed activity. Social media sites are
one of the distractions making workers less productive, as they can easily become
time-consuming activities. Time spent on social media sites can be conquered in
15 minutes per day if updates are limited to noting achievements and information
relevant to business.

A key aspect of increasing productivity is learning how to say “no.” Making too
many commitments drains energy and takes attention away from the people and
activities that give the best return for the time invested. Scheduling time for oneself
also increases productivity by allowing for the opportunity to re-energize. Setting
aside time for lunch or to attend a CLE, or even just stepping away from the
computer for 15 minutes, will increase productivity once work resumes. Allocat-
ing time spent at home for things done on a regular basis systematizes the home
and frees up time.

Mary T. Kranzfelder (mkranzfelder@rawle.com), an associate with Rawle & Henderson LLP, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia
Bar Reporter.

Philadelphia Bar Association Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon

Wednesday, March 17 at 12 p.m. at the Hyatt at The Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets

• Featuring keynote speaker John King, host of CNN’s “State of the Union with John King”
• Presentation of ceremonial gold box to Immediate-Past Chancellor Sayde J. Ladov

Please make _______ reservations for the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Quarterly
Meeting and Luncheon. Tickets are $55 for members and $60 for non-members.
Checks should be made payable to the Philadelphia Bar Association.

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Frontline
continued from page 3

and beyond.
Regardless of size, any law office – whether a private firm, nonprofit or government agency, or law school clinic – can take steps to reduce energy use and waste, thus creating less to be disposed of in landfills and less demand for energy production with its environmental impacts.

Strategies range from simple paper recycling to comprehensive replacement of lighting and HVAC systems. While some strategies are more realistically available to building owners, tenants also have numerous options for savings.

Once we have proven successful with our personal and law office efforts, we will bring our proposals to the judiciary and ask them to join us by including pertinent recommendations in their case management and trial preparation orders. If there are rules that are causing waste, we will open appropriate dialogue with the courts on what can be done to change them.

Our legal community uses enormous amounts of resources. But such heavy use is inconsistent with a sustainable future in which adequate, healthy resources are preserved for future generations. Land use, forestry, and air and water quality are all adversely affected.

By minimizing its impact on the environment, our legal community also will reap savings – in the costs of heating, cooling, lighting, equipment operation and purchase of supplies, among other areas. Your public profile will shine brighter as well.

To get started, I offer some suggestions taken from Coyle’s presentation: reduce paper and electricity usage and fully commit to recycling; buy “green” products; and minimize your travel impact and offset unavoidable carbon emissions with deliberate “green-friendly” actions.

The amount of carbon emitted per person in the United States is 5.6 tons, nearly 4.5 tons more than the world average. It is a staggering figure we must reduce.

Even without waiting for the recommendations, we can all make a difference immediately. Challenge what you are doing in discovery and in drafting briefs. Can you and your opponents agree on a single set of exhibits, so the same documents are not entered repeatedly as different exhibits? Can adversaries stipulate exhibits or trial exhibits to avoid duplication? If each of us cuts only a few pages in each deposition or transaction, the cumulative effective will be incredible.

As I said in December, our 2010 agenda is unapologetically bold. But while our “green” goals are ambitious, we must commit to better our planet by joining together as one Philadelphia legal community and leading on a national scale. We are not only obligated to set an agenda that is consistent with a sustainable future for generations. Land, air, and water quality are all adversely affected.

To get started, I offer some suggestions taken from Coyle’s presentation: reduce paper and electricity usage and fully commit to recycling; buy “green” products; and minimize your travel impact and offset unavoidable carbon emissions with deliberate “green-friendly” actions.

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As I said in December, our 2010 agenda is unapologetically bold. But while our “green” goals are ambitious, we must commit to better our planet by joining together as one Philadelphia legal community and leading on a national scale. We are not only obligated to set an example as respected members of society, but as mothers, fathers and grandparents.

The time for us to perform our own “pro bono service to the environment” is now.

Scott F. Cooper, a partner with Blank Rome LLP, is Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. His e-mail address is chancellor@philabar.org.

VIP Honors Lipin

This month Philadelphia VIP recognizes Ilya Lipin for his outstanding volunteer assistance to VIP clients.

Since becoming a VIP volunteer in 2008, Lipin, a graduate fellow at Villanova University School of Business, has represented eight VIP clients in complex tax matters. Lipin describes his work for VIP as “doing what he loves by helping members of our community.” His persistence, advocacy, and negotiation skills helped several VIP clients resolve hefty IRS liabilities and comply with federal tax laws.

In one case, Lipin assisted a disabled, unemployed client whose benefits were levied as a result of an audit. The preparer she paid failed to report all of her income and refused to file an amended return on her behalf. Lipin had the interest and penalties abated on more than $3,000 in liability, which resulted in the client paying only $800.

In another case, Lipin represented a client who was trying to obtain the EITC for his two grandchildren. He spent more than 20 hours communicating with the IRS on the client’s behalf to have the liability reduced and the credit accepted. Because of Lipin’s representation, VIP clients are able to resolve their tax controversies within an otherwise impenetrable IRS system. In addition, Lipin represents nonprofit clients in their tax matters and mentors other VIP tax volunteers.

For his advocacy and dedication to serving the needs of VIP tax clients, Philadelphia VIP offers its heartfelt appreciation to Ilya Lipin.

Chancellor on the Air

Chancellor Scott F. Cooper talks about his 2010 agenda and other Bar Association initiatives with 92.5 WXTU’s Lora Lewis on her radio program “Philadelphia Focus.” The half-hour show aired Sunday, Jan. 17.
The Young Lawyers Division has certainly hit the ground running in 2010. On Jan. 20, the Division hosted its first happy hour with the Delivery of Legal Services Committee, the Lawyers Club of Philadelphia and the Justinians. It was wonderful to see these groups come together to support each other and network.

We plan to continue to act as a connector between our membership and other groups throughout the year.

In February and March, the YLD will focus on our outreach to law students and new graduates. To this extent, the debut of our inaugural program, “Young Lawyer Bootcamp: Tactics, Tricks and Tips for New Graduates” will take place Feb. 19 at The CLE Conference Center on the 10th floor of the Wanamaker Building, Market and Juniper streets. Speakers will include members of the YLD as well as guest presenters from a wide variety of practice areas and professional backgrounds.

The goal of this program is to provide guidance in the practical skills that are necessary for success in the profession.

The five panels are designed to go beyond conducting research and writing briefs to address other topics of interest to those newer to the profession.

The program will feature an energetic panel of distinguished judges who will offer sage advice from the bench on how to interact with the judiciary and their staff both in and out of the courtroom.

Another panel will explore the various career options within the legal profession and examine differences in working in different sectors, such as large firms, small firms, the court system, the City of Philadelphia’s Law Department, public interest agencies and in-house corporate counsel.

A third panel seeks to address skills that young lawyers need to develop to succeed at their first job and beyond such as billing, depositions and work-life balance.

The fourth panel will present issues to consider before starting your own firm.

This panel will include sole practitioners as well as lawyers from small multi-lawyer firms that range from a few years old to well established.

The final panel will address the nuts and bolts of networking to obtain a job as well as to develop a base of referrals for after you land a job with a firm or strike out on your own.

In seeking to further serve as a connector beyond the bootcamp, the YLD is again offering our on-one-on mentor program as an additional resource to young lawyers and law students. The program matches students with practicing attorneys and allows established lawyers to foster the growth of Philadelphia’s future lawyers. The YLD is in the process of planning a kickoff event in March, where all mentors and mentees will be encouraged to participate.

The YLD has had an overwhelming response from area law students who wish to be matched with a mentor. Lawyers of any age are invited to make a commitment to assist those newer to the profession by volunteering to participate in the mentor program. Offering knowledge and helping to guide those who are a few years behind us can make a tremendous difference in the careers of young lawyers. If you fear that you will not be able to make the time commitment necessary to successfully participate in the mentor program, we encourage you to sign up and speak with your mentor to set realistic expectations and goals for the future of the mentor relationship. You will not be expected to hire a mentor as a summer intern or after graduation, but you could take 10 minutes to make constructive suggestions about resumes. You will not be obligated to edit first-year briefs or law review papers. You are encouraged to discuss common differences between working in a large law firm, mid-sized firm or government agency. Committing to a few hours of mentorship could be invaluable to a law student. It could also invigorate your perspective on your practice.

If you are interested in additional information about the bootcamp, visit philadelphiabar.org. If you are interested in volunteering as a mentor, please contact me at the e-mail address below.

Albertine “Abbie” DuFrayne (adufrayne@petrellilaw.com), an associate with Petrelli Law, P.C., is chair of the Young Lawyers Division.

By Albertine DuFrayne

BlogLink
Visit philadelphia.wordpess.com to read the latest blog entries from the Young Lawyers Division.

YLD Update
Bootcamp to Address Young Lawyers’ Needs

By Albertine DuFrayne

New Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Anne E. Lazarus takes the oath of office on Jan. 6, flanked by family members. Judge Lazarus was sworn in at a ceremony at Philadelphia City Hall presided over by Superior Court President Judge Kate Ford Elliott.

Remarks were offered by Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Seamus P. McCaffery, U.S. District Court Judge Legrone D. Davis, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas President Judge Pamela Pryor Dembe, Congressman Robert A. Brady and Immediate-Past Chancellor Sayde J. Ladov (left).
the Grants Committee, including a law private practice lawyer who has a deep commitment to the public interest.

As you know, many foundations and sources that fund our grantees cut the dollars they gave in 2009. But, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation is not just another funding source. We are the Philadelphia legal community’s foundation and we had to be there, not only for our colleagues working in the public interest, but for the clients who depend on them for legal services. And, as detailed last month in my column, because of the generosity of many sponsors and donors, cy pres awards and the Bar Foundation’s endowment, we were able to be there in a big way.

This month, I want to thank our hard-working Grants Committee, tell you how it works and let you know about two new organizations that are being funded by the Foundation.

The Bar Foundation’s Grants Committee is chaired by Norm Weinstein, a private practice lawyer who has a deep commitment to the public interest community. Over the years, Norm has assembled a diverse team to comprise the Grants Committee, including a law school dean, a program officer from an independent foundation, a former bank vice president and several other private practice attorneys with an interest in the pro bono community.

Starting in May, when applications arrived, the Grants Committee got to work. This year, in addition to an in-depth financial analysis and thorough review of each written application, the Grants Committee asked for an “environmental scan” that gathers information about trends and issues within the external environment that are affecting an organization. The Grants Committee then met with the directors of each organization. These meetings were attended by trustees of the Bar Foundation Board. Because of this exhaustive review process, the Grants Committee was able to fine-tune grant allocations to maximize the dollars the Bar Foundation spends and to distribute funding in ways that benefit those organizations most in need in any given year.

Armed with the information, the Grants Committee recommended a grant allocation to the Board of Trustees in December. After much thoughtful discussion, including consideration by the Finance Committee, the Board agreed to dip deeper into its endowment this year because of the urgent needs of the grantees organizations and to fund 97 percent of the Grants Committee recommendation.

2009 Bar Foundation Grantees

- ACLU
- AIDS Law Project
- Community Legal Services
- Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project
- Court Appointed Special Advocates
- Custody and Support Assistance Clinic
- Defenders Association – Capital Representation Project
- Disabilities Rights Network
- Education Law Center
- Equality Advocates Pennsylvania
- Face to Face
- Friends of Farmworkers
- HIAS and Council Migration
- Homeless Advocacy Project
- Juvenile Law Center
- Legal Clinic for the Disabled
- Nationalities Service Center
- Pennsylvania Health Law Project
- Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center
- Pennsylvania Innocence Project
- Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project
- Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts
- Philadelphia Legal Assistance
- Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program
- Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for Arts
- Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia
- Regional Housing Legal Services
- Senior.LAW Center
- Society Created to Reduce Urban Blight
- Support Center for Child Advocates
- Women Against Abuse
- Women’s Law Project
- Women Organized Against Rape

then two anonymous donors stepped in and made contributions so that the Bar Foundation could fund 100 percent of the Grants Committee’s proposal. We thank them for the generosity that enabled us to give more in grants this year than ever before.

We are also pleased to announce that the Bar Foundation added two new public interest organizations to its network of grantee agencies – the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, which provides legal services to incarcerated individuals with viable claims of wrongful conviction, and Face to Face, a community-based legal clinic located in the Germantown section of Philadelphia.

After an extensive review, we concluded that both of these organizations serve the mission of the Foundation by providing access to justice to those who would otherwise be without representation. During the interview, Richard Glazer, retired managing partner of Cozen O’Connor and now executive director of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, commented, “It’s remarkable, for $1 a year, how many lawyers have stepped up to be trained by our program and how the law schools have collaborated to provide students. We feel our mission is consonant with the Bar Foundation’s mission of providing access to justice, and we’re pleased to be a part of it.”

We are part of a remarkable legal community.

Memorial Gifts Recognized

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

In Memory


Given by Lynne E. Brown in memory of her father, William J. Brown, a member of the design team for the NORAD Early Warning System and a lifelong progressive activist.

In Honor

Given by Judge Marlene F. Lachman in honor of the election of Judge Anne E. Lazarus to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

Given by Aaron Finestone in honor of Robert B. Von Mehren, a distinguished New York City attorney and retired partner of Debevoise and Plimpton LLP.

Given by Judge Marlene F. Lachman in honor of Judge Louis H. Pollak for receiving the Philadelphia Bar Association Criminal Justice Section’s 2009 Thurgood Marshall Award.

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Wednesday
March 24, 2010
Jon M. Huntsman Hall
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Room F65

Information Session from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Check-in at 5:30 p.m.
For more information or to RSVP:
Call 215.898.2888 or e-mail: wharton-wpwp@wharton.upenn.edu and reference The Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
The children (they are all about 30 now) insisted that I must see the new film "Avatar," which, it was said, was more than a motion picture. It was an experience, so they said. And so we packed up the snowshoes and trod off to the theater to see it. As it turned out, this movie was perfectly inoffensive as a work of drama/venture, and contained many technical innovations that made it a hoot to look at. It is about a new Garden of Eden, a planet named Pandora so to speak, and the reinvention of man, in a world where the sick can be reshaped and death deterred. You would think this situation a good motive for a peaceful world. But alas it is not the human condition that this movie shadows as much as the box office receipts.

This film is directed by James Cameron, a man who does not fit into any intellectual mode. He is not stupid, and his movies are impressive, in a colossal kind of way. He is more intelligent than DeMille as a filmmaker. But his newer smacks of the same snake oil. Of his films past, the most famous is the wretched "Titanic." ("Er! I don't think poor people should ride in our lifeboat. Glub. Glub. Glub.") not exactly an insightful epic.

"Avatar" is the same kind of expensive epic. It will do for those who need sensual stimulation such as loud noises. The 3-dimensional photography is astounding, even if the plot is nothing to write home about. The 3-D trend in special effects isn't nice. But the trend in doing the trick without assistance. Not that illusion is what drama is supposed to create. Words are written to recreate dramatic action in artful places. But illusion is what drama needed to create the illusion of actually being in a world different from our own. If the play had been something more ingratiating, the trick might have worked. The stars were Maggie Smith and Robert Stephens and they were very good. But the material was not the kind of stuff the audience could warm to, and so the gimmick didn't ignite.

The reason I mention this play is that the idea of bringing the audience into the action is far from new. The technical skill needed to create the illusion of actually being in a particular place is something wonderful. But illusion is what drama is supposed to create. Words are written for actors so that they can convey a sense of involvement to the audience. Those actors, few in number, who have the presence to utter the words properly, do the trick without assistance. Not that special effects aren't nice. But the trend in communications has steadily been toward relieving the audiences of the need to imagine and use their minds in order to understand art. As critic Terry Teachout observed in 1999 in The Wall Street Journal, the source of news and history for people under the age of 30 was movies. The young are increasingly illiterate and dependent on media for the rudiments of common thought. Hence the necessity to replace functions of the human soul. I can think of the time a child of my acquaintance asked if the "Wizard of Oz" was real, because the child was so used to animation that she thought anything in real time was a documentary. This is increasingly true not only of children, but of the special brand of adults who rely upon computer-generated gratification to replace functions of the brain. In the place of the mind and soul, we have optic illusion and the brand of truth it conveys to idiots. Wonderful as the technical aspects of this movie are, they can never replace human imagination. They can make people think that they are standing in a certain place by virtue of optical illusion. But that kind of illusion was begun during the silent film era with stop action. It made people think creatures were alive and the height of the art came with "King Kong" (1933) and the Argonauts movies in the early 1960s.

Here were attempts to fool the human eye into thinking that a creature moved. The people who actually cried as Kong was being killed were moved by the manner in which a doll was manipulated to engender sapient expressions. There is still something like it. It was the art of human moviemakers appealing to other human beings by using their hands and their eyes to recreate dramatic action in artful stop action. As Martin Scorsese recently observed, the ancient stop action gave the creature "a soul" it did not have in subse-quent mechanized remakes. That is the human element. It is essential to drama. It is essential to art and there is nothing to compare with it. Not 3-D and not this film, worthy as it is. Except for the sappy plot, the human element is overshadowed by machines that, if given the right data, could have written the script.

The power to engross an audience is the power of presence. Few have it. Of recent performers, the DiCaprio boy is the most impressive. Even in weak stuff, he manages to drag the audience into his element by the power of voice and expression. Ralph Richardson was such an actor also, and Bette Davis and Katherine Hepburn (on occasion) reached out from the screen and grabbed many an audience, as does Meryl Streep. They did it, and continue to do it, because of who they are and not because of what they were standing near. And maybe, in some not-too-distant time actors will find scripts that provide more than an opportunity for optic intrigue. In the meantime, "Avatar" is something to behold, with a bag of popcorn. If "Kong" doesn't appeal to you, see "Paths of Glory." If Kirk Douglas and friends don't get to you, you are dead.

Marc W. Reuben (marcreuben@yahoo.com), a sole practitioner, is an advisory editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter. He has been writing about the arts and media since 1973.

Inoffensive 'Avatar' is Something to Behold

The 3-dimensional photography is astounding, even if the plot is nothing to write home about.
Baccini
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paramount goal was achieved. Still, if there were ever any doubts about the Philadelphia Bar Association’s commitment to merit selection, the intensity of this first baby boomer Chancellor put those doubts to rest.

Larry was not afraid of the mighty or powerful. And he didn’t spend a great deal of time agonizing over the consequences of his actions if he believed he was in the right. Also, he wasn’t using the Chancellorship as a springboard to anything else.

As a child of divorce he said he became “serious about things” at an early age. Later, he found that as a labor lawyer “you come to bat for me that very moment. As it turned out, Larry gave me such good advice that I was able to navigate my way through the crisis without his services. But it meant the world to know that he was ready to go to bat for me that very moment.”

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As it turned out, Larry gave me such good advice that I was able to navigate my way through the crisis without his services. But it meant the world to know that he was ready to go to bat for me that very moment.
Judge Gene D. Cohen, of counsel to Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP, served on Sen. Arlen Specter’s Academy Selection Committee. Judge Cohen and other committee members interviewed applicants seeking Senatorial Nomination to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis and the Air Force Academy.

Melissa J. Oretsky, a senior associate at Reed Smith LLP has been elected to serve a three-year term on the Young Friends of the Philadelphia Museum of Art Executive Board. She also has been selected to the executive committee of the Louis D. Brandeis Law Society.

Allyson B. Davis, an assistant city solicitor to the City of Philadelphia Law Department Regulatory Affairs Unit, was recently elected to the Board of Directors for Operation Understanding. She is also an alum of the program. Operation Understanding’s mission is to develop a greater understanding of diversity and lead the communities of Philadelphia to explore each other’s histories and cultures to effectively work together.

Ellen C. Brotman, a partner with Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP was recently elected president of the 40,000-member National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

Beth Lincoin Cole has been selected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey.

Paul Schieber and Jed Mayk, shareholders with Stevens & Lee, spoke at Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act seminars held by the Mortgage Bankers Association in December in Denver, Irvine, Calif., and Philadelphia.

Edward W. Madeira, Jr., senior counsel and chair emeritus with Pepper Hamilton LLP, was presented with a Decree of Distinction designating him an Exemplar Summa Juris by the Pennsylvania Superior Court during a special en banc session in Philadelphia on Dec. 10.

Robert C. Clothier, a partner with Fox Rothschild LLP, participated in the conference “Religion and Free Speech in the Schools: Where Do Courts Draw the Line?” at the 32nd Annual Meeting of Area School Superintendents on Dec. 9.

Steven J. Racci, a partner with Woodcock Washburn LLP has been appointed to the Board of Advisors of Drexel University’s Earl Mack School of Law.

E. Harris Baum, honorary consul general for the Republic of Korea, was honored for his valuable support, contributions and commitment to the Philip Jaisohn Memorial Foundation. The presentation was held during a Foundation dinner at the Melrose Country Club on Dec. 6.

Joseph A. Arnold, an associate with Cozen O’Connor, has been elected to chair The Lupus Foundation of America, Philadelphia Tri-State Chapter’s board of directors for 2010.

Joseph J. Centeno, a partner with Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP co-presented “Marital Agreements: Avoiding Post Death Surprises” at the PBA’s 16th Annual Estate Law Institute at the Convention Center on Dec. 11.

Robert D. Lane Jr., a shareholder with Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, has been appointed to the chair of the Montgomery County board of American Red Cross Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter.

Lynn E. Rzonca, managing partner of Ballard Spahr LLP’s Philadelphia office, was selected for membership on the International Trademark Association’s Panel of Neutrals.

Robert D. Lane Jr., a shareholder with Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, was a speaker for the LSI Data Collection and Aggregation Workshop on Dec. 15 in Philadelphia.

John Gullace, a partner with Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP participated in a panel discussion on “Top Ten Developments of 2009: Part I,” during a teleconference sponsored by the American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy and Resources on Jan. 22.

Michael Carter, Lynn Rosner Rauch and Nicole Moshang, attorneys with Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP spoke about “Discovery Sanctions: Not Just Outside Counsel’s Problem” at a recent seminar sponsored by the Association of Corporate Counsel America Delaware Valley Chapter’s Litigation Committee Institute.
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