By Jeff Lyons

U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor will be presented with the Philadelphia Bar Association’s newly renamed Justice Sonia Sotomayor Diversity Award at the Friday, March 11 Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon.

The change of the award’s name, formerly known as the Chancellor’s Diversity Award, “will add immeasurably to the prestige of the award and the incentive it will provide to make real progress throughout our legal community,” Chancellor Rudolph Garcia told Bar members in December.

“Throughout her entire career, Justice Sotomayor has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to diversity and equal justice for all Americans. As the first Hispanic-American justice, nominated by the first African-American president, she embodies the ideals of diversity and shines like a beacon of hope for others in our profession,” the Chancellor said.

Justice Sotomayor was nominated to the Supreme Court by President Obama on May 26, 2009 and was sworn in to the nation’s highest court on Aug. 8, 2009. The Bronx, N.Y. native and Yale Law School graduate was an assistant district attorney in New York City from 1979 to 1984. She worked in private practice from 1984 to 1992. She was nominated by President George H.W. Bush to the U.S. District

To Purchase Tickets
To purchase tickets for the March 11 Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon, visit philadelphiabar.org.

Bylaw Amendment
Bar Leaders
YLD Bootcamp
Pro Bono Help
Diversity Action Plan
Foundation Grants

Sotomayor to Receive Diversity Honor at Bar’s March 11 Quarterly Meeting

Chancellor’s Reception

More than 700 people, including U.S. Attorney Zane D. Memeger (right), greeted new Chancellor Rudolph Garcia at the Jan. 5 Chancellor’s Reception at the Hyatt at The Bellevue. This is the event at which even the city’s busiest and most successful legal luminaries patiently wait in line to wish their leader and each other good luck in the year ahead.
You may have heard by now that I have formed a Membership Task Force. I did that because bar associations throughout this country are losing members. Our Philadelphia Bar Association is doing much better than the American Bar Association and most other bars, but we can’t take our members for granted in this challenging economy. We need to earn their loyalty, and attract new members, by enhancing the value of membership in our association.

Accordingly, our Membership Task Force, chaired by Matthew Perks and Jacqueline G. Segal, is working on new ways to make membership attractive from a financial perspective, as well as from a personal perspective. Two such projects are already scheduled to launch by the beginning of next month.

First, we’ll unveil a new “Bar Classifieds” section of our website where members will be able to post notices for jobs, office space and the like at a fraction of the cost currently paid for classified ads in leading publications and online services. This is the least we can do for all the lawyers who are struggling to find work in this extraordinarily difficult job market. And it will also help firms by reducing their spending on ads. Employers that take advantage of the new service within the first month will also receive special half-price charter rates for their advertisements.

Next, we will provide free access to Fastcase, an innovative legal research service. Thanks to the Internet, Fastcase has been able to build its database much less expensively than its more traditional competitors. For that reason, and because we have so many members, we were able to negotiate a price per member that the association can fully absorb.

Through this service, we will provide online access to Pennsylvania state and federal cases, statutes and rules at no cost whatsoever. In addition, the full national-wide database will be available at a very substantial discount.

However, we will only provide Fastcase to firms who enroll all of their Philadelphia lawyers in our bar. Many firms already do, so their access will be automatic. Those that don’t will need to sign up the rest of their lawyers. That increase in membership will help us pay for this new service.

We estimate that if the last 25 firms in town use Fastcase for as little as 30 percent of the research that they can’t charge to clients, they will save an average of $35,000 per year, net of the additional dues paid for their lawyers who aren’t yet members. Of course, they could also reduce the amounts charged to clients who do pay for online legal research by many times that amount.

Moreover, those sole practitioners and small firms who only need access to Pennsylvania law could cut their online research costs to zero.

Best of all, Fastcase is easy to use. It’s announced on page 13.

Time is money, and yours is precious. Why waste it spending hours gathering information from multiple sources, when the Legal Directory has everything you need in one place? For years, the Philadelphia Bar Association’s official Legal Directory has kept you up-to-date with the content you need in print and online. And once again for 2011, The Legal Directory is mobile. This streamlined interface is tailored for your handheld and fully interactive. Simply click on a number or e-mail: your handheld will immediately dial the number or generate an e-mail template.

The Legal Directory’s massive database is updated annually to ensure you receive the most current and comprehensive information. 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 metro-area legal community.

Yet again the mobile component is free with purchase of the traditional print version. Connect to thousands of lawyer and law firm listings with your mobile device wherever there’s an Internet connection. Once you’re back in the office, access all our firm and attorney listings at thelegaldirectory.org.

If you find yourself without access to the Internet, The Legal Directory’s impressive print version is there for you. It’s easy-to-read design packs a wealth of information into one volume:

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

Get Mobile, Online Access With Legal Directory 2011

By Rudolph Garcia

Fastcase, Classified Ads Boost Value of Association Membership

For more information about The Legal Directory 2011, please visit www.thelegaldirectory.org.

• A business-to-business supplier section tailored to the legal community.

In our fast-paced world, it’s more critical than ever to access up-to-date information. Firms have merged, organization’s boards have changed and attorneys have switched firms. You can always rely on The Legal Directory to have the up-to-date information you need, whenever you need it.

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 area.

Order The Legal Directory (print, mobile and online) now and get the discounted pre-publication price of $59.95 (plus shipping and tax)!” This special rate is available until Feb. 28, 2011.

Questions? Please e-mail legaldirectory@mediatwo.com or call 443-909-7843.
Notice to Philadelphia Bar Association Members

Pursuant to Section 1100 of the Philadelphia Bar Association bylaws, notice is hereby given to all members of the Philadelphia Bar Association that the following amendment to the bylaws of the Philadelphia Bar Association were considered at the Nov. 18, 2010 Board of Governors meetings and were approved for submission to the members at the March Quarterly meeting to take place on Friday, March 11, 2011 at noon at the Hyatt at The Bellevue.

Addition of Section 217 to the Bylaws, creating a Long-Range Advisory Council, as follows:
Section 217. Long-Range Advisory Council
A. The Long-Range Advisory Council (the “Council”) shall consider the long term goals of the Association and make recommendations to the Chancellor and the Board regarding achievement of those goals through means which may take more than a single year. The Council shall have the discretion to meet and to make such recommendations as often as it deems advisable. Such recommendations shall be advisory only, and shall not limit the authority of the Chancellor or the Board, nor shall the Chancellor or the Board be required to conform agenda items, policy or resolutions to the Council’s recommendations.

B. The Council shall consist of the following persons, each of whom shall be entitled to vote:
1. The Chancellor;
2. The Chancellor-Elect;
3. The Vice Chancellor;
4. The Chair of the Young Lawyers Division; and
5. Nine Members of the Association, who shall be appointed as follows:
   (a) Each year, the Chancellor shall appoint three Members to serve on the Council for a term of three years, except as provided in Section 217(B)(5)(e) with respect to the initial appointments.
   (b) To be eligible for appointment to the Council, a Member must be well respected and have an established record of service and commitment to the Association, preferably in a high leadership capacity. It is also preferable that appointed Members have no intention to run for any other elected office of the Association.
   (c) Appointments to the Council shall be made with due regard for the Association’s commitment to diversity.
   (d) Members of the Council shall be eligible for re-appointment to successive terms.
   (e) The first nine appointments to the Council shall be made by the Chancellor, with the consent of the Board, for the following terms: three for three-year terms, three for two-year terms, and three for one-year terms.
C. The Chair of the Council shall be appointed each year by the Chancellor from among the nine appointed members.
D. Any vacancy among the appointed members of the Council shall be filled for the duration of the unexpired term by appointment of the Chancellor.

February CLE Calendar

These CLE programs will be held at The CLE Conference Center, Wanamaker Building, 10th Floor, Suite 1010, Juniper Street entrance unless otherwise noted.

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2/1  • PLI - Commercial Real Estate Financing 2011: What Borrowers & Lenders Need to Know
2/2  • Breaking Down the Basics Series - Employment Litigation Essentials
     Civil Procedure Practicalities
     Understanding Sentencing
2/3  • Breaking Down the Basics Series - Preparing for a Support Hearing
     Ethics of Social Networking
     How to File and Defend a Mechanic’s Lien
2/4  • How to Write a Will And Other Essential Estate Planning Documents
2/8  • Fundamentals of Insurance Law
2/9  • Current Issues in Medical Malpractice
2/11 • Independent Contractor v. Employee: Repercussions of Misclassification
2/14 • The Complete Legal Negotiator (PEG)
2/15 • A Conversation with the US Trustees Office
2/16 • Winning the Fall Down Case
     Structuring and Crafting Commercial Loan Documents
     Workers’ Compensaton Issues Affecting Your Auto Accident Case
     Deal Documents in Litigation
     The Intersection of Legal & New Mental Health Issues in Custody Cases
2/23 • 12th Annual Estate & Elder Law Symposium
2/24 • Social Media in the Workplace
     To Judge or Not To Judge - The Question of Judicial Recusal
     Premarital Agreements
2/25 • The Complexities of UCC Article 9 Simplified (PEG)
     Prisoner Civil Rights Litigation 2011 at Federal Courthouse Ceremonial Courtroom, 601 Market Street
2/28 • Workers’ Compensation Practice & Procedure 2010
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▶ www.pbi.org
▶ 800-932-4638
Bar 5K Keeps On Growing

By Manny D. Pokotilow

The Philadelphia Bar Association’s 5K Charity Run/Walk will be held again on Sunday, May 15. This will be the 32nd year that the Philadelphia Bar Association has organized this charity Race to spotlight its concern for the children of Philadelphia and to benefit the Support Center for Child Advocates.

I am often asked how this race began. In October 1979, I completed my first Marathon (please do not ask my time). A friend of mine, Barry Greenberg, was then a board member of the Support Center for Child Advocates and shared with me how they were training lawyers to help abused children. When I heard how barely funded and badly in need of exposure the organization was at the time, I organized the first Philadelphia Bar Association Charity Run, a 10k (6.2 mile) Race that took place in 1980. Amazingly, we drew more than 800 people! It raised a few thousand dollars for Child Advocates and showed how lawyers were willing to come out and support this organization of dedicated volunteers for an abused and neglected group of children.

Carl (Hank) Delacato Jr. was appointed chair emeritus. James A. Francis was reappointed as co-chair of the Lawyer Referral and Information Service Committee. Michael D. Shaffer was appointed to a three-year term and as co-chair. Jeffrey S. Lichtman and Denise J. Smylyer were reappointed to three-year terms on the committee.

Richard S. Seidel was appointed chair of the Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention. Gaetan J. Alfano was appointed to a four-year term on the committee and was named vice chair by Chancellor-Elect John E. Savoth. Jeffrey M. Lindy was appointed to a three-year term on the commission, filling the vacancy of the U.S. attorney. Leyla Moreno was appointed to a two-year term as a lay member of the commission.

Kim R. Jessum was appointed treasurer of the Campaign for Qualified Judges. The Board also approved the renaming of the Minorities in the Profession Committee to the Diversity in the Profession Committee.

Chancellor-Elect John E. Savoth (from left) joins Board of Governors Vice Chair Brandi J. Brice, Chancellor Rudolph Garcia, Board Chair Regina M. Foley and Vice Chancellor Kathleen D. Wilkinson at the Bar Leaders Retreat on Jan. 7 in Atlantic City, N.J.

Regina M. Foley, a partner with Raynes McCarty, and Brandi J. Brice, an attorney with the City Solicitor’s Office, have been elected chair and vice chair of the Association’s Board of Governors. The election was held at the Bar Leaders Retreat Jan. 7 in Atlantic City, N.J.

Chancellor Rudolph Garcia announced the following appointments at the retreat: Stephen M. Foxman, John J. O’Brien, Bella Schnall and Matthew Ian Whitehorn were appointed to the Board of Directors of Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program.

Wesley R. Payne IV and H. Marc Tepper were appointed as co-chairs of the Insurance Programs Committee. Tepper was also appointed to a three-year term on the committee. Peter A. Dunn and Robert S. Tintner were appointed to three-year terms on the committee and

WebCheck Visit philadelphiabar.org for the most up-to-date listing of Section and Committee chairs and Bar leaders

Foley, Brice Voted Board Chair, Vice Chair

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Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast

Chancellor Rudolph Garcia joins Mayor Michael Nutter at the Barristers’ Association of Philadelphia’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Memorial Breakfast on Jan. 17 at the Doubletree Hotel on South Broad Street.

www.charityrun2011.com
Don’t Let Winter Stop 5K Training

By Bryan Mahon

DURING THE WINTER THERE ARE TIMES WHEN IT’S SAFER TO RUN INSIDE. A treadmill can be a welcome change from a daily loop through your neighborhood.

• Keep a large water bottle within reach. Your body perspires much more on a treadmill than it would outside due to a lack of wind resistance, which helps to cool the body through the evaporation of sweat. As you will not be cutting through the air when running on a treadmill, your body overheats and works overtime to try and cool off through perspiration.

• Get a fan! Turn on a fan in front of your treadmill to help recreate wind resistance. Some treadmills have built-in fans, and if so, take advantage of that option.

• Don’t neglect your hamstrings, glutes and hip extensor muscles. Because the treadmill is moving the belt toward you, your body doesn’t use posterior muscles to “pull the ground.” This isn’t a major concern for one or two runs. But, if you consistently run on a treadmill, also include supplemental weight workouts or use a physio-ball to help keep these muscles in balance.

Philadelphia Bar Association Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon
Friday, March 11 at 12 p.m. at the Hyatt at The Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets

• Featuring presentation of the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Diversity Award to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor

• Presentation of ceremonial gold box to Immediate-Past Chancellor Scott F. Cooper

Please make reservations for the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Annual Meeting Luncheon. Tickets are $60 for members and $70 for non-members. Checks should be made payable to the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Name: ____________________________________________
Firm/Employer: _________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________
Phone: __________________ Fax: ___________________________
E-Mail: __________________________________________________

Credit Cardholder: ___________________________________________
Card number: ______________________________________________
Expiration date: ____________________________________________
Signature: _________________________________________________

Credit card payments should be faxed to Bar Headquarters at (215) 238-1159.
YLD Update

YLD Bootcamp to Aid Students, New Lawyers

By Carolyn M. Chopko

The Young Lawyers Division is well underway with our agenda for 2011. On Jan. 19, we held the YLD Summit at the Bar Association offices. During the summit, the entire Executive Committee, including our newly elected members and newly appointed liaisons, came together to meet, become reacquainted and to discuss our plans for this year. One of the key items on the agenda at the summit was to ensure that the more than 50 programs the YLD plans to coordinate this year have adequate support and leadership from our members. In that regard, all members of the Executive Committee made commitments to the two or three programs they’d be interested in leading and/or assisting with this year. Of course, we are always in need of additional hands, so if you hear or read about an upcoming YLD event and are interested in becoming more involved, please let me or any member of the Executive Committee know.

One of the first big programs on our agenda this year is an outreach effort for new graduates and law students. As a result of the overwhelmingly positive response we received from attendees at last year’s inaugural event, we will once again hold our outreach program, “Young Lawyer Bootcamp: Tactics, Tricks and Tips for Law Students and New Lawyers.” This year’s program will take place on Friday, Feb. 18, at the CLE Conference Center on the 10th Floor of the Wanamaker Building, Market and Juniper streets.

Speakers will include members of the YLD and the Bar at large, from a wide variety of practice areas and professional backgrounds, as well as several prominent members of the judiciary.

The goal of Bootcamp is to provide guidance in practical skills that are essential for success in the profession. This year’s program will consist of four panel presentations, interspersed with networking breaks. The first panel is comprised of several distinguished judges who will offer “advice from the bench” about interacting with the judiciary and their staff, both in and out of the courtroom.

A second panel will explore various or alternative career paths within the legal profession. This panel will examine the career paths of attorneys working in a variety of sectors, including large firms, small firms, the court system, public interest agencies and in-house corporate counsel.

The third panel will address the skills that young lawyers need to develop, particularly in a down economy. This panel will focus on concrete issues including billing, taking depositions and maintaining a realistic work-life balance.

Our last panel will present issues to consider before starting your own firm. This panel will include sole practitioners, as well as practicing attorneys from small firms, who will discuss the key aspects of beginning your own business.

At the end of the panel presentations, we will hold an interactive networking social event. The networking event is open to any member of the Bar Association.

We encourage everyone to come out and participate in the networking session.

On another note, the YLD is accepting nominations for the F. Sean Peretta Service Award and the Craig M. Perry Service Award, both presented at the upcoming YLD Annual Meeting in early 2011.

The F. Sean Peretta Service Award is presented annually to a young lawyer – 37 years old or younger or within the first three years of practice – who has devoted substantial time and energy to community-oriented activities, including, but not limited to, pro bono and charity work. Perry was a member of the YLD Executive Committee who suffered an untimely death. He was very involved in community service and active in student-related and other YLD programs.

Nominations should include the individual’s name, address and a brief statement describing his or her qualifications. The deadline for nominations is Monday, Feb. 7. All nominations should be submitted to Tracey McCloskey at the Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107 or e-mail to tmcclloskey@philabar.org.

As always, if you are interested in volunteering for any of the YLD events, or want to learn more about our programs, please contact me.

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

New Partner, In-House Counsel Conference in Feb.

The Young Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association will hold the inaugural “New Partner and In-House Counsel Conference” on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 25-26 at the Four Seasons Hotel on Logan Square in Philadelphia.

The program provides two days of practical tips and advice that can immediately help you navigate this landscape with greater ease and success through unique CLE, networking and a nationally acclaimed faculty.

Conference highlights include more than 8 CLE credits including 1.5 ethics; networking sessions and small group discussions; and tracks that guide you through the issues and information you should be familiar with as you take on this new role.

The Philadelphia Bar Association is a co-sponsor of this event. To learn more, visit www.abanet.org/yld/newpartner.
Helping Families Through Pro Bono

By Peggy E. Rubin

When I initially began to write this article, following pressure from a partner in my department, the earthquake hit Haiti. Within a few months of the Hait earthquake the volcano in Europe erupted and then oil began to destroy the Gulf of Mexico.

With all the atrocities and life-altering events occurring in our world today, sometimes there is little time to think about the subtle, and not-so-subtle, tragedies that are endured by the families and people of Philadelphia. It can be easy to remove yourself from these harsh realities when there is food on your table, when you are not being evicted from your home, when you are not being physically, sexually or emotionally abused and your children are not being removed from your care.

There are many reasons that families struggle to keep themselves and their children healthy and well. We could focus blame on the years of institutional and social discrimination received by many impoverished individuals based on race, ethnicity and gender. The focus of blame is not the purpose of this article nor is it a solution to these social dilemmas. I merely wish to acknowledge that there are citizens with the most personal and important issues pending in their lives and they are appearing before the court most often alone. It is my position that when these issues are not dealt with and resolved for these families that the poverty, neglect and suffering will continue for future generations.

As a family law paralegal I have worked directly with the Philadelphia Family Court system for 22 years. The dedication and service of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Family Division is second to none in the commonwealth. The volume of cases handled by Family Court annually is overwhelming. In 2009, the new support cases initiated by pro se litigants was 18,243, which is 91.52 percent of all new support cases filed in Philadelphia Family Court. Nearly 91 percent of new custody filings in 2009 were by pro se litigants. Additionally, there were 11,695 new protection from abuse filings in Philadelphia Family Court in 2009.

From the figures above, it is evident that the majority of the family members are navigating the courts alone to make sure their families stay intact, to have a means for support and to protect themselves and their children from abuse. The issues being adjudicated directly impact our children and our children are the future inhabitants and community members of Philadelphia. If families cannot provide secure lives for their children, what type of future are we securing for our city? Family Court, without help from the Bar Association and the nonprofit legal service agencies, will not be able to address all the critical legal and social issues shaping our future generations.

Every family deserves the opportunity for a good life or a good start in Philadelphia. We can make certain through our participation in pro bono activities and other volunteer services that all citizens know their rights and are educated on the laws that affect them and their families. Pro bono work and volunteerism is a social investment of time and compassion that will provide a great return to all involved.

Attorneys and paralegals can help by inquiring about the pro bono opportunities and resources available through their firms or begin their own initiatives firmwide. There are many nonprofit organizations in Philadelphia providing legal services to the public. I serve as the firm contact to Philadelphia VIP and I direct most of my volunteer efforts toward them. No family law experience? Not a problem. VIP’s Family Law Advisory Council mentors volunteer attorneys handling their pro bono family law cases.

Lastly, you can contact Young Lawyers Division Chair Carolyn M. Chopko at cchopko@feldmanShepherd.com or 215-567-8300 or Judith Bardsley, chair of the Philadelphia Association of Paralegals Pro Bono Committee, at judybardsley2006@yahoo.com to volunteer your time and service. There is no shortage of opportunities for those willing to invest their time in making the lives of families of Philadelphia more stable and secure today and for our future.

Peggy E. Rubin (peggyrubin@obermayer.com) is a litigation paralegal at Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP and serves as the firm contact for Philadelphia VIP.

Section Gets Details on New Custody Rules

By Shereen N. Arthur

Under Pennsylvania’s new custody statute, the term “visitation” has been entirely removed. Separated parties residing in the same residence can petition for custody and an order can be entered that will become effective upon physical separation.

Attorneys Michael E. Bertin and Elaine Smith presented an update on the custody statute at the Jan. 10 meeting of the Family Law Section.

Sixteen factors are specifically set forth for the court’s consideration when awarding custody, including each party’s availability to care for the child or ability to make appropriate child-care arrangements. Although some of these factors were considered in the past, judges are now required to explain the basis for their decisions (see § 5323(d) – “Reasons for Award”), based upon these factors. The emphasis on safety is greater under the new law and it is important to note that the order of the factors does not suggest any priority in consideration.

Topics that received considerable attention were relocation (§5337) and consideration of criminal convictions (§5329). The statute provides an explicit procedure for approaching relocation cases and supplies factors to consider. The notice provisions of the relocation section are particularly tricky. After giving the notice required, the moving parent has little time to prepare for the actual move. Section 5337 provides a required notice form and includes a counter-affidavit. If notice is properly given and an objection is not made, the court is not required to have a relocation hearing, making the result analogous to a “default.” A notable change in the factors is that the court must evaluate the benefits of the move to the child, separate and apart from the parent.

Pursuant to Section 5329, the court shall consider convictions of the parties and members of their households for the offenses set forth (which now include DUI) and determine whether there is a threat to the child. An initial evaluation continued on page 10.

Visit philadelphiabar.org to listen to the podcast from this meeting.

Photo by Jeff Lyons
Fastcase Research Available to Members

Philadelphia lawyers practicing at firms with full Philadelphia-office membership in the Bar Association will soon enjoy the newest member benefit at no cost: Fastcase, the leading next-generation legal research service that puts a comprehensive national law library and powerful searching and visualization tools at users’ fingertips.

The online service will be available for member access by the beginning of next month.

“What sets Fastcase apart from traditional legal research services is its approach to search results,” said Chancellor Rudolph Garcia. “In addition to the usual list of cases in response to a search, Fastcase displays an interactive map of what a user searched for, so he or she can see the most important cases at a glance, saving time and money.”

This feature, called the Fastcase Interactive Timeline, ensures the most helpful cases will be spotlighted on the page, even if a search returns thousands of results. The technology quickens research, as often a case is highlighted that might otherwise have been missed. The Interactive Timeline also makes it easy to spot trends in the law that might have been obscured in a long list of cases.

“One of my goals as Chancellor is to bolster the value of membership in the Bar Association,” Garcia said. “Providing Fastcase to eligible members at no cost is a step in this direction. If the largest 25 firms in Philadelphia use the service for as little as 30 percent of the research they can charge to clients, they will save an average of $35,000 per year, net of the additional dues paid for the lawyers who are not yet members. And Fastcase may be all that many sole practitioners and small firms need in terms of legal research, which cuts associated costs to zero.”

Other highlights of Fastcase include:
• Finding the Most Authoritative Case: On the Fastcase results screen, users can click the “Entire Database” option to sort cases based on how often they are cited overall or “These Results” to sort cases based on how often they are cited within the user’s search results.
• Forecite: A unique feature recently added to Fastcase’s research tools, Forecite uses an intuitive process to ensure users do not miss seminal cases. Often times, when researching a certain topic, rulings associated with that topic do not appear in the search results because the specific phrasing of the topic (for example “Miranda Doctrine under the Fifth Amendment”) does not appear in the decision (for example Miranda v. Arizona). Forecite will notify a user in a separate field if decisions relevant to the research topic are identified but do not contain the explicit search terms.
• Google-like searching: Fastcase allows users to search broadly — returning as many as 10,000 cases — and then sort those results by selected criteria such as relevance, date and authoritative value to bring the best cases to the top of the results list.

Webinars have already been scheduled and will be available to members at least once a month beginning in March 2011 on a variety of tips for navigating Fastcase. Support from the company itself will also be accessible online and by phone at support@fastcase.com and 1-866-773-2782.

Board of Governors Chair Regina M. Foley (above) welcomes section and committee chairs to the Philadelphia Bar Leaders Institute on Jan. 20. Attendees, including Matthew Perks and Denise J. Smyler, learned about best practices and logistics for planning programs.

Philadelphia Bar Leaders Institute

GENERATE NEW BUSINESS WITH A MULTI-CHANNEL MARKETING STRATEGY
That Reaches Philadelphia’s Legal Community IN PRINT and ONLINE.

IN PRINT:
The Philadelphia Lawyer
Philadelphia Bar Association’s four-color quarterly magazine, with award-winning coverage of legal issues, leading local personalities, industry trends, technology and lifestyle topics.

ONLINE:
Bar Reporter Online
E-mailed to Bar Association members Monday and Thursday mornings, this electronic newsletter provides updates on Association activities and news from Bar Foundation-supported service organizations.

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**Office of Diversity**

**Section’s Action Plan an Excellent Model**

They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. If so, the Business Law Section has good reason to be flattered. Its Diversity Action Plan was the talk of last month’s Bar Leaders Retreat. So much so, that at least two section chairs and one committee chair openly stated their intention to use the plan as a model for their own action plan. Frankly, all sections and committees should do the same. After all, why re-invent the wheel?

At the retreat, Section Chair Sandra A. Jeskie spoke candidly about the genesis of the plan and provided an excellent overview. Upon recognizing that the Section was lacking in the “inclusion, participation and involvement of attorneys from underrepresented groups in Section programs and activities,” its executive committee formed a task force consisting of Rachel E. Brannon, Albert S. Dandridge III, Eric C. Milby and Barbara T. Sicalides. Although a collaborative effort, Jeskie and Immediate-Past Section Chair Lee Applebaum are quick to credit Dandridge as the driving force behind the plan’s creation.

The task force was charged with “recommending specific ways the Section could improve its current initiatives to encourage active involvement in the Business Law Section and its committees by lawyers regardless of race, ethnicity or religious background, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, geography or work environment (large, small and mid-size firms, sole practitioners, government lawyers, in-house counsel, judiciary, part-time, full-time).” It focused on four areas: Section environment; leadership; outreach; and professional development. Under each area, the task force recommended action steps in order to meet its charge.

The plan was proposed by the task force in December 2009 and adopted by the Section’s executive committee in May 2010. The entire plan is available at www.philadelphiabar.org. An overview follows:

**Environment**
To create a culture where all members of the bar association feel valued, supported, comfortable and included in an environment that affords an opportunity to contribute and thrive by attorneys from underrepresented groups.

- Assess information gathered from interviews with Section members to identify diversity issues and challenges;
- Ensure the inclusion of underrepresented attorneys as active members, committee chairs and on the executive committee;
- Provide progress report to executive committee every six months;
- Allocate monies in annual budget for plan implementation;
- Expand Young Lawyer Division liaison role as a communication avenue with concerns regarding diversity and inclusion;
- Solicit input from affinity bar associations.

**Leadership**
To demonstrate the commitment of the Section’s executive committee to inclusion, participation and involvement of attorneys from underrepresented groups in Section programs and activities by developing policies, practices and plans that effectively and proactively implement this plan.

- Designate a diversity liaison to Section committees;
- Develop a process to ensure committees follow the executive committee’s guidance;
- Work and cooperate with committee leaders;
- Consider sponsorship opportunities.

**Outreach**
To recruit a more diverse pool of attorneys both for committee membership and for Section presentations.

- Executive committee will communicate interest in increasing participation of underrepresented attorneys;
- Section will host/sponsor discussions, panels, networking events, or other events organized by various affinity bar associations;
- Executive committee will pursue initiatives by participating in various bar/legal associations for underrepresented attorneys.

**By Naomi McLaurin**

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**Naturalization Ceremony**

Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent program recognizes Andrew R. Rogoff, a partner at Pepper Hamilton LLP, for his outstanding volunteer assistance to VIP clients. Rogoff accepted his first case from VIP in 1993 and has been a dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer ever since. He uses his extensive litigation, arbitration and mediation skills to obtain the best possible outcome for the clients he serves. He has worked on a variety of issues for VIP clients, including matters involving civil forfeiture, consumer debt, and denial of children’s social security benefits.

In one case, a client was at risk of losing the home she inherited from her mother after a police search found drugs that had been hidden in the house by a third party without the client’s knowledge. Rogoff represented the client in the civil forfeiture proceeding and helped to negotiate an agreement that allowed the client to keep her family home.

In addition to working on his own VIP cases, Rogoff has also served as a mentor for other volunteers handling VIP cases. He answers questions and provides valuable information and perspective for attorneys new to handling a civil forfeiture case. Rogoff also serves as a VIP ambassador encouraging other attorneys at Pepper Hamilton LLP to become involved in pro bono cases.

For his commitment and dedication to its clients, Philadelphia VIP offers its heartfelt appreciation to Andrew Rogoff, VIP’s volunteer of the month.

**Philosophy Volunteers**

family law continued from page 8

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**Family Law**

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**Chancellor-Elect John E. Savath addresses new American citizens at a Jan. 20 naturalization ceremony before U.S. District Court Judge Cynthia M. Rufe. Nearly 100 people from 40 nations took the oath of citizenship, which also featured remarks from Judge James T. Giles of Pepper Hamilton LLP. The event was sponsored by the Philadelphia Bar Association.**

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**Rogoff Honored by Philadelphia VIP**

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**By Shereen N. Arthur**

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**Office of Diversity**

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**Section’s Action Plan an Excellent Model**

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**By Naomi McLaurin**

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Despite Economy, Grants Equal ‘09 Level

By Wendy Beetlestone

Each year at the Philadelphia Bar Foundation we project how much we hope to be able to raise in the coming year for our grantees. As a point of pride, we strive to do everything we can to make sure that we do not give less than we did the year before. The task appeared daunting at the beginning of 2010. The economic outlook was dismal and our donor base—lawyers, law firms and law firm vendors—were struggling along with everyone else. It looked more and more like we would not be able to meet our goal. Then something magical happened:

• The Host Committees of the Andrew Hamilton Benefit, the Golf Classic and the Young Lawyers Division Comedy Night went into overdrive and, in the process of putting together some stellar events, gathered support from more than 70 law firms and businesses to sponsor these signature benefits;

• More than 250 people made individual contributions by donating their arbitration fees, gave in honor or memory of a colleague or loved one, gave to the Bar Foundation’s Board of Trustees and volunteers at 25 of the city’s largest law firms asked, cajoled, persuaded, and encouraged 245 of their colleagues to make individual contributions to the Foundation. The funds raised by this campaign helped put the final exclamation point on the effort to match last year’s grant-making, and we thank both the donors and firm liaisons for their help.

In the final analysis, and only because of these tremendous efforts involving hundreds of people and scores of law firms and law firm vendors as well as contributions made by law firms through the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Billions for Justice campaign, the Bar Foundation was able to match 2009’s historic level of grant-making, awarding $563,000 in grants to 35 public interest organizations.

This year we added two new organizations to the roster of Bar Foundation grantees. The first is the Atlantic Center for Capital Representation—a resource center for lawyers defending death penalty cases. The Center provides hands on assistance to capital defense teams through consultation, referrals and training as well as by developing case tracking and screening systems all with the aim of improving the quality of representation in those cases where the death penalty is a possibility.

The second organization, the Pennsylvania Prison Society, is partnering with the Nationalities Service Center and the Pennsylvania Prison Society’s case managers and other re-entry staff to address former offenders’ myriad concerns in a “one-stop-shop” setting. The goal of the program will be to assist this population of returning prisoners in gaining and keeping stable employment that will allow them to become self-sufficient and avoid a return to prison.

This innovative new approach to meeting the needs of former offenders arose in part from a realization by the Bar Foundation’s Grants Committee that there was a gap in the legal help available to that population. Based on that realization, the Foundation convened a work group that included stakeholders from Philadelphia VIP CLS, the STAR (Supervision to Aid Reentry) program and the Institutional Law Project to discuss how to address the gap. Dr. Caterina Roman, a professor at Temple University, was interested in the direction of the work group and in

Diversity

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attorneys and by communicating that the Section is a welcoming place;

• Section should increase the diversity of the pool of actively recruited attorneys from underrepresented groups as candidates from which it recruits for positions as officers, executive committee and committee members, individual committee leaders and promotes and develops Section membership and individual committee membership;

• Section will participate in the Philadelphia Diversity Law Group programs, where appropriate;

• Include underrepresented attorneys whenever it participates in law school programs.

Professional Development

To establish and maintain a systematic and structured process and approach to professional program development that is proactive and will ensure full and equal opportunities and support for attorneys from underrepresented groups to be full and active participants.

• Conduct periodic surveys for ideas;

• Implement suggestions from the survey;

• Identify and promote meaningful inclusion, participation and involvement of underrepresented attorneys;

• Learn from others who have studied and successfully achieved greater diversity in organizations or groups with significant similarities to the Section.

According to Applebaum, the Section spent more time on diversity at meetings in 2010 than any other single subject. This dedication and commitment to increasing diversity and inclusion within the Section has not gone unnoticed. The Office of Diversity will continue to encourage other sections and committees to use the plan as a model.

Naomi K. McLaurin, Esq., (nmclaurin@ philabar.org) is director of diversity for the Philadelphia Bar Association.
The interview series conducted by PNC Wealth Management director Jackie Byrne Lessman, CFP®, explores distinct topics and issues relevant to the legal community ranging from investment management, wealth planning, trust, estate services and other PNC areas of expertise.

As a PNC liaison to the legal community, Lessman specializes in working with law firms and attorneys regarding their banking needs, as well as class action plaintiff firms and claims administrators. Lessman is committed to leveraging PNC’s in-depth resources to cultivate relationships with regional law firms and attorneys by offering support and solutions.

In an interview with Martyn Babitz, J.D., senior vice president and senior wealth strategist for the Philadelphia Market of Hawthorn, a business dedicated to serving the needs of ultra-affluent families with investable assets in excess of $20 million, we discussed the recent tax cut legislation and its resulting impact on wealth planning.

Jackie Lessman: How does the signing of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 (the 2010 Act) on Dec. 17, 2010 affect wealth strategy and fiduciary services for 2011?

Martyn Babitz: The good news is that Congress has significantly increased the opportunities for transfer tax savings, thus preserving more wealth to be passed on to the beneficiaries. This also means that more assets are potentially at risk from creditor claims, claims of divorcing spouses, professional liability claims and spendthrift beneficiaries. Our clients should be aware of various trusts and planning techniques that can help preserve and protect family wealth for generations to come.

The repeal of the federal estate tax in 2010 was a topic of interest due to both the resulting opportunities and consequences. Can you please explain the estate tax exemption that is now in place?

The 2010 Act introduces the concept of portability for the unused estate tax exemption of a deceased spouse dying after 2010. Such portability is designed to help minimize the estate tax bite for individuals who do not engage in traditional bypass/credit shelter trust planning. Unlike assets placed in a bypass/credit shelter trust, assets subject to portability will generally be eligible for a step-up in basis at the death of the surviving spouse; however, such assets will also be subject to taxation of any appreciation during the life of the surviving spouse (assets held in a bypass/credit shelter trust are not subject to tax on such appreciation).

In December we spoke about the Generation Skipping Tax (GST) and how to take advantage of the benefits in 2010. Now with the passing of the 2010 Act, what are the exemption levels for the GST, the estate tax and the lifetime gift tax?

For 2011 and 2012 (these provisions expire at the end of 2012), the estate tax exemption, GST exemption and lifetime gift exemption are all $5 million, with indexing for inflation that may increase this amount for 2012. The top rate for all three taxes is 35 percent. This means that for many of our clients, an additional $4 million ($8 million for married couples) of gift-tax free wealth transfers are possible and additional lifetime GST-exempt transfers will be available as well. With these provisions expiring at the end of 2012, and the possibility of a lower exemption, or at least a reduction of the lifetime gift exemption, for 2013 and beyond, taking advantage of these exemption levels (and perhaps the lower gift tax and GST rates) will be an important and valuable consideration for our clients going forward.

Since there were no anti-Grantor Retained Annuity Trust (GRAT) provisions in the bill, what opportunities can be taken advantage of in 2011?

No anti-Grantor Retained Annuity Trust provisions in the new law allows for further leveraging of wealth transfers with GRATs, particularly in the current low-interest rate environment.

In addition, the provision allowing for transfers of up to $100,000 annually to public charities from IRAs has been extended for 2010 and 2011, and transfers made up to Jan. 31, 2011 can be applied to the 2010 year.

There are certain planning techniques that can be implemented to grow, preserve and protect wealth. Each circumstance is uniquely different. We recommend that individuals should consider consulting with counsel to address their particular situations and identify opportunities.

Jackie Byrne Lessman, CFP® (jacqueline.lessman@pnc.com; 215-585-5831), PNC Wealth Management Director. For more information, visit pnc.com/watchdmanagement

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No charge for initial consultation!
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Tuesday, Feb. 1**  
Bar-News Media Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 11th floor Conference Center.  
**Law and Reader:** program, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

**Wednesday, Feb. 2**  
Delivery of Legal Services Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.  
**Intelectual Property Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.  
**Rules and Procedure Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.

**Friday, Feb. 4**  
LGBT Rights Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.  
**Workers’ Compensation Section Executive Committee:** meeting, 10:30 a.m., 11th floor Conference Center South.  
**Workers’ Compensation Section:** meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

**Monday, Feb. 7**  
Family Law Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.

**Tuesday, Feb. 8**  
Real Property Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., Gibbons, P.C., 1700 Two Logan Square, 18th and Arch streets.  
**Philadelphia Bar Foundation Board of Trustees:** meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.  
**Criminal Justice Section Executive Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.  
**Solo and Small Firm Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $8.

**Wednesday, Feb. 9**  
**Civil Gideon Housing Committee:** meeting, 9 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.

**Thursday, Feb. 10**  
**Legislative Liaison Committee:** meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

**Monday, Feb. 14**  
**Public Interest Section Executive Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

**Tuesday, Feb. 15**  
**Section Chairs:** meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.  
**Cabinet:** meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.  
**Compulsory Arbitration Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.  
**Employee Benefits Committee:** meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $8.

**Wednesday, Feb. 16**  
**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.  
**LegalLine:** 5 p.m., 11th floor LRIS offices.

**Thursday, Feb. 17**  
**Family Law Section Executive Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.  
**Law Practice Management Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.  
**Health Care Law Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

**Monday, Feb. 21**  
**Presidents Day:** Bar Association offices closed.

**Tuesday, Feb. 22**  
**Criminal Justice Section:** meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.  
**Women in the Profession Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.

**Wednesday, Feb. 23**  
**Delivery of Legal Services Committee Management Subcommittee:** meeting, 9 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.

**Thursday, Feb. 24**  
**Lawyer Referral and Information Service Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.  
**Board of Governors:** meeting, 4 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

**Monday, Feb. 28**  
**Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.50.

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**Frontline**  
continued from page 3

Like searching in Google, anyone can do it. It allows you to search broadly — returning as many as 10,000 cases — and then sort the results by relevance, date or authoritative value, to bring the cases you want to the top of your list.

Fastcase also gives you the option to view your search results on an interactive map. When you point to a case with your mouse, a synopsis appears. If you click on the case, the full opinion appears, along with links to every case that cited the opinion. The map’s horizontal axis is time and its vertical axis is relevance. The more a case is cited by other cases, the higher it appears. This makes it easy to identify the most important cases at a glance. The seminal case is on the left and the most recent case is on the right. The most relevant case is the highest and the most frequently cited case is the largest. This visual depiction of your search results saves both time and money by allowing you to quickly separate the wheat from the chaff. It may also draw your attention to important cases that might otherwise have been missed. Trends are also much easier to recognize when the cases are viewed on the interactive map.

Fastcase also includes a feature called Forecite, which uses an intuitive process to identify relevant decisions that did not use your search terms. Those cases are identified in a separate field.

To get the most from our access to Fastcase, we will present free monthly webinars to acclimate members to the service. Support from the company will continue to work on other ways to enhance the value of membership in our association. By participating in those activities, you interact with colleagues and others who can help advance your career, and work with judges and city officials to enhance operations and improve access to justice. You can also get more actively involved and become a leader. Taking advantage of these opportunities is one of the most effective ways to build your expertise and your professional network.

The Membership Task Force will continue to work on other ways to enhance the value of membership in our association. Among other things, we plan to update our member benefits brochure, recruit non-members at meetings and events, add additional vendor discounts, involve firm leaders, encourage more affinity bar members to join, and consider potential changes to our dues structure. We would also like to hear any suggestions that you may have for ways to add more value to your bar association membership. Please e-mail your suggestions to me at chancellor@philabar.org and to our task force co-chairs at Matthew.Perko@phil.gov and JSegal@foxrothschild.com. We look forward to hearing from you. In the meantime, please tell any non-members you meet why membership in our bar is worthwhile.

Rudolph Garcia (chancellor@philabar.org), a partner with Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, is Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association.
Sandra A. Jeskie, a partner with Duane Morris LLP, has been selected to join the World Intellectual Property Organization’s Arbitration and Mediation Center’s List of Arbitrators.

Joseph M. Manko, a founding partner of Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, was a panelist for “Green Project Financing: How to Get the Green Elements of Your Construction Project Funded” on Nov. 8.

Reneé F. Bergmann, senior counsel with Thosp Reed & Armstrong, LLP, participated in the teleconference/integrated visual webinar “Business Strategies That Attract Clients” sponsored by the American Bar Association’s Law Practice Management Section and the ABA Center for Continuing Legal Education on Nov. 18.

Enid H. Adler, a sole practitioner, has been appointed to the Trial Observation Task Force of the International Law Section of the American Bar Association.

Sean R. Sullivan, an associate with Curtin & Heefner LLP and member of the Board of Governors of the Philadelphia Bar Association, served as a co-course planner and faculty member for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s “Advanced Issues In Civil Practice: Judicial Review” program on Oct. 12.

Justin P. Klein, a partner with Ballard Spahr LLP, has been reappointed to a three-year term on the Attorney Advisory Committee of the Pennsylvania Securities Commission.

Christine L. Mancano, a partner with Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP, presented the “A Day on Health Law” on Nov. 20 at the Hahnemann University Hospital.

John B. Langel, a partner with Ballard Spahr LLP, was a panelist at the 2010 Philadelphia Sports Law Conference & CLE Program at Temple University on Nov. 11.

John F. Gullace, a partner with Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, was a panelist at the American Bar Association’s Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources teleconference on Nov. 3 at the Chicago-Kent College of Law.


Military

Kelly D. Eckel, a partner with Duane Morris LLP, has been named to the American Arbitration Association’s Roster of Neutrals for Commercial Cases.


Justin Wineburgh, a member of Cozen O’Connor, was a panelist at the 22nd Annual Entertainment, Sports, and Intellectual Property Law Conference in Costa Rica. He discussed producer and talent attachment agreements as well as recent legal trends in film and television. He also recently spoke to Drexel University film production students about the legal landscape of the film industry.

Alexander Nemiroff, a partner with Jackson Lewis LLP, has been appointed to the board of directors for The Center for Rights and Interests of the Elderly.

Bennett G. Pickersgill, senior counsel with Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, and a past Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, has been named the Best Lawyers’ 2011 Philadelphia Area Alternative Dispute Resolution “Lawyer of the Year.”

Carol Nelson Shephard, a founding partner of Feldman Shepherd Wohlgelernter Tanner Weinstock & Dodig LLP, served as course planner and speaker on current medical malpractice issues at the Pennsylvania Association for Justice Annual Full Day Medical Malpractice program on Dec. 7. She presented “Medical Liability from the Plaintiff’s Perspective,” at Hahnemann University Hospital on Oct. 27.


Joseph V. DelRaso, a partner with Pepper Hamilton LLP, was honored with the 2010 Gary Papa Leadership in Philanthropy Award on Nov. 20 at the Springfield Country Club.


Deborah Epstein Henry, founder and president of Flex-Time Lawyers LLC, was a speaker at a New York State Bar Association Lawyers in Transition program “Law & Remedy: Getting Back to Work in Today’s Changing Economic Climate” in New York on Nov. 10.

Christopher J. Cabott of the Law Office of Lloyd Z. Remick, has received the Outstanding Recent Alumni Award presented by the Widener University School of Law.

Lauren P. McKenna, a partner with Fox Rothschild LLP, presented “Actions to Quiet Title: The Whens, Whys & Hows” at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s 14th Annual Real Estate Institute on Dec. 2 and 3.

Peter Prinsen, vice president and general counsel with The Graham Company, has authored a chapter on construction insurance for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s newest publication, Pennsylvania Construction Law: Getting Started, Getting Covered and Getting Paid.

Bernard M. Resnick and Priscilla J. “Sally” Mattison of Bernard M. Resnick, Esq., P.C., participated in the entertainment law panel held on Nov. 20 as part of the Lebanon Valley College Music Industry Conference VI “(Re)volution.”

Mark W. Tanner and John M. Dodig, partners at Feldman Shepherd Wohlgelernter Tanner Weinstock & Dodig LLP, facilitated the continuing legal education program “Openings, Closings & Themes” hosted by the Pennsylvania Association for Justice on Dec. 14.

John G. Koch of Flaster/Genberg PC, has earned accreditation as a LEED Green Associate from the Green Building Certification Institute, the credentialing organization allied with the U.S. Green Building Council.

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