Chirls: Reach Out to Immigrants,
Improve Family Court Facilities

by Daniel A. Cirucci

Telling his colleagues that “thriving cities are filled with striving newcomers,” incoming Chancellor Andrew A. Chirls called for added opportunities for immigrants and others who strive to succeed and “still see our great city as the cradle of liberty” at the Association’s Dec. 7 Annual Meeting.

Chirls, who officially takes the helm of the Association on Jan. 1, is the first openly gay elected leader of any major bar association in the United States. Referring to his history-making status, Chirls said it represented “a renewed hope of continuing social change and he promised to work for even greater inclusion for all those who feel they are left out ‘simply because they are different.’

Chirls, a Center City resident and a partner with WolfBlock, noted that “from 1980 till 2000 the country’s population grew, but this city lost 10 percent of its population.” Chirls called this a serious loss, but added “there was one bright spot: during the same period, the foreign-born population of our city nearly doubled, from about six percent to 11 percent.”

Chirls said that most cities that have grown have done so not just through attracting outsiders from other states but with the help of newcomers from other nations.

“Immigrants bring an incredible amount of faith, energy, confidence and investment to our communities,” he said.

To encourage continued opportunity and growth, Chirls proposed greater access to the courts and the justice system for those who do not speak English. He said the Association would work with the courts to make more court interpreters available and that the Association would begin to offer its successful public outreach programs in Spanish and other foreign languages. Likewise, documents about basic real estate issues and use

Dalton to Serve as Chancellor in 2007

Jane L. Dalton, a partner at Duane Morris LLP, will serve as Vice Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association in 2005 after running unopposed in the Dec. 7 election.

Dalton will serve as Chancellor-Elect in 2006 and Chancellor in 2007. The following candidates for Bar offices also ran unopposed and will be serving in their positions on Jan. 1: Secretary, John E. Savoth, Treasurer, Mary J. Platt, Assistant Secretary, Kathleen D. Wilkinson; and Assistant Treasurer, Scott F. Cooper.

Bar Association members also elected five new members to the Board of Governors. The new Board members are: Gregory F. Cirillo with 1,110 votes, Jeffrey L. Dashevsky (1,086), Joseph A. Prim Jr. (1,082), Deborah Weinstein (1,029) and Melissa A. Schwartz (1,025).
We congratulate Andrew A. Chirls, our partner and friend, serving in 2005 as Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association.
Immigrants Are Vital to Philadelphia’s Future

by Andrew A. Chirls

Immigration.

The word itself is intertwined with the history, the spirit and the building of America. As President John F. Kenne-
colly once observed: “The contribution of immigrants can be seen in every as-
pect of our national life.” And he add-
ed: “There is no part of our nation that has not been touched by our immi-
gnant background.” These statements remain as true today as they were in the past.

Indeed, America’s most current wave of immigration began in earnest in the 1960s, speeded up in the 1980s and will continue to flow. According to the Migration Policy Institute in Washington: “Never before has the Statute of Liberty hung the symbol of America’s rich immigrant heritage, lift-
ed her torch over so many foreign-
born individuals and families.”

About half of our foreign-born citi-
zens are from Latin America and a quarter from Asia. Since the 1960s, the number of foreign-born people in the United States has increased: it is now, in terms of absolute numbers, at its highest point in history. As of the year 2000, 28.4 million foreign-born people lived in the United States, representing more than 10 percent of the entire population.

We have seen the positive effects of present-day immigration here in Phila-
delphia. Whole neighborhoods have been transformed. Ask anyone in Phila-
town, and they will tell you that there was a period when immigrants from the Balkans—particularly Albania—created a mini-housing boom that revitalized several neighborhoods.

Similarly, there is a pool of develop-
ment by people from Indonesia and other Asian countries on Washington Avenue around Broad Street in an area that was on the decline before these people moved in. Parts of the North-
west continue to flourish thanks to newcomers from Eastern Europe and Russia. If you are a small practitioner in a neighborhood—and about a third of our lawyers are small practitioners—the people I am talking about are your next wave of clients. This is because many of these immigrants establish small businesses and other budding enterprises.

But the opportunities that we see are not simply limited to small busi-
nesses. Look at the 10 largest computer companies founded in whole or in part by immigrants, and you’ll find Intel, Sun Microsystems and Wang Laborat-
ories. So it isn’t just in the rowhouses where you will find your next wave of immigrant clients. It is in the office parks, the highrises and on the Internet where our larger firms will find their work, thriving on international invest-
ment and trade.

Where is Pennsylvania in Amer-
ica’s immigrant picture? With a little
more than a half-million foreign-born residents counted in the 2000 U.S. Cen-
sus, we rank 14th overall among the 50 states and the District of Columbia—
even though we have the seventh-lar-
gest population.

This is one of many signs that Pennsylvania is not adequately attract-
ing either foreign or domestic new-
comers. Our population is the most “stable” of any state. This is to say that the percentage of residents who are born in this state is higher than is the case in any other state. Yet, it’s important to attract newcomers to our city from other parts of the nation.

And we’ve got to work to attract new, young talent from all over America. But if our region is going to grow—and if our legal community is going to thrive by serving the people who make it grow—we’re going to have to do more. We’re going to have to attract the best, brightest, most diverse and hardest-working people from beyond our
50 states. Immigrants.

That is part of why this year, in a variety of ways, we intend to reach out to immigrants and to all those who have felt marginalized or beyond the scope of the promise of equal opportu-
nity and justice. With that in mind, I’ve announced a whole new set of initia-
tives for the Bar Association.

Some people have observed that immigrants go where the jobs are, and that it isn’t as useful to set up immi-
grant service programs as it is to spend resources on having lots of jobs. So why, they ask, don’t we just rely on our business organizations and our gov-
ernment to work on improving our economy, so that productive people will follow the jobs that are created?

They have a point, and they are ex-
pressing what is a classic “chicken-and-
egg” problem. The answer is that we are doing our part. Helping newcomers inte-
rgrate into our legal and economic system helps the economy and helps

Chancellor’s Reception Jan. 6 at Bellevue

All members of the legal com-

batancy are invited to attend a free reception on Thursday, Jan. 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. in honor of Andrew A. Chirls, 78th Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

The Chancellor’s Reception will be held in the Grand Ballroom at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets. No reservations are necessary. This is the event at which even the city’s busiest and most success-
ful legal luminaries patiently wait in line to wish their leaders and each other good luck in the year ahead.

Tell Us What You Think!
The Philadelphia Bar Reporter welcomes letters to the editors for publications.

Letters should be typed. There is no word limit, but editors reserve the right to condense for clarity, style and space considerations. Letters must be signed to verify authorship, but names will be withheld upon request. Letters may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to: Jeff Lyons, Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2911. Phone: (215) 238-6354. Fax: (215) 238-1467. E-mail: reporter@philabar.org.

The odds are good that I was looking at future leaders of our profession and our community, just as the 1976 slate of candidates produced political, judicial and professional leaders. However, the 1976 field of candidates guaranteed the election of a lawyer of color. It appears that the field of candidates for office in 2005 guarantees that no attorney of color will be elected to a Bar office. And we are all poorer for it.

Steve Waxman

Visiting Bar Reporter BAR REPORTER / JANUARY 2005

Visit the Philadelphia Bar on the Web at www.philadelphiabar.org • Look for Bar Reporter Online e-newsbrief every Monday morning

3
National Report Praises Philadelphia Courts

by Gregg W. Mackuse, Robert T. Szostak and Kathleen D. Wilkinson

Our city’s civil court division is “one of the finest and most successful urban trial courts in the country,” Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Administrative Judge James J. Fitzgerald III told members of the State Civil Litigation Section at its Dec. 1 meeting.

Judge Fitzgerald quoted the National Center for State Courts’ Final Report, issued in September 2004, and noted that Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Ralph J. Cappy was pleased with the report.

Judge Fitzgerald recounted how the court overhauled its case management system more than a decade ago to shorten the time it took for a case to go to trial. Before the program, it took six to seven years for a case to go to trial. Cases now go to trial in one to two years, he said.

When he assumed his role as administrative judge more than three years ago, Judge Fitzgerald asked the NCSC to examine Philadelphia’s court system and offer recommendations. Judge Fitzgerald said the NCSC examined every aspect of the Civil Section for efficiency and compared the practices of the Civil Section with established best practices. The NCSC also made more than 40 recommendations, some of which would require substantial funding.

Judge Fitzgerald appointed a committee, chaired by Trial Division Supervising Judge William J. Manfredi, to review the recommendations and hopes to have a report within six to eight months.

The NCSC recommended that mediation and early settlement opportunities be explored, Judge Fitzgerald said. The NCSC also suggested that the court try to achieve earlier settlement opportunities and mediation in major injury cases. In the discovery area, the NCSC reported that the standard interrogatories needed to be updated.

Judge Fitzgerald noted that the report also proposed increased staffing and a second jury assembly room. Some of the NCSC’s recommendations may not be able to be implemented, Judge Fitzgerald said, because the city has reduced the court’s funding.

Judge Manfredi said one of the interesting aspects of the report is that it repeatedly recommends that the court work with the civil trial bar. Many of the areas of the report have been discussed by the State Civil Committee, including making case management conferences more meaningful, identifying opportunities for earlier settlement of cases; limiting unnecessary continuances; adding resources for non-trial depositions; changing discovery practices; using masters; and establishing an alternative dispute resolution process.

Judge Manfredi noted that some of the recommendations in the NCSC report already have been tried by the court. Nevertheless, the court will review the report and possible changes.

Judges Manfredi and Fitzgerald said the court would seek input from the civil bar regarding additional recommendations. Judge Fitzgerald also stated that the court would consider having a liaison between the court and the State Civil Litigation Section.

Gregg W. Mackuse, Robert T. Szostak and Kathleen D. Wilkinson are immediate-past chairs of the State Civil Litigation Committee.
Panel Explains How to Get Message to Media

When trying to get a newspaper or radio or television station to cover your event or interview you or your client, make sure of two things: That you know exactly what your story is and that you know which reporter or editor to whom you should speak.

These were some of the guidelines offered by a panel of experts at a Dec. 14 discussion “Accessing the Media: How to Get Your Message Out.” The program was sponsored by the Public Interest Section and co-sponsored by the Bar-News Media Committee: the panelists included Harriet Lessy, principal of BuzzCommunications LLC; and former Philadelphia Daily News reporter; Susan Greenbaum, producer for WHYY 91 FM’s “Radio Times”; Yvonne Dennis, city desk editor at the Philadelphia Daily News; Jill Chemekoff, CEO of Chemekoff Communications and former Fox “Ten O’Clock News” anchor; Julie Stoiber, a reporter with The Philadelphia Inquirer; and Karin Phillips, community affairs reporter for KYW Newsradio 1060. The program was moderated by Public Interest Section Chair Julia Haines.

The preferred method of contact varies and depends on the people involved, the panel said. “E-mail works. Phone calls are not preferred. And faxes can be tedious because we get 2000 of them in three hours. But e-mail is preferred,” said Dennis.

Stoiber said she doesn’t mind phone calls, but to call early in the day. “Never call late in the afternoon because we’re on deadline,” she said. If you’re going to send an e-mail, make the message short and include as much information about your story or event as possible, including contact information.

Chemekoff said people looking to get stories on TV news shouldn’t bother with e-mail. “Call the newsroom and ask for the assignment editor. Pitch your story in the first 30 seconds of your call,” she said.

“Research the station and know who you should talk to. Find out what reporter covers the beat relating to your story. Know who does what,” added KYW’s Phillips.

“Phone calls work well with us. We need to hear voices,” said Greenbaum from “Radio Times.” “Don’t send us pictures. They do us no good. It’s all about how a guest sounds.”

Phillips said callers should have a specific idea of the story they want the reporter to cover. “Have an outline in your head of the outcome that you want,” she said.

A lot of times, media outlets won’t run a story that’s pitched. “I tell my clients what they think is important isn’t (always) important to anyone else in the world,” said Lessy.

“A lot of people don’t know what news is,” added Chemekoff. “Does your story have consequence? You have to ask yourself ‘who cares’ about your story.”

Phillips said the good stories are the ones “that make you go ‘hmmm…They have to pique your interest.’”

“We try to get our listeners to think about things they normally wouldn’t think of. We want to challenge people intellectually,” said Greenbaum.

According to Stoiber, a human face is also important for a story, whether it’s hard news or a feature. “Get me a real person to make the story come to life. A complex issue is too hard to communicate without a real person,” said Stoiber.

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Plenty of Choices to Aid Foundation

by Robert D. Lane Jr.

It doesn’t matter whether you’re a trial lawyer, transactional lawyer, big-firm lawyer or small-firm lawyer. At one time or another, you’ve probably asked yourself: Am I really making a difference? Am I making a difference in someone else’s life?

Although many of us have an occasional opportunity to win a great victory for a client, those opportunities are very few and far between.

We probably have a greater chance to make a difference professionally when it comes to our broader responsibility to society as a whole. Certainly, those lawyers in public service have that opportunity to make that kind of difference every day — and they need our support. By helping them, we too can really make a difference in the lives of those much less fortunate than us.

The Philadelphia Bar Foundation raises money to help support 28 non-profit agencies delivering legal services to the many needy segments of our community. As the Bar Association’s charitable arm, the Foundation is the best way for the great majority of us to help make a difference.

The Bar Foundation’s major ambition over these past several years has been to build an endowment that will ensure the availability of significant funding for these agencies in the long run. This is in addition to the year-to-year fund-raising that we do on a constant basis.

As I start my term as president of the Bar Foundation, I am dedicated to helping to build that endowment, and thus securing funding of these organizations. To that end, I am calling on every member of the Bar Association — each and every one of you — to help in this incredibly worthwhile endeavor.

There are many ways for you to participate. You can take your choice:

- Join the Andrew Hamilton Circle — a five-year commitment, at $1,000 per year.
- Become a general Member of the Bar Foundation — for just $100 per year.
- Include the Bar Foundation in your estate planning.
- Designate the Bar Foundation (donor option number 1370) when making your United Way contribution.
- When celebrating an anniversary, or retirement, or other major milestone, consider making a gift to the Bar Foundation as part of the celebration.
- Make a payroll deduction to the Bar Foundation — an easy way to contribute!
- Encourage your firm to sponsor Bar Foundation activities like the Golf Outing or the Andrew Hamilton Ball, and attend these events.
- No matter your area of specialty or the size of your firm or organization, you can make a difference through the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. And you can begin making that difference right now, today.

I look forward to working, with you, to continue to build the Bar Foundation and advance its mission of providing equal access to justice for all.

Robert D. Lane Jr., a partner at Morgan Lewis LLP, is president of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

Bar Foundation Distributes $375,000 in Grant Funds

Twenty eight groups that provide law-related services to the community got an early holiday gift from the Philadelphia Bar Foundation in December as the Foundation distributed $375,000 — an increase of more than 12 percent in funding over last year’s grants. Most of the grant money is raised from or through Philadelphia lawyers. The Foundation is the charitable arm of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

The grants, which range in size from $1,000 to $100,000, support attorneys providing direct legal services to the poor, the disabled, the elderly, victims of abuse and neglect and others who need but cannot afford legal services.

“These are the people who most need our help in accessing and maneuvering through the justice system. Were it not for the work of the agencies we fund, these people would have nowhere else to turn,” said outgoing Bar Foundation President Edward F. Chack- er. He noted that the boost in grant funding represents the second consecutive annual increase. In 2003, funding increased by 19 percent over 2002.

Unlike many other sources of funding, the money comes from Philadelphia lawyers, who have nowhere else to turn for legal services.

Bar Foundation Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant recipient</th>
<th>Funding Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>AIDS Law Project</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACLU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights</td>
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<td>Community Legal Services</td>
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<td>Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project</td>
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<td>Custody and Support Assistance Clinic</td>
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<td>Education Law Center of Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>Friends of Farmworkers</td>
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<td>HIAS and Council Migration</td>
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<td>Homeless Advocacy Project</td>
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<td>Juvenile Law Center</td>
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<td>Legal Clinic for the Disabled, Inc.</td>
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<td>Nationalities Service Center, Inc.</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania Health Law Project</td>
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<td>Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts</td>
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<td>Regional Housing Legal Services</td>
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<td>SeniorLAW Center</td>
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<td>Support Center for Child Advocates</td>
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<td>Women Against Abuse Legal Center</td>
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<td>The Women’s Law Project</td>
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If you would like to make a gift to the Foundation as a meaningful expression of respect, please call (215) 238-6334.

Robert D. Lane Jr., a partner at Morgan Lewis LLP, is president of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.
THE ANNUAL UPDATE IS UNDER WAY!

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YLD to Work to Keep Law Students in Town

by Natalie Kiyashkony

Happy New Year 2005! I am proud and excited to serve as chair of the Young Lawyers Division this year. These are exciting times in the lives of young lawyers. Though the challenges for young lawyers in 2005 are great, the future opportunities are immense as well.

Before I lay out my agenda for the year, I’d like to tell you more about myself. I find it appropriate that I will be chair the same year as Chancellor Andrew Chirls has decided to focus his agenda on immigrant outreach. I came to Philadelphia from the Ukraine when I was 8 years old. At the time that my family lived there, the Ukraine was firmly within the chokehold of the Soviet Union, and my parents knew that opportunities would be limited for me, specifically because I was Jewish. In the former Soviet Union, all citizens had to carry an identification card that, among other things, listed their religion. All universities and professions had strict quotas as to the number of Jews admitted. As a child, my mother dreamed of becoming a doctor. Although she was the valedictorian of her high school class, she was denied admission to all the pre-med programs in her area, and her dreams of becoming a doctor had to die. I love being an American because of all the opportunities we are afforded here. We still have a long way to go in terms of race relations and equal opportunities for the resourceful and the ambitious. During the Chancellor’s address, I was intrigued to learn that Benjamin Franklin, one of our country’s Founding Fathers, chose to come to Philadelphia because in his time, it was the fastest-growing city in the English-speaking world and the most dynamic city in the world. Unfortunately, as we all know, that is no longer true. We have all seen the sad statistics about how, for decades, Philadelphia has been hemorrhaging young professionals, including young lawyers, at a disturbing rate. Within our own Bar Association, statistics have demonstrated that the numbers of young lawyers in Philadelphia has consistently decreased during the past two decades. My major goal for this year is to work to reverse that decline, and I believe two things must be done to achieve that end.

First, we need to be able to retain law students studying in the area law schools and also attract young lawyers from outside of Philadelphia. Of this year’s incoming first-year class at Temple Law School, a full 40 percent are from out of state. In 2007, when they graduate, will they choose to stay and build their careers here or will they leave? For young lawyers to view Philadelphia as an attractive alternative to other cities, more than anything else, they must be able to find satisfactory career opportunities here.

Economic development in Philadelphia is presently stagnant and population growth is on the decline. As we are a service profession, these two factors adversely impact the legal profession’s economic growth and job creation potential. As young lawyers, we need to lead the charge in shaping the future of this city.

One of the hallmarks of my year will be to create a new committee, Philadelphia 2020, comprised of young lawyers who will work with other young professionals’ groups to advocate for reforms that the city needs in order to become more vibrant and competitive with other major cities, as well as act as Philadelphia’s ambassadors to draw attention to the great resources we have here. We also will visit area law schools to meet with students and ultimately convene a forum to explore the reasons students stay here or leave. Reversing the decrease in the number of young lawyers also means retaining the ones who are already in the profession. Too many young lawyers grow disenchanted with the practice of law and stop practicing. The first years of practice can be especially bewildering to a young lawyer and many receive little guidance in the practical skills that are necessary for their success. To meet that need, we will offer a series of leadership development CLEs in those subjects that are not taught in law school, but are necessary for a young lawyer’s professional development. YLD Executive Committee members will also visit law firms to meet with younger law-yers to listen to their concerns and-explain the benefits of Bar Association involvement.

For greater retention to be truly a reality, though, the legal profession needs to change to become a more welcoming place for young lawyers, as well as women and minorities. Unfortunately, we are behind the times and other professions in being responsive to the needs of our members. As the voice of the junior Philadelphia legal community, we will partner with the Women in the Profession and Minorities in the Profession committees and minority bar associations to draw attention to outdated norms and advocate for institutional and cultural change within the profession.

We also will continue our role as the conscience of the Bar Association by expanding our People’s Law School and LegalLine programs to reach out to Philadelphia’s immigrant communities and continuing our other great public service programs. Lastly, we will continue to offer young lawyer opportunities for networking with other young lawyers and young professionals during our monthly social events.

Natalie Kiyashkony, an associate at the Locks Law Firm, is chair of the Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee.

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AV Rated
Wi-Fi Network Extended to Arbitration Center

The high-speed Internet network in place in City Hall has been expanded to the neighboring Arbitration Center, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Trial Division Administrative Judge James J. Fitzgerald III announced.

The extension of this wire- less Internet service will allow attorneys working in the Arbitration Center to conduct online research, access and transfer large files, send and receive e-mail with attachments, communicate with colleagues and print documents from their laptop computers, according to Judge Fitzgerald. “We installed this service in City Hall earlier this year and have received very positive feedback,” the judge said.

“From the court’s standpoint, the ability to use electronic resources to their maximum possible extent can only improve efficiencies and, thus, better serve clients. It’s particularly appropriate that those practicing in the Arbitration Center, itself designed to expedite the litigation process, benefit from available technology. I am certain this expansion to the Arbitration Center will add to our earlier success,” Judge Fitzgerald said.

The wireless, high-speed Internet service is made available through New York-based Courtroom Connect, a provider of Internet technology infrastructure for litigation proceedings throughout the United States.

FRONTLINE

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attract and keep the people who want to make the place more vibrant. So I don’t believe we should be stymied by the chickens-and-egg problem. We should do what bar associations do — which is to provide access to the legal system — in a way that helps the growth of this area, and in a way that is helpful to ourselves in the end.

Some say that our latest groups of newcomers are from areas that don’t have democratic traditions, and that the newcomers aren’t going to help our country grow the way we want it to. These are arguments that immigrants heard in the last two centuries as well.

I believe these arguments reflect a lack of faith in democracy and in our country’s ability to assimilate people by providing opportunity for them. At the same time, we can and should strengthen our democracy — for those who are here and those who will come. Last year, the United Nations issued a report on why democracies come and go — and fail to become stable — in South America. It is because the average person does not feel that he or she gets a fair shake in his or her interactions with government. When people come here, we have to give them a fair shake if they are to develop faith and trust in our system.

We as lawyers play our part in that effort when we make courthouses accessible to people who are newcomers, and when we work with departments of the City government to increase access to services. We do our part when we reach out to immigrant communities, for example, by teaching People’s Law School in their language, by working to make interpreters available in landlord tenant court or by having our LRIS more able to serve newcomers who want to set up small businesses.

And if we strengthen democracy for our newcomers, we are strengthening it for ourselves. What would be wrong with increasing participation of everyone in juries, and in holding our local government accountable for how accessible its services are to everyone? Don’t we want everyone to have enough faith in the system to want to vote?

So far, I have not found another bar association that is focusing on serving and outreach to newcomers as comprehensively as ours. We can help to assimilate newcomers into our legal system and our economy, or we can continue to watch as the creative, energetic people go elsewhere. As a legal community, we can set an example on how to make the most of change, or we can leave it to others and hope for the best.

Andrew A. Chirls, a partner at WolfBlock, is Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. His e-mail address is chirls@philabar.org.

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Published by the PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION
Sections, YLD Committees Hold Year-End Events

Outgoing Young Lawyers Division Chair Kim R. Jessum (center) is joined by Executive Committee members Michael E. Adler and Frances Fattah at the YLD’s annual holiday party, held at the “MTV Real World House” at 251 Arch St. on Dec. 9. The party was co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s YLD.

U.S. District Court Senior Judge Louis H. Pollak introduces Lynn A. Marks, executive director of Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts, as the recipient of the Public Interest Section’s annual Andrew Hamilton Award at the Section’s Annual Reception on Dec. 6 at Loews Philadelphia Hotel.

Members of the Family Law Section gathered at Maggiano’s Little Italy on Nov. 30 to honor Mark Alleva (center), clerk of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Family Division. Shown with Alleva are outgoing Section Chair Carolyn M. Zack and incoming Chair Milton S. Savage Jr.

The Criminal Justice Section and The Justinian Society presented the 111th annual Cesare Beccaria Award to A. Charles Peruto Sr. (right) in the Mayor’s Reception Room at City Hall on Nov. 22. Peruto is joined by Michael C. Rainone (left) and William D. Harris.

Lawrence S. Felzer (right), president of Gay and Lesbian Lawyers of Philadelphia, meets with Robert Drake, president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association and Caroline DeMarco of GlaxoSmithKline, which sponsored the Dec. 4 event at Loews Philadelphia Hotel. The event was also attended by members of other lesbian and gay professional groups.

Marilyn C. Sanborne, outgoing chair of the Probate and Trust Section, is joined by former Section Chair Eugene H. Gillin at the Section’s Annual Reception on Nov. 30 at the Kimmel Center. Gillin was presented with a special award from the Section for outstanding service.
of the courts will also be made available in Spanish. Chirls also called for a change that would make it possible for foreign-born students who acquire advanced degrees in American law to gain admission to practice law in Pennsylvania.

"Currently, it's impossible for them to practice law here. So they go to other states to take the bar exam and practice law," Chirls explained. "This is but a small part of the Pennsylvania brain drain, and we must do our part to reverse it so we don't lose bright and energetic newcomers."

On other fronts the new Chancellor said the Association was committed to help make the dream of a new Philadelphia Family Court Center a reality. He cited a list of problems currently facing the Family Court and said that a new facility will solve many of the problems. Chirls said he has been conferring with Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Sandra Schultz Newman, who is liaison justice to the First Judicial District and that the Association will work with Justice Newman "on the shape and location of this project."

Chirls praised Philadelphia’s Commerce Case Management Program, noting that the program "is attracting large cases of nationwide scope" and he pledged the Association’s continued commitment to the Commerce Court. He also identified tax reform as a continuing Association priority and said the Association would work to end "the overlap of the business privilege tax and the net profits tax." The overlap, Chirls explained, means that there are two groups of people who get taxed twice: sole proprietors and partners in professional organizations. "That’s a drag on our profession and our ability to export our talents and services. We will continue to work to overcome the double taxation system that slows economic growth and vitality," he said.

The new Chancellor also spoke about his personal experiences in reaching out to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth at a local support center for teens. "Trust me, you don’t know the troubles these kids have seen just because they are different."

But Chirls said he hoped that his Chancellorship sends a message to those who feel they may have no future: The message is: 'You have a place in our society… even if you are different. You, too, can be part of things, even if you are different; and maybe you can even lead it, even if you are different!'

As the city approaches the 300th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, Chirls suggested that it must recapture the vibrancy and robust spirit of growth and opportunity that attracted Franklin in the first place. “Just as Franklin exemplified a time when newcomers made the city great, that kind of time has returned to us again. And hope is what it’s all about. The hope and the promise of equal rights for all. The hope of a vibrant, diverse, prosperous, dynamic city.”
Four Receive Honors from Association

by Asima Panigrahi

The Philadelphia Bar Association bestowed its prestigious Wachovia Fidelity Award and three Bar Medals during the Annual Meeting Luncheon on Dec. 7.

Justice Frank J. Montemuro of the Pennsylvania Superior Court received the Wachovia Fidelity Award, while the late Judge William J. Marutani, as well as J. Clayton Undercofler and former Chancellor Joseph H. Foster were honored as Bar Medal recipients.

Justice Montemuro is currently a senior judge with the Pennsylvania Superior Court. He was appointed to the Court of Common Pleas in 1964 and served there through 1980. In 1980, he was appointed to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 1992 by Gov. Robert Casey. The Wachovia Fidelity Award is presented annually by the Association to members of the Bar who have made extraordinary contributions to the administration of justice.

Justice Montemuro has served as a judge for 40 years. “He has served as a shining example to others,” said Alexander Giacobetti, a member of the Board of Governors, who presented the award. “His integrity, character and faithfulness are beyond question. In fact, so faithful is Justice Montemuro that he cannot be here with us today because he’s actually sitting on the bench in Harrisburg,” said Giacobetti.

Former Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Jerome A. Zaleski, who accepted on behalf of Justice Frank J. Montemuro, read remarks written by the justice. “This award represents the Bar Association’s recognition of those who have made contributions to the administration of justice,” Justice Montemuro wrote. “My remarks reflect a concerted attempt to integrate the duties of both a jurist and a judicial administrator in all levels of the judiciary. From my first moments as a judge, it became clear to me that deciding cases is intimately connected to the necessity to implement programs in the court system which permit the expeditious resolution of those matters constituting its business. All of us on the bench have been required to become managers as well as jurists, prognosticators and legal historians. I am proud to be viewed as a proper recipient of this very prestigious and meaningful award and to think that my efforts have not gone unnoticed in the legal community, among whose members I have spent my professional life,” he wrote.

Judge Marutani’s son, Marcus, and his widow, Victoria, was accepted by his late father. Justice Marutani, who suffered from Parkinson’s Disease at the age of 81. He died in November.

“He has shared his talents and expertise generously with others and has served as a visiting professor of law at Villanova University Law School,” Bevilacqua said. “For me personally, and I know I speak for many others, J. Clayton Undercofler’s sterling example, guidance and encouragement have been invaluable. He exemplifies what it means to be a Philadelphia lawyer.”

Saul Ewing LLP, served as an assistant United States attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania from 1969 to 1976. He served as chairman of the Board of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority from 1980 to 1995, where, Bevilacqua said, he presided over an extensive reorganization and revitalization of SEPTA.

“The Bar Medal is presented posthumously to Judge William J. Marutani, was accepted by his son, Marcus, and his widow, Victoria. Judge Marutani died in November at the age of 81.”
6th Annual Thanksgiving Breakfast
Panel Discusses Motivation, Satisfaction of Career

by Jeff Lyons

A diverse panel of attorneys took time out to discuss the motivations and satisfactions of a legal career at the Association’s 6th Annual Thanksgiving Breakfast at the Union League.

More than 200 people attended the free event on Nov. 23, which also included one free CLE ethics credit. The panel included moderator Sharon Browning, executive director of Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program; Frank Cervone, executive director of the Support Center for Child Advocates; Catherine C. Carr, executive director of Community Legal Services; Immediate-Past Chancellor Gabriel L.I. Bevilacqua; former Chancellor Joseph H. Foster; and Charisse R. Lillie, a partner at Ballard, Spahr, Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP.

“We’re here to examine stories of service in the law and the benefits and burdens that go along with it,” said Cervone.

Foster, who served as Chancellor in 1981, talked about the formation of PLVAP during his term. PLVAP became Philadelphia VIP in 1985. He also talked about his motivation for becoming an attorney.

“The motivation for me was easy. I graduated from LaSalle College in 1950 and law school offered a three-year deferment from the military,” he joked. He said once you were drafted and passed the bar exam, you got a commission as a second lieutenant. “Talk about pressure!”

“I don’t know if I’ve accomplished justice,” said Carr. “The law is more about the mission than the accomplishment. I get to try, though. And I get to know people.”

Bevilacqua said lawyers should use their talents to make a difference in someone’s life. “In doing so, we can be better lawyers, better colleagues, and most of all, better human beings.”

“I learned from my father that no matter how much you know or think you know about your instrument, you have to practice every day. My hard work is required of me. My instrument, the law, deserves my diligence and concentration,” she said.

“Why am I a lawyer? It’s fun to serve. It’s very gratifying to have some input into the rules of civil procedure,” said Foster, a longtime member of the Supreme Court’s Civil Procedural Rules Committee. “It gives me great satisfaction.”

Carr, who began college as a mathematics major, said she was intrigued by the concept of equality, justice and change and thought that being a lawyer would offer a combination of the disciplines.

“My late father was a talented saxophonist, who played many instruments. He was a music teacher and counselor who played, in the evenings and on weekends, with a jazz quartet or quintet, throughout his life, until he succumbed to cancer at the young age of 52. His example motivates me. My father practiced his saxophone every single day. He was highly respected and extremely knowledgeable about that tenor sax, but he practiced every day,” Lillie said.

“I am thankful for being a lawyer. I am able to learn new things every day. I am privileged to experience civility, justice and devotion to community,” Lillie said.

immediate-Past Chancellor Gabriel L.I. Bevilacqua (from left) is joined by speakers Joseph H. Foster, Sharon Browning, Charisse R. Lillie, Catherine C. Carr and Frank Cervone at the Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Breakfast.

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For This Attorney, the Play’s the Thing

by Stacey Z. Jumper

Some may describe Armando A. Pandola as an attorney. Others may describe him as a playwright, a co-founder of a theatrical company, a father, or simply a friend. Pandola, however, seems similar to a character in his most recent work-in-progress, an adaptation of Ibsen’s “Hedda Gabler,” which will be performed at the Second Stage, 2050 Sansom Street, from April 6 through April 24. Hedda Gabler also refused to be identified by any particular role.

April 24. Hedda Gabbler also refused to practice, he is busy writing, producing or directing plays. Pandola was active in theater while attending St. Joseph’s University and won a Schubert Fellowship in playwriting at the University of Miami before deciding to attend Temple Law School. When asked how he finds the time to practice law and pursue his theatrical interests, he says that he simply does them both without really thinking about it.

However you describe him, Pandola has managed to successfully divide his time between two things he enjoys the most—the practice of law and theater. Pandola has been practicing law for approximately 26 years, beginning his career at the City Solicitor’s Office where he eventually held the position of City Solicitor. Pandola then worked at Cozen O’Connor and eventually decided to go into practice on his own, where he now concentrates his attention on various areas of civil litigation.

During the hours when Pandola is not practicing law or managing his law practice, he is busy writing, producing Green Light Theatrical Productions with his daughter Alexandria Dills Pandola, who often acts in the plays he has written. Green Light seeks to explore and expand the roles of women in society through theater. Pandola is very active with Green Light, writing and directing many of the plays it produces, including a modern adaptation of George Bernard Shaw’s “Mrs. Warren’s Profession” and original plays “Jenor at the White House” and “Zelda and Scott: Boats Against the Current.” Pandola’s most recent play, “The Gift of Giving,” ran at the Shubert Theater last December. He describes this play, which is based on the stories of O. Henry, as a work about people telling stories about their lives. Pandola crafted the intertwining stories of four people, showing how interaction with each other shaped and changed each character. Although the play was written before rehearsals began, Pandola was still making changes to the script as the actors brought the play to life.

Pandola said that he draws from the conflicts that are inherent in the law for his characters and plays. There is always a conflict in an interesting play. Likewise, there is always a conflict in the legal cases that he handles. It appears that is the extent, however, to which Pandola seeks inspiration from his cases. While it is unlikely that you will see a play by Pandola set in City Hall anytime soon, you are certain to experience a drama filled with human emotion and those conflicts that make life interesting.

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YLD in Search of Mentors, Protégés

The Young Lawyers Division is looking for lawyers interested in establishing mentor-protégé relationships.

Young lawyers can serve as mentors to less experienced lawyers or find a mentor for themselves. Members of the senior bar are being asked to share their wisdom and experience and help younger lawyers grow and develop. Sign up for this program by filling out the questionnaire on this page. Interested parties will be paired with a mentor or protégé as soon as possible.

GRANTS

continued from page 6

ing. Bar Foundation grants are unrestricted. The legal services agencies use Bar Foundation funds for ongoing operating expenses. Chacker said the grants sometimes ensure the actual survival of a given agency.

“Across all 28 agencies, we’re talking about millions of dollars worth of legal aid. That means a lot to us,” he said.

In addition to its general funding, this year the Bar Foundation is also providing $80,000 for a project to help victims of unscrupulous lending practices avoid mortgage foreclosure.

This year the Bar Foundation also distributed $25,000 in special awards and fellowships:

• Three Morris Shuster Fellowships ($5,000 each) to local attorneys working in public interest law, to help them with law school debt repayment.

• The Judge William Marutani Fellowship ($5,000) to a local Asian-American law student, to encourage pro-bono service.

• The Louis D. Apotheker Award ($5,000) to a local organization providing access to justice in the community.

These funds were above and beyond the $375,000 announced in December. Throughout the year, the Bar Foundation raises funds from attorneys, law firms and companies working with the legal community.

“These funds provide a dependable source of income to the grassroots organizations that are the legal safety net for many Philadelphians,” Chacker said.

To learn more about the Bar Foundation, call Executive Director Maureen Mingey at (215) 238-6334 or visit www.philadelphiabar.org.

Bar’s Legal Directory Now Available Online

The Philadelphia Bar Association’s Legal Directory is now available online at www.thelegaldirectory.org.

The Legal Directory Online is your one-stop source for finding attorneys and law firms in Philadelphia and Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties. Listings are available for more than 10,000 attorneys and more than 1,000 law firms. This valuable online resource is available free through March 31, 2005. After that day, access will only be available by subscription.

The Young Lawyers Division matches newer attorneys and law students (protégés) with more experienced attorneys (mentors) typically practicing at least five years to provide advice and guidance in various areas of their careers.

YLD MENTORING PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE

This program matches newer attorneys and law students (protégés) with more experienced attorneys (mentors) typically practicing at least five years to provide advice and guidance in various areas of their careers.

My Practice Areas:

Primary:

Others:

Did you participate in this program last fall? 

• Yes 

• No

If yes, are you still in contact with your mentor/protégé? 

• Yes 

• No

Do you prefer a traditional mentor-protégé relationship or a group setting with mentors and protégés at different career levels? 

• Traditional 

• Group

If a mentor, do you prefer mentoring an attorney or a law student? 

• Attorney 

• Law Student

Describe what benefits you hope to derive from the mentoring program or any particular concerns you may have:

YLD Mentoring Program
Philadelphia Bar Association
1101 Market Street, 11th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2911
Or fax (215) 238-1159

For Office Use Only:

Mentor:

Protégé:

Date of Match:

Notifications Made:

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Editors reserve the right to condense for clarity, style and space considerations.

Articles and/or requests for publication may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed and should be directed to: Jeff Lyons, Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th Floor, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-2911. Phone: (215) 238-6345; Fax: (215) 238-1267. E-mail: reporter@philabar.org.
Question: I am revising my resume and I am confused as to how many pages long it should be. I seem to be getting conflicting information. Some books I read say that a two-page resume is OK and others say a resume should be one page maximum. What is your advice regarding resume length for attorneys?

Answer: The traditional rule of thumb is that a resume should be one page. In recent years it has become more common and therefore more acceptable for a resume to extend to two pages. Our advice on this matter (particularly if you are a junior or mid-level associate) is to try to stay with tradition and keep your resume at one page. Remember, a resume is supposed to highlight your accomplishments by summarizing your experiences. If a resume is too long or too wordy, your true accomplishments may get overshadowed by less impressive experiences. Try to think of drafting your resume the same way you would write a brief. In a brief you do not include every single argument in support of your position. You put in only the most important and persuasive arguments. The same philosophy should be applied when drafting your resume. Don’t use every “argument” in support of being hired; use only your most impressive accomplishments. Remember, lawyers are supposed to be able to write concisely. Having too long a resume could indicate to a potential employer that you are unable to write in a concise and persuasive manner.

You may, however, find it difficult to keep your resume at one page as you become more senior and gain additional experience. You therefore may want to consider having two resumes and target each resume to the specific job for which you are applying. For example, let’s say you are a corporate associate and have gained significant experience in both real estate and estate planning. You can have one resume focusing on real estate and another focusing on estate planning. In each resume, you should mention the other experience, but it does not need to be a major focus of the resume.

Another way experienced attorneys can keep their resumes at a shorter length is by listing all positions that are 10 years or older in a “previous employment” section. In this section, you can list your previous employers and dates of employment without going into specific job responsibilities.

Even with the above tips, the more experience you gain, the more difficult it may be to keep your resume at one page. Although it is preferable to have a one-page resume, it is more important to make certain that your resume is easy to read and professional looking. You should never use a smaller font (10 to 12 point is preferable, depending upon the type of font used) or decrease the margins (1 inch on top, bottom and sides) or try to cram everything into one page (white space is very important in attracting the reader’s eye to key information) in order to keep your resume at one page. As noted above, two-page resumes are becoming more common and more acceptable. It is better to have a two-page resume then to have a resume that is difficult to follow. Your resume should never be more than two pages, no matter how much experience you have gained.

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

Career questions? Send your career questions to James LaRosa at JuriStaff, Inc., at jlarosa@juristaff.com or call JuriStaff at (215) 751-9100. You can also send your questions to reporter@philabar.org.
Nothing Memorable About Local Bloopers

by Marc W. Reuben

Looking at local news on television is something like looking at a traffic accident. There is a horrid fascination in looking at it that one cannot avoid, and you either force yourself to look away or you are forced to look no matter how horrible it is to view.

Recently, the local broadcasters took to the idea of playing reels of their "bloopers" for viewers. A local news "blooper" occurs when a newscaster looks even more stupid than he or she normally does. Since the local news is usually devoid of coherent reporting, it is a challenge to pick the blooper from the real stuff.

What current newscasters lack is not the ability to make themselves look idiotic, but the ability to be memorable – something that may be impossible in the context of local news.

Some newscasters have been killed or have done away with themselves on the air. Even those events do not seem to matter much in the scheme of things. The surviving personalities must muddle through the morass of stories about defective snow shovels and ladies who bake lovely raisin stories about defective snow shovels and ladies who bake lovely raisin bread and strive for the occasional

I avoid discussion of the fabled programs hosted by the venerable Dick Clark, which claim to be about "bloopers" and other jokes. Also the home video program, in which people try to tape themselves in a variety of mentally deficient moments that would shame an idiot.

It was radio that brought the memorable bubble and twisted tongue to a national audience. The reason the mistakes of radio broadcasters were so hilarious was that they, unlike mortals, were skilled in the art of public speaking and broadcasting. Their pride in their work was based upon the accuracy with which they dispassionately announced facts or pronounced words. Even fictional scripts had to be spoken in a stylistic manner by specially trained men (and a few women) in the early days of radio. When they screwed up, it was not only funny, but completely out of character with the job they were expected to do.

Harry Von Zell, the late announcer for Jack Benny as well as George Burns and Gracie Allen, famously announced the President of the United States by telling the audience “and now an address from President Roosevelt Hereewe.” Dunward Kirby, best known as Gary Moore’s announcer and later host of “Candid Camera,” started out in Philadelphia where he told listeners that the program was presented by “the Blonde Bed Breaking Company.” Another time, he announced a program presented by the “A and Poo Feed Stores.” An announcer in England once told listeners “this is the British Broadcasting Corporation.”

No less than H.V. Kaltenborn, perhaps the most august of radio announcers, was charged with providing a radio introduction for a speech by a member of Winston Churchill’s war cabinet shortly after Pearl Harbor. The speech was to be carried live by transatlantic cable from London by distinguished statesman Stafford Cripps. Kaltenborn took the microphone and told listeners “and now, from London, Stifford Crapps.” There was a chugle over the air and the broadcast was stopped. After the mistake had been corrected, arrangements were made for Cripps to speak one week later. Once again, Kaltenborn announced, quite slowly and deliberately, “from London, Stifford Crapps.” Music was played. The announcer for Orson Welles’ Mercury Theater was Dwight West, who once told audiences about the dramatic presentation of a novel by “Barles Chickens.”

Fred Allen, a mostly forgotten radio star who was probably funniest of them all, once had a guest who brought a live eagle to the studio for a broadcast. Allen used the same studio as Arturo Toscanini and the NBC Symphony. When the eagle flew away from the trainer and relieved itself on several seats in the studio, Allen remarked, above the screaming laughter of his delighted audience, “I’ll bet Toscanini never produced a better movement.”

Gary Moore, later host of his own television show and bow-tied host of “To Tell The Truth,” was one of the quiet and good people in broadcasting. He has never been fully counted for in the real stuff.
Matyson an Avenue to Check Your Hunger

Philadelphia's lawyers have hardly anything to do on 19th Street, from the Parkway through to the middle of Rittenhouse Square. Unless, of course, if Sophy Curson is having a trunk show sale at the corner of Sansom. Matthew and Sonjia Spector have changed all that by opening a delicious dollop of a restaurant, combining the first syllables of their first names. They've made this formerly traffic-bereft skinny south-bound street into "Matyson Avenue."

One enters into a mini-foyer to be greeted and de-coated (being given a card from a deck of cards as a coat check!?). To the right are a half-dozen paintings brightly lining the wall for 40 feet, depicting various "objets de manger." Above these are a series of rectangular mirrors that overlook a circular-silver-foil covered air duct pipe 12 feet high along the ceiling. The mirrors shake from the demands of cacophony cascading from the mega-monster sound system. Ask to "turn the music down," and pianissimo occurs. But voices still must be raised to be heard. The acoustics here are antediluvian. Therefore, conversation is hardly convenient, and almost at a "calling-Philip-Morris" yell. The food itself, however, is so bold and flavorful, it makes you want to be breathless, and loud with praise.

Almost immediately, a waitperson attired in Center City black opens your wine (brought from home). Swirled patties of butter-arrive next, accompanied by eye-catching round rolls topped with dough in the shape of a mortar- and pestle. As if your tongue has relinquished all effort in protecting your tonsils. One's teeth bite down tenderly into the perfectly prepared fish, only to open quickly to allow for the inevitable escape of a groan. Vocal chords become weary as the sea of sensations disappear from the bowl. Your heart and mind have heated exchanges, while taste buds go surfing.

The short ribs are just as toothsome. They are served high above a mound of mushy polenta, all of which is surrounded by steamed string beans and lots of gravy. The ribs have seemingly lost their bony upperity by the timeless length of the roast. The beef pulls away in thick fabric strands from the center, where bones had been. The meat melts, as if strings of cotton candy, onto the inside of your cheeks. Dingdongs disappear as you swirl the honey-mixture toward a gentle gulp. No knives or forks are utilized, because fingers are best to push and pull. You'll resemble a harmonica player trying to get command of "Flight of the Bumblebee."

And if you want the tastiest duck breast in the city, get it roasted here ($20). Elongated crispy slices are presented with a rose interior, over red sauce, and lots of gravy. Your employees will love coming to work as much as going home. In these times when retirement plan balances are down, health care costs are up, and pay is frozen, your employees may be feeling a little…unloved. That's where TransitChek can help — with real savings for using public transit.

It's a simple tax-break benefit that can pay for itself. The entire cost of TransitChek is tax-deductible for employers. Your company can also save on matching FICA taxes, so TransitChek can quickly pay for itself. Your employees who participate save on their income taxes, too.

Show your employees you care with TransitChek. It's the easiest win-win benefit you can offer. Visit www.gettransitchek.org or call 215-592-1800.

BAR REPORTER / JANUARY 2005

Your employees will love coming to work as much as going home.
Saluting Chancellor Chirls’ Courageous Stance

by Merih O. Erhan

Before it appeared in the Bar Reporter, there was an article in The Philadelphia Inquirer about the Philadelphia Bar’s 78th Chancellor. I read it with great interest because he was a person I knew from a distance whose professional life and successes I had heard to some extent. Among his many services and commitments, what impressed me the most is his goal to reach out to immigrants and non-English speaking residents of the city and to motivate the legal community in helping them. It is admirable that the Chancellor has the knowledge, understanding and sensitivity to problems of immigrants although he has no direct involvement with them. This is particularly true when there is a growing wave of anti-immigrant sentiment in the country and also when he has to address many different issues of the Association.

Coming back to the articles about the 78th Chancellor, my first reaction was to question why he needed to be so open and personal. I am sure that I was not alone in questioning it. It preoccupied me until I came up with what I think is the right answer.

There is an age-old but still prevailing thinking that one has to hide his/her sexual orientation until the inevitable hits the person. Remember the recent example of New Jersey Gov. Jim McGreevey. On the other hand, when the facts are presented in a timely, honest and dignified manner, it just becomes another story after the initial shock wears off. There might be other reasons in the Chancellor’s openness about his orientation and his life partnership. It could be his trust in the support of the Association he represents and it may also be a fact that whatever the Philadelphia lawyers and the Bar Association stand for will have a national impact.

Philadelphia lawyers have played a great role in the progress of legal and social issues in the past 200 years that has become the subject of many inspirational books. The new Chancellor, Andrew A. Chirls, as a challenger and progressive lawyer, knows all of these well. I may not be too wrong in speculating that this was one of the reasons why he wanted to be the Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. All we can do is to salute his courage.

Merih O. Erhan, a sole practitioner, is an advisory editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Hawaiian VIP Discovery
Sets Off E-Mail Avalanche

by Jeff Lyons

What does Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program have to do with Hawaii? That’s what Kendra Yanney wanted to know.

Yanney, a 26-year-old lifeguard, competitive swimmer and aspiring teacher who lives in Kaiau, Hawaii, discovered a Philadelphia VIP T-shirt when it got tangled in her legs while she was boogieboarding at Kalama Beach in Kaiau on Oahu in early December.

“I was curious about what it was, so I picked it up,” said Yanney, who said that other things, including part of a surfboard, a shoe and a smoked mask, also washed up on shore. “There was a lot of seaweed that I had to get off the shirt, and after washing it the first time, it was fine,” Yanney said. “The color was cool and it was my size, so I kept it,” she said, adding that the beach doesn’t usually have seaweed, compounding the mystery of where the shirt might have come from.

Yanney said she wasn’t sure what the shirt meant, so she did a little online research and e-mailed people.

“She e-mailed everyone here at our office and everyone at the Bar Association office,” said an amused Sharon Browning, executive director of Philadelphia VIP. “She must have e-mailed 100 people to find out about this shirt!” Browning figures a Philadelphia lawyer vacationing in Hawaii lost the shirt and it somehow ended up with Yanney.

Browning said she didn’t see the original e-mail from Yanney. She first learned of the wayward shirt through an e-mail from longtime VIP volunteer attorney and 1995 VIP Board Chair David Unkovic.

“My e-mail box filled up in a hurry when people who received the e-mail forwarded it to me,” Browning said. “It looks like she sent her message to everyone in Philadelphia.”

And in return, Yanney got an e-mail box full of responses from Philadelphia lawyers describing VIP’s mission.

Aside from her VIP shirt, Yanney has no connection to the Philadelphia legal community. “My grandpa is the only lawyer in the family,” she said. Yanney received her master’s degree in elementary education last summer and is currently looking for a full-time teaching job.

And even though she’s never been to Philadelphia, Yanney will always have a soft spot for Philadelphia VIP.

“That shirt will always be special to me, because of how it was found. I learned some new things. I didn’t even know what pro bono was and I got to know some people a little better from the experience,” Yanney said.

Kendra Yanney wears the VIP T-shirt she found while in the surf in Oahu in December.
Howard Gittis, vice chairman and chief administrative officer of MacAndrews and Forbes Holdings Inc. and former Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, will have a building named after him at the University of Pennsylvania following his $5 million gift to support the Law School’s endowment.

Bennett G. Pickler, a partner at Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young LLP and former Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, has been appointed as a member of the newly created U.S.-China Business Mediation Panel as part of the U.S.-China Business Mediation Center.

Mary S. Kohne Wagner, an associate with Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, gave a presentation on recent developments in workers’ compensation law at the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Workers’ Compensation Law Section annual fall section meeting in September.

Aaron J. Freiwald and Derek R. Layser, founding shareholders of Layser & Freiwald, P.C., have been elected into membership of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

M. Joel Bolstein, a partner with Fox Rothschild LLP, recently was appointed by Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell and unanimously confirmed by the Pennsylvania State Senate to serve a second five-year term on the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

Barbara T. McAlide and Kathleen A. Miller of Pepper Hamilton LLP were speakers at the Philadelphia Bar Institute seminar “Recurring Issues Facing Antitrust Lawyers” on Nov. 18.

William J. Levant, principal with Kaplin Stewart Meloff Reiter & Stein, PC, was a member of the faculty for “Judgment Enforcement in Pennsylvania” on Nov. 16. The seminar provided the most current information and changes in the law pertaining to debt/creditor matters and how to successfully collect debts where others have failed.

Joan C. Arnold and Andrew J. Rudolph, partners with Pepper Hamilton LLP, were faculty members for “Corporate Tax Reform in 2004” presented Oct. 27 by the Pennsylvania Bar Institute and the Tax Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Aline Jolles Lotman, a sole practitioner, was a panelist for the CLE seminar “Women, the Workplace and the Law” on Dec. 1 at Gratz College in Melrose Park, Pa.

Nancy H. Fullam, a partner with McElreath & Fullam, received the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association’s 25th Annual Justice Michael A. Musmanno Award on Dec. 2. The award honors the memory and attributes of Justice Musmanno for the high standards of professionalism he represented as a lawyer, statesman and legislator.

Kathleen O’Brien, a partner with Montgomery, McCraken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP, has been named a “Woman of Distinction” by the Philadelphia Business Journal.

Steven J. Schildt, a senior associate at Post & Schell, was recently a featured speaker at the 2004 NHCAA Health Care Fraud Prevention Training Conference in Las Vegas, Nev. He discussed the investigation and referral of fraudulent disability cases to the government for criminal prosecution.

Jacques L. Etkowitz, a shareholder with Ratner Prestia, PC, was a speaker at the Partnering in Patents XI Seminar in Arlington, Va., in October.

James I. Kennedy, co-chairman of Kennedy & Liverant LLP, has been named an adjunct professor of sports marketing at West Chester University.

E. Gevald Riesenbach, a member of Cozen O’Connor recently received the 2004 Alumni Award of Merit from the University of Pennsylvania in recognition of his many years in alumni leadership roles. He currently serves as vice president of Penn Alumni.

David S. Hofstein, a shareholder with Hofstein Winer & Levit, PC, was a panelist at the PDCP Divorce Conference in King of Prussia, Pa., on understanding the divorce implications in cases involving commercial real estate interests.

Jeffrey M. Lindy, a sole practitioner and former chair of the Board of Governors, has been elected chair of the Federal Bar Association’s Criminal Law Committee, Philadelphia Chapter.

Stanton M. Lack, principal in Lacks & Associates, recently served as a moderator for a presentation on domestic terrorism at a program cosponsored by the Anti-Defamation League and Temple Beth Am.

Anne M. Madonia, a member of Cozen O’Connor, was recently named vice chair of Pennsylvania Young Professionals (PaYP), a statewide organization created by Team Pennsylvania Foundation, a public/private economic development partnership. PaYP represents the interests of regional young professionals in an effort to enhance the state’s competitiveness and quality of life.

Michael A. Hamilton, a member of Cozen O’Connor, was a featured speaker at Intellectual Property Litigation and Insurance, a seminar sponsored by the Defense Research Institute, on Oct. 28 and 29 in San Diego, Calif.

Mark S. Blaskey, a partner with Pepper Hamilton LLP, has been elected to the board of directors of the Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life in Horsham, Pa.

Benjamin E. Leace, a shareholder with RatnerPrestia, PC, discussed “How to Turn Your Research into Shekels, Dollars, Euros and Yen...for You!” on Nov. 11 at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, Israel.

Jay Barry Harris, a senior partner with Freeman Kirkstein & Harris, P.C., has been elected as a member of the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel.

Jacqueline K. Gallagher, an associate with Ollermayer Rehmann Maxwell & Hipple LLP, was a featured presenter at the 2004 Annual Convention of Professional Insurance Wholesalers Association in New York on Nov. 4.

Elliott R. Feldman, a partner at Cozen O’Connor, was recently elected vice president of the National Association of Subrogation Professionals.

Henry C. Eader, a partner with Pepper Hamilton LLP, has been elected chairman of the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry.

Louis Coffey, of counsel to WolfBlock and president of Coffey Consulting Company, was recently appointed to the U.S.-China Business Mediation Panel of the U.S.-China Business Mediation Center.

Names Are News “People” highlights news of members’ awards, honors or appointments of a civic or community nature. Information may be sent to Jeff Lyons, Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th Floor, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-2911. Fax: (215) 238-1267. E-mail: reporter@philabar.org. Photos are also welcome.
BMW of North America is proud to announce that Otto’s BMW has once again received the prestigious BMW Quality Trophy. In 2002, Otto’s was the first BMW Center in the area to be awarded this honor. It’s an important symbol that a BMW Center has successfully passed one of the most thorough certification processes in the industry. For everyone at Otto’s BMW, it meant many hard months of working together for more efficiency and better internal communications. One of the results is a higher set of customer satisfaction standards, so that your experience within Otto’s BMW will be as smooth as your drive out. Come into our BMW QMS Center today and take us for a spin.

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