Merit Selection Needed for Judges, Feldman Says

by Jeff Lyons

Calling the mission “clear and urgent,” Chancellor Alan M. Feldman said the Association must protect the authority and the discretion vested in our judges to interpret and apply the law.

“We must oppose the drumbeat of calls for so-called judicial restraint and strict construction of the law, because we know that these are simply code words for the de facto nullification of a free and autonomous judiciary,” Feldman told Association members at the Dec. 6 Annual Meeting Luncheon at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue.

“Remember: We are the Philadelphia Bar Association, with a magnificent history and tradition of standing up and speaking out against those who would make judges subservient to the political whims of the moment. We have no greater calling than to protect judicial independence, and to make sure that what happened to Justice Nigro never happens again to another judge in this Commonwealth,” he said, referring to the failed retention bid of Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Russell M. Nigro, who was denied a seat on the state’s highest court amid voter backlash over legislative and judicial pay raises.

Feldman called on the state to adopt merit selection of judges. “Legislation introduced earlier this year by State Senators Fumo and Williams to amend our Constitution in order to bring merit selection of judges to Philadelphia is an important step forward. The amendment would establish a broadly representative Commission to develop a list of eminent nominees for consideration and appointment by the governor,” he said.

Feldman also proposed a plan that would grant continuing legal education credit to attorneys who perform pro bono legal services. “Pro bono service is a moral responsibility, as well as a professional obligation imposed by Rule 6.1 of the Rules of Professional Conduct. But the fact is that this isn’t enough to overcome real-world time and billing pressures, which inhibit even lawyers who have a genuine interest in providing pro bono representation. If

Chancellor Alan M. Feldman outlined his plans for 2006 to Bar members at the Dec. 6 Annual Meeting Luncheon.

A. Michael Pratt, a partner at Pepper Hamilton LLP, will serve as Vice Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association in 2006 after running unopposed in the Tuesday, Dec. 6 election. Pratt will serve as Chancellor-Elect in 2007 and Chancellor in 2008.

The following candidates for Bar office also ran unopposed and will be serving in their positions on Jan. 1: Treasurer, Scott F. Cooper; Assistant Treasurer, Jeffrey M. Lindy; Secretary, John E. Savoldi; Assistant Secretary, Kathleen D. Wilkinson; and Board of Governors, Judy F. Berkenman, Kim R. Jessum, Matthew Perks, Stephanie Reunik and Eric G. Zajac.

The following seven candidates were elected to three-year terms on the Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee: May Mon Post (241 votes), Hope Caldwell (235), Jocelyn A. Gabrionnowicz (256), Katherine Skubecz (224), Shawane L. Lee (217), Alexis J. Gutarsoff (216) and Brian S. Chacker (213). Also receiving votes were Agatha Lampa (119) and Henry Yampolsky (105).
We congratulate our friend and partner, ALAN M. FELDMAN, on serving as the 2006 Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, and look forward to his continued service to the Association.
Sometime during 2006 our nation will lose the services of a great jurist and a wonderful person, Justice Sandra Day O’Connor.

Justice O’Connor cuts across all political boundaries and her integrity and dedication to the cause of justice remain unquestioned. When Justice O’Connor spoke, people listened.

In a recent address in front of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers Justice O’Connor reflected on her time on the high court and noted that judges don’t always make everybody happy. “We have the power to make the people we come into contact with really, really angry,” she said. “In fact, if we do not make them mad some of the time, we probably aren’t doing our jobs. Our effectiveness, our judgment, relies on the knowledge that we won’t be subject to retaliation for our acts.”

That’s an important statement expressing a powerful condition to the “effectiveness” referenced by Justice O’Connor. But now even Justice O’Connor must admit that we can no longer simply assume that judges “won’t be subject to retaliation for their acts.” Indeed, Justice O’Connor herself went on to describe recent threats to judicial independence including matters related to last year’s emotional Terri Schiavo case in which we learned that even the historic jurisdiction of state courts over family disputes could be casually sacrificed by zealots zealots with significant political power and influence — whose notion of judicial independence was “my way or the highway.”

It’s gotten so bad that last spring a group of judges in Pennsylvania turned to the courts to protect themselves. “There is no natural constituency for judicial independence,” Justice O’Connor said, “except for a vibrant, responsible lawyer class. We can’t trust the courts to protect themselves.”

Chancellor’s Forum on ‘Intelligent Design’ Jan. 24

Attorneys representing families looking to overturn the Dover School District’s “intelligent design” curriculum will discuss the case at a Tuesday, Jan. 24 Chancellor’s Forum.

Eric Rothschild and Stephen G. Harvey, the lawyers for eight families who challenged the district’s policy that includes “intelligent design” in the curriculum, will offer a first-hand perspective on the local trial that has placed our region at the forefront of this controversial issue.

In October 2004, the Dover School District was thrust into the national and international spotlight when it became the first district in the country to include in its biology curriculum the concept of “intelligent design” — the idea that life had to have been created by an intelligent, supernatural actor because it is too complex to have developed through natural processes. In a six-week trial this fall in U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, plaintiffs argued that intelligent design is an attempt to bring creationism and religion into the classroom, and contended the school district’s argument that intelligent design is a valid scientific alternative to the theory of evolution.

The federal trial is being touted as the first legal test of the constitutionality of teaching intelligent design as science, and the most significant case on religious issues in public school science classes since 1987 when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against the teaching of creation science.

The Chancellor’s Forum begins at 12 p.m. in the 11th floor Conference Center of Bar Association headquarters, 1101 Market St. A complimentary lunch will be served, but RSVP is required. Visit philadelphiabar.org to RSVP.

Tell Us What You Think!
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United States senator actually suggested a “cause-and-effect” connection between so-called judicial activism and “recent episodes of courthouse violence in this country.” True, the senator later softened his remarks. But what could have prompted him to even suggest such a connection in the first place?

In my lifetime I have never seen our judiciary under such relentless attack. If you doubt that the threat to judicial independence is real you need only look to our recent experience in Pennsylvania where an honest, decent and qualified justice of the state Supreme Court was voted out of office by an angry electorate for reasons that had absolutely nothing to do with his performance as a judge. I truly believe we must make sure that what happened to Justice Russell Nigo never happens again to another judge here.

This year we will act on two fronts: Where appropriate, we will promptly, vigorously and steadfastly defend judges against unfair attacks and we will also redouble our efforts to amend the state constitution so that Philadelphia will be able to switch to a merit based non-elective system for choosing judges. It is clear that merit selection is the only way to separate the judicial selection process from momentary passions and purely partisan political concerns.

Judicial independence and a top-flight judiciary go hand-in-hand. And this is a cause that we must embrace as lawyers, as officers of the court and as responsible citizens. It is our cause.

“There is no natural constituency for judicial independence,” Justice O’Connor said, “except for a vibrant, responsible lawyer class. We can’t trust the courts to protect themselves.”
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Incoming Family Law Section Chair Jacqueline G. Segal is joined by Court of Common Pleas Judge Myrna P. Field at the section’s Nov. 30 Annual Dinner at Maggiano’s Little Italy. Judge Field was honored for her dedication and service to the Family Law bench.

The Young Lawyers Division held its annual Holiday Party on Dec. 8 at the Boathouse Row Bar at the Rittenhouse Hotel. Pictured (from left) are Matthew Kappa, Charles Eppolito III, Bethany Wilson and Michael Stewart. The event was sponsored by Mellon Financial.

Former Workers’ Compensation Section Co-Chair Judge Marc W. Harrison (from left) stands with Martha Hampton Award recipient Maria Terpolilli at the Section’s Nov. 30 Reception at the Pyramid Club. Also pictured are Marc Jacobs and former section co-chairs Deborah Beck, Michael Dryden and Judge Scott Olin.

Incoming Public Interest Section Chair Jeffrey Campolongo stands with Andrew Hamilton Award recipient Sharon Dietrich at the Section’s Dec. 1 Annual Reception at Loews Philadelphia Hotel.

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Chancellor-Elect Jane L. Dalton (from left) joins John P. McGee, Michelle M. Marx and Kevin P. Ray, co-chairs of the Association’s Committee on the Legal Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men, at the Committee’s Dec. 7 Holiday Party at the offices of Duane Morris LLP. McGee, Philadelphia Department of Human Services Children and Youth Division Deputy Commissioner, accepted the committee’s Cheryl Ingram Advocate for Justice Award on behalf of DHS.

The 2005 leadership of the State Civil Litigation Section gathers at the section’s inaugural Holiday Reception on Dec. 12 at the Westin Philadelphia. Pictured from left are Kathleen D. Wilkinson, Rudolph Garcia, Ronald A. Kevler and Richard S. Seidel.

Julia B. Fisher, outgoing chair of the Probate and Trust Section, poses with new chair Mary Jane Barrett at the Section’s Annual Reception on Dec. 13 at the Atrium of the Crystal Tea Room in the Wanamaker Building.

Tax Section Chair Joseph E. Ronan Jr. (left) is joined by William Eldridge Frenzel, a member of the faculty for the dinner CLE, at the Section’s Annual Dinner on Dec. 8 at the Rittenhouse Hotel.

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Karen Detamore visits with Thomas J. Prettyman (center) and Jeffrey Campolongo, co-chairs of the Committee on the Legal Rights of Persons with Disabilities, at the Committee’s Dec. 14 reception at the Bar Association.

Michael J. Berkowitz, incoming chancellor of the Louis J. Brandeis Law Society, presents a gift to Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Anne E. Lazarus, the outgoing chancellor, at the group’s Dec. 7 Hanukkah Party.

Philadelphia City Solicitor Romulo L. Diaz Jr. addresses a reception in his honor at the Mayor’s Reception Room in City Hall on Dec. 1. The reception was an official welcome for Diaz as the city solicitor and was sponsored by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Judith Frankel Rubino, Criminal Justice Section chair for 2005, greets incoming section Chair John A. Ryan at the section’s Dec. 15 Annual Reception. The section honored Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Benjamin Lerner with its annual Justice Thurgood Marshall Award at the event, held at Loews Philadelphia Hotel.
Challenges Loom for Young Lawyers

by Michael B. Hayes

This promises to be a very important year for the future of our profession and our city. The state legislature continues to put an increasing number of measures on the table that will have a direct impact on the practice of law in Pennsylvania, such as the proposed tax on legal services. At the same time, trouble has been brewing at home, with prominent attorneys here in Philadelphia being swept into — and receiving charges out of — the now-infamous City corruption scandal.

While government ethics reform measures are being proposed, debated, and voted on by City Council, political horses are lining up at the gates, jockeying for position, and selling up to the campaign troughs in preparation for the 2007 mayoral election. And although residential development is at its highest pace in recent memory and trendy restaurants, shops and clubs are bringing more and more residents and tourists to downtown Philadelphia, poor neighborhoods throughout the city continue to fall into disrepair and despair.

The ring of gunshots has unfortunately become commonplace in many neighborhoods, with frightened citizens refusing to cooperate with police, even in the wake of senseless acts of violence against innocent child-victims, for fear of violent reprisals. Against this bleak backdrop, the Police Department faces an uphill struggle to restore peace to the streets of Philadelphia. To be sure, for those Philadelphians living in the shadow of violence, poverty and drugs, the prosperity of Center City and the other “trendy” neighborhoods of Philadelphia must seem a world away.

Will the legislature continue on its seeming quest to regulate the practice of law for the advancement of their own political agendas and the enrichment of state tax coffers? How will the legislature’s encroachment on the practice of law affect our practices going forward? Will the grand openings of luxury condo after luxury condo in Philadelphia, combined with the much-anticipated introduction of ethics reform in city government, help create significant business development in the city? Will the rising tide of intergovernmental and interdepartmental competition for power decide the future of our profession and our city?

On a more direct, personal level, will you take charge of your professional growth and maturation as an attorney? Do you want to develop a network of fellow young lawyers and a bevy of contacts in the business and political spheres? Are you ready to give something back to the community while improving the public perception of attorneys?

If you find yourself answering some — really, any — of these questions in the affirmative, I strongly urge you, the many members of our Young Lawyers Division, to come out to one of our events this year! Find out more on page 15.

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we’re serious as a profession about our pro bono obligations, rather than just continuing to look the other way at the substantial non-participation of so many of us, we need a solution that accommodates the economic facts of life,” he said.

“I suggest that our Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the CLE Board adopt new rules which would permit lawyers to earn continuing legal education credits for qualifying pro bono work,” Feldman said, adding that Wyoming, Delaware, New York, Tennessee and Washington have moved in this direction. Colorado has adopted a new rule that allows a lawyer providing uncompensated legal representation to receive one hour of CLE credit for every 5 hours of pro bono service.

He also called on the lawyers of the city to better fund the city’s public interest law agencies.

“In 2006, together with leaders of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, I will ask every law firm in our legal community, large and small, to contribute $300 per lawyer to the Bar Foundation, the Volunteers for the Indigent Program and/or to the legal services organization of your choice. I do not and would not come before you to ask for a level of support that is unrealistic; in fact, a fair number of us are at or above this level now, and other firms are quite close. But our legal community needs to commit to all of us achieving this modest goal by the end of next year,” Feldman said.

“The truth is that there isn’t a law firm in this town that can’t afford what amounts to less than $1 per day, or about one billable hour per year, for each of its lawyers. With your help and support, we can and will change the culture in this great city to make certain that people who have the misfortune to be poor are not denied access to justice in the very cradle of liberty of our nation, our own beloved Philadelphia,” he said.

Feldman said that a task force he has appointed will recommend how a Law Practice Management Section, devoted exclusively to supporting the business of practicing law, can be adopted and implemented.

“We will also retain a law practice management consultant who will provide no-charge expert management consultations and services to every member of the Bar Association, together with regular management seminars and a constant flow of information on sound management and best practices. With this new initiative, the Philadelphia Bar Association will now be your partner in supporting the development, growth and, yes, the financial success of your practices. Prosperity is not a dirty word,” he said.
Annual Meeting

Beaser Accepts Wachovia Fidelity Award

by Jeff Lyons

Lawrence J. Beaser, a former Chancellor and current counsel to the Board of Governors, was presented with the Association’s Wachovia Fidelity Award for his “passionate and diligent work to advance the cause of justice.”

The presentation was made at the Association’s Dec. 6 Annual Meeting Luncheon by Wachovia Fidelity Award Committee Chair Elaine M. Rinaldi and Noel Turner of Wachovia.

“This prestigious award is presented annually to a member of our Association, who through volunteer activities, rendered over a considerable period time, has made significant improvements to the administration of justice,” said Rinaldi.

“Larry joined Blank Rome in 1978 and from that point, he has worked passionately and diligently to advance the cause of justice and ensure that everyone in our community has equal access to legal representation,” she said.

Rinaldi said Beaser took an early leadership role in the Association’s Legislative Liaison Committee, working tirelessly to advocate the Association’s legislative agenda. “He successfully focused his energy on legislation to improve the justice system and make funding available for legal services for the poor.”

“Larry has played a critical role in many of the issues advanced by our Board, including, among others, judicial discipline reform, merit selection of judges, improving services for children, funding for legal services and the creation of the business court,” Rinaldi said.

“Larry Beaser is the epitome of dedication to the legal profession,” she said. “I feel very privileged and grateful that my work over the years has been recognized by my colleagues here at the Philadelphia Bar Association.”

Beaser said. “I am especially grateful to my Blank Rome family and I am honored that so many of you are here today.”

“I am proud to announce that I am giving the prize given with the Wachovia Fidelity Award to Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts, our statewide nonpartisan nonprofit organization, dedicated to improving the justice system in our state. I have been privileged for many years to work with Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts, its dedicated executive director Lynn Marks, and many others in the fight for merit selection of judges and for improvement in the administration of justice. Because what they do is so important for all of us, and because they are so good at what they do, I am proud to announce that I am giving the prize given with the Wachovia Fidelity Award to Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts,” Beaser said.

Previous recipients of the Wachovia Fidelity Award include Gerald A. McHugh Jr., Joseph A. Torrrossa, Andre L. Dennis, William H. Ewong, David Sykes, Robert C. Hein, Barbara Sicalides, Lawrence J. Fox and former Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Frank J. Montemuro Jr.
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Chef Konstantino Pitsillides’ grilled haliumi cheese ($7) is the first appetizer to order so as to ground your taste-buds for the remainder of the MEZE experience. The cheese is sharp, salty and golden, crisped to a seared tartness at what's left to devour.

Or try Three Dips Of The Day ($6), a varying trio of huedd Mediterranean puddles set forth on a long thin platter. Dip into a placidly oiled, roasted red pepper mound positioned among sliced purple onion strands and Middle Eastern spices, or drenched-in-garlic mashed potatoes as gifts. These are spectacular.

The latter is divided into three sub-choices: meat, fish or vegetarian. If you’re a new visitor, the sampling plate is changeable, to order so as to ground your taste-buds for the remainder of the MEZE menu. The latter is divided into three sub-choices: meat, fish or vegetarian. If you’re a new visitor, the sampling plate is changeable.

Entrées can be ordered as individual choices or from the MEZE menu. The latter is divided into three sub-choices: meat, fish or vegetarian. If you’re a new visitor, the sampling plate is changeable.

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Section Spotlight: Business Law

Revived Committees Spring to Life, Action

by Jeff Lyons

The goal for the Business Law Section during 2005 was to get its committees up and running and revitalized. According to outgoing section Chair Kathleen M. Shay, the section accomplished its goal.

The Section, with nearly 1,500 members and 17 different committees, is the Association’s largest. “The way to keep the section active is through the work of its committees,” explained Shay. “Some of the committees are more active than others.”


She said the section’s Bankruptcy Committee was dormant for quite a while but through the work of Committee Chair Kevin H. Buraks, it has become active again. Buraks said the committee is planning to sponsor a CLE session in the spring that will offer updates on the changes in bankruptcy law.

“We’re also planning a reception in honor of the new Bankruptcy Court judges from the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in April,” Buraks said. The Business Litigation Committee also was busy during 2005, hosting a number of guest speakers at meetings as well as offering CLE programs. A recent program offered tips for cross-border litigation Canada.

Plans for 2006

Albert S. Dandridge III, chair of the section for 2006, wants to see the revived committees become even more active.

“I’d like to see the committees get more guest speakers for their programs and plan more CLE events,” he said.

Help for LawWorks

The section also has reached out to Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program’s LawWorks initiative. LawWorks, VIP’s community economic development project, serves as a complement to VIP’s traditional pro bono services. In providing pro bono services to community groups and non-profit organizations, LawWorks allows these groups to direct their funding toward carrying out their missions and serving their clients. In assisting low-income small business owners, LawWorks helps to strengthen the backbones of the city’s neighborhoods, stimulate commerce and bring business services directly to neighborhood residents.

“We’re providing half of the full funding for a staff attorney for LawWorks for two years. This way, they can get that attorney up and running while going out and seeking other sources of funding for that attorney,” Shay said.

Shay said one of the section’s goals is to get transactional attorneys more involved in the Association’s annual Bench-Bar Conference. She said the section will look into possible programs of interest for transactional attorneys for the next conference.

Dandridge said he will work with Chancellor Alan M. Feldman to find ways to expand the Bench-Bar Conference to include more programs for transactional attorneys.

Annual Reception Jan. 18

The Section will hold its annual reception on Wednesday, Jan. 18 at the Pyramid Club at 1735 Market St., on the 31st floor. At the event, the section will present its Dennis H. Replansky Memorial Award and honor the committee and committee chair of the year. Winners of the awards will be announced in January. For more information, visit philadelphiabar.org.
YLD UPDATE
continued from page 9

...and see for yourselves what makes the YLD the most vibrant and important organization of young professionals in Philadelphia.

Whether you are interested in volunteering for one of our important YLD public service programs, participating in a timely and provocative YLD educational seminar, hobnobbing with movers and shakers in the Philadelphia legal and business communities at a YLD charitable fund-raising or networking event, or just coming out to enjoy a YLD happy hour at one of the city’s trendy new meeting places, I know that you will find – as I have found – that the YLD is a truly amazing organization.

More and more young lawyers, from varying backgrounds and practice areas – are realizing that the YLD is a real vehicle for positive change – in our own careers, for the profession in general, and for our great city. Now more than ever the YLD is proving itself a veritable breeding-ground for the next generation of leaders in the Philadelphia legal community.

Bottom line? You owe it to yourself and your career to get involved with the YLD. Not tomorrow. Not next year. Today. Check out our YLD Web page at philadelphiahabar.org. Take a look at our various event and program descriptions. Make a personal pledge to get involved, get connected and get yourself plugged in to the YLD. Take my word for it – you will not be disappointed. If you have questions about the YLD, or want to know how you can become more involved, my line is open – (215) 772-7211, mhayes@mmwr.com – and I look forward to hearing from you.

Michael B. Hayes, an associate at Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP, is chair of the Young Lawyers Division.

Councilman Visits

Philadelphia City Councilman Michael Nutter shares his views on new ethics initiatives and tax reform at the Nov. 30 meeting of the City Policy Committee.

Chancellor Alan M. Feldman (left) welcomes new citizens following a naturalization ceremony on Dec. 15 at the National Constitution Center. More than 160 people from 40 nations took the oath.

JANUARY 2006

CLE COURSES

Jan. 18 The Real Estate Development Transaction: Undeveloped Property • The CLE Conference Center

Jan. 24 Custody Law Update-2005 • The CLE Conference Center

Jan. 25 International Humanitarian Law: The Treatment of Combatants and Civilians in Armed Conflicts • The CLE Conference Center

Jan. 26 & 27 12th Annual Estate Law Institute • PA Convention Center

Jan. 27 Legal Ease: Mastering the Art of Effective Legal Writing • The CLE Conference Center

Jan. 30 Working with Inside Counsel • The CLE Conference Center

Jan. 31 Annual Disclosure Documents • The CLE Conference Center

Call PBI Customer Service at 1-800-247-4724 to register for a course or for more information. Or, go to www.pbi.org.

The CLE Conference Center
Wanamaker Building
10th Floor, Ste.1010

Pennsylvania Convention Center
12th & Arch Streets

Councilman Visits

Chancellor Alan M. Feldman (left) welcomes new citizens following a naturalization ceremony on Dec. 15 at the National Constitution Center. More than 160 people from 40 nations took the oath.
International Attorneys Need Our Support

by Merih O. Erhan

Recent newspaper articles highlight the disturbing fate of lawyers in the international arena, something that has been suspected but was not documented before. The detailed versions of physical attack and mental abuse on lawyers in a host of countries, such as China and Iraq, deserve our attention as lawyers who are able to practice their profession without any fear of suppression (interference) or loss of their freedom.

European lawyers already have taken the lead in defending their foreign colleagues. The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe, a group representing European Lawyers, urged their governments or oppressive organizations to collect information on lawyers’ rights have taken place. It may even be possible to find witnesses here to hear their first-hand observations to give us some idea. This is a little different but not an unusual activity for Philadelphia lawyers who have been known for their successful representation of victims of injustice over many years. We have seen past examples of Bar Association involvement with homeless people. In an article I wrote for The Reformer in 1984, the deplorable conditions of street people and their need for legal assistance were brought to the attention of the readers. Donald C. Marino, then the Chancellor, immediately formed the Committee for the Homeless, which became very effective in forcing the city to improve the conditions of the shelters as well as to help the homeless with their legal problems. It branched out over the years but its successful impact still continues.

Some may think that homelessness was a local issue whereas this is a global problem beyond our limits. However, considering the facts that (1) Philadelphia lawyers have an acknowledged and well-known reputation, (2) Philadelphia law firms are following their clients to international markets by opening offices in foreign countries, and (3) the Bar Association has a history, this should be a proper task for the Bar Association to undertake. Let us not forget these activities also may secure the freedom of our lawyers in various countries. It may be possible to get information by contacting international organizations and law schools; and an index of area judges.

According To...

What Are You Looking Forward to in 2006?

“I’m looking forward to my wedding on Sept. 23, 2006.”
- Alicia B. Coleman

“In 2006, as an appellate lawyer, I look forward to affirmances, reversals and vacations.”
- Kim Kocher

“Every year presents new challenges and opportunities. I look forward to plenty of both in 2006.”
- Edward M. Koch
Tuesday, Jan. 3
Philadelphia Bar Foundation Board of Trustees – meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Wednesday, Jan. 4
Delivery of Legal Services Committee – meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Thursday, Jan. 5
Health Care Law Committee – meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.
Civil Rights Committee – meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.
Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee – meeting, 12:15 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $7.50.
Philadelphia Bar Reporter Editorial Board – meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Cabinet Room.

Friday, Jan. 6
The Philadelphia Lawyer magazine Editorial Board – meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Monday, Jan. 9
Business Law Section Executive Committee – meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Tuesday, Jan. 10
Criminal Justice Section Executive Committee – meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Chancellor’s Reception – 5 p.m., Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets. Complimentary – no RSVP required.

Wednesday, Jan. 11
Section Chairs – meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Appellate Courts Committee – meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

Friday, Jan. 13 and Saturday, Jan. 14
Board of Governors Retreat – Atlantic City, N.J.

Tuesday, Jan. 17
Delivery of Legal Services Pro Bono Subcommittee – 9 a.m., 11th floor Cmte. Room South.

Wednesday, Jan. 18
Workers’ Compensation Section Executive Committee – meeting, 10:30 a.m., 11th floor Committee Room.
Workers’ Compensation Section – meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.
Federal Courts Committee – meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

Thursday, Jan. 19
State Civil Rules and Procedures Committee – meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

Business Law Section – Annual Reception, 5:30 p.m., Pyramid Club, 1735 Market St., 51st floor. Tickets: philadelphobar.org.

Monday, Jan. 23
Professional Responsibility Committee – meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Tuesday, Jan. 24
Chancellor’s Forum – 12 p.m., 11th floor Board Room. RSVP: philadelphobar.org

Wednesday, Jan. 25
Young Lawyers Division Philadelphia 2020 Committee – meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

Thursday, Jan. 26
Elder Law Committee – meeting, 1 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $7.50.
Board of Governors – meeting, 4 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Friday, Jan. 27
Women’s Rights Committee – meeting, 12:15 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $7.50.

Tuesday, Jan. 31
Criminal Justice Section – meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.
Women in the Profession Committee – meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

Note: While the following listings have been verified prior to press time, any scheduled event may be subject to change by the committee or section chairs.
Leslie Anne Miller, former general counsel to Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell, has been appointed honoraire to the Board of Visitors of Temple University Beasley School of Law. She was also inducted into The Hall of Fame, sponsored by Temple University’s League for Entrepreneurial Women, which honors women for their achievements as innovators, entrepreneurs and leaders in the Philadelphia region and beyond.

Gregory P. Miller, a founding shareholder in Miller, Allman & Raaschanti, spoke at the American Law Institute–American Bar Association’s seminar, “The Art and Science of Serving as a Special Master in Federal and State Courts” on Nov. 3-4 in Chicago.

James M. Brogan, a partner with DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary US LLP, has been inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.


James J. Kozuch, a partner/shareholder with Careau, Rosine, Bernstein, Cohen & Pokutionis, Ltd., was a panelist at the PBI course Representing a Client with Caesar, Rivise, Bernstein, Applebaum & Associates, a principal with Pepper Hamilton LLP, has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Robert A. Korn, a principal and member of Kaplin Stewart Ficken Reiter & Stein, P.C., was a co-course planner and presenter of a PBI seminar “Advanced Construction Litigation,” where he presented an overview of school construction law.

Bruce W. Ficken, a partner with Pepper Hamilton LLP, has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.


David V. Hofstein, a shareholder with Hofstein Weiner & Levit, P.C., was a panelist at the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants Divorce Conference in King of Prussia. He discussed valuation of assets in equitable distribution.

George Martin, founder of Martin, Banks, Pond, Lehokey & Wilson, served as a faculty member for the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association Annual Update for Civil Litigators program held in October.

Leonard P. Goldberg, a shareholder with Stevens & Lee, focused on insurance and bankruptcy law to members of the University of Connecticut School of Law LLM Program on Nov. 8.

Halmon L. Banks III and J. Paige Frampton of Martin, Banks, Pond, Lehokey & Wilson participated in the recent Pennsylvania Bar Institute seminar “Social Security Law for Workers’ Compensation Practitioners” on Nov. 2 and 8. Banks served as a course planner and Frampton served as course faculty.

Alan H. Casper, a sole practitioner, spoke on “Making and Breaking Allegations of Institutional Bad Faith” at the American Conference Institute’s 12th Annual National Forum on Litigating Bad Faith and Punitive Damages in Miami, Fla., on Nov. 15.

B. Christopher Lee, managing shareholder of Jacoby Donner PC, recently spoke at the neutrals Conference for the American Arbitration Association held in Philadelphia.

Katherine M. Layman, a member of Cozen O’Connor, was a featured speaker at the Leadership Health Care Fall 2005 National Long Term Care Conference/Exhibit in Pittsburgh. She presented “Confronting Long Term Care’s Major Legal Issues.”

Andrew B. Cohn, a principal with Kaplin Stewart Ficken Reiter & Stein, P.C., was a speaker at the Ninth Annual Real Estate Institute presented by the Pennsylvania Bar Institute in Philadelphia on Dec. 6 and 7. Cohn spoke about “Modifying Standard Construction Contracts.”

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@philabarb.org. Photos are also welcome.

Laurence E. Ford, a partner at Pepper Hamilton LLP, was selected as the 2005 Pennsylvania Lawyer of the Year by the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Pennsylvania Lawyers’ Fund for Independent Legal Services. Ford was honored at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s Annual Meeting in January for his outstanding service to the legal community.

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