The values learned from his mother – family, education, giving back to those less fortunate and equal opportunity for all – will be the values A. Michael Pratt will stress in his year as Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

In a packed ballroom at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue on Dec. 4, Pratt offered his ideas for 2008. He was joined by two of his children, his mother and stepfather, nine of his siblings and their spouses, an aunt from Texas and his granddaughter. More than 600 people attended the program.

Pratt praised his mother, Joan Tracy, throughout his remarks, recalling her strength at raising 12 children by herself in a small house in Western Pennsylvania. “I was the fourth of 12 children and, sometimes we did have to share beds. We didn’t have running water to our home and our bathroom was an outhouse. To say that we were not people of means, well, that would be a gross understatement. But thanks to my mother, we did have means. We had the means to hope, the means to dream, the means to keep faith with ourselves and our family. And we also had the means to work hard and to help one another. Mom, thank you for your love, teachings and sacrifices that now allow me to stand here today,” he said.

“As Chancellor, the Philadelphia legal community is all my family. The Bar Association will, first and foremost, continue to look out for the interests of its members. In 2008, that will start with tax reform in the City of Philadelphia, which we know is a big issue for our new mayor. I would first like to pledge to Mayor-Elect Nutter and his administration the support of the entire Philadelphia legal community in his efforts to achieve real solutions for a range of issues affecting our city,” Pratt said. “For too long, city businesses have paid the nation’s highest local business tax. And there is no reason that professional firms that are organized as partnerships should pay a higher tax rate than those organized as corpora-

A. Michael Pratt credited his mother, Joan Tracy, with instilling in him the values that have made him a success.
“GASP...”

(We’ll take your breath away.)

You won’t believe your eyes. Then you will. Then you’ll realize you’ve never seen anything like this before. Then you’ll want to live here.

CALL FOR A PRIVATE APPOINTMENT AT 215.568.1577.

The Residences
TWO LIBERTY PLACE

PHASE II NOW AVAILABLE. PRICING FROM $1 MILLION.
ONLY THREE BALCONIES REMAINING!

It’s different up here. 50 S. 16th Street | 57th Floor | Philadelphia, PA 19102 | twoliberty.com
Cooper to Become Chancellor in 2010

Scott F. Cooper, a partner at Blank Rome LLP, will serve as Vice Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association in 2008 after running unopposed in the Tuesday, Dec. 4 election. Cooper will serve as Chancellor-Elect in 2009 and Chancellor in 2010.

The following candidates for Bar offices also ran unopposed and will be serving in their positions on Jan. 1: Treasurer, Jeffrey M. Lindy; Assistant Treasurer, Joseph A. Prins Jr.; Secretary, Kathleen D. Wilkinson; Assistant Secretary, Sophia Lee; and Michael J. Berkowitz, Karen L. Detamore, Maria A. Feeley, Jeffrey S. Gross and Richard S. Seidel, Board of Governors.

The following seven candidates were elected to three-year terms on the Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee: Carolyn Chopko (329 votes); Joan E. Clarke (308); Joshua Burg (284); Matthew R. Williams (276); Jonathan Goldman (271); Thomas D. Bielli (259); and Kristina Littman (161). Also receiving votes were: Danny Cevallos (126 votes) and Richard Vanderslice (109).

Cooper will serve as Chancellor-Elect in 2009 and Chancellor in 2010. Cooper to Become Chancellor in 2010
Panel: Law Faculty Diversity Can Aid Profession

By Ria C. Momblanco

Greater gender and ethnic diversity among law professors may be one way to encourage and improve diversity in the legal profession, according to Temple University Beasley School of Law assistant professor Jeremi Duru.

At a recent joint meeting with the Minorities in the Profession Committee and the Women in the Profession Committee, Duru, together with Temple Law colleagues professor Theresa Glennon and assistant professor Jaya Ramji-Nogales, highlighted the need for more women and minorities to enter legal academia.

Statistics from the Association of American Law Schools reflect that women currently comprise only 36.5 percent of law professors, and minorities comprise approximately 9.3 percent. According to the panelists, a rise in those numbers would greatly benefit the legal community since women and minority professors play an important role in attracting a diverse student body, serving as a model for women and minorities who may want to enter academia, and identifying legal issues and solutions that affect women and minorities today.

As an example, Duru described a group discussion at a sports law conference that he recently attended. There, a woman professor from Indiana University voiced her concern over a growing trend among pregnant student athletes to hide their pregnancies for fear of being benched and subsequently losing a scholarship or scholarship opportunity. The Indiana professor then suggested using Title 9 as a weapon to combat school policies that might adversely impact women who are pregnant. In relating the story, Duru commented that it would have been unlikely for a male attorney to have contemplated such an issue, let alone think of using Title 9 as a means of resolving it.

The panel emphasized for those interested in legal academia, the spectrum of available positions is wide. While some may want to pursue the more traditional tenure-track teaching position, there are non-tenured positions (i.e., legal writing instructor, clinical instructor, adjunct professor) that may be an appropriate alternative to those who want to teach the law but do not want the pressure of having to publish articles. According to Glennon, non-tenured positions are increasing in number since more law schools are developing institutes specializing in certain areas of law and are often hiring J.D.s to run those institutes. Glennon suggests that one approach to gaining a non-tenured teaching position is to review a school’s curriculum and see whether there is an area in the curriculum that you could supplement with your own expertise. Then, write to the dean with a course proposal and a description of your experience in that area of law.

For those wishing to pursue a tenured position, the application process can be much more challenging. Ramji-Nogales

continued on page 21
By Heather J. Holloway

When Mark Schweiker became president of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce in 2003, he decided the Philadelphia region hadn’t done enough to market itself. The former governor created Select Greater Philadelphia, a regional economic development organization that strives to raise the profile and improve the image of the Greater Philadelphia Region and to attract companies looking to expand and relocate here.

Thomas Morr, president and CEO of Select Greater Philadelphia, addressed a Nov. 26 joint meeting of the Real Property Section, Business Law Section and the International Law Committee to talk about Select Greater Philadelphia’s role in the region.

Select Greater Philadelphia provides a single place for companies to go to obtain information about the region, which includes the 11 counties in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware that form a natural boundary around the city. Morr said the 6,000-square-mile region has the fourth-largest population in the United States and the sixth-largest contributor to the gross national product. Although the five Southeastern Pennsylvania counties were already accustomed to working together, Morr said Select Greater Philadelphia set up agreements with the economic development officials in each of the 11 counties of the region.

“Over the last 50 years, this region has transformed from being the capital of the industrial revolution to a service and knowledge-based economy,” Morr said. Today, 74 percent of the people working in the region are employed in the service sector and most of those are employed in knowledge-based businesses, such as health care, the pharmaceutical industry, professional services and financial services. Morr said the financial services industry, including banking, insurance, and investment service organizations, now has a significant presence in the region. Morr said the region is now the capital of the pharmaceutical industry, but the service industry was not being marketed. Even within the industry, people still do not recognize the concentration. Yet, as a result of this concentration, companies that support that industry (e.g., law firms, marketing firms, clinical trial companies, packaging/distribution companies) are a major part of this region’s economy.

Morr said Select Greater Philadelphia strives to raise the region’s profile and attract companies to the region through media relations, advertising and direct contact. Select Greater Philadelphia has a broad coalition of business leaders who want to change the region’s image. It markets the region, across the nation and around the world, by recruiting executives of companies within the region to provide testimonials of their experience. Select Greater Philadelphia engages individuals to serve as ambassadors who provide intelligence about companies that may be expanding or relocating; serve as speakers at seminars; meet with potential clients to provide information about the region; and assist in fundraising and event planning. Ambassadors may also serve as an initial contact with prospective clients with whom Select Greater Philadelphia may follow up and continue marketing efforts.

“Select’s core product is information,” Morr said. “We have set out to compile all of the information available that anyone could possibly request about the region, which we provide at no cost. Select is just getting started and has a pipeline of leads and prospects that will allow it to continue working to help companies looking to expand and relocate to the Greater Philadelphia Region,” he said.

Heather J. Holloway, an associate with Thorp Reed and Armstrong, LLP, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Imagine facing the oncoming winter and the loss of the home you’ve legitimately lived in and paid for over decades. Imagine not knowing whether you will be able to provide safe shelter for your family simply because you don’t have access to or knowledge of the legal system.

Most of us have the good fortune of never having to encounter this scenario. But many in our community are not so fortunate. And attorneys in our community are helping them, making the difference between being a proud, independent homeowner and being homeless.

Philadelphia VIP and SeniorLAW Center invite the legal community to be part of this work, helping individuals who have a legal interest in their homes become the record (or legal) owner — known as “tangled title.” Make a difference in the lives of seniors and families who may lose their most precious asset, their homes, without access to an attorney.

Individuals who have a “tangled title” problem have a legal interest in their homes but are not the record (or legal) owner, arising from a variety of reasons. Many individuals are living in a home titled in the name of a deceased relative whose estate was never probated. Others may have entered into a lease/purchase agreement (also known as rent-to-own agreements or installment land contracts), where they have paid all or most of the purchase price for their home to the owner but the owner has since died, disappeared or refused to convey title. Some individuals may also be the victim of a fraudulent deed transfer, whereby someone forged their name on a deed and purported to transfer title of their home out of their name.

These tangled title problems often have grave consequences for low-income Philadelphians. Without legal title to their home, individuals cannot apply for repair grants and loans to fix plumbing problems and repair leaking roofs, leaving them with the impossible choice of living in unsafe conditions or becoming homeless. They also cannot enter into payment plans to pay delinquent utility bills or real estate taxes that have accrued, and they cannot negotiate with mortgage companies if they miss a mortgage payment. Without being able to negotiate on these back bills, foreclosures become unavoidable, and these families inevitably wind up without a home in which to live. As a result, unresolved tangled title problems can deprive individuals both of a safe place to live and of the only asset that could prevent them and their future generations from sinking more deeply into poverty.

Joyce Goslee, 71, is one such individual. She faced the loss of her home when she became a widow because she had no title in her name. Goslee has proudly cared for her modest Philadelphia home for more than 35 years, working multiple jobs to be a vibrant, independent member of her community. Although her husband’s aunt had left the property to him, he never changed the deed into his name. He then died without a will, leaving his elderly wife living in a home to which she had no legal title. Consequently, she was unable to access senior home repair programs and senior resources to help her keep her home safe and habitable, and unable to devise her property to avoid future vacancies and blight.

Goslee moved to Philadelphia with her husband in 1960; her varied and consistent work career reflects the history of manufacturing in Philadelphia. She worked for many years as a domestic, and then at several small meat-packing houses.
Sections, Committees Hold Annual Events

Rudolph Garcia, Chancellor of The Justinian Society, meets with Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Carolyn Engel Temin, recipient of the 2007 Cesare Beccaria Award. The award, presented by the Justinians and the Criminal Justice Section, is given annually to a judge, scholar or practitioner for contributions to the cause of justice and the advancement of legal education. The presentation was held Nov. 13.

Kathleen Stephenson, chair of the Probate and Trust Law Section is joined by Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett, at the Section’s Annual Reception on Nov. 27 at the Radisson Plaza-Warwick Hotel.

U.S. District Court Judge Mary A. McLaughlin (left) joins Terry L. Fromson of Women Against Abuse at the Public Interest Section’s Annual Reception on Dec. 5 at Loews Philadelphia Hotel. Fromson received the Section’s Annual Andrew Hamilton Award.

Tax Section Chair Joan Arnold is joined by CLE panelists (from left) Arthur R. Rosen, Stewart W. Weintraub and Michael J. Semes at the Section’s afternoon CLE program at the Rittenhouse Hotel. A reception and dinner CLE program followed.

Keynote speaker Harris Steinberg (from left) joins Real Property Section Chair Michael Balent, Good Deed Award winner Karen Black and incoming Section Chair Michael Goss at the Section’s Annual Luncheon on Nov. 29 at Loews Philadelphia Hotel.

LGBT Committee Co-Chairs Lawrence Felzer and Katie Eyer (right) join state Rep. Babette Josephs at the Committee’s Dec. 6 Annual Party at the offices of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP. Josephs received the Committee’s Cheryl Ingram Advocate for Justice Award.
Lisa Richette - A Brilliant, Fearless Judge

By Marc W. Reuben

Watching the reflections of thought on the face of Judge Lisa Richette as you were talking with her constituted a lesson on how to recognize the workings of an active mind. Seldom did an audience listen harder than she and precious few processed information more skillfully. If nothing else were to be said of her, it would be that she was a remarkable study and fast on her feet. Talking with her often left one with the impression that she had evaluated the entire course of applicable ideas for conversation while you were still clucking over the immediate subject matter which, by the way, she understood and digested long before.

She was a brilliant woman, well schooled and covered with academic honor. She was creative, deeply empathetic, supremely curious and, best of all, she was fearless – or at least gave that impression.

An activist, she dug in wherever she could and rose to assist those in need of a fixer. She was in many respects local, and she fit into the South Philadelphia milieu nicely. As a solver of problems she approached decision making more as a neighbor than an academic. Laws and rules she knew cold, but her concern was to use them to find a bit of parity for the folks who came before her when she became convinced of their need. She knew the value of laws, but what she brought to the judicial process was a compassion that she injected into everything she considered. No supplicant could find a more staunch friend.

There are various tales about her vivid character. She had a curious and searching persona and was certain enough of her abilities as a diviner of character to draw a bead and fire when she felt the need to do so. And often she did, although lingering malice does not appear to have been part of her makeup. She had loves and hates founded in reason and for all the dressing she appeared to be relatively guileless.

What she said she meant and her life was based on accomplishment of those things she considered important. Part of her achievement was the ability to help others, something she did freely.

I first met her decades ago and mistook her for Lisa Kirk, a smoky voiced Broadway star of the past. Her lovely Italianate features, grand couture (she dressed in great style) and a grace borne of confidence and intellect lighted her way. She lived a life filled with important events, some of them sad, but dishonor did not touch her no matter how adversaries shrieked. She rose above the commonplace and brought style and substance to life.

There are others on the bench who are colorful. But few could be counted upon to marshal the solid experience of a life well spent with every sip from the cup.

She was unique in the way all intelligent and committed people are unique. What and who she was was remarkable and it was she who made it so.

Those who mourn her have lost a vision of color and beauty. Whatever her eccentricities, they accompanied a complete soul. Someone so essential leaves us bereft on passing.

Marc W. Reuben, a sole practitioner, is an advisory editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

Laws and rules she knew cold, but her concern was to use them to find a bit of parity for the folks who came before her when she became convinced of their need.

ACCORDING TO...

What’s the Nicest Thing You’ve Seen Opposing Counsel Do?

“I was waiting for my client at the courthouse and the scheduled time for my hearing was rapidly approaching. My cell phone was checked in by security because it had a camera in it, so I could not call my client to see where he was. The opposing counsel let me use his (non-camera) phone to verify that my client was on the way.”

- Kristina A. Caggiano

“At the close of discovery deadlines, opposing counsel offered to extend the deadline. The offer was of no benefit to his client, but the professional courtesy was definitely appreciated.”

- Daniel R. Grabianowski

“Months after the case was over, opposing counsel sent me a nice letter complimenting me on the job I did defending the case. He also referred me to a new client.”

- Joyce B. Link
We congratulate our friend and partner Scott F. Cooper on being elected Vice Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association.
Bar Foundation Hosts Andrew Hamilton Gala

David Antzis (from left) and Thomas Decker hold their Citizens Bank Pro Bono Awards as Christopher W. Ritchie, Senior Vice President of Citizens Bank, looks on. The honors were presented at the Hamilton Gala on Nov. 17.

U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Marjorie O. Rendell and her husband, Gov. Ed Rendell, congratulate Education Law Center Co-Director Len Reiser, recipient of the 2007 Bar Foundation Award.

Andrew Hamilton Gala Co-Chairs Deborah Gross and Amy Ginensky (above, from left) and Bar Foundation President Elaine Rinaldi (right photo) offer greetings.

More than 350 people attended the Andrew Hamilton Gala at Sherman Mills. The event raised $275,000, which will be used for grants to law-related programs in the Philadelphia area that assist the indigent, elderly and disabled, as well as abused women and children.
January is named for the Roman god Janus, god of beginnings and endings – a perfect metaphor for the Philadelphia Bar Foundation at this time of year.

In December, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation awarded $550,000 in grants to more than 30 legal service agencies – a record for the Foundation. Combined with additional grants and fellowships earlier in the year, the Foundation gave $650,000 to our legal service community in 2007, a 40 percent increase over year-end grants in 2006.

Our increase was largely attributable to the success of our cy pres program. We raised more than $235,000 through the receipt of unclaimed settlement funds from class actions. Through the cooperation and partnership of the class action bar and the judiciary, our cy pres contributions, combined with our other fundraising efforts, allowed us to significantly increase our grants and begin to make a larger impact in our community.

In addition to our cy pres success, our Andrew Hamilton Gala and Golf Outing were huge successes. The gala was held at the historic Sherman Mills with more than 400 in attendance. We were honored to have with us Gov. Edward G. Rendell and his wife, U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Marjorie O. Rendell, who presented the Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award to Len Reiser and the Citizens Bank Award to Cozen O’Connor and Saul Ewing. The gala netted $275,000. If you attended, I hope you had a great time. If you didn’t, I hope to see you there next year.

Likewise, our golf outing was held at the ACE Club, a new venue for the Bar Foundation. It was a great course and a fun day. The Foundation’s golf outing netted almost $70,000.

As a result of the success of our fundraising efforts, the Bar Foundation was able to significantly increase its grants to our grantees, in particular our smaller legal services agencies who lack development infrastructures to support the critical work they do for those less fortunate in our community.

As you know, our grantees are 31 legal services agencies in Philadelphia – organizations that provide legal services to the homeless veteran fighting for his benefits, to the working family facing home foreclosure, to the school child struggling to learn without adequate resources and countless other citizens of Philadelphia in need of legal services. The Bar Foundation is one of a limited number of organizations that give unrestricted operating grants that allow our grantees to continue their valuable work.

There will be a strategic effort to increase the endowment through major gifts and planned giving programs in the coming year.

Sections, Committees Host Events

Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas President Judge C. Darnell Jones II is joined by Criminal Justice Section Chair Donna Woelpper (left) and his daughter, Fox29 news anchor Sheinelle Jones, at the Section’s Dec. 6 Annual Reception at Loews Philadelphia Hotel. Judge Jones was presented with the Section’s Thurgood Marshall Award.

Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Robert J. Matthews (left) was presented with the Family Law Section’s Herbert R. Weiman Jr. Award at the Section’s Annual Dinner at Davio’s Northern Italian Steakhouse on Nov. 28.

Outgoing State Civil Litigation Section Chairs William P. Fedullo and Kathleen Wilkinson were honored for their service at the Section’s Nov. 28 Annual Meeting and Reception at the National Liberty Museum. The event also featured CLE programming.
Judge Moss Honored for Streamlining Litigation

By Kathryn C. Harr

Recognized for pioneering programs to streamline complex litigation, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Sandra Mazer Moss received the Association’s Justice William J. Brennan Jr. Distinguished Jurist Award at the Annual Meeting Luncheon on Dec. 4.

The award honors jurists who exemplify the highest ideals of judicial service and who have significantly impacted the quality and administration of justice in their time on the bench.

During her 24 years on the bench, Judge Moss founded and served as the first supervising judge of Philadelphia’s Complex Litigation Center. She thanked and shared her award with Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Ralph J. Cappy and Administrative Judge Nelson Diaz, who originally approved of her idea for the center.

“They basically said, ‘you go girl,’ ” she recalled, “and I went.”

Judge Moss also shared her award with the members of the mass tort bar, who litigated asbestos, DES, lead paint, breast implant and orthopedic bone screw cases through the court system.

“They took a giant leap of faith with me,” Moss said. “They taught me to be an activist judge, and proud of it, to create workable solutions to unworkable problems.”

Judge Moss acknowledged her family, including her husband; her Aunt Sylvia and Uncle Bill Levin, who acted as second parents to her; her son David Picker, a sportswriter at The New York Times; and her “extended family of friends,” including Judge Gene Maier, Ron Kowler, and her secretary, Carol Fiorelli.

Judge Moss’ nomination “was supported by a wide cross-section of plaintiffs and defense lawyers,” said John J. Soroko, chair of the Brennan Award Committee.

Lawyers Reminded to Help Others

By Brian K. Sims

Past Chancellor Abraham C. Reich, the recipient of the Association’s 2007 Wachovia Fidelity Award, called the honor “our annual reminder that we have a professional obligation to help others.”

“If each one of us just does a little, our profession, and I believe our world, will be a much better place,” Reich said at the Dec. 4 Annual Meeting Luncheon, where the presentation was made.

Reich, who served as Chancellor in 1995, was presented with the award by Mary F. Platt, chair of the Wachovia Fidelity Award Committee, and Noel Turner, vice president of the Trust Department of Wachovia Wealth Management.

“The Wachovia Fidelity Award Commission chose Abe because of his extraordinary leadership and distinguished service and commitment to our profession and our judicial system,” said Platt.

“Before, during and after his time as Chancellor, Abe devoted himself and his time to our judicial system,” she said, adding that Reich also served on the Boards of the Temple University Beasley School of Law, the Jenkins Law Library, and the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board, as well as in his capacity as a trustee of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation and the International Human Rights Fund.

Reich was humble in his acceptance and clearly honored by the award. He offered thanks and praise to Chancellor Jane Dalton and Chancellor-Elect A. Michael Pratt for their focus and dedication to the bar.

“Thank you to Wachovia Bank,” said Reich, “who each year gives a very nice check. This year I’m donating the check to the Raising the Bar Campaign, which the Bar Foundation runs and which was so invigorated by our former Chancellor Alan Feldman a few years ago.”

Reich also was quick to acknowledge and give thanks to his firm, Fox Rothschild LLP, for its support of his efforts and endeavors.

The Wachovia Fidelity Award is presented annually by the Association to individuals who have helped improve the administration of justice and exhibited faithfulness to the profession.

Cappy Thanks Bar for Working to Curb Attacks on Judges

By Regina Parker

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Ralph J. Cappy accepted the Association’s Bar Medal on Dec. 4 “not only on my own behalf, but on behalf of all of the members of my court who have worked tirelessly with me over the last five years to improve the administration of justice in Pennsylvania.”

Under Chief Justice Cappy, the Supreme Court created the Judicial Independence Commission to identify and respond to unfair attacks on judges. “I don’t need to tell you that the judges of Pennsylvania and across the nation have been living in turbulent times. We have been targets of scattered attacks by self promoters and special interest groups,” Chief Justice Cappy said.

He explained that those attacks came in the form of a “vote no” campaign urging the rejection of all the retention candidates throughout the state. Chief Justice Cappy, on behalf of the judiciary, expressed a great debt of gratitude to the Pennsylvania Bar Association and every Bar Association across the 60 jurisdictions in this Commonwealth who rose to the occasion to educate the public as to the real issues involved in merit retention in Pennsylvania. “We saw the positive results of the retention elections and in those results, through the efforts of yourselves and fine people such as you, we saw democracy at work, in my view, as it was designed to work,” he said.

He said it was a joyous day when the public said no to the “vote no” campaign. Rather, “it is I that should be presenting you with an award,” he said.

Chief Justice Cappy was assigned by the court to help redesign the Philadelphia court system in 1991. “The reform could not have taken place without the extraordinary efforts of Philadelphia’s leading judges and the Bar Association,” he said.

The Bar Medal is presented at the discretion of the Chancellor in recognition of extraordinary service.

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

Podcast Spotlight

Visit philadelphiabar.org to listen to the podcasts of the award presentations from the Annual Meeting.

For more photos from the 2007 Annual Meeting Luncheon, please visit philadelphiabar.org.
Our law firms are estimated to give a total of billions of dollars of revenues generated by Philadelphia law firms in 2007, for legal services organizations. In fact, of law firms in other cities in per capita support the next three years. Hamilton LLP, have pledged to increase their total giving by 15 percent in 2008, while Morgan Lewis and Bockius LLP and his firm, Pepper Hamilton LLP, have pledged to increase their total giving by 15 percent in each of the next three years.

“For the last several months, I have been meeting with a special task force of law firm attorneys and public interest and Bar Foundation leaders who will address head-on what we can do to bring our legal community to a new echelon of charitable giving for legal services. We will be creative, aggressive and daring and we will leverage our law firm giving to seek funding from other sources,” he said.

The meaningful inclusion of minorities and women in the upper mainstream of society continues to be a difficult subject to discuss,” Pratt said. “But in 2008, I want this Association to not only continue that dialogue, but to take bold action to move us toward real inclusion in this legal community in a substantial way, once and for all.”

He said in some large firms, minority lawyers are now hired more aggressively but often find long-term success elusive due to a lack of mentoring and practice development opportunities. In Philadelphia, lawyers of color continue to make up a small percentage of law firm attorneys and less than three percent of law firm partners.

“We will institutionalize our support for meaningful and real diversity in the profession. The Board of Governors has approved the creation of a new, full-time position at the Philadelphia Bar Association: Director of the Office for Diversity. Beginning on Jan. 1, the new Office for Diversity will work with legal employers to foster more diverse work environments. It will serve as a resource for individuals seeking to advance and develop their careers. It will provide infrastructure, strategic leadership, coordination and continuity to diversity efforts. The new director will provide the vision, leadership and support to developing and carrying out programs and practices to encourage diversity in the Philadelphia legal community,” Pratt said.

“As attorneys, we have the unique opportunity to make a real difference in other people’s lives. We make an impact on society. There is a legacy of service that we provide. We also serve as role models for others – educating our communities and developing relationships in ways that we otherwise wouldn’t,” he said.

“You know, growing up, I didn’t know any lawyers. I thought I would probably get a business degree, get a nice job and develop relationships in ways that we otherwise wouldn’t,” he said.

Mayor-Elect Michael Nutter offered Pratt his best wishes at the Annual Meeting.

A. Michael Pratt is surrounded by members of his family before he addressed Bar members on Dec. 4.

A. Michael Pratt meets with Stephanie Resnick, who will serve as Chair of the Association’s Board of Governors in 2008.

Podcast Spotlight
Visit philadelphiabar.org to listen to the podcast from this event.

photos by Jeff Lyons

Pratt continued from page 1

tions. We will do our part to help reverse this trend. We will offer our resources to help the city address the inequality that is inherent in the Business Privilege Tax,” Pratt said.

That outreach will continue with the youngest members of the community. “We all must care about the quality of the children’s education who attend school here. Civics education should be elementary in the lives of our children and must be taught and learned early on. I feel this as a citizen, as a lawyer and as a parent. Our children must learn the true meaning of a democracy, the rule of law, dispute resolution and, simply, how to be a good citizen.”

Pratt said the Association is establishing a partnership with the School District of Philadelphia to send volunteer lawyers and judges into public school classrooms once a month. “We will create a curriculum of civics education for our lawyers and judges to teach to them. Our goal will not be to replace teachers – that we are not qualified to do – but to assist and supplement their course teachings.”

Pratt also focused on giving back to help those individuals unable to help themselves.

“I understand well that Philadelphia law firms support many charitable endeavors across this region. But, the unfortunate reality is that Philadelphia law firms continue to lag behind law firms in other cities in per capita support for legal services organizations. In fact, of the billions of dollars of revenues generated by Philadelphia law firms in 2007, our law firms are estimated to give a total of only $1.4 million to support our legal services programs. That means our total law firm giving represents a tiny fraction of 1 percent of the income we generate,” he said.

“In 2008, I will first ask law firms to institutionalize their Raising the Bar contributions at $300 per attorney. But for those firms in a financial position to do so, I will ask for a three-year commitment to increase their total legal services giving by 10 percent in each of those three years. That means new money!”

Montgomery, McCraken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP and Feldman, Shepherd, Wohlgementer, Tanner & Weinstock have already made this enhanced commitment. Pratt said Cozen Connor has agreed to increase its total giving by 15 percent in 2008, while Morgan Lewis and Bockius LLP and his firm, Pepper Hamilton LLP, have pledged to increase their total giving by 15 percent in each of the next three years.

“For the last several months, I have been meeting with a special task force of law firm attorneys and public interest and Bar Foundation leaders who will address head-on what we can do to bring our legal community to a new echelon of charitable giving for legal services. We will be creative, aggressive and daring and we will leverage our law firm giving to seek funding from other sources,” he said.

The meaningful inclusion of minorities and women in the upper mainstream of society continues to be a difficult subject to discuss, Pratt said. “But in 2008, I want this Association to not only continue that dialogue, but to take bold action to move us toward real inclusion in this legal community in a substantial way, once and for all.”

He said in some large firms, minority lawyers are now hired more aggressively but often find long-term success elusive due to a lack of mentoring and practice development opportunities. In Philadelphia, lawyers of color continue to make up a small percentage of law firm attorneys and less than three percent of law firm partners.

“We will institutionalize our support for meaningful and real diversity in the profession. The Board of Governors has approved the creation of a new, full-time
CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Group Works for Prison Reform

By Michael J. Carroll

“What happens in prisons does not stay in prisons,” is the message that Alex Busansky brought to the Civil Rights Committee at its Dec. 13 meeting. We all have a stake in how incarcerated people are treated because 95 percent of the nation’s 2 million inmates eventually return to society. How they are treated or mistreated in prisons and jails can greatly affect what they do and do not do when they return. That affects us all.

Alex Busansky is the director of the Washington, D.C., office of the Vera Institute of Justice. His years as a state and federal prosecutor provide him a platform to advocate for prison reform that other equally knowledgeable prison reformers may not enjoy because they are perceived as too liberal. As executive director of the Commission on Safety and Abuse in America’s Prisons, he helped bring together 20 commissioners from diverse, often opposing, backgrounds and helped reach agreement on concrete suggestions for prisons reform.

Busansky explained that the Prison Litigation Reform Act was passed by Congress in 1996 in an attempt to filter out inmate lawsuits that were perceived as frivolous by some. However, the “filters” in the legislation prevented many important and meritorious lawsuits from being heard. Busansky gave the example of the PLRA requirement that physical injury be shown as a condition of maintaining suit. This requirement prevented courts from hearing cases of mental and psychological abuse, which are too common in prisons and jails. He noted that one recent Pennsylvania case involved prison guards forcing two female inmates to perform sexual acts with each other. Because there was no provable physical injury, there was no claim and no remedy under the PLRA.

He also pointed out that the PLRA created requirements that inmates exhaust prison grievance procedures that were often impractical, incomprehensible and administered by the very parties against whom the grievance was filed. Now pending in Congress is legislation that would address some of the problems with the PLRA. If enacted it would not guarantee a hearing for a legitimate grievance, and would not encourage a flood of frivolous ones. It would increase the likelihood that some real and serious problems might at least reach a court for review.

Busansky enjoys credibility because of what might be seen as conservative credentials. Some other effective proponents of fair and honest reform of the PLRA are advocates with religious roots and motivations. Support for prison reform and for correcting the mistakes of the 1996 PLRA goes far beyond the usual suspects.

The Civil Rights Committee unanimously approved a resolution calling for Congress to repeal or amend certain provisions of the PLRA that have impeded or eliminated the chance to obtain a fair hearing on prison abuses. The Committee will ask the Board of Governors to consider this vital resolution.

Michael J. Carroll is co-chair of the Civil Rights Committee.

Student Loan Forgiveness for Public Service Work

In late September, the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 was passed by Congress and signed into law. Among its provisions is loan forgiveness for persons who work in public service for 10 years and an Income Based Repayment (IBR) option for anyone with significant federally guaranteed debt and relative low income.

The IBR option, which will become available on July 1, 2009, is available to certain borrowers who can demonstrate a “partial financial hardship.” This hardship is established when your annual student loan payments under a standard 10-year repayment plan exceed 15 percent of the difference between your adjusted gross income and 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

For example, a single borrower who owes $100,000 in qualifying debt at 6.8 percent interest takes a job with a salary of $40,000. Under standard repayment, this borrower would pay $1,151 a month. Under IBR, this same borrower would pay $309 a month.

CCRA also provides for loan forgiveness after 10 years of full time public service. The legislation defines public service very broadly, although regulations will clarify exactly what type of work qualifies in the coming months.

Borrowers must have federal direct loans or consolidate their loans using the Federal Direct program. Commercial loans are not covered under the act.

If you have questions about your eligibility under this legislation, contact the public interest adviser at your law school.

Regardless of your alma mater, you can also contact Maureen Olives, Director of Public Interest Programs, Temple University Beasley School of Law at 215-204-5705, molve@temple.edu, or Eve Biskind Klothen, Assistant Dean for Pro Bono and Public Interest Programs, Rutgers School of Law-Camden at 856-225-6608, eldothen@camden.rutgers.edu.

FJD to Honor Pro Bono Efforts Jan. 17

The First Judicial District of Pennsylvania will present its Second Annual Pro Bono Publico Awards to members of the bar who have provided exceptional pro bono service to the underprivileged in Philadelphia on Thursday, Jan. 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Law Library on the sixth Floor of City Hall.

The recipients of the Pro Bono Publico Award are nominated by the judges of each division of the FJD and selected by the judges who serve on the FJD Pro Bono Committee. The awards will be presented to each recipient by a judge of the division nominating that recipient. This year’s recipients are:

• Court of Common Pleas Civil Trial Division: Landlord Tenant Liaison Committee
• Court of Common Pleas Criminal Trial Division: Fred Harrison
• Court of Common Pleas Family Division, Domestic Relations: Megan Watson
• Court of Common Pleas Court Family Division, Juvenile: Gary Server.
• Court of Common Pleas Orphans’ Court Division: Howard Solomon.
• Municipal Court, Criminal: Mary Moran
• Municipal Court, Civil: David H. Denenberg

The awards ceremony will also recognize all attorneys on the Pro Bono Roll of Honor who have provided pro bono services to litigants in the Philadelphia courts in 2007.

The ceremony will include a presentation of certificates to these attorneys, along with lapel pins designed to signify their contributions. This year’s ceremony is co-chaired by the Court of Common Pleas Judge Annette Rizzo and Thomas E. Zemaitis, a partner at Pepper Hamilton LLP.

This annual event was first launched last year by the First Judicial District’s Pro Bono Committee, which was formed by members of the bench, bar and pro bono service providers to create and promote a culture of pro bono service in Philadelphia’s legal community.

All members of the Bar are invited to attend the awards ceremony. To RSVP, contact Deborah Dailey, Office of the Court Administrator, First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, by e-mail at debbie.dailey@courts.phila.gov, or by fax at 215-686-7485, by Thursday, Jan. 10.
YLD Will Work with City Youth, Members in ‘08

By Scott P. Sigman

2008 will be a great year for the Young Lawyers Division of the Philadelphia Bar.

The YLD will begin an ambitious outreach to our city’s youth through some of our core programs, including the Mock Trial program with Philadelphia public and parochial high school students; Lawyer in the Classroom, where young lawyers will visit students of all ages in their classrooms; and even the Goldie Locks trial program for kindergarten and first-graders piloted by Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Annette Rizzo.

My goals for this year are two fold: first, the YLD will continue its core mission in public service and help reduce citywide violence by promoting education to the city’s youth through some of the above-named programs; and second, the YLD will continue to benefit its young lawyer members through a variety of programs throughout the year.

To accomplish the second goal, the YLD will continue to host monthly events in an effort to foster camaraderie, communication, young lawyer education, and networking with other young lawyers, young CPAs, young doctors, Philadelphia judges and newly elected Philadelphia politicians.

The first of such events will be on Tuesday, Jan. 15 and will include a cocktail reception and panel discussion co-hosted by PNC Wealth Management on “How to Build Your Law Firm from Scratch.” Panelists will include past YLD Chair Alan Nochumson, Joseph Prim, Richard Washington, May Mon Post and Adrian Harris.

Throughout the year, the YLD will also host receptions with Mayor Michael Nutter, members of Philadelphia’s City Council, judges from both the Philadelphia Municipal Court and the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, and Mayor Nutter’s ethics appointees that will be held in conjunction with an ethics forum.

Young lawyers, their friends, and family should also look forward to the return of some successful events from past years, including Comedy Night, Lawyerpalooza, Summer in the City, Boo at the Zoo and the YLD annual holiday party. We will also continue to host our ever-popular community-based events, including the Law Fair at the Gallery in May and the People’s Law School in September.

So if you are a young lawyer or a friend of a young lawyer, we hope that you are ready for an exciting, challenging, educational, career building, community service-oriented and socially stimulating year!

I look forward to serving the almost 4,000 members of the YLD and working closely with our new Chancellor, A. Michael Pratt.

Scott P. Sigman, chair of the Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee, of the Philadelphia Bar Association, is a civil and criminal trial attorney at Bochetto & Lentz, P.C. and may be reached by e-mail at ssigman@bochettoandlentz.com or by telephone at (215) 735-3900.

Don’t let tax savings pass you by.

Everyone saves money with TransitChek. Employees get vouchers pre-tax for public transit or vanpooling, and your company gets a tax break. And the new TransitChek Select offers online administration and orders, and mailing of vouchers straight to employees—easier than ever.

Visit GetTransitChek.org or call 1-800-355-5000 to get on board.

TransitChek can load directly onto PATCO’s FREEDOM Cards!

Getting to work can be a lot less taxing.

Visit philadelpia.wordpress.com to see what the Association’s young lawyers are saying.

YLD Executive Committee members (from left) Jocelyn Gabrynowicz Hill, Albertine DuFrayne, Scott P. Sigman, Stephanie J. Mensing, Jennifer Segal Coatsworth and Brian S. Chacker gather at the YLD Holiday Party on Nov. 29 at Triumph Brewing Company.
**In Their Own Words**

**Help Make Your Bar Reporter Even Better**

By Jeff Lyons

The Philadelphia Bar Reporter is all yours. It’s here to cover the news that you want to read. So what do you want to see within these pages? We cover all of the big stuff that goes on at the Association. We tell you about the Quarterly Meetings and the speakers that are planned. We write about the guest speakers that visit the Association’s Committees over the course of every month. We keep tabs on the Board of Governors and the action they take that will affect your practice.

And we write a lot of stories about public interest law and the great works of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, because our city’s neediest citizens need your help. But what do you want to read about? Maybe it’s Skinny D’Bockel’s restaurant reviews? We’ve added another food critic. Chip Burger, who writes about places where you can grab a quick, inexpensive, but most importantly tasty, bite at lunch.

Marc W. Reuben has been covering the arts and media since I was in elementary school. And don’t forget about the photos of Bar events we run every month. Most are taken by me. But if you don’t see me at an event and have a camera handy, feel free to snap off a couple of shots and send them to us.

Don’t forget about “According To.” That’s our “lawyer on the street” department where we ask a question and print the response and a photo of the respondent. Do you have an idea for a question? E-mail us!

And there’s this space – In Their Own Words. It was designed for the movers and shakers of the community to write about something that is important to them. We give this columnist 350 to 500 words (give or take) to tell us about something which they feel passionately.

If there’s someone who would be a good fit for this column, let us know. We’d love to hear from you. If you’d like to write for us, let us know about that, too.

This paper is for you. And without you, it’s nothing.

Jeff Lyons is senior managing editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter. His e-mail address is jlyons@philabar.org.

---

**Frontline continued from page 3**

nic solutions in areas such as marketing, management, technology and finances. This program includes a free one-hour consultation.

- Our online community is unrivaled by major metropolitan bar associations. With more than 60 list serves in virtually every area of practice and a growing blog network, you can converse with colleagues instantly to get answers to any practice-related question. With more than 250 podcasts on our Web site, you can download the meetings and events you missed for later listening. And our e-newsletters deliver the latest Bar news and information directly to your inbox up to three times a week between regular editions of our award-winning newspaper and magazine. Our Web site provides “news you can use,” including downloadable documents and a complete Disaster Planning Center with comprehensive resources for your firm or practice.

- Our media assistance and resource service regularly places attorneys in a wide range of local, regional and national media outlets to interpret legal issues, provide comment on the latest developments in the news and help “demythify” the law for the general public. Additionally, we place attorneys as speakers in dozens of community-based programs including the Association’s Speakers Bureau, The People’s Law School and the many activities of Law Week sponsored by the Young Lawyers Division.

- Members can receive a comprehensive insurance package of specialized programs, including professional liability insurance with limits up to $10 million; customizable health insurance programs including HMOs, PPOs, POS, prescription plans and health savings accounts; a universal life insurance program with long-term and critical-care riders with a guarantee issue of $150,000 and simplified medical issue up to $300,000; and voluntary programs including dental, vision, serious illness, and long and short term disability. In addition, sole practitioners can receive group coverage through the Association. All of these programs come with the superior customer service provided by USI Colburn Insurance Service, not only in designing a plan to meet your needs, but in assisting with claims payments when you need your coverage the most.

- Members can expand their client base through the Lawyer Referral and Information Service. Annually, cases referred by LRIS generate more than $2 million in legal fees. Advertisement of LRIS in public service announcements can result in as much as 14,000 referrals being made each year to attorneys who list with the service.

- Members can take advantage of reduced rates for lawyer-to-lawyer fee disputes through the Lawyer Fee Dispute Resolution Program. And they can serve as paid mediators and arbitrators in disputes among lawyers through the Lawyer Fee Dispute Resolution Program.

- Members place nearly 600 telephone inquiries each year to our ethics hotline for free professional guidance on loss control, risk management, best practices and professionalism issues. This valuable program is administered by the Association’s assistant executive director, who serves as staff liaison to the Professional Guidance Committee. Formal written guidance opinions are issued by the 20-member Committee on a regular basis.

- Our endorsed career planning and placement partner, JuriStaff, specializes in the placement of lateral associates, partners and practice groups as well as the placement of temporary attorneys and document review personnel. JuriStaff also provides career counseling services and free advice relating to the hiring and retention of attorneys, paralegals and support staff.

- We offer exclusive discounts on PBI Continuing Legal Education programs to members who register for section-sponsored CLE programs. The Bar Association makes it very convenient for you to satisfy your CLE requirements through seminars at PBI’s CLE Center, Bar headquarters and at the annual Bench-Bar Conference.

- Our Finance Department maintains affinity relationships that help your bottom line, including Bank of America, AVIS, Alamo, and GlobalFit discounts for members.

- Our Meetings Department coordinates hundreds of internal and external events each year, including daily committee, section and division meetings and events, Annual and Quarterly Meetings, Bench-Bar Conference, Federal Bench-Bar Conference, Chancellor’s Reception, Andrew Hamilton Gala, Bar Foundation Golf Outing, Bar Leaders Retreat, YLD events, holiday parties and more.

- Our Membership Department is the direct contact for the needs of all members and potential members. It updates membership records, maintains section and committee rosters, and processes mailing list requests for outside vendors and members.

- Our Public Interest Coordinator provides direct support and information to the many legal services organizations that comprise our Delivery of Legal Services Committee.

The Philadelphia Bar Association is a keystone in the ongoing developments of the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania legal systems. Attorneys, judges and legal professionals of all backgrounds look to your Association for professional support and an organized meeting ground for information sharing.

With more than 200 years of dedicated service to stand on, the Philadelphia Bar Association is firmly rooted in the Philadelphia community as a steady and reliable bellwether. As we enter the year ahead, I urge each of you to lend your own expertise to this great Bar Association, and to avail yourself of its many invaluable resources.

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

---

**Chancellor’s Reception Jan. 9**

All members of the legal community are invited to attend a reception on Wednesday, Jan. 9 from 5 to 7 p.m. in honor of A. Michael Pratt, 81st Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

The Chancellor’s Reception will be held 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 successful legal luminaries wish their leader and each other good luck in the year ahead.

Our Meetings Department coordinates hundreds of internal and external events each year, including daily committee, section and division meetings and events, Annual and Quarterly Meetings, Bench-Bar Conference, Federal Bench-Bar Conference, Chancellor’s Reception, Andrew Hamilton Gala, Bar Foundation Golf Outing, Bar Leaders Retreat, YLD events, holiday parties and more.

Our Membership Department is the direct contact for the needs of all members and potential members. It updates membership records, maintains section and committee rosters, and processes mailing list requests for outside vendors and members.

Our Public Interest Coordinator provides direct support and information to the many legal services organizations that comprise our Delivery of Legal Services Committee.

The Philadelphia Bar Association is a keystone in the ongoing developments of the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania legal systems. Attorneys, judges and legal professionals of all backgrounds look to your Association for professional support and an organized meeting ground for information sharing.

With more than 200 years of dedicated service to stand on, the Philadelphia Bar Association is firmly rooted in the Philadelphia community as a steady and reliable bellwether. As we enter the year ahead, I urge each of you to lend your own expertise to this great Bar Association, and to avail yourself of its many invaluable resources.

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

---

philabar.org

January 2008 Philadelphia Bar Reporter 17
I was in traffic, waiting for the light to change when I noticed the bumper sticker on the car in front of me. It read, “This is America. Speak English.” I wanted to see if Joey Vento was the driver, but instead I turned to my companion and asked why there were so many ignorant people in the world. When that whole “English Only” controversy reared its ugly head, I was outraged on many levels. As a naturalized citizen whose parents spent their whole lives working in a Korean grocery store to fund my education to make sure I spoke perfect English but did not have time themselves to formally learn the language, I was particularly upset (this sentence might not be such a great example of my “perfect English”). For my parents, the issue was never a resistance to learning English or an aversion to integrating into the English-speaking community. But rather, they lacked the time, energy and means to formally learn the language. Instead, my parents spent their time, energy and means to make sure their children could do what they could not.

What troubled me the most about the whole debate about “English Only” was how the issue was framed. In the media, reporters would ask the man on the street, “Should immigrants learn how to speak English?” The question was infuriating and ludicrous to me because that is not what the “English Only” sign implied. Well, of course, most everyone agreed that people in America should learn English. Heck, even my parents agreed that immigrants should learn English. But that does not mean every immigrant has the time, energy or means to do so. Because the media and the participants in that debate framed the issue in that manner, anyone who opposed the “English Only” sentiment was instantly mischaracterized as being opposed to immigrants’ learning English. As lawyers, we know that how we frame the issues is critical to receiving the end result we desire. I always believed that had the issue been framed as “should immigrants who want to learn English, but due to their circumstances, do not have the time, energy or means to do so, be punished by not receiving any services until they do so?” more would have been outraged by the “English Only” sentiment.

I briefly volunteered at the Nationalities Services Center teaching English to immigrants from several Spanish-speaking and African countries. They attended the language class after working long hours at their daytime jobs, which usually involved hard manual labor. I admired their commitment to learning English because I knew after a long day in my office, I usually missed the Spanish classes.

Order Legal Directory 2008 and Receive Free Online Access

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

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

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

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

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

Order today at thelegaldirectory.org.

Sunah Park, a partner at Theep Reed & Armstrong, LLP, is editor-in-chief of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Every 2008 Legal Directory Comes With A FREE ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION!

The Legal Directory 2008 plus The Legal Directory Online are together again at one low price! Every hard-copy edition comes with a complimentary online subscription.

As always, both printed and online editions of The Legal Directory contain comprehensive, up-to-date listings of area law firms and attorneys.

AGAIN FOR 2008! >>

The online version includes all of the indispensable resources found in the printed directory — links to the Philadelphia Bar Association, its officers and committees; contacts for state, federal and local government agencies; listings of law-related associations, organizations and law schools; and an index of area judges.

PLUS >>

The Legal Directory Online includes other valuable features — local court rules, links to area bar associations and other content of interest to the legal community.

Update Deadline is January 11, 2008!

If you haven’t updated your firm or attorney listings, make sure to do so now! Check with the person at your firm who is responsible for listing updates, or contact us at 443-909-7843 or legaldirectory@mediatwo.com for instructions. Don’t forget to take advantage of the high-impact, low-cost print and online listing enhancements!

IT’S ALL AVAILABLE, both the printed book and expanded online resource, for one price — $57.95 plus shipping and tax, if ordered before March 31, 2008.

The Legal Directory 2008 will be available April 1, 2008.

Go to www.thelegaldirectory.org to order.
Tangled Title  
continued from page 6

and in a stocky factory. The Goslee moved in with his aunt in 1972, caring for her until her death in 1981, enabling the aunt to stay in her home and out of a nursing home. Since her husband’s death, Goslee has struggled to keep the bills paid on her fixed monthly income of $1,500 for her and her disabled daughter.

With the help of the attorneys at SeniorLAW Center, Goslee was able to be in charge of the estates of both her husband and his aunt, and to reach satisfactory agreements with both daughters of her late husband. It was a proud day when Goslee received her recorded deed of her late husband. It was a proud day.

Thousands of other Philadelphia seniors and families face a similar situation. Without the benefit of an attorney, they face the potential loss of their homes, despite years of efforts to remain self-supporting members of their communities. You can help. On Friday, Jan. 25, members of the court, the public interest bar and the private bar will join forces to learn how to advocate for and address the unique issues that low-income clients frequently encounter in obtaining title to a property.

This is important work, notes Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Anne Lazarus, who will help lead the training: “I can think of no better experience for a lawyer than to know that you were directly responsible for allowing someone to keep or for the first time to own their own home. Even more important, you will immediately and concretely impact your client and they will understand why lawyers are so important to our system of justice.” The training is free and CLE credit will be provided to all who take a case to help a low-income client become a full-fledged homeowner. Lunch is generously being provided by Blank Rome LLP.

The impact of tangled titles also extends far beyond the individuals whose homes are directly affected, reaching into the neighborhoods and the broader Philadelphia community in which these homes lie. When an individual with a tangled title problem is forced to leave a property due to the inability to repair it, the property is left abandoned and in significant disrepair. Vacant homes are prone to attracting criminal activity and also pose safety and fire dangers. Consequently, the city may board up or demolish such homes, which is done largely at taxpayers’ expense due to the city’s inability to collect the costs through the sale of a valueless property. Abandoned properties also decrease the value of other properties on the block by an average of $7,000 and may prevent other homeowners who live within 50 feet from obtaining homeowners’ insurance due to the heightened risks. Unresolved title problems also contribute to the occurrence of homelessness in the city, further straining very limited resources available to the approximately 2,500 Philadelphians who already sleep in shelters in the city every night.

While all of these consequences are certainly detrimental to low-income Philadelphians, their neighborhoods, and the city as a whole, a solution does exist. Philadelphia VIP, SeniorLAW Center and the donors and volunteers who support these organizations are committed to resolving tangled title problems before individuals and their communities experience the tribulations described above.

Due to the enormous demand, volunteer attorneys are absolutely crucial to assisting such tangled title clients. With the training, mentoring, and continuing support that VIP and SeniorLAW Center provide to attorneys, volunteers are able to provide a truly invaluable service both to their clients and to the city in which we all live and have a stake. As a result, we urge our colleagues in the private sector to join this collaboration and assist the most vulnerable Philadelphians in sheltering their families in safe, habitable housing.

Kelly Gastley is an attorney with Philadelphia VIP. Katherine G. Weiss is an attorney with SeniorLAW Center.

Grants  
continued from page 1

The grants this year show a continued growth in the impact that the Philadelphia Bar Foundation is making for legal services in Philadelphia. Just five years ago, the Bar Foundation gave out a total of $280,000. During the last five years, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation also has worked to grow its endowment from $2.6 million in 2002 to more than $5.6 million today. The income from the endowment funds grantmaking today and for the future.

The grants vary in size from $3,000 to $125,000 and include groups that provide legal services to abused women and children, the homeless, the mentally and physically disabled, the elderly and others who need but cannot afford legal help. Some of the grants will actually help ensure the survival of local law-related public interest agencies. Among the groups receiving grants are: Community Legal Services, Inc., Education Law Center, HIAS and Council Migration Service, Homeless Advocacy Project, Legal Clinic for the Disabled, Inc., Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program, SeniorLAW Center, and Support Center for Child Advocates.

Bar Foundation President Elaine M. Rinaldi of Cozen O’Connor thanked all those who helped increase the Foundation’s grant making in 2007, adding, “The Philadelphia Bar Foundation has one goal: to work to provide access to justice for vulnerable segments of our population. We’ve made significant progress this year, but we have a rigorous long-range agenda and much more to accomplish. We’re encouraged as we look forward.”

Currently, 109 Philadelphia-area law firms have renewed their pledge to the “Raising the Bar” campaign. This effort was launched last year. The 2007 “Raising the Bar” campaign, began in January, asks every law firm in Philadelphia to pledge a minimum of $300 per lawyer to public interest and other legal services organizations. In 2006 – the campaign’s inaugural year – 133 firms contributed nearly $1.5 million, a 31 percent increase over the amount that firms donated individually in 2005.
Tuesday, Jan. 1
New Year’s Day: Bar offices closed.

Wednesday, Jan. 2
Delivery of Legal Services Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Friday, Jan. 4
Workers’ Compensation Section Executive Committee: meeting, 10:30 a.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
Workers’ Compensation Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

Monday, Jan. 7
Family Law Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Investment Companies Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

Tuesday, Jan. 8
Law Practice Management Division: meeting, 8 a.m., 11th floor Conference Center.
Criminal Justice Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Committee on the Legal Rights of Persons with Disabilities: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Wednesday, Jan. 9
Appellate Courts Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Thursday, Jan. 10
Health Care Law Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Legislative Liaison Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Monday, Jan. 14
Business Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Young Lawyers Division Cabinet: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Cabinet Room.

Tuesday, Jan. 15
Business Litigation Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.
Committee on the Legal Rights of Children: meeting, 3:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Wednesday, Jan. 16
Committee to Promote Fairness: meeting, 4 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Thursday, Jan. 17
Probate and Trust Section Executive Committee: meeting, 9 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Law Practice Management Division Executive Committee: meeting, 11:30 a.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

Law Practice Management Division Technology Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

Family Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Friday, Jan. 18
Philadelphia Lawyer magazine Editorial Board: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Monday, Jan. 21
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Bar offices closed.

Tuesday, Jan. 22
Section Chairs: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Cabinet: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Wednesday, Jan. 23
Medical Legal Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

Federal Courts Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Thursday, Jan. 24
Public Interest Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Register online for most events at philadelphiabar.org. Unless otherwise specified, all checks for lunchrooms and programs should be made payable to the Philadelphia Bar Association and mailed to Bar Headquarters, 1101 Market St., 11th fl., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-2911. Send Bar Association-related calendar items 30 days in advance to Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-2955. Fax: (215) 238-1159. E-mail: reporter@philabar.org.

Friday, Jan. 25
Law Practice Management Division Marketing Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

Women’s Rights Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Monday, Jan. 28
Bar-News Media Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Tuesday, Jan. 29
Criminal Justice Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

Women in the Profession Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Thursday, Jan. 31
Minorities in the Profession Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

Elder Law Committee: meeting, 1 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Board of Governors: meeting, 4 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Diversity

continued from page 4

advises that those interested in entering the tenure track should prepare for the interview at least two years in advance. Fully preparing for a successful interview includes identifying one’s area of academic interest, publishing one or two articles in that legal area, and completing a teaching fellowship or assistant professorship.

Ramji-Nogales maintains that one or several mentors are invaluable in this process. ‘‘You need at least one or two mentors to help you with your career progression, whether you are thinking about a career in a law school or elsewhere,’’ she said. ‘‘You need to have a mentor to help you advance your career. You need to have mentors who will help you with your career development.‘‘

Bar Foundation

continued from page 11

the flexibility to put the funding where they need it most.

Now 2008 begins – and the goals of the Foundation are ambitious.

As the primary philanthropic arm of the Philadelphia legal community, the Foundation will continue to be both an advocate for our grantees and a partner in giving with our donors. Using its unique position, the Bar Foundation will continue to facilitate funding for our public interest community and act as guide and mentor to donors – making sure the legal community’s dollars are allocated appropriately and that the funded organizations continue to meet the highest standards of governance and excellence in service.

Last year the Foundation expanded its efforts to raise funds outside the legal community through increased corporate involvement. This effort will be continued and developed in 2008. While it’s important for the legal community to support public interest legal initiatives, the Foundation feels it is equally important to educate and involve our corporate partners in supporting access to justice for the less fortunate of our city.

Although the Philadelphia Bar Foundation’s endowment has doubled over five years, we are not satisfied. There will be a strategic effort to increase the endowment through major gifts and planned giving programs in the coming year. We hope you will join us in that effort.

We extend to our generous donors a heartfelt thanks – your generosity did indeed and will continue to make a difference in the lives of so many in our community. We look ahead now to a happy, exciting and hard-working New Year.

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

Cassandra J. Georg-es, an arbitrator and mediator, was a pre-senter at the Inter-national Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution’s Fall Meeting in Boston. She discussed Diversity in Alternative Dispute Resolution. She was appointed to serve as a Diversity Fellow by the American Bar Association’s General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Division. She was also named as a 2007-2008 Young Lawyers Division Scholar by the American Bar Association.

Clifford E. Haines, chairman of Haines & Associates, has been appointed to the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority by Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell.

Michael S. Harrington, a partner with Fox Rothschild LLP, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Eastern Technology Council.

Kevin E. Raphael, a shareholder at Miller, Alfano & Raspanti, P.C., spoke at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s “A Day on Health Law” on Oct. 16.

Michael F. Schleigh of Deasey, Mahoney & Valenti, Ltd. has been appointed as a board representative for the Borough of Lansdowne to the Darby Creek Joint Authority.

Barbara T. Sicalides, a partner with Pepper Hamilton LLP, participated in a seminar focusing on antitrust compliance and antitrust issues in business transactions on Nov. 13 in Pittsburgh. The event was hosted by the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Bar Association In-House Counsel Committee.

Lee Applebaum, a partner with Fine-man, Krekstein & Harris, addressed 50 judges from around the country at the third annual meeting of the American Col-lege of Business Court Judges in Wash-ington, D.C., in October.

Kenneth E. Aaron, a partner with Weir & Partners LLP, was a faculty member at the National Business Institute seminar “Practical Guide to Zoning and Land Use Law” on Dec. 17 and 18. He also served as a faculty member at the 11th Annual Real Estate Institute in Philadelphia.

Debra A. Jensen, managing partner of Galfand Berger, LLP, was recently admitted to the Million Dollar Advocates Forum. This honor is limited to attorneys who have won million- and multimillion-dollar verdicts and settlements.

Molly Peckman, co-director of associate development at Dechert LLP, presented at the American Conference Institute’s Forum on Law Firm Associate Retention and Professional Development. Her topic was “Developing a Strong Firm Culture and Cultivating Loyalty to the Firm.”

Kim R. Jessum, of counsel to Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, spoke at the 13th An-nual Business Law Institute on “Tips for Drafting Technology Agreements.” She was recently appointed to the board of governors of the Philadelphia Intellectual Property Law Association.

Ann Thornton Field and Catherine Slavin of Cozen O’Connor recently participated in the Aviation and Space Law Litigation Conference, sponsored by the Avia-tion and Space Law Committee of the American Bar Association’s Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section.

Andrew K. Stutzman, a partner with Strad-ley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, pre-sented “Hot Topics in Subprime Mort-gages: What Bor-sowers and Lenders Need to Know,” as part of the National Constitution Center Audio Conferences’ legal education program.

Robert Gaul, founding partner of Gaul & Associates, P.C., and Anthony Ziccardi, of Rovner, Allen, Rovner, Zimmerman and Nash, presented the seminar “Fire Investi-gations and Civil Litigation” to approxi-mately 150 firefighters, fire marshals and private forensic fire investigators who are members of the Lehigh and Northamp-ton County Fire Investigation Training Association.

Marc P. Weingarten, a partner in the Locks Law Firm, was a speaker at Mealey’s Third Annual International Asbestos Conference in London on Oct. 17 and 18.

Stephen D. Schrier, a partner with Ober-mayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP, presented a seminar on Pennsylvania Gaming Law and Vendor Licensing at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Annual Business Lawyers Institute on Oct. 17. He was a panelist at the G2E 2007 Global Gaming Expo in Las Vegas in November.

Marc L. Bogutz, a shareholder of Christie Paperman Mortensen and Young, presented a program on “Avoiding Legal Malpractice Claims” at the Chester County Bench Bar Conference at Skytop Lodge on Oct. 26.

Alexandra C. Gaugler, a senior associate with Miller, Alfano and Raspanti, P.C., has been appointed to the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Jay Barry Harris, a partner with Fine-man Krekstein & Harris, P.C., recently presented the defense perspective on discovery and trial tactics at a Pennsylvania Bar Institute seminar “Litigating Tractor Trailer Accidents.”

William L. Antheil III, a partner with Antheil Maslow & MacMinn, LLP, participated at the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants’ 2007 Fo-rensic and Litigation Services Conference in King of Prussia, Pa., on Nov. 27.

James H. Heller, a partner with Cozen O’Connor, presented “Insurance Fraud and Arson for Profit: Guidelines for Investigation and Defense” at the Defense Research Institute’s Fire and Casualty Seminar in Chicago.

Marc S. Raspanti, a founding share-holder of Miller, Alfano & Raspanti, was recently invited as a guest lecturer by the University of Alabama School of Law for selected criminal law classes. He taught a first year criminal law class as well as an advanced white-collar class.

Michael Moyer, senior vice president of business development for Land Services USA, spoke at The Philadelphia Association of Paralegals November luncheon on title insurance.

Marc S. Rosenberg, a partner with Man-muth and Rosenberg, has been certi-fied as a member of The Million Dollar Advocates Forum.

Carolyn Hochstadter Dicker, of E. Carolyn Hochstadter Dicker, LLC, was recently elected to the board of directors of Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance, a New York-based organization.

Michael A. Morse, a shareholder at Miller, Alfano & Raspanti, P.C., spoke at the American Conference Institute’s National Forum on Government Contracts Litiga-tion & Investigation in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 22.


Phylis Horn Ep-stine, a member of Epstein, Shapiro & Epstein, chaired a conference on Nov. 16 and 17 at Univer-sity Park, Pa., jointly sponsored by the Penn State Smeal College of Business that also was attended by students at the Penn State Dickinson Law School and the Smeal College Women’s MBA Chapter. The program featured three CLE panels.

Ethan D. Fogel, a partner at Dechert LLP, will serve as president of the board of directors for The Homeless Advocacy Project during 2008.

James C. Schwartz-man, a shareholder of Stevens & Lee, has been unani-mously re-elected to the Board of Direc-tors of the Commit-tee of Seventy.

"People" highlights news of members’ awards, honors or appointments of a community or civic nature. Information may be sent to Jeff Uykon, Senior Manag-ing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th fl., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-2955. Fax: (215) 238-1159. E-mail: reporter@ philabarb.org. Color photos are also welcome.
Conner & Associates, PC
Certified Public Accountants

“serving the needs of our clients since 1991”

- Litigation Consulting Services
- Expert Witness Testimony
- Forensic Accounting
- Taxation, Domestic & International
- Business Valuations
- SEC Audits

110 South State Street, Suite 200
Newtown, Pennsylvania 18940
215/860-3322 • Fax: 215/860-3653
e-mail: info@connercpa.com

Kevin J. Conner, MST, CPA
Managing Director
Diana L. Sherman, CISA, CPA
Director of Audit Services
The Americans were the first to set foot on the moon. But it was IWC who brought it under control.