Chancellor Scott F. Cooper laid out an “unapologetically bold” agenda for 2010 that emphasizes innovation and the development of strategic partnerships at the Association’s Annual Meeting on Dec. 8.

Cooper, a partner at Blank Rome LLP, vowed unwavering support for an independent judiciary. “An attack on your independence is an attack on all of us. We stand with you and we will stand in front of you, should any attack this most important tenet of our third branch of government.”

He discussed Britain's Legal Services Act, which will allow a form of private equity investment in the ownership of law firms. He said the plan has been in the works there for more than a decade. “Before these competitive forces come to America – and they will come – we all need a strategic partner to help...”
Lawyer and law firm listings are now searchable from your mobile device. That means more people will be looking for your entry. Make sure your information is complete and up-to-date! Save time by completing the update process online.

More than 20,000 lawyers, legal support staff, court and government officials use The Legal Directory and have access to your listing. Make sure your listing stands out with cost-effective, visibility-enhancing upgrades!

NOTICE: All Areas Of Concentration (AOCs) Have Been Changed! You MUST Update Your AOCs!

PRINT UPGRADES
- Additional Areas of Concentration
  - $40 for 1st extra, $20 for 2nd-5th extra AOC
  - Extra AOCs in your print and online listing.
  - Your name listed under each AOC in the AOC Index.
  - All index entries in bold.
  - Firm name (if applicable) and office phone number included in each index listing.
- Bold Listing in Master Index ............ $45
  - Index entry, including attorney name and page number, in bold.
  - Firm name (if applicable) and office phone number included.

ONLINE UPGRADES
- Link to Web Site (firms only) .... $95
- Bold Listing ......................... $45
- Expanded Listing ................... $45
  - Accessible by clicking profile icon next to listing.
  - Includes education, bar admissions, honors & awards, memberships and outside activities for attorneys or "About the Firm" description, year established, firm size and representative clients for firms.

A LIMITED NUMBER OF COPIES OF THE LEGAL DIRECTORY 2009 ARE STILL AVAILABLE!
E-mail legaldirectory@mediatwo.com to order.
The Legal Directory 2010 will be available April 2010.

QUESTIONS?
Please contact us at 443-909-7843 or legaldirectory@mediatwo.com.
The Legal Directory · c/o Media Two · 1014 West 36th Street · Baltimore, MD 21211
Happy New Year!

In case you have not heard, I am thrilled to start serving you as Chancellor for 2010. We have an ambitious agenda that focuses on you, the member.

Over the course of this year, I will use this column to update you on how our agenda is progressing. That may include discussion of a single initiative or a wide range of matters. I will also use this space to discuss those matters this coming year that are more complex and present multiple sides or options. Hopefully, this will provoke discussion among members.

My first column is in the spirit of the holidays and tracks an old New Year’s tradition. I am taking stock of the year gone by and sharing with you our next steps for 2010.

We have all just completed one of the roughest years in memory. Too many members of our Association are still unemployed or underemployed. For those with jobs, there is still too much work for too few workers. All while salaries and job security continue to slip lower.

But there are signs suggesting that things are improving. While we have a long way to go, optimism is returning. The economists tell us that the worst may finally be over and that better times will soon return. Let’s hope so.

Locally, the Bar Association is working hard through the economic difficulties. It met unprecedented challenges with programs to help those most in need. Under the fabulous leadership of Sayde Ladov, our agenda – including programs like Lawyers in Transition – responded directly to our members who are hurting the most. We also fought for payment to those attorneys who were not being paid for court-appointed cases. Our Bar Foundation has undertaken Herculean efforts to ensure funding for legal services. And despite these challenges, our profession recommitted itself to our ethical and pro bono obligations.

The work Chancellor Ladov performed has been well documented and will be continued on page 16.

T arasiewicz Named Bar’s Associate Executive Director

Mark A. Tarasiewicz, who previously served as the Association’s director of communications, has rejoined the staff as associate executive director, effective Dec. 15.

In his new role, Tarasiewicz is responsible for internal and external communications for the 13,000-member Association. He directs the association’s public relations program and its print and electronic communications, reporting to association Executive Director Ken Shear.

Tarasiewicz most recently served as senior communications manager at Dechert LLP, where he managed communications for the firm’s 19 offices worldwide.

A member of the Association’s staff for 13 years, Tarasiewicz first joined the staff in 1995 as senior public relations associate. In 2000, he was promoted to director of publications and new media, and in 2007 was elevated to director of communications.

The Communications Department serves as liaison to local, state and national news media, and produces The Philadelphia Lawyer, the Association’s quarterly magazine; the Philadelphia Bar Reporter, its monthly newspaper and Bar Reporter Online and YLD Ezine e-newsletters; the association’s podcasts; as well as brochures, programs, invitations and other collateral materials. The department also manages the Association’s web site – philabarb.org – as well as its blogs and sections of the annual Legal Directory and Legal Directory Online.

Tarasiewicz formerly served as managing editor of Pennsylvania Law Weekly, and as a reporter for The Legal Intelligencer, the oldest law journal in America.

He is a past president and chairman and current member of the board of directors of the 400-member Philadelphia Public Relations Association. Additionally, he serves as an adjunct professor of public relations in Temple University’s graduate program in Strategic and Organizational Communication. He has lectured for the Public Relations Society of America, American Society of Association Executives, National Association of Bar Executives and Delaware Valley Law Firm Marketing Group, as well as several area universities.

Tarasiewicz is a recipient of PRPAX Fast Track Award, which is presented annually to a young public relations professional who represents the Association’s vision for the future, as well as a three-time recipient of the NABE Luminary Award.

Members of the Association’s communications team include Jeff Lyons, senior managing editor, publications; Michael Petitti, communications manager; Wesley Terry, Web manager; and Elaine Lippe, executive administrative assistant.

Tarasiewicz can be reached at 215-238-6345, or mtarasiewicz@philabar.org.
Panelists Tackle Hottest Cases of 2009

By Mary T. Kranzfelder

Controversy surrounding Luzerne County judges, state Sen. Vince Fumo’s trial, the death of Michael Jackson, the Eagles’ signing of Michael Vick and the decision to hold the 9/11 trials in Manhattan have stirred up debate among legal analysts and news commentators over the past year. A Dec. 1 Chancellor’s Forum was held to debate and discuss these “hot topics” of 2009 featuring Sayde J. Ladov in her last forum as Chancellor, Rhonda Hill Wilson, A. Charles Peruto Jr. and Tariq El-Shabazz. The panel was moderated by Lynn Doyle of the Comcast Network and sponsored by the Bar-News Media Committee.

Debate surrounding the Luzerne County scandal began with the assertion that, although the accused judges have yet to be tried or enter a guilty plea, those involved sold their offices and diminished the stature of the Luzerne bench. The panel considered using the situation as an opportunity for oversight of the judicial system. Recommended changes involved the removal of politics from the judicial process by doing away with judicial elections and instead choosing judges by appointment, and revisiting the concept of judicial immunity as perhaps being outdated. Ideas for restitution to the juveniles who received unwarranted jail sentences included the opportunity for higher education, mental and physical healthcare and monetary compensation.

Discussion then turned to the Fumo trial and whether the high number of counts brought against Fumo was justified or whether it was a grievous exhibition of overcharging by the U.S. attorney. Panelists discussed the public perception that white-collar criminals are treated differently than others charged with crimes. A few panelists likened Fumo’s crimes to those of an armed robber, arguing that although less violent, white-collar crime can still destroy families. All panel members agreed that the Fumo trial would likely not have any deterrent effect on others in positions of power.

Panelists discussed whether Michael Jackson’s death was a homicide or accidental, and how the public’s perception of Jackson changed after his death. Although Jackson was once the defendant in a child molestation trial, the public has all but deified him since his death, according to the panel. Debate regarding Michael Vick focused on whether he has paid his dues to society and whether he should be allowed to play in the NFL. Panelists compared Vick’s legal troubles and reputation with those of NBA star Kobe Bryant and multiple current NFL players who have been accused of or charged with DUI, domestic abuse, involvement in a homicide and weapons charges.

The most spirited debate arose with the issue of the 9/11 trials being held in a Manhattan civilian court versus a military court. Those in favor of a military trial argued that 9/11 was an act of war because a foreign entity was attacking our country and therefore the accused should not be subject to the same rights afforded to those tried in a civilian court. Some panelists argued that the trials should be held in Manhattan, but acknowledged the likelihood that the accused would not receive a fair trial in New York or anywhere else in the United States. The debate ended with the argument that to not try the 9/11 suspects in New York would mean we as Americans do not trust the Constitution we uphold.
Keep Briefs Clear, Concise, Judge Klein Advises

By Regina Parker

To be successful appellate advocates, attorneys must be able to write briefs that are clear, concise and logical, Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Richard B. Klein told attendees during the Dec. 2 meeting of the Appellate Courts Committee on “How Not to Write an Appellate Brief.” Writing an effective appellate brief is a crucial skill, Judge Klein said.

A persuasive brief entails narrowing down the key issues and facts to make it easier for the judges to read and comprehend. The statement of issues and facts inform the court what the appeal is about. Judge Klein explained that many briefs state the issues or facts in a way that either impairs the author’s credibility or confuses the court’s understanding of what the appeal is about. He stated that it is a mistake to slant the issues or facts too obviously in your own favor. Of course, as an advocate you want to frame the facts as best as possible to your client’s position. However, do not overdo it because you risk losing credibility, Judge Klein said. The key is communicating your best idea to the judge without losing credibility.

The summary of argument is also an important section of your brief. It should be a concise statement of your argument on each issue. Judge Klein explained that it is often the first place that judges look to answer the question presented. It should make the strongest, most effective presentation of the core of your argument, he said.

Your objective is to convince the court to rule in your favor. “Don’t think of form. Think of what helps the reader,” Judge Klein said. “Keep it simple and avoid long paragraphs and sentences. You must keep in mind that you are communicating to judges who are reading approximately 40 other cases.” He said there is not sufficient time for a judge to untangle complicated and long sentences. Making it easier for the judge to understand your argument increases your chances of winning. He advised to avoid bogging down your briefs with irrelevant detail. Be brief, make necessary points and avoid repetition. Smaller words, shorter sentences and shorter briefs are recommended.

Although some cases warrant the full number of pages allotted by the rules or with leave of court even more, some cases do warrant shorter briefs, Judge Klein explained. A simple motor vehicle accident may not warrant a 70-page brief, he said.

Judge Klein said a surprising number of litigators fail to read, understand and follow the rules that govern appeals. Briefs have been rejected for failing to abide by the rules. For example, an advocate bears the risk of having a brief rejected for exceeding the length limit of 70 pages. Although some cases warrant the full number of pages allotted by the rules or with leave of court even more, some cases do warrant shorter briefs, Judge Klein explained. A simple motor vehicle accident may not warrant a 70-page brief, he said.

With submission of your brief, Judge Klein recommended that you request oral argument. He explained that the reversal percentage is 40 percent on those cases that have been argued and 15 to 20 percent on submitted cases. During oral argument, you want to make sure that you hit the high points, he said.

Regina Parker (rparker@mattioni.com), an associate with Mattioni, Ltd., is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Updates Under Way for 2010 Legal Directory

Today, instant access to valued information is the standard.

So it's no surprise that thousands of attorneys and support personnel rely on one source for the most accurate information on the Philadelphia area legal community—the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Legal Directory, providing the information you need in print and online.

This year, lawyer and law firm listings are now searchable on your mobile device. That means more people will be using The Legal Directory than ever before—online, in print and wirelessly. That's thousands of listings at your fingertips, easily and instantly accessible. With this brand new component, you can't afford not to join in. Updating your information is more important than ever!

The Legal Directory's massive database is updated annually to keep you in the know with the most current and comprehensive information. Our update for the 2010 issue is now under way and we need your help. If you have not been contacted, please call 443-909-7843. Updates will be swiftly sent to your attention.

The Legal Directory 2010 offers much more than firm and attorney listings. It also provides a one-stop resource for a wide range of useful information:

- Lawyer and law firm listings searchable online, in print and on your mobile device;
- Bar Association bylaws, contacts and committees;
- Facts on federal, state and county courts and government agencies;
- An index of judges with phone numbers and addresses;
- A section devoted to corporate counsel;
- Alternative dispute resolution resources;
- A business-to-business supplier section tailored to the legal community;

Every copy of The Legal Directory 2010 includes complimentary access to The Legal Directory Online (good through March 31, 2011). Online updates are made throughout the year at thelegaldirectory.org, so you're sure the most recent information available is only a mouse click away.

Order The Legal Directory now and get the discounted pre-publication price of $59.95 (plus shipping and tax). Don't be fooled by imitators. This is the only official publication of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

For questions about The Legal Directory 2010 or the annual update process, please e-mail legaldirectory@mediatwo.com or call 443-909-7843. The deadline for responses is Monday, Jan. 11.
There is no dispute that non-renewable resources won’t last forever. Efforts to monitor carbon footprints are increasing and corporations must become more socially responsible and make smart business decisions, focusing on sustainability.

Cynthia Wollman, vice president of new business development with CRW Graphics and a professor of sustainability at Philadelphia University, and Nancy Cleveland, JD LEED AP, a consultant in sustainability with Rubicon Crossings, LLC, discussed the importance of sustainability during the Dec. 9 meeting of the Women in Intellectual Property Committee.

Sustainability involves consideration of methods and systems of production that will not deplete or harm natural resources. For example, should one print or distribute documents electronically? Recent business trends show that profitability is linked to public interest. Profitable businesses that do not consider public interests may face future challenges. For example, the profitable WalMart brand is not welcome in many regions of this and other countries.

Despite concerns of corporate confidentiality, corporate transparency has increased. Corporations are highlighting their shortcomings and identifying action plans to reduce carbon footprints. The panelists cautioned corporations to follow through, as environmental groups are monitoring promises and holding corporations responsible for plan implementation.

According to Wollman, sustainability is good business and can result in increased revenue opportunities. Clients are starting to consider sustainability as a factor when identifying and retaining vendors. Similarly, corporations need to demonstrate corporate responsibility when trying to recruit and retain top-level talent. Wollman identified several resources available to assist organizations in efforts to become more socially responsible, including the Global Reporting Initiative that provides unique sustainability reporting guidelines for different categories of organizations.

Cleveland said scientific evidence is conclusive, saying global warming is being caused by human behavior. As more corporate stakeholders and even non-stakeholder third parties capable of influencing public opinion become concerned about sustainability, corporations are taking the issue seriously. Until recently, stakeholder efforts to influence corporations by asking the Securities and Exchange Commission to require the reporting of climate change factors as risk factors have been ignored. The SEC is now actively contemplating climate change disclosure requirements for corporations, however.

Pressure has been added by well-funded environmentalists who are using the Clean Air/Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts to push their agenda to monitor carbon footprints. The Clean Air Act is being used to force the monitoring and regulation of greenhouse gases. The Endangered Species Act is being used as well. A corporation, for example, planning to build a plant in Atlanta may have to conduct an endangered species impact review considering the effect of climate change caused by development.

Future costs relating to carbon should be a corporate consideration. Costs, when assigned, will be passed through to the consumer and the competitive market is forcing many companies to eliminate carbon from the supply chain to gain a competitive advantage.

Law firms should not consider themselves immune. While clients may not have expressed concerns relating to sustainability, law firms should expect that failure to address this issue will result in increased costs (e.g. increased overhead incurred when it leases space in a building with a large carbon footprint), making it less competitive. Concentrated sustainability efforts may also result in decreased costs resulting from a reduction in energy consumption.

According to Cleveland, we are experiencing the “calm before the storm.” While carbon emissions are not yet monitored, consideration of the costs that will eventually be attributed to carbon will allow corporations to eradicate the costs by taking proactive measures.

Heather J. Holloway (hholloway@thorpreed.com), an associate with Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Unemployment claims have substantially increased in the past year due to the economic downturn. As a result, many support orders have been affected as job loss constitutes a change in circumstance that may warrant a reduction of a support order. Daniel J. Sulman, master in support, and James Gallagher, Domestic Relations Establishment supervisor, presented at the Family Law Section meeting on Dec. 7 on how the Philadelphia Family Court is handling the effect of unemployment in support actions.

Domestic Relations has a direct interface with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Employment to verify claimant’s unemployment benefits eligibility status, including the benefit amount and duration. Attachments of benefits for support purposes can be done automatically by Domestic Relations through this interface capability. Further, most employers are required by the federal government to report newly hired employees. Therefore, if a support payor receiving unemployment benefits later secures employment, Domestic Relations can and does find out the information and can issue a wage attachment for support to the new employer.

Unemployment benefits are subject to unique tax treatment, different from regular wages. The benefits are subject to federal tax, but not state, local or Medicare tax. Any support payor who was self-employed, paid wages in cash or under the table or received 1099 income is not eligible for unemployment compensation benefits.

Once unemployment benefits are approved, the amount of benefits will typically be used as the recipient’s income for support calculations. However, an earning capacity can still be assessed against the recipient of unemployment compensation if the reason for approval of the benefits is questionable. For example, an employer may have failed to appear at a hearing or the employee was fired for cause but the employer chose not to challenge the unemployment compensation claim. In presenting or defending against an earning capacity argument in this situation (as in most) the unen-
YLD Update

Take Advantage of Bar Association Resources

It is with great excitement that I begin my term as chair of the Young Lawyers Division of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

The Bar Association has been an invaluable resource for me both professionally and personally during the past four years. Through contacts made at YLD networking events, I obtained my current job at a small family law firm as well as a judicial clerkship where I was fortunate to spend two formative years.

The Bar Association has also been a venue for me to take part in activities in which I would not otherwise have been able to participate, such as speaking at naturalization ceremonies, organizing events in the community, and speaking to students about the importance of the rule of law. I also developed a network of colleagues and friends that have proven invaluable to the development of my practice and life.

The last two years or so have been very difficult for young lawyers. The news was full of layoffs, salary cuts and deferred start dates. Almost every young lawyer I know was affected in some way.

With this in mind, our goal for 2010 is to make the YLD the best resource possible for young lawyers in Philadelphia. It is imperative for young lawyers at all stages of practice to take advantage of the resources available to them through colleagues at Bar Association activities. Only by supporting the greater legal community and offering our insights and mentorship to our fellow attorneys will the profession positively develop with attorneys who are fully invested. It is crucial to have the opportunity to learn from others both at and outside of the office.

To assist young lawyers who are already beyond the initial stages of practice, the YLD plans to expand our lunch series to focus on practice issues that are relevant to young lawyers such as discovery rules and the basics of appellate practice. The YLD plans to join with other sections, committees and the courts to present many of these programs, which will include affordable CLE credits.

The YLD also plans to actively increase the interaction between more seasoned lawyers and law students as well as those newly admitted to the bar. We recognize the difficulty this group of young lawyers is currently experiencing and plan to offer programs to assist them.

Specifically, the YLD will host a symposium for law students and new graduates to provide guidance in the practical skills that are necessary for success. Topics will include networking, surviving the first years of practice and considerations when starting your own firm.

In a separate program, attorneys of any age are invited to volunteer to mentor law students and new graduates in an individual setting.

The YLD’s focus on lawyers who are skilled in the arts will shift in 2010. For the past three years the YLD has focused on those among us who have musical talent. This year, the YLD will organize a photography contest for the Bar Association’s membership to showcase another talent.

The YLD is committed to becoming a resource for the public interest community by supporting and partnering with public interest agencies and young lawyers who practice at those agencies throughout 2010.

We will continue to offer our signature events, including Law Week, the annual Comedy Night fundraiser to benefit the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, People’s Law School and networking opportunities with our membership as well as other professional groups.

While this agenda is ambitious, the YLD is fortunate to have an excellent and productive for the benefit of our members and our community. I hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to use the YLD as a resource to meet your professional and social needs, just as I have.

Please contact me with questions or ideas about how to improve the YLD for the members or community. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at YLD events.

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

YLD Holiday Party

Heather Herrington (from left), John Encarnacion and Carolyn Chopko enjoy the Young Lawyers Division’s Annual Holiday Party on Dec. 3 at Tavern on Broad. The YLD also collected new toys to distribute to needy children.

By Albertine DuFrayne

BlogLink

Visit philadelphiabar.org/LITblog to read Philly Solo Law, a blog for Philadelphia lawyers in transition.

ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY / ETHICS MATTERS

Representing attorneys in disciplinary/ethics matters for 13 years

James C. Schwartzman, Esq.
Former Chairman, Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
Former Federal Prosecutor
1818 Market Street, 29th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 751-2863

Dana Pirone Carosella, Esq.
Representing attorneys in disciplinary/ethics matters for 13 years
1818 Market Street, 29th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 751-2863
**Dennis: More to Be Done to Achieve True Diversity**

**By Jeff Lyons**

Calling him a tireless worker in the cause of diversity, Immediate-Past Chancellor Sayde J. Ladov presented past Chancellor Andre L. Dennis with the Chancellor’s Diversity Award at the Dec. 8 Annual meeting.

Dennis, a partner with Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP and former chair of the Board of Governors, said he’s been at the Bar for 40 years and much that he has sought to accomplish to further diversity has been through the Bar Association.

“As a newly minted lawyer in the early 70s, I was part of a smaller group that circulated a petition seeking Bar support for an investigation into whether there was discrimination against black applicants by the state Board of Law Examiners,” he recalled.

Dennis said the Association achieved a diversity accomplishment in 1993 with the adoption of a statement of goals that this Association adopted. “And in 2008 as your delegate to the American Bar Association, I opposed an amendment to the ABA law school accreditation standards that would have likely decreased enrollment of minority students over time.”

Dennis said he’s worked as a leader and other times as a supporter and a follower. “It never mattered. What I learned over my 40 years is that true diversity is a goal that is achievable only through hard work and constant attention. We cannot afford to be lax or assume it will happen simply because it’s the right thing.”

“This is especially true in these difficult economic times. Just last week, there was an article that quoted a national consultant who stated that law firms have taken a step back when it comes to diversity and that a disproportionate number of layoffs this year have been minorities and women. This simply should not happen.”

Dennis said several fundamental questions about diversity need to be asked. “To law firms – how do you know that you’re doing all that you can to further diversity and ensure fair and equitable treatment for all attorneys and assure that the weight of the recession does not fall disproportionately on women and minorities? To clients, while numbers are important, diversity is more than that. Do you know whether diverse attorneys are working on your matters and what roles they play? Who gets billing credit for your fees and who does not? When is the last time that your firm made a minority partner? Firms should be rewarded for their successes and acknowledge their failings.

“To the courts, when it comes to diversity and equal opportunity, is the net you cast wide enough to include diverse attorneys for coveted appointments and law clerks? To bar associations, what can you do to facilitate all of the above? And to myself, I ask how can I do a better job that helps ensure more progress?”

In closing, Dennis said he realized there’s much work to do and pledged to try harder.

**Sullivan Accepts Wachovia Fidelity Award**

**By Jeff Lyons**

Joseph A. Sullivan said members of Philadelphia’s renowned and innovative public interest legal community are just as worthy as he is as the recipient of the Bar Association’s 2009 Wachovia Fidelity Award.

Sullivan, special counsel and director of pro bono programs at Pepper Hamilton LLP, is co-chair of the Association’s Delivery of Legal Services Committee. He thanked his firm for allowing him to do the work that he does.

“When I think of the word fidelity, I think of the more common term, faithfulness. We know this is a time of crisis for law firms and lawyers here in Philadelphia and across the country. But I also think about how this has been a time of crisis for all of us. Many of our fellow citizens and neighbors in the United States and across the world are suffering more than we are. The number of Americans who are hungry has increased by 3.5 percent in the last two years,” he said. “The percentage of unemployed Americans was up to 10.2 percent in October, the highest since the great depression. And the number of persons facing the loss of their homes through foreclosure or eviction will continue, unfortunately, to grow for months and even years even though other signs of a recovering economy are becoming apparent.

“So if I could make one suggestion to all of us, this is it: Let’s spend a bit more time beyond what we already do to think about how our neighbors may be suffering and what we can do about it,” he said.

**Podcast Spotlight**

Visit philadelphiabar.org to listen to the podcast from this program.
Judge Rizzo Honored for Foreclosure Work

By Jeff Lyons

The city’s Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program has been getting a lot of national and international attention. “We’ve been featured on the BBC as well as in Finland and Sweden. We’re very, very big with the Scandinavians,” joked Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Annette M. Rizzo, recipient of the 2009 Justice William J. Brennan Jr. Distinguished Jurist Award.

The program, which puts troubled borrowers and lenders together to avoid a mortgage foreclosure, is the main reason Judge Rizzo was chosen as the award winner.

One question Judge Rizzo is frequently asked about the program is how did she manage to get all the parties involved to participate. “I asked,” she said. “This program is truly a marriage between judicial and non-judicial entities – from Mayor Nutter’s administration, to City Council staff to all of us at the court. We all stepped up to the plate to work together for a common mission – saving homes in Philadelphia, one address at a time.”

Judge Rizzo said some 2,000 homes have been saved from foreclosure with approximately 3,000 more in the queue, waiting for the deals to be worked out.

The program, now nearly 18 months along, took just seven weeks to establish. “The First Judicial District put out a call to arms and Judge Rizzo said the call was answered ‘swiftly and effectively by many of the people who sit in this room today. An army of some 300 volunteer lawyers have been trained by Philadelphia VIP to represent homeowners alongside our dedicated CLA and PLA attorneys. And VIP has dedicated more than 30 percent of its duties to this program.’

Judge Rizzo said the attorneys, coupled with 50 judges pro tem who have volunteered their time as well to conduct their conferences, have provided more than $1 million in value of pro bono service in a year and a half. “These attorneys work alongside housing counselors from 30 housing and community development agencies with troops of community outreach teams door knocking to get homeowners into this program. All of this is coordinated by our wonderful court staff, under the leadership of Chief Justice Castille, President Judge Dembe and Administrative Judge Keogh,” she said.

“The program is labor intensive, as it deals with each homeowner on a case-by-case basis. And so too is the remarkable work of individual participants. A housing counselor who travels to the home of her elderly, infirm client, to fill out an envelope for her mortgage payment every month; a volunteer lawyer who drives throughout the city to make sure his client gets to City Hall for her conference. A JPT who hears multiple conferences throughout the day, past 6:30 at night. Court staff who literally stretch in their regular assignment to staff this program every Thursday in Courtroom 676.”

Judge Rizzo said the program has been termed the Philadelphia Model in those jurisdictions that have been modeled after it. “We stand uniquely in line with a historic tradition, particularly from this bench and this Bar, to lead where there is need. Where pro bono isn’t a boutique workshop, but a way of practice. I took great pride in seeing our First Judicial District and our Bar Association receive national awards this year,” she said.

“I need you to know the bench is here in partnership with you as judicial activists to use our skills and our legal framework to touch, to move, to effect, to solve the problem,” she said.

Cooper

continued from page 1

respond to them. I do not care how small or big your organization is. These issues are larger than any one firm or employer. And without a partnership with an organization that understands these issues, understands the need for a dialogue with the ABA, the Pennsylvania State Bar and, most important, our judiciary and regulatory counsel, this city’s legal profession is plainly at risk.” He said the goal is to have England overtake the United States as the center of business law commerce in the post-recession era.

“And whether we should be one of the first American states to embrace these ideas, fight to ensure that they never happen here, or be somewhere in the middle, a partnership with the bar must be at the center of this inevitable debate,” Cooper said.

Cooper also discussed the challenges posed by “virtual” law firms, where “Ivy League-educated lawyers offer advice to fortune 100 companies from their kitchen tables – and make a killing doing it.”

During the first quarter of next year, Cooper will call upon the leaders of the legal employers to meet on this simple question: What can we do to best enhance your chances of being a vibrant employer in this city five, 10 and 20 years from now?

“I am asking flat out: tell us how we can help. From this discussion, we have a chance at responding to the real strategic challenges for remaining viable in this city.”

He plans separate meetings for firms with a plaintiff side client base, firms with a defense side and corporate client base, and government and public advocacy interest groups. Experts will be brought in and describe some frightening scenarios for the future practices. “Then we will sit and listen carefully to you. There are no preconditions on these discussions, and no topics are off limits. But these meetings will be closed door to ensure candor and avoid attribution. Then, with your permission, we will brief the judiciary and city leaders on our conclusions. But these meetings will be closed door to ensure candor and avoid attribution. Then, with your permission, we will brief the judiciary and city leaders on our conclusions. But here is the most important part. I need the attendees to be the top people at these organizations.”

Cooper also plans a number of Chancellor’s Forums on the complex issues affecting work in our legal industry, including the changing demographics of attorneys and how to advance the mission of the Bar and protect the public.

“In the process, I hope to impress upon an entire generation of current and up-and-coming leaders of our legal employers that this Bar Association is an indispensable first-step partner in securing all of our futures in Philadelphia – not an afterthought.”

Cooper also plans to ask the Board of Governors to adopt a bylaw proposal that will allow representation by the deans of local law schools to join the Board of Governors. “Employers want better-trained attorneys, and law schools want their graduates hired. I can think of no more efficient way than to have the leadership of each segment be plugged in at the highest levels to what the other is doing and having a direct impact.”

He also plans to launch the Philadelphia Bar Association Academy, which will partner with outside organizations to provide a life of learning for members – outside of CLEs.

“Through our new academy, lawyers will be able to register for free or modestly priced courses that will help them be part of this city and simply become better-sounding people,” he said. “Can you imagine the impact our Association would have on mentoring and professional development if an associate or young lawyer in a law department, who knows nothing about football or art history, and who was closed out of those discussions with clients and senior lawyers, could go to a bar-sponsored class with the head coach of a football team or a curator. Suddenly, the ostracized become the conversation carriers.”

He also plans to contact the other county bar presidents to discuss better and more expanded cooperation within this region. “The already existing networks and organizations of attorneys, which meet occasionally, must be strengthened.”

Cooper wants to appoint a Pro Bono and Delivery of Legal Services czar as well as a Cabinet-level appointee to help continue and develop the Association’s diversity efforts.

The pro bono position will be a direct advisor to the Chancellor in an effort to make the best policy we can in these critical areas. University of Pennsylvania Law School Practice Professor of Law and Clinical Director Louis S. Rulli, former executive director of Community Legal Services, is Cooper’s choice for this post.

The diversity advisor will have a seat at the center of policy initiatives and help make the most informed choices possible. Cooper has asked Scott W. Reid, former president of the Barristers’ Association, to take on this post.

Cooper also plans to create a “green ribbon” panel to determine how the Bar Association itself can better reduce resource waste. This will include both internal operations and member support.

“We will seek to set voluntary standards for each segment of our bar. If a legal employer complies with these goals applicable to institutions of a particular size, it will be invited to post a designation that it has met the Bar Association’s green standards for legal practices.”

“We will then take those recommendations and ask our jurists to join us by including those pertinent recommendations in their case management and trial preparation orders. If there are rules that are causing waste, we will open appropriate dialogue to see if the courts will consider changing them.”

Chancellor Scott F. Cooper is joined by members of his family (above) and past Chancellor Lawrence J. Beaser (below), a partner with Cooper at Blank Rome LLP. Beaser served as Chancellor in 1994.
Bar’s Sections Celebrate at Annual Events

Deputy District Attorney George D. Mosee Jr. (from left) joins Criminal Justice Section Chair Peter Berson and U.S. District Court Judge Louis H. Pollak at the Section’s Dec. 9 reception at the Westin Philadelphia. Mosee and Judge Pollak were presented with the Section’s Thurgood Marshall Award.

Herbert R. Weiman (from left) with Michael A. Horan and Family Law Section Chair James A. Rocco at the Section’s Annual Dinner on Dec. 9 at Table 31. Horan received the Section’s Weiman Award.

Marsha L. Levick and Public Interest Section Chair Angus Love at the Section’s Annual Reception at Loews Philadelphia Hotel on Dec. 2. Levick received the Section’s Andrew Hamilton Award.

Marc S. Jacobs with Workers’ Compensation Judge Scott Olin at the Section’s Dec. 1 Holiday Party at Cescaphe Ballroom. Judge Olin received the Section’s Martha Hampton Award at the event, which was attended by more than 200 people. Jacobs is chair of the award committee.

Probate and Trust Law Section Vice Chair Robert I. Friedman with Chair Margaret Gallagher Thompson at the Section’s Dec. 2 Annual Reception at the Radisson Plaza-Warwick Hotel.

Panelists (from left) Kevin Johnson, Miriam L. Fisher and Matthew S. Cooper join Tax Section Chair Daniel R. Blickman at the Section’s Dec. 10 Annual Meeting at the Rittenhouse Hotel. The program featured dinner remarks from Joshua D. Odintz of the Office of Tax Policy, U.S. Department of Treasury.

Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Harold M. Kane (from left) with Judge William J. Manfredi and State Civil Litigation Section Co-Chair Thomas G. Wilkinson at the Section’s Annual Reception on Dec. 7 at Davio’s. Judge Manfredi was presented with a plaque for his dedication to excellence on the Philadelphia bench, his longstanding support of the Section and its Rules and Procedure Committee and his distinguished service on the Supreme Court Civil Procedural Rules Committee.
By Amy Ginensky

At this time last year, we were facing a year of economic uncertainty. As I said in my inaugural Bar Reporter article of January 2009, “It is a time to turn challenge into opportunity. We must remember the Foundation’s grantee organizations that need us, and be there for them, whatever it requires.”

Our grantees struggled this year with overwhelming demands on their organizations because of the economy, while they faced their own unprecedented financial challenges. In response to this need, the Bar Foundation board and staff, and the Philadelphia legal community, fought against the economic odds to help the public interest legal organizations. At press time, the Bar Foundation Board of Trustees has not made a decision about funding levels for 2009 grants, but we are working our hardest to meet the needs or our grantees as well as our responsibilities as the financial stewards of the Philadelphia legal community’s foundation.

We want to thank the law firms who have continued their support, as well as individuals who are Hamilton Circle members, Hamilton Circle Life Fellows or Advocates of Justice. In addition, we are indebted to the many who helped in this tough time with contributions to the annual fund or who made multi-year pledges to our annual grants program.

Special-event fund-raising has always been a key source of revenue for the Bar Foundation’s grantmaking, and this posed a particular challenge in 2009: Can we hold special events in this economy? Again we looked at this as an opportunity and instituted some cost-saving measures to ensure that the 21st Annual Bar Foundation Golf Classic, which clearly would not be able to have the sponsor support of businesses of the past, was a successful event. And for those who attended the 31st Annual Andrew Hamilton Benefit, you know that we downsized the formality of the event without sacrificing any of the fun. In fact, with our gracious “Dancing for Justice” volunteers – Mayor Michael Nutter and his wife Lisa, Bar Association Immediate-Past Chancellor Sayde J. Ladov and her husband David, and City Solicitor Shelley Smith and her partner from the Society Hill Dance Academy – “Dancing with the Stars” acquired a new meaning and helped the Hamilton Benefit exceed the scaled-back budget we set for it.

And, finally, Cy Pres funds will, in this year of challenges, help fill in the gaps in other funding sources. Cy Pres awards allow us to support legal services that benefit people across the whole spectrum of the population – from young children to senior citizens – with issues ranging from personal finance, employment, consumer problems, housing and medical benefits. So with these funds we establish a strong match between the nature of the case and the constituencies in our community.

In addition to providing grants to our public interest legal community, the Bar Foundation worked in 2009 to support our grantees in other ways. Bar Foundation staff participated on two of the Bar Association’s Delivery of Legal Services Committee subcommittees. Our staff provided administrative support for a series of weekly training sessions for new public interest attorneys and deferred associates who are working with the public interest organizations. And the Bar Foundation arranged for a session on nonprofit marketing skills for the DLSC Management Subcommittee. This program’s success encouraged the subcommittee to schedule a second installment to be held this month.

Personally, in 2009, while there was much to feel good about, at the end of November, I lost a close friend, Nick Gimbel, a partner with McCarter & English. Those of us who knew Nick knew that his personal depth and strength complemented his formidable skills as an advocate. He demanded excellence in the practice of law from himself and his colleagues, whether writing a brief, winning a $100 million jury verdict in an insurance coverage dispute or working on a pro bono case for a death row inmate. When Nick passed away, those of us who knew him wanted to find an appropriate way to honor him. We decided to establish the Fund for Legal Excellence in his memory. This fund will be dedicated to providing training programs sought by the grantee organizations for the lawyers working at these organizations. These lawyers graduate at the top of their law school classes and are terrific, dedicated lawyers. Unlike their counterparts at private law firms, however, they don’t have the same access to deposition, trial advocacy and writing programs to enhance their considerable talents. So in his memory, we have created a fund to help attract the goal of excellent representation, no matter how rich or poor you are. While you will see in the Tribute section there are many who have already contributed generously to the fund, additional contributions in honor of Nick, or for any other reason, will be put to good use.

While the economy may be emerging from recession, there is no doubt that next year our grantees and those they represent will need our support as well. Thank you for your generosity during 2009. I have no doubt that we can count on you again for the challenges ahead in 2010.

Amy B. Ginensky (ginenskya@pepperlaw.com), a partner at Pepper Hamilton LLP, is president of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.
Hundreds Raise Funds at Hamilton Benefit

Community Legal Services Executive Director Catherine C. Carr (left photo) meets with Mayor Michael Nutter after she was presented with the Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award at the Foundation’s Andrew Hamilton Benefit on Nov. 21. The Citizens Bank Pro Bono Award was presented to Dechert LLP and Berner Klaw & Watson LLP. Accepting the award (above) are Ethan D. Fogel of Dechert and Joni J. Berner of Berner Klaw & Watson. Ed Ryan (right), executive vice president of Citizens Bank, made the presentations.

Sayde and David Ladov (above left) perform a tango while City Solicitor Shelley R. Smith and her dance partner take a crack at the salsa during "Dancing for Justice" at the Andrew Hamilton Benefit at the Please Touch Museum in Fairmount Park. Mayor Michael Nutter and his wife Lisa also danced a foxtrot at the event. More than 400 people attended the event, which raised more than $210,000.
the subject of much more praise in the weeks and years to come. But so too should be the work of Michael B. Hayes, Grace P. Manno, Rosemary Pinto, Brian S. Chacker, Eric C. Milby, Troy H. Wilson, Patricia A. Dubin, Laura A. Feldman, Christine M. Paul, David E. Prewitt, Grace Ann Sweeney, Stephanie Resnick, Jane Leslie Dalton, Peter F. Vaira, Sunah Park and Lyndora Patterson-Tiller, all of whom completed their terms on the Board of Governors in December. The same thanks are also due to all of the many committee, section and division chairs whose terms also just expired. Without the tireless and often underappreciated work of these volunteers, none of the programs we celebrate would have happened.

So what happens next? As I outlined in my inaugural remarks in early December, we have a very full plate. Everything we are undertaking this year is geared toward collectively preparing to meet our futures. I again call for each member to take ownership in where we are heading. Some of you can contribute a lot; some a little. Regardless, we need those contributions. They add up.

In early January, we are convening our annual Bar leadership retreat. Over two days, we will roll up our sleeves and develop a blueprint to carry out this bold agenda. This is a critical first step to ensuring we cover as many bases as possible and secure broad-based support from many members.

One project in particular needs your help now. I will soon be sending invitations to various leaders of legal employers to attend a strategic meeting. As I announced last month, this is the first attempt in a long time to gather leading employers together. When we meet to discuss the challenges facing Philadelphia during the next 25 years, we need the decision makers. The rapidly changing legal landscape requires us to engage in this dialogue, even if we would prefer to stay away. So if you have the boss’s ear, tell him/her you would like them to attend. Everyone’s time is precious. When the time comes to rank priorities, let them know one meeting on the future of our city should make the list.

As we move forward with this and the other initiatives, I encourage you to watch the Bar Association’s web site, e-mail alerts and the Bar Reporter for frequent updates. Many of our projects will move at different paces, so watch for developments on all the things that interest you. Our traditional operations and our new ones – such as our Academy, Green Ribbon Task Force and Historical Society – will all be moving quickly. When we post a call for help, please sign up!

But don’t just focus on the “new” items. One of our strengths is our well-established, ongoing programs. This year, each committee, section and division is charged with reviewing its delivery of services. If programming is not keeping pace, it will be cut. If you have ideas, tell the appropriate leaders of our more than 50 committees, nine sections or two divisions.

Chances are excellent that we already have a place that can bring your ideas to life. You do not need to reinvent any wheels. Just bring your talents, ideas and energy and we will find a good place for you to apply them.

I want to hear from you. We are keenly aware that part of staying relevant and modern is we must make it easy for members to interact with the Bar Association and its leaders. If the Association is doing a good job, let someone know. If we are not, let me know.

2010 is already shaping up to be a terrific year. Much planning has gone into this year’s agenda. We will do our part. And with a little luck from the economy, we may be in good shape by year’s end.

Now it is time for all of us to bring these exciting initiatives to life. So with a buzz in the air, let’s get started together!

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

Brandeis Society Networking Event for Law Students Jan. 27

Philadephia Court of Common Pleas President Judge Pamela Pryor Dembe will be the guest speaker when Pleas President Judge Pamela Pryor Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas President Judge Pamela Pryor Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas holds its Ninth Annual Law Student Networking Night on Wednesday, Jan. 27 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the offices of Fox Rothschild LLP, 2000 Market St.

The event gives Jewish law students from area law schools the opportunity to meet and chat with seasoned attorneys and judges. It includes breakout sessions focusing on specific practice areas as well as a general session, refreshments and socializing. It has proven to be beneficial to countless young lawyers making their way into the Philadelphia legal community.

The Brandeis Law Society welcomes all of its members as well as other lawyers to this free event and advance registration is not necessary.

The participation of experienced lawyers and judges is vital to the success of the evening. Participants will have an opportunity to sign up to mentor individual law students if they choose.

For more information about the Law Student Networking Night, contact Miriam Steinberg-Eglet at 215-898-6451 or e-mail info@jewishgrads.org, or Matthew G. Laver at 215-686-7097 or Matthew.Laver@courts.phila.gov.
Virtual Tools Promote Diversity, Inclusion

By Karen J. Vaughn

The advent of Web 2.0 has inspired the corporate community to explore new approaches to achieving internal organizational development goals. Although a precise definition of Web 2.0 remains elusive, experts in the field agree that at the very least, the term refers to a set of next-generation Internet technologies, many of which are social in nature. Such utilities as Facebook, LinkedIn, MySpace, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, blogs, and wikis all fall into this category.

Corporations are leveraging the power of Web 2.0 to create virtual employee communities that generate a range of benefits. Best Buy created a social network called Blue Shirt Nation that many employees use to share information, knowledge, best practices and otherwise maintain an open dialogue. (Participation is voluntary.) Over time, the company discovered that the turnover rate of employees who contributed to Blue Shirt Nation was significantly lower than the rate for the workforce overall. Faced with the challenge of not being able to keep abreast of what each other was doing, an Internet marketing team at Kaiser Permanente developed an internal wiki that resulted in greater transparency and more efficient collaboration. General Electric’s storied internal network, Support Central, hosts a combination of wikis, documents and blogs. This allows the company’s workforce to communicate and share expertise.

How can law firms incorporate Web 2.0 tools into their plans for promoting diversity and inclusion? In the first instance, given the fact that the essence of diversity and inclusion is to acknowledge and respect the different perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences that all employees bring to the table, creating a social network within a firm to which all employees have access represents an opportunity to create an environment of constant dialogue and interaction that will foster understanding and result in a culture of greater inclusion.

From the recruitment standpoint, Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, among others, are excellent supplements to traditional approaches for developing diverse candidate pools. Other technologies can be used to support initiatives designed to promote retention and career advancement. For example, law firm affinity groups, typically composed of historically underrepresented attorney populations, can utilize wikis to collaborate on programming and otherwise pursue their mission in a more efficient manner. Since many of these lawyers work in firms with multiple offices, wikis have the added benefit of ameliorating feelings of isolation that those who work in smaller offices or practice groups sometimes experience, thereby promoting retention.

Web conferencing—live meetings via the Internet—can be used to deliver training on such fundamental issues as the business case for diversity. The polling feature offered by many of these services is particularly attractive because it allows the presenter to both reinforce knowledge and information shared with the audience and gauge the effectiveness of the training in real time.

These are just a few examples of ways law firms can use Web 2.0 tools to advance diversity and inclusion objectives. New approaches are welcome and encouraged.

Karen J. Vaughn, Esq. (karen.janatha@lycos.com) is a diversity and inclusion management professional based in Philadelphia.

Support continued from page 8

Peterful litigant must show that he or she has made a reasonable and diligent effort to secure employment. Copies or a log of employment applications, follow up after the application, rejection letters and e-mails are all relevant evidence for the court’s consideration. If the unemployed litigant can prove reasonable efforts to mitigate job loss the court is much less likely to assess an earning capacity in addition to the amount of unemployment benefits received by that litigant.

Unemployed litigants should be aware that despite their termination from employment (for reasons other than gross misconduct), they are still likely eligible for COBRA benefits, which provides for continuation of health insurance.

Such benefits will have to be paid by the terminated employee, but may be less costly than an individual private health insurance plan.

Additionally, terminated employees eligible for unemployment compensation may also be eligible for a health insurance subsidy for up to 35 percent of the cost. This subsidy is for a limited term, and generally not for the entire 18-month term of unemployment benefits. To qualify for the health insurance subsidy, the employee’s termination must have occurred between Sept. 1, 2008 and Dec. 31, 2009. Legislation was pending in December to extend the deadline.

Julia Suzain (jssuzain@foyerschlebhold.com), a partner with Fox Rothschild LLP, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter and treasurer of the Family Law Section.

INCORPORATION AND LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY FORMATION

CONVENIENT, COURTEOUS SAME DAY SERVICE

PREPARATION AND FILING SERVICES IN ALL STATES

CORPORATION OUTFITS AND LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY OUTFITS

SAME DAY SHIPMENT OF YOUR ORDER

CORPORATE STATUS REPORTS

UCC, LIEN AND JUDGMENT SEARCH SERVICES

DOCUMENT RETRIEVAL SERVICES

M. BURR KEIM COMPANY

SERVING THE LEGAL PROFESSION SINCE 1931

2021 ARCH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

PHONE: (215) 563-8113

FAX: (215) 977-9386

WWW.MBURRKEIM.COM
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

Friday, Jan. 1
New Year’s Day: Bar Association offices closed.

Monday, Jan. 4
Family Law Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.

Tuesday, Jan. 5
Philadelphia Bar Foundation Board of Trustees: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Chancellor’s Reception: 5 p.m., Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets.

Wednesday, Jan. 6
Delivery of Legal Services Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Rules and Procedure Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.
Intellectual Property Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $8.

Thursday, Jan. 7
Criminal Justice Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Friday, Jan. 8
Employee Benefits Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Saturday, Jan. 9
Appellate Courts Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.

Wednesday, Jan. 13
Appellate Courts Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.
Women in Intellectual Property Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

Thursday, Jan. 14
Legislative Liaison Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.

Friday, Jan. 15
Social Security Disability Benefits Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.
The Philadelphia Lawyer magazine Editorial Board: meeting, 12:15 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Monday, Jan. 18
Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Bar Association offices closed.

Tuesday, Jan. 19
Cabinet: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Business Litigation Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.
Employee Benefits Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $8.

Wednesday, Jan. 20
Workers’ Compensation Section Executive Committee: meeting, 10:30 a.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Thursday, Jan. 21
Family Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
Law Practice Management Division Technology Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

Friday, Jan. 22
Secrets to Business Development: seminar, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Monday, Jan. 25
Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Register online for most events at philadelphiabar.org. Unless otherwise specified, all checks for luncheons and programs should be made payable to the Philadelphia Bar Association and mailed to Bar Headquarters, 1101 Market St., 11th fl., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-2955. 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.

Bill of Rights Day Naturalization Ceremony

More than 120 people from more than 50 countries took the oath of citizenship in a ceremony sponsored by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Chancellor Scott F. Cooper (left photo) addresses new citizens at a Bill of Rights Day naturalization ceremony at the U.S. Courthouse on Dec. 15 as U.S. District Court Judge Michael Baylson looks on. Former Pennsylvania Congresswoman Marjorie Margolies also spoke to the new citizens. More than 120 people from more than 50 countries took the oath of citizenship in a ceremony sponsored by the Philadelphia Bar Association.
Elizabeth Fonten, a partner with Reed Smith LLP, has been appointed co-chair of the Programs subcommittee of the American Bar Association’s Business Torts Litigation Committee. She has been named materials editor for the annual meeting of the Corporate Counsel Committee, to be held in February 2010 in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

Brent Cosrow, an associate with Fisher & Phillips LLP, has been appointed by the Reading Terminal Market Merchants’ Association to the Board of Directors of the Reading Terminal Market Corporation.

Charles C. Coyne, of counsel to Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP, was a faculty member for the 2009 International Business Law Summit in Luxor, Egypt, on Nov. 2-6, 2009, by the Center for International Legal Studies of Salzburg, Austria. He spoke on “The Lawyer’s Role in the Changing International Ethical Climate.”

Lynn E. Rzonca, managing partner of Ballard Spahr LLP, was a featured speaker at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s 15th Annual Business Lawyers’ Institute on Nov. 5. Her presentation was titled “To Friend, Blog, Tweet, or Tube: Social Media and Intellectual Property.”

Deborah R. Willig, managing partner of Willig, Williams & Davidson and former Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, was honored during Temple University’s 10th Annual Women’s Entrepreneurship Conference on Oct. 27.

Steven J. Schildt, a partner with Post & Schell, P.C., spoke at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute seminar series “Your First Bench Trial” in Philadelphia on Nov. 19th and in Mechanicsburg on Dec. 15.

Howard D. Scher, a shareholder with Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Lawyers’ Club of Philadelphia.

Leonard P. Goldberg, a shareholder with Stevens & Lee, spoke at The Strategic Foreign Investment Forum for Overseas Returns Enterprises in Guangzhou, China.

Mark W. Tanner, partner with Feldman, Shephard, Wohlgelernter, Tanner, Weinstock & Dodig, served as a faculty member at the Dec. 16 Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association continuing legal education seminar “Ethics: Doing the Right Thing.”

Jeffrey S. Saltz, principal attorney in the Law Office of Jeffrey S. Saltz, P.C., has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the Union for Reform Judaism. The URJ is the organization of more than 900 Reform Jewish congregations in the United States and Canada.

Enid H. Adler has been appointed to the American Bar Association Task Force for the 2010 Review Conference of the International Criminal Court, the first since the Court’s inception in 1998.

Jon Lambiras, an associate with Berger & Montague, P.C., presented a CLE seminar titled “Data Breach Class Actions Involving Theft of Personal Information” to the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Association of Attorney-Certified Public Accountants. He is an officer in that organization.

James D. Epstein, a partner with Pepper Hamilton LLP, was a participant in The Deal Economy 2010 Conference in New York on Nov. 18. He took part in a panel discussion debating the Middle Market.

Adam E. Laver, an associate with Blank Rome LLP, has been appointed Chancellor of the Louis D. Brandeis Law Society.

Merritt Cole and Peter Mooney of White and Williams LLP participated in the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s 15th Annual Business Lawyers’ Institute on Nov. 4-5.

Harold R. Berk, a sole practitioner, was recently appointed as the tax credit columnist for the CCH Journal of Passthrough Entities.

Gary M. Schildhorn, a member of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC, presented “Keep It Interesting: Novel Issues Right Here in Philadelphia in the Inquirer Case” at the Eastern District of Pennsylvania Bankruptcy Conference Fall CLE Program.


Kevin H. Buraks, an attorney with Portnoff Law Associates, has been elected to a four-year term to the school board of the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District.

Deborah Epstein Henry, founder and president of Flex-Time Lawyers LLC, was a speaker at Ms. JD Conference programs “Balancing Acts,” “The Road Less Traveled: Alternative Schedules,” “On-Ramps: Workforce Re-Entry” and “Networking and Effective Self-Promotion” in Chicago on Nov 21.

Michael J. Foley has been elected to a three-year term to the Board of Governors of the American Association for Justice, formerly the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, for the years 2009-2012.

Michael Falk, an associate with Reed Smith LLP, has been named chair of the Case Notes subcommittee for the Third Circuit, part of the American Bar Association Section of Litigation, Business Torts Litigation Committee.

Michael M. Mustokoff, a partner with Duane Morris LLP, has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

John M. Dodig of Feldman, Shephard, Wohlgelernter, Tanner, Weinstock & Dodig was a speaker at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute CLE program the “Practical Aspects of Personal Injury Depositions” on Dec. 8.

Gary M. Schildhorn, a member of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC, presented “Keep It Interesting: Novel Issues Right Here in Philadelphia in the Inquirer Case” at the Eastern District of Pennsylvania Bankruptcy Conference Fall CLE Program.


Kevin H. Buraks, an attorney with Portnoff Law Associates, has been elected to a four-year term to the school board of the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District.

Deborah Epstein Henry, founder and president of Flex-Time Lawyers LLC, was a speaker at Ms. JD Conference programs “Balancing Acts,” “The Road Less Traveled: Alternative Schedules,” “On-Ramps: Workforce Re-Entry” and “Networking and Effective Self-Promotion” in Chicago on Nov 21.

Michael J. Foley has been elected to a three-year term to the Board of Governors of the American Association for Justice, formerly the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, for the years 2009-2012.

Michael Falk, an associate with Reed Smith LLP, has been named chair of the Case Notes subcommittee for the Third Circuit, part of the American Bar Association Section of Litigation, Business Torts Litigation Committee.

Michael M. Mustokoff, a partner with Duane Morris LLP, has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

John M. Dodig of Feldman, Shephard, Wohlgelernter, Tanner, Weinstock & Dodig was a speaker at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute CLE program the “Practical Aspects of Personal Injury Depositions” on Dec. 8.

People
High-Impact Advertising in The Region’s Most Valued Legal Resource!

Reach decision-makers with an ad in the Philadelphia Bar Association’s ONLY OFFICIAL Legal Directory:

> Listings for 18,000+ lawyers/law firms in Greater Philadelphia.

> Loaded with valuable information: index of judges, facts on city and county courts, government agencies….and much more!

> Twelve-month shelf-life and high repeat use mean your message will be seen over and over again, all year long.

The Legal Directory is searchable through your handheld — making it more valuable than ever!

ADDED BONUS TO ADVERTISERS!
Display advertisers receive one — or more, depending on ad size — FREE listing in the Products, Services & Experts Guide plus a FREE ad on The Legal Directory website for a full year.

SPACE RESERVATION DEADLINE
January 11, 2010

Call Howard Hyatt at 410-902-5797 or 443-909-7834 or e-mail: howard.hyatt@mediatwo.com.