By Jeff Lyons

A pro bono program to aid returning war veterans, expansion of the Advancing Civics Education program and a way to help Association members with business development are the three key initiatives for 2012 presented by Chancellor John E. Savoth at the Dec. 6 Annual Meeting Luncheon.

“I am so proud to be here leading the oldest association of lawyers in America. As a boy from Neptune City, growing up along the North Jersey shore, within earshot of the soul of Asbury Park, it is an honor to be heir to the legacy of Andrew Hamilton,” said Savoth, of counsel to Saltz Mongeluzzi Barrett & Bendesky, PC.

“So many people (especially young folks) are here now, not simply because this is where they’ve always been but because they’ve clearly decided this is where they always want to be. They’re here by choice,” Savoth said. “And the best choice I ever made when I first arrived was to join the Philadelphia Bar Association. That’s how I made connections. That’s how I learned about this town and its unique culture. That’s how I developed lasting, cherished friendships. And yes, I was able to network and gain business from it. And these are no small matters. But here’s the important thing: The bar association enriches not just your work but your life. It makes your life more meaningful.”

“We will help ease the burden of re-entry for our service men and women and their families. We will provide them with pro bono legal assistance in areas that impact their daily lives, including consumer credit, bankruptcy, employment, housing, family law, wills and estates, and special issues such as eligibility for veterans benefits and compensation for service-related disabilities,” the Chancellor said.

Savoth said clients will contact the Military Assistance Program through a new hotline at the offices of the Bar Association. Callers will be matched with volunteer attorneys who have registered with MAP. Savoth has asked Michael Taub, a staff attorney for the Homeless Advocacy Project, and Wesley R. Payne IV, the Association’s assistant treasurer and a partner at White and Williams, to co-chair this important new initiative.

William P. Fedullo, of counsel to Rosen, Schafer & DiMeo, LLP, will serve as Vice Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association in 2012 after running unopposed in the Association’s Tuesday, Dec. 6 Annual Election. Fedullo will serve as Chancellor-Elect in 2013 and Chancellor in 2014.

The following candidates for Bar offices ran unopposed and will begin serving in their positions on Jan. 1: Sophia Lee, Secretary; Joseph A. Prim Jr., Treasurer; Jacqueline G. Segal, Assistant Secretary; and...
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Bar Membership Enriches Work and Makes Life More Meaningful

By John E. Savoth

“As a peacemaker the lawyer has superior opportunity of being a good man.”

– Abraham Lincoln

My first involvement with the Philadelphia Bar Association was as a volunteer for a Young Lawyers Section program. It was 1988, and Nancy Fullam, who chaired the YLS that year, asked me to donate a few hours of my time to a Law Week event.

I frankly wasn’t very familiar with the Association, or its work in the community. I was also not a joiner. But one thing was certain: from that moment, I was hooked.

Four years later, I was elected chair of the Young Lawyers Section. Working with an incredibly dedicated Executive Committee, I remember the pride and satisfaction we shared in coordinating so many innovative programs – all for the public good. In 1993, when I chaired the Section, we created Law Camp and Lawyer for a Day. We were thereafter renamed the “Young Lawyers Division,” in recognition of our size and the scope of our Section’s work.

From then on, volunteering on behalf of the Philadelphia Bar Association became a natural extension of my work as a lawyer.

As I said in my address to the members last month, it was people – people made the difference in my career as a lawyer. People like my parents who taught me the value of hard work, determination and perseverance, and my entire family who challenges, encourages and strengthens me.

But it was also people like so many professional colleagues who have reached out to me, most notably Bill Keller, who generously and daringly guided me in my career as a Philadelphia lawyer. It was Bill who said to me, “If you want to meet people, you need to get involved in the Bar Association.”

It’s no small thing to practice law in the shadow of Independence Hall. I feel the pride in Andrew Hamilton’s legacy every day. It’s our heritage as Philadelphia lawyers. Hamilton’s famous pro bono defense of printer John Peter Zenger on libel charges 277 years ago taught us much about the character of a Philadelphia lawyer. We help all aspects of society. We are all in this together.

I am proud to be leading the oldest association of lawyers in America. Having grown up along the North Jersey shore, within earshot of the soul of Asbury Park, it’s an honor to be heir to Hamilton’s legacy.

Philadelphiaans are so accepting of many who travel here to make a life. And the best choice I ever made when I first arrived was to join the Philadelphia Bar Association.

That’s how I meet people. That’s how I made connections. That’s how I learned about this town and its unique culture. That’s how I developed lasting, cherished friendships.

The Bar Association enriches not just your work but your life. It makes your life more meaningful.

Yes, the term “Philadelphia lawyer” holds a national, indeed global, reputation. It’s used to characterize a particularly

LifeTime Achievement Award
Nominations Sought by Jan. 16

The Justinian Society and the Comisky Family are seeking nominations for the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award in memory of Marvin Comisky and Judge G. Fred DiBona, to be awarded at the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon scheduled for this spring.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is not limited to an area of practice or an advocate for a particular cause. Rather, the purpose of the award is to recognize an outstanding member of the bench or bar who, at a minimum, satisfies the following qualifications: acts as a superb mentor and advisor to clients, the Bar, the judicial system and/or the community; makes a difference in the lives of others irrespective of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, gender or sexual orientation; demonstrates a willingness to do what is right although sometimes unpopular; demonstrates legal acumen or scholarship; and exhibits great humility.

A charitable contribution will be made on behalf of the recipient to an organization of the recipient’s choice.

Nominations should include the nominee’s name, address and a statement of the nominee’s qualifications. All nominations should be mailed to Thomas H. Chiaccio Jr., 2005 Market St., Suite 1930, Philadelphia, Pa., 19103 or may be emailed to chiaccio@rclaw.com. Nominations must be received no later than Monday, Jan. 16.
Five Steps to Take Control of Your Financial Life

By Katherine O’Keefe

The most successful financial plans are those that are tailored to the individual, but currently “there is a lack of financial education out there for women,” a financial planning specialist recently told members of the Women in the Profession Committee.

Pari Hashemi, who has written articles for Forbes, The Philadelphia Business Journal and TheGlassHammer.com, noted that in many ways women have it harder than men when it comes to financial planning. Despite major strides in the workforce, women typically earn only 75 percent of what men earn in comparable jobs. Moreover, women take on average 11.5 years off from work, compared to 16 months for men. This off with the fact that the cost of long-term care is statistically higher for women compared to 16 months for men. Top on this off with the fact that the cost of long-term care is statistically higher for women than for men, and it’s clear women may be at a disadvantage when it comes to financial planning.

Hashemi works for the McFadden Group at Morgan Stanley. Smith Barney. Despite these apparent disadvantages, “there are things that you can do to make sure that you’re actually responsible with your finances,” said Hashemi. To help you take control of your finances, she outlined five easy steps that anyone can follow. First, organize your financial documents. To do this, Hashemi suggested creating a “personal wealth organizer,” which can be as simple as a binder, in order to consolidate documents such as bank statements, insurance and estate-planning documents, and tax returns. One of your financial documents should be your investment policy statement — a description of your primary financial objectives.

Second, involve a professional. Although financial planners charge a fee, Hashemi said that professionals should outperform the market by at least the amount of the fee. In addition, look for professionals who do not charge commissions on financial products, thus eliminating a conflict of interest. By consulting a professional financial planner, you gain access to additional resources, but remember to communicate with your family and other advisors to ensure that everyone is on the same page.

Third, you need to develop a financial plan. It may be helpful to separate your short-term goals from your long-term goals. Using your financial documents, create a budget to help keep your spending on track. Hashemi noted that you could save money by making small changes to your daily spending habits.

For example, if you are spending $15 per week on lattes, cutting back to $9 per week can compound to $15,000 over 15 years.

Fourth, you need to make sure you are using the appropriate tools for your goals. There are three categories of investments: growth, fixed-income and liquid. Growth, or equity, investments, such as stocks and mutual funds, are better for long-term goals like retirement. Fixed-income investments, such as bonds, come with risks, but are generally a safer bet than growth investments. Liquid assets are short-term investments with low returns, like savings accounts or certificates of deposit, and are good for your six-month to one-year emergency fund.

Fifth, get started. It’s never too early or too late to create a financial plan.

Katherine O’Keefe (katherine.okeefe@gmail.com) is a post-graduate fellow with the Philadelphia City Law Department.

WIP Task Force an Outlet for Involvement

While the practice of law is demanding on both time and energy, many attorneys seek opportunities to get involved in their community. Similarly, many attorneys do not know where to find or access these opportunities.

The Women in Profession Committee’s Public Service Task Force seeks to provide an answer to this question as well as an outlet for volunteerism. The Task Force, which is entering its fifth year, is made up of lawyers from the Philadelphia Bar Association who meet quarterly to plan their own annual public service programs and promote others in the area. Each year, the Task Force presents a “Dos and Don’ts” skit at the LEAP Mock Trial Boot Camp in the fall, which is a lighthearted way to demonstrate appropriate (and inappropriate) courtroom conduct. In the spring, the Task Force presents a panel discussion directed to high school students titled “How to Become a Lawyer.” The panel presentation includes representatives from test preparation companies, undergraduate admissions, law school admissions and the legal community who present a roadmap to students interested in going to law school.

The Task Force also coordinates an annual school supply fundraiser happy hour every August to benefit local school children in need and operates a mentorship program that matches lawyers with local high school students who want to learn about the legal profession. Students and mentors have read books, attended Law Day and worked on college applications together. In addition, the Task Force and its members have participated in events on behalf of Dress for Success, Philadelphia VIP, Women Against Abuse and other local nonprofit organizations.

Although the Task Force is a spin-off of the Women in Profession group, all members of the Philadelphia Bar Association are invited to join. The Task Force boasts approximately 50 members who are active throughout Philadelphia, New Jersey and Delaware.

“Doing something beyond your firm, in the interest of the good of the community, is such a valuable experience,” says Emily Marks, an associate with Kolsby, Gordon, Robin, Shore & Bezar. Marks currently serves as co-chair of the Women in Profession Committee and formerly served as co-chair of the Public Service Task Force. “I think that we as lawyers can get so busy sometimes that the practice of law can become isolating. Participating in the Public Service Task Force provides an opportunity to network with other lawyers and do something positive for the community we live and work in.”

The Task Force is co-chaired by Sarina Kaplan, an associate with Lavin, O’Neil, Ricci, Cedrone & DiSipio, and Michelle Wexler, a nonprofit consultant and fundraiser at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and an attorney. For more information or to partner with the Task Force for an upcoming event, you can contact Kaplan at skaplan@lavin-law.com or Wexler at michelle.j.wexler@gmail.com.
When we talk about humidity, we are referring to the amount of water vapor in the air. The human body is more comfortable when there is a balance between the air temperature and humidity. When the relative humidity is high, the air feels warmer and the temperature seems higher. Conversely, when the relative humidity is low, the air feels cooler even if the temperature is the same. This is because the body exchanges heat through the skin, and the rate of evaporation of sweat is affected by the humidity. High humidity slows down the evaporation of sweat, making it feel warmer, while low humidity allows sweat to evaporate more easily, cooling the body off.

Damp enough for you?

According to public health experts, our bodies are most comfortable when humidity is between 20 and 60 percent. This is because the human body is well-adapted to these conditions. The human body is a good conductor of heat, and when the humidity is high, the sweat on the skin is unable to evaporate quickly. This can make the air feel warmer. On the other hand, when the humidity is low, the evaporation of sweat is increased, which can make the air feel cooler.

Humidity  Keeps Body Comfortable

By Henry Balkov

Replansky’s career as a lawyer and his contributions to legal, civic, religious and other charitable causes. Replansky was a 51-year-old senior partner at Blank Rome Comisky & McCauley LLP when he died in March 1994. He was a former chair of the Business Law Section.

The section will also recognize Katayun I. Jaffari as Committee Chair of the Year and the Human Resources & Employee Relations Committee as Committee of the Year at the event, which begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Westin, 99 S. 17th St.

Tickets are $50 for members of the Business Law Section and $60 for non-members. Tickets are $70 for those who are not members of the Philadelphia Bar Association. Tickets are available at philadelphiabar.org.

The Business Law Section’s Annual Reception will be held Monday, Feb. 6 at the Westin Philadelphia Hotel where former Association Chancellor Lawrence J. Beaser will be presented with the Section’s Dennis H. Replansky Memorial Award.

Beaser, a partner at Blank Rome LLP with a diverse practice in business and governmental law, has long been a leader in the Philadelphia legal community and in a wide variety of civic affairs, said Graham R. Laub of the Business Law Section. “He is a former Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, a former chair of the Business Law Section and chair of the Philadelphia Foundation, and he is well regarded as a mentor of younger attorneys.”

The Section established the award in recognition of Beaser’s contributions to the legal community and his dedication to the practice of law.

**January CLE Calendar**

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

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**Live & Simulcast Seminars**

- Jan. 6 • Eyewitness: Illusions of Memory and Legal Implications
- Jan. 18 • Nonprofits and the Political Process
- Jan. 19 • Mediation Advocacy for Commercial and IP Disputes
- Jan. 24 • The Strategic Negotiator
- Jan. 25 • Medical School for Lawyers: into the Anatomy Lab
- Jan. 26 • Estate Planning and Administration with Firearms
- Jan. 27 • Managing Impressions – The Lawyer’s Guide to Powerful Presentations
- Jan. 28 • Violence Against Animals/Violence Against Humans – Examining the Link

**Simulcasts from PLI**

Save yourself the time and expense of an overnight trip to New York City, and take advantage of the specialized educational programs for which PLI is famous.

- Jan. 4 • Drafting & Negotiating Corporate Agreements 2012
- Jan. 5-6 • Mergers & Acquisitions 2012: Trends & Developments
- Jan. 11 • Secured Transactions 2012: What Lawyers Need to Know About UCC Article 9
- Jan. 12 • Real Estate M&A and REIT Transactions 2012
- Jan. 17 • Taxation of Financial Products & Transactions 2012
- Jan. 18 • Project Management for Lawyers 2012
- Jan. 25 • Securities Products of Insurance Companies
- Jan. 27 • Recent Developments in Distressed Debt, Restructurings & Workouts 2012
- Jan. 30-31 • Broadband & Cable Industry Law 2012
- Jan. 31 • Hedge Fund Registration & Compliance 2012

**Video Seminars**

- Jan. 5 • The Lifelong Impact of a Criminal Record
- Jan. 10 • Presentation of a Custody Evaluation in a Complex Custody Trial
- Jan. 11 • Bob Dylan and the Art of Taking Legal Ethics Seriously
- Jan. 12 • Social Media for Lawyers: Claimed If You Do, Darned If You Don’t?
- Jan. 17 • Internet Legal Research
- Jan. 19 • Law Firm Responsibilities and Recovery
- Jan. 20 • Boundary Law in Pennsylvania
- Jan. 24 • Flowing into the Future: Evolving Water Issues
- Jan. 25 • Bob Dylan and the Art of Taking Legal Ethics Seriously
- Jan. 26 • Social Media for Lawyers: Claimed If You Do, Darned If You Don’t?

**Distance Education — Live Webcasts**

If you can’t watch it live, sign up now and get credit when you watch it later (you’ve got 3 months after the webcast date).

- Jan. 6 • Eyewitness: Illusions of Memory and Legal Implications
- Jan. 14 • Best of Oil & Gas - Central Pennsylvania
- Jan. 27 • Violence Against Animals/Violence Against Humans

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**Mark Your Calendar**

- Mar. 13-14 • Health Law Institute
- Apr. 19-20 • Employment Law Institute
- Apr. 19 • Family Law Institute
- May 23 • Nonprofit Institute
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Prof. Epstein Offers Refresher on Evidence

By Angie Halim

CRAWFORD VS. WASHINGTON, a 2004 U.S. Supreme Court case addressing whether statements are testimonial hearsay for Confrontation Clause purposes, still “remains a big issue nationally,” Prof. Jules Epstein explained at his annual update on evidentiary law for the Criminal Justice Section.

Over the years, it has been pretty clear-cut that statements made during an ongoing emergency are not testimonial in nature and, therefore, they do not trigger the Confrontation Clause. On the other hand, statements made after an emergency is seemingly over are testimonial in nature and the defendant’s Sixth Amendment right is implicated.

In February 2011, the Supreme Court grappled with a Crawford-type issue in Michigan vs. Bryant, a case Epstein described as a “must read.” Bryant is particularly relevant to violent crimes cases. With Justice Sotomayor writing for the majority, the court set forth a new “multi-factored” test for determining whether an emergency is ongoing and whether statements made to law enforcement are testimonial in nature. The court ultimately held that statements made by a victim to police officers after having been shot were not testimonial because they were made for the purpose of assisting the police in locating his shooter. Therefore, the defendant’s Sixth Amendment right to confront his accuser was not violated when the victim/declarant’s statements were admitted at trial.

Epstein then addressed the doctrine of forfeiture by wrongdoing. Similar to the civil doctrine of unclean hands, the Supreme Court has held that a defendant can forfeit constitutional rights by engaging in wrongdoing. For example, if a defendant prevents a witness from testifying at trial, the defendant forfeits his right to confront that witness and testimonial hearsay may be admitted against him at trial.

With respect to forensics issues, Epstein discussed a June 2011 Supreme Court case addressing the admissibility of lab reports. In Bullcoming vs. New Mexico, the court held that a lab report is testimonial in nature and it therefore triggers the Confrontation Clause. In Bullcoming, the analyst who prepared a lab report was not available for trial and another analyst testified to the contents of the report at trial. The court held that an analyst who did not prepare the report is not a proper surrogate and the defendant’s Sixth Amendment rights were violated. To protect a defendant’s right to confront his accuser, either the analyst who prepared the report or the supervisor who oversaw testing must testify at trial.

Switching to a recent Pennsylvania case, Epstein explained a recent Superior Court decision, Commonwealth vs. Dyerman, regarding calibration reports in DUI cases. Holding that calibration reports are not testimonial in nature, the Superior Court found that calibration logs in that case were admitted for chain of custody purposes and accuracy purposes; they had not been prepared for the purposes of litigation. Therefore, the calibrator did not have to testify and the defendant’s rights were not violated.

There are several other cases coming “down the pike” regarding evidentiary issues and criminal practitioners should stay tuned for further updates.

Angie Halim (ahalim@aandelzlaw.com) is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
it feels like 80 degrees. In other words, if the air is 75 degrees and contains saturated water vapor, then the human body cools itself at the same rate as it would if it were 80 degrees and dry.

You know the feeling, in the winter, when you wake up after a night’s sleep and your throat and mouth are dry and your lips are starting to crack. No “expert” is needed to tell you that it’s too dry. This is why the first place most people put a room humidifier is in the bedroom.

You have just read the two important reasons for humidifying the office as well. A lower temperature will feel just as comfortable and it will prevent your skin and mucous tissues from drying out.

Aside from relying on our bodies to tell us, or on a hygrometer (measuring device), try this simple test: Fill a glass with ice cubes and water. If you don’t find the outside of the glass with water beads within 3 minutes, your room is too dry.

Proper humidification is a smart move both from an energy and a productivity perspective. The payback is almost immediate in terms of less fuel used and less “sick leave” expended.

Questions? Write hbalikov@goldmanenvironmental.com.

Henry Balikov is vice president at Goldman Environmental Consultants and Chair of the Climate Change Focus Group at The Auditing Roundtable. He is an active member of the Bar’s Green Ribbon Committee.

Support Center Distributes Toys for Holidays

This holiday season, Philadelphia business leaders and law firms such as Children’s Hospital of Pennsylvania, Blank Rome LLP, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP, and Levlane Advertising joined Support Center for Child Advocates for the annual Child Advocates Holiday Toy Drive.

These organizations collected and contributed donated gifts, and volunteered to sort gifts and hand delivered toys to children and families on Dec. 17 from the Child Advocates office at 1900 Cherry St.

“Many of our kids struggle during the holidays, as the season may be tainted by abuse or fear. A toy can show kids that someone cares for them, that they’re OK. When we deliver toys, we bring a sense of hope and warmth to children’s lives. It’s an extraordinary gift,” said Frank P. Cervone, executive director of Child Advocates.

The Child Advocates Holiday Toy Drive is unique in that donors are given labels with the names and ages of specific children for whom to purchase gifts that are then hand delivered just in time for the holidays. Supporters also choose to “adopt” entire families in need by purchasing household goods such as furniture, beds, linens, cookware and other specialty items, while high-ticket items for teens such as computers and laptops are donated to help with educational advancement.

“Blank Rome has participated in the rewarding and inspiring Child Advocates Toy Drive for several years. Our lawyers, paralegals, secretaries, and support staff throughout all levels of the Firm get involved in collecting and personally delivering gifts and toys to the children and families supported by the Toy Drive,” said Francis X. Crowley, a Child Advocates volunteer attorney and partner at Blank Rome.

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VIP Honors 2 for Service

PHILADELPHIA VIP recognizes OLGA Dongil-Molinero and Robert H. Bembry III for their outstanding volunteer assistance to VIP clients.

Imagine facing legal difficulties and not being able to communicate with anyone who can help. Interpreter Dongil-Molinero alleviates this anxiety for Philadelphia VIP’s Spanish speaking clients. And she provides more than just translation. She also provides the empathy that helps puts them at ease. “When I came to the U.S., my English was not as good as it is now – but it was good enough to work in a law firm,” she said. “Even then I found it difficult to adjust to a new language and a new culture. That is why I enjoy helping people who are not fluent in English when they have a legal issue, I understand that it can be very challenging to live in a country without speaking the language.”

Dongil-Molinero, a native of Spain, attended law school in Madrid and came to the U.S. in 2008 to attend the graduate tax program at Villanova University School of Law. While she was studying, she participated in Villanova’s clinical program, often translating for Spanish speaking clients. She eventually was asked to supervise the student translators from Villanova’s clinical program, when VIP contacted Villanova needing an interpreter for a client, she volunteered. The first case she assisted with involved a client from Mexico who had been involved in an automobile accident. Dongil-Molinero has worked as a translator on cases ranging from child support, tax, adoption and foreclosures. She translates documents, sits in on client attorney meetings, interprets for the client in court and makes calls to the clients. “People are so excited when they realize I speak their language. They want to tell me everything,” she laughs.

Suzanne Root, one of the attorneys Dongil-Molinero has assisted, values the service she provides. Root describes Dongil-Molinero as “eager to help and prompt with responses.”

Now that Dongil-Molinero has completed her L.L.M., she has begun studying for the bar exam. She greatly admires the work of VIP and hopes to volunteer as an attorney once she passes the bar. “The attorneys are so committed,” she said. She also appreciates the encouragement they have offered her. “Everyone I’ve worked with is so supportive of my goals.”

For Bembry, being in the position of underdog just means bringing a little more creativity to issues. His approach to solving problems goes above and beyond skill and persistence. Bembry is an attorney who will find a way to prevail for his or her client. The adept lawyer; a lawyer who will find a way to prevail for his or her client. The adept lawyer; a lawyer who will find a way to prevail for his or her client.

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Bembry has worked on a variety of homeownership cases — mortgage foreclosure, quiet title and probate. In one case, he is assisting a VIP mortgage foreclosure client with securing the title to his deceased mother’s home. He has helped the client track down the other heirs and obtain their permission for the transfer. He also acquired letters of administration so that the client had the authority to save the house from the foreclosure. In another case, he is assisting his client with clearing the title to his home by negotiating with a third party that has clouded the title with a bill of sale. Bembry is giving the client leverage in this negotiation with his capacity to file a quiet title against the third party if he is unwilling to negotiate. In both cases, Bembry works diligently on behalf of VIP clients to ensure that they have title to their homes.

Bembry says “VIP clients are exceptional individuals; they truly appreciate the legal representation that is being provided. Please consider volunteering with VIP; you can make a difference.”

Frontline continued from page 3

adept lawyer; a lawyer who will find a way to prevail for his or her client. The term even has a Wikipedia page. But we are best distinguished by our unparalleled level of service to the community. That is what I am most proud of as a Philadelphia lawyer.

Pro bono service and community volunteerism are more than just a professional commitment for Philadelphia lawyers. They define us.

Public service strikes at the very heart of who we are as Philadelphia lawyers, and as citizens. And it has been the legacy of our Association for 210 years as Philadelphia lawyers and as citizens. And it has been the legacy of our Association for 210 years as Philadelphia lawyers and as citizens. And it has been the legacy of our Association for 210 years as Philadelphia lawyers and as citizens.

Between those organizations and about 3,000 volunteers at private firms, Philadelphia lawyers handle 50,000 cases a year for people who can’t afford to pay for legal services.

Today we’re bigger than most state bar associations and we’re looked to nationally as trailblazers. Many of our programs and efforts have served as models for similar initiatives throughout the nation. But even though our founders included this nation’s first leaders, and even though we trace our origins all the way back to 1802 when a small group of lawyers met in Independence Hall to form a Law Library Company, we must never forget that we were founded by people who had common needs and shared a desire to help one another and those they served.

In his closing argument, Hamilton told the jury that their verdict was more than whether Zenger was guilty, but rather was about freedom of exposing and opposing power and government by speaking and writing the truth.

In short, 41 years before the Declaration of Independence and 50 years before the Constitution, Hamilton successfully argued for the First Amendment and freedom of the press in the public interest. He was far ahead of his time.

And he was a Philadelphia lawyer.

John E. Szabo, jszabo@jmbb.com, of counsel to to Salute Mangoldzuzi Barrett & Bendeky, P.C., is Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association.
A YLD Resolution for 2012: Get Involved

By Melanie J. Taylor

I am very excited to chair the Young Lawyers Division of the Philadelphia Bar Association in 2012. I joined the Bar Association shortly after finishing law school, when I knew that I would be moving to Philadelphia. After reviewing the Association’s website and all of its activities, I was sure that it was the best place to start what I hoped would be a successful and fulfilling career as an attorney.

Over the years, the Bar Association has touched every aspect of my life. Not only have I made great friends and valuable connections, I have had the opportunity to affect my profession and the community in astounding ways. I have discussed court policy with supervising judges, developed CLE courses and collected toys for needy children. My engagement in community service programs like CLEs that our office of the Philadelphia District Attorney, is presented, the YLD offers community outreach programs like LegalLine and Law Week, during which we sponsor the Goldlocks Trials and Lawyer for a Day. We also host monthly happy hours for young lawyers to network or just blow off steam. In addition, the YLD sponsors numerous public service programs, like the Ronald McDonald House and Harvest for the Homeless. Whether through networking or volunteering, in the YLD, everyone can find something to make their life as an attorney more gratifying.

The YLD is already one of the most active divisions of the Bar Association. To thank our membership for everything that they do to support our programs, we will host our Annual Meeting on Jan. 18 at the Ritz-Carlton Philadelphia. The reception will be free for all members of the Young Lawyers Division, with open bar and heavy hors d’oeuvres. We encourage prospective members to attend and learn about the Bar Association section chairs and Young Lawyer Division leaders will be there to provide information on the many areas of Bar involvement.

To further serve our membership, this year we also plan to expand our Live, Lunch and Learn program. Last year’s successful Board Observer panel and CLE “The Nuts and Bolts of Nonprofit Board Service” demonstrated that young lawyers in Philadelphia want to get involved in the many legal service organizations in the city. To continue this positive momentum, we will be focusing our Live, Lunch and Learn series on various topics surrounding nonprofit board governance and assisting the Bar Foundation with the Board Observer Program for young attorneys who want to serve on nonprofit boards.

As always, the YLD has a dedicated group of attorneys serving on the Executive Committee to help put all of those programs together. I want to thank them and thank my Cabinet, Aneesh Mehta (Chair-Elect), Matt Laver (Vice-Chair), Edward Beitz (Treasurer), Todd Zamostien (Secretary), and Roxane Crowley (Financial Secretary), for their commitment. Steering an organization as large and as active as the YLD can be daunting, and I would not be able to do it without their help. I also want to thank the past Chairs of the YLD, Carey Chopko, Abbie Dufayne and Brian Chacko, who have given me so much useful advice over the years.

At the beginning of each New Year, we all make promises to ourselves. We say that we will drop a few pounds, save more money, or finally get rid of the piles of old clothes hiding in the backs of our closets. I hope that you will make your goal in 2012 getting out of the office and getting involved in the Bar Association. Make participating in at least one YLD activity each month your New Year Resolution. You’ll wonder why you didn’t do it sooner.

Happy New Year, everyone.
In Their Own Words

French Intern Learns Law, Philadelphia Style

By Thomas Bernard

I am a law student from L’Ecole des Avocats Rhone-Alpes, in Lyon, France. I am serving as an intern at Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP, the firm of Chancellor-Elect Kathleen Wilkinson. The reason I find myself in Philadelphia is because I am required to take two internships before I become a lawyer in France. I am taking the bar examination in October 2012. Prior to serving at a well-known Parisian law firm in March, I am doing my first internship in the City of Brotherly Love.

You might be wondering why I chose the USA! Apart from my strong will to live “the American Dream” and walking the “streets of Philadelphia,” the Lyon Bar set up institutional links with the Philadelphia Bar Association. Under this partnership set up by Michael Scullin, the honorary Counsel of France in Philadelphia and Wilmington, and member of the International Law Committee, Kathleen offered me this invaluable opportunity to discover the Pennsylvania system and observe how American attorneys practice every day. So far, my internship has been a thrilling and tremendous experience due to Kathleen’s dedication and willingness. Every single day teaches me something new.

More than just having a wonderful and highly interesting time at Wilson Elser, whose attorneys, paralegals and secretaries have extraordinarily welcomed me, Kathleen has given me the chance to discover the Philadelphia Bar Association. That’s why you might have seen me attending many of the Association’s events.

It took me a while to understand the purpose of the Philadelphia Bar Association. How can a bar gather together lawyers and judges? Bars in France hold administrative functions (validate lawyers’ registration, their specializations and the conditions of professional practice); regulatory functions (draw up the rules of procedure for the Lyon Law Society); financial functions (determine the budget and the subscriptions to be paid by each lawyer); and disciplinary functions (maintain discipline within the Law Society and ensure that their members comply with the terms of their oaths. They can pronounce disciplinary sanctions) and only lawyers belong to them.

A fixed definition. The diversity does not have the same work conditions and career promotions, conferences, law expertise) and appearance at the workplace. But the question is, do we not have civil juries in France? Although a jury is picked before certain criminal courts, the selection process is different. Lawyers, judges and prosecutors are not allowed to ask questions in order to select jurors. To strike a person, they rely on information they have (sex, age and profession) and appearance at the court. Prior to the selection, a committee is in charge to pick fair jurors based on legal criteria. Even though the process could change between states and counties, your selection is much more sophisticated and I have had passionate conversations about the strategy.

I have attended great events, such as the excellent and unforgettable “Symposium on Diversity in the Legal Profession.” During my five years studies at Jean Moulin Lyon III University, professors have been teaching me discrimination, especially at the workplace. But the question of diversity in the legal profession has never been brought even during my time at the law school. In my mind, French Bars have focused their attention on women’s rights in order to give them the same work conditions and career promotions. French bars have tried to bridge the gap between female and male lawyers. Reaching equality between women and men has been and still is the main diversity battlefield in France. But the symposium made me understand diversity does not have a fixed definition. The symposium taught me that diversity may never be completely fulfilled because life and society’s changes always bring new challenges that have to be undertaken.

Attending this national event organized by the Philadelphia Bar Association will certainly be one of my best memories.

What strikes me the most is your struggle for equality, characterized by the committees you have. Even law student associations have gender and racial sections. As the president of the Lyon Law Student Association, I know we do not have those kinds of committees in France. We do not highlight differences or have groups of lawyers who belong to different groups based on their race or gender or ethnic background. Observing your system makes me question myself. What would have been my reaction if one of the law students wanted to set up a Black Law Students Committee? Honestly, I would have been surprised and wondering why he or she would have wanted to underline differences that could be sources of discrimination. Do we not belong to the same law student community and soon (hopefully) to the same profession? I have been invited to many committees’ events and I have been able to appreciate the friendly atmosphere and analyze the will to make diversity and equality a reality. I guess my mind has changed and I understand perfectly the quality and aim of those committees. Even if we did not take the exact same path, I really believe crossroads are numerous and both paths lead to justice.

I might not have understood all the subtleties of the Philadelphia Bar Association but I have been impressed by the work you do for the good of the community, astonished by the prolific committees, the wide activities offered to the members (pro bono, reports, recommendations, conferences, law expertise) and your daily struggle for civil rights enforcement.

I have spent three tremendous months in your company and cannot wait to see you at the next meeting or luncheon. I would like to thank all of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s members for helping me to gain experience, and particularly thank Kathleen Wilkinson for being an irreplaceable and passionate mentor. Attending these Philadelphia Bar Association events has strengthened my deep aim to be a lawyer involved with the Lyon Bar Association.

Thomas Bernard is an intern with Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP.

ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY / ETHICS MATTERS

James C. Schwartzman, Esq.
Former Chairman, Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; Former Federal Prosecutor; Contingent Legal Education Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyers Trust Account Board. Selected by his peers as one of the top 100 Super Lawyers in PA. Nominated by his peers to Best Lawyers in America in the area of legal malpractice and professional misconduct.

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January 2012   Philadelphia Bar Reporter
Savoth said.

“Through MAP, we’ll create opportunities for self-empowerment and sustainability for the hundreds of service men and women in the Philadelphia region who will soon be transitioning back to everyday life.

To expand the Advancing Civics Education program, Savoth said the Bar Association has formed a partnership with the National Constitution Center, which will provide a new, enhanced level of administrative support for this rapidly growing program.

Fourteen high schools and two elementary schools in the city are currently involved with the ACE program, and Savoth said it will expand to even more elementary schools. The ACE program was created in 2008 by then-Chancellor A. Michael Pratt. This nationally recognized partnership with the School District of Philadelphia sends volunteer lawyers and judges into Philadelphia classrooms once a month to teach a curriculum of civics education that complements social studies programs.

“We’ll strengthen the program’s curriculum, launch a new ACE website and plan teacher in-service days,” Savoth said. “Engaging students in civics education at an even younger age will help motivate them in their reading and critical thinking during their formative years. They will also gain a deeper understanding of the true meaning of a democracy, the rule of law, dispute resolution and, simply, how to be a good citizen.”

Pro bono service and community volunteerism are more than just a professional commitment, Savoth said. “They define us as Philadelphia lawyers. Our legacy also includes service to our members.”

“Early next year, we will provide new premium advertising opportunities on the Philadelphia Bar Association’s website, exclusively to members – at a fraction of the cost of display ads placed on commercial websites and in printed publications.”

“We call this new program ‘Lawyer Profiles.’ Charter members will be able to upload full online profiles, with a photo and resume of their professional services. Only a limited number of these opportunities will be available through a monthly subscription fee,” Savoth said. “This program adds instant value to your Association membership. You’ll be able to proudly display your profile on the website of America’s first bar association.”

“Unless we choose to get involved, to step outside our comfort zones, to act on behalf of a cause greater than ourselves, the prospect of adding richness and meaning to our work and our lives remains just that – a mere prospect,” Savoth said.

“During the depression years of the last century, John Steinbeck so eloquently detailed the dignity of the human condition, no matter how difficult the circumstances. It’s vital that we, as a community of talented, thoughtful thinkers, do not lose sight of this.”

“Today, the integrity of so many in our community is under constant assault and we have the talent, knowledge, work ethic and legacy of greatness to combat these problems and, hopefully, raise the hopes of those in need,” he said.

Members of the Savoth family join the new Chancellor before the Annual Meeting Luncheon at the Hyatt at The Bellevue.
Alva starts his legal career with the District Attorney’s Office nearly 40 years ago and has practiced criminal law in Philadelphia ever since. During his career, Alva has tried more than 5,000 cases.

Alva openly thanked his “incredible” family, who were in attendance, including his wife of 42 years who he described as the “most generous.” And upon receiving the award, which was accompanied by a check for $5,000, Alva promptly promised to donate the check to Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program. Looking back on his long career, Alva admitted, “If I made a mistake, I was man enough to admit it.”
Bar’s Sections, Committees Mark Holidays...

Past Chancellor Robert C. Heim (from left) Frank Cervone and Public Interest Section Chair Lawrence S. Felzer meet before the Public Interest Section’s 20th Anniversary Program, Awards Ceremony and Dinner on Dec. 1 at Loews Philadelphia Hotel. Cervone, executive director of the Support Center for Child Advocates, received the Section’s Andrew Hamilton Award.

Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Margaret T. Murphy (from left) joins Joseph White of the First Judicial District Custody Masters Unit and Family Law Section Chair Julia Swain at the section’s Annual Dinner at the Rittenhouse Hotel on Dec. 8. White received the Herbert R. Weiman Jr. Award at the event.

The Probate and Trust Law Section Annual Reception was Dec. 6 at the Radisson Plaza-Warwick Hotel. Among the attendees were Section Chair Nina B. Stryker and Chair-Elect Robert H. Louis.

Megan L. Brackney (from left), Mario Verdolini, Wendi L. Kotzen and Diana L. Wollman were panelists for the Tax Section Annual CLE Meeting and Dinner on Dec. 7 at The Union League. The dinner speaker was Eric Solomon, Adjunct Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center and Principal, Ernst & Young LLP in Washington, D.C.

W. Michael Mulvey (left) accepts the Workers’ Compensation Section’s Martha Hampton Award from Section Co-Chair Robert A. Huber at the Section’s Annual Holiday Party on Nov. 30 at Tendenza (by Cescaphe).

Criminal Justice Section Chair Brad V. Shuttleworth presented the Thurgood Marshall Award to Marsha L. Levick and Robert G. Schwartz of the Juvenile Law Center at the Section’s Annual Reception and Awards Ceremony on Dec. 7 at Marriott Courtyard Philadelphia Downtown.
...with Annual Celebrations and Awards

At the Real Property Section’s Annual Meeting on Nov. 17, Temple University economics professor Dr. William C. Dunkelberg was the keynote speaker and Community Design Collaborative was presented with the section’s Harris Ominsky Good Deed Award. Pictured from left are Judy Berkman, Collaborative Design’s Beth Miller, Dr. William C. Dunkelberg, Section Chair Cheryl L. Gaston, Richard Vanderslice and incoming Section Chair Brad J. Begelman.

Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Sandra Mazer Moss was acknowledged by the State Civil Litigation Section for her passion, dedication to justice and support of the Section at the Section’s Annual Meeting and Reception on Dec. 12 at Estia. Section Co-Chair Mark N. Cohen is at left.

Matthew G. Laver, (from left) incoming YLD Chair Melanie J. Taylor, Chancellor Rudolph Garcia, YLD Chair-Elect Aneesh A. Mehta, Todd H. Zamostien and Vice Chancellor Kathleen D. Wilkinson attended the Young Lawyers Division Holiday Party on Dec. 5 at Smokin’ Betty’s.

Former LGBT Rights Committee Chair Tiffany Palmer (left) joined current Co-Chair Lawrence S. Felzer in presenting the Committee’s Cheryl Ingram Advocate for Justice Award to Katie R. Eyer on Dec. 19. The presentation was made at a joint holiday party for the LGBT Rights Committee, Civil Rights Committee and Immigration Law Committee.

Immediate-Past Chancellor Rudolph Garcia presents a crystal gavel to Regina M. Foley at the Dec. 20 Board of Governors meeting. Garcia made the presentation to thank Foley for her service as chair of the Board of Governors.
The following provides additional information.

**Rebates to the Employer**

The departments acknowledged that requiring carriers to apportion and pay rebates directly to policyholders and each of their subscribers (who are generally employees) in the group health plan context has unintended administrative consequences as well as potential tax consequences for carriers and employers. For the portion of the premiums that were paid with pre-tax dollars (that is, through a Code Section 125 cafeteria plan), rebates paid to enrollees may be treated as wages, raising issues as to the application of employment taxes and the potential that an employer may have to administer any applicable withholding obligations.

The final rule directs carriers in the group markets to provide rebates to the group policyholder.

**Terminated Plans**

If a group health plan has been terminated at the time of rebate payment and the carrier cannot, despite reasonable efforts, locate the policyholder whose plan participants or employees were enrolled in the group health plan, the carrier must distribute the rebate directly to the subscribers of the terminated group health plan by dividing the entire rebate, including the amount proportionate to the amount of premium paid by the policyholder, in equal amounts to all subscribers entitled to a rebate without regard to how much each subscriber actually paid toward premiums.

**De Minimis**

The final rule modifies the minimum threshold for carrier payments of rebates in the group market from $5 per subscriber to a total of $20 for the policyholder portion and subscriber portion of the rebate combined when the rebate is paid directly to the policyholder. When a carrier pays the rebate directly to each subscriber in a group health plan, the minimum rebate threshold remains at $5 per subscriber.

**Employers and Rebates**

ERISA-covered group health plans

To the extent that rebates are attributable to participant contributions, they constitute plan assets. Plan assets must be handled in accordance with the fiduciary responsibility provisions of Title I of ERISA. If the employer is the policyholder, determining the plan’s portion, if continued on page 20.
This interview series conducted by PNC Wealth Management Senior Vice President Jackie Byrne Lessman CFP® explores distinct topics and issues relevant to the legal community ranging from investment management, wealth planning, trust, estate services and other PNC Bank, National Association (PNC) areas of expertise.

In an interview with E. William Stone, CFA®, CMT, senior vice president and chief investment strategist for PNC Wealth Management and Institutional Investments, we discussed the current state of the markets and what we can expect in 2012.

Jackie Lessman: As we rang in the New Year, economic indicators suggested that there were more reasons for cheer than in recent years. The U.S. economy has made its way through two years of recovery, although in some areas more tepid than others, and financial markets have improved considerably since the post-Lehman days in early 2009. Can you share your opinion about the state of the economy and what we can expect 2012 to bring?

Bill Stone: The U.S. economy improved over the course of 2011 and PNC projects the recovery will persist in 2012, albeit at a continued slow pace. Many segments of the economy are strengthening and expanding, although at a slower pace than some may wish, given a few challenges facing some indicators. Housing is a key component of the recovery, supporting consumer net worth and confidence, and one that has taken longer to recover. While housing is not trending upward, the majority of the pain from the bursting housing bubble appears largely to have passed. We would describe the housing sector as bouncing along the bottom. Consumer spending has recovered from lows reached in 2009 and was a fairly strong contributor in 2011. We find the jobs picture brighter than in 2009, while the improvement necessary to boost the pace of recovery is yet to occur.

Bill, while you make very valid points, one can argue that you don’t have to look far to find reasons to be concerned about the prospects for near-term economic growth. In PNC’s opinion, what are the dominant issues and the potential impact on the recovery?

You’re right. Despite the positive indicators, there are several near-term risks that threaten to derail the sustainability of the U.S. recovery that cannot be ignored. Confidence in the U.S. fiscal situation is difficult without a credible plan in place to cut spending and raise revenues. For example, if the party wars this past summer over the debt ceiling were a preview of what is in store for 2012, an election year, we believe markets are likely to continue to be volatile. U.S. equity markets are currently highly correlated to the sovereign debt situation in Europe, which we believe will be resolved, but not soon. It appears the Eurozone may be sliding into recession. The impact this will have on the U.S. depends on the severity of that recession, as well as the United States’
Happy New Year! At the end of my first year as president of the Bar Foundation and the beginning of my second and final year, I feel that we have done so much but resolve to focus on the much left we have to do.

Before I talk about the exciting opportunities facing the Bar Foundation in 2011, I need to look backward at 2010. At the beginning of the year Trustees of the Foundation set a key goal. We knew that our grantees were having a tough time finding funding and we also knew that the tough times were far from over. We wanted to make sure that they were able to continue the exemplary work they do in providing legal services to those who need them but who would not otherwise get them. The best way we know how to do that is to do everything we can to increase our funding each year. And so, at the beginning of 2011, we set ourselves the pretty ambitious target of awarding grants in the amount of $584,000 – an increase of $21,000 from the $563,000 received in cy pres distributions to our grantees in the year we get it. Although we did raise money through many other initiatives – events, individual giving, Raising the Bar, and various other smaller projects – absent the cy pres funding the grants would not have been nearly as big.

The fact is that we can’t count on the cy pres money coming in every year. This year fund-raising is likely to be as difficult, if not more so, than in 2011. To keep the grants up, we’re counting on your firm to sponsor our events (the golf tournament, the Andrew Hamilton Simpson Stapleton Fries & Newby LLP who took over as chair of the committee this year. His leadership kept the committee focused, on track and task-oriented. Of course, he was fortunate to work with a tremendous group of committee members who spent hours upon hours of their time reviewing grant proposals, performing site visits, and sitting in on interviews with all the grant applicants.

Because of their work in vetting our grantees we can assure our donors that we fund only those agencies that meet the highest standards of governance. And, we are proud that in this time of hardship when other funding sources are cutting their support, we, as the legal community’s foundation, stepped up and increased the level of support we gave to our colleagues in the public interest legal community.

But with the crisis in funding for our grantees agencies continuing into 2012, the goal of the Bar Foundation is to strengthen and deepen our support of the legal services community we help to fund. To that end, we will be implementing an extensive process to develop a new five-year strategic plan designed to take us to the next level.

And, coming out of this process, we hope to be in a position to undertake even more ambitious projects in the coming years. We’re investigating the possibility of a capital project – a Civil Justice Center – that would result in many of our grantee agencies being housed under one roof which would help maximize economies of scale and result in synergies between the organizations.

We are also looking ahead to the Bar Foundation’s 50th anniversary in 2014. As part of that celebration we will be reaffirming our role as the expression of the Philadelphia legal community’s commitment to the public interest.

Wendy Beetlestone (wbeetlestone@hangley.com), a shareholder with Hangley Aronchick Segal & Pudlin, is president of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

Foundation Raises $220,000 at Annual Benefit

By Wendy Beetlestone

The Philadelphia Bar Foundation Pro Bono Award honors outstanding law firm pro bono efforts. Accepting the award for Blank Rome were Kathy Ochochro, partner and director of pro bono services, and Grant Palmer, partner and chair of the firm’s pro bono committee.

The Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award is presented to an attorney in the non-profit legal community whose work advances the cause of equal access to justice. Tran has spent her entire legal career working in the public interest, and her current advocacy work on utility issues has resulted in lasting improvements to the utility programs available for low-income residents across Pennsylvania.
Thank You to the Sponsors of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation’s 33rd Annual Andrew Hamilton Benefit

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jenny Lynn is a photo-based artist and designer, whose works are part of many museum, corporate, and private collections. Her photograph (pictured above), was the competition held by the Philadelphia Bar Foundation to provide an image for the 2013 Andrew Hamilton Benefit. The photograph, from her series titled “Sorbonne Memories,” was made in London.

Jenny Lynn’s diverse photographic works range from photographs and hand-assembled collages, to large-scale and dimensional works. Her art has been featured in Photo District News, The New Yorker, and ZOOM International magazines. Jenny Lynn’s advertisement for Absolut Vodka, ABSOLUT LYNN, was commissioned for the “Absolutely Arts” series. She is currently part of a group exhibition at LITpop Gallery in Old City, Philadelphia.

In addition to her fine art career, Jenny Lynn also offers professional portraiture for individual and corporate clients. Including Ballard Spahr, Weisbrod Wardrof, and Logan Capital Management. For more information, please visit www.jennylynn.com.

We also thank our patrons and auction donors for their support!
When Dining at Vietnam, Be Prepared to Share

By Skinny D’Bockol

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“Rocky” captured the Oscar for Best Picture in 1977 amidst stiff competition from “All the President’s Men,” “Bound for Glory,” “Network,” and “Taxi Driver.” Seattle Slew won the Kentucky Derby; Portland beat the 76ers in the NBA Playoffs. Elvis Presley died that year, as did Bing Crosby, Charlie Chaplin, Groucho Marx and Vladimir Nabokov. All of that news was almost overshadowed by the Postal Service’s request to raise the cost of a first-class stamp to 13 cents. And recently sworn in President Jimmy Carter pardoned Vietnam War conscientious draft resisters.

The first fine Vietnamese cuisine was introduced to Philadelphians in 1977 by Ha Nguyen, one of this city’s most talented proprietress-chefs. She had opened Saigon as a cramped storefront restaurant at 933 Washington Ave., which, pound for pound, served the best Vietnamese confections in the city. Nothing but a neon sign proclaiming “SINCE 1977,” and a jutting vestibule, differentiated its facade from neighboring row houses. Saigon closed more than a decade ago.

Vietnam was opened by the Lai family, who, with eight children had fled Vietnam in 1978, spending months thereafter in a refugee camp. After finally gaining entrance to the United States, the Lai spent years of back-breaking work in the grocery business. In 1984, they finally opened their own noodle-laden restaurant in Chinatown. Vietnam’s simplicity and authentically Asian folky menu catapulted it over any other such fare. Urban dwellers immediately crowded around the fragrance and frankness of such a homely cuisine.

It has now become, through renovations, expansion and entrepreneurial innovations by young son Benny (and now daughter Tina), the most cherished charcuterie for premier classic Vietnamese taste buds.

Sharing is a necessity here, so anything you order will serve two voracious appetites. Begin with Hoanh Tanh Sup ($7.50), Goi Cuon Rolls ($6.50) and Tom Nuong Xa Skewers ($10.95) for the table. Everyone gets extra bowls and plates, chopsticks, ladles and forks.

The first aforementioned “Sup” is golden Won ton Soup, a steaming, glittening double-oversized serving, brimming with cumulus clouds and plump pillows of wontons. You are bowled over! Its aroma arises naturally from simmering shrimp and pork-filled silken dumplings. Freshness permeates the brew so that Southeast Asian spirtiness translates to heartiness. A side dish full of bean sprouts is meant to be bathed in the broth to add crunch. Slices of lime and rounds of hot green peppers circle the sprouts. (The latter are to be avoided unless you adore a reticulated python’s snakebite on your tongue.) Devour the liquid with the aid of clapped chopsticks, tilting one end of your bowl in the air just above your lips while pushing all contents between them. Your mouth becomes sopped by the chopped scallions dancing in the delicately housed scant- ily clad dumplings floating throughout. Underlying egg noodles are slurped at will. Close your eyes and your thoughts are simulating synchronized swimming routines.

Goi Cuon Rolls are two perfectly presented rice paper wrapped purses of see-through thinness, whose ingredients are deliciously opaque, bulging with pieces of shrimp, pork, basil leaves, bean sprouts and rice noodles. A stem of long lemon grass poles and peeks at you from the roll’s folded innards, assuming you can use its sturdiness to carry the roll as if it were a taffy. Dark brown peanut sauce is nearby for dipping. Nothing is fried; all is submitted at room temperature so that the feeling of fresh natural exuberance is omnipresent. The rolls simply tug each other, and your sensibilities.

Finally, the Tom Nuong Xa Skewers are large charred shrimp served with hatch marks, craning over white rice. The trimmings are helpful for dividing the shrimp into bite-size pieces. The body of each is moist and crispy. Swallow with accompanying shredded pickled carrots and strands of snow-white Vietnamese pasta. Melodies of mellowness caress your sinuses with darkly grilled salty smokiness. Chili oils are concurrently presented for dousing.

I cannot tell just one Lai, nor remain silent about the truth concerning the House Special Vermicelli, Bun Da Biet ($13.95). It is all you shall need to complete your meal. It includes plentiful (a) Crispy Spring Rolls which are quartered into pieces almost ready for the widest oral opening. Stuffed with ground pork, sautéed onions, mint, mushrooms and blends of Asian spices, you must stretch your jaws to accommodate the crispest memorable morsels; (b) Grilled Meatballs, the length of a stubby half-smoked Churchill cigar, smelling only of garlic and ground meat; (c) Char-Grilled Chicken and Pork displayed as flat long slices superbly doused in oils and then drenched in salacious seasonings and sauces; (d) all of which are cavorting over voluminous, voluptuous Rice Vermicelli Noodles sprinkled here and there with crushed peanut and chopped green scallions. The defenseless rest.

BINH TRA HOA NHA!

Skinny D’Bockol (bockol@msn.com), a sole practitioner, is an advisory editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter. Read his reviews online at bockol.com.

Health Care

from the policyholder that rebates will be used for the benefit of current subscribers or otherwise must pay the rebates directly to subscribers.

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ability to continue to strengthen its own position. Job growth and its interrelated effect on housing are a drag in the U.S., but we expect not as big of a threat as in the past. Finally, there is growing concern that economic reform will become necessary in China.

Taking all this into consideration what is the suggested course of action for investors going into 2012?

We believe that investors should focus primarily on valuation and fundamental factors keeping in mind their longer-term expectations, goals, and risk tolerance when making asset allocation decisions. As the year progresses, increased confidence in a Eurozone resolution may provide opportunities for tactical changes toward risk assets. But, market sentiment remains fragile in the face of these risks, and this lack of confidence is a tremendous hurdle.

We believe the tone heading into 2012 will become necessary in China. New Americans Welcomed

Chancellor John E. Savoth (from left), Leigh M. Skipper, Chief Federal Defender for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and U.S. District Court Judge Michael M. Baylson pose with Stephanie Reyes after she received her citizenship certificate at a Dec. 15 Bill of Rights Day naturalization ceremony sponsored by the Philadelphia Bar Association and The Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution. Savoth and Skipper addressed the new citizens, as did Benjamin C. Frick of the Sons of the Revolution.
Justin Wineburgh, a member of Cozen O’Connor, has been recognized as a member of the 2011 Greater Philadelphia MS Leadership Class.

Kassem Lucas, a partner with Pepper Hamilton LLP, was presented with the National Diversity Council’s 2011 Pennsylvania Multicultural Award.

Kevin P. Allen, a partner with Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP, presented a seminar on “Distribution Law and Litigation - The Distributor and Supplier Relationship: Prenuptials, Vows, Counseling, and Divorce” at the Union League on Oct. 19.

Ann M. Funge, principal of Funge Family Law, LLC, was the course planner and a presenter at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s “The Family Lawyer’s Discovery ‘Tool Kit’” on Oct. 11.

Linda Ann Galante, a partner with Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, was the recipient of the third annual Helena Devereux Women in Leadership Award presented by Devereux and The Main Line Chamber of Commerce on Sept. 28.

Maxim Volchenko, an associate with Duane Morris LLP, participated in a roundtable discussion on preventing international and transnational criminal activities at the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in New York on Oct. 20.

Timothy R. Lawn of Raynes McCarty has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Jerry M. Lehecky, a partner with Pond Lehocky Stern Giordano appeared on the Berks County television show “Injured Workers of Pennsylvania” on Nov. 7 where he discussed various matters regarding workers’ compensation law and answered questions from live calls.

Dina Leytes, an associate with Griesing Law, LLC, presented “What Every Non-Profit and Activist Needs to Know about Digital Content Protection and Infringement: Practical Advice on Copyright, Trademark and Other Types of Intellectual Property” on Nov. 1.

Sandra Girirace of Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP has been elected as a member of the Board of Trustees of Manor College for a three-year term.


Jacqueline Z. Shulman, a partner with Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP, discussed hot legal topics affecting employee relations at the Greater Valley Forge Human Resources Association Summit on Oct. 21.

Larry Besoff, a partner with Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP, served on the faculty for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s continuing legal education program “Facebook, Twitter, & Blogging ... Oh My Space!”

E. Harris Baum, co-founder of Zarin, Baum, DeVito, Kaplan, Schaer, Todd, PC., has had his appointment as the Honorary Consul General for the Republic of Korea extended to 2016 by the U.S. State Department and the Government of Korea.

Samuel J. Arena Jr., a partner with Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, has been re-elected to the Board of Directors and as vice president of the Philadelphia Surety Claims Association.

Marianne Henryaylor of Willig, Williams & Davidson has been elected to the Landsdowne Borough Council.

Douglas Panzer, an associate with Caesar, Rivise, Bernstein, Cohen & Pokolitow, Ltd., has been named to the Dean’s Advisory Council for American University Washington College of Law in Washington D.C.

Michael W. Cardamone of Krauso Krauso & Onwudinjo recently spoke at a workers’ compensation seminar in Easton, Pa., presented by Phoenix Rehab to employers and insurers.

Brenda Hustis Gotanda, a partners with Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, was a speaker at the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry’s Fall Environmental Compliance Conference in Valley Forge on Oct. 26.

Grant Rawdin, founder and CEO of Wescott Financial Advisory Group LLC, has been elected chair of the Urban Affairs Coalition’s board of directors. He will serve a two-year term.

Carolyn Hochstadter Dicker, of E. Carolyn Hochstadter Dicker, LLC, has been appointed vice president of Kohelo Yeshiva High School (formerly Stern Hebrew High School) a college preparatory, Modern Orthodox Jewish High School, in Merion, Pa.

Kimberly Alford Rice, principal of KLA Marketing Associates, was recently named to the American Lawyer Media’s Law Firm Partnership & Benefits Editorial Board.

James Kauzich, a senior partner at Caesar, Rivise, Bernstein, Cohen and Pokolitow, Ltd., recently addressed inventors, authors, lawyers and students on “Intellectual Property Basics: Protecting Competitive Assets” at a program hosted by the Entrepreneurial Studies Group at Muhlenberg College.

Lewis F. Gould Jr., a partner with Duane Morris LLP, has been reappointed as a Commonwealth Trustee of Temple University for a four-year term. He has also been re-elected as a commissioner in Lower Merion Township.

Murray S. Levin, a partner with Pepper Hamilton LLP spoke on “Resolving Product Liability Disputes Through Mediation” at the Union Internationale des Avocats 55th Congress in Miami on Nov. 2.

Alan R. Gedrich, a partner with Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, has been re-appointed as chair of the Budget & Finance Committee and as a member of the Executive Board of the Pennsylvania State University Alumni Council, the leadership body of the Pennsylvania State Alumni Association.

Thomas More Marrone of Feldman Shephard Wohlgelernter Tanner Weinstock & Dodig LLP has been selected for membership in the National Trial Lawyers.

Richard H. Lowe, a partner with Duane Morris LLP, has been selected as a mediator for the American Arbitration Association in both Philadelphia and New York.

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

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