Civil Gideon Examined at July 7 Forum

By Joseph A. Sullivan

Professor Russell Engler, a national expert on access to justice issues and the director of clinical programs at the New England School of Law, will be the keynote speaker at the Wednesday, July 7 Chancellor’s Forum “Civil Gideon: Establishing a Right to Counsel for Low-Income Persons in Civil Cases Where Basic Human Needs Are at Stake.”

Civil Gideon is a growing national movement exploring strategies to provide legal counsel, as a matter of right and at public expense, to low-income persons in adversarial civil proceedings in areas of basic human need, such as housing and child custody. The term takes its name from a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling from 1963, Gideon v. Wainwright, in which the court decided that indigent defendants have a constitutional right to be represented by an attorney at no charge in state criminal cases.

The program, which will be introduced by Chancellor Scott F. Cooper, will also feature a panel discussion including Catherine C. Carr, executive director of Community Legal Services, and Joseph A. Sullivan, special counsel and director of pro bono programs at Pepper Hamilton LLP, who are co-chairs of the Association’s Civil Gideon Task Force, formed in early 2009.

Registration is now open for the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Bench-Bar and Annual Conference at the Borgata in Atlantic City on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 15 and 16.

Attendees can earn as many as 8 CLE credits while choosing from 14 different programs. There will be presentations from the Business Law Section, Criminal Justice Section, Family Law Section, Public Interest Section and Real Property Section, along with the Young Lawyers Division, Bar-News Media Committee, Federal Courts Committee and Professional Responsibility Committee.

The Bench-Bar and Annual Conference kicks off with a re-enactment of the trial of John Peter Zenger to celebrate the 275th anniversary of his defense by Andrew Hamilton. The case established the concept of freedom of the press and coined the term “Philadelphia lawyer.”

Register Now for Bench-Bar at Borgata in Oct.

Bench-Bar Guide Inside

For a pullout guide to the 2010 Bench-Bar and Annual Conference, please see Pages 11-14.

The conference will also feature a State of the Court Presentation from the top judges of the state and city as well as the Grand Reception at one of Atlantic City’s hottest nightspots.

Nation’s Economic Security at Risk, Retired Judge Says

By Kim R. Jessum

In his first public appearance since his retirement from the Federal Circuit, former Chief Judge Paul R. Michel spoke on June 8 to a packed room of members of the intellectual property bar about his plans to become an advocate for legal institutions.

Following an introduction by Chancellor Scott F. Cooper, Judge Michel explained that he left so he could be an advocate for the federal courts and the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (PTO). Judge Michel said he has concluded the economic security of the country is being threatened in a way Congress has yet to recognize and it is necessary for the U.S. to increase its innovation by investing in research and development.

To support his conclusion, Judge Michel explained that the U.S. has already lost jobs, revenue and technical leadership to foreign entities and, without investments in our own innovation, foreign inventive activity will continue to exceed that in the U.S., as evidenced by the higher number of patent application filings with the PTO by foreign entities than filings by U.S. entities. He also stated that the average delay at the PTO is currently at three...
We Must Build New Family Court
While Time Remains on Our Side

Presently no issue of justice is more pressing to Philadelphians than building the new Family Court. The unfortunate developments clouding the funding situation cannot obscure the fact that the citizens of Philadelphia desperately need this courthouse. If we lose the hard-earned momentum now, the future of this critical project is very much in doubt. And time is not on our side.

Each year, tens of thousands of people bring their family crises to the Domestic Relations Division of Philadelphia Family Court. The Division is charged with responsibility for profound and life-altering decisions about family matters.

But the current Family Court building at 34 S. 11th St. does a disservice to justice. People in need of court services have no choice but to wait in the same room as the party with whom they are feuding. Battered women have been known to hide from their abusers in stairwells or bathrooms because there is no separate and secure space. Particularly troubling is the fact that many cases heard in the outdated building involve the future of the city’s children.

The logistics of separate court services at 1801 Vine St. for juvenile, dependency and adoption cases further underscore the critical need for a unified facility.

The court cannot significantly improve its performance if maintained at the current inadequate level of economic support and personnel and in its current condition and location.

Family Court leadership is committed to, and has strived to, improve the administration of justice in the Domestic Relations Division, including addressing the needs of pro se litigants, and has worked cooperatively with the Bar and public interest advocacy organizations to respond to litigant needs.

For seven years, the Philadelphia Bar Association has closely examined the need for a unified Family Court building. In 2003, the Association’s Board of Governors unanimously adopted a resolution aimed at improving the delivery of justice in the Domestic Relations Division of Family Court.

The resolution expressed support for increased public accountability about funding and resources allocation in the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania. It also supported increased funding, personnel and resources; the provision of assistance and information for pro se litigants; improved facilities, security, scheduling and timeliness; and the fulfillment of the constitutional mandate of open court.

The Women’s Law Project has also studied and analyzed the Domestic Relations Division pursuant to national court performance standards that focus on access to justice; expedition and timeliness; equality, fairness and integrity; independence and accountability; and public trust and confidence.

The Project published its findings and recommendations in an April 2003 report that found that the Domestic Relations Division falls short of national court performance standards in a number of ways including: significant underfunding, insufficient resources and staff, unreliable public access, inadequate information and assistance given to pro se litigants, enormous caseloads, untimely processing of cases and insufficient security.

The report concluded that the Domestic Relations Division cannot significantly improve its performance if maintained at the current inadequate level of economic support and personnel and in its current building.

Since that time, the Association, through its Family Law Section, has worked continuously with court leadership to advance this crucial effort. We have urged city and state government continued on page 18

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Williams Shifts Thinking in D.A.’s Office

By Ria C. Momblanco

R. Seth Williams ran for district attorney because he believed that the criminal justice system in Philadelphia was broken. According to Williams, when he first ran in 2005, 52 percent of all felony cases in Philadelphia were being dismissed for lack of prosecution. When he ran in 2009, Philadelphia led the nation in the rate of homicides caused by handguns, and the number one cause of death for black men under 35 in Philadelphia was homicide. To Williams, these statistics were “just unacceptable.” He wanted to “be smart on crime, not just tough,” “to find the real root cause of criminal behavior,” and to fix the “failures in our system that systemically can be changed.”

With his election in 2009, Williams became the city’s first new district attorney in 18 years. At the June 11 Federal Bench-Bar Conference, Williams discussed the changes that he has implemented during his first six months in office and the goals that he hopes to accomplish during his term.

Perhaps the most dramatic and significant change that Williams has made is to shift from a “horizontal prosecution method,” in which prosecutors are assigned to a courtroom, to a “community-based prosecution method,” in which prosecutors are assigned to a geographic region. The former method, according to Williams, gave prosecutors very little time to prepare since, for the most part, attorneys were assigned a new case the evening before that case had a hearing. In addition, one case could have several prosecutors assigned to it from inception to disposition.

In contrast, the newly implemented “community-based prosecution” allows for one attorney to have continuity in a case from start to finish. It also allows that attorney to become familiar with the “patterns of crime” within a particular geographic region and to become familiar with relevant, recurring, community-based facts

Federal Courts Committee vice chair and conference planner Elizabeth A. Malloy joins Committee Chair Grant S. Palmer in the audience during the first session, where U.S. District Court Senior Judges Jan E. DuBois and Norma L. Shapiro, Judge Gene E.K. Pratter and Lawrence J. Fox discussed the code of conduct for judges and the American Bar Association’s input on recusal situations.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge Harvey Bartle III (left) and U.S. Bankruptcy Court Chief Judge Stephen Raslavich discussed the state of their courts at the June 11 Federal Bench-Bar Conference. Clerk of Court Michael Kunz also presented.

U.S. District Court Judge Michael M. Baylson (left) presented an update on summary proceedings. U.S. District Court Senior Judge Ronald L. Buckwalter (right) and Robert J. Mongeluzzi discussed technology and tips on effectively presenting your case in paperless trials.

U.S. District Court Judge Mitchell S. Goldberg (from left), Catherine M. Recker, Peter F. Schenck and James Becker discuss the memoranda that are expected to impact discovery practices by the U.S. Attorney’s Offices.

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

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Domestic Support Obligations Can’t be Discharged

By Julia Swain

Domestic support obligations can’t be discharged under new bankruptcy laws, the Family Law Section learned at a June 7 question-and-answer session with Alex Moretsky.

The federal bankruptcy laws are codified in Title 11 of the U.S. Code. The new bankruptcy reform statutes apply to all cases commenced on or after Oct. 17, 2005. The old bankruptcy statutes still apply to any cases commenced before that date.

Under the old bankruptcy laws, generally, a debt will not be discharged if it is owed to a spouse, former spouse or child for alimony, maintenance or support pursuant to an agreement, decree or other court order. Under the new bankruptcy laws, “domestic support obligations” are non-dischargeable. These include debts that arise, before or after the bankruptcy is commenced, in the nature of alimony, maintenance or support owed to the debtor’s spouse, former spouse or child pursuant to a court order, divorce decree, separation or property settlement agreement. However, debts incurred in connection with a divorce or separation that are not in the nature of alimony, maintenance or support to the debtor’s spouse, former spouse or child are not considered “domestic support obligations” under the new bankruptcy laws. One example is a distributive award in a equitable distribution proceeding. Unsecured “domestic support obligations” in a Chapter 13 case are priority claims that must be paid in full under the debtor’s bankruptcy plan. Non-“domestic support obligations” are not priority claims and need not be paid in full through a Chapter 13 plan.

Counsel fees owed in a domestic matter are not dischargeable and can be collected if specifically included as part of an agreement. The agreement must set forth that the debtor spouse agreed to pay the counsel fees to the non-debtor spouse’s attorney. Family lawyers should beware of various loopholes concerning “domestic support obligations” in drafting divorce/support agreements.

There may be certain tactical advantages to the non-debtor spouse from the bankruptcy. Allowing the bankruptcy action to proceed could result in the discharge of marital debts before the time for equitable distribution, which thereby increases the value of marital estate. Sometimes, by use of the automatic stay, a debtor spouse could prevent a marital asset from being part of equitable distribution and keep it in the bankruptcy action. However, the non-debtor spouse can try to bring it out of bankruptcy by filing a motion for relief from the stay and then the bankruptcy court

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Family Law

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determines the outcome.

There are certain circumstances under which the automatic stay can be lifted.

For example, if certain property is not part of the bankruptcy estate, the divorce action can continue to equitable distribution. If the property is included in the bankruptcy estate, then the automatic stay will likely remain in effect.

In Pennsylvania, the debtor can take either the federal or state exemptions to determine what becomes part of the bankruptcy estate and what does not.

Any exempted property, which is thereby not included in the bankruptcy estate (such as retirement accounts), would not be subject to the stay.

Julia Swain (jswain@foxrothschild.com), a partner with Fox Rothschild LLP, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

NOMINATING PANEL

Chancellor Scott F. Cooper joins Mayor Michael Nutter after a June 9 news conference at City Hall where Nutter introduced Richie McKeithen as the city’s new chief assessor. Cooper will be part of a nominating panel for the city’s new Board of Property Assessment Appeals.

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Shortfall Won’t Affect Payments to Counsel

By Heather J. Austin

Even though the First Judicial District is looking at a $2 million shortfall in the next fiscal year, there will be no immediate impact on payments to court-appointed counsel, Court of Common Pleas President Judge Pamela Pryor Dembe told the City Policy Committee on June 2.

Other city departments will be dealing with a 2 percent cut in budgets next fiscal year, Judge Dembe said, which may result in the closing of firehouses and the reduction of public library hours. She said a number of other adjustments have been required in order to survive this fiscal year.

Grants are one of the FJD’s revenue sources, and the FJD, jointly or in coordination with city agencies, including the police, District Attorney’s Office and public defender’s office, often applies for state grants and federal stimulus dollars. This year, the FJD has been forced to use grant revenue to meet its salary obligations. As the federal stimulus grants come to an end, the FJD will be looking at some real problems, and it may have to reduce or eliminate some of its divisions.

Judge Dembe also addressed potential budget implications of an effort by Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Seamus McCaffrey and District Attorney Seth Williams to transition to a new scheduling system for criminal matters. The proposed “zone approach” will provide designated floors within the Criminal Justice Center for proceedings based upon the detective division from which the case arose. In theory, the zone approach will allow prosecutors to present better cases because they will be better informed (e.g., more familiar with the geographical territory and better equipped to identify the truly bad actors within that territory). The zone approach will also eliminate the need for police officers to juggle their schedules in an effort to appear in various courtrooms throughout the city in a single day. However, due to the building’s design, those entering the CJC are already subjected to substantial delays as they try, for instance, to catch an available elevator. Judge McCaffrey has been considering ways to make changes; however, the required structural changes will require a significant amount of money.

Relevant to IT operations, Dembe reported that Justice McCaffrey has secured funds from the Bureau of Justice to take a comprehensive look at the system. According to Dembe, everyone is on board with this effort. In the near future, it is expected that all police officers will be equipped with portable devices that will allow them to enter data while still on the scene and transmit that data to detectives. The electronic transmission will allow the detectives to request immediate follow-up, before witnesses leave and information is lost. This change will also allow prosecutors and defense attorneys to receive information in a more timely manner. However, once instituted, funds will have to be earmarked to maintain the system.

Heather J. Austin (haustin@thorpreed.com), an associate with Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
If you’re going to use a video presentation at trial, it better have the “uh-oh” factor included in it, a veteran litigator told members of the State Civil Litigation Section on June 2.

James R. Ronca said the “uh-oh” factor is a video that is dramatic enough to make your opponent go “uh-oh.” Rather than simply presenting information, settlement videos should embrace the story-telling aspects of litigation. Ronca urged those present to break out of the traditional, simple, linear presentations of information when putting on their cases, whether in settlement negotiation or trial. Rather, Ronca argued, a client’s story may be more effectively presented if thought is given not just to the facts of the case, but to the craft of storytelling (perhaps beginning with a client’s present struggles or future hopes).

Getting down to the nuts and bolts of producing a settlement video, Ronca explained that the most challenging aspect of making the videos is telling a very specific and detailed story in a very short period of time, as videos should be limited to 20 minutes in length. As with any other multimedia production, concerns such as lighting, background, sound quality and camera angle must be addressed. He said videos are most often used in catastrophic injury cases and can cost anywhere between $5,000 and $50,000 to produce.

Production can take anywhere from one to several days depending on the level of sophistication and like any good legal brief, a good video presentation should include a “two-minute warning,” that summarizes the whole, or at least the significant piece, of your client’s story, in two minutes. Several examples of “two-minute warning” portions of settlement videos were shown. The best ones had voice-overs, animation and television-quality editing.

A concern was raised that using a video at a settlement conference would reveal too much of your trial strategy and might advantage your opponent. Ronca responded by explaining that he believes all defense attorneys are intelligent enough to know ahead of time what story and arguments plaintiffs will present. Ronca said a settlement video can be used to undermine defenses before they are presented by defense counsel.

He went on to explain some of the more subtle ways argument and persuasion can be woven into these videos. One example was a settlement video, which included a clip from a local news report in which the reporter, in describing the accident, implied liability on drivers. The news clip lasted only a few seconds but might still subtly influence a settlement master or jury.

Ronca concluded the presentation by showing an example of the closing portions of settlement videos that, predictably, focus mostly on the emotional aspects of plaintiffs’ cases. Though costly, these videos could be well worth the money in the right case.

Thomas L. Bryan, an associate with Gerolamo, McNulty, Divis & Lewbart PC, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Committee and Alternative Dispute Resolution Com-
a panel told a meeting of the Women in the Profession
that, often, women have a tendency to
counsel, neutral mediators, arbitrators and judges
lack confidence and to question them-
to working with the parties at ease. This ability is helpful because
selves unnecessarily, Judge Rendell
was that she initially struggled with
self-confidence issues. At the outset of
her career, she felt that she could not be a
leader because those roles were strictly for
men. But one day she looked in the mir-
rer and said to herself, “I’m just as good
that this sense of confidence is key to any
person striving to become a leader.
Judge Rendell stressed the importance
continued on page 14

Confidence, Leadership Style
Keys for Women, Rendell Says

By Nicole Edwards

U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Mar-
jorie O. Rendell offered three pieces of
advice to attendees of the Third Annual
Women in the Profession Summit and
to any woman striving to excel in her
field. While she addressed several topics
during her June 16 remarks, including
the impact of technology on the law,
the focus of her address pertained to
issues that women face when striving to
become leaders.

Judge Rendell first spoke about the
importance of confidence. She noted
at my job, if not better, than any man.”
From that moment forward, she resolved
herself to have confidence in her ability
to take on leadership roles. She explained
that this sense of confidence is key to any
person striving to become a leader.
Judge Rendell stressed the importance
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Sometimes It Pays to Be a Girl in ADR, Panel Says

By Sarah Lessie Hopkins

A woman’s ability to be empathetic, engaging,
sensitive, observant and understanding can be helpful
to women advocates, judges, arbitrators and mediators,
who prefer a woman arbitrator or mediator because
they have worked in many female professionals’ favor in the
dispute resolution community. The panelists drew from
past professional experiences and found that on numer-
ous occasions, they had the upper hand on their male
counterparts in engaging parties, clients and opposing
counsel. The women’s abilities to look at the relationships
between and among parties, and to approach the parties
and their situations in empathetic ways, often times
stimulated compromise and helped the parties reach
the desired resolution. The panelists found that because
women are often more comfortable expressing emotion
than men, they can connect to parties in a trusting way
and put the parties at ease. This ability is helpful because
a key goal of mediators and arbitrators is to work
with calm parties and counsel so that emotions are tempered
and a reasonable resolution can be reached.

The impact of gender can be significant in the ability
to reach the goal of compromise. The panel discussed the
benefits of emphasizing a woman’s gender, as opposed to
masking it, finding that it is beneficial and productive for
a woman to utilize her empathetic and sensitive nature
instead of hiding her femininity. In fact, a woman’s touch
is sometimes specifically sought by male clients and attor-
neys who prefer a woman arbitrator or mediator because
she may succeed in keeping the men calm and focused
on reaching a consensus and solving the dispute at hand.

In a male-dominated field – in which some women
believe survival depends on acting like a man – successful
women discussed that sometimes it pays to be a girl and
celebrate women’s natural abilities and talents instead of
trying to be one of the boys.

Sarah Lessie Hopkins (SLessie@rubinfortunato.com), an as-
sociate with Rubin, Fortunato & Harbison P.C., is an associate
editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Zenger Trial Reenactment to Open Weekend

A dramatic reenactment commemorating the 275th anniversary of Andrew Hamilton’s historic 1735 defense of printer John Peter Zenger will mark the opening luncheon and CLE plenary session at the Association’s Bench-Bar and Annual Conference on Friday, Oct. 15. The case established the concept of freedom of the press and coined the term “Philadelphia lawyer.”

The plenary, sponsored by the Association’s Historical Society, will include a question-and-answer session moderated by retired Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Jane Cutler Greenspan and Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Correale F. Stevens. The plenary, including the performance and Q & A, provides two hours of substantive CLE credit. The performance will feature actors from Temple University’s Department of Theater.

The script was written by Michael E. Tigar, professor emeritus at American University’s Department of Theater. The performance will feature actors from Temple University’s Department of Theater.

The script of Tigar’s play is based in part upon the transcript of the trial authored by Hamilton and Alexander, and upon other contemporary records. Much dialogue has been recreated, and the proceedings have been heavily edited. However, the attitudes and thoughts expressed by the parties are well-documented. This play faithfully recreates the role of advocates in 18th century libel cases, of which Zenger’s was the most celebrated.

Hamilton’s arguments in Zenger’s case represented a considerable stretching of the rigorous law of libel as it stood in 1735. He had concluded that he could not convince the judges of his position, and was really speaking to the jury. Benjamin Franklin wrote in 1738 that an English lawyer said of Hamilton’s argument: “If it is not law, it is better than law, it ought to be law, and it will always be law wherever justice prevails.” Governor Morris said much later “The trial of Zenger in 1735 was the morning star of that Liberty which subsequently revolutionized America.”

Justice James Delaney, who presided at the trial, was a wealthy adherent to Cosby’s cause, and was only 32 years old at the time of the trial. Cosby appointed Delaney to be chief justice when the former chief justice ruled against Cosby in a celebrated suit. But he kept Delaney on a tight rein, and appointed him to serve during Cosby’s “will and pleasure.” Zenger’s paper, The New York Weekly Journal, protested these arbitrary actions.

Zenger was initially represented by James Alexander, a young lawyer who was a financial supporter of Zenger’s paper and probably author of some of its more controversial material. When Chief Justice Delaney disbarred Alexander in reprisal for his moving to unseat him, the defense was left in a quandary. Zenger moved for appointed counsel, and John Chambers was appointed. Chambers, however, was a known supporter of Governor Cosby, and Zenger’s friends feared to let him conduct the defense alone. Zenger was also represented by William Smith, who was also disbarred for joining in the motion.

Hamilton, born in Scotland, was a renowned trial lawyer who in 1735 lived in Philadelphia. He was (according to some sources) the only American of his time who had been admitted to practice in the Inns of Court in London. He was counsel to the family of William Penn in a celebrated case that spawned legal proceedings on both sides of the Atlantic. He was a friend of Benjamin Franklin, who was at that time a printer in Philadelphia. Hamilton held many public offices in Pennsylvania, and was Speaker of the Assembly from 1729 until he retired in 1739 (with the exception of one year).

Zenger was a German immigrant, born in 1697. He came to America in 1710. Zenger did an apprenticeship and thereafter ran a printing business in various locations until he was financed in business by the opponents of Governor Cosby in 1734. His New York Weekly Journal, the subject of this prosecution, first appeared in November 1733. Governor Cosby finally became sufficiently upset by Zenger’s paper that he began proceedings against it in October 1734.
Fourteen CLE programs in a variety of practice areas are being planned for the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Bench-Bar and Annual Conference on Oct. 15-16 at the Borgata in Atlantic City, N.J.

The CLE programs, in which attendees can earn up to eight hours of credit (including the opportunity to earn two ethics credits), will feature judges and some of the city’s best-known practitioners, who will use their expertise and experience to enlighten attendees.

Following Friday’s opening luncheon and CLE plenary session, the Federal Courts Committee will present “Challenges in Removal From State to Federal Court.” Panelists include U.S. District Court Judge Cynthia M. Rufe, past Chancellor David H. Marion and course planner Charles S. Marion.

“Trial Advocacy: The Power of Ideas” will feature legendary trial attorneys Gerald A. McHugh Jr. and Robert J. Mongeluzzi, who will discuss the means by which attorneys can conceptualize and present arguments in the most effective way. The course planner is Board of Governors Vice Chair Regina M. Foley, co-chair of the Bench-Bar and Annual Conference.

“Diversionary Programs as Alternatives to Incarceration: What They Offer and What to Do as an Advocate” is a Public Interest Section offering focusing on what an attorney needs to do to get his or her client into an alternative diversionary placement program. Panelists include Jeffrey Beard, Nicole Porter, David Rudovsky, Joshua Shapiro and a representative from the judiciary. Course planners are Ourania Papademetriou, Joseph A. Sullivan and Angus Love.

The Young Lawyers Division will present a program on Discovery in the Criminal Division of Philadelphia Municipal Court and the Court of Common Pleas. The course will provide an update on recent discovery issues and the new discovery court. The course planner and moderator is Jill J. Holden. Panelists will be announced soon.

The Family Law Section plans “To Prep or Not to Prep? That is the Question: Ethical Considerations for Family Law Practitioners,” a program on the ethical dilemmas faced daily by family law practitioners. The course planners are Julia Swain and Mark A. Montjian. Megan E. Watson is the moderator and panelists will include Kimberly S. Ingersoll.

The State Civil Litigation Section will present “The Philadelphia Judge Pro Tem Program: A Fresh Perspective on What it Takes to Be and Appear Before a JPT.” The course planner and moderator is Robert T. Sostak. Panelists include Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judges D. Webster Keogh, William J. Manfredi, Sandra Mazer Moss, Allan L. Tereshko, Jacqueline F. Allen and Howland W. Abramson, along with Deputy Court Administrator Charles A. Mapp Sr. and Dispute Resolution Center Manager Peter J. Divon.

The programming on Saturday, Oct. 16 begins with Gina Furia Rubel, Joseph A. Pirro Jr., Nicole D. Galli, Shelley Goldner and Harold M. Goldner discussing “Social Media and the Practice of Law,” a program presented by the Bar-News Media Committee. Rubel is the moderator and course planner. U.S. District Court Judge C. Darnell Jones II, Michael L. Turner, A. Roy DeCaro and past Chancellor Jane L. Dalton are the scheduled panelists for the Professional Responsibility Committee seminar “Civility – Nice Guys and Gals Do Not Finish Last.” Panelists will discuss the adoption of the Pennsylvania Civility Code as well as cases decided citing the code. Richard P. Myers is the course planner and moderator.

The Real Property Section will present “Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program Litigation” with Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Annette M. Rizzo, Kenneth J. Fleischer and Rachel Gallegos. Richard L. Vanderslice is the course planner as well as a panelist. The Business Law Section will present “Counseling the Corporation,” a moderated discussion about large corporations’ relationships with outside counsel. Panelists are John Chou, general counsel, Amerisource Bergen; and Arthur R. Block, general counsel, Comcast. The course planner is Eric C. Milby.

“My Witness Went South – What Now?” is the Criminal Justice Section program that will discuss what happens when a witness changes his or her story. Panelists include Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge M. Teresa Sarmina, Daniel-Paul Alva, Professor Jules Epstein and moderator Isla A. Fruchter. The course planner is Troy H. Wilson.

“Technology in the Courtroom” is an overview presented by the State Civil Litigation Section on the different ways technology can be used in trial and how it can affect your trial. Panelists include Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Sandra Mazer Moss, Donna Lee Jones, Timothy R. Lawn and Scott W. Reid. Kathleen D. Wilkinson is the moderator and course planner.

A State of the Court Presentation will also be offered for CLE credit as the closing CLE plenary session on Saturday, Oct. 16, featuring the top judges from the state and city bench. Please note that course descriptions and panelists are subject to change.

In addition, one of the highlights of the conference will be the Grand Reception on Friday, Oct. 15, beginning at 6 p.m.
The Philadelphia Bar Association is thrilled to bring the Bench Bar & Annual Conference back to the Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa. This luxurious destination resort has set a new standard among Atlantic City hotel properties. The hotel is designed in classic Italian style and boasts 2,000 guest rooms and suites, all of which include stylish amenities, such as floor-to-ceiling windows, 300-thread-count Egyptian cotton bed and bath sheets, and large bathrooms with granite countertops, marble walls and floors, and oversized glass-enclosed showers.

The Borgata also features 12 destination restaurants that convey a world of culinary experiences. Among the establishments, acclaimed chefs Bobby Flay, Michael Mina, Wolfgang Puck, Michael Schulson and Stephen Kalt present, respectively, Bobby Flay Steak, SeaBlue, Wolfgang Puck American Grille, Izakaya and Fornelletto.

Artists such as Pearl Jam, Gwen Stefani, Sting, Carly Simon and Aerosmith have performed in the 2,400-seat Borgata Event Center and famous guests are often spotted throughout the premises. Live bands play at the Borgata’s four nightlife hotspots: Gypsy Bar, B Bar, mur.mur and MIXX.

The Borgata’s Spa Toccare is 54,000 square feet and includes a salon, fitness center and barbershop. The Spa offers an extensive menu of rejuvenating treatments.

Rounding out the amenities are 11 specialty boutiques offering men’s, women’s and children’s fashions, gifts, toys, housewares and absolute essentials.

Hotel reservations must be made directly with the Borgata by calling 1-866-692-6742, or visit www.philabenchbar.org. Reference the Philadelphia Bar Association to receive our special group rate over the dates of October 14-16, 2010. Reservations must be made by Friday, September 17.
Settling Med-Mal Cases is Goal, Judge Says

By Regina Parker

The goal in Philadelphia County is to posture cases for settlement, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Jacqueline F. Allen told attendees during a recent meeting of the Medical-Legal Committee on the state of medical malpractice litigation in Philadelphia.

There has been an increase in the use of mediations that are occurring earlier on in the life cycle of medical malpractice cases, Judge Allen said. With this being the case, she explained that it appears that some members of the bar, both plaintiff and defense counsel interpret that to mean that a judge pro tem conference is no longer necessary. Judge Allen strongly disagrees with the notion that the judge pro tem program is not necessary or required. She reiterated that the protocols established by the case management order prevail and cases will be scheduled for a conference with a judge pro tem. Even if there is no authority to resolve the case, the parties are expected to show up for the conference.

Judge Allen explained that the judge pro tem program is beneficial in many ways. “It’s my experience that at those conferences, there is the opportunity for other things to occur that are good,” she said. Judge Allen explained that the conference can be useful in deciding who the real parties are and getting out the extraneous parties. It can also clean up the file and serve as an opportunity to address other nuance issues that may have not been shared between counsel. The purpose of the program is to set cases up to be settled. The mere fact that the conference may not result in a meaningful settlement is not going to be reason enough to anticipate that there will not be the need and specifically the requirement for a judge pro tem conference, she said. The program also assists judges with case management. Judge Allen relies on the judge pro tem’s report in reviewing the file, discussing the trial and possibility for settlement.

Judge Allen explained that proper case management requires active participation from both parties. It is the resolution of cases that makes the system work. The Board of Judges of Philadelphia County voted to amend Philadelphia Civil Rule 212.1 and 212.3 to encourage settlements, Judge Allen said. She explained that pursuant to Rule 212 as amended, judges may order anyone with a financial interest in the outcome of a case to be personally present at pre-trial or settlement conferences. Judge Allen explained that the person with actual authority must be present in person even if that person is not a party. Failure of anyone with a financial interest in the outcome of a case to appear may result in the imposition of sanctions. Upon appropriate request of counsel, judges may for good cause permit a party or representative to appear by telephone rather than in person.

In Philadelphia County, the juries call it as they see it, she said. In 2009, there were 34 defense verdicts, which constitutes 77 percent of the cases that actually went to verdict. There were 10 plaintiff verdicts that represents 33 percent of those cases that went to verdict. Judge Allen explained that Philadelphia County does not deserve the tag that it has gotten as “run-away verdicts.” The verdicts have been as low as $125,000 and as high as $6.5 million, the high verdict being a combination of three verdicts.

The number of medical malpractice cases filed in Philadelphia County has dropped significantly as a result of the change, 1,352 medical malpractice cases were filed. That number has dropped to 540 filings in 2005. In 2009, there were 507 medical malpractice cases filed.

As of April 2010, the total civil inventory consisted of 35,926 cases. Cases assigned to the arbitration program represent 30 percent of the total inventory. Judge Allen explained. The major jury program, including medical malpractice cases, represents 17 percent of this total inventory, approximately 6,250 cases.

Judge Allen complimented the malpractice bar on working cooperatively to unearth the issues of the cases and working together to set the cases up for settlement.

Regina Parker (rparker@mattioni.com) is an associate with Mattioni, Ltd., and is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

Recording History

William P. Fedullo, co-chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association Historical Society along with Roberta D. Liebenberg and Robert C. Heim, meets with past Chancellor Marvin Comisky on May 28. Comisky provided reflections on his year as Chancellor (1965) as part of the Society’s video archive project featuring past Chancellors of the Association.

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**Civil Gideon continued from page 1**

by Immediate-Past Chancellor Sayde J. Ladov. Part of the impetus for the Task Force was the downturn in the national and local economies, and the impact of job losses and reduced income on the ability of low-income and disadvantaged persons to gain access to the courts.

The interactive discussion is expected to address a wide range of issues, including what basic needs are or should be encompassed in the basic civil right to counsel, what research studies across the country suggest about the scope and design of models for providing such representation, and the governmental and societal costs that may be added, or averted, by providing civil representation to low-income persons in such areas.

In November 2009, the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Board of Governors adopted a preliminary report of the Civil Gideon Task Force that recommended the endorsement of pilot projects in eviction and mortgage foreclosure defense and custody cases, as well as the development of an education and communications plan to inform the legal community and the public about Civil Gideon.

In preparing the preliminary report, Task Force working groups reviewed substantial evidence of the lack of representation for a majority of low-income persons, as well as reports of innovative pilot projects across the United States. The Task Force proposed a number of specific steps to implement an education strategy in the short term, such as developing a case statement for Civil Gideon, and in the longer term that will involve outreach to, and participation by, members of the judiciary, legislators, private employers and community leaders making the case for Civil Gideon in key areas.

In May, the Board of Governors, acting on a Task Force recommendation, authorized the Association to serve as a cosponsor of proposed American Bar Association resolutions supporting a Model Access [To Counsel] Act and Basic Principles of a Right to Counsel in Civil Legal Proceedings. These resolutions are to be taken up at the American Bar Association Annual Meeting in August.

Professor Engler, who serves on the Massachusetts Access to Justice Commission and the Boston Bar Association’s Task Force on Expanding the Civil Right to Counsel, has written several published texts on Civil Gideon, including *Shaping A Context-Based Civil Gideon from the Dynamics of Social Change*, 15 Temple Pol. & Civ. Rights L. Rev. 697 (2006). He is expected to place the Civil Gideon movement in the context of a larger strategy, including encouraging courts to be more active in promoting access to justice, and promoting the design and implementation of innovative limited representation models that are coupled with vigorous evaluation of case outcomes to determine those subject areas where anything less than full representation will not work.

Professor Engler will also talk about the issues faced in Boston and Massachusetts pilot projects and the “seven-step” approach set out in his paper, *Pursuing Access to Justice and a Civil Right To Counsel in a Time of Economic Crisis*, 15 Roger Williams Law Review (forthcoming 2010). He will also address the Boston Bar Association’s process for designing pilot programs and provide his assessment of pilot projects in other parts of the nation.

“This forum gives us a wonderful opportunity to more fully explore the critical Civil Gideon initiative,” said Chancellor Scott F. Cooper. “By hosting this level of discussion in Philadelphia, our Bar Association again places itself on the cutting edge of this imperative civil rights issue.”

The Chancellor’s Forum is free for all Bar members and lunch will be provided. The program begins at 12 p.m. in the 11th floor Conference Center of Bar Association headquarters, 1101 Market St.

To register for the July 7 Chancellor’s Forum with Professor Russell Engler, visit philadelphiabar.org.

**Williams continued from page 3**

within that region. Prosecutors will be able to work repeatedly and more closely with the same local enforcement officers and the same community. Williams hopes that this new method will increase efficiency and make prosecutors accountable to their assigned communities.

Williams has also made changes to his office’s Charging Unit, which is responsible for ensuring that appropriate charges are being brought in each case that comes in. Williams said the unit had evolved into a department that D.A. office employees were “banished” to, in the event that they had demonstrated “bad judgment, somehow.” After the reorganization, the unit is now staffed with 18 attorneys, whom Williams called some of the city’s best trial attorneys.

Williams also revised his office’s charging policy. Using some strong words to describe the former policy, Williams said, “We threw everything against the wall. Whatever stuck, stuck. Whatever didn’t, you blamed the judges, you blamed the police. We shifted our responsibility to the Municipal Court judges. Let them try to figure out really what happened. And that’s an abdication of the responsibility of the prosecutor.” His office’s new policy is “to only charge people you believe are guilty beyond a reasonable doubt,” and not to “overcharge” as had been done in the past.

Williams predicted “a lot of reform made in a very short period of time,” and mentioned additional changes and programs including the new Performance and Policy Division that uses empirical data to analyze his office’s performance in areas such as felony convictions, and the new Back on Track program that offers first time non-violent offenders job skills and life management classes in an effort to prevent recidivism.

Professor Russell Engler

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**Judge Rendell continued from page 8**

of recognizing your leadership style. She shared with the audience two pieces of advice her male mentor had given her early in her career – think before you speak and speak in a lower voice. At first, she viewed his advice as completely sexist. However, after giving it some thought she saw validity to both of his points. She realized that she had a tendency to speak during conversations any time there was a lull. She didn’t give much thought to what she said – she would simply say anything to fill the silence. Clients, however, don’t want counsel who simply “fill the silence.” They want counsel who provide substance. To ensure that she was viewed as a person of “substance,” she realized that sometimes saying less is more and that being deliberate when communicating is best. Also while observing a female colleague, who spoke slowly and in a low voice, command complete attention from a boardroom full of attorneys, Judge Rendell realized that a lower pitch and slower cadence, generally, sounds more authoritative to the ear. She noted that by perfecting her leadership style, she advanced as a leader.

Finally, Judge Rendell stated that a key quality of a leader is the ability to recognize her strengths. For instance, Judge Rendell explained that she believes that women have a knack for bringing people together and building consensus. Being able to resolve problems in a way that benefits everyone is a great strength to possess. By recognizing the unique value that you can bring to a leadership position, you can better leverage your talents to enhance your leadership capabilities.

Nicole Edwards (nicole.edwards@dlapiper.com), an associate with DLA Piper LLP, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Bar Foundation

Teamwork Makes Difference at Foundation

By Amy B. Ginensky

Sitting in the stands this spring, watching my son play his final year as a college baseball pitcher, I realized how far he had come. Not just in terms of fastballs and curves, but in what he had learned about playing on a team. The most important statistic no longer was his ERA, but rather whether the team won or lost.

As a result, he willingly took the mound when the opponents had a fear-some record because he saw his role as trying to contribute to a team victory, rather than being victorious himself. He suppressed any fear as he climbed the mound. And when it was not his day to pitch, he was there for his teammates, offering coaching and moral support. Little League was long gone. The life lessons he learned at college of not being afraid and curves, but in what he had learned about牺牲 and the charge for the Raising the Bar campaign: Chris Ritchie and Debbie Gross are heading up the Cy Pres Committee; Tom Brophy and Rudy Garcia are chairs of the Andrew Hamilton Benefit; Rod Wittenberg successfully chaired our Golf Classic on June 21 (much appreciation to Rod); Wilson Brown and Fred Magaziner are leading our Individual Giving Campaign, while Glenn Blumenfeld, Jane Dalton, and Kevin Gilboy are helping the Foundation start its first ever Legacy Campaign. Former Foundation President Ed Chacker is working with me to found a Leadership Council. (Details of all of these will appear in future articles.) In addition, Rich Grobman leads our Finance Committee and Doug Kreitzberg our Marketing Committee, both committees critical to the operation of the Foundation.

Norm Weinstein continues to be our ace; he chairs our Grants Committee, spending countless hours heading up the Foundation’s most important function of assuring access to justice for all. And, each of the trustees, and the other members of their committees, play important positions, and do not let any balls drop.

Of course, they can only do so because of our indefatigable (but small) staff, who make all of us look good: Gene Strini, executive director; Lynne Brown, deputy executive director; and Liz Pannulla, administrative and project coordinator.

Our team is a lot deeper than just the Foundation. So to give us a big enough field, we have decided to have the Andrew Hamilton Benefit at Lincoln Financial Field on Saturday, Nov. 6 from 7 to 11 p.m. We’re asking the whole legal community to “Team up for Justice.” To come play for us. Yes, this is a party, but it is a party to celebrate the winning team of the Foundation and to make sure we are playing at the highest level. Like last year, the Benefit will be classy but laid back.

We’ll be on the club level of the Linc, able to look over the football field, our name on the Jumbotron and our sponsors and patrons highlighted on a TV scorecard.

So when one of our trustees or one of the Benefit host committee members comes to you and asks you to be there, I’m hoping you will say, “Give me the ball. I’m ready to get in the game.” And, as my son has now graduated, I am hoping that he can join us that night to see how our team can really score.
On behalf of my Comedy Night co-chair Carey Chopko, I want to extend a big thank you to everyone who assisted in making the Young Lawyers Division’s 5th Annual Comedy Night Fundraiser and Silent Auction to Benefit the Philadelphia Bar Foundation a resounding success. I particularly want to thank our sponsors, silent auction donors and attendees for supporting the event and the Foundation.

As you know, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides funding to more than 30 local legal service organizations, which represent those struggling with poverty, abuse and discrimination in our community. The Foundation is the charitable arm of the Philadelphia Bar Association and embodies the Philadelphia legal community’s commitment to promoting access to justice.

Over the past five years, the YLD has collaboratively shown our dedication and support to the Foundation as a division through Comedy Night. You may not realize it, but there is another easy way that young lawyers can support the Philadelphia Bar Foundation – by becoming a member of the Young Lawyers Division of the Andrew Hamilton Circle (YLD/AHC). In September 2001, the Young Lawyers Division’s Executive Committee voted to establish the YLD/AHC because the members saw a need for more young lawyers to become involved with the Foundation on an individual level. Each member of the YLD/AHC commits to contributing $100 per year for three consecutive years.

At the time the YLD/AHC was established, former YLD Chair Molly Peckman explained that “although the commitment is comfortable enough that all young lawyers will consider joining.”

A large part of young lawyers becoming leaders in the legal community stems from their commitment to helping others both by undertaking pro bono representation and through financial contributions. The idea behind the YLD/AHC is that the $100 per year commitment is at a level at which any young lawyer is able to participate whether he or she works at a small firm, large firm, government agency, etc.

There are currently 35 members of the Young Hamilton Circle and the YLD is looking to substantially increase that number by the end of 2010. I hope you will join me in adding to the membership.

Equal access to justice is essential to the community where we practice and live. I encourage you to join the YLD/AHC and, with your small donation, commit to support legal services that improve the lives of low-income and disadvantaged people in our community.

For information about joining the Young Lawyers Division Hamilton Circle, I invite you to contact me at adufrayne@petrellilaw.com or Lynne Brown, deputy executive director of the Foundation, at lbrown@philabar.org or (215) 238-6347.

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

YLD Diversity CLE, Scholarship Event

Panelists for the June 17 Young Lawyers Division CLE on diversity “The Dangers of Stereotypes and Subconscious Bias: Does It Impact Your Success in the Courtroom?” included (from left) Scott W. Reid, Deborah Starr, John Han, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Renee Cardwell Hughes, course planner Melanie Taylor and Vincent Regan.

YLD Andrew Hamilton Circle Members

The following attorneys are members of the Young Lawyers Division Andrew Hamilton Circle, having made their contributions while members of the YLD:

years and some applications do not issue for six or seven years at which point the once-new technology becomes obsolete and thus the patent is worthless.

With the PTO grossly underfunded and delays in examination and lengthy patent litigations in the federal courts, Judge Michel told the audience of nearly 200 at The Union League that the patent system must be improved. The U.S. government must first furnish public funding for hiring of patent examiners and federal judges for the nearly 100 vacant spots, providing office space and modern computer systems for the examiners, and guaranteeing by law that any PTO fees will no longer be diverted. Specifically, Judge Michel suggested that the PTO needs $1 billion, which is basically equivalent to the $900 million that the government has already diverted from the PTO. In context, $13 billion has been spent on pet projects of members of Congress and much more has been spent on bailouts on Wall Street, etc.

With regard to the courts, Judge Michel said that discovery should be narrowed to evidence that will be used at trial, more magistrate judges should be appointed, and modern computer systems for the examination of patents should be provided.

Councilman Bill Green and Transparency Commissioner David Tomsic, who both spoke at The Union League with Judge Michel, noted that a government that invested $13 billion in technology and research in the recent past, but now diverts $13 billion of public funding to public relations and advertising campaigns is not smart or efficient. The government must first furnish public funding in the patent system will not only promote activity by private investors, but will create jobs and raise the level of health and the standard of living through the United States.

With his parting words, Judge Michel reinforced his desire to improve the U.S. patent system and to welcome any help from interested organizations and individuals.

The event was co-sponsored by the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Intellectual Property Committee and the Philadelphia Intellectual Property Law Association.

Sponsors for the program included Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP; Ballard Spahr LLP; Benjamin Franklin American Inn of Court; Caesar Rivise Bernstein Cohen & Pokotilow, Ltd.; Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP; Cozen O’Connor; Dechert LLP; Dilworth Paxson; DLA Piper LLP; Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP; Duane Morris LLP; Eckert Seamans Chrin & Mellott, LLC; Feldman Gale, PA.; Fish & Richardson, P.C.; Flaster Greenberg P.C.; Fox Rothschild LLP; Harding, Earley, Follmer & Fralley P.C.; Mannino Law Firm, Morris, Nichols, Ansh & Tunnell LLP; Panitch Schwarzy Belisario & Nadell LLP; Pepper Hamilton LLP; Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP; RatnerPrestii, Sad Ewing LLP; Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP; Volpe and Koenig, P.C.; Woodcock Washburn LLP; and Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP.

Kim R. Jesum (kjessum@stradley.com) is of counsel to Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP.

VIP Honors Tarr for Volunteer Efforts

This month Philadelphia VIP recognizes Amy Tarr and PECO/Exelon for her outstanding volunteer assistance to VIP clients.

Tarr, assistant general counsel and the East Pro Bono Coordinator at PECO/Exelon, is not only a model volunteer in-house counsel, but she has also taken on the added responsibility of recruiting her colleagues at PECO to take the pro bono plunge. The LawWorks project at Philadelphia VIP which provides pro bono legal services to nonprofits, small businesses and homeowners, provides occasional legal clinics to microentrepreneurs. Tarr has served at several of the clinics, assisting new ventures with their pressing legal needs so their limited capital may be used to grow their businesses. In addition, she has persuaded many other in-house counsel at PECO to join us at these clinics.

Last year, Tarr embraced the idea of helping beyond the clinic setting by providing representation through VIP’s Mortgage Foreclosure Rescue Effort, a part of the City of Philadelphia’s Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program, which brings lenders and borrowers together to attempt a negotiated settlement of the foreclosure. She arranged for PECO to host 40 volunteer attorneys at VIP’s April mortgage foreclosure training; her leadership was crucial to ensuring that VIP was able to effectively train these 40 new volunteers to participate. Four of her colleagues participated in that training and are headed to court to help homeowners remain in their homes. There are many obstacles to serving pro bono clients outside the typical private law firm structure, but Tarr has overcome them and done so with exceptional generosity and good humor.

For her commitment and dedication to our clients and fellow volunteers, Philadelphia VIP offers its heartfelt appreciation to Amy Tarr.
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.

**Monday, July 5**

**Independence Day:** Bar Association offices closed.

**Tuesday, July 6**

**Philadelphia Bar Foundation Board of Trustees:** meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

**Wednesday, July 7**

**Delivery of Legal Services Committee:** meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
**Delivery of Legal Services Committee Civil Gideon Subcommittee:** meeting, 10 a.m., 11th floor Conference Center.
**Rules and Procedure Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
**Intellectual Property Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $8.
**Chancellor’s Forum:** 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

**Thursday, July 8**

**Legislative Liaison Committee:** meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
**Friday, July 9**

**Law School Outreach Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

**Monday, July 12**

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

**Family Law Section:** meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

**Tuesday, July 13**

**Committee on the Legal Rights of Persons with Disabilities:** meeting, 9 a.m., 11th floor Committee Room.
**Criminal Justice Section Executive Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
**Compulsory Arbitration Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $8.

**Wednesday, July 14**

**Appellate Courts Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.
**Young Lawyers Division Cabinet:** meeting, 1 p.m., 10th floor Cabinet Room.

**Thursday, July 15**

**Family Law Section Executive Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
**Law Practice Management Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.
**Friday, July 16**

**Social Security Disability Benefits Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

**Law School Outreach Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

**Monday, July 19**

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

**Tuesday, July 20**

**Cabinet:** meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

**Federal Courts Committee:** meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

**Wednesday, July 21**

**Bar Academy Committee:** meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
**Workers’ Compensation Section Executive Committee:** meeting, 10:30 a.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
**Workers’ Compensation Section:** meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.
**LegalLine:** 5 p.m., 11th floor LRIS office.

**Friday, July 23**

**Law School Outreach Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

**Monday, July 26**

**Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
**Green Ribbon Task Force:** meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

**Friday, July 30**

**Law School Outreach Committee:** meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

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.

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**Frontline continued from page 2**

leaders to approve funding for a unified Family Court building so that showers can at last be put into the ground.

An Ad Hoc Family Law Construction Committee of the Association featuring numerous stakeholders – including representatives from the courts, the District Attorney’s Office, the private bar, court reform advocates, advocates and others – was established early last year by Immediate-Past Chancellor Sayde J. Ladov to create a blueprint to help advance and ensure the ultimate success of the project.

In December, Philadelphia City Council adopted a resolution in support of funding for a new unified building for Family Court. We applauded City Council for its vision and leadership in advancing the effort to create a safe, modern and efficient facility that will benefit all Philadelphia citizens.

Much has been said, and more undoubtedly will be said, about how the project was funded. But that cannot become the only story. If we allow the desperate need for the project to get lost behind the focus on the funding, thousands will continue to suffer in antiquated facilities. There is nothing inconsistent with having people look at the funding issue and urging the state to push ahead with construction.

There is also an urgency that affects timing. Many have correctly warned that we must start construction while Governor Rendell is in office. His release of the funds and commitment to this project is essential. While the next governor will hopefully support this project, there is no question that the governor’s resolve has helped make this happen. The current high level of support and cooperation between the governor and Mayor Nutter also cannot be undervalued. We cannot risk this momentum slowing down or backing up.

The Philadelphia Bar Association remains dedicated to moving this effort decisively and deliberately forward. This new facility must be up, running and serving Philadelphia families. We will keep pressing to make it happen.

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

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Chief Staff Attorney to Chief Justice of PA (1984-88).


J.D., University of Pennsylvania Law School 1981.

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WWW.LAWYERS.COM/JRVIOLA
Nicole D. Gatti, a partner with Feldman Gale, presented “Recipes for Success,” a program designed to give professionals and business owners real-life advice to succeed in the business world, on May 12.

Kelly Phillips Erb, a shareholder with The Erb Law Firm, PC, was a featured speaker at the April 20 premiere of “An Inconvenient Tat: A Documentary Film” at Temple University.

Deborah R. Willig, managing partner of Willig, Williams & Davidson and a past Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, has been named a 2010 Woman of Distinction by The Legal Intelligencer.


Ellen C. Bretman, a partner with Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP, recently moderated a panel on “The Nationalization and Globalization of Legal Ethics and Regulation” at a Symposium hosted by the Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers in honor of the Association’s Twentieth Anniversary; the Symposium was held in New Orleans, La.

Joseph R. Pozzuolo, Lisa A. Leggieri and Jeffrey H. Smith of Pozzuolo Rodden, PC, presented a series of seminars for Neumann College CLE/CPE on estate planning and employment law.

Judge Richard B. Klein, (ret.) of the Dispute Resolution Institute, was the course planner for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute program “Winning (or Not Losing) Your Case on Appeal” on May 5.

Dawn M. Tancredi, an associate with Mattioni, Ltd., has been appointed president of the St. Joseph’s University Law Alumni Association for a two-year term and will also represent the law alumni on the University’s National Alumni Board.

Sandra A. Jeskie, a partner with Duane Morris LLP, has been named president of the International Technology Law Association. Jeskie will serve in the position for a one-year term.

Amber Racine, an associate with Anapol Schwartz, Weiss, Cohan, Feldman & Smalley, PC., received the President’s Award from the Barristers’ Association of Philadelphia at the group's annual gala.

Faye Riva Cohen, principal in the Law Office of Faye Riva Cohen, PC., received the 2010 Muntiu Community Improvement Committee Valor Award for Vision on April 1. She conducted a seminar on April 16 on uncompensation for Lorman Education Services and appeared on 6ABC News on April 23 as a legal expert on employment law regarding employees and Internet use.

Marc Neff, a solo practitioner, recently spoke before the Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Public Defenders Association on the topic of child pornography and other computer crimes.

H. Ronald Klasko, founding partner of Klasko, Rulon, Stock & Seltrzer, LLP, addressed the Consular Corps of Philadelphia on hot topics and developments in immigration law.

Abbe F. Fletman, a shareholder with F Slater/Greenberg PC, participated as a panel member at the American Bar Association Section of Litigation Annual Meeting in New York on April 23. The topic was “Asserting and Defeating Claims of Waiver.”

Wendi L. Kotzen, a partner with Ballard Spahr LLP, has been elected to the American College of Tax Counsel.

Gaelan J. Altano, a partner with Prettuggio Gordon Altano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP has been re-elected to serve as vice chair of the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission. He has served as the Commission’s vice chair since 2007.

Melissa S. Johnson was recently appointed executive director for Main Line Reform Temple, a large Reform Jewish congregation located in Wynnewood, Pa.

John M. Dodig and Jason A. Doria of Feldman Shepherd Wohlgelernter Tanner Weinstock & Dodig presented “How to Successfully Try a Dangerous Roadway Case” to the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association in April.

Adam T. Gudorff, an attorney at Mannion Prior, LLP, recently spoke about remedies in the Orphans’ Court at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section.

Mary Theresa Metzler, a partner with Ballard Spahr LLP, has been elected president-elect of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Labor and Employment Relations Association.

Tina R. Makouladian, a partner with Ballard Spahr LLP, has been elected a fellow of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers.

Inez Markovich, a shareholder with Deeb Petakis Blum & Murphy PC, has been named by the Philadelphia Business Journal to its 20th annual “40 Under 40” list.

Evelyn H. McConaughy, a partner with Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP, spoke at the American Intellectual Property Law Association Spring board and committee chairs meeting in New York in May.


Nancy L. Wasch, a partner with Archer & Greiner, PC., discussed small business retirement planning at the Women’s Business Forum of Bucks County in May.

Patricia M. Giordano of Feldman Shepherd Wohlgelernter Tanner Weinstock & Dodig served as co-mediator of the New Jersey Association for Justice Women Trial Lawyers’ Caucus educational program “Navigating your way through Medicare Set-asides, Life Care Plans & Medical Records” on May 12.

Andrew R. McReynolds, an associate with Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP, was a speaker at the Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference presented by the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association.

Jeffrey M. Taylor, a partner with Blank Rome LLP, has been elected president and a member of the Advisory Committee of the Middle Atlantic Chapter of the Society of Corporate Secretaries & Governance Professionals.

Justice Jane Cutr Greenspan (ret.), a neutral in the JAMS Philadelphia Resolution Center, was selected as a “Woman of Valor” by the Anti-Defamation League of Philadelphia.

David N. Hofstein, a shareholder with Hofstein Weiner & Levine, P.C., was the moderator of the CLE program “Alimony: Getting It, Keeping It or Getting Rid of It” at the American Bar Association Family Law Section’s spring meeting in New Orleans.

Howell K. Rosenberg, a founding partner of Brookman, Rosenberg, Brown & Sandler, has been appointed to the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Todd Kantorczyk, a partner with Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, has been appointed to the Tredyffrin Township Environmental Advisory Council.

“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@philabar.org. Color photos are also welcome.
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