‘Justice’ Screening to Kick Off Bench-Bar

By Jeff Lyons

A panel of five judges will lead the discussion following a screening of “Soul of Justice: Thelton Henderson’s American Journey,” the opening program for the 2007 Bench-Bar Conference at Bally’s Atlantic City on Friday, Sept. 28. A total of 7 CLE credits are available at the two-day conference.

The opening luncheon program is sponsored by the Public Interest Section, the Asian American Bar Association of the Delaware Valley, the Barristers Association of Philadelphia, the Hispanic Bar Association, the South Asian Bar Association and the National Bar Association Women Lawyers Division.

The panelists include U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Theodore McKee; U.S. District Court Senior Judge Clifford Scott Green and Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judges Nitza Quinones I. Alejandro, Frederica Massiah-Jackson and Teresa Sarmina. Additional panelists may be added before the conference begins.

“Soul of Justice” presents the life and work of one of the first African-American federal judges in the United States and chronicles the impact of his decisions on the lives of millions. The film follows Judge Henderson from his time in the U.S. Department of Justice during...
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Education is Key to Progress and Economy of City, Region

By Jane Dalton

The citizens of Philadelphia have spoken, and candidates for the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas have been nominated in the May 15 primary. The city's voters should be commended, not only for exercising their civic duty, but for selecting only Common Pleas Court candidates found "Recommended" by the Bar Association's non-partisan Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention. Similarly, the public heeded the Association's call not to elect Common Pleas Court candidates found "Not Recommended" by the Commission.

The ratings by the 30-member Judicial Commission follow extensive study and investigation by five-member panels of the Commission's own 120-member investigative division, which includes 40 non-lawyer members. Candidates found Recommended satisfied a cumulative review of criteria including legal ability and training, trial experience, character and integrity, judicial temperament, mental and physical capacity and community involvement. Among the Commission's members are the Chief Public Defender, the president judges of the Common Pleas and Municipal Courts, and representatives from the Asian, Hispanic and African American legal groups.

Through television and radio spots, print ads and targeted e-mails, the Commission worked hard to help educate voters on the judicial candidates in this election. Why does the Association invest so much time in reviewing and rating these candidates? The Commission's ratings are the one place for voters to find a thorough, objective review of judicial candidates.

Paul Harrington, a labor economist and associate director of the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University, led the team that researched and produced the report. According to Harrington, the good news is that Philadelphia's work force problem is similar to that of many cities in the Northeast and Midwest that once depended on factories to employ those who didn't go on to college. So, we are not unlike other cities with a similar history. But the bad news is that Philadelphia's situation is, as Harrington describes it, "more severe."

That's not to say that progress has not been made in Philadelphia. Still, we continue to lag too far behind. Obviously, this report made major news in the region. But let's try to focus on what can be done to turn the situation around. And while we're at it, let's consider the potential: Getting the number of Philadelphians who have graduated from high school or have advanced degrees equal to the state's level would raise the city's potential tax base by $1.8 billion, or 10.5 percent, the report said.

As Paul Vallas prepares to depart as CEO of the city's public school system, the search for a top-notch replacement becomes all the more critical. That means that the city's School Reform Commission, the governor, the mayor and all interested parties must work closely together to find Vallas' successor. And this search must have one interest in mind: the city's students and the future of the city as a vital economic force in the region and the nation.

Education is the key to progress. And learning doesn't stop at the schoolhouse door. For all of us education is a never-ending process that is linked not only to success in business but also to the health of our local economy. That's why the Bar Association is planning outreach programs with area business groups that would update businesses on important topics such as business law and employment issues. And this would be just one of the initiatives we would undertake.

continued on page 19

Voters Thanked for Following Recommendations

By Jane Dalton

The Philadelphia Bar Association's Judicial Selection Commission has recommended candidates in the May 15 primary. The Association is now seeking to thank the voters for making their choices, which will help to guide them in their choices.

The votes cast in the primary will determine the candidates who will be on the ballot in the general election. The candidates who are recommended by the Commission are those who have met the qualifications and criteria set by the Association. The candidates who are not recommended are those who have not met these qualifications or criteria.

The Association is seeking to express its gratitude to the voters for their participation in the primary election. The Association is also seeking to express its gratitude to the candidates who have been recommended by the Commission.

The Association is seeking to encourage the candidates who have been recommended by the Commission to continue to work hard to earn the support of the voters in the general election.

The Association is seeking to encourage the candidates who have not been recommended by the Commission to continue to work hard to earn the support of the voters in the general election.

The Association is seeking to encourage all voters to continue to participate in the election process.

See the article on page 19 for more information on the candidates who have been recommended by the Commission.

Tell Us What You Think!

The Philadelphia Bar Association welcomes letters to the editors for publication. Letters should be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 300 words. Letters should be signed and include the author's name, address, and phone number. Letters may be edited for length, clarity, and style.

By Jane Dalton

The citizens of Philadelphia have spoken, and candidates for the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas have been nominated in the May 15 primary. The city’s voters should be commended, not only for exercising their civic duty, but for selecting only Common Pleas Court candidates found “Recommended” by the Bar Association’s non-partisan Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention. Similarly, the public heeded the Association’s call not to elect Common Pleas Court candidates found “Not Recommended” by the Commission.

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Through television and radio spots, print ads and targeted e-mails, the Commission worked hard to help educate voters on the judicial candidates in this election. Why does the Association invest so much time in reviewing and rating these candidates? The Commission’s ratings are the one place for voters to find a thorough, objective review of judicial candidates. Until Pennsylvania joins the majority of states that have taken politics out of the process by selecting their judges through a non-partisan appointment system, we can only hope that the public will continue to rely upon the Association to guide them in their choices.

By recognizing the importance of electing recommended judges, the public has done a great service. Until a better system is established, we will continue to do our part to ensure a judicial system where all parties are given equal access to justice.
Sara Woods is passionate about pro bono legal service. She’s shown that professionally in her work at the Delaware County Domestic Abuse Project, Women Against Abuse and as director of public service careers and pro bono programs at Villanova Law School.

And now she’ll take that passion to Philadelphia VIP where she took over as executive director in May.

“I’d been a volunteer with VIP for a while and obviously, I feel passionately about pro bono work because that’s what I did at Villanova. It’s a long-standing tradition for me. Through my involvement as a volunteer attorney and through my job, I got to know the staff and got to know more about the mission of the agency and felt very passionately about helping folks do pro bono,” she said.

“Sara brings a wealth of relevant experience and is well-positioned to lead VIP for the foreseeable future,” said Kimberly M. Dolan, chair of the board of Philadelphia VIP.

“She’s devoted her career to public interest service, and she has extensive experience managing successful pro bono programs. She also brings tremendous energy and enthusiasm to everything she does, and I am very excited about the opportunity to work with her closely over the next two years during my term as board president. VIP’s board and staff are thrilled to have her join us,” Dolan said.

Woods will be more than just an administrator at VIP. “I’ll know the day-to-day problems of what our clients are facing, but in terms of actual direct service to clients, I’ll take the same kinds of cases I took when I was at Villanova. I just don’t feel like I can tell people that they should take pro bono cases if I’m not taking any myself,” she said.

“But my day-to-day activities are going to be involved with fundraising and friend-raising, getting more people to do pro bono work,” Woods said.

The Villanova University Law School graduate takes over for Sharon Browning, who left to form Just Listening, an organization dedicated to listening to marginalized individuals and groups about issues of justice.

“What I would like to see VIP continue to do and expand upon is inculcating a level of service in our attorneys,” Woods said.

VIP’s New Chief Looks to Build Base of Volunteer Attorneys

By Jeff Lyons

VIP’s New Chief Looks to Build Base of Volunteer Attorneys

By Maureen Olives

The dog days of summer will soon be upon us, and the warmth of summer signals the arrival of eager, passionate and bright law students to our area’s public interest agencies.

Law students provide our public interest legal community with much-needed assistance, ideas and tons of energy. The Public Interest Section’s Law School Outreach Committee wants to provide these students with a place to form their own connections while they join the efforts of Philadelphia’s unique and special public interest community.

As it has for the past several years, the LSOC will offer a weekly Public Interest Brown Bag Lunch Series this summer. Every Friday, beginning in June, from 12 to 2 p.m. at the Bar Association, summer law interns are invited to attend free informational sessions featuring public interest organizations in the greater Philadelphia area. The programs are a terrific way to learn about different types of public interest practice and to meet attorneys who are leaders in their fields.

In addition, four special substantive sessions have been added. The first, called “Success in Your Summer Job,” will focus on strategies to help law students give and get the most out of their internship.

“Public Interest Fellowships” will help students understand the post-graduate fellowship process and how to navigate it. The final two programs cover resume and cover letter tips and government employment.

Finally, on Thursday, July 26, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the offices of Pepper Hamilton LLP, 3000 Two Logan Square, 18th and Arch Streets, the LSOC and the Public Interest Section will host the annual Public Interest Reception. We are grateful to Pepper Hamilton for generously sponsoring this event.

The LSOC is looking forward to welcoming the newest members of our public interest community to Philadelphia this summer. For more information about the LSOC or its activities, please feel free to contact Maureen Olives, director of Public Interest Programs at Temple University Beasley School of Law, at molives@temple.edu or (215) 204-3705.

Maureen Olives, director of public interest programs at Temple University Beasley School of Law, is chair of the Law School Outreach Committee.

Committee Connects Students, Public Interest Law Agencies

2007 PHOTO CONTEST

As our city and our Association continue to reach out to the international community, what strikes you about society’s increasingly global worldview? What image captures its influence on Philadelphia and the rest of the world?

The Philadelphia Lawyer 2007 Photo Contest will award a Grand Prize to the member-submitted photograph that best captures the theme of “Eyes on the World.” Honorable mention winners may also be selected at the judges’ discretion.

Deadline for entries is Friday, Oct. 12, 2007. Photos can be either color or black and white. All submissions will be judged by a panel of professional photographers and all winning photographs will be published in the Winter issue of The Philadelphia Lawyer.

Summer is the perfect time to begin compiling your entries, so remember to take your camera with you on your travels — whether they take you around the world or just around the corner.
A new committee was created last year by then-Chancellor Alan M. Feldman to find a way to assist the growing population of senior lawyers, and at the same time find productive ways to utilize the talent, experience and extra free time of senior lawyers to benefit the community and the profession.

Louis Fryman was appointed the first chair of the committee, and a number of lawyers were invited to an organizational meeting. After agreeing on the name (Senior Lawyers Professional & Public Service Committee) and the mission, the committee considered requests from the courts, the City Solicitor’s Office, and a number of public interest agencies seeking senior lawyers to do volunteer work. The Young Lawyers Division also was consulted, and their primary request was that a mentoring program be established so that young lawyers could consult with and be mentored by a senior lawyer.

The mentoring program is now a reality. It is headed by David H. Marion, representing the Senior Lawyers, and Katherine Skubecz, representing the Young Lawyers Division. About 30 distinguished members of the Bar have already volunteered to serve as mentors. Brief biographies have been prepared so that potential proteges can see the professional experience of each volunteer - whether large firm or small, plaintiffs' or defense orientation - and their areas of expertise.

On May 8, the YLD hosted a luncheon meeting at Bar headquarters, attended by an enthusiastic group of senior lawyers and interested young lawyers. Now a matching process has begun.

Mentoring is now universally regarded as essential to development in both business and the professions. But why, you might ask, is this program necessary - especially for young lawyers in large firms where mentors are readily available and often formally assigned?

If you think about it, the answer is pretty simple - and involves a number of reasons. First, today's pressures to amass billable hours and bring in business afflict partners as much as or more than associates, and active partners in the large firms are often unable or unwilling to devote much time to training, counseling or even responding to the questions of young lawyers. Second, clients are much less willing these days to have any time devoted to "training" young lawyers appear on their bills. Third, associates are subject to early and frequent evaluations, and may be hesitant to ask questions that might make them appear to be lacking in judgment, intelligence or thoroughness.

Beyond these factors, there are issues that young lawyers simply cannot discuss with lawyers in their own firms. These range from considering a move to, or an offer from, another firm, to dealing with a troublesome, unreasonable or harassing partner in your own firm.

Of course, young lawyers in small firms have even fewer alternative sources of mentoring or advice. Clearly, the leadership of the YLD thinks that its members should and will avail themselves of the time and talents of senior lawyers, many of whom already applied, and a significant number (including former Chancellors, leaders of major law firms and highly successful practitioners) think this program is worthy of some of their available spare time.

If you are a senior lawyer who wants to help mentor young professionals, or a young lawyer who sees value and wants to participate in this program, contact David Marion at dmarion@mmwr.com or Katherine Skubecz at kskubecz@mmwr.com.

David H. Marion, a former Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, is executive partner at Montgomery, McCraken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP. Katherine Skubecz, a member of the executive committee of the Young Lawyers Division, is an associate at Montgomery, McCraken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP.
N.J. Civil Union Law Leaves Unanswered Questions

By Kathryn C. Harr

New Jersey's new Civil Union Law raises a number of issues that attorneys should consider when advising their clients, two family law practitioners told their colleagues on May 7.

“It’s really a personal kind of issue,” Helen Casale explained when discussing how to advise a client about entering into a civil union. Casale and David J. Steerman spoke to the Family Law Section.

The law evolved from the October 2006 decision, Lewis v. Harris, 188 N.J. 415 (N.J. 2006), wherein the New Jersey Supreme Court declared that barring same-sex couples from marrying violated the equal protection clause of the New Jersey Constitution. The court ruled that the legislature must afford same-sex couples the same rights and benefits as married opposite-sex couples.

The law significantly expands the rights afforded to same-sex couples in New Jersey from its predecessor, the Domestic Partnership Act. There are now rights of a partner to survivorship in property titled as such, wrongful death rights, and spousal rights under the workers’ compensation laws. No federal rights will be affected, including pension and social security.

Another new benefit of the law is that, when a child is born during the course of the civil union, the non-biological parent partner’s name is placed on the birth certificate and a rebuttable presumption arises that the child is the child of that union. This birth certificate may also allow the partner to immediately add the child to their health insurance. Yet Steerman and Casale still advise that couples should form a parenting plan and engage in a second-parent adoption to solidify their rights, especially if they may move away from New Jersey.

More difficult issues arise in the context of the dissolution of a civil union, especially when advising clients who are not New Jersey residents. Although residency is not required to obtain a civil union, couples are required to live in New Jersey for 12 months in order to dissolve a civil union. “We really don’t know what will happen,” Casale said, noting that a Pennsylvanian must be aware that there may not be a mechanism through which to dissolve a civil union. Although the recognition of civil unions is largely untested here, Pennsylvania does have its own Defense of Marriage Act, which does not recognize same-sex marriage but is silent on the issue of civil unions.

Additionally, in New Jersey, the marital estate is defined as beginning at the date of marriage. Yet the ability to enter into a civil union is a recent one; as a result, same-sex couples’ relationships may pre-date their entry into a civil union, leaving the question of interpretation of when the marital estate began open.

Alimony, a right now available under the new law, is another piece to consider when advising non-New Jersey residents. For example, after a dissolution, if one of the partners becomes a resident of a state that does recognize civil unions, that partner may be entitled to alimony. Additionally, the tax consequences of alimony in the civil union context suggest that federal tax law will not recognize alimony as income, nor as a deduction for the obligor. Steerman suggested looking at the tax laws surrounding gifts for guidance.

“The more you can privately, contractually agree upon, the better,” Steerman advised, suggesting that clients should write their own contracts in order to avoid leaving open issues in this new area of law.

Kathryn C. Harr is an associate with Trujillo Rodriguez & Richards, LLC.
Group Cultivates Support for Farmworkers

By Elaine Rinaldi

The last time you took a bite of a crunchy Granny Smith apple grown on a Pennsylvania farm, ordered mushrooms on your pizza or called a landscaping company to groom your garden, did you stop and think about the wage violations of the underprivileged farmworkers who harvested the crops or the substandard housing conditions provided to them by their employers? Friends of Farmworkers, headed by executive director Karen Detamore, deals with these legal issues and countless others every day. The agency provides legal assistance, representation, advice and education to improve the living and working conditions of indigent and distressed farmworkers. The organization’s team includes six staff and approximately 20 volunteers, Detamore said in a recent interview.

Tucked away in Chinatown, this agency’s four attorneys and 2 staff members are the champions of farmworkers, day laborers and landscapers working in Pennsylvania.

Working many more hours than they should, the team at Friends of Farmworkers handles nearly 800 cases a year. Most of these cases are related to labor and employment issues with housing-related legal needs being another priority issue.

Certain challenges arise in servicing the farmworker community because much of that population is isolated from the mainstream labor force due to cultural, language and economic barriers. Geography and transportation present additional challenges, Detamore said.

Only a handful of clients visit the Friends of Farmworkers office at 924 Cherry St. Getting into the city during regular work hours is difficult, so the Friends of Farmworkers team conducts frequent outreach to farm labor camps. The organization also relies heavily on word-of-mouth information being shared among workers and referrals from other service agencies. Occasionally clients hear about their efforts to help through radio announcements and newspapers. Detamore stressed the importance of personal outreach and word-of-mouth referral given the low literacy levels among the populace her organization serves.

Funding for the organization comes in the shape of grants from the Philadelphia Bar Foundation and the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network. Friends of Farmworkers also gets some pro bono assistance from city law firms, but due to language issues - many migrant workers do not speak English, or if they do, very little - and the fact that most assistance is given on site at farms during evenings and weekends, pro bono assistance from law firm attorneys is difficult to schedule and manage.

Employment-related matters dominate the caseload. Sadly, many migrant farmworkers encounter situations where they are either not paid what they were promised, not paid minimum wage, not paid overtime or not paid at all. Some workers are illegally forced to pay visa-processing costs. Most members of the population earn far below the federal poverty line and must also cope with fluctuating income due to the seasonal nature of agricultural work. Some have to work in unsafe environments, and are often denied very basic employment rights, such as restroom breaks.

Despite an extremely heavy workload, Detamore said her team tries not to turn away a client in need. Many of their cases being wins of small amounts, maybe a few hundred dollars, but that money makes a huge difference in the lives of their clients. And, perhaps more importantly, the Friends of Farmworkers gives its clients respect and hope.

Detamore said she remembers a worker who was part of a class-action case turning to her before the case was decided and saying, “no matter what happens with the case, I'm grateful to Friends of Farmworkers for treating us like human beings.” Detamore said that all clients are treated with respect and compassion, and are afforded the benefit of a tenacious team that fights hard to make sure that the rights of farmworkers are protected. Detamore hopes that in the future additional funding will allow her team to expand its services to other immigrant workers. There is a huge need in the restaurant and janitorial industries, where workers face many of the same challenges as farm workers.

Since the inception of Friends of Farmworkers in 1975, this public interest law organization has worked tirelessly to protect the rights of its clients through the enforcement of state and federal laws. Throughout the years, the agency’s attorneys and staff have paved the way to ensuring civil liberties for Pennsylvania’s farmworkers. The Philadelphia Bar Foundation supports the Friends of Farmworkers through grants made every December.

The mission of the Foundation is to expand “Access to Justice” for those in need. To accomplish this, we need your help. By making a donation to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, your money will go toward helping the farmworkers and many other underprivileged groups in our community. You can give by going to philadelphiabar.org and clicking on the Bar Foundation page and then the Make A Donation tab.

Through your generosity, we can all make a huge and vital difference in the lives of Pennsylvania’s farmworkers and so many others. 

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

webcheck

To contribute to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, visit philadelphiabar.org and click on the Bar Foundation page.

Bar Foundation

State Civil Litigation Section Honors Justice Newman

State Civil Litigation Section Co-Chair Kathleen D. Wilkinson (from left), retired Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Sandra Schultz Newman, Justice J. Michael Eakin and Bar Association Vice Chancellor Sayde J. Ladov gather at a reception in honor of Justice Newman on May 1 in the 57th Floor Penthouse Showroom at the Residences at Two Liberty Place. Nearly 100 people attended the event for Justice Newman, who retired from the Supreme Court in 2006. She is now chair of the national appellate practice at Cozen O’Connor.
Corporate Executives Praise Value of Diversity

By Brian K. Sims

The message from the recent Chancellor’s Forum on diversity was very clear: Look around White Shoes, because if you haven’t yet noticed, you are surrounded by high heels, sandals, boots, and even some sneakers. And if you aren’t already, you’re missing out on valuable resources and clients.

The April 30 program “Diversity Best Practices: What You Can Learn from Corporate Diversity Efforts” was moderated by Paul Lancaster Adams and Gaetan J. Alfano, a member of the Board of Governors. The panelists at the hour-long seminar included Gwen Houston, vice president of diversity and global staffing for Campbell Soup Company, and Catherine McKnight, vice president and assistant general counsel for Wachovia Corporation’s Legal Division.

The program, aimed at reviewing the diversity practices of major corporations and how they may transfer to the legal community, sought to shed light on how many corporations have excelled in their pursuit of a qualified and diversified workforce.

Chancellor Jane Dalton reminded attendees that diversity is one of the key initiatives of her chancellorship. “As one of the first women attorneys at my firm, and as the first woman partner, I am disappointed that as a profession we have not been able to attract and retain minorities and women.”

“Corporations have been in the diversity field much longer than law firms” continued on page 19

RULES AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

Commerce Court Judge Praises Attorneys’ Work

By Regina Parker

The Commerce Court Program is effective because of good lawyers, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Albert W. Sheppard Jr. told members of the Rules and Procedure Committee on May 2.

“It’s not as difficult when you’re working with good lawyers and a lot of people in this town; you can get an awful lot done,” he said.

The Commerce Program has good basic protocols and agendas and is geared toward moving cases because “we pride ourselves in being able to try to stay within the American Bar Association’s time lines,” he said.

Judge Sheppard indicated that the main focus should not be on pushing cases because “the plaintiff’s lawyer will know how expeditiously he wants to get to where he wants to go and because the true commerce cases are of such a kind, it’s sensible to try to settle.”

Even though there has been some discussion about eliminating the case management conference, Judge Sheppard indicated that the conference is here to stay. He explained that the conference is an important event because it forces people to pay attention to their files in order to meet deadlines. With regard to track selection, he said that if there is nothing extraordinary about a case and the lawyers request the standard track, the case manager should grant the request. But “if somebody all the time picks the expedited track then all the time comes back with five or six petitions for extraordinary relief, human nature says that that judge will get a little bit antsy,” he said.

Judge Sheppard favors a “lawyer friendly” program and explained that he may grant certain “joint requests” without a formal motion. He said that this practice is not part of the commerce program because all judges do not grant such requests. Some judges require the filing of motions for all requests. The judge did caution that he does not favor litigation by way of letter. Such letters are not helpful and he may not read them because “typically, they are truly ex parte,” he explained.

Judge Sheppard is selective in how he assigns his judges pro tem to certain cases. He said that if a pro tem has a certain specialty, such as construction for example, he will assign a construction case to that judge pro tem. Specialization in a certain area is important but not crucial.

The criteria for serving as a judge pro tem are 15 years’ experience in the handling of commerce court cases and a desire to help. A judge pro tem is very useful and beneficial to the program because the pro tem assists judges with the management of cases and can also assist with settlement conferences.

Judge Sheppard explained that currently, a judge pro tem may voluntarily give up his or her entire day at a lucrative practice to help a judge settle cases. He said that if a pro tem helps to settle a case and it goes longer than two hours, that judge pro tem should be paid a fee. No decision has been made on the issue.

Regina Parker is an associate with Mattioni, Ltd.
One of the most satisfying aspects of my job is creating strategic partnerships between public interest organizations and student groups through which we train and supervise hundreds of students to extend the service delivery mechanism. Everyone gains something. The legal services organizations can expand capacity; students cultivate legal experience; and as a result, we can assist in lessening the gap between needs and resources in the community.

Now in its 18th year, the Penn Law Public Service Program continues to work with community partners to provide legal education and assistance to those most in need.

More than 5,200 students have participated in the program since its inception. Penn was the first law school to require that students perform 70 hours of law-related placement as a condition of graduation. The program’s mission is to inculcate a pro bono ethic in our students while serving the vast unmet legal needs of the poor. The students can gain invaluable legal skills; exposure to a wide range of substantive areas of law; and a sensitivity to the legal needs of the indigent.

This year, the program facilitated 798 field placements at more than 400 public interest organizations in Philadelphia and nationwide. Of those placed, more than 67 percent exceeded the 70-hour pro bono requirement. Critical to the program’s success is the ongoing support of the many legal organizations that continue to partner with the program and assist in training and supervising our interns.

The Penn Law Immigration Clinic, a student-run project providing direct legal services to indigent immigrants, has grown from a fledgling program of three law students in 2002, to a diverse community partnership involving the Nationalities Service Center, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, and 37 student volunteers. The PLIC program has resulted in a broad range of assistance to community partners and their clients. PLIC participants perform country-condition and legal research to support asylum and Violence Against Women Act applications for petitioners from a host of countries including the Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Guatemala, Russia, Syria, and Togo. Recently, four Spanish-speaking students responded to the swell of intake calls resulting from the latest municipal ordinance targeting undocumented immigrants, and served as a point of first legal contact for the Philadelphia immigrant community.

In 2006, PLIP teamed up with Reed Smith to tackle asylum issues on a national scale. As part of this partnership, students work alongside Reed Smith pro bono attorneys in Pennsylvania, California and Washington, D.C. on circuit court immigration appeals. Currently, several PSP members assist Reed Smith on their pro bono representation of three Guatemalan detainees in a Petition for Habeas Corpus filed with the U.S. District Court of the District of Columbia.

Other public service student-initiatives at Penn Law include Prisoner’s Legal Education Project, Penn Law Reproductive Rights Law Project, Animal Law, Housing Rights and unemployment compensation, with several expansions underway.

Susan J. Feathers is assistant dean of University of Pennsylvania Law School.

In Their Own Words

Penn Law Students Help Others, Themselves

The Association’s Law Practice Management Division offers committees with programs to help you manage your law office as well as a hotline to help you with staffing, bookkeeping and other issues. Contact the Law Practice Management Hotline at (215) 238-6314.

Whether you are just starting your own firm or trying to grow your established practice, the LPM Division is available to help. The program features a bank of consultants available to counsel Bar Association members with both innovative and practical information on topics including marketing, management, technology and finances.

The Association’s Law Practice Management Division is offering programs designed to help members in many different areas. For more information, contact the committee chair listed below:

Vendor and Consultant Referral Program Committee - Mary Platt at mplatz@mmwr.com and Marla A. Joseph at mjoephs@workcompa.com.

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The Law Practice Management Division is chaired by Joseph A. Prim Jr. and Carl G. Roberts. If you need help with staffing, bookkeeping or developing your Web site, we have the consultants to assist you! Contact the Law Practice Management Hotline at (215) 238-6314.
Inquirer’s Tierney to Speak June 8

By Jeff Lyons

Brian P. Tierney, publisher of The Philadelphia Inquirer and Philadelphia Daily News, will be the keynote speaker at the closing luncheon of the Federal Courts Committee’s Annual Federal Bench-Bar Conference on Friday, June 8 at Loews Philadelphia Hotel.

Six federal judges and a host of top practitioners will be among the panelists for this annual event, offering 2.5 substantive and .5 ethics CLE credits.

“I am very excited about this year’s conference. We have lined up a terrific group of judges and private practitioners who will lead what we expect to be some very lively and informative discussions about new developments and best practices,” said conference planner Charles S. Marion, vice chair of the Federal Courts Committee.

“Among the topics which will be covered will be the Third Circuit’s new model civil jury instructions, what the U.S. Attorney’s Office is doing about identity theft, how the new e-discovery rules are working in practice and what to do when your adversary is being difficult. All in all, it will be a wonderful program you won’t want to miss,” Marion said.

The program kicks off at 8:10 a.m. with welcoming remarks from U.S. District Court Chief Judge Harvey Bartle III and Federal Courts Committee Chair Edward G. Biester III.

U.S. District Court Judge Mary A. McLaughlin, Alice W. Ballard, Scott F. Cooper and professor Catherine T. Struve of the University of Pennsylvania Law School will be the panelists for “The Third Circuit’s Model Civil Jury Instructions and Their Impact on Charging Conferences.”

U.S. Attorney Patrick L. Meehan will present remarks on ways to crack down on the growing problem of identity theft.

U.S. District Court Judge Berle M. Schiller and Stephen G. Harvey will then present “The New E-Discovery Rules - How are They Working in Practice?”

Chief Judge Bartle, U.S. Bankruptcy Court Chief Judge Diane Weiss Sigmund and Clerk of Court Michael E. Kunz will present reports on the state of the court.

U.S. District Court Judge Anita B. Brody, U.S. Magistrate Judge L. Felipe Restrepo, Laurence Z. Shiekman and Bernard W. Smalley will be the panelists for “Dealing with the Difficult Adversary - Tips from the Bench and Bar.”

The program will close with a brief presentation about the Third Circuit Bar Association from Nancy Winkelman and closing remarks from Tierney.

Tuition, which includes a course book, breakfast and lunch, is $175 for members of the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania or any other county bar association. Tuition is $155 for members admitted after Jan. 1, 2003; $195 for nonmembers; $99 for paralegals attending with an attorney; $129 for paralegals attending alone; $90 for judges and judicial law clerks; and $80 for judges and judicial law clerks admitted after Jan. 1, 2003.

To register online for the 2007 Federal Bench-Bar Conference on Friday, June 8, visit pbi.org.

Mideast Reporter Reflects on Career

By David W. Brown

Jay Bushinsky’s voice is familiar to most Philadelphians who have listened to his reports from the Middle East on KYW Newsradio for more than 30 years. Bushinsky recently appeared in person in Philadelphia, providing an insightful look at Mideast politics backed by his 40 years of experience in that region.

Bushinsky, who is based in Jerusalem, spoke on April 30 as a guest of the Bar Association and the Brandeis Law Society. He told the crowd that these are interesting times for Israel, which is experiencing unprecedented economic success at the same time that several politics scandals are roiling the Israeli government.

A native of Buffalo, N.Y., Bushinsky continued on page 15
YLD Update

Improving Our City Takes Commitment

During a recent Board of Governors meeting, a member of the Board questioned the current role of the Bar Association. Are we a trade organization or a civic association, or a mixture between the two? I truly believe that one of the primary purposes of the Bar Association is to be engaged as Philadelphians.

Despite being recently recognized as the “Next Great City” by National Geographic, young families still continue to leave Philadelphia for the surrounding counties due to a failing public school system and a currently out-of-control crime rate. More disturbing, businesses avoid Philadelphia as a result of an oppressive tax system, bureaucratic inflexibility and an inadequate workforce.

Philadelphia will never reach its full potential unless and until the city government directly tackles these admittedly daunting challenges.

For that reason, in 2005, the YLD created the program “Philadelphia 2020”, which represents the YLD’s vision of the kind of city Philadelphia should be in the year 2020. Philadelphia 2020 is also a call to duty to the most junior members of the legal profession to increase the influence of the bar for the betterment of the city.

By the year 2020, many current young lawyers will presumably become the city’s business, civic, and political leaders. Philadelphia cannot risk its future leaders being unengaged, uninformed and apathetic at the most critical juncture of its history.

Since its inception, Philadelphia 2020 has hosted a series of town hall-like meetings at Bar Association headquarters. These meetings have led to a thoughtful and rather frank discussion of how Philadelphia may address the issues that have been neglected due to either political inconvenience or intolerance.

On Wednesday, June 13, Philadelphia 2020 will host a luncheon to discuss some of the cutting-edge projects taking place in Philadelphia. You will hear about how PhillyCarShare, a nonprofit organization, is maximizing the economic, environmental, and social benefits of reduced automobile dependence in the city through community-based car sharing. You will also hear about how the city, through Wireless Philadelphia, has entered into a partnership with interested public and private parties to provide wireless Internet access for the entire city thus creating a truly digital city that supports economic development, social development and helps close the digital divide in this knowledge-based world.

Any way you shape it, I truly hope you can attend the Philadelphia 2020 luncheon in June and join me as we make Philadelphia a better place to live and work. To register for the luncheon, e-mail Dawn Burger at dburger@philabar.org.

By Alan Nochumson

More Than 150 Attend YLD Comedy Night

Heather A. Suydam Herrington and Abbie Y. DuFrayne (left photo) greet attendees at the Young Lawyers Division’s Second Annual Comedy Night on May 12 at the Academy of Natural Sciences. Event chair Brian Chacker (right photo, from left) poses with headline comedian Ty Barnett and Chris Coccia, who was the opening act and master of ceremonies. More than 150 people attended the event, which raised money for the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

By the year 2020, many current young lawyers will presumably become the city’s business, civic, and political leaders.

BlogLink

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

Alan Nochumson, the sole shareholder of Nochumson P.C., is chair of the Young Lawyers Division. Contact him at anochumson@nochumson.com or call (215) 399-1346.
Attorneys Reach Out to Public for Law Week ’07

Attorney Min S. Suh greets 94 new American citizens from 31 nations at a May 1 naturalization ceremony at the U.S. Courthouse. The ceremony also included remarks from Chancellor Jane Dalton and was officiated by U.S. District Court Judge Petrese B. Tucker (right).

Clare Delaney meets with former Chancellor Edward J. Chacker at the May 1 naturalization ceremony. Delaney, a student at the High School for the Creative and Performing Arts, wrote the winning essay for the Chacker Essay Contest. She received a $1,000 scholarship toward her college education.

Attorneys (from left) Pauline Manos, Jill Soubel and Syreeta Peake offer legal advice during the Young Lawyers Division’s Law Fair at the Gallery at Market East on May 2.

Philadelphia music legend Kenny Gamble greets jurors at Juror Appreciation Day on May 3 at the Criminal Justice Center.

Chancellor-Elect A. Michael Pratt talks to students at the Young Lawyers Division’s Lawyer for a Day program on May 4 at the Bar Association.

Stephanie Mensing and Dennis Young talk to students at the Greenfield School about life as a lawyer during a Lawyer in the Classroom session on May 4. Michael Hayes also spoke.
Hundreds Race in 28th Annual 5K Run/Walk

Michael Syrnick was the overall winner of the 5K race on May 20. He finished in 15:48, nearly 30 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher.

Stacy Creamer was the first woman to finish the race. She was the women's winner in 2006.

Wendy Beetlestone and Chancellor Jane Dalton meet before the 28th Annual 5K Run/Walk.

Nearly 800 runners and walkers took part in the 28th Annual Philadelphia Bar Association 5K Run/Walk. Proceeds from the event benefit the Support Center for Child Advocates.

The Pennsylvania Superior Court team included (above, from left) Amy Keane, Benjamin Kohler, Philipp Yoon, Judge Jack A. Panella and Alison Panella. Drexel University Law School Dean Roger Dennis (below, left) and Luciana Gorum (below, right) prepare for the race.

Ian Pilling and family get ready to cross the finish line.

For more photos from the 28th Annual 5K Run/Walk on May 20, visit philadelphiabar.org.
Bushinsky

continued from page 10

has been reporting from the Middle East since 1966 when he became a foreign correspondent for the former Chicago Daily News. Although Philadelphians may only think of Bushinsky as KYW’s man in the Middle East, his work is seen and heard on radio and TV, and in print, across the United States, Canada and Australia. In 1980, he also founded CNN’s Jerusalem bureau.

Bushinsky said that this is a difficult time to be a foreign correspondent because unlike in the past, journalists are now often targeted by terrorist groups. He gave the example of BBC reporter Alan Johnston, who was kidnapped by masked gunmen on March 12.

“We, the foreign correspondents, are no longer what we thought we were - what I thought I was - immune, untouchable, never in real danger even if there were bullets flying overhead,” he said.

“Unfortunately in the world of today, as you know, it’s not that way anymore.”

Bushinsky said that he has an advantage over many of his fellow correspondents in that he speaks Hebrew. He first visited Israel in 1951 to study at the Hebrew University of Israel, and he married his wife, Dvora, in Israel in 1952. He said that he has never accepted Israeli citizenship however. He explained that part of the reason for his decision is that Israeli citizens need to get permission from the government to visit Arab nations, and that his job requires that he be able to go to various Middle East hot spots on a moment’s notice.

Bushinsky told the audience that these are interesting times for reporters due to scandals surrounding Israel’s president and prime minister. President Moshe Katsav is accused of raping or sexually harassing numerous women, and has stepped down as acting president. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is being investigated for allegedly providing political favors to friends and accepting bribes.

“It’s kind of a shoddy, seamy, uncomfortable situation for the whole country when the prime minister is being accused of all these improper acts,” Bushinsky said. “It erodes the public confidence.”

At the same time, a commission appointed by Olmert is investigating mistakes made in the “Second Lebanon War,” which started in July 2006. The war began after two Israeli soldiers were kidnapped. Bushinsky said that many Israelis are questioning the purpose and tactics of the war, which killed 130 Israeli soldiers and more than 1,000 Lebanese citizens.

“It wasn’t my goal in life to be a war correspondent, and I never thought I would be one but I’ve covered four or five wars, so I know a little bit about military tactics and a little bit about terrorism,” he said.

“The prospect of finding hostages in a place like the Gaza Strip is like finding a needle in a haystack. Who knows where they are? And the same has to do especially with Lebanon.”

Bushinsky said that it is ironic that despite political problems, the Israeli economy is booming, with tourists and foreign investment pouring into the nation. Meanwhile, he said that a new era has begun with Arab states such as Saudi Arabia making peace initiatives toward Israel in an effort to counter Islamic fundamentalism. Bushinsky said that he is confident that despite its war-torn history, Israel will continue to thrive.

“It’s a wonderful country. I’ve been living there. It’s not been an ordeal by any means; I enjoyed every minute,” he said.

“And it will be an even better country as time goes by. All of these problems will work themselves out. I can say that with experience.”

David W. Brown is an associate at Dechert LLP.

Jay Bushinsky has been reporting from the Middle East since 1966. He’s heard locally on KYW Newsradio.
LexisNexis Provides Access, Training to Foundation Grantees

By Maureen Mingey

For many years, LexisNexis has partnered with the Philadelphia Bar Foundation to provide crucial research resources at no charge to the nonprofit public interest organizations that receive funding from the Foundation.

LexisNexis hosted an open house and training event on May 2, which provided free, individualized training, along with complimentary breakfast and lunch, to 20 staff representatives from six different PBF grantee agencies so that the organizations could maximize the impact of their LexisNexis grants.

“This year we wanted to provide the Foundation’s grantees with a more individualized training program that addresses the specific research needs of the staff from each organization,” said Rod E. Wittenberg, regional client manager for LexisNexis. “We hope that the training program will help to expand the research capacity of each program, and enhance their ability to continue their critical work of protecting the legal rights of many of the most vulnerable citizens of our community,” added Wittenberg.

For each of the past several years, LexisNexis has contributed 240 hours of LexisNexis research time on an annual basis to PBF grantees free of charge. This grant has a market value in excess of $200,000 each year.

The Foundation incorporates the LexisNexis research grant into its regular grant making process to ensure a fair and competitive allocation process. To be eligible for a grant of LexisNexis research hours, applicants must provide free legal services, either through advocacy; referrals or direct provision of services, and must receive funding from the Bar Foundation in the preceding and current grant cycles.

Applications for the LexisNexis research grants are accepted by the Foundation in December of each year, and the grants are awarded in the beginning of January. This year the Foundation awarded research grants to the following organizations: AIDS Law Project; Equality Advocates; Pennsylvania (formerly The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights); Friends of Farmworkers; Homeless Advocacy Project; Legal Clinic for the Disabled; Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center; Regional Housing Legal Services; SeniorLAW Center; Society Created to Reduce Urban Blight; Women Against Abuse Legal Center; and the Women’s Law Project.

“The LexisNexis research grants have greatly contributed to the successful work of our organizations on behalf of our clients,” noted Ronda Goldfein, executive director of the AIDS Law Project. “Pennsylvania, like most states, has occupational licensing requirements that contain terms, such as ‘contagious or communicable disease,’ which keep people with HIV/AIDS from certain jobs, such as barbering and haircutting, despite local, state and federal anti-discrimination laws. With our Lexis research hours, we were able to prepare a list of all the regulations and convince the state Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs to work with us to clarify the requirements so that people with disabilities are not unfairly excluded from the workplace,” added Goldfein.

Maureen Mingey is executive director of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.
Chancellor on the Air

Chancellor Jane Dalton relaxes before recording an interview with CBS 3 news anchor Marc Howard on April 26. The interview, which appeared on CBS 3’s "Newsmakers with Marc Howard," was broadcast on April 29. Dalton discussed the work of the Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention.

Bar Association Forms Nominating Committee


The committee has scheduled dates for its next meetings. They are Thursday, Sept. 6, 2007, at 12 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. and Thursday, Oct. 12, 2007, at 3:30 p.m.

Offices for which candidates are being solicited are vice chancellor, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and five seats on the Board of Governors, three of which are to be nominated by the Nominating Committee. Each Board seat carries a three-year term.

Individuals who wish to be considered for any of the above offices should submit a resume of their background and indicate the position for which they wish to run.

Materials should be submitted to the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Alan M. Feldman, c/o Susan Knight, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2911, no later than 5 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 4, 2007.

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O’Connor Award Nominees Sought

The Women in the Profession Committee is seeking nominations for the 2007 Sandra Day O’Connor Award. Deadline for nominations is July 31.

The award is conferred annually on a woman attorney who has demonstrated superior legal talent, achieved significant legal accomplishments and has furthered the advancement of women in both the profession and the community. The award presentation will be made during the October Quarterly Meeting.

The committee established the award in 1993 to recognize the important contributions that women attorneys in Philadelphia have made to the legal profession.

That year, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor presented the first award to U.S. District Court Senior Judge Norma L. Shapiro.

The award has since been presented to the late Juanita Kidd Stout, former justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court; Deborah R. Willig, first woman Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association; Professor Marina Angel, of the Temple University Beasley School of Law; Third Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Dolores K. Sloviter (former Chief Judge); U.S. District Court Judge Anita B. Brody; Leslie Anne Miller, first woman president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association; Lila G. Roomba of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP; the late Judge Judith J. Jamison; Ellen T. Greenlee, chief defender of the Defender Association of Philadelphia; former Chancellor Audrey C. Talley; U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Marjorie O. Rendell; Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Phyllis W. Beck; and Roberta D. Pichini.

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To nominate someone for the Sandra Day O’Connor Award, print a nomination form at philadelphiabar.org.
said Dalton, and while she agreed that most large law firms do want to have a more diverse workforce, “good intentions alone have not been sufficient.”

Houston, speaking not only from her experience with Campbell Soup, but also from her background in diversity management and development, stressed first the business and economics of diversity.

“As a company selling products around the world today, we need that rich mix of employees with diverse backgrounds, experiences, lifestyles, and perspectives to really help us think through the changing demands of a global consumer base,” said Houston.

“Diversity and inclusion initiatives should enhance your talent base, should make you more innovative, and should drive your growth and client base penetration.”

Houston also explained the need for a fully implemented strategy of diversity that starts with all aspects of the business, from its customers to its shareholders. “Diversity is more than just bringing in people that are different than you and who have different perspectives. It’s all about including people and giving them the chance to make valuable contributions.”

Defining diversity and developing a plan for implementation are only half the challenge, said Houston. Organizations need to implement their plans and create benchmarks to track organizational change and behaviors.

McKnight credited much of what she calls Wachovia’s “diversity overhaul” to solid support and guidance from the top down. “Our CEO, Ken Thompson, is a person who gets it,” said McKnight.

“Diversity at Wachovia is a business imperative,” she said, and “leadership is the key aspect of diversity initiatives.”

She also credited the company’s readiness to implement strategies and ideas for change as well as its willingness to tie compensation and bonus structures to those goals. “As a part of our annual review process, everyone at Wachovia has a responsibility to our diversity initiatives.”

Overall, the message from both women was clear: the best way to ensure a diverse workforce is simply to insist that interviews and job openings are made available to all qualified candidates and that every member of the organization understands the need for, and benefits of, a diverse workforce.

Brian K. Sims, an associate with Mark Seltzer & Associates, P.C., is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

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**According to...**

**Do You Plan on Seeing Any Summer Blockbuster Movies?**

“Plan on seeing ‘Spider-Man 3,’ but I think I’ll wait until the hype dies down a little so it’s not as crowded.”

- Pearl Pham

“I grew up liking Spider-Man, so I’ll go see that. I’m not a big ‘Shrek’ fan with all of the noises and stuff. And I’m not interested in pirates that much. If you’ve seen one pirate movie, you’ve seen them all.”

- Ricardo Jefferson

“I want to see ‘Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s End.’ I’m looking forward to it because I liked the first two Pirates movies so much.”

- Diana Kadash

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**Frontline continued from page 3**

There is much that all of us can do if we work together, share ideas and reaffirm our commitment to the city and the region.

Of course the Bar Association is already involved with the local schools through a variety of mentoring and outreach programs. And we have never hesitated to join with the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and other groups on issues and projects of mutual interest to enhance the city’s economic well-being.

But the recent figures reported by the Workforce Investment Board demand that we must do more. We must be ready to redouble our efforts by joining with the new CEO of the Philadelphia School District and the new mayor to invest in the future of our city and make a real difference for parents, students, taxpayers and employers.

Jane Dalton, a partner at Duane Morris LLP, is Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. Her e-mail address is Chancellor@philabar.org.

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Sara Woods  
continued from page 4

WebCheck

Note: While the following listings have been verified prior to press time, any scheduled event may be subject to change by the committee or section chairs.

Friday, June 1  
Law School Outreach Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.  
Committee on the Legal Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room.

Monday, June 4  
Family Law Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

Tuesday, June 5  
Philadelphia Bar Foundation Board of Trustees: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.  
Committee on the Legal Rights of Persons with Disabilities: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room.

Wednesday, June 6  
Delivery of Legal Services Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.  
State Civil Litigation Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Thursday, June 7  
Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon: 12 p.m., Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets. Tickets: $50, philadelphiabar.org.

Friday, June 8  
Law School Outreach Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Monday, June 11  
Business Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Wednesday, June 20  
Workers’ Compensation Section Executive Committee: meeting, 10:30 a.m., 11th floor Committee Room.  
Workers’ Compensation Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Tuesday, June 26  

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

Wednesday, June 27  
Medical-Legal Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Thursday, June 28  
Minorities in the Profession Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Lawyer Referral and Information Service Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Elder Law Committee: meeting, 1 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

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

Friday, June 29  
Women’s Rights Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

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

Sara Woods

Woods said, “That starts before they become attorneys. That starts in law school and before, if possible. We have a lot of partnerships with law students right now. If they get into pro bono once they’re law students, they’re more likely to do it once they’ve passed the bar. It becomes a habit and it’s something that’s natural to you,” Woods explained.

To get more attorneys interested in providing their services pro bono, Woods thinks there needs to be a menu of options for people.

“There’s not one thing that’s going to work for volunteer training. Certain folks are attracted to pro bono because of the clients and the mission and they feel very deeply committed to doing service work. Others do it because they think they should do it. Others do it because their firm tells them to do it. Others see it as a networking opportunity. We need to find out what gets them motivated to do pro bono work,” she said.

And once an attorney signs up to volunteer at VIP, there is plenty of support. Woods says she or a staff member will talk with the new volunteer and find out the kind of case on which they’d like to work. “We want to know their interest and experience level. We want to make sure we can find a case that will fit with their skills and their interests.”

Training materials, both manuals and videos, are available, depending on what type of case the volunteer is looking for. “We have practice groups at various firms that meet regularly so they can discuss their cases. We have listservs that help people in different areas. We have mentor attorneys we can match up with younger attorneys to make sure they’re working through the case correctly. You’re not going to be alone if you take a case from us. You have this whole panoply of people and materials to help them,” Woods said.

Time is the biggest challenge facing VIP. Woods says, “Whether you’re a sole practitioner or if you’re at a huge law firm, time is an issue. There’s so much going on and access to people is 24/7. Fitting in your paying work, plus your family life and then adding in pro bono is challenging. That’s why we need to make it as easy as possible for people to volunteer. We need to let people know that when they take a case, they are supported. It’s tough to find the time. I know that from my own experience as a volunteer attorney,” she said.
Bush Changes Rules Again Over Detainees

President Bush is mucking with the legal system again. Last time I wrote about the White House’s attempts to discourage pro bono efforts by large Washington firms on behalf of Guantanamo detainees by urging large corporations not to employ those firms doing the pro bono work. Now Mr. Bush is being even more blatant in his attempt to deny due process rights to detainees.

In the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, the Justice Department has filed papers seeking to limit the number of visits a defense lawyer can make to confer with her client. The basis for this request was that the lawyers’ visits to see the prisoners “cause unrest on the base.” The papers alleged that these visits cause hunger strikes and protests among the prisoners. It also was alleged that the visits are pretext for gathering information from the detainees for release to the media. Let’s be clear. These are allegations only.

Since when does the Justice Department get to determine the rights and availability of counsel to detainees, the very people it is attempting to prosecute? If the detainees are enemy combatants and should properly be detained, I have every confidence our system of justice will handle the matters appropriately. What seems out of line is the Justice Department’s attempt to stack the deck by seeking to interfere with the right of counsel and client to confer and properly prepare their cases. These are volunteer lawyers who are not getting paid. Other than seeking justice through the process, there seems to be little to be gained by them (other than a bumpy trip to sunny Guantanamo) visiting their clients needlessly.

This approach by the Justice Department to a problem no one else perceives leaves many with the feeling that, once again, the people associated with the White House seem to believe that they should also be judge and jury in the prosecution of these matters. Even if the White House believes there is some political conspiracy here to embarrass the president over his conduct of the Iraq war, there must be other means to address that issue besides destroying our criminal justice and constitutional jurisprudence. The guilty should be punished under our system of jurisprudence. To change the rules because you do not like the detainees’ political ideology makes us no better than anyone else in the Middle East.

By Bruce H. Bikin, a partner at Montgomery, McCloskey, Walker & Blousd, LLP, is an advisory editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Be huge in terms of lost interest and lost tax-deferred opportunities. Martin also recommends researching investment opportunities and considering the long-term effects of an investment, prior to making a commitment. For example, before investing in something such as a fixed-rate, long-term CD, consider factors such as inflation and taxes. Determine whether, in the long run, you will end up with a positive return on your investment. Martin also advises regularly maintaining your long-term investments. Track their progress, and if you have designated beneficiaries, verify that the beneficiary information is up to date. Often people who change their marital status forget to update their list of beneficiaries. This may later lead to an awkward situation where a sibling, a deceased relative, or a prior spouse receives the benefits.

Finally, be aware of your spending habits and be reasonably disciplined when it comes to adhering to your savings and investment strategy. “If you are given direction and have a plan,” says Martin, “you get there faster with less worries.”

Ria C. Momblanco is an associate with Fine Kaplan & Black, R.P.C.

**Bench-Bar continued from page 1**

the civil rights movement through his current position on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

The opening luncheon will offer 1 substantive and 2 ethics CLE credits. Bar members can register for the conference online at philadelphia.bar.org. Additionally, Bally’s Atlantic City is now accepting reservations for attendees. Book early for the best rates: rooms Thursday night, Sept. 27 are just $99; rooms Friday night are $144, and Saturday night rooms are $189. Call 1-800-345-7253 for reservations and mention you are attending the Philadelphia Bar Association Bench-Bar Conference to get these special rates.

This year’s conference is expected to bring together hundreds of lawyers and judges for two days of programming that lets practitioners and the judiciary share ideas and best practices.
A. Michael Pratt, a partner with Pepper Hamilton LLP and Chancellor-Elect of the Philadelphia Bar Association, received the Barristers’ Association of Philadelphia J. Austin Norris Award on May 19. The award is presented to a member of the Association who has given distinguished service to both the legal profession and the community.

Stephanie Resnick, a partner with Fox Rothschild LLP and vice chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Board of Governors, was recently named co-chair of the firm’s Litigation Department.

Kathleen Ziga, a partner at Dechert, presented “The Impact of the Pension Bill on the Mutual Fund Industry” at the Mutual Fund Directors Forum’s Seventh Annual Policy Conference held April 12 in Washington, D.C.

Rhonda Hill Wilson, of the Law Offices of Rhonda H. Wilson, spoke at the Advanced Nursing Home Litigation: “The Exposure is Greater Than You Think” at the Large Loss Conference, hosted by the Property Loss Research Bureau and the Liability Insurance Research Bureau in Austin, Texas.

H. Ronald Klasko, founding partner of Klasko, Rulon, Stock & Seltzer, LLP, spoke at the 28th Annual Immigration Law Update Seminar in Miami, Florida sponsored by the Florida Bar Continuing Legal Education Committee, the South Florida Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the Florida Bar International Law Section.

Michael Meloy, a partner with Marko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP discussed Pennsylvania’s residual waste program at the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry’s 2007 Environmental Laws and Regulation Conference and Trade Show on April 17.

Richard C. Mason, a member of Cozen O’Connor, was recently appointed vice-chair of the Executive, Surplus Lines and Reinsurance Committee of the American Bar Association’s Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section.

Thomas Wilson, a partner at Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP, was recently admitted to the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Scott B. Schwartz, a member of Cozen O’Connor, lectured on “Anti-Counterfeiting Measures from the Trademark Administrator’s Perspective” for the International Trademark Association’s trademark administrators workshop series.

Todd C. Vanett, a partner with Bradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, has been appointed to the board of trustees of the Walnut Street Theatre.

James J. Eisenhower of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP has been elected to serve a one-year term as the Chairman of the governing Board for the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority.

James M. Brogan, managing partner of DLA Piper’s Philadelphia office, has been inducted as a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

Dennis R. Suplee, a partner with Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP, has been elected Vice President of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

Marc Neff, a sole practitioner, lectured at the 2007 Joint Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Public Defenders Association of Pennsylvania in the area of Megan’s Law and the Litigation of Sexually Violent Predator Status.


Richard J. Bortnick, a member of Cozen O’Connor, was honored by the Philadelphia Hoyu Chinese American Association for his work representing members of Philadelphia’s Chinese community in immigration cases.

Henry Ian Pass, a sole practitioner, recently spoke about business and legal aspects of angel private equity investments at the Angel Venture Fair Education conference sponsored by the Private Investors Forum.

“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 19107-2911. Fax: (215) 238-1159. E-mail: reporter@philabarb.org. Color photos are also welcome.
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