Free One-Year Memberships Now Available

By Jeff Lyons

Attorneys working full-time for a federal, state or local governmental agency or a public interest agency who have never before been members of the Philadelphia Bar Association are now eligible for a free one-year membership in the Association.

“We want these attorneys to be a part of the Bar, and to introduce them to the many benefits of membership,” said Chancellor A. Michael Pratt. “Plus, if they join anytime between now and the end of 2008, they’ll receive the remainder of 2008 and all of 2009 free. That’s up to 19 months of free membership!”

Among the benefits of membership touted by Pratt:

• You’ll make invaluable contacts that will continue to help you throughout your career. Access career planning and placement services through our partner, JuriStaff, Inc., enjoy the advantages of a dynamic Legislative Program that champions your interests to lawmakers, a Lawyer Fee Dispute Resolution Program, and more.

• With more than 50 committees, nine sections and two divisions, including our new Law Practice Management Division, you’ll have a unique opportunity to meet and network with colleagues in every possible area of practice. Plus, you’ll have access to our extensive network of consultants to provide solutions in your daily work.

• You will receive significant discounts on selected continuing legal education.

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Kurland, Morial to Speak at Quarterly

By Jeff Lyons

Former Chancellor Seymour Kurland has had hundreds of speaking engagements over the course of his legal career. On June 30, he’ll have a first-time experience, speaking on behalf of his fellow Year Club members at the Association’s Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon.

The Year Clubs recognize attorneys who have been practicing law for 50 years or more. Kurland, who served as Chancellor of the Association in 1987, is of counsel with Doshcett LLP. He served as city solicitor in 1988 under former Mayor W. Wilson Goode. He also served as chair of the...
Two New Podcasts Added to Leadership Video Series

A pair of new video podcasts have been added to the Bar Association’s Leadership Video Series. The Leadership Video Series features prominent Philadelphians discussing their roles as leaders, revealing who inspired them as leaders, and outlining what kind of leadership the city needs right now.

The new interviews feature Police Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey and Councilwoman Maria D. Quiñones-Sánchez. Both are newcomers to their roles. Ramsey recently took the reins of the city’s police department following a six-year stint as head of the Washington, D.C. police, and Quinones began her first term as the 7th District Councilwoman in January. They spoke to the Bar Association about their leadership styles and about leaders who have inspired them.

For both, family members played a strong role. Ramsey cited his father’s work ethic as a guiding principle and Quiñones-Sánchez credits her mother with offering life-long support.

Accessing these videos is as easy as accessing the audio podcasts: Current subscribers to the Bar Association’s “Hot Interviews with Very Cool People” audio podcasts will automatically receive these video podcasts. If you are not yet a subscriber, go the Association’s Podcast homepage and sign up.

The videos can be downloaded and viewed on a video iPod, or similar handheld device. Web site visitors can watch the videos directly on their computer.

To view the new Leadership Video Series podcasts, visit the podcast center at philadelphiabar.org.

Breakfast of Champions

Wendell E. Pritchett (left) and Irv Ackelsberg address Community Legal Services’ Breakfast of Champions at the Doubletree Hotel on May 20 after they each received CLS Champion of Justice Awards. The program also featured remarks by Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter.

Disaster Planning

ARE YOU READY?

Get the latest resources from the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Disaster Planning Committee

philadelphiabar.org

1, 2, 3

All it takes is three easy steps to get a Law Practice Management Division Vendor/Consultant referral.

1) Bar members should call the LPM hotline at 215-238-6314.
2) Discuss with a Program Counselor the type of assistance you need.
3) Receive a referral. A referral through this program entitles Bar members to a free, one-hour consultation with the selected vendor/consultant. Subsequent services may be negotiated between the member and vendor/consultant directly.
Frontline

Raising the Bar Higher Must Be Priority Among Phila. Law Firms

By A. Michael Pratt

Veronica S.* supported herself on SSI for several years because of a disability that prevented her from working. Her “boyfriend” was abusive and eventually became so violent that she filed for a protection from abuse order. The court worked out an agreement giving him several months to leave her house. Meanwhile, she sought temporary shelter in the homes of various family members.

When the time came for the boyfriend to leave, Veronica went to her house, only to find that he had completely stripped it, taking all the fixtures and appliances—the stove, dishwasher, sinks, mirrors, cabinets—as well as the furniture, windows, doors and floors. He also damaged the house itself.

When she reported to the Social Security Administration that she had moved and couldn’t live in her house, they terminated her SSI benefits because she now owned “non-resident real property” worth more than $2,000, the resource limit for SSI beneficiaries.

According to SSA, it didn’t matter that Veronica had been driven out of her home, that she feared for her life and that the house was uninhabitable. To make matters worse, SSA charged her with an overpayment of nearly $13,500 and began sending her threatening collection letters.

SSA also told the Department of Public Welfare that it had terminated her SSI, which caused her health insurance and food stamps to be cut off.

When Veronica came to Community Legal Services, she was despondent and in tears. Her HLS lawyer, Richard Weishaupt, researched SSA policy, filed an appeal and drafted a statement for her that established that she fit into a little-known exception to the resource policy that allows victims of domestic violence to have such property as long as they express an intent to return to the property in the future.

After many phone calls and letters over several months, SSA restored all of Veronica’s SSI and dropped the overpayment charge. The restoration of the SSI also made it possible to get Veronica’s Medicaid and food stamps restored, enabling her to eat and see a doctor.

CLS is now contemplating another action to make the SSI domestic violence policy more flexible and better understood by employees and beneficiaries.

Cases such as that of Veronica S. are not considered “sensational,” to be covered on the front page of the newspaper continued on page 18

Letters

One Reader’s Opinion

To the Editor:

I must express my surprise and concern in learning that the Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association takes pride in the fact that the “Philadelphia Lawyer” has come to mean one that is “more clever” and “crafty.” “Clever” means someone who is mentally quick and resourceful, but often lacking in depth and soundness. “Crafty” means one marked by subtlety and guile, which in turn means deceitful and tricky. So there you have it, a “Philadelphia Lawyer” is a shallow trickster. If he’s right, it’s nothing to be proud of.

Name withheld. (The author is not listed as a Pennsylvania attorney)

Classic View

To the Editor:

The article by Marc W. Reuben concerning news commentary (May 2008) should be preserved as a classic example of a commentary on the liberal view. It had the usual laudatory adulation of liberal icons and equally usual foray (diatribe?), demeaning disparagement of the views of those wearing “the latest tinfoil headdress,” “defectors,” “the morons who call,” couched in verbiage that appears to reflect the ever-present snide snobbery of those who hold views similar to his.

Jerome M. Charen

Attorneys Needed to Fight Foreclosures

Pro bono attorneys are needed to help low-income homeowners facing foreclosure in a program requiring conciliation conferences. Through the Residential Mortgage Foreclosures Diversion Pilot Program, instituted in April by Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas President Judge C. Darnell Jones II and Judge Annette M. Rizzo, hundreds of homeowners will be offered free counseling in advance of this conciliation conference and an opportunity to negotiate to save their homes.

This program needs the involvement of pro bono attorneys to help clients work out an affordable loan modification or payment arrangement. Volunteer attorneys should expect to spend one morning or afternoon per month to attend conciliation conferences for several clients in one day. (After the first several months, the court’s backlog from the postponed April and May sheriff sales will be reduced and should ease the time commitment.) This volunteer work requires only attending the conciliation conference and making some pre-conference calls to client and opposing counsel. Training will make volunteers aware of when further litigation should be pursued by another attorney.

Training will be held Tuesday, June 3, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. in the 11th floor Conference Center of Bar headquarters, 1101 Market St., and will include Judge Rizzo as well as borrowers’ and lenders’ attorneys. Attorneys will receive two hours of free substantive CLE credit if they attend two complete morning or afternoon conciliation sessions. Breakfast will be provided by the Business Law and Real Property Sections.

Please RSVP your attendance at the training, including your contact information, to Philadelphia VIP at phillyvip@philabar.org or call 215-523-9550. For more information, contact Stefanie E. Seldon at 215-523-9564 or sfseldin@philvip.org.
Drexel Names Law School

Drexel President Constantine Papadakis (from left), Ambassador Earle Mack, students Jacqueline Lowhert and Haley Conard, Dean Roger Dennis, former New York Gov. George Pataki, John R. Drexel IV and David Rudenstein, dean of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University, toast the newly named Drexel University Earle Mack School of Law on May 1. The school was named in Mack’s honor following a $30 million gift, consisting of $15 million from Mack with guarantees that an additional $15 million in new appropriations and funds will be contributed by Drexel and donors. Mack, a 1959 graduate of Drexel, is a businessman, arts advocate and former U.S. ambassador to Finland.

Advancement of Women Focus of June Summit

The Women in the Profession Committee will hold its first Women in the Profession Summit at The CLE Conference Center on Wednesday, June 18.

The summit will focus, in part, on the best practices for the retention and promotion of women lawyers and feature a keynote address by Charisse R. Lillie, vice president of human resources for Comcast Corporation and senior vice president of human resources for Comcast Cable. Summit attendees will receive two substantive and two ethics CLE credits.

“I am hopeful that the Summit will keep up the momentum behind the Call to Action and Best Practices for the Retention and Promotion of Women Lawyers which the Bar Association adopted in September 2007. It would be great if this became an annual event,” said Committee Co-Chair Maria A. Feeley.

“We have dynamic faculty lined up, several Sandra Day O’Connor award winners, women trailblazers, as well as executive partners from Philadelphia’s largest firms who will discuss women’s initiatives focused on the retention and promotion of women lawyers. The cocktail reception also will provide a great networking opportunity,” she said.

Lynn A. Marks, executive director of Pennsylvaniaians for Modern Courts, will moderate the first CLE continued on page 22

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After 15 Years, Looking Back and Looking Ahead

By Daniel V. DiLoretto

Making the transition from a committee to section was not a sure thing 15 years ago when Norman Weinstein and I sat as the second-to-last co-chairs of the Workers’ Compensation Committee. In fact, when we offered our resolution to the incoming Chancellor Larry Besser, I couldn’t help but get the impression that the idea needed a great deal of work. Nevertheless, members got their section, and to paraphrase our present co-chair, Al Carlson, the section slogan has always been “why not?”

Since 1994, the Workers’ Compensation Section has worked tirelessly toward improving not only our profession, but those most affected by what we do. We gave our support to the Philadelphia firm of Galfand Berger LLP toward the establishment of the Pennsylvania Chapter of Kids Chance, an organization devoted to providing college scholarships to children of workers seriously disabled or killed in the course of their employment. We have sponsored annual awards and scholarships to area law students who have taken an interest in one of the most enduring (and successful) no-fault laws of the commonwealth if not the nation through the Irving Standen Award. We have honored our attorneys who have best exemplified those ideals of our practice through the annual Martha Hampton Award.

We have invited our judges to serve as co-chairs in a continuous bench-bar dialogue designed to make what we do better for workers and their employers. The input from our judges in these deliberations cannot be adequately expressed in words alone. Last year, the section, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, organized our monthly meetings into continuing legal education seminars providing our members not only with CLEs but assuring that our colleagues are the best informed practitioners in the ever rapid and changing developments of our profession. If anyone doubts those words, just take a look at how many appellate court decisions (reported and unreported) are posted monthly in the field of workers’ compensation.

Through the efforts of past and present co-chairs, our hearing facilities and courtrooms will be brought into the 21st century through a relocation to its new Arch Street location where technology and a better working environment for judges, attorneys, and most importantly our citizens will be realized.

So it was fitting that following a very necessary discussion on the unresolved issues of pension offsets, past co-chairs received recognition for their service and accomplishments over the 15-year history continued on page 20
There are 23 different CLE sessions planned for the conference by members of the Association’s sections and committees, with something for someone in every practice area. A total of 12 CLE credits are available.

The Conference kicks off on Friday, Sept. 19 with the lunchtime CLE “Race & the Law: Conversation About Diversity” with guest speaker Verna Myers. This session will be a multimedia and interactive discussion on diversity in the legal field. First-person examples from a variety of different perspectives will be shared to illustrate key points, in addition to a panel discussion with diverse participants. The goal of this session is to generate positive discussions regarding the variety of diversity issues in the workplace.

The Saturday, Sept. 20 Plenary Lunch, “2008 Presidential Election, Politics and the Law,” will feature political experts, observers and journalists from news outlets who are covering the presidential race. The panel will include pollster Terry Madonna; Montgomery County Democratic Party Chairman Marcel Groen; Larry Eichel, senior writer for The Philadelphia Inquirer; and Philadelphia Daily News opinion columnist Elmer Smith.

The Sunday, Sept. 21 Plenary Breakfast, “Caught in the Public View: Representing High-Profile Clients,” will feature national and Philadelphia-area trailblazing criminal defense attorneys and corporate litigators who will discuss the challenges and implications of representing celebrity clients, television in the courtroom and the influences of new media. The panel will be moderated by CB5 anchor Larry Mendte and will include attorneys Ted Wells (representing former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer) and Theodore Simon, who has represented Ira Einhorn.

Conference attendees will also enjoy the Friday Night Grand Reception featuring the live music of Big City and Saturday Night’s Tastes and Sounds of Philadelphia Dinner Reception & Concert.

Attorneys and judges can register for the conference by using the registration form in this edition of the Bar Reporter or by visiting philadelphiabar.org. Registration for the full three days of the conference is $549 for those members who register by Aug. 15. That rate includes all meals and CLE. For those who register after Aug. 15, the registration fee is $629. For public interest attorneys, government attorneys and members of the Young Lawyers Division, the full conference registration fee is $479. The rate is $399 for those attorneys registering by Aug. 15. Other packages are available.

Bally’s is now accepting hotel reservations for attendees. Book early for the best rates: rooms on Thursday, Sept. 18 are $99; rooms Friday, Sept. 19 are $144, and Saturday, Sept. 20 rooms range from $189 to $209. A limited number of rooms are available for the $189 rate on Saturday night. Call (800) 345-7253 for reservations and mention you are attending the Bench-Bar and Annual Conference to get these special room rates.
2008 Bench-Bar and Annual Conference Registration Form  
September 19 -21, 2008 - Bally's Atlantic City  

(Please Note: Judges will receive separate conference materials)  

Each attendee must fill out a registration form in its entirety (non-attorney guests may be included on the form). Make checks payable to Philadelphia Bar Association and mail to: 2008 Bench-Bar Conference, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19107; or pay with your credit card below and fax to (215) 238-1159. Online registration is also available at philadelphiabar.org. NOTE: Hotel reservations must be made separately by calling (800) 345-7253. Mention "Philadelphia Bar Association" to take advantage of the special room rate of $99 per night on Thursday, $144 on Friday and $189 to $209 on Saturday (plus taxes). A limited number of rooms are available for $189 on Saturday, Sept. 20. Hotel reservations must be made by Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008. 

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Judges Urge Preparation, Integrity, Pro Bono Work

By Heather J. Holloway

Be prepared; be honest; be yourself; protect your client; show respect; and get involved through pro bono work. These were just some of the practice tips given by Philadelphia Municipal Court Judge Karen Simmons, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas President Judge C. Darnell Jones II and Common Pleas Court Judges Sandra Mazer Moss, Frederica A. Massiah-Jackson, and Amanda Cooperman at the April 29 meeting of the Women in the Profession Committee.

Judge Simmons described the fast-paced atmosphere in Municipal Court, where a criminal trial listing can include approximately 55 cases in one day. Judge Simmons warned that counsel appearing before her should be prepared with legal authority, follow professional protocol (e.g., stand to address the court); ask for the relief sought (because it might be granted); seek answers to their questions; and never be pressured by court staff or the voluminous list to present their case in any manner other than how counsel deems appropriate to protect her client’s interest.

Both Judges Simmons and Jones recommended involvement in pro bono matters. Judge Jones noted the tremendous visible absence of women and minority attorneys in the business courts and recommended pro bono involvement in business-related matters as a way to improve skills and increase exposure. He recommended participation in the Fraudulent Conveyance and Mortgage Foreclosure pilot pro bono program.

Judge Moss, who spends most of her time conducting settlement conferences, reads everything prior to those conferences; however, she nonetheless requests that counsel explain the case so that she can evaluate counsel’s presentation and determine how counsel may be perceived by a trial judge or jury. Cases should be presented in a simple and honest manner and counsel should be forthcoming about weak aspects of the case. Judge Moss said counsel should appear with authority and should bring a client representative to the conference when possible so that she can build a rapport with the client. Judge Moss also cautioned against fighting between counsel, as it only harms their respective clients. And, she cautioned that counsel who inquire as to whether their opponent will settle within a specified range should be prepared to offer/accept a figure within that range if she is able to persuade their opponent.

Using motions in limine as an example, Judge Massiah-Jackson said that an attorney should fight for her client. Counsel must be prepared and must protect the record by filing any number of motions that counsel deems necessary. Judge Massiah-Jackson also stated there is a point at which every case should settle and suggested that there is a benefit to finality.

According to Judge Cooperman, counsel should have two objectives—winning the case and winning the judge. Counsel should use the court staff to win the judge by inquiring as to the judge’s preferences. But, counsel should be mindful of conversations that the court may deem offensive, noting that the court’s staff reports counsel’s conduct to the court. In attempting to win the case, counsel should be respectful and honest. Counsel should be forthcoming, advising the court of legal authority that does not support their position and counsel should remember that the court is ultimately searching for the truth.

Heather J. Holloway, an associate with Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
FAMILY LAW SECTION

Strategies Supporting All Families Advocated

By Kathryn C. Harr

“Marriage shouldn’t be the dividing line between the relationships the law counts and the relationships that the law doesn’t count,” Professor Nancy D. Polikoff of American University Washington College of Law said at a May 5 program sponsored by the Family Law Section, Legal Rights of Unmarried Cohabitants Committee, Civil Rights Committee and LGBT Rights Committee.

“My solution is valuing all families,” Polikoff explained. Author of the recently published book, Beyond (Straight and Gay) Marriage: Valuing All Families Under the Law, she approaches the analysis by looking at laws that convey special rights to married couples and examining why those laws exist. “We can then rewrite it to make sure it captures the relevant range of relationships that will actually allow the purpose of the law to be fulfilled.”

“Our legal system is capable of doing this now because it actually is doing it in isolated places, in ways that can be replicated everywhere.” Polikoff cited the example of benefits for federal employees that allow leave to care for anyone who has a close association with the employee who has the equivalent of a family relationship. The definition of family member was intentionally broadly worded in order to allow federal workers to balance their work and family responsibilities. Laws like this “solve real problems without carving out special rights,” she said.

Polikoff recounted the history of the marriage movement, which grew out of the conservative backlash that responded to the early gay rights movement in the 1970s, as blaming the decline of “life-long, heterosexual marriage” for all of society’s ills. “Poverty, crime, violence, substance abuse, illiteracy, homelessness, chronic illness, and infant mortality are just some of the many problems that would disappear if everybody would just get married and stay married,” she noted.

Laws according special privileges to marriage were justified by recognizing marriage as fundamental to society. Much of this rhetoric is still used today – including continued on page 20

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Bar Foundation

Working Together for Better Access to Justice

By Gene Sirni

I’m proud and privileged to be serving as the Bar Foundation’s new executive director, and I draw much confidence from our legal community’s enthusiasm about the Foundation’s future. I’d like to share a snapshot of impressions to date. Prior to officially joining the Foundation, I attended the April meeting of the Bar Association’s Delivery of Legal Services Committee. As you may know, this is a group of dedicated professionals from organizations providing access to the legal system for many of Philadelphia’s most vulnerable citizens. At the meeting, steps were developed to locally assist with the current foreclosure crisis, as well as effectively address a number of other pressing issues. The Bar Foundation is privileged to support these organizations annually through our grants program.

Leaving the meeting, I was struck by how the April cover story of Philadelphia magazine, “The Last Days of the Philadelphia Lawyer” missed so many contributions made by our legal community. So, we wrote the magazine, and our letter wound up printed in the May issue, almost intact. Absent only was the first paragraph about the special dedication of the Delivery of Legal Services Committee. In any event, we hope you have the opportunity to read our letter, and I hope we continue raising awareness about the exceptional work, philanthropy and tireless volunteerism demonstrated by the Philadelphia lawyer.

I’ve learned much and met many talented people who are helping the Bar Foundation succeed. Fundamentally, we have a great organization. By comparison to other nonprofits I’ve known and worked with, the Bar Foundation stands apart, without question. I say this based on both the level of engagement and the skill sets of the people involved. I must tell you, in the nonprofit world, this is a rare combination. And what it means for the Bar Foundation moving forward is that we are well positioned not only to identify fundraising opportunities, but also to create them. We have superb leadership, talented professionals, a valuable partnership with the Bar Association, and the energy and vision to engage new donors in new ways. We’re committed to ensuring that the needs of our donors are fulfilled, as well as integrating their interests with the needs and achievements of our grantees. In short, we’re pledged to provide a meaningful philanthropic experience for Bar Foundation donors, whether it’s helping structure a planned gift or appropriate bequest language, or establishing a fund to address a family’s targeted philanthropic priorities.

The Bar Foundation is approaching this work through a strategic planning process. Endowment building, a major gifts program and establishing planned giving opportunities will be our focus moving forward. The planning process also has made us keenly aware of the need to communicate our mission visibly and tangibly, so people can participate and connect to our work in ways that fit their interests and advance the effectiveness of our grantees.

The generosity of many within our legal community is impressive. But, can we do more? Can we reach everyone who has a stake in providing “access to justice”? Without question, I believe the potential for significant growth in fundraising for the Bar Foundation is limitless. The idea of providing access to justice is universally appealing and fundamental to our American values. The closing phrase of our Pledge of Allegiance, “with liberty and justice for all,” is a poignant reminder that the best and most effective way to ensure that this value is a reality here in Philadelphia is by giving generously to the Bar Foundation and encouraging others by your example. The need is clear. Our grantees require increased and dependable funding annually in order to carry out the public interest mission that we share. Consider a generous gift today, and please remember the Bar Foundation during estate planning. Together, through your involvement and support, we can make “access to justice” a reality.

I hope we have the opportunity to spend time learning and improving how the Bar Foundation can better serve the legal community, our grantees and the people of Philadelphia. I welcome your call, visit or opportunity for conversation, always.

Gene Sirni is executive director of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

Jewish Law Day Committee members (from left) Louis Siles, Rabbi David Guterman, Carolyn Hochstatter Dicker and Lynn Zeitlin work to plan the June 4 event.

Jewish Law Day June 4

Rabbi Elliot Dorff, PhD, will speak on “For Love of God and People: A Philosophy of Jewish Law” at the 26th Annual Jewish Law Day on Wednesday, June 4 at 4:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Services Building, 2100 Arch St.

The program is sponsored by the Committee of Judges and Lawyers, VAAD: The Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia, and the Louis D. Brandeis Law Society. Mayor Michael Nutter will be honored at the event.

For more information about Jewish Law Day visit brandeislawociety.org or call Adam Laver at (215) 569-5764. The program qualifies for one substantive hour of CLE credit. Jewish Law Day is free of charge and open to the entire community. Complimentary valet parking provided.

The idea of providing access to justice is universally appealing and fundamental to our American values.
Seven Judges Among Federal Bench-Bar Panelists

“There’s more to the Federal Bench-Bar Conference than CLE credit, says Federal Courts Committee Chair Charles S. Marion. “The Federal Bench-Bar Conference is always a terrific opportunity for lawyers and judges to interact in an informal setting,” said Marion. “We are blessed with a terrific local federal bench, and always have a large number of judges in attendance. For attorneys who litigate in the Eastern District, hearing from our local federal judges as to their preferences and procedures is invaluable,” he said.

Seven federal judges and a host of top practitioners are scheduled for panels at the June 6 conference at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1201 Market St. Registration and breakfast begin at 7:30 a.m.

The program, offering 3 substantive CLE credits, begins with opening remarks by U.S. District Court Chief Judge Harvey Bartle II, Marion and Vice Chair Craig D. Mills.


Judge Bartle and Clerk of Court Michael Kunz will present reports on the state of the court and U.S. District Court Judge Timothy R. Rice will present an update on the prisoner re-entry program.


Tuition, which includes a course book, breakfast and lunch, is $185 for members of the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania or any other county bar association. Tuition is $165 for members admitted after Jan. 1, 2004; $215 for nonmembers; $99 for paralegals attending with an attorney; $129 for paralegals attending alone; $100 for judges and judicial law clerks; and $90 for judges and judicial law clerks admitted after Jan. 1, 2004. Registrations received more than three days before the conference qualify for these early registration rates.

City Looks to Stop Straw Purchases of Guns

By Scott P. Sigman

Since 2006, Philadelphia's murder rate soared more than 36 percent while the national average increased only by 2 percent. In response to this dramatic increase in gun-related homicides in Philadelphia, Mayor Michael Nutter signed a package of five gun bills that were passed unanimously by Philadelphia City Council in April.

These new laws limited handgun purchases to one a month; made it a crime not to report lost or stolen guns in 48 hours; allowed police to confiscate guns from people considered a danger to themselves or others; and banned semiautomatic weapons with clips that hold more than 10 rounds. In fact, Mayor Nutter said that he was going to start enforcing the laws immediately.

Shortly after this announcement, the National Rifle Association went to the court and successfully obtained an injunction blocking enforcement of these laws pending a hearing.

The NRA based its legal argument on Pennsylvania’s own “Second Amendment,” a statute in the Crimes Code, and on a 1996 Supreme Court case.

First, the NRA points to Article 1, Section 21 of the Pennsylvania constitution, which states: “The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State shall not be questioned.”

The NRA then suggests that the Pennsylvania Legislature created an absolute preemption in the Section 6120 of the Crimes Code, which states that: “No county, municipality or township may in any manner regulate the lawful ownership, possession, transfer or transportation of firearms, ammunition or ammunition components when carried or transported for purposes not prohibited by the laws of this Commonwealth.” (18 Pa.C.S.A. § 6120)

Finally, the NRA uses a 1996 Supreme Court case to reaffirm its contentions. In that case, City Council members and others brought an action to enjoin the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s preemption of Philadelphia’s assault weapons ban. The Supreme Court held that “since the Constitution provides that home rule municipalities may not perform any power denied by the General Assembly and the General Assembly has denied all municipalities the power to regulate ownership, possession, transfer, or possession of firearms, municipalities’ attempts to ban possession of certain types of firearms were constitutionally invalid.” (Commonwealth v. Ortiz, 681 A.2d 152)

How can the City of Philadelphia overcome such precedent? Much like the yet-to-be decided U.S. Supreme Court case, Parker v. District of Columbia, where a complete ban on home firearm possession in existence for the past 30 years in Washington, D.C. is being challenged and the argument concerns the placement of “commas” in the U.S. Constitution’s Second Amendment, this case too hinges on a phrase.

As you may have noticed, Section 61.20 of the Crimes Code ends with the phrase, “when carried or transported for purposes not prohibited by the laws of this Commonwealth.” One may argue that this phrase creates an exception for when cities may regulate.

The real question is whether these new gun laws will help reduce the gun-related violence and death in Philadelphia. One perspective is that “guns and bullets do continued on page 13
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not kill, it is the people who use them.” While another point of view is that the easy availability of guns in Pennsylvania allows criminals to obtain guns through straw purchasing.

Most guns used in Philadelphia homicides and shootings are bought in quantity from a handful of area gun shops and resold on the streets. Hundreds of guns seized in crime can be, and have been, traced back to a handful of shops that function as wholesalers for straw purchasers.

Notably, many people are purposely killed and maimed in Philadelphia by guns that were straw-purchased in Philadelphia as illustrated below:

• Faheem Thomas-Childs, 10, was killed outside of his school by a stray bullet in February 2004.
• Zahir Hasan, 17, was killed in 1998.
• Anthony Oliver, 14, a middle school student killed by a straw-purchased gun.
• Nafis Jefferson, 7, hit in the head with a bullet from a straw-purchased gun.
• Philadelphia Police Officer Lauretha Vaid was seriously wounded in 1996 by a straw-purchased gun.
• Philadelphia Police Officer Jay Delaney was seriously wounded and permanently disabled in 1997 by a straw-purchased gun.

In fact, and most notably, the guns used by the terrorist conspirators in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing were straw purchased from the same Philadelphia area gun shop as the guns that were used to kill Anthony Oliver, Faheem Thomas-Childs, to seriously wound Philadelphia Police Officer Lauretha Vaid, and to seriously wound Philadelphia Police Officer Jay Delaney.

Scott P. Signan, chair of the Young Lawyers Division, is an associate at Bochetto & Lentz, P.C. and may be reached by e-mail at wsignan@bochettoandlentz.com or by telephone at (215) 735-3900.
YLD Marks Law Week 2008 with Public Service

Yomara Arroyo from Esperanza Academy Charter High School prepares to read her winning essay at a naturalization ceremony at the U.S. Courthouse on May 1. Arroyo received a bond for college for her submission in the Edward F. Chacker Essay Contest. Chancellor A. Michael Pratt and U.S. District Court Senior Judge Norma L. Shapiro watch the proceedings, where 99 people from 35 countries took the oath of citizenship.

Jonathan Goldman (from left), Stephanie Mensing and Drelw Law student Peter Kidd meet with students from The Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts on South Broad Street on April 29 as part of the Lawyer in the Classroom program.

Mayor Michael Nutter (left) talks to Philadelphia high school students at the Lawyer for a Day program on May 2. More than 100 students visited courtrooms in City Hall and the Criminal Justice Center and heard from Chancellor-Elect Sayde J. Ladov, City Solicitor Shelley R. Smith, James Elam, Daniel-Paul Alva, Michael B. Hayes and Dennis Young about their lives in the law.

YLD Chair Scott P. Sigman (above, from left), Saul Segn, Abbie DuFrayne and Brian Chacker meet at Independence Mall for “Legal Advice Live!” on April 30. At right, Dashika Wellington and Hara Podel offer advice. Dozens of people took advantage of the event.

Meghan M. Townsend, Judge Annette M. Rizzo and Justin Moriconi prepare for the trial of Gold E. Locks vs. The Three Bears on May 1 at City Hall. The program used elementary school children as jurors who decided the case. Other judges involved with the program included President Judge C. Darnell Jones II and Judges Marlene Lachman, Sandra Mazer Moss and D. Webster Keogh.
More than 1,000 Run to Benefit Support Center

More than 1,000 runners and walkers participated in the 29th Annual 5K Run/Walk on May 18 along Martin Luther King Drive. Michael Syrnick (466) won the men's division of the race.

Karen Smith (1060) won the women's division.

Jacqueline Poplaski (left) and Charissa Ray were among the participants.

Jim Wells, David Trevaskis and Kim Jessum. Wells and Jessum ran and Trevaskis volunteered.

Sophia Lee joins race co-chair Michael Berkowitz.

Marni Gangel (left) prepares for the race while Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Daniel J. Anders (1184) and friends meet after the event. U.S. District Court Judge Eduardo C. Robreno (404) warms up. The event raised money for the Support Center for Child Advocates.
Quarterly Meeting continued from page 1

Board of Governors has served as chair of the Federal Courts Committee.

Marc H. Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League and former mayor of New Orleans, will deliver the Judge A. Leon Higginbotham Jr. Memorial Public Interest Lecture at the event.

Since Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, delivered the first Higginbotham lecture in 1999, notables such as Juan Williams, Charles J. Ogletree, Chaka Fattah, Cornel West, Kwesi Mfume and Gwen Ifill have filled the role.

Morial served two distinguished four-year terms as mayor of New Orleans from 1994-2002. During that time, he also served as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2001 and 2002.

Morial served two years in the Louisiana Senate and was recognized by the Louisiana Bar Association which honored him in 1988 with its Pro Bono Publico Award. He earned a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1983 and also earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics and African American Studies from the University of Pennsylvania in 1980.

The June Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon begins at 12 p.m. at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets.

Fourty-nine new members will be welcomed into the Association's Year Clubs at the program. Following is a list of new members of the Association's 50-, 60-, 65- and 70-Year Clubs:

50-Year Club


60-Year Club

William D. Harris, Judge Charles P. Mirarchi Jr. and John H. Wood Jr.

65-Year Club

John A. Eichman III and Joseph Shansis.

70-Year Club

Edward I. Cutler.

Notice to Philadelphia Bar Association Members

Notice to Philadelphia Bar Association Members:

Pursuant to Section 1100 of the Philadelphia Bar Association bylaws, notice is hereby given to all members of the Philadelphia Bar Association that the following amendments to the bylaws of the Philadelphia Bar Association were considered at the March 27, 2008 Board of Governors meeting and were approved for submission to the members at the June Quarterly meeting to take place on Monday, June 30, 2008 at Noon at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue.

Article IV of the Bylaws is amended and restated as follows:

ARTICLE IV - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 400. Elections Committee; Composition.

(A) There shall be an Elections Committee which shall consist of the Immediate Past Chancellor, who shall serve as Chair, and at least 10 Members, all of whom shall be appointed by the current Chancellor with approval of the Board, reflecting the diversity of the Association. The Secretary shall be an ex officio member of the Elections Committee.

(B) No member of the Elections Committee, other than an ex officio member, may be a candidate for any office of the Association in the year in which such member serves on the Elections Committee.

Section 401. Duties and Procedures of the Elections Committee.

(A) The Elections Committee shall actively seek eligible candidates for the offices and positions to be filled and the Committee shall actively seek and recruit candidates of diverse backgrounds, including those who have been historically underrepresented as officers and members of the Board.

(B) As often as the Committee shall determine, but in any event not less than on three separate days the last of which shall not be less than 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting, the Secretary shall cause a notice to be Published listing the offices to be filled at said Annual Meeting and requesting nominations for such offices.

(C) The Elections Committee shall adopt such rules and procedures as it shall deem appropriate for the conduct of its business to the extent not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

(D) The Elections Committee shall not endorse, evaluate or rank any candidate.

Section 402. Nominating Procedure. A Member may become a candidate for an office of the Association or for the Board of Governors, by:

(A) Filing with the Secretary; at least 60 days prior to the annual meeting; nominations in writing which, for candidates of the Board, must be signed by at least 25 Members who are entitled to vote; for candidates for Secretary, Treasurer, As-

Philadelphia Bar Association June Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon

Monday, June 30 at 12 p.m. at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets

- Featuring presentation of the Judge A. Leon Higginbotham Jr. Memorial Public Interest Lecture by Marc H. Morial
- Admission of new members into the Association’s Year Clubs

Please make reservations for the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon. Tickets are $55 for members and $60 for non-members.

Checks should be made payable to the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Name: __________________________________________

Firm/Employer: __________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

Telephone: __________________________________________

Fax: __________________________________________

E-Mail: __________________________________________

Return to:

Quarterly Meeting
Philadelphia Bar Association
1101 Market St., 11th floor
Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-2955

Credit Cardholder: __________________________

Card number: __________________________

Expiration date: __________________________

Signature: __________________________

Credit card payments should be faxed to Bar Headquarters at (215) 238-1159.

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VIP Honors Fullam

Philadelphia VIP has announced that Nancy H. Fullam, a member of McElrath and Fullam, PC, has been recognized as Volunteer of the Month for her outstanding volunteer assistance to her VIP clients.

Fullam has been an active volunteer with VIP since 1990. In that time she has helped many underprivileged residents of Philadelphia with issues of bankruptcy, consumer finance, homeownership, and more. She and the staff at McElrath and Fullam, PC, work diligently for her clients and treat them with respect. It is both the quality of her work as an attorney and her relationships with her clients that make her an outstanding volunteer. This is best articulated by the words of a client that Fullam recently represented. The client wrote that she and her husband were “more than satisfied. We are happy, rested, and settled.” The client went on to say “The people at McElrath and Fullam, PC, are great! They came to our rescue. And they were very humble. This is a rare quality. I cannot thank my volunteer enough! Nancy H. Fullam is a great attorney and a nice lady. I wish her and her team the very best.”

For all of her commitment and initiative, VIP gives its heartfelt thanks to Nancy H. Fullam.

Philadelphia VIP understands the everyday demands and time constraints that its volunteer attorneys face. VIP values all volunteers and recognizes with this honor those who handle multiple VIP cases, dedicate numerous hours to complex matters and take on cases outside of their general practice area.

Philadelphia VIP volunteers serve their clients with compassion and offer them assistance. VIP is proud to recognize volunteers who are helping achieve access to justice for all.

Mayor Attends HAP Benefit

Homeless Advocacy Project Executive Director Marsha I. Cohen is joined by Mayor Michael Nutter and HAP Benefit Co-Chair Madeline M. Sherry at HAP’s Annual Benefit on April 24 at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue. The event raised more than $175,000 for HAP.
Feasts to Famine

A Reminder of Cajun Delicacies in Center City

Les Bon Temps 114 S. 12th St. (215) 238-9100 lesbonstempsonline.com

I went to New Orleans for Mardi Gras once. ONCE. Cachin-nating drunken men are seen making plangent and crude requests of equally ululating and intoxicated women, so that the latter will expose themselves for bruise throws of beaded accoutrements by the former. The crowds are raucous, groping, puerile and ill-scented. At some points, you are unable to move either your arms or your feet, and are dragged, appendages pinned, to wherever the people pull. Puckish and Stygian all at once.

Thankfully, I also visited the Lake Pontchartrain waterfront restaurants and first gor-mandized upon plates of andouille, jambalaya and among renegade remoulade sauces.

Les Bon Temps is a delightful reminder of Cajun delicacies. I’m here because brilliant chef-owner John Mims is in the kitchen. I’ve followed his career and talented toying with trademark Creole creations from his former Havertown storefront, to a more spacious neighbor-hood nook in Narberth (sold), and now (along with a Bryn Mawr jazzy junket), to an “Almost Grand” setting on 12th Street, north of Sansom.

“Grand” is explained by the entrance level area’s highest of ceilings, most mir-rored walls, and pompously polished mahogany woods on long-bar, balconies, floors and one extremely wide staircase. The latter resembles, in size and scope, the stairway up which an inebriated Rhett took (a until then) less-than-sexually-ac-tive Scarlett to her semaphorically pregnancy in Gone With The Wind. “Almost” is explained because the painted walls are art-bare; the lighting albeit dim, nevertheless illuminates the second floor’s walls; and the paint on those walls is the color of a wet Sweet & Low packet.

Mims is as fit as ever. His attentive visage often awaits a roux to thicken or a scallop to sizzle in its cornmeal breading.

Chef John Mims, a fixture on the Main Line, has opened Les Bons Temps in Center City and brought with him the taste of New Orleans.

You may wish to begin with crab claws immersed in a broth of white wine, garlic and grated Asiago cheese ($12), or crawfish spring rolls ($11). The dozen or so bountiful claws are coated and submerged. They rest upon an underlay-ment of toasted slices of French bread, especially savory and soggy. They donate to your inhaling nostrils the aroma of rich butter. The crab claws’ pincer-shelled ends are easily picked up to have their perfectly pearly white flesh sucked dry to the cartilage with one’s pursed lips. Your tongue curls in anticipation of its next

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Frontline

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or on the evening news. But her case and thousands more like them underscore the vital work that is being done on a daily basis by our city’s public interest legal organizations. For many low-income resi-dents, the dedicated representation that low-paid legal services attorneys provide is literally all that separates them from a life on the streets. In some cases, it is their only lifetime to survival.

Veronica was fortunate. Others are not so lucky. For all of my 23 years of practice, I have heard countless stories of how local legal services groups are unable to provide critical legal advice to those struggling with poverty, abuse and discrimination because of the lack of financial resources.

I have heard the dispiriting Legal Ser-vices Corporation report that less than 20 percent of the legal needs of low-income Americans are being met. As we head into the second-half of 2008, financial support for legal services remains in a very dismal state of affairs.

In 2006, Past Chancellor Alan M. Feldman launched the Raising the Bar Campaign, which asked local law firms to make a donation to legal services in an amount equal to $500 for each attorney in their Philadelphia office; the campaign raised more than $2.7 million for more than 30 organizations in its first two years.

Last year, more than 100 firms signed on as partners for this campaign. These firms represent close to 4,500 attorneys. This is a great start as evidenced by the fact that Bar Foundations in other cities are looking to duplicate the Raising the Bar campaign across the country.

But sadly, it’s not enough. Four out of five poor people still can’t get the legal help they need for cases like predatory lending, identity theft and elder abuse.

There is much, much more that can – and should – be done.

I understand well that Philadelphia law firms support many charitable endeavors across this region. But the unfortunate reality is that Philadelphia law firms continue to lag behind law firms in other cit-ies in per capita support for legal services organizations.

In fact, of the billions of dollars gener-ated by Philadelphia law firms in 2007, our law firms are estimated to give a total of only $1.4 million to support our legal services programs. That means our total law firm giving represents a tiny fraction of one percent of the income we generate.

This year, we have re-launched this critical campaign as “Raising the Bar Higher,” with co-chairs Ronald A. Kovler, Stephen A. Madva and Grant S. Palmer. We are asking all our partner firms to re-commit for 2008. For those that are able to do so, we’re asking firms to make a three-year pledge and agree to increase the "total dollars" given to legal services programs in 2007 by at least 10 percent in each of those years. That means, for example, that if you gave $10,000 in 2007, you will pledge $11,000 in 2008, $12,100 in 2009, and $13,310 in 2010. Several firms have already met – or ex-ceeded – this commitment. They include: Cozen O’Connor; Feldman, Shepherd, Wohlgelernter, Tanner and Weinstock; Law Offices of Ronald A. Kovler; Montgomery; McCraken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP; Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP; and Pepper Hamilton LLP.

In addition, six of the city’s most well-known general counsels have agreed to help us champion the campaign by jointly signing a letter urging participa-tion. The letter was sent to more than 30 law firms with business clientele.

Signatories include the general counsels of Comcast Corp., Independence Blue Cross, Drexel University; PECO Energy; Sunoco Inc. and the University of Pennsylvania and Penn Medicine. These entities are the biggest employers of out-side legal services. We are grateful for their support in reaching out and encouraging other law firms to join the campaign.

Philadelphia law firms continue to lag behind law firms in other cities in per capita support for legal services organizations.

Under the direction of Philadelphia Bar Foundation President Elaine M. Rinaldi and our Raising the Bar Higher co-chairs, we have re-doubled our enduring commis-sion to access to justice for those who need, but cannot afford, legal help.

We are committed to addressing head-on what we can do to bring our legal com-munity to a new echelon of charitable giving for legal services.

We will be creative and leverage our law firm giving to seek funding from other sources. We will continue working hard so that we reach a level of impact that will bring Philadelphia closer than we have ever known to guaranteeing broad access to justice for thousands of disenfranchised and vulnerable individu-als in the Philadelphia community.

Growing up, I was taught to share, no matter how little I had. Will those of us with plenty now dig a little deeper and give more?

("name changed to protect privacy) - A. Michael Pratt, a partner at Pepper Hamilton LLP is Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. His e-mail address is chancellor@ philarbar.org
Les Bons Temps
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clawing. That same tongue then relaxes to allow entrance to lap up the sopping bread. The golden sauce congeals upon your breath while you decide which claw is to be chosen next.

The crawfish spring roll is redolent of soy and ginger. Its skin’s color resembles that of a cigar, cracking as you slice through it, toward its innards loaded with red crawfish chunks and fresh vegetable stuffing. The sauce adds a delayed flame to one’s larynx as you ask anyone nearby to fill your water glass. The rolls are carved in half, and parleyed with a pile of carrot slivers in between. If you adhere to the philosophy that your eyes must water and nose must run in order that a meal be acceptable, then just keep forking down those orange carrot slivers in between bites of crusty crawfish. Front teeth bite at the mixture first, as it moves invariably backwards toward coddling molar mash- ing and splashing in the heated flavors. Swallow with sordid sanction, as demonic blasts of saliva juices make your mind wonder if you can bring another scoop as quickly as your cerebrum and taste buds require.

You should also treat yourself to the cold Creole crab salad appetizer ($12), a trio of creamy crabby reductions centered over three thick carved herb-roasted tomatoes covered with Tabasco dijon dressing. I defy you to say you’ve ever had a tastier crab-clumped melange. Each mouthful is going to heaven, via New Orleans. The crispy duck and braised pork shoulder entrée ($25) is a slowly roasted and browned duck half, with thick-sliced andouille sausages, strips of wide pork shoulder slices, and a pair of beefy fried oysters. All are provided over jalapenés cajolled by smoked bacon gravy. Moist and mollifying, the duck simply slides off its bones and onto your palette. The sausage pieces are as garlicky as the spicy peppered jalapenés below them, with the bacon bolstering a ticklingly tarty tempo as the ingredients meld. Huge portions prevail.

Finalize the meal with a creamy sticky bun or piece of pecan pie ($8). You shall have discovered singularly southern soothing treacles.

For a quieter, conversation-able dining experience, arrive before 8 p.m. After that, you may be relegated to communi- cate through written correspondence. Mims the word.

LIBIDO DOMINATOR

Shiny D’Boeck, a sole practitioner, is a con- tributing editor of the Philadelphia Bar Re- porter. Find his reviews online at boeck.com.

Judge Berger Honored

Dr. Eduardo Glandt of the University of Pennsylvania (from left) joins Judge Harold Berger and Dean Michael Fitts of the University Pennsylvania Law School at an April 30 reception in Judge Berger’s honor at The Union League. HIAS and Council Migration Service of Philadelphia held the “Children of the American Dream” tribute to Judge Berger for his work as a civil leader, jurist, scientist and philanthropist. The event featured live jazz by the Israeli group Seeds of Sun.

HIAS Aiding Myanmar Refugees

The extent of the destruction and loss of lives brought about by the recent cyclone in Burma, also known as Myanmar, is still unfolding. Against this tragedy, HIAS and Council Migration Service of Philadelphia, a Bar Foundation grantee, has continued to resettle Burmese refugees who fled the military junta.

While not immediately affected, many refugees have left relatives and friends behind. “The Refugee Resettlement Program is an important component of our work. Our goal is to help each refugee integrate quickly into the region and find employment as soon as possible after arrival,” said Judith Bernstein-Baker, executive director of HIAS and Council. “This is especially critical for those refugees who seek to send funds directly to family members in peril. Given the closed nature of the Burmese/Myanmar society, refugees and organizations that have individuals inside the country is an efficient way to get relief directly to those affected.”

Other agencies in the region resettling Burmese are the Nationalities Service Center and Lutheran Children and Family Services.

Especially needed are professionals who speak Burmese willing to mentor and guide newly arrived refugees. To learn more about the HIAS and Council Burmese Resettlement Program, and how you can help, contact Jessi Koch at (215) 832-0921 or by e-mail at jkoch@hiapsa.org.

Sidney Klovsky, Former Board Member

Seyid B. Klovsky, a former member of the Board of Governors, died May 8 in Palm Beach Gardens Fla. He was 85.

Klovsky was a longtime resident of Bala Cynwyd and a member of Adath Israel Congregation. In 1957, with Benjamin Kuby, he formed the law firm of Klovsky, Kuby and Harris that has maintained a Philadelphia office. He was a graduate of Temple University and Temple Law School.

He was president of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association and served on the Bar Association’s Board of Gover- nors. He also was active with both the Pennsylvania and American Trial Lawyers Associations.

Klovsky was a founding member of White Manor Country Club and was instrumental in the club’s relocation to Malvern, Pa. During his tenure as presi- dent and continued leadership, White Manor became a prominent country club with a championship golf course.

He retired to Frenchmen’s Creek, Fla., and continued to be active in arranging for tournament activity and internal pub- lic relations programs, activities that he had participated in during his more than 15 years of residency.

Klovsky is survived by his wife of 57 years, Ruth Ruben; sons, Steven and Bruce; and grandchildren Stefanie, Jordan and Adam. A son, Alan, died in 2005.

Committee Reaches Out to Students Over Summer

By Maureen Olives

Spring 2008 has been cool, but warm summer days will be here before we know it. And that means summer interns, and our area’s public interest agencies will be full of eager, passionate and bright law students. These students are a breath of fresh air each year, pro- viding our public interest legal commu- nity with much needed assistance, ideas and tons of energy. The Law School Outreach Committee of the Public Interest Section wants to provide them with a place to form their own con- nections 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, from 12 to 2 p.m. at the Bar Association, summer law interns are invited to attend free informational ses- sions featuring public interest organiza- tions 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. The meetings will be held through Friday, Aug. 1.

In addition, we have added three special substantive sessions. The first, “Success in Your Summer Jobs,” will focus on strategies to help law students give and get the most out of their intern- ship. Second, “Public Interest Fellow- ships” will help students understand the post-graduate fellowship process and how to navigate it. Finally, we will have a program featuring lawyers in govern- ment employment. We will celebrate the work of our public interest interns and the agencies that sponsor them on Thursday, July 24 at our annual Public Interest Reception.

The Law School Outreach Commit- tee is looking forward to welcoming the newest members of our public interest community to Philadelphia this summer.

For additional information about the LSOC or its activities, please feel free to contact Maureen Olives, director of pub- lic interest programs at Temple Univer- sity Beasley School of Law, at mohives@ temple.edu or (215) 204-3705.

Maureen Olives is chair of the Law School Outreach Committee.
Many Called, She’s Disappointed She’s Not Chosen

My friend in New York is serving as a juror in a three-week-long homicide case. I asked him if it was like “Law & Order” and he said that it was, except more boring. As the case progressed, however, he said it got more interesting and at one point, the jurors were sitting on the edge of their seats, jaws dropped. When that day’s testimony ended at 5:30 p.m., he said he wished it could have gone on longer. Since he is currently in between jobs, he also said he didn’t mind doing his civic duty and he appreciated the daily $40 check.

Although I have been called for jury duty on two occasions, I have never been chosen. I got as close as going up to the courtroom to get voir dire but I was ultimately stricken. The first time was an automobile accident case and I was relieved that I wasn’t chosen. The second time involved a theft at a fraternity at Penn.

Since I am a civil litigator, I was actually hoping to serve as a juror in a criminal case. I remember sitting in the jury pool room, with my book, and just waiting to get called. I remember listening to the names being called and laughing when I heard the name, “Warren Peace” called out. Of course, when my name got called, they mangled it. But there was no point in correcting them. I was just excited to have the opportunity to participate in the voir dire and possibly get chosen.

We were taken to the courtroom where we were asked to fill out the questionnaire and to pass the copies to the left after we were finished. To my dismay, I noticed that many of the jurors did not know which was their left from their right. I also noticed that most of them were not as excited as I was to be there.

We were asked if any of us had been or knew anyone who had been a victim of crime. Almost everyone raised their hand, including me. I didn’t know it at the time, but when my parents had their grocery store, they had been held up at gunpoint on more than one occasion. My parents never told us when it happened, they only told us years after they had closed the store.

I remember when I interviewed for a summer position at the District Attorney’s office in my second year of law school that I mentioned this experience as motivation for me to become a prosecutor. I got the offer, but ultimately, I turned it down because I got an offer from an insurance defense firm which paid a couple of hundred dollars more than the D.A.’s office.

As I sat in that courtroom, checking out the young assistant district attorney who was prosecuting the theft case, I pictured myself in her place. I really hoped that I would get to be a juror. Unfortunately, my desire to serve was thwarted once again. I don’t know if it was because I am an attorney or because of my answers but I was rejected and I left the Criminal Justice Center with a check that barely paid for my lunch.

I know a few attorneys who have been chosen as jurors so I don’t think the door is closed on my being a juror at some point in the future. I just hope it’s not a three-week homicide case, however, since I do have a job and I can’t afford to miss so many billable hours.

Sunah Park, a partner at Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP, is editor-in-chief of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

Day in Washington

Vice Chancellor Scott F. Cooper, Executive Director Ken Shear, Chancellor-Elect Sayde J. Ladov and Chancellor A. Michael Pratt attended the American Bar Association’s Day in Washington, D.C. on April 17. They met with members of Pennsylvania’s congressional delegation.

Bike-A-Thon

the research process which has been so instrumental in diagnosis and treatment of all forms of cancer. Feinman and Meyers are reaching out to the legal community seeking their support and sponsorship. “We’re encouraging all firms to pass on to their entire staff information about the ride and encouraging their support and participation. Last year, 125 riders from the Bar Association participated and joined the more than 4,600 cyclists,” Meyer said.

The ride concludes at the Buena Vista Camping Ground. There, thousands of friends and family members greet the cyclists for a picnic, a chance to relax and to observe the survivor ceremony that honors all cancer survivors, regardless of whether they rode or are just present in the crowd.

Family

by those supporting same-sex marriage.

“For gay men and lesbians, marriage is one of many good fights because it is a fight for equality,” Polikoff explained, “but from a family policy perspective, marriage is the wrong fight” because it “will not meet the needs of the full range of LGBT relationships, which include not only those couples who don’t marry, but who don’t have relationships that are marriage-like, but are critical to their emotional well-being.”

In Massachusetts, where same-sex marriage is legal, some employers have stopped offering domestic partner benefits, suggesting that the same-sex marriage movement has cut off some solutions that would support families. A “plus one” benefit might be a better goal for health coverage, explained Lisa-Nicole Grist, executive director of the Alternatives to Marriage Project. Asking private employers to take on the role of defining family is inappropriate, Grist suggested, noting, “employees don’t want to be there.”

Grist described the current state of society, noting that more than half of the people in households in this country are not married. Adults spend equal amounts of time both in and out of marriage over the course of their lives. “This is not a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer issue. This is a people issue,” she said.

Kathryn C. Herr, an associate with Trojillo Rodrigues & Richards, LLC, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

Workers’ Comp

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of our section. Nevertheless, there are still many “why not” matters that need to be addressed, including, but not limited to, a better compensation package for our judges who are poorly paid in comparison to their peers. Their sacrifices in carrying out their duties speak volumes for their devotion to public service. If past performance is any indicator of future results, we’ll make this “why not” a reality as well, and not a moment too soon.

It’s been a dynamic 15-year start and there’s more to come. Hats off to the members of the Workers’ Compensation Section, and the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Daniel V. DiLoreto, a partner at Harvey, Pennington Ltd., is a former chair of the Workers’ Compensation Committee.
Juror Appreciation Day

Philadelphia City Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown reads a citation proclaiming May 8 as Juror Appreciation Day during ceremonies at the Criminal Justice Center. Jessica Borg (right), weekend news anchor for 6ABC, was the keynote speaker for the program. The Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas and Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts sponsored the Ninth Annual Juror Appreciation Day to recognize the crucial public service performed by local citizens who respond to jury duty.

Bylaw Amendment continued from page 16

Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer, shall be signed by at least 35 Members who are entitled to vote; and for candidates for Vice-Chancellor, shall be signed by at least 100 Members who are entitled to vote; and,

(B) Submitting a written authorization, in a form to be provided by the Elections Committee, for the Disciplinary Board to release any record of discipline on such person; and,

(C) Submitting such biographical information as the Elections Committee may reasonably request.

Section 403. Election Forums.

(A) No later than 90 days prior to the Annual Meeting, the Elections Committee shall schedule one or more ‘Election Forums’ to allow each candidate for office to make an oral presentation. The forums shall take place within 60 days of the Annual Meeting, after the period for submission of nominating petitions has closed.

(B) The Elections Committee shall set and publish guidelines and procedures for the forums and for the wide dissemination to the Members of the candidates’ qualifications and forum presentations.

(C) The Chair of the Elections Committee or designee will preside over the forum(s), which shall be open to the Members.

Section 404. Final Candidates.

The Secretary shall have Published at least 20 days before each Annual Meeting a list of the candidates to be voted upon at such meeting in alphabetical order. In addition, the Secretary shall cause a list of the candidates to be Published one time within seven days prior to the Annual Meeting.

Section 406. Voting.

(A) If there is a contest for any office to be filled, reasonable opportunity shall be given for the reception of votes.

(B) The election shall be by

(1) secret mailed ballot and

(2) paper ballot or voting machine.

In addition, Members may vote electronically over the Internet to the extent permitted by law pursuant to procedures established by the Board to preserve the confidentiality of the Member’s vote and the integrity of the voting process. Voting machines, if available, shall be preferred for in-person voting, unless there is an election at which there is no contest. The position of the nominee on the ballot shall be determined by lot. The drawing of lots shall be conducted by the Judge of Elections not less than 25 days before the Annual Meeting in the presence of the nominees and/or their representatives. The form of the ballot shall be prescribed by the Board. A ballot shall be sent by the Association by mail to every Association member eligible to vote at least two weeks prior to the date set for the Annual Meeting. A mailed ballot shall not be counted unless it has been received at the office of the Association no later than 10:00 a.m. three business days prior to the date set for the Annual Meeting and in such manner as to preserve the confidentiality of the Member’s vote. The Judge of Elections shall announce the results of the election after the polls have closed.

(C) If any position to be filled in an election is uncontested after the close of nominations, the name of the candidate shall not appear on the ballot and the Secretary shall cast a unanimous ballot in favor of such nominee.

(D) The polls shall be open for voting on the day of the Annual Meeting at such times and places as shall be determined by the Chancellor in consultation with the Board.


If there is more than one nominee for any office, the Chancellor shall appoint from among the Members, with the consent of the Board, a Judge of Elections and at least two tellers. The Judge of Elections shall have the power to resolve any dispute regarding the validity of any vote cast, and the Judge’s decision shall be final and binding on all parties. The report of the Judge and tellers as to the results of the election shall be made to the Chancellor, who shall forthwith cause the names of those elected to be Published.

Section 408. Voting Qualifications.

If a Member is delinquent in the payment of dues, including those of the then current year, such Member shall not be entitled to vote at the Annual Election. A Member who is delinquent at any time prior to voting shall be eligible to vote.
Reception for Judges

Business Litigation Committee Vice Chair Robert R. Baron Jr. (from left) is joined by Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judges Howland W. Abramson, D. Webster Keogh, President Judge C. Darnell Jones II and Committee Chair Marc J. Zucker at the Committee’s annual reception for Commerce Court judges on May 6. More than 150 people attended the event at the Westin Philadelphia.

Carville to Help SeniorLAW Mark 30 Years

Political analyst JAMES CARVILLE will be the guest speaker at the SeniorLAW Center’s 30th Anniversary Gala on Thursday, June 12 at The Ballroom at the Ben, 834 Chestnut St.

Carville is one of America’s best-known political consultants. Carville’s most notable advisory role was that of campaign manager for Bill Clinton in his bid for the presidency in 1992.

Founded by leaders of the Philadelphia Bar Association in 1978, SeniorLAW Center (formerly Judicare) provides free legal services, community education and advocacy for more than 10,000 senior citizens in Pennsylvania each year. Special sponsorship opportunities, including the exclusive SeniorCircle reception with Carville, are available.

For more information, contact Larry Felzer at 215-701-3203 or lfelzer@seniorlawcenter.org.

Wilkinson to Receive PBA Honor

Board of Governors Secretary Kathleen D. Wilkinson, a partner with Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LLP, has been named the 2008 recipient of the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Anne X. Alpern Award. The award will be presented at the PBA’s annual meeting luncheon on June 5 in Hershey.

The Anne X. Alpern Award is presented annually to a female lawyer or judge who demonstrates excellence in the legal profession and who makes a significant professional impact on women in the law. Recipients are chosen for their leadership and mentoring activities on behalf of women in the profession. The award was established in 1994. It is named in honor of Anne X. Alpern, who was Pennsylvania’s attorney general in 1959 and the first woman state attorney general in the nation.

Wilkinson has served as co-chair of the Women in the Profession Committees of both the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Bar Associations. She also serves on the Interbranch Commission on Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Fairness, a statewide committee charged with making recommendations to Pennsylvania’s three branches of government on eliminating gender, racial and ethnic bias. She was appointed to the statewide panel by Gov. Edward G. Rendell. A founding member of Villanova Law J. William O’Brien Inn of Court (a member of the American Inns of Court), Wilkinson served as program chair and the first woman president. She is also a member of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Rules of Evidence Committee.

Wilkinson has been with Wilson Elser since 1984. She served on both the equity partner and associate focus committees and has worked on the implementation of part-time policies for lawyers at the firm. Wilkinson handles complex cases such as product, insurance, construction, premises and professional liability and is a graduate of Villanova Law School, where she was a member of the Law Review.

Women’s Summit

continued from page 3

program “Women in the Courtroom – Communication Across the Gender Gap,” featuring Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judges Frederica A. Massiah-Jackson and Marlene Lachman, U.S. District Court Senior Judge Norma L. Shapiro, U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Dolores K. Sloviter, U.S. District Court Judge Petrese B. Tucker and retired Judge Diane M. Welsh. The panel will discuss the different communication styles of women and men, in and outside of the courtroom, throughout the litigation process, and includes, among other things, a discussion of related findings from the Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness, with respect to how women lawyers are perceived.

Kimberly Ruch-Alegant and Kelly Dobbs Bunting will moderate the next session, “Hot Topics for Women,” with panelists Danielle Banks, co-chair of the Women in the Profession Committee, and a partner at Bradley Roman Stevens & Young, LLP; Nancy O’Mara Ezold, of Nancy O’Mara Ezold, P.C.; Natalie Kiyashthorny, of Nochumson PC; and Nicole Whittington of White and Williams LLP.

Feeley will moderate the next program featuring large law firm executive and managing partners on best practices for retention and promotion of women lawyers. Panelists will include J. Gordon Cooney Jr., Philadelphia managing partner, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP; Thomas A. Becker, president and CEO, Cozen O’Connor; Patrick Dunican, chair and managing director, Gibbons PC.; Nina Gusак, chair, Pepper Hamilton LLP; and John J. Soroko, chair and CEO, Duane Morris LLP.

Roberta Liebengard will moderate the next CLE program that will feature corporate counsel on best practices for retention and promotion of women lawyers. Panelists will include Kamal Ali-Jackson, general counsel, Cepton Therapeutics; Teresa Ciccolini, divisional counsel, Saint gobain Corp.; Wanda flowers, chief counsel, Sunoco, Inc.; and Lorraine Koc, general counsel, Deb Shops.

Registration begins at 11 a.m. All attendees are invited to a cocktail reception following the program.

To register for the Women in the Profession Committee’s June 18 Summit, visit pbi.org.
Professional Guidance

Editor’s note: The following are summaries of opinions issued by the Professional Guidance Committee. The committee’s jurisdiction is limited to rendering opinions about prospective ethical conduct by inquirers who are members of the Philadelphia Bar Association. The letter “T” following an opinion number indicates a telephone inquiry.

Summarized by David I. Grunfeld

2007-195T Waivable conflict to represent both attorney and firm in legal malpractice case.

2007-198T Attorney with expert’s psychological report in domestic case may not share it with client if so court-ordered.

2007-203T Referral fee can be paid to now-inactive attorney if on active status at time of referral.

2007-209T There is no requirement for an attorney admitted in Pennsylvania to have a bona fide office there, but must comply with Pennsylvania IOLTA rules.

2007-221T Attorney cannot stop unrepresented party from communicating with attorney’s client, but can advise client not to respond directly.

2007-227T Law school graduate not yet admitted to the bar may assist corporation in gathering documents pursuant to a discovery order to turn over to counsel, but if business handling it themselves, then doing so raises issue of unauthorized practice of law.

2007-241T Attorney representing estate with two executrices who are only beneficiaries should open estate account for deposit of proceeds from sale of decedent’s property and make distribution from that rather than deposit in escrow account.

2007-266T Attorney who subpoenas an independent witness may pay that witness’ parking and lost wages.

2007-275T Attorney who is asked to represent wife in divorce, and who previoulsy handled support matter for wife’s husband involving another woman, has a conflict, which with informed consent, is waivable if done by both parties.

2007-276T There is no prohibition against advertising on Craig’s List, providing there is compliance with advertising rules 7.1 through 7.7.

2007-304T Counsel for adverse party in civil matter may threaten criminal prosecution if there is a legitimate criminal remedy and present intent to follow through.

2007-311T Attorney who closed solo practice and is now employee of a firm may ask clients to sign new fee agreement with firm.

2007-319T Attorney who used outside service for online backup should have confidentiality agreement with that service.

2007-325T When opposing counsel has been suspended from the practice of law, notices should be sent directly to the adverse party.

2007-332T Attorney who handled client’s accident claim should not turn over file to defense in subsequent claim (not being handled by attorney), without informed client consent or court order.

2007-350T Attorney discharged by client in personal injury case has no right to immediate reimbursement of advanced costs by successor counsel.

2007-355T Counsel in criminal defense case may not post bail for client with attorney’s own money, as this constitutes an improper advance.

2007-357T Upon death of client for whom will was drawn, attorney may give original will to named executor.

2008-9T Attorney learning of a lawyer not in compliance with Pennsylvania Rule of Professional Conduct 14(c) re: disclosure and liability insurance has a duty to report that attorney, provided he has client waiver of confidentiality with informed consent.

2008-11T Attorney who prepared an estate plan for husband and wife per joint representation may not change the will of one of them without informed consent of the other; recommend referral to other counsel.

2008-18T Solo attorney sharing space with other non-lawyer professionals may not put their names and licensing information on letterhead (to help draw in other such professionals), as it would be misleading advertising.

2008-28T Attorney cannot be listed as “Of Counsel” to a nonprofit that is not a law firm.

2008-34T Attorney who is a member of the Better Business Bureau may use their logo on letterhead if permitted by them to do so.

David I. Grunfeld, an attorney with Weis, Kapperman & Mandel, LLP, is a member of the Professional Guidance Committee.

Membership continued from page 1

cation courses offered through the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. Plus, you’ll have the opportunity to attend Chancellor’s Forums, meetings and special events, including our Quarterly and Annual Meetings and our Bench-Bar and Annual Conference.

You will automatically receive The Philadelphia Lawyer quarterly magazine offering substantive law articles on emerging trends, and the Philadelphia Bar Reporter monthly newspaper. In addition, the Association’s award-winning Web site, audio and video podcast library, list serve network and bi-weekly Bar Reporter Online e-newsletter will connect you to colleagues in dozens of practice areas.

You’ll enjoy special value rates on the Philadelphia Bar Association Platinum Plus® MasterCard® Credit Card with WorldPoints® Rewards, Alamo® and Avis® car rentals, and the GlobalFit® Corporate Fitness Program.

“Since 1802, the Philadelphia Bar Association has proudly served the public and the profession. Now, everyone can share in that pride and collegiality,” Pratt said.

Senior Lawyers Reception

Senior Lawyers Reception

Gerald W. Spivack, George S. Forde and Louis W. Fryman gather at the Senior Lawyers Public Service Committee Reception on May 13 at The Palm. More than 50 people attended the reception.
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Monday, June 2
Family Law Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.
Law Practice Management Division Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Tuesday, June 3
Committee on the Legal Rights of Persons with Disabilities: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
Philadelphia Bar Foundation Board of Trustees: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Young Lawyers Division Live, Lunch and Learn: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.
Workers’ Compensation Section: annual spring party, 6 p.m., Manayunk Brewery and Restaurant, 4120 Main St. Tickets: $45, philadelphiabar.org.

Wednesday, June 4
Delivery of Legal Services Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Intellectual Property Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $7.50.
Real Property Section: annual spring reception, 5:30 p.m., Trump Tower Philadelphia Showroom at One Liberty Place, 1600 Market St., 57th floor.

Thursday, June 5
Bar News Media Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 11th Floor Conference Center
Health Care Law Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.50.
Civil Rights Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Friday, June 6
LGBT Rights Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 11th floor Committee 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: $7.50.
Law School Outreach Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Monday, June 9
Business Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Young Lawyers Division Cabinet: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Cabinet Room.

Tuesday, June 10
Criminal Justice Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Wednesday, June 11
Appellate Courts Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.
State Civil Litigation Section: quarterly meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Thursday, June 12
Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $7.50.
Legislative Liaison Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

Friday, June 13
Law School Outreach Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

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

Monday, June 16
Public Interest Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Tuesday, June 17
Solo and Small Firm Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.
Employee Benefits Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Wednesday, June 18
Senior Lawyers Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
LegalLine: 5 p.m., 11th floor LRIS offices.

Thursday, June 19
Law Practice Management Division Technology Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Family Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
City Policy Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.
Social Security Disability Benefits Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.
Law School Outreach Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

Monday, June 23
Bar-News Media 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@philadelphiabar.org.

Lunch: $7.50.
Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Tuesday, June 24
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 25
Medical-Legal Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Thursday, June 26
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: meeting, 4 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Friday, June 27
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.

Diversity Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Monday, June 30
Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon: 12 p.m., Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets. Tickets, $55, philadelphiabar.org.

Legal Directory 2008 Available

The Legal Directory 2008 and The Legal Directory Online are now available. We’ve added hundreds of new attorneys, making this edition the most comprehensive ever produced.

As in past years, each copy of The Legal Directory 2008 comes with a free subscription to The Legal Directory Online. Online listings for both attorneys and law firms are updated year-round, making this an ever-changing, useful resource. The Legal Directory Online also features links to court rules, area bar associations and more. All are a mouse-click away.

The printed edition of The Legal Directory 2008 includes the indispensable information you’ve come to rely upon – Bar Association bylaws, contacts and committees; information on federal, state and county courts; and government agencies: a section devoted to law-related organizations, organizations and non-profits serving Greater Philadelphia; the judges’ index; corporate counsel listings; and a special business-to-business section tailored to the legal community. You’ll have at your fingertips more than 18,000 attorney listings and nearly 1,700 law firm listings.

To purchase your copy of The Legal Directory 2008 for $77.95, visit thelegaldirectory.org.
Frances Gauthier, of counsel to Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, has co-incorporated the Delaware Hispanic Bar Association.

Carolyn Hochstadter Dicker, of E. Carolyn Hochstadter Dicker, LLC, was honored as Parent of the Year by Politz Day School of Cherry Hill, N.J., at its annual Scholarship Dinner on May 14. The award recognized her dedication and service to the school, where she currently serves as vice president of development.

Stephanie J. Mensing, a partner at Winniewski & Mensing, LLP, has been elected secretary of the Board of Directors of the Digital Stone Project. The Digital Stone Project, based in Mercerville, N.J., is a nonprofit that provides state-of-the-art stone fabrication facilities and expert consultation for artists, architects, and designers.

Mark A. Momjian, a partner with Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP, was recently appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to chair a new sub-committee of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee.

Robert Shulman, an associate with Cozen O’Connor, has been appointed to the board of directors of Jeanne Ruddy Dance, a professional dance company located in Center City.

John P. Quirke of Archer & Greiner, PC, has been named to the Board of Trustees of the Hunterdon County (N.J.) YMCA.

Jeffrey Lutsky, managing partner of Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, has been appointed to the board of directors of the Philadelphia and Vicinity YMCA.

Abbe F. Fletman, a shareholder with Flaster/Greenberg, served as a panelist at the American Bar Association 23rd Annual Intellectual Property Law Conference on April 12 in Arlington, Va. Fletman also served as the moderator at the Eastern Technology Council’s Afternoon Power Tea, presented by the Council’s Women’s Leadership Group and sponsored by Flaster/Greenberg on April 30.

Frances McElhinny, a partner with Archer & Greiner, PC, has been named one of New Jersey’s Best 50 Women in Business by NJBIZ magazine, a statewide business news publication.

Henry J. Donner, a shareholder with Jacoby Donner, PC, recently participated in a program sponsored by the National Electrical Contractors Association Pennsylvania-Delaware-Jersey Chapter on the duties and responsibilities of trustees of collectively bargained pension and health plans.

Charles F. Forer, a member of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, has been named president of the Main Line Reform Temple in Wynnewood, Pa.

James B. Dolan Jr., a member of Cozen O’Connor, has been elected chairman of the Radnor Township Zoning Hearing Board.

H. Ronald Klasco, a partner with Klasco, Rulon, Stock & Seltzer LLP, recently spoke on “Trends in Immigration: Impact on Higher Education” at the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources’ Public Policy Forum in Washington D.C.

Stephen J. Anderer, a partner at Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP, was a panelist for “Admissibility of Expert Testimony in Cases of Disputed Custody” at the Joint Conference of the American Psychological Association and American Bar Association Family Law Section on “Reconceptualizing Child Custody: Past, Present, and Future – Lawyers and Psychologists Working Together” in Chicago from April 30 to May 3.

Niki T. Ingram, a shareholder with Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, served as a speaker at the Pennsylvania Chamber’s seminar Employment Law Workshop: Wage and Hour Issues, HR Records Retention and Workers’ Comp Mediation and Litigation on April 10 and 17.

Joseph Manko and Rodd Bender, partners with Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, taught “Current Environmental Issues that Impact Commercial/Industrial Real Estate” at the Temple University Real Estate Institute on April 22.

J. Denny Shupe, a partner at Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP, has been appointed to serve on the Board of Trustees for the USS New Jersey, which is berthed along the Camden Waterfront.

Kenneth Geburd, assistant southeast regional counsel of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, organized and moderated the panel discussion “Environmental Ethics and Post-Kyoto Action,” Tulane Law School’s annual Environmental Conference on Law, Science and the Public Interest on April 4 - 5.

George E. Martin, managing attorney with Martin, Banks, Pond, Lethcoy & Wilson, was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the French & Pickering Conservation Trust, the largest land conservation organization in Chester County.

Jennifer A. Brandt, a member of Cozen O’Connor, recently appeared on Fox News Channel’s “The O’Reilly Factor” to discuss the divorce battle between Paul McCartney and Heather Mills.

Joseph P. Stampone, managing shareholder of Stampone, D’Angelo, Renzi and DiPiero, was the recipient of the 2008 Golden Justice Award at the 2008 Pennsylvania Golden Gloves Eastern Regional Championships on April 12.

William A. Denmark, a shareholder with Jacoby Donner, PC, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Construction Management Association of America, Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

Lauren Serrentino, an associate with Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP, discussed protection from abuse procedures, including pending proposed rules, at a recent meeting of the Family Law Committee of the Philadelphia Paralegal Association.

R. Seth Williams of Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, discussed careers in the legal industry at Boy Scouts Learning for Life’s Boot Camp Series for young people in Philadelphia, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties.

Jon Lambias, an associate at Berger & Montague, PC, presented a continuing legal education seminar regarding securities fraud class action cases to the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Association of Attorney-CPAs.

Nathaniel Ehrlich, a partner with Anapol, Schwartz, Weiss, Cohan, Feldman & Smalley, spoke at the National Football League Players Association 2008 player representative meeting in Maui, Hawaii, on March 16 and at the NFL Players Association 2008 contract advisor seminar in Glendale, AZ, on April 4, 2008 on “Workers’ Compensation and Other Disability Benefits for Current and Former NFL Players.”

Sandiya M. Feltes, a principal of Kaplin Stewart Meloff Reiter & Sein, PC., participated in a roundtable discussion focused on issues regarding women in the legal profession on April 10 hosted by The Legal Intelligencer and Pennsylvania Law Weekly.

Tricia Sadd, an associate with Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP, spearheaded the 2nd annual “Partnership for Parks,” an effort to help clean up and restore the historic Lemon Hill Mansion Area on April 26.

“People” highlights news of members’ awards, honors or appointments of a community or civic nature. Information may be sent to Jeff Ujons, 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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