Sen. Biden to Address Membership April 11

by Jeff Lyons

U.S. Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D-Del.), former chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, will address the Association at its Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon on Monday, April 11. The event begins at noon at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 12th and Market Streets.

"I am honored and excited that Sen. Biden will be addressing our Bar Association," said Chancellor Andrew A. Chirls. "After so many years of distinguished service, and due to his seniority on committees that are important to lawyers, I have every expectation that he will have a lot to say that is important to us."

Also at the luncheon, Chancellor Andrew A. Chirls will honor Immediate-Past Chancellor Gabriel L.I. Bevilacqua.

"As a leader on the judiciary and the foreign relations committees, Sen. Biden is at the center of vital developments in our law and our lives. He has a reputation for being plain spoken and deep at the same time, which promises an interesting session with him," Chirls said.

Sen. Biden is the former chair of both the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where he currently serves as ranking minority member.

Sen. Biden was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1972 at the age of 29, becoming the fifth-youngest person ever to serve in the Senate. He was re-elected in 1978, 1984, 1990, 1996 and 2002. He is currently serving his sixth term. He was born in Scranton and grew up in New Castle County, Del. He graduated from the University of Delaware in 1965, and from the Syracuse University College of Law in 1968. Prior to his election to the Senate, Biden practiced law in Wilmington and served on the New Castle County Council from 1970 to 1972. Since 1991, Sen. Biden has been an adjunct professor at the Widener University School of Law, where he teaches a seminar on constitutional law.

Sen. Biden has been instrumental in crafting federal crime laws over the past two decades, including the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. He is also the author of the continued on page 17

End Double Taxation of Lawyers

by Daniel A. Cirucci

Chancellor Andrew A. Chirls has urged City Council to eliminate the double taxation imposed by the Business Privilege Tax and the Net Profits Tax on service firms that are organized as partnerships.

Chirls testified before a City Council hearing on tax reform on Feb. 16. "Right now, many Philadelphia lawyers and sole proprietors pay their taxes twice," he told Council members. "In this sense, I as a Center City lawyer and resident am not unlike the guy who owns the coffee shop two blocks from where I live, the barber three blocks away, and the many sole proprietors near me on South Street. And I am not different from our many Bar Association members who are in small offices in the city's neighborhoods," he said.

"We lawyers in private practice pay the Business Privilege Tax, and then we pay the Net Profits Tax on the same income that goes into calculating the Business Privilege Tax. In Philadelphia, it is only partners and sole owners who continued on page 11

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City’s Pro Bono Commitment Debated

by Merrill Zebe

A recent AmLaw 200 survey ranked Philadelphia seventh out of nine cities in average number of hours devoted to pro bono work. At a recent meeting of the Professional Responsibility Committee, a discussion was held to explore why Philadelphia lawyers ranked so low in the survey.

Louis Rulli, Practice Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, opened the discussion by reviewing the ranking methodology utilized by the authors of the survey. He noted that Philadelphia law firms fared poorly overall and that they lagged seriously behind in the number of hours devoted to pro bono when compared with leading law firms around the country. Rulli also noted that law firms would be well served to increase their pro bono efforts if they want to advance in the national AM LAW rankings. Clearly, the survey results show that greater leadership efforts are needed from Philadelphia firm management (and especially from leading partners) to increase pro bono work in their firms.

Rulli urged Philadelphia firms to implement many of the recommendations contained in the 2002 Philadelphia Bar Association Pro Bono Task Force Report, including the recommendation that firms develop written pro bono policies that provide full, billable hourly credit for pro bono work. Rulli also urged the Bar Association to formally adopt the 50-hour aspirational standard of annual pro bono work per attorney as set forth in the American Bar Association’s Model Rule 6.1; pursue changes that would award CLE credit for pro bono representation in new areas; and require annual mandatory reporting of pro bono activities to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Rulli concluded his presentation by noting the rich history of pro bono in Philadelphia and the city’s leadership role in advancing initiatives to promote access to justice, but stated: “[w]e have the best legal aid programs, the best pro bono referral programs, the best local Bar Association in the nation. This ranking is an embarrassment.”

Finally, Rulli recommended that the Philadelphia legal community hold a high-level summit to review the state of pro bono and to chart a course for the future that will push Philadelphia to the top of the national list.

Saul Ewing LLP partner David Unkovic said time pressures on lawyers is a major concern that needs to be addressed by firms seeking to increase pro bono work. Unkovic, past president of Pennsylvania Legal Services and past chairman of the Pennsylvania Lawyers Trust Account Board, stressed that firms need to involve managing partners and the executive committees in efforts to increase pro bono work. Saul Ewing recently decided to provide billable hourly credit for pro bono work and hired a full-time pro bono counsel in an effort to increase the firm’s pro bono work.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
Notice of Availability of Competitive Grant Funds for Calendar Year 2006

The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) announces the availability of competitive grant funds to provide civil legal services to eligible clients during calendar year 2006. In accordance with LSC’s multiyear funding policy, grants are available for only specified service areas. A listing of those service areas for each state, and the estimated grant amounts are included in Appendix-A of the Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP and other information pertaining to the LSC grants competition will be available at www.ain.lsc.gov during the week of April 18, 2005. Applicants must file a Notice of Intent to Compete (NIC) to participate in the competitive grants process. Please refer to www.ain.lsc.gov for filing dates and submission requirements. The NIC is available from the RFP. Please e-mail competition inquiries to Competition@lsc.gov.
Professional Guidance Committee

Members Can Get Answers on Ethics, Conduct Issues

by Jeff Lyons

When attorneys have questions about ethics and conduct, they need to look no further than the Association’s Professional Guidance Committee.

“The Professional Guidance Committee is the quintessential example of how the Bar Association serves its members in the best and fullest sense of the word ‘service,’” said U.S. District Court Judge Gene E.K. Pratter, who chaired the committee in 2000 and 2001.

Judge Pratter said the committee consists of busy practitioners who match their interest and skill in professional ethics with their respect for collegial deliberations.

“The committee is ready to assist Association members with a myriad of challenges from any and every facet of modern law practice. The committee approaches the problems posed by inquiring attorneys with scholarship and practicality, and, as a result, the committee’s advice to an inquirer is almost always immediately useful,” Judge Pratter said.

Where to Call
For questions about professional guidance issues, contact Paul Kazaras at (215) 238-6328.

The committee meets monthly and renders approximately 10 to 15 opinions each year, which are published on the Association’s Web site. The opinions are advisory, not binding, said Paul Kazaras, who serves as staff counsel to the committee. Kazaras, the Association’s assistant executive director, said the State Disciplinary Board does not render advice to lawyers.

“That’s where we come in,” he said.

“Generally, if an attorney requests a formal opinion, the committee will oblige. But otherwise, I’ll offer advice over the phone,” said Kazaras, who has been involved with the committee since 1987 and says he has guided more than 20,000 callers. All of the conversations are totally and completely confidential, Kazaras said, as are all deliberations of the committee.

Bike-a-Thon Team Gets OK for 2005

by Jeff Lyons

For the second year in a row, the Association will sponsor a team for the American Cancer Society Bike-a-Thon, following a resolution unanimously approved by the Board of Governors at its Jan. 27 meeting.

According to Bike-a-Thon Committee Co-Chair Jeffrey Abramowitz, more than 3,600 riders took part in last July’s event, raising $1.1 million for the American Cancer Society.

“Our Bar Association team had 171 riders that included attorneys, judges, family, friends and staff. We raised $87,000 last year,” he said.
Military Affairs Committee

Military Attorneys Welcome Assistance From Civilian Bar

by Jeff Lyons

Military attorneys welcome any help the civilian bar can provide to assist helping personnel in preparing for deployment overseas, according to U.S. Army and Navy officials.

“There’s too few of us and too many troops being mobilized,” said U.S. Navy Capt. Steven Fireovid, a member of the Navy’s Judge Advocate General Corps. “There are only two active duty JAGs working between Washington, D.C. and Groton, Conn.

Fireovid was joined at the Military Affairs Committee’s Feb. 10 meeting by U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Marc Caminiti and U.S. Army Reserve Maj. William Youngblood of Caesar, Rivise, Bernstein, Cohen & Pokotilow, Ltd.

“It’s important for the civilian bar to help us out,” said Fireovid. “Sometimes it’s more than just preparing wills and powers of attorney. If we can provide them with help and comfort before they head into combat, we’ve done a great thing. This is very gratifying.

Youngblood said he’s seen a lot of family law matters and citizenship matters in his work. He said there are many soldiers that aren’t U.S. citizens.

“Our job is to mobilize people so they can go overseas and we can’t do that unless certain things are accomplished. Any help we could get would be appreciated,” he said.

Fireovid said JAG officers would ideally like to have a referral network in place so they could point military personnel in the right direction “when we come across a case we’re not equipped to handle.”

“It’s our goal to be readily available to help the military when there’s a need,” said Committee Chair James I. Kennedy.

Charles J. Klitsch, the Association’s director of Public and Legal Services, said the Association started the Military Assistance Program in 2002 when troops were being mobilized for duty in Afghanistan and Iraq. He said the program is based on the American Bar Association’s Operation Enduring LAMP, which recruits volunteer attorneys and facilities to volunteers, in order to assist military legal assistance providers with civil law matters affecting service members.

Klitsch said there are currently 45 attorneys listed on the Military Assistance Program database. He said referrals are made to military personnel according to practice area.

No income qualification is necessary for legal help for military personnel, Klitsch said.

In order to volunteer for the Military Assistance Program, attorneys must be licensed to practice in Pennsylvania; carry professional liability insurance; and possess a willingness to provide pro bono services to military personnel on short notice.

Klitsch said membership in the Association’s Lawyer Referral and Information Service is not required to volunteer for the Military Assistance Program.

Where to Call

For more information about the Military Assistance Program, contact Charles Klitsch at (215) 238-6326.

PRO BONO

continued from page 4

Joseph A. Sullivan, special counsel and director of pro bono programs at Pepper Hamilton LLP, and co-chair of the Association’s Delivery of Legal Services Committee, underscored the need for firms to understand the business benefits of pro bono work, which include invaluable training for young associates and the opportunity to market the good work of the firm.

Sullivan noted that public interest and pro bono referral organizations that are members of the DLSC Pro Bono Subcommittee are developing law firm profiles that identify firm cultures and will be meeting with top management to identify the preferences of the firms and develop strategies to increase pro bono work. The subcommittee also will be taking steps to involve the judiciary more in the promotion of pro bono and will survey “best practices” in other jurisdictions.

James J. McDermott III, of McDermott & Fullam, P.C., and president of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association, believes that if all trial lawyers are educated about the pro bono needs that more attorneys would provide increased pro bono work.

“We need to go back to our core beliefs and have to do what is right for the people,” said McDermott. Members of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association recently committed to accepting 100 cases referred by Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program.

Sharon Browning, executive director of VIP, expressed gratitude for all of the pro bono work being done, but noted more than 80 percent of the legal needs of the poor are not being met nationwide.

“VIP’s referral rate represents a mere trickle of the total flow of cases because of the tremendous difficulty in placing cases with volunteers,” Browning said. She expressed the hope that lawyers and firm leaders will engage in honest and meaningful dialogue about how to overcome the obstacles of pro bono involvement. “It’s really about access to justice for all. That’s why pro bono is a core professional issue,” she said.

Maryl Ziba is public interest coordinator for the Philadelphia Bar Association.
Mediation Programs Get Praise from Judges

by Sunah Park

A panel of judges praised the success of appellate mediation programs at the Feb. 9 meeting of the Association’s Appellate Courts Committee.

The judges included U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Jacob P. Hart, Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court President Judge James G. Colins and Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Richard B. Klein.

Judge Colins began the discussion with the origins of the Commonwealth Court mediation program and explained the procedure through which the Commonwealth Court selects the cases to be mediated. Mediation is not mandatory, Judge Colins said, so counsel are contacted and asked whether they are interested in participating. Cases are mediated by active senior and retired Commonwealth Court judges. The mediation record is kept separately and any judge who participated in the mediation process cannot sit on the appellate panel or the banc panel. Judge Colins described the mediation program as “incredibly successful” and said that since 2000, 551 cases have been successfully mediated in the Commonwealth Court. Judge Colins admitted that he was a naysayer in the beginning, but he is now a strong proponent of appellate mediation.

Judge Hart said the Third Circuit’s mediation program began full-time in 1995. Because other circuits had already instituted mediation programs by then, the Third Circuit borrowed many of its procedures from the other circuits, including how cases are chosen for mediation. The Third Circuit has a full-time person who screens the briefs, the one-page statement that the appellant files explaining the case and the judge’s opinion below. Judge Hart, then director of the program, often called the attorneys first before selecting their cases to determine if mediation would be useful. Once cases were chosen for mediation, participation was mandatory. Judge Hart said he conducted two-thirds of the mediations and the rest of the cases were assigned to senior district judges. Judge Hart lauded the program as “phenomenally more cost effective” than having a case going through the appellate procedure. Judge Hart explained that similar to the Commonwealth Court, no judges in the Third Circuit knew which cases were selected for mediation, much less the outcome. The statistics for the Third Circuit were very similar to that of the Commonwealth Court. For the past seven years, Joseph A. Torregrossa has been the director of the Third Circuit mediation program.

The Superior Court currently does not have a mediation program. Judge Klein cited inertia, routine and time as some of the possible obstacles to having a mediation program in the Superior Court. Judge Klein also observed that there is “not a good understanding among the bar in general as to what mediation is and what you do to represent a client at mediation.” Although the dictionary definition of mediation is “facilitated negotiation,” Judge Klein further clarified that parties are more involved in mediations and that mediators look beyond the particular dispute on the table to find the underlying issues.

Judge Hart also explained that in federal court, “the way the different magistrate judges handle it is simply a matter of personal preference.”

A strong proponent of mediation, Judge Hart believes that one of the values of mediation is that the parties might listen to a neutral more than they would listen to their own lawyer. Judge Klein noted that “there are different kinds of dispute resolutions that work for different battles.” All three judges agreed that special training for mediators is critical in having a successful appellate mediation program.

The discussion concluded with Judges Hart and Colins emphasizing that the mediation statements are held in the strictest confidence, they are never shared with the appellate judges and the statements are shredded and destroyed after mediation.

Sunah Park, an associate at Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

HAP Benefit April 21

The Homeless Advocacy Project will hold its April Benefit on Thursday, April 21 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in the Conservatory of the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue, Broad and Walnut Streets.

The event is presented by PECO Energy along with the Verizon Foundation and Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. The evening will feature live jazz, complimentary beer, wine, appetizers, and an extensive silent auction.

All proceeds from the April Benefit go to support the Homeless Advocacy Project, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides free legal services to homeless individuals, families and non-profit community groups.

Currently, more than 300 attorneys, paralegals and law students volunteer with HAP. Since HAP’s first legal clinic in December 1990, legal advocates have assisted more than 11,650 clients and have donated more than $12.75 million worth of legal services.

For tickets ($45 per person) or for more information on sponsorship, call Marnie Boccella at the Homeless Advocacy Project, (215) 523-9588.
Bar Association Night at the Sixers March 11

The Philadelphia Bar Association will host “Bar Association Night at the Sixers” on Friday, March 11, when the Philadelphia 76ers take on the Charlotte Bobcats. Association members can purchase a mezzanine-level ticket to the game for just $25. The ticket price also includes a soda and a hot dog. Visit www.philadelphiabar.org to order tickets online.

Lawyers By Trade, Philadelphians by Choice

by Natalie Klyashtorny

This month, the Young Lawyers Division welcomes Philadelphia 76ers General Manager Billy King as the keynote speaker at its Annual Meeting and Luncheon. Billy is originally from Washington, D.C., but chose to come to Philadelphia and has now made it his home. As such, Billy is an ideal choice for speaker as this year the Bar Association, in general, and the YLD, in particular, are focusing on ways to attract newcomers to our city.

In the past, Philadelphia has had a reputation for being insular. Philadelphia has been called “the womb-to-tomb city.” Chances are, most of the people you come in contact with are originally from Philadelphia and have spent their whole lives here, perhaps having left briefly for college and/or law school. newcomers are not as common here as in New York or Washington. Yet, newcomers are now being attracted to and staying in the city in greater numbers. I spoke to some young lawyers about how they came to be “Philadelphians by choice.”

Barbara Greening grew up in Maine and attended the University of Maine at Orono. She came to Philadelphia to attend Temple University Beasley School of Law. She was particularly interested in Philadelphia because it was a major urban center and the cost of attending law school here was not as prohibitive as in other cities. Having graduated in 2003, she decided to stay and pursue her career here. According to Barbara, Philadelphia was a natural choice for her because of the low cost of living and the contacts she had made here during the three years of law school. She also likes being close enough to visit her family in Maine.

Dan Mann, a partner with Feldman, Shepherd, Wohlgelernter & Tanner, grew up in a small town in Texas. His first experience with Philadelphia was during his undergraduate years at Penn. He left the city after graduation, but came back. His original thinking was “Boston is too cold, New York is too expensive and D.C. too conservative” Philadelphia was overall a better choice because the cost of real estate was moderate, yet it still had the sophistication of a major metropolis. Now that he has lived here almost 10 years, Dan loves his adopted city. He appreciates the quality of life that he has here. He lives in Center City, walks to and from work, and enjoys taking advantage of the city’s cultural and dining options after work, as opposed to friends of his who live in the New York area and have to endure a one-and-a-half hour commute each way to and from their jobs in Manhattan. Dan says “the positive cliches about Philadelphia are true in that it’s really livable and does not have the pressures of other cities - it has all the benefits of a major city, but still feels like a small town in that you constantly see people you know on the street.”

Alan Nochumson, an associate at Funk & Bolton, echoes the sentiment that Philadelphia’s accessibility and intimate feel are its strongest assets for newcomers. Like Dan, he “loves the fact that you walk down the street and you bump into people you know on every block.” Alan has lived in both of our major competitor-cities for young talent in that he was born and grew up in...
Imagine finding a single attorney who would have expertise in handling the following types of clients:

- An elderly couple who are in danger of losing the house they have lived in for 50 years because they were the victims of a fraudulent home repair scam.
- A “starving artist” who has a question over a copyright dispute.
- An HIV-positive person who has been discriminated against in the workplace because of his or her health status.
- An immigrant who has been wrongfully detained and threatened with deportation.

Would that be one very well-rounded attorney, right?

The Philadelphia Bar Foundation plays that role. We fund organizations that literally cover every phase of life, from the youngest child to the oldest senior citizen. We work with organizations that work with individuals and families. We work with organizations that have in-house counsel, and those that use the help of a network of pro bono attorneys. Our grants’ annual budget sizes range from a few thousand dollars (for one small, grassroots agency) to more than $7 million.

I know there are many organizations that ask for your help. Many of these are extremely worthy, and commendable in their efforts.

If you have found an organization that serves a specific community, or that works in an issue that is near and dear to your heart, then they are worthy of your support. They probably need your help, both in terms of financial contributions and in terms of other types of giving – both of your time and your enthusiastic support. I don’t ever want the Bar Foundation to be accused of saying that its fund-raising efforts diverted a single nickel from funds that would have gone directly to any of these worthy organizations. Our mission is to provide critical funding to these organizations. If you provide direct support to them, that works for everyone.

Instead, I want to appeal to Philadelphia-area attorneys who might not have already chosen a specific target for charitable donations in the legal world. You make your living in the law, you feel a natural inclination to want to give back – but to whom? So many groups ask for your support, it can almost reach a point of exhaustion – how can one person possibly do all the homework to make sure an organization is worthy, that it is run well, that it is fulfilling its mission? Even more difficult is the daunting task, when faced with a handful of requests, is to try to determine which two or three groups are worthy of a contribution. How can one person feel confident in making that decision?

It is difficult for one person. For a group of experts, though, the decision is much easier.

Our Grants Committee will do your homework for you, determining which organizations are well run, fulfilling their missions. We do site visits. We meet with the organizations on a monthly business. We invite them in to meet with us.

You can be assured that a contribution to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation is a good investment to provide the widest, deepest type of funding for legal services in Philadelphia. Our reach is broad. We are the umbrella that covers the largest group of legal services providers. A contribution to the Bar Foundation will have a trickle-down impact across the city.

We are the central focus point, the “one-stop shop” for legal charitable giving. Please consider making a contribution today – your gift will go a long, long way.

Robert D. Lane Jr., a partner at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, is president of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

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Through the Special Way to Remember program, you can honor a colleague or loved one with a contribution to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. Since 1964 the Bar Foundation has distributed millions of dollars in attorney gifts and other funds to public interest groups that provide counsel and assistance to the poor, disabled, elderly and children in our community. Your gift will help serve the needs of Philadelphians who have nowhere else to turn for legal services.

If you would like to make a gift to the Foundation as a meaningful expression of respect, please call (215) 238-6334.

BAR REPORTER / MARCH 2005
**Panel Touts Perks of Bar Association Involvement**

by Gina F. Rubel

There are both tangible and intangible benefits of participating in your professional community and you need to take advantage of both, members of the Women in the Profession Committee were told at the committee’s recent presentation on “How to Make the Most of Bar Association Involvement.”

The group was addressed on Jan. 25 by panelists Arlene Rivera Finkelstein, immediate-past president of the Hispanic Bar Association; Patricia A. Toland, chair of the Board of Governors; and Jane L. Dalton, Vice Chancellor of the Association. Each shared how they first got involved with the Bar Association and discussed the rewards of their professional activities.

“Bar Association involvement grants you access to individuals you might not normally have the chance to meet. It is an opportunity to share experiences in a very different environment than your office. It also gives you the chance to meet those that can help you in your professional development,” said Finkelstein. “As a result of attending these meetings, I became creative and more productive at my office,” she added.

Toland counseled attendees to be strategic in their involvement and to take advantage of marketing opportunities. “Clients were interested to know that I was involved in the Bar Association. It had intangible benefits,” said Toland, who suggested bringing clients to events when appropriate.

Dalton said she learned things that were important to her practice. “While being involved with the Bar Association, I meet people who are really important in the professional activities.”

**Foreign Language Speakers Can Expand Their Client Base**

Lawyers who speak languages other than English can expand their client base through the Association’s Lawyer Referral and Information Service. “We are a diverse city with a varied and valued immigrant community. In order to service the needs of newcomers in a more efficient manner, LRIS is actively seeking attorneys who have additional language capabilities,” said Sayde J. Ladov, chair of the LRIS Committee.

There is a growing market for non-English speaking attorneys in this area. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 350,000 residents of the Philadelphia area were foreign born in 2000, a 42 percent increase since 1990. In addition, the 2000 Census reported that 12.3 percent of Philadelphia area residents spoke a language other than English at home.

LRIS is seeking attorneys to serve this important, rapidly growing community. “Joining LRIS is a great way to build your practice,” said Ladov. “Joining LRIS is easy. The first step is contacting Charles Kltitsch, the Association’s director of Public and Legal Services, who will send you an application package. Simply complete the application, select the panels that best fit your practice and pay an annual fee of $300.

Requirements for membership and those criteria are included with the application package.

LRIS’s expansion into the non-English speaking market is another step in the overall growth of the program. In January, Ladov told the Board of Governors that LRIS brought in more than $500,000 in revenue to the Association in 2004. This is an all-time high and reflects the millions of dollars in legal fees earned by LRIS attorneys over the years.

Ladov said that an ambitious advertising campaign is under way to make LRIS a household name in the community, including a billboard along Interstate 95 and an ad on the front page of the Metro newspaper.

**Lawyer Referral and Information Service**

An application to join LRIS can be found on the Association’s Web site at www.philadelphiabar.org and clicking on “Join LRIS.”

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Bar's 26th Charity Run Set for May 15
by Manny D. Pokotilow

The 26th Annual Philadelphia Bar Association 5K (3.1 mile) Charity Run and Walk will take place on Sunday, May 15 to provide the annual incentive for getting back in shape after a long winter. The net proceeds for the event will benefit the Support Center for Child Advocates.

The Bar Association is being joined by Wawa, FirstTrust, Iron Mountain, The Legal Intelligencer, JuristStaff, Inc., and USI Colburn Insurance Service as sponsors. In addition, the law firms of Akim Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP; Apol, Schwartz, Weiss, Cohan, Feldman and Smalley, P.C.; Bennett, Bricklin & Saltzburg, LLP; Caesar, Ravise, Bernstein, Cohen & Pokotilow, Ltd.; Mar- shall, Denehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin; Neil A. Morris Associates, PC; Pepper Hamilton LLP; RaterPrestia; Raynes, McCarty, Binder, Ross & Mun-dy; Reed Smith LLP; Sandals & Associates, P.C.; Semanoff, Ormsby, Greenberg & Torchia, LLC; WolfBlock; and Woodcock Washburn LLP are joining the Run as legal sponsors. Other groups from 13 and under to 80 and over.

The event attracts all ages that are fun for the entire family. The Bar Association is co-chair of the Charity Run Committee.

Manny D. Pokotilow, a partner at Caesar, Ravise, Bernstein, Cohen & Pokotilow, Ltd., is co-chair of the Charity Run Committee.

Send Us Your News, Views and Photos for Publication

The Philadelphia Bar Reporter welcomes law-related submissions for publication. Articles relating to a specific practice area, commentary, book reviews and letters to the editors are welcome.

Letters must be signed to verify authorship, but names will be withheld upon request.

Editors reserve the right to condense for clarity, style and space considerations. Articles and/or requests for publication may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed and should be directed to: Jeff Lyons, Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2911. Phone: (215) 238-6345. Fax: (215) 238-1267. E-mail: reporter@philabar.org.
New Committee Targets Immigration Issues

by Jeff Lyons

A new ad hoc committee of the Bar Association has been formed to delve into the issues general practitioners face with immigration law.

The Law Practice for New Arrivals Committee will offer its members educational and legislative advocacy, consumer protection and community outreach in immigration law. Attorney Lisa Goldstein, founder of The Law Practice for New Arrivals, is a joint effort of the Mid-Size Firm Committee.

Mid-Size Firm Committee

Marketing Expert: Show Client Your Strengths

by Jeff Lyons

Being a sensational lawyer isn't enough; you have to be able to market yourself to potential clients, a marketing expert told members of the Mid-Size Firm Committee.

Attorney Lisa Goldstein, founder of FB Corporate Strategies, met with members of the Committee on Feb. 18 to discuss ways lawyers can increase their business.

"Let's face it. Part of a lawyer's job is to get business," Goldstein said. "Most often, lawyers are hired because of their specialization. It's what you do better than everyone else that will get you that client," she said.

Goldstein said lawyers have to do a combination of sales and marketing in order to get and retain clients. "Sales is the act of persuading or influencing a customer to buy a service. Marketing defines the service you offer," she said.

When marketing your firm to clients, Goldstein said you have to identify the things that make your firm different. "Don't be afraid to take a stand to identify your market. Once you define your niche, that's when the business will come in," she said.

Another important part of a marketing strategy is to have a Web site and a professional brochure for your firm. "If you don't have a Web site, it can work against you. And once you have your Web site up and running, you can put client testimonials on there to attract even more clients," Goldstein said.

Goldstein said client surveys offer the best insight into your firm's strengths and weaknesses. "It's a great source of feedback. But be prepared to do something with the information once you receive it. Don't make clients take the time to fill out a survey and then not use the information they give you. That's just a waste of everyone's time," she said.

Since attorneys are not permitted to make "cold calls" to solicit new clients, Goldstein suggested several methods of increasing business. "The best way to get business is through referral introductions. Have a third party introduce you to a potential client," she said. Having a booth at a trade show that highlights your firm's strengths is also valuable. Goldstein said you have to target seminars that relate to your business, while making sure the people in your firm's booth network with the show's attendees.

"Teaching seminars is also a good way to meet prospective clients. Get there early and talk with people and hang around afterward. Don't just show up and leave," she advised. "Find what makes sense and do it," she said.

An immigration expert told members of the Mid-Size Firm Committee that client surveys offer the best feedback. But be prepared to do something with the information once you receive it. Don't make clients take the time to fill out a survey and then not use the information they give you. That's just a waste of everyone's time," she said.

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Offering Classes, Customization and Sales In:
Judges Explain Details of City’s New Gun Court

By Jeff Lyons

The First Judicial District’s new Gun Court is up and running, designed to address the growing problem of gun violence in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Administrative Judge James J. Fitzgerald III addressed members of the Criminal Justice Section on Jan. 25. Judge Fitzgerald was joined by Supervising Judge Webster D. Keogh and Judge Jeffrey P. Minehart, gun court’s presiding judge. Charles Cunningham of the Public Defender’s Office was also on hand to answer questions, as were John Delaney and Jodi Lobel of the District Attorney’s Office.

Judge Fitzgerald said Gun Court is designed to deter the illegal use and possession of firearms and to protect law-abiding citizens through swift disposition of gun-related cases and intense supervision of defendants at the pretrial stage as well as following conviction of violation of the Uniform Firearms Act.

The Gun Court won’t handle cases involving violence, and people will be diverted to the program only if gun possession is the most serious crime they face. Many who appear are likely to be facing only a short jail sentence or probation.

“In 2003, the Common Pleas Court disposed of more than 1,300 cases and in 2004, more than 1,100 cases in which violation of the Uniform Firearms Act was the most serious charge,” Judge Fitzgerald said. When Gun Court started up, Judge Fitzgerald said the Common Pleas Court had approximately 400 gun cases pending disposition.

There are about 300 active cases in Municipal Court and another 350 active probation and parole cases, he said.

“The new Gun Court will include education for the accused about the personal and psychological devastation the illegal possession and use of firearms causes, while at the same time providing the structure for direct and immediate response for defendants who violate gun orders,” he said. Judge Keogh said one of the main components of the new program is intensified supervision of defendants during the pretrial stage. Defendants are assigned a case manager. “By having this intensified supervision, the defendants know that if they stray, they’ll be brought back into lawful conduct.”

Judge Minehart said word has to get out to the people of Philadelphia that they have to get their guns registered. “This is a trial room, not a punishment court,” he said.

David D. Wasson III, deputy court administrator for the Court of Common Pleas Criminal Trial Division, said that roughly 1,200 people were shot in Philadelphia last year.

“Gun Court recognizes that if we want the results to be different the methods have to be different. We’re trying to protect the community and hold the accused accountable,” said Wasson. “We’re hopeful Gun Court will be an important piece of the overall picture.”

Jodi Lobel, an assistant district attorney, said the aim of Gun Court is simple. “We hope to avoid future crimes by these defendants.”

Charles Cunningham of the Defender Association of Philadelphia voiced some doubts about Gun Court. “We’re concerned that one judge can become somewhat jaded” hearing the same kinds of cases all the time, he said.
Save the Date

2005 Bench-Bar Conference
Sept. 30 - Oct. 1
The Quarter at Tropicana
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PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION
Civil Rights Committee

Young Africans Tell of Crushing Debt at Home

by Michael J. Carroll

A panel of young African lawyers, artists and activists spoke movingly about the need for relief from the foreign debt that is crushing their home countries. They told members of the Association’s Civil Rights Committee at their Feb. 3 meeting that the debt was improperly incurred, was stifling development and squeezing out spending for education and health care.

Their plight is similar to some of the homeowner victims of predatory lending in the poor and working class neighborhoods of Philadelphia. They had borrowed money at bad interest rates in the triple digits, sometimes for fraudulent, overpriced home repairs, like the folks who took out the payday loans with annual interest rates in the triple digits.

It was also reminiscent of the old Hollywood movies where the Depression Era everyman character played by Henry Fonda or Jimmy Stewart was victimized time and again by unseen and unsympathetic bankers. Or maybe it was the harsher, grimmer Upton Sinclair image from the novel The Jungle in which one immigrant worker after another would buy the same house at usurious terms, only to lose it when he was laid off, or the work at the meat-packing plant broke his health, and the house was foreclosed upon and sold to the next desperate immigrant in line.

The story they were telling at the committee meeting was in some ways an old one and a too familiar one, but on a grand and disastrous scale.

The speakers gave the committee members a few facts that painted a clear, if not pretty picture of the African debt problem.

• Most of the African debt was incurred by post-colonial governments trying to build and maintain an infrastructure needed to compete in the world economy. Unfortunately, many of the governments doing the borrowing in the 1970s and later - a time when banks were trying to bolster interest rates - were headed by dictators who often used the money to forcibly subdue the majority of citizens. When dictators go, e.g., Zaire/Congo, South Africa, the debt remains.

• It may be an imperfect simile, but it is more than a little like an alcoholic, compulsive gambler father burying the family home in loans too easily provided by the neighborhood loan shark. Dad may pass on, but his surviving family remains crushed under his poisonous legacy.

• Many Sub-Saharan African countries spend more on debt payments than on health care and education combined.

Stakeholders Meeting

Howard Radzely, solicitor of the U.S. Department of Labor, is joined by (from left) Business Law Section Human Resources Committee Co-Chair Wanda Flowers; Catherine Oliver Murphy, regional solicitor for the Department of Labor; and Gina Amedu, a member of the Committee, during an informal stakeholders meeting on Feb. 8 at the offices of Buchanan Ingersoll PC. Radzely, the third-highest ranking official at the Department of Labor, discussed the department’s new overtime regulations, OSHA’s future enforcement strategy; and issues encountered under ERISA.

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**BIKE-A-THON**

*continued from page 5*

"The response we've gotten has been incredible. We're looking to double the amount of money we raised last year," said Abramowitz.

"In 2005 we plan on continuing our spring and summer training rides on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and we are considering a pre-event distance ride," Abramowitz said.

"We have plans for two educational programs discussing the issues facing lawyers who have cancer and we have scheduled a team night at the Camden Riversharks for May 13, which will be complimentary to all riders, their families and team sponsors," he said, adding that tickets will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis.

"Due to our early start, any firm sponsorship of $5,000 or more will receive all the benefits of a full American Cancer Society Sponsor, having their firm name on all event t-shirts and materials, as well as having their firm name and logo on the Philadelphia Bar Team jersey," he said.

The American Cancer Society has set a March 18 deadline for full sponsors. "The ride has a lot of meaning for a lot of members of the Bar. So many of us have been touched by cancer," Abramowitz said.

This year's Bike-a-Thon will be held on Sunday, July 10 and begin at the foot of the Ben Franklin Bridge. The 62.5-mile ride finishes up at Lenape Park in Mays Landing, N.J.

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**Legal Directory Online Has Searchable Database**

An online version of The Legal Directory 2005 will be available for the first time this year, giving members of the legal community access to a searchable database of firms and attorneys contained in the printed The Legal Directory 2005.

Media Two, Inc., the Bar Association’s publishing agent for The Legal Directory, developed the new site with the assistance of The Berndt Group.

Online subscriptions – which will run from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006 – are available for $90 each. A combination of The Legal Directory Online and the hard-copy The Legal Directory 2005 can be purchased for $77.

A free preview of The Legal Directory Online can be found online at www.thelegaldirectory.org. Visitors can search for a listing by name, address, county, keyword and by area of concentration. Users can also request more information.

The online preview site utilizes data solely from The Legal Directory 2004. As of April 1, the site will be updated with all-new listing information that is presently being collected for the 2005 printed directory.

For more information about the Legal Directory Online, contact Pete Kerzel at Media Two at (800) 466-8721, extension 228.

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Philadelphia Bar Association April Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon
Monday, April 11 at Noon at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1201 Market St.

• Featuring U.S. Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr.’s address to the Association membership
• Honoring Immediate-Past Chancellor Gabriel L.J. Bevilacqua

Please make ___ reservations for the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon. Tickets are $50 for members and $55 for non-members. Checks should be made payable to the Philadelphia Bar Association.

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GUIDANCE

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"Because of the selflessness of the members, as well as the longevity, high level of subject matter knowledge and unfailing responsiveness of the supervising Association staff member, the committee has developed a reliable and thorough collection of ethics opinions over the course of many years that are frequently and favorably consulted and cited by courts, lawyers and ethics committees around the country," said Judge Pratter. "It was a true honor to serve as the chair of this committee for two years and to endeavor to uphold its stellar reputation," she said.

Kazaras said the Allegheny County Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association both have ethics programs, but the state bar doesn’t have an attorney on staff to render guidance.

"I’ve been on the committee since 1988, and I’ve found it to be quite possibly the most rewarding aspect of my legal practice because it provides a very valuable service with a high degree of quality and professionalism," said Jeffrey L. Abrams, the committee’s current chair.

"We get a wide range of inquiries. Our charge is to advise members of the Bar on any aspect of conduct covered by the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct. We’ve handled everything from conflict of interest to fee disputes, confidentiality and everything in between," he said.

Abrams praised the members of the committee for their dedication and hard work. "In the years I’ve been on the committee, I’ve never seen anybody dedicate less than 100 percent of their efforts to this work. It’s humbling to be in the presence of people who care so much about our profession," said Abrams.

Our charge is to advise members of the Bar on any aspect of conduct covered by the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct. We’ve handled everything from conflict of interest to fee disputes, confidentiality and everything in between," he said.

BIDEN

continued from page 1

or of the Violence Against Women Act of 2000, which contains a broad array of measures to combat domestic violence and provides billions of dollars in federal funds to address gender-based crimes.

Sen. Biden also wrote the law that created the nation’s “drug czar” who oversees and coordinate national drug control policy. He has been a staunch supporter of college aid and loan programs and has crafted legislation to allow families to deduct up to $10,000 per year in higher education expenses on their annual income tax returns.

His enacted “Kids 2000” legislation that established a public/private partnership to help provide computer centers, tutors, Internet access and technical training to young people across the nation, particularly to low-income and at-risk youth.

Sen. Biden also ran for president in 1988 but eventually withdrew from the race. He is considered a possible candidate for the Democratic nomination for president in 2008.

He is co-chair of the Senate NATO Observer Group, Senate National Security Working Group, Congressional Fireman’s Caucus and Congressional International Anti-Piracy Caucus. He is vice chair of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. He is a member of the Senate Democratic Steering and Coordination Committee; Congressional Air Force Caucus, National Guard Caucus, Senate Auto Caucus, Senate Biotechnology Caucus and Congressional Port Security Caucus.

Tickets for the April Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon are $50 for members and $55 for nonmembers and are available online at www.philadelphiabar.org or by filling out the coupon on this page.

Ya Gotta Have Heart: Judges Step Up on Valentine’s Day

U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Jacob P. Hart officiates at the Feb. 14 wedding ceremony of Stella Upchurch and John Comish at the Reading Terminal Market. Judge Hart, along with Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Senior Judge Bernard Goodheart and Judge Jeffrey Mineheart, officiated at a total of six weddings at lunchtime at the Market.


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*Plus Shipping & Handling/directory: $4.15 and Sales Tax/directory: $3.79 in Philadelphia and Allegheny County; $3.25 in other PA counties.

As of April 1, directory prices will increase. Order now to take advantage of special pre-publication savings! The Legal Directory 2005 will be published and shipped in April. You will be invoiced for your order upon publication.
Solo and Small Firm Committee

Being Neat Doesn’t Always Mean Being Organized

by Asima Panigrahi

Being the daughter of an attorney, Karen Fow understands the time pressures that attorneys are often faced with when attempting to balance work, their personal lives and memberships in various organizations.

"Time is about respect for others and ourselves and about setting boundaries," she told members of the Solo and Small Firm Committee. Fow, a documentation specialist and consultant, discussed effective habits of organizing and clutter control with committee members at their Feb. 11 meeting.

Fow stressed the differences between clean and organized. She said messy is not the same as disorganized and organized does not necessarily mean clean. "The greatest intruder to our time is disorganization...and increases in disorganization will lead to chaos," she stressed that organization saves a great deal of money, and when prioritizing, we have to focus most on what matters most to us in the present moment. People tend to place the most important things at the bottom of their lists while the least important things get the most time and attention. "Get the big things in first and then the smaller things," she encouraged.

She said priorities often come out of the relationships that we form. For example, what should you do if you work with a coworker who is always late with their deadlines? Blaming him or yelling at him will only make the problem worse. Instead, Fow suggests that you try and be proactive and find a positive way to work with him, such as calling the coworker the Monday before the deadline to check in and offer your support. Forming good relationships with others can lead us to change our own bad habits, she said.

The bottom line is that disorganization hurts our bottom line. Fow said that the average executive spends six weeks a year looking for missing information, and the average cost of a missing record is more than $100 and said we lose approximately one hour a day to disorder. "For a person making $45,000 a year, this equates to a loss of approximately $5,000 per person," she said.

Fow then offered some practical tips for being more organized. "First, keep only three types of files: for projects, records, and resources. You should also purge your files on a regular basis, and throw out any files that are over a year old. Also, your electronic files should mirror your paper files. Finally, you should use notebooks rather than small pieces of paper or Post-Its to minimize the loss of any information," she said.

"The costs of disorganization are much higher than learning the skills of organizing."
Sichuan master-chef Jiang Guo Fu takes a knife to an onion and converts the latter into a dahlia; or he shapes a huge radish into an orange parakeet. Gongs ring around the new year of the Rooster (4703), in conjunction with the Chinese Cultural Center’s 50th anniversary. Fu is here making culinary magic, along with chef Guo Zhi Hua, and with assistants Yuan Kai Cao and Ben Zhen Wang. The coterie prepares belly-filling 10-course banquets nightly at 6:30 p.m. ($32; Friday through Sunday $35).

The cooks come from the “four-star” Tibet Hotel in Chengdu, Sichuan Province near the campestral Tibetan border. So “four-star” may be an astrologer’s linguistic accolade rather than an astronomer’s.

Let me be frank. The Center is worn, linoleum-floored, cold and gaunt in spots. English is spoken diffidently, but not without confidence. The evening is really such a success because of the unfailing quaintness and kind remarks of hostess Victoria Van Chang, the pampered portions of authentic creations, and the extremely lazy-Susan method of food distribution. Each large round table seats 12 to which you are given a pre-assigned seat. Meeting and sharing with friendly tourists and neighbors from Philadelphia’s plethora of neighborhoods adds to the joy. The spectacle does not allow for silence, nor lacks of laughter.

But you may have to (1) keep your coat on a while, as the drafts are frigid through March; (2) bring your own wine and wine glass; (3) sit hungrily but respectfully through a 20-minute drum-riddled film travelogue of Tibet; and (4) wonder whether anyone will clear tables or offer new clean dishes after the sixth course.

I adore the “Kong Long Eggplant,” a mysteriously dark and sinister sauce in which are floating eggplant chunks next to immersed diced dried cod. The purple and green vegetables are cool to the tongue and easy to squash between teeth, while the cod nodules add a momentary crispness leading to tractable tartness. And then the sauce hits the inside of your nasal passage with a smoky peppered blast. It’s what Sichuan cuisine is calculated to create. Tablsmates titter and tear.

Likewise, the Mt. E-Mai Spicy Beef creates a startling dir of tonsils. Skirt steak is served in an opaque red-tinged broth. Shredded beef plunges into your mouth and rests, to be chewed. A fire begins in the cheek nearest to the mast, and spreads as you swallow, lingering like embers at your larynx. An implanted defibrillator goes off in a man at another table. His wife is from Montana, so he hotly tells him to “shake it off.”
Sliced rendered and roasted Red Palace Roast Duck is provided on a platter among hoisin sauce, crushed and oiled Sichuan peppercorns, and three-inch round yeasty buns, to make a sandwich. The duck breast is dark and golden-edged, with a satin texture emboldened by the condiments. The bun encapsulates the deal.

There are plentiful offerings of crispy corn-starch coated shrimp (Huang Bun), which is shaped morsel-size, sautéed with saffron, fried and implanted back into the fish platter between the plated fish’s dull-eyed head and chopped-off tail. It is named “Tibetan Red Flower Sea Bass.” The red flower alludes to the saffron. Chinese proverb: “The longer the name enduring, entertaining, different and delightful. Hearts may be shaped differently in Chengdu than almost anywhere else because, the ventricle at issue is certainly not where the banana as dessert. Hearts may be shaped differently in Chengdu than almost anywhere else because the ventricle at issue is certainly not where it ought to be. But the mushy brown-sugared pie-pudding mold’s muted sweetness grows on you, and washes down well with amber tea.

T.T. Chang, who came from Hangzhou, China, created the Center in 1995 as a small YMCA. His interests in cooking provided the incentive, about 25 years ago, to bring chefs to Philadelphia from various Chinese provinces. His wife is enamored of his memory, as she should be. The banquets are legendary, entertaining, different and delightful. Don’t take the slow boat to make your reservation.

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 chair.

**Wednesday, March 16**

- Philadelphia Bar Foundation Finance Committee – meeting, 8:30 a.m., 1st floor Committee Room South.
- Worker’s Compensation Section Executive Committee – meeting, 10:30 a.m., 11th floor Committee Room.
- Worker’s Compensation Section – meeting, 11th floor Conference Center: Lunch: $7.50.
- Bar-News Media Committee – meeting, noon, 11th floor Committee Room South.
- Federal Courts Committee – meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room: Lunch: $7.50.
- LegalLine – 5 p.m., 11th floor LRS Offices.

**Thursday, March 17**

- Family Law Section Executive Committee – meeting, noon, 11th floor Committee Room South.
- Professional Responsibility Committee – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room.

**Friday, March 18**

- Mid-Size Firm Committee – meeting, 8 a.m., 11th floor Conference Center.
- Social Security and Disability Benefits Committee – meeting, noon, 11th floor Conference Center: Lunch: $7.50.
- Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room.
- Philadelphia Lawyer magazine Editorial Board – meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

**Monday, March 21**

- Public Interest Section Executive Committee – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room.
- Young Lawyers Division Cabinet – meeting, noon, 10th floor Cabinet Room.

**Tuesday, March 22**

- Section Chairs Meeting with Chancellor – meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room: Cabinet – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room.
- Women in the Profession Committee – meeting, noon, 11th floor Conference Center: Lunch: $7.50.

**Wednesday, March 23**

- Medical Legal Committee – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room: Lunch: $7.50.

**Thursday, March 24**

- Lawyer Referral and Information Service Committee – meeting, noon, 11th floor Committee Room.
- Healthcare Law Committee – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room: Lunch: $7.50.

**Friday, March 25**

- Good Friday – Bar Association offices closed.

**Monday, March 28**

- Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room.

**Tuesday, March 29**

- Criminal Justice Section – meeting, 11th floor Conference Center: Lunch: $7.50.

**Wednesday, March 30**

- Legal Rights of Persons with Disabilities Committee – meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room.

**Thursday, March 31**

- Board of Governors – meeting, 4 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

**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 chair.

**Wednesday, March 1**

- Delivery of Legal Services Committee Pro Bono Subcommittee – meeting, 9 a.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
- Philadelphia Bar Foundation Board of Trustees – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room.

**Wednesday, March 2**

- Delivery of Legal Services Committee – meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
- State Civil Rules Committee – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room: Lunch: $7.50.

**Thursday, March 3**

- Civil Rights Committee – meeting, 12:15 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee – meeting, 12:15 p.m., 10th floor Board Room: Lunch: $7.50.

**Environmental Law Committee** – meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center: Lunch: $7.50.
- Philadelphia Bar Reporter Editorial Board – meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Board Room.

**Friday, March 4**

- Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room.

**Monday, March 7**

- Family Law Section – meeting, 4 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

**Tuesday, March 8**

- Criminal Justice Section Executive Committee – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room.

**Wednesday, March 9**

- Appellate Courts Committee – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room: Lunch: $7.50.

**Thursday, March 10**

- Solo and Small Firm Committee – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room: Lunch: $7.50.
- Legislative Liaison Committee – meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South: Lunch: $7.50.
- Committee on the Legal Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men – meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room: Lunch: $7.50.

**Friday, March 11**

- Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room.
- Bar Association Night at the Sixers – 7 p.m., Wachovia Center, South Broad Street: Tickets: $25: www.philadelphiabar.org.

**Monday, March 14**

- Business Law Section Executive Committee – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room.

**Tuesday, March 15**

- Compulsory Arbitration Committee – meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room: Lunch: $7.50.
- Women’s Rights Committee – meeting, 12:15 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South: Lunch: $7.50.
It’s OK to Let Your Hair Down Once in a While

by Bruce H. Bikin

The regional conflicts and jealousies that existed between and among the colonies at the time of the revolution and the drafting of the Constitution were the fodder for much discussion and debate during sessions of the Continental Congress. Those rivalries were a significant reason for the structure of our federal system of government. Certainly none of the rivalries was greater than that between Boston and Philadelphia. It’s nice to know that not much has changed in more than 200 years, as evidenced by what went on in Jacksonville over Super Bowl weekend.

While Boston won on the field of combat, the parties, the politics, the cheers and the good times were definitely all Philadelphia. It was impossible to walk around downtown Jacksonville on Saturday without hearing a loud, raucous rendition of the Eagles’ fight song somewhere nearby. If nothing more, Bostonians were grateful their team won so they wouldn’t have to listen to any more Philadelphians singing “Fly, Eagles, Fly.” The New Englanders never really seemed to appreciate the complicated phrasing and nuanced lyrics of the T.O. song, either. Whatever attempts at organized cheering the Patriots fans made were greeted with derision by Eagles faithful who were quick to belt out loud and lousy E-A-G-L-E-S at a moments notice. Everybody knew Philly was in the house.

Eagles’ fans were clearly the best partiers as well. They knew how to have fun, how to enjoy themselves, and they rarely crossed that sometimes fuzzy line from raucous, rambunctious and rowdy to hooliganism.

What does all this have to do with the practice of law? Not a thing. Except maybe that sometimes its important just to let your hair down and have a good time, even for lawyers.

Bruce H. Bikin, a partner at Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoades, LLP, is an advisory editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
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