Bench-Bar Returning to Borgata; Proposals Sought for CLE Programs

The Philadelphia Bar Association's Bench-Bar & Annual Conference returns to The Borgata in Atlantic City, N.J. on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 17-18.

The Bench-Bar & Annual Conference provides attendees with the opportunity to earn continuing legal education credit while networking with colleagues and members of the bench. Hundreds of attorneys and judges attend annually. The Bench-Bar & Annual Conference was held at Borgata in 2004 and 2010.

The deadline for proposals for continuing legal education courses for the Bench-Bar & Annual Conference is Friday, March 21. Proposals should include a brief description of the program and identify the course planner and proposed panelists. Composition of the panels should reflect the diversity within our legal community and when appropriate, include members of the judiciary.

Please note that a representative of a company that could potentially be a sponsor of the Bench-Bar & Annual Conference is not permitted to serve as a panelist. Programs should be one hour long, with no more than four panelists. A program may have one moderator in addition to the panelists. Decisions regarding the programs selected will be made by Friday, April 4. The Bench-Bar Committee will have final approval on the selected panels.

Please send all CLE proposals to Bench-Bar & Annual Conference Chair Rochelle M. Fedullo at rochelle.fedullo@wilsonelser.com by Friday, March 21.

For sponsorship information, contact Tracey McCloskey at tmccloskey@philabar.org or call 215-238-6360.

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School Chief Hite to Speak March 11

By Jeff Lyons

Dr. William R. Hite Jr., superintendent of The School District of Philadelphia, will be the keynote speaker at the Association's Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon that will be held on March 11.

Dr. Hite's remarks coincide with Chancellor William P. Fedullo's focus on public education this year. Fedullo has created an Education Task Force to begin finding more ways that the legal community can help public education in Philadelphia and throughout the commonwealth, including an Adopt-a-School program. The Chancellor also has plans for a number of programs so Association members learn about what is needed for a quality education for students.

As part of the relationship with the School District of Philadelphia, Michael A. Davis, the district's general counsel, attended the Bar Leaders Retreat in Atlantic City, N.J. where he discussed some of the issues the district is facing.

Also at the event, the Association will present the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Diversity Award. The award publicly acknowledges, recognizes and honors an individual or entity that has demonstrated a strong commitment, and has made a substantial contribution, to diversity and promoting full and equal participation and inclusion in the legal profession. Immediate-Past Chancellor Kathleen D. Wilkinson will be honored at the event. She will be presented with a gold box, a replica of the one presented to Andrew Hamilton for his defense of John Peter Zenger in 1735. The gold box is presented annually to the immediate-past Chancellor and is inscribed with the message "acquired not by money, but by..."
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‘Adopt-a-School’ and Help Better Public Education in Philadelphia

It’s now been three months since I announced my agenda and vision for the year and it seems wherever I go people comment on the school initiative and share how excited they are about it and ask me how they can learn more and get involved. I couldn’t be happier that so many people have wanted to be a part of this important and imperative initiative. Please know how much I appreciate your support. So now what?

We’ve spent the first few months of the year putting together a “blueprint” on how Philadelphia’s legal community can partner with the School District of Philadelphia in a meaningful way to address the city’s public education concerns. I’ve met and spoken with many people to first learn about what work already has been done, but also to help form appropriate criteria for firms, public interest groups and other individuals who are interested in supporting the “Adopt-a-School” initiative.

In addition to meeting with representatives from the School District of Philadelphia, I also recently met with U.S. Attorney Zane Memeger and Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Reed to better understand all of the work they’ve done with the public schools, especially at Strawberry Mansion. They shared touching stories and offered some sound advice worth sharing with anyone who is interested in getting involved in this initiative. “Humility is key,” they said. I’d like to pass along those simple yet wise words of wisdom, particularly with lawyers and others who plan on entering the classrooms in our public schools.

Speaking of Strawberry Mansion, I have been extraordinarily inspired by Principal Linda Cliatt-Wayman, who has given tremendous dedication and commitment to her school and its respective students, parents and surrounding community. Kids need to know they’re cared for and loved. I commend her for reminding her students every day that, even if they don’t hear it from anyone else, she loves and cares about them. I also commend all of the work that has been done to improve Strawberry Mansion High School, a school that once had been named one of the nation’s most dangerous schools. We need teachers and principals like Cliatt-Wayman to help guide us through this initiative, as they know the needs of the students and schools better than any of us.

School District of Philadelphia Superintendent Dr. William Hite also is at the forefront of helping to improve our public education system. Dr. Hite, as many of you are aware from recent headlines, has big plans for our public schools. He has announced four “anchor” goals, the first of which is to have 100 percent of students who graduate ready to go to college and start their careers.

Additionally, many people may say these goals are impossible. Some people think they are not realistic and they’re too high. I am not one of these people. In fact, my vision is very much aligned with Dr. Hite’s. My vision is to have every law firm in the city “adopt” a school in some form or fashion and my goal is to have at least 100 law firms or interested individuals “adopt” a school by the end of 2014.

With that being said, I’d like to again thank Judge John Young and Jeff Lindy, our Education Task Force co-chairs, as they continue to help build on the

continued on page 16
WOMEN IN THE PROFESSION COMMITTEE

President Judge Emphasizes Court Transparency

By Annie M. Kelley

When Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper was unanimously elected president judge by her colleagues, it was clear that her leadership would have a positive effect on the Philadelphia Courts. During a recent address to the Women in the Profession Committee, she emphasized her devotion to building transparency and accountability within the courts.

Before Judge Woods-Skipper assumed her current role, she was the supervising judge of the Criminal Trial Division. As the only woman in administration on the criminal side, she focused on maintaining an open-door policy, and was always willing to lend a helping hand. Judge Woods-Skipper noted that there is a way to deliver a message in an un-demanding manner, and to provide valuable lessons to be learned in the future. In particular, she explained that one does not always need to step on toes to convey a point.

Judge Woods-Skipper’s role as president judge is slightly different now, but she continues to practice the same leadership skills. Inherently, her position allows her to highlight the ability to do good and make a difference. Specifically, she emphasized the need to improve the perception of the Philadelphia courts. There are so many positive things and programs that the court and the judges are involved in, but often only negative stories come out. Judge Woods-Skipper counters this trend by publishing on a range of initiatives, including court-wide e-filing, converting forms in family and landlord-tenant court to six different languages, case reductions, decrease in time for trial in the civil division, and the judicial fellowship program.

The main goal is transparency through sharing what the court is doing, which necessarily includes its successes. In terms of areas for improvement, Judge Woods-Skipper noted they are always looking to upgrade technology concerns, juror issues and participation in trials, as well as general access to justice.

Judge Woods-Skipper is a lifelong Philadelphian and, therefore, has a very general access to justice. Skipper noted they are always looking to make the court back was instilled in her at a young age. North Philadelphia, an obligation to give more important to Judge Woods-Skipper to find mechanisms to make a difference, and she learned the “secret to” of what a leader does – one leads to make a difference, not to get recognition. Judge Woods-Skipper shared an anecdote about paying it forward through mentorship. She established a relationship with a young girl who attended the same church and needed someone to show her that she could do anything she put her mind to. Judge Woods-Skipper developed a deep, trusting relationship with the girl and watched her grow to a woman and a successful lawyer. By supporting and encouraging young women and men, she said we often don’t know the impact we are having on others just by doing little things, but this is what leads to success in others and ourselves.

These same principles are applicable to her new role, where Judge Woods-Skipper is always looking to make the court system more accessible and efficient, and is open to suggestions from practitioners.

**President Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper (center) joins Women in the Profession Committee Co-Chairs Durania Papademetriou (left) and Regina M. Foley at the committee’s Jan. 29 program.**

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Sequester woes, upcoming changes to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, an increasingly large multi-district litigation (MDL) caseload, the filling of judicial vacancies, and court-supported programs were among the wide range of topics discussed by five U.S. District Court judges at a Feb. 19 state of the courts discussion presented by the Federal Courts Committee. Judges Anita B. Brody, Mitchell S. Goldberg, L. Felipe Restrepo, Eduardo C. Robreno and Cynthia M. Rufe were the panelists for the program.

Judge Brody began the discussion by pointing out that there are currently more multidistrict litigation proceedings in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania than ever before. Over the past 10 years, the number of MDL filings has increased by 132 percent. Judge Brody likened the handling of an MDL case to taking an all-consuming Advanced Placement level course in high school. Notwithstanding the increased amount of work associated with presiding over an MDL matter, the panel noted that judges assigned to one do not get the benefit of receiving an additional law clerk.

Judge Rufe attributed the large number of MDLs in the Eastern District to the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation’s trust in the court. She also discussed the trend of increased coordination between federal judges presiding over MDL proceedings, and state court judges with similar – but non-removable – cases. Judge Rufe said that this coordination has been refined to almost an art form, and noted that it can be utilized to address discovery, Daubert and science hearings. This coordination has been effective in preventing the proceedings in one forum from advancing far ahead of those in another court.

Judge Robreno provided an update on the changes to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that may be forthcoming. He emphasized the importance of members of the Bar being aware of this rulemaking process. As it currently stands, the rule changes have been recommended by the advisory committee on civil rules and will next be going to the judicial conference, to be followed by a trip to the Supreme Court and Congress for approval. Judge Robreno observed that the rule changes were probably an overall improvement, but stated that more than an improvement at the margins is necessary to justify changing the rules. He questioned whether there was really a sufficient justification to warrant a departure from the status quo, noting that many issues of excess discovery can already be addressed through Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Judge Goldberg next addressed problems from the sequester that have rippled down to the local Federal Defender’s office. Among other things, this ultimately contributed to the Allentown Defender’s office being shut down. Judge Goldberg also discussed the recent Justice Department memos that have advocated the reduction in mandatory minimum sentences for drug cases. This should help reduce the prison population size, an item which currently accounts for one-third of the Justice Department’s budget.

Judge Restrepo spoke about staffing judicial vacancies on the court. Two recent nominees – Gerald McHugh and Judge Edward Smith – are currently out of committee and are awaiting a floor vote. Judge Restrepo estimated that the vote could occur sometime in May. If and when they are confirmed, Judge Smith will sit in Easton/Northampton County and Judge McHugh will be in Philadelphia.

For more information on placing a Lawyer to Lawyer referral ad, please contact LANA EHRLICH at 215-557-2392 or lehrlich@alm.com.
Kenneth E. Kobylowski, New Jersey Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, will be the guest speaker at the Friday, March 14 meeting of the Committee on Insurance Practice.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie nominated Kobylowski to serve as Commissioner of Banking and Insurance on Jan. 30, 2012. He joined the Department of Banking and Insurance as Chief of Staff in February 2010 and took on the additional role of Acting Director of Banking in October 2011. He served as the Chief Operating Officer for the Department with full responsibility for all legislative, regulatory, operational and administrative matters and also served as the Department’s liaison with other State departments and federal agencies, notably the Federal Reserve and the FDIC.

Prior to joining the Department, Kobylowski was in private practice for 20 years, beginning at Connell, Foley & Geiser in Roseland, N.J. and then moving to Herrick, Feinstein LLP, first in its New York City office and then in its Newark, N.J. office. He represented banks, insurance companies, lenders, developers and public and private entities. He is a graduate of Seton Hall University and New York Law School.

The program will begin at 12 p.m. in the 11th floor Conference Center at the Bar Association. Register at philadelphiabar.org.
The law is always chasing technology and it is difficult to prescribe rules for technology that is still evolving, Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge David N. Wecht recently told members of the Appellate Courts Committee.

Examples of recent decisions he has written included that Skype is a “computer depiction;” that providing a link to a pornographic website is equivalent to putting a magazine in a wrapper and does not provide a sufficient break to absolve the sender of culpability; and that non-satirical spoofing is not protected by the First Amendment.

When asked what efforts are being made to make judges more comfortable with IT (information technology), Judge Wecht stated that not only can judges benefit from the expertise of younger, more adept staff but also judicial education now focuses on IT. While not mandatory in Pennsylvania, judicial education conferences are well attended, he added.

One audience member asked why the Superior Court was lagging behind the Supreme Court and Commonwealth Court to adopt e-filing given that this is the “iPad era” and e-filing is more efficient. “We just prefer the big dusty books and quill pens,” he joked. He further stated that while e-filing is inevitably the next frontier, it is important to avoid potential pitfalls such as cost-shifting.

On whether attorneys do their clients a disservice by expediting cases with new court tools such as the Five Minute Expedited List for oral arguments, Judge Wecht said, “if something is worth an appeal then it is worth an oral argument.” He went on to say that while e-filing is a welcomed tool if there is only one issue involved or the argument is boilerplate.

Judge Wecht has recently proposed that cases involving minors should have more user-friendly case captions including first name and last initial. The current practice is to use initials only such as A.B.C. v D.E.F. “There are competing considerations such as the confidentiality of minors and the difficulty of discussing and citing” nameless cases, said Judge Wecht. One audience member pointed out, to the judge’s point, that using only initials dehumanizes the parties. On the other hand, confidentiality is compromised if a first name is so unique that a party can be easily identified, especially in small counties. Judge Wecht also acknowledged that confidentiality issues with unique first names could result in a disproportionate effect on racial minorities.

For Judge Wecht, the process, i.e. following the rules, is more important than the end result. “If the rules are followed, nine times out of 10 the finder of fact will get the result right,” he said. He closed with a list of dos and don’ts in appellate advocacy. Though we have heard them all before, some advice never goes stale:

• Put your strongest points first (in your brief as well as oral argument).
• Do not stick to a script.
• Answer the judge’s questions as they come and weave in and out of what you have prepared.
• Candidly acknowledge the standard of review and confront it.
• For appellants, do not denigrate the court in any way.
• Prepare and summarize the arguments in your brief so that the rest is “gravy.”

Elisa Advani (elisa.advani@phila.gov) is an assistant city solicitor with the City of Philadelphia Law Department.
50 Years In, Foundation Continues to Grow

By Deborah R. Gross

Recently, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation held an event at Berger & Montague, honoring David Berger, the first president of the Foundation.

Scott Reich, author of “Power of Citizenship: Why JFK Matters to Citizenship and Public Service,” was also at the event and spoke to the “need for a rededication to the tenets of good citizenship. Being a good citizen requires us to do something for someone else.” These are the same ideals by which David Berger lived, and by which the Foundation operates, since as lawyers, we are guardians of the legal system and one of our responsibilities is ensuring equal access to justice.

Others in attendance at the event included completed Hamilton Circle members Sherrie Savett (a former trustee), and Judge Harold Berger and Laddie Montague. Events demonstrating our appreciation for our supporters and celebrating our 50th anniversary will be replicated throughout the city in the upcoming months. Our goal is raise the Philadelphia Bar Foundation’s awareness of the critical importance of, and enormous deficit in funding for, legal assistance. We intend to innovate. Over the decades we have adapted to changing times and emerging needs and been able to respond effectively to help our city’s legal aid agencies serve those who need our help – community members who require but can not afford legal representation, the poor, the disenfranchised, children, the elderly, victims of discrimination or domestic violence, the ill or disabled, the homeless. We have much to be proud of from our first 50 years. Please join us in our work so we can ensure the Bar Foundation will continue to be an effective guardian of equal access to justice for all Philadelphians for the next 50 years and beyond.

VIP Honors Brad Shuttleworth

Philadelphia VIP proudly recognizes Brad V. Shuttleworth, counsel at the law firm of Alva & Associates, for his commitment to stabilizing low-income families in Philadelphia.

Brad is a dedicated attorney who has donated more than 70 pro bono hours to VIP clients since his start as a volunteer in 2005. He is a criminal defense and personal injury attorney but he often ventures outside of his focus areas to help clients with family law cases including divorce, custody and child support. He is also vice chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association Board of Governors.

“Every time I represent a pro bono client, I learn something new. Most of the cases I take are slightly outside of my practice area and in order to competently represent my client, I have to educate myself and become proficient. I learn something and I also get to meet new people,” Brad said.

One of Brad’s most memorable VIP cases was a civil forfeiture case where a woman’s home was in jeopardy of being seized by the Philadelphia District Attorney’s office filed for forfeiture of her house. “If we would have had to litigate the case, we would have been in a very ominous position. Fortunately, I was able to negotiate with the prosecutor and tell her [the client] side of the story, and they listened. We were able to work the case out and save my client’s home,” Brad shared.

Brad says his client was very grateful for his pro bono services. “She was standing to lose a lot. I was able to save her house and she was very appreciative of the work that I did. It made me feel great to save someone’s house.”

VIP Pro Bono Case Manager Mariana Fernandez remarked on this case saying, “Brad stepped in on short notice and was able to save her home. This is one of the things that make Brad such a great volunteer – even when the case seems daunting, he is willing to step in and fight for his client. He does this as he maintains his busy practice.”

VIP applauds his dedication to furthering VIP’s important mission.

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Starting, Building Successful Law Firms March 17

Alan M. Feldman started his own law firm in 1987 with just a few files in a subletted office. Together with Carol Nelson Shepherd and Ezra Wohlgerlter, he presided over the firm’s development into one of the region’s premier personal injury boutiques. On Monday, March 17, Alan and Carol will share their thoughts on what it takes to create a successful law practice, and will answer questions from lawyers who have made, or are considering, the jump from employee to owner-operator of your own firm.

Created in 2014 by Chancellor William P. Fedullo, the Law Firm Laboratory is a free program series and ongoing incubator of innovative ideas, strategies and concepts for starting and nurturing new law firms and helping existing law firms of all types serve the changing needs of tomorrow’s clients.

The program begins at 12 p.m. in the 11th Floor Conference Center at the Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St. There is no cost to attend this program. Lunch is available for purchase to those who register in advance at philadelphia.org.
By Rachael Eisenberg

The Student Discipline Advocacy Service (SDAS) is a group of volunteer law students from the Temple University Beasley School of Law and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. SDAS works to stem the school-to-prison pipeline by advocating on behalf of students and parents at school disciplinary hearings. Many parents and students who seek services from the Education Law Center (ELC) are referred to SDAS for advocacy. ELC staff attorneys also serve as advisers on many of our cases, teach SDAS advocates education law in Pennsylvania, and help to ensure the highest quality of representation for our clients. One of the cases on which ELC provided SDAS support involved Marcus, a sixth-grade student facing expulsion from his charter school in Philadelphia.

In the Fall of 2012, Marcus committed a series of school code violations at his school, including a physical altercation with one of his teachers. After this incident, the school suspended Marcus and scheduled an expulsion hearing. Marcus’ parents contacted the SDAS intake line for assistance in opposing the expulsion and getting help for Marcus. Although Marcus did well academically, his parents and SDAS advocates were obviously concerned about his ongoing behavioral problems and requested that the school conduct an evaluation to determine if Marcus had any emotional disabilities before they made a decision about his expulsion. The school was obligated to start the evaluation process even while the expulsion was moving forward.

In preparation for the expulsion hearing, SDAS advocates Hayden Nelson-Major, Ben Fils and myself obtained and reviewed Marcus’ education records from the school and interviewed him and his parents about his educational and family background and his history of behavioral issues in school. The advocates also consulted with Temple Law faculty member Susan DeJarnatt and ELC Staff Attorney David Lapp to develop a compelling argument to defend against the expulsion action. The case theory was that the school should exercise discretion and allow Marcus to remain in school because of Marcus’ unique circumstances — his academic capacity, his possible disability, and his potential for improved behavior with the development of an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

During the expulsion hearing at the charter school, Hayden and Ben spoke on behalf of Marcus’ family. Despite the compelling arguments on Marcus’ behalf, the hearing officers recommended his expulsion to the charter school’s Board of Trustees.

At the Board of Trustees meeting, Hayden and Ben argued again that Marcus should stay in school and introduced evidence that the parents were seeking counseling for Marcus and counseling for themselves. The Board was receptive to the arguments and was impressed by the continued involvement of Marcus’ parents. The Board ruled in our favor and decided not to expel Marcus.

With the help of SDAS, Marcus and his parents continue to work with the charter school to develop an appropriate IEP that includes both in-school behavior support and additional counseling.

Marcus’ parents told us that our advocacy gave them a voice in the hearing room and left them feeling optimistic about Marcus’ prospects for school success. As future lawyers, these pro bono experiences help remind us why we went to law school in the first place — to do justice and to ensure that all people have access to quality legal representation. We hope to continue to work with the Education Law Center on this project and we intend to continue to engage in pro bono service throughout our legal careers.

Rachael Eisenberg is a third-year student at Temple University Beasley School of Law.
A jitney driver in Atlantic City for years, Don always encouraged my decision to go to law school. He made a good living, and has more than his share of interesting stories, but not nearly all of them the good kind of interesting.

I am sure Don did not have this precisely in mind back at the Anchorage, but last month I had the opportunity do one of these foretold “interesting things” with my life. As chair of the Young Lawyers Division, I was asked to represent the Philadelphia Bar Association at a naturalization ceremony in U.S. District Court. If you have never attended a naturalization ceremony and watched new Americans take the oath of citizenship, I cannot recommend this highly enough. I have spent hours telling my friends and family about this event, the people I got to meet, the places they came from, and the stories they shared with me. My friends asked if I was the best our country could come up with to greet its new citizens. It is a fair (and funny) question, and thankfully the answer is no. The ceremony was dutifully presided over by the U.S. District Court Judge Mitchell Goldberg and featured U.S. District Court Judge L. Felipe Restrepo as a guest speaker. Judge Goldberg’s story of his grandfather’s escape from the czar’s Russia, and Judge Restrepo’s personal experience with immigration to the United States, made them ideal representatives to preside over this emotional occasion. The chance to share my own family’s immigration story with these new citizens, and congratulate them on their newly held rights and responsibilities was an experience I will never forget.

It is easy to become focused on some of the monotonous aspects of a lawyer’s life. Anybody who sat through New Jersey’s now-retired ICLE program can attest to that. Keeping track of hours and CLE credits may be the sour part of the job, but they are the price to pay in finding the sweet. For me, there was the first time I second-chaired a trial, and the second time, and third and fourth, and cross-examined an expert before a Philadelphia jury. To call these experiences “interesting” is an understatement. Whenever I find myself taking them for granted, I think of my conversation with Don at the Anchorage, and remember that there are people who work their entire lives without knowing the pride (and frankly the rush) of entering a courtroom as an attorney.

The reality is that some attorneys do not feel this way about their jobs. To those colleagues I know well enough, I try to share the perspective that we have the ability to do truly interesting things with professional our lives, for ourselves and for the benefit of those in need. Outside of work, I have found many of those experiences through the Philadelphia Bar Association. Certainly, the Bar Association is not the only place to find memorable legal experiences outside the
Lyon Exchange Program Develops Connections

By Danielle Jouenne

Michael Scullin, who helped found the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Lyon-Philadelphia Bar exchange program, discussed current opportunities for Philadelphia attorneys, law students and firms to participate in the program. Scullin, honorary consul of France in Philadelphia and Wilmington, counseled to the law firm of McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP, is a former co-chair of the International Law Committee.

In a nutshell, what is Lyon-Philadelphia Bar Exchange Program?

The exchange program is run by the International Law Committee and was initially envisioned as an exchange for attorneys just starting their legal practice. French interns, either young lawyers or law students, are placed with host firms in Philadelphia, and their Philadelphia counterparts are placed with host firms in Lyon, France. Today the program also facilitates the exchange of law students between the two cities.

How did the program originate?

In 1997 I was approached by Christian LeRoy, with the Barreau de Lyon, to form a “twinning” or “sister” relationship between the two bar associations. Lyon and Philadelphia are very similar in terms of their economic sectors. Both are strong in medical research. Both have important economic sectors. Both are strong in the arts and computer access, and experiential opportunities typical of what one would provide to a summer associate or law student extern. Shadowing opportunities at meetings, court proceedings, conferences, and the like can make up a large part of the internship. Interns can also gain experience working on CLE materials and business development projects.

What are the advantages for host law firms who participate in the program?

The program allows both French and Philadelphia firms to develop international legal connections at virtually no expense. For lawyers who are engaged in an international practice, these interns are able to provide an insightful perspective on foreign laws. As part of their training, our interns often perform translations. Some of these internships have led to business for the host firms. There are ancillary benefits to hosting as well, such as the enormous box of macarons and chocolates that my current intern Clarisse Richard shared with us over the holidays this year. There must be other benefits I am forgetting to mention, because we have a lot of repeat customers who take internships year after year.

What are Philadelphia host firms expected to provide for their French interns?

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For More Information

For more information on the Exchange Program, contact Danielle Jouenne at danielle.jouenne@bipc.com or Michael Scullin at mscullin@mdmc-law.com.

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The exchange program is run by the International Law Committee and was initially envisioned as an exchange for attorneys just starting their legal practice. French interns, either young lawyers or law students, are placed with host firms in Philadelphia, and their Philadelphia counterparts are placed with host firms in Lyon, France. Today the program also facilitates the exchange of law students between the two cities.

How did the program originate?

In 1997 I was approached by Christian LeRoy, with the Barreau de Lyon, to form a “twinning” or “sister” relationship between the two bar associations. Lyon and Philadelphia are very similar in terms of their economic sectors. Both are strong in medical research. Both have important economic sectors. Both are strong in the arts and computer access, and experiential opportunities typical of what one would provide to a summer associate or law student extern. Shadowing opportunities at meetings, court proceedings, conferences, and the like can make up a large part of the internship. Interns can also gain experience working on CLE materials and business development projects.

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Could you describe a typical French intern?

First, I should explain that in France the system of legal education is completely different from the U.S. Students “major” in law at the university and subsequently may obtain one or more master degrees in law. Then, to become a lawyer, you must be admitted to a school run by the bar association of the city in which you want to practice. It is an 18-month program, two-thirds of which is taken up with internships. It is very difficult to get into these programs in the first place and a selective process to participate in the Lyon-Philadelphia exchange program, so the students who come here are excellent. The typical intern today is a year away from being a lawyer, speaks excellent English, is very bright, and has already had legal internships elsewhere.

What is the length of time that French interns spend in Philadelphia?

The students arrive at the end of August and spend approximately six months in Philadelphia, although we have also had interns stay for shorter – or, occasionally longer – periods of time.

Who typically participates in the exchange from the Philadelphia legal community?

When we started the program we offered this opportunity to new attorneys, but we found we had many more people coming from France than we had going to France. There are many reasons for that, including the price of legal education here, and the difficulty of taking a break from law firm practice in the U.S. Therefore, we’ve recently opened up the program to law students in the Philadelphia region. These students typically participate for two months during the summer after their 1L year. If our law students have an interest in a particular practice area, we make an effort to place them with a French firm that practices in that area.

What are the qualifications for U.S. participation in the program?

We ask that each candidate provide a cover letter explaining their interest in the program and their qualifications for participating, as well as a law school transcript showing that they are in good standing. We do not expect U.S. participants to be fluent in French, but some basic level of French is required. The students also must be student-members of the Philadelphia Bar Association. We don’t have a hard deadline for submission of these materials; it is a rolling process, but if someone wants to participate this summer, I would recommend they apply within the next month or so to facilitate placement.

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Arbitration Not Always the Answer in Disputes

By J. Michael Considine Jr.

Arbitration is not appropriate for every international dispute. Sometimes litigation is a better, other times both can be used, attorneys Bruce Marks and Peter Ashford recently told members of the International Business Initiative Committee.

Wise counsel weigh all the factors before drafting a contract: what law applies, risks in litigation and judgment collection in a given country, what disputes can be arbitrated, who decides this, where and under what rules. An arbitrator can be named and appointed in the agreement as a mediator and arbitrator. In those involving the United States and United Kingdom, American Arbitration Association (AAA) or London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) rules with arbitration in London, New York or Philadelphia is common. In Russia, other organizations’ rules may apply. Standard rules apply in maritime or other disputes. Often each party appoints an arbitrator; they appoint a neutral. Most clients prefer litigation “at home” with arbitration a second option. Consideration must be given as to whether a judgment can be enforced in a foreign country if the defendant has no assets in the U.S. Broadly define disputes to be covered by the clause to keep the matter out of the courts. Consider including a clause mandating a meeting between directors of a corporation or mediation as a prerequisite to arbitration.

In the LCIA, arbitration fees of $1,000 per hour are common for arbitrators. The parties must pay an administration fee and rent a venue. In complicated matters arbitration can cost more than litigation. An arbitration award can be attacked on due process grounds but courts usually uphold awards. In the U.S., international and interstate arbitration awards cannot be reviewed by the courts except as provided by federal statute even if the parties so agree. They cannot confer jurisdiction on the courts although this occurred in the past. The great power of the federal courts is to confirm awards to be reduced to an enforceable judgment.

Arbitration has advantages. Generally the proceedings are kept confidential although sometimes as in a case before the LCIA involving disputes in the Ukraine the results of an award were published in a newspaper. Often court judgments are not enforceable internationally. Countries that are signatories to the New York Convention on the Enforcement of Arbitral Awards enforce arbitration awards, with some exceptions such as Iran. Some countries may deny enforcement for “public policy” exceptions. While under the various versions of the Uniform Act for Enforceability of Foreign Money Judgments enacted by more than 15 states, U.S. courts may enforce foreign money judgments where there is due process such as those of the U.K., most countries require a new trial and will not enforce U.S. judgments. Having assets in the U.S. may not be enough for a U.S. court to enforce an award against a foreign defendant. Minimum contacts are required.

The disadvantages of arbitration are often overlooked. The hardball approach in litigation is often not as successful in arbitration. There can be a mismatch of expectations. Discovery may be limited or non-existent. Where discovery is important, and information needed is still not yet known, often litigation is the best option. There may be no cross-examination of witnesses in certain countries, such as France and Germany. If it is done at all, it is done by the arbitrators. Arbitrators may give injunctive relief but there may be limits on enforcing such relief. It can be very difficult to get parties and arbitrators and witnesses schedules synchronized.

There is less power to compel appearance than in U.S. courts, or none at all. If an award includes punitive damages or interest, certain countries such as the U.K. will not enforce the punitive damages. Shari’a law countries will not enforce an award of interest.

Under 28 U.S.C. §1782, litigants in foreign disputes (including arbitrations under Intel) may obtain discovery in the U.S. District Courts in aid of foreign proceedings, but there is no discovery over a party since it is expected this will occur in the arbitration. Under the Hague Convention for Taking of Evidence Abroad, a request must usually be sent to the appointed authority. Questions are submitted to a judge who may or may not ask them to the witness. It does not apply to arbitrations. In the U.K. court processes can be used to get a subpoena for testimony or documents. It must be narrowly drawn. There are no depositions, as in civil cases. A witness statement is prepared and the witness is asked if it is true. Cross-examination at the hearing is permitted.

J. Michael Considine Jr. is chair of the International Business Initiative Committee.

Bar Members Welcome New American Citizens

Philadelphia Bar Association Treasurer Wesley R. Payne IV (left) greeted new American citizens at a Feb. 20 naturalization ceremony presided over by U.S. District Court Judge L. Felipe Restrepo. Young Lawyers Division Chair Edward F. Beitz (above) was the guest speaker at a Feb. 6 ceremony with U.S. District Court Judge Mitchell S. Goldberg presiding. Both programs were sponsored by the Philadelphia Bar Association.
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YLD Update continued from page 10

workplace. Once I volunteered for a political campaign to watch polls, and ended up appearing in Election Court alongside the attorneys for then-Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

For young attorneys, however, I do believe the Bar Association and Young Lawyers Division provide a good platform to further explore their professional potential with a reasonable time commitment. I share these thoughts, in part, to express my gratitude to the Bar Association for my role in last month’s naturalization ceremony; and other memorable experiences, like participating in a Q&A with former Gov. Ed Rendell and having a front-row seat to hear U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor speak to the Association. The Bar Association has also provided me the opportunity to connect with city school students and spark their interest in the law. To any young attorney looking for moments like these in your professional career, I encourage you to reach out to me and ask about getting involved.

Affinity Bar Spotlight

SABA to Host Evening with Preet Bharara March 4

The South Asian Bar Association of Philadelphia presents “An Evening with Preet Bharara” at the National Constitution Center on Tuesday, March 4. Bharara is the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, appointed by President Barack Obama in 2009.

Since his appointment to the office, Bharara has overseen the investigation and litigation of all criminal and civil cases brought on behalf of the U.S. in the Southern District of New York. The office’s 210 Assistant U.S. Attorneys handle a high volume of cases involving domestic and international terrorism, narcotics and arms trafficking, financial and healthcare fraud, public corruption, gang violence, organized crime, and civil rights violations.

Bharara recently made headlines for indicting the Indian diplomat, Devyani Khobragade, and charging her with visa violations. Bharara will address the topic of business and political campaign to watch polls, and ended up appearing in Election Court alongside the attorneys for then-Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

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Bharara recently made headlines for indicting the Indian diplomat, Devyani Khobragade, and charging her with visa violations. Bharara will address the topic of business ethics, and the event promises to be a one of a kind opportunity to hear about the renewed focus on large-scale, sophisticated financial frauds from the voices on the front line. Introductory remarks will be given by U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania Zane Memeger. A cocktail reception will begin at 6 p.m. and the first 75 guests will receive a free drink ticket. The program will begin at 7 p.m. following the cocktail reception. Discounted parking will be available at the National Constitution Center. Space will be limited, therefore attendees are encouraged to RSVP early.

Barristers’ Scholarship Gala May 17

Each year, the Barristers’ Association of Philadelphia awards scholarships to students of color attending area law schools at its annual Scholarship Gala. These scholarships are presented to students who demonstrate leadership ability and academic achievement, as well as a commitment to community service. Seeking to reward students who will become future leaders in the profession, the Scholarship Gala presents students to the legal community to be recognized and celebrated alongside more accomplished members of the profession at the event. This year’s Scholarship Gala will be held at the Hyatt at Penn’s Landing on Saturday, May 17.

This black-tie event promises dinner, dancing and celebrating with the luminaries of the profession alongside picturesque views of the skyline.

Law students interested in applying for this scholarship must submit their resume, current transcript, head shot and an essay which addresses how the student will benefit from the scholarship, the student’s leadership ability, academic achievement, and commitment to community service. In addition to application materials, applicants may also be selected for an interview. The scholarship application period runs through April 11, 2014. Applications received after 5 p.m. on April 11 will not be considered. For more information, please visit www.phillybarristers.com, the Barristers’ Facebook page, or send an email to barristersscholarship@gmail.com.

Frontline continued from page 3

momentum of this effort. We are planning to host a summit to bring all of the “Adopt-a-School” volunteers and participants together to harness the collective energy and solidify it as actionable items.

One of the things we will focus on is how to make this a long-term commitment versus a “one and done” approach. We also will look at strategic partnerships between law firms and schools, as it makes sense for them to be paired appropriately. For example, I hope that the larger firms will “adopt” larger schools and perhaps the smaller firms and public interest groups will get involved with smaller schools.

Lastly, I want to again thank everyone who has expressed interest in being a part of this important and growing initiative. It will take all of us as the city’s collective legal community to make a positive impact on our public education system. We have phenomenal talent and resources among us and let me remind you we’re not getting involved to feel good about ourselves, but rather because it’s the right thing to do. If you are interested in getting involved, please visit philadelphiabar.org or email Charlie Klitsch, Director of Public and Legal Services, at cklitsch@philabar.org.

Federal Courts continued from page 5

Philadelphia Bar Reporter March 2014 philadelphiabar.org

there are four additional names submitted for the five other openings on the court. Having recently just gone through the nomination process himself, Judge Restrepo remarked on how slow it can be. It generally takes 18 months from the initial interview until a nominee gets a vote on the floor. Judge Restrepo also noted that two magistrate judges will soon be joining the court in the spring.

Judge Rufe discussed a few trends that were troubling, not annoying. The first was the over-breadth of use of motions to seal by practitioners. She observed that litigators often want to keep the details of their disputes confidential, particularly in employment and trade secret cases. But the panel reiterated that lawsuits are public affairs, and frequently many of these requests to seal do not even address the confidentiality factors from Danny v. Borough of Stroudsberg, 23 F.3d 772 (3d Cir. 1994). The second item was declarations by lawyers that are purportedly offered as evidence. The objective of the program is to reduce recidivism. Thus far it has been very effective in doing so, and in placing people transitioning back to society.

Finally, Judge Rufe discussed a few trends that were troubling, but not annoying. The first was the over-breadth of use of motions to seal by practitioners. She observed that litigators often want to keep the details of their disputes confidential, particularly in employment and trade secret cases. But the panel reiterated that lawsuits are public affairs, and frequently many of these requests to seal do not even address the confidentiality factors from Danny v. Borough of Stroudsberg, 23 F.3d 772 (3d Cir. 1994). The second item was declarations by lawyers that are purportedly offered as evidence. The third was the increasingly abused use of the phrase “incorporation by reference.”

Benjamin F. Johns (BFJ@chimicles.com), a partner with Chimicles & Tikellis LLP, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Open Enrollment Closing; Rules Change, Again

By Brian McLaughlin

The end of the Open Enrollment Period for individual medical plans if March 31. Applications must be submitted by the end of March to access subsidized plans through the marketplace or qualify for non-subsidized plans in the open market. After March 31, an individual will have to have a qualifying event to qualify for individual market. If you are not sure if this affects you, please call a health care reform specialist at USI Affinity.

In other news, the IRS released final regulations implementing the Employer Shared Responsibility provision under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) for 2015 (the employer penalty). This guidance is lengthy and provides helpful clarification in many areas such as phasing in employer penalty, extending transition relief and defining full-time employees. Employers with 50 to 99 full-time employees will not face penalties for not offering coverage to full-time employees and their dependents up to age 26 until the first plan year beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2016. These employers will need to certify that they are not reducing the size of their workforce to stay below 100 employees. Employers with 100 or more full-time employees and their dependents up to age 26 will not face penalties if they offer coverage to 70 percent of their full-time employees in 2015. They will need to offer coverage to 95 percent of full-time employees beginning in 2016. The full-time employee definition remains at 30 hours or more per week. The definition of dependent has been revised to exclude stepchildren and foster children.

Another clarification many employers were waiting for was the extension of transition relief for 2015. The transition relief is welcomed by plans that renew off calendar year. Employers with non-calendar-year plans must comply with the employer mandate as of the beginning of the first plan year commencing after Jan. 1, 2015. The requirement to offer dependent coverage will not apply in 2015 to employers that are taking steps to offer dependent coverage by 2016. Employers can use a six-month “look back” period to determine whether they had at least 100 full-time or full-time equivalent employees in the previous year, which aligns with the phasing in of the penalties. In 2014, employers may use a six-month measurement period to determine the stability period during which employees with variable hours must be offered coverage.

However, there was also relief for 2014 allowing employer plans to recognize the individual mandate and the availability of coverage through the marketplaces as an allowable Section 125 life status event. This particular relief has not been extended into 2015.

The regulations clarify the methods employers can use to determine whether employees are full-time and addressed some specific situations. Bona fide volunteer workers for government and tax-exempt entities, such as firefighters and emergency responders, are not considered full-time employees. Teachers and other education employees are considered full-time employees even if they don’t work full-time year-round. Seasonal employees who typically work six months or less are not considered full-time employees; this includes retail workers employed exclusively during holiday seasons.

The regulations confirm that employers can use W-2 wages, hourly rates or the federal poverty level to determine whether the coverage they offer is “affordable.” If using the W-2 safe harbor, full W-2 wages must be used and cannot be reduced for salary reduction elections under a 401(k) plan or a cafeteria plan.

Brian McLaughlin (Brian.McLaughlin@usiaffinity.com) is vice president of USI Affinity’s Benefit Solutions Group. For more information about insurance you can access the Philadelphia Bar Association Insurance Exchange at www.usiaffinityex.com/Philadelphia Bar. For Lawyers’ Professional Liability and other business coverages, you will still use the Philadelphia Bar Association Insurance Program website at www.mybarinsurance.com/Philadelphia Bar. If you want to talk to someone about insurance and benefits options for Philadelphia Bar Association members, call USI Affinity Benefit Specialists at 855-874-0267.

For more than 75 years, the divisions of USI Affinity have developed, marketed and administered insurance and financial programs that offer affinity clients and their members unique advantages in coverage, price and service. As the endorsed broker of the Philadelphia Bar Association and more than 30 other state and local bar associations, and with more than 30,000 attorneys insured, USI Affinity has the experience and know-how to navigate the marketplace and design the most comprehensive and innovative insurance and benefits packages to fit a firm’s individual needs.
Among clients with significant assets, charitable giving is frequently emphasized as one of their most important financial goals. Each person’s unique philanthropic interests should then be integrated into his or her customized wealth management strategy. For this month’s interview, I sat down with Heather Flanagan, senior wealth planner for PNC Wealth Management®, who is part of the new PNC Wealth Management office opening in Blue Bell, Pa. later this year. Heather sorts out the nuances of different charitable giving strategies to help determine which may work best for your family.

Most people realize that charitable gifts are accompanied by significant tax advantages. What are some of those advantages?

A person’s charitable contributions can result in substantial tax savings, as charitable gifts are not subject to estate or gift tax. In some cases, such gifts may also generate an income tax deduction. Your financial advisor can help you explore many ways to give to the causes that are important to you. In addition to outright gifts, it is possible to divide gifts between individuals and charities through certain types of trusts. By establishing a Charitable Remainder Trust, the grantor can, in some cases, enjoy a charitable deduction as well as receive a stream of payments based on a fixed dollar amount or a fixed percentage of the trust value. At the grantor’s death, remaining trust assets are distributed to the charity or charities named as beneficiaries. Charitable lead trusts and certain other trust instruments may also be used as part of your giving and estate plan. A Charitable Lead Trust gives the income stream to the charity and after a period of years, the remainder can go to the grantor’s named beneficiaries.

How can a private foundation establish a charitable legacy and help you avoid unnecessary taxes?

A private foundation is a tax-exempt charitable organization that can be created during your lifetime or at your death. Typically, an endowment is created and managed by the foundation, which makes charitable gifts from the endowment. You have the option of controlling the timing, amount and recipients of distributions by serving as a trustee of the foundation. You can also appoint other trustees, including family members and/or a professional trustee to confirm that the foundation’s mission is carried out. Establishing a private foundation is an effective way to create a unique and long-term personal legacy. What is a donor-advised fund and how might it give donors an easy way to meet their philanthropic goals?

Donor-advised funds are managed by financial institutions and make it easy for individuals to make charitable donations and receive an immediate tax benefit. They offer the opportunity to create an easy-to-establish, low cost, flexible vehicle for charitable giving as an alternative to giving directly or creating a private foundation. Donors enjoy administrative convenience (the sponsoring organization does the paperwork after the initial donation), cost savings over a private foundation, and tax advantages by conducting their grant-making through the fund.

A Gifting Strategy You Can Call Your Own

By Carol Claytor

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- You’ll have ongoing access to our ethics hotline which brings more than 25 years of ethics experience to answer your questions. In addition, you can request formal written guidance from our Professional Guidance Committee.

- Through our monthly Philadelphia Bar Reporter newspaper, The Philadelphia Lawyer quarterly magazine, our philadelphiabar.org website, our bi-weekly Bar Reporter Online e-newbrief and monthly online substantive law publication UpOn Further Review, you’ll receive a regular menu of information that will update you and keep you connected to our professional family day after day. You’ll also have access to online classified ads and social media, including Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

- You’ll benefit from our comprehensive membership insurance package, including professional liability, health, term life insurance, and disability insurance plans. You’ll also be able to take advantage of online legal research and discounted rates on court reporting services, health clubs and rental cars.

- Finally, our legislative program – under the direction of a full-time, on-site attorney as well as a special consultant in Harrisburg and in Washington, D.C. at the State Capitol – will champion your interests to lawmakers in City Hall, in Harrisburg and in Washington, D.C.

How can charitably-inclined individuals or families get started?

We recommend that clients who have serious charitable intentions work with financial professionals who specialize in developing and implementing philanthropic strategies as part of the financial planning process. That way, the goals of the individual or family can be met using the strategy that is most appropriate for them.

Carol Clayton can be reached at carol.clayton@pc.com or 215-585-5679. For more information, visit pnc.com/wealthmanagement.

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Hite continued from page 1 character."

Dr. Hite, who has served as superintendent since June 2012, has worked as a teacher, principal, central office administrator and superintendent. Before coming to Philadelphia, he was superintendent of Prince George’s County Public Schools in Maryland, the state’s second-largest school district. He also served as the school system’s deputy superintendent and interim superintendent.

Dr. Hite led major efforts resulting in increased student achievement and significant improvements in teaching, learning and school status. His central work focused on enhanced access, equity and rigor to ensure that high school graduates were prepared for college and careers. Dr. Hite has been an adjunct faculty member at the University of Richmond School of Continuous Learning and taught school leadership courses at Virginia State University, Bowie State University and the University of Maryland. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Virginia Tech and a Master of Education degree from the University of Virginia. He earned a doctorate in education specializing in educational leadership from Virginia Tech.

The March 11 program begins at 12 p.m. at the Hyatt at The Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets. Purchase tickets at philadelphiabar.org.

Nonprofit continued from page 10

cons. For instance, grants are great because there is a lot of money out there to be had. However, nonprofits can get mission drift, where they seek money from sources that are not aligned with mission. Revenue through sales helps a nonprofit become self-reliant. The issue is that the nonprofit has to be careful with how much revenue arises from those sales to avoid triggering negative tax results.

What are some of the best practices for a nonprofit? Nonprofits should have a clear organizational strategy. It should be clear what the organization’s mission is and what it will take to fulfill that mission. Once a strategy is established, the board should brainstorm ideas about generating revenue within the framework of the mission. To execute those ideas and generate funds, the board should develop a feasibility plan to help determine risks and opportunities.

How can you be the hero of the board? First, use good judgment and ask good questions. Second, encourage friends and family members to play a role in the organization. Third, build the relationships that will help generate revenue.

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CALANDER 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. Lunches are $8 for members and $12 for non-members, unless otherwise indicated.

**Monday, March 3**
Family Law Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

**Tuesday, March 4**
Committee on the Legal Rights of Persons with Disabilities: meeting, 9 a.m., 11th floor Conference Room South.

Women’s Rights Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

**Podcast Spotlight**
Visit philadelphiabar.org for a podcast from this Bar Association event.

**Tuesday, March 11**
Real Property Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., Zarwin Baum DeVito Kaplan Schaer Toddy, PC, 1818 Market St., 13th Floor.

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

Quarterly Meeting & Luncheon: 12 p.m., Grand Ballroom, Hyatt at The Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets. Tickets: philadelphiabar.org

**Wednesday, March 12**
Rules and Procedure Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

**Thursday, March 13**
Legislative Liaison Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.

**Friday, March 14**
Insurance Practice Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

**Tuesday, March 18**
Cabinet: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Immigration Law Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

**Wednesday, March 19**
Young Lawyers Division Cabinet: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Room South.

**Thursday, March 20**
Family Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center South.

Law Practice Management Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

LegalLine: 5 p.m., 11th floor LRIS offices.

**Friday, March 21**
Social Security Disability Benefits Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

**Monday, March 24**
Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Law Firm Laboratory: 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

**Tuesday, March 25**
Criminal Justice Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

**Wednesday, March 26**
Business Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Room South.

LGBT Rights Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Employee Benefits Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Conference Room South. Lunch: $8.

**Thursday, March 27**
Elder Law Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.

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

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

**Friday, March 28**
Civil Gideon Access to Justice Task Force: meeting, 12 p.m., Board Room.

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 Jeff Lyons, Senior Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19107-2955. Fax: (215) 238-1159. Email: jlyons@philabar.org.

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Longtime Social Security Disability Law Committee Chairs Sanjuanita Gonzalez (second from left) and Jeffrey S. Lichtman (second from right) were honored by the committee on Feb. 21 for their service. Gonzalez was co-chair from 2008 to 2013 and Lichtman served from 2004 to 2013. Also pictured are current committee co-chairs Maria E. Bermudez-Harris and David Chernoff.

“People” highlights news of members’ awards, honors or appointments of a community or civic nature. Send information to Jeff Lyson, 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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People

Nikki Johnson-Huston, principal in the Law Office of Nikki Johnson-Huston LLC, has been selected as a 2014 Game Changer for Black History Month by CBS3/CW Philly/KYW Newsradio for her advocacy work related to poverty and education issues.

Michael E. Scullin, counsel to McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvany & Carpenter, LLP recently spoke at the World Trade Center of Greater Philadelphia’s International Showcase Reception.

Tiffani L. McDonough, an associate with Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP, discussed labor and employment issues at a national origin discrimination workshop sponsored by The Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians and the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

Kimberly Alfred Rice, principal/chief strategist of KLA Marketing Associates, has been named to the international Legal Marketing Association Metro Philadelphia Board of Directors.


Edward M. Dunham Jr., of counsel to Kleinbard Bell & Brecker LLP and a past chair of the Committee of Seventy, presented an overview of Seventy followed by an in-depth discussion of Seventy’s work as a governmental watchdog organization to a group of foreign visitors sponsored by the U.S. State Department.

Robert D. Liebenberg, a partner at Fine, Kaplan and Black, R.P.C., was honored with the inaugural “Sharing Her Passion Award” by the Ms. JD organization at its annual conference in Austin, Texas on Feb. 20.

Justin P. Klein, a partner with Ballard Spahr LLP, has been named one of Philadelphia Business Journal’s 2014 Outstanding Board Directors for his service on the board of the Mann Center for the Performing Arts.


Linda A. Kerns of the Law Offices of Linda A. Kerns LLC was a guest on “Radio Times” with Marty Moss-Coane on WHYY to discuss the recent Pennsylvania Voter ID ruling from the Commonwealth Court and discuss voter integrity issues.

Benjamin F. Johns, a partner at Chimicles & Tikellis LLP, discussed shareholder litigation risks at the Opal Financial Group’s seminar on Feb. 9 in Las Vegas.

Marianne Henry Taylor, a partner with Willig, Williams & Davidson, has been elected to serve a two-year term as president of the Landowner (Delaware County, Pa.) Borough Council.

Carolyn Hochstietler, principal in E. Carolyn Hochstietler Dicker LLC, recently served as a Judge and Moderator at the Wharton Business and Law Association’s second Annual Conference on Feb. 7 at Wharton.

Steven D. Masters, founder of JustLaws, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia.

Priscilla J. (Sally) Mattison, of counsel to Bernard M. Resnick, Esq., P.C., co-authored the articles “An Overview of Synchronization Licenses” and “An Overview of Master Use Licenses: Film and Television Uses,” which were published in the International Association of Entertainment Lawyers 2014 publication, “Licensing of Music – from BC to AD (Before the Change / After Digital).” She gave a presentation about the articles at the 48th annual MIDEM conference in Cannes, France.

“People” highlights news of members’ awards, honors or appointments of a community or civic nature.
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