Huffington to Speak at April 1 Quarterly

By Jeff Lyons

Political commentator Arianna Huffington, co-founder and editor-in-chief of The Huffington Post, will be the keynote speaker at the Association’s Wednesday, April 1 Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon.

Immediate-Past Chancellor A. Michael Pratt will be honored at the event. Pratt will be presented with a gold box, an exact 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 character.”

The Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon continued on page 22
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HARRAH’S ATLANTIC CITY

PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION
Prim Elected Bar Association Treasurer

The Board of Governors has elected Joseph A. Prim Jr. as Treasurer, replacing Jeffrey M. Lindy, who stepped down to seek election to public office in Montgomery County. The action came at the Board’s Jan. 29 meeting.

Prim has already served two years as Assistant Treasurer. Prim is a partner with Duca and Prim and a graduate of the Boston University School of Law. He served as co-chair of the Law Practice Management Division in 2008 and served as Workers’ Compensation Section representative to the Board of Governors in 2003. He was co-chair of the Solo and Small Firm Committee in 2001, 2002 and 2004 and co-chair of the Workers’ Compensation Committee in 1994.

A member of the State Civil Litigation Section, Prim served as treasurer of the Workers’ Compensation Section (1996 to 2008) and was a member of the Strategic Planning and the Long Range Planning Committees.

The Board of Governors also elected Wesley R. Payne IV to Assistant Treasurer, filling the role vacated by Prim. Payne is currently a member of the Board of Governors and is chair of the Military Affairs Committee. He is a partner in the Litigation Department at White and Williams LLP and is a member of the Life, Health and Disability and Insurance Fraud Practice Groups. He is also chair of the Diversity Committee at White and Williams.

In addition, the Board also elected Stacey A. Tees to fill the Board seat vacated by Payne. Tees is an associate at German, Gallagher & Murtagh, P.C. and a graduate of Duquesne University School of Law. She has been active in the Association’s Workers’ Compensation Section, having served as secretary (2005-2006) and co-chair in 2008. She was the Section’s representative to the Board of Governors in 2008.
Committee Aims to Help Career Advancement

By Brian K. Sims

In order to address the career and client development needs of attorneys coping with a challenging economic environment, the Philadelphia Bar Association is launching a comprehensive initiative to help attorneys explore opportunities, provide tools to generate additional business and gain greater control over their careers. The cornerstone of this initiative is the creation of the new Attorney Career Development Committee.

Chaired by Arthur Bousel, a well-known legal career coach and expert speaker on “best practices” in building a network, developing business and finding the right fit for a career, the Committee will bring together attorneys from all areas of practice and phases of their careers to collaborate on developing new business or career opportunities.

Committee initiatives will include:

- Expert panels and speakers offered on a regular and on-going basis to address the most pressing career and business development issues facing attorneys.

- An annual career enhancement event bringing together leaders from Philadelphia’s legal and business community to share “best practice” recommendations for identifying and achieving career and business development goals.

- One-on-one coaching is provided to keep members on track in reaching their career and client development goals. Coaching is available for Association members at a significantly discounted rate by Bousel. Sessions focus on pragmatic action steps that tap into a client’s natural and learned abilities, yielding practical results.

Committee meetings will focus on key issues, such as making connections to achieve career success, developing a value proposition, overcoming employment gaps or using individual strengths to obtain alternative careers.

Attorneys interested in joining this committee should contact Andrea Morris, the Association’s membership coordinator, at amorris@philabar.org or by calling 215-238-6313.

Meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of every month. For information about one-on-one coaching and availability of coaching appointments, contact Bousel directly at abousel@law2law.com. Specify you are requesting a Philadelphia Bar Association appointment.

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FAMILY LAW SECTION

Judge Lally-Green Explains New Appellate Rules

By Julia Swain

The Pennsylvania Superior Court will implement new appellate rules governing custody, adoption, termination of parental rights, paternity, and dependency cases effective March 16. The new rules will be known as the Children’s Fast Track (CFT). Although support cases will not be affected by the new rules, it will be within the discretion of the Superior Court’s Central Legal Staff to submit some limited support matters to the CFT.

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Max Baer, a strong advocate of children’s rights, created an impetus to shorten the appellate process for matters involving children. The new rules are the result of the Superior Court’s efforts to eliminate unnecessary delay in the appellate process.

In an effort to familiarize practitioners with the requirements under the new rules, the Family Law Section hosted a program on the CFT on Feb. 11. The presenters included Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Maureen Lally-Green, co-chair of the Appellate Court Procedural Rules Committee; Frederick Frank, co-chair of Appellate Court Procedural Rules Committee; and Scot R. Withers, deputy legal counsel to Appellate Court Procedural Rules Committee. Judge Lally-Green expressed the importance of permanence for children and that “even if we save a month in a child’s life, it’s a huge amount of time for that child.”

The differences in the new rules are numerous and practitioners should familiarize themselves with the rules to understand fully the procedural requirements. An appeal will be dismissed if these new rules are not strictly followed. The new rules will only apply to those appeals filed after the effective date. Cases already pending will proceed under the existing Family Fast Track.

Filing deadlines have been significantly decreased or eliminated. Under the new rules, the concise statement of errors complained of on appeal must be filed simultaneously with the notice of appeal. The notice must state that it is a CFT appeal. Practitioners are no longer required to wait for the trial court judge to issue a 1925(b) order requiring the filing of the statement. In order to allow the trial court to file its opinion sooner, the trial court no longer is required to cite to the transcript, or set forth a detailed opinion. The trial court is expected simply to set forth its reasons for the decision.

Any dispositive motions must be filed within 10 days of the opinion, or the filing of the 1925(b) statement of errors complained of on appeal, whichever occurs later. All brief covers and petitions for allowance of appeal must have the proper CFT designation if the case qualifies. Opting out of the CFT designation is not possible.

The brief scheduling is abbreviated. Instead of 40 days, appellant has 30 days to file a brief. Appellee now has only 21 days, not 30; and the reply brief must be filed within seven days, shortened from the previous 14-day time period. Additional changes are incorporated into the rules that are not specifically referenced in this article.

Julia Swain, an associate with Fox Rothschild LLP, is treasurer of the Family Law Section.

Medicare, Social Security Issues Arise in Divorces

By Edward P. Kelly

Divorce is complicated — but for couples over the age of 50, things can get even muddier. Longtime divorce practitioner Kate Vetrano offered practical advice and food for thought to members of the Family Law Section on Feb. 2.

One common assumption is that alimony only needs to continue until age 62 and then Social Security payments will begin. Vetrano said a family lawyer should be aware that for a dependent spouse who has not worked the requisite quarters, there is a 25 percent reduction when that spouse begins receiving Social Security benefits at age 62.

There are certain requirements that must be met in order to receive derivative benefits. In order to qualify for derivative benefits, the couple must have been married for 10 years, so Vetrano said attorneys may want to delay entering the decree if close to that timeframe. In addition, the divorced spouse must be 62 years old. Finally, there is the “Two-Year Rule” to consider: you must be divorced for two years unless the working spouse is qualified or eligible to receive Social Security benefits. This is one of many areas in which the Social Security Administration is a great resource and Vetrano highly recommended their web site, www.ssa.gov, as a resource. Related to this topic, with regard to retirement benefits, the survivor annuity has its own value and should be put on the asset sheet. There are also Medicare concerns as those benefits do not start until age 65.

The family law practitioner must make provisions for health care coverage until the normal retirement age if alimony is to be reduced at age 62. Vetrano pointed out that the retirement age for those born between 1943 and 1955 is age 66, and then increases incrementally to age 67. It is important to negotiate when the working spouse can retire and therefore stop paying alimony.

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Attorneys LinkedIn to Business Networking

By Kathryn C. Harr

While some lawyers regard the computers on their desks as sculpture, others have begun to realize that the Internet offers many relevant tools. LinkedIn, one such online networking tool, was the subject of the Women in Intellectual Property Committee luncheon on Feb. 11.

Kim R. Jessum, co-chair of the Intellectual Property Committee and Of Counsel at Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, described some of the advantages of LinkedIn and sites like it, which allow for both business development and social networking. Jessum herself has more than 500 connections on LinkedIn and described how the network has helped her professionally.

Setting up an account through the LinkedIn.com home page is relatively easy. Tifani Cottingham, patent counsel at Rohm and Haas Company, walked through the process. The information on a user’s “home” page resembles a resume and includes current and past job and education information, along with activities and interests.

From there, a LinkedIn user can search other profiles and connect to those with similar backgrounds, like other users who have attended the same college or former colleagues. LinkedIn also can access contacts from Microsoft Outlook and invite them to join the user’s network.

Reviewing others’ profiles provides a wealth of information as to their background, a helpful tool when approaching a potential client or employer. “You’d be surprised at how many people are on LinkedIn,” Jessum noted.

Once a user is in your network, you can contact them through LinkedIn, which allows contact anonymously, without personal e-mail addresses being revealed. You can also contact “second-” or “third-degree” contacts (for example, if you are connected to Mary, you can contact all of Mary’s contacts, or Mary’s contacts’ contacts). You can also use your primary contacts to facilitate introductions to their contacts.

LinkedIn is among the most popular professional networking sites. Sites like MySpace are geared more toward younger people, Jessum explained, and Facebook is used more for friends and family. Cottingham cautioned against using Facebook professionally, since it allows others to post photographs and information that will then link to a user’s profile, without the user’s approval.

Although there is a feature that allows you to block others from seeing your contacts, “that defeats the whole purpose of social networking,” Jessum noted.

“Groups” is a feature that allows LinkedIn users to join “groups” of users with shared interests. Common groups include alumni of both firms and academic institutions. “Recommendations” is another feature where users can ask one another for a recommendation, a short narrative about the user. If the user approves the recommendation, it is then posted to the user’s profile.

“Jobs” is an increasingly popular feature that allows users to search for jobs in their area.

Jessum noted that many firms have policies on whether its lawyers may answer questions and cautioned against providing legal advice. On the other hand, posing general questions is a good way to access your network’s collective knowledge on a particular topic.

Kathryn C. Harr, an associate with Trajillo Rodriguez & Richards, LLC, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

Family Law

continued from page 6

The next topic was alimony and the family business. When valuing a family business, the parties obtain a present value in order to do an immediate offset. However, attorneys must be cognizant of the “double dipping” issue: using part of the income both to value the business and for alimony purposes. One solution is to pay alimony on the “income” and not on the excess compensation contained in the value of the business. This issue will also be handled differently based on the age of the wage-earning spouse. Reasonable minds will disagree on this point and it needs to be thought through by counsel.

Vetrano also shared some anecdotes, including one where wife No. 2 was upset because her husband’s estate was responsible for the taxes on life insurance proceeds for wife No. 1. In that particular instance, the husband should have talked to an estate or a tax lawyer regarding ownership of the policy.

Finally, what if the dependent spouse needs access to some of the retirement money early? One possible solution is “Substantially Equal Periodic Payments” or “SEPP,” described in greater detail in Section 72(e) of the Internal Revenue Code. The money can be accessed as early as age 50, and there is no penalty for the early withdrawal as long as the rules are followed.

Edward P. Kelly, a partner with Anne Weiss Kaplan & Mandel, LLP, is an editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Diversity Discussion

“I have never had a feeling, politically, that did not spring from ... the Declaration of Independence ... that all should have an equal chance. This is the sentiment embodied in the Declaration of Independence.”
— Abraham Lincoln

Recent articles have begun to discuss the feasibility of maintaining diversity programs, and by extension, diversity directors and staff, in light of the current economic times. Law journals and blogs have discussed Black Thursday (Feb. 12, 2009), when 700 attorneys and staff of all backgrounds were laid off from firms. And, diversity professionals are being challenged to maintain their programs in spite of organizational financial cutbacks and downsizing.

I am watching some of my colleagues disappear from the diversity and inclusion landscape. Diversity programming, once under the direction of dedicated diversity personnel, is now being redirected to other staff and these same diversity staff are being laid off. Certainly, the pressure that is on firms of all sizes to cut expenses in order to maintain themselves is understandable during these times. And we remain supportive of all of the firms in all of their efforts, including diversity. We believe that, if at all possible, firms will continue to maintain their outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion in spite of the lack of designated (dedicated) diversity staff members.

Most diversity and inclusion specialists are thinking about ways that we can assist employers, our firms and organizations in maintaining their fiscal viability while simultaneously preserving the commitment to diversity and inclusion. Some thoughts that I have are:

• Firm or organization management and C-level staff can continue to verbalize their current and future support of diversity and inclusion. This can be done in meetings, presentations, employee communications vehicles and other regularly utilized communication methods.
• Continue to outreach to diverse individuals, particularly when the firm or organization is hiring. There have been a number of layoffs of attorneys and legal staff and it is likely that the majority of them would like to be employed. Firms might utilize this newly expanded and experienced applicant pool as a means of enhancing their diversity.
• Allow affinity/networking groups to continue to meet in order to continue to provide support, mentoring and encouragement for employees. If needed, the meetings can be brown-bag lunches requiring little in-house budget expenditures beyond a meeting space and time. The cost to the firm is the monthly staff time while in the meeting. If the firm has offices in other regions, they can incorporate satellite or other office personnel through teleconferencing. It still maintains the connection to the groups and provides mentoring and support for the group and the individual.
• Allow mentoring and coaching activities to continue to occur. Similar to affinity groups, this activity does not have to be eliminated but can be “downsized” in terms of scale of cost outlay.
• Continue to include “diverse” individuals in available growth opportunities whenever and wherever possible.

As you know, diversity does not rest solely with one staff member of the organization but is a concerted effort amongst all staff at all levels in order for it to be realized. The Philadelphia Bar Association continues to maintain its commitment to the greater legal community and diversity and inclusion through providing networking, growth and development opportunities through our sections and committees and with specialized programs. And, as the Director of the Office of Diversity, I will continue to work with and be available to assist firms and organizations in formulating their diversity plans, implementing those plans, providing training to and development of staff, outreach to the larger legal community and working with all levels of management to help ensure that the Philadelphia legal community reflects the diversity found in this city and in the country.

By Sean Kathleen Lincoln

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Office for Diversity

Diversity Has a Place During Hard Economic Times

Panelists Linda Ware Johnson (from left), Madeline Pieretti, Larry Felzer, Karen Detamore and Thu Tran were panelists for the Feb. 18 Delivery of Legal Services Committee discussion on diversity. The program was moderated by Dr. Sean Lincoln, the Association’s director of the Office for Diversity. More than 50 people attended the program and reception.

Sean Kathleen Lincoln, Ph.D., is Director of the Office for Diversity for the Philadelphia Bar Association.
By Edward P. Kelly

The Philadelphia Department of Licenses and Inspections is moving into the 21st century with online access, streamlined processes and greater accountability. That was the message from L&I’s Commissioner Fran Burns at the Feb. 13 meeting of the Real Property Section’s Zoning, Land Use and Code Enforcement Committee. Other panelists included Brian Flanagan, deputy chief of staff to Deputy Mayor Andrew Altman, and Andrew Ross, the chief deputy city solicitor for Housing and Code Enforcement.

Commissioner Burns stepped into her role in August of last year with a vision that L&I would become the nation’s leading code enforcement agency. She recognizes the department has some work to do, but Burns began to turn that vision into reality by instilling a core set of values including a high level of accountability, moving toward a “professional culture” in the department, returning the focus to the customer, and making the department results driven and ethical in every aspect of their delivery of services.

Fran Burns has instilled a core set of values including a high level of accountability, moving toward a “professional culture” in the department, returning the focus to the customer, and making the department results driven and ethical in every aspect of their delivery of services.

The news that caused the most excitement in the packed room was the revelation that the entire zoning file room has been imaged and everyone will soon be able to access those documents online. In addition, there has been significant reorganization in the department, and many new programs have already been instituted over the last several months. All commercial plans are supposed to be reviewed within 90 days, residential plans within 15 days and inspections within two days of a request. These goals have been consistently met.

Flanagan stressed the need for more communication, education, training and a regional green jobs center. He also mentioned that the city needs to take advantage of its regional assets, including the soon to be relocated Barnes Foundation, the Parkway region and the waterfront.

Flanagan acknowledged that the cost of doing business in Philadelphia is prohibitive and has been a barrier to the growth of the city. The city needs to improve efficiencies and, to that end, a Development Services Committee is in the works.

Finally, Ross discussed appeals to and from the Zoning Board. He acknowledged that the Board is aware of its shortcomings and that it is striving for greater efficiency. To replace the previous collection of outside counsel, Bill Ewing will now represent the Board in all appeals from Board decisions. Ewing will be responsible for the preparation of findings of fact and conclusions of law for those cases.

Edward P. Kelly, a partner with Astor Weiss Kaplan & Mandel, LLP, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Sandra Day O’Connor Award Nominees Sought

The Women in the Profession Committee is seeking nominations for the 2009 Sandra Day O’Connor Award. Deadline for nominations is March 17.

The award is conferred annually on a woman attorney who has demonstrated superior legal talent, achieved significant legal accomplishments and has furthered the advancement of women in both the profession and the community. The award presentation will be made at the Oct. 23 Quarterly Meeting.

The committee established the award in 1993 to recognize the important contributions that women attorneys in Philadelphia have made to the legal profession. That year, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor presented the first award to U.S. District Court Senior Judge Norma L. Shapiro. The award has since been presented to the late Juanita Kidd Stout, former justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court; Deborah R. Willig, first woman Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association; Professor Marina Angel, of the Temple University Beasley School of Law faculty; Third Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Dolores K. Sloviter (former Chief Judge); U.S. District Court Judge Anita B. Brody; Leslie Anne Miller, first woman president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association; Lila G. Roomborg of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP; the late Judge Judith J. Jamison; Ellen T. Greenlee, chief defender of the Defender Association of Philadelphia; former Chancellor Audrey C. Talley; U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Marjorie O. Rendell; Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Phyllis W. Beck; Roberta D. Pichini, Lynn A. Marks and Roberta D. Liebenberg.

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Supreme Court Admission May 4

The Philadelphia Bar Association will move up to 50 of our members for admission to the Bar of the United States Supreme Court on Monday, May 4. The admission ceremony will be made to the full Court sitting in Washington, D.C.

The Court’s requirements for a group admission ceremony are very rigid. To review these requirements and to download the forms for admission please visit the Supreme Court’s web site at www.supremecourtus.gov. Select the Bar Admissions tab on the left-hand side and this will bring you to the link for the Bar Admissions Form and Bar Admissions Instructions. Please read the instructions carefully. Once you have determined that you are eligible for admission, please print out and complete the Admission Form.

The instructions and guidelines are very specific and must be followed scrupulously. Do not fold the application or use staples, use paper clips only.

Once you have successfully completed the Admission Form, please mail it along with a check for $200 made payable to the Philadelphia Bar Association to: Dawn Pettit, 1101 Market Street, 11th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107. Do not send the application directly to the Supreme Court. The event will be on a first-come, first-serve basis and all applications must be received by 5 p.m. on Monday, March 16.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please do not hesitate to contact Dawn Pettit at 215-238-6367 or dpettit@philabar.org.

Greeting Newest Citizens

Young Lawyers Division Chair-Elect Abbie DuFrayne, (from left) Richard Negrin and U.S. District Court Judge Juan R. Sanchez gather at a Feb. 19 naturalization ceremony. DuFrayne and Negrin addressed the 96 newest Americans at the ceremony, sponsored by the Bar Association. Judge Sanchez presided at the U.S. Courthouse at 6th and Market Streets.
Within the last couple of months, I found myself re-connecting with three people from my past who, coincidentally, are also lawyers. The first was a friend from high school whom, initially, I could not recall whether I knew from high school or college. (At this point, the years tend to merge together.) She found me on one of those social networking websites and we caught up on the last 20 (!) years of our lives by exchanging e-mails. She is currently a lawyer for a telecommunications company in San Diego and is married with two children. We bemoaned the years that have gone by and agreed to stay in touch.

The other person from my past I ran into quite accidentally while I was down in Washington, D.C. for the inaugural festivities. Immediately after the election, I decided to go to D.C. in January to join the celebration. In spite of the dire warnings regarding the unprecedented number of people descending upon our nation’s capitol, my friends and I braved the crowds and paid the overinflated price of a hotel to celebrate the monumentally momentous occasion in our history together. Although we did not have tickets to any of the official events, at least we can say we were there. It was at a private Inaugural Parade party where I ran into the second person from my distant past. I wasn’t actually an official guest at the party so I was trying to be as inconspicuous as possible. However, I took full advantage of the catered event and indulged quite giddily in the free-flowing champagne. Of course, the time came when I had to find relief from the gluttony, so I asked for directions from the first person walking by my line of vision. At first, he cocked his head and looked at me funny – oh no, I thought, he knows I’m a party-crasher! But then he asked if he knew me from somewhere. Relieved that I wasn’t getting kicked out, I took a good look at him and realized that he looked familiar, too. Putting our heads together, we figured out that we knew each other from college close to 20 (!) years ago. He had gone to law school in Georgetown and stayed in D.C. where he currently works as an attorney for an energy company. We exchanged business cards and agreed to stay in touch.

The third person I re-connected with also found me on the same networking website as my high school friend. We had met when she was a Penn law student, working our second year summer together at a litigation firm. After that experience, she vowed never to practice law and kept that promise for more than 10 years. We lost touch with one another after she got married, had a daughter and moved from New York to Oregon. She recently found herself changing her mind about practicing law and decided to enter the legal profession. However, the only thing she knew was that she didn’t want to do litigation. She asked me for some ideas and advice on marketing and networking so of course the first place I suggested was her local bar association. We caught up on the last 10 years of our lives and we agreed to stay in touch.

I was surprised how delighted I was to hear from friends whom I had not seen or spoken with in years. As a practicing lawyer, I find it difficult to get together even with friends who live in the same city. But fortunately, unlike 10 or 20 years ago, technology allows us to connect with people even without getting up from behind our desks. So, in between legal researching, brief writing and client developing, I can stay in touch with friends from 10 to 20 years ago and with friends in the city, at least by e-mail.

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

Young Lawyers Division Chair
Brian Chacker will act as a facilitator this year, he told members of the YLD at its Annual Meeting on Feb. 23 at the Westin Philadelphia.

“Basically, I don’t want to get in the way of good ideas. If we can, let’s add to the existing programs and create new programs or events that will benefit our members,” Chacker said.

The YLD also presented its annual awards at the event. The Craig M. Perry Award was presented to Nikki Johnson-Huston, an assistant city solicitor with the City of Philadelphia Law Department. The award is presented annually to a young lawyer, 37 years old or younger or within the first three years of practice, who has devoted substantial time and energy to community-oriented activities, including, but not limited to, pro bono and charity work.

The Sean Peretta Award was presented to Stella Tsai, a partner with Archer & Greiner, P.C. and Robert S. Tintner, a partner with Fox Rothschild LLP. The Peretta Award is given annually to a member of the legal community who exhibits exceptional community service.

The YLD Vision Award was presented to Kroll, the world’s leading risk consulting company. The award is presented annually to an organization – whether law firm, business corporation, non profit, or other group – that has provided outstanding support to the YLD in the fulfillment of its mission.

Chacker said the YLD focuses its efforts on three core areas – community outreach, legal education and mentoring and social networking. “It is through these programs that we are able to support our fellow attorneys and the Philadelphia community,” he said.

Chacker said the programs will see additions that will benefit YLD members. “Law Week is our single biggest community outreach event. It is a weddng community event designed to promote legal education and service to the public. During Law Week, we present numerous opportunities for the public to gain access to the legal process including programs thought which we take high school students to court for a day and visit schools throughout the city stressing the importance of education. The piece de resistance of Law Week is Legal Advice Live. It is a public forum at which volunteer attorneys give free legal advice to all comers. Last year, we received recognition from the ABA for our efforts with Legal Advice Live when we presented this program on Independence Mall. This year, we are expanding Legal Advice Live. We will be basing the forum at the Philadelphia Free Library’s main branch and serving multiple satellite branches as well.”

“In addition to our normal programming in which we pair young lawyers with more experienced lawyers and law students with young lawyers, this year, our Executive Committee has decided to create videos that can be placed on the Bar Association web site that will assist attorneys with different aspects of the practice of law ranging from how to prepare a complaint or file a motion to how to deal with a difficult political situation in the office,” Chacker said.

He also said all of the YLD’s networking happy hour events all will be joint events whether it be with the Emerging CPAs, the Young Professional Network of the Chamber of Commerce or Young Medical Professionals.
Get in Touch With Your Inner Schmoozer

Yiddish is a language that has been spoken by Eastern European Jews for centuries. My mother understands Yiddish, and speaks it a little, but I know nothing save a couple of phrases. One word that I always was familiar with was “schmoozer.” Even though I knew what a schmoozer was, I had never given it much thought until one day a couple of years ago when I got an e-mail from my mother. Her e-mail was short and sweet.

“What is schmoozing? Schmoozing is noticing people, connecting with them, keeping in touch with them – and benefiting from relationships with them. Schmoozing is about connecting with people in a mutually productive pleasurable way. Schmoozing is the development of a support system, a web of people you know who you can call, and who call you, for your mutual benefits and enjoyment. Schmoozing is the art of semi-purposeful conversation: half chat and half exploration. Schmoozing is neither project nor process. It’s a way of life.”

Love, M.

When I read the e-mail, I thought to myself, “what a terrific definition.” So I printed it out and pinned it to a bulletin board in my office. The more I read the quote, the more I began to realize how valuable schmoozing is to our careers and our lives in general.

We all have had the importance of networking and building a book of business drilled into our heads. I always viewed networking as putting myself out there in an effort to make connections that will lead to business. I would attend events carrying a stack of business cards and would judge the success of the event by how many cards I had collected and not by the relationships or connections that I had formed. The goal was to meet people who could help me professionally and never really included getting to know people simply for the sake of making new friends.

The more I thought about the e-mail, the more my view of networking changed. In fact, I stopped networking. Instead, I started schmoozing. The nice thing about schmoozing is that it can be done anywhere, at any time. If you are at a Phillies game and you start talking to the person in the seat next to you, you are schmoozing. If you are at a bar having a drink, sitting on the beach on vacation or at the Jersey Shore, or standing in line for coffee, and you start talking to someone near you, you are schmoozing.

I go to a lot of 76ers games (I know, it can be painful). Over the past two years, I have been retained to represent the people sitting on either side of me, as well as the people in front of and behind me. Not once prior to those calls did we ever discuss business. Once I started to schmooze, my business-related success grew.

Some people are natural-born schmoozers. They walk into a room full of strangers, and simply are at ease. They can talk to anyone about anything, and they make connections that they will be able to develop without thinking twice about it. Others are anti-schmoozers; they are uncomfortable walking into a room full of strangers and are more likely to find one or two people they know and stay there the entire time. Most of us fall somewhere in between.

Part of our mission at the YLD is to help our members develop their inner schmoozer. We want to offer you opportunities to use your inner schmoozer to form friendships and connections that will help you both in your career and in your life. You may recall from my first article that we offer numerous “schmoozing” (networking) events throughout the year at which time you will be provided with food and drink (the great schmoozing enhancer) and, most importantly, other people interested in getting to know you.

This year, our schmoozing events are being planned with other groups and organizations. You will have opportunities to meet attorneys who practice in areas different that your own, as well as non-lawyers from organizations like the Young Professionals Network of the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and the Emerging CPAs. These events will give everyone an opportunity to schmooze with people they otherwise might not come into contact with.

For those of you who are not comfortable putting yourselves out there, let me make a suggestion. Try it once. Come to one of our events and say hello to one new person. If nothing else, say hi to me and I will introduce you to other people.

Remember, there is no need to talk shop. Just smile, say hello and follow the conversation wherever it leads.

Brian S. Chacker, an associate with Gay Chacker & Mittin, P.C., is chair of the Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee. He can be reached at (215) 567-7955, or by e-mail at bchacker@gaychakermittin.net.

Get to know people you might not otherwise come into contact with.
Editor’s note: The following are summaries of opinions issued by the Professional Guidance Committee. The committee’s jurisdiction is limited to rendering opinions about prospective ethical conduct by inquirers who are members of the Philadelphia Bar Association. The letter “T” following an opinion number indicates a telephone inquiry. Attorneys who wish to ask a question, obtain copies of committee opinions or ask the committee to issue a formal opinion should contact Paul Kataras, Esq., the Association’s assistant executive director, at (215) 238-6328.

Summarized by David I. Grunfeld

2008-80T Attorney’s ad cannot describe him as an “expert” in a certain area, but may indicate field of practice is “limited to” if true.

2008-83T Attorney disqualified from representing client because attorney will be a witness regarding validity of a power of attorney, may have another lawyer in the office handle the matter.

2008-103T Attorney’s display booth at out-of-state trade show is subject to that state’s rules on solicitation.

2008-163T Unused portion of retainer received from client’s fiancé for prenuptial agreement, should be returned to fiancé but without itemization of services performed.

2008-182T Attorney who is owed forwarder fee promised by another lawyer may, with client’s consent, complain to Pennsylvania Disciplinary Board, but may have to redact client’s names from original complaint if client does not consent.

2008-186T Attorney on inactive status for failure to meet CLE requirements may not be paid referral fees for matters referred while inactive.

2008-192T Attorney may take lien on client’s property as security for payment of a fee provided compliance with procedures outlined in R. 1.8a.

2008-199T Attorney may assert retaining lien on settlement proceeds check payable to client for fee balance agreements but then must release the client check once fee check clears. However, attorney cannot demand signed release without compliance with R.1.8h2.

2008-210T Admission pro hac vice in Philadelphia requires local mercantile license and payment of business taxes.

2008-214T Attorney who is part-time instructor at a state university may have conflict in representing student against university in disciplinary action. Needs to check state employee conflict of interest rules as well.

2008-215T Attorney whose client has threatened suicide may, if threat considered valid, contact client’s psychiatrist, police, or local mental health facility, making those disclosures attorney feels necessary to prevent suicide.

2008-218T Referral fees may be paid to the estate of now deceased lawyer, but not directly to lawyer’s beneficiary.

2008-228T Referral fees may not be paid to a law school graduate who is not yet licensed to practice.

2008-229T Non-equity partner may be named partner in firm.

2008-230T Attorney who loses client’s file, with personal information in it, must continued on page 19

MARCH

CLE COURSES

March 3 Anatomy of a Software License • The CLE Conference Center

PBA Probate & Trust Law Section May 2009 Probate & Trust Law Section Quarterly Meeting - The Allure of the Non-Judicial Settlement Agreement - An Appropriate Alternative to Going to Court? • The CLE Conference Center

March 4 22nd Annual Civil Litigation Update • The CLE Conference Center

March 5 & 6 3rd Annual Intellectual Property Law Institute • The CLE Conference Center

March 9 & 10 PLI - 14th Annual Consumer Financial Services Litigation Institute • Simulcast - The CLE Conference Center

March 11 Computer Forensics • The CLE Conference Center

Philadelphia Mortgage Foreclosure Program • The CLE Conference Center

PLI - Doing Deals 2009: Understanding the Nuts & Bolts of Transactional Practice Simulcast - The CLE Conference Center

March 12 Essential Accounting & Finance for Lawyers • Video Encore - The CLE Conference Center

March 12 & 13 15th Annual Health Law Institute • Pennsylvania Convention Center

March 13 Mastering the Toughest-to-Craft Credibility Arguments • The CLE Conference Center

March 16 E-Verify: Workplace Enforcement and Non-Immigrant Visa Consequences The CLE Conference Center

March 17 Litigating in Orphans’ Court • The CLE Conference Center

Preliminary Criminal Procedures • The CLE Conference Center

March 18 Advanced Issues of Realty Transfer Tax • The CLE Conference Center

The Federal & PA Response to the Credit Crisis • The CLE Conference Center

March 19 Complex Financial Issues Related to Equitable Distribution and Alimony • The CLE Conference Center

Practice and Procedure before the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board • The CLE Conference Center

March 20 Five County Criminal Practice • The CLE Conference Center

Medicare Secondary Payor Status Program • The CLE Conference Center

March 21 PLI - Venture Capital 2009: Nuts and Bolts • Simulcast - The CLE Conference Center

March 24 Handling the Dog Bite Case • The CLE Conference Center

PLI - International Arbitration 2009 • Simulcast - The CLE Conference Center

March 25 Commercial Documents Series - Technology Licensing Agreements • The CLE Conference Center

How to Survive the Crash • The CLE Conference Center

Tough Problems in Workers’ Compensation 2009 • The CLE Conference Center

March 26 Who’s on First? Lien Priority in Pennsylvania • The CLE Conference Center

Persuasion for Transactional Lawyers • The CLE Conference Center

You Can’t Fire Me, I Quit: The Proper Way to Extract Oneself from Representing A Client • The CLE Conference Center

March 27 Selecting & Influencing Your Jury • The CLE Conference Center

March 30 & 31 PLI - Asset Based Financing 2009 • Simulcast - The CLE Conference Center
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Pro Bono Work Honored by FJD

The First Judicial District of Pennsylvania presented the FJD Pro Bono Publico Award to members of the bar who have provided exceptional pro bono service to the underprivileged in Philadelphia at its third annual pro bono awards ceremony on Jan. 22 at City Hall.

This annual event, created by the First Judicial District’s Pro Bono Committee, was formed by members of the bench, bar and pro bono service providers to create and promote a culture of pro bono service in Philadelphia’s legal community.

The recipients of the Pro Bono Publico Award are nominated by the judges of each division of the FJD and selected by a committee of FJD judges and a Bar Association representative. The awards were presented to each recipient by a judge of the division nominating that recipient. This year’s recipient are:

**Family Division – Domestic Relations**: David N. Hofstein

**Family Division – Juvenile**: Pamela Porter Ende

**Orphans’ Court Division**: Suzanee Pritchard

**Municipal Court – Criminal**: Joseph K. Kelly

The awards ceremony also recognized all attorneys on the Pro Bono Roll of Honor who have provided pro bono services to litigants in the Philadelphia Courts in 2008. The ceremony also included a presentation of certificates to these attorneys, along with lapel pins designed to signify their contributions. This year’s ceremony was co-chaired by Court of Common Pleas Judge Daniel Anders and Thomas E. Zmaitis, a partner at Pepper Hamilton LLP.

In Their Own Words

Leadership Begins in the Neighborhoods

By Haile Johnston

The renewed spirit of organizing and community building, boosted by the recent presidential election, has brought people together in ways unseen in decades. My ability to affect change has also been impacted in this time as I continue to develop as a man and a leader.

I recently returned to my alma mater (the University of Pennsylvania) to speak to Jane Golden’s mural arts class about public arts and its value in community revitalization. I had come to know Jane about five years ago when then Mayor John Street’s Neighborhood Transformation Initiative bulldozers came to my block in Strawberry Mansion. Buildings came down throughout our low-income, African-American community of North Philadelphia and left vacant lots and blank plaster walls where venerable town-homes once stood. For me, the logic was simple: alongside the voids once occupied by historic homes, let us beautify our community with public art. For this to occur, our community needed a voice.

Toward the end of the class, a young woman asked me how one becomes a community leader as a relatively new resident of a neighborhood. The question made me reflect on how purely unintentional my path had been early on given my beginnings at Penn’s Wharton School, and how fulfilled I have become in helping my community reestablish its voice. I told her that I initially became recognized as a leader of my community by picking up trash and cleaning vacant lots. Many of my neighbors had become anesthetized to our common condition and the deterioration around us. While my answer to the woman’s question was simple, the reality was that my wife Tatiana and I were willing to do what others were not in order to improve our collective quality of life. Of course, this was only the beginning.

Like most, my moral foundation came from the teachings of my parents. My mother, a birthright Quaker, provided my ethical framework while my father, a visionary entrepreneur, instilled upon me his work ethic. The two empowered me with a unique ability to recognize an issue, identify a creative solution and perhaps most importantly, the wherewithal to act toward affecting change. These qualities, in addition to my collaborative nature, have come to define my success as a leader in my community.

At one point during the mural class, Jane asked me to reflect on how my community activism and public art had come to shape my neighborhood. The query proved introspective as I pondered just the opposite. Both my community and increasingly my city have come to profoundly impact me. As Tatiana and I set out to beautify our urban environment, it gave us cause to know the many people who form our community. Many of our neighbors trace their roots to the first wave of African-Americans who populated Strawberry Mansion after World War II. The wisdom of this group, while marginalized by our elected leaders over the years, is immense. Empowering my neighbors to once again be heard would prove to be essential to our community’s revitalization.

The resulting beautification through public art, greening projects and even activism are a reflection of the growth and human development within our community. The renewed spirit of organizing and community building, boosted by the recent presidential election, has brought people together in ways unseen in decades. My ability to affect change has also been impacted in this time as I continue to develop as a man and a leader. One can have a profound vision for change and even an achievable plan for implementation, but it is when a constituency becomes the catalyst for implementation that a community and its leader together find their voice. I am still finding mine.

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Haile Johnston is Pennsylvania state director of the Center for Progressive Leadership, a national political training institute that develops diverse leaders who can effectively advance progressive political and policy change.
IOLTA Cuts Bring Bad News, Good News

By Amy Ginensky

First, the Bad News

Of this article. Otherwise, read on.

Of Common Pleas Judge

Annette Rizzo, go to the last paragraph

of IOLTA funding. The downturn

in interest rates affects the Homeless

Advocacy Project, Consumer Bankruptcy

Assistance Project, Philadelphia Legal As-

sistance, Philadelphia Volunteers for the

Indigent and others. And, when you read

just the names of these organizations, you

know that in today’s world, this is really

bad for those they serve.

Now For the Good News

Despite the cuts, these organizations

still manage to perform exceptional and

critical services at this difficult time.

(Again, no surprise, if you know the

dedicated force of Philadelphia’s public

interest bar.)

So, if you read the Daily News article

(which you presumably did not because

you have not skipped to the last para-

graph) or otherwise heard about it, you

would know that VIP and PLA, working

with hundreds of volunteer lawyers, and

under the leadership of Judge Rizzo,

created the “miracle” in Courtroom 676.

As detailed in the story published on Jan.

28, these volunteer lawyers, steered by

VIP and PLA, assist those threatened with

losing their homes. Under the watchful eye

and guidance of Judge Rizzo, they enable

clients to keep their homes, thanks to the

deals they negotiate with the lenders.

It is a win-win: the banks don’t have more va-

cant houses on their hands, and families

stay off the streets. In short, a miracle.

“These are extraordinary times and it

requires extraordinary action,” Judge

Rizzo told the Daily News. “We have

demonstrated here in Philadelphia that

we care.”

So Now the Last Paragraph

What can the rest of us do to cre-

ate more miracles? The goal of the Bar

Foundation is always, but especially

in this time of crisis, to be a sustained,
significant funding source for our legal

services network. In short, we need to

be there to support our public interest
colleagues, and we need the support of

this legal community in order to be there

for them. If lawyers don’t support the

organizations that provide legal services
to the disadvantaged, who will? Nathaniel

Hawthorne said, “Generosity is the flower

of justice.” We ask that you help the cause

of justice through your generosity and

make flowers bloom in the offices of the

grantee organizations, and the homes of

their clients.

Bar Foundation Golf Classic June 22

The Philadelphia Bar Foundation’s 21st Annual Golf Classic is moving to a

new location.

The event will be held Monday, June

22 at Huntington Valley Country Club

in Huntington Valley, Pa.

The general fee for players is $375.

Members of the Young Lawyers Division

may play at a discounted fee of $350.

Price includes all greens fees, golf cart,
lunch, refreshments, dinner and cocktails.

Several levels of sponsorship are

available. Tournament Underwriters

($15,000) get a banner hung at clubhouse

entrance; name on the front cover of the

souvenir program as sponsor of the event;
distribution of skills competition prizes to

winners; eight players plus four additional
guests to cocktail reception; and VIP

parking for golfers. Other levels include

Tournament Cup/Skills Prize Sponsor

($7,500), Luncheon, Cocktail Buffet,

Reception or Putting Contest Sponsor

($5,000) and Hole Sponsor ($2,000).

For more information, contact Lynne Brown

at (215) 238-6347.
Siriluck’s My Thai a Southeast Asian Treat

By Skinny D’Bockol

My Thai
2200 South St.
(215) 985-1878

Dallas Siriluck began his career in Philadelphia as chef at parachute-bedecked Astral Plane for almost a decade and a half, then on to Friday, Saturday, Sunday for another six years, before opening his own My Thai in 1990. In the midst of these foodish endeavors, he also found time to earn a Ph.D. in computer sciences, became a professor of said sciences at Temple and Penn State, and continues to be the court translator and interpreter for Thai and Laos testimony and documentation. He is a mentor to all. Therefore it is not unusual to see other Thai restaurateurs at My Thai enjoying his warmth and advice.

The original building bricks are retained, floor to ceiling, on your right as you enter. On the left, long 15 pane windows predominate upon a wall painted “sweet tomato” red. “Scientifically proven,” opines the sagacious Siriluck, “people eat more when they see this color. It’s a matter of visual kinetics.” I notice that the entranceway door is the identical color. A huge and heavily metal-headed Burmese three-dimensional wall hanging adorns the brick and mortar. It’s a mammoth wedding scene with angels and the birth signs (elephants and roosters) and birth stones (rubies and sapphires) of the bride and groom. “It weighs 900 pounds, and was sewn by two weavers, one starting on the left, and the other beginning on the right. The artisans met a year later in the middle, to join the bodies of the two to be married,” Siriluck said. The entire establishment resonates in peacefulness and reverence for Thai culture. Sarongs serve as tablecloths and the utensils are gold-plated bamboo-shapes. Candles supplement serenity.

The Thai New Year falls immediately prior to or on April 15 every year. So, I annually attend a bountiful banquet at My Thai whose location at 22nd and South allows for last minute reworking of income tax returns’ figures and calculations for delivery, just before midnight, to the 30th and Market Street Post Office.

At the restaurant, in these economic times, you must begin with liquidity. Soups are a must to quell one’s overly taxed nerves. Try Chef Siriluck’s ambers and tranquil womon soup (keow num: $4.50). A pristinely honest white bowl is glutonously replete with sheared scallions, baby shrimp and pork-stuffed dumplings in a chicken broth made poigniant by calm overnight simmering. The wontons are silken to the tongue, thinly transparent and elysian. On the other hand, to languish in tomato broth luxury, you may require the “My Thai Soup” ($4.50). The ingredients of blended codfish in coconut milk, red curry topped with homemade garlic crooutons seem to perform a synchronized swimming routine in an opaque slightly spicy tomato-chicken broth.

You swirl them about contemplating exemptions and write-offs. They give a brilliant accounting. Chicken satay or shrimp romanoff ought to follow. The latter are four baked shrimp wrapped cozily in spring roll skins, served with a plump sweet plum sauce ($6.95), while the former are three bulging skewers of marinated breast pieces surrounded by thick and grainy peanut sauce, and a bowl of wine vinegar garnished cucumber salad ($6.50). The chicken is as brazen as an IRS audit and as murky when doused in the muddy thick peanut sauce, which of course can become pickled pink morsels with the salad’s sanction. The shrimp continued from page 20

Frontline
continued from page 3

grieving for their fallen comrade. They simply wanted to honor his memory and express their sorrow in an enduring and public way.

What truly bothers me was the apparent lack of communication between the parties and their inability to come together to find an appropriate solution. This is where they were both wrong; they could not communicate effectively with each other.

This nation thrives because it is a participatory democracy. Citizens of Philadelphia deserve only the best from their law enforcement personnel and members of the judiciary.

Citizens have a right to expect that all parties to a dispute such as this, where nerves are so raw, where emotions are rampant, will be settled in a way that does honor to the slain officer’s memory.

As a Philadelphia lawyer, each one of us must be respectful and mindful of everyone’s rights. There was far more going on here than what was portrayed by the media. If truth be told, the episode at the 35th Police District was an unfortunate footnote to yet another epidemic of gun violence in our city.

Unlike the situation in Luzerne County, where judges sold their office and spit in the eye of justice, or the judges in Philadelphia, who were castigated for inappropriate conduct, Judge Washington’s situation presents a different picture altogether.

Let us be clear: the judicial cannon of ethics prevented Judge Washington from speaking out. However, as your Chancellor, I have spoken out. On Jan. 27, I issued a press release expressing my outrage over the action of the Luzerne County judges, and this statement was picked up by media outlets including CNBC, yahoo and cnn.com. On Feb. 18, I was interviewed by two local television stations regarding the dispute between the Fraternal Order of Police and Judge Washington. I used that opportunity to educate the public about the need for an independent judiciary in an effort to provide perspective during an emotional situation.

As a Philadelphia attorney, these situations affect you. Ask yourself: what can I do?

Well, first of all, care. When your clients or kids look up to you and ask questions like “Should we trust the legal system?”, then yes, you should care.

You can also write letters to the editors of your local newspaper and local legal publications expressing your dismay or support where appropriate.

You can talk to your elected official about the need for merit selection. In fact, you can make it your personal campaign issue, something as personal and important as healthcare or tax reform.

Talk to your neighbors and friends. Let them know about the men and women here in the First Judicial District who you know are caring, decent, smart and honorable judges who care deeply about justice and exhibit the highest level of integrity.

If any of you are involved in the A.C.E. program, talk about this in your classrooms. If you are a Big Brother or a Big Sister, talk to the young people you mentor.

If you have the opportunity to do any public speaking, talk about the topic openly, honestly and without defensive-ness.

Also, feel free to reach out. If you wish to discuss this matter with me personally, I would be delighted to talk with you.

Sayde J. Ladov, a principal with Offit Kurman, is Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. Her e-mail address is chancelor@philabar.org.

Clearing the Record

The contact information for two Bar Association leaders was incorrectly listed in the February 2009 edition of the Bar Reporter. The correct information is as follows:

Rudolph Garcia
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, PC
1835 Market St., 14th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2985
Phone: (215) 665-3843
Fax: (215) 665-8760
E-mail: rudolph.garcia@bipc.com

John Mirabella
Duffy + Partners
55th Floor
One Liberty Place
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: (215) 238-8705
Fax: (215) 238-8710
E-mail: mirabella@duffyfirm.com

IRS audit and as murky when doused in the muddy thick peanut sauce, which of course can become pickled pink morsels with the salad’s sanction. The shrimp

continued from page 20

Phoenix
Fax: (215) 605-3843
E-mail: rudolph.garcia@bipc.com
Panel: Lawyers, Media Can Work Together

**Lawyers and members of the media can benefit from a relationship by getting their stories told,** panelists told members of Bar-News Media Committee on Feb. 23.

Panelists included Jeff Blumenthal from the Philadelphia Business Journal, Mike Dunn from KYW Newradio 1060, Lu Ann Cahn from NBC 10 and Hank Grezlak from The Legal Intelligencer. Committee Chair Gina F. Rubel moderated.

"Read our paper and know what we cover and then reach out when you have a story idea or something you'd like to share. Think of these words: local, business, and news," Blumenthal said.

Investigative reporter Cahn said lawyers need to think of their stories in terms of what they have that's visual for the TV viewer. "If you think you have a story, just call me but don't say, 'I have a story but I won't go on TV and neither will my client.'"

Guidance

**continued from page 14**

Dunn is KYW's City Hall bureau chief. He said raw natural audio tape is always helpful when it can be supplied. He also said that his stories typically run for 45 seconds so lawyers need to speak in concise sound bites minus the legalese.

Grezlak said his paper covers the legal industry in Philadelphia, the surrounding counties, and often in Pennsylvania when the issues are of great import to the legal community. "Call me if you think you have a story. If you are concerned about anything that may be sensitive, ask me if we can go off the record," he said.

Rubel reminded everyone to read Rule 3.6 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct concerning trial publicity. She also said that lawyers should create Google Alerts with keywords pertaining to their primary practice areas and clients. That way, when an issue arises, the lawyers can be the first responders to members of the media with whom they have a relationship.

Dunn's hard work, clients who are vulnerable and exploited continue to receive the benefit of his skills. For example, Sisum's hard work, clients who are vulnerable and exploited continue to receive the benefit of his skills.

VIP Honors Sisum

This month Philadelphia VIP recognizes Diana P. Sisum, an associate with Lowenthal & Abrams, P.C., for her outstanding volunteer assistance to VIP clients.

Sisum invested nearly two years and more than 200 pro bono hours as a volunteer working to resolve a tax discrepancy on behalf of her VIP client. Her client arrived in Philadelphia from Puerto Rico in 2005 to find a notice from the IRS asserting deficiencies in his tax return stemming from various sources of income that had been reported in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio and Wisconsin. Diana discovered that wages totaling upwards of $50,000 had been falsely claimed under her client’s Social Security number and that he and his wife had been victims of both tax fraud and identity theft.

She petitioned the IRS relentlessly on behalf of her client to keep the case from going to trial. She even sought out the employers to which the client’s wages had been attributed with photographs of her client to prove that he had never worked for or received the wages the IRS was auditing him for. She obtained the backing of attorneys from the IRS and succeeded in securing a tax refund on her client’s behalf. Months after the case was officially closed, Sisum continues to work with her client to ensure that various extenuating issues are properly resolved and has since taken on a new pro bono case with VIP. Thanks to Sisum’s hard work, clients who are vulnerable and exploited continue to receive equal access to legal justice.

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

Philadelphia VIP is proud to recognize volunteers who are helping achieve access to justice for all.

The Homeless Advocacy Project will hold its Annual April Benefit on Thursday, April 2 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at The Ritz Carlton at Broad and Chestnut streets. Pictured (seated, from left) are HAP Board members Margie Morris, HAP development director Andrea Bloch and Caren Pocino. Standing (from left) are HAP Board President Blaine Stanley, HAP Executive Director Marsha Cohen and HAP Board member Madeline Sherry. For more information about the event, visit homelessadvocacyproject.org.
are plum delicious and any auditor’s lips would be purple with envy.
Steamed salmon filet ($15.95) is pomeous and plentiful. When the shining pink morsel of fish passes between your lips, tens of flavors spice your tongue. The aroma is laden with the odors of a nearby orange slice, a half dozen small, roasted carrots, peeping peppercorns and a mound of sticky gleaming white rice. The salmon melts as if it were wetted cotton candy. Then a short jolt of barely heated Thai aftertaste spikes at nostril height, clearing sideways to your ears. Swallow. Since there is hardly a chomp involved, you supplement with rice and carrots to add form and crunch. When all has been devoured, swoon. “Ooohs” and “yums” can be heard from onlooking patrons whose demeanor and casual dress would indicate tendencies to be other than monosyllabic. You cut to the quick, while all remembrances of 401(K)s and Roth IRAs are turning into innocuous desuetude.

I will not mention the shrimp pad Thai ($12.50) except to say it has won awards. I shall mention that Sunday to Thursday’s three-course specials are $14.95; Friday and Saturday specials are $17.95 with differing choices.

Feast to Famine continued from page 18

The 1040 upon which I’ve pasted post-its to mark the spots for signatures is by my place mat, in candlelight. Tanasit whispers over my shoulder as he peeks at my notations. “You are most lucky,” he grins, “your bite is only 28 percent, not hard to digest.” He brings an ice cream parlor glass of the house coconut ice cream piled high as my bank statements, and a bowl of corn-drenched rice pudding. “Eat all but 28 percent, it will help your waistline, and teach you a lesson for next year,” he prescribes and forewarns. After having carefully proportioned and delighted in the luscious dessert offerings, I write my check to the United States Treasury, and prepare to sign it. I can still taste the smooth coating of Thai pudding at the base of my larynx, and sense the wisdom of Tanasit Siriluck as he pats my shoulders. “Sawadee-crup,” he exclaims, and then presses his palms, fingers and hands together upwards just below his chin.

My signatures are written on all tax documentation as they should be after such Thai dining and Thai blessing: I write carefully, “Kinnaherrafekactudenta Bockol.”

Skinny D. Bockol, a sole practitioner, is an advisory editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter. Read his reviews online at bockol.com.
Volunteers Prep Students at Mock Trial Camp

By Paul Kaufman

“Learn, Baby, Learn!”
“Yes We Camp!”
“Learn, Baby, Learn!”

The chants echoed off the rafters of the room, bounding from roof to wall to desk, reverberating with an intensity that only 100 high school students whipped to a fever pitch can produce. It wasn’t quite Grant Park on Nov. 4, but the Temple University Beasley School of Law wasn’t a bad facsimile. Temple’s Law, Education and Participation Project recently hosted students from the Philadelphia area for the E-“LEAP”-tion Mock Trial “Camp”-aign.

Dedicated high school mock trialers traded their precious weekend time for a day spent in the classroom improving their trial advocacy skills under the tutelage of members of the Philadelphia Bar Association, and particularly the Young Lawyers Division.

As in years past, the students’ instruction began with lectures detailing the dos and don’ts of direct examination, cross examination, opening statements and closing arguments, the same skills that the students will need when competing. The students then broke up into groups of five to 10 and met with members of the Philadelphia Bar Association to review and practice the lessons. They delivered statements and examinations and received instruction and critique from practicing trial lawyers, after which they had the opportunity to watch some of the best attorneys in the city demonstrate the same skills.

Again this year, the Temple-LEAP program drew the cream of the Philadelphia legal community to serve as lecturers and instructors. Opening remarks from Roberta West of Temple-LEAP, Scott Sigman, former chair of the Young Lawyers’ Division and Chancellor Sayde Ladov, advised as always by her trusted genie, inspired the students to think about the possibility of a life in the law. Dedicated high school mock trialers acted up to groups of five to 10 and met with members of the Philadelphia Bar Association to review and practice the lessons. They delivered statements and examinations and received instruction and critique from practicing trial lawyers, after which they had the opportunity to watch some of the best attorneys in the city demonstrate the same skills.

As always, the program was coordinated by Temple-LEAP’s indefatigable West, who was ably assisted by Heather Herrington of the YLD.

The highlight of the day was provided by Temple-LEAP’s indefatigable West, who was ably assisted by Heather Herrington of the YLD.

U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Marjorie O. Rendell addresses students at Mock Trial Camp at Temple University Beasley School of Law. Approximately 100 high school students participated in the program.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Monday, March 2
Family Law Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.
Civil Rights Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.

Tuesday, March 3
Philadelphia Bar Foundation Board of Trustees: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Committee on the Legal Rights of Persons with Disabilities: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Wednesday, March 4
Delivery of Legal Services Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
State Civil Litigation Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.
Intellectual Property Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Thursday, March 5
Government and Public Service Lawyers Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $8.

Friday, March 6
LGBT Rights Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Monday, March 9
Business Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Tuesday, March 10
Criminal Justice Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Professional Responsibility Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., The CLE Conference Center, Wanamaker Building.

Wednesday, March 11

Thursday, March 12
Legislative Liaison Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.
The Philadelphia Lawyer magazine Editorial Board: meeting, 12:15 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Monday, March 16
Public Interest Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Young Lawyers Division Cabinet: meeting, 12 p.m, 10th floor Cabinet Room.

Tuesday, March 17
Cabinet: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Employee Benefits Committee: meeting, 12:50 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Wednesday, March 18
Workers’ Compensation Section Executive Committee: meeting, 10:30 a.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
Workers’ Compensation Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

Thursday, March 19
Family Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 11th floor Committee Room South.

Law Practice Management Division Technology Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

Friday, March 20

Register online for most events at philadelphiabar.org. Unless otherwise specified, all checks for luncheons and programs should be made payable to the Philadelphia Bar Association and mailed to Bar Headquarters, 1101 Market St., 11th fl., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-2955. Send Bar Association-related calendar items 30 days in advance to Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-2955. Fax: (215) 238-1159. E-mail: reporter@philabar.org.

WebCheck
To purchase tickets for the April 1 Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon, visit philadelphiabar.org.

Huffington continued from page 1

begins at 12 p.m. at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets. Tickets are $55 for members and $60 for non-members and can be purchased online at philadelphiabar.org.

Huffington is also a nationally syndicated columnist, and author of 12 books. She is also co-host of “Left, Right & Center,” public radio’s popular political roundtable program. She launched The Huffington Post in May 2005, and the news and blog site has become one of the most widely read, linked to, and frequently cited media brands on the Internet.

In 2006, she was named to the Time 100, Time magazine’s list of the world’s 100 most influential people.

Originally from Greece, she moved to England when she was 16 and graduated from Cambridge University with an M.A., in economics. At 21, she became president of the famed debating society, the Cambridge Union.

Huffington has written 12 books. Her latest, Right Is Wrong: How the Lunatic Fringe Hijacked America, Shredded the Constitution, and Made Us All Less Safe, was published in 2008. Both a withering indictment and a hopeful call to arms, Huffington makes the case that America has been hijacked by the “lunatic fringe” of the Right that has taken over the Republican Party – enabled by a compliant media that act as if there is no such thing as truth and are more interested in cozying up to those in power than in holding them accountable.

Huffington has made guest appearances on numerous television shows, including “Charlie Rose,” “Oprah,” “Nightline,” “Real Time with Bill Maher,” “Inside Politics,” “Larry King Live,” “Hardball,” “Good Morning America,” the “Today” show, “Countdown” and “The O’Reilly Factor.”

She serves on several boards that promote community solutions to social problems, including A Place Called Home, which works with at-risk children in South Central Los Angeles. She also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Archer School for Girls.

Huffington lives in Los Angeles with her two teen-age daughters.
Scott F. Cooper, a partner at Blank Rome LLP and Chancellor-Elect of the Philadelphia Bar Association, has been appointed to the Moorestown Township (N.J.) Recreation Advisory Committee.

Eve Biskind Klothen, assistant dean of the Rutgers-Camden Law School, received the 2009 Father Robert Drinan Award from the Association of American Law Schools for her outstanding contributions to pro bono and public service.

Kelly A. Oalie of Hangley Aronchick Segal & Pudlin participated on a panel discussing careers in international law, sponsored by the American Bar Association Section of International Law’s Student Chapter.

Segal & Pudlin participated on a panel sponsored by the American Bar Association where the focus was on “Insurance Bad Faith Claims in Pennsylvania” on Jan. 14.

Brenda Hustis Gotanda, a partner with Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, discussed “How Green is Green? Measuring Standards and Practices” at Green Building 101, the Kickoff Meeting of the Sustainability Series: Issues in Sustainable Living and Growth in Radnor Township on Jan. 29.

William R. Sasse, chair of Bradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, has been named chair of the Anti-Defamation League’s corporate partners program.

Michael Dressner, principal in Dressner Law, PC, has been named an adjunct faculty member at the Villanova University School of Law where he will teach trial practice to second-year and third-year law students.

Carlton L. Johnson, a partner with Archer & Greiner, PC, has been selected to serve on the Board of Directors of Community Legal Services Inc.

Bernice J. Koplin of Schachtel, Gersthey, Levine & Koplin, PC, has been designated a Certified Elder Law Attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation.

William K. Conkin, a shareholder with Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, was a speaker at the Lorman Education Services seminar “How To Start A Nonprofit Organization” on Nov. 6.

Deborah J. Zateeny of Zateeny Loftus, LLP, was a course planner and panelist at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute program “How To Start A Nonprofit Organization” on Nov. 6.

Joan C. Arnold, a partner with Pepper Hamilton LLP, has been elected to the Board of Regents of the American College of Tax Counsel, the organization’s governing body, representing the Third Circuit.

Michael L. Turner, a shareholder with Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, served as a speaker at the Defense Research Institute seminar Asbestos Medicine Seminar on Nov. 6-7 in Las Vegas.

Layli Alexander, an attorney with Verizon Wireless, was recently appointed to serve a three-year term on the Pennsylvania Abington, Abington College Advisory Board.

Jennifer A. Brandt and Thomas G. Wilkinsen members of Cozen O’Connor, recently participated in the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s course “Dealing with Dirty Tricks in Divorce.”

Francis X. Taney Jr., a shareholder with Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, has been named president-elect of the Entrepreneurs’ Forum of Greater Philadelphia.

Edward DeLisle, a senior partner with Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhill & Furman, PC, has been appointed to the Zoning Committee of the East Falls Development Corporation.

Thomas J. Giordano Jr., an associate with Martin Banks Pond Lechoky & Wilson has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Epilepsy Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania.

Dennis L. Cohen, a member of Cozen O’Connor, recently delivered the “2008 Year-End Tax Update” for the Brundish Tax Academy.

Deborah Epstein Henry, founder and president of Flex-Time Lawyers LLC, was a speaker at the New Jersey Association of Legal Administrators program “Reinventing Work at Law Firms: Innovative Flexibility Programs and Strategies to Make them Succeed” in West Orange, N.J. on Jan. 13.
NAMES CHANGE.

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One of the largest accounting firms in greater Philadelphia with a legacy dating back to 1919, Goldenberg Rosenthal, has joined Amper, Politzer & Mattia, creating the 25th largest accounting firm in the country. While our name may have changed our commitment remains the same. At Amper, clients benefit from the deep and broad expertise of 650 people working across our PA, NJ and NY offices.

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