By Jeff Lyons
Revel, Atlantic City’s newest beachfront resort, will host the Bar Association’s 2012 Bench-Bar & Annual Conference on Oct. 5-6.

The Bench-Bar & Annual Conference provides attendees with the opportunity to earn CLE credit while networking with colleagues and members of the bench. Hundreds of attorneys and judges are expected to attend.

“This is going to be a fantastic event at Atlantic City’s newest destination,” said Chancellor John E. Savoth. “This will be a Bench-Bar Conference that people will remember for a very long time.”

Bar’s New Lawyer Profiles to Help Members Promote Their Practices

Jennifer Smalls
Smith & Jones, P.C. (1-5 Attorneys)
I am a family law practitioner who feels very passionately about helping people navigate their legal issues in the most personalized and cost-effective way possible.

By Mark Tarasiewicz
Association members can now showcase their professional profile on the website of the oldest association of lawyers in the United States.

“Lawyer Profiles” is a new premium advertising opportunity available exclusively to members of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Members can enhance their business development efforts by having their full professional profile displayed on the Philadelphia Bar Association’s website at philadelphiabar.org.

Additionally, “snapshots” of each profile with attorney photo, firm name and practice synopsis rotate directly on the homepage of the Association’s website, linking to the attorney’s full profile. All profiles are searchable by attorney name or firm name.

As a bonus, participants also receive a customized link to their Lawyer Profiles full-profile page, which they can use for promotional purposes on their website, blog, social media

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MSNBC’s Mike Barnicle to Speak March 28

By Jeff Lyons
Award-winning print and broadcast journalist Mike Barnicle, a frequent contributor and occasional guest host on MSNBC’s popular “Morning Joe” and “Hardball with Chris Matthews,” will be the keynote speaker at the Bar Association’s Wednesday, March 28 Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon with special guest Edward G. Rendell, 45th governor of Pennsylvania.

The Bar Association will also present the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Diversity Award at the program. 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.

Also at the event, Immediate-Past Chancellor Rudolph Garcia 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.”

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Level Playing Field Greets All in Philadelphia’s Courtrooms

By John E. Savoth

Our legal system, while the best in the world, is not perfect and often criticized. But criticism, even if unjust, can result in important changes that strengthen access to justice for all.

As we know, there are those who maintain that Philadelphia is home to an unbalanced civil justice system, namely plaintiff-friendly courts that draw cases from across the state thanks to a promise of large monetary awards. Philadelphia has been branded a “judicial hellhole” and the “city of brotherly torts.” Rather then engage in the rhetoric of inflamma-
yory labels, I’d like to bring attention to the facts.

In 2010 (the most recent data available) in Philadelphia’s Civil Trial Division, 69 percent of complex verdicts and 76 percent of juries in medical malpractice cases found in favor of the defense. And these numbers are up from 2000 and 2003 when 59 percent of verdicts were found for the defense.

Along with the rise in defense verdicts Philadelphia has also seen a decrease in jury verdicts exceeding $1 million, which fell from 83 verdicts between 2000 and 2003 to 24 in 2004 and just 3 in 2010. The truth is that many cases come to Philadelphia’s state-of-the-art Complex Litigation Center (CLC) not because of the expectation of large verdicts but because of the CLC’s capacity and efficiency. The CLC’s effective trial scheduling model provides for the coordination and group-
ing of similar cases, which helps to resolve them in a timelier manner. The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) has noted of this first-of-its-kind facility, “...the creation and operation of the Complex Litigation Center is clearly one of the court’s major achievements and a substantial service to the citizens of Philadelphia, the Bar and the nation, given the scope of mass tort litigation and class actions.”

The NCSC gets to the heart of the issue when highlighting the CLC’s service to the citizens of Philadelphia, because that is what this is really about: the rights of everyday citizens to obtain justice. The biggest risk of branding Philadelphia’s civil justice system a “hellhole” or worse is the effect it may have on the efforts of individuals seeking to obtain justice.

The American Tort Reform Association (ATRA) and Foundation (ATRF), the groups that most often disparage the CLC and Philadelphia’s civil justice system, are aligned with entities seeking to curtail recovery for injuries suffered due to the alleged fault of another.

Inflammatory reports slinging labels with little basis in fact should be of concern to all of us. In the city where the Constitution was adopted, the slippery slope of infringing on the freedoms of individuals to obtain justice is a truly frightening thought. For me, a real hell-hole is a place where a party seeking civil justice is afforded an uneven playing field. I am proud that Philadelphia is not that place.

Also, last month, a report ordered by the state Supreme Court concluded that the pay for court-appointed lawyers in Philadelphia death penalty cases is “grossly inadequate” and “unacceptably increases the risk of ineffective assistance of counsel.” The report was written by Common Pleas Court Judge Benjamin Lerner.

Many Philadelphia death penalty cases have been reversed by appellate courts or sent back for new hearings because of errors, with low pay for defense attorneys cited as a key reason.

In Philadelphia, an alarmingly small number of lawyers are willing and able to take capital case appointments for indigent clients and also meet minimum state requirements for doing so. Philadelphia pays less than any other county in Pennsylvania.

Judge Lerner concluded that “the compensation of court-appointed capital defense lawyers in Philadelphia is grossly inadequate, both as to the dollar amount needed for the effective representation of our indigent clients.”

Tell Us What You Think!

The Philadelphia Bar Reporter welcomes letters to the editors for publication. Letters should be typed. There is no word limit, but editors reserve the right to condense for clarity, style and space considerations.

Letters must be signed and may be faxed to Jeff Lyons, Senior Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2911. Periodicals subscription for $45 per year by the Philadelphia Bar Reporter are not necessarily those of the Association, its officers or its members.

Letters may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to: Jeff Lyons, Senior Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2911. Periodicals subscription for $45 per year by the Philadelphia Bar Reporter are not necessarily those of the Association, its officers or its members. Letters must be signed to verify reserve the right to condense for publication. Letters should be typed.

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Philadelphia’s Commerce Court program is one of the few court programs that abides by the American Bar Association Standards. The court receives and disposes of 500 to 600 cases per year, and has no backlog, according to Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Administrative Judge John W. Herron.

Judge Herron was joined by Commerce Court Judges Patricia A. McNerney, Albert J. Snite Jr. and Arnold L. New in a forum presented by the Business Law Section’s Business Litigation Committee on Feb. 15, where the judges discussed their practices and procedures. Judge New is moving to the Complex Litigation Center in May and will be replaced by Judge Gary S. Glazer.

Each judge accepts correspondence relating to minor administrative matters. None are offended by gentle reminders if, for example, a motion has been Outstanding for a long time. However, to avoid misunderstandings, Judge New stated that attorneys should obtain their opponent’s consent and communicate with the court in writing. Judge Snite accepts telephone calls regarding minor administrative matters.

The judges agreed that attorneys should not litigate by letter, and significant matters should be presented by motion. Each judge appreciates courtesy copies of briefs. However, Judge New does not review courtesy copies until a motion has been fully briefed.

According to Judge Herron, judges are not able to effectively participate in settlement conferences in non-jury cases. Judge Snite identified judge pro tems as an alternative; however, he is happy to assist with settlement efforts before a jury trial. Judge McNerney will participate in a settlement conference if all parties agree. Alternatively, she will send the parties to another judge or a judge pro temp if it will not delay the trial. Judge New will participate in a settlement conference of a non-jury matter if all clients are fully advised of the process and perceived problems that may arise.

The judges have not had to address Frye or Daubert motions in Commerce Court. However, Judge Snite noted that these motions should be presented before the pretrial conference. New appreciates some motions in limine, but motions on minor issues that can be raised by objection at trial should be avoided. Judge Herron added that motions in limine can be a wonderful tool to eliminate surprise or ambush at trial.

The judges also commented on motions for extraordinary relief. If counsel knows that a case requires significant time, they should request a complex track assignment. If the case manager does not agree, counsel can petition the court. No matter the track assignment, the attorneys agreed that effective communication is crucial.

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For years, Philadelphia attorney Maureen Farrell has been an integral part of the annual Philadelphia Bar Association 5K Run/Walk, serving as a donor, committed runner and former race committee member. Last year Farrell was the top grossing individual fundraiser, amassing more than $13,000 in donations from friends and colleagues who supported her efforts.

Nearly 1,500 area runners, lawyers, students, and families participate in the Bar Association 5K Run/Walk as sponsors, teams and individuals. The race will be held Sunday, May 20 starting at 8:30 a.m. at Martin Luther King Drive, just behind the Art Museum.

Though she says last year’s race wasn’t her best run due to injuries and race-day challenges, her inspiring attitude was a huge achievement for the Bar Run and for Support Center for Child Advocates, the nation’s largest and oldest pro bono legal and social service agency for abused and neglected children, and recipient of proceeds from the race.

“I have participated in this race for many years. It’s such a good fit for me. It combines all of my passions: law, running and advocacy,” adds Farrell, an active member of the Women in the Profession Committee and chair and editor of the Women in the Profession’s Newsletter.

“Many people see fundraising as difficult. I find it relatively easy. I’m a solo practitioner so maintaining solid relationships are critical to my business. I become very close to many clients and they know how passionate I am about the causes I care about. I chose this event/cause as my ‘big’ ask from them and the pledge feature on the race registration site really simplified making and processing the requests.”

“I would encourage all legal professionals to get involved in this very worthy and fun event for the entire family. Run the race, join the committee, spread the word, and get your network on board to support. It’s much easier than you think!” adds Farrell who is currently training for the race.

To register, visit phillybarcharityrun.com.

Top Fundraiser Looking Forward to 33rd Annual 5K

Chancellor’s Forum March 15 on DSK Arrest


The arrest and release of Dominique Strauss-Kahn will provide the nexus for a comparative discussion regarding U.S. and French law, cultural and political norms, and the role of the news media in both countries. Strauss-Kahn was the director of the International Monetary Fund when he was arrested and charged with sexually assaulting a hotel maid in New York City in May 2011. The charges were eventually dismissed against Strauss-Kahn but he still faces a civil suit.

The discussion is presented in partnership with IHEJ – Institut des Hautes Études sur la Justice, Paris; the International Law Committee; and International Law Society of Villanova University School of Law.

Panelists for the program include Professor Irène Thérié, a sociologist with École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales; Michelle Madden Dempsey, associate professor of law, Villanova University School of Law; and reporter Emilie Lounsberry of The Philadelphia Inquirer. Chancellor John E. Savioth will present welcoming remarks.

The program begins at 4:30 p.m. in the 11th floor Conference Center of Bar Association headquarters, 1101 Market St. A wine and cheese reception will follow at 6 p.m. There is no charge to attend, but you must RSVP at philadelphiabar.org.
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Profiles

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O’Connor Nominees Sought by April 2

The Women in the Profession Committee is seeking nominations for the 2012 Sandra Day O’Connor Award. Deadline for nominations is Monday, April 2, 2012.
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 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; and U.S. District Court Judge Anita B. Brody; Leslie Anne Miller, first woman president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association; Lila G. Roomburg 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; former Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Phyllis W. Bedi; Roberta D. Pichini of Feldman, Shepherd, Wohlgeleman, Tannen, Weinstock & Dodig; Lynn A. Marks, executive director of Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts; Barbara D. Liebenberg of Fine, Kaplan and Black, R.P.C.; JoAnne Epps, dean of Temple University Beasley School of Law; Stephanie Resnick of Fox Rothschild LLP; and U.S. District Court Judge Cynthia M. Rufe of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
Please send nominations to the attention of Dawn Petz, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market Street, 14th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107 or by email to dpetz@philabar.org.

Action Plan Needed for Success, Coach Says

By Mary-Kate Breslin

It takes approximately 21 days to create a new habit, so, in 2012, make a habit of spending more time with positive people; energy and positivity are contagious, a lawyers coach recently told the Women in the Profession Committee.
“Whatever you want this year, you need a plan of action,” Phyllis Sisenwine advised during an energized and motivational talk on Jan. 31. She began by asking everyone in attendance to write down their goals for the year, both professional and personal. Sisenwine then proceeded to share ways in which the group could make 2012 the best year ever.
Phyllis Sisenwine is the “Lawyer’s Coach” and provides professional speaking services through Powerful Solutions. Her coaching techniques and strategies allow attorneys to improve performance and client development, and increase profits. Sisenwine is certified by the International Coach Federation.
“What do you really want to see happen this year?” she challenged the group. Whatever those goals and aspirations may be, they can be achieved by taking these few steps.
• Create space. Start by clearing the clutter from your life. Take a look around your office, and your home, and see what you can throw away or organize. Your office should resemble the office of a successful attorney.
• Identify personal energy drains. A personal drain could be either physical or mental clutter. Do you have a messy garage that has been weighing on your mind? Make a promise to yourself to clean and organize the garage by a certain date, and then do it. To clear mental clutter, Sisenwine suggests writing down at the end of each day what it is you want to work on.
• Build reserves. Have you ever been running late in the morning on your way to work, only to find that your gas tank was on empty and you were out of cash? Avoid these last minute, stressful circumstances by stocking up on resources; buy extra printer ink, and extra light bulbs. Build time reserves too by arriving early for appointments.
• Manage your time well. It takes between 18-20 minutes to get into the flow of working on a particular project. Knowing this, identify which day(s) of the week you are typically in your office, and not in court or meetings, and make that your “productive” day. For those days where you have a court hearing, or are otherwise scheduled to be out of the office, try to schedule other meetings for that same day. Then you can concentrate on work while you are at your desk, and be more productive.
• Build relationships. Sisenwine wrote her book, Market Your Must, after interviewing 52 superstar lawyers. Each rainmaker attributed his or her success to relationships, networking and who they knew.
• Say “no.” Unless the answer is an absolute “yes,” say “no.” When you are asked to do something, whether it’s a social engagement or extra project at work, before committing, first ask yourself whether saying “yes” will help you reach your goals for the year. Sisenwine challenged, “Life is a buffet. What do you want to put on your plate?”

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Many Options Available to Ease Law School Debt

By Katherine O’Keefe and Rashida T. West

Although many law students face substantial loan debt upon graduation from law school, it is possible to work in “whatever employment draws you, whether it be a small practice or a nonprofit,” according to Heather Jarvis, a national expert on education debt and financial barriers confronting law school graduates.

Jarvis recently discussed two federal loan repayment assistance options at a program co-sponsored by the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Public Interest Section, Delivery of Legal Services Committee, Law School Outreach Committee and the Young Lawyers Division. Under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program, public service attorneys can earn student loan forgiveness by working in public service jobs for 10 years. Jarvis notes on her website, however, that only Federal Direct Loans qualify for PSLF, so if you have Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL), consolidate your loans into Federal Direct Loans.

In order to take advantage of this program, you must work in a paid position with a federal, state or local government entity, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Peace Corps or AmeriCorps, or a few other narrow categories of employment. Government contractors and elected members of Congress do not qualify. The position must be full-time, meaning a minimum of 30 hours per week. Alternatively, working two part-time public service jobs can qualify, as long as you meet the 30-hour-per-week minimum.

Once you make 120 timely, qualifying student loan payments (once per month for 10 years), any remaining principal and interest on your loans will be cancelled without any federal income tax consequences. Jarvis notes on her website, however, that only Federal Direct Loans qualify for PSLF, so if you have Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL), consolidate your loans into Federal Direct Loans.

As the borrower, you are responsible for establishing that you made 120 payments and met all of the requirements for forgiveness. To help track your progress toward qualifying for PSLF, the Department of Education has a PSLF Employment Certification form, which you can submit to FedLoan Servicing annually or whenever changing jobs. FedLoan Servicing will tell you if your employment qualifies, and if it does qualify, how many more payments you have to make.

The second federal loan repayment assistance option that Jarvis discussed is the Income-Based Repayment (IBR) plan. IBR is available if you are unemployed, underemployed, working in public service or employed in the private sector, as long as you have a high student loan debt-to-income ratio. IBR makes monthly student loan payments affordable (no higher than 15 percent of income) because the plan takes account only adjusted gross income and family size, and not how much money you owe, when calculating payments. Jarvis notes that if married, you should be careful when deciding whether to file your taxes jointly or separately, as the decision could affect your eligibility for IBR.

If you make payments under the IBR plan for 25 years, any remaining principal and interest on your loans will be forgiven. However, unlike PSLF, your discharge of debt will be taxable because it is not tied to public service. For more information on managing student loans, visit AskHeatherJarvis.com.

Katherine O’Keefe (katherine.okeefe@gmail.com) is a post-graduate fellow with the Philadelphia City Law Department, Rashida T. West (rtw27@drexel.edu) is associate director of Government and Public Interest Law at Earle Mack School of Law at Drexel University.
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Entry Deadline is May 9 for Ginsburg Essay Contest

Entries are now being accepted for the Philadelphia Bar Association’s 2012 Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Pursuit of Justice Legal Writing Competition.

Candidates may submit a law review quality submission on any topic relating to rights, privileges and responsibilities under federal law. The Bar Association recognizes the importance of excellence in legal analysis and writing skills, and seeks to award a student enrolled in an American Bar Association-approved or provisionally approved Philadelphia-area law school for authoring a top-quality competition submission. Entries must be received by Wednesday, May 9 at 4 p.m.

This competition is open to full- and part-time law students who are in their second or third year of study during the 2011-12 academic year at one of the following six institutions: Drexel University Earle Mack School of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School, Rutgers University School of Law – Camden, Temple University Beasley School of Law, Villanova University School of Law (Delaware Campus), Part-time law students in their third or later year of study are also eligible. Students must be in good standing at their institutions.

The submission may not have been published previously, although it may have been prepared in connection with a law school course or for a law journal. The submission also may not have been submitted for any other competition during the time when it is under consideration for this competition, until after the time when awards are announced. The submission must be the work of one author alone (joint submissions will not be considered), and the author must certify that the submission has been prepared without substantial editing from others.

The co-chairs of the competition are Bar Association Chancellor-Elect Kathleen D. Wilkinson, partner at Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP, and Diane Penneys Edelman, Director of International Programs and Professor of Legal Writing, Villanova University School of Law.

“This competition began in 2003, which shows the Bar Association’s commitment to the importance of legal writing,” said Wilkinson.

Competition judges include U.S. District Court Judge Gene E.K. Pratter; Board of Governors Chair Brandi J. Brice; Young Lawyers Division Chair Melanie Taylor; Iva Johnson Ferrell, Legal Writing Professor, Widener University School of Law (Delaware); Wanda Flowers.

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Board Service: A Great Way to Develop Soft Skills

By Melanie J. Taylor

Joining the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office was probably one of the best jobs that I could have landed right out of law school, as there are few other positions for young attorneys that offer as much practical, hands-on training as that of a prosecutor. In my time with the DA, I have negotiated settlements in Domestic Relations Court and argued before the Pennsylvania Superior Court. When I wanted trial experience, I simply offered to take a list of cases from the Trial Division one day a week. By running lists in the Criminal Justice Center, I learned how to pick a jury and put on a case from start to finish.

However, serving as a prosecutor has taught me more than just the essentials of how to try and appeal cases. The job also taught me certain “soft skills,” such as verbal and non-verbal communication (including body language, which is a lot more important than most people realize), professional etiquette, confidence, public speaking and time and stress management. These skills cannot be taught in a classroom, but are nonetheless mandatory for any attorney to have a successful career.

Going to court, arguing cases, negotiating with opposing counsel and working with victims taught me how to communicate effectively as a lawyer and as a professional. Unfortunately, handling this much responsibility is rare for an attorney who is only a few years out of law school. So how then do we teach young lawyers the skills of the trade? Taking on pro bono cases is one way to gain experience. Board service is another way, and it is sorely underutilized.

Serving on a board involves many of the same situations we encounter as lawyers, only in a much less combative setting than in court. It entails respectfully debating ideas with other board members, public speaking, and sometimes even negotiating. Indeed, serving on a board is also a great way to gain leadership, fundraising, project management and even marketing experience, training that you cannot get by trying cases.

Sadly, even though Philadelphia has numerous nonprofits and commissions, few young lawyers sit on their boards. This is not because boards do not want young lawyers – nonprofit executives often reach out to the YLD seeking candidates. Rather, many young lawyers are simply unaware of available board positions or of what board service involves. The Bar Association is working to change that.

Last year, the YLD partnered with the Public Interest Section of the Bar Association and the Philadelphia Bar Foundation to sponsor a CLE and discussion called “The Nuts and Bolts of Non-Profit Board Service.” The course addressed issues such as tax exemption, fundraising, selecting a board and due diligence as a board member. The event was standing-room only.

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Mary Anne Lucey, executive director of the Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project (CBAP) and Barry Kleban, chair of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania Bankruptcy Conference, present the inaugural David T. Sykes Award to J. Gregg Miller of Pepper Hamilton LLP. The award was presented to Miller for his outstanding service to the bankruptcy profession. The award is in honor of David T. Sykes who was instrumental in starting CBAP in 1992 and in the formation of the Bankruptcy Conference.

Mary Anne Lucey, Gregg Miller; Barry Kleban

YLD Update

Board Service: A Great Way to Develop Soft Skills

By Melanie J. Taylor

Joining the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office was probably one of the best jobs that I could have landed right out of law school, as there are few other positions for young attorneys that offer as much practical, hands-on training as that of a prosecutor. In my time with the DA, I have negotiated settlements in Domestic Relations Court and argued before the Pennsylvania Superior Court. When I wanted trial experience, I simply offered to take a list of cases from the Trial Division one day a week. By running lists in the Criminal Justice Center, I learned how to pick a jury and put on a case from start to finish.

However, serving as a prosecutor has taught me more than just the essentials of how to try and appeal cases. The job also taught me certain “soft skills,” such as verbal and non-verbal communication (including body language, which is a lot more important than most people realize), professional etiquette, confidence, public speaking and time and stress management. These skills cannot be taught in a classroom, but are nonetheless mandatory for any attorney to have a successful career.

Going to court, arguing cases, negotiating with opposing counsel and working with victims taught me how to communicate effectively as a lawyer and as a professional. Unfortunately, handling this much responsibility is rare for an attorney who is only a few years out of law school. So how then do we teach young lawyers the skills of the trade? Taking on pro bono cases is one way to gain experience. Board service is another way, and it is sorely underutilized.

Serving on a board involves many of the same situations we encounter as lawyers, only in a much less combative setting than in court. It entails respectfully debating ideas with other board members, public speaking, and sometimes even negotiating. Indeed, serving on a board is also a great way to gain leadership, fundraising, project management and even marketing experience, training that you cannot get by trying cases.

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Mary Anne Lucey, Gregg Miller; Barry Kleban
The Philadelphia Bar Association will be one of the first groups to use the conference facilities at the brand new $2.4 million Revel in Atlantic City.

Bench-Bar

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Maria A. Feeley, a partner at Pepper Hamilton LLP, is chair of the Bench-Bar & Annual Conference. Molly Peckman, director of professional development at Dechert LLP, is sponsorship vice chair.

Segal Coatsworth, an associate with Marjos Edelstein, is sponsorship vice chair and Jennifer S. Gross, a principal with Batt & Gross, is programming chair of the Bench-Bar & Annual Conference. Molly Peckman, director of professional development at Hamilton LLP, is chair of the Bench-Bar & Annual Conference.

Among Revel’s features is Revelry, located 61 feet above sea level and named for its energetic and vibrant atmosphere, which showcases 12 restaurants, 46 retail shops, nightclubs, dayclubs, an intimate performance space for 700 and 150,000-square-foot casino. The Mezz, 87 feet above sea level, includes a theater with a capacity for 5,500 and 160,000 square feet of meeting space. Resort, starting at 114 feet above sea level, encompasses more than 1,800 guest rooms and suites.

The Lobby, 114 feet above sea level, is nearly two acres of outdoor space anchored by SkyGarden and InOur Pool, a pool that begins indoors and continues outside. The $2.4 billion glass Revel is located 20 beachfront acres on the Boardwalk between South New Jersey and South Connecticut Avenues.

Sponsors for the 2012 Bench-Bar & Annual Conference include USI Affinity, LexisNexis and Lien Negotiation. For sponsorship information, please contact Aimee Cirucci at 215-238-6342 or via email at acirucci@philabar.org.

Health Care Reform Update

Over the past year, important articles about health care reform have been a standard feature in each monthly issue of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

This month, final regulations on an important part of the federal legislation were issued, dealing with the provision of certain documents to individuals so that they can understand their benefits, in terms that are the same for all policies. Although somewhat complex, this is a very important issue. Read the article in the most recent edition of “Upon Further Review” at http://goo.gl/xDU4z.

VIP Honors Rusty Kennedy

Philadelphia VIP recognizes Rusty Kennedy for his outstanding volunteer assistance to VIP clients. As one of the Associated Press’ most celebrated staff photographers, Rusty Kennedy has traveled the world covering major sports and news events including dozens of Super Bowls, World Series and Olympics. His work has appeared in many of the best-known publications including Sports Illustrated, Newsweek, TIME and The New York Times. Now he has added Philadelphia VIP to the cadre of organizations he shoots.

The quality of photos contributes significantly to communicating about VIP and recognizing its impact. But professional photographers’ fees are expensive and often not in the budget. After retiring from the AP three years ago, Kennedy was in a position to do some volunteer work. While he still freelances regularly, he doesn’t travel as extensively. He was familiar with VIP’s work from friends, and admired their efforts on behalf of low-income clients. He agreed to shoot an event and has been offering his services on a regular basis ever since.

He has photographed workshops, 30th anniversary celebration events and client portraits for use in publications and on the website.

Kennedy brings a journalist’s point of view and training to his assignments for VIP. He suggested photographing clients, in order, he explains, “to put a human face on their stories.” The results, as the old saying goes, are worth a thousand words.

He continues to volunteer for VIP because he believes in its mission. “Working with VIP is great,” he said. “I appreciate that they listen to my input.” He has photographed people who are dealing with adoption issues, in danger of losing their homes and struggling with business and employment issues. “Many of these individuals didn’t know how to begin to solve their legal problems. They couldn’t afford any representation, let alone the quality and persistence of the representation VIP provides. VIP makes such a positive impact in the community. I’m glad I can help,” Kennedy said.
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Ginsburg Competition
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Wanda Flowers and Associates and chair of the Business Law Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association; Deborah S. Gordon, Assistant Professor of Law, Drexel University Earle Mack School of Law; Karen M. Gottlieb, Associate, Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker, LLP; Sandra A. Jeskie, Duane Morris LLP; Anne Kringle, Legal Writing Director and Senior Lecturer, University of Pennsylvania Law School; Mitch Nathanson, Professor of Legal Writing, Villanova University School of Law; Robin Nilon, Assistant Professor, Temple University Beasley School of Law; and Sandra Simkins, Clinical Professor, Rutgers School of Law – Camden.

The author of the winning submission will receive a cash award of $2,500, and have the essay published in The Philadelphia Lawyer magazine, on the Bar Association’s website and/or in an appropriate Bar Association publication. The winner will be invited to a Quarterly Meeting of the Bar Association, at which time the award will be presented.

All entries should be sent to Dawn Petit, c/o Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107. For more information, contact Petit at 215-238-6367 or email dpetit@philabar.org.

Bar Leaders
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PHILADELPHIA BAR REPORTER    March 2012
philadelphiabar.org
Sotomayor Diversity Award Nominees Sought

The Philadelphia Bar Association is seeking nominations for the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Diversity Award. The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 9.

The purpose of the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Diversity Award is to publicly acknowledge, recognize and honor 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. Nominations for the award are accepted from any member of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

The award shall be granted to an attorney, jurist, law firm, law department, legal service organization or law school in Philadelphia, or an individual or entity that has made a substantial impact upon the Philadelphia legal community. Nominees should demonstrate a sustained and continuous contribution, or a single outstanding contribution, to diversity and full and equal participation and inclusion in the legal profession in furtherance of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Statement of Diversity Principles. Nominations of individuals should be based upon their personal contributions to diversity, and nominations of entities should be based upon programmatic activity.

Complete and return the nomination form by 5 p.m., Friday, March 9 to Naomi K. McLaurin, Esq., Director of Diversity, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market Street, 11th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2955 or at nmclaurin@philabar.org. The form is available at philabar.org. Nominations will be reviewed by the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Diversity Award Committee and the recipient will be notified shortly thereafter. The award will be presented at the March 28 Quarterly Meeting.

 nominated for this year’s Justice Sonia Sotomayor Diversity Award:

Justice Sonia Sotomayor Diversity Award forms are available at philabar.org.

Quarterly
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The Justinian Society and Comisky Family Lifetime Achievement Award in memory of Marvin Comisky and the Hon. G. Fred DiBona will be presented to retired Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Edward J. Bradley.

Barnicle, who can also been seen regularly on NBC’s “Today Show,” has written more than 4,000 columns collectively for the Boston Herald, New York Daily News, and The Boston Globe, where he rose to prominence with his biting, satirical, and at times, heart-wrenching columns that closely followed the triumphs, travails and ambitions of Boston’s working and middle classes. He has also written articles and commentary for Time magazine, Newsweek.com, The Huffington Post, ESPN the Magazine and Esquire, among others.

Barnicle’s award-winning documentaries include “Armored and Dangerous,” which examined the proliferation of guns in the U.S., and “Justice on Trial,” an expose on the Massachusetts judicial system. He began his career as a speech writer and aid to prominent political figures including former California Sen. John Tunney, one-time vice presidential candidate Edmund Muskie and the late Robert F. Kennedy.

Tickets are $55 for Bar Association members and $70 for non-members. Visit philabar.org to purchase tickets to the Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon.

Green Tip: Rechargeable Batteries a Better Choice

Each year, Americans use about 4 billion batteries. We are talking about the “dry-cell” batteries that are used to power most electronics from remote controls to radios, watches, iPods, etc.

About 80 percent of batteries are used once and disposed of. These include both conventional and alkaline batteries. The news gets better: there are now rechargeable alternatives for most things from hearing aids to toys.

Rechargeable batteries are designed to provide hundreds of hundreds of charges. Newer ones hold even bigger charges. The news gets better: they are next-generation chargers available for these batteries that can get the charge back in as little as 10-15 minutes! That being said, although rechargeable batteries are a much better choice, some do contain toxic constituents. Regardless, all batteries can and should be recycled. Check out a site like www.call2recycle.org to find a local drop-off point.

Manufacturers and retailers have important roles in helping to reduce the environmental impact of batteries by redesigning them in ways that eliminate or reduce toxic constituents and by making them more recyclable at the end of their useful life. We have an important role too. Take a look at your lifestyle. Do a little research on rechargeable alternatives and implement them to make a difference, while saving money in the process.

Henry Balikov is vice president at Goldman Environmental Consultants and Chair of the Climate Change Focus Group at the Auditing Roundtable. He is a member of the Bar’s Green Ribbon Committee.

Philadelphia Bar Association March Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon

Wednesday, March 28 at 12 p.m. at the Hyatt at The Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets

• Featuring remarks by MSNBC’s Mike Barnicle and special guest Edward G. Rendell, 45th Governor of Pennsylvania
• Presentation of the Second Annual Justice Sonia Sotomayor Diversity Award
• Presentation Honoring Immediate-Past Chancellor Rudolph Garcia
• Justinian Society and Comisky Family Lifetime Achievement Award presentation to retired Judge Edward J. Bradley

Please make ______ reservations for the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon. Tickets are $55 for members and $70 for non-members. Checks should be made payable to the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Name: ___________________________

Firm/Employer: ___________________

Address: _________________________

Phone: __________ Fax: __________

E-Mail: _________________________

Return to: Quarterly Meeting

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

Credit Cardholder: _______________________

Signature: _________________________

Visa MasterCard American Express

Credit card payments should be faxed to Bar Headquarters at (215) 238-1159 or register online at philabar.org
Bar Foundation

Raising the Bar Campaign Needs Your Help

In 2006, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation and the Philadelphia Bar Association kicked off a campaign called “Raising the Bar” that was designed to institutionalize giving by the private Bar to support our colleagues in the public Bar. The need for this campaign was clear – at the time it was estimated that law firms in Philadelphia gave only $200 per attorney to support legal services. We knew we could do better and we have done better.

Six years later, this campaign is the hallmark of the Philadelphia legal community and the $300 per attorney raising the Bar pledge is the threshold of giving that is expected for law firms in Philadelphia – although many firms give significantly more.

We thank the 62 law firms listed here that committed to Raising the Bar in 2011. We also know that 2012 is going to be an exceedingly difficult year for fundraising, so we’re kicking off the 2012 campaign early. And, we’re doing things a little differently this year. The Raising the Bar campaign is spearheaded jointly by the Bar Association and the Bar Foundation. However, if a firm commits to Raising the Bar in 2012, they can meet that commitment by giving, through sponsorship or otherwise, to the Bar Foundation or to any of the Foundation’s legal services organizations. That means our legal services organizations benefit both directly and indirectly from the Raising the Bar campaign. They get checks from the law firms and they get grants from money raised by the Foundation. Thus, the legal services organizations, like the Foundation, are committed to taking the Raising the Bar campaign to greater heights.

That is why each of the executive directors of the legal services organizations will sign the Raising the Bar request letter that is either in each of your firm’s mailboxes or, if it is not, should be there very soon.

There are nearly 12,000 attorneys working in private practice in Philadelphia but only about 200 public interest attorneys. If every firm joined the Raising the Bar campaign and pledged a minimum of $300 per attorney per year, this would mean that at least $3.5 million would go to support the dedicated attorneys who labor in the trenches on behalf of those who are too poor to afford a lawyer to help them out of what is often a desperate situation.

People like Anya, a 15-year-old girl with cerebral palsy whose request for a shower chair was denied by Medical Assistance. A Philadelphia public interest attorney appealed her case and helped get this simple piece of equipment her family needed to care for her safely.

Then there’s Mary, a mother of three who almost lost the home that her family had lived in for generations because there were issues with the property’s title after her grandmother died. A public interest lawyer helped Mary obtain legal title to her home so she can continue to live there and pass on the family tradition to her children and their children.

Or people like the prisoners in a county jail who now have mental health and dental services and improved health care that they would be without but for the suit brought by one of the 55 public interest grantees of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. (By the way, the prison’s basement dungeon that was used for punishment has been closed as well.)

As you can see, we’re not talking about luxuries here. These are cases where the work of a single lawyer has an extraordinary impact in securing basic human needs for the most vulnerable.

The Raising the Bar campaign is an opportunity for law firms in our city to demonstrate their leadership in ensuring that these people and thousands more like them have access to our justice system.

This year, if you are responsible for the decision to sign on to the campaign make it easy to show your firm’s leadership. If you are not the person who is responsible for making the decision find out who at your firm is and encourage them to sign up. It is not a difficult thing to do – but it could have a huge impact on those who are now vulnerable and who could do with your help.

Wendy Beetlestone (wbeetlestone@hangley.com), a shareholder with Hangley Aronchick Segal & Pudlin, is president of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

By Wendy Beetlestone

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The Raising the Bar Campaign Needs Your Help

By Wendy Beetlestone

Philadelphia Bar Reporter  March 2012

philadelphiabar.org
**PNC Perspectives**

**REITs Have Chance to Grow Post-Recession**

By Jackie B. Lessman

**PNC WEALTH MANAGEMENT**

This interview series conducted by PNC Wealth Management Senior Vice President Jackie Byrne Lessman, CFP®, explores topics relevant to the legal community ranging from investment management, wealth planning, trust and estate administration services and other PNC Bank National Association (PNC) areas of expertise.

In an interview with E. William Stone, CFA®, managing director, investment and portfolio strategy and chief investment strategist, we discussed the background of real estate investment trusts (REITs) and the potential opportunities for investors considering adding REITs, specifically equity REITs, to their portfolios.

**Jackie Lessman:** Income investors are constantly looking for ways to expand their opportunity set, but often REITs are not considered because they are misunderstood or ignored. Can you provide a primer on this sector by describing REITs and give a brief overview of this unique asset class?

**Bill Stone:** REITs are publicly traded firms with a primary business that includes the ownership and management of commercial real estate. The REIT structure differs from a typical corporation in that it includes the ownership and management of commercial real estate. The REIT structure differ from a typical corporation in that it includes the ownership and management of commercial real estate.

REITs enjoy a special tax advantage, avoiding double taxation, but must meet certain requirements to benefit. As an example of such requirements, REITs receive special tax treatment provided they distribute the majority of income earned to shareholders in the form of dividends. REITs have been in existence for about 50 years. They were largely private and considered somewhat obscure for years. REITs began garnering interest from the investing community when many began to go public in the early 1990s. At year-end 1971, REITs had a market capitalization (cap) of $332 million; the market cap was about $430 billion for 2011.

**Historically speaking, REITs have come in and out of favor. Why should investors consider REITs now?**

With REITs having met their obligations through the recent Great Recession, we believe they will not only continue to survive as an asset class, but that REITs have the opportunity to grow. Individual investor preference has shifted toward dividend stocks, perhaps in part due to baby boomers reaching retirement. Institutional investors have been slower to embrace REITs but that is changing. The strength of REIT management teams and the growing size of individual REITs have not gone unnoticed, particularly by institutional investors.

REITs have enjoyed a bounce back in the past two years, as fundamentals have firmed, investors have returned and dividend growth has resumed for some. The REIT group could even enjoy expansion in coming years. REITs represent only a modest portion of all commercially owned real estate in the United States, at approximately 10 to 15 percent according to the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts. It is likely that some current private owners of commercial real estate will consider becoming a REIT for tax advantage reasons, as well as for access to capital.

**While the value and profitability of individual REITs depend on specific issues, what are some of the most valuable benefits that REITs offer investors?**

Investing in a REIT affords an investor the opportunity to share in the potential profits of owning real estate in markets or sectors for which an investor may lack the resources or expertise to own property directly. Additionally, REITs allow shareholders to invest in commercial real estate while leaving the management to professionals and remaining liquid. An investor can participate by purchasing the stocks of individual REITs or by investing in REIT mutual funds or exchange-traded funds. A successful allocation to REITs aims to provide income generation and growth potential with the proven portfolio diversification benefits of owning REIT shares.

**Given the complex nature of the interconnected economies and industry fundamentals, what is the suggested investment strategy for REITs?**

Given REITs’ structure, income generation and dividend component, underlying asset fundamentals, and interrelated economic cycles, we view REITs as a buy-and-hold investment rather than a market timing decision. Over a long-term, investment-holding period, REITs have tended to outperform the S&P 500 on a total-return basis. REITs historically had the additional benefits of modest correlation with stocks, less market price volatility, and higher current returns. REITs provide steady current income, producing dividend yields competitive with investment-grade bonds, with the potential for increases in dividend and share price.

Jackie Byrne Lessman, CFP® (jacqueline.lessman@pnc.com, 215-585-5831) is a senior vice president with PNC Wealth Management.

For more information, visit pnc.com/wealthmanagement.
should get to work, and if they cannot complete discovery, they should keep the court informed and file a motion for extraordinary relief.

Judge New carefully considers motions for extraordinary relief, and he wants to know what discovery has been taken and what has prevented counsel from completing discovery. He also reviews prior petitions for extraordinary relief. If good cause is shown, he will grant the motion. Judge Snite added that she may modify a proposed order if additional discovery does not warrant the extension of all deadlines.

Attorneys should advise the court of related cases to ensure assignment to a single judge. The need for coordination can be raised informally by identifying the related case on the civil cover sheet. However, a request for consolidation must be made by formal motion.

The judges agreed that cases will be stayed if a bankruptcy court has entered a stay order. However, Judge Snite noted that bankruptcy courts may grant access to justice for all of our citizens.

We salute the court for recognizing the need for responsive action in these critical areas of our justice system, and remain proud to serve as an ongoing resource to our judiciary in advancing improvements that maintain and preserve untethered access to justice for all of our citizens.

John E. Savoth (jsavoth@smbb.com), of counsel to Saltz, Mongeluzzi, Barrett & Bendeky, P.C., is Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

We proudly announce
Judge
A. Michael Snyder
has joined
The
Dispute Resolution Institute
upon his retirement as a
Workers’ Compensation Judge
February 2012

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Commerce Court
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should get to work, and if they cannot complete discovery, they should keep the court informed and file a motion for extraordinary relief.

Judge New carefully considers motions for extraordinary relief, and he wants to know what discovery has been taken and what has prevented counsel from completing discovery. He also reviews prior petitions for extraordinary relief. If good cause is shown, he will grant the motion. Judge McNemey added that she may modify a proposed order if additional discovery does not warrant the extension of all deadlines.

Attorneys should advise the court of related cases to ensure assignment to a single judge. The need for coordination can be raised informally by identifying the related case on the civil cover sheet. However, a request for consolidation must be made by formal motion.

The judges agreed that cases will be stayed if a bankruptcy court has entered a stay order. However, Judge Snite noted that bankruptcy courts may grant requests for relief from a stay when insurance coverage will adequately cover any liability. In multiple defendant cases, Judge New erred on the side of issuing a complete stay to avoid a ruling that may impact the defendant in bankruptcy.

The judges ended the forum by identifying their pet peeves. Judge New prefers that counsel keep the court informed of settlements, agreements to extend deadlines, etc. He also criticized uncivil motion practice and personal attacks. Judge Snite does not appreciate lengthy motions that are accompanied by duplicative briefs. Shorter motions or motions that identify material facts accompanied by briefs that focus on legal arguments are preferred. Judge Snite also asked that attorneys refrain from using the term “counsel” in correspondence when it may not be clear which attorney is being referenced. Finally, Judge McNemey cautioned counsel not to ignore unfavorable authority. Instead, address and distinguish that authority.

Heather J. Austin (haustin@thorpreed.com), an associate with Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP, is editor-in-chief of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
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 $9.50 for nonmembers, unless otherwise indicated.

Friday, March 2
LGBT Rights Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Workers’ Compensation Section Executive Committee: meeting, 10:30 a.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
Workers’ Compensation Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

Monday, March 5
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 6
Committee on the Legal Rights of Persons with Disabilities: meeting, 9 a.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
Philadelphia Bar Reporter Editorial Board: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Cabinet Room.

Wednesday, March 7
Delivery of Legal Services Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
State Civil Litigation Section: meeting.

April Benefit Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.

HAP’s Annual April Benefit will be held on Wednesday, April 11 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Hotel Sofitel Philadelphia, 120 S. 17th St. The event will feature an extensive silent and live auction. HAP Benefit Committee Benefit members include, (seated from left) Co-Chair Carol Nelson Shepherd, Co-Chair Sara Brandes and HAP Board President Laura Grossi-Tyson, along with (standing from left) Ethan Fogel, Andrea Bloch, Margie Morris, Cary Moritz, Jim DelBello, Madeline Sherry and Greg Toth. For information about the April Benefit, contact Andrea Bloch at abloch@philalegal.org.

Friday, March 9
The Philadelphia Lawyer magazine Editorial Board: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Friday, March 16
Social Security Disability Benefits Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

Wednesday, March 21
Youth Lawyers Division Cabinet: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

The Philadelphia Lawyer magazine Editorial Board: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

Real Property Section Executive Committee: meeting, 10th floor Board Room.

_compulsory arbitration committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor committee room south. lunch: $8.

Thursday, March 22
Elder Law & Guardianship Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.

International Business Initiative Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $8.

Monday, March 26
Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Tuesday, March 27
Criminal Justice Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

Women in the Profession Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.

Wednesday, March 28
Medical Legal Committee: meeting, 23 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $8.

Wednesday, March 29
Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon: 12 p.m., Hyatt at The Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets. Tickets: philadelphiabar.org.

Thursday, March 29
Lawyer Referral and Information Service Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Board Room.

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

Lunch: $8.

Legal Line: 5 p.m., 11th floor LRIS offices.

Concert

Compulsory Arbitration Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $8.

Additional events include:

Thursday, March 15
Family Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
Chancellor’s Forum: 4:30 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Register at philadelphiabar.org.

Friday, March 17
The](https://www.philadelphia-bar.org/events)
Deborah J. Zateeny of Zateeny Loftus, LLP was a course planner and panelist at “Nonprofits and the Political Process” sponsored by the Pennsylvania Bar Institute on Jan. 18.

Samuel H. Pond and Thomas J. Giordano Jr. of Pond Lehocky Stern Giordano recently addressed several union sessions on the topics of workers’ compensation and Social Security disability. Most recently, on Dec. 13, they addressed members of Workers United.

Leonard P. Goldberger, a shareholder with Stevens & Lee PC, lectured on Chinese investments in the United States at Raspanti, LLP, was elected President of Pennsylvania Association for Justice Premises "Evidentiary Considerations" as a faculty member of the December 2011 Pennsylvania Bar Association's 14th Annual Convention in Philadelphia in February.

John Zurzuela, a senior associate with Willig, Williams & Davidson, has been elected chair of the East Norriton Township Board of Supervisors. He has also been appointed to serve as solicitor to Montgomery County Treasurer Jason Salus.

G. Lawrence DeMarco, partner of DeMarco & DeMarco, has been appointed Democratic Committee person in Nether Providence Ward 1, Precinct 2, in Delaware County.

Joseph D. Mancano, a partner with Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP, was elected President of The Saint Thomas More Society of Philadelphia for a two-year term.

Morton J. Simon Jr. of Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP has been elected to serve as president of the American Jewish Committee Philadelphia/Southern New Jersey Regional Office.

Stephen G. Harvey, a partner with Pepper Hamilton LLP, received his firm’s William R. Klaus Pro Bono Award.

Ezra Wohlgelehrten, a partner with Feldman Shepherd Wohlgelehrten Tanner Weinstock & Dodig LLP, presented “Evidentiary Considerations” as a faculty member of the December 2011 Pennsylvania Association for Justice Premises Liability Seminar.

Barbara E. Little of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP has been appointed to serve on the economic development task force for Washington Township, Gloucester County, N.J.

Richard L. Fox, a partner with Dilworth Paxson LLP, spoke on tax-exempt organizations and charitable planning at The Heckerling Institute on Estate Planning in Orlando, Fla., from Jan. 9-13.

James P. Hadden, a director with Maron Marvel Bradley & Anderson, PA, was recently awarded the “Making a Difference Through Pro Bono Work Award” at the 2011 Difference Makers Awards Luncheon in Denver, Colo.

Jonathan Grosser, a partner with Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, has been re-elected to the Greater Philadelphia chapter of CoreNet Global board of directors.

George Martin, a founding partner of Martin Banks, has been elected chair of the West Vincent Township Planning Commission in Chester County.

H. Ronald Klasso, founding partner of Klasso, Ruohn, Stock & Selzer, LLP, was a speaker at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s 15th Annual Real Estate Institute.

Michael C. Gress, a partner with Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, lead the national teleconference “Environmental Concerns with Secured Collateral” sponsored by the National Business Institute on Feb. 27.

Neal A. Troum, an associate with Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, has been elected to the board of directors of the Darlington Arts Center in Garnet Valley, Pa.

Theodore “Ted” Simon of the Law Offices of Theodore Simon spoke at the 32nd Annual Advanced Criminal Law Seminar in January at the St. Regis Aspen Resort in Aspen, Col., where he discussed “Creative Trial Techniques.”


Ronald A. Kever, a partner with Kever & Rush, P.C., was course planner and a speaker at the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association’s “Auto Law Update.”

Tejal K. Mehta, an associate with Ballard Spahr LLP, discussed white-collar crime, criminal defense, and prosecution at the North American South Asian Law Student Association’s 14th Annual Conference on Feb. 18 in New York City.

Jacqueline Z. Shulman, a partner with Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP, presented new legal updates that are essential for HR professionals at the Greater Pottstown Area HR Association, an affiliate of the Society for Human Resource Management.

Mathieu J. Shapiro, a partner with Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP, co-authored the chapter on Director & Officer Liability in the Third Edition Of Business And Commercial Litigation In Federal Courts, published by the American Bar Association’s Section of Litigation.


Lucretia Clemens, a partner with Ballard Spahr LLP, participated in the Brother/Sister to Sister Workshops at the Mid-Atlantic Black Law Students Association’s 44th Annual Regional Convention in Philadelphia in February.

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