Marc H. Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League and former mayor of New Orleans, will deliver the Judge A. Leon Higginbotham Jr. Memorial Public Interest Lecture at the Association’s Monday, June 30 Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon.

“Marc Morial is another one of the nation’s most outstanding reform-minded leaders,” said Chancellor A. Michael Pratt. “As the mayor of New Orleans, pre-Katrina, he introduced major initiatives that were considered by some as models for urban renewal. He has brought his experience to the national level where he is leading the charge to bring people of color into America’s economic mainstream. We are fortunate to have a national figure of Marc’s caliber deliver the Higginbotham Lecture in June.”

A lifelong champion of individual rights, Judge Higginbotham had a legal career that spanned nearly half a century. Since Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children’s Defense Fund, delivered the first Higginbotham lecture in 1999, notables such as Juan Williams, Charles J. Ogletree, Chaka Fattah, Cornel West, Kweisi Mfume and Gwen Ifill have filled the role.

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

Morial served two years in the Louisiana State Senate and was recognized by the Louisiana Bar Association which honored him in 1988 with its Pro Bono Publico Award.

Marc H. Morial served as mayor of New Orleans from 1994 to 2002. He has been with the National Urban League since 2003.

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Demise of ‘Philadelphia Lawyer’ Couldn’t Be Further From Truth

By A. Michael Pratt

Like many of our members, I was struck by the April 2008 issue of Philadelphia magazine, with its funereal images implying a demise of the iconic tradition of the Philadelphia lawyer. Although the article does not substantiate the sensationalized graphics that accompany it, it does provide us with an opportunity to consider how our proud heritage inspires our modern-day professional community.

As attorneys practicing law in 2008, do we still fit the mold of the legendary “Philadelphia lawyer?”

The answer, I am convinced, is a resounding “yes.” Philadelphia lawyers serve large employers and start-up businesses. They represent large corporations and new immigrants seeking citizenship. They contribute millions of dollars worth of pro bono services annually to disadvantaged citizens. It’s hard to talk about Philadelphia without talking about Philadelphia lawyers.

As the heirs to America’s founders in the city where America was born, Philadelphia lawyers will always maintain a time-honored reputation and strong sense of social responsibility and community. And they will continue to serve our city well as we begin to write a new chapter in the history of Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia Bar Association has forever been associated with the term “Philadelphia lawyer.” The term actually predates the nation’s founding, having its origins in 1735 when Philadelphia lawyer Andrew Hamilton traveled to New York City to defend, pro bono, a poor printer, John Peter Zenger. Hamilton accepted a case that no New York lawyer would take on. Defending Zenger against charges of sedition brought by the crown, Hamilton won the case and, in so doing, established the concept of freedom of the press more than 50 years before the First Amendment.

It was said that when the jury returned its verdict, those in the galleries exclaimed: “Only a Philadelphia lawyer could have done it!” Ever since then the term “Philadelphia lawyer” has come to characterize a particularly adept lawyer: more clever; craftier; a lawyer who will do whatever it takes to find a way to prevail for his or her client.

Today, Philadelphia lawyers provide high-quality, wide-ranging services to an increasingly global client base. To echo the words of our new mayor, “we find ourselves on the brink of great change and we stand at the edge of greatness.” Whether we represent a Philadelphia small business owner or a multinational conglomerate, today’s Philadelphia lawyers recognize the interconnectivity of our world, and the unique opportunities our legal community has to advance the global economy.

In so doing, we carry forward the best characteristics and ideals of the Philadelphia lawyer. We continue to apply the cleverness, keen business sense, and passion for representing our clients that distinguished Andrew Hamilton more than 200 years ago.

And despite the pressures of serving both current and new clients in an ever-expanding global marketplace, we remain dedicated to serving the public interest. Philadelphia lawyers and law firms contribute millions of dollars worth of pro bono services annually to disadvantaged citizens.

The Philadelphia Bar Association is a membership organization that serves its members and the community through the provision of professional development opportunities, policy-making initiatives, and service programs. It represents approximately 8,000 attorneys and law firms in the greater Philadelphia region.

The Philadelphia Bar Association is committed to serving the legal community and the public interest. It provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among attorneys and encourages the development of professional skills and ethical standards.

The Philadelphia Bar Association is dedicated to the advancement of the legal profession and the administration of justice. It supports the rule of law and works to ensure that justice is accessible to all citizens.

The Philadelphia Bar Association is a proud member of the American Bar Association and the Association of Bar Associations.

Tell Us What You Think!

The Philadelphia Bar Reporter welcomes letters to the editors for publication. Letters should be typed.

To the Editor:

I write with respect to the lawsuit that has been filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (Stretton, et al. v. Jones, et al.), which alleges inadequate funding for court-appointed counsel in criminal cases. As the suit brings to light, the grossly under-funded court-appointed fee system in Philadelphia County runs afoul of the fundamental right to assistance of counsel for indigent defendants as first recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court in Gideon v. Wainwright, 372 U.S. 335, 83 S. Ct. 792 (1963), and creates several ethical issues for court-appointed counsel representing indigent defendants. The bottom line is that indigent clients are unable to afford a lawyer, and the city’s budget cuts the court-appointed system so grossly underfunded that the system itself is unable to afford a lawyer.

This system relegates court-appointed clients to second-class clients. Indeed, a recent study found that “[d]ue to heavy continued on page 23

Readers Sound Off on Court-Appointed Counsel Fees

To the Editor:

Court-appointed attorneys are often viewed as “arms of the government” (since that is who pays them) and accused of taking shortcuts in representation because they are not getting paid to give the “proper” representation that a retained attorney would.

The truth is that there are many very fine attorneys who are a part of the court-appointed system. The truth is that there are many fine attorneys who are not a part of the court-appointed system because it is so grossly underfunded. The truth is that there are many fine attorneys who have withdrawn from the court-appointed system because of the draconian rules of the game – one of which prohibits attorneys who sit in a courtroom for hours waiting for a case to get called from getting paid for their time when the case is continued; one which does not come

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Philadelphia Bar Reporter

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Page 1 skyline photo by Edward Savaria, Jr./PCVB

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By Paul W. Kaufman

Many ninth graders have heard of worker’s compensation, and some can even tell you that the Magna Carta was signed in 1215. But how many can say that they have tried a worker’s compensation hearing or participated in drafting the Great Charter?

If the Bar Association and the Philadelphia School District have their way, by the end of next year, more than 1,000 city high school students will have had those experiences and more, from sitting on an 11th century English jury to debating the merits of Hammurabi’s Code. And better yet, they’ll have these experiences working with Philadelphia attorneys and judges in their own classrooms.

The Bar Association has enjoyed a long, productive relationship with the Philadelphia School District, especially surrounding the Young Lawyers Division annual Law Week activities. This year, that partnership is being expanded, as members of the Chancellor’s ad hoc committee have begun work on a program called Advancing Civics Education (ACE) that aims to place 150 Bar Association members in classrooms next year to engage ninth-graders in civics education.

The ACE curriculum is being crafted by Association members and is designed not simply to teach great cases, but also to incorporate small group exercises teaching public speaking and critical thinking skills. Through these lessons, the ACE teams will bring the unique skills and experiences of the attorneys and judges to the youngest high schoolers in Philadelphia while at the same time showing how law and history interact to create the world in which they live. Rather than teaching law alone, the exercises that are being designed by the ACE team will introduce critical thinking skills and apply those skills to the most basic questions of law and governance, from how the exercise of power is justified to the role of the citizen to how power structures change and evolve to include inalienable human rights.

The ACE classes will be integrated into the ninth-grade world history program, targeting Association involvement at new high school students, providing additional incentives and adult support to prevent students from abandoning their education during the difficult transition from eighth to ninth grade. At the same time, by encouraging students to think critically about their entire world and their role within it, while providing a worldwide context for the concepts of individual rights, community responsibility, and citizenship, ACE will help students better understand the more traditional civics materials that they will study in 10th and 11th grade.

Each team of five attorneys and/or judges will teach in one of 30 high school classrooms. Participating classrooms will be competitively selected from among the school district’s finest and most motivated social science teachers. Each team will teach once a month every month of the school year, for a total of nine lessons, before the ACE program concludes with a grand finale that brings those lessons together. In the small group discussions expected to be a part of each lesson, the students will be exposed to attorneys from different backgrounds and practice areas, just as those attorneys will be able to meet equally diverse students and learn about the challenges that they face.

Paul Kaufman is an assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
Input Welcome for New Family Court Building

By Julia Swain

The city’s two top Family Court judges have an open-door policy regarding plans for designing a new $200 million Family Court facility at 15th and Arch streets, the judges told a standing-room-only meeting of the Family Law Section on April 7.

Judge Kevin M. Dougherty, administrative judge of Family Court, and Judge Margaret T. Murphy, supervising judge of the Domestic Relations Division of Family Court, are spearheading plans for the new building. The new facility would consolidate under one roof the Juvenile Division, currently located at 1801 Vine St., and the Domestic Relations Division, currently located at 34 S. 11th St. The Pennsylvania state Senate approved a $200 million budget for the project, which is now awaiting approval by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and, ultimately, Gov. Edward G. Rendell.

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille, a staunch advocate of the new Family Court facility, has been instrumental in promoting appropriate and support for the project, which was initiated by former Justice Sandra Schultz Newman. With the active support from Chief Justice Castille, local politicians and constituents, the family law bench and bar are both optimistic that the budget will ultimately be approved.

Both Judges Dougherty and Murphy expressed their open-door policy for any suggestions regarding the new facility. As both will be integrally involved in all aspects of planning, the judges are interested in insights from the bar that will improve the functionality of the building. Chief Justice Castille has reached out to local practitioners, including Chancellor-Elect Sayde J. Ladov, for a “wish list” that will be considered by the architects designing the facility.

Judge Murphy anticipates the Domestic Relations Division will spend another three years on South 11th Street before moving to the new building. Although the move is still a few years away, both Judges Dougherty and Murphy are researching and planning for the project. In order to appreciate the challenges and issues related to constructing a new courthouse, Judges Dougherty and Murphy made the time to tour a new court building in Delaware, gaining important insight into security standards. The complexity of planning a Family Court building in a large city such as Philadelphia, however, will require more examination of the specific needs for the types of cases that will be handled, ranging from support conferences, to protection from abuse cases, dependency proceedings and juvenile matters.

Consolidation of the two Family Court divisions will promote the judges’ goal of ensuring the safety and protection for the children of Philadelphia. Certain services currently available through the Juvenile Division, including routine medical testing for various sexually transmitted diseases, drug testing and services for children with gender identity issues, will be easily extended to the Domestic Relations Division once the two branches are housed in the same facility. The two branches will benefit greatly from utilizing services currently only available in one location. The combined resources and personnel will provide a collaborative effort to meet the needs of the families served by the Family Court. Another goal cited by the judges for this year was to identify exactly the types of services that can be shared between the two divisions.

Certainly the level of excitement and anticipation for the new building has escalated with the recent budget approval, although more hurdles remain. Judges Dougherty and Murphy expressed their gratitude to Chief Justice Castille for his efforts and dedication to the project, as well as to Justice Newman who set the groundwork for a new Family Court building during her tenure on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Julia Swain is an attorney at Fox Rothschild LLP, resident in the Philadelphia office. She is the secretary of the Family Law Section and a member of the section’s Executive Committee.

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By Jeff Lyons

Diversity expert Verna Myers will kick off the 2008 Bench-Bar and Annual Conference with a discussion on race and the law on Friday, Sept. 19 at Bally’s Atlantic City.

More than 20 different CLE programs are being planned for this year’s conference, which is expected to bring together more than 500 lawyers and judges from the Philadelphia area on Sept. 19-21 for three days of CLE programming that lets practitioners and the judiciary share ideas and best practices. The theme of this year’s conference is “The Sound of Philadelphia.”

Myers, the principal of Verna Myers Consulting Group, and a nationally recognized expert in diversity issues within law firms and other legal settings, has been advising law firms about recruitment and retention of attorneys of color since 1992 when she began as The Boston Law Firm Group’s first executive director. Under her leadership, the Group, a consortium of the largest law firms in Boston, committed to increasing the representation of attorneys of color, made significant progress in minority recruitment and addressing issues of retention. As deputy chief of staff for the Attorney General of Massachusetts (1997-99), Myers successfully designed and led a comprehensive diversity initiative, increasing minority recruitment; conducting diversity, anti-discrimination and sexual harassment trainings; and performing outreach to better serve the state’s diverse population.

Myers practiced corporate and real estate law in Boston for six years at Testa, Hurwitz & Thibeault LLP and at Fitch, Wiley, Richlin & Tourse LLP. She graduated from Harvard Law School and received a Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, from Barnard College, Columbia University.

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

Bally’s Atlantic City offers a world-class spa, salon, fitness center and 18 restaurants to meet every craving. Bally’s is now accepting hotel reservations for attendees. Book early for the best rates: rooms on Thursday, Sept. 18 are $99; rooms Friday, Sept. 19 are $144, and Saturday, Sept. 20 rooms range from $189 to $209. A limited number of rooms are available for the $189 rate on Saturday night. Call 1-800-345-7253 for reservations and mention you are attending the Philadelphia Bar Association Bench-Bar and Annual Conference to get these special room rates.

Annual Conference to Open with Diversity Discussion

Visit philadelphiabar.org to register for the 2008 Bench-Bar and Annual Conference.
2008 Bench-Bar and Annual Conference Registration Form
September 19 -21, 2008 - Bally’s Altantic City

(Please Note: Judges will receive separate conference materials)

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

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Online registration available at philadelphiabar.org

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Justice McCaffery Reflects on Career of Public Service

By Asima Panigrahi

“It is important when you are elected that you remain focused on the fact that you are a public servant” Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Seamus P. McCaffery told a joint meeting of the Appellate Courts Committee and Public Interest Section on April 9. The program marked Justice McCaffery’s first time speaking to the Philadelphia Bar Association since being elected to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 2007. He previously served as a municipal and administrative judge, an appellate judge in Superior Court, and presided over the first and only court in the NFL located at Veterans Stadium. He is the only justice at the Supreme Court to have served on every level of the court system. Justice McCaffery also worked as a Philadelphia police officer prior to his many years on the bench.

One of the first things that Justice McCaffery was told at the Supreme Court was that unlike the trial court, “we are not an error correcting court.” He also discussed the significant backlog they experience at the Supreme Court and how they are forced to deny 96 percent of allocatur petitions.

When trying to get to the Supreme Court, the justice said attorneys should ask themselves “is your issue really going to change the law?” He urged attendees that “the most important thing we can do is be supportive of the rule of law,” and pointed out how his current position affords him the ability to create rule changes. One of the major changes that he has effectuated while at the Supreme Court is affording the indigent greater access to the courts. Noting his family’s Irish descent, he also pointed to his sensitivity regarding issues facing immigrants — “We are a land of equality, a land of access, a land of laws and most importantly, we are a land of justice.”

Justice McCaffery also discussed his role as liaison justice for the implementation of mental health courts into the Pennsylvania court system. He noted that over one third of prisoners in the state have mental health issues and should not be jailed — “it’s not that they are bad, they are mad” he stated. He then recalled a case from years ago that he had on his docket for 10 years, involving a woman from the Northeast who had severe mental health problems. As apparent as her mental problems were, Justice McCaffery was frustrated that he could not get her the help she needed. This case only heightened his awareness of a need for mental health courts in the Pennsylvania system. Committee members have already begun addressing funding issues and have interviewed 67 counties throughout the state of Pennsylvania.

He also noted that he has “the energy and willingness to get out there and do what he can.” He has met with judges from second- and third-tier counties, whom he notes “are just as important as Philadelphia,” and that his job requires him to represent all of them equally. He further encouraged members of the bar to bring ideas to him as he urged “I am there to support you because you are supporting us, and your support and your work is very valuable.” He closed by saying “if God gives me 10-13 years on this bench, I am going to do my best to try and make things better. I just want to leave it better than I found it.”

Asima Panigrahi, an associate with White and Williams LLP, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

Justice Seamus P. McCaffery has served at every judicial level in Pennsylvania.
Sirni Begins Work at Bar Foundation

**By Jeff Lyons**

**Gene Sirni is bringing 25 years of nonprofit and fundraising experience with him as the new executive director of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.**

Sirni started work on April 14. He succeeds Maureen Mingey, who took a position with Comcast.

Sirni has extensive experience in cultivating the donor community, successfully spearheading major gifts programs, said Bar Foundation Board President Elaine Rinaldi. “Gene is uniquely qualified to implement the Bar Foundation's strategic plan currently under development and to take the Foundation to even greater heights in its fundraising efforts,” she said.

“We are pleased to have Gene Sirni on board and are confident that Gene will enable us to achieve the many strategic initiatives we have on our plate. His experience on the fundraising front will be critical to successfully more than doubling our endowment and making it a significant, stable and consistent source of funding for our legal service community,” Rinaldi said.

Sirni spent 19 years with United Way of Wyoming Valley, three years as the executive director of an educational foundation and vice president of advancement for its college and seven years with a land trust foundation.

Before joining the Bar Foundation, Sirni served as vice president of advancement and communications for Heritage Conservancy of Doylestown, beginning in 2001. At the Heritage Conservancy, he developed and lead the advancement, marketing, public affairs and government relations initiatives.

From 1998 to 2001, Sirni was executive director of the Onondaga Community College Foundation in Syracuse, N.Y., which provided allocations to the college's scholarship program. Sirni also served as Onondaga's vice president for Institutional Advancement, where he planned, organized and implemented the comprehensive institutional advancement program for the college in concert with the OOC Foundation.

From 1990 to 1998, he was director of resource development for the United Way of Wyoming Valley in Wilkes-Barre. He was assistant director of resource development from 1986 to 1989.

He received his BA in communications from King's College in Wilkes-Barre in 1983. Sirni is a veteran of the United States Air Force.

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Suit Charges Counsel Fees Are Too Low

No trial date has been set for a federal lawsuit filed by four criminal defense attorneys who charge the city’s payments to court-appointed counsel representing indigent clients in criminal cases are grossly inadequate.

The suit seeks an increase in the amount these attorneys are paid, a system that hasn’t changed since 1993. It also asks the federal government to prohibit all trials involving court-appointed counsel from being held until the payment system is changed.

The suit names Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas President Judge C. Darnell Jones II, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Administrative Judge D. Webster Keogh, Mayor Michael Nutter and the City Solicitor’s Office as defendants.

The suit was filed by attorney Samuel C. Stretton and colleagues Mingo Stroebel, Leanne Litwin and Bruce Wolf. All four routinely handle court-appointed counsel cases. **continued on page 20**

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The Philadelphia Bar Reporter reaches over 3.5 times as many professionals within the greater Philadelphia legal community as any other legal publication. And PBR’s one-month shelf life means your important message won’t wind up in the trash on the same day it appears!
On Election Day in Pennsylvania (April 22), attorneys from the Young Lawyers Division volunteered for service.

The Committee of Seventy sponsored America's oldest non-partisan volunteer Election Day oversight program where "legal field teams" recruited by attorney Christopher Sheridan went to polling places throughout Philadelphia to answer voters' questions, document complaints and help solve disputes.

Young lawyers also volunteered to help City Solicitor Shelley Smith and the City of Philadelphia. Since the November 2006 election, the Law Department has had a field operation monitoring polling places as counsel for the City's Board of Elections. This year, the Law Department decided to use volunteer attorneys in addition to its own attorneys to monitor compliance with federal and state election law in all of Philadelphia's 1,671 election divisions.

 Shortly after Election Day, the YLD hosted Law Week in Philadelphia.

Throughout the week, the YLD participated in "Lawyer in the Classroom" where attorney volunteers went to public and parochial schools to speak with students on the importance of education, voting, and jury service and answered questions on what it is like to be a lawyer.

On April 30, the YLD hosted its first "Legal Advice Live!" where volunteer lawyers provided free legal advice to the public on a confidential and individual basis. The Committee of Seventy was also on hand to sign people up to vote.

On May 1, the YLD and Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Annette Rizzo hosted the "Goldie Locks Trial Program" where kindergarten and first-grade students went to City Hall and served as jurors in the trial of Commonwealth v. Goldie Locks. In this case, the defendant, Goldie Locks, was charged with breaking and entering into the home of the three bears and stealing their porridge.

On May 2, the YLD hosted its yearly "Lawyer for a Day" program where students from public and parochial high schools in Philadelphia came to Center City Philadelphia and were paired with lawyers who took the students to civil and criminal courtrooms. Students observed real life court proceedings and had an opportunity to speak with the judge assigned to that case.

As mentioned above, the Association's young lawyers stepped up in April to serve the community and directly benefit the citizens of Philadelphia. Whether it was at the polls on Election Day or working with Philadelphia students during Law Week, young lawyers were committed to successfully helping the community.

Scott P. Sigman, chair of the Young Lawyers Division, is an associate at Bochetto & Lentz, P.C. and may be reached by e-mail at ssigman@bochettoandlentz.com or by telephone at (215) 735-3900.

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Eight federal judges and a host of top practitioners will be among the panelists for the Federal Courts Committee’s Federal Bench-Bar Conference on Friday, June 6 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1201 Market St.

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

“This year’s Federal Bench-Bar will feature panel presentations of interest to every type of practitioner who tries cases in the district. Members of the court and leading local attorneys will provide insight and commentary on issues and important practical topics,” Mills said.


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


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

Attorneys and host law firms are needed to take part in the Association’s exchange program with the Israel Bar Association.

Over the course of the last year, the Association has been actively engaged in discussions with the Israel Bar Association to form an international attorney exchange program where local Philadelphia firms will host Israeli attorneys for a short internship (one to six months) and Philadelphia attorneys will travel to Israel for a comparable internship at an Israeli law firm. The target date for implementation of the program is June 2008.

The goal of the exchange program is to provide a unique and ongoing opportunity for American and Israeli attorneys to develop relationships and partner among themselves to identify both Israel and Philadelphia as the ideal venues for reciprocal business transactions. The Philadelphia lawyers will learn about Israel’s legal practices, system of justice and economy so that they can be in a position to forge professional relationships and direct Israeli business toward Philadelphia rather than New York or Washington. The Israel Bar Association similarly anticipates that Israeli lawyers will learn about the legal and business practices of the United States and share such expertise with their professionals. Both communities seek to collaborate toward maintaining a joint presence on the international stage and bringing this global perspective to their practices.

The discussions that culminated in this exciting program were initiated by the Israeli Bar and, at its invitation, a delegation of the Philadelphia Bar visited Israel last spring, led by former Chancellor Jane Dalton. She was joined by former Chancellor Alan Feldman, Chancellor A. Michael Pratt, Chancellor-Elect Sayde J. Ladow, Executive Director Ken Shear and Villanova law professor Abraham Gafni. They were treated to a special 10-day tour, where they were introduced to members of Israel’s bar, its judiciary and the Knesset (parliament) to learn about the Israeli legal system and to establish the groundwork for this program.

A committee of the Philadelphia Bar was formed last fall to implement the program, chaired by Marc Zucker of Weir & Partners, LLP. The committee has been working over the last few months on the mechanics of the program, in conjunction with the Israel Bar, and is now ready to solicit both attorney and host firm participants. The committee is seeking an immediate and prompt response from interested participants so that the program can be in place by this summer.

If you are an attorney interested in participating in the internship offered by the program, or your firm would like to host one or more visiting Israeli lawyers, please contact Ken Shear at kshear@philabar.org, and you will be contacted by one of the committee members.

Carolyn Hochstadter Dicker is the principal of E. Carolyn Hochstadter Dicker, LLC and is a member of the Israel Exchange Program Committee.

By Brian K. Sims

Members of the Philadelphia Bar Association should look to international humanitarian law and strengthen the dialogue about change, said a distinguished panel on the conflict in Darfur. Sponsored by the International Law Committee and hosted by Pepper Hamilton LLP on March 19, the panel was titled “The Situation in Darfur: Evolution and Prospects.”

Introduced by committee co-chairs Michael E. Scullin and Jeremy Heep, panelists were Gabriel Akok, a Sudanese refugee living in America; Dr. Ali B. Ali-Dinar, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania’s African Studies Center, but is also the grandson of the University, and a Sudanese refugee among the famed “Lost Boys of Sudan.”

Akok escaped his home in southern Sudan to Kenya where he lived until coming to the United States in 2001. “It is something that we can’t imagine,” he said, “what is happening in Africa, particularly in Sudan.” He spoke strongly about the millions killed in the region and the continuing violence. “The international community needs to get involved,” he added, asking that the solution is to change the leadership in northern Sudan.

Dr. Ali-Dinar echoed Akok’s sentiment and determination. “Why did we never hear about the conflict before?” he asked. “Missions have been killed in this region over time, but the recent conflict from 2004 to now is unique because of the obvious government involvement.”

“In Darfur, nearly 90 percent of the people live in rural places, which is a recipe for disaster,” said Dr. Ali-Dinar, who is not only the associate director of the University of Pennsylvania’s African Studies Center, but is also the grandson of the last King of Darfur.

“This is not a conflict between random groups in Darfur,” he said, “this is a government sponsored conflict.”

Dr. Ali-Dinar spoke about his belief that the conflict in Darfur has continued because it has benefited the current government that took power in a coup. “Keeping the army at war is a pretext to pass emergency laws and to insulate the leading party from challenge.”

In response to the question of what the legal community can do to help, Dr. Ali-Dinar was quick to look to international law. “The United National Security Council resolutions haven’t done anything,” he said, “and Sudan is a real threat to international peace.” He asked attorneys to help the international community define the term “genocide” so that an accurate decision can be made about the atrocities in Darfur. While genocide itself is strongly prohibited in international law, a single standard or bright-line test has never been established to define it.

These issues, and the very real possibility of reparations for victims in Darfur, led the American Bar Association to send a delegation to London last summer to train Sudanese attorneys who will appear before the International Criminal Court.

Epps was the only law professor among the team and spoke about the objectives of the effort. “The victims here have a very real and meaningful part of the process,” said Epps, “and the ability to seek reparations.”

There was a problem with stoicism from the Sudanese attorneys who were inadvertently pacifying the atrocities. She helped work with them to open up and talk about the entire story. “We need to persuade a fact-finder, and once they overcame their reservations, they were much more compelling.” Epps asked the legal community to keep up the dialogue about the preservation of testamentary evidence in incidence like Darfur and Sudan. “We needed to stockpile evidence for safe-keeping,” she said.
Temple Law Associate Dean JoAnne A. Epps, a leading scholar in the areas of trial advocacy and criminal procedure and one of the university’s most distinguished faculty members, has been appointed dean of Temple’s James E. Beasley School of Law. Her appointment is effective July 1.

Epps will succeed Dean Robert J. Reinstein, who will retire on June 30, after 19 years of service.

As associate dean of academic affairs at Temple Law since 1989, Epps has served as the primary liaison between the dean and the law faculty; overseen student administrative operations, from admissions to career planning; and assisted the dean in faculty personnel decisions, fundraising and alumni relations.

Epps joined the Temple Law faculty in 1985 and was appointed a full professor in 1994, and served as the I. Herman Stern Professor of Law, a rotating professorship honoring teaching excellence, from 1997 to 2000. Although she has been a faculty member for more than two decades, Epps’ connections to the university run far deeper. Her first job at 16 was as a cashier at Temple’s bookstore, and her mother was a Temple employee.

Before joining the Temple Law faculty, Epps was assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (1980-85); she tried more than a dozen criminal cases to verdict and argued three cases in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. From 1976 to 1980, Epps was deputy city attorney for the City of Los Angeles, where she tried more than 50 criminal jury trials.

Epps earned her juris doctor from the Yale School of Law in 1976 after graduating with a bachelor’s degree from Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., in 1973.

Lower Interest Rates Hurting Nonprofit Legal Services

If lower interest rates are a stormy economy’s silver lining, they signal darker days ahead for nonprofit legal services organizations. IOLTA, or Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts, is a major funding source for legal services, and when interest rates fall, so does funding. Community Legal Services expects a $1.2 million cut in IOLTA funding, next year.

“Just when low-income Philadelphians are hardest hit by the economy, our capacity to provide legal services is threatened by shrinking IOLTA funds,” said Cathy Carr, CLS Executive Director. IOLTA accounts for 20 percent of the CLS operating budget, according to Carr.

Thanks to a reserve fund and carryover from the current year, CLS can absorb some of the IOLTA loss, but not without reducing services in some units. In 2010, if interest rates remain low, CLS will face a much harsher reality, when both reserves and carryover will be diminished.

Philadelphia VIP also will be feeling the pinch, said VIP Executive Director Sara Woods. “IOLTA is our biggest funder and accounts for about one-sixth of our budget. So it’s significant,” she said.

At this point, Woods said VIP plans no reductions in staffing or services. “We’re hoping our partners in the legal community will help us bridge the gap.”

Carr has slowed new hires for practice areas experiencing high demand as a result of the economic downturn, namely foreclosure defense and employment. Instead, she will redeploy some attorneys and paralegals to those units. Other units, which do not have dedicated funding, may lose capacity to protect Philadelphians in areas such as utility shut-offs and public benefits.

Carr said staffing changes alone will not solve the problem. “You can’t cut your way clear of a 12 percent drop in funding. We are talking to our most dedicated supporters, asking them to help us stabilize CLS in the short term.”

“The irony,” says Barbara Sicilides, president of the CLS Board and a partner at Pepper Hamilton LLP, “is the subprime mortgage crisis was the catalyst both for the economic downturn and a sharp rise in clients needing CLS services. And the Fed’s response, lower interest rates, generates less funding for groups like CLS serving as the safety net for people in the legal system.”

YLD Comedy Night

Saturday, May 10
@ The Academy of Natural Sciences
Event begins at 7 p.m. Showtime is 8:15 p.m.
TICKETS: $65 in advance, $70 at door
Register online at philadelphiabar.org
Proceeds benefit the Philadelphia Bar Foundation
Opening Act: Anton Shuford

featuring:
Dovu Benson
Lynne Koplitz
Image Plays Key Role in Success, Women Advised

By Heather J. Holloway

Within seven seconds of meeting you, a person will make a determination of who you are, how smart you are, and whether they like you, a consultant told members of the Women in the Profession Committee.

Sara Canuso, president of A Suitable Solution, stressed the importance of paying attention to image because well over 55 percent of communication is non-verbal in nature. Canuso met with the committee at its March 25 meeting.

According to Canuso, first impressions start with what you think of yourself. It is important that you feel comfortable in your clothing and that you pay attention to the details such as colors, shoes, accessories, and grooming. With regard to clothing, Canuso cautioned that “one size does not fit all” and promoted investment in a good tailor. “Two women who both wear a size 8 cannot purchase the same size 8 suit and have it fit them both perfectly. A tailor can make an off-the-rack purchase look tailor made by accounting for variations in body size,” she said.

Canuso explained that one can also create the illusion of a smaller frame with properly fitted clothing. By way of example, she demonstrated how her outfit made her appear 20 pounds smaller than her actual weight because she wore pants with a hidden zipper, no pleats and no pockets. Women with a larger seat can create an illusion by wearing a suit jacket that stops either mid-seat or that covers the entire seat.

Canuso also addressed the importance of color. She suggested that an attorney appearing in court wear a navy suit with a white blouse to convey a business message on the first day. While Canuso noted that it is important that one feels comfortable in her clothing, many in attendance also commented that it is often more appropriate to wear a skirt suit to appease those jurors or prospective employers who hold a more conservative view. Canuso advised that black is a suitable alternative to navy if it is softened with the right blouse or jewelry. Canuso reminded those in attendance that black is a color generally associated with...continued on page 23
Right to Civil Counsel Explored at Forum

By Kathryn C. Harr

Despite widespread belief that the 1963 landmark decision of Gideon v. Wainwright extended a fundamental right to counsel in all cases, this right has not, in fact, been extended to representation in civil matters. Addressing this often devastating discrepancy, the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Bar Associations co-sponsored the Public Interest Section’s plenary meeting “Civil Gideon: A Right to Counsel in Civil Cases” on April 10.

“All citizens, rich or poor, should have counsel at their side to secure basic human rights,” Chancellor A. Michael Pratt began, citing the importance of representation in civil matters involving shelter, sustenance, health, safety and family. Andrew F. Susko, president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, provided statistics supporting the need for this representation, noting “80 percent of the legal needs of the poor and working poor go unmet,” and that “one of every two who present to a legal aid agency are turned away” because services are not available.

Marcia Levick, legal director of the Juvenile Law Center, moderated the Civil Gideon panel that included Pennsylvania state Rep. Kathy M. Manderino; Debra Gardner, legal director, Public Justice Center of Baltimore; and Laura Abel, deputy director of the Justice Program, Brennan Center for Justice, New York University School of Law.

Describing the 1981 case of Lassiter v. Dept. of Social Services in which the U.S. Supreme Court recognized the right to counsel in some termination of parental rights proceedings, Abel explained some of the legal foundations on which further efforts must build. While several federal statutes provide for counsel for children in dependency proceedings or members of the military in certain circumstances, the states have developed the majority of rights to counsel in civil proceedings.

“Most of the energy in trying to expand the right to counsel is in the family area,” Abel explained, detailing Pennsylvania and other states’ laws providing a right to counsel for parents in dependency, paternity and parental rights matters. Additionally, most states provide for the right to counsel in involuntary commitment for mental illness proceedings.

Efforts in New York City to expand the right to counsel for tenants in eviction proceedings have grappled with issues of the ability of legal services to expand, the adequacy of representation available, the municipal power to create such a right, and both the cost and savings to the city of such a program.

In Maryland, efforts to effect a constitutional amendment will be the first step in securing a right to counsel in civil matters, Gardner described. Armed with such an amendment, the next step will be to collectively petition the legislature to seek the money needed to implement the program. Gardner also noted that Maryland’s constitution incorporates the common law of England, which provided for a right to counsel in civil matters.

Manderino provided the political backdrop against which change in Pennsylvania must occur, noting that the state is largely decentralized in how such services are delivered, being the only state in which the criminal right to counsel is funded solely by the counties. She noted that as issues like foreclosure begin to impact more middle class homes, legislative support for the right to counsel in these civil proceedings will grow.

“The organized bar has to stand up,” Susko noted. “It has to step up to the plate and ensure that individuals have access to our justice system that is meaningful through access to legal services.”

Kathryn C. Harr, an associate with Trujillo Rodriguez & Richards, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Quarterly Meeting continued from page 1

Award. He earned a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1983 and also earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics and African American Studies from the University of Pennsylvania in 1980. In 2002, Xavier University awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Law degree.

He is the son of the late Ernest N. Morial, New Orleans' first African-American mayor, and Sybil Morial, a retired teacher and university administrator.

Morial, a history, arts, music and sports enthusiast, has an adult daughter, and is married to broadcast journalist Michelle Miller. They have two young children.

Established in 1910, The Urban League is the nation's oldest and largest community-based movement devoted to empowering African Americans to enter the economic and social mainstream.

Today, the National Urban League, headquartered in New York City, spearheads the non-partisan efforts of its local affiliates. There are more than 100 local affiliates of the National Urban League located in 35 states and the District of Columbia providing direct services to more than 2 million people nationwide through programs, advocacy and research.

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

Forty-nine new members will be welcomed into the Association’s Year Clubs at program. The Year Clubs recognize attorneys who have been practicing law for 50 years or more. The following is a list of new members of the Association’s 50-, 60-, 65- and 70-Year Clubs:

50-Year Club


60-Year Club

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

65-Year Club

John A. Eichman III and Joseph Shanis.

70-Year Club

Edward I. Cutler.

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In Their Own Words

Philadelphia Becoming Next Great Green City

By Jim Kenney

About two years ago, I began to realize that environmental issues weren’t just for tree huggers anymore. I started to understand the realities of a heat island and the benefits of the LEED green building rating system.

At the end of 2005, I introduced my first piece of environmental legislation that required the city to purchase hybrid vehicles when the price was competitive. In addition to the legislation being successful, my eyes were opened to how far behind Philadelphia was to Chicago, Boston, and Washington, D.C. in the green arena. After hearing about these cities’ Departments on the Environment and their successes – I harnessed support for a Philadelphia City Council Committee on the Environment to focus on urban quality of life issues as they pertain to the environment. Since then, this committee has considered a number of initiatives including green roofs, rubber sidewalks, LEED requirements for city funded buildings and most recently construction and demolition recycling requirements.

As a city councilman for nearly 16 years, green legislation hasn’t always been one of my legislative priorities. Rather, I’ve focused on more fundamental quality-of-life issues as well as ways to attract and retain residents and businesses. Now, however, I see that these priorities have become directly linked to creating a sustainable city.

Now more than ever, people are choosing where to live and work based on sustainable practices. If Philadelphia wants to retain graduating students from our distinguished colleges and universities, attract new residents and appeal to new businesses, we need to position ourselves as a vibrant city focused on sustainable living.

Over the past few years, Philadelphia has made great strides toward becoming a premier green city. We’ve seen LEED-certified buildings built – the Cira Center and Comcast Center – residential communities focused on environmentally friendly living embraced – Rag Flats and Onion Flats – and even LEED-certified schools built – Microsoft School of the Future and the Barry School located at 59th and Race Streets. There’s also been dedicated leadership in sustainable practices. Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown and I have sponsored more than 25 pieces of environmental legislation, and now, with Mayor Nutter’s commitment to creating a cabinet-level position on sustainability, Philadelphia is poised to emerge as one of the greatest green cities.

We’re lucky to already have such wonderful attributes to our advantage. Philadelphia’s Fairmount Park system is among the finest in the nation. Our city is walkable and easily accessed with public transportation. We have the highest regarded Water Department in the nation. All of these things, among many others, are proof that Philadelphia is a green city at heart. Now, we must embrace these resources and take the next step and begin thinking green in all that we do.

From expanding our recycling service to encouraging sustainable construction and renovation, we can make improvements to our environment while saving resources and creating new, green jobs. It certainly is Philadelphia’s time to shine.

Jim Kenney is a Philadelphia city councilman and chair of the Committee on the Environment. He has served at-large for the past 16 years and was recently re-elected to serve a fifth term.

O’Neill is VIP’s April Honoree

Philadelphia VIP has announced that Kathy O’Neill, a partner with White and Williams LLP, is VIP’s Volunteer of the Month for April.

O’Neill has excelled in her work to serve VIP clients and has represented clients in many different types of cases, including auto accidents, drivers’ license cases, probate matters and quiet title actions. In particular, she has been committed to serving our homeownership clients who have “tangled title” issues. Despite not practicing probate or real estate law in her regular private practice, O’Neill currently has two open home-ownership cases.

In one of these cases she has zealously represented her client by tackling a multitude of issues related to the property, including probating an estate, negotiating with the District Attorney’s Office over a private criminal complaint related to the property, and filing an eviction action to resolve an outstanding dispute over the property. Because she has been so willing to resolve each of these issues in turn, the client has been served much more effectively and efficiently than if VIP had to find attorneys to handle each issue.

In addition to her exceptional casework, O’Neill also has been instrumental in leading White and Williams’ home-ownership practice group by recruiting firm attorneys to attend the monthly meetings and to accept new VIP cases. She also was recently named chair of the firm’s pro bono committee. What is perhaps most impressive about O’Neill’s work on behalf of low-income Philadelphians is that she works out of her firm’s Cherry Hill office but never hesitates to travel to Philadelphia when she is needed to serve VIP’s clients.

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 clients with compassion and offer them assistance. Philadelphia VIP is proud to recognize volunteers who are truly helping achieve access to justice for all. For all of her commitment and initiative, VIP gives its heartfelt thanks to Kathy O’Neill and recognizes her as Volunteer of the Month.

Philadelphia VIP understands that Kathy O’Neill, a partner with White and Williams LLP, is VIP’s Volunteer of the Month for April.

O’Neill has excelled in her work to serve VIP clients and has represented clients in many different types of cases, including auto accidents, drivers’ license cases, probate matters and quiet title actions. In particular, she has been committed to serving our homeownership clients who have “tangled title” issues. Despite not practicing probate or real estate law in her regular private practice, O’Neill currently has two open home-ownership cases.

In one of these cases she has zealously represented her client by tackling a multitude of issues related to the property, including probating an estate, negotiating with the District Attorney’s Office over a private criminal complaint related to the property, and filing an eviction action to resolve an outstanding dispute over the property. Because she has been so willing to resolve each of these issues in turn, the client has been served much more effectively and efficiently than if VIP had to find attorneys to handle each issue.

In addition to her exceptional casework, O’Neill also has been instrumental in leading White and Williams’ home-ownership practice group by recruiting firm attorneys to attend the monthly meetings and to accept new VIP cases. She also was recently named chair of the firm’s pro bono committee. What is perhaps most impressive about O’Neill’s work on behalf of low-income Philadelphians is that she works out of her firm’s Cherry Hill office but never hesitates to travel to Philadelphia when she is needed to serve VIP’s clients.

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 clients with compassion and offer them assistance. Philadelphia VIP is proud to recognize volunteers who are truly helping achieve access to justice for all. For all of her commitment and initiative, VIP gives its heartfelt thanks to Kathy O’Neill and recognizes her as Volunteer of the Month. 
Thirty years ago there was no legislation protecting seniors at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation. Pennsylvania had no durable power of attorney or living will statute to enable seniors to avoid guardianship or have their end-of-life decisions made known. There were no provisions under Medical Assistance to prevent the impoverishment of individuals – mostly women with spouses in nursing homes – by guaranteeing a modest but relatively reasonable income level.

So, in 1978, motivated by the necessity of protecting the legal rights of seniors, the Philadelphia Bar Association, under Executive Director Ken Shea’s guidance, received funding for and founded the Philadelphia Bar Foundation Senior Citizens Judicare Project or Judicare in short. Now known as SeniorLAW Center, it is the only nonprofit organization in Philadelphia, or for that matter Pennsylvania, whose sole mission is to provide legal assistance to elders.

“We started out as such a little organization. The initial grant covered only a small section of Philadelphia. Now we have services that are available statewide,” said Karen Buck, SeniorLAW’s executive director for the past 11 years. “I’m so proud of how much we have grown since 1978. The Bar Association and Bar Foundation should be proud as well, since we wouldn’t exist without their vision and concern for a population often overlooked by our culture.”

The legal services provided by SeniorLAW to thousands of our elderly citizens are more crucial now than ever. Of this country’s 10 largest cities, Philadelphia has the largest percentage of senior citizens, and the seniors of our city experience a higher rate of poverty than their peers in other parts of Pennsylvania and the nation. Nearly 20 percent of our community’s elderly are living at or below the poverty level or are economically vulnerable. Most are women.

SeniorLAW’s services primarily help these economically disadvantaged seniors with issues that have a dramatic impact on their quality of life. The legal help provided enables seniors to remain in their homes and communities, live free from abuse and maintain their independence and dignity. More than 10,000 seniors per year access the direct legal services, advice, information, referrals and community legal education offered by SeniorLAW. Through its outreach and training components, including its Pennsylvania SeniorLAW E-newsletter, SeniorLAW Center is also a primary source of legal information for professionals and organizations that work with seniors.

One of SeniorLAW’s clients, Mr. Williams, was planning for a quiet retirement when his two-year-old grandson, Isaiah, became orphaned. Isaiah’s father had shot Isaiah’s mother and then himself in front of the little boy. At the age of 68, Mr. Williams became a full-time parent, trying to keep his grandson out of the foster care system and addressing questions of medical consent and custody. Mr. Williams went to SeniorLAW where the legal staff helped him navigate the family court system, secured him legal custody of Isaiah and made referrals to respite care and other resources so Mr. Williams could raise his grandson in a loving and nurturing home.

Mr. Williams was helped as part of KinC.A.N. (Kindship Caregiver Assistance Network), one of the special projects that demonstrates SeniorLAW’s leadership in addressing the needs of the elderly who are raising young relative children, many of whom have been abandoned, neglected or abused by their birth parents. Other special projects under its umbrella of services target the needs of Asian elders, Hispanic elders, older homeowners and consumers, seniors who are victims of abuse, and those who are chronically ill, homebound or in hospice. The development of these specialized areas insure that the staff is trained and available to meet the particular needs of these groups and that SeniorLAW continues to be the expert on these issues and can advocate for change at the policy level as well as provide direct services to the individual.

Because of the access and mobility issues faced by many seniors, SeniorLAW offers its services at various locations around the city. With offices in Center City, the agency partners with community organizations in six neighborhoods – from North Philadelphia to West Philadelphia to Kensington – to offer community-based assistance, serving seniors in their own languages and neighborhoods. Also with this in mind, SeniorLAW staff and volunteer attorneys often make “house calls” to clients in nursing homes or hospitals, or even in the client’s own home if it is appropriate. Its pro bono program is centered around a volunteer attorney panel, in addition to crafting special service projects with firms and corporate partners.

In honor of its 30 years of work with seniors, SeniorLAW is planning a series of special celebratory events, one in each month of the year, including those focused on pro bono service, volunteer recognition, and client celebration. In January, SeniorLAW+volunteer attorneys and staff participated in the Martin Luther King Day of Service legal clinic with the Homeless Advocacy Project and Philadelphia VIP. In February, they held a volunteer celebration at Pepper Hamilton LLP. March showcased a bustling bilingual Latino Elders Health Care Planning pro bono project in partnership with PECO, area law firms, the Hispanic Bar Association, and other community groups at Somerset Villas, a senior housing site.

“We want to have events that celebrate the diversity of the senior population and the contributions seniors make, as well as highlight the needs they have,” said Buck. “People need to start thinking about being a senior as the ‘Third Age’—not old age. For many people, this period is going to constitute almost one-third of their lives. We want to make that time in their lives safe, healthy and independent, by pursuing access to justice for those whose voices, still, are often ignored.”

SeniorLAW Center receives funding from many sources—individual donors, IOLTA, city, state, and federal programs. But the unrestricted funds granted by the Philadelphia Bar Foundation and the Raising the Bar funding from local law firms leveraged by the Foundation are more meaningful because they are tangible indicators of the local legal community’s commitment to the welfare and legal rights of low-income seniors of our city. Make that commitment to SeniorLAW and the more than 30 other public interest organizations fighting for the rights of those less fortunate in our community by supporting the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. Access to justice is the hallmark of our nation. Make it your priority by sending a donation to the Bar Foundation today.

Elaine Rinaldi, a partner at Cozen O’Connor, is president of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.
Commentary used to be a form of journalism reserved for those with considerable experience and insight. They were the veterans who earned the right to express themselves based upon application of a lifetime of experience. Edward R. Murrow was a reporter long before he took on Sen. Joseph McCarthy, and Eric Sevareid followed the news of the world for decades before he raised up eloquent rhetoric to do battle with Spiro Agnew.

In the age of accomplishment, men and women of experience were entrusted with the ideals of non-partisan journalism, to try to marshal facts in a way that would make news events obvious to untutored listeners. No need for snide asides or hip attitudes. The focus of good commentary was information, not show business. News commentators were not hired to express opinions favored in local taprooms, but to express facts found by inquisitive minds. This was not always popular, or commercially lucrative, but public service rendered by commercial networks who placed the public good over popularity. Often, as in the case of Murrow, network rulers became tame and tremulous under pressure. But commentary, as it was then, was allowed to continue because it poked at the popular image of infallible policy, as evidenced by bloated leaders in the Great Democracy. Someone, somewhere, had the idea that faultlessness was not a good trait for America. The last practitioner of this art was Walter Cronkite, whose stentorian delivery gave words an especial import as he said them. No need for flourishes or common denominators when facts are at issue. The plainer the better. That is why calling a spade a spade was so much more jolting when applied by one of the great ones. They did no more than state the facts. They did not act or roll their eyes, or shout. They used facts and words as a device to shed light. In the case of Cronkite the perfect diction and excellent syntax was an entire respectability. Commentators had to know how to speak clearly, without a hint of sing-song.

Into the new world comes morning news and the cable stations, who seem to seek out viewers wearing the latest in tin-foil headwear. Morning television has a degree of spontaneity that only the entertainment industry can afford us. Such stupidity must be spontaneous.

Here sits a man who tells viewers of his special qualities of insight because he was elected to Congress prior to working in television. It may seem that a former inmate appears intimate enough with the happenings at the asylum to explain them to other defectives. I suppose it never dawned on viewers that those who served in Congress are able to understand how the public servants equate stuffing money into the pants of a congressman with freedom of speech. Only on morning cable could viewers equate the ideals of Romulus Augustulus to political insight. Being able to take facts from someone who sounds like he has just come back from the local tavern is blissful to people who like their slogans to rhyme. Talking heads who repeat gossip and unattributed slanders are the core of cable television.

News has become what anyone says, when the anyone has e-mail and can let loose a random word and repeat it faster than Oprah can give away a car. Unchecked verbiage masquerading as news has become so popular that it often invades the major airwaves as if it were an accomplishment, rather than the shabby and irresponsible bloviating that it is. One morning news program calls...
Sunah in the City

Blundering Leaves Her Wondering on Racism

By Sunah Park

I committed quite a gaffe recently. I participated in the Villanova Law School’s Fall Preview Fair — it was my kind of shindig — lots of food, drinks and a good amount of students all anxious and eager to make acquaintances with representatives from all the various law firms in the city. I always have fun speaking with students, which is why my firm regularly sends me to these events. I particularly enjoy the opportunity to tell students that there is no one true path to success (although…good grades can’t hurt).

After having been on my feet for two hours, I was just about to sit down and rest when a South Asian student approached my table. Maybe my eyes were tired, but I thought she looked familiar so I smiled and said it was good to see her again. She smiled back at me but asked me where we had met before. When I told her I had met her at the Women in the Profession/Flex-Time Lawyers seminar, “Successful Interviewing and Beyond” in the fall of 2007, she shook her head with slight embarrassment and said that I must have confused with someone else. Yipee! She was very thoughtful and tried to help me cover up my mistake — she offered that perhaps we had met at the Asian bar’s lunar banquet earlier this year instead. Sheepishly, I had to admit that this is the first year I missed the lunar banquet so we could not have met then. It was no use — there was nothing to do but acknowledge the faux pas and move on. Luckily, she was eager to ask me about law firm life, what she should do for the summer and other questions that distracted from my earlier blunder.

I have frequently been mistaken for other Asian women — in Providence, R.I., while shoe shopping, I was asked if I was Lucy Liu; in East Rutherford, N.J., while at a U2 concert, I was asked if I was Sandra Oh. Huh? No offense, but I look nothing like either one of those two fine actresses. Yes, we all share the dark hair and similar body type, but come on, they must be at least two inches taller than I am. Locally, I was once confused for another past president of the Asian bar who is Chinese-American and once confused with another Korean-American woman lawyer. Each time I was confused for another Asian woman, I bristled and immediately called the person a racist under my breath.

So, after my recent gaffe, I had to ask myself, “Et tu, Brute?” Did confusing one South Asian student with another South Asian student render me a racist as I had deemed all those who had failed to distinguish between me and the other Asian women? Of course not. But framing the issue in that manner made me realize that it had been patently unfair of me to have judged the others so quickly after one mistake — one thoughtless blunder does not a racist make. Perhaps they are, perhaps they are not — I do not know them well enough to make that determination. But one case of mistaken identity does not mean that they are racist. At the very most, they just need to get their eyes checked.

Sunah Park, a partner at Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP, is editor-in-chief of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Bylaw Amendment continued from page 16

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

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

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

Section 403. Election Forums.

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

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

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

Section 404. Final Candidates.

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

Section 405. Voting.

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

(B) The election shall be by (1) secret mailed ballot and (2) paper ballot or voting machine.

In addition, Members may vote electronically over the Internet to the extent permitted by law pursuant to procedures established by the Board to preserve the confidentiality of the Member’s vote and the integrity of the voting process. Voting machines, if available, shall be preferred for in-person voting, unless there is an election at which there is no contest. The position of the nominee on the ballot shall be determined by lot. The drawing of lots shall be conducted by the Judge of Elections not less than 25 days before the Annual Meeting in the presence of the nominees and/or their representatives.

Section 406. Voting.

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

(B) The election shall be by (1) secret mailed ballot and (2) paper ballot or voting machine.

In addition, Members may vote electronically over the Internet to the extent permitted by law pursuant to procedures established by the Board to preserve the confidentiality of the Member’s vote and the integrity of the voting process. Voting machines, if available, shall be preferred for in-person voting, unless there is an election at which there is no contest. The position of the nominee on the ballot shall be determined by lot. The drawing of lots shall be conducted by the Judge of Elections not less than 25 days before the Annual Meeting in the presence of the nominees and/or their representatives.

Section 407. Appointment of Election Officials; Report.

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

Section 408. Voting Qualifications.

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

Mayor Michael Nutter will be the keynote speaker at Community Legal Services’ annual Breakfast of Champions on Tuesday, May 20 at the Doubletree Hotel, 237 S. Broad St. The program begins at 7:30 a.m.

CLS will present its annual awards at the event. Wendell Pritchett, director of the Office of Research, Planning and Policy for the City of Philadelphia and Irv Ackelsberg of Langer, Grogan & Diver PC., will receive the Champion of Justice Award.

The Equal Justice Award will be presented to Ethan Fogel and the Dechert LLP Landlord/Tenant Pro Bono Team; and Priscilla Hamilton Munroe, a paralegal in the Family Advocacy Unit of Community Legal Services.


Created by the Philadelphia Bar Association in 1966, CLS is widely recognized as one of the most sophisticated, respected legal services programs in the nation. It also is one of the largest and most experienced. In the past year alone, CLS has helped more than 17,000 Philadelphians, fighting consumer fraud and predatory lending, preventing homelessness, ensuring fair treatment in the workplace, and protecting women, children and the elderly. Since inception, CLS has served well over a million individuals at what is often the most critical time of their lives.

Community Legal Services houses nine different legal units, each proficient in a different area of law: Community Economic Development, including the Childcare Law Project; Consumer Law; Elderly Law; Employment; Energy; Family Advocacy; Housing; Language Access; and Public Benefits, including the Advocating on Behalf of Children project.

Please contact Anna Perng at (215) 981-3732 or e-mail aperg@clsphila.org to reserve your place for the 2008 Breakfast of Champions.
Mayor Michael Nutter congratulates members of the Overbrook High School Mock Trial team after they won the state championship at an April 9 reception at the offices of Reed Smith LLP. The team will compete in the national tournament in Wilmington, Del. in May. Also on hand to congratulate the team was Chancellor-Elect Sayde J. Ladov (left).

Summit

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Thomas A. Decker, president and CEO, Cozen O’Connor; Patrick Dunican, chair and managing director, Gibbons P.C.; Nina Gussak, chair, Pepper Hamilton LLP; and John J. Soroko, chair and CEO, Duane Morris LLP.

Roberta Liebenberg will moderate the next CLE program that will feature corporate counsel on best practices for retention and promotion of women lawyers. Panelists will include Kamil Ali-Jackson, general counsel, Ception Therapeutics; Teresa Ciccotelli, divisional counsel, Saint Gobain Corp.; Wanda Flowers, chief counsel, Sunoco, Inc.; and Lorraine Koc, general counsel, Deb Shops.

Registration begins at 11 a.m. All attendees are invited to a cocktail reception following the program. For more information or to register, visit pbi.org, or call PBI at (800) 932-4637.

Don’t let tax savings pass you by.

Everyone saves money with TransitChek. Employees get vouchers pre-tax for public transit or vanpooling, and your company gets a tax break. And the new TransitChek Select offers online administration and orders, and mailing of vouchers straight to employees—easier than ever.

Visit GetTransitChek.org or call 1-800-355-5000 to get on board.

700 Runners, Walkers Expected for 5K May 18

More than 700 runners and walkers will make their way along Martin Luther King Drive on Sunday, May 18 at 8:30 a.m. for the Association’s 29th Annual 5K Run/Walk.

The event will include both a 5-kilometer (3.1 miles) run and a 5-kilometer walk, both of which can be entered by individuals. Legal and company teams can enter the team competition in the run. For Association members who sign up as members of the Bar, your finishing time will be recorded in both the open competition and the Bar competition. This will allow you the chance to win a medal in your age group in both competitions.

The event will benefit the Support Center for Child Advocates.

The Association is being joined by FirstTrust; Wawa; Iron Mountain; Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC; The Legal Intelligencer; USI Colburn Insurance Service; Veritext L.L.C.; Special Counsel; and Document Technologies, Inc. as sponsors.

Legal sponsors include the law firms of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P.; Anapol, Schwartz, Weiss, Cohan, Feldman & Smalley, P.C.; Caesar, Rivise, Bernstein, Cohen & Pokotilow, Ltd.; Cozen O’Connor; DLA Piper; Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP; Fox Rothschild LLP; Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin; Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP; Neil A. Morris Associates, P.C.; Pepper Hamilton LLP; Ratner Prestia; Raynes McCarty; Sandals & Associates, P.C.; Schander Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP; Semanoff Ormsby Greenberg & Torchia, LLC; WolfBlock; Woodcock Washburn LLP and Zarwin, Baum, DeVito, Kaplan, Scher & Toddy, PC.

In addition to the legal sponsors, the law firms of Bennett, Bricklin & Saulsbury; Faster/Greenberg PC; and Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP have contributed to the 5K Run/Walk as legal supporters.

To register for the 2008 5K Run/Walk, visit active.com and search for Philadelphia Bar Association.
Juvenile Law Center Recognized with $500,000 MacArthur Grant

By Shayla Alexander

For many years, Philadelphia’s Juvenile Law Center has worked at the forefront of the movement for change. Its efforts to address the welfare and needs of vulnerable children has for several years been recognized nationally. On April 10, this recognition expanded internationally when the JLC received the prestigious international John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Award for Creative and Effective Institutions.

“We are thrilled and incredibly honored to receive this recognition from the MacArthur Foundation. We view this as a great opportunity to expand the reach of our work on behalf of our most vulnerable children, to better serve both the children here in our local community and across the country,” said Marsha Levick, Legal Director of the JLC. Along with this honor came a $500,000 grant.

“This award will allow us to strengthen our national policy work, create a more effective strategic communications plan and extend the reach of our work to protect children now and into the future,” said Robert Schwartz, executive director and co-founder of the Juvenile Law Center.

One of the nation’s oldest and most respected public interest law firms, the JLC has become an excellent model for child advocacy groups across the nation. The JLC ensures that public systems, meant to help vulnerable children and youth, do just that. They use the law to make sure these systems provide children and youth with the education, housing, physical and behavioral healthcare and employment opportunities that they need to become productive adults. Their highly creative, effective and fair solutions have national child and legal advocacy groups actively seeking the JLC’s expertise.

On June 12, an award ceremony will be held at the MacArthur Foundation headquarters in Chicago to honor the JLC and the seven other Award recipients. This year there were approximately 1,000 organizations eligible for the MacArthur Foundation Award. Nominations for the Award are never sought, rather organizations must qualify by being a non-profit organization that exemplifies highly creative and effective solutions to challenging problems in their field.

Marsha Levick, legal director and co-founder of the Juvenile Law Center, and Robert Schwartz, executive director and co-founder of the Juvenile Law Center, have been working together for more than 30 years. The JLC received the prestigious International John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Award for Creative and Effective Institutions. A. Michael Pratt, a partner at Pepper Hamilton LLP, is Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. His e-mail address is chancellor@philabar.org.
regulations would expand the definition of lobbying to include merely monitoring legislative action or administrative action, without any requirement that there be some effort to influence that legislative action or administrative action.

"Thus, a banking lawyer who follows proposed changes in Banking Department regulations on behalf of a client would have to register as a lobbyist. In addition, the lawyer's client would be required to register as a 'principal' and would be required to report amounts paid to the lawyer to monitor the regulation changes."

Beaser said the legislation would put a strain on public interest groups that monitor legislation to help the people they represent. "Each affected nonprofit will have to take significant amounts of money away from their mission to comply with these regulations," he said.

"This is something the Bar Association is doing to protect members from the overreach of government. We expressed orally at the hearing, and in our 18 pages of written comments, our very serious concerns with the proposed regulations. Our testimony was well received at the public hearing by the members of the Committee," said Beaser, who served as Chancellor in 1994.

"I'm cautiously optimistic that the regulations committee will respond in a positive manner," he said.

"This is one of the things that we do for members. We can have an impact and we can make a difference to the lawyers in Philadelphia," he said.

Crisci told members of the Legislative Liaison Committee April 10 that it would be several more months before the Lobbyist Disclosure Regulations Committee took any action.
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Thursday, May 1**
Health Care Law Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.50.

Civil Rights Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

**Friday, May 2**
LGBT Rights Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 11th floor Committee Room.

**Lawyer for a Day:** 8:30 a.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

**Monday, May 5**
Family Law Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Bankruptcy Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.50.

**Tuesday, May 6**
Law Practice Management Division: meeting, 8 a.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

Delivery of Legal Services Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Committee on the Legal Rights of Persons with Disabilities: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Philadelphia Bar Foundation Board of Trustees: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

**Wednesday, May 7**
Rules and Procedure Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

Intellectual Property Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $7.50.

**Thursday, May 8**
Legislative Liaison Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

**Friday, May 9**
The Philadelphia Lawyer magazine Editorial Board: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

**Monday, May 12**
Business Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Young Lawyers Division Cabinet: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Cabinet Room.

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

**Tuesday, May 13**
Professional Responsibility Committee: meeting, 8 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.

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

Solo and Small Firm Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

**Wednesday, May 14**
Appellate Courts Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

**Thursday, May 15**
Law Practice Management Division Technology Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Family Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $7.50.

City Policy Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

Friday, May 16
Social Security Disability Benefits Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

**Monday, May 19**
Public Interest Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

**Tuesday, May 20**
Section Chairs: meeting, 10th floor Board Room, 8:30 a.m.

Cabaret: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Compulsory Arbitration Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Committee on the Legal Rights of Children: meeting, 3:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

**Wednesday, May 21**
Federal Courts Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

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

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., 19107-2951. 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) 258-1159. E-mail: reporter@philabar.org.

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**Arts & Media**

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itself by a nickname of coffee, let us say “Morning Joe.” Larry and Curly are safely ensconced beside the moderator. This program boasts not only a former member of Congress, but the impressive name of the child of a failed national security advisor and a reporter who provides facts we did not want or need to know. This would be funny were it not for the fact that the news itself is generally comprised of information that is sometimes unattributed, repeated error or the ranting of idiots – some of whom are still serving in Congress.

Other morning programs are of the “call-in” variety. This is a more admirable form of entertainment because the masters of ceremonies are required to keep a straight face when the morons call them. It’s magic when the elderly call in to complain that an Obama supporter is walking on their lawn, or the turkey farmer who thinks Monica and Hillary have conspired to sap our precious bodily fluids. Watching the moderator keep a stiff upper lip is like watching an Olympian weightlifter press a ton.

By far the most disordered member of the loudmouth majority is the broadcast who shouts at the top of his lungs, either due to unfinned upbrining or deafness. Here is someone who can impress the body of listeners by simple lung power. One wretched female, a blonde, shines a beacon on her conservative ideology by never letting anyone say anything in response to her. She is an author of considerable repute, her books appearing regularly. The fact of her continued fame supports the notion that political hacks of any stripe can endure if they only shout loud. The laughing head on *The New York Times Magazine* cover, who also boasts a connection with congressmen, can muster considerable vocal array to overpower any and all. This, in the age of digital sound, is what Americans understand.

All of this became noticeable during the election of 2000, when the giants of the free world sound, is what Americans understand.

Marc W. Ruben, an advisory editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter, has been writing about the arts and media since 1973.
People

Danielle Banks, a partner with Bradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, served as a panelist for the Pennsylvania Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession’s Philadelphia Mid-Year Event.

Michael F. Barrett, managing shareholder of Saltz, Mongeluzzi, Barrett & Bendesky, PC, has been inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

David J. Wolfsohn, a partner with Woodcock Washburn LLP, will be a panelist at the American Bar Association’s 10th Annual Section of Dispute Resolution Spring Conference on April 5 in Seattle.

D. Alexander Barnes, a partner with Obermayer Rehmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP, was recently appointed to the Upper Main Line YMCA Branch Board of Directors.

H. Ronald Klasko, the founding partner of Klasko, Rulon, Stock & Seltzer LLP, recently addressed immigration lawyers from Florida on the advantages of using the EB-5 Regional Center Investment Program to assist their foreign clients wishing to invest in the United States and get a visa. His speech was part of a program organized by the Philadelphia Regional Center. He also addressed attendees at the Annual Washington Regional Center. He also addressed attendees at the Annual Washington

Sharon N. Humble, managing partner of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, was honored by Philadelphia City Councilwoman-at-Large Blondell Reynolds Brown as a 2008 award recipient during the 10th Anniversary Women Making A Difference Celebration on March 28.

Marc S. Raspanti, Michael A. Morse and Kevin E. Raphael, partners with Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Boisick & Raspanti, LLP, spoke at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s 14th Annual Health Law Institute on March 11.

Michael D. Homans, a shareholder with Flaster/Greenberg, spoke on the challenges employers face with regard to religious expression in the workplace at the American Bar Association’s Section of Labor and Employment Law Employment Rights and Responsibilities Committee Midwinter Meeting on April 2 in Dana Point, Calif.

Albert Momjian, a partner with Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP, has been elected to serve as Vice President of the Philadelphia Consular Corps Association. Momjian has served as the Honorary Consul for the Philadelphia region for the Consulate of Haiti since 1978.

Dana Point, Calif.

Gina F. Rubel, president and CEO of Furia Rubel Communications, Inc., has been named one of the 2008 Best 50 Women in Business Award by Gov.

Edward G. Rendell.

Vincent Capone, a partner with Reed Smith, LLP, discussed Hong Kong’s legal system at a seminar sponsored by the World Trade Center of Greater Philadelphia “Hong Kong: A Fulcrum for Business Success in Asia” on March 25 in Mount Laurel, N.J.

Wendy Beetlestone, a shareholder at Hangley Aronchick Segal & Pudlin, co-presented “Marketing, Business Development and the Rest of Your Life as a Lawyer” on March 17 at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.


Robert Shultman, an associate with Cozen O’Connor, has been appointed to the board of directors of Jeanne Ruddy Dance in Center City.

Robert C. Clothier, a partner with Fox Rothschild LLP, was a speaker at the seminar “What You Need to Know About Public Records and Open Meetings in Pennsylvania” on April 17.

Catherine M. McFadden, a partner with Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP has become a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.


Steven Roy Goodman had his first book published, College Admissions Together: Is Taken a Family (Capital Books, 2007) helps parents navigate strategic and psychological aspects of the college search.

Michael S. Harrington, a partner with Fox Rothschild LLP, spoke at the Emerging Technologies for the Enterprise Conference on March 26-27 at Drexel University.

Christopher Scott D’Angelo, a partner with Montgomery, McCraken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP, was a speaker at the Claims Administrators Conference in San Francisco on Feb. 21-22.

Elizabeth K. Ainslie, a partner with Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP, was a speaker at the 10th Annual Sedona Conference on Complex Litigation: Health Law and Medical Products Litigation – Common Ground on April 17-18 in Sedona, Ariz.

Sunah Park, a partner with Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP and editor-in-chief of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter, has been selected as one of the 2008 “40 Under 40” by the Philadelphia Business Journal and will be recognized at the 40 Under 40 awards celebration dinner on May 22.

Stephen A. Madva, a partner and chair of Montgomery, McCraken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP, will receive the 2008 Police Athletic League Award on May 12.

Megan J. Duruya, an associate with Fox Rothschild LLP, was a presenter at the National Business Institute’s “LLC Trends and Developments” conference on Feb. 21.

Paul A. Czech of The Law Offices of Paul A. Czech, PC has been sworn in as a member of the Board of Directors for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Rensselaer County, N.Y.

Marc P. Weingarten, a partner in the Lodks Law Firm, made a presentation at the Advanced Asbestos Litigation Conference sponsored by the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers in London on Feb. 21.

Lee Applebaum and Michael S. Saltzman, partners at Fineman, Kedersha & Harris, were panelists at a National Business Institute insurance coverage seminar on Feb. 18 where they specifically addressed insurance bad-faith litigation.

Lynda L. Calderone, a shareholder with Flaster/Greenberg, made a presentation at the 24th annual Joint Patent Practice Continuing Legal Education seminar on April 30 in New York City.

“People” highlights news of members’ awards, honors or appointments of a community or civic nature. Information may be sent to Jeff Lypos, Senior Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th fl., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-2955. Fax: (215) 238-1159. E-mail: reporter@philabar.org. Color photos are also welcome.

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