Federal Bench-Bar Conference Set for June

Attorneys and judges who practice in the local and federal courts can mingle, learn and earn CLE credits at the 2002 Federal Bench-Bar Conference scheduled for Friday, June 14 at Ashbourne Country Club in Cheltenham, Pa.

The event is cosponsored by the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Federal Courts Committee and the Pennsylvania Bar Institute (PBI).

“This year’s Federal Bench-Bar Conference is expected to be the best ever. With the guidance of Chief Judge James T. Giles, the Court’s liaison to the Bench-Bar Conference, Judge Robert F. Kelly, and Clerk of Court Michael Kunz, we have planned an extraordinary program,” said Federal Courts Committee chair Howard Scher.

“We will address such hot topics as electronic case filings, technology courtrooms, security issues and mediation. We expect a large turnout from the court and bar, perhaps the largest ever,” he said.

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Board’s Midyear Retreat to Focus on Future

A special Midyear Retreat to examine the accomplishments of the past six months and look ahead to the future will be held by the Board of Governors on Friday, June 7.

Guest speakers for “Century 3: Reinventing Our Future” include Judith M. von Seldeneck, chair of the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce; Philadelphia City Councilman Michael Nutter; and Paul R. Levy, executive director of the Center City District.

“The idea for this Midyear Retreat grew out of our Annual Retreat in January,” said Board Chair Jeffrey M. Lindy. He said there was a discussion about the city’s changing demographics and what attorneys can do to make a difference.

As a profession, lawyers can do a lot to help the city. No other profession pays as much in taxes as we do. No other industry in the city is as supportive of judicial and legislative elections,” he said.

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June Quarterly Meeting

Former Detroit Mayor Archer to Deliver Higginbotham Lecture

Dennis W. Archer served two terms as mayor of Detroit and was also a justice on the Michigan Supreme Court. He is in line to become ABA president-elect.

by Jeff Lyons

Dennis W. Archer – former mayor of Detroit, former Michigan Supreme Court justice and almost certain to be voted president-elect of the American Bar Association – will deliver the Judge A. Leon Higginbotham Jr. Public Interest Lecture at the June Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon on Tuesday, June 18.

The luncheon will be held at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Belleview, Broad and Walnut streets, beginning at noon.

“We’re delighted to be able to welcome Dennis Archer to Philadelphia during our bicentennial year because Dennis Archer himself is making history,” said Chancellor Allan H. Gordon.

“He’s a trailblazer and an inspiring model for everyone.”

Since he is the only nominee, Archer is all but certain to be voted president-elect of the ABA. After a year as president-elect, he would become president in August 2003. He would become the first African-American president of the 123-year-old organization.

He has earned national and international respect for his success in changing Detroit’s image and direction. He served two terms as mayor, from 1993 to 2001. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in education from Western Michigan University in 1965 and from 1965 to 1970 taught mathematics.

continued on page 3
Wage Tax First Target in City Tax Fight

by Allan H. Gordon

People keep asking me: "Why the wage tax?"

They want to know why the Bar Association decided to make the wage tax reduction a priority this year. The answers would seem to be obvious. The wage tax affects everyone. It impacts every Philadelphia lawyer and every employee in the city – every law firm staff member and all of the people who work in Philadelphia and serve our law firms or law-related agencies in any capacity.

The wage tax really is, in the words of NAACP President Jerry Mondesire, "an equal opportunity destroyer." It takes from people who live in the city and people who commute into the city. Obviously, it takes a particular toll on middle income families, of families, of organizations and institutions and individuals. It drains living and working in the suburbs.

The wage tax dramatically exemplifies a whole tax structure that is out of line. It's a fact: Philadelphians are among the most heavily taxed people in the nation. Middle income families pay more in state and local taxes than they would in any other U.S. city except Bridgeport, Conn. We know our city has problems, and we know that programs and services need to be adequately funded. But other cities have been able to sustain funding without imposing such a tax burden on their citizens and businesses and so should we.

Do we favor cuts in the business privilege and not profits taxes for law firms? Of course we do. Law firms and personal service firms organized as partnerships of limited liability need to be put on an equal footing with businesses organized as corporations. That recommendation was included in our resolution on the wage tax cut and it was clearly communicated to City Council.

But we decided that the wage tax would be the logical starting point for our tax initiative. It was the clear first step if we were to begin to make some inroads on the whole tax issue. It helped of course that the Chamber of Commerce felt the same way. When the Chamber's president, Charlie Pizzi, called me and asked the Bar Association to join with others to consider how we might get planned wage tax reductions back on track, I really could not say no. It was clear to me that the Chamber had struck a nerve and that we might be on the verge of constructing anhistoric coalition – one that spanned economic, neighborhood, racial and ethnic boundaries. Philadelphia really hadn't seen anything like this in quite some time, and the potential positive benefits of such a campaign were immediately evident.

In the end, City Council voted unanimously in favor of the wage tax cuts, and the Mayor agreed that he would not veto the bill, which keeps the annual cuts on track. And all of this happened, in part, because of the fine work of our Tax Section, our Board and Chambers of Commerce felt the same way. When the Mayor agreed that he would not veto the bill, which keeps the annual cuts on track. And all of this happened, in part, because of the fine work of our Tax Section, our Board and Chambers of Commerce felt the same way. When the Mayor agreed that he would not veto the bill, which keeps the annual cuts on track. And all of
by Jeff Lyons

The Board of Governors approved four resolutions at its April 25 meeting, including one in favor of moving the Workers’ Compensation hearing rooms from the State Office Building to a central location in Center City. “This resolution would improve conditions for judges, lawyers and clients alike,” said Patrice A. Toland, the Workers’ Compensation Section representative to the Board.

The conditions at the State Office Building at Broad and Spring Garden streets have been a sore spot for attorneys for years. Attorneys and clients are often forced to share elevators that are being used to transport parolees to hearings.

There have also been complaints about inadequate security, including the delay in installation of a metal detector to screen for weapons because there is no place to put the detector. Judges have no safe exit if witnesses or litigants become unruly, and must enter their courtrooms through the same doors as litigants and witnesses, passing through a room crowded with litigants and witnesses to get to the bench.

Ventilation problems also make the building extremely uncomfortable in warm weather.

Joseph A. Prim, co-chair of the Sole & Small Firm Management Committee, told the Board three Center City sites were being examined as possible sites for Workers’ Compensation hearing rooms. They include Strawbridge’s at 803 Market St., The Wanamaker Building on Juniper Street between Market and Chestnut, and the Widener Building.

The resolution, which was unanimously approved, authorizes Chancellor Allan H. Gordon to inform the Secretary of Labor and Industry, the governor and other officials of the importance of moving the hearing rooms.

Continued on page 18
The director of the Chicago Bar Foundation demonstrated ways his organization has maximized technology to make it easier for people who are interested in taking on a pro bono case to find one that matches their strengths and availability. The presentation was made at the April 10 meeting of the Public Interest Section, the first full meeting of the Section in its history.

Bob Graves, director of the Chicago Bar Foundation, demonstrated the Web site’s organization uses to improve upon matching pro bono attorneys with people in need of free legal representation. The Web site, www.illinois-probono.org, allows attorneys to choose a county, time of day and practice area. The attorney is then provided a list of pro bono opportunities that meet the criteria given. The Web site is designed to reduce the amount of administrative time agencies use in finding a pro bono attorney, while also increasing the number of attorneys handling pro bono cases because of the convenience and resources the Web site provides. “As Philadelphia reviews its pro bono practices, a Web site that simplifies the process of matching an attorney with a potential client and has the capacity to coordinate local pro bono efforts is certainly worth seriously looking into,” said Sharon Browning, executive director of Philadelphia VIP.

More than 70 people, from both the public and private bar, attended the meeting. The meeting gave Section members and others an opportunity to hear about the many activities in which the Section is involved. It was also a time to emphasize the importance of private and public bar collaborations in addressing the legal needs and rights of those who often lack an advocate to speak on their behalf.

As the Public Interest Section enters its 11th year, it invites attorneys to join and participate on one of the committees or volunteer for one of the many public interest/legal services organizations in Philadelphia.

“It is through its committees - Civil Rights, Delivery of Legal Services, Law Firm Pro Bono, Legal Rights of Children, Legal Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Problems of the Homeless and Women’s Rights - that the Section provides endless opportunities for collaborations between public interest and private sector members on areas of shared concern,” said Tsiwen Law, chair.

For more information
• Conference registration may be obtained by calling PBI at (800) 247-4724 or (800) 932-4637 or by visiting PBI online at www.pbi.org. Pre-registration is encouraged.
• Arrangements for golf following the conference, at an additional charge, may be made by contacting Philadelphia Bar Association Meeting Manager Stephanie Kozwanski at (215) 238-6360 or by e-mail at skozwanski@philabar.org.
• Tuition is $135 for members of the U.S. District Court; $115 for members of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court; $100 for members of the federal courts; $95 for members of the Pennsylvania, Philadelphia or any other county bar association or any cosponsoring organization; $155 for nonmembers.
• Conference participants will also learn about the many activities in which the Section is involved. It was also a time to emphasize the importance of private and public bar collaborations in addressing the legal needs and rights of those who often lack an advocate to speak on their behalf.
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Bar Foundation Restructures

by Gerald A. McHugh Jr.

The Philadelphia Bar Foundation has been one of the great successes of our Association, growing from a modest extracurricular program into a crucial source of support for the legal services and public interest communities.

In some locales, bar foundations exist only to meet the capital needs of the Association itself. Such has never been the case in Philadelphia, where the Foundation has always focused upon supporting access to justice. The history of strong leadership by Chancellors and past presidents, supported by Executive Director Ken Shear, has made our Foundation a meaningful presence.

The range of activities supported by the Foundation is limitless, from protecting children through grantees such as the Juvenile Law Center and the Support Center for Child Advocates, to assisting the elderly through judiciary. Virtually every public interest and legal services program in the Delaware Valley receives some measure of support. Annual grants to Philadelphia-area programs now average approximately $350,000.

Foundation Golf Classic June 24

The Philadelphia Bar Foundation returns to Saucon Valley Country Club in Bethlehem on June 24 for its 14th Annual Golf Classic.

There is no increase in the cost of participation this year. Members of the Bar Association can play for $450. Non-members are invited to play for $550. The price includes all greens fees, golf cart, lunch, refreshments and a cocktail reception following the event.

The Colburn Cup will be presented to the player with the lowest USGA course-adjusted net score. The Kursh Cup is awarded for lowest individual gross score. The Lewis Neeves Cup is awarded for low team gross score.

Saucon Valley adheres to a strict dress code with no exceptions. Men are required to wear long pants (no jeans) and women who choose to wear shorts must wear Bermuda-length shorts. In addition, metal spikes are not permitted.

This year’s Golf Classic will feature a silent auction and raffle with many exciting prizes donated by prominent area retailers and restaurants. Raffle tickets are available for $30 each or six for $50. They may be purchased in advance or on the day of the tournament.

The Bar Foundation’s annual Golf Classic is an important source of support for the annual grants program. Last year, the Golf Classic raised nearly $350,000.

Checks should be made payable to the Philadelphia Bar Association, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Contributions over $305 are deductible as allowed by law. Proceeds from the Golf Classic will benefit the delivery of legal services to victims of poverty, abuse and discrimination.

I am unable to participate in the Golf Classic but wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation in the amount of $______.

Please return registration form and fee to: Philadelphia Bar Foundation, Golf Classic, Attention: Melissa Engler, 1101 Market St., 10th Floor, Philadelphia, Pa., 19107-2911

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.
International Criminal Court Plan Approved

by Enid H. Adler

On April 12, the United Nations was setting the stage for the most historic event for worldwide rule of law, rights of victims and humankind since the 1945 founding of the United Nations and the war crimes trials at Nuremberg.

The 60th ratification of the Rome Statute was deposited with the United Nations, paving the way for the creation of the world’s first permanent war crimes court later this year.

The court’s jurisdiction: to bring to justice perpetrators of the most heinous crimes – crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide – whose sole purpose is to target civilians. This historic event heralds the realization of a dream more than 50 years in the making.

A total of 10 countries deposited their instruments of ratification. All were counted as the magic “60,” with the actual total at 66. The first conference of the States Parties will be held in September, and the court itself, to be based in The Hague, Netherlands, is expected to be established in 2003.

The International Criminal Court will negate the need for ad hoc courts such as those for Yugoslavia and Rwanda. This will enable those accused of these crimes to be investigated and brought to justice in a timely manner. As a permanent judicial body, it is hoped that it will act as a deterrent. It will be more cost effective than constantly setting up new ad hoc courts. It seems clear that, in many cases, countries might be more willing to turn over suspected criminals to an international tribunal rather than to the U.S. or other countries.

Another major difference between the ad hoc courts and the ICC is that while the United Nations created the ad hoc courts, the ICC will be an independent, international judicial body.

The solemn ceremony was followed by a standing ovation by the treaty delegates and the 1000 civil society organizations. This was reminiscent of July 21, 1945 in Rome when the Treaty was passed by a vote of 120 to 7. The Philadelphia Bar Association passed a resolution in April 1998 in favor of an ICC. It was one of only three city bars in the U.S. to do so. The ICC is designed to be a fair, independent judicial body that respects the highest standards of justice. The Rome Statute contains extensive due process guarantees, equivalent in protection to those contained in our Bill of Rights.

BAR FOUNDATION
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Significantly, unlike most Foundation grants, funding through the Bar Foundation is generally not restricted, providing critical support for the general operating needs of the agencies we serve. The Foundation endowment, fueled principally by the Hamilton Circle, is growing slowly. Although it is not yet sizeable enough to provide an independent stream of income, it is well on its way to reaching critical mass. Furthermore, support from the Bar Foundation is a valuable endorsement for our grantees, as they seek contributions from other donors and foundations. At the same time, it provides a network through which the many legal services, public interests, and pro bono providers in Philadelphia can coordinate their work.

Now that the Foundation has matured, it is time for it to do still more: more in communicating the needs of the poor and disenfranchised; more by way of technical support for our grantees; and more by way of fund raising, to insure that we build a capital base for ongoing support of legal services. It is time to re-evaluate the methods by which we raise money, particularly whether spending time and resources on special events is the most efficient way to generate support for our grantees. It is time to reaffirm our commitment to the Hamilton Circle, where a gap between pledges and donations threatens to undercut growth of our endowment. It is also time to inspire the Philadelphia legal community to recognize that the Foundation plays a critical role in protecting equal access to justice.

To set a course for growth in the third century of the Bar Association, the Foundation is being restructured in significant ways. First, the director of the Foundation will be given expanded responsibilities. For too many years, we have unfairly leaned on Ken Shear, and asked him to do the Herculean task of running two organizations. While the executive director of the Bar Association will always be a member of the Foundation Board, and its executive committee, going forward he or she will not be saddled with ultimate responsibility for both. The Foundation Board will be reduced in size, from 46 to 24 members, which will greatly increase administrative efficiency and Board accountability. It will also become responsible for identifying and developing its own future leadership.

To that end, the presidency of the Foundation will become a two-year term, to eliminate the inefficiency caused by annual changes in leadership. Finally, a new advisory/liaison Board will be created to reach out to the legal community.

At the end of two centuries, the Bar Foundation gives us much to be proud of as Philadelphia lawyers. Our challenge as we enter Century 3 is to bring a new level of energy and commitment to its work.

Gerald A. McHugh Jr., a partner at Ulrich, Blumberg, Matusow & Young, is president of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

Bar, City Leaders Attend HAP Benefit

Chancellor-Elect Audrey C. Talley is joined by City Councilman Frank Rizzo Jr. (center) and Chancellor Allan H. Gordon at the Homeless Advocacy Project’s Annual April Benefit on April 25 at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue. The event was presented by PECO Energy along with First Union, The Verizon Foundation and Philadelphia Suburban Water. HAP was founded in 1990 through the efforts of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Problems of the Homeless Committee, homeless advocates and other concerned citizens in the community. Proceeds from the event will allow HAP to continue to provide crucial services to many of the thousands of people who will become homeless this year.
Outside Skills Can Improve Practice

by Maria A. Joseph

One of the brightest lawyers I know, who is also a whiz in mathematics and science, recently admitted to me that the only reason he became a lawyer, as opposed to a doctor, was because of his fear of blood.

While he may have chosen this path, his logical mind enables him to break down a legal argument the way a surgeon operates on a patient. Another friend of mine, Jennifer Platzer, is a labor lawyer who moonlights as a singer and an actress. She says she keeps her day job because of the financial stability and security that it provides. As a lawyer, she will always have a case at her firm to handle, whereas an actress has to wait for the next phone call in between gigs.

And recently I spoke at the Temple Law School Evening Division Brunch where I was surrounded by lawyers and future lawyers whose original careers ran the gamut from medical librarian to accountant.

So whether you chose the legal profession at the outset or by default, there is not one stereotypical lawyer in our community. Rather, our profession is made up of individuals of varied educational and professional backgrounds.

As diverse as our backgrounds may be, one thing is for certain: The best lawyers utilize the skills and traits they acquired over their lifetime in order to achieve success. For example, Jennifer effectively uses her acting skills to negotiate the best possible deals for her clients in labor disputes. And another well-respected attorney, Shelli Fedullo, uses the skills she acquired as a teacher to educate a jury on the nuances of the law by taking difficult concepts and breaking them down into easy principles that a layperson can understand.

Personally, I have found that my undergraduate work and practical experience in psychology has been a major advantage in counseling my clients and analyzing the veracity of my opponents during the negotiating process. Even those “die-hard” lawyers who have known since birth that they wanted to practice law can enhance their practice by using skills developed in their emotional relationships. The compassion and vulnerability they feel for their children or significant others can help them better understand the needs of their clients. While law school may teach us to think more logically and hone our skills in contract law and evidence, the top law students in the class will not necessarily be the most successful lawyers because there are so many other important traits required to achieve success.

The law is a service industry, so being knowledgeable in your area of practice is crucial. But you must also learn to be a good salesperson, psychologist, mediator and marketing guru to enhance your career. The best way to accomplish these goals is to continue to learn and grow by pursuing interests outside the law. So rather than looking at the entrance to the bar as an end-point, I recommend that you continue educating yourself and applying your life experiences to your practice. This will distinguish you from others in the profession and ultimately make for a more satisfying life.

For more information, contact Stephanie Krzywanski at (215) 238-6360.

Pamela J. Holland, co-author of “Help! Was That a Career Limiting Move?” stresses a point during a Young Lawyers Division Law, Life and Lunch seminar on April 2. She discussed ways to prevent foot-in-mouth syndrome and to stop embarrassing career setbacks. She also offered tips on navigating your way to the top of the corporate ladder.

YLD Hamilton Circle Members

Together with the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation has created the Young Lawyers Division of the Andrew Hamilton Circle.

Each member of the YLD-AHC will contribute $300 to the Michael K. Smith Fund of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. Proceeds from the Fund are used to benefit the delivery of legal services to the disadvantaged in Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia Bar Foundation salutes these young leaders in the legal community for their commitment to helping others.


YLD/USI Colburn Golf Outing July 22 at Phila. Cricket Club

The Young Lawyers Division and USI Colburn Insurance Service will hold their annual golf outing on Monday, July 22 at the Philadelphia Cricket Club’s Four-town Course.

The tournament is open to all Philadelphia young lawyers, friends and paralegals. Proceeds from sponsorship of the tournament will benefit the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, the charitable arm of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

The tournament begins at 1 p.m. with a shotgun start. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., when a barbecue lunch will be served and the driving range will be opened. The event concludes with a buffet and awards ceremony.

A one-hour golf clinic with a Cricket Club professional will be held from 4 to 5 p.m. for those who are new golfers or who can’t fit the tournament into their schedules.

Instruction will be geared toward the beginning and intermediate golfer. The cost is $200 per person for the golf tournament, which includes greens fees, cart, all meal functions and prizes.

Caddies are available for $40 per bag, but there are a limited number of caddies available.

The golf clinic is a $60 per person, which includes admission to the evening event. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, contact Stephanie Krzywanski at (215) 238-6360.
The Business Law Section’s Cyber-space & E-Commerce Committee proudly hosted two distinguished Italian lawyers at its committee meeting on April 3. Massimo Sterpi and Marzia Francisci from the law firm of Studio Legale Jacobacci & Associati in Turin and Milan, Italy, addressed the committee on the topic of e-commerce in Europe. Each year since their firm was founded in 1996, it has been named “Best Italian Law Firm in Intellectual Property” by Managing Intellectual Property magazine based on a survey of 3,000 companies and law firms throughout the world.

Last fall John B. Wright II, chair of the Business Law Section, met Sterpi and Francisci while chairing a conference on e-commerce in Salzburg, Austria. When Wright learned they were attending a conference in New York and planned to be in Philadelphia for the day, he suggested they join the Cyberspace & E-Commerce Committee. Committee members were excited at the unique opportunity presented by the unexpected visit.

European Union Law on e-commerce was the central theme during the April 3 committee meeting. Sterpi opened the discussion by commenting on the significant growth of e-commerce in Europe and the effects of European law on e-commerce. The presentation continued with a detailed discussion of the numerous EU directives covering contracts, personal data, privacy protection, telecommunications, electronic signature and related legal aspects of e-commerce.

Sterpi and Francisci warned that the EU directives provide strong protection in the areas of data and privacy protection for consumers in member states. In order to bridge these different privacy approaches and provide a streamlined means for U.S. businesses to comply with the directive, the U.S. Department of Commerce, in consultation with the European Commission, developed a “safe harbor” framework. The safe harbor is an important way for U.S. companies to avoid experiencing interruptions in their business dealings with the EU or facing prosecution by European authorities under European privacy laws.

The next meeting of the Cyberspace & E-Commerce Committee is scheduled for May 7 and will include a presentation on Enterprise Resource Planning. All members of the Bar are invited to attend the meeting or participate in committee activities. The Committee meets monthly and provides a forum for lawyers to discuss the vast array of legal issues raised by the rapid expansion of the Internet and private computer networks. For more information about the Cyberspace & E-Commerce Committee, contact committee chair Sandra A. Jeskie at (215) 979-1395 or by e-mail at jeskie@duanemorris.com.

Sandra A. Jeskie is an associate at Duane Morris LLP.
Cover All Bases in Post-Layoff Job Search

by James LaRosa and Gary Mintz

Although there are indications that our economy is starting to break out of the recent recession, many law firms are still feeling the recession’s after-shocks. As a result, we are still seeing and reading about layoffs throughout the Philadelphia legal community.

Although searching for a new job is always a difficult and time-consuming task, it becomes significantly more difficult and urgent after a layoff.

After a layoff, your first instinct might be to immediately jump into your job search. While you should always keep your eyes open for potential opportunities, it can be beneficial to take a little time to reflect upon what has just happened. Being fired or laid-off is a traumatic event. By taking some time to reflect on your recent job displacement and on your career goals, you will be better prepared mentally to tackle the difficult task ahead.

While not everyone has the financial luxury to be very selective regarding their search, you should try to stay true to your long-term career goals. Obviously, if you take the first position that will provide you with a paycheck, but is not consistent with your career goals, you may be searching again sooner than you would like.

Once you have emotionally recuperated from your layoff, you should be prepared to aggressively pursue available avenues that can lead to a new and hopefully better opportunity. The first thing you should do is develop a good search strategy. Determine who, what, where, when and how you are going to find your new position. You should look at your job search as a job. As you would in any job, make sure you are at work at the same time every day, prepared to work and accomplish the day’s assignments. As with any job, there will be some tasks you will perform daily, some weekly, and others that will depend upon the specific situation involved. The important thing is to remain focused and disciplined.

On day one of your job search it is a good idea to get your references in order. There is no better reference than your previous employer. You should talk with your previous employer and try to find out what they will say on your behalf. Make certain that your reasons for leaving the job are the same as your employer’s. You do not want to tell a prospective employer you left for economic reasons only to have your former employer say it was performance based. If you cannot rely upon your previous employer to provide you with a good reference, you should try to find other individuals that can adequately discuss your professional capabilities. But be aware: There is nothing keeping a potential employer from picking up the phone and calling your former boss, even if they are not on your reference list.

Another important day one priority is to make certain that your resume and cover letter are up-to-date. Your cover letter and resume are most often the first two impressions a prospective employer will have of you. Your resume and cover letter should be perfect. You may want to consult a professional, purchase one of the numerous books on resume and cover-letter drafting, or review one of the numerous Web sites on the topic.

Also, if you have practiced in various practice areas, it is a good idea to have more than one resume on hand, depending upon the type of position you are applying for. Your resume should be in a format that can be easily e-mailed. Not only is e-mail the easiest way to send your resume, it is also the preferred method of many law firms and companies for receiving them.

Next, you want to make certain that anybody who is a potential networking contact is aware of the change in your employment status. Although it may be difficult to tell people you are out of work, you never know which of your colleagues, friends or your friends’ friends know of a potential opportunity. The more people that know you are in the job market the better.

Networking should be something you do on a regular basis. If you told somebody in week one of your situation and you have not heard from them in several weeks, it can’t hurt to give them a call and see whether they have heard of any new opportunities. You should be somewhat persistent without being overly intrusive. Another key element in your job search is keeping track of where your resume has been sent and following up on all of them. Again, you do not want to be overly intrusive, but at a minimum you want to make certain that your resume was received and has been forwarded to the proper person. You may also want to consider using a legal recruiter to assist you with your job search. There are a large number of legal recruitment companies to choose from in Philadelphia. It would probably be beneficial to meet with a few different legal recruiters to see what they have available. You do not want to spread yourself too thin, however. You want to be able to keep track of where your resume is going.

Although you are out of work, you need to keep up with what is happening in the legal community. Try to read legal periodicals such as The Legal Intelligencer and The National Law Journal on a regular basis. You can find many prominent legal periodicals online. Reading these periodicals on a daily basis may also alert you to potential opportunities. A firm may have landed a large new client, a partner may have changed firms or a new class action filing may mean local firms will need to add staff. You never know what information you will read that can lead to a potential opportunity.

Finally, make certain you are reviewing the numerous Web sites and legal periodicals that list available legal opportunities. This should be done on a daily basis.

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by appointment, Mondays from 9 to 11 a.m. and Fridays from 1:30 to 4 p.m. at Bar Headquarters. For an appointment, call Cindy Towers at (215) 751-9100, extension 301.

JuriStaff, the only legal staffing agency endorsed by the Philadelphia Bar Association, provides temporary, temporary-to-permanent and direct-hire placements of attorneys, paralegals and support staff.

Learn more at www.juristaff.com or www.philadelphia.bar.org or call JuriStaff at (215) 751-9100, ext. 301.
Mediation Experts Discuss Their Craft

by Daniel A. Grucci

Mediation gives lawyers a sensible and economical way to move their clients “beyond an adversarial posture and ameliorate and resolve issues in a more comfortable setting.” That was the word from former Association officer Arline Jolles Lotman and a panel of experts who spoke to the Women in the Profession Committee on April 18 about the advantages of mediation. Lotman, who planned and moderated the session, said it had been her experience that mediation gives the parties in a dispute “an opportunity to begin to let go of hostility and anger and put aside the desire to get even.” She noted that since the mediation process is confidential, participants do not have to worry about the possible added damage of having their dispute and/or transgressions aired in public. “It gives people a sense of privacy and dignity. You’re not likely to be humiliated,” she explained. Panelist Harris T. Bock, director of The Dispute Resolution Center, defined mediation as “the art of facilitating resolution” because it requires very special people skills. Mediation involves the facilitation of a resolution by the parties themselves through a neutral person.

Nominees Sought for O’Connor Award

The Women in the Profession Committee is seeking nominations for the 2002 Sandra Day O’Connor Award. Deadline for nominations is Friday, June 28.

The award is conferred annually on a woman attorney who has demonstrated superior legal talent, achieved significant legal accomplishments and has furthered the advancement of women in both the profession and the community.

This year, the award presentation will be made during the Bar Association’s Quarterly Meeting in October.

The committee established the award in 1993 to recognize the important contributions that women attorneys in Philadelphia have made to the legal profession.

That year, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor presented the first award to U.S. District Judge Norma L. Shapiro.

The award has since been presented to the late Juana K. Kidd Stout, former Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court; Deborah R. Willig, first woman Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association; Marina Angel, of the Temple University Beasley School of Law faculty; Third Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Dolores K. Sloviter (former Chief Judge); U.S. District Court Judge Anita B. Brody; Leslie Anne Miller, first woman president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association; Lila G. Roomberg of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP; and the late Judge Judith J. Janison.

For more information, e-mail committee co-chairs Rochelle M. Fedullo at fedullor@wened.com or Roberta D. Pichini at pichini@litvin.com.

2002 SANDRA DAY O’CONNOR AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Nominees Sought for the 2002 Sandra Day O’Connor Award presented by the Women in the Profession Committee.


Nominees must provide answers to questions 1-7. Nominators are encouraged to include additional material on the nominee, such as curriculum vitae, press clippings, résumé; however, no more than three letters in support of the nominee will be accepted. Nomination forms may refer to and incorporate information submitted within the past three years for the nominee.

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Return the completed form with all additional materials by Friday, June 28, 2002 to: O’Connor Award, Women in the Profession Committee, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th fl., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-2911.

Nominee’s Name:__________________________________________________ Title: ____________________________
Firm/Organization: __________________________________________________________________________________
Business Address:___________________________________________________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________________________________________________________________________
Nominator’s Name:__________________________________________________ Title:______________________________
Firm/Organization: __________________________________________________________________________________
Business Address:___________________________________________________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________________________________________________________________________
Please use 8½ x 11” sheets to answer the following questions.

1. How long have you known the nominee?
2. What has been your association with the nominee?
3. Describe the nominee’s professional accomplishments.
4. What is the nominee’s most significant accomplishment?
5. Describe how the nominee has been an advocate and used her position and stature in the community to advance, and provide career opportunities for, women lawyers generally.
6. Describe what the nominee has done to mentor, promote and advance other women lawyers.
7. Describe other activities in which the nominee has engaged that have advanced women inside and outside the legal community.

Nominees must provide answers to questions 1-7. Nominators are encouraged to include additional material on the nominee, such as curriculum vitae, press clippings, résumé; however, no more than three letters in support of the nominee will be accepted. Nomination forms may refer to and incorporate information submitted within the past three years for the nominee. The nominator is also responsible for ensuring submission of current information for the nominee as well.
Family Court Receives Bunny Books

Members of the Family Law Section made a donation of 350 bunny bags for children to the Philadelphia Family Court. The gift is the first of several planned donations, sponsored in part by Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel, Block, Schorr and Solits Cohen LLP.

The bags contain crayons, coloring books and a stuffed bunny doll. The books, produced by the American Bar Association’s Commission on Domestic Violence, chronicle a day in the life of Huggy Bunny and discuss emotions like how to handle being frightened and where to get help.

The story and its accompanying exercises are designed to help children verbalize problems they are having at home.

Each bag costs about $4 to produce and the Family Law Section is seeking donations to continue supplying the bags to Family Court.

MEDIATORS

continued from page 10

A son who helps the parties reach their own agreement. The process is completely voluntary. No resolution is imposed on the parties. “The mediator intervenes at the request of the parties and likewise may be removed by the parties,” Bock explained.

Bock, who has lectured extensively on mediation, stressed that people who enter into mediation “want someone to listen, to understand, to hear their story.”

He noted that especially in major tort cases, mediation often can bring the parties to a better understanding of their individual experiences, interests and concerns, thus leading to a narrowing of differences and a resolution of the case.

Bock said the process can often be completed in a single day and that “parties generally save money through reduced legal costs, lower expert fees and less time expended.”

Mediator Judith Meyer of Judith Meyer Associates distinguished mediation from litigation by noting that “litigation is about position whereas mediation is about interests.” Meyer said “mediation serves the interests of the parties who enter into it” Meyer whose firm has resolved more than 2,000 private commercial claims, said “if the settlement of a dispute is foreseeable at any time, then it can probably be mediated.”

Meyer explained that the parties must first consider what they want in a mediator. “You need someone with a basic knowledge of and belief in the negotiation process,” she noted. “But a mediator must have many other qualities including tremendous patience, energy, understanding, perseverance and a knack for creative problem solving,” she said.

Edward A. Perles, co-chair of the Association’s Alternate Dispute Resolution Committee, said “a good mediator helps the parties identify their goals.”

He explained that “many people do not know what their goals are and they need to know that. They need to focus in on their goals.” Lotman agreed, saying mediators “need to talk this out with your clients. What is on their minds? What are the real goals of the process?”

Perles described mediation as “restorative justice” and also referred to it as “court plus.” He said because mediation is so flexible it gives the parties added alternatives. “Mediators need to know enough to keep the parties out of trouble but not so much that they feel they can begin to impose a resolution on the parties,” he explained.

Bock concurred and said it has been his experience that “when people complete the mediation process they come away with a newfound respect for the legal system and for lawyers.”
Breakfast of Champions
Community Legal Services Honors Volunteers

Community Legal Services presented three awards at its April 24 Breakfast of Champions, including a new Hall of Fame Award.

The Equal Justice Award was presented to Pepper Hamilton LLP. Thomas E. Zemaitis, a partner at Pepper Hamilton, accepted the award, which was presented by CLS Board of Trustees Chair Sharon M. Wilson. 

The Champion Award was given to Estelle Richman, managing director of the City of Philadelphia. It was presented by CLS attorney Deborah Freedman.

Carl "Tobey" Oxholm III, vice president and general counsel for MCP Hahnemann and Drexel Universities was presented with the Hall of Fame Award. CLS Executive Director Catherine C. Carr made the presentation to Oxholm, former chair of the Association’s Delivery of Legal Services Committee.

Award-winning journalist and author James B. Steele was the keynote speaker for the event, held at the Rose Garden at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue.

Created in 1966 by leaders of the Philadelphia Bar Association, CLS provides free civil legal assistance to low-income Philadelphians.

For more information, contact CLS at (215) 981-3700 or visit the CLS Web site at www.clsphila.org.

20th Jewish Law Day to be Celebrated May 15

by Stuart J. Agins

Twenty years ago, a number of lawyers and judges in the Philadelphia community gathered to discuss the possibility of establishing an event recognizing the contribution of Jewish law to the development of American jurisprudence. These lawyers and judges, together with the Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia, established an annual celebration that has become a tradition that continues to be honored.

Through the years, Jewish Law Day has developed into a wonderful event sponsored by Tau Epsilon Rho and enjoyed by all of those who attend. Each year, a guest speaker presents his or her insight into Jewish law and its impact on American jurisprudence. These presentations have been engaging, intelligent and often challenging.

Jewish Law Day will be held on Wednesday, May 15 at 5:15 p.m. at the Jewish Community Services Building, 2001 Arch St. This year the speaker will be Judge Abraham J. Gafni. Also, in celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Philadelphia Bar Association, the Jewish Chancellors of the Bar will be honored. Complimentary valet parking will be provided. Also, a reception follows the ceremony. Jewish Law Day is open to all at no charge.

Jewish Law Day Committee and provide many hours of commitment each year to ensure the success and continuation of this most important event. In addition, the ceremony is supported each year through monetary contributions made by many members of our legal community. Such contributions enable the event to be open to all at no charge.

Jewish Law Day has enabled members of the legal community and others to come together and share and reflect on the code of laws, ethics and morals that the Jewish people have compiled over the past 4,000 years and that serve as the cornerstone of modern legal theory and practice throughout the world. It is not presumptuous to believe that all of those who attend walk away with an increased understanding of what it means to be a lawyer in our community. Amongst the conversations heard throughout the reception following the ceremony, statements expressing a true pleasure in attending the event are heard again and again. These words are not lip service. In order to get a true understanding as to why Jewish Law Day has continued for 20 years, and will continue in the future, one need only attend the event.

We encourage all of you to attend this year's ceremony and be part of a most important tradition in our legal community.

Members of the Jewish Law Day Committee include (from left) Phillip B. Silverman, Avivah R.Z. Pinski, Sayde J. Ladov, Judge Anne E. Lazarus, Mitchell H. Klevan, Gerald W. Spivack, Mark N. Cohen and Harold Cramer.
Charity Run

Not Too Late to Register for May 19 Event

The Philadelphia Bar Association’s annual Charity Run has a new format for 2002, adding a 5k walk to allow for a more family-friendly event. A reduced family rate registration fee for the walk has also been added.

The change marks a deviation from the traditional 10k run and two-mile race. The event will be held May 19 on West River Drive adjacent to the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The Charity Run benefits the Support Center for Child Advocates and the American Diabetes Association.

This year’s event will be a 5-kilometer (3.1-mile) race and a 5-kilometer walk. New male-only and female-only team competitions will be held in addition to the mixed-team competition that has been a feature of the race.

Sponsors of the event include Wawa Inc., The Legal Intelligencer Staff Inc., USI Colburn Insurance Service, Veritext LLC., Crystal Springs and Dolfin.

Also joining to sponsor the race are the following firms: Blank Rome Corrisky & McCaulley LLP; Caesar, Rivise, Bernstein, Cohen & Pokotilow, Ltd.; Cozen O’Connor; Fox, Rothschild, O’Brien & Franks, LLP; Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin; Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads, LLP; Neit A. Morris Associates, P.C.; Pepper Hamilton LLP; Patner & Prestia; Raynes, McCarty, Binder, Ross & Mundy; Semanoff, Ormsby, Greenberg & Torchia, LLC; Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen LLP; and Woodcock Washburn LLP.

The 5K run entry fee is $20 for race registrations postmarked by midnight May 13 and mailed to the Charity Run Committee, Caesar, Rivise, Bernstein, Cohen & Pokotilow, Ltd., 1635 Market St., 12th floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103. A late entry fee of $25 will be charged for applications postmarked May 14 through 16. Registration on race day will remain $30.

The individual entry fee for the 5K walk is $15. Families can register for the walk for $50.

Team competition applications may be obtained from Michael J. Berkowitz at Caesar Rivise at (215) 567-2010. The deadline for team registrations is May 11.

For more information, call Eric Marzluf at (215) 367-2010 or Tom Bell at (215) 887-2050.

CBAP Holding Training Session

The Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project will hold a Chapter 7 bankruptcy training session for attorneys on May 22.

The training will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. at 42 S. 12th St. in the 4th floor Conference Room. Reservations are required and space is limited. Contact Mary Anne Lucey at (215) 523-9512 for more information. Please reserve your space by May 20.

The CBAP provides training in the basics of Chapter 7 bankruptcy practice. You will be assigned to work up to three cases during the year. While working on CBAP cases, backup support is provided by a supervising attorney and through an experienced bankruptcy practitioner who will serve as a mentor. CBAP provides workspace for client interviewing, access to bankruptcy software and malpractice coverage.
Judge McCaffery Offers Views on Court

by Jon C. Sirlin

Seamus P. McCaffery, the outspoken and charismatic administrative judge of Philadelphia Municipal Court, spoke openly and extensively on civil, criminal, administrative and political matters at the April 5 meeting of the Municipal Court Committee.

Judge McCaffery addressed the accomplishments of the court before his appointment, his commitment to the court and to his fellow judges, while still openly admitting that the court needs improvement and making suggestions as to how to aggressively address some of these concerns.

Judge McCaffery said he tried to consolidate criminal preliminary hearings at the Criminal Justice Center to increase efficiency, cut costs and reduce scheduling problems. Unfortunately, one problem this created was the overcrowding of the Criminal Justice Center. He suggested the court find additional courtrooms in another location, or to expand the use of the Community Court. Comments from meeting attendees seemed most favorable to this centralized process.

Judge McCaffery also discussed the use of affidavits of complainants at preliminary hearings in place of live testimony (hearsay) as to “ownership and permission.” He noted that the preliminary hearing is not necessary for due process (federal court does not have preliminary hearings) and that, therefore, the affidavit is sufficient for this limited purpose. Some comments from the bar were not in agreement—saying that people are sometimes kept in jail for long periods based on a questionable affidavit, especially when the complainant may not even be available to testify.

He said landlord-tenant appeals will be taken back by specially appointed Municipal Court judges sitting as Common Pleas Court judges after a brief period, during which time the Court had assumed the cases. Budgetary reasons are still affecting the opening of courtrooms and assignment of judges.

Judge McCaffery said appeals from statements of claim had recently been routed to Common Pleas Arbitration for another “trial” that allows for de novo appeal. Members of the Municipal Court Committee, as well as several other Bar Association committees, have said that this new system is extremely wasteful and causes delay without benefit to the court, counsel or parties. The judge indicated his appreciation for this problem and willingness to attempt to return to the former practice.

Judge McCaffery voluntarily asked for suggestions from the Bar as to how the court could improve its service to “its customers.” He has encouraged the assembly of a reasonable “wish list” from practitioners.

Jon C. Sirlin, a partner at Sirlin, Gallogly & Lessner, P.C., is co-chair of the Municipal Court Committee.

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Wage Tax Sense and Nonsense

(The following letter first appeared in the April 22, 2002, edition of the Philadelphia Daily News and is reprinted with permission.)

To the Editor:
The beginning of a beautiful spring has been jarred by the wage tax cutters. Virtually every page of the Philadelphia Daily News except for sports, has carried the message. And now, following last month's City Council vote to restore the marginal wage tax cuts, costing $10 million a year, we have what all cheer as an important symbolic measure.

The problem is that low-income and working class families need services - now. Follow along: I always thought symbolism was the province of poets and painters.

It's a gratuitous luxury for government to invest $30 million a year in symbolism, especially when $5 million is needed now to clean up the 1,400 backlogged homes of children who are suffering brain damage from lead poisoning; when a piece of that money could ensure that poor kids could avoid high SEPTA fares, a barrier to get to school each day; and if invested in our public schools, could be the undisputed best investment toward retaining middle-class families and businesses.

The most hypocritical voices in the melee were the newly minted allies of the poor, like the Chamber of Commerce, and policy pollsters who correctly cited the regressive tax effects on the working poor, and then quickly forgot about them to urge across-the-board wage-tax cutting.

Councilman David Cohen's bill would have established for the first time an element of progressivity by exempting from most of the tax lower-income workers along the lines of existing state income-tax exemptions. The final measure forgot the poor by spreading the tax relief to more well-to-do suburbanites and those with comfortable incomes who would more likely spend the extra bucks in Cancun, Atlantic City or a mutual fund. These people already have a 28-35 percent cut on their wage tax through a federal income-tax deduction, which the working poor don't get because they don't itemize.

Concentrated on the working poor, a cut would be quickly spent at a local grocery or clothing store, maybe even on a PGW or water bill arrearage. An equitable wage tax is better for local business.

As I said, I understand and applaud the call for increased security in these times. And I do not claim to know how to cut out what we spend on transportation and baggage. It concerns me when I see people routinely patted down, asked to remove shoes and loosen belts for the first time as much as "we have to be kidding" from the detainees. It concerns me when I hear national photo identification income-tax exemptions.

This concerns me, not because I object to the increased security from potential hijackers, but because I fear that if we become too accepting of these security measures that protect us from terrorists, we may some day find these measures against us.

Imagine, if you will, a government in power in Washington that believes we will all be a little safer if the government knows where you are going and why. Each time you travel you need to show your national identification in order to board an airplane. Then, in order to get a better handle on just who it is that is getting on board our airplanes, they say you have to get government approval before you leave on your trip. Security bags and people become routine and expected. It just makes us all safer, they tell us.

This isn't all that far from where we are right now, and it concerns me that this is the direction of the path on which we find ourselves. As I said, I understand and applaud the call for increased security in these times. And I do not claim to know how to cut out what we spend on transportation and baggage.

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Jonathan M. Stein
General Counsel
Community Legal Services

Move Embassy to Jerusalem

To the Editor:

It is the normal protocol and courtesy among countries to locate their embassies in the capital of that country, such as London, Paris, etc. However, our embassy in Israel is located in Tel Aviv, not the capital, Jerusalem.

For political reasons, most states refuse to recognize Israel's capital. Israel is a sovereign state, a member of the United Nations and an ally and friend to the United States. Congress has resolved that our embassy be moved toTel Aviv and President Bush requested a six-month extension. The issue of peace between Israel and the Palestinians is solely to be negotiated by the two entities, without pressure from third parties, except for ending the terrorism and violence, which makes peace impossible.

Moving our embassy is a signal that we recognize Israel's right to name its capital and its sovereignty. Most Islamic nations refuse to recognize Israel.

Henry Latta

An Insecure Feeling About Increased Security

by Bruce H. Bikin

I recently flew to Phoenix. This is notable only because it is the first time I have traveled by air since Sept. 11. What made the trip remarkable were the differences I saw in what air travelers would accept in delays and how much more patient everyone seemed with airline delays and security checks in particular.

Ordinarily I am all in favor of patience. I think we are all happier, healthier and generally better off when we just plain relax. The idea that we are all in this together makes stress levels lower and air travel more sane and enjoyable. Who needs an ulcer when you go on vacation? Or when you travel for business?

That being said, I have to say I am a little worried about where this country is headed right now. I understand the need to have security, and maybe we have been more than a little naive about just how secure our borders are in this insecure world. Still, it concerns me when I see soldiers and state troopers stationed behind the metal detectors that routinely inspect our carry-on bags. It concerns me when I see people routinely patted down, asked to remove shoes and loosen belts for the first time as much as "we have to be kidding" from the detainees. It concerns me when I hear national photo identification income-tax exemptions.

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The Science of a Less-Than-Reliable Study

by Marc Reuben

Surely, with the Academy Awards now behind us, the idea that an immortal performance goes unrewarded, because it takes place so early on the Oscar calendar, is troublesome to art lovers. The greatest of comedies, even Neil Simon (has been performed right here in the Delaware Valley, and for all the world to see.

The state of New Jersey has been plagued with accusations of racial profiling among its state police. This is a serious thing, and a source of embarrassment to the local constabulary, who are supposed to enforce the law evenly. Even when they abuse their badges, it is hoped that they will serve the public without regard for race, creed, religion, national origin or shoe size. For those of you who have been asleep for the past 50 years, the concept of profiling comes as the result of police stopping about 50 minority drivers for every non-minority who does the same thing. The culmination of the whole affair, depending on your perspective, is that some of the minorities stopped are even shot, or otherwise inconvenienced.

At this point in the article, a writer might be moved to comment sympathetically that the number of smoke-spewing junkers wheezing down the pike might actually be driven by a disproportionate number of minorities, but for the fact that the police do not seem to distinguish between junkers and other vehicles. If caught driving a Mercedes, it is because the minority is suspected of drug dealing. You can’t win.

Just when you thought it was safe to drive while Afro-Hisp, the “committee” has produced a report proving that minorities drive faster than others. Only in New Jersey.

A study conducted by the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation at the state’s behest showed that minority drivers at the southern end of the New Jersey Turnpike have been clocked driving faster than their lighter brethren. And this is the authentic truth, cross-our-hearts-and-hope-to-die, says the “committee.” According to news reports, a radar device was set up in the southern part of the state, and speeding cars were clocked and photographed as they went speeding past the device. A committee of three persons later examined the photo, to determine if the driver of the speeding car was a minority or not.

Civil libertarians are correct to dispute the reliability of such as study. Reviewing a photo of a speeding car is hardly an accurate way to determine continued on page 17.
ARTS & MEDIA

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the physiological characteristics of the
driver of that vehicle.
A better idea would have been to
have a sketch artist draw a quick pic-
ture of the speeding vehicle, and
depending on what color the artist
used for the driver, the state police
could have made their determination
of racial characteristics.

A really good artist might even be
able to get hair and body characteris-
tics, so that if the artist put straight
lines at a 45-degree angle to represent
the eyes, we would know that the dri-
ver was Asian.
If the artist drew a dog with a
bouncing head, we might be inclined
to declare the driver Mexican. If the car
was a Cadillac, a Jew is likely the dri-
ver, and if the vehicle is a pickup with
rifles hanging over the side, then some
Yahoo is behind the wheel. But that car
won't be stopped, since to do so would
be to violate the Second Amendment -
the most sacred of our freedoms.
An even better idea for such a sci-
entific study would be to put the radar
device in inner-city Camden, to prove
beyond a reasonable doubt that only
minorities drive fast. (The group that
produced this report wasn't headed by
a fellow named Goebbels, was it?)

There is a lot that can be said from
both scientific and legal perspectives
about this newest outrage. But the
obvious answers to this latest idiocy
can be raised by those more qualified
than the average citizen. This is a non-
sensical attempt by a small group of
enforcement officers to justify their
failure to evenly enforce the law of the
road.

Marc Reuben is a sole practitioner who has been wri t i n g
about the arts and media since 1973. He is an advisory
editor to the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

Criminal Justice Section

Parole Chief
Discusses
Sentencing

Pennsylvania Board of Probation
and Parole Chairman William F. Ward
told the Criminal Justice Section at its
March 26 meeting it is a myth that
inmates were only serving 85 percent
of their sentences. He said state prison-
ers must serve 100 percent of their
minimum sentence before being con-
sidered for parole.
Ward made it clear that with prison-
ers serving their full minimum sen-
tences, the state automatically qualifies
for federal grants.
Ward said that while the Parole
Board considers many factors in decid-
ing whether to parole an inmate or not,
it gives "great deference" to the sen-
tencing judge's recommendation at the
time of sentence.
Ward said counsel should ask the
court of its position on parole at the
expiration of the minimum (assuming
all other conditions of sentencing and
parole are met plus a good adjustment)
and have the court state its position for
the record.
– Daniel-Paul Alva

BONGIOVANNI'S
PA TRANSACTION
GUIDE FROM
LEXISNEXIS

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We want to work with the city’s policy makers. We want to help reduce the flight from the city and bring people back into Philadelphia,” Lindy said.

The meeting is open to members and officers of the Board of Governors, Section chairs, standing Committee chairs, the chairs of the committees within sections, presidents of the minority bar associations as well as presidents of neighboring county bar associations.

At the meeting, Lindy said the Section chairs will report and “let us know what they’ve been up to for the first six months of the year.”

Judge Fitzgerald said the relaxation of hearsay rules will add 3,000 cases to the city’s docket this year, an increase of 18 percent from last year. To help handle the increase, 42 criminal courtrooms will be in operation by July 1, and two judges from the civil division will be reassigned to help handle the caseload.

He said the electronic monitoring house arrest program will be expanded but was quick to add that it is not the answer to prison overcrowding.

The Board also approved, with just one vote against, a resolution supporting state legislation clarifying existing child custody law.

Natalie DeGenaro, co-chair of the Family Law Section’s Custody Committee, said the resolution was meant to be used as a blueprint for custody litigation. “It addresses specific problems like relocation,” DeGenaro told the Board.

The Board also named Stella M. Tsai and Jason A. Leckerman to the board of Philadelphia Legal Assistance.

The Board also honored three former Chancellors - Clifford E. Haines, Robert C. Heim and Abraham C. Reich – for their efforts in helping the Association celebrate its bicentennial this year. Each was presented with a Century 3 banner, identical to those hung along Market and Broad streets earlier this year to mark the bicentennial.

MAY CLE COURSES

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<td>A Perspective from the US Supreme Court to the Local Courts</td>
<td>275 North 36th Street</td>
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"We want to work with the city’s policy makers. We want to help reduce the flight from the city and bring people back into Philadelphia,” Lindy said.

The meeting is open to members and officers of the Board of Governors, Section chairs, standing Committee chairs, the chairs of the committees within sections, presidents of the minority bar associations as well as presidents of neighboring county bar associations.

At the meeting, Lindy said the Section chairs will report and “let us know what they’ve been up to for the first six months of the year.”

The meeting will be held at 8:15 a.m. in the 13th floor Conference Center of Bar Association headquarters, 1101 Market St.

The Board also heard a report from Common Pleas Court Administrative Judge James J. Fitzgerald III, who discussed plans for improvements in City Hall courtrooms, technological changes and the daunting task of the court dealing with increased caseloads.

He said Philadelphia jurors will soon be able to access an automated call-in system where they will be able to check if they are needed for jury duty the night before they are supposed to report.

Judge Fitzgerald said the relaxation of hearsay rules will add 3,000 cases to the city’s docket this year, an increase of 18 percent from last year. To help handle the increase, 42 criminal courtrooms will be in operation by July 1, and two judges from the civil division will be reassigned to help handle the caseload.

He said the electronic monitoring house arrest program will be expanded but was quick to add that it is not the answer to prison overcrowding.

The Board also named Stella M. Tsai and Jason A. Leckerman to the board of Philadelphia Legal Assistance.

The Board also honored three former Chancellors - Clifford E. Haines, Robert C. Heim and Abraham C. Reich – for their efforts in helping the Association celebrate its bicentennial this year. Each was presented with a Century 3 banner, identical to those hung along Market and Broad streets earlier this year to mark the bicentennial.

In other business, the Board unanimously approved a resolution regarding securities regulation in Pennsylvania. The resolution, according to Business Law Section Chair John B. Wright II, makes it more attractive for businessmen to do business in Pennsylvania.

"It’s a small but important step to make this region better,” said Wright. "We don’t want to give businesses any more reasons not to come to Pennsylvania.”

The resolution calls for the state Securities Commission to adopt a policy in line with federal Securities and Exchange Commission policy regarding the determination of a person’s liability for insider trading.

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PEOPLE

Judge Myrna P. Field, administrative judge of Philadelphia Family Court, has been appointed to a three-year term on the Domestic Relations Procedures Rules Committee by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

David H. Marion, chairman of Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhaudo, LLP, has been appointed to the advisory board of the Sectional Conference, a nonprofit research and educational institute dedicated to the serious study of law and policy in antitrust law, complex litigation and intellectual property rights.

Deborah R. Willig, managing partner of Willig, Williams & Davidson and former Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, received a certificate of honor at the annual Founder’s Day Celebration of Temple University on April 13.

Harold Cranmer, a retired partner resident at Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP and former Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, has been re-elected as president of the Theodore F. Jenkins Memorial Library.

Charisse R. Lillie, a partner with Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP, chaired the American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession “Mega Meeting” April 11-12 in San Francisco.

Niki T. Ingram, a shareholder with Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, presented “A Workers’ Compensation Update” at the Defense Research Institute’s Personal Injury Potpourri seminar on April 2 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.


Lee A. Rosengard, a partner at Blank Rome Comisky & McCauley LLP, was a speaker at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s CLE program on mediation in the Commerce Court on March 18.

Jeffrey L. Dashovsky, of Dashovsky, Horwitz, DiSandro, Kuhn, Dempsey and Novello, P.C., was a featured speaker at the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association CLE seminar on UIM/UIM arbitrations on March 21.


Henry J. Sommer, of counsel at Miller, Frank & Miller, has been appointed editor-in-chief of the Collier line of bankruptcy treaties and handbooks.

Joseph S. Ziccardi, managing shareholder of Caesar, Rivise, Bernstein, Cohen & Pokoliv, Ltd., was a guest speaker at the National Business Education Association Annual Convention held in Philadelphia on March 29. Pokoliv spoke to a group of educators about recent developments in copyright law, electronic publishing and copyright issues arising from the Internet.

Ned Hark, a member of the Law Firm of Howard M. Goldsmith, P.C., recently presented on CNB’s “Real World” program discussing issues surrounding divorces.

Jane E. Lessner, a partner with Fox, Rothschild, O’Brien & Frankel, LLP, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Senior Citizen Judiciary Project.

Theodore A. Schwartz, a partner in the Law Offices of M. Mark Mendel Ltd., has been named the 2002 Milton D. Rosenberg Award winner by the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association. The award, given to a lawyer whose devotion to injured victims, qualities of leadership and service to the organization best represent the life of the late leader of PaTLA, will be presented at a dinner on July 13.

Lawrence Finkelstein, a partner at Blank Rome Comisky & McCauley LLP, has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the Woodmere Art Museum.

Carl E. Singley, a partner at Blank Rome Comisky & McCauley LLP, was honored at Temple University Beasley School of Law’s 75th anniversary of the Law Review celebration on April 4. Singley has been a tenured professor of law at Temple since 1979 and served as dean from 1983 to 1987.

Kenneth E. Aaron, a partner at Weir & Partners LLP, has been reappointed to a three-year term on the Lower Merion Zoning Hearing Board.

Barry H. Genkin, a partner at Blank Rome Comisky & McCauley LLP, has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Walnut Street Theatre.

Jeanne P. Wroblewski, principal of the law firm of Jeanne Wroblewski & Associates, LLC, has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Philadelphia Prisons System. She was also selected to serve as secretary of the Board.


James J. DeMarco Jr., co-partner of DeMarco & DeMarco, P.C., has been appointed Ward Counsel of the 36th Ward by Philadelphia City Council President Anna C. Verna.

Marvin Garfinkel, counsel with Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen LLP, taught a course titled “Real World Document Drafting: Form, Style and Substance” on April 23 and April 30 at the ALI-ABA Conference Center in Philadelphia.

John A. Nixon, a partner at Blank Rome Comisky & McCauley LLP, was a faculty member at the ALI-ABA Course of Study - Fundamentals in Employee Benefits Law in Coral Gables, Fla., and traveled from Feb. 28 to March 2.

Thomas A. Brophy, a member of the executive committee at Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, participated in the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association seminar “Direct and Cross Examination” on April 30 in Philadelphia.

Warren Vogel, a shareholder with Silverman Bernheim & Vogel, was a speaker at the Chief Resident Education for Success Training program presented by the Office of Health Policy and Clinical Outcomes of Thomas Jefferson University on April 5. Vogel, as part of a panel addressing “Residency to Reality,” spoke on the topic of employment contracts in a medical practice.

Names Are News

“People” highlights news of members’ awards, honors or appointments of a civic or community nature. Information may be sent to Jeff Lyons, Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2111. Fax: (215) 238-1267. E-mail: reporter@philabar.org. Photos are also welcome.
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