The Board of Governors unanimously adopted a resolution on Oct. 27 in support of Senate Bill 400 that would create a special prosecutor to investigate and prosecute incidents relating to civilian deaths involving police officers. SB 400 would give the Attorney General exclusive jurisdiction to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate and prosecute the conduct of a peace officer who, acting in his or her official capacity, is involved in an incident where an individual has died under circumstances that may constitute the offense of criminal homicide as a result of the peace officer's conduct. The special prosecutor will then be required to file a report with the Attorney General that will be made available to the public.

The resolution is in response to a loss of confidence in the criminal justice system following numerous incidents around the country of deaths caused by police officers or deaths of suspects in police custody.

“The proposed legislation to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate the shootings of the citizens of Pennsylvania by police officers is desperately required to restore a modicum of faith in our judicial system. Mistrust of how those matters are currently handled now exists due to the apparent unfairness in which these cases are currently handled and the secrecy that shrouds the decision-making from a skeptical public. More transparency and independence is needed to justify the decisions to charge or not charge a peace officer and the proposed legislation is a first step in a long march that will restore faith in a system fraying at the edges,” said James A. Funt, co-chair of the Criminal Justice Section.

The Philadelphia Bar Association supports SB 400 or other similar legislation that would call for the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate and prosecute the conduct of a peace officer under the aforementioned circumstances.

To view the complete resolution, visit philadelphiabar.org.
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By Albert S. Dandridge III

As part of our “Boots on the Ground” initiative, the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Board of Governors, along with members of the Association’s Real Property Section — the real pros, undertook a Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia project on Sept. 16.

The night before the build, the location was changed and we were notified by email. The build was to take place in North Philadelphia, but it was changed to the 4900 block of Stiles Street in West Philadelphia. I knew the new location well. Bernie Smalley and I grew up exactly six blocks away from it.

The arrival time was 8:30 a.m., and it took all of my neighborhood and navigation skills to make it there in time during morning rush hour from my home in Chestnut Hill.

I arrived at the designated site, wearing my blue Association tee-shirt and hat. Stiles Street is a very small one-way street that is one block north of and runs parallel to Girard Avenue. I maneuvered up the tight little street and found a parking space across from the house. Steve Rothberg, chair of the Section, and Alexander Barth, executive committee member of the Section, were there already, along with a few others from the Section and the other workers from Habitat Philadelphia. I looked around for other board members who would also be dressed in blue, but it was just me, until Brad V. Shuttleworth, chair of the Board of Governors, showed up a few minutes after I arrived. We all stood around in the middle of the small street. There is no thru traffic on Stiles Street.

Finally, the Habitat Philadelphia team leader gathered our release forms and assembled us for instructions. There were nine of us altogether. He explained that this was a different type of project; not the exotic builds that you see on television. This was a “warranty job.” Habitat had rebuilt this house a while ago. They had taken two small houses down to the studs and transformed them into one larger house with four bedrooms. However, as part of the rebuild, they did not rebuild the basement floors — they had looked fine at the time. The woman who now owns the home was experiencing flooding in the basements. The basement floors had to be replaced. Several days earlier, Habitat Philadelphia crews — the pros — had come and pick-axed and jack-hammered the floors into tons of concrete rubble. Our job was to gather up the rubble, take it out of the basements and carry it to a large industrial roll-off dumpster that was parked on a vacant lot on Girard Avenue, directly behind the house. Too late, we could not run. I looked around for more blue hats and tee-shirts. Just Brad, me and seven others. SNAP!!!

We got our gloves, safety googles and breathing masks and went into the house to survey the task ahead of us. This was a tiny house — as were the others that still remained on Stiles Street — made a little larger by the doubling, but still a small house. We walked up the two outside steps into the living room. The team leader explained to us that the woman who lived here was not home. She was working a 12-hour nursing shift at Jefferson Hospital and would not be back until the afternoon. He also explained that she has a child, but also takes care of four other children — her sister’s.

continued on page 4
Walking into the house, the first thing that you noticed were the oak hardwood floors throughout the small first floor. They were beautiful. The second thing that I noticed was a well-organized, well-cared for home. The small living room led directly to a small kitchen/dining room. The kitchen was immaculate. It had a new stove, sink, refrigerator and a chest freezer— it takes a lot of food to feed five kids. It also had a small dining room table. Plastic covering had been installed by the Habitat Philadelphia crew lining the pathway from the front door to the basements’ entrance, with stairs that were midway between the living room and dining room/kitchen. The stairs led down to the basements and up to the bedrooms and bathroom. On the landings leading up to the bedrooms were two sets of drums— kids’ drums. Kids lived here. We went down into the basements to see what awaited us. No surprise. Two concrete basement floors, completely broken-up and awaiting our labor. We came up with a game plan. We would break the project up into three distinct groups. We had about 30 old large plastic plaster buckets. A group would stay in the basements and load rubble into the buckets. They then would carry the buckets to the back of the basements where there was an escape hatch and ladder that led to the backyard. One person would be in “the pit,” lifting the loaded buckets through the hatch into the backyard and hand back the empties. The third group would then carry the buckets out of the yard and across the alleyway to the dumpster on the Girard Avenue lot.

Clearly you could not have paid any of us volunteers to do this work. I do not think inmates at Leavensworth would be required to do this work. It would be a violation of the Eighth Amendment. I knew what we all were thinking, but no one said a word—we signed up for this. We started loading rubble into the buckets, passing them up through the escape hatch out into the backyard and carried them to the dumpster. Each bucket had to weigh at least 40 pounds, and most of the time we each carried two. No one complained.

Doing this kind of work, your mind starts to wander and you notice things. The backyard was no bigger than a postage stamp; but it was well-organized and clean. The homeowner had laid gravel and small tiles. She had lawn furniture that was covered up. The back façade had yellow– aluminum siding. There was also a neat row of kids’ bikes—with fat tires. Pink and blue. Kids lived here. Kids who somebody loved and cared for.

Across the alleyway there were abandoned houses that were boarded-up and empty lots where houses once stood. You could see and hear the historic No. 15 trolley car rumbling up and down Girard Avenue. What memories! I would see and hear them as a kid many years ago. Across Girard Avenue are the Cathedral Cemetery and Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church. The cemetery is well-kept with rows and rows of magnificent white headstones. This used to be an Italian-American neighborhood surrounded by 52nd Street, Girard Avenue and Lancaster Avenue. It was a tough neighborhood, and when Bernie and I were kids, we had to be prepared to fight when passing through. My wife, who passed away, attended Our Mother of Sorrows Church as a young lady; later she became a guidance counselor at the church school. The No. 15 trolley rolled by again.

It is a hot day and we are sweating like pigs. There is plenty of water and Gatorade and we are drinking it by the quarts. We rotate crews. Someone else mans “the pit.” Stiles Street and Girard Avenue are so very quiet. You can hear nothing, except for our muted conversations and the No. 15 trolley.

The water and Gatorade forced me to eventually find the bathroom. Most of the liquid had evaporated. I walked up the stairs, past the drum sets, past the bedrooms with single beds and bunk beds. Kids live here. Kids who are loved live here.

Brad suggests ordering pizza for lunch. Brad was a neighborhood guy. He knows the sound of the trolleys from the old No. 56 on Torresdale Avenue. He also knows this neighborhood and knows where to get good pizza. Brad is a great guy.

We take a break and go out front and sit on the steps on Stiles Street. There are some boarded-up houses, some empty lots, a few houses that have been rehabbed and some with refinished façades. Across from the house where we are working is an empty lot, with a garden and a white picket fence with a trellis that proclaims “Stiles Street Garden.” It is pretty and well-tended. The sky is bright blue and the street is quiet. Peaceful! Kids live and play here. Kids ride their bikes here. While waiting for the pizza to arrive, a ubiquitous “CCT” white mini bus squeezes its way up Stiles Street. It stops a few houses away. Steve remembers the house—they had rebuilt it a few years ago. An older African-American woman comes out of the house. Halting steps, but proud. Her blue-gray hair is coiffed. She has on her Sunday best. This is Wednesday afternoon. She was not going to church—more than likely to a doctor’s appointment. She gets onto the bus; she is the only passenger. The bus slowly squeezes by us. She looks at us, she smiles and she nods. She is silently telling us, “thank you.”

Pizza comes. Brad pays. Thanks, Brad.

We are enjoying the pizza standing in Stiles Street. No traffic on Stiles Street. You either live here or are picking someone up. While standing there enjoying our pizza, a white SUV turns onto Stiles Street and slowly comes up the street, iPhone blasting a song by Patti LaBelle. It is after 12:30 p.m. We all knew who it was. As she parks her car, but before she gets out, she starts calling out to us. “Thank you, thank you and thank you.” With a huge grin on her face she thanks us over and over again. She and those kids whom she loves could not have possibly done what we were doing.

We get back to work. The No. 15 trolley keeps clanking up and down Girard Avenue. You can see kids coming home from school walking along Girard Avenue pass the abandoned houses and the empty lots. They are quiet and well-behaved, dressed neatly in their grey and white uniforms, doing what kids do on their way home from school. They looked like something out of a Norman Rockwell painting.

The lady of the house has to leave. Five kids—run errands before they get home. Five kids who are loved and cared for. She thanks us over and over again as she walks out the door.

Finally, all of the rubble has been removed from the basements. Nothing else for us to do. Two dirt floors left awaiting water pumps and new cement.

I hear the No. 15 trolley pass by as we walked to our cars—exhausted.

One of the best days I ever had.

— Albert S. Dandridge III
Barristers’ Association Celebrates 65 Years

By Kevin Harden Jr. and Shabrei M. Parker

As we begin this new year for the Barristers’ Association of Philadelphia, we invite you to reflect, remember and renew, inspired by the rich legacy of the Philadelphia lawyer.

Sixty-five years ago, a group of African-American lawyers recognized a need for an organized bar association for black lawyers in Philadelphia, and together they founded Barristers. Since its inception, the Barristers have challenged themselves to work to address their own collective needs as lawyers, as well as the societal issues faced by the African-American community. For the last 65 years, the organization has supported and motivated thousands of students, lawyers, jurists and elected officials to develop more efficient and enduring systems, and shape the practice to fit their needs. This year, the Barristers plan to continue their work of promoting and fostering professional excellence, economic and political empowerment, charitable and community service and the fight for social justice and equal opportunity.

The Barristers’ 65th anniversary comes during exciting times. On Sept. 9, Hon. C. Darnell Jones, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, administered the oath of office to the new Barristers’ executive and advisory boards, led by their new president, Shabrei M. Parker, of counsel at Mincey & Fitzpatrick, LLC. Parker’s strong connection to the Philadelphia community was displayed at her installation ceremony, which drew more than 200 guests to Philadelphia’s Pyramid Club. Her strong focus on initiatives that will strengthen the bridges between the Barristers’ Center City offices and the communities where our non-lawyer constituents reside also demonstrates her passion for her city.

This year, as the Barristers celebrate 65 years, Parker is inspiring new enthusiasm into the organization’s membership. By reinvigorating the Barristers’ CLE series, offering CLE credits throughout the year at its general body meetings and offering members the opportunity to showcase their skills, she is opening the door to increased member involvement. Opportunities for members to be published in the soon-to-be-launched Barristers blog also highlight the ways that the Barristers want to maximize the current talent pool and encourage members to maximize their membership. To combat issues of diversity and to assist with the development and employability of young black lawyers, the Barristers will be presenting a Law Student Bootcamp in the winter. And to commemorate our 65th anniversary, during “Barristers’ History Month” in February, the Barristers will celebrate, commemorate and cherish 65 years of black excellence.

In addition to new ways to engage membership, the Barristers have made changes to the organization’s dues structure, taking into consideration the concerns of government and public interest lawyers. Carving out a new dues structure and offering “early-bird” discounts on dues payments are just some of the ways the Barristers are making membership easier and more beneficial than ever before.

The continued excellence of Barristers’ signature events is a tradition that cannot be interrupted, and this year we invite you to help us make our programs a success. Barristers events that would not be the same without dedicated members and supporters include the Barristers’ Annual Turkey Drive on Nov. 21, the 5th Annual Expungement Clinic on Dec. 5, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Jan. 18, the Second Annual Life Planning Clinic, cosponsored by the Senior Law Center, and the Annual Awards & Scholarship Gala on May 21.

The Barristers will meet monthly at Pepper Hamilton LLP on the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information about meetings or upcoming events, please visit www.phillybarristers.org.

Kevin Harden Jr. (kharden@eckertseamans.com) is an associate at Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC and Shabrei M. Parker (Shabrei@minceyandfitz.com), of counsel at Mincey & Fitzpatrick, LLC, is president of the Barristers’ Association of Philadelphia.
YLD Update

Securing Proper State Identification for Vulnerable Philadelphians

By Maria E. Bermudez and Jeffrey N. Rosenthal

IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, CHANCELLOR ALBERT S. Dandridge III challenged all Philadelphia lawyers to be of greater service to the community; to provide more than individualized pro bono services, checks and board membership. In describing the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Boots on the Ground Community Initiative, the Chancellor explained, “It is my hope that when each of you tell people that you are a ‘Philadelphia lawyer,’ their response might be ‘thank you for your service.’”

The Young Lawyers Division (YLD) is committed to furthering our Chancellor’s initiative. Prior service projects have included activities with the Philadelphia School District during Law Week, a school supply drive benefiting Turning Points for Children, Harvest for the Homeless (which is a collection of clothes, coats and toiletries for the homeless), Ronald McDonald House (where we cook for families of seriously ill children), mock trial tournaments in coordination with Temple’s LEAP Program benefiting middle and high school students in Philadelphia and a holiday gift drive to benefit the People’s Emergency Center and the Support Center for Child Advocates.

But this year we were called upon to do more. We were inspired to reassess the needs of our community and how we, as young attorneys, can be of further assistance.

During the Bar Leaders Retreat in January, we learned that there is a serious need impacting our impoverished community—the need for proper identification. Most people know you cannot get a job, cash a check, receive medication, open up a bank account or obtain housing without proper state identification. But what we did not appreciate was that many vulnerable members of our community do not have identification—and have no means to obtain it. The YLD committed to learn more about this problem facing our community and, more importantly, to find a way to help.

We learned that this is a massive problem on a national scale, and certainly in Pennsylvania. According to a Legal Intelligencer article published earlier this year, as many as 13 million United States citizens do not have access to documents proving their birth and citizenship.

We also learned that you need identification to get identification. And you need money to pay for it. In fact, the cost of a non-driver identification in Pennsylvania increased in 2014 by 104 percent (from $13.50 to $27.50), ranking Pennsylvania’s non-driver’s identification fee as the sixth-highest in the nation. At the same time, the fee to obtain a birth certificate in Pennsylvania also doubled from $10 to $20. This is money many of the vulnerable members in our community simply do not have.

To help with this problem, the YLD reached out to those who are already doing amazing work with our homeless and impoverished neighbors, and participated in a birth certificate clinic on Oct. 14. Typically, in order to get a birth certificate (which is often the first step in the quest to obtain state-issued identification) an individual needs identification. As attorneys, we are eligible to request birth records on behalf of such individuals.

During the clinic we joined with the Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP), PECO, Blank Rome LLP and many others to serve 65 homeless individuals, and process 79 birth certificate applications for 64 adults and 15 children. The experience was heartwarming and extremely fulfilling. Sadly, most of the clients we saw resided in shelters and/or other transition facilities. Their stories were humbling. And further served to dispel many of the stereotypes people have come to believe. For example, one woman we met was in foster care for most of her life, and did not know where she was born; therefore, she had never been able to secure her birth certificate. The stories varied, but the message was clear. We were dealing with people who have faced challenges many of us could never imagine. It was a pleasure and a privilege to be of service, and we are grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from and through them in the process.

We would be remiss if we did not thank HAP and its executive director, Marsha I. Cohen, for allowing us to be a part of this important clinic, and PECO for graciously hosting. We would also like to thank all of the nonprofits and other organizations in the city including HAP, Project HOME, Philly Restart and others for all of the hard work they do with our homeless community to help them get identification in order to secure their basic needs.

As Chancellor Dandridge reminds us, we can all make a difference in our community by simply rolling up our sleeves and putting our boots on the ground when it comes to serving those most in need. To request services for someone in need, or to donate to help our neighbors in their journey toward independence by obtaining identification, please download the Donafy smartphone application from the Apple App Store. All donations through the Donafy application go directly to the specified nonprofits.

Maria E. Bermudez (mbermudezesq@gmail.com), an attorney advisor with the Social Security Administration, is chair of the Young Lawyers Division; and Jeffrey N. Rosenthal (Rosenthal-J@BlankRome.com), an associate at Blank Rome LLP, is a member of the Board of Governors.

BAR ACADEMY

Bar Academy Journeys Through the Vatican Splendors at Franklin Institute

By May Mon Post

At the Bar Academy event at the Franklin Institute’s “Vatican Splendors” exhibit, curated by Emily Urban, Ph.D., on Sept. 29, attendees were able to take a guided tour through faith and art and witness one of the largest collections of paintings, sculptures, documents and historically significant objects from the Vatican ever to tour North America, illustrating the Vatican’s impact on history and culture over the course of 2,000 years.

“We picked this exhibit as a Bar Academy event because we thought that the timing of the exhibit, combined with the pope’s visit, would make the exhibit both topical and timely,” said Hon. A. Michael Snyder, co-chair of the event along with Nikki Johnson-Huston.

“For those of us who have not yet had a chance to visit the Vatican, the ability to get a better sense of the historical perspectives of the art, combined with the political machinations of the times, was really useful.”

“Vatican Splendors” has traveled to other U.S. cities in recent years, but organizers said many of the items are new to this tour, and it has grown in size. About 200

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The 2015 race for the position of Vice Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association is contested. Hon. A. Michael Snyder (Ret.) and Mary Platt are running for the position that is third-in-line for Chancellor of the Association. The winner will serve as Chancellor in 2018.

Hon. A. Michael Snyder (Ret.)

Professional Experience: Distinguished neutral with The Dispute Resolution Institute; Temple University School of Law.

Association Activities: Assistant secretary of the Philadelphia Bar Association; chair/co-chair of Bar Academy (2010-present); Bench-Bar Planning Committee (2011, 2012); co-chair Law School Outreach Initiative (2014-present); Board of Governors, Workers’ Compensation Section representative (2001, 2009-2014); co-chair, Workers’ Compensation Section (2000, 2009); Executive Committee, Workers’ Compensation Section (1999-2002, 2008-present); member, Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee; member, Arts in the Courts Committee; team teacher, Advancing Civics Education Program (2009-present); Investigative Division member, Judicial Selection and Retention Committee (2013-present); member, Workers’ Compensation Section; member, Philadelphia Bar Foundation Grants Committee (2009-present).

Candidate’s Statement: I am delighted to be able to address you as a candidate for Vice Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. My many years of activity in the Bar Association, including my current service as Assistant Secretary, co-chair of the Bar Academy, co-chair of the Law School Outreach Initiative, member of the Cabinet, member of the Audit Committee, member of the Investments Committee, Investigative Team member of the Commission on Judicial Retention and Selection, and counsel to the Workers’ Compensation Section demonstrate my commitment to the values and ideals of this amazing organization.

I am committed to actions that will enhance the professional lives of our members, to actions that will promote greater diversity and inclusion in the profession, to actions that will assure equal access to civil justice, to continued actions to assure an independent, high-quality judiciary, and to collaboration with City and business leaders to build a strong economic base for Philadelphia.

Leadership of the Philadelphia Bar Association is a great responsibility; it is a responsibility that I do not take lightly. I pledge that if elected I will work tirelessly to achieve the goals of the Association, and the needs of the citizens of Philadelphia.

Mary F. Platt

Professional Experience: Counsel, Fineman Krekstein & Harris, P.C., Georgetown University Law Center and Mount Holyoke College.


Candidate’s Statement: Since 1997, I have held several leadership positions in the Philadelphia Bar Association because I wanted to make a difference in the lives of other lawyers and our profession. I am running for Vice Chancellor so I can lead the Association in efforts to achieve equal access to justice; legal services for the poor and disadvantaged; an independent and qualified judiciary; diversity and inclusion; and changes in laws to meet the needs of society and our profession. I also want the Association to help lawyers connect with each other and the business community, manage their practices and advance in our profession, and engage in activities that serve our legal community and Philadelphia.

My goal is to make the Bar Association an organization in which all Philadelphia lawyers want to participate. This is a critical period for our Association because lawyers have limited time to devote to Bar activities. I believe my broad-based leadership experience in the Association and my experience as a practicing lawyer will enable me to identify the needs of lawyers in our community, collaborate with others on how the Association can serve these needs, and increase membership and participation in Bar activities.

4 Line Office Posts Unopposed

For 2015, the four candidates for Association line office posts are unopposed. The candidates are Jacqueline G. Segal, secretary; Regina M. Foley, treasurer; Jennifer S. Coatsworth, assistant secretary; and Natalie Klyashtorny, assistant treasurer.

Segal is a partner at Fox Rothschild LLP and a graduate of Temple University Beasley school of Law.

Segal currently serves as secretary of the Bar Association (2014-2015). She has held a number of other Bar Association positions including assistant secretary (2011-2013); parliamentarian to the Board of Governors (2010); Cabinet member (2010-present); Board of Governors (2007-2009); co-chair, Membership Task...
Section Celebrates St. John’s Hospice

By Hon. Tina Maria Rago

The Workers’ Compensation Section presented a donation to St. John’s Hospice and honored two of its staff members, Anthony Wiloughby and Tasha Madison, at its “Fall Fling” at Saint Luke and The Epiphany Church in Philadelphia on Sept. 19.

The Workers’ Compensation Section volunteers at St. John’s Hospice as part of Chancellor Albert S. Dandridge III’s “Boots on the Ground” community initiative. St. John’s Hospice is an organization made up of compassionate and committed individuals who have dedicated themselves to serving the less fortunate. Every day, approximately 250 men, who might not otherwise find a friendly face or a healthy meal, find both at St. John’s Hospice.

The Workers’ Compensation Section decided to honor the altruism and the compassion of Wiloughby and Madison with its inaugural Outstanding Service Award. In addition to a donation of $500 to St. John’s Hospice, the section awarded Wiloughby and Madison each a $125 cash honorarium.

The Workers’ Compensation Section, on behalf of the Philadelphia Bar Association, thanks Wiloughby, Madison and the rest of the staff at St. John’s Hospice for making the community a better place and for letting the section play a small part in their good work.

Hon. Tina Maria Rago, Workers Compensation Office of Adjudication (trago@pa.gov), is co-chair of the Workers’ Compensation Section.
Lawyer to Lawyer referral ad, contact Lana Ehrlich at 215-557-2392 or lehrlich@alm.com.
Each year during interviews with grantees of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, we repeatedly hear that unrestricted funding, particularly at a time when other sources of funding are pulling back, allows our public interest agencies to stay strong in the services they provide to vulnerable and/or low income populations in the Philadelphia region and across the Commonwealth. As we approach the most significant fundraising event of our year, the Andrew Hamilton Benefit Bash (#GettingJusticeDone) on Nov. 7 at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel, it behooves us to take a moment to reflect on the Foundation’s grant-making process.

Currently, general operating grants of the Foundation help to sustain more than 35 legal aid agencies. Grantee organizations provide direct legal services, or promote education in the public interest, to help impoverished and vulnerable populations achieve access to justice. These agencies’ programs address all major issues preventing our society from living up to the nation’s foundational promise of equal justice for all and issues including poverty, voting rights, equal access to education, provision of adequate healthcare, elder justice and child abuse.

Each year the Foundation engages in a stringent review of grant applications to ensure that funds are directed within a clear set of priorities, namely:

- Ensuring a fair and just society
- Helping the poor
- Caring for our children and elderly
- Addressing health and disability issues
- Focusing on issues affecting women
- Improving community welfare

The grants process also ensures that funds go to only the highest caliber of local public interest legal aid agencies. The strength of the Foundation’s grant-making process derives from its stalwart commitment to directing funds based on the above-mentioned priorities and to ensuring the continued effectiveness of the community’s legal services system. Indeed, the significance of a Foundation general operating support grant goes beyond the dollar value of the funds provided. As one agency expressed it, “For our organization to be able to list the Foundation as one of our substantial and faithful supporters increases our ability to persuade possible new sources of funding to join in support of our work.”

The Foundation Grants Committee is responsible for considering the proposals according to the following criteria:

- Does the applicant advance the Foundation’s mission to promote access to justice?
- Is the applicant effective?
- Is the applicant well-managed?

This past May, 39 nonprofit agencies applied for general operating funds. The 18 members currently serving on the Foundation’s Grants Committee are drawn from the trustees of the Foundation, attorneys in the commonwealth, former judges, philanthropists and nonprofit professionals and financial management professionals. The financial management professionals on the committee perform an in-depth analysis of each organization’s financial statement and, if any anomalies are found, request additional financial information from the organization.

In addition to consideration of the written application, the Grants Committee conducts site visits of any new applicant organization as well as one-third of the current grantee organizations. Between June and August of this year, for example, Grant Committee members spent more than 20 hours conducting site visits to several previously funded agencies and two new applicants. Also, each year beginning in September, the executive directors and a trustee from each of the applicant organizations are interviewed by the committee at the Foundation’s offices. This year the committee held nearly 15 hours of interviews. In November, after careful deliberation, the Grants Committee makes final recommendations about which grants to award. Final decisions are made in December with input from the Foundation’s Finance Committee and with a final vote for approval by the Foundation’s board of trustees.

In summary, our grant-making process is crucial to our grantees and to our donors as it accomplishes three things that we as individuals cannot:

First, as described herein, the Foundation decides grants based on an extensive grant-making process, that ensures that funds we grant will be spent according to a clearly defined set of priorities by well-managed, well-organized, and well-staffed organizations.

Second, as other funding sources decrease (like federal legal services funding; IOLTA funds, which I covered in a prior article; as well as grants from other philanthropic foundations), the Foundation, through its fundraising efforts and endowment, remains a constant source of funding.

Third, our extensive process allows the Foundation to give dollars where they are most needed and also respond to emergent needs and encourage and endorse collaborative, creative solutions. In addition, our process provides an opportunity to spot organizational problems and raise them with the grantee to ensure resources are being properly handled.

I think both the Foundation and its Grants Committee, the grantees it supports and all of our donors and supporters can take a measure of pride in this process.

Steven E. Bizar (steven.bizar@bipc.com), an executive shareholder at Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, is president of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

**ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY / ETHICS MATTERS**

**STATEWIDE PENNSYLVANIA MATTERS NO CHARGE FOR INITIAL CONSULTATION**

**James C. Schwartzman, Esq.**

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- Former Chairman, Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
- Former Chairman, Continuing Legal Education Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
- Former Chairman, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyers Trust Account Board
- Former Federal Prosecutor
- Selected by his peers as one of the top 100 Super Lawyers in Pennsylvania and the top 100 Super Lawyers in Philadelphia
- Named by his peers as Best Lawyers in America 2015 Philadelphia Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law “Lawyer of the Year,” and in Plaintiffs and Defendants Legal Malpractice Law

1818 Market Street, 29th Floor  •  Philadelphia, PA 19103  •  (215) 751-2803

**By Steven E. Bizar**

Donation Opportunity

Contributing to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation shows you care about our justice system and the assistance it provides to the community. With one contribution you are supporting all the public interest legal organizations in the Philadelphia area that serve those who need a lawyer to help them assert their legal rights but who cannot afford one. For more information, please visit www.philabarfoundation.org.
AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania Fights Against Continuing Discrimination

By Sarah R. Schalman-Bergen

When many people think about HIV and AIDS, they associate the disease with the 1980s, with rampant discrimination, homophobia and hysteria. They think about Tom Hanks, Denzel Washington and an era when gay marriage was not legal in all 50 states. But as the AIDS Law Project well knows, the epidemic is sadly all too present, and discrimination is still real. In Philadelphia, it is estimated that by 2017 there will be more than 15,000 persons living with AIDS, as well as the diagnosis of approximately 700 new HIV cases each year in the city alone.

Founded in 1988, the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania remains one of the only private public-interest law firms providing free legal assistance to people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS in the country, and clients are still banging on its doors. In 2014, the organization helped 1,076 people in 1,707 legal matters, ranging from housing to obtaining disability benefits to discrimination and confidentiality cases. This past year, the AIDS Law Project expanded into southern New Jersey.

It was the AIDS Law Project that brought me to the city I have now called home for the past eight years. After graduating college, I worked on a medical research study in Boston, Mass., which was designed to improve the adherence rate of people taking HIV medications. During my time there I realized that taking their medication on time was the least of their worries.

I went to law school to help people overcome the barriers they faced. My law school professor told me about a smart, gutsy nonprofit, public-interest law firm in Philadelphia with a national reputation for taking on tough cases. I volunteered with the AIDS Law Project during law school and returned after graduation, spending 50 percent of my time litigating discrimination cases thanks to the generosity of the Jerome J. Shestack Fellowship at WolfBlock LLP. Once you join the AIDS Law Project, you are family. So, although I left WolfBlock when it dissolved to join Berger & Montague, P.C., I have never left the AIDS Law Project.

While working with the AIDS Law Project, I have represented many individuals denied opportunities simply because of their HIV status. But the most disheartening discrimination cases are those in health care settings, where the people denying services and benefits really ought to know better. Sadly, people still need a lawyer simply to get a doctor. Health care is overwhelmingly the service most likely to be illegally denied to people with HIV and AIDS, making up 76 percent of our public accommodations cases. The AIDS Law Project has racked up repeated victories for people who faced discrimination in health care.

Unfortunately, the cases keep coming. Last year we filed a federal lawsuit against a private medical practice after it dismissed a patient—and his family. The man firmly believed it was because he was HIV positive. This October, a hospital settled a complaint the AIDS Law Project filed with the U.S. Justice Department on behalf of a woman who said she was denied bariatric surgery because she had HIV. In both cases we won financial settlements and agreements to implement nondiscrimination policies and improve training.

With each victory we send the message to people living with HIV and AIDS that they can stand up for themselves and have a right to lead healthy, productive lives. As we say around the AIDS Law Project, AIDS is hard enough, justice should not be.

Sarah R. Schalman-Bergen (sschalman-bergen@bm.net), a shareholder at Berger & Montague, P.C., is volunteer of counsel with the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania.
Lawyers and Climate Change: The Time is Now

By Rachel Gallegos

Climate change is the most profound moral, social and political issue to ever confront our species,” said Professor Amy Sinden of Temple University Beasley School of Law in her introductory remarks at a program on Oct. 14 titled “Climate Change and National Security: People, Not Polar Bears.” The keynote speaker was Rear Admiral David W. Titley, U.S. Navy (ret.), a nationally known expert on climate, the arctic and national security. The program was held at the law school and cosponsored by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Sinden said that, despite the gravity of the problem, five words give her reasons for optimism: “Clean Power Plan, pope, Paris.” The Clean Power Plan is the new body of regulations announced by the Environmental Protection Agency this past summer that seek to reduce carbon emissions from power plants. The plan has been hailed as an important and historic first step for our country in combating climate change. The pope is relevant for climate change because of the encyclical letter he issued in June of this year where he calls out climate change as a moral issue. Sinden sees his influence as a turning point in the national and international dialogue. Paris refers to the meeting of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change to be held in Paris from Nov. 30 to Dec. 11. “The Paris meeting offers another opportunity for the nations of the world to take real steps toward addressing the climate crisis. The culmination of these three events signal a global shift and newfound urgency in dealing with the problem of climate change,” she said.

Titley presented the overwhelming and compelling evidence that climate change is real and poses significant risks to human society, including risks to national security as the arctic becomes ice-free, sea levels rise and droughts and floods contribute to regional instability. He emphasized that climate change is not a belief system. He does not “believe” in climate change. Rather, he is convinced by the evidence. That evidence shows that we are facing environmental changes never before seen in human civilization.

He talked about the drastic environmental changes we can expect that will affect our food supply, housing, access to water and other basic needs if strong actions are not taken to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. “The time is now,” Sinden urged the audience. “We must step continued on page 27
USI Affinity Provides Members with Open Enrollment Insurance Options

By Brian McLaughlin

It is open enrollment time for health insurance. The individual open enrollment period is from Nov. 1, 2015 through Jan. 31, 2016. In order for coverage to be effective Jan. 1, 2016 you must complete your enrollment by Dec. 15, 2015. For Philadelphia Bar Association members, help is here. The Philadelphia Bar Association and USI Affinity have expanded the offerings on the Philadelphia Bar Association Insurance Exchange website to enable members to shop for the medical plans they need. A major enhancement is the ability to shop for plans though the government portal without having to go to healthcare.gov, in addition to a new online enrollment functionality for dental and vision programs. The shopping and enrollment can all be completed through the website. You can find the Philadelphia Bar Association Insurance Exchange at www.usiaffinityex.com/PhiladelphiaBar.

The Philadelphia Bar Association Exchange has been built to help all members. This is the place for partners to buy the plan that is best for their family, when the firm chooses a different carrier. This is the place for sole practitioners to find the best Individual plan to meet their needs. It is also the place for administrators and firms to keep up on the latest changes with health care and find the benefit options that will set their firm apart from the competition.

The Philadelphia Bar Association Insurance Exchange is a private insurance exchange – a convenient and secure online portal where Association members can comparison shop to find the most competitively priced health, dental, vision and other valuable insurance member benefits. The goal in creating the exchange website was to give Association members a single location where they can shop for all their insurance needs. Through our access to all major medical carriers and exclusive dental and vision programs you can build a program that saves money and/or enhances your benefits.

Savings are always important but perhaps the most important part of the exchange is the team behind it. The benefits specialists at USI Affinity are experts in health care reform. They can answer your questions, and help you design a health plan that provides the best coverage and value. And if you are looking for coverage for your firm, USI Affinity will also make sure your new plan puts you in compliance with all the new Affordable Care Act regulations and requirements.

Plus, as the officially endorsed broker of the Philadelphia Bar Association with the strongest commitment to its members, USI Affinity’s service team will be there for you throughout the year.

The USI Affinity service team has been supporting attorneys in Philadelphia for years. Our team of licensed professionals are there to make sure you and your family get the most out of your benefits while spending the least amount of time thinking about benefits. In the past year our team has fielded more than 12,000 calls from Association members and their families with everything from billing issues, lost ID cards to claim denials. Why go it alone when you can have the staff of USI Affinity on your team?

USI Affinity’s size, experience and relationships with many of the nation’s top insurance carriers allow them to offer Philadelphia Bar Association members a variety of affordable medical and dental plans, and a host of other products through this online exchange website. But in this complex new health care marketplace, having expert guidance readily available to help you make sense of it all may continued on page 23
Developments and Trends in Asylum Law

By Annie Kernicky

With the mass migrations in Europe and the U.S.’s own border crisis as the backdrop, the International Law and Immigration Law Committees of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Oct. 14 panel discussion on asylum law provided insight into some of the nuances surrounding the legal battles refugees undergo in the hopes of avoiding danger in their home countries.

The panel, moderated by Katelyn Hufe, partner, Gian-Grasso, Tomczak, & Hufe P.C., included Judith Bernstein-Baker, executive director, HIAS Pennsylvania; Fernando Chang-Muy, the Thomas O’Boyle Lecturer in Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School; Kaya Ramji-Nogales, co-director, Institute for International Law and Public Policy, Temple University Beasley School of Law; Thomas Griffin, partner, Surin & Griffin, P.C.; and Jonah Eaton, staff attorney, Nationalities Service Center.

The panel began by providing a basic overview of asylum law. In response to the mass displacement of people after World War II, the United Nations formed the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which issued a treaty defining the term “refugee,” as someone with a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality membership in a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable or unwilling based on his fear to avail himself of the protection of that country. The UNHCR has three solutions to the refugee problem: (1) voluntary repatriation, (2) local integration (asylum) or (3) resettlement to a third country.

The Syrian crisis is one of the most extreme examples of politics driving people to flee. Most recent data estimates that about four million Syrians have left their country and are applying for asylum elsewhere. About 2,100 Syrians are applying for asylum here in the U.S., but many are rejected based on the multitude of terrorism-related bars codified in law. For example, if an individual was captured by a terrorist group, remained unwilling to join the cause, yet provided some form of “material support” like transporting supplies or setting up a tent, their application may be denied. The current system is backlogged with similar stories of

From left, Fernando Chang-Muy, Thomas O’Boyle Lecturer in Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School; Jonah Eaton, staff attorney, Nationalities Service Center; Thomas Griffin, partner, Surin & Griffin, P.C.; Kaya Ramji-Nogales, co-director, Institute for International Law and Public Policy, Temple University Beasley School of Law; and Judith Bernstein-Baker, executive director, HIAS Pennsylvania.
PNC Perspectives

Are Master Limited Partnerships Right for You?

By Mary E. Ashenbrenner

Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs) have been receiving a lot of attention recently as an attractive investment vehicle for certain investors. In this month’s interview, I sat down with John Song, senior investment advisor with PNC Wealth Management, to learn more about what MLPs are and why some investors might consider adding this asset class to their portfolios.

Mary Ashenbrenner (MA): How would you define Master Limited Partnerships?

John Song (JS): Simply put, MLPs are limited partnerships that trade on a public exchange like corporate securities. They are connected in some way to natural resources and are typically related to the energy industry.

MA: How popular are MLPs becoming as an investment vehicle?

JS: As investors seek new sources of returns, MLPs have become one of the fastest growing asset classes in the U.S. Over the past decade, the number of MLPs has more than tripled to over 120 in existence today. They have a market capitalization equaling 10 times what it was 10 years ago.

MA: To what do you attribute this positive growth trend?

JS: The build-out of energy infrastructure in the U.S. has benefited energy-related investments, including MLPs. Advancements in technology and attractive oil prices, particularly recently, have also helped spur interest, leading to strong growth in investor enthusiasm for MLPs.

MA: How would you characterize the historical performance and income generation abilities of the MLP asset class?

JS: Investors are always searching for new sources of strong returns. MLPs have been among the top-three performing asset classes over the past decade. Historically, they have delivered high-current income, stable cash flows and strong distribution growth. These vehicles possess potential tax benefits at both the partnership and investor level, as taxes may be deferred; although investors should always consult with their tax specialist prior to investing. In addition, it should be noted that tax reporting requirements for MLP investors can be time consuming and costly.

MA: How do MLPs compare to common stock?

JS: The primary difference between MLPs and common stock is that common stock is related to a wide array of sectors, while MLPs primarily relate to the energy sector. Among other things, there are also variations in voting rights, taxation and terminology regarding ownership. In general the energy sector is inherently more risky than most other asset classes. Accordingly, MLPs may reward investors with higher yields and payouts than investments in securities associated with other asset classes.

MA: What might investors hope to gain from an allocation to the MLP asset class?

JS: Here are four key reasons an investor may consider adding MLPs to his portfolio:

1. An investor may gain diversification with an asset class that has a relatively low historical correlation to the broad market.
2. MLPs have been shown to deliver an attractive yield and distribution growth with a historic average yield of seven percent for the Alerian MLP Index.
3. MLPs can be an effective inflation hedge, with historic distribution growth for the past eight years exceeding inflation.
4. There are potential tax benefits, although we recommend that investors consult their tax specialists as MLPs may represent a complex tax situation.

John Song is a Senior Vice President with PNC Wealth Management located in Center City Philadelphia. Please contact Mary at 215-585-1041 or at mary.ashenbrenner@pnc.com.
Tara D. Phoenix to Lead Association’s Continuing Legal Education Department

By Ryan Gatto

In early 2016, the Philadelphia Bar Association will serve as a new provider of Continuing Legal Education in the Southeastern Pennsylvania region. The Association has named Tara D. Phoenix to direct its Continuing Legal Education department and develop CLE programs in conjunction with its members, officers, staff and well-known regional legal professionals and organizations.

For more than 10 years, Phoenix was the Pennsylvania Bar Institute’s (PBI) CLE program manager assigned to the Association. Phoenix plans to employ a collaborative model by working with the Association membership, leadership, as well as influential Philadelphia legal professionals, to modernize and enliven its new in-house offerings and bring diverse program content that matches the Association’s diverse membership.

Phoenix has more than 20 years of experience in the compliance and learning development industries with positions at PBI, Chubb, PTS Learning Systems and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

“The Philadelphia Bar Association is proud to serve as a new provider of Continuing Legal Education to lawyers across the region next year, with the level of quality and service that is a hallmark of our Bar Association. As an adult education and compliance industry professional for more than 20 years, Tara brings tremendous experience and vision to Philadelphia Bar Association CLE and we are delighted she will spearhead this comprehensive new offering for our membership,” said Mark Tarasiewicz, executive director of the Association.

Phoenix is a graduate of West Chester University and the Chubb Institute. She can be reached at 215-238-6349 or tphoenix@philabar.org.

At the Philadelphia Bar Association's Annual Meeting on Feb. 15, 2016, Tara D. Phoenix was named to lead the Association’s new Continuing Legal Education program. Phoenix has more than 20 years of experience in the compliance and learning development industries with positions at PBI, Chubb, PTS Learning Systems and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

As an adult education and compliance industry professional for more than 20 years, Tara brings tremendous experience and vision to Philadelphia Bar Association CLE and we are delighted she will spearhead this comprehensive new offering for our membership,” said Mark Tarasiewicz, executive director of the Association.

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Asylum Law

continued from page 14

applicants attempting to prove that their story should be an exception to the bar. Unfortunately, unless Congress redefines the term “terrorist,” which continues to expand, the system will remain backlogged.

Refugees coming to the U.S. from Central America face a different issue: their situations do not neatly fit into one of the five categories of a refugee. Many Central Americans fleeing their home countries do so fearing the gang violence – which has been held by U.S. courts to be too broad to qualify as a “particular social group.”

To meet that definition, the group must: (1) have members who share a common characteristic, (2) be defined with particularity and (3) be socially distinct within the society in question. Unfortunately, fearing persecution from renouncing membership in a gang does not meet the definition. There has been a recent development for those who seek asylum based on domestic violence, though. In Matter of A-R-C-G the Board of Immigration Appeals ruled that women in Guatemala who are unable to leave their abusive relationships meet the definition of a particular social group.

The panel also discussed the dangers of vestsing so much authority with border officers at the U.S. border considering that over 70 percent of removals take place at the border. However, these individuals are not supposed to be returned right away – a border officer must interview them to see whether they have a credible fear of persecution. Though certain criteria is established in the law that the border officer should use in making that determination, there is little oversight and consistency in its application.

Anyone interested in representing families in their asylum case can contact Human Rights First.

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Asylum Law

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Splendors

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works of art and historically significant objects, many of which have never left the Vatican, are presented in a recreated environment that enhance the attendees’ understanding of their historical and artistic significance.

“In planning the event, what was most exciting for me was the ability to have a tour by a curator with such in-depth knowledge. Ultimately, I felt that the curator’s experiences at the Vatican, combined with her really engaging personality, added a great deal to our enjoyment of the exhibit,” said Judge Snyder.

Sheryl Axelrod, who attended the Bar Academy event, also felt that the curator added a special touch to her visit. “I loved listening to the docent, a young woman who had spent years living in Vatican City, share her considerable knowledge about the splendors, and put the pieces into the context of the time when they were made,” she said.

The exhibition is organized into 11 galleries that illustrate the evolution of the Catholic Church and its papacy, beginning with Saint Peter through the papacy of Pope Francis, with thematic areas highlighting important developments, moments, people and events tied to the history of the Catholic Church and the Vatican, reflected in both important historical objects and artistic expression from different eras. An impressive focus in the exhibition is on the Sistine Chapel and Saint Peter’s Basilica.

Other highlights of the exhibit include works by Michelangelo, Bernini, Giotto and Guercino; precious objects from the Papal Mass, bone fragments of Saint Peter and Saint Paul discovered at their tombs, storied frescoes and mosaics and historical objects from the modern and ancient basilicas of Saint Peter’s in Rome.

“I was especially taken with a number of works which lovingly portrayed women other than Mary,” said Axelrod. “There was a beautiful painting of a woman reading to her baby, another of a woman comforting her daughter. The pieces were warm and tender. It struck me that while today women can occupy spheres the painters could scarcely have imagined, with the exception of Mary, it is sadly rare to see women portrayed through loving eyes for them.”

In addition to artwork from European artists, the exhibition showcases Asian arts as well as intricately embroidered silk vestments and historical maps and documents from around the world.

“Splendors” will remain in Philadelphia through Feb. 15.

As a long-time lover of Asian art, I was delighted to see the inclusion of some works that were not by European artists,” said Judge Snyder. “I felt that the addition of works of art dealing with faith from artists of different cultures added greatly to the quality of the exhibit.”

From the sights and sounds of the grand basilica to a touchable cast of John Paul II’s hand, attendees were able to embark on a multi-sensory journey through the ages of artistic expression and religious iconography, from the underground catacombs where the remains of Saint Peter were discovered to the magnificent papal chambers found above ground.

“It was a fun, beautiful and informative event and was relevant especially given that Pope Francis has been visiting Philadelphia the previous weekend. He brought pieces of Rome and the Vatican to Philadelphia at a time when we were suffering from ‘pope fever,’” said Johnson-Huston.

“Vatican Splendors” will remain in Philadelphia through Feb. 15.
Giants of the Business Bar with Amelia Boss

Chancellor Albert S. Dandridge III (left to right) with Hon. Jean K. FitzSimon, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; Amelia Boss, trustee professor of law, Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law; and Graham R. Laub, chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Business Law Section; at Giants of the Business Bar featuring Boss at the Wells Fargo Museum on Oct. 22. Boss was the first professor and second woman to have chaired the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association.
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Crump Discusses Resuscitating Due Process

**By Thomas Rogers**

As he has gone across the country looking at grand juries after the Michael Brown decision, Benjamin L. Crump has often been asked, what is a grand jury? The 2015 Bench-Bar & Annual Conference opening plenary featured a fireside chat between Rachel E. Branson, special advisor to the Chancellor, and guest speaker, Crump. Crump, an attorney known for his advocacy in the Trayvon Martin case, is a frequent speaker and author, including his article “The Police Don’t Shoot White Man in the Back: Representing Minorities in Police Brutality Cases.” The chat was titled “We Can’t Breathe: The Struggle to Resuscitate Due Process in Police Excessive Force Cases.”

Regarding the Michael Brown case in Ferguson, Mo., Crump said “One of the things I think everybody saw in Ferguson was just how riveting these matters are becoming in society.” He went on, “The power of social media once again showed how transcendent [these cases] are now in American culture. [The Michael Brown case] became the number one trending story in the entire world. When that grand jury decision came back, and it was found that the jury believed that the police were justified, they had such a reaction in America, especially from young people. They said, how can you kill an unarmed person of color in broad daylight with no one held accountable?”

According to Crump, the case struck a nerve, and it turned the public focus on the American grand jury process, which has been abolished in several states. These cases have put it under tremendous scrutiny. He said that most people do not understand the grand jury process, or know that it was originally created by English monarchs in order to keep certain legal matters from reaching the courts. In today’s grand jury process, a prosecutor convenes a group of 23 jurors, presents the case and then asks the grand jury to bring a verdict to charge or not charge the suspect. A judge is not involved.

“You can get an indictment on a ham sandwich, if you want to do it,” said Crump. However, when police shootings are addressed, he said, the process “gets turned on its head” and he has seen a lack of indictments in cases like Michael Brown. He believes that in those cases, there has been a symbiotic relationship between the prosecutors and the police departments. “Let’s face it, these individuals work together every day.” He explained that prosecutors are not often asked to decide whether to charge police officers, who they rely upon everyday, whose credibility they have to build up in order to get convictions. In situations like the Michael Brown case, prosecutors are asked to attack the credibility of these officers. According to Crump, as long as this dynamic exists, outcomes like the Michael Brown case will continue.

Judges Review Courts’ Initiatives, Successes

**By Thomas Rogers**

Perhaps the most significant update to the state of Pennsylvania’s courts this year was the historic situation of three open seats on the bench of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Hon. Thomas G. Saylor, Chief Justice, Pennsylvania Supreme Court, told the audience of the State of the Courts program which closed the 2015 Bench-Bar & Annual Conference on Oct. 17.

Along with Chief Justice Saylor, the panel of judges included Hon. Debra McCloskey Todd, Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; Hon. Susan Peikes Gantman, President Judge, Pennsylvania Superior Court; Hon. Renée Cohn Jubelirer, Judge, Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court; Hon. Sheila A. Woods-Skipper, President Judge, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas; and Hon. Bradley K. Moss, Supervising Judge, Civil Division, Philadelphia Municipal Court.

Another update from Chief Justice Saylor was of a different tone. Without a state budget passed in Pennsylvania, the judiciary must remain on the sidelines, he said, until the legislature resolves the budget. However, regardless of the size of the judiciary’s budget requests each year,
For 2015, the five open seats on the Board of Governors are unopposed. The five candidates are Edward F. Beitz, Maureen Farrell, James Funt, Wendy Castor Hess and Adam M. Taylor.

Beitz is an associate at White & Williams LLP and a graduate of Rutgers Law School.

Beitz was chair of the Executive Committee of the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) (2014); chair-elect of the YLD (2013); treasurer of the YLD (2012); and voting member of the YLD Executive Committee (2011-2014).

Farrell is principal of The Law Offices of Maureen M. Farrell and a graduate of Widener University Delaware Law School.

Farrell is a member of the Probate and Trust Law Section (2007-present); was an investigator for the Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention (2015); is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter (2014-2015); is a Legal Line volunteer (2015); she was a creator of the Women in the Profession Newsletter Committee and editor-in-chief of the newsletter (2011-2012); a course planner and faculty member at the 2013 Bench-Bar & Annual Conference program recognized as the highest individual fundraiser for the Bar 5K Run/Walk (2010); was a member of the Bar 5K Run/Walk Charity Committee (2010-2011, 2013); member of the Green Ribbon Committee (2011-2013), the Family Law Section (2012-2014), the Business Law Section (2012-2015); and she is a member of the Solo, Small & Mid-Size Firm Management Committee (2007 - present), the LGBT Rights Committee (2011-present) and the Women in the Profession Committee (2007-present).

Farrell was a member of the Brehon Law Society Executive Board (2014); chair of the Women in the Brehon’s (2012-2014); was chair of the Brehon Membership Committee (2012-2014); fundraiser and promotional event organizer for Community Legal Services Justice for All 5K Run/Walk (2013); member of the 5K Run Committee (2012); and is a board member of the Bryn Mawr Running Club, Executive Committee (1999 to present); a member of the Widener Women’s Alumni Network (2007 to present); served on the Women’s Way Unsung Heroine Awards Committee (2011-2012); and is a member of the Washington Square West Civic Association, The Barristers’ Association of Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Trial Lawyer’s Association, The Justinian Law Society, The Brehon Law Society and the Philadelphia Volunteer for the Indigent Program.

Funt is a partner at Greenblatt, Pierce, Engle, Funt & Flores, LLC and a graduate of Temple University Beasley School of Law.

Funt was chair of the Criminal Justice Section (2013) and is co-chair (2015) and serves on the Commission for Judicial Selection and Retention (2013 – present).

Funt worked on the US/Mexican border advocating for workers’ rights and co-founded his current law firm. Castor Hess is the chair of the Immigration Law Committee (2011-present) and was a course planner and faculty member of the 2015 Bench-Bar & Annual Conference co-course planner, for the Immigration Law and Solo, Small & Mid-Size Firm Committees (2015); course planner and faculty member for the Chancellor’s Forum titled “Unaccompanied Immigrant Minors: The Humanitarian Crisis Not Just at Our Borders” (2014); course planner and moderator, for Immigration Law Committee CLE (2014); was a course planner for the Immigration Law and Solo, Small & Mid-Size Firm Management Committees CLE (2013).

Castor Hess was a co-chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Immigration Law Committee (2012-present) and was vice chair (2010-12); is the Pro Bono Immigration Counsel to the Mexican Consulate in Philadelphia and a member of the consulate’s Programa de Asistencia Legal Externa (PALE) (2010-present); a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) (1981-present) and was the Philadelphia Chapter chair (1996-97); is the national liaison to the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service Vermont Service Center, Liaison Committee chair and co-chair Philadelphia AILA-U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, course planner and faculty member for numerous national and chapter AILA conferences and mentor to new AILA members; was president of HIAS Pennsylvania (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) (2010-12), former vice president, secretary, treasurer and current board member; received the HIAS Advocacy Award (2009); and immigration volunteer for the Philadelphia Legal Assistance Farm-
James G. Begley

Professional Background: Associate, Cohen, Placitella and Roth, P.C.; Rutgers School of Law.

Candidate's Statement: As a former federal law clerk and a practicing lawyer for the past five years, I believe that I have gained the experience to help in managing the activities of the Young Lawyers Division. My experience as a law clerk and the relationships I developed will help in events for young lawyers in transitioning from school to practice. I also believe that being a part of the Executive Committee will benefit my personal and professional growth by helping me build relationships that will be beneficial both in and out of the courtroom.

David M. Bercovitch

Professional Background: Litigation and Immigration Associate at the Law Offices of Stanley J. Ellenberg; Villanova University Law School.

Activities: Young Professional Network, Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce; Louis D. Brandeis Law Society; American Immigration Lawyers Association; Pro Bono Committee, New York Chapter.

Candidate’s Statement: I am running for the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Executive Committee because I am eager to serve the Philadelphia Community and the Philadelphia Bar Association. Through events such as law week, the mock trial competition and other community outreach, the YLD Executive Committee is committed to civic engagement. I look forward to the opportunity to do my part in planning and organizing these tremendous events.

Colin Burke

Professional Background: Associate, Kline + Specter, P.C.; Widener University School of Law.


Candidate's Statement: I am qualified to serve on the YLD Executive Committee as I possess the necessary leadership skills, management skills and dedication to continue the good work of the YLD. I am already a consistent volunteer to several of the YLD community outreach events and look forward to carrying on the YLD and Philadelphia Bar Association’s mission of giving back to the community.

Meghan Claiborne

Professional Background: Associate in the Litigation Department, Duane Morris LLP; Emory University School of Law.

Activities: Billy Penn’s Who’s Next in Law; Young Philly for Hillary Leadership, member; Isaiah Thomas for Philadelphia Councilman, campaign volunteer; Support Center for Child Advocates; volunteer attorney; Philadelphia Reads, volunteer.

Candidate's Statement: I would bring an energetic attitude to the Executive Committee, as well as an innovative perspective on how to get involved. I strongly believe that as young professionals with a specialized skill set, we have an obligation to give back to our community, whether directly through offering legal assistance or on a larger scale through political action. Since moving to Philadelphia, I have done this through pro bono work and volunteering on several local and national campaigns. As a member of YLD’s Executive Committee, I would work to further YLD’s sense of community by encouraging involvement in these projects.

John J. Coyle

Professional Background: Assistant City Solicitor, City of Philadelphia Law Department, Civil Rights Litigation Unit; Temple University Beasley School of Law.


Candidate's Statement: Through my time with the Civil Rights Unit at the Solicitor’s Office, I’ve had the opportunity to work on cases and interact with a wide array of young attorneys, from public defenders to law firm associates. This has made me acutely aware of the many challenges facing young attorneys, and perhaps more importantly, many of the social justice issues facing our Philadelphia community. It is my hope to help shape a YLD that provides development and networking opportunities through programming that encourages young professionals from across industries to engage on issues that will better our city, our communities, and our profession.

Lily Dideban

Professional Background: Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Sierra Thomas Street, Court of Common Pleas.

Activities: Pro Bono Committee, New Jersey State Bar Association; American Immigration Lawyers Association; Philadelphia Bar Association; volunteer, Philadelphia Trolley Tour; volunteer, Philadelphia Community Day – Trolley Tours.

Candidate’s Statement: For two years, I served as the YLD co-chair to the International Law Committee communicating between our committees. I co-organized Recent Developments in Immigration Law, Insights into the Upcoming Israel Election, Russian Legal System presentation, NSC Young Friends Kick-Off, Affinity Bar Quizzo, and more. I am also a dedicated volunteer with mock trial, school supply drives and LegalLine. I support Affinity Bar outreach and attended APABA’s Lunar New Year Banquet, Barristers Scholarship Gala, and the YLD Diversity Reception. I am seeking election to gain voting privileges as I continue my YLD involvement and support to ambassador our efforts globally.

continued on page 22
**YLD Executive Committee**

**Caroline Diehl**

**Professional Background:** Associate, Weber Gallagher; Villanova University School of Law.

**Activities:** Philadelphia Bar Association; Executive Board member and liaison to the YLD and Worker’s Compensation Committee; member of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee of the Worker’s Compensation Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

**Candidate’s Statement:** I attended college and law school in the Philadelphia area and now live and work in the city. I’m interested and committed to community outreach in my firm and outreach provided by the Philadelphia Bar Association to the city. The Young Lawyers Division is an excellent way to learn from my peers and provide them with what I have learned in my first years of practice. I work in a firm that does pro bono work, mentoring and has attorneys serving on local committees and boards. I continue to grow in my career and in my desire to help others succeed.

Matthew A. Fontana

**Professional Background:** Associate in the Labor and Employment Attorney, Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney; Villanova School of Law.

**Activities:** Member, Pennsylvania Bar Association; member, Philadelphia Bar Association; board member, Children’s Village.

**Candidate’s Statement:** I believe I am qualified to serve on the Young Lawyers Division’s Executive Committee because of my experience serving on boards of professional and non-profit organizations and my commitment to the Philadelphia legal community. Specifically, I have experience on boards and executive committees of several organizations where I have provided oversight over operations, served on committees and fundraised. I am also very committed to Philadelphia and the Philadelphia legal community. I am actively engaged in my local ward, where I served on the judicial nomination committee, as well as with the bar association and several community based non-profits.

Lauren Friedberg

**Professional Background:** Associate, Philadelphia Bar Association; Executive Board member and liaison to the YLD and Worker’s Compensation Committee; member of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee of the Worker’s Compensation Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

**Candidate’s Statement:** I attended college and law school in the Philadelphia area and now live and work in the city. I’m interested and committed to community outreach in my firm and outreach provided by the Philadelphia Bar Association to the city. The Young Lawyers Division is an excellent way to learn from my peers and provide them with what I have learned in my first years of practice. I work in a firm that does pro bono work, mentoring and has attorneys serving on local committees and boards. I continue to grow in my career and in my desire to help others succeed.

**Linsey R. Harteis**

**Professional Background:** Associate, Life Science and Health Industry Group, Litigation Section, Reed Smith LLP; Judicial Intern to the Honorable Cynthia M. Rufe, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; Intern, United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

**Activities:** Member, Eastern District of Pennsylvania Prisoner Civil Rights Litigation Panel; member, Reed Smith Tangled Title Team (in Partnership with VIP); Reed Smith Mentor Committee; volunteer, PILCOP Early Voting Project.

**Candidate’s Statement:** Through engagement in local pro bono and firm initiatives, I have developed connective ties to local pro bono organizations. This will enable me to strengthen relationships between YLD members and the community’s most deserving pro bono projects. I am asking for your vote to put me on the YLD Executive Committee to allow me to bring my experience, passion and leadership to the organization in order to build and enhance relationships between Philadelphia’s young legal talent and some of the City’s most deserving legal causes and for us together to build on the Committee’s most impressive list of accomplishments.

Chad Holtzman

**Professional Background:** Associate at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP; Associate, Legal Counsel and Associate, Business Development, Fortress Biotech, Inc.; New York Law School, cum laude.

**Candidate’s Statement:** Being active within the community has always been important to me. While attending law school in New York, I was involved with the New York County Lawyers’ Association, Student Bar Association and Honor Court. Since moving back to Philadelphia, I enjoyed being a Big Sister for the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization and a House Captain for the Rebuild with the Renaissance Group event, as well as participating in many other opportunities to volunteer locally. I am looking to become more involved within the Philadelphia legal community in order to connect with other professionals and plan meaningful events.

Kandis L. Kovalsky

**Professional Background:** Associate, Weir and Partners.

**Activities:** Member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association; vice-president and founding member of the Young Professionals Division of the Philadelphia, Northern Delaware, Susquehanna Valley Chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

**Candidate’s Statement:** I have an extensive amount of experience in both leadership and public service. As vice-president of my college’s figure skating team for three years, I organized approximately 30 fundraisers. Through strategic planning and teamwork, I helped lead our team to three national medals. This year, I

**Lauren Friedberg**

**Professional Background:** Associate, Blank Rome LLP; Rutgers University, J.D.

**Activities:** Board Observer, Nonprofit Board Observer Program, Philadelphia Bar Association; Advisory Board Member, Fairleigh Dickinson University; Pro Bono Attorney, Philadelphia VIP; Court Certified Arbitrator, Philadelphia Bar Association; Leader/Guitarist, the Alternative Dispute Revolution, The Blank Rome Bank.

**Candidate’s Statement:** It has always been my nature to be active in my environment. Throughout the course of my education I served extensively in student politics and participated in civic cases. As a practicing attorney, I have continued this active approach

**Matthew P. Rubba**

**Professional Background:** Associate, Philadelphia Bar Association; Leader/Guitarist, the Alternative Dispute Revolution, The Blank Rome Bank.

**Candidate’s Statement:** It has always been my nature to be active in my environment. Throughout the course of my education I served extensively in student politics and participated in civic cases. As a practicing attorney, I have continued this active approach

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**Election Notice**

**Candidates For YLD Executive Committee**

Balloting for members of the Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the Ballroom Level of the Hyatt at The Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets. This year, 15 candidates are seeking election to seven seats available on the YLD Executive Committee. Committee members serve three-year terms.

**Candidates for Office**

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Note: Only members in good standing of the Association’s Young Lawyers Division may cast votes in this election. Attorneys are members of the Division if (1) they have not yet reached or reached the age of 37, or (2) they have not yet reached or reached the third anniversary of their first admission to the bar of any state.

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**continued on page 23**

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**continued on page 23**
YLD Executive Committee continued from page 22
by incorporating my passions for art and music into purposeful community building pursuits. These include form-
ing and performing with Blank Rome's own rock band, in partnership with United Way, as well as by contribut-
ing my original artwork to numerous charity auctions. I wish to further my commit-
tment to the Philadelphia legal community as a member of the YLD Executive Committee.

Sarah O. Schindler
Professional Background: Associate, Pogust Braslow & Millrood, LLC; Vill-
nova Law School.
Activities: Philadelphia Bar Association Young Lawyers Division; Brandeis Law Society; Executive Committee Member; American Association for Justice; Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association; Pennsylvania Association of Justice.
Candidate's Statement: Having partici-
pated in many YLD events and projects over the last few years, I really appreciate this group and all its great work. I par-
ticularly embrace the YLD's interest in promoting access to justice, as I repre-
sent individuals on a day-to-day basis in my practice and assist clients pro bono whenever I can. I also share the YLD's focus on professional development; I hardly ever miss a networking event! I would love to join the Executive Com-
mittee so that I can play a more active role. Rest assured that, if elected, I will make a meaningful contribution.

Michaela Tassinari
Professional Background: Attorney, Robert J. Casey, Jr. & Associates (Em-
ployees of the Corporate Law Depart-
ment of State Farm); Villanova Univer-
sity School of Law.
Activities: Member, Philadelphia As-
sociation of Defense Counsel; Philadel-
phia Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division, Member and Liaison to the Executive Committee, Member, State Civil Litigation Section.
Candidate's Statement: For the past year, I served on the YLD Executive Committee as liaison to the State Civil Litigation Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association. Although I am cur-ently a non-voting member of the Executive Committee, I took every opportunity to learn how the Executive Committee works and become involved in its programs. I judged mock trial competi-
tions, helped with law week activities, cooked at Ronald McDonald House, and helped organize Harvest for the Homeless. I attended almost every monthly Executive Committee meeting. Now, I want to use my commitment and experience to be a voting member of the Executive Committee.

Courts continued from page 19
the judiciary still costs the state "only one half of 1 percent of general state appropriation," he said. Justice Todd discussed a few of the initiatives of the Supreme Court, one of which involved the Veterans Court system. Justice Todd was assigned in January to act as Supreme Court liaison to the Veterans Court, and stated the Supreme Court's commitment to sup-
port veterans in transition back to civilian life. Penn-
sylvania has the fifth highest population of veterans in the country. "Since 2004, the number of veterans being treated for mental illness and substance abuse and dis-
orders has increased by 38 percent," she said.
The Commonwealth Court is in a period of transition, Judge Jubelirer said. At the end of 2015, Hon.
Danne Pellegrini, President Judge, Commonwealth
Court, will become a senior judge. In 2016, Hon. Bon-
nie Brigance Leadbetter, Judge, Commonwealth Court, will become senior judge and Hon. Bernard L. McGin-
ley, Judge, Commonwealth Court, will leave the court. President Judge Gantman talked about the state of the Superior Court, the court of last resort for 95 per-
cent of the cases in Pennsylvania. The Superior Court is the busiest statewide appellate court in the country, averaging 425 decisions each month. "The American Bar Association has standards relating to appeals courts and suggests that the intermediate appellate courts should receive 90 percent of the appealed decisions within one year, from the date of the decision and the appeal. We are proud to report that we exceed that standard," President Judge Gantman said.
Regarding the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, President Judge Woods-Skipper discussed a number of initiatives. She also talked about the community involvement of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. "Not only do we do our jobs, we also extend ourselves into the communities by serving in food shelters, donating school supplies, mentoring students, participating in ACE programs, attending "meet the judges" forums and many other community activities," President Judge Woods-Skipper said. She also said that as a court, they are determined to be transparent and accountable while providing access to justice.
Supervising Judge Moss ended the panel discussion and talked about his court's pilot program dealing with consumer debt. The program took the debtor bar, peo-
ple who represent consumers, and put them together with those who sue consumers for debt collection. The program was designed to encourage people to come to court, take advantage of legal assistance to resolve their cases quickly and have the opportunity to resolve their issues without a judgment.

Open Enrollment continued from page 13
be the most valuable feature of the new Philadelphia Bar Association Insurance Exchange. You can access the Philadelphia Bar Association Insurance Exchange at www.usiaffinityex.com/PhiladelphiaBar. For lawyers' professional liability and other business coverages, you can still use the Philadelphia Bar Association Insurance Program website at www.mybarinsurance.com/PhiladelphiaBar. If you want to talk with someone about insurance and benefits options for Philadelphia Bar Association members, call USI Affinity Benefit Specialists at 855-874-0267.

Brian McLaughlin (Brian.McLaughlin@usiaffinity.com) is vice president of USI Affinity's Benefit Solutions Group.
For more information about insurance, visit the Philadelphia Bar Association Insurance Exchange at www.usiaffinityex.com/PhiladelphiaBar. For lawyers' professional liability and other business coverage, you can continue to visit the regular Philadelphia Bar Association Insurance Program website at www.mybarinsurance.com.

Line Offices continued from page 9
Civil Litigation Section Executive Council (2011-
ent) and its treasurer (2015-2016).
Coxworth is a member of the Philadelphia Asso-
ciation of Defense Counsel Executive Committee (2010-present); co-chair of the Brandeis Law Soci-
ety CLE Committee (2012-present), a member of its Executive Committee (2011-present), co-chair of Special Events (2013-present), fellowship supervisor (2012-2013) and Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program firm liaison (2009-present); was a member of the American Bar Association YLD Delegate, 2008 Fall Conference, 2009 Annual Meeting, 2010 Midyear Meet-
ing and 2011 Annual Meeting; is an ABA YLD member (2003-present), is the president, University of Maryland Alumni Association Greater Philadelphia Area Club (2003-present); is a member of the Temple University Beasley School of Law Alumni Association (2003-present); and served as Secretary (2008, 2009) and counsel (2008-present) of the Storybook Musical Theatre.
Klyashtorny is counsel at Nocklerman P.C. and gradu-
ated from Temple University Beasley School of Law.
Klyashtorny is active within the legal community, cur-
rently serving a three-year term as an elected member of the Board of Governors of the Philadelphia Bar Associa-
tion. She served as the chair of the YLD (2005), co-chair of the Association's City Policy Committee (2008) and co-chair of its Solo and Small Firm Management Com-
mittee (2010). She served as a member of the Associa-
tion's Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention and is currently a member of the Investigative Division of the Judicial Commissions of both the Philadelphia Bar Association and Pennsylvania Bar Association. Klyashtorny is also a member of the Temple American Inn of Court, the Louis D. Brandeis Law Society and the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association.

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There are several reasons not to take a pro bono case:

• Do not take a pro bono case if you are not interested in honing your courtroom skills;
• Do not take a pro bono case if you want to avoid a reputation as an attorney willing to assist the court with pro se litigants;
• Do not take a pro bono case if you do not believe in constitutional rights.

Samuel W. Silver, partner, Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP, presented these and other reasons to reject pro bono appointments to those gathered at the Sept. 22 meeting of the Federal Courts Committee. Silver, co-coordinator of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania's Prisoner Civil Rights Panel, and his fellow panelists were unanimous in underscoring the opportunity for federal court litigation experience available to attorneys willing to take pro bono appointments.

The merits of pro se cases are screened by the federal courts before referral for pro bono representation, increasing the likelihood of litigation beyond a 12(B)(6) motion to dismiss. According to Marcia M. Waldron, clerk, United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, the Third Circuit averages 20 pro bono appointments per year. Of the 13 most recently decided pro bono cases, 11 were argued before the court. Given the Third Circuit otherwise hears argument in only approximately 10 percent of cases, the percentage of pro bono cases going to argument before the court is significant.

There is a variety of work available to attorneys willing to help. Recent appointments in the Third Circuit, according to Waldron, included 10 prisoner civil rights cases, seven immigration cases and four non-prisoner civil rights cases. In addition to the Prisoner Civil Rights Panel, the District Court also has a Plaintiff's Employment Panel which provides representation to pro se employment plaintiffs. Both panels are overseen by the District Court's Public Interest Committee.

Attorneys taking pro bono appointments have the gratitude of the courts as the burden of managing pro se cases in the federal courts is tremendous. Hon. Mitchell S. Goldberg, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, estimated 10 percent of the District Court's docket are pro se cases. He and his fellow colleagues are "very enthusiastic" about the assistance they receive from counsel. Hon. Richard A. Lloret, Magistrate Judge, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, a member of the District Court's Public Interest Committee, notes that the federal courts are not readily accessible to the lay litigant. In order for litigants to have genuine access to the federal courts it has to be with the assistance of counsel. Assistance of counsel is important not only to management of the federal court system, says Judge Lloret, but for the perception of justice.

Megan N. Harper (megan.harper@phila.gov) is a deputy city solicitor for the City of Philadelphia.
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Note: While the following listings have been verified prior to press time, any scheduled event may be subject to change by the committee or section chair. Lunches are $9 for members and $12 for non-members, unless otherwise indicated. 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 Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2955.

Nov. 2
Family Law Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Center. Lunch: $9.

Nov. 4
Delivery of Legal Services Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th Floor Board Room.
LGBT Rights Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th Floor Board Room.
Criminal Justice and State Civil Litigation: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Center.

Nov. 5
Appellate Courts Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th Floor Board Room. Lunch: $9.
Chancellor’s Forum: educational program, 4 p.m., Pepper Hamilton LLP, 300 Two Logan Square, Eighteenth and Arch streets, Philadelphia.
YLDF Networking Meet & Greet: 6 p.m., The Pyramid Club, 1735 Market St., Philadelphia.

Nov. 6
Large Firm Management Committee: “Business of Law Program,” 2 p.m., Pennsylvania Bar Institute Conference Center, Wannamaker Building, 10th Floor, Market and Juniper streets.
LRIS Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Room South.

Nov. 7
YLDF Harvest for the Homeless: 9 a.m., Ballard Spahr LLP, 1735 Market St., Philadelphia.
Andrew Hamilton Benefit Bash: 7 p.m., Loews Philadelphia Hotel, 1200 Market St., Philadelphia.

Nov. 9
Cabinet: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th Floor Board Room.
Civil Rights Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Room South. Lunch: $9.
Municipal Courts Committee: meeting, 3 p.m., Municipal Court, 1339 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

Nov. 10
Orphan’s Court Litigation & Dispute Resolution: meeting, 8:30 a.m., HQ Business Center, 1500 Market St., East Tower, 12th Floor, Philadelphia.
Real Property Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., Ballard Spahr LLP, 1735 Market St., Philadelphia.
Rules and Practice Committee of the Probate Section: meeting, 4 p.m., Schachtel, Ginsley, Levin & Koplin, PC., 123 South Broad Street, Suite 2170, Philadelphia.
Business Law & YLDF Speed Mentoring Event and Book Drive: 5:30 p.m., Reed Smith LLP, Three Logan Square, 1712 Arch St., Suite 3100, Philadelphia.

Nov. 11
AntiTrust Law Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., Pepper Hamilton LLP, 300 Two Logan Square, Eighteenth and Arch streets, Philadelphia.
Elder Law & Guardianship Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Center. Lunch: $9.
Intellectual Property Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Room South. Lunch: $9.

Nov. 12
PDLG Diversity & Inclusion Symposium: 9:30 a.m., The Union League of Philadelphia, 140 S. Broad St., Philadelphia.
Legislative Liaison Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Room South. Lunch: $9.
Real Property Section Evening Reception & Annual Meeting: 5:30 p.m., China Brazilian Steakhouse, 1901 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Philadelphia.

Nov. 13
Workers’ Compensation Section Executive Committee: meeting, 10:30 a.m., 11th Floor Conference Room South.
Civil Gideon Task Force: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th Floor Board Room.
UKiNe: Knit-a-Long, 12 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Room.
Philadelphia Lawyer Editorial Board: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Room South.


Nov. 16
Criminal Justice Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Center. Lunch: $9.
Public Interest Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th Floor Board Room.

Nov. 17
Elections Forum: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Center. Lunch: $9.
Employee Benefits Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Room South. Lunch: $9.
Education Committee of the Probate and Trust Law Section: meeting, 4 p.m., Flaster/Greenberg, Four Penn Center 1600 John F. Kennedy Blvd., 2nd Floor, Philadelphia.
Cesare Beccaria Award Reception: 5 p.m., Mayor’s Reception Room, Room 202, City Hall, Philadelphia.

Nov. 18
Business Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC, 1515 Market St., Philadelphia.
Immigration Law Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th Floor Board Room. Lunch: $9.
YLDF Cabinet: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Room South.
Federal Courts Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Center. Lunch: $9.
Legislative Committee of the Probate and Trust Section: meeting, 4 p.m., Pepper Hamilton LLP, 300 Two Logan Square, Eighteenth and Arch streets, Philadelphia.
Legal Line: 5 p.m., LRIS Offices.

Nov. 19
Family Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Room South.
LRIS Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th Floor Board Room.

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

Nov. 20
Social Security Disability Benefits Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th Floor Board Room. Lunch: $9.
XYZ’s of Real Estate: educational program, 12 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Center. Lunch: $9.

Nov. 23
Legal Rights of Children Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Center. Lunch: $9.
YLDF Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th Floor Board Room.

Nov. 24
Tax Committee of the Probate and Trust Law Section: meeting, 8:30 a.m., Wilmington Trust, 1650 Market St., Suite 3150, Philadelphia.
Women in the Profession Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th Floor Board Room. Lunch: $9.
Ronald McDonald House Dinner: 6 p.m., Ronald McDonald House, Chestnut Street House, 3925 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

Nov. 26-27
Thanksgiving: offices closed.

Nov. 30
Civil Rights Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Center. Lunch: $9.
Equitable Distribution Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., Klehr Harrison Harvey Branzburg LLP, 1835 Market St., Suite 1400, Philadelphia.
International Business Initiative Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th Floor Conference Room South. Lunch: $9.

Send Bar Association-related calendar items 30 days in advance to Thomas Rogers, Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19107-2955. Fax: (215) 238-1159. Email: TRogers@philabar.org.
Climate Change

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up as a profession and contribute our time, energy and skills to persuade the government to enact legislation that will prevent the catastrophic consequences facing us if we fail to act.” Titley reminded us that important sectors of society have begun to address climate change from their own unique perspectives: military leaders from a national security perspective, insurance and corporate leaders from a risk perspective, medical professionals from a health perspective and religious leaders from a moral perspective. It should follow, then, that lawyers and the legal community should address climate change from a legal and justice perspective.

Rachel Gallegos (Rachel@steveharveylaw.com), associate at Steve Harvey Law LLC, is a member of the Board of Governors.
FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, Sidney L. Gold & Associates, P.C. has dedicated its practice to the field of employment law and civil rights litigation. The firm’s attorneys take great pride in serving as both aggressive and compassionate advocates for victims of unlawful discrimination and harassment. As a result, the Martindale-Hubbell® Bar Register has certified Sidney L. Gold & Associates as a pre-eminent law firm in the field of labor and employment law. More than 4,500 lawyers throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey look to Sidney L. Gold & Associates to refer their clients.

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