By Joseph L. Ring

The Philadelphia Bar Association Workers’ Compensation Section was honored with the 2019 Partner in Mission Award from St. John’s Hospice, a homeless outreach center located at 12th and Race streets. The award was presented to the section’s representatives at the St. John’s Annual Awards Gala on Sept. 20.

Founded in 1963 to serve and assist Philadelphia’s homeless and needy population, the hospice provides invaluable services to many vulnerable Philadelphians. Notably, it provides over 3,000 meals per week, shower facilities, clothing, mail service and counseling to those without means. These services are made possible entirely by donations and volunteers, who are recognized at the awards gala. This year, the section was commended for its unwavering long-term support and the numerous contributions of its members.

Section members are often found distributing food and assisting guests at the hospice. Located blocks from Center City, many attorneys and support staff from local firms sacrifice time from their busy days to serve at the hospice, and several firms have made important donations to purchase supplies for the hospice. This vital and longstanding commitment led the hospice to select the section for its 2019 Partner in Mission Award.

Many members and leaders of the Workers’ Compensation Section were in attendance at the St. John’s Hospice Annual Awards Gala on Sept. 20, along with Chancellor-Elect Hon. A. Michael Snyder (Ret.) (second from right).

By 2015, members of the section were regularly volunteering to help serve food and distribute clothing donations. Since that time, the section frequently provides donations and volunteers from various law offices in nearby Center City.

For anyone looking to get involved or give to the hospice’s mission, please visit the website at www.saintjohnhospice.org, or call (215) 563-7763 for information.

Joseph L. Ring (jring@dmclaw.com) is an associate at Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C.
Thank You to the generous sponsors of our fundraiser for the Philadelphia Bar Foundation:

Presented by the Young Lawyers Division of the Philadelphia Bar Association

Visit us online at PhiladelphiaBar.org and social media:
I believe in love at first sight, at least when it comes to falling in love with babies. When I see a stroller coming in my direction, I know it is about to happen again. I fell in love yesterday with three babies during the seven-block, round-trip walk between my house and Whole Foods. I put away the groceries, went out again, and within half an hour I fell in love with two more. One of the babies, the beautiful grandson of a good friend, is my neighbor. The others were “random” babies, but still, I fell head over heels in a split second.

What is this instant baby love all about? Part of it is obvious—babies are sweet and cute, pretty much irresistible—who doesn’t love a baby? Yes, even, grudgingly, that inconsolable one sitting in the car seat, or the one who won’t fall asleep in her crib—yes, I loved them all. But still, today I was stopped in my tracks by the sight of a baby in a stroller, just as I was the first Earth Day, a few months before my 1970 high school graduation, but in all honestly, I never gave any real thought to having a role in preserving the planet. It goes much deeper—every baby makes me remember, over and over, that the future belongs to them. Babies are sweet and cute, pretty much irresistible—who doesn’t love a baby? Yes, even, grudgingly, that inconsolable one sitting nearby on a long flight. But, as I really think about it, it goes much deeper—every baby makes me remember, over and over, that the world renews and reinvents itself within each of them. I think that every baby is a new beginning for us all.

Before my own (former) baby, now a 26-year-old first year associate at a Philadelphia law firm was born, I was on a mission to make our house a super baby-safe environment. There was not a baby-proofing stone left unturned, but every time I thought I was done, a new danger occurred to me. Then, what about all the dangers outside our front door? Why not cushioned sidewalks? What about a baby suit of armor?

The confessions of a neurotic mother aside, still there were major things that never dawned on me to worry about. I can remember the first Earth Day, a few months before my 1970 high school graduation, but in all honestly, I never gave any real thought to having a role in preserving the planet. I never gave any real thought about the dangers for all babies, former babies and future ones—in other words, for each of us now and to come—if we did not protect and care for the earth, the air, the water. I do not think that I am alone.

About seven weeks ago, I spent close to two hours over coffee with a former baby in my life, now a college student, the son of two lawyers, both my very dear friends. He was about to leave for a semester overseas—Vietnam, Dubai, Morocco and Bolivia—to study climate change. As I listened to this very gifted young man talk so passionately—and literally—about saving the world, I was impressed, inspired, but also, frightened. I realized that, apart from my barely superficial understanding, I am verging on clueless about issues that are not only important, but are existential. I don’t even know what I don’t know, but I do know I need to learn. I need to understand what I can do, what I should have already been doing, what I can begin to do now.

Where do I begin, where do others like me, who need a crash course in climate literacy start? We have several dedicated and knowledgeable climate advocates among our members. One of them, Steve Harvey, who co-chaired our Environmental and Energy Law Committee, is the founder of A Call to the Bar: Lawyers for Common Sense on Climate Change. I just got off the phone with Steve who will be glad to be a resource: steve@steveharveylaw.com. I thank Steve and others like him for their leadership. I thank my young friend who inspired me over that cup of coffee and other young people like him. While I am at it, I thank my son for being my touchstone on many important issues, including this one.

As I fall in love with every baby I meet, I am going to work on making that love meaningful by becoming a better informed and more engaged advocate for their futures around these issues. Whether you are a climate activist, a climate neophyte like me, or somewhere in between, advocacy for our planet is literally common ground. Standing our ground, joining together to contribute in ways both large and small is what Philadelphia lawyers always do.

Rochelle M. Fedullo (Rochelle.Fedullo@wilsonelser.com), partner at Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP, is Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association.
This fall, the Young Lawyers Division has focused on community service. We take our commitment to community outreach in Philadelphia seriously. Community outreach is one of the YLD’s three main missions, in addition to professional development and legal education and mentoring. We continue to host events that are both fun for our members and benefit our Philadelphia community.

We started off the season with our annual School Supply Drive & Happy Hour. The event, held Aug. 22, invited lawyers to sip, socialize and donate school supplies. While YLD hosts networking happy hours every month, in August we ask each participant to bring some school supplies for donation. We donated the school supplies to Turning Points for Children, which has served youth and families in Philadelphia for over 175 years. Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads LLP especially stepped up to the challenge this year, donating more than 50 backpacks filled with school supplies! The YLD is proud to have supported our local children in this way over the years.

In September, the YLD hosted one of our premier events of the year: our annual Philadelphia Bar Foundation fundraiser. This year, we moved the celebration back to Center City for a night of ping pong at SPIN (see photos on page 7). Tournament teams battled their way through the brackets with Exponent coming out victorious in our team tournament. Individuals also faced off in a hard-fought tournament for anyone who wished to compete. In addition to having a fun event for a great cause, the YLD’s hosting of the fundraiser also helps to develop our people. Young lawyers learn how to solicit sponsorships, secure donations and plan a profitable fundraising event. This type of experience is something that many young lawyers do not get to develop early in their careers. This year, through sponsorships and ticket sales, the YLD was able to donate $16,000 to the Bar Foundation to continue its work in the Philadelphia area. The Bar Foundation has always been close to the YLD’s heart as it strengthens the provision of quality legal services and ensures that all individuals understand their rights to equal justice by removing barriers to justice, engaging the community in support of civil legal aid and building system-wide capacity. We look forward to seeing the Bar Foundation’s positive impact on the Philadelphia area grow.

Finally, YLD rounded out the fall with the Pro Bono Road Show happy hour on Oct. 3. The purpose of the event was for attorneys to access information, in one location, on how to give back to the community in many different ways. Lawyers met with representatives of pro bono referral programs and public interest law organizations to discuss volunteer opportunities and ways to get involved. This event was co-sponsored by the YLD, the Delivery of Legal Services Committee’s Pro Bono Subcommittee and the Law Firm Pro Bono Committee. Participating organizations included: Education Law Center, Good Shepard Mediation Program, Homeless Advocacy Project, HIAS Pennsylvania, Military Assistance Project, Pennsylvania Innocence Project, Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity, Philadelphia VIP, Public Interest Law Center, Support Center for Child Advocates, SeniorLAW Center and Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts. A special thanks to Blank Rome LLP for hosting this event.

Michaella Tassinari Bowser (michaella.t.bowser@statefarm.com), attorney at Robert J. Casey, Jr. & Associates, is chair of the Young Lawyers Division.
Two years ago, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation adopted a Unified Giving model for its fundraising. Unified Giving involves an annual one-time financial donation from a law firm, corporate partner or other organization that supports the Bar Foundation for the year, replacing the need for multiple requests for event sponsorships from the Bar Foundation throughout the year. Along with the generosity of our individual donors, our Unified Giving partners make everything that we do at the Bar Foundation possible—supporting our nearly 40 nonprofit partners through grantmaking, programs, fellowships and much more.

This year, we thank our generous donors and celebrate them as changemakers for their dedication to advancing equal access to justice at our annual November event. The 2019 Access to Justice Celebration and Awards Reception will take place on Nov. 6 at the Crystal Tea Room and will feature a keynote address from the Hon. Timothy K. Lewis on the importance of the Equal Justice Center. Through the support of our Unified Giving partners, we offer complimentary attendance to all of our 2019 supporters. We also will honor Linda Peyton for her outstanding service and Hausfeld LLP for its dedication to pro bono service.

Hausfeld will receive the Pro Bono Award of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation for more than 11,800 hours of pro bono work by its attorneys over the last 10 years. In Philadelphia, Hausfeld has focused on increasing access to justice in several issue areas, including environmental protection, post-incarceration reentry and reparations for victims of childhood sexual abuse. In 2017, Hausfeld brought climate change litigation against the United States on behalf of Philadelphia’s oldest environmental nonprofit, Clean Air Council, and two Pennsylvania children. During this time, Hausfeld attorneys worked tirelessly to prevent the federal government from rolling back critical climate change protections.

Since 2017, Hausfeld attorneys have served as supervising attorneys for the Supervision to Aid Reentry (STAR) Program in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Hausfeld attorneys supervise clinical students from Philadelphia-area law schools as they represent reentry court participants in a variety of legal matters, including traffic and family court matters.

Currently, Hausfeld serves as pro bono counsel for claimants who are seeking separation funds in connection with their claims that they were subjected to childhood sexual abuse by members of the Catholic clergy. Hausfeld has represented claimants to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Independent Reconciliation and Reparations Program, the Diocese of Scranton Independent Survivor Compensation Program, the Pittsburgh Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program, the Diocese of Erie Independent Survivors’ Reparation Program and the Diocese of Allentown Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program.

Peyton will be honored with the Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award for her outstanding work in representing undererved and vulnerable individuals for the last 36 years, first at the Philadelphia Public Defender Association and now at the Legal Clinic for the Disabled. When Peyton first joined LCD in 2003, she founded LCD’s Anti-Violence Initiative Project, which helps bring legal resources to victims of domestic violence. Because of Peyton’s leadership, domestic violence continues to be one of LCD’s focus areas.

Peyton also was a pioneer in establishing the first Medical-Legal Partnership in Philadelphia, which embedded an LCD attorney in medical settings serving low-income persons with disabilities and chronic conditions. As part of the MLP, LCD staff train clinical partners to screen their patients for legal needs and, with the patient’s concurrence, connect them to an LCD attorney on-site at the hospital or health center. These MLPs have shifted the burden of finding a legal advocate away from the client by placing a ready advocate in the communities where clients live and receive care.

As a result of Peyton’s vision, leadership, and effective administration, the Independence Foundation has provided funding for five Independence Public Interest Fellows to work for LCD’s Medical-Legal Partnerships. The LCD now has five MLPs across eight hospitals and health centers in the most underserved neighborhoods in Philadelphia. Peyton’s initiative has led to tens of thousands of individuals who have now been screened for unmet legal needs and offered otherwise inaccessible legal services.

Peyton has presented on her Medical-Legal Partnership work, both nationally and internationally. Today, Philadelphia has some of the most robust Medical-Legal Partnerships in the country. Since Peyton’s tenure at LCD, the organization has grown from a capacity of 247 cases in 2008 to 2,358 clients in 2018. Peyton has demonstrated her commitment to recognizing gaps and developing creative solutions to reach low-income individuals, people with disabilities and victims of abuse in a manner that promotes inclusion, independence and justice. Peyton exhibits a client-centric approach to lawyering and has used her position and passion to counteract systems that perpetuate injustice. LCD’s growth in size and impact is a testament to Peyton’s dedication and ingenuity.

We look forward to celebrating the accomplishments and the impact of these exceptional attorneys. There’s still time to become a Unified Giving partner—visit our website at www.philabarfoundation.org to learn more.

Leslie E. John (john@ballardspahr.com), partner at Ballard Spahr LLP, is president of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

Have an Ethics Question?

Call the Philadelphia Bar Association
Ethics Hotline at 215-238-6328
SEPT. 17, 2019 - CITIZENSHIP & CONSTITUTION DAY NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

Top: Hon. John R. Padova, Senior Judge, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (on right), who presided over the naturalization ceremony; with distinguished featured speaker, Sree Sreenivasan (on left), visiting professor of digital innovation at the Stony Brook University School of Journalism; and Chancellor Rochelle M. Fedullo, who provided remarks on behalf of the Philadelphia Bar Association; at the Sept. 17 ceremony.

Middle: Forty-eight people from 30 countries became U.S. citizens at the ceremony.

Bottom: (Left) Featured speaker Sree Sreenivasan asked the audience to take a group selfie at the conclusion of the ceremony. (Right) The group selfie photo.

ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY / ETHICS MATTERS
STATEWIDE PENNSYLVANIA MATTERS
NO CHARGE FOR INITIAL CONSULTATION

Representation, consultation and expert testimony in disciplinary matters and matters involving ethical issues, bar admissions and the Rules of Professional Conduct

James C. Schwartzman, Esq.

- Judge, Court of Judicial Discipline
- Former Chairman, Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania
- 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) 751-2863

COLLECTIONS & ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENTS
Drew Salaman
30 year lecturer/course planner
Pennsylvania Bar Institute
“He wrote the book”
Contingent Fees Available
Salaman Grayson, P.C.
The Judgment Doctors

100 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19110
(215) 568-7575
drew@salamangrayson.com

COUNTY CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYER
Send me your County criminal cases. I pay referral fees.
Detco, Montco, Chester, and Phila. Felonies, Misdemeanors, DUI’S
In practice since 1991 and hundreds of trials

THE DATNER FIRM
ROBERT F. DATNER
Great results for your clients
610-394-3000,
267-455-5777
Call anytime.

AIR CRASH LITIGATION
The Walk Law Firm
(215) 545-4220
- Our practice is limited to aircraft accident litigation for plaintiffs.
- We are Airline Transport and Type Rated jet pilots.
- We are Flight Instructors.
- We are aviation legal writers and lecturers with nationwide litigation experience.

Cibik & Cataldo, P.C.
Consumer bankruptcy specialists certified by the American Board of Certification
philadelphiabankruptcylawyers.com
cibpc@ccpclaw.com
Call or Text Us At
215-735-1060

Michael A. Cibik
Former Chapter 7 Trustee
Michael A. Cataldo
We are a debt relief agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the Bankruptcy Code.

Need A Game Changer?
Expert Witness/Mediator
Real Estate and Title Insurance
With Over 30 Years Major Law Firm Experience.
Robert M. Schwartz
610-212-7344
robertm.schwartz@gmail.com

For details on placing a Lawyer to Lawyer referral ad, contact Shawn D. Phillips at 215-557-2340 or sphillips@alm.com.
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION - PHILADELPHIA BAR FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

YLD’s Ping Pong Fundraiser a Success

The Young Lawyers Division’s annual fundraiser for the Philadelphia Bar Foundation took place at SPIN Philadelphia on Sept. 10. This year, through sponsorships and ticket sales, the YLD was able to donate $16,000 to the Bar Foundation.

On left, top photo: Michaella Tassinari Bowser, YLD chair, with Keep Calm’s individual competition winner Johan Kian.

On right, middle photo: Bowser with Team Exponent, the winners of Keep Calm’s team competition.
OCTOBER 2019 CLE/CJE COURSES

2019 Spotlight on In-House Counsel - Technology & Data Privacy: The Good, the Bad, and the Terms & Conditions
Wed., 10/2/19 – 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. (1 SUB)
Hosted by the Business Law Section and the Corporate In-House Counsel Committee
Held at Loews Philadelphia Hotel, 1200 Market St., 33rd Fl. - Howe Room
This program, hosted by the Business Law Section in conjunction with the Corporate In-House Counsel Committee, will provide an overview of the regulations relating to and oversight of digital information, data privacy and technology from the perspective of in-house counsel at some of the country’s largest companies. The continuing development of laws and regulations in both the U.S. and E.U. makes this primer on data privacy and compliance a valuable tool for attorneys from all practice areas.

Tax Issues Affecting Funds Investing in Cryptocurrencies
Mon, 10/7/19 - 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. (1 SUB) - LIVE and WEBCAST
Hosted by the Business Law Section's Investment Companies Committee
This luncheon program will address the taxation of cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, the current rules and how investment funds need to deal with those rules. The program will provide guidance on the taxation of cryptocurrencies in general, requirements for mutual funds wishing to hold cryptocurrencies in their portfolio, cryptocurrency investments by hedge funds and planning strategies.

VIDEO ENCORE - Discovery in a Digital World - Modern Investigative Techniques: Cybersecurity through Computer Forensics
Tue., 10/8/16 – 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (2 SUB)
The exponential growth of data creation in modern society continually impacts litigation from cyber exposure risk management to computer forensics best practices. The proliferation of mobile devices, new communication methods and web-based platforms presents opportunities for hackers to steal data and creates discovery situations best left to computer forensic experts to provide assistance. This video-encore program explores cybersecurity risk management and covers some of the most interesting areas of electronic data sources that have changed the landscape of investigations and provide interesting stories of how those have had implications on real-world cases.

VIDEO ENCORE: From Criminal Conviction to Civil Nightmare
Tue., 10/15/16 – 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. (2 SUB/1 ETH)
This video-encore CLE program breaks down the civil consequences of a criminal conviction and analyzes the devastatingly negative impact these consequences can have on your client (and his or her family). The panelists examine remedies to counteract any potential negative consequences for people released from prison. Hear updates on substantive changes to the Commonwealth's expungement laws and the effect any potential negative consequences for people released from prison. Hear updates on your client (and his or her family). The panelists examine remedies to counteract conviction and analyzes the devastatingly negative impact these consequences can have on firms, but often times, solo and small firms are unfamiliar with the policies in question. Whether for your firm or for the representation of a client, solo and small firm practitioners must prepare for and understand these common employment issues that may become complex. Panelists will also offer guidance on how to avoid pitfalls when establishing policies within a small firm or representing clients with an employment claim.

Diversity in the Federal Courts
Wed., 10/16/19 – 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. (1 ETH) - LIVE and WEBCAST
Hosted by the Federal Courts Committee
Please join the Federal Courts Committee for a candid conversation with Chief Judge Juan Sanchez, Judge C. Darnell Jones and Judge Anita Brody of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania regarding the importance of diversity in the courts, the judiciary and the legal profession. Each judge will also offer guidance, using personal anecdotes, on overcoming obstacles to advance in the profession.

October 2019 Probate & Trust Law Section Quarterly - Estate Planning For The Solo Practitioner: How To Plan During Your Lifetime And How To Administer A Practice Upon Death
Thu., 10/17/19 – 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. (1 SUB/1 ETH) - LIVE and WEBCAST
Hosted by the Probate & Trust Law Section
This 2019 October Probate Section Quarterly Meeting CLE will explain various estate planning techniques that are excellent vehicles for owning and transitioning a law practice during a practitioner’s lifetime. Panelists explore possible succession planning strategies to safeguard the transition of a law practice; analyze various tax considerations upon the sale or merger of a law practice; address the ethical considerations for notifying clients of an attorney’s death, maintaining or destroying client files and assuring that critical client deadlines are not missed upon the death of a solo practitioner and much more.

VIDEO ENCORE: Employment Policy Issues That Solo and Small Firms Must Know!
Mon., 10/21/19 - 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (1 SUB/1 ETH)
This video-encore program will explore employment policy issues that can have a significant impact on firms, but often times, solo and small firms are unfamiliar with the policies in question. Whether for your firm or for the representation of a client, solo and small firm practitioners must prepare for and understand these common employment issues that may become complex. Panelists will also offer guidance on how to avoid pitfalls when establishing policies within a small firm or representing clients with an employment claim.

Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax Update
Tue., 10/22/19 - 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. (1 SUB) - LIVE and WEBCAST
Hosted by the Probate & Trust Law Section Taxation Committee
Keeping up-to-date on the Pennsylvania inheritance tax is essential to any practitioner who provides estate administration advice and services. This practical CLE program provides a unique opportunity to engage directly with top Department of Revenue Inheritance Tax Division officials and receive the latest updates regarding issues with inheritance tax.

For questions regarding Philadelphia Bar Association CLE, contact Director of Continuing Legal Education Tara D. Phoenix at 215-238-6349 or tphoenix@philabar.org.
Consulate, is filled with many “tricks” these days… and a handful of “treats.” This Processing immigrant visa cases outside of the United States, at the United States Hosted by the Immigration Law Committee Tue., 10/29/19 – 12:00 - 2:15 p.m. (2 SUB) - LIVE and WEBCAST VIDEO guidance and practice considerations before you send your client outside of the U.S., and refusal of your client’s long-awaited immigrant visa at the Consulate, and benefit from timely and practical program addresses how to avoid the “tricks,” that may result in the Philadelphia County. guidance on the standards of practice for lawyers who represent children in abuse and advocacy to explain how you can make a difference and provide legal representation the Support Center for Child Advocates presentation will also include a role play of a fee dispute mediation. when entering into fee agreements with clients, as well as how to address those issues attorney-client relationship has its own set of nuances, duties, issues and considerations. It may be viewed as a simple contractual arrangement, but each component of the attorney-client relationship has its own set of nuances, duties, issues and considerations. This program explores the fee agreement and its ethical, legal and practical considerations. Attendees will learn how to avoid the common mistakes attorneys make when entering into fee agreements with clients, as well as how to address those issues which often arise when representation ends or the client hires a new attorney. The Tricks and Treats of Consular Processing for Immigrant Visa Cases Tue., 10/29/19 – 12:00 - 2:15 p.m. (2 SUB) - LIVE and WEBCAST VIDEO Hosted by the Immigration Law Committee Processing immigrant visa cases outside of the United States, at the United States Consulate, is filled with many “tricks” these days… and a handful of “treats.” This timely and practical program addresses how to avoid the “tricks,” that may result in the refusal of your client’s long-awaited immigrant visa at the Consulate, and benefit from the “treats”— strategic analysis plans and the filing of waivers, where appropriate. Hear guidance and practice considerations before you send your client outside of the U.S., and they vanish in a poof of smoke, never to again return. It will be a haunting good CLE!!  Financial Strategies to MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MONEY 3 Part series Part I: Foundation Concepts – Cash Flow and Risk Management Tue., 10/22/19 – 5:00 - 7:15 p.m. (2 SUB) - LIVE and WEBCAST VIDEO Part II: Building Your Nest Egg - Investments and Taxes Tue., 10/29/19 – 5:00 - 7:15 p.m. (2 SUB) - LIVE and WEBCAST VIDEO Part III: Legacy… You and the Next Generation – Estate Conservation Tue., 11/5/19 – 5:00 - 7:15 p.m. (2 SUB) - LIVE and WEBCAST VIDEO Presented by Philadelphia Bar Association Member Benefit Provider BPU Investment Management, Inc. Have recent events in the markets and the economy reshaped your financial future? This three-part educational series is designed to help you take charge of your finances and pursue a more comfortable financial future. Paul J. Brahim, CFP®, AIFA® is the Chair and CEO of BPU Investment Management, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC, an SEC registered investment advisor with 30 years of experience helping people make smart choices with their money. In this series, members learn the 7 Roadblocks to Financial Success and how to avoid them. Then Brahim will identify the 6 Keys to Financial Success to guide you on your way to developing sound personal finances, while teaching you how to build a financial legacy for you and the next generation. Exclusively for members of the Philadelphia Bar Association. “How to Handle a Child Abuse Case” Volunteer Training Wed., 10/23/19 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (4.5 SUB/2 ETH) Presented by the Center for Excellence in Advocacy of the Support Center for Child Advocates The Center for Excellence in Advocacy of the Support Center for Child Advocates offers this volunteer-training workshop, presented by dedicated experts in the field of child advocacy to explain how you can make a difference and provide legal representation and social service advocacy for abused/neglected child victims. Receive step-by-step guidance on the standards of practice for lawyers who represent children in abuse and neglect cases and become certified to receive court appointments for dependency cases in Philadelphia County. Nuts & Bolts of Nonprofit Board Service Fri., 10/25/19 - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. (1 SUB) Hosted by the Young Lawyers Division as part of the Board Observer Program This CLE program will provide attorneys interested in serving on a nonprofit board with training on the basics of nonprofit board service, including charitable issues raised under state and federal laws for current board members. The CLE will conclude with a panel of executive directors and board members of charitable organizations sharing real-life experiences and offering guidance regarding the expectations of service to those who are interested in joining a nonprofit board. Attendance by Board Observers is encouraged. Attorney Fee Agreements - Ethical, Legal and Practical Consideration Mon., 10/28/19 - 12:00 - 2:15 p.m. (1 SUB/1 ETH) - LIVE and WEBCAST VIDEO Hosted by the Fee Disputes Committee It may be viewed as a simple contractual arrangement, but each component of the attorney-client relationship has its own set of nuances, duties, issues and considerations. This program explores the fee agreement and its ethical, legal and practical considerations. Attendees will learn how to avoid the common mistakes attorneys make when entering into fee agreements with clients, as well as how to address those issues which often arise when representation ends or the client hires a new attorney. The presentation will also include a role play of a fee dispute mediation. Tricks and Treats of Consular Processing for Immigrant Visa Cases Tue., 10/29/19 – 12:00 - 2:15 p.m. (2 SUB) - LIVE and WEBCAST VIDEO Hosted by the Immigration Law Committee Processing immigrant visa cases outside of the United States, at the United States Consulate, is filled with many “tricks” these days… and a handful of “treats.” This timely and practical program addresses how to avoid the “tricks,” that may result in the refusal of your client’s long-awaited immigrant visa at the Consulate, and benefit from the “treats”— strategic analysis plans and the filing of waivers, where appropriate. Hear guidance and practice considerations before you send your client outside of the U.S., and they vanish in a poof of smoke, never to again return. It will be a haunting good CLE!! VIDEO ENCORE: Mediating a Landlord Tenant Dispute Wed. 10/30/19 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (2 SUB) Attendees MUST agree to handle at least one mediation within 30 days of the course in order to receive CLE credits. Through Landlord Tenant Appellate Mediation Program (LTAMP), volunteer lawyers meet with parties in landlord tenant disputes that have been appealed from Municipal Court to the Court of Common Pleas before trial and attempt to bring the parties to an agreement through mediation. In this CLE course, lawyers will learn the rules of LTAMP, review landlord tenant law, mediation techniques, the documents used at mediation and hear typical case scenarios. Implicit Bias, Discrimination and You: What You Need to Know and When You Need to Take Action Thu., 10/31/19 – 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (2 SUB) Hosted by the Family Law and Business Law Sections The program will examine implicit biases and provide tools to manage those biases in order to prevent them from adversely affecting the decisions one makes and encounters with others. Panels will discuss issues of discrimination in the workplace, courthouse, and legal organizations along with considering when and what actions can be taken. The program will further address the value of diversity and inclusiveness in legal environments and why that should matter to attorneys and their practice. VIDEO ENCORE: My First Federal Trial: Proper Procedure and Successful Advocacy Thu., 10/31/19 – 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (2 SUB) Missed the LIVE presentation? Attend this video-encore! Federal court practice varies greatly from state court practice. Attorneys learn quickly that there are significant substantive differences in practices and procedures when trying their first federal case. Federal court boasts its own rules of civil procedure, rules of evidence and discovery. Attorneys must also learn the role of magistrate judges in the process. This video-encore offers fundamental guidance to attorneys with little or no experience trying federal cases, and acts as a refresher course for attorneys looking to brush up on best practices for federal trials. *Additional courses will be added within the month. For more new, unique and affordable CLE programs, please visit the Philadelphia Bar Association CLE webpage.

TO REGISTER Visit the CLE page at PhiladelphiaBar.org

Philadelphia Bar Association offers LIVE webcasting of select CLE courses. Look for the in the program description for availability.
Thank You to Our Sponsors!

Use the hashtag #BenchBar19 during Bench-Bar to share your favorite part of the conference . . . and what your colleagues are missing who didn’t attend!
Representing the Most Vulnerable

By Elisa C. Advani

The waiting period is extremely long, which only becomes longer after an applicant reaches the age of 21. Other factors, such as marriage of the applicant or death of the parent, will stop the immigration process altogether regardless of how long the applicant has been waiting.

HIAS Pennsylvania has been working hard to inform people of their rights and distribute pamphlets on what people can do if ICE should knock at their door. Undocumented immigrants who want to claim asylum status need to do so within the right timeframe. There is a statutory deadline for applying for asylum, which must be within 365 days of entering the country. If you apply on the 366th day, the application will be denied.

There are different life challenges that come with lack of immigration status. It affects all aspects of a person’s life; for instance, undocumented people who need a driver’s license or healthcare.

It can be stressful to get a photo ID because the process requires sending paperwork to Harrisburg. Depending on immigration status, a person may or may not be eligible for a driver’s license. Immigrants need to be advised against doing things that will affect their status in a negative way, such as registering to vote. This can happen inadvertently, but it is a punishable offense that will put one’s immigration status at risk. A person can inadvertently register when getting a photo ID or if a volunteer knocks on their door offering to register them to vote without even asking about a person’s status.

Public benefits are available to certain noncitizens, especially those under the age of 21. However, many immigrants are denied even when they are eligible for benefits. It is important for attorneys to determine their clients’ immigration status, whether they are “qualified immigrants,” “lawfully present,” or other. Medical assistance is generally available to those who are considered “lawfully present.”

This is important to keep in mind with continued on page 15
Tips & Techniques for Compulsory Arbitration

By Mary LeMieux-Fillery

Making the arbitration process an efficient, meaningful and productive endeavor relies, in part, on knowing the proper “dos and don’ts” and techniques of the trade. On Aug. 15, the Philadelphia Bar Association in conjunction with the Compulsory Arbitration and Solo, Small Firm and Mid-Size Management committees presented a roundtable discussion on the topic featuring panelists Maureen Eagen, director of the Arbitration Center; Joshua Adam Rosen, associate at Simon and Simon PC; and Denise M. Mandi, attorney of the Law Offices of Denis O. Wilson.

The panelists first addressed when a client or party fails to appear for a scheduled arbitration. If plaintiff’s counsel attends a scheduled arbitration hearing without the plaintiff, and defense counsel objects to a continuance, the case will be scheduled for a rule hearing by a judge for a determination on if the case should be dismissed for plaintiff’s failure to attend. Alternatively, if defense counsel does not show, and service has been effectuated, the plaintiff can still attend the hearing and get a decision from the panel.

Panelists discussed stipulations and advised that, “stipulations can often expedite the arbitration and streamline the issues that are going to be presented to the arbitration panel, helping to get extraneous information out of the way.” Panelists agreed that it helps to work out issues through stipulations ahead of time so that when you get to arbitration you can focus on the litigious issue at hand, making the most of your time before the panel.

Panelists then provided pointers on handling underinsured and uninsured motorist claims at the Arbitration Center. They advised that from the plaintiff’s perspective, underinsured and uninsured motorist claims are essentially contract actions, with an underlying tort action. The rule of evidence that prohibits the mention of liability insurance is not applicable to an underinsured and uninsured motorist claim. When these claims are presented to the panel, the panel is privy to the fact that it is an underinsured and uninsured motorist claim, the limits on those claims, as well as the underlying credit.

Lastly, the panelists provided tips to present plaintiff testimony and how to address cross examination from defense.

continued on page 15

Incorporation and Limited Liability Company Formation

SERVICES FOR ALL STATES

CONVENIENT • COURTEOUS • SAME DAY SERVICE

M. BURR KEIM COMPANY
Corporate Service for Attorneys Since 1931

M. Burr Keim Company has specialized in the preparation and filing of corporate documents and in furnishing corporation and limited liability company outfits and related supplies at reasonable prices to attorneys since 1931. We emphasize courteous, convenient and expeditious service and often render assistance to attorneys regarding their corporate and limited liability company organization work without charge.

215-563-8113 (Fax) 215-977-9386 | info@mburrkeim.com | 2021 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1491

www.mburrkeim.com

CONTACT OUR OFFICE TODAY

Submit your request online:

www.mburrkeim.com
or call 215-563-8113
Mindfulness, A Way to Cope and Excel

By Brittany Anne Robertson

Given the demanding nature of the legal profession, attorneys can find themselves lost in worries of the past and future, exacerbating feelings of anxiety and leading to burnout. At the Aug. 28 CLE, “Mindfulness: An Effective Trial Tool,” hosted by the Wellness Committee and the State Civil Litigation Section, attendees learned how to identify and utilize mindfulness tools to obtain optimal outcomes at trial—and in their lives.

Panelists were Hon. Lisa M. Rau, Court of Common Pleas, Trial Division—Civil, First Judicial District of Pennsylvania; Bradley D. Remick, shareholder at Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin, P.C.; Courtney B. Schulnick, cochair of the Wellness Committee; and Michael T. van der Veen, cochair of the State Civil Litigation Section.

Schulnick defined mindfulness as being present in the moment, with a reflection on the past in a non-judgmental way. Admittedly, this can be difficult for litigators, who rely on experiences to work cases and can be consumed by current work that they are unaware of outside matters.

Mindfulness creates resilience by reducing stress and anxiety, changing the neuroplasticity of the brain (i.e., literally changing the way one thinks) and facilitating more creative problem solving.

Schulnick led attendees through a five-minute meditation practice to give them a glimpse on how simple it can be. She recommended the acronym “PRO” for remembering how to meditate: P, to pause, in mind and body; R, to relax, mentally and physically; and O, to open oneself up to the immediate present.

Judge Rau spoke about using mindfulness in her work. Introduced to the concept through a six-week seminar a few years ago, she supplemented her mindfulness education with courses on deep listening. She said she took her education to discovery court where she found that not only was she better able to concentrate on arguments, she could reach decisions easier.

Van der Veen talked about specific mindfulness-centered practices he undertakes before a trial. Viewing a trial in the present, he said, the speaker would start to find a solution on their own because everyone was really listening to each other.

Since it is not yet in force, the CCPA’s true effects may not be clear at this point. Kagan’s creative presentation provided important insight on what to expect.

Kagan’s creative presentation provided important insight on what to expect.

Panelists (top row, second from left) Courtney B. Schulnick; (bottom, from left) Hon. Lisa M. Rau; Michael van der Veen; and Bradley D. Remick, with (top row, from left) Erin M. Siciliano and Carole B. Sheffield, cochairs of the Wellness Committee; Chancellor Rochelle M. Fedullo (second from right); and Candice Kearney (far right), Wellness Committee liaison to the Young Lawyers Division, at the Aug. 28 CLE.

A Gaming Approach to CCPA Compliance

By Zachary Lipschutz

The California Consumer Privacy Act does not go into effect until January 2020, and the California attorney general cannot begin to enforce it until July 2020. “The Jeopardy of CCPA Compliance,” a CLE held on Aug. 28 and hosted by the Cyberlaw Committee, aimed to educate listeners about the impact of the CCPA on California and beyond. Hosted by Odia Kagan, cochair of the Cyberlaw Committee, the presentation followed the framework of “Jeopardy.” The three contestants—Kathleen Aguilar, senior counsel at Comcast; Ryan Becker, partner at Fox Rothschild LLP; and Kristen Poetzel Ricci, an associate at Fox Rothschild LLP—selected questions from a game board which were aimed at providing valuable information on the new role that the CCPA will play.

The act is still undergoing amendments in advance of it going into effect. Even though it is a California regulatory act, it can still apply to those outside of the state if they are doing business in the state of California. For this reason, its impact may be far-reaching. For the purposes of the act, “consumer” means a resident of California. For-profit corporations that do business in California with $25 million in annual gross revenue; buy, sell, share or receive personal information from at least 50,000 California consumers, households or devices per year; or derive at least 50% of their annual revenue from selling California consumers’ personal information are subject to the act. The CCPA does not apply to most nonprofits.

The CCPA has a very broad definition of personal information, but information that is lawfully made available for federal, state or local government records is typically not considered personal information.

Generally, CCPA is an opt-out law unless the consumer is under the age of 16. If a consumer is under 13 years of age, their parent needs to opt in for them. If a consumer is under 16-year-old needs to opt in. Since it is not yet in force, the CCPAs true effects may not be clear at this point. Kagan’s creative presentation provided important insight on what to expect.

Since it is not yet in force, the CCPAs true effects may not be clear at this point. Kagan’s creative presentation provided important insight on what to expect.

Zachary Lipschutz (zlipschutz@paworkinjury.com) is an associate at Martin Law LLC.
Custody Cases Involving Teenagers: A Guide

By Eileen Murphy

As most practitioners have experienced either through our clients or in our personal lives, teenagers bring a unique set of problems, including rebellion, shifting alliances and sometimes alignment with one parent against the other. On Sept. 9, the Family Law Section welcomed three professionals to present on the unique challenges faced in custody cases with teenage children. The challenge for a practitioner becomes how to counsel a client who has a child who will not abide by a court order.

The panelists were Michael Bertin, partner at Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP, who served as moderator; Hon. Diane R. Thompson, Court of Common Pleas, Family Division, First Judicial District; Harvey Thompson, a psychologist for the Philadelphia School District; and Heather Goldner Kinsey, of the Offices of Heather Goldner Kinsey.

Kinsey discussed how teenage children benefit from individual therapy which creates a “safe channel” to discuss their thoughts and feelings—particularly in cases where there are two parties that have created an environment wherein they only interact with each other within conflict. In a high-conflict case, a traditional family therapy approach is unlikely to be successful. In lower conflict cases, or when dealing with discrete issues, family therapy is more likely to be successful. The goal for parties that are divorcing must be to learn, within a new framework, about how to cooperate with each other, or, as Kinsey says she notes with her clients, “you’re starting a new business: your child is your job; your ex is your colleague; and no one is getting fired.”

In dealing with a case of alienation of the child by or through one parent, the most crucial factor for success in reunification is the support of the “favored” parent in the process of reuniting the child with the “rejected” parent. A good practitioner can encourage their favored parent client to assist in the process by reminding them of how their actions will appear in the court as the therapist is interested in holding them accountable if they are not cooperative.

Judge Thompson discussed the challenge that comes from being the “responsible” parent with a teenager who does not want to do homework or study. This is particularly hard if the other parent is the “fun” parent, who does not carry the responsibility and makes up for possibly less time by not enforcing rules. One of the challenges is ensuring that we provide some flexibility to teenagers, within reason, since rigidity invites pushback. It can be particularly daunting since, although a teenager’s feelings may not be rational, they are real to the child. When approaching an alienated child, better success may be found by allowing for smaller chunks of time with the rejected parent. Judge Thompson addressed the “well-reasoned preference of the child” as dictated by custody factors. She is clear with the child (and the parties) that the child cannot simply pick where they want to live. She encourages the child to provide specifics for their preferences for each household so that she can properly weigh the reasons to make a decision.

Eileen G. Murphy is an attorney at Berner Klaw & Watson LLP.
PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION - PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE COMMITTEE

Professional Guidance Committee Opinion Summaries

Compiled by David I. Grunfeld

2018-179T Attorney need not disclose to clients change in firm status from equity partner to income partner.

2018-184T Attorney who has concerns about the handling of a personal injury matter by predecessor counsel should express same to client and obtain consent to proceed.

2018-189T Successor attorney whose client now objects to referral must retain funds in escrow until resolution of dispute and must notify client and predecessor counsel.

2019-6T Attorney may serve as Pennsylvania registered agent for startup corporate client if permitted by Pennsylvania Department of States.

2019-10T Attorney may represent prior defendant in litigation which attorney represented plaintiff if case over and no present conflict.

2019-44T Attorney who represented wife in Protection from Abuse action against husband cannot now represent same husband in Protection from Abuse action against same wife.

2019-48T Law firm with disbursed or suspended name partner should change firm name.

2019-50T Distribution schedule must be prepared and given to client, who does not have to sign it; distribution can be made as along as it is consistent with fee agreement.

2019-57T In Pennsylvania Family Court cases, attorney who is and 58T terminated or wishes to withdraw may file Withdrawal of Appearance with client’s pro se Entry, but if none signed, must file Petition to Withdraw.

2019-61T Attorney may represent party in a case where adverse party had previously made an appointment but did not keep it, and no information given.

2019-65T Where law firm represents two defendants in a case, and need for cross-claims arise, firm must withdraw from both representations.

2019-72T Attorney who is “Of Counsel” to a firm need not disclose to client fee division between lawyer and firm.

2019-75T Attorney may not given bonus to non-lawyer employee based upon large fee resulting from employee's work.

2019-79T Attorney who sent engagement letter for divorce representation and who is now asked to handle custody case should send updated letter re: scope of representation and retainor if applicable.

2019-81T Attorney who received private representation and retainer if applicable.

2019-85T Attorney-scrivener may accept small gift certificate from operator of legal clinic where attorney gave free advice.

2019-93T Sole practitioner may have paralegal do billable work provided disclosed in fee agreement.

2019-100T Attorney who is getting online negative reviews from a former client may respond without disclosing confidential information, and may send cease and desist letter.

Vulnerable continued from page 11

the new public charge rule, which makes it more difficult for immigrants to become citizens, because the new rule allows immigration officers to consider additional factors that can negatively affect a person’s status.

On Oct. 29, the Philadelphia Bar Association will hold another important immigration-centered CLE titled “Consular Processing for Immigrant Visa Cases,” which will provide practice tips and guidance regarding consular processing for immigrant visas. For more information and to register for the CLE, please visit www.philabar.org.

Elisa C. Advani is an attorney at Central Jersey Legal Services and is Editor-in-Chief of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

Arbitration continued from page 11

counsel. Panels counseled to always introduce your client to the panel. Then, present the facts as if you were presenting the facts to the panel. Have an understanding of who the panelists are so that you get an idea about how best to present your client and how to best relate to the panel members. The panel is both the judge and the jury for your case.

Concerning cross examination, panelists said that arbitrations are not depositions and the rules of evidence apply as if your client was presenting their case in court. Always ask yourself if the evidence would be allowed in court and use that to guide you when presenting evidence to the panel. Lastly, if your case presents novel or unique issues, you should prepare a memorandum to or be prepared to explain the issue to the panel.

Mary LeNiece-Fillery (mleniece-fillery@pasworkinjury.com), an associate at Martin Law LLC, is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.

Mindfulness continued from page 13

same way an athlete views a sports competition, he eats healthily, exercises regularly and “feeds” and “works out” his mind by doing puzzles or games, in addition to deliberate meditation, 30–60 days before the trial starts. He said that these practices increase his energy and focus and help him be his best self for “competition.” Lastly, Remick shared his key to mindfulness: identifying a passion—outside of work—that absorbs your attention for a time and helps exercise the energy from the “fight or flight” response that can be induced by the stress of everyday living. For Remick, he said this takes the form of his avid photography hobby and in his work as a firefighter.

Brittany Anne Robertson (brobertson@philabar.org) is the communications associate at the Philadelphia Bar Association.

David I. Grunfeld (dgrunfeld@astorweiss.com) is of counsel to Astor Weiss Kaplan & Mandel, LLP.

PhiladelphiaBar.org October 2019 Philadelphia Bar Reporter 15
The Good Work of Face to Face Germantown

By Amina M. Daniels

In the Germantown section of Philadelphia, more than 26% of residents live in highly impoverished conditions, meaning at less than 50% of the federal poverty level. This means that for a single person, an individual’s annual income is less than $5,400; for a family, the annual income is approximately $11,700.

It is undeniable that legal services are crucial to this demographic. At this critical juncture, Face to Face Germantown makes an impactful appearance. Face to Face Germantown is a nonprofit organization that provides life-sustaining services, such as a soup kitchen, a health center managed by highly qualified medical professionals, a social service center, a neighborhood arts studio, a summer camp, a washeteria (where individuals are able to take a hot shower and receive a new set of clothing) and a legal center (helping with utility shut-offs, services for the disabled, emergency home repair and applications for vital benefits).

In August 2018, while scrolling through the Philadelphia Bar Association’s pro bono link, I read that Face to Face Germantown needed volunteers for its Legal Clinic. I contacted Anna Brickman, director of the Legal Center, seeking additional information. Initially, providing services in the soup kitchen piqued my interest. However, after being exposed to the Legal Clinic, I recognized a significant need, due to the limited number of attorneys available to provide services to the community. My entire experience serving Face to Face Germantown has been insightful and rewarding.

As a former public defender, assistant city solicitor and as a current attorney advisor for the Social Security Administration, I have always possessed a passion for public service. Volunteering with Face to Face Germantown has afforded me countless opportunities to serve individuals with various types of legal issues. The ability to help others remove nonconvictions in Philadelphia from their arrest records through the expungement clinics can best be described as exhilarating. Following an expungement, many individuals find that their lives improve immediately. Oftentimes, the absence of a record of arrest increases an individual’s opportunities for employment, expands housing options and, most importantly, provides an enormous sense of self-confidence and relief.

The Legal Center at Face to Face Germantown offers four expungement clinics per year in January, April, August and October, and opens its doors every Saturday from 10 a.m. through 12 p.m. To date, Face to Face Germantown has had 200 out of 250 petitions granted. This illustrates the significant positive impact that the legal profession can have on the lives of those most in need of its services but who are least able to afford them. My interpersonal, research and overall legal skills have been enhanced by my work with Face to Face Germantown.

I have witnessed the commitment, perseverance and determination of the staff at Face to Face Germantown as they work diligently to help veterans with Social Security benefits and disabled individuals on the brink of wrongful eviction in our local community. All the while, these activities are performed with the utmost level of kindness, care and professionalism.

Amina M. Daniels is an attorney advisor for the Social Security Administration.

VIP’s Tangled Title Intake Clinic Makes an Impact

DLSC IN THE COMMUNITY - PHILADELPHIA VIP

By P Michael Jones

Homeownership is essential to the American Dream. The conjured idea of closing on a house is not the only path way. Low-income people, without access to large sums for a down payment or adequate credit for a mortgage, may not be able to follow this route. Alternative avenues include inheriting a home, purchasing through lease-to-own agreements or adverse possession.

Yet, these indirect paths to owning one’s home can be expensive, drawn out and litigious. As a result—especially for communities with high levels of poverty, like Philadelphia—it is not unusual for residents to live in the family home for years, even decades, without clear title to the property.

This situation—when a person lives in a home that they should own, but do not—is called a “tangled title.” It can be caused by those alternative pathways to homeownership: probate property, adverse possession and lease-to-own agreements. The scale of tangled titles in Philadelphia—the poorest big city in the United States, where close to 26% of residents live in poverty—is immense. A 2007 study found over 14,000 properties in Philadelphia with deceased record owners. This estimate, which has likely increased in the years since, does not include situations with equitable ownership of properties owned by living people, like lease-to-own buyers.

While our neighbors in this situation are deeply invested in their homes and communities, they may be unable to pay for home repairs, real estate taxes or utilities. There are programs assisting with these problems, but they typically require having title.

This challenge drives many to try to secure title and to seek legal aid to do so. But free legal services are hard to come by, and Philadelphia's tangled title epidemic is too large to be handled solely by the city's hard-working legal services agencies.

Philadelphia VIP—with a mission to leverage the resources of the community to provide quality legal services and ensure access to justice for low-income Philadelphians—enlists volunteers to provide representation on these cases.

Over the past year, VIP and Philadelphia City Councilwoman Cherelle Parker’s office have teamed up on a new clinic-plus-resource-fair model aimed at reaching residents suffering from tangled titles.

The innovative model brings volunteers face-to-face with residents in the community. VIP trains volunteers on-site and matches them with attending residents. Using newly created training materials, volunteers are able to systematically search for and identify tangled title issues. Volunteers provide counsel and advice to all attendees and continued representation to qualifying ones. At the companion resource fairs, partner agencies field attendees’ questions on topics from utility services to property taxes.

As VIP collaborates with key stakeholders to address existing tangled titles, we are also working to prevent new tangled titles from arising by significantly expanding our estate planning services.

Our next clinic will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 12 from 4-7 p.m. at the Lawncrest Recreation Center, 6000 Rising Sun Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111. For more information and to register as a volunteer, please visit www.phillyvip.org.

P Michael Jones (PMichaelJones11@gmail.com) is a staff attorney at Philadelphia VIP and a member of the Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee.
Lawyer Referral and Information Service

(215) 238-6333  |  PhiladelphiaBarLawyers.com

TRUST US TO HELP

*LRIS Has Been Helping the Community Since 1948*

- LRIS refers potential clients to approximately 175 attorneys.
- LRIS attorneys are in good standing, have professional liability insurance and must meet certain experience requirements.
- LRIS attorneys practice in more than 150 areas of law.
- In 2017, LRIS received 25,425 inquiries and made 11,208 referrals.

*If You Have Someone You Cannot Help… Refer Them to Us!*

Questions?
For questions, contact Director of Public and Legal Services Charlie Klitsch at (215) 238-6326 or cklimsch@philabar.org.
Audit sponsored benefit programs, the inclusion of ineligible eligibility audit as one such method. In many employer situations might involve a divorced spouse, adult children does not or no longer qualifies for benefits. Typically, these dependents not only increases unnecessary premium expenses but can also result in a financially stressful claim denial. Although an audit is typically viewed as a cost control measure, it is also a fiduciary responsibility of the employer, according to IRS regulations.

Through the process of a dependent eligibility audit, the employer purges from the benefits roster anyone who does not or no longer qualifies for benefits. Typically, these situations might involve a divorced spouse, adult children who age-out of eligibility or a distant relative living with the employee. In most cases, these dependents might remain on the roster accidentally, but occasionally can be the result of deliberate fraud.

Audit savings can be substantial, as many first-time audits find that 10% or more of dependents do not meet eligibility criteria.

The My Benefit Advisor program, available to all members of the Philadelphia Bar Association, provides all individuals and employer groups access to their extensive portfolio of insurance and human resource products, services, and guidance. For more information or If you with any questions, visit MBA online at philadelphiabar.mybenefitadvisor.com or contact Ray Keough at (610) 537-1393..
People

Pamela Coyle Brecht, partner at Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP, was selected by the Philadelphia Business Journal as a recipient of the 2019 Best of the Bar Awards.

Joseph L. Gordon, senior associate at Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP, will be presenting at the Greater Valley Forge HR Summit in Malvern, Pennsylvania on Oct. 25.

Nikki Johnson-Huston, of the Law Office of Nikki Johnson-Huston LLC, was selected as United States of America’s Ms. Pennsylvania 2020 on Sept. 29. She will be going to Nationals in Las Vegas in February 2020.

Roberta (“Bobbi”) Liebenberg, senior partner at Fine, Kaplan and Black, has been named by the Philadelphia Business Journal as one of the “Best of the Bar: Philadelphia’s Top Lawyers” for 2019.

Teresa M. Rodriguez, hearing officer with the Philadelphia Municipal Court Traffic Division, was recently appointed to the Temple Inn of Court’s Diversity Executive Committee.

Robert J. Stern, of Robert J. Stern Law, LLC, was named the recipient of the Justice William J. Brennan Jr. Award for solo practitioner by Philadelphia VIP at its awards ceremony on Sept. 26.

“People” highlights news of members’ awards, honors or appointments of a community or civic nature. Send news to Thomas E. Rogers, senior managing editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, at trogers@philabar.org.

18 MINUTES INTO DELIBRATION, THE JURY ASKS...

Result: $5,700,000

Why would you ever refer your serious personal injury cases anywhere else? Call us.

CALL 215 238 8700

DUFFY + FULGINITI
PHILADELPHIA LAWYERS

PhiladelphiaBar.org

October 2019 Philadelphia Bar Reporter 19
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.

With a team approach, the firm’s attorneys represent clients in all aspects of employment law litigation, including all forms of workplace discrimination, sexual harassment, wrongful termination, retaliation, whistleblower, employment contract, wage and hour, and Family and Medical Leave Act claims. A boutique practice with a small-firm atmosphere, Sidney L. Gold & Associates provides personal attention to its clients, who, at the same time, benefit from the experience and expertise of the entire team.

Sidney L. Gold & Associates is proud of its skilled attorneys and is honored by the recognition Super Lawyers© has bestowed upon this year’s recipients.