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The Board received the Task Force’s recommendations in June. At that time, Gordon created a committee, led by Talley, to examine the Task Force’s report and come back with a list of recommendations.

The resolutions included the following recommendations:

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Russell M. Nigro will receive the Association’s William J. Brennan Jr. Distinguished Jurist Award at the Association’s Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 15.

Justice Nigro is a Philadelphia native and a graduate of South Philadelphia High School and Temple University. He received his J.D. from Rutgers University Law School in 1973.

Immediately after graduation from Rutgers, Justice Nigro opened a neighborhood practice in the community in which he was raised. After 14 years of private practice, he was appointed to the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas by Gov. Robert P. Casey. In 1987, Justice Nigro was elected to a full 10-year term.

Justice Nigro’s tenure in Common Pleas Court was spent in both the Criminal and Civil trial divisions. While on that court, he instituted numerous programs that helped improve the efficiency of the court system. He served as chairman of the staffing committee and designed and implemented the Arbitration Appeals Program, disposing of nearly 5,300 cases. He was elected to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in November 1995.

Justice Nigro has been a frequent lecturer on civil law for the Pennsylvania Defense Institute and the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association. He has also taken part as a jurist in many regional moot court competitions. Additionally, he has been a lecturer at Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law, teaching introduction to trial advocacy.

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by Jeff Lyons

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**Board OKs 23 Pro Bono Measures**

by Jeff Lyons

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Visit the Philadelphia Bar on the Web at www.philadelphiabar.org • Look for Bar Reporter Online e-newsbrief every Monday morning
It’s Time to Change Judicial Elections

by Alan H. Gordon

I don’t have to remind you that election time is near. You read the newspapers, watch the news and hear and see all the political ads on radio and TV. But most of all, you know that Election Day is near because you’re solicited for contributions from the political parties and the candidates.

Well, be thankful for small favors. At least there are no judicial contests this year. That will come next year.

Once again, Pennsylvania will go about the business of electing judges. Candidates will convene fund-raisers, run ads, send out mailings and even distribute Election Day cash in the hopes of gaining a seat on the bench.

And once again, most Pennsylvanians will opt out of the whole process.

The simple fact of the matter is that most people in Pennsylvania do not even know that we elect all of our judges in primary and general elections. Nor do they realize that we are one of only a handful of states that still elect judges.

Not too long ago, Philadelphia’s Committee of Seventy conducted a survey that found that among Pennsylvania’s 14 largest counties, only about 13 percent of the voters had voted in at least three of the previous four judicial elections. Even when taking into account today’s generally dis-appointing level of voter participation overall, that’s still an abysmally small percentage. What’s more, two focus groups of actual judicial voters were interviewed and it was found that “none of them could remember the name of the last person who received their vote for a judgeship.” Their lack of knowledge was best expressed by one participant who said, “I have too much going on in my life to remember a judge.”

I do not relate this in a critical or judgmental way. Most people are good citizens. Most people are fairly well-informed. Most people want democrati-ty to work. Most people are concerned and they want to be involved in the issues of the day. They really do feel a stake and a sense of ownership — a sense of responsibility.

But issues are complex. Candidates are numerous. And Philadelphia’s bed-sheet ballot is daunting.

Before he left office, Gov. Tom Ridge threw his support behind a new non-elective, merit selection system of choosing appellate judges and asked the state Legislature to act on a constitu-tional amendment that would set the wheels in motion to change the system. Now, thanks in part to the fine work of Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts, both major party gubernatorial candi-dates have come out in favor merit selection as well. If the General Assembly eventually approves a constitu-tional amendment in two succes-sive sessions, it will then go on the bal-lot and the voters will be able to say “yes” to appointing the state appellate judges based on merit.

As Gov. Ridge said before he left office, “The federal government and 27 states have shown that appointing judges works.” For more than 40 years the Philadelphia Bar Association has faced these challenges. We believe in merit selection.

But we recognize that this is not a quest for the short winded. We may be somewhat closer to publishing the changes that we seek but they aren’t about to actually happen anytime soon. There will be a new governor next January.

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Video Offers Practical Tips on Marketing

Law firm marketing doesn’t have to be complicated.

That’s the message of a new self-help video available from the Philadel-phia Bar Association. The new video, featuring law firm marketing director Pamela McCarthy of Klehr, Harrison, Harvey, Branzburg & Ellers LLP, contains effective, proven market-ing tips for use by solo and small firms as well as larger firms. The 86-minute program, produced with the help of a grant from the American Bar Association, reveals valuable marketing secrets, such as:

• How to maintain a quick and easy-to-use contact list.
• Where to network for best market-ing results.
• How to take maximum advantage of everyday marketing vehicles you may be overlooking.
• Why you need to build your mar-keting base with assets you already have.
• How you can turn your own accomplishments into an advertise-ment for your firm.
• Why you need to make client referrals pay off in more ways than one.
• Where you will encounter the stumbling blocks that will lead to mar-keting failure and how you can avoid them.
• How to minimize the time you spend on marketing efforts and maxi-mize results.
• What “value added” really means and how to make it work for you.
• How to develop a marketing plan and keep it viable as circumstances change.
• Why certain direct mail efforts and “cold” contacts are often a waste of time.

According to Richard F. Furia and Joseph A. Prim, co-chairs of the Association’s Solo and Small Firm Management Committee, the video is a “bread-and-butter, practical roadmap to marketing that contains good ideas for firms of all sizes.”

Furia and Prim noted that through the efforts of the ABA the Association is now able to make the video available to members “virtually at cost” for $14.95 including shipping and han-dling. To obtain a copy of the video, send a check for $14.95 payable to the Philadelphia Bar Association to “Marketing Video”, c/o Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th fl., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-2911.

THE PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION

1101 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2911

Telephone: (215) 557-2300

Quarterly Meeting Celebrates Women as Leaders

by Jeff Lyons

The Philadelphia Bar Association will celebrate women as leaders at the October 15 Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon with the presentation of the Sandra Day O’Connor Award to Ellen T. Greenlee, chief defender of the Defender Association of Philadelphia. Judith M. von Seldeneck, chair of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and chief executive officer of The Diversified Search Companies, will deliver the keynote address at the luncheon, which begins at noon at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets.

Named in honor of the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, the O’Connor Award is presented annually to an outstanding women attorney in the Philadelphia area by the Association’s Women in the Profession Committee. Tickets to the Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon are $40 for Bar Association members and $45 for non-members. You can register for the event by faxing the ticket order form below to Bar Association headquarters, or you can order your tickets online with a credit card at the Association’s Web site, www.philadelphiabar.org.

Greenlee is a lifelong resident of Philadelphia, educated in its parochial schools and a graduate of Chestnut Hill College. There she was selected as a Fulbright scholar for study in France. She taught French, Spanish and English for five years in the Clifton Heights, Delaware County, school district. Thereafter she worked as a public relations assistant in the International Division of Smith Kline Laboratories in Philadelphia. In 1970 she entered Villanova Law School, graduating in 1973. She has worked at the Defender Association of Philadelphia as a staff attorney, supervisor, first assistant defender and, for nearly 12 years, as the chief defender. Greenlee has held several positions within the Bar Association. She was a member of the Board of Govenors in 1998. She has been on the Executive Committee of the Criminal Justice Section since 1990, serving as Section chair in 1997. She has also been a member of the Judicial Commission since 1990.

She served as president of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association from 1994 to 1997 and was
Business Law Section

Pro Bono Plan Targets Transactional Attorneys

by Jeff Lyons

The Business Law Section has developed a program to expand pro bono opportunities for transactional lawyers and businesses. The program, Philadelphia LawWorks, is expected to begin operations in November, offering legal assistance to small nonprofit groups and small businesses.

"There's very little of this kind of pro bono work in this city," said William J. Woodward Jr., a Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law professor who helped put the program together.

"There are a lot of things that business lawyers can do as volunteers and there's a lot of need for business law legal services in our community. There are many nonprofits that could do a much better job if they had business lawyers helping them out," he said.

One of the keys will be promoting the availability of the program to those in need. Philadelphia LawWorks has designed an application form that will be distributed to many of the region's legal services agencies. Woodward said that when clients come looking for legal help that a given agency cannot provide, a completed application form will be forwarded to Philadelphia VIP, which will then work to match an attorney with the client. "The system will have multiple intake centers, and if the paperwork shows the way it should, it should work out pretty well.

Woodward said there are scores of small enterprises and not-for-profits that need legal advice. "They want to incorporate, hire people, comply with environmental restrictions, minimize their tax liability, borrow money, buy property or lease space, and so on. These are traditional areas of business law expertise and, by offering sound legal advice and counseling, business lawyers can help these entities better serve their own constituencies." The program has not officially begun soliciting lawyers to take cases, but Woodward expects many attorneys to sign up. "We've heard from some of the city's law firms that there are many lawyers that want to be a part of some thing like this. We may well initially have more lawyers than we know what to do with. But the odds are pretty good that, as the availability of these services becomes more widely known, a larger client base will develop.

Woodward is a member of the American Bar Association Business Law Section Pro Bono Committee and noted that other cities have had programs like this in place for 10 years. The Philadelphia Bar Association's Business Law Section found the idea worthwhile and its sponsorship has helped bring the idea to fruition.

"While the program will begin with a modest number of cases, the number of cases the program eventually will handle is unknown. New York City has programs like this and it handles many hundreds of cases a year." Philadelphia is smaller, but, with its long tradition of strong public service from the Bar, there may be no upper limit to the number of cases we can take, Woodward said.

The program will kick off in November with an open reception for those interested in business law pro bono work.

For more information • Contact William J. Woodward Jr. at (215) 204-6894 or Roberta Desko at (215) 751-2006 to learn more.

Revised by Merian T. Farnsworth, October 2002

BOARDS
continued from page 1

• The pursuit of all avenues that ensure pro bono service becomes a fundamental and integral aspect of being a member of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

• The adoption of a 50-hour aspira- tional standard for pro bono participa- tion.

• The further study of mandatory reporting of pro bono hours.

• Initiation of discussions with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the Continuing Legal Education Board to award CLE credit for pro bono repre- sentation in new areas.

• Request the implementation of a by-law that requires members of the Board of Governors to handle one pro bono matter per year, unless there are restrictions based on their employ- ment, in which case they would be required to demonstrate alternative support.

• Fully embrace Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program and approve the funding of VIP based on its needs and other relevant criteria.

• Encourage large and mid-sized law firms to support pro bono.

• Coordinate the development of a mechanism for the annual reporting of pro bono participation by law firms.

• The Board of Governors will annually devote a meeting to discuss the state of pro bono in Philadelphia.

• Ask the chair of the Survey Committee to develop questions on future surveys regarding the pro bono delivery of legal services designed to assess the response of the legal community to unmet needs of the poor and disadvantaged.

• Develop opportunities in which legal assistants, paralegals and legal secretaries can be involved in the pro bono delivery of legal services and propose other mechanisms by which other organizations can engage para- professionals in pro bono participation.

• Recognize and publicly honor area law students who have provided more than 100 hours of uncompensat- ed and non-credited legal services to the needy.

• Support the leadership of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

• Support the leadership of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

• Strengthen and encourage joint initiatives by the Philadelphia Bar Association and the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

• Increase the leadership role of Philadelphia's large and mid-sized firms in pro bono participation.

• Increase the participation of solo and small firm practitioners.

• Urge the increased participation of corporate legal departments.

• Participation of the judiciary in encouraging pro bono participation.

• Increase the leadership role of the legal service agencies.

• Increase law school participation in pro bono services.

• Streamline the public's access to pro bono legal services.

• The Board will receive a status report within six months on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations.

QUARTERLY
continued from page 3

the group's vice president from 1992 to 1994. She also belonged to the Association's Defender Committee from 1989 to 1994. Greenlee is also a mem- ber of both the Pennsylvania and National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

In addition to volunteer activities involving the law, she serves on boards dealing with problems of homelessness and prison conditions. She is a found- ing member of the Board of New Directions for Women. She's also been involved with People's Emergency Center and the Community Women's Education Project.

Prior to starting Diversified Search, von Seldeneck was executive assistant to Vice President Walter F. Mondale for 10 years in Washington, D.C., and attended law school in the evening at American University College of Law.

Von Seldeneck was chosen as one of the top 10 executive search recruiters in North America and has received a number of awards, including the 2000 Civic Leadership Award by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, the Eleanor Raymond Award for excellence in executive search presented by the Association of Executive Search Con- sultants (AESC), and the Greater Philadel- phia Chamber of Commerce's Para- dignum Award for the top woman in business and leadership in the com- munity.

She also received the National Women's Economic Alliance and Directors Resource Council for the Directors Choice Award for her service on public company boards and was named woman of outstanding achieve- ment by the Philadelphia Women's Network.


Von Seldeneck was also founder of the Forum of Executive Women more than 20 years ago, which today is the largest association of women business leaders in the Delaware Valley. Throughout her career, von Seldeneck has served on task forces for various Philadelphia mayors, including the Mayor's Small Business Advisory Council. She has also been a trustee of her alma mater, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

She was born in High Point, N.C., attended St. Mary's College in Raleigh, and graduated with a B.A. in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She lives in Chestnut Hill with her husband, Clay, and two sons, Rodman and Kevin.
The Board of Governors unanimously approved at its Sept. 26 meeting a resolution calling for fair hourly rate compensation of court appointed counsel in dependency proceedings and a resolution opposing a state Senate bill that would require voters to produce photo identification in order to cast ballots.

The dependency compensation resolution was sponsored by the Family Law Section with support from the Public Interest Section. Family Law Section chair Margaret Klaw told the Board dependency hearings are “very serious, very complex cases. They often involve the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children.”

“These cases are very time consuming. There are many, many hearings and lots of field work involved,” Klaw said, adding the average dependency case lasts 39 years while some can go on for 10 years or more.

In July, Klaw said the First Judicial District proposed an increased in fees for court-appointed counsel. Attorneys would receive $600 for the first year of representation and $300 for the second year. From the third year on, counsel would receive $60 per hearing, with a maximum of two hearings per year.

“This is still a terribly inadequate way to compensate counsel,” Klaw said. “Counsel need to be paid hourly. This is the norm in Pennsylvania. Fifty-four counties in Pennsylvania pay their court-appointed counsel by the hour. Paying a flat fee doesn’t do anyone justice.”

Board member Robert W. Meek pointed out that the First Judicial District is bound by the amount of funding given by the city administration.

“The city administration and city council need to be lobbied. The First Judicial District is on our side with this,” Meek said.

In a letter to Board Chair Jeffrey M. Lindy, Common Pleas Court President Judge Frederica A. Massiah-Jackson explained how funds for court-appointed counsel were dispersed. She pointed out that the city’s allocation for fees for court-appointed counsel was to increase to nearly $9.2 million for fiscal year 2003-2004, an increase from the $7.7 million budgeted in fiscal year 2002-2003.

The resolution calls for compensation of attorneys at fair and reasonable hourly rates, at an appropriate rate that allows counsel to provide adequate and effective assistance to children and families. The resolution also directs the Chancellor to meet with the city administration to seek implementation of a new compensation program.

The voter identification resolution was proposed as a result of state Senate Bill 824. Tsiwen Law, chair of the Public Interest Section and sponsor of the resolution, said the proposal creates an additional barrier in the right to vote.

Law held up his voter registration card before the board and read what was printed on it. “It says right here, ‘not proof of right to vote.’ ”

Law said younger, elderly, indigent, homeless and disabled voters are less likely to have a valid drivers license issued by the Department of Transportation. Jonathan M. Stein, an attorney with Community Legal Services, called the legislation a “noxious, heavy-handed bill. It’s a poll tax for many people.”

“This will heavily impact the elderly and the disabled. These are the people who can least afford this extra expense of getting a photo I.D.” Law told the Board.

Yes, it’s a really big deal.

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BAR REPORTER / OCTOBER 2002 5
Use 9-11 Memories to Make World a Better Place

by Bruce H. Bikin

We recently commemorated the one-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks that included network television coverage of the events, their aftermath and the future. Throughout each broadcast, I had the nagging sense that I could not quite get a handle on what they were commemorating. The Alamo, Gettysburg, Pearl Harbor and D-Day are all remembered for the bravery of the warriors, their self-sacrifice for the greater good and the benefits that accrued to the nation for their sacrifices. But we also celebrate the freedom from tyranny that resulted from what came after the massacre at the Alamo just as surely as we celebrate the bravery of the defenders.

I do not think that the tragic loss of so much innocent life, the bravery, heroism and self-sacrifice displayed by so many or the almost incomprehensible magnitude of the attacks are what left me with such an ache in my heart. I understand and applaud all of those reasons for remembering. Still, somehow, it feels like there is more to understand about this historic occurrence. We all lost something on Sept. 11. What did we gain?

Does anyone remember the date of the Oklahoma City bombing? The year? How many were killed? In its own way, wasn't that bombing, which included children and toddlers in a day care center in the Murrah Federal Building as victims, just as heinous? Weren't the victims just as innocent? Weren't the rescuers who were killed just as noble and heroic? And yet it did not ever seem to hold the nation in a thrall nearly as firmly as the 9-11 attacks. It never did. (By the way: April 19, 1995; 168 killed.)

There is even a hierarchy of 9-11 events in which somehow the attack on the Pentagon gets short shrift. The Pentagon! The very heart of our military preparedness and leadership; our military nerve center. Yet "Ground Zero" is still in New York City at the site of the Twin Towers.

In a way, I think the discounting of the actual attack and destruction of the Twin Towers and the video accounts and photographs of the incredible bravery of the police and firefighters gave us all a personal emotional stake in what happened in New York City. For that moment, we were all New Yorkers, just as we were all Americans.

We were one people because the 9-11 attacks happened to all of us more than any other event in our history. We were personally there. We watched. We saw the people trapped by the flames, choosing nobly to jump to their deaths rather than be passively consumed by a hellfire so hot that it melted the structural beams that held up the towers. We saw the collapse of first one stupendous monolithic tower and then the next. We were there. We became one.

The question, I think, becomes what do we do with this unity? In the whirlwind of human events following the attacks, events in the Middle East, the spawning ground for these attacks and the religious fervor that drove them, are more troubling than ever. We bombed Afghanistan from the Stone Age into the dustmote age and routed the Taliban, but who knows what happened to bin Laden? Palestinians danced in the streets when they heard the news of the attacks. Suicide bombers routinely walk into crowded Israeli markets and explode themselves. There is talk of war with Iraq, which none of our "allies" in Europe or the Middle East seem inclined to support.

Do we proceed alone, the solitary superpower, meting out our own brand of justice and imposing our economic and social values on the rest of the world? Or do we rethink our place in the world, allowing that perhaps not everyone shares our sometimes self-congratulatory view of ourselves as the saviors of the free world?

My hope is that we take the more reflective path and that we use our remembrance of Sept. 11, 2001 to make ourselves, our nation and our world a better place. The same way those who sacrificed at the Alamo, Gettysburg, Pearl Harbor and D-Day made the world a better place for their families, our country and the future of justice and imposing our economic and social values on the rest of the world.

Workers' Comp Section Seeking Award Nominees

The Association’s Workers’ Compensation Section is soliciting nominations for the annual Martha Hampton Award. The award commemorates the service, dignity, professionalism and dedication exemplified by Hampton during her years of practice.

Nominations are open to workers’ compensation judges, defense attorneys and claimants attorneys who practice in Philadelphia or the surrounding counties. Nominations must be received by Thursday, Oct. 31. Please send your nominations, along with a brief explanation of the nominee’s credentials, to Marc Jacobs, 1818 Market St., Suite 3300, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103.

Send Us Your News, Views, Photos

The Philadelphia Bar Reporter welcomes law-related submissions for publication. Articles relating to a specific practice area, commentary, book reviews, and letters to the editors are welcome. Letters must be signed to verify authorship, but names will be withheld upon request. All submissions will be promptly considered by the Bar Reporter/Editorial Board. Editors reserve the right to condense for clarity, style and space considerations. Articles and/or requests for publication may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed and should be directed to: Jeff Lyons, Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1300 Market St., 11th floor, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-2911. Phone: (215) 238-6345. Fax: (215) 238-1261. E-mail: reporter@philabar.org.
Bar Foundation Previews 2002 Hamilton Ball

by Heather Bendit

The Philadelphia Bar Foundation officially kicked off its 2002 Andrew Hamilton Ball fund-raising campaign with a cocktail reception. The event featured a single malt scotch tasting hosted by the Jenkins Law Library on Sept. 12.

Many prominent members of Philadelphia's legal community attended the reception, including Bar Association Chancellor Allan H. Gordon; Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Administrative Judge James J. Fitzgerald III; United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania Patrick L. Meehan; Jeffrey M. Lindy, chair of the Board of Governors; Harold Kramer, president of Jenkins Law Library, and many members of the Board of Governors and Board of Trustees of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

Hosted by Abraham C. Reich and his wife, Sherri, the Andrew Hamilton Ball will be held on Saturday, Nov. 16 in the Crystal Tea Room of the Wanamaker Building, beginning at 7 p.m. This year, the Ball will commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Philadelphia Bar Association, the oldest chartered metropolitan bar association in the country.

The Louis D. Apotheker Award, given annually by the Philadelphia Bar Foundation to an individual or organization embodying the former Foundation president's commitment to public service, will be presented at a ceremony immediately preceding the Ball. Proceeds from the Andrew Hamilton Ball and Souvenir Program go directly to support the Philadelphia Bar Foundation's annual grants program.

Since 1964, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation has served as the charitable arm of the Philadelphia Bar Association, promoting access to justice for all members of the community. The Philadelphia Bar Foundation is one of the few sources of operating support for legal services. Through the generous support of businesses, law firms and members of the community sharing its commitment to access to justice, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation has granted millions of dollars to agencies...
Charitable Priorities: The Case for Legal Services

by Gerald A. McHugh

Almost every day, the average American household can expect to receive multiple pleas from charities. Unmet needs are limitless, and the number of worthy causes that have been established to address those needs are just as broad. How does one choose between fighting homelessness, illness, poverty, and discrimination? Do we support the arts or save the environment? Several years ago, one commentator expressed concern that the relentlessness of charitable solicitation ran the risk of dulling our sensibilities, and coined the phrase “compassion fatigue,” to describe the urge to throw up one’s hands and tune out all such pleas.

As professionals, we are doubly challenged, because all of us can expect to receive a separate wave of entreaties in our offices. Against this backdrop, how can one argue that support for legal services should be a priority? I am not certain how to make that case to the public at large, but I do think there are reasons why as attorneys we should prioritize support for legal services and public interest organizations. The first and most important is that we are uniquely situated to understand the importance of representation of the poor in our adversary system. Legal assistance and advocacy are to a large extent the undoing of inequities.

This week, the Philadelphia Bar Foundation as the preferred recipient of the donor option of the United Way generosity campaign and its donor option. Contributions to United Way can designate the Bar Foundation as the preferred recipient of their contribution, by specifying Code 157R. You can also support most of our agencies in the same way. This year, when you make charitable contributions, whether through United Way or on your own, please take time to think about our obligations as attorneys and the example we can set by making the cause of equal justice a priority in giving.

Looking for a meaningful way to remember someone?

Births • Deaths • Marriages • Anniversaries • Making Partner • Passing the Bar

Through the Special Way to Remember program, you can honor a colleague or loved one with a contribution to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. Since 1964 the Bar Foundation has distributed millions of dollars in attorney gifts and other funds to public interest groups that provide counsel and assistance to the poor, disabled, elderly and children in our community. Your gift will help serve the needs of Philadelphians who have nowhere else to turn for legal services. If you would like to make a gift to the Foundation as a meaningful expression of respect, please call (215) 238-6334.

Heather Bendit is executive director of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.
Association Helps Mark Citizenship Day

Chancellor Allan H. Gordon (left) addresses new American citizens at a naturalization ceremony held on Citizenship Day, Sept. 17, outside the site of the National Constitution Center. The ceremony included Ian Rose’s portrayal of Alexander Hamilton (above), a boys choir performing the national anthem (below) and a fife-and-drum escort from the U.S. Courthouse to the site of the ceremony. U.S. District Court Judge R. Barclay Surrick (bottom photo, at left) presided over the ceremony, where 45 people from 21 nations took the oath of citizenship.
One-Man Darrow Show Wows Bar Members

Actor Paul Morella (above, left) meets with Chancellor Allan H. Gordon prior to the performance of his one-man show “A Passion for Justice: The Clarence Darrow Story” before an audience of more than 100 Association members on Sept. 25 at the PBI-PBEC Education Center. The performance chronicles the courtroom and personal legality of legendary attorney Clarence Darrow. The performance was presented free of charge as part of the Association’s 200th anniversary celebration.

The Detained Children’s Advocacy Project has received one of six $10,000 grants from the American Bar Association Commission on Immigration Policy, Practice and Pro Bono to provide legal services to immigrant and refugee children. Sponsored by the Philadelphia Bar Foundation and the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center, the Detained Children’s Advocacy Project aims to meet the legal needs of detained, unaccompanied minors in Pennsylvania and address conditions of confinement. Unaccompanied immigrant children who enter the United States are put in Immigration and Naturalization Service custody and placed in various shelters throughout the country. The Detained Children’s Advocacy Project will use the grant to raise awareness in the legal community about IN S detainees in Pennsylvania via training sessions with the Philadelphia Bar Foundation for lawyers representing immigrants in detention, local media and bar association sponsored events, and development of a pro bono representation project based on an ABA model.

The INS detains more than 5,000 children annually nationwide. The six grants are part of a nationwide effort to encourage comprehensive pro bono representation programs for children who may be detained for months, even years, during complex immigration proceedings.

The ABA has provided more than $1 million in grants to more than 80 state and local bar associations for pro bono representation of immigrants, refugees and newcomers to the United States. This year’s awards were announced at the ABA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., in August.
It’s Not Just a Job, It’s a Career for a Lifetime

by Maria A. Joseph

Hundreds of years ago when Shakespeare sought comic relief in his notorious “Henry IV” his character, Dick the Butcher (a mobster for that era), eagerly planned for our murders with his infamous line, “the first thing we, let’s kill all the lawyers.” Regrettably, the times have not changed. In fact, one could easily envision an episode of “The Sopranos” where Tony Soprano and his cohorts plot humorous ways to murder the U.S. attorneys who are on their trail. In fact, this disdain of lawyers is not limited to popular culture. This past August, when thousands of lawyers convened in Washington, D.C., for the ABA convention, President Bush fled for Texas. Despite the increasing contempt for lawyers, people continue to enter the profession in leaps and bounds. How do we manage to stand proud in this perpetual climate of hate?

First, I think it is crucial to consider the source of these negative images of lawyers. Ironically, those who protest the loudest are often the first to come running to an attorney’s office to fight their own cause. For example, it is rare for a morning to pass without Howard Stern expressing his hate for the legal profession. Yet often in the same breath, Stern will be preaching about the FCC infringing on his First Amendment rights—rights created by the first lawyers in our country. And while there will certainly be a yin and yang in practice areas, such as bankruptcy and mergers and acquisitions, we have been taught the crucial analytical skills that enable us to learn new practice areas in order to maintain our marketability.

Another advantage of being a lawyer is the flexibility that it offers as a profession. Whether you are working while on vacation, or they are deposing a witness in another jurisdiction, the comfort of your home, the privacy of your office, and the respect and admiration over time. In other words, gray hairs and wrinkles like a fine wine, command greater e-mails, with my cell phone, fax machine and pager by my side. We also have the added bonus of the recent ABA resolution in support of multi-jurisdictional practice (which is expected to ultimately be followed in many states), that allows lawyers to temporarily set up shop in other states, whether they are working while on vacation, or they are deposing a witness in another jurisdiction across the country. So whether you are on a deserted island, the comfort of your home, or a boardroom across the country, you are still able to use your knowledge and skills to perform your trade.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we are one of the few professions where we can continue to pay off. In a wide range of fields, from acting and modeling to marketing and advertising, by the time you hit 40 you are sadly considered over the hill. These industries are always looking for new and fresh ideas, making it difficult to sustain a career for the long haul. But lawyers, much like a fine wine, command greater respect and admiration over time. In other words, gray hairs and wrinkles can actually increase your value because you have gained experience and expertise over the years. You have hit 40 and you are now an expert in your field. You can actually increase your value because you have gained the wisdom and experience that is respected by your clients and colleagues.

For more information about the YLD, their friends, families and colleagues, as well as all members of the Philadelphia legal community, are cordially invited to attend.

Admission is $25 for adults, $17 for children ages 2 to 11 and free for children under 2. Zoo members get a $5 discount on their admission. Tickets can only be purchased through the Bar Association and will not be available at the zoo. All reservations must be made by Monday, Oct. 7.

All checks should be made payable to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

Save Oct. 13 for YLD’s Boo at the Zoo

The Young Lawyers Division will host the inaugural “Boo at the Zoo” party to benefit the Philadelphia Bar Foundation on Sunday, Oct. 13, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Philadelphia Zoo.

The party will feature food and drink, music and dancing, animals, face painting and a silent auction and raffle. All members of the YLD, their friends, families and colleagues, as well as all members of the Philadelphia legal community, are cordially invited to attend.

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YLD UPDATE

Meehan Meets With Cyberspace Committee

Patrick L. Meehan, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, was the guest speaker at a wine- and cheese-reception co-sponsored by the Business Law Section’s Cyberspace & E-Commerce Committee and Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP. The reception was held Sept. 18 on the rooftop terrace at Morgan Lewis. Meehan addressed the committee, sharing his thoughts on the complex issues facing the U.S. Attorney’s Office in dealing with computer and Internet crimes. Meehan also discussed the initiatives launched by the U.S. Attorney’s Office to prosecute high-tech crimes, as well as the FBI initiative “InfraGard!” “InfraGard is a cooperative effort between government and industry to fight cybercrime by exchanging information about illegal intrusions, disruptions and vulnerability of systems and physical structures.

For more information about the Cyberspace & E-Commerce Committee, contact committee chair Sandra A. Jeskie at (215) 593-1395 or jeskie@duane morris.com.

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United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan and Cyberspace & E-Commerce Committee Chair Sandra A. Jeskie meet during the committee’s reception on the rooftop terrace at the offices of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP.

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**Federal Courts Committee**

**Electronic Courtroom Catching On**

by Mary Ellen O’Laughlin

Nearly 400 attorneys have registered to use the new electronic filing system in place in U.S. District Court, officials of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania told the Federal Courts Committee at its Sept. 11 meeting.

U.S. District Court Judges Lowell A. Reed Jr. and Anita B. Brody attended the Committee meeting, asking those in attendance to comment on the use of the new electronic filing system and the new electronic courtrooms. Judges Reed and Brody were joined by Marlene Anderson and Susan Mattack of the court clerk’s office. So far, there have been no reports of problems from users of the new electronic system.

Mattack said there have been 216 filings in the case management/electronic case filing system since it began operation in May. The court offers free training on the CM/ECF system, and training classes are available for individual law firms, if requested.

The court is encouraging all attorneys to use the CM/ECF filing system or to send documents filed with the court in a PDF format so the documents can be converted for use in the electronic system.

There are currently five courtrooms equipped with electronic capabilities, Judge Reed said, adding that three of those courtrooms will be online in October. A courtroom with electronic capabilities can be requested and it was suggested that this request be made early in the case.

At this time the attorney must bring his or her own laptop to the courtroom for use with the electronic equipment.

Judge Reed also suggested that the presiding judge be informed as early as possible in the case that there is a likelihood that data will be presented in an electronic manner so that discovery can be managed with that in mind to ensure that each party gets proper training in the use of the equipment. Judge Reed said that he ordered a party who had electronic equipment and intended to use it at trial to train the other side in its use so that the jury is not confused, or prejudiced, by the difference in the manner of presentation of data. He also stated that in his opinion, it borders on malpractice to ignore electronic capabilities in the presentation of information if the case requires it and encouraged everyone to get training in the use of the electronic equipment in the courtroom.

Judge Brody and Judge Reed agreed that anyone intending to use an electronic courtroom should review the equipment sufficiently in advance of the start of trial so that any failure in the equipment, or dispute concerning its use, can be brought to the court’s attention and resolved.

Judge Brody emphasized the importance of having a dry run with the equipment and stated that opposing counsel should be shown what equipment will be used and how it is to be used. She said she has held pre-trial hearings on the presentation of electronic methodology and has ruled on whether it is being used fairly.

Judge Brody asked if anyone had used an electronic courtroom, and a discussion ensued concerning experiences with the use of the electronic courtrooms, the cost issues involved in electronic discovery and the possibility of the court’s establishing a protocol for the use of electronic discovery.

Solo and Small Firm Committee

**Expert Reveals Life Beyond Google**

by Jeff Lyons

Dan Giancaterino last spoke to the Solo and Small Firm Committee 10 Internet years ago. Actually, it was May 2003. But a lot has changed in the online world since then.

Giancaterino, the Internet librarian at the Jenkins Law Library, showed Committee members the best way to find information for free on the Internet at the Committee’s Sept. 10 meeting.

“Information is not always free on the Internet, but there is a lot of useful information available out there that is free,” Giancaterino said.

The best way to find information on the Internet is still with the Google search engine (www.google.com), he said. “It’s still the best all-purpose search engine around. It has doubled in size since the last time I was here,” Giancaterino said.

Google currently has an index of more than 2.4 billion Web pages.

But when using Google and other search engines, Giancaterino recommends using advanced searches. Advanced searches are generally found on the search engine’s main page and can be accessed by simply clicking on the words “advanced search.”

When using advanced searches, topics can be made very specific, reducing the number of Web pages that have to be looked at. “Don’t just go with the main pages. All the good stuff is going on in the advanced pages,” he said.

Google searches can also be used to search just for images or comments in Usenet discussion forums. Google can also break down searches by directories.

“Google Groups has more than 700 million messages in its Usenet archive, which can be very helpful in medical and quality-of-life searches,” he said.

Search results can also be saved to a user’s own computer. Giancaterino said by right-clicking your mouse button, you can download documents, PDF files, images, Power Point presentations and even spreadsheets to your own computer.

“If an image you’ve found in a Google search is relevant to your case, chances are the test will be relevant, too,” he said.

“When it comes to search engines, Google is the 800-pound gorilla. They’re the search engine for America Online. They’re the engine that all the others are trying to overtake,” Giancaterino said.

Alltheweb (www.alltheweb.com) is the second-best search engine out there, according to Giancaterino. Alltheweb allows users to customize their searches even more than Google. Giancaterino said Alltheweb lets you find out how many people link to your Web site and what they’re saying about it.

Firstgov (www.firstgov.gov) is a U.S. government portal site that includes 51 million pages in its index. It was redesigned this year and uses Alltheweb as its search engine.
YLD Mentoring Program Seeks Volunteers

The Philadelphia Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division is seeking interested attorneys to sign up to be mentors or protégés as part of the YLD Mentoring Program. The program is co-sponsored by YLD Executive Committee members Kim J. Jessum and MaryJo Wlazlo Bellew. The YLD Mentoring Program will match all of the protégés with more experienced attorneys, or mentors, to provide an opportunity for the protégés to receive advice and guidance in various areas of their careers. Those who participated last year are welcome to participate again this year if you have lost touch with your mentors or protégés would like another mentor or protégé. Interested individuals are encouraged to complete and return the questionnaire below.

For more information about the program, please contact Kim Jessum at kjessum@morganlewis.com or (215) 963-4753, or MaryJo Wlazlo Bellew at mwiazlo@saul.com or (215) 972-7144. The completed questionnaires should be returned to the Philadelphia Bar Association by Oct. 11 to ensure that respondents are invited to a welcoming reception to meet their respective mentors and or protégés.

YLD MENTORING PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE

This program matches newer attorneys and law students (protégés) with more experienced attorneys (mentors) (usually practicing at least five years) to provide advice and guidance in various areas of their careers.

I am interested in being a:  
\[ \checkmark \text{Mentor} \quad \checkmark \text{Protégé} \quad \checkmark \text{Both} \]

Name: ____________________________

My Practice Areas: ____________

Primary: __________

Others: __________

City: ____________________________

State/Zip: ________________________

Business Phone: __________________

Business Fax: ____________________

E-mail: __________________________

Phone: __________________________

If yes, are you still in contact with your mentor/protégé? __________

Do you prefer a traditional mentor/protégé relationship or a group setting with mentors and protégés at different career levels? __________

- Traditional  
- Group

Year of Law School Graduation: __________

No. of Years Experienced: __________

Firm: __________  

Government: __________  

Corporate: __________

Other: __________

Prefer Meetings at:  

- Breakfast  
- Lunch  
- Dinner

Areas of Interest:  

- Tax  
- Litigation  
- ADR  
- Mediation  
- Career Development  
- Networking  
- Bar Involvement  
- Family/Clerical  
- Gender Issues  
- Non-Traditional Career

Other: __________

Describe what benefits you hope to derive from the mentoring program or any particular concerns you may have: __________

If you are a mentor, do you prefer mentoring an attorney or a law student? __________

- Attorney  
- Law Student

Please return form by October 11, 2002 to:  

YLD Mentoring Program  
Philadelphia Bar Association  
1101 Market Street, 11th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2911

On or before: __________

For Office Use Only:  

Mentor: ____________________________

Protégé: ____________________________

Date of Match: ______________________

Notification Made: __________________

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Required by 39 USC 3685).

Dr. Elijah Anderson is an observer. He likes to go to different places in the city and watch people and see how they interact with each other.

"I go to Rittenhouse Square or sit at restaurants and just watch people," Anderson told members of the Association's Diversity and Minority in the Profession Committees at a joint meeting on Sept. 24.

Anderson is an expert on the sociology of black America and he is the author of the widely regarded sociological work, A Place on the Corner: A Study of Black Street Corner (1989). He has also written numerous articles on the black experience, including "The Code of the Streets," which was the cover story in the May 1994 issue of The Atlantic Monthly the expanded version of the Atlanticpiec, "The Code of the Street: Decency, Violence, and the Moral Life of the Inner City" was published in 1999. He is the Charles and William L. Day Professor of the Social Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania.

Anderson said he's working on a new book about race relations. "I'm trying to understand where we are racially in this country right now."

Anderson was born in the deep south and said his parents were involved in sharecropping, which was not too far removed from slavery. His family moved to South Bend, Ind., when he was very young.

While he was attending Indiana University in the 1960s, Anderson said the nation was involved in great turmoil.

"John F. Kennedy raised the hopes upon approval. It began with the riots in Watts in Los Angeles, and spread to Seattle, San Francisco and Chicago. Detroit burned. There were 43 people killed in those riots," he said.

"In 1964, race relations were very, very tense. The whole system had a problem with what to do about it. In Philadelphia at that time, it was very clear there were two systems. One black, one white," Anderson said. "The board rooms of the companies in this city wereilly white and male."

He recalled a 1968 editorial in the ABA Journal that favored incorporation, set asides and affirmative action. "These were the issues that carried the day."

But he said resistance to these policies has grown in recent years. "There was a time when it was hard to argue against inclusion. Diversity became the political price affirmative action had to pay in order to exist. "There are all kinds of reasons for hope. We've come a long way since those times in the 1960s. Today, we have the biggest black middle class ever."

He said the nation is going through a profound economic change from manufacturing to service and high technology jobs. Companies are sending manufacturing jobs overseas, away from cities like Philadelphia. "This decline in manufacturing is affecting the people in places like North Philadelphia and other poor parts of the city," he said.

Anderson said he's noticed a split between the new black middle class and the group of blacks being buffeted by deindustrialization. "There's a sense of disenfranchisement and profound alienation there. It's not just from the poor. It's emerging from the black middle class."

"A lot of black middle class people don't feel welcome at places like the symphony or certain restaurants in town. It's a hard thing to overcome, feeling unwelcome," he said.

Anderson said he's noticed two kinds of black people in the city -- Type A and Type B. "The Type A blacks are racially particular. Everything is black. Their friends, spouses. Everything. Type B's are more cosmopolitan in their orientation. They'll have white friends, Asian friends, Jewish friends, Irish friends," he said. "He said Type A is the majority, but Type B is growing."

There are some parts of the city where blacks and whites live side by side in harmony, he said.

"In Grays Ferry, there's a section over by the refineries called Forgotten Bottom. Working class families, black and white, live and work together there. And in Mount Airy and Chestnut Hill, there's profound tolerance there," Anderson said.

"One day well come to be the society we want to be."

Dr. Elijah Anderson

Looking for a quick and convenient way to communicate with other members of your Bar Association section, committee or Young Lawyers Division? Join a Bar list serve.

Bar Association e-mail discussion lists, or "list serves," are a valuable tool for section, committee and YLD members to share and receive information on programs, events and developments in their area of the law. Here's how to enroll:

Log onto the Association's homepage at www.philadelphiabar.org Click on the "list serves" option, and complete the online subscription form. You will receive an e-mail confirmation upon approval.

In your confirmation, you will be provided with a special e-mail address to use whenever you want to send a message to all members of your chosen list.

Similarly, you can respond to messages posted by other members of the list. Keep in mind, however, that replying to the message means that everyone on the list will receive a copy of your reply. If you don't want your response to be seen by everyone on the list, you should reply to the original sender only.

For example, if you receive a message inviting you to a Bar networking event, you should not send your R.S.V.P. back to the entire list. Instead, contact the sender directly, either by e-mail or telephone, for information.

For more information about the use of Bar Association lists serves, contact the Association's list serve administrator, Andrea Morns, at admin@philabar.org, or (215) 238-6133.

A hyperlink appears at the bottom of every list serve message posted, allowing the recipient to update or cancel their list serve subscription. Subscriptions to list serves are free.

The following list serves require Section membership: Business Law, Criminal Justice, Family Law, Probate and Trust; Real Property; Tax; and Workers' Compensation.

Public Interest Section, committee and Young Lawyers Division list serves are open to all members of the Association.

BRENNAN AWARD

continued from page 1

J. Brennan Jr. was the first recipient of the award, which was created in 1995 to recognize an individual who adheres to the highest ideals of judicial service. The award, which is now named in honor of Justice Brennan, was subsequently awarded to Philadelphia's Common Pleas Court President Judge Alex Bonavita (1996); Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Phyllis W. Beck (1997); Chief Judge Edward R. Beckett of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit (1998); Senior Judge Louis C. Berholt of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (1999); and Chief Judge James T. Gilles of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (2000). The award was not presented last year.
Candidates Share Views on Judicial Selection

by Linda L. Kazmerski

In all but six states, a merit selection system is in place for judicial selection. Currently, Pennsylvania is one of the six states not using the merit selection system. Rather, the Commonwealth uses a system where judges are elected by the general public in a statewide election. This typically results in judges being elected along party lines. Under a merit selection system, a broad-based commission is appointed to engage in the task of recommending a list of candidates for judge to the governor. The governor then nominates a candidate from the list who would be subject to confirmation by the state Senate. After serving a short term, the judge would be required to stand for a nonpartisan election for the purposes of retention for a full 10-year term as judge.

On Sept. 4, Ed Rendell and Attorney General Mike Fisher, two of Pennsyl-

vilan's gubernatorial candidates, were given an opportunity to discuss the judicial selection system currently used in Pennsylvania at a forum sponsored by Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts, a statewide, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization founded in 1987 to promote the reform of Pennsylvania's judicial system.

Although Rendell was not present due to a schedule conflict, he did prepare a videotaped opinion on the issue. Rendell expressed his support for a statewide merit selection system. Rendell claims that he has supported such a system since 1978, and plans to make this matter a priority of his administration because he has not seen any progress over the years. Rendell believes the merit system is long overdue.

Rendell pointed out several problems with the current system to demonstrate why the merit selection system would be a better system for Pennsylvania. First, he pointed out that a candidate for judge is faced with a lot of pressure to raise funds to cover the expenses associated with running in a general election. For example, it can cost more than $3 million for a candidate to run for the position of appellate judge. Many times, qualified candidates simply cannot raise the funds because they are not from a large metropolitan area with a large political base. This geographic limitation can hinder a candidate's fund-raising abilities. Furthermore, those candidates who can raise the funds typically do so by receiving donations from other attorneys or parties who tend to be litigants. From this comes a bias that political contributions sway judicial opinion once the candidate is on the bench.

Rendell also brought up the problem with voters not being able to recognize the names of candidates or not being able to really get to know candidates because of the nature of the statewide election system. This often results in candidates being elected not based on qualifications, but rather along party lines or even based on nationality.

Fisher also expressed concern about the current judicial selection system and supports a merit selection system in Pennsylvania. Fisher proposed two plans to assist with the implementation of a statewide merit selection system that are specifically geared to the City of Philadelphia. The first plan is to implement a Philadelphia "business friendly" plan designed to encourage businesses to remain in the city and to attract new businesses. Under this plan, a chancery court would be set up as the forum for the determination of disputes involving Philadelphia businesses. The selection of the judges would be based on a merit selection system. Secondly, Fisher proposed a plan to help control "runaway" jury verdicts in medical malpractice litigation by creating a system similar to the chancery court plan. Fisher believes that such a plan could demonstrate Philadelphia's commitment to improving the system and how it is run from top to bottom. Fisher stated that he is willing to put the weight of office behind the movement. He believes that Philadelphia can set an example.

The merit selection issue should attract more attention in 2003, when there will be an election for a Supreme Court justice in Pennsylvania.
British attorney and actor Nigel Pascoe QC will perform his one-act drama "In the Trial of William Penn and William Mead" on Thursday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Arch Street Friends Meeting House, 320 Arch St.

Proceeds from the performance will benefit the Support Center for Child Advocates.

In September 1670, Penn and Mead, both Quakers, stood trial at the Old Bailey in London on the charge of "preaching to an unlawful, seditious and riotous assembly." Forbidden to meet in their Friends' House, they were arrested after a meeting in Gracechurch Street in London. The trial eventually resulted in a decision determining in English law the absolute right of jurors to return a true verdict on the evidence in accordance with their oaths and consciences without dictation from the judiciary.

In this theatrical production, Pascoe portrays the intimidation from the bench, together with Penn's dramatic speeches under attack.

General admission tickets are $10 and are available at the door. Student admission is $5.

VIP's Night of Music Set for Oct. 18

Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program presents best-selling author James McBride (The Color of Water/Miracle at Saint Anand) and his band for an evening of music and insights on Friday, Oct. 18 at the University of the Arts on South Broad Street.

The traditional Silent Auction will also take place with many unusual and interested donated items and services up for bids.

Philadelphia VIP promotes legal access to the justice system by providing free volunteer legal professionals for people living on the margins. For more information, contact VIP at 215-956-9550.

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VIP's Night of Music Set for Oct. 18

Another popular Web search site is Teoma (www.teoma.com), created at Rutgers University in 2001. He said Teoma "tries to think for you. They don't even have an advanced page!" After typing in a query at Teoma, you are given several different categories to choose from: results, which lists relevant Web pages; suggestions to narrow your search; resources, which are collections of links from experts and enthusiasts; and sponsored results, which are shown because the owners of those Web sites have paid to have them appear on the search.

"Teoma is good for a general, broad search that can be narrowed. They're trying to out-think Google," Giancaterino said.

SearchSystems (www.searchsystems.net) was voted to Yahoo's list of 50 most incredibly useful Web sites. Giancaterino says SearchSystems is like an Internet version of a Swiss Army knife. "SearchSystems is the best index to searchable public databases on the Web," Giancaterino said.

SearchSystems has an index to more than 8000 public records databases and added an additional 3000 sources so far this year. SearchSystems has access to corporate records, professional licensing, unclaimed property as well as inmate locators.

Palawlibrary.com (www.palawlibrary.com) is a subscription site developed by Jenkins Law Library and American Lawyer Media. It specializes in county resources, including cases and court rules.

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VIP's Night of Music Set for Oct. 18
Shyamalan’s ‘Signs’ Is Eerily Familiar

by Marc Reuben

As I sat watching M. Night Shyamalan's wonderful suspense “Signs,” I couldn’t help but think of old Vaudeville audiences who used to come to see Smith and Dale (or some other favored act), year after year, and laugh at the same routines no matter how familiar they were. Here was a new film that did not have very much in the way of original ideas, and yet it was fun, just like watching an old routine you knew by heart.

This movie is about alien invaders. It stars Mel Gibson, who has convinced me that his charm is effortless, while his acting is not. He is a step short of being another Cary Grant, although I have never seen him that I did not enjoy his performance. There is just something that tells any viewer not taken by Gibson's good looks that this is a man who is acting. He does what he does very well indeed, and it seems uncongruous to complain. But one wishes he would let go for just a moment so that we could see if the fellow under the charm and brash delivery was as charming as the one we see on screen. Gibson’s co-star for the film, the wonderful Joaquin Phoenix, is one of those actors who inhabits every part he plays and does so convincingly. I’ve seen this fellow in numerous films, some big budget and some small, and he is always splendid. I can only imagine Phoenix is a genius or totally insane - or perhaps a bit of both - to make himself such a superb portrait artist on the screen each time he shows up for work. The remainder of the cast, especially Rory Culkin, were likewise splendid. This is, no doubt, due to the director's deft craftsmanship.

The film itself, as entertainment as it is, is a combination of bits and pieces from the great suspense movies of the past. Seamless, as Shyamalan's work can be, this movie shows its pedigree. “Signs” most resembles the 1963 Hitchcock thriller “The Birds” in the manner of presentation. But the movie owes much to the 1942 thriller “The Cat People,” as well as other early thrillers “The Old Dark House” (1932), “The Cat and the Canary” (1943), “The Night of the Living Dead” (1968 George Romero film), “The War of the Worlds” (1953) and a plethora of 1950s “B” movies that time forgot. The most wonderful thing about this new film is that I got the feeling, early on, that I was seeing something recycled and enjoyed (from underneath my seat) the whole thing. In the end, a movie should give you just that pleasure.

The most striking thing about “Signs” was the fact that the viewer saw so little of the horrible. I almost wish there had been no encounter between aliens and earthlings, since the expectation of something so unearthly was so eerily served up in this film without actually showing anything at all. In “The Cat People,” a young woman sat on a bench in dark New Orleans, waiting for a bus. There is a shrub behind the bench and the set is dark but for a small streetlight. The woman on the bench does not know she is a rival to the demonic cat person, who we know is out on the prowl. As she sits alone in the dark, there is a moment of silence, and then the shrub behind her flutters a bit. In “Signs,” the bench and shrub becomes a cornfield. But when the thought of aliens in the yard is planted, the rustling of cornstalks takes on a meaning far beyond harvest.

Likewise, monster hands reaching for an innocent is an old sight gag. And the sounds of a sideways gun shot offstage still engages the lurid imagination to serve up horror expectation. I can think of silent movies that used some of the same stuff.

The point is that this is an entertaining movie, no matter how old the material is. Here is a film that Hitchcock could have liked - but for the obligatory creatures at the end. And even that copout reminded me of an old Dana Andrews film, “Curse of the Demon,” where an evil spirit was summoned by writing its name on a piece of paper and passing it to an enemy. The 1957 film was a spooky thing to see the very end, when the villain accidentally gets the piece of paper caught in his cuffs. You heard him screaming off the set. But the makers of the film were pressed to actually show the creature, after a wonderful hour of suspense, it wasn’t necessary. But it was viewed as good for the box office. No American audience would tolerate a monster film without a monster.

“Signs” is a film about an invasion from outer space. There is little in it of the supernatural. It is all ideas, expertly planted. I was scared to death the whole time, and I knew I'd seen it all before.

Here is a film with everything going for it. Good acting, nice script and excellent production values. But there was this pressing need to show something green and slimy, as Mel Gibson giving the performance of his career wasn’t enough. Gibson is neither green nor slimy, and wrapping this movie around ugly aliens took much of the pleasure away. But maybe intellectual conceit should be checked at the box office. If Bette Davis could trot out old war horses and make them run, why not Mel Gibson?

My best advice to anyone who has seen “Signs” yet is to buy Raisinnette instead of popcorn and do not bring your dog.

Mel Gibson plays a Bucks County farmer dealing with alien invaders in M. Night Shyamalan’s latest film.

Association’s Nominating Committee Formed

The Nominating Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association has been formed.


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Changing Practice Can Take Time, Effort

by James LaRosa and Gary Mintz

As lawyers, you've probably heard on more than one occasion “there is so much you can do with a law degree.” While a law degree can open up lots of doors, many attorneys soon find that they are quickly pigeonholed into the type of practice they start out in. While many attorneys enjoy and want to continue to grow with the area of law that they have focused their careers on, there are others that strongly desire a change. This can change either be in the type of practice (from litigation to transactional, insurance defense to commercial litigation) or a move to a company’s in-house legal department.

While it is not impossible to change your specialty, there can be obstacles. First, you may want to look within your own firm to see whether there may be an opportunity to move into a different practice group. If that is not an option, evaluate how your past experience and skills can be transferred to the type of practice you are interested in. Try to gear your resume to reflect these transferrable skills. Also, while your cover letter is always an important part of your job application, it is particularly critical when you are trying to change practice areas. Your cover letter should succinctly explain how you enjoyed the elements of your practice that encompass that area.

Networking can also be very beneficial. Try talking to friends and coworkers who are practicing in the type of area you are interested in. Let them know you are interested in transitioning your practice. Since they work in that area, they are more familiar with the skills needed to make the transition. Also, they will have a better grasp of what is happening in that particular practice area and they may know of firms that are looking to expand.

In trying to change practice groups, it is probably not a good idea to go through a firm’s human resources department. It is the HR department’s job to eliminate resumes that do not fit perfectly within the specific job criteria. In all likelihood, your resume will never make it to the hiring partner’s desk. A better task is to contact the hiring partner or practice head directly. You may want to send a cover letter and resume first or you may want to initiate contact with a phone call explaining the type of opportunity you are looking for. In any event, be prepared for some initial resistance.

In trying to make a practice switch, it is critical that you articulate specific reasons for wanting to practice in that particular field. Just saying that it seems more interesting will not be enough. Try to discuss your particular experiences in this area and explain how you enjoyed the elements of your practice that encompass that area.

Going back to school is also an option. Trying to attend law school can be a great source for opportunities. Many attorneys who are practicing in a particular area have chosen to go back to school for an LLM or pursue an MBA, both of which can provide you with a solid foundation in a particular field.

Along with residence, you should also be prepared to take a couple of steps backward. Although your past experiences and education may qualify you for a particular opportunity, you are still not as experienced in this new area as you are in the law that you have been practicing your entire career. If you are truly serious about making a change, you may need to be willing to take a small if not significant cut in salary. Because you are just learning a new practice area, you will likely get the low-end grunt work that you may have worked your way out of. Another desired practice change is to move to a company’s in-house legal department. Many attorneys view in-house opportunities as the ideal legal job. To many attorneys a major benefit of working in-house is the lack of a billable-hour requirement. Also, many attorneys enjoy working for one company with a common goal of looking out for that one company’s best interests. There is no magic rule to landing an in-house opportunity. Again, networking is one of the best ways to land an in-house position. Talk to friends and co-workers who work in the corporate world. Let them know that you are interested in such opportunities. Companies that you are presently doing legal work for may also be a great source for opportunities. Many times, attorneys take in-house opportunities with their firm’s blessing, as the firm may view this as an opportunity to gain additional business from the company.

As with many changes in life, there are some pitfalls of which you should be aware. First, beware of the belief that the grass is always greener in other practice areas. Many lawyers who make the switch to transactional work only to miss the adrenaline rush that comes with frequent court or deposition work. Law firms that associate who transition to in-house positions may have to worry about the stability of their job when their employer is involved in a merger. Changing practice mid-career is sometimes needed to rejuvenate a lawyer’s enthusiasm. Sometimes all it takes is a two-week, work-free vacation. It, after a sufficient amount of soul searching, has decided that a change in practice is needed, making the switch will be difficult but not impossible. It will take a lot of time and effort. Do not expect to make the change overnight. With persistence and a good career plan you should be able to make the switch.

Join Your Section’s or Committee’s List Serve to stay in touch and keep up to date on the latest Bar events. Visit www.philadelphiabar.org for more information.

Join \verb\ To become a member of a group.
Robert C. Heim, a partner at Dechert and former Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, has been appointed by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist to serve as a member of the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Civil Rules. His three-year term began Oct. 1.

Hyman Lovitz, counsel at Lovitz & Gold, P.C., has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Glaucoma Service Foundation to Prevent Blindness.

Tsien M. Law, of Hwang & Associates, P.C., was recently honored by The Legal Intelligencer Pennsylvania Law Weekly by being named one of the Minority lawyers.

Edward W. Madeira Jr., a partner and chairman emeritus of Pepper Hamilton LLP, has been appointed chair of the American Bar Association’s Commission on the 21st Century Judiciary.

Michael Basch, of Fine, Kaplan & Black, will receive the Brighter Futures Award for Legal Advocacy at the Philadelphia Mental Retardation Services luncheon at noon on Nov. 13 at the Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel.

Ronald A. Sarachan, a partner with Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP, recently testified at a hearing before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs. The topic of the hearing and testimony was “Civil and Criminal Enforcement of Environmental Laws: Do We Have All the Tools We Need?”

Linda T. Jacobs, an associate at Blank Rome Comisky & McCauley LLP, has been named to the Greater Philadelphia Bar Association’s 85th annual conference topic moderator at the annual International Trademark Association meeting in Washington, D.C., in May.

Richard Negrin, an associate at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, has been nominated for an “Eagle Hall of Honor” at Edison High School in Edison, N.J. The “Eagle Hall of Honor” was established by Edison High School to inspire students through exceptional role models and instill a sense of tradition and pride in the school as well as the community. Negrin is a 1984 graduate of the school.

Margaret A. McCausland, a partner at Blank Rome Comisky & McCauley LLP, participated in the CLE presentation “Title VII and Retaliation Matters of Public Concern” on July 19.

Dale W. Miller of Cotter & Miller, a colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal and the NATO Medal while deployed in Pristina, Kosovo, where he was the legal advisor to the commander of the Kosovo Forces. The Kosovo Force is a multi-national NATO military force charged with maintaining a safe and secure environment in Kosovo.

Emmanuel O. Iheukumere, an associate at Pepper Hamilton LLP, was named one of the Minority lawyers.

Benjamin E. Leace, a shareholder at RatnerPrestia, served as a table host at the annual International Trademark Association meeting in Washington, D.C., in May.

Justians Honor DiBona, Pizzi, DeBenedictis

Carl S. Primavera (left), immediate past Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, is joined by The Justians Society Chancellor Denise C. Gentile, G. Fred DiBona Jr., president and CEO of Independence Blue Cross, and Charles P. Pizzi, outgoing president and CEO of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, at The Justians Foundation Scholarship Luncheon on Sept. 12 at the Union League, DiBona, Pizzi and Nicholas DeBenedictis, chairman of Philadelphia Suburban Corporation, were honored at the luncheon.

Edward J. Snitzer, founding partner of Prudent Management Associates, has been invited to serve a two-year term as a barrister of the University of Pennsylvania Law School Inn of Court.

David G. Concannon, a sole practitioner in Wayne, recently assisted Women’s Campaign International, a nonprofit organization, with a site assessment visit to Tanzania. WCI interviewed 13 potential recipients of a U.S. aid grant to promote women’s participation in the democratic process.

Edward L. Snitzer, founding partner of Prudent Management Associates, has been re-elected as a trustee of the Jefferson Health System and as chairman of the investment committee of the Albert Einstein Healthcare Network.

Kenneth J. Warren, a partner at Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen LLP, has been named chairman of the American Bar Association’s Section of Environment, Energy and Resources.

Frank P. Cervone, executive director of the Support Center for Child Advocates, presented a training program at the National Academy for Equal Justice for People with Disabilities Conference Sept. 9 in Philadelphia.

Daniel B. Evans has been elected to the council for the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section.

Names Are News

“People” highlights news of members’ awards, honors or appointments of a civic or community nature. Information may be sent to Jeff Lyons, Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th floor, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-2911. Fax: (215) 238-1267. E-mail: reporter@philabar.org. Photos are also welcome.
An End to Red Tape

Philadelphia Common Plea's Court President Judge Frederica A. Massiah Jackson (center) is applauded after a ceremonial cutting of the red tape at the First Judicial District's new Information Center at City Hall on Sept. 17.

The new Information Center will contain computer terminals and will be fully stocked with pamphlets and information on various aspects and divisions of the court system, directions to various offices, and forms that are needed for various filings. Also pictured (from left) are Association Chancellor-Elect Audrey C. Talley; Municipal Court President Judge Louis J. Presnitz; Joseph H. Evers, prothonotary of Philadelphia; Common Plea's Court Judge Myrna Field; Information Center Director Boyd Taggart; and Association Chancellor Allan H. Gordon.

Tuesday, Oct. 15
Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon — noon, Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets. Ticket information: www.philadelphia.org
Appellate Courts Committee — meeting, noon, 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.
Nominating Committee — meeting, 4 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Pro Bono Committee — meeting, 4:30 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

Wednesday, Oct. 16
Section Chairs Meeting with Chancellor — 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Fee Dispute Committee — meeting, 10 a.m., 10th floor Cabinet Room.
Federal Courts Committee — meeting, 12:30 p.m, 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.
Nominating Committee — meeting, 4 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
LegalLine — 5 p.m., 11th floor LRIS Offices.

Thursday, Oct. 17
Women in the Profession Committee — meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.
Social Security and Disability Benefits Committee — meeting, noon, 11th floor Conference Center.

Friday, Oct. 18
Business Law Section Executive Committee — meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room.

Tuesday, Oct. 22
Compulsory Arbitration Committee — meeting, noon, 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.

Wednesday, Oct. 23
Philadelphia Bar Foundation Board of Trustees — meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room.
Persons with Disabilities Committee — meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

Thursday, Oct. 24
State Civil Committee — meeting, noon, 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.
Board of Governors — meeting, 4 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Tuesday, Oct. 29
Young Lawyers Division Cabinet — meeting, noon, 10th floor Cabinet Room.

Wednesday, Oct. 30
Public Interest Section — meeting, 8 a.m., 11th floor Conference Center.
Women's Rights Section — meeting, 12:15 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Thursday, Oct. 31
Lawyer Referral and Information Service Committee — meeting, noon, 11th floor Conference Room.
Domestic Violence Committee — meeting, 4 p.m., 10th floor Cabinet Room.

Note: While the following listings have been verified prior to press time, any scheduled event may be subject to change by the committee or section chairs.

Wednesday, Oct. 2
Delivery of Legal Services Committee — meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Chancellor's Forum — noon, 11th floor Conference Center.
Committee on Legal Rights of Children — meeting, 3:30 p.m., 10th floor Cabinet Room.

Thursday, Oct. 3
Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee — meeting, 12:15 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $8.50.
Civil Rights Committee — meeting, 12:15 p.m, 11th floor Committee Room.
Environmental Law Committee — meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.
Philadelphia Bar Reporter Editorial Board — meeting, 12:30 p.m, 10th floor Cabinet Room.

Monday, Oct. 7
Public Interest Section Executive Committee — meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room.
Family Law Section — meeting, 4 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Public Interest Section First Monday — 4 p.m., 10th floor PB-REC Education Center.

Tuesday, Oct. 8
Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee — meeting, noon, 10th floor Board Room.
Diversity Committee — meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room.

Wednesday, Oct. 9
Medico-Legal Committee — meeting, 4 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Thursday, Oct. 10
Elder Law Committee — meeting, noon, 10th floor Cabinet Room.
Legislative Liaison Committee — meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.
Committee on the Legal Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men — meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Conference Room.
Committee to Promote Fairness — meeting, 4 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Friday, Oct. 11
Philadelphia Lawyer Referral Board — meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room.

Sunday, Oct. 13
Young Lawyers Division Boo at the Zoo — 3 to 6 p.m., Philadelphia Zoo.

Monday, Oct. 14
Columbus Day — Bar Association offices closed.

Note: Unless otherwise specified, tickets for luncheons and programs should be made payable to the Philadelphia Bar Association and mailed to Bar Headquarters, Market St., 11th fl., Philadelphia, PA 19106. Send Bar Association-related calendar items 30 days in advance to Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1017 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19106. E-mail reporter@philabar.org.