

# PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION BUSINESS LAW SECTION'S PRACTICING BUSINESS LAW SERIES FOR LAW STUDENTS

The Business Law Section is increasing its outreach to area law schools, with the aim of increasing interest in the Section and participation in the Section's activities. We see our area law schools as part of a single legal community, and their students as members of that community and among its future leaders.

In 2005, the Section and Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Law School Outreach Committee sponsored a two hour program for law students on the basics of practicing business law. Since 2006, our Business Litigation Committee has provided a vehicle for regional law students to work with Philadelphia lawyers as part of the Commerce Case Management Program Opinion Project. We are proud of this effort that has resulted in a written product useful to litigators and litigants in Philadelphia's Commerce Court and beyond, as well as an opportunity for students to be mentored by practicing business lawyers. The results can be found on the Committee's [web page](#). In January 2010, the Section reached out to each of the area law schools and invited student business law society leaders to attend the Section's Annual Dinner as guests.

Desiring to build on these efforts, we saw the opportunity to expand our endeavors with law students by involving all of the Section's Committees. Thus, the birth of *The Practicing Business Law Series for Law Students*.

The *Practicing Business Law Series for Law Students* offers a collegial and informative setting where business lawyers can discuss their areas of the law and personal practices with law students. Our goal is to have each Business Law Section Committee hold a one hour program for all interested area law students, to give them a greater sense of what practice in that area of law might be like for them. At each session, Committee leaders, or invited speakers, lead a discussion among attendees as to the nature of the law that their Committee addresses, and the nature of their individual practice.

The *Practicing Business Law Series for Law Students* is led by Rachel Branson of Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis, LLP, an Executive Committee Member of both the YLD and the Business Law Section, and Sarah McCarthy, the YLD liaison to the Business Law Section. Merritt Cole of White and Williams, LLP, former Section Chair and key to the 2005 program, and Lee Applebaum of Fineman, Krekstein & Harris, P.C., current Section Chair and Coordinator of the Commerce Court Opinion Project, serve as advisors.

The first program, a "*Focus on Bankruptcy Law and Practice*," was sponsored by the Business Law Section and its Bankruptcy Law Committee, with Chair Anne Aaronson of Dilworth Paxon LLP and Vice-Chair Ashely Chan of Hangle, Aronchick, Segal & Pudlin

organizing the program. It was held on April 21, 2010 at the offices of Vice Chair Ashely Chan. The program was an informal discussion on commercial and consumer bankruptcy law and practice. The speakers were commercial bankruptcy lawyer Ronald Gellert of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC and consumer bankruptcy lawyer LeeAne Huggins of Cibik & Cataldo, P.C., with Committee leaders Aaronson and Chan actively participating. Students from Drexel, Penn, Rutgers, Temple, and Widener attended, as well as some members of the Bar, including Rachel Branson, Sarah McCarthy, present Chair Lee Applebaum, and past Chairs Merritt Cole and Mitchell Bach.

In addition to the speakers basic points and observations about commercial and consumer bankruptcy law, the students had a number of interesting questions to which all four discussion leaders responded. Each of the four discussion leaders gave interesting and insightful remarks about what was personally satisfying about bankruptcy law practice to each of them and how students might prepare for a career in bankruptcy law. Most of the students stayed after the meeting was over to continue the dialogue with the speakers.

We are looking forward to *Practicing Business Law Series for Law Students* meetings in the fall co-sponsored by our Securities Regulation Committee and Banking and Commercial Finance Committee.