Lynn A. Marks, a champion for court reform in Pennsylvania, has been named recipient of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s 2007 Sandra Day O’Connor Award. The award is conferred annually on a woman attorney who has demonstrated superior legal talent, achieved significant legal accomplishments and has furthered the advancement of women in both the profession and the community. The award presentation will be made during the Association’s Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 16 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown. Ann Weaver Hart, the first woman president of Temple University, will be the keynote speaker at the event. “Lynn has spent her entire career fighting for justice for individuals who, without her efforts, would have no voice,” wrote former Chancellor Robert C. Heim and Bennett G. Picker, who nominated Marks, along with Shira Goodman. “She has fought for women who were abused or raped; she has fought tirelessly for court reform; and she has fought to make our profession and our justice system free of bias. Her vision, commitment and advocacy have furthered the important goals of ensuring social justice and promoting equal opportunities for everyone.”

Marks has served as executive director of Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts since 1990. PMC is a statewide nonprofit organization working to improve the administration of justice.
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Protect Civil Rights for Everyone in Nation’s War on Terrorism

As the battle to prevent terrorist violence continues, the importance of preserving constitutional liberties grows even more critical.

While most of us understand the necessity for broad intelligence gathering to prevent acts of terrorism, we must not sacrifice the very civil liberties we are fighting to protect in the ongoing struggle against those who would do us harm.

Early last month, Congress amended the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, greatly broadening the power of government agents to eavesdrop on U.S. citizens without judicial oversight. The law expires in six months, unless Congress renews it.

The administration has said the measure is needed to speed the National Security Agency’s ability to intercept, without warrants, telephone calls and other communications involving foreign nationals reasonably believed to be outside the United States, provided that “foreign intelligence information” is at stake.

Civil liberties groups say it goes too far, because it enables the government to wiretap U.S. residents communicating with overseas parties without adequate oversight from the courts or Congress. At the American Bar Association’s Annual Meeting in August, the ABA called on Congress to scrap this law expanding the government’s power to eavesdrop on U.S. citizens. ABA President Karen J. Mathis reiterated the association’s longstanding position that “we must protect our citizens, but at the same time protect our liberties.” Mathis urged Congress to restore adequate judicial review of eavesdropping cases when it returns from recess this month.

“History demonstrates time and again that when government agents have surreptitiously bypassed judges and decided on their own to tap phones and invade homes, abuses have occurred,” she said.

The Philadelphia Bar Association, like the ABA, is deeply concerned that in passing revisions to the FISA, Congress allowed a great expansion of the warrantless surveillance of American citizens, without adequate checks and balances to prevent invasions of privacy. Privacy is a concept deeply relished and easily understood. We do not expect Big Brother, in the name of national security, to eavesdrop on our private communications without our knowledge and with no independent review.

A vital role of our Bar Association and for each of us as lawyers is to educate the

CLE Program on Success for Women Sept. 18

The Women in the Profession Committee and Flex-Time Lawyers LLC will host a seminar “Successful Interviewing and Beyond: Learning to Effectively Navigate Your Way as a Woman Lawyer to Ensure Success” on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 4 p.m. at The CLE Conference Center on the 10th floor of the Wanamaker Building.

This program will offer discussions of how women law students and practitioners can develop the skills to succeed and how employers can achieve more diversity. The first panel will discuss how women law students can select a woman-friendly employer and how practitioners and employers can create and ensure more gender diversity. The second panel will share interview tips and information about what employers want. It will also uncover how women practitioners successfully conduct themselves professionally and navigate their way in the profession. A cocktail reception will follow.

The first panel, “The Cheat Sheet: Strategies to Select, Create & Ensure a Woman-Friendly Employer,” is available for one ethics credit of CLE, includes Deborah Epstein Henry (moderator), founder and president, of Flex-Time Lawyers LLC, and of counsel, Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis; Heather Harrington, an associate with Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker, LLP; Linda Dale Hoffa, assistant U.S. attorney, assistant chief, Criminal Division, Eastern District of Pennsylvania; Roberta D. Liebenberg, a partner with Fine, Kaplan and Black, R.P.C.; and Elaine Petrossian, assistant dean for career strategy and advancement, Villanova University School of Law.

The second panel, “Interviewing Tips to Learn What Employers Want and Proven Methods on How to Conduct Yourself Professionally,” includes Kathleen D. Wilkinson, a partner with Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LLP; Sarah E. Davies, hiring partner with Cozen O’Connor; Katherine Harty, vice president, general counsel and secretary, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; Sunah Park, a partner with Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP; Molly Peckman, special counsel and director of professional development at Pepper Hamilton LLP; and Peggy Simoncini Pasquay, manager of attorney recruitment and relations, Duane Morris LLP.

Participants wishing to receive the CLE credit will be required to pay a fee of $25 for members of the Philadelphia Bar Association admitted for more than five years, and $20 for members of the Philadelphia Bar Association admitted for less than five years. Visit pbi.org or call PBI at 1-800-932-4637 to register. To attend the program and reception without CLE credit, contact Dawn Burger at 215-238-6367 or dburger@philabar.org.

In addition to the too-familiar economic problems that seem to grow acute every other decade, Mexico has been rocked by the well-publicized - if now largely forgotten in the U.S. - Zapotista Revolution that began in the early 1990s.

Peter Bloom, executive director of JUNTOS, said the people of Oaxaca, Mexico are suffering from both political and economic turmoil.

Peter Bloom, executive director of JUNTOS, said the people of Oaxaca, Mexico are suffering from both political and economic turmoil.

Photo by Jeff Lyons

Why should what happens in Mexico - let alone Oaxaca, Mexico - matter? That may have been a question for some when they learned that Peter Bloom, executive director of JUNTOS, an organization that advocates for the Latino immigrant community, was speaking at the Aug. 2 meeting of the Civil Rights Committee. The answer splits into a practical part created by physical and economic realities, and an idealistic part that flows from our professed principles - sometimes adhered to and sometimes ignored.

Mexico and the United States have been intertwined from the beginning. The continental U.S. would be significantly smaller and natural resource poorer were it not for the taking of almost half of Mexico after it lost a mid-19th century war with its North American neighbor.

The peoples are closely and probably permanently intertwined. Millions from the U.S. visit Mexico. Many have moved there and many have retired there. Tens of millions of Mexicans and Mexican descendents live in the United States, thousands in the Philadelphia Area, many of them from Oaxaca. Millions of people and billions of dollars crisscross the border annually.

We should also care about Mexico because the best of our nation in the best of times has opposed human rights violations the world over. Our zeal sometimes wanes with the nearness of the violations, and with the exception of problems in the U.S. itself, no problems are closer than Mexico’s.

Bloom explained that Mexico is experiencing crisis. In addition to the too-familiar economic problems that seem to grow acute every other decade, it has been rocked by the globally well-publicized - if now largely forgotten in the U.S. - Zapotista Revolution that began in the early 1990s. More recently, Mexico has been convulsed by non-violent popular movements following a mining disaster; a sharply contested, allegedly stolen 2006 presidential election; and several major land seizures by the government. These popular movements have been met with massive government force in the form of militarized police.

Oaxaca is the latest and largest example. Sparked by a 2006 teachers strike, estimates are that more than 20 strikers and activists have been killed by police, as well as an American freelance journalist whose photographed murder caught the attention of the world media for a day. Hundreds of activists have disappeared without legal process, hopefully to jails, the alternative being so much worse.

Bloom pointed out that notwithstanding its razor-thin victory (or loss and electoral theft) in the 2006 presidential election, the ruling PAN party government continues to play to its narrow base and makes no attempt to broaden it. Some analysis holds that Mexico may be heading toward a tipping point where non-violent political movements will be displaced or absorbed by the small, but potentially growing armed revolution-
YLD Update

Attorneys to Rock Lawyerpalooza on Oct. 25

By Stephanie J. Mensing

For those about to rock, the Young Lawyers Division salutes you.

The YLD will host its first-ever Lawyerpalooza concert event on Thursday, Oct. 25 at Kildare’s at 2nd and South streets from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Tickets are $10 and include drinks and food.

So what exactly is Lawyerpalooza? Simply put, it’s a concert featuring bands made up of Philadelphia lawyers of all ages. While new to Philadelphia, Lawyerpalooza is popular with the Seattle legal community, which recently hosted its fifth annual Lawyerpalooza. After hearing about Lawyerpalooza’s success in Seattle, Alan Nochumson, Chair of the Young Lawyers Division, suggested a similar event for the Philadelphia Bar Association.

“I thought it would be great to try something outside the box for a YLD event. Everyone loves music and we seem to have many lawyers who are passionate not only about the law, but about playing music,” said Nochumson.

Although this is our first year, Philadelphia Lawyerpalooza is attracting quite a bit of attention. Numerous Philadelphia lawyers, as well as lawyers in New Jersey, have expressed interest.

“This is a great event for the Philadelphia Bar. First, it’s great for the band members and their professional colleagues to share in a fun non-law experience, and to be able to get to know each other in a non-adversarial setting, which I think helps increase the civility within the profession as well as enjoyment in its practice,” said Jessica Birk, an associate at Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP, who will be performing at Lawyerpalooza.

“But an event like Lawyerpalooza is also great for clients and others in the community who may otherwise have a very one-dimensional view of what a ‘lawyer’ must be like. Lawyers are so often portrayed in the media as humorless buzz-kills, or interested only in being combative, that I think it’s important to show the community that lawyers are approachable people with creative and gregarious sides as well,” Birk said.

The Lawyerpalooza planning committee has put together an interesting line-up, made up of Philadelphia lawyers playing various styles of music. Some of the bands confirmed include A Band Called M, Class Action, and Pray for Mojo.

Formed in 2004, A Band Called M is a rock-n-roll cover band that features Montgomery McCracken lawyers playing classic southern rock, traditional rock, and contemporary rock hits. For Lawyerpalooza, they will feature a special line-up with its female members on lead vocals and plenty of three-part vocal harmonies.

Class Action, comprised primarily of Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, play rock-n-roll hits at various local bars and at private events.

Joe Schwartz, an employment lawyer, and Aaron Gorodetzter, an associate at March, Hurwitz and DeMarco, of Pray for Mojo, will perform acoustic versions of fan favorites. Pray for Mojo won the 2004 Philadelphia City Paper’s Reader’s Choice award for best local band. Other performers at Lawyerpalooza include Brad Shuttleworth (Shuttleworth Law, LLC), Lev Kalman (Blank Rome LLP), Matthew Hoffman (Duane Morris LLP), and Jim Wells (Haines & Associates).

Stephanie J. Mensing, a partner at Wisniewski & Mensing, LLP, is a member of the Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee. If your band is interested in playing at Lawyerpalooza, e-mail smensing@wm-law.net.
By Elaine Rinaldi

It’s time to step up to the plate in support of the Raising the Bar Campaign. We need the financial support of every law firm to ensure that Philadelphia is a place where everyone has access to justice.

So far, 74 law firms have pledged to make a financial contribution to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation and our legal service agencies in an amount of at least $300 per lawyer. Last year we had 133 law firms support the Raising the Bar Campaign. So much remains to be done to reach our goal.

The firms listed below have recommitted significant financial resources in support of the Raising the Bar Campaign. If your firm is not listed below, please contact us and provide us with your urgently needed support for this critical fundraising campaign. We need every law firm and corporate legal department to support this campaign in order to ensure that those in need of legal services get them.

If you have read my articles this past year, you have noted countless stories of the successes achieved by our legal service agencies in Philadelphia - the victims of domestic abuse aided by the lawyers at the Women’s Law Project; successful Chapter 7 bankruptcies filed by the Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project on behalf of the elderly; Community Legal Services’ continual efforts to fight predatory lending and much more.

Shuster Fellowship Applications Sought

The Philadelphia Bar Foundation is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the Morris M. Shuster Public Interest Fellowship Program, established in 2003 as a result of a generous donation by Morris M. Shuster to the Bar Foundation.

This program is intended to assist public interest lawyers who face large student loan obligations that threaten their ongoing service as public interest attorneys.

To be eligible for the Shuster Fellowships, an applicant must be a full-time lawyer employed at a qualifying organization, who is financially eligible and has completed the requisite number of years of law practice. Those who are employed at a qualifying organization, who have completed the requisite number of years of practice, who are financially eligible, and who have demonstrated a commitment to public interest services are encouraged to apply.

Our legal service agencies work every day to make the lives of those less fortunate better and do so at great personal sacrifice. Unlike lawyers in private law firms, our legal service agency lawyers make significantly less in salary notwithstanding substantial law school debt. If they can commit their lives to serving those less fortunate in our community, we in the private sector should help raise the bar on financial giving and ensure that these dedicated lawyers can continue to serve more of the disadvantaged and make our community a better one.

Even with increased giving from last year’s Raising the Bar Campaign, our legal service agencies are still only able to provide counsel to 20 percent of those in need. At a time when law firm revenue per lawyer and profits per partner are soaring, financial support of our legal service agencies has not measurably improved. We must band together to make access to justice a reality.

If your firm is not already on the list below, talk to your partners today and make the commitment for 2007. You can contribute in any of three ways: 1) a donation to the Bar Foundation for its general grantmaking fund; 2) a donation to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, with an allocation of how you would like your pledge to be distributed; or 3) direct contribution to one of our legal service agencies. Contact Maureen Mingey at the Bar Foundation at 215-238-6334 to make your pledge today.

As Winston Churchill once said, “We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.” The Philadelphia Bar Foundation asks you to give and we accept with heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

Elaine Rinaldi, a partner at Cozen O’Connor, is president of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

2007 Access to Justice Campaign Contributing Firms

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Martin, Banks, Pond, Lehockey & Wilson
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Wolf, Block, Schorr & Solis-Cohen LLP
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Zarwin, Baum, DeVito, Kaplan, Schaer & Toddy, PC.

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Marks, O’Neill, O’Brien & Courtayne, PC.
Marshall, Dennhey, Warner, Coleman & Goggin
Martin, Banks, Pond, Lehockey & Wilson
Anne S. Maxwell, Esq., PC.
McCarten & English, LLP
Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
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‘Chambermaid’ Author Touts Her First Novel

By Sapna K. Anderson

When Saira Rao graduated from the New York University School of Law five years ago, and began a prestigious clerkship on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, she could not have predicted that the experience would transform her into a controversial author.

But the novelist appears ready and willing to take on the challenges of this role. Rao met with members of the South Asian Bar Association of Philadelphia on Aug. 2 to promote her debut effort, Chambermaid, a behind-the-scenes account of a young law graduate and her eye-opening stint as a federal law clerk.

Rao spoke about her legal experience, the impetus for her book, and the subsequent attention it has garnered. Rao then opened the floor to questions.

Chambermaid follows the experiences of Sheila Raj, an idealistic graduate of a top-10 law school who secures a plum clerkship with a legal legend. Raj’s hopes sink, however, when she discovers that the legal legend in question, Judge Helga Friedman, is a nightmarish and oppressive “sociopath” of a boss. The character of Helga Friedman has prompted quite visceral reactions amongst the legal community, particularly in Philadelphia. Much of this reaction stems from the inevitable parallels drawn between Rao’s Friedman, and her former boss, Judge Dolores K. Sloviter of the Third Circuit, for whom Rao clerked.

The fact that the novel, published by Grove Press, is set in Philadelphia only heightens the belief among critics that the novel is a vindictive attempt to lampoon the former chief judge. During her appearance at the SABA-Philadelphia event, Rao did not comment on her intentions in this regard, and strongly rejected any suggestion that the novel should have been set anywhere else. Rao insisted that the backdrop of Philadelphia was necessary because both the story and its characters were intimately tied to the city.

Given this, the white-hot buzz that the book created after its recent release was not completely unexpected to Rao. “I knew that it might be scandalous,” she said of the novel, which, she acknowledged, was born out of her discomfort with the consequences of a federal judicial system that places so much power in the hands of unaccountable judges with lifetime appointments. But, ultimately, Rao thinks that the novel helps shine a spotlight on the federal judiciary, its "lack of transparency," and the personalities who occupy the chambers of America’s federal courthouses. “I have to believe that’s a good thing,” she said.

Sapna K. Anderson, an associate with Pepper Hamilton LLP, is secretary of the South Asian Bar Association of Philadelphia.

Bar Foundation Seeks Nominees for Awards

The Philadelphia Bar Foundation is requesting nominations for the Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award and the Citizens Bank Pro Bono Award. The Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award recognizes attorneys working in the non-profit legal services community.

Past recipients of the Bar Foundation Award are Frank Cervone of the Support Center for Child Advocates (2005) and Prof. Louis Rulli of the University of Pennsylvania Law School (2006).

Prior to presentation of the Bar Foundation Award in 2005, the Apotheker Award went to non-lawyers. Those recipients included Maurice Fagan; Women Organized Against Rape; Spencer Cox; Northwest Interfaith Movement; Dr. Carter Zelenik; Women Against Abuse; Max Weiner; John Guinther; Bennie Swann; Sister Mary Scullion; Frankford Human Relations Coalition; Abracaz; Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth; Parkway South Community Group; Mediation Program at Good Shepherd; House of Umoja; Joseph Peters Institute; Hospitality House; Operation Understanding; Philadelphia Unemployment Project; St. Francis De Sales Peace Program; Gloria Guard; National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women; and Action Alliance for Senior Citizens.

The Citizens Bank Award recognizes achievement in pro bono legal service, whether by a law firm or by a corporate law department.

Past winners of the Citizens Bank Award include Geanne K. Zellkowitz, Madeline M. Sherry and Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP (2003); Margaret A. McCausland, and Schnader Harrison Segal and Lewis LLP (2004); Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP (2005); and Pepper Hamilton LLP (2006).

These awards will be presented at the Foundation’s annual Hamilton Gala on Saturday, Nov. 17. Please submit nominations in writing, either by e-mail to mmingey@philabar.org or by hard copy due by 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 14.
Lawyers Reaching into the Blogosphere

By Brian K. Sims

Whether it’s for marketing purposes or keeping a group of attorneys apprised of what’s going on, lawyers are joining the ranks of Internet bloggers.

The Association’s Law Practice Management Division’s Technology Committee presented a program on blogging for lawyers at its July meeting. Chaired by Daniel J. Siegel and Carl Roberts and moderated by Jenkins Law Library Deputy Director Kathy Coon, the seminar offered valuable insight and instruction from some of Philadelphia’s most noted bloggers. The panelists offered insight about how to start a blog, how to maintain a blog, and how to avoid pitfalls and trouble areas in the blogosphere.

“A blog is a Web log,” said Coon. “It’s an online journal where you share your thoughts, your ideas, your opinions, your research; anything you want someone to read about.” She explained that the words “Web log” were shortened to “blog” in 1997 and truly took off during the heated political climate of the 2000 election. Coon added that one research group has estimated there to be over 70 million blogs worldwide.

As the blog became more active, it grew to encompass issues surrounding lawyers and the local legal community. DuFrayne was approached by the YLD because she was working at a public interest organization and the YLD was looking for a public interest presence.

Divorce attorney Charles Meyer of Fox Rothschild LLP started his own blog last year for a much different reason. “I started my blog for marketing purposes,” said Meyer. “I wanted to continue to write about what I do.” After being elected Secretary of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Law Practice Management Division’s Technology Committee, he decided to “link his blog to a podcast from this meeting.”

Kathy Coon, the Young Lawyers Division’s (YLD) own blog, was launched in 2003 and moderated by Jenkins Law Library Attorney, Brian K. Sims. Coon estimated there to be over 70 million blogs currently in operation.

Jocelyn Gabrynycz and Abbie DuFrayne of the Young Lawyers Division are involved with the YLD’s own blog, called “YLD Blog.” Coonly Gabrynycz explained that she knew very little about blogs two years ago when she started researching an article about the local political scene. She found that the blogs she was reading gave her “a little bit more than what the mainstream media was giving [her].”

After being elected Secretary of the YLD last year, Gabrynycz took responsibility for PhilAWdelphia and through both necessity and intrigue, she began to blog. DuFrayne said that the YLD blog was not originally intended to connect the Bar Association with other attorneys. “Our blog was born out of an idea to try and interact more with law students.”

Some of Philadelphia’s most noted bloggers.

Gabrynycz and DuFrayne both noted that determining your usefulness and relevance outside of academia is a concern for many professors. “You write one big article a year as a law professor. You have all these other ideas that you want to think about and share but they don’t really fit within the thesis.”

David Hoffman is an assistant professor at Temple University and blogger for concurringopinions.com, a blog for law professors from around the country. “I think the reason I write now has to do with a question that faces a lot of law professors which is relevancy.” He says that determining your usefulness and relevance outside of academia is a concern for many professors. “You write one big article a year as a law professor. You have all these other ideas that you want to think about and share but they don’t really fit within the thesis.”

Fox Rothschild LLP started his own blog last year for a much different reason. “I started my blog for marketing purposes,” said Meyer. “I wanted to continue to build my practice and it was another outlet for people to learn my name and what I do.”

Meyer scans local and national news sources for family law issues that others may not be seeing or considering to put on his blog. He also looks to interesting cases that come down through the court system. He added that marketing to clients proved to be a mistake because “the people that read them are not the type of clients he wants.”

He now focuses on marketing to potential referral sources such as other lawyers, psychologists and accountants.

“After the election I was thinking, ‘What should I do?’” He started young Phillypolitics.com to interject a broader scope of information than was being reported in the traditional media. “The papers had declining coverage of local politics for years. There was really a missing voice in the media,” he said.

Overall, the panelists agreed that the motivation to blog can be as varied as the topics themselves. Members of the legal community can find plenty of subjects and locations to express their opinions and keep up with the news, politics, law and even the local restaurant scene.

Brian K. Sims of Seltzer & Associates, PC is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Wireless Philadelphia is an ambitious initiative to make broadband Internet access more available and affordable for the people of Philadelphia through a ubiquitous wireless Internet network that will support small business, government efficiency, an improved visitor experience and most importantly, digital inclusion.

The main players are Wireless Philadelphia, a small nonprofit organization; EarthLink, which is building the network at its own expense, providing discounted accounts to low-income families, and creating free access zones throughout the city; and the City of Philadelphia, which created the Initiative and leases streetlamps to EarthLink for placement of network equipment.

More than half of Philadelphia’s roughly 600,000 households lack Internet access – one of the lowest Internet penetration rates in the United States. Barely 25 percent of Philadelphia’s many public libraries provide broadband service. According to the Pew Internet and America Life Project, an additional digital divide exists between broadband and dial-up users: broadband users engage in a much wider variety of constructive online activities – and far more often – than those using dial-up. This is a major social and economic issue, as Internet access is now required for application for even entry-level employment in a hotel, hospital or university.

WP’s main purpose is to use this new technology to help those who are not online get connected, so they too can use the powers of the Internet to improve their educational, employment and life opportunities.

In partnership with high-quality local nonprofits, WP provides a bundle called TEACH (Training, Education, Access, Content, Hardware) to qualifying low-income households, including a refurbished laptop and a one-year discounted EarthLink subscription, along with local training and technical support.

WP is aggressively raising funds for these bundles from foundations, corporations, individuals and public agencies. The William Penn Foundation, IINC and the Philadelphia Department of Human Services are some of WP’s early major supporters, along with our official media partner 6ABC. Since starting in June, WP has already signed up nearly 300 low-income families. We were recognized by the Baristers Association of Philadelphia with the Cecil B. Moore Community Service Award.

Today, the network covers roughly 50 percent of the city’s 135 square miles. For about $20 per month, retail customers receive home broadband service and the ability to connect outside anywhere in the city. Additionally, EarthLink donates a small portion of every subscription to Wireless Philadelphia to “Make A Digital Difference.” It is important to remember that this is new technology, being deployed at a scale never tried before. There are bound to be some issues with the service at the beginning. We want to know about any problems, and will do our best to resolve them and use the feedback to continually improve the network.

By the end of this year, Philadelphia will have the largest cohesive municipal wireless network in the world, including free access in 25 major and neighborhood parks, totaling 10 square miles. No major city is remotely as close to citywide implementation.

Cities everywhere are looking to our leadership in network deployment and digital inclusion.

Greg Goldman is chief executive officer of Wireless Philadelphia.

Wireless Philadelphia’s Goal: Get Entire City Online

By Greg Goldman

Bar’s Web Site Upgrades

Calendars, Archives, Podcasts

By Brett Schaeffer

The Philadelphia Bar Association’s Web site continues to offer members new and useful features. New to the site this month are Section-specific calendars and an easy-to-use archive of the Association’s podcasts.

In addition, the Young Lawyers Division blog, philAWdelphia, continues to grow and expand its readership since its February launch.

Want to see all of your Section meetings scheduled for September? Simply go to your Section’s homepage and in the left navigation click on “Event Calendar.” From there you can see what meetings are scheduled and you can click on those meetings to register immediately online.

Since launching its podcasts in 2006, the Association has recorded more than 100 speaker programs, Association events and engaging one-on-one interviews. Now, it’s easier to find all of those podcasts. Go the main podcast page on the Web site and in the left navigation you’ll see a list of the podcast archive categories. Choose “Major Events” to find podcasts of previous quarterly meetings or look through the “Hot Interviews with Very Cool People” to find podcasts with some of the city’s top leaders.

Discover what the Association’s young attorneys have to say on topics ranging from surviving the first year of law school and helpful interview techniques, to using a job recruiter and the state of diversity at the city’s law firms on the YLD blog. From the Association’s Web site, go the Young Lawyers Division page and click the philAWdelphia link, or type philAWdelphia.wordpress.com into your Web browser.

Look for more enhancements to the Association’s Web site in the coming months, including a new video series.
Philadelphia Bar Association and the Friends of the National Association of Women Judges Invite You to Attend The 29th Annual NAWJ Conference Luncheon

Friday, November 9, 2007 at 12:00 p.m.
Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue

Keynote Speaker: Judith Rodin, Ph.D.
President, The Rockefeller Foundation

NAWJ was founded in 1979 and is comprised of over 1,200 federal, state, municipal, administrative, military and tribal women judges at both the appellate and trial levels from every state in the nation. NAWJ’s 29th Annual Conference will be held in Philadelphia, and in connection with that conference, there will be a luncheon held on Friday, Nov. 9 at the Park Hyatt at the Bellevue, open to the public. This year’s luncheon will feature keynote speaker Judith Rodin, Ph.D., current president of the Rockefeller Foundation and the past president of the University of Pennsylvania. It will be attended by hundreds of leading federal and state women judges from across the United States. Also in attendance will be a number of distinguished women judges from foreign countries. Please join us for what is sure to be an exciting event.

To register for the Friday, Nov. 9 luncheon, please complete the registration form below and send with a check or credit card information to:

Name __________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Firm, Company or Organization ______________________________________________________________________________________
Mailing Address __________________________________________________________________________________________________
Phone Number ___________________________________________________________________________________________________
E-mail Address ___________________________________________________________________________________________________
Method of Payment:
___ Enclosed is a check payable to NAWJ for $75.
___ MasterCard, AMEX or Visa Account Number: ___________________________ Exp: __________
Signature: _______________________________________________________________________________________________________

philadelphia.bar.org September 2007 Philadelphia Bar Reporter 11
By Ria C. Momblanco

While some attorneys find themselves questioning how they can develop business or distinguish themselves from the few attorneys who already share their specialty, others question whether that specialty is the right one for them, and if not, whether a change is possible.

Addressing those issues was a panel of women lawyers who shared their advice and experiences with the Women in the Profession Committee at a recent meeting.

The panel on “How to Develop a Niche Practice,” featured Ellen C. Brotman, a partner at Montgomery McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP, who concentrates in both white collar criminal law and professional responsibility; Jeanne L. Bakker, a partner at Montgomery McCracken, who concentrates in ERISA litigation; Min Suh, a partner at Fox Rothschild LLP who concentrates in business immigration law; and Lynanne B. Wescott of The Wescott Law Firm P.C.

Brotman said one way to develop business and make contacts within your niche is to actively participate in an organization that targets your practice area. Brotman developed contacts and business in her white-collar defense practice by joining the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and volunteering to organize several association seminars. In assembling potential speakers for those seminars, she was able to network with several noteworthy individuals involved in white-collar criminal defense. Brotman continues to develop contacts for her professional responsibility practice by authoring a regular column in The Legal Intelligencer.

Bakker said that finding a niche can involve a changing set of goals that requires flexibility and the ability to re-tool yourself, if necessary. Although she began her practice wanting to represent unions, after working for a few years in that area, she realized that she wanted to move toward working with multi-employer plans. Positioning herself for that change required her to not only gain skills in that area of law, but to research the type of work that other firms did and to patiently wait for the right position to become available.

Each of the panelists agreed that in order to find the area of law for which you are best suited, it is essential to know yourself and to be willing to take risks in order to achieve personal satisfaction. Suh likened the process of choosing a niche to choosing a major in college. “You have to know who you are before you know where you want to go,” she said.

Suh first started as a bankruptcy lawyer, but early on, admitted to herself that she didn’t find the work as interesting as she thought she would. She decided to try her hand at commercial litigation, but again felt unsatisfied. Finally, she went into immigration law, and found that the type of work that she did truly resonated with her interests and personality.

For more senior attorneys, moving from one niche to another may present some challenges. Still, “You’ve got options,” says Wescott, who recommended that if you are in a large firm and think you have an interest in a different specialty, explore that area of law by asking for an assignment from an attorney who works in that area. There may be a project where the expertise that you have from your current area of law may benefit the attorney from whom you are seeking a project. In encouraging other attorneys to find an area of law that satisfies their interests, Wescott said, “You should not be afraid to take risks, you should never underestimate your worth … and you should never sacrifice your happiness.”

Ria C. Momblanco, an associate with Fine, Kaplan and Black, R.P.C., is an associate editor of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
Bally’s Atlantic City is the site for the Philadelphia Bar Association’s 2007 Bench-Bar Conference on Sept. 28 and 29. A total of 7 CLE credits are available.

Philadelphia Bar Association gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the 2007 Bench-Bar Conference sponsors.
2007 BENCH-BAR CONFERENCE

14 Different Programs, 7 CLE Credits Available at Bench-Bar Conference

By Jeff Lyons

A total of 7 CLE credits and 14 different courses are available at the Association’s 2007 Bench-Bar Conference on Sept. 28 and 29 at Ball’s Atlantic City. This year’s conference, “Saddle Up to a Bench-Bar Bonanza,” has a Wild West theme and includes a black tie and blue jeans reception on Friday evening, Sept. 28. Sponsors for the 2007 Bench-Bar Conference include USI Colburn Insurance Service, LexisNexis, PNC Wealth Management, Trial Technologies, JAMS, Veritext and Kroll.

This year’s conference is expected to bring together hundreds of lawyers and judges for two days of programming that lets practitioners and the judiciary share ideas and best practices.

The opening luncheon “Chow at the Chuckwagon” begins at 11:15 a.m. on Sept. 28. Lunch is followed by a screening of “Soul of Justice: Thelon Henderson’s American Journey.”

Following a short break, four additional CLE programs are available beginning at 4 p.m. All of the programs following the opening luncheon and film screening are 1-credit programs.

“Unforgiven” is a Young Lawyers Division-sponsored program on the Internet and defamation. The course planners are Natalie Klyashnomy and John Papiano. Speakers for this program will be announced at a later time.

Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Corcelle F. Stevens and Commonwealth Court Judge Robert E. Simpson Jr. are the panelists for “Marshall Dillon,” a program on appellate advocacy. The Family Law Section will present “Billy the Kid” - Right Down the Middle: Equally Shared Physical Custody in Philadelphia County. Course planners Mark Mormijan and Megan Watson will be joined by panelists Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Holly Ford, custody master Fern Caplan and Julia Swain.

“Gunfight at the OK Corral” is the Business Law Section program on Dispute Resolution Clauses in Agreements: Drafting Tips and Practical Considerations. The faculty for this program include Mitchell Bach, Judge Diane M. Welsh and Paul D. Weiner.

“Calamity Jane and the Dalton Gang” is the theme of the black tie and blue jeans reception beginning at 6:30 p.m. This four-hour reception includes food, drink and the opportunity to mingle and network with colleagues and members of the judiciary.

Breakfast (Tequila Sunrise) will be available from 8 to 9:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. Saturday’s programming begins at 8:30 a.m. with “Young Guns” - Procedures for Motion Practice in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

This YLD-sponsored breakfast program will include discussion of both procedures and arguments related to Discovery Motion Practice and Pretrial Motion Practice. Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judges Matthew D. Garraffello and Annette M. Rizzo will be joined on the panel by Jennifer S. Coatworth, Scott W. Reid and moderator Heather Herrington. Attendees for this program will be eligible to win a raffle for a free iPad.

Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Supervising Judge William J. Manfredi is a speaker for the 9:45 a.m. program “The Pony Express” - Electronic Filing in Municipal Court and the Court of Common Pleas. Judge Manfredi will be joined by Judge Robert S. Blasi, supervising judge for the Civil Division of Municipal Court; Rudolph Garcia; and court administration officials Harold Palmer and Theresa Cannon. The program is sponsored by the State Civil Litigation Section.

The Family Law Section program “The Proposition” - Get a Job/You’re Fired! Earning Capacity Litigation in Philadelphia County includes Megan Watson, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Elizabeth Jackson, Michael Grasso and Dina Romayro.

“Bad Day at Black Rock” is a program by the Criminal Justice Section with panelists for “Marshall Dillon” - Appellate Advocacy, Judge Diane M. Welsh and Paul D. Weiner.

To register for the Philadelphia Bar Association’s 2007 Bench-Bar Conference, visit philadelphia.org.

Extend Bench-Bar Weekend with Golf at AC Country Club

Golfers looking to extend their stay in Atlantic City following the 2007 Bench-Bar Conference can make reservations at Atlantic City Country Club, ranked the top public/daily fee golf course in New Jersey and one of the Top 100 classic golf courses in the country by Golf Week magazine.

Atlantic City Country Club, a 6,577-yard par 70 course, has also been named by Turnstiles Golf & Travel Magazine as one of America’s best resort courses.

Six USGA Major Championships have been contested at this legendary course. Walter Travis won the 1901 USGA Amateur Championship; Babe Didrickson Zaharias won the first of three USGA Women's Open Championships in 1948; and Don January captured the inaugural PGA Senior Tour event contested at ACCC in 1980.

The Atlantic City Country Club underwent an $8 million dollar renovation commissioned in 1998 to restore the course while enhancing the dramatic skyline views of Atlantic City.

For more information, call 609-236-4400.
Judge Henderson’s Career Subject of Film, Discussion

By Jeff Lyons

A panel of judges will lead the discussion following a screening of “Soul of Justice: Thelton Henderson’s American Journey,” the opening program for the 2007 Bench-Bar Conference at Bally’s Atlantic City on Friday, Sept. 28.

The opening luncheon program is sponsored by the Public Interest Section, the Asian American Bar Association of the Delaware Valley, the Barristers Association of Philadelphia, the Hispanic Bar Association, the South Asian Bar Association and the National Bar Association Women Lawyers Division.

“Soul of Justice” presents the life and work of one of the first African-American federal judges in the United States and chronicles the impact of his decisions on the lives of millions. The film follows Judge Henderson from his time in the U.S. Department of Justice during the civil rights movement through his current position on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

Panelists for this 3 CLE credit program (1 substantive, 2 ethics) include U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Theodore McKee; Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judges Nitza Quinones I. Alejandro, Frederica Massiah-Jackson and M. Teresa Sarmina. U.S. District Court Judge Louis H. Pollak will offer remarks before the screening of the film.

Judge McKee joined the Third Circuit in June 1994. He is a former assistant U.S. attorney and deputy city solicitor. He was a lecturer at Rutgers University Camden Law School and served as a judge on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas from 1984 to 1994. He is a 1975 graduate of the Syracuse University College of Law.

Judge Massiah-Jackson is former president judge of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. She was elected to the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas in 1983. A 1974 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, the judge practiced corporate and civil litigation with Blank Rome LLP before advancing to the bench. She also worked with the Senate of Pennsylvania as chief counsel of the Senate Insurance and Business Committee. Judge Massiah-Jackson was a lecturer at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania from 1992 to 2002, where she taught Legal Studies and Business Law.

Judge Sarmina sits in the Homicide Program of the Criminal Trial Division of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. She was elected to the Court of Common Pleas in 1997. Prior to her election, she worked as a law clerk, assistant district attorney and deputy and senior deputy attorney general.

Judge Pollak was commissioned to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in July 1978. He assumed senior status in 1991. He was a professor of law and a member of the faculty of Yale Law School from 1955-1974 and served as dean from 1965 to 1970. He was on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania Law School from 1974 to 1978 and served as dean from 1975 to 1978. He is a 1948 graduate of Yale Law School. Judge Pollak is a U.S. Army veteran and served as law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Wiley B. Rutledge from 1948 to 1949. He was in private practice in New York City from 1949 to 1951 and worked as an attorney in the U.S. State Department as special assistant to ambassador-at-large Philip C. Jessup from 1951 to 1953.

Reserve Rooms by September 6

Bally’s Atlantic City is now accepting reservations for attendees of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s 2007 Bench-Bar Conference on Sept. 28-29. This year’s conference is expected to bring together hundreds of lawyers and judges from the Philadelphia area for two days of programming that lets practitioners and the judiciary share ideas and best practices.

Bally’s Atlantic City offers a world-class spa, salon, fitness center and 18 restaurants to meet every craving. Experience the Old West at Bally’s Wild Wild West Casino with nearly 74,000 feet of gaming accessible via a short connected walkway.

Hotel reservations must be made by Thursday, Sept. 6 to receive the special rates. Rooms Thursday night Sept. 27 are $99, Friday night rooms are $144 and Saturday night rooms are $189.

Call 1-800-345-7253 for reservations and mention you are attending the Philadelphia Bar Association Bench-Bar Conference to get these special room rates.

Bally’s Atlantic City features a spa, fitness center and 18 restaurants.
2007 Bench-Bar Conference Registration Form
September 28-29, 2007 - Bally’s Atlantic City

(Please Note: Judges will receive separate conference materials)

Each attendee must fill out a registration form in its entirety (non-attorney guests may be included on the form). Make checks payable to Philadelphia Bar Association and mail to: 2007 Bench-Bar Conference, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., 11th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19107, or pay with your credit card below and fax to (215) 238-1159. Online registration is also available at philadelphiabar.org. NOTE: Hotel reservations must be made separately by calling (800) 345-7253. Mention “Philadelphia Bar Association” to take advantage of the special room rate of $99 per night on Thursday, $144 on Friday and $189 on Saturday (plus taxes). Hotel reservations must be made by Thursday, Sept. 6, 2007.

Registration Type (all prices are per person)

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<th>Non-Member Attorney</th>
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Nickname on Badge (if different from above): __________________________________________________________________________________________

Company/Organization ____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Guest Name(s): __________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________________________________________________________ State: ___________________ Zip: _________________

Phone: _____________________________ Fax: ______________________________ E-mail: __________________________________________________

Special/Dietary Needs: ____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Emergency Contact Name: ____________________________________________________________________ Phone: _______________________________

Card Type: American Express MasterCard Visa

Card Number: ___________________________ Expiration Date: _________________________

Cardholder's Name: _______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Cardholder's Signature: ________________________________________________________________________________ Date: _________________________

REGiSTER oN LiNE AT PHILADELPHiABAR.ORg
Deadline for 2007 Nominations is October 12

Nominations are now being accepted for the Philadelphia Bar Association’s 2007 Wachovia Fidelity Award, presented annually to a member of the Association, who through volunteer activities, rendered over a considerable period of time, has made significant improvements to the administration of justice.

The criteria for the award are:
• Significant accomplishments in improving the administration of justice (preferably in Philadelphia);
• The absence of prior recognition for this work by the Philadelphia Bar Association;
• Distinguished service consistently rendered over a considerable period of time or a single outstanding achievement in a particular year. (The fact that this single achievement may have occurred some years ago in not material so long as it has not been recognized);
• The accomplishment must arise from voluntary activities rather than service rendered as a paid professional; and
• It is preferred that the recipient be a member of the Philadelphia Bar Association not now in public office or directly involved with the court operations or any other public service activity.


Nominations should be made in writing. Please include a detailed statement setting forth information and reasons why you are recommending the nominee. Nominations should be sent to Tracey McCloskey, Philadelphia Bar Association, c/o Fidelity Award Committee, 1101 Market St., 11th Floor, Philadelphia PA 19107. The deadline is Friday, Oct. 12.
Hart assumed Temple’s presidency on July 1, 2006. She previously served as president of the University of New Hampshire and provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Claremont Graduate University, in Claremont, Calif. Her prior appointments include professor of educational leadership, dean of the Graduate School and special assistant to the president at the University of Utah.

Hart received an M.A. in History and a Ph.D. in Educational Administration, both from the University of Utah. Her research interests include leadership succession and development, work redesign and organizational behavior in educational organizations, and academic freedom and freedom of speech in higher education.

She has published more than 85 articles and book chapters and five books and edited volumes.

The Women in the Profession Committee established the O’Connor Award in 1993 to recognize the important contributions that women attorneys in Philadelphia have made to the legal profession.

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Quaranteely
continued from page 1

in Pennsylvania, particularly in the areas of judicial selection, judicial discipline, jury service, court funding, and increasing racial, ethnic and gender fairness.

Marks has also served as the executive director of Women Organized Against Rape and board chair of the Women’s Law Project and the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Bartered Women.

She has received numerous awards, including the Bar Association Public Interest Section’s Andrew Hamilton Award, the Women’s Center of Montgomery County’s “Making a Difference Award,” and a Philadelphia City Council Proclamation “in tribute to her life’s work of making this world and especially this city’s justice system better for its thousands of clients.” She was named a “Woman of Distinction” in 2001 by the Philadelphia Business Journal. She is co-chair of the Association’s Legislative Liaison Committee.

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Visit www.myphiladelphiabar.com or call 1-888-220-7734 today to get your free rate quote.

Afternoon Chat with Judge

U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Jean FitzSimon meets with Bankruptcy Committee Chair Bradford J. Sandler on Aug. 1 at the Cherry Street Tavern as part of the Committee’s afternoon chat series. The afternoon chats spotlight leaders of the bankruptcy bar for an up-close and personal perspective on everything from legal issues and current events to careers and personal histories in an informal setting. More than 30 people attended the event, sponsored by Parcels, Inc.
American public about the critical need for true checks and balances, where the courts, Congress and the executive branch all play roles in making sure that no one branch violates our citizens’ civil rights.

Consistent with your Bar Association’s mission to improve the administration of justice and build public understanding of the importance of the rule of law in a democratic society, we have lent our voice to this threshold issue that strikes at the heart of our civil liberties.

Last June, our Board of Governors adopted a resolution supporting a full and formal investigation by Congress into the NSA’s warrantless electronic surveillance program, to ensure the executive branch has not and does not overstep its powers. Our resolution was adopted based on concerns among many of our members, members of Congress and the public that the executive branch, in conducting such surveillance, has encroached upon the rights, authority and prerogative of both the Congress and the courts, placing the long-cherished doctrine of separation of powers in jeopardy.

We communicated our position to the Pennsylvania congressional delegation, pressing for an investigation because of the vital importance of ensuring that the balance of powers among the three branches of government is respected, and the civil rights of our citizens are protected.

A six-month sunset provision on the sweeping legislative authorization of unchecked government snooping is not enough. What is needed is a law that protects our constitutional freedoms as well as our national security, with appropriate judicial oversight and congressional review. Only then can we ensure that our government’s actions are necessary, justified and consistent with the U.S. Constitution.

Jane Dalton, a partner at Duane Morris LLP, is Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. Her e-mail address is Chancellor@philabar.org.

On a very humid evening not too long ago, I sweated it out at a Phillies game (by the way, excessive sweating does not result in weight loss). I usually do not go to Phillies games unless someone else pays or they’re box seats. Luckily, the Phillies won that night so it was worth it.

I grew up watching the Phillies with my mom and we watched the games comfortably from our couch. When the new ballpark opened, I had asked my mom if she wanted to go to a game for her birthday, but she declined and said she already had the best seat in the house.

Having been in Philadelphia my whole life, I grew up watching the Eagles, Phillies and Sixers with my mom. I grew up watching Clint Eastwood, Charles Bronson and Steven Seagal movies with my dad. Both of them said it was their way of escaping some of the stress in their lives. Personally, I watched sports and action movies, not only because I enjoyed watching sports and action movies but because I loved the time I spent with each of my parents.

My parents left Philly for North Jersey a couple of years ago. I try to go to visit them at least once a month, but I still miss my mom yelling at the TV when Von Hayes would inevitably strike out and my dad laughing with glee as Clint Eastwood nailed the bad guy. I recently saw “The Bourne Ultimatum” and I can’t wait to see it again with my dad when I go to visit. And with fall approaching, I am looking forward to watching the Eagles with my mom over the phone.

All of us relieve stress in varied ways—exercise, travel, meditation, cooking, or sleeping. There is also always a Phillies, Eagles, Flyers or Steers game in season. But for some of us, just spending time with family will do the trick. I am the first to admit I was spoiled living in the same town as my parents for so much of my life. It takes only a trip a couple of hours north from Philly for me to get the best seats in the house.

Sunah Park, a partner at Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP, is editor-in-chief of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter.
NAWJ to Convene in Philadelphia in November

The Philadelphia Bar Association welcomes the 2007 National Association of Women Judges’ 29th Annual Conference to Philadelphia Nov. 7 – 11 at the Four Seasons Hotel.

“We are honored to welcome members of the NAWJ to Philadelphia, and salute them for their dedication to preserving judicial independence, ensuring equal justice and access to the courts for women, minorities and other historically disfavored groups, providing education, and increasing the numbers and advancement of women judges at all levels,” said Bar Association Chancellor Jane L. Dalton.

Senior Judge Norma L. Shapiro, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Senior Judge Carolyn Engel Temin, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, are co-chairs of the 29th Annual Conference.

“We extend our congratulations to the Honorable Norma L. Shapiro and the Honorable Carolyn Engel Temin, and thank them for their outstanding contributions to our profession and tireless dedication to ensuring fairness and gender equality in our courts. As trailblazers who have paved the way for many, they are invaluable role models who continue to inspire us always,” said Chancellor Dalton. “Likewise, we congratulate the Honorable Brenda Stith Lofin, NAWJ President, and Honorable Fernande R.V. Duffly, President-Elect, for their accomplished leadership and vision.”

In connection with the annual conference, there will be a luncheon held on Friday, Nov. 9 at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue, open to the public. For ticket information, visit nawj.org.

“This year’s luncheon will feature keynote speaker Judith Rodin, Ph.D., president of the Rockefeller Foundation and the past president of the University of Pennsylvania. It will be attended by hundreds of leading federal and state women judges from across the United States. Also in attendance will be a number of distinguished women judges from foreign countries.

NAWJ was founded in 1979 and is comprised of more than 1,200 federal, state, municipal, administrative, military and tribal women judges at both the appellate and trial levels from every state in the nation.

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Continued from page 6

of work experience at one or more non-profit organizations principally involved in the delivery of legal services to clients (regardless of geography).

Visit philadelphiabar.org for copies of the 2007 Shuster Fellowship application and guidelines. Please note that the deadline for submitting an application for a Shuster Fellowship to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation is Friday, Sept. 14. The winners will be announced at the Andrew Hamilton Gala on Saturday, Nov. 17.

For more information, contact Maureen Mingey at mmingey@philabar.org or call (215) 238-6334.
Phoenix Wright Brings Courtroom to Video Game

By Baron C. Giddings

Many people, even years ago, said that courtroom-style video games would just not be exciting, fun and fulfilling, if it even kept the player’s attention long enough to be judged. I object to this statement!

Capcom’s “Phoenix Wright: Ace Attorney” (available for the Nintendo DS) is one of the most well thought-out games I have played, especially for a handheld console game. There are two additional titles in the series (“Phoenix Wright: Ace Attorney Trials and Tribulation.”) Capcom has another “legal” game on the market, based on a cartoon from Cartoon Network’s “Adult Swim.” That game, “Harvey Birdman: Attorney at Law” for the PlayStation 2 and PSP, features the exploits of the animated lawyer who defends cartoon clients.

You play as the defense attorney, Phoenix Wright, who is fresh out of law school and was just hired by a firm. Your first case is a murder mystery and although tricky, it is the easiest case you will have to face while playing this game. The game is very unique in the way that it forces you to change your thought process (if you are not a lawyer already). Although the game may be nice enough to give you hints as to the crime in the beginning (like letting you see the murder) it still challenges you to prove who did it. The real game begins when you are halfway through the five cases you will be taking on. The game’s motto is “thinking outside the box,” as it makes you do this for all the cases, even while collecting evidence. If you decide to play this game, you will find yourself stuck, not only by the cases, but also by the process of finding evidence as to what really happened.

The game’s colorful screen is one that is stunning for a word-bubble, moving-character game. The visual scenery is a type of wacky cartoonish view that will have you giggling because of the emotions the characters show from time to time. Not only did the producers of this game add a lot of brain-teasing moments, they also added a couple of humorous moments, such as the suspect that was known by the name “Oldbag” who is an elderly lady with a furious attitude. The audio and vocals of the game, along with the visual effects, really stand out. This game also has a really cool voice recognizer. If you lose the pen that came with the console or you are just too lazy to press the button on the screen, like I was at times, then you can shout “Objection” or “Press” and it will follow the command.

This game is one to be played if you are ever looking for a legal game to pass your time. After playing this game, I will object whenever I hear someone proclaim that there are no fun court games out there. If you have a Nintendo DS console, then I recommend this game even for older adults, as it is one of the simpler games to handle and all you need is a sharp mind to enjoy.

Baron C. Giddings is a senior at Wissahickon High School in Ambler, Pa.
I was recently dragged to see the newest Harry Potter film, and I much disliked it although I was told it was in 3-D. Really! Real 3-D, Myrtle! Gosh oh golly! I haven’t seen anything in 3-D since “Kiss Me Kate” in 1953, when I was taken to the old State Theater (in West Philadelphia) and saw that film in first run. I wore the colored glasses and was somewhat impressed when Kathryn Grayson threw a tankard at the audience during her rendition of “I Hate Men.” It was all swell, although why it was better in 3-D eluded me even then.

Of course, the makers of movies since found out that there was really no reason for 3-D and no one mourned its demise, especially after Cinerama came out in 1957. I saw “This is Cinerama” at the old Midtown (now the Prince). At one point, you could see the movie at the theater and then walk across a street to Kuglers and get a good meal - and all for a buck! Ah the good old days!

Kuglers is long gone, as is Lew Tendlers and Schrafts and the Randolph and the Mastbaum (of blessed memory - not to mention the Earle) not to mention H and H and those wonderful baked beans and coffee and the chocolate cream roll (where else could you eat a decent meal for six bits?). Oh tempora!

The fact is that all these wonderful old places have faded into history and live with those of us who lived in a nation where it was once thought that giving people value for their money was a good thing and that successful businessmen were those who built up businesses rather than wound them down. No new generation can change that and those who try give the nation a black eye.

Hence comes Harry Potter, a thoroughly depressing movie for adolescents. What I saw at this overcrowded theater in the suburbs was a film light on dialogue and wit, but filled with special effect gew-gaws that were absolutely useless. That is where the 3-D process came into it. Filmmakers in the 1950s came to understand that merely throwing something towards the camera was not a dramatic device. Nothing becomes more meaningful closer to you, unless, of course, you are a physician in an operating room. Think of it - a bowel resection in 3-D! There is an audience for it I am sure. Anyone who could sit through a movie about over mature students who cast spells could certainly find abdominal surgery interesting.

Which reminds me, since the film was playing in the suburbs, none of the city-dweller yelling at the screen was present. I stopped going to local theaters because I could not stand a) the movies; and b) the audiences. Having been a critic for years, I was used to the quiet of a screening room where a disgruntled critic would emit a disparaging word once in a while (note: during a screening of a Leone spaghetti western one of the characters said “It’s a long way to the pass” to which the Bulletin’s Ernie Scheier retorted “From Parma.”) But yelping at the screen is not all the trouble one can experience in a...
**What’s the Worst Film You’ve Ever Seen?**

“The Next Karate Kid” with Hilary Swank as Ralph Macchio. Need I say more?”

- Ben Staherski

“Meg Ryan isn’t very believable as a doctor in “City of Angels” and Nicholas Cage is an angel; also not believable. And they fall in love. It is even worse with tiny children with tiny bladders because they pop out with their parents - hopefully - every few minutes. And if you see a small child exiting a bathroom alone, do not go in whatever you do. You will slip on the wet floor and get God-knows-what all over you.

Oh yes. The 3-D. Well that was useless in 1953 and it is equally useless today when people have not yet determined a good meaning for it. No director has ever used it well. Not even Roger Corman and his cheesy output could do justice to this process that does nothing to improve a film. Maybe someone will find a real value for it someday. But as of now, we are stuck with the same uninspired people aiming things toward the camera as if that matters. John Candy was not so outrageous when he held up a glass of water and moved it back and forth in front of a television camera. To him it was mock 3-D, but he was really right on the beam about it. The movies, like the wizard tale, are so dull that the audience is more interesting to watch as they jump up and down to relieve their undersized bladders.

Thank God they tore down the Mastbaum.

Marc W. Reuben, a sole practitioner, is an advisory editor to the Philadelphia Bar Reporter. He has been writing about the Arts and Media since 1973.

**Among the Scholarship Recipients**

Minorities in the Profession Committee Chair May Mon Post (from left) is joined by scholarship winners Neena Verma, Brandon Bruce, Brian Wang, and Nora Kim, along with Sozi Tulante on July 25 at Marathon Commerce Square. The scholarships were presented to minority law students by the Young Lawyers Division at a summer soiree hosted by the YLD, along with the Barristers Association, South Asian Bar Association, Asian American Bar Association of the Delaware Valley and the Hispanic Bar Association of Philadelphia.

**Bylaws continued from page 1**

amendment calls for editorial board members to be appointed by either the Chancellor or by a majority of the publication’s editorial board, with all appointments being approved by the Board of Governors. The appointees will serve three-year terms and the appointments can be renewed following approval by the Editorial Board and the Board of Governors.

The proposed amendment to the composition of the Board of Governors makes the Chancellor immediately prior to the past Chancellor an ex officio non-voting member of the Board. This amendment will also allow the Chancellor to appoint an additional member to the board who is a member of a racial minority.

Another proposed amendment will reduce the number of members needed for a quorum of the Board of Governors from 20 to 18 voting members.

It is also proposed that the Cabinet and Board of Governors will be permitted to receive electronic communication of meeting agendas and materials. The final proposed amendment allows Bar Association membership to any full-time member of the faculty of any accredited law school.
3 Appointed to Bar Reporter Editorial Board

By Jeff Lyons

The Board of Governors has approved the appointment of three new members to the Editorial Board of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter. The appointments of Kathryn C. Harr, Ria Momblanco and Regina Parker were approved at the Board’s July 26 meeting.

Harr, an associate with Trujillo Rodriguez & Richards, LLC, is a 2002 graduate (cum laude) of Temple University Law School, where she served as managing editor of Temple Law Review. While in law school, she acted as a mediator in Landlord Tenant Court in Philadelphia and completed an internship with the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She served on the board of directors of the Wissahickon Art Center from 2002-2006. Harr is admitted to practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Momblanco, an associate at Fine, Kaplan and Black, R.P.C., received her law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 2002, where she was a senior editor and the technology editor for the Law Review. Prior to law school, she worked as a business management consultant for Ernst & Young, LLP. She received her undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Parker, an associate with Martioni, Ltd., is a 2000 graduate of Widener University School of Law and a 1996 graduate of Temple University. She has been active in various civic and charitable services, including coordinating a mock trial program for the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association; participation in community center clothing drives; Meals on Wheels, and similar activities; and appearing as a career day speaker in public school programs.

Notice to Philadelphia Bar Association Members

Pursuant to Section 1100 of the Philadelphia Bar Association bylaws, notice is hereby given to all members of the Philadelphia Bar Association that the following amendments to the bylaws of the Philadelphia Bar Association were considered at the July 26, 2007 Board of Governors meeting and were approved for submission to the members at the October Quarterly meeting to take place on Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2007 at Noon at the Philadelphia Downtown Marriott.

1. Section 100(A)(1)(c) shall be amended and restated as follows:
Section 100. Classes of Membership;
Rights.
(A) There shall be the following classes of membership:
(1) Regular Member. A Regular Member shall be a member of the Bar (a) of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, or the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit; or
(b) of any court of record whose office or principal practice is in the City of Philadelphia; or
(c) of any court of record who is employed in the City of Philadelphia or who maintains therein his or her principal office or of any court of record, who is a full-time member of the faculty of any accredited law school.
2. Section 208(A) and (B) shall be amended and restated as follows:
Section 208. The Board;
(A) The members of the Board entitled to vote, shall be:
(1) the Officers, all of whom shall serve for a term co-extensive with their respective terms of office;
(2) the immediate past Chancellor;
(3) the immediate past Chair of the Board;
(4) a representative of each of Section designated by the Section and then serving as a member of the highest executive body of the Section who shall serve for a term of one year (provided that no such representative shall serve for more than three consecutive one-year terms); the Chair of each Section shall notify the Chair of the Board on or before December 31 of each year of the identity of the person designated by the Section to serve as a member of the Board during the following calendar year as a representative of the Section;
(5) 15 persons elected by the Members as provided in Section 300(A)(1)(c), consisting of three classes of five Members each, who shall serve for a term of three years, one class being elected each year;
(6) three persons appointed by the Chancellor pursuant to Section 208(D), each of whom shall serve for a term of three years, one person being appointed each year;
(A) In order to transition the 208(D) appointments from two members with two year terms to three members with three year terms, the 2008 Chancellor shall on or before Jan. 15, 2008, appoint one member to a term ending Dec. 31, 2009.
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, Sept. 3
Labor Day: Bar Association offices closed

Tuesday, Sept. 4
Philadelphia Bar Foundation Board of Trustees: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Committee on the Legal Rights of Persons with Disabilities: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room.

Wednesday, Sept. 5
Delivery of Legal Services Committee: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Rules and Procedures Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Thursday, Sept. 6
Civil Rights Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.
Bench-Bar Scholarship Reception: 5:30 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center.

Friday, Sept. 7
Committee on the Legal Rights of Lesbians and Gay Males: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room.

Monday, Sept. 10
Family Law Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.
Business Law Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Tuesday, Sept. 11
Criminal Justice Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Wednesday, Sept. 12
Appellate Courts Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.

Thursday, Sept. 13
Legislative Liaison Committee: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $7.50.

Friday, Sept. 14
Philadelphia Lawyer magazine Editorial Board: meeting, 12:30 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.

Monday, Sept. 17
Public Interest Section Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Young Lawyers Division Cabinet: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Cabinet Room.
Small Business Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $7.50.
City Policy Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Tuesday, Sept. 18
Section Chairs: meeting, 8:30 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Cabinet: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Health Care Law Committee: meeting, 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $7.50.

Wednesday, Sept. 19
Workers’ Compensation Section Executive Committee: meeting, 10:30 a.m., 11th floor Committee Room.

Workers’ Compensation Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Thursday, Sept. 20
Disaster Planning Committee: meeting, 8 a.m., 10th floor Board Room.
Law Practice Management Division Executive Committee: meeting, 11:30 a.m., 11th floor Conference Center.
Law Practice Management Division Technology Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Friday, Sept. 21
Social Security Disability Benefits Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Monday, Sept. 24
Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Tuesday, Sept. 25
Women in the Profession Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.
Criminal Justice Section: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.
Compulsory Arbitration Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South. Lunch: $7.50.

Wednesday, Sept. 26
Medical Legal Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Conference Center. Lunch: $7.50.

Thursday, Sept. 27
Minorities in the Profession Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 11th floor Committee Room South.
Elder Law Committee: meeting, 12 p.m., 10th floor Board Room. Lunch: $7.50.
Board of Governors: meeting, 4 p.m., 10th floor Board Room.

Friday, Sept. 28
Bench-Bar Conference: 10 a.m., Bally’s Atlantic City Resort. Registration: philadelphiabar.org.

Saturday, Sept. 29
Bench-Bar Conference: 8 a.m., Bally’s Atlantic City Resort. Registration: philadelphiabar.org.

Register online for most events at philadelphiabar.org. Unless otherwise specified, all checks for lunches and programs should be made payable to the Philadelphia Bar Association and mailed to Bar Headquarters, 1101 Market St., 11th fl., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-2911. Send Bar Association-related calendar item details 30 days in advance to Managing Editor, Philadelphia Bar Reporter, Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107-2911. Fax: (215) 238-1159. E-mail: reporter@philabar.org.

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adjournment, notwithstanding the loss of a quorum.

4. Section 214 (C) shall be amended and restated as follows:

Section 214. Place and Notice of Meetings of the Board and Cabinet.

(C) Whenever written notice is required to be given to a member of the Board or Cabinet, whether under the provisions of these Bylaws or otherwise, such notice may be given to the member either personally or by email or by first-class mail, postage prepaid (in the case of the notice of the first meeting of the Board in each year), express mail or courier service, postal or other charges prepaid, or by facsimile transmission (with telephone confirmation that the transmission has been received) to the address or facsimile number supplied by the member to the Association for the purpose of notice. If the notice is given by express mail or courier service (or by first-class mail in the case of the first meeting of the Board in each year), it shall be deemed to have been given when deposited with the courier service for delivery to the member. In the case of facsimile transmission with telephone confirmation that the transmission has been received, notice shall be deemed to have been given when transmitted.

5. Section 1001 shall be amended and restated as follows:

Section 1001. Administration of Official Publications

The Editorial Boards of each official publication shall consist of Members of the Association appointed by either the Chancellor or by a majority of the membership of the publication’s Editorial Board, upon demonstration by the appointee of a commitment to the goals of the publication. All initial appointments shall be approved by the Board of Governors or by a majority of the membership of the Editorial Board, upon demonstration by the appointee of a commitment to the goals of the publication. All initial appointments shall be deemed to have been given when deposited with the courier service for delivery to the member. In the case of facsimile transmission with telephone confirmation that the transmission has been received, notice shall be deemed to have been given when transmitted.

6. ‘Publish’ in the Definitions Section shall be amended and restated as follows:

‘Publish’ shall mean notification published in any Association publication that is available to every Member, including electronic media, and/or in The Legal Intelligencer.

philadelphiabar.org

September 2007 Philadelphia Bar Reporter 25
Mark A. Aronchick, a founding member of Hangley Aronchick Segal & Pudlin and former Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, has been appointed to chair the Committee on the Rules of Evidence of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Danielle Banks, a partner with Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, was recently elected to the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia’s Board of Directors.

Michael F. Barrett, managing shareholder of Salz, Mongeluzzi, Barrett & Bendesky, PC, has been named President-Elect of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association.

Noel A. Fleming of Lundy Zateeny Lofts, LLP was a panelist at Penn State’s 61st Annual Tax Conference on May 22. His topic was “Exempt Organization Hot Topics.”

Leonard A. Bernstein, a partner at Reed Smith LLP, has been elected board president of the Support Center for Child Advocates, Philadelphia’s lawyer-volunteer program for abused and neglected children.

Eric H. Weitz, a member at the civil trial firm of Seidel Weitz Garfinkle & Datz, LLC, has been elected to a two-year term on the Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association.

Rebecca Rosenberger Smolen, a partner with WolfBlock, participated in a panel discussion at ‘The Professional Women’s Roundtable Monthly Networking Reception on July 24 at Grant Thornton in Philadelphia.

Marc J. Zucker, a partner with Weir & Partners LLP, has been named to a three-year term as chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.

Michael F. Schleigh of Deesey Mahoney & Valentinii, Ltd., has been elected to the Associated Alumni of Central High School Board of Managers.

John Gallace, a partner with Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, spoke on the trend toward environmental regulation at the local government level at the Montgomery Bar Association’s CLE seminar, “Local Environmental Regulation,” on Aug. 8.

Thomas G. Wilkinson, a member of Cozen O’Connor, has been elected vice president of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. Hope A. Comisky, a partner with Pepper Hamilton LLP, and Min S. Suh, a partner with Fox Rothschild LLP, have been elected to the Board of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute.

Alexandra C. Gaugler, an associate with Miller, Alfano and Raspani, P.C., has been appointed as a Hearing Committee Member serving the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

David I. Grunfield of Astor, Weiss, Kaplan & Mandel, LLP, has been named president of Family Services of Montgomery County’s Board of Directors.

Louis Coffey, of counsel to WolfBlock, has been elected chair of the Board of the Gershman Y.

H. Robert Fiebach, a member of Cozen O’Connor, received the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s President’s Award for his work as co-chair of the Task Force on Lawyer Advertising. The American Bar Association recognized his commitment to upholding the standards of the legal profession by appointing him to its Standing Committee on Substance Abuse.

Michael Meloy, a partner with Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, was recently appointed to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection’s Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board.

Kathy Ochroch, a partner with Blank Rome LLP, has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the Nationalities Service Center. The NSC provides assistance and a safe haven to refugees, asylees and immigrants from all countries, religious faiths and ethnic backgrounds.

Shari Shapiro, an associate with Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP, discussed the Supreme Court decisions in Morse v. Frederick and FEC v. WRTL on CN8 - The Comcast Network’s program, “Your Morning.”

Andrew D. Davitt, a shareholder with Marshall, Demney, Warner, Coleman & Goggin, was a keynote speaker at a conference sponsored by ING at Berthel Fisher and Company Financial Services Inc.’s annual conference held on July 20 and 21 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Carmen Romano and Edward Lemanowicz of Dechert LLP spoke at Private Equity International’s Fourth Annual Private Equity Strategic Financial Management Conference held July 17-18. Romano presented “Regulatory Considerations in Exit Strategies” while Lemanowicz’s presentation was titled “Tax-International Track.”

Andrea R. Kramer, principal in the Law Offices of Andrea R. Kramer, has been appointed Chair of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania.

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