

Briefs

5K ■ PART-TIME STATUS ■ ETIQUETTE ■ MERGERS ■ IN MEMORIAM

Register Now for 32nd Annual Bar Association 5K Run/Walk on May 15

More than 1,000 runners and walkers are expected for the Philadelphia Bar Association's 32nd Annual 5K Run/Walk on Sunday, May 15. The race begins at 8:30 a.m. on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, adjacent to the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

The Run/Walk format provides the opportunity for athletes of all levels to participate in this charity to benefit the Support Center for Child Advocates.

Participants who beat their 2010 Philadelphia Bar Association 5K Run times will receive a Brooks gift at Philadelphia Runner. Registered participants will receive 20 percent off Brooks footwear, apparel and accessories at all three Philadelphia Runner stores.

The Support Center for Child Advocates is the nation's oldest and largest pro bono program dedicated



exclusively to serving abused and neglected children. Specially trained volunteer attorneys are teamed with experienced staff social workers and consulting lawyers to secure a permanent and nurturing environment for each child in their care. Since 1977, Child Advocates has served more than 5,000 children and trained 3,500

volunteer attorneys.

Online registration is available until May 13 at active.com. In-person registration is available from May 9 to May 13 from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Philadelphia Runner, 1601 Sansom St. Registration is available on race day from 7:15 to 8:15 a.m. For more information, visit charityrun2011.com.

Few Attorneys Have Part-Time Status at Philadelphia Firms, Survey Reveals

Even though most large law firms have made part-time schedules available to their experienced lawyers for many years, just 6.4 percent of lawyers work part-time, according to the NALP Directory of Legal Employers.

In Philadelphia, NALP says 3.5 percent of all partners work part-time schedules. More than two-thirds of those part-time partners are women. NALP reports 5.4 percent of associates in Philadelphia are part-time, with the majority of part-time associates being women. Part-time work is available at all



of the Philadelphia law firms surveyed by NALP.

Nationwide, most of the part-time lawyers (70 percent) are women. Among women lawyers overall, 13.6 percent work part-time; among women partners,

11.9 percent are working part-time; and among women associates the figure was 10.3 percent. This contrasts with a rate of just 2.9 percent among all male lawyers.

In 2010, 98 percent of offices allowed part-time schedules, either as an affirmative policy or on a case-by-case basis, but as has been the case since NALP first compiled this information in 1994, very few lawyers are working on a part-time basis, even though the percentage of offices allowing part-time schedules has increased from 86 percent over that time period.

Manners Matter: Lack of Tech Etiquette Can Affect Your Career Prospects

More than 75 percent of human resources managers said breaches in technology etiquette can affect a person's career prospects, according to a new survey from Robert Half Legal.

HR managers were asked, "To what extent, if any, can technology etiquette breaches—for example, sending e-mail messages to unintended recipients, checking e-mail on a BlackBerry during meetings, etc. — adversely affect a person's career prospects?" Fifteen percent said it would greatly affect career prospects while 61 percent said somewhat. Twenty-three percent said such breaches would have no effect at all.

"Etiquette breaches, such as paying more attention to your smartphone than the people you're meeting with, can make others feel less important and cause you to miss information," said Brett Good, senior district president of Robert Half International.

The top five tech etiquette breaches were identified with advice to help workers avoid these labels:

The Venter is an indiscreet individual who never misses an opportunity to document a bad work situation. Job-related gripes and groans get splashed across Facebook, Twitter and her personal blog. To avoid this label, keep the information that you post positive. Sticky or unpleasant situations are best discussed offline and in private.

The Noise Polluter's phone seems to lack a silent mode or an off button. Whether in a meeting or at a colleague's desk, he freely takes and makes calls, oblivious to his surroundings. To keep office noise at a minimum, set your phone to silent mode at the office, and hold personal conversations behind closed doors.

The Cryptic Communicator relies on texting shorthand for every type of correspondence. Odd or informal abbreviations, poor punctuation, and spelling and grammatical goofs leave people shaking their heads — and pleading for clarification. Spending a little more time on your



communications can make them easier to decipher.

The Pop-Up Artist is a chat fanatic who insists on sending you a flurry of instant messages. Throughout the day, you're subjected to the pings and pops of incoming IMs. IMs are fine for quick volleys of conversations, but don't go overboard. And don't expect that everyone will want to "chat" with you. For many, e-mail is immediate enough.

The Conference Call Con is a multitasker who pretends to pay attention during teleconferences but is so busy checking e-mail he has no clue what's being discussed. It's not an unusual problem: 45 percent of executives confessed to frequently doing other things while in these meetings, according to research. Although we all multitask from time to time, pay attention to relevant conversations when on conference calls. It can help to turn away from your monitor so you're not distracted by e-mail.

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The Editorial Board of this magazine welcomes submissions from attorneys and other professionals who wish to share their expertise on law-related topics.

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IN MEMORIAM

John Clark, Jr.
Dec. 4, 2010, Age 82

Edward L. Edelstein
Dec. 27, 2010, Age 79

Hon. Theodore S. Gutowicz
Dec. 5, 2010, Age 90

Ralph M. Russo
Jan. 22, 2011, Age 69

Weston C. Overholt
Dec. 14, 2010, Age 84

Corin A. Greaves
Feb. 6, 2011, Age 78

Morgan R. Jones
Dec. 17, 2010, Age 71

Mary Ann Hagan
Feb. 13, 2010, Age 75

Jack M. Myers
Dec. 22, 2010, Age 82

Lawrence Lichtenstein
Feb. 13, 2010, Age 69

Pershing N. Calabro
Dec. 22, 2010, Age 92

Please send In Memoriam notices to tplmag@philabar.org.

Have you considered a contribution to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation in memory of a deceased colleague? For information, call Gene Sirni, Foundation Executive Director, at 215-238-6334.

Law Firm Merger Activity Rebounds in Fourth Quarter of 2010

Fifteen new law firm mergers and acquisitions were announced in the United States in the fourth quarter of 2010, rebounding to near pre-recession levels for the October to December time period, according to Altman Weil MergerLine.

“The upswing in law firm merger activity in the fourth quarter is a leading indicator of what we expect will be a busy year for law firm combinations in 2011,” said Altman Weil principal Ward Bower.

Despite the year-end rebound, the total number of 2010 law firm deals announced was 39, down from 53 in 2009 and 70 in 2008.

The two biggest deals announced in 2010 were both transatlantic mergers of U.S. and U.K. law firms. Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal, a 655-lawyer firm headquartered in Chicago, merged with Denton Wilde Sapte, a 600-lawyer firm based in London. Cleveland-based Squire Sanders & Dempsey announced their intention to merge with U.K. firm

Hammonds to form a 1,200-plus lawyer firm.

“There were five international mergers involving U.S. law firms announced in 2010, up from four in 2009 and only two in 2008,” according to Bower. “Despite



the recession and its many distractions, the importance of a global strategy cannot be ignored.”

The other significant 2010 deal was the November announcement of a merger between Atlanta-based Kilpatrick Stockton and San Francisco-based IP firm Townsend and Townsend and Crew to form a new firm of approximately 650 lawyers. Kilpatrick Stockton also acquired an Oakland, California

construction boutique in October 2010.

Another major cross-border merger announced in December 2009 was finalized in May of 2010. The merger of Britain’s Lovells LLP with Washington D.C.-based Hogan & Hartson was the second largest law firm combination ever made, forming a 2,500-lawyer global firm.

Almost 80 percent of 2010 combinations involved the acquisition of small law firms with 20 or fewer lawyers, continuing the 2009 trend toward small, targeted deals. Forty-four percent of 2010 law firm combinations were either cross-border or multi-regional U.S. deals, up from 40 percent in 2009.

“Mergers that extend a firm’s geographic scope are prevalent now because they provide access to new markets and new business, as well as allowing firms to serve their existing clients in new locations, potentially increasing their share of the client’s legal expenditure,” Bower said.



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Readers' Comments

To the Editor:

When you next publish an article in favor of "Civil Gideon," (Winter 2011) you might request the authors to at least address the issue of who will pay for this. It would be useful if they could explain how our society will be "more just" when "Ms. Smith" (who paid for her own lawyer) needs to pay, not only for her lawyer, but to contribute (by taxes or otherwise) so that "Ms. Jones" may have a lawyer, too, but without paying.

W. Bourne Ruthrauff

To the Editor:

I recently read Kim Jessum's article, "Second Chances," in *The Philadelphia Lawyer* (Winter 2011). My grandmother was a loyal Eagles fan who has not watched the Eagles play since the Eagles signed Michael Vick. It is sad that she felt she had to turn from a team she loved, but she has strong convictions about his actions that are hard to refute. I also have strong convictions about dogfighting and have been looking for

reasons to give Vick a second chance so that I can continue to be a proud Eagles fan and a dog owner.

I am not sure if you are also aware that the signing of Vick resulted in a dramatic spike in dog fighting investigations in Philadelphia as reported by CBS News on March 31, 2010. The article reports that as Vick's conviction gained publicity, it also made the public aware that dogfighting is a crime. At first, I was surprised the article claimed that the public was not aware that dog fighting is a crime, but the numbers reflect otherwise. For example, in Philadelphia, there were 157 dog-fighting complaints in 2007 compared to 903 dogfighting complaints in 2009. A copy of the article may be found at <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/03/31/national/main6350684.shtml>. These statistics helped decrease the guilt I felt after Vick signed with the Eagles.

Thank you for the article. I hope it will alert people to Vick's positive contributions combat dog fighting and help reunite Eagles fans.

Jacqueline E. Campbell

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