

LAWYERS JOURNAL

Black History Month Celebration set for Feb. 29

By Ron Cichowicz

The ACBA Homer S. Brown Division (HSBD) will mark Black History Month with its annual celebration, where it will honor two individuals for their service to the community with the Spirit Award and Young Leader Award. The event will be held beginning at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 29 at Emerald City, 213 Smithfield Street, downtown. “The Celebration is a great chance to interact and engage with the community members who come out to support the awardees,” said Kellie Ware, ACBA Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. “As in past years, we believe we have chosen two very worthy honorees.”

The HSBD Spirit Award is presented to an individual or organization who has exhibited leadership qualities, as well as a commitment to the promotion of equality and the advancement of justice among the African American community. According to the HSBD website, “The Spirit Award allows HSBD to seize the opportunity to honor accomplishments of those who have positively affected Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout history.”

The year’s HSBD Spirit Award will be presented to Terri Minor Spencer, Founder and President of West End P.O.W.E.R., a grassroots nonprofit committee focused on addressing community needs and concerns. Spencer also is a committee chair for the Democratic Party, a family engagement expert at Amachi Pittsburgh and does violence prevention work through Pittsburgh Cares.

“Terri is an activist who assists formerly incarcerated citizens in a meaningful, thoughtful and integrated way,” said Ware. “She speaks about what a formerly incarcerated person needs and wants to lead a successful life and offers that knowledge to others.”



Terri Minor Spencer
Spirit Awardee

“She helps them become successful professionally and personally as members of the community as they return to society and the world.”

Previous individuals and organizations who have won the HSBD Spirit Award in the past are:

2005: K&L Gates LLP; 2006: New Pittsburgh Courier & Renaissance Publications; 2007: Hon. Cynthia A. Baldwin; 2008: Divine Intervention Ministries; 2009: Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg; 2010: Lisette M. McCormick, Esq.; 2011: Rosa Copeland Miller, Esq.; 2012: Bill Strickland; 2013: Hon. Joseph K. Williams, III; 2014: Negro Educational Emergency Drive (NEED); 2015: Dina



Jacqueline Brown
Young Leader Awardee

L. Clark; 2016: Vanessa German; 2017: T. Rashad Byrdsong; 2018: New Voices Pittsburgh; 2019: Gwen’s Girls; 2020: Emmai Alaquiva; 2021: Jasiri X and 1Hood Media; 2022: Harold Hayes; and 2023: Jerrel T. Gilliam

The HSBD says its Young Leader Award “is presented to an individual who has exhibited leadership qualities and a commitment to the promotion of equality and the advancement of justice among the African American community ... The award allows HSBD to seize the opportunity to honor the accomplishments of young attorneys who have positively affected African Americans.”

The award is given to a HSBD member who has actively participated

in HSBD and in at least one other committee, division or section of the ACBA.

This year’s HSBD Young Leader Award will be presented to Jacqueline Brown, Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Brown also is a veteran and former Judge Advocate Officer.

“Jacqueline is a Harvard graduate and a transplant to Pittsburgh who moved here during COVID,” said Ware. “Since then, she has been very active and involved, contributing enormously to the HSBD and Women in the Law Division. She chaired our CLE committee and served on the Martin Luther King, Jr. prayer breakfast committee.

“She has been a delightful addition and we’re happy to honor her in this way.”

Past recipients of the HSBD Young Leader Award are:

2015: Regina Wilson, Esq.; 2016: Tony J. Thompson, Esq.; 2017: Tyra Oliver, Esq.; 2018: Morgan Moody, Esq.; 2019: Tynishia C. Powell, Esq.; 2020: Kellie Ware, Esq.; 2021: Jesse I. Exilus, Esq.; 2022: Morgan Bonekovic, Esq.; and 2023: Gabrielle Lee, Esq.

The HSBD will also use its Black History Month Celebration to introduce its new children’s book.

The event is free. Anyone wanting more information should visit www.acbahsbd.org or ACBA.org/BHM2024. ■

Homer S. Brown Division publishes “Black Lawyers of the Burgh”

By Ron Cichowicz

For Kellie Ware, the inspiration came nearly six years ago.

“I was working at Neighborhood Legal Services when I met with a client, who brought along her daughter who was six or seven years old,” Ware recalled. “She said she had never met a Black woman who was a lawyer.”

The comment stayed with Ware and an idea percolated. The child’s remark wasn’t that surprising, since only 4.3 percent of lawyers are Black.

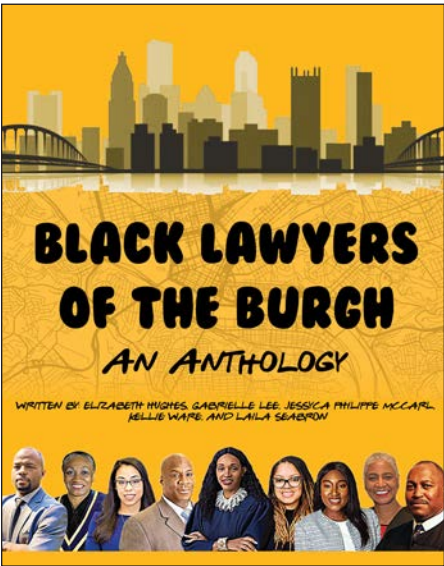
“And Pittsburgh is one of the nation’s least diverse metropolitan regions, so our numbers are even lower,” Ware said.

Fast forward to today, with Ware now serving as the ACBA’s Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

“I wondered how we might change these numbers generationally,” Ware said. “I can do a lovely presentation, expose about 20 kids to the profession, but they’ll only hear my story, share only in my experience.

“I thought of developing a book to let more of these children know we are here. I shared the idea with some of my colleagues and they said let’s do it. We got approval and started working on it last summer.”

Joining Ware as co-authors are Elizabeth Hughes, Gabrielle Lee, Jessyca McCarl and Laila Seabron.



While four of the authors are attorneys featured in the book, the fifth, is Ware’s teenaged daughter who is interested in becoming a lawyer herself. The result of their collaboration is “Black Lawyers of the Burgh,” a children’s book that introduces youngsters to careers in the law through the journeys of many Pittsburgh-based lawyers.

“The goal is to expose as many kids as possible to a wide range of Black lawyers and sow the seeds of potential future lawyers,” Ware said. “And even

if they don’t decide to become a lawyer, at least they’ll know we are here. They’ll see the law as an attainable career.”

Written at an approximately fifth grade reading level, the book features a section introducing the ACBA’s Homer S. Brown Division (HSBD). Originally called the Black Lawyers of Western Pennsylvania, the organization started in 1969 when Black law students began meeting with Black attorneys to gain career guidance and other support. It was renamed the Homer S. Brown Law Association in honor of Homer S. Brown, Pittsburgh’s first African American judge. It joined the ACBA as a Division in 2011, and today provides HSBD members with a means of participating in ACBA activities and other opportunities directed toward improving the administration of justice and promoting public welfare.

The book has a section titled “Living Legends” featuring the following 28 current Black attorneys:

Honorable Cynthia Ackron Baldwin, Lena Bryan-Henderson, William M. Carter Jr., Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark, Jerry Dickinson, Paul A. Ellis Jr., Jesse I. Exilus, Lisa Freeland, Barbara Griffin, Jason Hazlewood, Honorable Nicola Henry-Taylor,

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Gender Bias Duty Officers

ACBA.org/member-center/gender-bias-hotline
 If you have observed or experienced any form of gender bias in your role as an attorney or law student intern, you may contact any one of the following members of the Gender Bias Subcommittee of the Women in the Law Division on a daily basis. The duty officers will keep your report confidential and will discuss with you actions available through the subcommittee.

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 Wonder if your decisions, legal advice or other professional actions are ethical? Need guidance? The ACBA Professional Ethics Committee “Ethics Hotline” makes available Committee Members to answer ethical questions by telephone on a daily basis. *All calls are confidential.*

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The latest cases loaded into the database involve the issues of:
 Arbitrator’s Award – Indirect Criminal Contempt Conviction – Partnership

The Hon. Daniel D. McCaffery sworn-in as newest justice of the Supreme Court of Pa.

By Stacey Witalec

Chief Justice of Pennsylvania Debra Todd officially welcomed Justice Daniel D. McCaffery as a member of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania following his ceremonial swearing-in ceremony on Jan. 11.

Surrounded by his children, McCaffery took the oath of office administered by his brother, retired Supreme Court Justice Seamus McCaffery. McCaffery and his brother are the only two siblings to have served on the court in its 302-year history.

“This is a joyous and momentous occasion,” said Chief Justice Todd. “Justice McCaffery is eminently qualified to assume his position on the oldest Supreme Court in America. No one has worked harder to join our ranks and I have every confidence he will be a tremendous addition to the Court.”

Justice McCaffery is the 179th member to serve on the Court and the 16th Superior Court judge elected to the Supreme Court.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, McCaffery is the son of immigrants from Belfast in Northern Ireland. He attended Father Judge High School and following graduation, enlisted in the United States Army, serving with

the First Cavalry Division. From active duty, Justice McCaffery was one of a select few chosen to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point Prep School before being honorably discharged and continuing his service with the Army Reserve, 304th Civil Affairs Unit. McCaffery’s dedication to the practice of law and public service spans more than three decades, beginning with his time in the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office serving as an Assistant District Attorney in the Major Trials Unit, where he prosecuted more than 50 jury trials and one thousand bench trials.

Following his service in the DA’s office, McCaffery entered private practice with Jaffe, Friedman, Schuman, Nemeroff and Applebaum PC where he became partner and chair of the commercial litigation department. Focused on returning to his roots in public service, McCaffery was elected to the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas in 2013. During his tenure on the Common Pleas bench, he was assigned to one of the busiest trial divisions in the state, presiding over hundreds of jury trials and thousands of bench trials.

Seeking statewide judicial office, McCaffery was elected to the Superior Court in 2019 – one of two intermediate

appellate courts in the state and the busiest court of its kind in the nation, where he served until his installation on the high court. In addition to his time on the intermediate appellate bench, he was selected by the Supreme Court to serve on the state’s Court of Judicial Discipline.

McCaffery received his bachelor’s degree in broadcasting, telecommunications and mass media from Temple University in 1988 and his Juris Doctorate from the Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law in 1991. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Montgomery County Bar Association, the Philadelphia Bar Association, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Brehon Law Society, and the Philadelphia Emerald Society.

Established in 1722, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania is the oldest appellate court in the country and has played an important role in the history of the Commonwealth. As the state’s highest court, the seven justices make the final decisions interpreting Pennsylvania’s laws and Constitution, have full administrative authority over Pennsylvania’s judicial system and hear cases involving issues of immediate public importance arising in any court in the Commonwealth. ■

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Petropoulos hired as ACBA and ACBF Assistant Executive Director

By Rick Shrum

It has been a happy new year for Thomas C. Petropoulos, the new Assistant Executive Director of the Allegheny County Bar Association and Allegheny County Bar Foundation.

“2024 has been a fantastic year for me,” he said during an early January telephone interview. “I have a new job in a new city, and I’m meeting new people. This has been a heck of a year so far, and we’re only 12 days in.”

Petropoulos assumed the positions on Jan. 3 and immediately started working at becoming acclimated to the Pittsburgh Legal Community. He described it as “a whirlwind” start.

Petropoulos attended meetings, events and activities, striving to engage attorneys, judges, staff members and others, while familiarizing himself with committees, departments and other operations. Among his early events were a Diversity Committee meeting and an ACBA Nominating Committee reception focused on running for ACBA office.

He also attended a judicial investiture, where he met judges from different courts. “It was a very humbling and interactive experience,” he said.

Petropoulos has also been impressed with the diligence of ACBA membership.

“Our members are tied into public service, which you can see through the works of the Foundation,” he said.



Thomas C. Petropoulos

For the past year, Petropoulos was the Legal Professional Development Director for the Akron Bar Association and Akron Bar Foundation “Summit County, OH.”

“One of Tom’s strengths is he had more than nine years of experience in various positions with the Akron Bar Association,” ACBA Executive Director David Blaner said. “There are lots of moving parts with a bar association and a bar foundation, and here we had somebody who was well-rounded and familiar with a lot of different operations and events.”

For Petropoulos, being well-rounded includes extensive experience in retail sales and with nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

Petropoulos succeeds Diane McMillen, who departed in April 2022. Blaner said those positions remained unfilled after he told the board he planned to retire in June 2026, and that the candidate hired for the assistant position probably would need “a transition period” of “at least 24 months to get acclimated.”

“We have a transitional plan in place and it should work,” said Blaner, who has been ACBA Executive Director for 22 years, following stints as deputy director then acting director.

The hiring of Petropoulos was an eight-month-long process, which began last May 15 when he submitted his application. His initial interview was with Blaner and Juli Marhefka, the bar association’s Director of Administration and Human Resources, via Zoom.

Another Zoom interview followed, before Petropoulos and several other candidates were summoned for in-person sessions in front of the Selection Committee. Petropoulos was offered the dual positions Oct. 20, “With the understanding that I would start January 3.”

He is enamored of his new hometown, to be sure. “People are very, very friendly and welcoming in Pittsburgh,” Petropoulos said. “Pittsburgh has a unique and vibrant downtown. One member said, ‘It’s large enough to be a city with a small-town vibe.’”

Although each day is a learning experience at his new endeavor, Petropoulos is not a Pittsburgh newbie. His mother is originally from Murrysville, where young Tom spent parts of summers with relatives.

“I enjoyed going to Kennywood, the Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History and other places in Pittsburgh,” he said.

He and his family settled in Baltimore before relocating to Hudson, Ohio, in 1995.

“It’s between Akron and Cleveland,” Petropoulos said of the city where his mother still resides with his Border Collie, Lily. He lived there as well, before relocating to Upper St. Clair for the job change. He takes the T to downtown.


Petropoulos earned three degrees, all at Ohio universities: a Bachelor’s in Political Science and Speech Communication at Muskingum; a Master’s of Arts at Ohio University; and a Master’s of Public Administration at Akron University.

He hasn’t had a lot of free time since arriving in Pittsburgh, but pledges to follow local sports, specifically the Pittsburgh Penguins.

“I’m also getting a lot of suggestions on where to eat,” Petropoulos said. ■

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YLD CHAIR’S MESSAGE

Let’s look & Sea(se): The history of the YLD

By Tara M. Sease

The Allegheny County Bar Association (ACBA) was founded in 1870. Less than a century later, in 1964, the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) was formed. Prior to the formation of the YLD, attorneys, who were in their earlier years of practice, had the opportunity to join the Junior Bar.

In 1964, the first year of the ACBA YLD, William “Bill” Boyle was the first YLD Chair. I, unfortunately, did not personally have the opportunity to meet Past YLD Chair Boyle; however, during my research for this extra special YLD Chair Message, I was lucky enough to dig through the archives and find notes from an interview of Past Chair Boyle (...and they say that once you post on the internet, then it’s there forever – the internet has nothing on the ACBA records). Okay, in all seriousness, I owe a HUGE shout out to the YLD Bar Leadership Initiative (BLI) Class of 2007 for their forward-thinking and record-keeping class project!

Since the formation of the YLD, there have been 58 YLD past chairs. YES, we know that MOST attorneys hate math, so that means that I am the 59th YLD Chair. It was not until a decade after forming the YLD that a female held the title of “Chair.” In 1974, Sandra Kushner became the first female YLD Chair. (Elizabeth Hughes, who was the ACBA President in 2020-2021, is most definitely reading this message, and I would be amiss if



Tara Sease
YLD Chair

I did not mention that she was the member of the 2007 BLI Class who interviewed Past Chair Kushner. Foreshadowing, no?). I was BEYOND ecstatic to see that Past Chair Kushner’s biography description on her firm webpage continues to include her pivotal role in the YLD.

As the 59th YLD Chair, it is fascinating to think that this division has proudly served the bar for almost six decades. If you look back over the years, the YLD has survived and thrived during integral moments in time. The computer revolution in the legal world did not occur until 1973; emails were not used as mainstream communication between attorneys until the 1990s; and case management programs did not exist until the early

2000s. However, through all the transformations in the legal world, the YLD has been here.

Also, while perusing the list of the YLD Past Chairs, there have been some landmark changes in leadership over the twenty-plus years too. Since 2000 to the present, 65% of the YLD Chairs have been female, which is a dramatic change from the majority of the first four decades of the division only having 27% of female YLD Chairs. There have also been a number of YLD Chairs who identify as diverse and/or as a minority. In 1998, Rosemary Crawford was the first African American YLD Chair. Over the passing of time, the highly coveted Chair role has been held (and excelled) by individuals of all different backgrounds and upbringings.

With the positive changes over the last 59 years, some things have remained the same – for the better. As earlier commended, the 2007 BLI Class researched the YLD past chairs from 1964 to 2007 by conducting interviews and circulating questionnaires. I read each and every one, and there were certain commonalities by almost every past Chair.

For starters, almost every past chair agreed that his or her reasoning for initially getting involved in the YLD was because a mentor advised him or her to do so. (Dear reader – this is your sign. I am telling you to get involved with the YLD.) Another commonality, once involved with the YLD, most past chairs discussed the

reason for his or her continued involvement within the division was for opportunities to network in the legal community or engage in public service.

The late past Chair Boyle stated that his drive to better the YLD was behind the creation of the CLE programing through the YLD (1964). Past Chair Kushner stated that because only a few females attended her law school class, she felt it was necessary to capitalize on YLD networking opportunities (1974). The Honorable Joy Flowers Conti, who was YLD Chair in 1979, stated that she became active in the division because a partner at her firm encouraged her to be involved (1979). The Honorable Cathleen Mulligan, who was YLD Chair in 1987, stated that she found it necessary for the bar association to have representation from attorneys, like her, whose practice involved working with those in poverty (1987). Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Christine Donahue, who was YLD Chair in 1989, stated that the division was a way for young lawyers, like herself, to meet other lawyers and build professional and social relationships (1989). Past Chair Justin Goldstein stated that his primary initiative was the creation of the BLI program (2002). Past Chair Regina Wilson, who is currently ACBA President-Elect, stated that her reasoning for being involved was because it provided

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Virtual focus groups part three: A helpful hack

By Brendan B. Lupetin

The Latin phrase “ad nauseam” translates to “to sickness” or “to the point of nausea.” It is commonly used in English to describe something that has been done or repeated so many times that it has become annoying or tiresome.

I open with this etymological exploration because there may be no more applicable phrase to slap onto this third installation in my DIY virtual focus group series, i.e., “this guy has droned on about focus groups ad nauseam.”

For those of you who are not totally tired of this topic, I’ve got a helpful hack I hope will lead to more and tastier juice squeezed from your focus group orange.

Historically, when it comes to typical narrative focus groups, I find the most insight comes from: A. learning about participant’s preconceived notions and B. the “before and after” – comparing juror’s written responses to private survey questions with their verbal explanations during the group discussion.

For a time, I couldn’t figure out how to easily have virtual focus group participants complete private questionnaires. I tried intra-project emails and shared Google docs to no avail. For a time (luddite that I am), I resigned myself to believing this was simply a drawback of virtual focus groups.

But more recently, I discovered the solution was right under my nose the whole time, embedded in Zoom’s “Polls” app.



Brendan Lupetin

To see what I am talking about, the next time you are on Zoom, hover your cursor at the bottom of the screen to bring up the tool bar. There, squeezed between “Show Captions,” and “Reactions,” is the “Polls” button.

When you click on the Polls button, you are given the option to create your own poll or survey on the fly (I use these terms interchangeably). While I would encourage you to experiment with this feature, I would not recommend doing so on the fly during a project as it will assuredly bring everything to a screeching halt.

So, here’s a step-by-step explainer on how to create Polls ahead of time for use during your next focus group:

1. Preparation Phase: Before the focus group session, prepare the questions you would like the participants to answer. These questions should be designed to elicit comprehensive

responses without leading jurors toward either side of the case. Feel free to shoot me an email at blupetin@pamedmal.com for examples of questions I have been using.

2. Create Your Poll/Survey Ahead of Time: To set this up, first schedule your Zoom meeting. Then, go to your Zoom account, navigate to the “Meetings” tab, select your scheduled meeting, and then click on “Polls.” Next, click “Add” to begin creating your poll.

From the pop-up menu, enter the title and your first question. You will then have two additional options:

a. Enable anonymous responses: checking the “Anonymous” box to make the poll anonymous will keep the participant’s polling responses anonymous in the meeting and the reports.

b. Single or Multiple Choice: select whether you want the question to be single choice (participants can only choose one answer) or multiple choice (participants can choose multiple answers).

Type in the answers to your question and click the “Save” button at the bottom of the poll creation pop-up menu. If you need to add another question, repeat the above steps.

3. Launching Polls During the Project: When you reach the point of your project when you want participants to answer your survey questions, select “Polling” from the menu bar at the bottom of the screen. Then select the poll you want to launch and click “Launch Poll.” The participants in the meeting will then be prompted to answer the polling questions.

4. Download Your Poll Results: When the participants have completed the poll, you are ready to download the results. To do this, click on the ellipsis icon (...), which brings up several options. Select “Download Results.” This will allow you to download the complete survey results in Excel spreadsheet format.


From here, you can conduct and download as many surveys as you need throughout the focus group. If you run multiple surveys during a single focus group, you can wait to download all the responses until the end. Zoom packages each survey and all responses into a single spreadsheet so you have everything in one place.

Please note that Zoom has a detailed explanation you can find by Googling, “Conducting polls in Zoom meetings.”

One last feature to keep in mind is that Zoom stores past surveys for use in future projects. This can save you time by creating a basic, comprehensive survey that you can use in all your projects (rather than reinventing the wheel each time).

Once you get the hang of this favorable feature, I know you will get even more value out of your next focus group. If you have any questions or want to discuss your survey questions in more detail, please call or email me anytime. As you can tell, I don’t get sick of this stuff! ■

Brendan Lupetin, Esq. is Managing Partner at Lupetin & Unatin, LLC. Brendan can be contacted at blupetin@pamedmal.com or 412-281-4100.

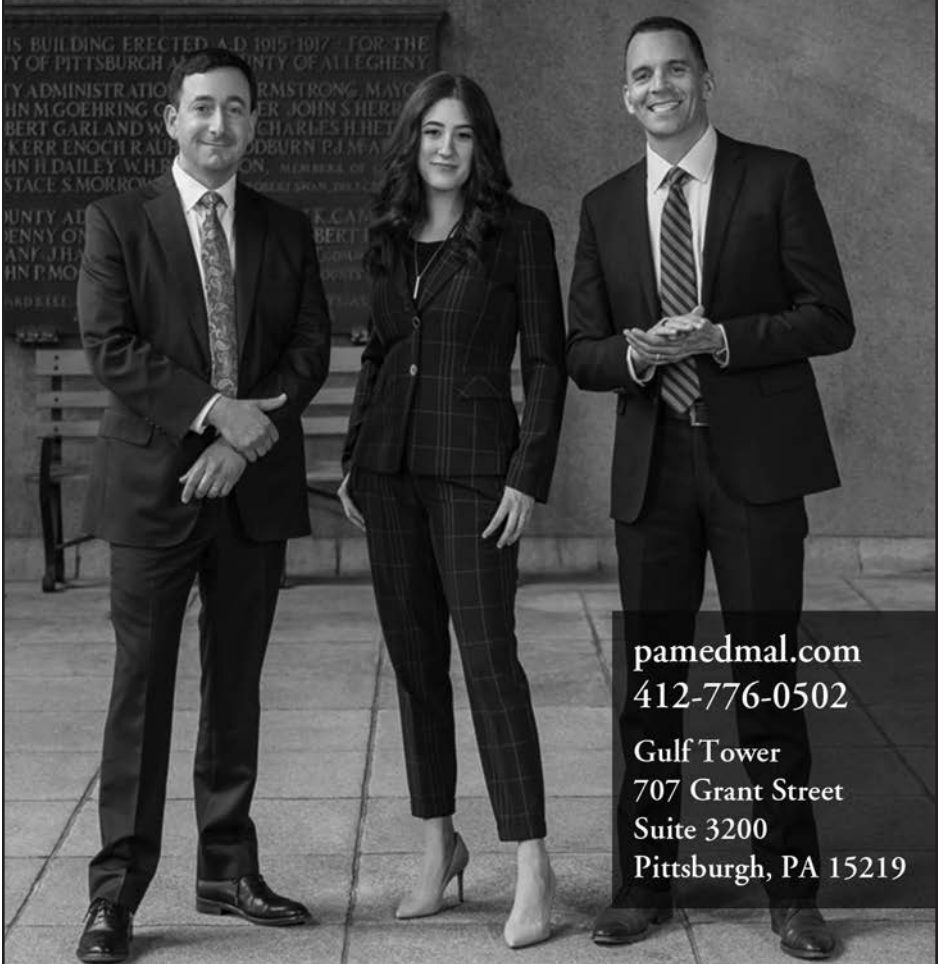


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Soccer league scores another successful fall season

By Ron Cichowicz

The ACBA Soccer League completed another successful fall season recently and while one team was crowned champions, the real winners were every player who participated in the competition.

“Overall, we had another good season,” said Commissioner Josh Sallmen, an Associate in Reed Smith’s Labor and Employment Practice Group. “We’re in a good groove following the pandemic-induced hiatus. The weather was terrific into mid-November. We did work through one technical issue with the field, which forced all the teams but one to miss a regular-season game.”

Sallmen also expressed gratitude to fall season sponsors and his Vice Commissioners, Grace Mannix and George Apossos.

“Sponsorships from law firms and others in the legal community make the League run,” he said. “We sincerely appreciate their support and that of the Bar Association. And my Vice Commissioners, Grace and George, provide great support and are always there when needed.”

The League added a seventh team this season when the Thomas R. Kline School of Law at Duquesne University entered a team.

The seven teams, along with their captains and sponsors in order of regular-season finish, were: Reed Smith, Captain Josh Sallmen and sponsor Reed Smith; Silsley Law, Captain James Silsley and sponsor The Law

Offices of James R. Silsley, LLC; J-Lew Law, Captain Justin Lewis and sponsor The Law Offices of Justin R. Lewis, PLLC; Fox Rothschild, Captain Kevin Tucker and sponsor Fox Rothschild; Pitt Law, Captain Ben Pehr and sponsor Compass Rose Financial; Duquesne Law, Captain Dominic Zboyovsky and sponsor Duquesne Law; and Burns White, Captain Kerven Moon and sponsor Burns White.

The League held a four-team playoff, with Reed Smith defeating Fox Rothschild and Silsley Law upending J-Lew Law in the first round. Reed Smith and Silsley Law then forced overtime and a penalty shootout before Reed Smith captured the championship, giving Sallmen his first crown since he took over as League commissioner in 2018. For Silsley Law, it was their fifth straight appearance in the title game, having won three first-place trophies previously.

As in prior years, the benefits of the League go beyond exercise and healthy competition. As most participants will attest, it is mostly about fun and camaraderie.

“Just about every law practice is represented in the League,” Sallmen said. “I’ve met so many people through the League to whom I can refer friends or family members when they tell me they need a particular type of legal help. Also, many of the teams promote togetherness off the

Continued on page 7

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BLACK LAWYERS OF THE BURGH
continued from front page

Keymo Hoshing, Honorable Elliot Howsie, Elizabeth L. Hughes, Miracle Jones, Ron Jones, Gabrielle Lee, Jessyca Philippe McCarl, Morgan Jenkins Moody, Quinntarra Morant, Kimberly Motley-Phillips, Tyra Oliver, Honorable Kezia O. L. Taylor, Tony J. Thompson, Frank Walker II, Kellie Ware, Regina Wilson and Honorable Dwayne Woodruff.

Another section, “Standing on the Shoulders of Giants,” acknowledges the contributions of individuals whose careers stood as examples for future Black lawyers. These include:

Derrick A. Bell, Byrd Brown, Honorable Homer S. Brown, Wendell G. Freeland, Honorable Justin M. Johnson, Honorable Livingstone M. Johnson and Eric W. Springer.

Published by W.E. Publishing and print on demand through Amazon Kindle Publishing, “Black Lawyers of the Burgh” is available on Amazon. All royalties will go to the HSBD and will be used for its community programming.

Ware said two launch events are scheduled in February.

The first, focusing on HSBD members, attorneys featured in the book, and their friends and family, is February 22 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The event will be held at Fogo de Chao, 525 Smithfield Street, downtown, with the venue serving as a sponsor.

A second, much larger, community launch event will be February 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Wesley W. Posvar Hall, 230 South Bouquet Street, on the University of Pittsburgh campus. It will be festive and family-oriented, with a DJ, face painting, snacks, activities, book-signings and a giveaway of 200 copies of the book.

The book also will be available at the Annual Black History Month Celebration on February 29.

Ware said the hope is to create multiple editions of the book in future years and to feature other lawyers and updates.

“There were omissions from this issue because we couldn’t put everyone in,” she said. “We know of more than 28 noteworthy Black lawyers in the city. We hope to be able to highlight others in future editions.”

For more information about “Black Lawyers of the Burgh” and the upcoming events, visit www.acbahsbd.org/black-lawyers-of-the-burgh. ■

YLD CHAIR’S MESSAGE
continued from page 4

her with many opportunities to be a voice in different rooms bringing her perspective to the table as a diverse young woman lawyer (2013).

Whether your aspirations include being a partner at a large firm, an owner of a firm or business, in-house counsel, a Judge or Justice, a practitioner in non-traditional law, a politician, the President of the United States, President of the ACBA, or maybe even YLD Chair, I encourage you to look at the YLD’s history. When I recently asked current ACBA President Marla Presley, who was the YLD Chair in 2009, the reason for her involvement in the YLD, she echoed similar reasons as the other past chairs, but she went on and said, “While I anticipated that the experience (YLD Chair) would be rewarding, the benefits far exceeded anything that I could have imagined. I credit being YLD Chair for the vast majority of my career successes.”

With that, the YLD, no matter your role, can be the first step to your

greatest achievements. And, maybe someday, the 100th YLD Chair will be reading or writing about your legacy. ■

Tara M. Sease is an attorney at Adamczyk Law Offices, LLP, and can be reached at tsease@adamczykloffice.com.

SOCCER LEAGUE
continued from page 6

field, meeting for food and drinks or attending other events together.”

All games are played on Sunday mornings at Winchester-Thurston Athletic Field in Shadyside. The regular season includes six to seven games, followed by playoffs.

The ACBA Soccer League is open to all ACBA members, including students. Teams are welcome and any individual who wishes to participate will be assigned to a team.

Vice Commissioner Grace Mannix, a third-year law student at Pitt, said an emphasis is being placed on increasing participation by women in the League.

“I started as a first-year law student and feel this has provided me with so many more connections and a stronger network since I came out for the League,” she said. “There are a lot of women who are talented soccer players and it would be great to see more of them join.”

“I find that most of the players prioritize soccer and make time for it. It’s a great way to spend a Sunday morning.”

Anyone interested in more information about the ACBA Soccer League and the upcoming spring season which will start in mid- to late April can visit acbasoccer.com or contact Commissioner Josh Sallmen (jsallmen3@gmail.com) or Vice Commissioners Grace Mannix (grm68@pitt.edu) or George Apessos (gapesos@dmclaw.com). ■

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MLK Prayer Breakfast and Program

PHOTOS BY JAMES PIAGGIO

ACBA President-Elect Regina Wilson, City of Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey, ACBA Treasurer Keri Ebeck, Drum Major for Justice Awardee Jerry Dickinson, Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato, ACBA President Marla Presley, HSBG Immediate Past-Chair Jesse Exilus and HSBG Chair Gabrielle Lee gather for a photo at the 25th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast and Program to congratulate Dickinson on his award at the Bethel A.M.E. Church on Jan. 15.



Master of Ceremonies and Emcee Debbie Norrell of Soul Pitt welcomed attendees to the 25th Annual MLK Prayer Breakfast and Program.



Tracey McCants Lewis, ACBA Past-President Elizabeth Hughes, Morgan Moody, Drum Major for Justice Awardee Jerry Dickinson, ACBA Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Kellie Ware, the Hon. Nicola Henry-Taylor and Jacqueline Brown paused for a photo after the program.



Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey converses with attendees at breakfast.

Orders Being Accepted for Opinions Compilation

The ACBA is accepting orders for the 2023 *Pittsburgh Legal Journal Opinions*, Volume 171, which is published in digital .pdf format.

The *Pittsburgh Legal Journal Opinions* is published every other week and contains timely, precedent-setting, full-text opinions, from various divisions of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County. That publication can be found online at www.ACBA.org/opinions and is viewable at no cost to ACBA members. This publication is a compilation of the opinions that appeared on that website during 2023.

Since this document is now provided in a .pdf searchable format, the 2023 edition will not contain a case or a subject matter index. The keyboard shortcut to use the search feature of .pdf documents is “CTRL F”.

The price for the 2023 *Pittsburgh Legal Journal Opinions*, Volume 171, .pdf is \$107 (including tax). To purchase, contact Meredith Shumsky at mshumsky@acba.org.

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MLK Prayer Breakfast and Program

Members of the ACBA Homer S. Brown Division paused for a photo after the 25th Annual MLK Prayer Breakfast and Program.

PHOTOS BY JAMES PIAGGIO



Drum Major for Justice Awardee Jerry Dickinson poses for a photo with his wife, Emily, and his two daughters, Aria and Nyla.



ACBA's Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Kellie Ware and Pittsburgh Legal Diversity & Inclusion Coalition's Executive Director Ena Lebel pause for a photo during the event.

For a livestream of the event – including the presentation of the Drum Major for Justice Award to Pitt Law Professor Jerry Dickinson – visit <https://bit.ly/48SYQxK> or scan the QR code.



The Hon. Jeffery Deller along with other attendees wait in line for breakfast before the program begins.

MEDIATION TRAINING

SESSION 1: April 3, 4 & 5, 2024 8AM-4PM
SESSION 2: April 18 & 19, 2024 8AM-4PM

This Basic Mediation Training fulfills basic requirements required by most court sponsored mediation programs, including the Western District of Pennsylvania, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court and the Generations Program. As a base to their mediation training, participants will first gain a comprehensive understanding of the psychology of conflict and negotiation. Participants will then be trained in basic mediation skills and be encouraged to begin developing their own mediation style.

WHAT PAST PARTICIPANTS SAY

This was the best training I've received as a lawyer. The course drastically improved how I approach the settlement of any case. This is a master class in resolving disputes – and I'm a better lawyer because of it.
JULIAN NEISER, ESQ.

I attended several mediation classes after taking Selina and Bernie's course, and their class was by far the most useful and enjoyable. They are one of the best educational teams I have ever encountered.
MARY K. AUSTIN, ESQ.

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REGISTRATION

SESSION 1: April 3, 4 & 5
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Please note: The Pa. CLE Board may take up to 45 days to post credits.

- Coping with Stress for Mental and Physical Health and Longevity**
Tuesday, February 13 | 2 p.m. | Koppers Building | 2 Substantive credits

Let's Talk About Racial, Ethnic and Gender Bias in the Legal Workplace
Wednesday, February 14 | Noon | Koppers Building | 1 Ethics credit

Law for Cocktail Parties: Family and Landlord-Tenant Laws
Thursday, February 15 | Noon | Live Webinar | 1 Substantive credit

Immigration Considerations for Startups
Tuesday, February 20 | Noon | Live Webinar | 1 Substantive credit

Pennsylvania and the Electoral Count Reform Act of 2022
Wednesday, February 21 | Noon | Live Webinar | 1 Substantive credit

Ethics and Tips for Running Your Own Practice and Developing a Book of Business
Thursday, February 22 | 4 p.m. | Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP
1 Ethics credit | *Happy Hour at 'Club Pietro' to Immediately Follow CLE Courtesy of Above the Law Marketing

Cybersecurity for Attorneys: Common Attack Strategies and Best Practices
Tuesday, February 27 | Noon | Koppers Building | 1 Substantive credit

The Gift That Doesn't Keep Giving: When Charitable Trusts Fail
Wednesday, February 28 | Noon | Live Webinar | 1 Substantive credit

Bridge the Gap
Monday, March 4 | 9 a.m. | Live Webinar | 4 Ethics credits

Environmental Law Update: 2023 Year in Review
Tuesday, March 5 | Noon | Live Webinar | 1 Substantive credit

She Believed She Could, So She Did...
A Look at Practice Areas with Historic Underrepresentation of Women
Thursday, March 7 | Noon | Koppers Building | 1 Substantive credit

- The Other Wealth Transfer Tax: A Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax Primer for Trusts and Estates Professionals**
Tuesday, March 12 | Noon | Koppers Building | 1 Substantive credit

Out-of-State Subpoenas Under the Uniform Interstate Depositions and Discovery Act
Wednesday, March 13 | Noon | Live Webinar | 1 Substantive credit

Recent Amendments to Federal Rule of Evidence 702: What Every Attorney Needs to Know
Tuesday, March 26 | Noon | Koppers Building | 1 Substantive credit
*Sponsored by Rimkus

The Chemistry of Consent: Navigating Drug Involvement in Sexual Assault
Tuesday, April 2 | Noon | Live Webinar | 1 Substantive credit

The Honorable Arthur J. Schwab Trial Advocacy CLE – Building and Trying Your Case on Remedies and Damages
Thursday, April 4 | 8:30 a.m. | Fairmont Hotel | 3 Substantive credits
*Co-sponsored by the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County and the ACBA Federal Court Section

Corporate Transparency Act and Trusts and Estates
Thursday, April 18 | Noon | Live Webinar | 1 Substantive credit

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Bar Briefs

News and Notes

National law firm Eckert Seamans has appointed Pittsburgh-based Member **Raymond C. Vogliano** as Chair of the firm's Tax, Estates & Employee Benefits practice. Vogliano has extensive tax and estates experience representing clients on a wide variety of tax, business, trusts, and estates matters, including sophisticated planning, administration, and family business counseling on tax minimization strategies and wealth succession issues.

Tammy Singleton-English was elected to serve as Treasurer for the Estate Planning Council of Pittsburgh, which is a professional organization for attorneys, CPAs, financial planners, and bankers/trust officers who engage in estate planning, probate (estate administration), and tax matters for their clients. She is an estate planning attorney, CPA, and the founder/owner of Singleton-English Law Offices.

People on the Move



Raymond M. Roberts

The law firm of Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C. welcomed **Raymond M. Roberts** to the firm. Roberts is Senior Counsel with the firm and a member of the firm's Corporate, Estates and Trusts and Real Estate practice areas. His practice focuses in

the area of mergers and acquisitions, commercial transactions, joint ventures and corporate and entity counseling for clients ranging from start-ups to multinational corporations. Roberts has worked extensively with homeowner and condominium associations and has worked with supporters of private and religious schools and scholarship organizations. He also practices in the area of estate planning and administration and real estate law.



Jeremy Teaberry



Melanie Cuddyre

Jeremy Teaberry has recently joined Metz Lewis as Counsel in the Real Estate and Banking Practice Groups. He has significant experience leading lender-side real estate finance transactions and will significantly enhance the firm's capabilities in the commercial real estate finance industry. **Melanie Cuddyre** has recently joined Metz Lewis as an Associate in the Tax, Trusts, and Estates Group. Her primary practice focus is estate planning and estate administration for a variety of clients ranging from young parents seeking a basic estate plan to high net worth and ultra-high net worth

individuals and families regarding inter-generational wealth transfers and asset protection.

Burns White LLC welcomed four new attorneys to its Pittsburgh office in the fourth quarter of 2023. **Ryan D. Gleason** is a Member in Burns White's Litigation Practice Group located in the Pittsburgh office. Gleason focuses his practice in the areas of employment and complex and commercial litigation. **Maura S. Clark** is an Associate in the firm's Pittsburgh office. Clark represents Class I and short-line railroads in cases that involve allegations of personal and occupational injuries and wrongful death. **Katherine E. "Katie" Ryalls** is an Associate in Burns White's Workers' Compensation Group located in the Pittsburgh office. Ryalls focuses her practice on defending employers and insurance companies in workers' compensation matters throughout Pennsylvania. **Samantha L. Snyder** is an Associate in Burns White's Workers' Compensation Group located in the Pittsburgh office. Snyder focuses her practice on defending employers and insurance companies in Pennsylvania.

Our Health Care Power of Attorney and Living Will documents are available on the ACBA website for free at [ACBA.org/LivingWill](https://www.acba.org/LivingWill).

In Memoriam

Paul S. Guarnieri

Paul S. Guarnieri passed away on Dec. 22, 2023 in the comfort of his home, surrounded by his beloved family, following a two-year battle with cancer. He was 62 years old.


Born on Aug. 20, 1961 in Herkimer, New York, he overcame a disadvantaged childhood in foster care. After meeting his eventual wife, Lenore, as a summer camp counselor, he relocated to Pittsburgh, where he would earn his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh. He would then go on to earn his Juris Doctor Degree from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 1989. He practiced law up until his final days.


He is survived by his wife, Lenore; two children, Francis (Rachel) and Ava (Sawyer); grandchildren, Santino and Genevieve; siblings, Rose (Dan) and Michael (Sonya); in-laws, Eileen (Ross), Janice (Alan) and Craig (Ceci); nephews, Graham and Jacob; foster mother, Josephine; and foster brother, Andrew (Rock).

Articles wanted for the Lawyers Journal

If you have an idea for a substantive law article or would be interested in authoring one, please email Jennifer Pulice at jpulice@acba.org.

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