From the Chair

Government Lawyers are Getting Ready for 2000

The Government Lawyers Committee is getting ready for the new millennium!

Although it took more than 100 years to establish a committee within the PBA for government lawyers, in just one year, our Committee has made a name for itself as one of the PBA’s largest and most active committees by developing a variety of programs and services to benefit government lawyers now and in the next century.

Last year, we laid the foundation and created a committee that gives government lawyers a meaningful place within the Bar. Our accomplishments include: developing CLE and non-CLE programs that are relevant to government lawyers; sponsoring social awareness projects; creating a Model Pro Bono Policy for governmental units in Pennsylvania; securing a reduced membership rate for government lawyers; establishing a membership directory; hosting several social events for members, family and friends – our list of achievements goes on!

Committee members are working diligently to expand the membership of our Committee this year and into the next millennium. As our membership drive continues, our membership numbers keep rising.

We are also expanding the scope and variety of services, programs and activities that we offer to our members. For example, we developed a CLE course on Pennsylvania’s new Lobbying Disclosure Act; and, sponsored social awareness projects to benefit the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society.

Committee members also devoted a significant amount of time during the first part of 1999 visiting all the law schools in Pennsylvania to educate the next century’s lawyers about the benefits of legal careers in public service. As you will read in this edition, the sessions were a huge success!

Despite these early successes, Committee members are still planning additional events for the remainder of the year and beyond. We are developing a leadership series for government lawyers. We are finalizing the membership directory, which will contain information on all government lawyers in Pennsylvania. Also, we are repeating the Financial Planning Seminar for Government Lawyers, which will be held in Pittsburgh and Harrisburg this year. Our Committee is sponsoring several social events, including a reception at the PBA Annual Meeting, Senators Baseball Game and picnic, social hours throughout the summer, as well as other activities later in the year.

In keeping with our efforts to move the Committee into the next century, we have created a Government Lawyers Committee web site. You can now reach us on-line at: www.pabar.org/govlaycomm.shtml.

I commend our members for their efforts and look forward to sharing our successes in the next millennium!

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From the Editors’ Desk

Spreading The Word

By Alexis L. Barbieri and Nicolette Parisi

This edition marks the second year of News & Views. In this edition, we profile the significant efforts of the Career Enhancement Subcommittee, which developed, organized and presented a program at each law school in Pennsylvania to educate law students about the many career opportunities available in government service. This is just one of the many activities in which members of the Government Lawyers Committee are spreading the word about the rewards of a legal career in government service.

To assist with the Committee’s active membership drive, we remind you to let your colleagues know about the benefits of membership in both the Pennsylvania Bar Association and its Government Lawyers Committee. By joining the PBA and our Committee, government lawyers have opportunities to share ideas and meet others during our CLE programs, meetings, social functions and other events. Through membership in the Committee, you can achieve the satisfaction that comes from working together on worthwhile causes, such as volunteering to help various charitable organizations. Another way to get involved is to contribute to this newsletter. There are also opportunities to enhance career development of government lawyers by participating in or helping to organize our CLE and professional development programs. Through membership, you can give and gain insight on government service.

If you know government lawyers who are not yet members, be sure to tell them more about the services and programs that we offer our members, including the membership fee discount, because now is truly the best time to join. You can even check us out on-line at: www.pabar.org/govlaycomm.shtml.

We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Look for our booth!!!
Subcommittee Reports

What’s Going On

Compiled by Maribeth Wilt-Seibert, Assistant Counsel, Department of Labor & Industry

Career Enhancement

The Career Enhancement Subcommittee sponsored panel presentations from January through March at all seven law schools in Pennsylvania. For more information on these panel presentations, please see the article entitled, “Attracting the Best: Government Lawyers Promote Benefits of Public Service,” on page 4 of this edition.

The subcommittee is currently developing a Leadership Luncheon Series for committee members.

Once again, the Subcommittee is sponsoring a Government Lawyers Committee Booth at the PBA Annual Meeting in May. Featured at the booth will be a variety of promotional items, including: publications of the Committee (newsletters and the recruiting brochure); a calendar of events; and, committee coffee mugs, t-shirts, and magnets. We hope to raise awareness in the Bar of our activities and to promote membership in the Government Lawyers Committee.

Pro Bono

The Pro Bono Subcommittee has been meeting throughout the winter months to discuss its role in promoting the model government policy that it had developed. The subcommittee is also evaluating what specific pro bono opportunities may exist for government lawyers. Our subcommittee will be a valuable resource to those who are interested in pro bono work.

Professional Development

The Professional Development Subcommittee has developed a CLE program on Pennsylvania’s Lobbying Disclosure Act for the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Annual Meeting. Participating in the panel discussion are: The Hon. David A. Heckler, a Bucks County Court of Common Pleas Judge and former State Senator; John J. Contino, Executive Director of the State Ethics Commission; Andrew J. Crompton, Counsel to Sen. Jubelirer who was a prime sponsor of the legislation; and Gregory E. Dunlap, Deputy General Counsel, and a member of the Lobbying Disclosure Committee, which is charged with promulgating regulations.

Because many members asked for a reprise, we are finalizing the arrangements for the Financial Planning Seminars to be held in Harrisburg and Pittsburgh. Watch your mail for more information and registration materials.

Services to Members

The Services to Members Subcommittee is in the final stages of creating the first-of-its-kind directory that will list the name, office and e-mail address and telephone number of full-time lawyers working for local, state or federal agencies in Pennsylvania.

The Subcommittee successfully worked with the Public Relations Subcommittee and representatives of the PBA to establish a Government Lawyers Committee web site. You can now check us out on-line at: www.pabar.org/govlaycomm.shtml.

We continue to solicit from Committee members recommendations regarding services and benefits that might be of value to government attorneys. We encourage members to submit any ideas you have in this area.

Social

The Social Subcommittee has scheduled several social awareness projects for the coming months. First, Committee member Steve Turner volunteered on behalf of the Committee for the American Heart Association’s Jail Bail, which will be held on May 1 at the Capital City Mall. Next, we are assembling a team to participate in the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life, which is being held June 26-27 on Harrisburg’s City Island. Contact Committee members and team co-captains Bob Shea and Sarah Yerger if you are interested in joining the team or making a contribution. We are coordinating volunteers for the American Heart Association’s Walk in September and the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in October.

In addition to these philanthropic endeavors, the Subcommittee has scheduled several social events for members, family and friends. See Stay Tuned.

T-shirts Available

The Government Lawyers Committee has t-shirts available for $10. To purchase a t-shirt, please contact Michael Shatto at (800) 932-0311, ext. 2243.
Government lawyers took to the road in January, February and March to attract law students to careers in government service. Law students at all seven law schools in Pennsylvania had the opportunity to hear from and meet with government lawyers at all levels during these events. The law school presentations were followed by receptions to provide an opportunity for students to talk one-on-one with the panel members. The Career Enhancement Subcommittee, chaired by Lisa Jo Fanelli and Robert J. DeSousa, made the arrangements for the panel presentations and receptions.

During each program, lawyers from various positions in federal, state and local governments — frequently graduates of the law schools — described for students the challenges and rewards of their jobs. The panels gave the law students a chance to preview a potential career track, interact with government practitioners, and gain insight into what it is like to be a public service attorney.

At The Dickinson School of Law of The Pennsylvania State University, which hosted the first panel discussion on January 26, 1999, about 40 students listened with interest as lawyers detailed the career paths that led them to jobs with the government. For instance, Michael S. Schwoyer, Chief Deputy District Attorney, Cumberland County District Attorney’s Office, told students how getting involved in political campaigns fueled his interest in working for the government. A reoccurring theme throughout the session was the outstanding quality of government lawyers. The panel members noted that the reputation of government attorneys — as not being as good as their private sector peers — is simply not true.

At the Widener University School of Law on February 10, 1999, more than 35 students, along with representatives of the faculty and administration heard first from The Hon.Richard A. Lewis who has spent his entire career in the public sector. Judge Lewis told students that there is no better place to learn and gain legal experience than in government. Other presenters agreed and explained that government lawyers may find themselves prosecuting cases, appearing before the Commonwealth Court, or being involved in multi-million dollar litigation much sooner than they would in the private sector.

Judith B. Schimmel, Solicitor for the City of Harrisburg, echoed the other panelists’ comments by telling students that she truly found her place in the legal profession when she left private practice to enter the public sector. The law school taped the panel’s presentation for use by the university’s career placement office.

During the lawyers’ presentation at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law on February 11, 1999, a common theme surprised even the panelists. Although all the attorneys expressed satisfaction in government service, each also conceded that they had initially never expected to have a career in the public sector. Students were particularly interested in hearing from those lawyers on the panel who were directly involved in hiring new attorneys and wanted to know what qualities government employers look for in new hires.

On February 16, 1999, the panel at the University of Pennsylvania Law School discussed why the attorneys made the transition from the private to the public sector. The lawyers explained that there were three reasons why they chose to leave private practice: the pressures to develop new business; having to account for their time in six-minute increments; and, the desire to spend more time with their families. Gerard M. Mackarevich, Deputy Chief Counsel, Department of State, told students that being a government attorney is stimulating and that it is satisfying to be doing the people’s work. The law
school taped the panel’s presentation for use by the university’s career placement office.

At The James E. Beasley School of Law of Temple University on Feb. 25, 1999, students were fascinated by the special moments and cases that highlighted the panelists’ experiences as government lawyers. The questions for the panel included requests for information on the Barrack Public Interest Fellowship Program, which is Temple’s loan forgiveness program for law graduates in government service, and whether it is difficult to make the transition from the public to the private sector.

Also on Feb. 25, 1999, students at Duquesne University School of Law came to the panel discussion with their own set of practical questions, including how to actually go about applying for positions with the government. The students asked for specifics on when and where to send their resumes, as well as for advice on how to separate themselves from others as they vie for jobs.

On March 16, 1999, a panel of lawyers visited Villanova University School of Law. The lawyers told the students that the best aspect of their jobs is the variety of work they handle and urged the audience to consider public service. After the presentation, students asked the program coordinator at the law school how to apply for government jobs.

Panelists:
The Dickinson School of Law of The Pennsylvania State University:
James M. Sheehan, Chief Counsel, Department of Education (moderator)
Anne K. Fiorenza, Asst. U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney’s Office
Thomas A. Hutton, Dep. General Counsel, Gov.’s Office of General Counsel
Gwen Mosley, Dep. Attorney General, Office of Attorney General
Michael S. Schwover, Chief Deputy District Attorney, Cumberland County District Attorney’s Office
Martin Toth, Asst. Director, Pennsylvania Bar Institute

Widener University School of Law, Harrisburg Campus:
Anthony S. Potter, Asst. General Counsel, Gov.’s Office of General Counsel (moderator)
Barbara L. Christie, Chief Counsel, Pennsylvania State Police
Michael E. Considine, Saul, Ewing, Remick & Saul, and formerly Counsel, Insurance Department
The Hon. Richard A. Lewis, Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas
Robert Long, Asst. General Counsel of PHICO Group and former attorney for the Army Judge Advocate General
Judith B. Schimmel, Solicitor, City of Harrisburg

University of Pittsburgh School of Law:
Keith B. Fickel, Asst. Counsel, Department of Health (moderator)
Donna L. Gerson, Director of Career Planning and Public Interest Opportunities, University of Pittsburgh School of Law
Donna L. Kreiser, Dep. General Counsel, Gov.’s Office of General Counsel and Chair of its Hiring Committee
Robert T. McDermott, Dep. Attorney General, Office of Attorney General
Jacqueline Morrow, Solicitor, City of Pittsburgh
Julie R. Stern, Field Attorney, National Labor Relations Board

University of Pennsylvania Law School:
Samuel D. Miller III, Counsel-in-charge, Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (moderator)
Gerard M. Mackarevich, Dep. Chief Counsel, Department of State
Lawrence Barth, Senior Dep. Attorney General, Office of Attorney General
Charles McPhedren, Senior Asst. Regional Counsel, U.S. EPA

Temple University School of Law:
Nicolette Parisi, Inspector General (moderator)
Stephanie Avakian, Counsel, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
Mary C. Bodo, Senior Dep. Inspector General, Office of Inspector General
Charisse Lillie, Ballard, Spahr, Andrews & Ingersoll, former Solicitor for the City of Philadelphia and Asst. U.S. Attorney
Robert J. Reinsein, Dean, James E. Beasley School of Law of Temple Univ.
Steven V. Turner, Prosecuting Attorney, Department of State

Duquesne University School of Law:
John Cuthbertson, Chief Counsel, PENNVEST (moderator)
Paula J. Barton, Office of Legal Advisor, U.S. Department of State
Scott Bradley, Asst. District Attorney, Allegheny County District Attorney’s Office
Michele Kondrad, Dep. Attorney General, Office of Attorney General
John Corcoran Jr., in private practice and a former attorney in the Navy Judge Advocate General
Providing Public Access — The New Lobbying Disclosure Act

By Anthony S. Potter, Assistant General Counsel, Governor’s Office of General Counsel

A decade-long effort to reform Pennsylvania’s lobbying disclosure laws culminated on October 15, 1998, with Governor Tom Ridge signing the unanimously approved Lobbying Disclosure Act into law. The new Act, which takes effect on Aug. 1, 1999, replaces a statute that was a landmark piece of legislation when it was enacted in 1961, but it had become outdated over time.

Government lawyers played a significant role in the drafting and passage of this legislation and will be integral in its implementation. Although many lawyers made significant contributions, former state Sen. David W. Heckler and John J. Contino were crucial in lobbying for this reform in Pennsylvania. Heckler, now a Bucks County judge, was known for his tireless efforts to reform Pennsylvania’s lobbying laws while serving in the Pennsylvania House and Senate. Attorney John J. Contino, Executive Director of the State Ethics Commission, is presently on the front lines of establishing procedures for compliance and enforcement of the new law.

As a result of this legislation, businesses, corporations, nonprofit groups, unions, and other entities which hire lobbyists will be required to make a detailed disclosure of their expenditures to the State Ethics Commission. The law requires that all registered principals must file quarterly lobbying expenditure reports with the Commission. Those expenditures must be broken out into four categories: (1) personnel and office expenses; (2) direct communication expenses; (3) entertainment expenses; and (4) indirect lobbying expenses. Lobbyists, who in most cases will provide the information to their principals, must sign these reports. Additionally, lobbyists who make expenditures that are not reported by a principal are required to file separate reports.

According to Judge Heckler, the law will, for the first time, allow the public to know how much money is being spent and on whom it is being spent by those lobbying in Pennsylvania.

In a flurry of activity, Contino and the State Ethics Commission’s staff is busy preparing for the first approaching reporting deadline on August 1. In fact, the statutorily created Lobbying Disclosure Committee is currently considering public comments to its proposed regulations implementing the law.

In addition to paying close attention to the regulatory process, Contino is busy designing a system to accommodate filings and public access to the information. He is also creating a mechanism for investigating principals and lobbyists who fail to file or who submit incomplete information. In this age of technology, Contino is striving to ensure that the information contained in the lobbying disclosure filings is available on the Internet, and that individuals can file reports over the Internet. He is hopeful that the Commission can ultimately move to a paperless filing system. However during the first year, principals and lobbyists will be required to follow-up with a hard copy of their reports.

Pennsylvania’s recent lobbying reform and the interplay between the Lobbying Disclosure Act and the State Ethics Act will certainly create questions for government and non-government lawyers alike. In an attempt to answer some of these questions, the Government Lawyers Committee will present a continuing legal education program on the new Act at the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. See Stay Tuned.

“The law will allow the public to know how much money is being spent and on whom it is being spent by those lobbying in Pennsylvania.”

Hon. David W. Heckler

Contino is striving to ensure that the information contained in the lobbying disclosure filings is available on the Internet, and that reports can be filed over the Internet.

John J. Contino
Summary of Major Improvements

Lobbying Disclosure Act

- Requires principals and lobbyists to register with the State Ethics Commission.
- Requires principals and lobbyists to file quarterly expense reports with the State Ethics Commission if their expenses for lobbying exceed $2,500 during the reporting period.
- Expands the scope of expenses which must be reported.
- Requires a principal and lobbyist to report to the State Ethics Commission the identity of any lawmaker or state official on whom $650 or more in one year is spent for hospitality and entertainment and the exact amount of the expenditure.
- Allows the State Ethics Commission to raise the threshold for reporting both spending and gifts based on cost-of-living increases.
- Authorizes the State Ethics Commission to refer any suspicion of a criminal violation to Pennsylvania’s Office of Attorney General.

Light News

Light News

Somewhere on the Road to ...

By Lawrence M. Otter, Assistant Counsel
Department of Health

I reside in bucolic Bucks County where country roads are the main avenues to connect you with state highways. Traveling there allows you to drive past dairy farms and note the condition of the cows on the way to work and get a bovine interpretation of the weather without consulting weather.com. The cow weather report was a daily topic that I used to amuse my urban colleagues in downtown Philadelphia. Standing cows meant a nice day and sitting cows meant you better get out your umbrella and galoshes.

On a messy winter’s day, I started on my daily commute and observed the newly-fallen snow. There was no cow weather report that morning because the weather kept the cows in the barn after the morning milk routine. I should have known then and returned home, but hindsight is always 20/20. As I came to the crest of the last hill on aptly named Hilltown Pike, I found a car at a 90 degree angle in front of me. With no time to stop, I plowed into the car — fortunately this was only a low speed fender-bender. When I got out of my car to check on the occupants of the other car, I discovered every tort lawyer’s dream witnesses — a car load of nuns. Oops!

I found out very quickly that the good sisters did not speak English. Through a variety of gestures, we attempted to exchange the usual information while awaiting the tow trucks and the local police. Much to my astonishment, the driver’s license that was produced was from the front seat passenger in the nun’s vehicle, not the driver herself — try explaining that one to a judge, let alone a jury! Even the police officer on the scene arched his eyebrow on that one. These days, in a test of credibility, a car load of nuns beats a lawyer every time!
Leading the Way in the Changing Direction of Environmental Law

Mike’s aim is to ensure that the office is the best environmental law department in the country, providing high quality legal advice and representation to the agency.

When newly appointed Chief Counsel Michael Bedrin began his legal career as an Assistant Counsel for the Department of Environmental Resources in November 1986, he did not foresee that he would one day be in charge of the legal office. He merely saw the department as the best place to focus on learning environmental law and developing an expertise in the field. Mike admits that his favorite and most challenging area of the law relates to waste management and landfill issues.

Now, as Chief Counsel of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Mike oversees one of the largest environmental law practices in the country. DEP attorneys provide legal representation and litigation support to assist the department in developing, implementing and enforcing regulatory programs to protect the Commonwealth’s environment. His duties include supervising a staff of more than 75 attorneys in nine units and six regional offices across the Commonwealth, handling litigation, reviewing legislation, drafting and approving contracts and regulations, and acting as liaison with legal counsels for other agencies at federal, state and local levels.

Mike graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 1980, and obtained his J.D. from the Duquesne University School of Law in 1986, where he was a member of the Order of Barristers and served as Chairman of the Appellate Moot Court Board. He then began work as an attorney for the then-Department of Environmental Resources in the Pittsburgh Regional Office where he provided counsel and litigation support to the environmental protection programs, with an emphasis on surface coal mining and deep mine safety.

In 1989, Mike was promoted to Regional Counsel and established the newly created Wilkes-Barre regional legal office. His duties were expanded to include environmental protection programs involving air quality, water quality, waste management, drinking water supplies, hazardous sites, remediation and land recycling. In addition to supervising a staff of six trial attorneys, he represented the Department in matters before the Environmental Hearing Board, the Pennsylvania appellate courts, the Federal District Court and Bankruptcy Court. He saw the opening of this new office as an excellent opportunity, and the experience fortified his decision to continue his legal career with the Commonwealth.

Mike’s appointment as Chief Counsel in March has been well received by those who have worked closely with him. Perhaps the best testament to his ability comes from Terry R. Fabian, DEP Deputy Secretary for Field Operations, who said, “Mike has the front-line experience of responding to the immediate demands of field program implementation. He has always had an excellent rapport with the technical staff who are his clients and takes a common sense approach directed at solving the environmental problem at hand.”

In keeping with General Counsel Paul Tufano’s objective for the Office of General Counsel to be the best law firm in the country, Mike’s aim is to ensure that the office is the best environmental law department in the country, providing high quality legal advice and representation to the agency. He eagerly anticipates having DEP lawyers out in front of the changing direction of environmental law and sees a wonderful opportunity for them to lead the way in reevaluating land-use planning in Pennsylvania.
Close Up

A Legal Career in Criminal Justice

A profile of Sarah B. Vandenbraak, Chief Counsel, Department of Corrections

By Mary S. Wyatte, Chief Counsel, Independent Regulatory Review Commission

In her twenty years of public service, Sarah Vandenbraak has compiled an impressive list of accomplishments in the area of criminal justice. Since 1995, she has served as Chief Counsel to the Department of Corrections.

Sarah graduated with High Honors from the University of Delaware in 1976, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. In 1979, she graduated from the Rutgers Camden School of Law, where she was on the Dean’s List and the associate editor of the law review. After graduation, Sarah joined the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office, where she spent 16 years. In 1986, she was appointed chief of its Civil Litigation Unit.

In her current position as Chief Counsel, Sarah not only manages the complex legal affairs of an agency with a billion-dollar budget but she also engages in intensive litigation. Sarah supervises a staff of 50, including lawyers, paralegals and hearing examiners. Since her arrival, she has created case tracking systems, computerized operations and centralized filing. A disability case management system that she developed with her staff now saves the Department over $2 million annually. She has also successfully defended the Department in complex litigation involving class actions and civil rights.

Sarah provided substantial assistance to the Judiciary Committees of the United States Congress in drafting the federal Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA). She was also the point person to the Pennsylvania General Assembly in drafting similar legislation relating to prison litigation reform and collections for victim restitution. As the Department’s lead counsel, she successfully defended the constitutionality of the PLRA in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. For her work on the PLRA and efforts on behalf of crime victims, Sarah was nominated in 1998 for the national Justice Improvement Foundation Award.

While she has had a distinguished career fighting crime, Sarah has also made significant strides in securing the rights of crime victims. She has litigated in favor of crime victims’ privacy rights. In addition, she has done pro bono legal work for rape victim services and has established a non-profit corporation to finance crime victim services.

Recently, Sarah was appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to serve on the Appellate Procedural Rules Committee. She has also been appointed Vice-Chair of the American Correctional Association’s Legal Affairs Committee.

Despite all the demands presented by her position and professional activities, Sarah has found the time to author criminal justice articles and instruct lawyers on criminal justice issues. Her article entitled “PLRA: A Step in the Right Direction,” was published in the August 1998 edition of Corrections Today, a magazine published by the American Correctional Association. Sarah recently lectured at the National Institute of Corrections training seminar for all state chief counsels for departments of corrections. According to Sarah: “Government service has meant tremendous job satisfaction. I work on a daily basis with incredibly talented and dedicated people. The work is exciting and rewarding.”

“I work on a daily basis with incredibly talented and dedicated people. The work is exciting and rewarding.”
Making a Difference – How one government lawyer is changing lives

By Susan Hensel, Staff Attorney
Office of Inspector General

Government Lawyers Committee member Sarah Yerger believes in getting involved. Yerger puts this belief into daily practice by devoting her time and energy to making a difference in the lives of others. While serving as an assistant counsel for the Department of Labor and Industry, she makes time to participate in numerous volunteer activities and professional organizations.

Yerger’s career in public service began seven years ago when she was an intern at the Department of Labor and Industry’s Unemployment Compensation Board of Review (UCBR). In July 1998, Yerger moved into her current position as Assistant Counsel for Employment Security. There, she represents and counsels the Bureau of Employer Tax Operations on tax issues, litigates unemployment tax cases at hearings, and is part of the Department’s Appellate Litigation Review Committee.

Despite the demands of her job, Yerger works tirelessly for various worthy causes helping others in the community. Yerger is actively involved in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program and has a ten-year old “little sister” named Anna. Yerger does not view the four hours that she spends with Anna every other week as an obligation. Instead, it is time she enjoys seeing life through the eyes of a child in need.

Yerger is also very active with the American Heart Association. In 1996, her mother died of heart disease, as her father had earlier. Because of her family’s history, Yerger says raising money to fight heart disease is a cause very “near and dear to her.” This year, Yerger is serving as Chair of the American Heart Association’s annual Jail Bail fundraiser. Yerger has set a goal of $80,000, and hopes to reach this goal by recruiting at least 75 volunteers/prisoners to raise $1,500 each. Because heart disease is the country’s number-one killer, Yerger says getting involved in the American Heart Association was simply the “right thing to do.”

Yerger has been active in the PBA Government Lawyers Committee’s various fund-raising activities, which have been profiled in other issues of News & Views.

After Yerger’s mother died, Yerger decided to add yet another activity to her life – getting healthy. To avoid heading down the same path as her mother, Yerger began working out, joined weight watchers, and lost 70 pounds. In January 1999, Prevention Magazine wrote a feature article about Yerger entitled, “Secrets of My Success.” She has also been interviewed by Women’s World magazine.

Yerger has some advice for those who have long considered getting involved. “Stop thinking about it and do it. Find things with meaning to you. There will be something out there and you will get back what you give.”

Panelists
(continued from Page 5)

Villanova University School of Law:
Rick Grimaldi, Dep. General Counsel, Gov.’s Office of General Counsel (moderator)
Will Carr, Asst. U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Pennsylvania
Dawn DiDonato Burk, Asst. District Attorney, Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office
James C. Fee, Senior Trial Attorney, Internal Revenue Service
Luci Jankowski, Counsel, Pennsylvania Securities Commission

The Government Lawyers Committee extends its appreciation to all the panelists who promoted the benefits of a legal career in government service. Each panelist showed aspiring lawyers that the public sector is the ideal place for them to find an exciting and challenging future.

The Government Lawyers Committee also extends special appreciation to those who coordinated the arrangements at the law schools: Elaine M. Bourne (Dickinson); Gicine P. Brignola (Widener); Kathy Bracken (Villanova); Donna L. Gerson (University of Pittsburgh); Ella K. Kwisnek (Duquesne); Ann Murray (University of Pennsylvania); and Karen Vaughn (Temple).
In the Spotlight

Government Lawyers in the News

Compiled by Lesa Tressler, Assistant Counsel, Department of Health

Speaking Out

Pamela Cross, Assistant Counsel for the Office of the Budget, and Gladys Brown, Deputy Chief Counsel for the Minority Leader’s Office of the Pennsylvania Senate, served as Co-Chairs for the Minority Law Day held on March 5, 1999, in Harrisburg. The event, which was sponsored by the Minority Bar Committee of the PBA with the assistance of the Harrisburg Black Attorneys Association. The afternoon panel of speakers included Michelle Coleman, Judge for the Environmental Hearing Board and Jason Huh, Staff Attorney for Office of the Inspector General. At the conclusion of the day’s events, two local law school students were awarded the Justice Robert N.C. Nix scholarships.

On February 23, 1999, Insurance Department Chief Counsel Heidi Hamman Shakely and Department Counsel Christopher Doane delivered a presentation on “Statutory Privileges Relevant to Insurance Regulation” to attorneys from the Office of Chief Counsel and representatives from the Office of Regulation of Companies for the Insurance Department. This presentation was similar to a presentation delivered by Ms. Shakely at the meeting of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) held in New York this past September. The original presentation was part of a continuing legal education seminar sponsored by NAIC on “Confidentiality of Information Relevant to Insurance Regulation: a Legal Analysis.”

Moved

Megan Consedine has been named Deputy Director of the Governor’s Office of Public Liaison effective April 3. Since July 1995, she served as the Special Assistant to General Counsel Paul Tufano.

Appointed

Ronald Williamson, Senior Deputy Attorney General for the Office of Attorney General, was reappointed Chairman of the Appellate Court Practice Committee for the Montgomery County Bar Association for the year 1999. The Committee will be presenting a continuing legal education program on May 18, 1999, entitled “The Nuts and Bolts of Appellate Practice” at the Montgomery County Bar Association in Norristown.

In Print

Chief Counsel for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, William Shakely co-authored an article entitled “Judge Warren L. Jones and the Supreme Court of Dixie,” which was recently published in the Louisiana Law Review. The article examines the role of one judge of the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in the civil rights litigation of the 1960s.

Jeffrey J. Wood, Chief Counsel for the Department of Aging, authored an article entitled “Caring for Our Elderly: Reporting Elder Abuse and Employment Background Checks.” The article was published in the January/February 1999 edition of the bimonthly publication Victimization of the Elderly and Disabled, published by the Civic Research Institute, Inc.

Mark Your Calendars!

for Upcoming Events

Family Picnic and Senators’ Game Outing on June 17, 1999
The picnic will be from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. with the First Pitch at 7:05 p.m.
Stay Tuned

May 1  American Hear Association Jair Bail
Capital City Mall, Harrisburg

May 5-7  PBA Annual Meeting
Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel, Philadelphia
• Pennsylvania's New Lobbying Disclosure Act,
  1.5 sub. CLE credits, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m., Wed. May 5
• Committee Reception, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., Wed. May 5

May 13  Financial Strategies for Government Lawyers
Dauphin County Bar Association, 213 North Front Street, Harrisburg
10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

June 17  Harrisburg Senators Baseball Game and Picnic
5:30-7:00 p.m. picnic, 7:05 p.m. first pitch

June 26-27  American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life
Harrisburg’s City Island, 12:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Nov. 17-21  PBA Midyear Meeting
Orlando, FL

Contact Megan Consedine at (717) 772-9052 or Suzanne Hueston at (717) 783-6563 for more information or with suggestions for other events and activities.