From the Chair

Membership Drive Remains in Full Force

Since its formation in 1998, the Government Lawyers Committee has steadily increased its membership. Although Committee members are working diligently to expand the membership of our Committee, I urge all of our members to recruit the government lawyers that they know. With an expanded membership comes a stronger voice in the Pennsylvania Bar Association. This means a stronger voice in the public policy issues that are addressed by bar associations, a stronger voice in raising the image of government lawyers in the profession, and a stronger voice in placing government lawyers as bar leaders.

In addition to giving its members an official place at the PBA table, the Government Lawyers Committee offers a lot to its members. It offers its members a wide variety of services, programs and activities such as Continuing Legal Education programs at a reduced rate and informational seminars such as the financial planning presentation and career enhancement forums as well as charitable and social events. Upcoming charitable events sponsored by the Committee this year include participation in the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life in June and Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in October. The Committee also will be hosting a Harrisburg Senators baseball game and picnic during the summer and a holiday party in December.

Please join me in encouraging other government lawyers to join the PBA and Government Lawyers Committee. Together we can raise the image of government lawyers in the profession and educate the public on the important and unique role they play.

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From the Editors’ Desk

Government Lawyers Participate in Professional and Social Events

By Alexis L. Barbieri and Doreen A. McCall

This edition of News & Views will provide you with an update on recent events that have happened since our last issue.

We provide a report on the Pennsylvania Bar Association Annual Meeting in Philadelphia May 5-7. The Government Lawyers Committee sponsored a booth at the Annual Meeting and hosted a reception, which offered an opportunity for government lawyers in the eastern part of the state to meet others in government service. Additionally, we report on the recent Jail Bail event sponsored by the American Heart Association. The event was an unqualified success in raising money for charity. The Committee wishes to extend a special thank you to Steve Turner, Chief Counsel, Department of State, for representing the Committee in this event.

This summer, the Committee will sponsor a Harrisburg Senators baseball game and picnic, which was rescheduled due to rain, and a riverboat cruise on the Pride of the Susquehanna. Members of the committee will also be participating in several charitable events such as the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life. We hope to see everyone there.

This will be our last issue before September 1999. In the interim, we would urge everyone to continue their efforts to increase the membership of the Government Lawyers Committee and the Pennsylvania Bar Association and to encourage new members to participate in our wonderful statewide organization.

Have a terrific Summer.
**Subcommittee Reports**

**What’s Going On**

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

**Career Enhancement**

The Career Enhancement Subcommittee sponsored a booth for the Government Lawyers Committee at the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Annual Meeting in May. On June 15, the Subcommittee sponsored its first Lunch and Learn Program at noon at the Dauphin County Bar Association. The program featured The Hon. John Cherry, District Attorney of Dauphin County, who discussed attorney leadership in the public sector. The Career Enhancement Subcommittee will be sponsoring future Lunch and Learn Programs throughout the year in the areas of leadership and professionalism. All are invited and welcome to attend.

**Social**

The Social Subcommittee has scheduled several social awareness projects for the coming months. We participated in the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life, which was held June 26-27 on Harrisburg’s City Island. 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 December, we also plan to host another Holiday Reception and Food Drive.

In addition to these philanthropic endeavors, the Subcommittee has scheduled several social events for members, family and friends. We hosted a reception at this year’s Annual Meeting in Philadelphia and are organizing a Senators Baseball Game and Picnic. We also coordinated the Financial Planning Seminar in Harrisburg with the Professional Development Subcommittee.

Throughout the summer and in conjunction with the Office of General Counsel’s Summer Internship Program, we are getting together the first Thursday of each month. Contact Michael Shatto at the PBA for details. We also are finalizing the details for our Riverboat Cruise August 17 aboard the *Pride of the Susquehanna*. Watch your mail for more details! Finally, we are planning a welcome reception for new Committee members this year.

Check out these and all other Committee events on the PBA web site. We are always looking for ideas for new events and social awareness projects that you would like us to sponsor. Please contact Megan Consedine or Suzanne Hueston with any suggestions or comments.

**Pro Bono**

The Subcommittee continues to serve on an as-needed basis to provide guidance and answer questions regarding pro bono projects.

**Professional Development**

The Professional Development Subcommittee sponsored a well-attended program on Pennsylvania’s Lobbying Disclosure Act at the PBA Annual Meeting. Additionally, another successful Financial Planning Seminar for government lawyers was presented in Harrisburg.

If you were unable to attend the seminar in Harrisburg, another Financial Planning Seminar is scheduled for Thurs., July 8 in Pittsburgh. The seminar and luncheon will be held at the Allegheny County Bar Association’s auditorium. Watch your mail for further information and registration materials.

Preparations for a Government Lawyers presentation for the PBA’s Midyear Meeting in Orlando, Fla., scheduled for November 17-21 continue. The topic for the meeting is “The Law and the Lawyers Life: Establishing Balance.” Please submit any ideas you have for our presentation to either Tony Potter or Jim Sheehan.
Government Lawyer Goes to Jail for the American Heart Association

By Sarah Yerger, Assistant Counsel, Department of Labor and Industry

On May 1 the American Heart Association held its 18th annual Jail Bail at the Capitol City Mall. Crowds gathered to watch as more than 50 prisoners were thrown behind prison bars in the center court of the mall. The prisoners were charged with “not having a heart” and needed to raise $1,500 each in bail money to be released from the custody of Warden Sarah Yerger, Assistant Counsel, Department of Labor and Industry.

Steve V. Turner, the Government Lawyers Committee representative and Chief Counsel at the Department of State, was arrested and desperate to make his bail in order to flee from the “evil warden.” Steve had a record breaking number of six jail breaks but still managed to escape even after the deputy sheriffs from the Cumberland County Sheriff’s Department handcuffed him to a chair inside the jail. Law school paid off for Steve when he used his analytical skills and cunning to collapse the folding chair on his next jail break and slip through the bars.

By the end of the day, Steve had raised approximately $1,200 in an effort to “make his bail.” As of June 7, the event has raised more than $70,000 to benefit research on heart disease and stroke, and the bail money continues to roll in.

In addition to Steve, several other government lawyers worked for six months behind the scenes recruiting prisoners, sponsors and volunteers to make this one of the most successful Jail Bail events ever. Government Lawyers Committee members who participated in the event included Chairperson Sarah Yerger; Robert J. Shea, Assistant Chief Counsel at the Department of Transportation; Megan Consedine, Deputy Director of the Governor’s Office of Public Liaison; Lisa DeLorenzo, Assistant Counsel at the Department of Labor and Industry; and Jayne B. Blake, Assistant Counsel at Pennvest.

Committee Adopts ABA Resolution

The Government Lawyers Committee has adopted a resolution supporting a recommendation by the American Bar Association’s Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division. The recommendation encourages governmental entities to permit government lawyers to serve in leadership capacities within bar associations and to adopt standards that allow government lawyers to make reasonable use of government law office resources and official time to participate in professional association activities related to professional development, continuing education and justice system improvement.
Committee Seeks New Members at PBA Annual Meeting

By Susan Hensel, Staff Attorney
Office of Inspector General

Lawyers interested in learning more about the Government Lawyers Committee got the opportunity to do that and more at the PBA Annual Meeting in May. The three-day event, which was held in Philadelphia, attracted attorneys from across the state.

To help spread the word about the Government Lawyers Committee, representatives of the Committee sponsored a booth the first day of the meeting. Those who were interested in joining the committee or had questions about the type of work government lawyers do, were able to talk with committee representatives, as well as obtain copies of the Government Lawyers Committee newsletter and information about the Office of General Counsel. The day wrapped-up with a reception hosted by the Government Lawyers Committee.

In addition, the Government Lawyers Committee sponsored a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) session on Pennsylvania’s New Lobbying Disclosure Act. Anthony S. Potter, Assistant General Counsel, moderated the event, which featured former State Sen. David W. Heckler; Executive Director of the State Ethics Commission John J. Contino; and Legal Counsel to President Pro Tempore of the Pennsylvania Senate Andrew J. Crompton. The session offered great insight into the lawmaking process and the legislative intent behind the new law.

Other CLE sessions offered throughout the PBA meeting focused on topics ranging from the impact of Y2K issues on the legal profession to how to mediate workplace issues to dealing with the media. Among the meeting’s highlights was a keynote speech by former Governor of Texas Ann Richards and the annual dinner honoring outgoing PBA President Leslie Anne Miller and incoming PBA President Louis N. Teti. The meeting was informative and offered a great opportunity for government lawyers to meet people from across the state and learn more about their profession.

Hate Crimes Training Increases Nationwide

By Trent Hargrove, Chief Deputy Attorney General, Civil Rights Enforcement Section, Office of Attorney General

Hate Crimes Training is taking place across the nation thanks to the dedication of faculty trainers and the U.S. Department of Justice’s National Hate Crimes Curricula. Members of the National Association of Attorneys General Bias Crimes Task Force include myself; Richard Cole, Chief, Civil Rights Division, Massachusetts Office of Attorney General (OAG); Greg Durden, Chief, Civil Rights Division, Florida OAG; Rob Parker, Chief, Bias Crimes, New Jersey OAG; Paul Sheridan, Senior Deputy Attorney General, West Virginia OAG; and Steve Wessler, Director of Public Protection, Maine OAG. We assisted as authors and trainers in developing the national hate crimes training curricula and also served on the U.S. Attorney General’s Hate Crimes Working Group for State and Local Law Enforcement Training. We also developed and disseminated the curriculum to states as part of a coordinated national training program. This training initiative covered the development of model hate crimes training programs, which included the best policies, procedures, practices, techniques and material. The training focused on instruction of law enforcement, victims assistance and community relations. As a result, thousands of law enforcement officers across the country are receiving hate crimes training.

Pennsylvania has conducted four statewide coordinated Hate Crimes Training programs to date and more than 500 law enforcement officers have participated. Additionally, Bias Crimes Task Force members Steve Wessler and I participated at the National Criminal Justice Association meeting in a panel discussion entitled “How is the Criminal Justice System Responding to Hate Crimes.” The meeting examined how different jurisdictions are responding to this issue and to the needs and expectations of their communities. Other speakers included Rose Ochi, Director of Community Relations Service; Carla Arranaga, Los Angeles Hate Crimes Unit; and Chief Rubin Greenberg, Charleston, South Carolina Police Department.

The task force is actively seeking participation by the various offices of Attorneys General and request that anyone with any suggestions or comments concerning possible coordinated projects contact me.
Government Lawyers in the News

Compiled by Lesa Tressler, Assistant Counsel, Department of Health

Appointments
On April 26, Lisa Jo Fanelli-Greer began work as an Assistant Chief-Counsel with the Human Relations Commission (PHRC). Prior to joining the PHRC, she had been Assistant Counsel with the Department of Labor and Industry since January 1990. Additionally, Fanelli-Greer was appointed Human and Civil Rights Chair of the ABA’s Young Lawyers Division for the 1999-2000 year.

Robert J. DeSousa was named state Inspector General on May 17. Prior to his appointment, he served as Chief Counsel for the Department of State since March 1995.

In April 1999, Lori McLaughlin was appointed Chief Counsel for the Department of Health. Prior to her appointment, she served as Assistant Counsel for the Department of Health’s Bureau of Managed Care. Before joining the Commonwealth, McLaughlin was Associate General Counsel for two academic health care institutions.

In May 1999, Steven V. Turner was named Chief Counsel for the Department of State. Prior to his appointment, he served as a prosecuting attorney for the Department of State’s Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs.

Linda J. Williams was appointed to Acting Chief Deputy Attorney General of the Charitable Trusts & Organizations Section, Office of the Attorney General. Williams has been with the Attorney General’s office since 1996.

Speaking Out
On June 10, Alexis L. Barbieri, Executive Deputy Attorney General, presented “Direct Examination of a Medical Expert” for the PBI’s “Trial Tactics, Tips and Techniques” CLE program in Mechanicsburg. On June 30, Alexis will present the “Opening Statements” portion of the same program in Philadelphia.


Douglas Yauger, Chief Deputy Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Office of Attorney General, spoke about fraud against the elderly and other scams at a Senior Fair sponsored by the Cumberland Crossing Retirement Community on May 26.

Chief Counsel for the Department of Aging, Jeff Wood, addressed the Statewide Conference of Court of Common Pleas President Judges and Court Administrators in State College on June 7. Wood spoke on Issues of Elder Abuse: Identification and Intervention.

Jessie L. Smith, Chief of the Torts and Litigation Section of the Office of the Attorney General, recently spoke at the Penn State Transportation Engineering and Safety Conference and the Pennsylvania Transportation Industry Spring Conference on highway design liability. Smith also co-presented a continuing legal education program to the Dauphin County Bar Association on legal ethics.

On June 4, James T. Steele Jr., Assistant Counsel for the Department of Health, and Thomas J. Blazusiak, Senior Assistant Counsel for the Department of Public Welfare’s Northeast Region Office, led a roundtable discussion on economic credentialing before the Health Law Committee of the PBA.

Births
On June 1, Suzanne N. Hueston, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, and her husband Colin became the proud parents of a 6 pound 4 ounce baby girl, Molly Elizabeth.

Jorge Augusto, Assistant Counsel for the Department of Agriculture and his wife Stephanie Ritter welcomed the birth of their first child Corrine Martins Augusto on February 29.

Marriage
On April 17, Lisa Jo Fanelli, Assistant Chief Counsel for the PHRC, wed Keith Greer. Committee member Maribeth Wilt-Seibert, was her Matron of Honor.
Awards

On April 28, John T. Henderson, Deputy Chief Counsel for the Department of State, was awarded a Yellow Merit Star by the National Ski Patrol for his pro bono legal work on behalf of the Eastern Pennsylvania Region of the National Ski Patrol. The award is presented to individuals who have provided outstanding administrative support to the National Ski Patrol System. His efforts included giving presentations to the ski patrollers regarding the good samaritan law and potential liability in treating injured skiers. The National Ski Patrol System is a nationwide non-profit organization that provides emergency care and support to the mountain resort industry.

Pro Bono Services

Consistent with the directive of Paul A. Tufano, General Counsel for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, encouraging lawyers to participate in volunteer programs for community service, the following are among the government lawyers who have recently provided pro bono legal services:

John F. Alcorn, Department of State
Zella Smith Anderson, Medical Professional Liability Catastrophe Loss Fund
Louis L. Boyle, Department of State
Larry T. Brandenburg, State Employees Retirement System
Roger H. Caffier, Department of Labor and Industry
Walter F. Cameron, Department of Transportation
Barbara L. Christie, Pennsylvania State Police
Lenann T. Engler, Pennsylvania School Employees Retirement System
Bruce A. Feldman, State Employees Retirement System
Karen S. Feuchtenberger, Department of Education
Barbara Grabowski, Department of Environmental Protection
John T. Henderson, Department of State
John H. Herman, Department of Environmental Protection
Donna L. Keiser, Office of General Counsel
Andrew Kramer, Department of State
Joanne L. Lubart, Department of Transportation
Jackie Lutz, Department of State

Doreen A. McCall, Office of General Counsel
Arthur F. McNulty, Medical Professional Liability Catastrophe Loss Fund
Richard Michlovitz, School Employees Retirement System
Robert A. Mulle, State System of Higher Education
Anthony S. Potter, Office of General Counsel
Donald Quigley, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Robert H. Raymond, Department of Transportation
K. Scott Roy, Board of Probation and Parole
Kathleen K. Ryan, Department of State
Gerald Semasek, Department of Revenue
Charles K. Serine, School Employees Retirement System
James M. Sheehan, Department of Education
Sandra W. Stoner, Office of General Counsel
Jill M. Strouss, Department of Revenue
Jan M. Tamanini, Department of Transportation
Steven Turner, Department of State
Jeffrey J. Wood, Department of Aging
Susan Wood, Conservation and Natural Resources
Sarah C. Yerger, Department of Labor and Industry
Stay Tuned

July 8  Financial Planning Seminar
Allegheny County Bar Association
Pittsburgh, PA

August 17  Susquehanna Pride Riverboat Cruise and Reception
Harrisburg City Island
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Date TBA  Senators Baseball Game and Picnic
Harrisburg City Island
Watch your mail for details

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.