

Comments by Vincent J. Grogan at the National Adoption Day Forum, Nov. 15, 2006

I am delighted to be here today at the National Adoption Day Forum and to bring you greetings from Pennsylvania Bar Association President Ken Horoho and the nearly 30,000 lawyers who make up our voluntary association. It is extremely fitting for the PBA to be represented here today and to play a small part in hosting this event that celebrates positive action for the children of our Commonwealth. President Horoho shared with the PBA his vision to “protect, educate and motivate” all children when he became President of our organization and he has shared that vision with groups of lawyers, judges and others around the state. He asked me to thank those in attendance for joining him in this mission through today’s celebration of adoption for the many children in foster care across our state who are waiting to find permanent, loving families. We must all strive to fulfill the dreams of the thousands of foster care children in Pennsylvania by working with courts, judges, attorneys, and advocates to finalize adoptions and find those children permanent, loving homes.

On behalf of President Horoho and the PBA, I join in recognizing the 10-year anniversary of the [Adoption Legal Services Project](#) and those who played a role in establishing it. I would like to recognize Administrative Judge Kim Berkeley Clark and the Allegheny County Family Court that she heads for the establishment of the Children's Court Section and its Court Improvement Project Initiatives to improve court handling of cases involving children in the child welfare system, children impacted by domestic violence and children involved in custody proceedings. I would also like to recognize Judge Clark as President of the Allegheny County Bar Association and ACBA Executive Director David Blaner for the fine work of the ACBA in leading the way for children.

President Horoho wanted me to tell you a little bit about one way the PBA is working to support the vision he shares with all of you to make the lives of our children better. President Horoho created an Outreach to Children Committee as one of the first acts of his administration and that Committee, under the leadership of Montgomery County family law lawyer Cheryl Young and Harrisburg-based government attorney Steve Turner is working to flesh out the details of President Horoho’s mission. Horoho deliberately designed this committee to include other professionals besides lawyers. Since the various people on the Outreach to Children Committee — representing mental health, social services and the justice system — all have expertise to touch young people, the Committee’s work will be both collaborative and far reaching. Many members of that Committee which includes Judge Clark are here today and I thank them for leading the PBA forward in this field.

We are here today for a celebration of all many people’s good work. Please know that the PBA is ready to work with all of you for the good of our children.

Best wishes!