The 28th Annual PBA Minority Attorney Conference, themed “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough: The Legal Frontier Towards Socio-Economic Empowerment,” is a premier two-day educational conference that provides tremendous networking opportunities, advanced education seminars, and CLE credits focused on leading topics of interest to the legal profession and legal community.

Program topics include business lending and counseling for minority businesses, government contracts and procurement for minority businesses, mandatory prison sentencing, immigration law and detention centers, recent Supreme Court updates, and an ethics program on the collateral effects of plea arrangements. The networking reception will be held on Thursday evening.

On Friday, a luncheon will be held during which the keynote address will be given by Nolan N. Atkinson Jr., Philadelphia’s newly appointed and first ever Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, who has been tasked by Mayor Jim Kenney with addressing the barriers that keep the City’s workforce racially and economically divided.

During the luncheon, the A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to former Pennsylvania Bar Association President Michael H. Reed, who is a former partner and now special counsel at Pepper Hamilton LLP.

We look forward to seeing you at this year’s 28th Annual Minority Attorney Conference.

Nefertiri Sickout, Esq. and Teresa M. Rodriguez, Esq.
Co-Chairs, Minority Attorney Conference Planning Subcommittee
28th Annual PBA Minority Attorney Conference

Ain’t No Mountain High Enough: The Legal Frontier Towards Socio-Economic Empowerment

Thursday, March 17

8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.  Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  Welcoming Remarks
- Nefertiri Sickout, Esq., Co-Chair, Conference Planning Subcommittee
- Marisa H. Lattimore, Esq., Chair, PBA Minority Bar Committee

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  (1.5 substantive CLE credits)
You’ve Really Got a Hold on Me: Mandatory Prison Sentencing
Moderator: Beverly H. Rampaul, Esq., Lancaster County Public Defender’s Office, Lancaster
Panelists:
- Samuel Encarnacion, Esq., Haggerty & Silverman PC, Lancaster
- Kevin Ring, Esq., Families Against Mandatory Minimums, Washington DC
- R. Seth Williams, Esq., Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office, Philadelphia

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.  Break

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.  (1 substantive CLE credit)
Nothing But Heartaches: Immigration Law and Detention Centers
Moderator: Jackie B. Martinez, Esq., JBM Legal, LLC, Pittsburgh
Panelists:
- Wendy Castor Hess, Esq., Goldblum & Hess, Jenkintown
- Martha M. Tack-Hooper, Esq., ACLU of PA, Philadelphia
- Prof. Jaya Ramj-Nogales, Temple University Beasley School of Law, Philadelphia

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.  Luncheon

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.  (1.5 substantive CLE credits)
The Supremes: Recent Supreme Court Updates
Panelists:
- Andrea Farney, Esq., Triquetra Law, Lancaster
- Prof. David Kairys, Temple University Beasley School of Law, Philadelphia

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  Break

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  (2 substantive CLE credits)
Ain’t Too Proud to Beg: Capital, Funding and Counseling for Minority Businesses
Moderator: Nefertiri Sickout, Esq., Pepper Hamilton LLP, Philadelphia
Panelists:
- Chris Chaplin, Director, The Enterprise Center - Capital Corporation, Philadelphia
- Robert Goza, Economic Development Specialist, U.S. Small Business Association, King of Prussia
- Mary Livingston, SCORE Philadelphia, Philadelphia

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  Reception

Friday, March 18

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.  Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.  Opening Remarks
- Teresa M. Rodriguez, Esq., Co-Chair, Conference Planning Subcommittee
- William H. Pugh, V, Esq., President, Pennsylvania Bar Association

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.  (1.5 substantive CLE credits)
I Wish It Would Rain: Government Contracts and Procurement for Minority Businesses
Moderator: Nefertiri Sickout, Esq., Pepper Hamilton LLP, Philadelphia
Panelists:
- Michael A, Hordell, Esq., Government Contracts, Pepper Hamilton LLP, Philadelphia
- George M. Tapia, Business Opportunity Specialist, U.S. Small Business Administration, King of Prussia

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  Break

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  (2 ethics CLE credits)
It Takes Two: Criminal Defendants’ Collateral Effects of Plea Arrangements
Moderator: Marsha Hughes Grayson, Esq., The Grayson Law Firm LLC, Pittsburgh
Panelists:
- Riley H. Ross, III, Esq., Ross Legal Practice LLC, Philadelphia
- Mark H. Rubenstein, Esq., Solo Practitioner, Pittsburgh

12:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.  Luncheon – Crystal Tea Room

A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. Award Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation
- Introduction: Tsiwen M. Law, Esq., Law & Associates LLC, Philadelphia
- Recipient: Michael H. Reed, Esq., Pepper Hamilton LLP, Philadelphia

Keynote Address
Nolan N. Atkinson, Jr., Esq., Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, City of Philadelphia

SPECIAL THANKS TO USI AFFINITY FOR SPONSORING THE 28th ANNUAL CONFERENCE ALONG WITH ALL OUR SUPPORTING FIRMS & FRIENDS.

The Pennsylvania Bar Institute is approved by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Continuing Legal Education Board as an accredited CLE provider. The PBA Minority Attorney Conference has been approved by the Pennsylvania CLE Board for up to 9.5 CLE Credits (7.5 hours of substantive and 2 hours of ethics). Questions concerning the CLE credits can be directed to the PBI Customer Service Department at 1-800-247-4724.