A meeting of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Minority Bar Committee was held on Friday, September 14, 2018.

I. Calling Meeting to Order
Co-Vice Chair Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith called the meeting to order and Chaired the Meeting.

II. Introductions of attendees: East to West
a. Brief introductions of attendees occurred.

III. Action Items.
A. Approval of the minutes of the August 10, 2018 Minutes.

The minutes of the August 10, 2018 were approved. (Sharon López motion, President Eppolito 2d, Dolly Shuster abstention).

IV. Special Presentation
A. Attorney Sharon Dietrich, Community Legal Services - gave a brief presentation on the Pennsylvania Clean Slate Act.
B. President Eppolito, The 124th PBA President – gave brief comments on his goals and the ways the MBC can assist or benefit from his leadership goals.

V. Subcommittee Chair Reports:
A. Minority Law Day – Rachel Hadrick and Nigel Scott
   Rachel Hadrick reported the Subcommittee is working on the problem and there is a conference call scheduled for Monday, 9/17 @ 2:00 pm. Philly is holding their event on 10/29 and Central PA will be 11/1 in Harrisburg. Anyone interested in volunteering for Central PA should contact Rachel and/or Louann Bell.
B. Community Outreach – Raphael Castro and Leticia Chavez-Freed
Leticia Chavez-Freed reported for the Subcommittee. She reported that she and Raphael Castro had a meeting and they did some additional research on Youth Courts in Pennsylvania. This follows the presentation on Youth Courts provided to the Committee as a Whole. The Subcommittee submitted a written Recommendation and Report to the Committee. Leticia summarized the report and moved the Recommendation that the Minority Bar Committee adopt Youth Courts as one of its community outreach projects. No second is required. Discussion ensued. There was discussion on funding and resources for the proposal and the availability of a “how to” manual. After discussion, the Recommendation that the MBC adopt Youth Courts as one of its community projects passed. (Kelley Hodge and Barbara Ransom abstaining).

C. Nominations Committee – Henri Marcial & Carlton Johnson
Henri Marcial reported for the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee is recommending the MBC support the nomination of Gina Thomas for the PBA Government Attorney of the Year Award. Henri gave a brief background on Gina Thomas, including noting her active role with the MBC. Henri moved the MBC support the nomination of Gina Thomas for the PBA Government Attorney of the Year Award. No second is required. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Diversity Summit – Andrea Farney & Tyrone Powell. Andrea Farney reported that the 10th Diversity Summit is Thursday, October 18, 2019 in Philadelphia. It will follow the PBA Minority & Women Lawyers’ Business Development Forum, on Wednesday, October 17, 2019. Registration materials have been sent out (https://www.pabar.org/public/committees/MIN01/pdf/2018/ForumSummitBrochure.pdf) and she encouraged members to sign up early and also help us publicize both events.

E. Newsletter
1. It was reported the next issue of Houston’s Legacy is scheduled for publication 10/9. The deadline to submit articles has passed.
2. Ana Paulina Gomez – She and Sharon López interviewed Charisse Lillie and there will be an article on her for the “First but not the Last” column.
3. Maraleen Shields – Rising Star. Maraleen reported that Anthony Cox is selected as the next Rising Star. He will be recognized at the October 18, 2018 Diversity Summit.
4. Tribute to Ed Lanza – Rachel Hadrick. The article on Ed Lanza is completed and will appear in the October 9th issue.

F. Governance – Rachel Hadrick and Andy Saylor.
Andy Saylor reported for the Subcommittee. He reported as a follow-up to last months report on the Subcommittee’s plans to talk about the Committee’s name and whether there would be any reason for the Committee to consider changing it.
Andy advised the feedback in the Subcommittee and from others after last month’s meeting was a pretty consistent concern that a change could be detrimental if the new name in any way detracted from the inclusiveness of our current name. There were no potential new names that had any particular support. So the Subcommittee is not recommending any further consideration of making a change.

G. Legislative – Lynn Marks, Riley Ross & Tsiwen Law.
Lynn Marks reported for the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee is interested in inviting policymakers to give presentations to the MBC. She asks that if any member has any suggested speakers to let her or Riley Ross know. Ashley Murphy also reported that there isn’t any movement right now on the sanctuary cities bills. There are not too many session days left, maybe 8 or 9.

VI. New Business
Leticia Chavez-Freed reported on an issue to bring to the Committee’s attention. The PA Department of Corrections has recently changed policy on mail to PA prisoners. Mail to and from prisoners is now being sent to Florida for processing before distribution internally or externally. Leticia focused her comments on a new procedure for legal mail, meaning mail to and from a lawyer. Before the change, the DOC policy was to open the mail in front of the prisoner and then hand them the mail. Now, the DOC is copying and scanning the correspondence and holding the legal mail for a certain period of time. Leticia also reported that some of her legal mail, which even under the new policy is not supposed to go to Florida, was sent to Florida. She referenced time delay and attorney/client privilege as important issues at stake. Discussion ensued. Arlene advised that the MBC leadership will follow-up on this issue.

Tsiwen Law reported on two matters where members might want to contact their representatives. First, the Trump Administration moved $10 million dollars from the FEMA budget over to the Department of Homeland Security. It is believed these funds are now being used to support the internment camps for undocumented and asylum seeking immigrants. Second, the Kavanaugh Supreme Court Nomination process will be coming up for a vote soon.

VII. Member comments or concerns.
None.

VIII. Adjournment. Motion made and seconded to adjourn.

Next Meeting Date: October 12, 2018 – Mike Lee, chairing.
Next Executive Council Meeting October 1, 2018

Minutes Submitted by Andrea C. Farney, Secretary.