A meeting of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Minority Bar Committee was held on Friday, December 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:
a. Brief introductions of attendees occurred.

III. Action Items:
A. Approval of October 12, 2018 Minutes.

The minutes of October 12, 2018 were approved. (Tyshia Miley motion, Rachel Hadrick 2d).

B. Approval of November 15, 2018 Minutes.

The minutes of November 15, 2018 were approved. (Wes Payne motion, Dolly Shuster 2d).

IV. Special Presentation:
A. Laurie L. Baughman, Deputy Director for Legal Advocacy, MidPenn Legal Services gave a brief (10 minute) presentation and answered questions on Act 79, changes to PA’s Uniform Firearms and Protection from Abuse Act. Ms. Baughman’s written bio was distributed to members electronically as part of the materials of the meeting.

V. Subcommittee Chair Reports:
A. Minority Law Day – Verdell Dean
   1. Pittsburgh – 2019 Planning

   Verdell Dean reported the Subcommittee is looking at a spring or late spring for the event.

B. Community Outreach – Raphael Castro and Leticia Chavez-Freed

   Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith read a written report submitted by the Co-Chairs:

   Raphael Castro has been in talks with John Pappiano who is engaged with seven middle schools and high schools in the Philadelphia area who have completely signed on to Youth Courts. Mr. Pappiano, who implements Youth Courts, is working to enlist more schools. Lawyer support is needed and wanted. In January or February of 2019 (timeline), the legal community will be able to come to schools in Philadelphia and shadow/see Youth Courts running. We are at a place where we need legal professionals to invest. Raphael is working on a signature event, such as the equivalent of Law Day, but this event would be specific to Youth Courts. We want the PBA to sponsor a fall event which could be a ceremony award for the kids and demonstrations of Youth Courts. Youth Courts progress in the Middle District of Pennsylvania is a bit slower.

   Bridget Gillespie reported that the Lawrence Co. Bar Association and two PBA members from Mercer County may be working with local law schools on a program on Youth Courts.

C. Minority Attorney Conference – Marisa Lattimore, Gina Thomas, and Rhodia Thomas

   Rhodia Thomas reported that the Subcommittee is recruiting active members. They have been having planning calls since June. The theme they are looking at is “Communities under Attack: Leadership Going Forward.” The Conference will be in Philadelphia, they are waiting on a date and should know that soon. They have been talking about potential panels.

D. Membership Development – Jacqueline Martinez
   1. Survey

   Cheryl Corpuz gave a report for the Subcommittee. Cheryl gave some background/context on what the Survey project of the Subcommittee is for. It is a pictorial directory of MBC members that is in development. The idea is that such a directory would help us know each other better, including how to cross market each other and maximize our participation in the legal community. There are approximately 185 individuals on the MBC and the Subcommittee is discussing
how to do the interviewing. The Subcommittee may be looking for volunteers to assist with this project. She mentioned that a perk of volunteering to be an interviewer is it promotes your individual networking. Jessie Smith added that the Subcommittee is looking at the technology piece for how the final product is produced/disseminated/updated. The Subcommittee believes this peer to peer personal contact approach of developing the pictorial directory is valuable to strengthen our connections and knowledge/promotion of ourselves and each other.

E. Newsletter
1. Ana Paulina Gomez – First but not the Last
2. Article Submission Deadline – March 22, 2019

Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith reported for the Subcommittee. She noted that March 22, 2019 is the next deadline for the next issue of Houston’s Legacy.

F. Legislative – Tsiwen Law or Riley Ross

Tsiwen Law reported on a child who died while in custody of Homeland Security.

1. Funding Indigent Defense – No report.

VI. New Business
None.

VII. Member comments or concerns

1. Bill Cluck raised an idea for a presenter at our meetings.
2. Carlton Johnson reported that the legal issues around hemp are becoming a hot legal area.
3. Riley Ross was recognized for his election to the Board of Governors for the Philadelphia Bar Association.
4. Beverly Rampaul was recognized for her election as Secretary of the PBA.
5. Tyesha Miley reported that Richard Harris, an attorney for the Plaintiffs in the Philadelphia Starbucks Case, will give the special presentation at the January meeting.

VIII. Adjournment. Motion made and seconded to adjourn.

Next Meeting Date: January 11, 2019 – (Tyesha Miley leading with special presenter. Living While Black, a report by Richard Harris on the Philadelphia Starbucks case)

Next Executive Council Meeting January 2, 2019

Minutes Submitted by Andrea C. Farney, Secretary.