A meeting of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Minority Bar Committee was held on Friday, April 12, 2019.

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

II. Introductions of attendees:
   a. Brief introductions of attendees occurred.

III. Action Items.
   A. Approval of March 8, 2019 Minutes.

      The minutes of March 8, 2019 were approved as presented. Rhodia Thomas motion, Stephanie Latimore 2d.

IV. Special Presentation.

      Representative Bullock is a lawyer and a mom. She gave an overview of some of the legislative priorities for the next session including minimum wage, spurring job growth, criminal record reform, environmental/climate issues, education. She also answered questions about paid family leave, workers protections, low wage independent contractor issues, non-compete, and redistricting. Her email is dbullock@pahouse.net.
V. Subcommittee Chair Reports:
   A. Minority Attorney Conference – Marisa Lattimore, Rhodia Thomas, and Gina Thomas.

   Rhodia Thomas reported. There was a subcommittee meeting on April 2, 2019. They continued discussion on the panels for the event. It will be October 3 and 4, 2019 in Philadelphia at the Wanamaker Building. The theme is “Communities under Attack: Leadership Going Forward.” The first day will include a lunch and panels on immigration, voter suppression, and ethics. The 2d day will include marijuana reform and impacts on business development, a judicial panel concerning Batson challenges and juror diversity issues, and a keynote. Phoebe Haddon, Chancellor and Professor of Law Rutgers University is one keynote speaker. Tom Kline will also be a guest speaker during the luncheon on the 2d day. This is the 30th anniversary of the Conference! Confirmed speakers include Jacqueline Martinez, Tsiwen Law, Gina Thomas, Carlton Johnson, Sandra Thompson, and Judge Domitrovich. Rhodia recognized Jessie Smith’s involvement in assisting with making contacts with Rep. McClinton.

   B. Minority Law Day – Rachel Hadrick, Verdell Dean, and Nigel Scott

   Verdell Dean reported on the Western PA Law Day held April 9, 2019. It was very well attended, with 42 students. There were 4 chaperones and 3 volunteer attorneys and 3 panel attorneys. Verdell recognized Bridget Gillespie for assistance with the program. She also recognized David Strassburger and Annemarie Harr for their volunteer commitment. She said the breakout sessions were animated and they covered what lawyers do.

   C. Nominations Committee – Henri Marcial & Carlton Johnson

   Sharon López reported for the co-chairs. She confirmed Henri Marcial will be the MBC representative to the Nominating Committee. Tyesha Miley will be on the ballot for section/committee chairs to vote on at the annual meeting. Sharon advised that members should contact chairs they know to put in a good word for Tyesha. Sharon also reported that Kelley Hodge did resubmit her name for the Law Examiners Board. There still has not been an appointment.

   D. Legislative – Tsiwen Law & Riley Ross

   Tsiwen reported. He advises that Ashley Murphy (PBA) will be putting together the matrix of state bills to be distributed to the Committee. Naomi George (PBA) advised that the House is back in session next week.

Tom Lee reported. April 26th will be the next issue. Tom and Sharon López are working on producing hardcopy of the newsletter. Anyone wanting a hardcopy should let Tom or Sharon know.

F. Government Attorneys – Beverly Rampaul & Gina Thomas
They are in the process of scheduling a meeting.

G. Governance – Rachel Hadrick and Andy Saylor
Rachel Hadrick reported. They are looking at the MBC operating procedures for purposes of raising issues for possible discussion. An example might be a reform to give the committee more autonomy. This is just conceptual with no specifics at this point. Rachel also reported that Andy is stepping down in May as Co-Chair. Let Rachel know if any Member is interested in stepping up to Co-Chair with her.

VI. Working Group on Permanent Minority Governor Position and Women Governor Position at Large.

Sharon reported. She had sent a request to PBA Women in the Profession Commission to form a joint working group. There was a meeting this past week where the WIP expressed interest in such a joint effort. Wes Payne is the MBC lead person. The concept is to have 6-8 people from MBC and WIP. The idea is to have the group discuss the merits, risks, costs of moving forward with a request for permanency of Board of Governor position(s). Sharon mentioned Mike Reed is interested in serving on the joint group. She advised not to expect a report from the group until closer to November.

VII. New Business.

A. Selecting speakers for next year’s meetings. Mike Sand recommended the new Dean of Dickinson Law School. Ana Gomez advised she could assist with putting her in touch with the Committee. Another suggestion was Judge Bissooon of the Western District of PA. Other suggestions included Brandon Flood, newly appointed Secretary of the Pardons Board. Both Stephanie Latimore and Rep. Bullock could assist with putting us in touch with him.

B. Subcommittee sign-ups and leadership
Sharon reminded members it is time to renew commitments to participate on MBC Subcommittees. For old and new members alike, there is a detailed description of each subcommittee’s “jurisdiction” in the MBC Operating Procedures.
VIII. Announcements.

A. The PBA WIP Commission is holding its 26th Annual Conference on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 in Lancaster, PA. The theme is “The Credibility Gap: Why Women are Still Striving to be Heard.” Kristin Gibbons Feden is the keynote speaker and will also have a separate 1:1 session following her keynote.

B. There is a Youth Courts program that David Trevaskis is attending on May 7th. It is a 4 hour free CLE with Edgar Cahn at the Delaware Co. Bar Headquarters in Media. There is a reception that night in Swarthmore for the Cahn Collaborative that supports youth courts. You can donate here - https://pcssonline.org/product-category/the-cahn-collaborative/

C. Thursday, October 17th in Harrisburg will be a six hour CLE on Youth Court. Contact David at dkt@pabar.org or call/text at 717-571-7414 for more information on the program.

IX. Member comments or concerns.

None.

X. Adjournment. Motion made and seconded to adjourn.

Next Executive Council Meeting May 6, 2019

Next Meeting Date: Thursday May 16, 2019 (Committee and Section Day – No special speaker or Zoom video. Meeting to be led by Sharon López).

Minutes Submitted by Andrea C. Farney, Secretary.