Pennsylvania Bar Association
Minority Bar Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday July 12, 2019

Attendees: Tyesha Miley (Chair), Tony Thompson (Vice Chair), Andrea Farney (Secretary), LaToya Winfield Bellamy, Luz Denise Negron-Bennett, Sue Christ (PBA), Fred Cabell (PBA Legislative Staff), Bill Cluck (Chair Environmental and Energy Law Section), Judge Stephanie Domitrovich, Bridget Gillespie (PBA Western Director), Barbara Griffin, Rachel Hadrick, Trent Hargrove (PBA Diversity Officer), Mike McDonald, Tsiwen Law (Past MBC Chair), Marisa Lattimore (Past MBC Chair), Stephanie Lattimore (Co-Vice Chair WIP), Sharon López (PBA Past President), Arlene Marshall Hockensmith, Tyra Oliver (At-Large Zone Governor), Wes Payne (Zone 1 Governor), Beverly Rampaul (PBA Secretary), Barbara Ransom, Mike Sand, David Trevaskis (PBA Pro Bono Coordinator).

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

Calling Meeting to Order
Chair Tyesha Miley called the meeting to order.

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

II. Action Items & Announcements.
    A. Approval of June 14, 2019 Minutes.

The minutes of June 14, 2019 were approved as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

III. Special Presentation – Karla Betts, PBA; Becoming more familiar with resources available to members on the PBA Website.

Karla Betts provided a visual presentation of the PBA website. Her focus was on the areas available to members such as the Dashboard, PBI Coupons, updating your directory information and areas of practice, how to add a Proud Member tag to your electronic signature, how to use the Member to Member Connection, the Lawyer Directory, the MBC area of the website, listserv signs up, and the meetings and events calendar.

IV. Subcommittee Chair Reports:
A. Minority Attorney Conference – Marisa Lattimore, Gina Thomas & Rhodia Thomas (October 3-4, 2019, Philadelphia)

Marisa Lattimore reported. The Conference is October 3 & 4 at PBI in Philadelphia. Everything is looking good. The Committee is working on the Leon Higginbotham Jr. Award Nominations. Please contact them if you have someone to nominate. Nominations are due by July 15th. Prince Thomas and Lisette McCormick have been nominated.

B. Membership Development – Cherylle Corpuz, Sharon López & Jacqueline Martinez.

Sharon López reported. They have calls on the 4th Friday of every month and for an efficient ½ hour. They continue to work on the pictorial directory. The Affinity Bars are going to include their event dates on the electronic PBA Calendar. This is exciting for networking and collaboration. Trent Hargrove will be working on this as the staff liaison.

C. Diversity Summit – Andrea Farney, Sharon Barney, Anthony Cox, Jay Silberblatt, & Patrice Turette

Andrea Farney reported. The Subcommittee had its first planning meeting for the 2020 Diversity Summit on June 27th. The Subcommittee discussed modifying the Summit format to include some more interactive session(s). The Subcommittee is also interested in exploring having the Summit in Northeast PA (Scranton/Luzerne County). We haven’t had one in this location yet and we think it would be a good way to seek attendance and participation from more Caucasian/White members of the Bar.

D. Community Outreach – Raphael Castro & Nego Pile

Sharon López reported for the Subcommittee. There is an October 17th training in Harrisburg for attorneys interested in participating as a volunteer for Youth Court in the Philadelphia area. It is a full day training with 6 CLEs. David Trevaskis reported the Community College of Philadelphia is doing a moot Youth Court program with 2 ethics credits. Edgar Cahn is the trainer.

E. Government Attorneys – Beverly Rampaul, Nefertiri Sickout, Gina Thomas

Beverly Rampaul reported. There isn’t any meeting scheduled. The Subcommittee has consisted most recently of just Gina Thomas and herself. They are planning a happy hour at the Office of General Counsel (OGC) University which is held in September in Harrisburg. Gina is the main person planning it. They are looking at being a resource for minority attorneys in the government sector.

Arlene Marshall Hockensmith reported. The deadline for the next issue is September 10, 2019.

G. Governance – Rachel Hadrick, Marsha Grayson

Rachel Hadrick reported. The Subcommittee is looking to have a call in the next three weeks or so.

H. Legislative – Tsiwen Law & Brenda Marrero

Tsiwen Law reported. The state legislature is not currently in session so there isn’t anything to report. Fred Cabell advised us that the matter of a Constitutional amendment to change how state Supreme Court Judges are selected has faded as an issue. The PBA Judicial Administration Committee looked at the issue and decided not to take a position.

V. New Business.

A. Bill Cluck advised members that the Philadelphia Bar Association just issued a special issue on Race and the law. He will look into getting copies for us.

B. The Committee discussed having our PBA resolutions placed on our MBC section of the PBA website. MOTION made by Beverly Rampaul to place our PBA resolutions on our MBC section of the PBA Website. The Motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Tsiwen will work with Louann on this.

VI. Member Comments or Concerns

None.

VII. Adjournment. Motion made and seconded to adjourn.

Next Meeting Date: August 9, 2019

Minutes Submitted by Andrea C. Farney, Secretary.