*FINAL*

Pennsylvania Bar Association
Minority Bar Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday August 9, 2019

**Attendees:** Tyesha Miley (Chair), Tony Thompson (Vice Chair), Bill Cluck, Jennifer Coatsworth, Bridget Gillespie, Jada Greenhowe, Rachel Hadrick, Kelly Hodge, Tianna Kalogerakis, Tsiwen Law, Marisa Lattimore, Sharon López, Brenda Marrero, Mike McDonald, Luz Denise Negron-Bennett, Carolyn Nichols, Wes Payne, Nego Pile, Michael Sand, Nigel Scott, Patrice Turenne, David Williams, Trent Hargrove (PBA Diversity Officer), Sue Crist (PBA)

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Minority Bar Committee was held on Friday, August 9, 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 July 12, 2019 Minutes.

   The minutes of July 12, 2019 were approved as amended. Motion carries unanimously.


Tianna reported that the Barristers have been in existence since 1950. This year is their 70th anniversary. Their mission is not only to educate black and minority attorneys but to educate the community as a whole. She stated the Barristers, besides many other things, were involved in the Liacouris study, participate in cultural events and are involved in strengthening the pipeline from law school to the practice of law. She provided two handouts that extensively describe the role of the Barristers and their programs. Tianna’s term as President of the Barristers ends on September 1, 2019 and David Williams will become President at that time. David reported that CLE credit will be given at each Barristers monthly meeting and through the CLEs members will be showcased. He asked people to visit their website. If anyone needs an attorney, they will be able to find a lawyer on their website for whatever category they need. His goals are to: 1.) increase membership; 2.) increase revenue; 3.) and increase visibility.
IV. Subcommittee Chair Reports:

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

Marisa Lattimore reported. The Minority Attorney Conference registration brochure has been finalized and sent out. It looks great, the panels are amazing and it should be a fabulous conference. The subcommittee has raised $17,000 in sponsorships to date. Members were asked to help get sponsorships and help increase attendance for this conference. Congratulations to both Prince Thomas who will be the recipient of the Higginbotham Award and Patrice Turenne who will be presented the Rising Star Award at our conference. The signature award of the Minority Attorney Conference is the Higginbotham Award. This year the Rising Star Award was added to the agenda at the last minute as no one on the Minority Attorney Conference subcommittee had advance knowledge of it. It was suggested the Diversity Summit may want to make the Rising Star Award their award since they presented it last year and have no other award they present. The subcommittee had a meeting on July 31, 2019. The next meeting is August 21, 2019.

B. Diversity Summit – Andrea Farney, Sharon Barney, Anthony Cox, Jay Silberblatt, & Patrice Turenne

Sharon López reported. The Subcommittee had extended discussions about focusing on law schools and engaging younger lawyers. The Subcommittee discussed having a panel of deans come to speak. They further discussed having break-out sessions and workshops. Holding the summit in Northeast Pennsylvania is on the table. The subcommittee wants to spark new engagement. The subcommittee is looking to identify diversity officers representing law schools.

C. Minority Law Day—Nigel Scott, Rachel Hadrick, Patrice Turenne

Rachel Hadrick reported for Central PA. She stated that they have started to work on a hypothetical concerning a 2nd circuit opinion that determined President Trump cannot block personal users from his twitter account.

D. Community Outreach – Raphael Castor, Nego Pile

Nigel Scott reported. He stated they are collaborating to merge the Minority Law Day Program in Philadelphia with the Youth Court Program. They are awaiting confirmation from David Trevaskis. Nego reported they will reach out to David about a hypothetical script they can use. They plan to have a keynote
speaker and have one in mind. Their next steps are to drum-up support among the members of the Minority Bar Committee and request volunteers.


Sharon López reported. The deadline for the next issue of the Newsletter is September 10, 2019.

F. Governance – Rachel Hadrick, Marsha Grayson

Rachel Hadrick reported. The Subcommittee is planning to have a call by the end of August.

G. Nominations – No update.

H. Legislative – Tsiwen Law & Brenda Marrero

Tsiwen Law reported. The state legislature is not currently in session so there isn’t anything to report. On the Federal level, they are in recess but there are calls for them to come back and work on universal background checks. It has come to light that the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security has been keeping tabs on domestic terrorism. Race based domestic terrorism increased 25% over 2017. Studies conducted on domestic terrorism should be released to members of Congress. There is interest in passing a domestic terrorism bill.

V. New Business.

A. The Environmental & Energy Law Section made a request to the PA Bar Foundation to establish a scholarship fund for law students interested in environmental law.

B. Tyesha reported that President John sends her regards as she has not been able to attend our meetings, however, she will attend our Minority Attorney Conference.

VI. Member Comments or Concerns

Sharon López reported that David Trevaskis informed her that the Joint State Court Report is out. The speaker for our next meeting is from Dickinson Law School.

VII. Adjournment. Motion made and seconded to adjourn.

Next Meeting Date: September 13, 2019

Minutes submitted by Marisa Lattimore.