A meeting of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Minority Bar Committee was held on Friday, October 11, 2019.

Chair Tyesha Miley called the meeting to order.

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

II. Action Items.
   A. Approval of September 13, 2019 Minutes.

   Beverly Rampaul moved to approve the minutes as presented. Sam Encarnacion 2d. Tsiwen Law spoke in favor of approving the minutes as presented. Minutes approved.

III. Special Presentation – Barry M. Simpson, Esq. – Executive Director, PBA and Clair Papieredin, PBI Assistant Director for Content Development

   Barry Simpson gave a brief presentation on the development of PBI courses and the importance of expanding diversity of presenters and course planners. Clair Papieredin described how PBI plans the courses. Repeat programs are different than new courses. PBI staff meet and confer. There is awareness that with repeat programs there is a tendency to use the same people. Clair has been keeping track of the faculty at MBC programs to expand the list of diverse speakers to reach out to. Louann Bell reminded Members to complete the form she sent out to be listed...
on the MBC Speakers Bureau listing. Members are noted that PBA has a Member to Member connection that you can sign up for to get your name out there. Members noted the ABA has guidelines that require diverse representation on all speaker panels.

IV. Subcommittee Chair Reports:

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

Rhodia Thomas reported. She thanked everyone for their participation. The conference was a very big success. The keynotes were well received and it was exciting to have Prince Thomas receive the A. Leon Higginbotham Jr. award and to have Patrice Turenne receiving the Rising Star award. 2021 will be the next conference. The subcommittee would like to start planning early.

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

Sharon López reported. The Subcommittee had a conference call with Jeff Gingrich of PBA. The Subcommittee completed building the pictorial directory with the Executive Council members as a start-up base to build upon. Ana Paulina Gomez is acting as concierge to welcome new members to the Committee. She sends new members an email and lets them know about Committee Operating Procedures (which includes descriptions of all of the subcommittees). The Subcommittee is working on a procedure to connect new members to Subcommittee chairs. We had a sign-up sheet at the Minority Attorney Conference to join the Committee.

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

Andrea Farney reported. She reported the Subcommittee had a meeting and would like to have feedback on venue selection. The Subcommittee is considering Northeastern PA, Allentown/Lehigh Valley, and Montgomery County. The Committee is looking to target majority attorneys and to go to locations we haven’t been to before. Committee provided robust discussion for feedback. The primary support was for the Allentown/Lehigh Valley area and Montgomery County. Lackawanna and Luzerne County would be fine at a future summit, but most members thought the selection should be between Montgomery County and Allentown/Lehigh Valley. Patrice Turenne and Nego Pile spoke in favor of Montgomery County. The Montgomery County Bar Association has a diversity committee and they are doing work with a diversity program involving 1L students. Sam Encarnacion and Maraleen Shields gave compelling reasons for
Allentown/Lehigh Valley. Andrea also mentioned that the Subcommittee wants to keep the price point reasonable to attend. There was discussion about our Committee having a destination event.

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

Nigel Scott reported that for Philadelphia the final version of the problem went out. There will be 3 CLEs, 2 substantive and 1 ethics. Louann reported for Rachel Hadrick that Central PA Law Day is scheduled for October 24th. There is a call on October 18th to discuss the event. Bridget Gillespie reported that Western PA does their Law Day for the West in April. They are going to do something with Youth Court.

E. Community Outreach – Raphael Castro, Nego Pile

Nego Pile reported. They are working with the Philadelphia Law Day folks to include a Youth Court initiative. They are looking to increase subcommittee membership. They are also working on a January MLK day at Shiloh Baptist Church where they would offer legal information to the community on various legal topics. They may also partner with other diverse legal groups.

F. Government Attorney – Beverly Rampaul and Gina Thomas

They are working on having a speaker for one of the Committee Meetings.

G. Newsletter – Arlene Marshall Hockensmith, Marisa Lattimore, Wesley Payne, Ana Paulina Gomez, Maraleen Shields

Arlene Marshall Hockensmith reported. The Fall Newsletter is out. Arlene noted that she is the new Editor in Chief of the Newsletter. She is taking over from Tom Lee who did a great job.

H. Legislative – Tsiwen Law & Brenda Marrero

Ashley Murphy reported on the state side. There were very few session days in September. Both the Senate and House will return later this month. HB 1170 which provides for e-hire requirements for construction industry employers passed the Senate. The Governor didn’t sign it, but didn’t veto it, so it became law. It has an October 7, 2020 effective date. Sharon López inquired about the status of the bill on creating regionalization elections for the appellate courts (as opposed to statewide elections). Fred Cabell noted it had slowed down. Sharon is interested in having the Committee learn about this policy area in case it comes up again. The Legislative staff will send the Committee the information they have on it.
Tsiwen reported on the federal side. There is a two week recess that will end on Monday. Subpoenas are going out on impeachment issues.

V. New Business.

None.

VI. Announcements.

A. Arlene Marshal Hockensmith noted there is a Youth Court training on October 17th and 18th at the Red Lion Inn. CLEs are offered on both days. Please register if interested.

B. Gina Thomas advised members that the PBA Environmental Law Section is sponsoring 9 scholarships for law students, with an emphasis on increasing the pipeline of minority attorneys in the environmental law area of practice. She requested to send out information to the listserv and she was instructed to do so.

VII. Member comments or concerns.

None

VIII. Adjournment. Motion made and seconded to adjourn.

Next Executive Council Meeting November 4, 2019 @ 12:00 pm
Next Meeting Date: Committee/Section Day November 14, 2019 @ 1:30 pm

Minutes Submitted by Andrea C. Farney, Secretary.