Pennsylvania Bar Association
Minority Bar Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday November 14, 2019

Attendees: Tyesha Miley (Chair), Tony Thompson (Vice-Chair), Andrea Farney (Secretary), Sharon Barney, Bill Cluck, Jennifer Coatesworth, Ana Gomez, Dylan Grayson, Jada Greenhouse, Rachel Hadrick, Trent Hargrove, Tsiwen Law, Marisa Lattimore, Stephanie Latimore (Co-Vice Chair WIP), Sharon López, Arlene Marshall Hockensmith, Jackie Martinez, Mimi McCormick, Tyra Oliver, Claire Papieredin (PBI), Wesley Payne, Beverly Rampaul (PBA Secretary), Sidney Ramsey, Michael Sand, Nigel Scott, Maraleen Shields, Jay Silberblatt, David Trevaskis (PBA), Patrice Turenne, Phil Yoon

Special Guest: Anne John (PBA President)(President John attended a portion of the meeting and thanked everyone for their time and commended the Committee on its productive work. She noted she attended the Minority Attorney Conference in October and it was excellent. She encouraged us to reach out to her.

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Minority Bar Committee was held on Thursday, November 14, 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 October 11, 2019 Minutes.

      Andrea Farney noted a correction to the minutes of adding “October” in lieu of “the” under Section VIA. Tsiwen Law moved to adopt the October 11, 2019 Minutes as corrected. Minutes as corrected were approved.

      Members noted the ABA has guidelines that require diverse representation on all speaker panels.

III. Subcommittee Chair Reports:
   A. Membership Development – Cherylle Corpuz, Jacqueline Martinez, Sharon López
Sharon López reported. The website is almost done. They are going to update the MBC video. The Subcommittee is talking about how to liaison with new members and get them connected with subcommittee volunteer opportunities.

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

Andrea Farney reported. She reported the Subcommittee met after the last MBC meeting and selected Montgomery County as the location for the 2020 Summit. The date is not yet set and the specific location within the County is not set yet. Patrice Turene is working with the Montgomery Bar Association in coordination. Jay Silberblatt has reached out to Carl Cooper who is willing to assist with a session on how white lawyers can help fight racism. The Subcommittee is looking to have this Summit be a Toolkit type of event where attendees obtain practical tips and tools for implementing and sustaining diversity and inclusion initiatives. The next call will be November 22 @ 10:00 am.

C. Minority Law Day – Nigel Scott, Rachel Hadrick, Robert Datorre, Verdell Dean, and Imogene Cathey

Wes Payne reported on Eastern PA. There were 200 students and they did a dual program, including Youth Court and also having the traditional oral argument (appellate type arguments). Nigel Scott received a PBA pro bono award. Kristen Gibbons Feden spoke and the students had a lot of questions for her.

Rachel Hadrick reported on Central PA. There were about 60 students attending and the problem was based on a Twitter Account of President Trump and First Amendment issues. Prof. Jordan went over the problem with the students after the students had break-out sessions with the attorney volunteers to prepare for the “mock law school class” by Prof. Jordan. Judge Royce Morris, Arlene Marshall Hockensmith, and Rick Estacio told their professional stories of becoming lawyers. They were all the first in their family to finish high school and go to college and the students could really relate to them. Rachel also thanked 2 Widener law students who pitched in at the last minute, Dylan Grayson and Fred Fleming. Dylan and Fred spoke about their law school experience. Rachel Hadrick received a PBA pro bono award also.

Tony Thompson reported for Western PA. The event is scheduled for April 22, 2020. They are looking at a Youth Court program because there is a local high school teacher who supports Youth Court. Verdell Dean received a PBA pro bono award for her work.

D. Nominations
Member Jay Silberblatt is running for PBA VP. Beverly Rampaul is running for a 2d term as PBA Secretary. The Committee discussed the PBA Nominating Committee and Nominations process for PBA Officers. Henri Marcial is the MBC representative on the Nominating Committee this year.

E. Community Outreach – Raphael Castro, Nego Pile

David Trevaskas reported on Youth Court and Edgar Cahn. He also referenced a Joint State Government report.

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

Arlene Marshall Hockensmith reported. She thanked Tom Lee (outgoing Editor in Chief) for his great efforts in leading the Newsletter production. Anthony Cox is working on the Black Lives Matter Column. Other Columns are Jumping Silos, First but not the Last, and Rising Star. The deadlines for the spring 2020 issue are Monday, March 9th at 4:00 pm with publication on April 22, 2020. The fall issue is scheduled for October 13th and the deadline for articles would be August 31 @ 4:00 pm. There was a suggestion to move the fall issue publication a little earlier to allow for publicity for the Diversity Summit. Feel free to reach out to Arlene with article ideas.

G. Legislative – Tsiwen Law & Brenda Marrero

Tsiwen Law reported. There are very few days left for anything to pass on the state side. The Budget process will then start at the end of January.

IV. New Business.

A. Update on efforts to make one of the Minority-at-large Board of Governor seats permanent.

Tyesha reported. The Working Group is going to continue its work and make some report or recommendation to us for purposes of bringing up this issue at the May 2020 HOD meeting. The MBC will take the lead on drafting and presenting. At tomorrow’s HOD meeting one of the positions will be voted on for another term. Tsiwen Law gave history that the initial seat did not have a sunset date proposed at the original introduction. The sunset date was added later by the task force. Jackie Martinez noted the recommendation needs to go to the Bylaws Committee. There was discussion about how the issue is not about the number of representatives/Governors of color, but about power, voice, and opportunity.
B. Congratulations to Rachel Hadrick, Nigel Scott & Verdell Dean – recipients of the 2019 PBA Pro Bono Award

V. Member comments or concerns.

A. Claire Papieredin reported that PBI is continuing to work on diversifying CLE panels offered by PBI.
B. It was noted that the In-House Counsel Meeting is open to anyone and that you don’t have to be in-house counsel to attend.
C. Mimi McCormick raised the issue of pardons and how there are some criteria used in determining pardons that can have a disproportionate and inequitable effect on people of color and lower income people. This may be an issue that the Civil and Equal Rights Committee looks at.
D. Art Read reported for the PBA Immigration Committee and discussed an issue of language access.
E. Bill Cluck informed members about the Environmental Law Section establishment of law school grants for law students interested in careers in Environmental Law. He noted the Auditor General did a Climate Change report which noted equity issues concerning communities.

VI. Adjournment. Motion made and seconded to adjourn.

Next Executive Council Meeting December 2, 2019 @ 12:00 pm
Next Meeting Date: December 13, 2019

Minutes Submitted by Andrea C. Farney, Secretary.