**Pennsylvania Bar Association**
**Minority Bar Committee**
**Meeting Minutes**
**Friday December 13, 2019**

**Attendees:** Tyesha Miley (Chair), Tony Thompson (Vice-Chair), Andrea Farney (Secretary), Louann Bell (PBA), Sharon Barney, Pam Cross, Verdell Dean, Bridget Gillespie (PBA Western Director), Freda Howe, Tsiwen Law, Marisa Lattimore, Christine Long, Sharon López, Henri Marcial, Lynn Marks, Arlene Marshall Hockensmith, Jackie Martinez (Zone 9 Governor), Michael McDonald, Hon. Juan R. Sanchez (C.J., US Eastern District of PA), Michael Sand, Maraleen Shields, Nigel Scott, Patrice Turenne, LaToya Winfield Bellamy, Phil Yoon

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Minority Bar Committee was held on Friday, December 13, 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 the November 14, 2019 Minutes.

The November 14, 2019 Minutes were approved with one amendment (to change the “October” Conference to the “Minority Attorney Conference.”)

III. **Special Presentation – Honorable Juan R. Sanchez, Chief Judge, United States Eastern District of Pennsylvania.**

Chief Judge Sanchez is the 15th Chief Judge in the 229-year history of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania Court. He is the first Latino Chief Judge of the Eastern District. Chief Judge Sanchez spoke about his diversity and inclusion initiatives for the Eastern District. Two of his primary goals are to ensure the jury pool reflects the demographics of the Court’s nine counties and that every citizen has the opportunity to participate in the administration of justice. Some changes so far include increasing the number of names on the on the master jury wheel, increasing the frequency of change of address checks, and sending juror qualification questionnaires to the same zip code when a questionnaire is not returned. Judge Sanchez also spoke about how he wants to make sure that women and minorities serve as attorneys on the three panels (employment, social security, prisoner cases) maintained by the court. He also emphasized diversity is...
important to the judicial workforce. He noted the judicial workforce includes pretrial workers, clerks of court, probation, law clerks, and Magistrate Judges. Another initiative is a public outreach program and they are considering a speakers bureau.

IV. Subcommittee Chair Reports:

A. Community Outreach – Raphael Castro, Nego Pile

Tyeshia reported for the Subcommittee Chairs. There will be an event at Shiloh Baptist Church in Philadelphia (on Christian Street) following the Barristers’ Breakfast on MLK Day. Prince Thomas is assisting with this event. Please let them know if you can volunteer for it. One subject to be offered will be elections with others to be determined.

B. Minority Attorney Conference – Marisa Lattimore, Rhodia Thomas, and Gina Thomas.

Marisa Lattimore reported. They received the evaluations. 22 evaluations rated the Conference as excellent and 5 rated it as very good. The Co-chairs were pleased to see these favorable reviews. Everyone agreed it was a fabulous Conference and there was much positive feedback.

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

Andrea Farney reported. The Subcommittee had a meeting on 11/22. This meeting included staff and attorneys from the Montgomery County Bar Association. Discussions about dates and location were the primary topics of the meeting. Thanks to Co-Chair of the Subcommittee, Patrice Turenne, for her collaborative lead with the Montgomery County Bar Association. The Subcommittee has set the 3d Friday of each month @ 10:00 am as the regular meeting time. Two identified subject matter areas to be covered include topics on Allies – how white lawyers can help fight racism; and Young lawyers and the pipeline.

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

Tony Thompson reported on the Western PA event. It is scheduled for April 22, 2020. It is going to be on Youth Court and restorative justice. There is a high school teacher the Subcommittee is working with and they are recruiting some judges.

E. Nominations – Henri Marcial
Henri Marcial reported. The PBA Nominating Committee met on November 14, 2019. Jay Silberblatt received the Vice President nomination, James Antonio received the Treasurer nomination, and Beverly Rampaul received the Secretary nomination.

F. Legislative – Tsiwen Law & Brenda Marrero

Ashley Murphy reported on the state side. The House Judiciary was in for a voting meeting and there are a host of bills to be looked at next week that we might be interested in, including probation and parole and mandatory minimums. Tsiwen Law reported on the federal side. The House passed a new bill to restore the pre-clearance clause of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (effective before the Shelby County v. Holder decision). Lynn Marks brought up HB2037. It would remove the lifetime exclusion for voting for some misdemeanors convictions.

V. YLD Liaison Report – Anthony Cox

None.

VI. New Business
1. Speakers requested on voting rights for CERC’s April Symposium
   Please contact Riley Ross or Jada Greenhowe if you are interested or have a recommendation.
2. Field Trip – historical context
   Tyesha continued the discussion on having a gathering/field trip at a historical area. The idea would include having it at different regions of the State. To be continued.
3. Point person in each region for special speaker’s series
   The Committee is looking for volunteers to organize the special speaker at our monthly meetings. This is a professional development opportunity. We are looking for one member from each region, Western, Central, and Eastern. Brenda Marrero has volunteered for the Eastern region. If you are interested please let Tyesha or Tony know. We need a speaker for the February and the March meeting.

VII. Member comments or concerns

None

VIII. Adjournment

Next Executive Council Meeting – December 30, 2019 @ 12:00 pm
Next Meeting Date: January 10, 2020
Minutes Submitted by Andrea C. Farney, Secretary.