Pennsylvania Bar Association
Minority Bar Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 16, 2020

Attendees: Tyesha Miley (Chair), Tony Thompson (Vice-Chair), Anthony Cox, Jr. (Vice-Chair), LaToya Winfield Bellamy (Secretary), Susan Wolf (PBA), Sharon Barney, Norris Benns, Laurie Besden, Jennifer Coatsworth, Nancy Conrad, Honorable Stephanie Domitrovich, Thadeus Edwards, Jennifer Ellis, Andrea Farney, Bridget Gillespie, Donald Hahn, Trent Hargrove, Carlton Johnson, Marisa Lattimore, Cristen Long, Jacqueline Martinez, Melissa Martinez, Michael McDonald, Ashley Murphy, Luz Denise Negron-Bennett, Ella Ogundare, Tyra Oliver, Beverly Rampaul, Michael Sand, David Schwager (PBA President), Dolly Shuster, Jay Silberblatt, Jessie Smith, David Trevaskis, Patrice Turrenne, Bill Warren, Lisa Watson, Kathleen Wilkinson and Tom Wilkinson.

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) Minority Bar Committee (MBC) was held on Friday, October 16, 2020.

Tyesha Miley called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

I. Welcome and roll call.

II. Action Items.
   A. Approval of the September 11, 2020 Minutes. Motion passed.

III. Old Business
   A. Diversity Summit Recap

   Feedback on the 2020 Diversity Summit was very positive. One comment was that the written materials from presenters were excellent. The event reached more members than in the past. The PBA Diversity Team supported event efforts including co-sponsoring a post-event reception. Motion by Donald Hahn and second by Marissa Latimore to authorize $500 donation to the charity of their choice on behalf of the morning speakers; Motion passed.

   B. MBC’s Comment to the Bylaws Committee proposed amendment to PBA’s statement of purpose.

   Tom Wilkinson explained that the current Purpose statement is out of date and the amendment to “support” diversity was proposed to be consistent with language related to other committees. It was proposed that the language read “support and promote” which passed on proper motion.

IV. Subcommittee Chair Reports:
   A. Legislative – Presented by Ashley Murphy.
State sessions are coming to a close with both the House and Senate returning next week and then after the general election to work on the budget. No other legislative updates.

V. Newsletter – Tony Thompson reminded members to check out the recent edition of Houston’s Legacy.

VI. Liaison Reports

A. YLD – Presented by Anthony Cox, Jr.

Chair Brandon Jordan has reached out to law schools for interest. Widener Commonwealth Law School’s Black Law Students Association has expressed interest in attending MBC meetings and collaborating on efforts.


An update on the Diversity Team’s program was provided and an acknowledgement to the strong leadership by Nancy Conrad.

VII. New Business

A. The Legal Intelligencer’s 2020 Legal Excellence Awardees include Ade Bakare, Raphael Castro and Melissa Martinez.

B. Sharon Lopez will be honored by the Al Dia. Jackie Martinez moved that the MBC provide a sponsorship, which was seconded by Beverly Rampaul. Motion passed.

C. Andrea Farney pointed out the Executive Order dated September 22, 2020 prohibiting diversity and inclusion, implicit bias and other training offered to combat systemic racism in federal government and those contracting with the federal government. It was suggested that a response be drafted to support the continuance of such important education and training.

VIII. Member comments or concerns

A. There’s an upcoming PBA CLE on the Electoral College to be presented on October 29, 2020 and moderated by PBA President David Schwager.

B. Register to attend the Inclusive Leadership and Decision-making event on October 29, 2020.

IX. Adjournment at 12:50 p.m.

Next Executive Council Meeting – November 9, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.
Next Committee Meeting Date: November 19, 2020 at 11 a.m. (Committee/Section Day)

Minutes submitted by LaToya Winfield Bellamy, Secretary.