Pennsylvania Bar Association
Minority Bar Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, August 14, 2020

Attendees: Tyesha Miley (Chair), Tony Thompson (Vice-Chair), LaToya Winfield Bellamy (Secretary), Susan Wolf (PBA), Rodney Akers, Sharon Barney, Fred Cabell, Leticia Chavez-Freed, Kira Chhatual, Jennifer Coatsworth, P. Daniel Cortes, Anthony Cox, Jr., Honorable Stephanie Domitrovich, Thadeus Edwards, Andrea Farney, Bridget Gillespie, Marshal Granor, Barbara Griffen, Rachel Hadrick, Trent Hargrove, Honorable Charles Hayden, Kelley Hodge, Carlton Johnson, Brandon Jordan, Tsiwen Law, Marisa Lattimore, Stephanie Lattimore, Cris Long, Sharon López, Henri Marcial, Lynn Marks, Brenda Marrero, Jacqueline Martinez, L. Mimi McCormick, Michael McDonald, Ashley Murphy, Taylor Pacheco, Clair Papieredin, Beverly Rampaul, Michael Sand, David Schwager (PBA President), Maraleen Shields, Suzanne Smith, Gina Thomas, David Trevaskis, Patrice Turenne, Bill Warren, Lisa Watson, Kathleen Wilkinson, and Phil Yoon.

A meeting of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) Minority Bar Committee (MBC) was held on Friday, August 14, 2020.

Anthony Cox, Jr. called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

I. Welcome and roll call:

II. Action Items.
   A. Approval of the July 10, 2020 Minutes on the motion by Anthony Cox, Jr. and second by Beverly Rampaul. Motion passed.

III. Special Presentation
   A. Honorable Charles Hayden of the Philadelphia Municipal Court and the Clifford Scott Green Chapter of the National Bar Association provided the background and distinguished accomplishments of Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert N. C. Nix, Jr. (deceased) one of many was being the first African-American chief justice to a state’s high court and the first African-American elected to a state-wide office in Pennsylvania.
   B. Judge Hayden stated support for the proposed resolution to rename the Pennsylvania Judicial Center after Chief Justice Nix. The resolution was poised to be presented to the PBA Board of Governors by this Committee and the Civil and Equal Rights Committee (CERC).

IV. Subcommittee Chair Reports:
   A. Diversity Summit – Presented by Andrea Farney; Co-Chairs/Members Sharon Barney, Anthony Cox, Jr., Jay Silberblatt and Patrice Turenne.
The save-the-date for the interactive virtual conference on October 7, 2020 was sent. The conference will offer 6.5 ethics credits.


Articles are due to Arlene by August 31, 2020.

C. Legislative – Presented by Tsiwen Law, Ashley Murphy and Co-chair Brenda Marrero.

Since our last meeting two House Bills (HB) passed and were signed into law and two Senate Bills (SB) are with the Judiciary Committee.

A workgroup was formed to inspect two police reform bills to review:
   1. Public misconduct by police
   2. Use of force policies
   3. Accountability
   4. Identifying coalition partners*

*Caution not to engage in lobbying efforts

On a National front, HR 7573 passed in the House to remove the bust of Supreme Ct. Justice Taney and replace it with that of Supreme Ct. Justice Thurgood Marshall and Senate approved removal of the names of confederate officers from military properties. HR 2486 passed in the House to nullify executive orders that prohibited immigration of individuals from 12 specific countries many with majority Muslim populations.

In the U.S. Senate, an amendment addressing the transfer to local police departments of surplus military weapons failed to pass.

D. Minority Attorney Conference – Presented by Marisa Lattimore.

The Committee met and established the topic of Health of the Justice System for the 2021 MAC.

The 2019 MAC was honored with the PBA’s Diversity & Inclusion Award.

E. Government Attorneys – No report. President Schwager highlighted that the PBI one-hour CLE on diversity in government held on July 27, 2020 went well.

V. Liaison Reports

A. YLD – Presented by Brandon Jordan.
They’re working on ways to increase young lawyer membership and starting with a social media presence.

B. Diversity – Presented by Michaele Sand; Chair Nancy Conrad.

Working on the goal to present more seminars with other PBA section. They hope to cover police reform and received volunteer efforts from Kelley Hodge.

C. Education – Presented by Tyesha Miley; Dolly Shuster, Chair excused.

A Civil Rights symposium is coming soon from the CERC.

VI. New Business

A. Discussion and update on the recommended suspension of Allegheny County Judge Tranquilli.

B. Information was provided for subcommittee budget requests.

C. Concern was raised about York County Judge that sentenced an African-American man to suffer public humiliation for retail theft.

VII. Member comments or concerns

A. The CERC is reviewing police reform bills and would like to communicate with the PBA leadership with comments on remaining bills. The Interbranch Commission will speak with the Governor’s office on remaining bills.

B. There’s a lawsuit challenging PA. Rule or Professional Conduct 8.4(g) regarding discrimination in the practice of law.

VIII. Adjournment.

Next Executive Council Meeting – August 31, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.
Next Committee Meeting Date: September 11, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by LaToya Winfield Bellamy, Secretary.