Tyesha C. Miley
Chair

Tyesha's career began in Philadelphia as a prosecutor with the District Attorney's Office. She then went on to defend the insureds of a Fortune 100 insurance company and a Fortune 500 insurance company. Currently, she defends a regional transportation agency handling all litigation matters that fall within the exceptions to sovereign immunity.

SEPTA
215-565-5294
tcmiley@yahoo.com

See biography form.

Tony J. Thompson
Vice Chair

Tony is a partner at Meyer, Unkovic & Scott and focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation with an emphasis on real estate disputes, including ownership, easement and boundary disputes, and commercial evictions. Tony provides counsel to owners, property managers, developers and retail and office tenants. He also routinely assists the firm's business clients with their development of risk avoidance policies and procedures. When necessary, Tony brings his excellent trial skills to bear as he handles cases involving breach of contract, trade secrets, infringement and misappropriation claims, products liability defense and other complex commercial litigation in our state and federal courts, as well as arbitration proceedings.

Tony is a past recipient of the Allegheny County Bar Association's Homer S. Brown Division's Young Leader Award, which is presented to an attorney under the age of 40 who exhibits strong leadership qualities and a commitment to the promotion of equality and the advancement of justice among the African-American community. In addition, in recognition of Tony's dedication to the practice of law and the community, the Pittsburgh Business Times honored Thompson as a “2016 Fast Tracker.”

Tony is a graduate of Washington & Jefferson College and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He resides in Monroeville with his wife and son.

Meyer Unkovic & Scott LLP
412-456-2874
tjt@muslaw.com

See biography form.

LaToya Winfield Bellamy
Secretary

LaToya Winfield Bellamy has been practicing law for nearly 15 years in the Harrisburg area. She provides business counseling, real estate and administrative law related services, including contracting, government regulatory issues and real estate matters. LaToya serves as the chair of the firm’s Circle Mentoring Committee and vice chair of Diversity, Equality & Inclusion.

LaToya is a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians and her community involvement includes:
- Capital Area Transit Authority Board Member
- Widener Law Commonwealth, Dean's Diversity Advisory Board Member
- Widener Law Commonwealth Business Advising Certificate Program, Advisory Board Member

LaToya previously practiced at Purcell, Krug & Haller handling mortgage foreclosure and real estate matters.

Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC
717-237-6022
lbellamy@eckertseamans.com

See biography form.
Sharon Barney  
**Council Member**

Sharon is the recipient of a Pennsylvania Bar Association 2019 County Bar Recognition Award for Centre County Expungement Clinic and a PBA 2016 Pro Bono Award for Centre County.

Prior to joining Leech Tishman, Sharon was a solo practitioner. She provided client-centered legal services in family law, immigration law and victim rights matters.

She is an active member of the State College community and headed the first Multicultural Unity Fair in Centre County in 2018.

Sharon holds leadership positions within the PBA, is an active member of the Centre County Bar Association, and has been a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) since 2013.

She regularly educates the community about immigration law issues as a guest speaker.

Leech Tishman Fuscaldo and Lamp  
814-954-5904  
sbarney@leechtishman.com

---

Raphael Castro  
**Council Member**

Raphael began his professional career serving in the chambers of the Hon. Sheila Woods-Skipper, former president judge of the Court of Common Pleas, where he drafted opinions related to ineffectiveness of counsel, capital Post Conviction Relief Act cases and police corruption claims. He was an assistant district attorney at the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, litigating violent and property trials in East Division with the highest volume of crime.

Raphael currently works at Pond Lehocky Stern Giordano, the largest workers' compensation and Social Security disability firm in Pennsylvania. He passionately advocates for injured workers, litigating for wage loss and medical benefits.

He earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Temple University and law degree from Widener University School of Law, graduating with pro bono distinction. While earning his Juris Doctor, Raphael worked for both the Defender Association's Juvenile Special Defense Unit and the First Judicial District Complex Civil Litigation Division for the Hon. Paul Panepinto.

Raphael volunteers extensively, focusing on youth and education. He currently serves on the boards of SEAMAAC, a nonprofit supporting immigrants and youth, and the 26th PDAC, a monthly council meeting with police and community residents addressing quality of life and enhancing public safety. He is a legal contributor for the *Legal Intelligencer,* and actively engaged in Homerun for Hearts, an event raising money for the American Heart Association. He is fluent in both English and Spanish.

Pond Lehocky  
267-606-4362  
rcastro@pondlehocky.com

---

Imogene L. Cathey  
**Council Member**

Imogene has more than 20 years of experience in the legal profession, primarily representing and advising institutions of higher education. She currently serves as vice president and general counsel for Seton Hill University. She came to Seton Hill in 2015 following service in the Office of the General Counsel at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the University of Florida. Her legal practice has focused on matters concerning university policies and governance issues, ethical obligations and conflict of interest concerns, athletics and regulatory compliance, and employment law.

Prior to specializing in higher education law, she was in private practice with regional and national law firms in Florida where she represented employers in complex employment and business-related litigation matters.

Imogene holds a B.A., summa cum laude, from Florida A & M University and a J.D., with honors, from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

She is licensed to practice law in Florida, the District of Columbia, North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

Seton Hill University  
724-552-4499  
icathey@setonhill.edu
Cherylle C. Corpuz
Council Member
Cherylle is a solo practitioner representing clients on a wide range of immigration matters for individuals and companies. She has 25 years of experience counseling a broad range of individual and organizational clients and advocating before immigration and federal courts.

Cherylle C. Corpuz, Esq., Inc., PC
215-599-2188
ccorpuz@corpuzlaw.com

See biography form.

Anthony D. Cox Jr.
Council Member
Anthony is an associate attorney with Dickie McCamey law firm, where his practice focuses in civil litigation and professional licensure defense.

Prior to joining Dickie McCamey, Anthony was a prosecutor for the Pennsylvania Department of State, where he litigated cases before various state licensing boards.

Anthony is the 2018 recipient of the Minority Bar Association Rising Star award for his constant dedication to bettering the community and diversifying our legal community.

Dickie McCamey
717-731-4800
acox@dmclaw.com

See biography form.

Roberto Tomas Datorre
Council Member
Roberto served as the chair of the PBA Young Lawyers Division (2013-2014), a member of the PBA Board of Governors (2012-2015) and a member of the PBA House of Delegates (2011-2017).

Roberto's work history:
Miami Beach City Attorney's Office - assistant city attorney (2001-2005)
Commonwealth Charter Academy, executive vice president (2018-Present)

Commonwealth Charter Academy
717-710-3300
rdatorre@ccaeducate.me

See biography form.
Pennsylvania Bar Association
Minority Bar Committee Executive Council 2019-2020

Verdell Dean
Council Member

Verdell holds a Master of Education degree in rehabilitation counseling from the University of Pittsburgh. Verdell worked as a juvenile probation officer and at St. Francis Adolescent Unit, Job Corps, Vocational Rehabilitation Center as a social worker.

Verdell’s legal experience includes: legal writing instructor at the University of Pittsburgh; gubernatorial-appointed board member, Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole; and Allegheny County public defender and law clerk to the late Hon. Henry R. Smith Jr. His law-related experience includes serving as an EEOC case analyst.

Verdell previously served as president of the Program for Female Offenders from 1993 to 1996; Program to Aid Citizens Enterprise (PACE) as treasurer in 1988 and chairperson from 1996 to 1998.


In addition to Pennsylvania, Verdell is licensed in the Third Circuit and the United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan.

Verdell Dean and Associates PC
412-471-3327
vdlaw@aol.com

See biography form.

Ana Paulina Gomez
Council Member

Ana currently works for the Pennsylvania Insurance Department, where she represents the department in litigation before administrative tribunals and appellate courts. She also provides the department with legal advice on Right-To-Know Law, contractual and procurement matters, among others.

Prior to working for the Insurance Department, Ana worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Education, where she litigated educator misconduct cases and Right-to-Know Law matters at the administrative and appellate level.

Prior to joining the OGC, Ana was an assistant district attorney at the York County District Attorney’s Office from 2012 until 2015. Prior to her work as an ADA, Ana clerked for the Hon. Thomas Kelley in York County immediately after graduating from law school.

Ana attended the Penn State Dickinson School of Law, where she interned for the Hon. Yvette Cane, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and served as a senior editor for the Penn State Environmental Law Review and a Miller Center for Public Interest Fellow.

Ana is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She is also a trained mediator.

Pennsylvania Insurance Department
anagomez@pa.gov

See biography form.

Marsha H. Grayson
Council Member

Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh
412-261-5529
mgrayonesq@gmail.com
Rachel R. Hadrick  
Council Member  
McNees Wallace & Nurick  
717-237-5397  
rhadrick@mcneeslaw.com  

Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith  
Council Member  
Arlene is the administrative officer of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Inc. (PLAN), where she oversees the Martin Luther King Jr. Internship and Fellowship Programs; conducts regular contract compliance monitoring of PLAN programs; disseminates, reviews and approves PA-IOLTA and Department of Human Services funding sub-agreements for PLAN programs; assists in the development of reports to funders; and develops and conducts an annual advocacy skills training for new-to-practice PLAN program attorneys and paralegals.  
Arlene serves as a member of the Veteran's Initiative Advisory Board at Widener Law Commonwealth and the Dauphin County Bar Association Board of Directors. She is also vice chair of the PBAs Legal Services to the Public Committee; former co-vice chair of the Minority Bar Committee; and editor-in-chief of the Minority Bar Committee's Houston's Legacy newsletter.  
Prior to joining PLAN, Arlene worked as a staff attorney, economic justice and empowerment project manager, and training and technical assistance manager for over four years at the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Arlene also worked for four years at MidPenn Legal Services, where she handled family, consumer, housing and public benefits cases.  
Arlene has served as a presenter at both national and statewide conferences and has worked with the Dauphin County Bar Association and Pennsylvania Bar Institute to develop informational videos to assist pro se litigants. Arlene received her J.D. from Widener Commonwealth Law School in 2006 and her B.A. from the Pennsylvania State University in 1998.  

Marisa Lattimore  
Council Member  
Marisa practices in-house for Super Bakery concentrating on trademarks.  
She previously was manager of diversity and professional development initiatives for Wolf Block LLP, where she helped develop policies designed to improve recruitment, retention, training and promotion of attorneys from diverse backgrounds.  
She worked for the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in various capacities for many years serving Chief Justice Robert N.C. Nix, Chief Justice John Flaherty and Chief Justice Stephen Zappala.  
Marisa currently serves on the executive counsel of the Minority Bar Committee and is co-chair of the Minority Attorney Conference Subcommittee. She is a past chair and vice chair of the MBC and is a member of the PBA House of Delegates.  
Marisa is a member of the Helen O. Dickens Auxiliary of the Abington Health Foundation Women’s Board. She was a director on the board of the Senior Law Center, the only nonprofit organization in Pennsylvania dedicated solely to protecting the rights of the elderly.  

Super Bakery  
215-628-8594  
mhl34@aol.com
Tsiwen M. Law
Council Member

Among Tsiwen’s numerous bar association recognitions and accomplishments:
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania 2012 Lawyer of the Year
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association 2001 Trailblazer Award
Philadelphia Bar Association 2012 Wachovia Fidelity Award
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association 2009 Presidential Award
PBA 2013 A. Leon Higginbotham Award
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Delaware Valley 1994 Conscience of the Bar Award
Past chair of the Research and Policy Committee, Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board

Previous work experience: journeyman automotive welder, diesel tractor mechanics, surface refinisher, industrial hygienist, occupational epidemiologist, health scientist.

Law & Associates
215-751-0500
tsiwenlaw88@gmail.com

Sharon R. López
Council Member

Sharon served as the 123rd president of the PBA, the first Latina and second minority to serve in that role.

Her PBA work focuses on diversity & inclusion, and she believes that universal approaches to membership development will advance opportunities for women and minorities in the legal profession.

Sharon served as the first editor of Open Court, the GLBT Committee’s electronic newsletter. She is the first editor of Houston’s Legacy, the Minority Bar Committee’s electronic newsletter. She believes marketing the message of membership opportunities requires a peer-to-peer approach to be successful and she uses the newsletters as a means to achieve this. She also believes the lawyer’s duty to respond to the issues of the day invigorates new lawyers entering the profession.

As a former legal services attorney, Sharon continues her commitment to pro bono work. She was named “Pennsylvania Super Lawyer” for plaintiff’s employment litigation in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 and was recognized as one of the top 25 women lawyers in Pennsylvania for 2015-2016 by the Legal Intelligencer Journal.

Her proudest accomplishment is raising her two sons and two daughters. She enjoys running, ballroom and salsa dancing, and cooking.

Triquetra Law
717-299-6300
lopez@triquetrallaw.com

Henri P. Marcial
Council Member

Henri has been admitted to practice in Pennsylvania since 1998. His firm, Marcial & Haye, is a bilingual boutique provider of business and legal services to a wide range of business entities in various industries, including nonprofit organizations.

Prior to establishing Marcial & Haye, Henri was a regulatory attorney for PECO Energy Co., served as a hearing examiner with the Department of License and Inspection in Philadelphia; was the hearing examiner for the 2005 Philadelphia Water Department’s rate making proceedings; and served as the interim real estate development manager for Norris Square Civic Association (a Philadelphia-based CDC and education services nonprofit). Henri has also served as a court mediator for the Municipal Court of Philadelphia and regularly serves as an arbiter for the FJD Arbitration Center.

He is a graduate of The Catholic University of Puerto Rico and received both a J.D. and an LLM in transnational law from Temple University School of Law.

Henri has been an active board member of the Hispanic Bar Association of Pa. for over 20 years; served as a member of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Judicial Selection Commission; chaired its Diversity in the Profession Committee; and served as a Zone 1 delegate to the Pennsylvania Bar Association. As a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Henri has been a member of the Minority Bar Committee, the Task Force on Term Limits and the Good Governance Task Force. In addition to his service to the bar associations, he has regularly engaged in community service and served as a board member of Norris Square Civic Association for 10 years.

In his free time, he enjoys dragon boat racing with the Philadelphia Police Boat Team and other area boat clubs.

Marcial & Haye
215-329-1900
hmartial@marciallaw.com
Brenda L. Marrero  
Council Member

Brenda is the deputy director of operations at Community Legal Services Inc. of Philadelphia, where she works directly with the executive director. She provides critical oversight and support to CLS’s staff and management by directing human resources, overseeing operations and personnel matters, managing union relationships and collaborating on performance management systems, supervision and employee trainings. One of Brenda’s major roles is overseeing CLS’s hiring practices. She also recently took on the role of chief diversity and inclusion officer, the first such position at CLS, to coordinate and help lead the expansive work of CLS’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee. She helps to recruit, hire and retain the best legal services advocates by implementing best practices around diversity and inclusion in hiring. She works in collaboration with D&I staff leaders to move the work forward with innovation, creative and meaningful initiatives and strong leadership.

Previously, Brenda was a supervising attorney in the Aging and Disabilities and SSI Units at CLS, where her practice focused on representing low-income seniors and disabled adults and children in long-term care access, Medicare appeals, Medicaid, Social Security/SSI disability and non-disability matters, and nursing home discharge cases.

Community Legal Services of Philadelphia  
215-981-3740  
bmarrero@clsphila.org

Jacqueline B. Martinez  
Council Member

Prior to establishing JBM Legal, Jackie was in-house counsel to a large international IT company, where she gained extensive experience in the area of employment-based immigration and global immigration.

Jackie’s current practice focuses on business immigration, but she also has extensive knowledge of family immigration, naturalization, and deportation and removal proceedings. JBM Legal LLC attorneys provide services to the immigrant community in the areas of criminal law, family custody and support law, small business law and litigation-general practice.

Jacqueline has had the privilege of representing large international corporations such as SciCan, Simpler, ImiFabi and SmartOps, to international investors from China, Turkey, Russia and Latin America, to individuals such as Pablo Sandoval from the San Francisco Giants and Boston Red Sox, to Dr. Bennet Omalu (Will Smith portrayed Dr. Omalu in the feature movie “Concussion”). Jackie has also represented many indigent clients on a pro bono basis and has established the John A. Meehan Citizenship Institute through the Allegheny County Bar Foundation, providing pro bono citizenship representation to the Western Pennsylvania community.

JBM LEGAL LLC  
412-291-0200  
Jackie@jbmlegal.com
Wesley R. Payne IV
Council Member

Wes has over 30 years of experience as a trial attorney and as an advisor to insurance carriers and self-insured corporations regarding the evaluation and development of creative and cost-effective solutions to complex litigation issues, particularly in the areas of product liability, general litigation, asbestos, toxic tort, insurance bad faith, extra-contractual damages and coverage matters. He represents product manufacturers, premise owners and management companies with a viewpoint of understanding their business objectives and goals and developing litigation strategies that meet and complement the client’s ongoing business interest.

Wes has substantial courtroom experience, trying a number of high exposure cases in various jurisdictions throughout the country to jury verdict and through appeal in state and federal courts. In addition to his third-party litigation practice, Wes has a proven track record of achieving successful results for his insurance clients in insurance coverage and bad faith disputes. Whether the case involves catastrophic injuries, significant damages, multiple plaintiffs or complex legal or factual scenarios, he works with clients to limit their potential exposure and to resolve the dispute in the most favorable manner.

Wes is chair of the firm’s Diversity Committee, co-chair of the Pro Bono Committee and chair of the firm’s Homeless Advocacy Group. He is a former member of the Operations, Budget and Executive Committees. He also serves on several pro bono and civic boards and as a judge pro tem for the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. Wes is active in several legal organizations, holding leadership positions with many of them.

Wes is and has been an AV Preeminent rated attorney by the Martindale-Hubbell peer review rating system for two decades and has been named a Pennsylvania “Super Lawyer” from 2012 to the present. In 2012, he was recognized by The Legal Intelligencer as an “Unsung Hero” for his dedication and service to the pro bono community. He is a recipient of the 2012 Multicultural Leadership Award and named one of the “Top 60 African American Attorneys in Philadelphia” by The Philadelphia Tribune. In 2015, Wes received The Honorable William F. Hall Award from The Barristers’ Association of Philadelphia Inc. for his service to the community. In 2019, Wes was named the Defense Attorney of the Year by the Defense Research Institute.

White and Williams LLP
(215) 864-7076
paynew@whiteandwilliams.com

E. Nego Pile
Council Member

Nego is the managing attorney and founder of the Pile Law Firm PLLC. He has over 20 years extensive experience in elder law, special needs planning, estate planning, guardianship, probate and real estate law. He helps seniors and their families plan for and apply for Medicaid benefits. He advises clients on simple to complex estate planning methods, including the preparation of special needs trusts, general trusts, last wills and testament, powers of attorney and advance directives. Nego advocates for his clients to ensure they receive all of the Medicare, Medicaid, private health insurance and long-term care coverage they are entitled to. He is a determined fighter for the rights of senior citizens and individuals with special needs. He assists clients with asset protection planning for disabled adult children and minor children with special needs.

Nego is an active member of the Pennsylvania and Montgomery bar associations. He volunteers with the Montgomery Child Advocacy Project, where he provides legal representation to children of Montgomery County who are victims of abuse and neglect. He also volunteers with the Montgomery Bar Association Civics Education Program, where he teaches civics classes to Norristown area middle school students. Nego regularly participates in panel discussions and speaking engagements on elder law, special needs and estate planning topics. He is a former board member of the Montgomery Bar Association.

Nego received his J.D. from Temple University Beasley School of Law and his B.A. in philosophy from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. Prior to law school, he was selected to be a Thurgood Marshall Fellow by the Council on Legal Education Opportunity.

Pile Law Firm
610-718-6368
nego@pilelaw.com
**Beverly H. Rampaul**  
**Council Member**

Beverly is the assistant public defender manager at the Lancaster County Public Defender's Office. Beverly is the secretary (2019-22) of the PBA and previously served on the PBA Board of Governors (2013-16). She is the co-chair of the PBA Minority Bar Committee Government Attorneys Subcommittee. She served as chair (2009-11) and as co-vice chair (2006-09) of the PBA Minority Bar Committee. She also served on the PBA Diversity Team (2011-16), including serving as the chair (2015-16). She was on the PBA Diversity Task Force and is a past chair of the PBA Diversity Task Force's Diversity Team and Officer Subcommittee. She is a member of the PBA Commission on Women in the Profession and served as a co-chair (2011-12) of its Diversity Committee. She also is a member of the PBA Leadership Recruitment and Development Committee and the GLBT Rights Committee. Beverly served in the PBA Young Lawyers Division (2000-10) as a division delegate, Zone Three co-chair and Zone At-Large co-chair. She was also a member of the PBA Nominating Committee, Bar Leadership Institute and Corrections System Committee.

She is a past chair of the Lancaster Bar Association's Diversity Committee and the Professionalism Section. She also is a member of the LBA Criminal Law Section and past member of the Young Lawyers Section. Beverly is active in the American Bar Association and a variety of its committees and sections, and she is a member of the Public Defenders Association of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Lancaster County Office of the Public Defender  
717-299-8131  
rampaulb@co.lancaster.pa.us

---

**Nigel S. Scott**  
**Council Member**

Nigel is the principal attorney at Aegis Law LLC, a Center City, Philadelphia, firm with a focus on civil litigation and immigration. Secondary practice areas include commercial law, namely entity formation, contracts and nonprofit organizations and select criminal defense matters. Nigel also serves as a special litigation counsel to a local government agency, as well as general counsel to a growing number of small businesses, advising in areas of governance, corporate compliance and contract negotiations.

Nigel is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar and is admitted to practice in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the United States Supreme Court. A longstanding member of the PBA Minority Bar Committee, Nigel serves as co-chair of the Minority Law Day high school program. Beginning in 2012, Nigel has been recognized every year on the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania’s Pro Bono Honor Roll.

Aegis Law LLC  
267-587-7123  
nsscott@aegis-law.com

---

**Maraleen D. Shields**  
**Council Member**

Maraleen joined Fitzpatrick Lentz & Bubba PC in 2014. She is a shareholder of the firm's Litigation and Trial Practice Group and Healthcare Group.

As a member of the Litigation and Trial Practice Group, she manages a wide array of matters, including healthcare business disputes, municipal liability, class action litigation, personal injury matters, contract disputes and general complex litigation. She handles all phases of litigation and appellate practice.

As a member of the firm's Healthcare Group, she focuses on peer review and credentialing matters, licensing and professional board disputes, Health Care Quality Improvement Act (HCQIA), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and Health Information Technology and Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) compliance, the OIG exclusion program, and risk mitigation and event management. She represents healthcare professionals engaged in the fair hearing and appellate review process, and before state licensing boards.

Maraleen is a frequent speaker on healthcare and diversity, equity and inclusion matters.

She received her B.A. from Kenyon College in 2000 and her J.D. (magna cum laude) from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 2003.

Fitzpatrick Lentz & Bubba PC  
610-797-9000, ext. 376  
mshields@ftblaw.com
Jay N. Silberblatt  
Council Member

Jay is board certified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy as a civil trial advocate and as a civil pretrial practice advocate. Jay concentrates his practice in civil litigation with a particular emphasis on lawyers’ professional liability matters. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Allegheny County Bar Association and a fellow of the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County. Jay is a member of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board, and a Hearing Committee member of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Jay received a PBA Special Achievement Award in 2000 for his work in planning the PBA Civil Litigation Section’s Retreat; the PBA President’s Award in 2002 for his efforts with Senate Bill 406 and Rule 1023.1 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Procedure; and a PBA Special Achievement Award in 2004 for his work in planning and presenting malpractice avoidance programs for the Professional Liability Committee.

A third generation Pennsylvania lawyer, Jay is the author of numerous legal articles that have appeared in *The Barrister*, *Pennsylvania Bar Association Quarterly*, *Pennsylvania Law Weekly*, *Pennsylvania Lawyer*, *Pittsburgh Legal Journal*, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *Pennsylvania Family Lawyer*, *The Advocate* and *Trial*.

Jay has lectured for the Allegheny County Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association and Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company.

Silberblatt Mermelstein PC  
412-232-0580  
jay@smlawpa.com

Gina M. Thomas  
Council Member

Gina is an assistant counsel in the Governor’s Office of General Counsel (OGC). She is assigned to work for the Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) Southeast Regional Office in Norristown. Her practice focuses on radiation protection, safe drinking water, remediation of hazardous waste sites and hazardous waste cleanup cost recovery litigation.

Previously, she was an associate in the Environmental Law Group of Fox, Rothschild, O’Brien & Frankel from 1997-1998 and was an assistant counsel in the DEP’s Southcentral Regional Office (Harrisburg) from 1992-1997. She clerked for Hon. James Gardner Colins, senior judge of the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court, and interned for the late A. Leon Higginbotham, former chief judge of the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Gina graduated from Temple University Law School in 1990 and Princeton University in 1987.

In May 2015, Gina received mediation training from the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. She is a member of the OGC Mediation Practice Group and regularly mediates cases filed before the PA Human Relations Commission.

In her spare time, Gina serves on the Board of Directors for the Holy Cross Independent Mission School, sings as a volunteer for the Delaware Valley Opera Company, and serves as a member of the community advisory committee for Opera Philadelphia and as a sustaining member of the Junior League of Philadelphia.

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
484-250-5930  
githomas@pa.gov
Rhodia D. Thomas  
**Council Member**

For the past 17 years, Rhodia has served as executive director of MidPenn Legal Services, a nonprofit law firm that provides civil legal services to low-income individuals and families, survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in 18 counties in Central Pennsylvania.

Rhodia is president of the Pennsylvania Project Directors Association, a vice chair of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association Board of Directors, president of the African American Project Directors Association, a member of the PBA House of Delegates, a Pennsylvania Bar Foundation Board member, and a member of the PBA Minority Bar Committee. For three years, she co-chaired MBC’s Diversity Summit and currently she is a co-chair of the MBC’s Minority Attorney Conference Planning Subcommittee and a former secretary of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute.

Rhodia has received several awards, including the PLAN (Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network) Excellence Award, Women of Excellence Award, the African American Project Director Outstanding Leadership Award, The Frank Grady Outstanding Professional Award and the Widener Commonwealth Law School Alumni Association Outstanding Service Award. In addition, Rhodia has trained at national conferences on issues of diversity, inclusion and implicit bias, board development and succession planning.

She graduated magna cum laude from Syracuse University with a B.S. in Education and received her J.D. from Widener Commonwealth Law School.

MidPenn Legal Services  
717-234-0492  
rthomas@midpenn.org

---

Patrice M. Turenne  
**Council Member**

Patrice is labor and employment counsel for Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc. in Horsham, Pa. She provides advice and support to human resources, labor relations and all levels of operations management on a range of employment and labor law issues. She manages labor and employment claims, arbitrations and litigation.

Previously, Patrice was an associate attorney in private practice. She focused her practice on litigation and labor and employment matters, providing advice and advocacy on a broad range of matters involving both state and federal law.

In addition to her PBA involvement, Patrice is an active member of the Montgomery Bar Association, including serving as the Treasurer of the Young Lawyers Section. She serves on the executive boards of the Montgomery American Inn of Court and the Garage Community and Youth Center.

Patrice is a graduate of Widener University School of Law School. She also holds a B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh and an M.A. from La Salle University.

Bimbo Bakeries USA Inc.  
484-213-4338  
patrice.turenne@grupobimbo.com