Gina M. Thomas’ membership in the PBA Minority Bar Committee (MBC) spans her entire career. The MBC provides necessary support to sustain her environmental law practice with the Office of General Counsel for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), where she works as an assistant counsel. Gina has co-chaired and taught at the MBC Conference for the past three years and has presented on topics including: environmental justice, ethics and opportunities for minorities in the green economy. Gina says, “MBC members have been her life-long mentors and friends.” At times, Gina has been the only African American lawyer in her office. However, Gina has never felt “alone,” because colleagues from the MBC have been by her side at every stage of her career.

After graduating from Temple University Law School and Princeton University, Gina interned for the late A. Leon Higginbotham, the former chief judge of the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and clerked for the Hon. James Gardner Colins, a senior judge of the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court. Gina selected environmental law as a specialty after clerking for Judge Colins, who encouraged her to pursue this area. Gina works in the OGC-DEP’s Southeast Regional Office in Montgomery County. Her practice focuses on radiation protection, safe drinking water, and remediation of hazardous waste sites. Gina is a certified mediator and regularly handles matters for state agencies.

In her spare time, Ms. Thomas studies voice at the Settlement Music School in Philadelphia. She is a soprano soloist for Our Mother of Consolation Catholic Church and is a member of the Philadelphia Archdiocesan Gospel Choir, which performed for Pope Francis in 2015, and the community-based Delaware Valley Opera Co. Gina is a “cat mom” to Mio and enjoys spending time with family and traveling. Her next adventure will be a cruise to Alaska in September 2022.

Congratulations, Gina!