February 6, 2012

Dear Colleague:

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the Pennsylvania Bar Association Minority Bar Committee’s Twenty-Fourth Annual Minority Attorney Conference. This year’s conference will be held in Pittsburgh at the Omni William Penn Hotel on March 15-16, 2012. To follow-up from last year’s conference, the theme for this year’s conference is Optimizing Opportunities in Tough Times.

The Minority Bar Committee is very concerned with the economic downturn upon our profession and how minority attorneys may optimize the new opportunities available as a result of the changing economic climate. It is with this in mind that we offer you a CLE bargain! Because of the generous support of our sponsors, we are able to provide a top-notch program with a highly discounted rate for our attendees. You will not be able to find such quality and content in a conference of this caliber at such a low price. The speakers chosen for this year’s conference are well-known in their respective fields. As you will come to find, they are very informative, engaging, and thought provoking.

Due to the popularity of last year’s conference, we will have 10 CLE credits made available to you over our full two day program. As part of your registration, we will include complimentary breakfast and lunch both days. On Thursday evening, I hope you will join us at our networking reception. This is a great opportunity to mix and mingle with your fellow lawyers and our dynamic speakers over heavy hors d’oeuvres and cocktails.

Further, we are pleased to announce that as an extra value added benefit to attending the conference, the Honorable Norma Shapiro and the PBA Leadership Recruitment and Development Committee shall kick off the conference by sponsoring a program entitled Paths to Leadership on Thursday morning starting at 8:30 a.m. and concluding at 9:45 a.m. Anyone interested in leadership in the PBA, either now or any time in the future, should plan to attend this worthwhile program.

The Minority Bar Committee is pleased to present its annual A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award to Eric W. Springer, Esq., at our luncheon on Friday. Mr. Springer has demonstrated true dedication to the legal profession and the minority community through civil, community, and legal service. In addition, Dean Linda Ammons of Widener University Law School has agreed to serve as our keynote speaker during the March 16 luncheon. Drawing from her vast knowledge and experience, she will share her valuable insights with us.

Please find attached the agenda and registration materials. We hope to see you in Pittsburgh!

Very Truly Yours,

Wesley R. Payne, IV, Esquire
Co-Chair, PBA Minority Bar Committee

Jacqueline B. Martinez, Esq.
Co-Chair PBA Minority Bar Committee
AGENDA

Thursday, March 15

8:00 – 9:45  Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9:45  Paths to Leadership  Sponsored by: PBA Leadership Recruitment & Development Committee

9:45 – 10:00  Welcoming Remarks
Wesley H. Payne, Esq., Co-Chair, PBA Minority Bar Committee
Jacqueline B. Martinez, Esq., Co-Chair, PBA Minority Bar Committee

10:00 – 12:00  (2 substantive CLE credits)
Adjudications, Convictions, Pleas & Their Consequences
Moderators: Beverly H. Rampaul, Esq., Lancaster County Public Defender’s Office, Lancaster
Franklin L. Robinson, Jr., Esq., Solo Practitioner, Philadelphia

Panelists:
Hon. Kim Berkeley Clark, Allegheny Cty Ct of Common Pleas, Pgh
Khadija Diggs-Terry, Esq., Allegheny Cty Public Defender’s Ofc, Pgh
Frank B. McWilson, Esq., Allegheny Cty Public Defender’s Ofc, Pgh
George D. Mosee, Jr., Esq., Philadelphia District Attorney’s Ofc, Phila
Hon. Joseph Williams III, Allegheny Cty Ct of Common Pleas, Pgh
Hon. Dwayne Woodruff, Allegheny Cty Ct of Common Pleas, Pgh

12:00 – 12:45  Luncheon

12:45 – 2:45  (2 substantive CLE credits)
Health Care Reform Revisited
Moderator: Tsiwen M. Law, Esq., Law & Associates LLC, Phila
Panelists:
Aryanna Abouzari, Esq., U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, Phila
Vikram S. Mangalmurti, Esq., Office of Health Care Reform, Highmark, Pittsburgh
Gloria Yu, Esq., Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

2:45 – 3:00  Break

3:00 – 4:00  (1 ethics CLE credit)
Social Media: Ethical Considerations in the Electronic Age
Moderator: Stephanie Latimore, Esq., Legislative Reference Bureau, Harrisburg

Panelists:
Rodney R. Akers, Esq., PA Office of General Counsel, Harrisburg
Riley H. Ross III, Esq., Tucker Law Group LLC, Philadelphia

4:00 – 5:30  (1½ substantive CLE credits)
Marcellus Shale: Emerging Areas of Law & Economic Growth
Moderator: Barbara Griffin, Esq., Allegheny County Bar Foundation, Pgh
Panelists:
Edward Yim, Esq., Babst Calland Clements & Zomnir PC, Pittsburgh
James R. Ladlee, Esq., Assoc. Dir., Penn State Marcellus Center for Outreach & Research, University Park
Mark C. Scheuerman, Esq., Talisman Energy USA Inc., Warrendale

5:30 – 7:30  Networking Reception
Jazz Band: The Jazz Pros

Friday, March 16

8:00 – 8:30  Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 8:45  Opening Remarks
Matthew J. Creme, Jr., Esq., President, Pennsylvania Bar Association

8:45 – 10:15 a.m.  (1½ substantive CLE credits)
Law, Politics, Education and Gaps: Their Effect on the Lives of Minority Children
Moderator: Jettie D. Newkirk, Esq., Solo Practitioner, Philadelphia

Panelists:
Michael Churchill, Esq., Public Interest LawCtr of Philadelphia, Phila
Dr. Linda Lane, Superintendent, School District of Pittsburgh, Pgh
Deborah Wei, School District of Philadelphia, Philadelphia
Ira Weiss, Esq., Weiss Law Offices, Pittsburgh

10:15 – 10:30  Break

10:30 – 12:30  (2 substantive CLE credits)
The State of Immigration Law
Moderator: Jacqueline B. Martinez, Esq., JBM Legal LLC, Pgh
Panelists:
Andrew Hoover, Legislative Director, ACLU of PA, Harrisburg
Teresa M. Rodriguez, Esq., Friends of Farmworkers, Inc., Phila
Prof. Sheila I. Vélez-Martinez, Univ. of Pgh School of Law, Pgh

12:30 – 2:30 p.m.  Luncheon

Award Presentation
A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. Award
Recipient: Eric W. Springer, Esq., Retired, Horty Springer & Mattern PC

Keynote Address
Dean Linda Ammons, Widener University School of Law, Wilmington, DE & Harrisburg PA Campuses

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA BAR FOUNDATION FOR SPONSORING THE 24th ANNUAL CONFERENCE ALONG WITH ALL OUR SUPPORTING FIRMS & FRIENDS

The Pennsylvania Bar Institute is approved by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Continuing Legal Education Board as an accredited CLE provider. The PBA Minority Attorney Conference has been approved by the Pennsylvania CLE Board for up to 10 CLE Credits (9 hours of substantive and 1 hour of ethics). Questions concerning the CLE credits can be directed to the PBI Customer Service Department at 1-800-247-4724.
The Twenty-Fourth Annual Pennsylvania Bar Association 2012 MINORITY ATTORNEY CONFERENCE Omni William Penn Hotel, 530 William Penn Place, Pittsburgh March 15-16, 2012

Registration Form

NAME

NICKNAME [BADGE PURPOSE]

ADDRESS

SUPREME COURT ID NUMBER

PHONE NUMBER

FAX NUMBER

EMAIL

___ Check here if you are disabled and require special services. Attach a written description of your needs.

___ Check here if you are attending the PBA Leadership Recruitment & Development Program on Thursday, March 15.

REGISTRATION FEES:

Two-day Registration (Thurs. and Fri.) – $225.00 _____ ($275.00 after March 8) _____ (includes 10 CLE Credits & all meal functions)

Thursday-only Registration – $175 _____ ($190.00 after March 8) _____ (includes 6½ CLE credits, continental breakfast, luncheon & reception)

Friday-only Registration – $135.00 _____ ($150.00 after March 8) _____ (includes 3½ CLE credits, continental breakfast & keynote luncheon)

___ Two-day Law Student Registration (Thurs. and Fri.) - $30.00 (includes educational sessions & all meal functions)

___ One-day Law Student Registration (Thurs. or Fri. – circle one) - $20.00 (includes educational sessions & meal functions for that day)

___ Reception-only, Thursday - $40.00

___ Luncheon-only, Friday - $50.00

Meal Functions

I will be attending: (for planning purposes please indicate the meal functions you will attend)

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Check here for Vegetarian Lunch □

PAYMENT METHOD

☐ Enclose a check made payable to: Pennsylvania Bar Association 100 South St., P.O. Box 186 Harrisburg, PA 17108-0186

☐ Acct# _____________________________________________

☐ Expiration Date _________ Authorized Amount ____________

☐ Signature_____________________________________________

Need Hotel Accommodations? Overnight lodging arrangements should be made directly with Omni Reservations at 1-800-843-6664 and identify yourself as a participant with the Pennsylvania Bar Association Minority Attorney Conference before February 17, 2012, to obtain the special group rate. Group Rate (Single/Double): $149 per night, plus taxes.

Return to: Meetings Department, PBA, P.O. Box 186, Harrisburg, PA 17108-0186 or fax credit card registration to 717-213-2507. Written cancellations must be received before the close of business on March 8, 2012. Upon receipt, a refund will be issued minus a $75 administrative fee. After March 8, no refunds will be issued. For more information, call PBA Membership Services Center at 1-800-932-0311.