What is Houston's Legacy?

Charles Hamilton Houston was a vice dean of Howard Law School and civil rights lawyer. Among those he mentored was Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Although he did not live to see the decision, he engineered the legal strategy that ultimately resulted in the unanimous 1954 Supreme Court decision, Brown vs. Board of Education, which overturned "separate but equal" Jim Crow segregation. The PBA Minority Bar Committee seeks to honor him by naming its newsletter "Houston's Legacy" and to continue his unfinished work.

For more information about Charles Hamilton Houston, see the article authored by Andy Saylor in the inaugural Spring 2015 issue of the PBA Minority Bar Committee newsletter, “Houston's Legacy.”

A Tribute to Edward Lanza

By Rachel Hadrick, Esq.

This June, the Harrisburg legal community suffered a major loss, with the passing of Edward “Ed” Lanza. Ed was one of the Minority Bar Committee’s own.

Born in Honduras in 1966, Ed’s family moved to the United States when he was a teenager. As a student at Messiah College, Ed was active with the campus international student organization. He would remain active with Messiah and the international student population even after he graduated. As an attorney, Ed was appointed to the college’s President’s Leadership Council.

Ed’s passion for the law developed after college while he worked as a bilingual paralegal for a law firm in New York City. He returned to Central Pennsylvania for law school, attending the Dickinson School of Law (now Penn State Dickinson School of Law) and graduated in 1997. After law school, Ed developed a practice in the area of administrative law. While I was most familiar with his work in the public utility/energy industries (for which he was recognized as a Rising Star in 2008), Ed also worked with corporate and individual clients related to state licensing, gaming and other administrative matters. After years working for major law firms, including Eckert Seamans and Saul Ewing, in 2014, Ed went out on his own and opened the Lanza Firm, where he continued to practice public utility law and licensure law. In this new practice, he had the opportunity to represent individuals from the consumer side of public utility law. He was also a regular speaker and lecturer on issues related to the intersection of technology and ethics in the legal profession.

Ed was committed to serving the community, strategically advocating for professionals of color, especially Latinos. Ed was a founding board member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Central Pennsylvania, which was formed in 2010. During the administration of Governor Tom Corbett, he was appointed to serve on the Governor’s Advisory Commission for Latino Affairs. Within the legal profession, Ed was a member and former officer of the Keystone Bar Association (KBA) and was responsible for developing and maintaining its website. He was also an active member of the Hispanic Bar Association, for which he served as regional president responsible for Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware for several years. Ed was an active member of the PBA Minority Bar Committee, most notably chairing the Central Pennsylvania Minority Law Day for several years.

In his personal life, Ed was a dedicated and loving husband to Teresa and father to two teenage boys, Lucas and Tristan. He coached soccer and was active in his church, Linglestown Life Church, where he served on the administrative board.

Ed also accomplished something that few lawyers in this age do: he garnered the genuine admiration of both lawyers and non-lawyers. One only need look to the notes of condolence on Ed’s obituary page for this to be evident. In entry after entry, colleagues, clients and friends noted not only Ed’s professional integrity, but his kindness and commitment to his faith:

“[H]e was a quality attorney [and] a genuinely good person .. that we should all honor and strive to achieve.”

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A Tribute to Ed Lanza

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“He was a genuine spirit and a kind soul.”
“[He] was one of the most pleasant people I have ever worked with.”
“He was an excellent attorney and an exemplary person.”
 “[H]e was the most honest lawyer and absolute gentlemen we’ve ever known.”

“His ethics, integrity, compassion, warmth and kindness are some of the admirable qualities that made Ed so approachable and loved.”

“Ed made the people around him better. He took a genuine interest in others and will be missed by so many.”

The harsh reality is that lawyers are not always viewed as moral and ethical beings by the public. Sure, there are many lawyers out there who are not bad people, but few are admired as genuinely good. Ed managed to maintain a glowing reputation despite that perception of the profession.

I met Ed through the KBA. After I became an officer for that organization and shortly before Ed’s passing, I learned that he had continued to pay to maintain the organization’s website, despite the fact that KBA hadn’t updated the site in some time. He wanted to make sure the information was available when we needed to update it—that’s just how he was. I also got to work with him on Minority Law Day. Ed was dedicated to giving the students who attended that event a special opportunity to learn about our profession. No matter how hard the planning or how rowdy the room of students, Ed always had a smile. I will always admire his gentleness and kindness in situations that were, to me, slightly irritating or frustrating. His patience with others is a lost art, especially in such a highly demanding profession. May we all honor him and strive to add those characteristics to the practice of law.

Rachel Hadrick is an associate at McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC. She is in the Litigation and Insurance groups. In law school, Rachel served as the editor-in-chief of the Widener Law Journal and participated in the Harrisburg Civil Law Clinic, representing indigent clients in civil matters. She also assisted students as an Academic Support Fellow for first-year legal research and writing courses. Rachel was also an active member of several student organizations, including the local chapter of the Black Law Students Association, serving as president in 2011-2012. Rachel was a member of the James S. Bowman American Inn of Court in her final year of law school.

Two great PBA events: Attend one or both!

Oct. 17, 2018
Minority and Women Lawyers’ Business Development Forum
Come • Connect • Succeed!
CLE credits: 1 ethics and 3 substantive

Oct. 18, 2018
Minority Bar Committee 10th Diversity Summit
Advancing Inclusion, Justice and Fairness in the 21st Century
CLE credits: 5 ethics

Both events will be held at the PBI CLE Conference Center

Get the brochure.
Register online.
Charisse Lillie has reached so many firsts she has a section on her resume dedicated to those achievements. She was the first African-American female city solicitor for the City of Philadelphia (1990-1992). She was the first African-American female to serve as the chair of the Board of Governors of the Philadelphia Bar Association (1995). She was the first African-American female to serve as chairman of the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia (1996-2002). She was the first African-American chair of the Litigation Department of Ballard Spahr LLP (2002-2005). Today, Charisse runs a consulting business where she advises corporations and nonprofit organizations on corporate governance and diversity and inclusion. She is a natural leader and a kind, approachable person. She seems like that girl next door. So, how did she achieve all these firsts?

**Her parents served as her first mentors and promoters.**

Charisse Lillie’s parents grew up in the segregated South. Despite being educators, neither of Charisse’s parents ever taught a white student. Although at the time Houston, Texas, offered limited opportunities for educated African Americans, Charisse’s parents were determined to provide meaningful educational opportunities to their two daughters. Charisse, who was the oldest child, describes her parents as her first mentors. They pushed, encouraged and financially supported their daughters’ dreams. Charisse’s mother had high aspirations for her daughter and encouraged Charisse to study law and attend an Ivy League school so she could serve on the United States Supreme Court. However, despite being accepted to Yale and Harvard universities as an undergraduate, Charisse rebelled and chose Wesleyan University because she was drawn to activism.

When Charisse was recruited by Wesleyan University to be part of its first class of freshman women, she was drawn to the diverse student body and non-traditional students. She saw a student body that spoke up against injustice and created opportunities for expression and activism. In the end, she chose Wesleyan because it was a better fit for her. She found student activism and a strong academic environment, and she was able to organize black theatre workshops.

**Researching the judicial selection process for black judges opened doors for Charisse.**

As a black female student in a mostly white school, Charisse continued her efforts to develop mentors and expand her network. With the encouragement of one of her mentors, she researched and wrote a paper asking whether the selection process for black federal judges was different from white judges. She was able to interview famous African-American jurists like Judge A. Leon Higginbotham Jr. and Judge Clifford Scott Greene. There were so few African-American judges on the bench that she was able to interview almost all the living judges. In her own assessment, this paper on African-American judicial appointments opened the door for her in many ways over the following decades. She made contacts, expanded her network and developed important mentors. For instance, following graduation from Wesleyan, she attended Temple School of Law and clerked for Judge Green. The benefits of researching and writing that paper on judicial appointments continues to expand her career opportunities to this day.

**Charisse led the way as the first African-American female in many roles!**

Following law school, Charisse worked hard to increase opportunities for others in every position she held. As Philadelphia city solicitor, she opened many doors for other minority attorneys. As a bar association leader in the Federal Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the Philadelphia Bar Association, she developed business networks and ways to create business for herself and others. While serving on the Federal Reserve Board, she set monetary policy and made sure the possible impact and permutations on minority communities was understood and any harm was mitigated. At Ballard Spahr, she worked to increase diverse appointments at the firm and to promote inclusion in meaningful ways. During her time as a Comcast Corporation executive in several roles, she looked for ways to invest in the community and promote diversity within the company.

**Become and seek out mentors, because they create a path to success.**

During the hour-long interview we had with Charisse, it became very clear that mentors played pivotal roles in her life, from her parents to the judges and lawyers she met along her career path. Charisse was struck by how clearly those mentors impacted her life. We both have met Charisse several times over our careers. We’ve heard her speeches and panel presentations. She was always inspiring and helpful with advice. However, this interview made it clear to us that her mentors and mentoring are the key to her many firsts. We both encouraged her to write more about her mentoring experiences as we now recognize the significant opportunities mentors can make in the lives of others.
any, if not all, members of the PBA Minority Bar Committee (MBC) care about the development and advance of diverse attorneys within the PBA and our individual local bar associations. We are also deeply invested in having the issues that are meaningful to diverse attorneys being addressed by the leadership of our local bar associations. However, over the years, the opportunity to have meaningful input at the local bar association level may have escaped a number of our members for various reasons. In the past, the structure of many organized local bar associations limited the introduction of new ideas because the leaders coming in had already set the agenda for their year as president several years before taking office. Therefore, the way to make sure your issues are in the forefront of the minds of the new leaders is to get your ideas to the future leaders when they are forming their agendas and being trained to be leaders of the organized bars. The place this training occurs is the annual conference for organized local bar leaders held by the PBA. The organization charged with planning and running the PBA conference is the Conference of County Bar Leaders (CCBL).

A Forum for Future Bar Leaders
The PBA realized that future local bar leaders, many of whom would eventually become future PBA leaders, needed a forum to discuss issues common to all organized bars, as well as education and training on how to address these common concerns. As a result, the PBA developed a conference to assist in the training, education and indoctrination of new county bar leaders. Beginning in 1967, the conference or “coffee conclave” was originally called the Conference of County Bar Presidents, and only incoming local bar presidents were anticipated to attend the conference. Early in the 1970s, the PBA recognized that not only the incoming president, but all members of the local bar’s leadership team, should have the opportunity to receive the training, so the name of the conference was changed to the Conference of County Bar Leaders, or CCBL, as we now know it.

The annual conference provides exposure to current issues facing lawyers to provoke thought about professional relationships with bar association projects and activities. Over the years, seminar topics have dealt with preparing for the bar presidency, lawyer discipline, law office technology, attorney ethics, specialization, malpractice avoidance, professional responsibility generally, unauthorized practice, merit selection of judges, conduction of judicial poles, prepaid legal services, delivery of legal services to the poor, IOLTA, bench relations, media relations, non-dues income, diversity efforts of organized county bars and many more relevant topics.

The CCBL conference also focuses on organized bar associations’ operations and administration, as well as the business of lawyering. The seminar format is designed to orient county bar leaders to their duties and responsibilities and to the resources available to them through the PBA. The PBA Diversity Team and the Diversity Office, headed by Chief Diversity Officer Trent Hargrove, are among the many resources leaders are exposed to during the conference.

Robust Training for Future Bar Leaders
Over the last several decades under the stewardship of MBC members such as Sam Cooper, Sharon López and me, the CCBL has presented robust training to future bar leaders on the topics of diversifying the local bars’ leadership and eliminating unconscious bias within the profession. The training over the last few years has included, but has not been limited to:

• “Diversify Your Bar’s Line-up for a Winning Team” (2018)
• “Keeping the Diversity Train Moving Down the Tracks – How the
Conference of County Bar Leaders
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PBA Can Help County Bar Association’s with Diversity Efforts” (2017)
• "The Magic of Dignity for All Citizens” (2016)
• "Diversity and Inclusion: Inclusive Lawyering for Your Bar Association” (2015)
• "Diversity Pipeline Programs” (2014)
• "Marketing, Mentoring and Membership: Recruiting and Retaining Minority Attorneys in Your Bar Association” (2013)
• "Hoeing Your Garden to Recruit and Retain Diverse Attorneys” (2012)

The focus of the 2019 conference will be on organized bars committing to community service projects in diverse communities. The MBC for many years has been a champion of this cause. A number of diverse presenters will speak on topics such as expungement clinics, etc.

Shaping Future Agendas for Local Bar Associations

In short, the CCBL is the main conference for the training of new county bar leaders and where they begin to formulate their county bar associations’ agendas years before they serve their single year as president. In fact, the conference is so highly valued for its leadership development and exchange of ideas that the members of the Bar Leadership Institute (BLI) class, the future leaders of the BPA, are required to attend and participate. Therefore, if you want to help form the agendas of future local bar associations and insure that diversity is a significant part of their platforms going forward, the CCBL is the place to do it.

From a personal perspective, the CCBL offers an opportunity for leadership for diverse attorneys who wish to affect the training and development of the county bar associations. It also gives you the opportunity to interact, connect and begin relationships with various present and future bar leaders. As we know, Sharon López was the president of CCBL, and it was one of the platforms she used to launch her campaign for the presidency of the PBA.

Diversity in the CCBL Executive Committee

The CCBL is led by an Executive Committee, the group that sets the agenda for the conference. The Executive Committee, pursuant to the CCBL bylaws shall consists of:
• Eight at-large members, including at least one diverse member and a past president;
• One Pennsylvania Bar Executive representative (PAPE); and
• One young lawyer representative (YLD).

Therefore, the CCBL must have one diverse member but is not limited to just one diverse member as there is often overlap between terms.

More importantly, the MBC has a significant voice in determining the diverse member of the CCBL. As the bylaws state:

The diversity representatives shall be solicited by the Nominating Committee from the Minority Bar Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, as well as from the presidents and bar executives, where applicable, of a county bar associations. All such diversity nominees shall meet the membership criteria of the Minority Bar Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

In short, the MBC has a voice in who serves on the CCBL Executive Committee and what is presented at the conference.

Thus, the diversity member of the CCBL is recommended by the Minority Bar Committee and normally the candidates have served as a member of a board of a county bar association, chair or officer of a committee or section of a county bar association, or chair of a PBA committee or section or other similar position within the PBA or within the county bar association (which may be demonstrated by active participation as a member of a committee). So you do not need to be the former president of a bar association to serve on the CCBL executive committee as the diversity at large member.

Accordingly, if you would like to influence the training of all county bar leaders and serve on the CCBL, contact Sharon López, a co-chair of the Minority Bar Committee, or me and put your name in the hat. It is a rewarding experience and one in which you can help form the agenda for the organized county bar associations for years to come.

Wesley R. Payne IV, a partner in Philadelphia’s White and Williams LLP and chair of its diversity committee, is the Zone One governor on the Board of Governors. A member of the PBA House of Delegates, Payne is active in the PBA Minority Bar Committee and a former chair of the PBA Military and Veterans’ Affairs Committee. Payne is the treasurer of the Philadelphia Bar Association, a member of the Barristers Association of Philadelphia and president of the Philadelphia Association of Defense Counsel. He is active in pro bono and civic activities. A cum laude graduate of Washington and Lee University, Payne received his J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law. He served in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps from 1988 until 1991.
#BlackLivesMatter & #SayHerName
By Kadeem G. Morris, Esq.

In the six years since the death of Trayvon Martin, many have questioned if we, as a nation, have progressed or regressed in the fight for equal treatment under the law. As we continue to review the status of officer-involved shootings, we must pause to take stock of where we are as a nation. Our nation has become increasingly divided along political lines, largely mirroring the racial divide. The following is an update on cases highlighted in our last edition as well as more recent incidents.

Freddie Gray - April 27, 2016 (Update)
On Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017, Officer Caesar Goodson Jr., the driver of the van in which injured Gray was found, was unanimously cleared of all 21 administrative charges by a panel of three officers. He faced possible termination from the city police force. Goodson was acquitted of criminal charges in a separate trial.

Alton Sterling - July 5, 2016 (Update)
On March 30, 2018, Blane Salamoni, the officer who fatally shot Sterling, was fired by the Baton Rogue Police Department for use of excessive force. Department Chief Murphy Paul described the actions of Salamoni and his fellow officer as “more than a minor deviation from policy.” The Department of Justice (DOJ) had previously declined to press charges against former Officer Chris Hickman in Asheville, North Carolina. Officer Hickman suspected Rush of jaywalking and trespassing. He chased Rush down, restrained him on the ground, shocked him with a stun gun and beat him on his head repeatedly. Footage released supported the claim that excessive force was used against Rush.

On June 28, 2018, U.S. Attorney Danny Williams Sr., who promised to seek justice in this matter, was one of the dozens of U.S. attorneys asked to resign by Attorney General Jeff Sessions in March 2017.

Jordan Edwards - April 29, 2017 (Update)
Edwards was fatally shot by Officer Roy Oliver in Balch Springs, Texas. Oliver encountered Edwards when he was called to investigate reports of underage drinking at a house party. According to Oliver, he arrived to the house and heard gunshots and chaos outside the home. When Oliver exited the house, he said a vehicle, with Edwards in the passenger seat, was driving towards him. Released video footage showed Edwards’ vehicle driving away from Oliver and Oliver firing multiple bullets at the vehicle. One bullet shattered the front passenger window and struck Edwards.

A grand jury indicted Oliver on one count of murder and four counts of aggravated assault by a public servant, one for each of the other teens who were in the car with Edwards. Oliver was also fired for violating several department policies.

On Aug. 16, 2018, Oliver’s attorneys filed an emergency stay to delay the start of the trial. They alleged his constitutional rights were violated because prosecutors used statements he made during the internal investigation as a part of the case against him. On Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2018, after 15 hours of deliberation, the jury found Oliver guilty of murder and sentenced him to 15 years. Oliver will eligible for parole in 2023.

Johnnie Rush - Aug. 24, 2017 (Update)
A police body camera revealed Rush being punched in the head excessively by Officer Chris Hickman in Asheville, North Carolina. Officer Hickman suspected Rush of jaywalking and trespassing. He chased Rush down, restrained him on the ground, shocked him with a stun gun and beat him on his head repeatedly. Footage released supported the claim that excessive force was used against Rush.

On March 6, 2018, the State Bureau of Investigation issued a statement indicating that it would reconsider whether to investigate the police beating of Rush and bring corresponding charges. In July 2018, a grand jury handed down indictments of felony assault, misdemeanor communicating threats and misdemeanor assault inflicting serious injury charges against former Officer Chris Hickman. Trial is set to start Oct. 1, 2018.

Stephon Clark - March 18, 2018
Sacramento police officers are currently under scrutiny for the shooting death of Stephon Clark. According to the officers, Clark, who was shot in his grandmother’s backyard, placed them in fear of their lives as he was believed to be pointing a gun at them. The suspected “gun” was ultimately determined to be a cell phone. The fatal shooting was recorded by two officers’ body cameras as well as from a police helicopter. His death has caused a national outrage as many believe the officers should be held accountable for his death. Civil rights groups are calling for a complete and thorough investigation.

Sean Williams - June 28, 2018
On July 28, 2018, a video of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, police officer Philip Bernot tazing unarmed, handcuffed and seated Williams went viral and caused widespread
#BlackLivesMatter & #SayHerName

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outrage throughout the community and on social media. Preliminary findings indicate that the officer complied with the Lancaster County Police Department’s use of force and taser policies. No disciplinary action was taken against Officer Bernot. Lancaster Mayor Danene Sorace commented that the city’s policies regarding the use of force were undergoing revisions prior to this incident. Under the new proposed policy, an officer will only be permitted to use a taser when faced with direct physical confrontation.

There will likely never be a consensus between over-policed minority communities and law enforcement on when it is appropriate to use lethal force in a police situation. Social media has largely changed the manner in which incidents are communicated and perceived. Many communities have begun to take steps to address these disparities through systems advocacy. As lawyers, we have the unique advantage of being familiar with both the policed and police; it is therefore our obligation to bridge the gap between communities that, for all intents and purposes, are still virtual strangers.

Anthony D. Cox Jr.

Anthony is an attorney who exemplifies the spirit of the Rising Star Program because he remains committed to the pursuit of equality and social justice. It is my hope that Houston’s Rising Star is not merely an award to collect dust on a shelf, but rather a recognition and a call to action. To that end, we are using this space to recognize an up and coming member of the MBC. In turn, Anthony is taking this opportunity to deepen and amplify his thinking on #BlackLivesMatter and his place in this conversation as a young, black man. You see, #BlackLivesMatter is not something that is happening over there to someone else. It is here and present for many of our members.

A Conversation About Implicit Bias

Maraleen D. Shields: Talk to me a bit about implicit bias.

Anthony D. Cox Jr.: Imagine driving home from a hearing or a client meeting and being pulled over by the local police while you’re en route home. At this point, you begin to wonder why you are being pulled over. Are you being pulled over because you are speeding? No. Are you being pulled over because your tail light is out? No. You are being pulled over by the local police while you’re en route home. At this point, you begin to wonder why you are being pulled over. Are you being pulled over because you are speeding? No. Are you being pulled over because your tail light is out? No. You are being pulled over by the local police while you’re en route home.

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simply because you look different than most of your peers. In fact, you are being pulled over because the officer thinks that maybe you fit the description of someone they are looking for, or maybe the officer thinks you shouldn’t be in this neighborhood. It’s nothing explicit or even conscious.

Shields: We are living in an interesting time. For years, many men and women of color have described having that very experience. With the rise in the use of smart phones (as childish Gambino says, “That’s a tool.”), the general population is only beginning to believe the anecdotal stories because they are seeing it happen time and time again.

Cox: Implicit bias is defined as, “the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions and decisions in an unconscious manner.” Because people are not conscious of implicit bias, by definition, it is more difficult to address it.

I was reflecting on the recent high-profile case involving Stephon Clark. He was fatally shot in his own backyard in Sacramento, California on March 18, 2018. On the day in question, the Sacramento police were responding to a 911 call alleging a man was breaking into a car in the area. The officers were then directed to Clark. Halfway through the video, footage reveals an officer yelling after spotting movement behind a house in a backyard. The man the officer is yelling at appears to be Clark. Subsequently, the officer demands Clark show his hands and when he does, the officer fires several shots and kills Clark. Why was Clark shot and killed? According to the police, he indicated there have been reports of individuals breaking into vehicles. Afterwards, he indicated there have been reports of individuals breaking into vehicles, and it appeared that I was doing so.

Shields: Terrifying. What was going through your head in that moment?

Cox: As all of this is going on, I am asking myself why this is happening to me. I think the answer was implicit biases. The officer did not think that I needed help, but rather assumed I was breaking into my own vehicle. Afterwards, I began to peak into my car windows and see if I had left my keys in there. Suddenly, I hear sirens and see bright lights flashing on me. “Put your hands in the air,” yells an officer.

Shields: When aren’t there reports of car break-ins? That is a fairly common occurrence. A person being locked out of their car is also a fairly common occurrence.

Cox: Right, rather than ask me what I was doing, the officer assumed that because I was a black man looking into a modern vehicle, I was breaking into it. It was at this moment I realized the issue of implicit biases in the context of police altercations with men of color is even bigger than I thought. Not only are these kinds of things happening to underprivileged members of society, but they are also happening to attorneys.

Shields: Implicit bias knows no boundaries. It not confined to people of a particular race or to low income neighborhoods. It is all too easy to see #BlackLivesMatter as a problem over there when in fact it omnipresent.

Cox: It is critical for all of us to be conscious of these implicit biases so that we can address them in real time. We also must make it our goal to educate and advocate to reduce implicit bias. As the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stated in a speech he made in 1965: “[o]ur lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” It starts as an implicit bias, but as we have seen, it could end in a needless death. It is important that we address these issues before they continue to escalate further than they already have.

Shields: There is much work to be done. I appreciate your willingness to talk frankly about your experience and look forward to continuing this work.
Summer is gone, and we are gearing up for our annual signature programs. How exciting!

10th Diversity Summit: Advancing Inclusion, Justice and Fairness in the 21st Century

The PBA Minority Bar Committee 10th Diversity Summit is being held on Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018 at the PBI Conference Center in Philadelphia. The theme of this year’s amazing summit is, “Advancing Inclusion, Justice and Fairness in the 21st Century.” Our chairs are Andrea Farney, Tyrone Powell, Sharon Barney and Patrice Turenne. Six informative, educational and stimulating panels will be presented:

• Representing Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals in the Courts
• Race and Wrongful Convictions in the U.S.
• PBA Leadership and State of Diversity
• Addressing Implicit Bias: Eyewitness Expert Testimony
• Hot Diversity Topics
• Supplier Diversity

Five ethics credits are available.

The distinguished keynote speaker is Ambassador Crystal Nix-Hines (retired). She is currently a partner in the Los Angeles office of Quinn Emanuel. She has the distinction of being a former law clerk for two esteemed former U. S. Supreme Court justices, Thurgood Marshall and Sandra Day O’Connor. She graduated from Harvard Law School with honors and was supervising editor of the Harvard Law Review with the distinguished former President Barack Obama. She was also Ambassador to the United Nations from 2014-2017. A networking reception immediately follows the summit. You don’t want to miss this opportunity to walk away more knowledgeable and to have fun with colleagues.

Minority Law Day Programs

Two of our other signature events coming soon are our Minority Law Day Programs in Philadelphia and Central Pennsylvania. Our Philadelphia Law Day is planned for Oct. 29, 2018 at the PBI Conference Center. Our co-chairs are Nigel Scott and Patrice Turenne. Nigel notes that there is a need for more volunteer attorneys to step-up and help with this wonderful program. I promise you, you will be glad you did. It is a very rewarding, inspiring and enjoyable day for all. Every year the number of students participating in our Law Day Program increases. That tells us something!

Rachel Hadrick is chair of our Central Pennsylvania Law Day to be held on Nov. 1, 2018 at Widener University School of Law in Harrisburg.

Verdell Dean is chair of our Pittsburgh Law Day. That successful event was held in April. The next one will be in April 2019.

A Shout-Out to Our Hard-Working Subcommittees

Our Legislative Subcommittee is chaired by a long, long time member, Tsiwen Law and Riley Ross. The chairs of our Nominations Subcommittee are Henri Marcial, Syreeta Moore and Carlton Johnson. Henri reports that his subcommittee is “looking to create a list of reoccurring awards and honors so they may proactively nominate Minority Bar Committee members for the said awards and honors as they are sent out.” The subcommittee is currently preparing nominations for those awards and positions with September nominations deadlines. This so important and much needed work to not only increase diversity in leadership positions, but also to have our members become more involved in the PBA. Jackie Martinez, Cherylle Corpuz and Jesse Exilus are chairs of our Membership Development Subcommittee.

Our Governance Subcommittee is chaired by Andy Saylor and Rachel Hadrick. Gina Thomas, Beverly Rampaul and Nefertiri Sickout are chairs of our Government Attorneys Subcommittee. The Minority Attorney Conference chairs are Gina Thomas, Rhodia Thomas and Marisa Lattimore. This conference will be held in October 2019 in Harrisburg. It seems like it is a long way off, but it will be here before we know it. Tom Lee is the editor-in-chief of our illustrious Newsletter Subcommittee. Our editors are Wesley Payne, Ana Paulina Gomez, Arlene Marshall-Hockensmith, Maraleen Shields and Marisa Lattimore. The Community Outreach Subcommittee chairs are Raphael Faustino Castro, Leticia Chavez-Freed and Samantha Divine Jallah.

Thanks to all our subcommittees for their dedication and awesome work. They are what make the Minority Bar Committee great. If you are not already a member and are interested in joining, please let our co-chairs, Sharon López and Mike Lee, know. We can always use more great people!

As Mahatma Ghandi said, “Be the change you want to see in the world.”

Marisa Lattimore is counsel for Super Bakery, concentrating on intellectual property. She served as manager of diversity and professional development initiatives for Wolf Block LLP. She helped create a series of professional-development lectures designed to transition associates into legal practice with a multidisciplinary firm. She worked for the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania for more than 20 years, serving Chief Justices Robert Nix, John Flaherty and Stephen Zappala. Marisa is a director on the board of the Senior Law Center, the only nonprofit organization in Pennsylvania dedicated solely to protecting the legal rights of the elderly.
Sam Encarnación making an impassioned argument in support of continuing the Minority at Large Governor position on the PBA Board.

Welcome New MBC Members!
Keanna Seabrooks
Robert Chu
Michelle Nguyen
Brenda Marrero
Kiandra Bair
Kelley Hodge
Tayce van Zoete Galea
Sarah Denis

Minority Bar Committee
2018 Minority Law Day
Oct. 29 • PBI Conference Center, Philadelphia
Nov. 1 • Widener University Commonwealth School of Law, Harrisburg
“Protests and Punishment: Student Speech After Parkland”

Lawyer Volunteers Needed!
Minority Law Day is designed to expose high school students to the law and the daily work of lawyers. The day’s activities are interactive and structured to encourage critical thinking. Volunteers will actively work with students throughout the day’s sessions, including in a mock trial program focusing on a relevant current events issue. **Attorney volunteers are eligible to receive one hour ethics and three hours substantive CLE credits, with ethics embedded in the program.** (The volunteer must stay all day to receive the ethics credit.)

The Philadelphia Law Day is Oct. 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
The Harrisburg Law Day is Nov. 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

To volunteer, contact: Louann Bell, Committee Relations Coordinator 800-932-0311, Ext. 2276 or Louann.Bell@pabar.org
Minority Bar Committee Leadership

Michael B. Lee, Philadelphia
Co-Chair
Philadelphia District
Attorney's Office
3 South Penn Square
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Work: (215) 839-9052
Cell: 215-868-2704
Fax: (215) 839-3431
mike.lee@phila.gov
BLI Alumni

Sharon R López, Lancaster
Co-Chair
Triquetra Law
The Offices at Marion Court
35 E Orange St., Ste. 301
Lancaster, PA 17602-2846
(717) 299-6300
Fax: (717) 299-6338
lopez@triquetralaw.com
Membership Development
Subcommittee Liaison

Arlene A. Marshall-Hockensmith, Dauphin
Co-Vice Chair
Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network
118 Locust St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1414
ammarshall-hockensmith@palegalaid.net

Tyesha C. Miley, Philadelphia
Co-Vice Chair
SEPTA
1234 Market St., Fl. 5
Philadelphia, PA 19107
tc.miley@yahoo.com
BLI Alumni

Minority Bar Committee

Co-Chairs
Michael B. Lee
Sharon R. López

Co-Vice Chairs
Arlene A. Marshall-Hockensmith
Tyesha C. Miley

Secretary
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Editor-in-Chief
Thomas S. Lee
717-472-0088

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Maraleen D. Shields

PBA Newsletter Liaison
Diane Banks
800-932-0311, ext. 2217

PBA Staff Liaison
Louann Bell
800-932-0311, ext. 2276

Mission Statement
The mission of the Minority Bar Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association is to assure full and equal participation of minorities in the PBA, the legal profession and the justice system in general.