



Photo by Thomas Rogers

Moderator Carl A. Solano, partner, Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP (left), with four of the 2015 judicial candidates for the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, (from left) Hon. Christine L. Donahue, Superior Court, Allegheny County; Hon. Kevin M. Dougherty, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County; Hon. Michael A. George, President Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Adams County; and Hon. David N. Wecht, Superior Court, Allegheny County; at Decision 2015: Supreme Court Candidates Forum on Sept. 18.

Supreme Court Candidates Discuss Judicial Ethics

By Amanda J. Dougherty

THE LAST TIME PENNSYLVANIA HAD three positions available on its Supreme Court was when William Penn was governor. This momentous occasion comes in the wake of various scandals impacting the court. It was thus no surprise that judicial ethics was a dominating topic at the Philadelphia Bar Association's Decision 2015: Supreme Court Candidates Forum on Sept. 18, at the PBI Confer-

ence Center in Philadelphia.

Four of the seven candidates participated in the forum: Hon. Christine L. Donahue, Superior Court, Allegheny County; Hon. Kevin M. Dougherty, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County; Hon. Michael A. George, President Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Adams County; and Hon. David N. Wecht, Superior Court, Allegheny County. Judge Donohue led opening

continued on page 14

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In This Issue

- 2 Board Resolution
- 4 Pro Bono Week
- 12 Law Rocks
- 21 Bench-Bar Sponsors

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Blank Rome Takes Legal Clinic on the Road

By **Kathy E. Ochroch** and **Krystal Kane**

AT BLANK ROME LLP, ONE OF OUR signature pro bono projects is a partnership with the Legal Clinic for the Disabled (LCD) to host advance planning clinics at Inglis House (Inglis), a specialty nursing care facility for adults with severe physical disabilities. These clinics provide us with a unique opportunity to use our skills to help those in need while challenging us to grow as counselors and advocates.

Due to their limited mobility, the clients at Inglis are unable to travel to our office, so we work with LCD to bring the clinic to them. A team of attorneys brings laptops and printers to Inglis, where they draft wills, living wills and powers of attorney for residents. The most challenging and rewarding part of this work is bridging the communication gap with our Inglis clients. Many of the them have significant disabilities that make verbal communication difficult, and require us to learn new ways to communicate effectively. We have

served clients who use assistive devices to speak, and others who use hand or head gestures to indicate their wishes. One particularly memorable client used a pre-recorded message to introduce himself and to explain his method of communication. His message instructed us how to ask questions so that he could properly respond. Through the recorded message, we also learned about his background as a proud Philadelphian and Vietnam veteran. Using these tools, we are able to see the person, not just the disability.

While there is undoubtedly a benefit to the clients we assist through this clinic, the work is also equally meaningful and important to our volunteers. The opportunity to bring legal services directly to people who need them is a truly rewarding experience. It also presents an opportunity to push ourselves out of our comfort zones. Our work provides a sense of security and independence to our clients, and we leave the clinic feeling satisfied and grateful for the opportunity to help. Through this project, we are able to ensure that these clients have the ability to make choices that will impact their health care and finances for years to come. It can be very difficult for adults who require assistance with the tasks of daily living to retain their independence, so it is incredibly gratifying that we are able to help them in this way.

We feel very fortunate to work with LCD to further their mission of ensuring access to legal services for low-income people with disabilities. If you are interested in learning more about pro bono opportunities through the LCD, please contact Esther Miller, managing attorney, at emiller@lcdphila.org or 215-587-3357.

Kathy E. Ochroch (Ochroch@BlankRome.com) is a partner and the director of pro bono services, and Krystal Kane (KKane@BlankRome.com) is the pro bono coordinator, at Blank Rome LLP.

UPCOMING CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

OCTOBER

These CLE programs, cosponsored by the Philadelphia Bar Association will be held at The CLE Conference Center, Wanamaker Building, 10th Floor, Suite 1010, Juniper Street entrance, unless otherwise noted.

LIVE & SIMULCAST SEMINARS

- Oct. 1 • Advanced Contract Clauses: Avoiding Boilerplate
- Oct. 2 • Trial Evidence
- Oct. 6 • Oct. 2015 Probate & Trust Law Qtly: Guardianship of Incapacitated Persons
- Oct. 7 • Unfair Labor Practices for the Non-Union Workplace
- Oct. 7 • Coaching Your Client Through Buying a Business Opportunity
- Oct. 8 • A Day on Health Law
- Oct. 9 • Orthopaedic Treatments and Technology
- Oct. 12 • Transitioning into Medicare
- Oct. 13 • The Future of Legal Education: Discussion Continues
- Oct. 14 • Personal Injury Practice for PA Lawyers
- Oct. 14 • Nuts & Bolts of Medicaid Planning
- Oct. 14 • The Changing Landscape: Issues Beyond Marriage for the LGBT Pennsylvanian
- Oct. 15 • The Cybersleuth's Guide to the Internet
- Oct. 15 • How to Prepare the Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax Return
- Oct. 16 • Habeas Corpus
- Oct. 19 • Tenth Constitutional Law Conclave
- Oct. 20 • Compulsory Arbitration Seminar
- Oct. 21 • 19th Annual Family Law Update
- Oct. 26 • Plane, Train and Bus Accident Litigation
- Oct. 26 • Fundamentals of PA Business Corporation Practice
- Oct. 27 • How to Handle a Workers' Comp Mediation
- Oct. 27 • Hot Topics Regarding Section 1031 Exchanges
- Oct. 27 • Coordinating Clients' Powers of Attorney, Advanced Directives & Wills & Trusts
- Oct. 28 • How to Handle a Child Abuse Case
- Oct. 28 • The Second Season: Issues for Divorce Over Fifty
- Oct. 29 • 20th Annual Bankruptcy Institute
- Oct. 29 • The Inside Scoop on Nonprofit Board Service
- Oct. 30 • Mastering Medical Records in the 21st Century
- Oct. 30 • 22nd Annual Auto Law Update

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- Oct. 12 • Transitioning into Medicare
- Oct. 14 • Issues Beyond Marriage for the LGBT Pennsylvanian
- Oct. 16 • Habeas Corpus
- Oct. 19 • Tenth Constitutional Law Conclave
- Oct. 21 • Estate Planning/Shale Energy
- Oct. 22 • POAs, Advanced Directives & Wills
- Oct. 27 • Nuts & Bolts of Medicaid Planning
- Oct. 28 • Auto Law Update

VIDEO SEMINARS

- Oct. 5 • Communicating with Clients and Your Colleagues
- Oct. 12 • The Ethics of Pro Bono: Doing Good the Right Way
- Oct. 13 • The Fear Factor: How Good Lawyers Get into Bad Ethical Trouble
- Oct. 16 • Mergers & Acquisitions
- Oct. 22 • The New PA Law on Entity Transactions
- Oct. 26 • Selected Issues in Art Law
- Oct. 26 • Winning Numbers



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Online Identity

continued from page 7

GillespieHall PR left the Young Lawyers Division with six things they can do now to improve their LinkedIn profiles: 1) use a recent, sharply focused headshot; 2) insert an appropriate background image that enhances (not detracts from) your headshot; 3) shorten and customize your LinkedIn URL; 4) optimize your headline—you have 120 characters to make an impression; 5) ask for recommendations from credible, relevant connections; and 6) populate the volunteer section on the page—show your “caring” side.

Visit GillespieHall.com for more tips and suggestions for taking control of your online identity.

Maya J. Brown (mbrown@philabar.org) is the marketing and development coordinator for the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.