

# Voices & Views



A NEWSLETTER FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA BAR ASSOCIATION • COMMISSION ON WOMEN IN THE PROFESSION

## Message from the Co-chairs

By Roberta Jacobs-Meadway & Nancy Conrad, co-chairs, PBA Commission on Women in the Profession

As the new year begins, there is much to look forward to:

- The revamped survey for the WIP report card, developed by the committee over two years with the goal of making the survey and the information it generates more useful to the WIP's members;
- The Spring conferences, to be held in four cities;
- The annual meeting, along with the Alpern and Norton awards; and
- Some new programming, including a series on the whys and hows of starting a law practice.
- And there are always new opportunities, and challenges, to engage us.
- We are looking at the best way to use the listserve, and hope to report back after further consultation.

This is, after all, our commission. How well we fulfill its mission depends on us.

With all best wishes for 2015.

## 2014 WIP Fall Retreat: "Getting Down to Business"

By Samantha E. Phillips



The Commission on Women in the Profession held its annual Fall Retreat on Nov. 14-15 at the beautiful Hotel Hershey. The weekend's theme was "Getting Down to Business" which focused on women in the law improving the effectiveness of our professional communications; guidance on financial topics and keeping our organizations solvent; and inspiration to taking steps to achieve the practice and lives we want. Event co-chairs Jessie L. Smith and Lisa M. Watson provided an impressive agenda that featured many accomplished speakers.

The retreat commenced with a book group discussion on "My Beloved World" by SCOTUS Justice Sonia Sotomayor, followed by a cocktail reception in the Fountain Lobby. WIP members discussed their thoughts on

the book while re-connecting with friends and colleagues. The discussion time also gave first-time attendees a chance to mingle and get comfortable. We then proceeded to a delicious dinner where WIP co-chairs Roberta Jacobs-Meadway and Nancy Conrad greeted us with welcome remarks. While fantastic desserts were served, we were presented with keynote speaker Milana Hogan, co-chair of the American Bar Association WIP's Grit Project. The Grit Project is a training program created to educate women regarding

*Continued on page 2*



Lisa Watson, co-chair of the 2014 WIP Fall Retreat; Milana Hogan, co-chair of the ABA Grit Project; and Bobbi Liebenberg, past chair of the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession.

## In this ISSUE

Message from the Co-chairs.....	1	Hon. Maureen Kelly Replaces Hon. Lisa Lenihan as Chief Judge of the Western District.....	9
2014 Fall Retreat .....	1	Commission Members in the News ....	10
What Not to Wear? .....	4	Welcome New Committee Members..	11
What Happened When I Leaned In ....	5	Public Service: Girls on the Run .....	12
Doing It My Way.....	6		
2014 PA Conference for Women .....	8		

**PBA COMMISSION ON WOMEN  
IN THE PROFESSION LEADERSHIP**

**CO-CHAIRS**

Roberta Jacobs-Meadway, Nancy Conrad\*

**CO-VICE CHAIRS**

Mary Kate Coleman  
Hon. Karoline Mehalchick

**SECRETARY**

Andrea Tuominen

**ASSISTANT SECRETARIES**

Renee C. Mattei Myers\*\*, Susan Bowen

**TREASURER**

Sara Austin

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

Elisabeth Shuster, Jacqueline Martinez

**SUBCOMMITTEES**

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Ellen D. Bailey, Sarah C. Yerger

**AWARDS**

Anne N. John, Jennifer Coatsworth,  
Gretchen Mundorff

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Samantha E. Phillips, Jennifer Ellis

**DIVERSITY**

Stacy Hawkins‡, Sheryl Axelrod

**GOVERNANCE**

Phyllis Horn Epstein, Susan Bowen

**LEGISLATIVE**

Kathy M. Manderino, Alexis L. Barbieri

**MEMBERSHIP**

Jessica Priselac, Amy Coco

**MENTORING**

Kathryn Harrison, Melissa Leininger

**NOMINATIONS**

Jane Dalton, Lisa Benzie

**PROMOTION OF WOMEN**

Kathleen Wilkinson, Maria Feeley

**PUBLIC SERVICE**

Katherine Berquist, Alison Wasserman

**QUALITY OF LIFE**

Jill McComsey, Kelly Phillips Erb

**REPORT CARD**

Jill Scheidt, Melinda Ghilardi, Barbara Ochs

**RETREAT 2014**

Lisa Watson, Jessie Smith

**SPRING CONFERENCE**

Carla Donnelly, Susan Bowen

**NEWSLETTER EDITORS**

Samantha E. Phillips, Jennifer Ellis

**PBA NEWSLETTER LIAISON**

Diane L. Banks

**PBA STAFF LIAISON:**

Ursula Marks

\* PBI Board Liaison

\*\* PBA Nominating Committee Representative

‡ Diversity Liaison



## 2014 Fall Retreat

*Continued from page 1*

grit and growth mindset. We learned that “grit” entails perseverance and dedication to achieve our goals, while “growth mindset” is the belief that our abilities are adaptable and able to be improved.

After dinner we headed back to the Fountain Lobby to engage in “grit” discussions. This gave WIP members the opportunity to discuss our own personal “grit” styles and how we can improve upon them. As valuable discussions occurred, we became more familiar with our friends and colleagues.

Saturday began with a continental breakfast buffet and a WIP business meeting. We then jumped right into three CLE programs. The first, entitled “Getting to the Table,” was moderated by the Honorable Kathy Manderino,

Esq., Campaign Manager, The Campaign for Fair Education Funding in Philadelphia, and included panelists Kathryn R. Doyle, Esq., Saul Ewing LLP, Philadelphia; Courtenay R. Dunn, Esq., Phelan Hallinan LLP, Philadelphia; the Honorable Kim D. Eaton, Allegheny County Court, Family Law Division in Pittsburgh; and Sharon R. Lopez, Esq., Triquetra Law Firm, Lancaster. This CLE focused on strategies to improve the effectiveness of our professional communications.

The next CLE, “Getting to the Numbers,” was moderated by Marisa H. Lattimore, Esq., In-House Counsel, Super Bakery, Pittsburgh; Jan L. Brown, Esq., Jan L. Brown & Associates, Harrisburg; Roberta Jacobs-Mead-

*Continued on page 3*





## 2014 Fall Retreat

*Continued from page 2*

way, Esq., Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott LLC, Philadelphia; Maura J. Lynch, Esq., Lyman & Ash, Philadelphia; and Jullia A. Sheridan, Esq., Chief Counsel, Governor’s Office of Administration, Harrisburg. This panel provided guidance on how to successfully manage legal accounts and worth to meet our professional and individual needs.

The day concluded with a final CLE on “Getting What You Want.” This panel was moderated by Ellen D. Bailey, Esq., Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott LLC, Philadelphia; and included Robyn Katzman Bowman, Esq. PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Harrisburg; Kathleen Misturak-Gingrich, Esq., Law

Offices of Peter J. Russo PC, Mechanicsburg; Mary Beth Osborne, Esq., PA Public Utility Commission, Harrisburg; May Mon Post, Esq., Deasey, Mahoney, Valenti and North, Ltd., Philadelphia; and Julieanne E. Steinbacher, Esq., Steinbacher and Stahl, Williamsport. During this discussion, we were given guidance and inspiration to taking the necessary steps in order to achieve the professional and private lives we want.

The public service project for this Retreat benefited Girls on the Run, a transformational, physical activity-based youth development program for young girls. The focus is to prepare girls from 3rd to 8th grade for a 5k running event, while teaching them to unleash their confidence and establish an appreciation of health and fitness.

Our donations were to help with costs for running materials and entry fees. The running event will take place in the spring so keep your eye out for future updates. As another successful retreat came to an end, we bid farewell to our friends and colleagues and look forward to seeing one another at the next WIP event.



Samantha E. Phillips, co-editor of *Voices & Views*, is a judicial law clerk to Judge Steven T. O’Neill of Montgomery County.



## What Not to Wear?

By Jill C. Engle, from the *Clinical Law Prof Blog*

In June an extensive discussion transpired in the cyberspace inhabited by the Women in the Profession (WIP) Commission of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's email listserve. A diverse set of female attorneys, including some on the bench, voiced their perspectives on attire for women attorneys, particularly in the courtroom, and its link to gender bias.

I reviewed the conversation with fascination as it wended its way through a wide variety of anecdotes and opinions. The topics ranged from personal experiences of blatant discrimination by male judges based on attire to sighs of exasperation that the group was unnecessarily perpetuating the topic.

Most striking to me was a comment by a successful attorney and writer supporting a meaningful examination of the problem and a set of solutions, by the WIP Commission itself, because law schools don't teach lawyers how to deal with this issue. Ahem, pardon?

From my perspective of course, the remark was potentially feather-ruffling because, like many reading this blog, I actually am a law school teacher addressing this issue, and other professionalism issues, with my students. Yet as I paused to breathe (thank you, yoga) and consider the source, whom I respect greatly, I realized that for many practicing lawyers and judges, law school in fact did not teach them how to deal with this issue.

As clinical law professors we sometimes task ourselves with trying to teach too much, in my opinion. We can cram research skills, oral advocacy, legal theory, negotiation, client-cen-



tered counseling, social justice, contract drafting and more into one semester. Is lawyerly attire even worthy of our valuable teaching time? The tone of some commenters on the email list comes to mind — a sort of “are we seriously talking about ‘What Not to Wear’” sentiment.

I submit that not only are we talking about it, but that it is a critical component of professionalism. Additionally, it is in some part a moving target due to women's ever-increasing presence in the workplace generally, and more specifically a legal profession that is redefining itself at astonishing speed.

How do I teach “attire”? Professionalism is a large component of my pedagogy — watch this space for my upcoming article on self-aware professionalism — and the issue of attire is a

component of professionalism. I have repeatedly used the phrase “the issue of” attire here because that is the pedagogical question — what bearing does attire have on legal practice, not “which outfit should I choose?”

In my teaching, the issue of female attorney attire arises in many ways. I specify to clinic students when we prep for a courthouse tour early in the semester that they should wear business casual attire. Discussion ensues about what that means — for male students it is simple, and for females it is achingly complex. Even more complex are gender issues that arise related to student professional behavior concerning attire, occasionally even in their interoffice dialogue. I model appropriate attire. I ask them for examples. And I explain my “suits for court” expectation. Is a pantsuit a suit? In my opinion, of course. Yet as female students, some are terrified to even ask that question. Yet the email list discussion last week included several anecdotes about women lawyers being reprimanded or even prejudiced by male judges for

wearing pants to court.

We work in a profession that demands attention to detail. Our professional behavior impacts clients' liberties, their parenting status and sometimes their very lives. Justice is at stake, thus everything we say or do matters.

We are not teaching fashion. We are teaching professionalism.



***We are not teaching fashion. We are teaching professionalism.***



Jill C. Engle, Esq. is an associate professor of clinical law and the director of the Family Law Clinic at Penn State Law.



## What Happened When I “Leaned In”

By Elizabeth Rose Triscari

Last fall I received a brochure in the mail for WIP’s 2013 Fall Retreat. The topics to be discussed caught my attention because I had just read Sheryl Sandberg’s book “Lean In.” I registered on a whim, never having even been aware of WIP’s existence before. What I didn’t realize then was that this one act was my first step in a journey the past year of networking, new friends, becoming active in PBA and my local bar association, and a promotion!

Attending the 2013 WIP Fall Retreat was incredibly empowering and confidence building for me. It motivated me to seek out other women attorneys to network with, to be mentored by, and to mentor. WIP Member Victoria “Vicci” Madden, an attorney for the commonwealth like me, happened to be in my book club discussion. She was one of the first people I reached out to after the Fall Retreat and has become an invaluable mentor to me. At one of our lunches, I expressed to her my dissatisfaction with my professional development at my current position. I also mentioned that I thought my

***My skills and confidence with respect to networking have grown exponentially in just one year.***

organization, the Office of Small Business Advocate, needed a supervising attorney. Previously, the Small Business Advocate (SBA) had always been an attorney who oversaw all litigation. However, the newly appointed Small Business Advocate was not an attorney. I believed a Deputy was now necessary to supervise the office’s litigation. She agreed and encouraged me to solve my professional development issue by pitching the idea to the SBA and asking for the promotion. My initial reaction was, “Why me?” Although I am an experienced attorney, I had all sorts of excuses: I’m the youngest attorney,


I’m the newest to the office, why should it be me over my colleagues who had been there longer? Over a few more lunches, Vicci helped me to realize my own value and have the confidence to develop a new position and then present the idea to my boss. He was very receptive and within a few weeks the position was created and I was promoted! Since July, I am the new Deputy Small Business Advocate. I truly believe this never would have happened if not for reading “Lean In,” WIP, and my mentor Vicci!

I have attended every WIP event since the Fall Retreat and have also become more active in the PBA. When I learned about the Bar Leadership Institute accepting applications, I applied and was accepted to the BLI 2014-2015 class, co-chaired by WIP’s own Kathy Manderino. I was thrilled to be assigned former WIP co-chair

Lisa Benzie as my BLI mentor. My involvement with WIP has been such a friendly and supportive introduction to the PBA that I want to do more.

When the issue of attire and dress came up on the WIP listserv, I was motivated to share a story I had never shared professionally (about being silenced by a judge for having the audacity to wear a pantsuit to court in 2005). It created a firestorm of emails (apologies to those who were annoyed by being inundated), but the supportive and thoughtful responses I received made me wish I had shared this story sooner. The discussion has continued and resulted in the creation of the WIP Task Force on Attire and the Gender and Professionalism Committee, of which I am proud to be a part.

Outside of WIP, I have worked to increase my network within my practice area. I have made countless calls, had lunch and coffee dates, and successfully expanded my network of supportive women attorneys. The positive reception I received when approaching women I met through WIP motivated me to approach other women attorneys, and then other male attorneys. My skills and confidence with respect to networking have grown exponentially in just one year. I know this will have a positive effect on my career for years to come.

I have had a fantastic year both professionally and personally, and I owe a lot of that to WIP. I hope my story of what happened when I “leaned in” will inspire others to find your voice and take your seat at the table. 

Elizabeth Rose Triscari is the Deputy Small Business Advocate with Pennsylvania’s Office of Small Business Advocate.

## Doing it My Way

By Laurie R. Jubelirer

In October, I proudly celebrated the one-year anniversary of my law practice, Jubelirer Law, LLC in Philadelphia. This was a long-awaited dream. Prior to opening up Jubelirer Law, I had worked as a Deputy Attorney General at the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General for 16 years and as an Assistant District Attorney at the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office for eight years.

Prior to launching Jubelirer Law, I aspired to be a solo practitioner so that I could be my own boss, have my own clients and select the areas of practice that would mean the most

to me. I wanted to combine my love of the courtroom with my passion for helping the most underprivileged in our society. It was an easy choice to specialize in criminal defense and civil rights, combining the two loves that I had experienced while working for the government.

Practicing on my own has certainly had its ups and downs. As a working mother of three children between the ages of 10 and 16, it has given me the flexibility to be there for them. I often work from home when I am not in court, so I am available after school to take them to their activities and to watch my older son's soccer games and tennis matches in the mid-afternoon hours. On the other hand, my career is always there during evenings and weekends, when I often find myself squeezing in work when I have some time that I am not devoting to my roles as a wife, mother and manager of my

home. I have some demanding clients who often call or text during these non-business hours, crossing the divide between my personal and professional time.

The most difficult aspect of my practice has definitely been the business side. I hope that this will get easier as I gain more experience. Determining how much to charge my clients and creating fee agreements; learning to decline the business calls that come on the evenings and weekends; and dealing with clients who are disrespect-

***I aspired to be a solo practitioner so that I could be my own boss, have my own clients and select the areas of practice that would mean the most to me.***

ful are just some of the challenges that I have faced. I recently learned that I have to carefully assess the fees that I charge to my clients after under-charging a client for a detainer hearing that turned into

three emergency motions and two additional hearings.

Keeping my overhead low has been a key factor in allowing me to make a profit. I work out of a home office and an office where I inexpensively lease a shared space with other attorneys. I use my cell phone as my business line, so there are no costs associated with an additional phone line. I do not have any secretarial help as this would be too costly. I have also hired a part-time bookkeeper to help me keep track of my income and expenses. I pay an IT professional as needed to help me with my computer challenges. Since my costs have been as low as possible, I have come out of my first year with a small profit.

Working does not feel the way it used to when I worked for someone else. I am very tough on myself and I push myself quite hard to get a good result for all of my clients. When I

worked under supervisors in prior jobs, it was always challenging to learn how to please them. Often when I felt proud of my accomplishments, my supervisors would find deficiencies in my work. Now when I set a goal and achieve it, I feel a great sense of pride that no one can take away from me.

The rewarding moments keep me going. Consultations with needy clients have been positive experiences. While I sometimes feel that I am not good enough because I don't know all the answers at those initial meetings, listening to their stories and sensing their relief as I express my compassion and offer to help them has been quite rewarding. The most satisfying moments have come when I have worked out a positive result for my criminal clients. I helped a middle-aged grandmother who was incarcerated for conspiring to sell drugs achieve a house arrest and probationary sentence so that she could get treatment for her drug addiction problems. I facilitated the release from custody of a young female client after successfully arguing in court that her felony charges were unwarranted and advocating on her behalf to her parole officer that her detainer should be lifted. Just recently, I was able to get a client's detainer lifted after he served one month in prison due to fabricated threats from his ex-wife. The immense satisfaction that I receive from helping people cannot be measured. I love the gratitude that I hear from my clients.

What will the future bring? I look forward to learning and growing from mistakes and experiences. As I have learned, there is nothing like experience – it builds my confidence and will ultimately help me to grow my practice. I continue to network and I try to use social media as much as possible. My business and I have a presence on

*Continued on page 7*

## Doing It My Way

Continued from page 6

Linked In and Facebook. I am involved in my local and state bar associations. I love connecting with people and learning from them.

In closing, I quote from a client: “...we APPRECIATE your hard work, long hours that you spent on this case to give my husband his freedom again and also to reunite our family back together. **Thank you, thank you, thank you so much for putting your big heart in this case...**”

This makes it all worthwhile. I love my work and I love doing it my way!



Laurie R. Jubelirer is the principal and owner of Jubelirer Law, LLC, located in Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties. She focuses her practice on criminal defense and civil rights.

## 2015 WIP SPRING CONFERENCE • March 27, 2015

*Save the Date!*

**Registration: 2:30-3:00**

**Program: 3:00 p.m.**

### Pittsburgh

Pennsylvania Bar Institute  
Heinz 57 Center, 339 6th Ave.  
Pittsburgh

### Simulcast in:

#### Mechanicsburg

Pennsylvania Bar Institute  
5080 Ritter Road  
Mechanicsburg

#### Philadelphia

Pennsylvania Bar Institute  
The CLE Conference Center  
Wanamaker Building (now Macy's)  
10th Fl., Ste. 1010  
Philadelphia

#### Scranton

William J. Nealon Federal Building  
& U.S. Courthouse  
235 N. Washington Ave.  
Jury Assembly Room, 1st Floor  
Scranton



Join other WIP members for a special film viewing:

### “Madame Presidenta: Why Not the U.S.? Vamos Meninas!”

hosted by Heather Arnet, head of the Women and Girls Foundation of Western Pennsylvania

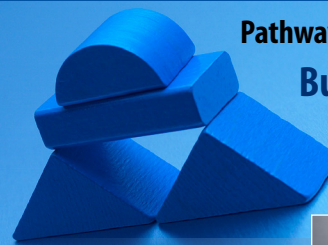
After the film, Heather will lead an interactive discussion exploring what it takes to achieve gender equality within a political structure.

A reception will also be held at each location following the program. Watch for more details coming soon!

## Save the Date!

## 2015 WIP ANNUAL CONFERENCE • May 7, 2015 • Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel

*Held in conjunction with the PBA Annual Meeting*



**Pathways to Success:**

**Building Blocks  
& Stumbling  
Blocks**

**Keynote speaker  
Nikki Johnson-Huston**  
See her [recent blog posts](#)  
on Huffington Post.



Your Other Partner

## 2014 Pennsylvania Conference for Women: “The Power of Us”

By Anne N. John

On Oct. 16, 2014, members of the WIP joined nearly 8,000 attendees for the 2014 Pennsylvania Conference for Women at the Philadelphia Convention Center. The event lived up to this year’s theme, “The Power of Us,” as attendees enjoyed presentations by dynamic speakers including Diane Keaton, Robin Roberts and Jane Pauley, as well as the chance to be inspired once again by Linda Cliatt-Wayman, principal at Philadelphia’s Strawberry Mansion High School. The 11th annual conference was an opportunity to explore various areas of personal and professional development and gave us insight into our areas of interest, from entrepreneurship, to health and wellness, to transitions.

The opening keynote was presented by news anchors and media powerhouses that included award-winning anchor and author Jane Pauley as well as Jill Abramson, the first woman to serve as Washington Bureau Chief, managing editor and executive editor of *The New York Times*. After the opening, we broke out into groups and enjoyed book signings, browsed the Health and Wellness pavilion, or got tips for improving our social media profiles. We also chose from more formal sessions such as “Transitions and Risk-Taking: Lessons Learned while Becoming Brave,” presented by Patty Chang Anker, author of “Some Nerve,” and a panel of experts including Jane Pauley, who exhorted us

to step out of our comfort zone and to have the courage to try something hard. As Thought Leader for the session, Patty Chang Anker told us that we need to learn to let go of the past, including past achievements, and that we should think about what past identities we are holding onto. Other presentations included the health and wellness workshop titled “Making the Most of Your Time,” and a life perspective workshop entitled “Quieting Your Inner Critic so You can Play Big.” Panels were composed of corporate executives, health and wellness experts and other professionals. Participants chose events based upon their professional and personal interests.

The luncheon featured a host of powerful, inspirational women, including the ever-entertaining Diane Keaton, who broke into a rendition of “The Shadow of Your Smile.” Inspiration continued to flow, as we were joined by last year’s show-stopper, Linda Cliatt-Wayman, principal of Strawberry Mansion High School,



Anne John with Jane Pauley



Diane Keaton

who brought us up-to-date with the news that since last year, Strawberry Mansion is no longer on the list of the ten most dangerous high schools. A conversation with Robin Roberts gave us insight into her growth and success as co-anchor of “Good Morning America.” The luncheon was followed by more author signings, interview and resume workshops, mentoring and career coaching, local leaders’ meet-ups and social media and small business workshops.

The 2014 Pennsylvania Conference for Women was an inspirational event that strengthened our resolve to continue to invest in “The Power of Us.” We’re looking forward to next year.



Robin Roberts



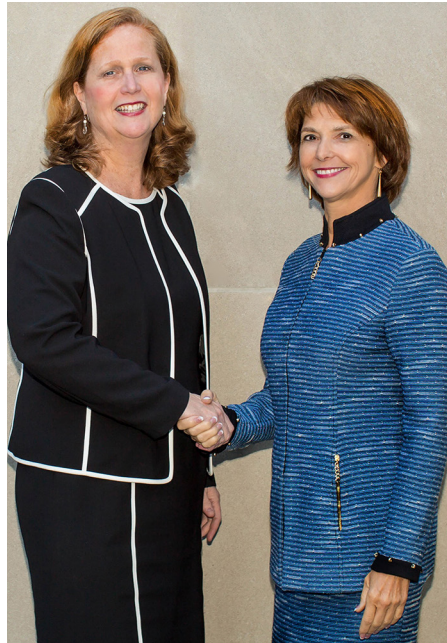
## Hon. Maureen Kelly Replaces Hon. Lisa Lenihan as Chief Judge in the Western District

By Natalie Zagari

The Hon. Lisa Pupo Lenihan stepped down as Chief Magistrate Judge of the Western District of Pennsylvania as of Oct. 14, 2014, after serving the court in that role since 2010. As Chief, Judge Lenihan brought to the bench her leadership experience as former founding and managing partner at Burns, White & Hickton. Michael Banas, Judge Lenihan's courtroom deputy, commented that, "she brought everyone together, valued everyone's input and always demonstrated a great deal of respect amongs all of the magistrate judges."

In addition to unifying the Court, Judge Lenihan created a more efficient bench. While magistrate judges have different responsibilities in federal courts across the country, civil cases make up approximately 75 percent of their caseload in the Western District. With three District Court vacancies, efficient case management is a necessity. Judge Lenihan proudly points to a recent Federal Judicial Center (FJC) study which found that the magistrate judges in this district are among the most efficiently used in the country. Because they are "on the wheel," they are directly assigned civil cases at the time of filing. Parties may consent to their jurisdiction and have them preside over the entire case.

Now that she is no longer Chief, Judge Lenihan will continue to lead as chair of the FJC's Magistrate Judge Education Committee for which she travels around the country to educate



Judge Lisa Lenihan and Judge Maureen Kelly  
Photo credit: Michael Banas

new magistrate judges. When Chief Magistrate Judge Maureen Kelly was appointed to the bench in 2011, Judge Lenihan trained her and provided invaluable case management assistance.

Judge Lenihan described Judge Kelly as very bright and "a born leader, an organizer, and a hard worker." She believes that Judge Kelly's impressive background will bring a fresh perspective to the bench. As former chair of the employment and labor services group and member of the management committee at Babst, Calland, Clements, & Zomnir, Judge Kelly has extensive experience as a trial lawyer. She credits this experience with helping her transition to the bench, and she

pointed out that all of the magistrate judges in the Western District are very experienced trial lawyers.

Additionally, all four full-time magistrate judges in the Western District are women. Judge Kelly emphasized the wonderful working relationship between all of the magistrate and district judges, but especially noted that, "all of the female judges in the Western District are committed to women's advancement in the profession." Judge Kelly credits her successful career to her hard work in establishing her reputation as a professional, respectable trial lawyer. She advises young female attorneys that gaining the respect of their peers will open doors for them in the future.

Judges Kelly and Lenihan are devoted mentors and advocates for women in the profession. Chief Judge Kelly serves as the co-chair of the Allegheny County Bar Association's (ACBA) Gender Equality Committee, and Judge Lenihan co-chairs the ACBA Gender Equality Task Force. They likewise emphasize the importance of helping the underserved. Judge Kelly describes providing legal aid to the poor as her passion, and Judge Lenihan has developed several initiatives that secure representation for pro se prisoners.



Natalie Zagari is Law Clerk to the Hon. Nora Barry Fischer.

## Commission Members in the News

**Sheryl L. Axelrod**, PBA WIP Diversity Committee co-chair and member of the PBA WIP Executive Council, was recognized as a “Woman Worth Watching” in the **Sept./Oct. issue** of *Profiles in Diversity Journal* for her work as the co-president of the Fearless Women Network with PBA WIP Diversity Committee member **Mary Ann Mullaney**. Mary recently joined The Axelrod Firm, a woman-owned law firm, as a partner.



Sheryl L. Axelrod

Axelrod was also recently accepted into membership in The Litigation Counsel of America (LCA), a peer-selected honorary society of 3,500 top trial lawyers who are vigorously vetted for skills, expertise and service. Less than one-half of one percent of American lawyers are accepted into LCA's by-invitation-only membership. Mary, an LCA member, nominated Sheryl for membership.



Mary Ann Mullaney

Sheryl's webcast on **“The Profitability of Diversity”** had 100 registrants including Raymond James' in-house counsel, Facebook's diversity program manager and many CEOs. Topics included: unconscious bias, the disenfranchisement of women in this country, how companies and our country would profit if they better included women in the workforce, and global economic competitiveness. Consider sharing **this free webcast** with other women and male allies and those in a position to promote and more equally pay women.

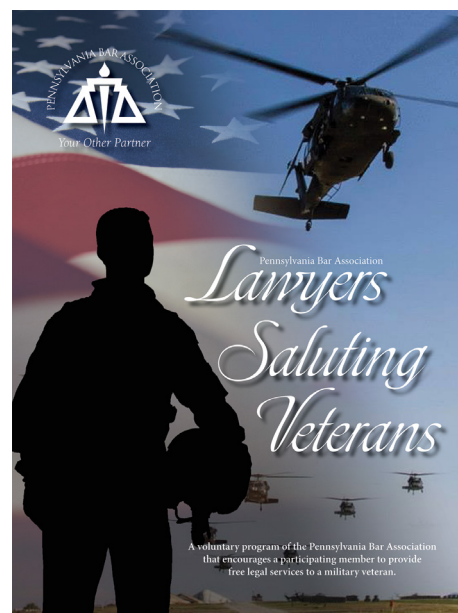
Axelrod and Mullaney also gave a presentation in Philadelphia on Nov. 13 at the Women's Conference held by the National Contract Management Association Greater Philadelphia Chapter in collaboration with the Fearless Women Network. The topic was “Increasing Company Value by Maximizing All Workers' Opportunities – Equally Including Women in the Workplace.”

**Melinda Ghilardi** at the House of Delegates moved the extension of the position on the Board of Governors of the woman at large governor for another three years. The motion passed.

**Andrea Tuominen** participated in a Villanova Law School 1L program on careers in government in October. The Government Careers Round Table was organized as part of a new required Professional Development Course designed to introduce 1L students to the profession. The goal was to provide them with a realistic idea of what it means to practice law with the government.



Melinda Ghilardi



### The PBA Wants You for the New “Lawyers Saluting Veterans” Program

The PBA is recruiting volunteers for its new “Lawyers Saluting Veterans” program through which members handle pro bono cases in their areas of expertise for Pennsylvania's military veterans. We need volunteers in every county!

Be part of the PBA's way of saying “thank you” to those who have put their lives on the line in defense of our nation.

Sign up today at: <http://www.pabar.org/public/lsv.asp>



### The Free Online Legal Research Tool for Members Only

Casemaker, the PBA's free-with-membership online research tool, offers comprehensive libraries and an easy-to-use **suite of premium services**, including CiteCheck reports on whether case citations continue to be good law. Lawyer non-members, find out more about Casemaker in these **tutorial videos**, read about all the **benefits of PBA membership**, including **free online legal research**, and **join the PBA now**.

## Welcome New Committee Members

The Pennsylvania Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession extends a warm welcome to the following new Commission members:

- Gloria O Aderinokun, Baltimore
- Shoshana Bricklin, Philadelphia
- Pei-Ching Chang, East Islip
- Jill Marie, Czeschin, DLA Piper LLP, Garnet Valley
- Jennifer Dressler, Kingston
- Laura Renee Feitelson, Hill Wallack LLP, Yardley
- Kaitlin Files, Pond Lehocky Stern Giordano, Philadelphia
- Deneekie Grant, Amistad Law Project, Philadelphia
- Samantha R Gross, Philadelphia
- Amy Regina Guerin, The Guerin Law Firm PC, Westampton
- Kristen B Hamilton, Stiltner Taccino & Hamilton, Chambersburg
- Joelle Alyse Johnson, Philadelphia
- Joanne Kelly, Bensalem
- Erin Barbara Keltz, DLA Piper LLP, Philadelphia
- Negar M Kordestani, Blank Rome LLP, Philadelphia
- Amber Lynn Owens, Owens Law Firm, Pittsburgh
- Magda Patitsas, Rosenn Jenkins & Greenwald LLP, Kingston
- Sara Lynn Petrosky, McCann & Geschke PC, Philadelphia
- Landa L Porter, Harrisburg
- Tiffany Raker, Northumberland
- Amanda Marie Sidari, Office of Attorney General, Philadelphia
- Tiffany Elizabeth Sizemore, Allegheny County Public Defenders Office, Pittsburgh
- Rachel Rebecca Stevens, Allentown
- Hannah Rachel Suhr, Dethlefs-Pykosh Law Group LLC, Harrisburg
- Jennifer Lauren Wunder, Fox Rothschild LLP, Warrington

The Commission hopes that these new members enjoy their committee membership and experience the many benefits of serving on the Commission on Women in the Profession.

**PENNSYLVANIA BAR ASSOCIATION  
COMMISSION ON  
WOMEN IN THE PROFESSION  
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

### EDITORIAL POLICY

*Voices & Views* is a publication of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) Commission on Women in the Profession and is published by the Communications Committee three times per year. The purpose of the publication is to facilitate communication among the membership of the commission on topics and events of general interest to women lawyers. The editors of *Voices & Views* reserve the right to accept or reject any submission and to edit any submission to ensure its suitability for publication, its adherence to the Mission Statement of the Communications Committee and its furtherance of the objectives of the Commission on Women in the Profession.

The articles and reports contained in *Voices & Views* reflect the views of the writer and do not necessarily represent the position of the commission, the editors of *Voices & Views* or the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

### MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the PBA WIP Communications Committee to foster improved communication among its members in the furtherance of the goals of the commission. To this end, the publication, *Voices & Views*, provides a forum for professional and open exchange among the WIP membership on all issues related to women and the law. *Voices & Views* shall be utilized for the following purposes:

- To publicize opportunities and events that may be of interest to the WIP membership;
- To provide information to the membership on topics that may be of general interest to women lawyers;
- To reach a wider audience and increase the visibility of the commission;
- To inform the WIP membership of the projects and goals of the commission; and
- To share information with the WIP membership regarding accomplishments of the members, other women lawyers and public figures.

# WIP Public Service Focuses on Girls on the Run

By Nancy Conrad

Girls on the Run is a non-profit prevention program that encourages preteen girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through running. The curriculum addresses all aspects of girls' development — their physical, emotional, mental, social and spiritual well-being, through 24 lessons over a 12-week period.

This year WIP partnered with the Union Terrace Elementary School in Allentown to support its Girls on the Run program in the 4th and 5th grade (shown in photos). The funds WIP donated at the WIP Retreat will provide reduced registration fees, program materials and running gear to girls that would not be otherwise able to participate in the program. Additionally, we plan to provide cheers of encouragement and running buddies to the girls at their 5K event. We will continue to update you about the 2015 event.

Contact [Alison Wasserman](#), [Katherine Berquist](#) or [Nancy Conrad](#) for more information.



Girls on the Run participants



In 2014 WIP partnered with the Union Terrace Elementary School in Allentown to support its Girls on the Run program in the 4th and 5th grade.



*Your Other Partner*

The editors of *Voices & Views* encourage our membership to contribute articles and announcements, including articles on your area of practice, topics relating to women and the law, book reviews, save-the-date notices, members in the news and photos of members at events.

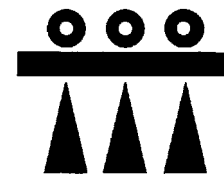
**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**  
Spring 2015 Edition: April 3, 2015

**Please send information, news and articles to:**

Samantha E. Phillips  
Montgomery County Courthouse  
P.O. Box 311,  
Norristown, PA 19401-0311  
[sammiphillips5@gmail.com](mailto:sammiphillips5@gmail.com)  
Phone: 610-278-6587  
or 570-294-3959

OR

Jennifer Ellis  
Lowenthal & Abrams PC  
[Jennifer@lowenthalabrams.com](mailto:Jennifer@lowenthalabrams.com)  
[Jellis.net](http://Jellis.net)  
Phone: 610-667-7511  
or 717-256-1638



A BAR ASSOCIATION FOR  
**EVERYONE**