Pennsylvania Bar Association

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For over a year, members of the Commission have been working very hard on plans for the Annual Conference to be held on May 1.15, 1997 in Hershey, PA.'This year's Conference, entitled; "Fractured Families-Fragmented Courts," will focus on whether Peñinsllvaniá can better meet the needs of families and children by establishing a unified one judǵe/one family court system. Penninsylvania Supreme Court Justice Sandra Schultz Newman and Pennsylvania Súperior Court Judge Kate Ford Elliott are serving as honorary Co-Chairs of the Conference. Conference Co-Chairs Elizabeth Bennett and Bunny Baum have planned a very innovative daylong conference which will feature a number of nationally prominent judges, educators and practitioners, and will include workshops on the emotional trauma of divorce, alimony, mediation and current trends in custody disputes.
In addition to planning the Annual Conference over the past year, the Commission held its first Retreat at Eagle Lodge. The Retreat provided a unique

opportunity for the Commission to assess the progress it has made since its' inception and to lay the groundwork for formulating long-range plans for the future:
The Commission is also preparing a directory of its members. The directory will not only allow Commission members to familiarize themselves with one another but will also hopefully promote networking opportunities for them.
The Commissions resolution urging the addition of a voluntary check-off box to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's bar admission application form has been adopted by the Supreme Court and should be implemented this Summer. We are hopeful that this check-off will allow the Commission to gather muchneeded statistics on women admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania and to use that information to monitor the progress of women lawyers in the profession.
The Commission has continued publishing its quarterly Newsletter, Voices and Views. The Newsletter provides an update on the Commission's activitiesand includes articles of interest to women PBA members.
One of the Commission's most ìmporthant activities each year is the preparation of the Report -Card, which enables us to assess the level of participation of women in the PBA in terms of overall member-
ship as well as the attainment of leadership positions. The Report Card demonstrates that women attorneys have made progress in obtaining leadership positions within the PBA over the past year. While there is still room for improvement, particularly in the number of women on the Board of Governors, there was an increase in the number of women participating in the House of Delegates: The annual assessment of progress reflected in the Report Card will serve the salutary purpose of ensuring that the PBA leadership will continue to fulfill its commitment to increasing the participation of women in the PBA.
I will be completing my term as Chair this month and will be succeeded by Audrey Talley ̆ and Nora Barry Fischer. I am confident that their enthusiasm, commitment and leadership skills will enable them to continue the success that the Commission has already enjoyed. It has been my honor and privilege to: Chair the Commission for the last two years. I am proud of the many accomplishments that we have already achieved; but we should not rest on our laurels since there is much work that remains to be done.

## Roberta 0 Lubenbory

The Commission on Women in the Profession continues to be a viable source for networking and promotion of women in the Pennsylvania legal community, Since the publication of the first Report Card in 1995, women continue to emerge as leaders in the legal arena, with an increased number of women becoming active in the bar association and legal profession. Pennsylvania law schools report more females are entering law school, which will move the ratio of men and women in the legal profession toward a level playing field in the coming years.
An historic event took place in May, 1996. Leslie, Anne Miller became the first woman Vice President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Whien she takes over the reins of President in 1998, she will become the first female president in the one hundred and three year history of the association. Her election to this office sets a milestone for other female members of the bar to pursue leadership roles in the association.
The Commission held its first Retreat in November, 1996.
The fundamental purpose of the Retreat was to map out future projects and goals for the Commission. A major outcome of the Retreat was the formulation of Operating Procedures for the Commission. The procedures establish a governing council and formalizes the methods for the Commission to conduct business.
Once again the Commission will hold its annual conference, this year focusing on the adoption of a unified family court in Pennsylvania Respected members of the judiciary and-legal profession willaddress issues vital to women and children involved in the family court system, The presentation of the annual Anne X. Alpern Award will highlight this annual event.

Esther E. Clark has been a Professor of Law at Widener University Law School since 1976. Prior to entering the academic arena, Professor Clark was a sole practitioner-in Chester, Perinsylvania. Professor Clark is a woman of many firsts. She is the first woman to receive tenure Widener University School of Law, the first woman elected president of the Delaware County Bar Association and the first woman elected president of the Delaware County Legal Assistance Association. Professor Clark has also achieved many firsts in the Pernsylvania Bar Association, serving as the first woman appointed as a Zone 9 Delegate to the PBA House of Delegates and the first woman appointed as chair of the Bylaws Committee. For over forty years, Professor Clark has served as a role model and mentor for both female and male attorneys as, well as law students, and has gained the respect and admiration of her colleagues:

## PENNSYYVANIA BAR ASSOCIAṪION MEHODOLOGY

The Women in the Profession Report Card was created to illustrate the participation and leadership roles of women in the PBA. The Report Card is produced annually and an in-depth analysis of women in the leadership positions will be completed every five years.
An explanation of the methodology used to compile this report is necessary tó confirm its validity. The calculations describing female participation are based on the PBA's annual VIP Book and the membership database. The VIP Book lists the association's. governing bodies, committees and šections: To measure the participation, this report includes the gender composition from 1992 to 1997 of the 1) Board of Governors, 2) House of Delegates, 3). Nominating Committee, 4) Committees, 5)' Sections of the PBA and 6) the Young Lawyers Division. Leadership positions with the committees and sections, such as the chair and vice chair, have been identified.
As with all studies, some flaws exist within the calculation system. Names of some members of the PBA are gender neutral, and in the case of ambiguous names, chairs and vice chairs of committeés and PBA files were consulted for clarification
The percentages presented may also be deceptive at first glance, as small sample sizes can result in large fluctuations of percentages. As an example, since some of the PBA House of Delegates zones consist of as fèw as four delegates, having one female delegate in that zone would be interpreted as a 25 percent participation. Therefore, sample sizes must be recognized in the interpretation of these statistics.

Active membership in the PBA is open to any lawyer in goodstanding who is admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania. The number and percentage of women members have grown slightly over the past year to now represent nearly 24 percent of the PBA mémbership in 1997.

In addition to active membership; the association offers associate membership to lawyers not admitted to practice in Pennsylvania, Associate members are not included in the total percentages reflected in this report.


## PENNSYIVANIA BAR AS゙SOOCIATION BOARD OF COVERNORS

The PBA Board of Governors manages and carries out policies established by the House of Delegates. The Board is comprised of the following members:

- PBA general officers (President, President-Elect, Vice President; Chair of the House of Delegates, Secretary and Treasurer);
- the Immediate Past President;
- three representatives from the Young Lawyers Division;
- one Zone Governor from each of the twelve zones; and
- two governors-at-large (one minnority govetrio and one woman governor).

The participation pf women on the Board of Governors has grown during the 1990's, This was due in part to the 1991 Bylaws amendment establishing the position of an at-latge governor to represent women's interests. In 1996/97, the number of women on the Board decreased by one from the previous yeari: The four members represented approximately 17 percent of the Board's tottal composition. The decrease was due to the expiring terms of the At-Large Minonity Governor and the Young Lawyers Division Immediate Past Chair, which were two seats held by women: The At-Large Minority seat was filled with a male appointment and a male candidate was elected as Chair-Elect of the Young Lawyers Division. A seat was gained with a woman being elected to the position of Vice President of the Association.



The PBA House of Delegates sets the policy of the association. Thie:House of Delegates consiststs of the following members:

- PBȦ general officers (Presidẹnt, President-Elect, Vice President, Chair of the House of Delegates, Secretary and Treasurer);
- all Zone Góvernors;
- one niember from each zóne for each 100 active members;
- one additional member from éach unit membership zone;
- living former PBA presidents and chairs of the House;
- the preceding secretary, treasurer and zone governors;
- delegates of sections and the YLD;
- the Attorney General of Pennsylvania;
- state delégates to the ABA House;
- unrepresented county bar delegaté;
- the Court Administrator of Pennsylvania; and .
- deans of Pennsylvania law schools

Participation by women in the House of Delegates decreased slightly to 21 percent in $1996 / 97$ compared to 21.2 percent in 1995/96. The decrease was partly due to an increase in the number of House members from-1995/96 that wete not filled with a proportionate amount of women. The increase in House seats was due to zone growith and the filling of pievioúsly vacant seats.

## P.ENNSYLVANIIA BAR ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELECAIES

The number of women House of Delegates increased in 1996/97 over the previous year: Howeyer, due to a change in the overall House numbers, they only equaled the 1995/96 high mark with an overall 27 . percent representation. A duplicate mark was also present with nine of the twelve zones having women reepresentatives.
Several zones have yet to name women House members; while others continue to move ahead. Fluctuations in membership and the number of representatives in a particular zone have affected the percentages of female vs male in some instances.



The Nominating Committee selects one candidate for each of the general offices of the association to be presented to the House of Delegates for consideration. The committee, derived from the Board of Governors, consists of:

- all zone governors;
- the minority governor;
- the woman governor;
- the five living immediate past presidents of the PBA and;
- the immediate past chair of the Young Lawyers Division.

The Nominating Committee seats held by women in 1996/97 remained the same as the previous year with three members, representing 15 percent of the committee.

## PENNSYIVANIA BAR ASSOCIATION COMMIITIEES

In 1996/97, there were 38 full-year committees: Each of the 38 committees address an area of concem in the practice of law such as Lawyer Advertising or Civil and Equal Rights. Génerally, each committee has a chair, vice chair and members.
The following table indicates the percentage of women members in each of the 38 committees. For the first time in three years, all committées have women representation. Participation of women on committees continues to fluctuate from year to year.
The overall average of women's participation on committees is 28 percent compared to a 24 percent representation of the total PBA membership. This higher than average participation mady be explained by the appointed and voluntary characteristics of committee membership. Membership in the few appointed committees is by presidential appontment. Membership on the majority of the PBA committees is on a volunteer basis open to any association member
: In terms of committeé leadership, 16 women served as chairss of the 38 committees in $1996 / 97$. This is an increase of four women leaders compared to 1995/96. The number of women vice chairs in $1996 / 97$ decreased to 17 , down from 21 the previous year.


## PENNSYLVANIA: BAR ASSOCIATION COMMIIIEES




## PENNSYIVANIA BAR ASSOCIATION SECIONS



There are currently 16 sections in the Pennsylvania Bar Åssociation. Sections are comprised of active PBA members, and any PBA member may become a member of any section or sections. Each"section is run by a chair, vice chair, secretary and any other officers within a subsection and/or committee established by that section's bylaws. The section's bylaws may also provide that the section have'a council to conduct its business.
In 1996/97, four women held the position of section chair, and three vice chairs, were filled by women as compared to three chiairs and three vice chairs' in 1995/96. Secretary/Treasurer positions held by women decreased from six to two and Section Delegate positions increased from zero to two in 1996/97.
As in previous yêars, there was a varied fluctuation in section councils in 1996/97 with seven increasing in women representation, two decreasing and seven remaining unchanged as compared to 1995/96. One section had no women participating as members of council. This was an improvement over the previous year when three section councils had no women répresentation.

PENNNSYIVANIA BAR. ASSOCIATION SECTIONS



The PBA Young Lawyers Division represents slightly less than one-third of the association's membership: Members of the PBA/YLD are those lawyers who are 36 years of age or younger, or have been prácticing laww for five years or lesṣ, regardless of age. The leadership positions in the YLD are:

- Chair; (M)
- Chair-Elect; (M)
- Immediate Past Chair; ( F )
- Secretary; (F)
- Treasurer; (M)
- Division Delegate; (M) and
- ABA/ÝLD District Representative. (F)

Women continue to participate actively in leadership roles of the Young Lawyers Division although there was a decrease in one seat over 1995/199.6. The expiring term of the Immediate Past Chair, held by a women, was replaced by a male candidate that was elected as Chair-Elect. This resulted in a 43 percent representation of women in leadership positions this year,

The Commission on Women in the Profession presents this Annual Report Card to bring to the attention of the PBA membership the continuing significant service rendered by women in the legal profession. The report card also serves as a yearly measuring stick by which to review past participation as well as to monitor future participation and progress of women members in all aspects of the PBA.
With the continuing increase of women's membership in the PBA, this Commission envisions that women in leadership positions will increase proportionately. The statistics presented in this Annual Report Card support that this expectation is indeed a realistic one. It is the belief and goal of this Commission that with all members working together we will create a strong and vital PBA, prepared to meet the challenges facing our society and our profession.



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