

# HOROSCOOPS

by PBA President Ken Horoho

The holiday season is upon us. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Ramadan, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or the Winter Solstice, it's time to set aside a few precious minutes and focus more on what we share and less on how we differ. So, in the spirit of celebration and sharing, I offer my last Horoscopes column for 2006 — a reflection of recent events that I've been privileged to share with many of you and a look forward to what 2007 holds for the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

• New Year's isn't the only occasion that starts with a bang — consider the Mid-Atlantic Conference the PBA hosted in Pittsburgh at the beginning of October. State bar association presidential officers and executive directors from New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia came together for two days of remarkable dialogue on judicial independence, cultivation of relationships with law schools, disaster planning, and special needs and opportunities for our senior practitioners. Our "host with the most" reputation was certainly enhanced by a dinner at the Heinz History Center (where, as chance would have it, the Smithsonian's "First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image" exhibit was showing), a brilliantly clear Pittsburgh night and the 'Burgh tradition of a Mon Incline trip to Mt. Washington. Cap this off with an enjoyable evening at the Lamont Restaurant on the following night and it's no surprise that many of our guests marveled at Pittsburgh's transformation over the past 25 years. To summarize in Pittsburghese: Yinz guys are welcome dahntahn anytime!

• Pennsylvania Bar Foundation President Karen Balaban joined me at the Red Mass of Central Pennsylvania held at St. Lawrence Chapel in Harrisburg. The Red Mass is sponsored by the St. Thomas More Society of Central Pennsylvania, which was formed in 1989 by the late Commonwealth Court Judge Genevieve Blatt. After Mass, I was "blessed" with the opportunity to talk with Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver, who delivered an inspirational homily.

• Well I'm living here in Allentown ... and it's hard to keep a good man down. I just couldn't get that classic Billy Joel tune out of my head after our "Tour de Pennsylvania" stop in Allentown. A host of local bar leaders warmly welcomed us, including Berks County Bar Association President Lisa Marie Ciotti, Bar Association of Lehigh County (BALC) President Susan Ellis Wild and Schuylkill County Bar Association resident James Bohorad. In addition to dining at the stately BALC building, I enjoyed a guided tour from Executive Director Marianne S. Canning. As always, I was honored to present an Everyday Leader Award to Schuylkill



photo by Sean Horoho

County lawyer Sudhir Patel. He's provided exemplary service to the local bar and bench and is credited with helping to create a new mediation program that's alleviating case backlogs in the court system.

• At the induction of former PBA President Thomas M. Golden as a judge on the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, I was honored to join an impressive gathering that included Pennsylvania U.S.

Sens. Arlen Specter and Rick Santorum and state Supreme Court Justice Ron Castille. Other dignitaries who joined us in the Albert Branson Maris Courtroom to remark on Tom's career were past PBA president Tim Carson; Roberta Leibenberg, chair of the ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary; and Tom's former law partner Heidi Masano. Of course, the real "big wheels" in the room were Tom's lovely wife Penny, his son Matt and daughter Kristen, who've unfailingly supported Tom in his outstanding legal career and promising judicial career.

• I joined state Sen. Jane Orie and an admirable group of panelists at the Child Internet Safety Forum at the Cranberry Regional Learning Alliance in suburban Pittsburgh. It was reassuring to hear statements from my fellow panelists reinforcing the PBA's strongly held belief that we must continue our Internet safety initiative in the years ahead. New challenges appear as quickly as technology advances. As we all work together to protect our children, remember that pedophilia is a treatable disease, but it will never be cured.

• I received my "treat" portion of Halloween when I stopped in Media on a "Tour" event in late October. PBA Zone Governors Len Sloane and Mason Avrigian Sr. coordinated with PBA staff and Delaware County Bar Association (DCBA) Executive Director Elizabeth Price, Chester County Bar Association Executive Director Wendy Hoffman and Bucks County Bar Association Executive Director Heather Martin to generate our largest luncheon event on the "Tour." Superior Court Judges Mary Jane Bowes and Jack Panella joined a long list of common pleas court judges from Delaware and Chester counties who attended. After an introduction from DCBA President J. Michael Sheridan, past PBA President Lou Teti joined me as part of the program to talk about the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation. Jerry Montella, past DCBA president and current court administrator of the Delaware County court, was the recipient of our Everyday Leader Award. Jerry founded the Juror Donation Program and is a longtime contributor to activities that benefit Delaware County children,

continued on Page 8

including the Hero Scholarship Program. Audience prestige was high, too, thanks in large part to the presence of PBA Board of Governors alumni John Kerrigan, Bill Eastburn, Judge Bob Shenkin, Paul Troy, Kathryn Meloni and Chuck Eppolito.

- Everyone looks forward to Fridays, right? TGIF and all that jazz. Well I had a great one Nov. 3 when I participated in a meeting of our Task Force on the Pennsylvania Judiciary at PBA President-elect Andy Susko's office in downtown Philly. Lynn Marks and Ralph Wellington joined us, along with many other task force members like co-chair Dave Hickton from Pittsburgh who chimed in via phone. This was an enjoyable, 2+ hours of productive discussion on the task force's plan of action to educate the public on the importance of having a fair and impartial third branch of government.

All good things must come to an end though, and I had to leave early with Communications Director Marcy Mallory and Jeff Gingerich to present the Schnader Print Media Awards at the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association Awards Luncheon. As the son of a scribe, I underscored, highlighted and circled this event on my calendar months ago. I shared the podium with Carl Solano, a partner at Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis L.L.P., and had lunch with Don Brobst, chair of the PBA Bar/Press Committee.

- Hold on ... it's still Friday, Nov. 3, and now I'm circling back with Andy, dropping him at Casa Susko (He's ready for Mexico!) and hustling over the pike to join Chair Harold Goldner and members of the Solo and Small Firm Practice Section for their annual retreat at the Harrisburg Hilton. After providing some brief remarks and exchanging hellos, PBA Executive Director Barry Simpson and I beat a path to the Hotel Hershey to join Commission on Women in the Profession (WIP) Co-chairs Dana Baiocco and Phyllis Epstein and the other members of the WIP for their annual retreat. It was a pleasure to engage in a panel discussion on networking with Alexis Barbieri from the

Office of Attorney General, Wanda E. Flowers from the law department of Sunoco Inc., Indiana County Judge Carol Hanna and Gretchen Mundorff from Fayette County. The program was deftly moderated by Pittsburgh lawyer and PBA Woman-at-Large Governor Penina Lieber.

- Speaking of retreats, I made it home in time to watch my son Sean play a few strong sets of competitive tennis. I've resigned myself to the fact that when I play with Sean in the very near future, I'll be chasing more balls than I'm hitting.

- Looks like our executive director has caught the leadership wave (no wet-suit required). Congratulations to Barry Simpson on his nomination to the position of vice president of the Penn State University Alumni Association (he will be prez in three years). Could this be a stepping stone to taking over Joe Pa's job on the gridiron?

- After our House of Delegates meeting in November, I headed to Loretto, Pa., to reunite with my St. Francis University (SFU) basketball teammates. The school was honoring our '76-'77 team that beat Duquesne, West Virginia, Georgetown and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (they went to the NCAA Final Four that year). Initially I thought I was "off duty," but I was pleasantly surprised to be joined at the reunion by former Butler County Bar Association President and my former SFU point guard Don Graham. Attorneys Lou Schmitt from Altoona and Bob Powell from Drums, Pa., were two power forwards who led later SFU teams to some thrilling wins. It was great to see that these fellow lawyers are successfully guiding new teams on other courts.

- I joined Philadelphia Bar Association Chancellor Alan Feldman in providing opening remarks at the Special Oral Argument Session held by the Pennsylvania Superior Court at the Temple University School of Law. Alan recently completed a very successful year as chancellor, and I was honored to congratulate him and offer my best wishes to incoming chancellor Jane

Dalton at the Philadelphia Bar Association Installation Luncheon early in December.

● I gladly accepted an invitation from the Pennsylvania Medical Society to be part of the Installation Dinner of President Mark Piasio at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. I was encouraged by the number of medical students and young physicians who attended the weekend program and festivities.

● I'm sponsoring three Presidential Minority Breakfasts, the first of which was held in Pittsburgh in November. Thanks to the draw of my co-hosts state Supreme Court Justice Cynthia Baldwin, Judges Livingstone Johnson, Justin Johnston and Kim Berkeley Clark and former PBA Minority Governor Carl Cooper, the breakfast attracted a sizable and engaging crowd that included leaders from a number of the specialty minority bars. Paul Ellis, president of the Homer S. Brown Society; Marilyn Martinez-Walker, president of the Allegheny County Hispanic Bar Association; and Jun Yu, who has been actively energizing Asian-American lawyers in western Pennsylvania, were part of the audience. Looking forward, the two remaining Presidential Minority Breakfasts are planned for Jan. 12 in Philadelphia and Jan. 17 in Harrisburg. My wife Joan is fond of saying, "You can never have too many friends ... or shoes." At the "Tour" events in Monroe County and in Scranton, I almost wore out a new pair of shoes seeing old friends and meeting new ones. In Stroudsburg, I stopped by to say hello to old friends, Monroe County Bar Association Executive Director Susan Kenny, bar President Joe McDonald and former PBA Zone Governor Bernie Billick. And I also met new friends Lori Whitfield and Alex Bensinger. Alex has over 50 years of legal experience under his belt. That, and many other accomplishments, earned him a well-deserved Everyday Leader Award. Alex is the honorary chairman of the newly-formed PBA Seasoned Lawyer Project.

● In Scranton, I was welcomed by old friends Tim Kelly, president of the

Lackawanna Bar Association; Joe Cosgrove, president of the Luzerne County Bar Association; and House member Johanna Gelb. I also met Lackawanna Bar Association Executive Director Deborah Basalyga; Elizabeth Erickson, president of the Pike County Bar Association; and Gerald Grimaud, Wyoming/Sullivan County Bar Association prez. Like others, this "Tour" event attracted many members of the local judiciary, including Thomas Vanaskie, chief judge of the federal Middle District Court. Daniel Barrett was honored with a presidential Everyday Leader Award.

● Congratulations to YLD Chair-elect Bill Higgins for recently receiving the Widener University School of Law Outstanding Alumni Award.

● I opened this Horoscopes column with an urging for all of us to focus more on what we share and less on how we differ. I've had plenty of opportunity to walk the walk thanks to two recent events. I joined ABA President Karen Mathis to offer opening remarks at the National Convention of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association in Philadelphia. It also was in the City of Brotherly Love that I kicked off a very well-attended and well-received PBA Diversity Summit sponsored by the PBA Minority Bar Committee. Congratulations to the chair of the summit, Sam Cooper of Harrisburg. And my thanks to Karen Vaughn and Prince Thomas of Philadelphia and to all of you who went the extra mile to put on what I consider this year's premier PBA event. Given that PCN has already re-broadcast the program in its entirety a number of times, I'm evidently not the only guy making a standing ovation.

As we set our sights on 2007, let's continue to share our ideas and successes, to learn from our experiences and to press on in our quest of leadership in the profession and leadership for the public. Finally, I offer my sincere best wishes to all PBA members and their families for a joyous holiday season and a healthy New Year.

— Ken