

**BIOGRAPHIES OF ATTENDEES**

**HONORABLE ANNETTE M. RIZZO, President, Temple American Inn of Court**

Judge Rizzo was appointed to the Court of Common Pleas bench in Philadelphia in 1998 by then Governor Tom Ridge. Since that time, she has served in the Trial Division in both the Criminal and Civil Programs and now sits in the Civil Major Jury Trial Program.

Since the spring of 2008 Judge Rizzo has been involved with the development and oversight of the First Judicial District's Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program which mandates that no residential owner-occupied property in Philadelphia may go to Sheriff's sale without a Conciliation Conference being held. The Conferences bring together homeowners, lenders' counsel, pro bono attorneys and housing counselors in an effort to keep City residents in their homes. The Program has received national recognition and honors from the media and several national, state and local organizations as being one of the first and most effective local efforts to stem the adverse impact of the foreclosures crisis in the United States.

As background, after receiving a B.A. in Public Policy and Italian Literature at The University of Pennsylvania, she completed her legal studies at Temple University School of Law. Judge Rizzo worked in both the public and private sectors prior to her tenure on the bench serving first with the City Solicitor's Office and then with the law firm of Rawle & Henderson. Just prior to taking the bench the Judge served as Senior Counsel at CIGNA Companies.

She has been active in many community organizations. She remains committed to public service as a former board member of the Philadelphia VIP, and presently serves on the Boards of the historic site of Eastern State Penitentiary, Casa Farnese, a senior citizen residential complex and Temple Law Alumni Association. The Judge is also active in the Temple American Inn of Court, and serves as the group's Vice-President. She also sits on the Philadelphia Bar Association's Civil Gideon Task Force.

Beyond her participation in community organizations and professional associations, Judge Rizzo also sits on a variety of court committees which involve in-house education for the bench on civil and procedural issues -the Civil Rules Committee, the Senior Judge Committee as well as the FJD Pro Bono Committee which seeks to expand volunteer service of the local bar in the courts.

Judge Rizzo has been recognized for her efforts on the bench and in 2009 received Philadelphia Community Legal Services' "Champion of Justice" Award, the "Louis J. Goffman" Award for Pro Bono service presented by the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation. She is also the recipient of the prestigious "Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. Justice Distinguished Jurist" Award given by the Philadelphia Bar Association and received the Girl Scouts "Take the Lead Award" at their annual awards ceremony this year.

She resides with her husband, Brian Reidy and their twin boys in the Society Hill section of Philadelphia.

## **HONORABLE CYNTHIA M. RUFÉ, Past President, Temple American Inn of Court**

The Honorable Cynthia M. Rufe is a Judge of the United States District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She assumed her commission on June 10, 2002, and currently presides over civil and criminal cases in federal court. Prior to her appointment to the federal bench, Judge Rufe served as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Bucks County, Pennsylvania where she presided over criminal, juvenile, civil and family cases.

Prior to her election to the trial court in 1993, Judge Rufe maintained law offices, practicing civil and criminal litigation, family law, specializing in child abuse cases and serving as Solicitor for the Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency. Before entering private practice in 1982, Judge Rufe served Bucks County as Deputy Public Defender, and also coordinated that office's Juvenile Division, representing delinquent, dependent, abused and neglected children.

The Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania appointed Judge Rufe to the Appellate Procedural Rules Committee. She also served on the Education Committee of the Pennsylvania State Trial Judges Conference and was responsible for presenting educational programs to the state trial judges at their bi-annual conferences. Since her appointment to the federal bench, Judge Rufe has been designated a visiting judge, sitting by designation with the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. She was also appointed to lead the Multi-District Litigation for the diabetes drug, Avandia. Judge Rufe serves by appointment on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals Judicial Council Committee on Magistrate Judges.

Judge Rufe represents her Court as a Director of the Federal Judges Association. She is a member of the National Association of Women Judges, the Historical Society of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Temple American Inn of Court, and the Justinian Society. Judge Rufe coordinated the publicity for the 2007 Annual Conference of the NAWJ and served as executive committee member and President of the Temple American Inn of Court in 2008-2009, which was awarded the Circle of Excellence Distinction for that term. She continues her services on the Executive Board.

Judge Rufe has been a faculty member of the TIPS National Trial Academy, sponsored by the American Bar Association and the American Board of Trial Advocates, and regularly presents legal and ethics courses to litigation sections of the ABA, the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, state and local bar associations, as well as the Eastern District of Pennsylvania outreach programs. Judge Rufe most recently participated on panels addressing multi-district and complex litigation, class actions, product liability, personal injury, patent, trademark and copyright law, alternative dispute resolution, and employment law for national, state and/or local bar associations. In addition, Judge Rufe has been appointed to serve on Eastern District Court Committees, including the Public Interest, Jury, Criminal Business, Bankruptcy, Retreat and Education Committees, and currently Chairs the Court's Judicial Outreach and Public Relations Committee which present numerous educational programs to students, the bar and the public.

The Eastern District of Pennsylvania's outreach efforts under Judge Rufe's direction have earned recognition as models of court and law-related educational programs. Starting in 2006, Judge Rufe

organized her colleagues in three federal courthouses to preside over mock trials and appellate arguments of 500 high school students from 50 high schools throughout the Delaware Valley for Law Day and Juror Appreciation Day. In addition to similar programs presented by the Court for Constitution Day, Bill of Rights Day and for Naturalization Ceremonies, the Judicial Outreach Committee has partnered with the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Annenberg Institute for Civics and the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, participating in a video presentation of the Court's Law Day programs which can be viewed on the United States Court website as part of the interactive educational resources available to schools and to the public. Most recently, Judge Rufe was appointed to serve on the American Bar Association Commission on Civic Education in the Nation's Schools.

Judge Rufe received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Education from Adelphi University, New York and a Juris Doctor degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School. Prior to entering the legal profession, Judge Rufe taught social studies and American history to high school students in Bristol Borough, Pennsylvania. Judge Rufe is married to the Honorable John J. Rufe, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

#### **HONORABLE JOHN J. RUFÉ**

Judge Rufe is a senior trial judge in the Court of Common Pleas of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He is married to Judge Cynthia M. Rufe. Under the Pennsylvania Constitution, Judge Rufe was obligated to retire upon attaining the age of 70, but is permitted to continue to serve on a part-time basis as a senior judge. Judge Rufe was initially appointed to fill out another judge's unexpired term in 1989 and then was elected in 1991 to a ten-year term and reelected in 2001. During his active career, Judge Rufe presided over civil and criminal jury and non-jury trials and sat frequently in family court. For five years he was the Court's child dependency judge. As a senior judge he has instituted and regularly presides over the Drug Court, which provides stricter supervision, recovery and treatment support for defendants convicted of drug offenses. He continues to coordinate all pre-trial and trial matters of asbestos product liability cases for his court.

#### **HONORABLE M. FAITH ANGELL**

Judge M. Faith Angell is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College (A.B.), Bryn Mawr College (M.S.S.) and Temple University School of Law (J.D.).

Her professional career began as a social worker in child welfare, medical and community organization settings. While attending evening law school she initially worked as the Director of the Social Service Department, Wills Eye Hospital and later as Chief Social Worker for the then newly-created Family Court Division, Defender Association of Philadelphia.

In 1971 Judge Angell was appointed as an Assistant District Attorney for the City of Philadelphia. In 1972 she was appointed as an Assistant Attorney General and in 1974 as a Deputy Attorney General and

Chief, Division of Civil Litigation, Eastern Regional Office, Pennsylvania Department of Justice. In 1978 she joined the Interstate Commerce Commission as Regional Counsel. In 1980 she became Regional Director and a member of the United States Senior Executive Service.

In 1988 Judge Angell was appointed as an Administrative Law Judge with the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Social Security Administration. From 1973 to 1994 she taught in the clinical program at Temple University School of Law as an Adjunct Professor. On May 14, 1990, Judge Angell was appointed as United States Magistrate Judge for U.S. District Court, Eastern District of PA. She was re-appointed May 1998. From 2004-2006 Judge Angell was designated as Chief Magistrate Judge.

She is a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers, the Philadelphia Bar Association, the Federal Magistrate Judges Association and the National Association of Women Judges. Judge Angell is a former President of the Federal Bar Association, Philadelphia Chapter, and is a Master in the Temple American Inn of Court. She was Co-Chair of the Commission on Gender for the Third Circuit Task Force on Equal Treatment in the Courts. Judge Angell is a member of the Temple Law Alumni Executive Board; she was the 1996 Women's Law Caucus Honoree. She served on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Committee on Racial and Gender Bias in the Justice System, 2000-2002. Judge Angell is a member of the Board of Advisors, Bryn Mawr School of Social Work and Social Research and the Executive Board, Temple Law Alumni Association.

#### **HONORABLE TERESA SARMINA**

Judge Teresa Sarmina has served as a Judge in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas since 1998. Since 2003 Judge Sarmina has been assigned to the Homicide Program of the court. Before her election to the court in 1997, Judge Sarmina was a prosecutor with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office and served in the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General.

Judge Sarmina received her law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., while working in Congress as a legislative aide. She also holds a Masters degree in social service administration from the University of Chicago, and received her Bachelor degree from St. Mary's College (Indiana). She is a member of the Hispanic Bar Association of Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia Bar Association and the National and International Association of Women Judges. She was selected to be a member of the Temple American Inn of Court and serves on the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners.

#### **PAUL D. WEINER, ESQUIRE, Vice President of the Temple American Inn of Court**

Paul serves as National E-Discovery Counsel for Littler Mendelson, P.C., the largest U.S.-based law firm exclusively devoted to representing management in employment and labor law matters worldwide. In this capacity, he and his Team of e-Discovery lawyers and litigation support personnel provide focused guidance and expertise on electronic discovery to the Firm's 800 lawyers located in 50 offices across the

U.S., and the firm's clients. Littler is one of the few firms, and the first labor and employment firm, in the world to hire an attorney at the shareholder level to focus exclusively on working with clients in the challenging area of electronic discovery, reinforcing the firm's commitment to providing its clients with leading-edge solutions in this rapidly developing area.

Paul is a nationally-recognized thought leader in the area of electronic discovery. He has lectured and published extensively in the area of e-discovery, and his work has served to educate lawyers, judges and business people about the technical and legal issues governing electronic discovery and was cited by the landmark opinion of *Zubulake v. UBS Warburg LLC*, 220 F.R.D. 212, 220 n. 39 (S.D.N.Y. 2003) (Scheidlin, J.), which addressed both the scope of a litigant's duty to preserve electronic evidence and the consequences for failing to preserve evidence that falls within the scope of that duty. Paul has also served as a Court-appointed E-Discovery Special Master for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Prior to joining Littler, Paul was a litigation partner at an AM LAW 100 law firm, where he focused his practice on complex business litigation.

Paul is also extremely active in the community, the bar and pro bono organizations, including the Temple American Inn of Court, the Center City Opera Theatre and several breast cancer awareness charitable organizations. Paul is a graduate of Temple Law School, where he served on the National Trial Team, and currently serves as a guest lecturer on e-Discovery to the JD and LLM Programs.

#### **PROFESSOR RAFAEL A. PORRATA-DORIA, JR.**

Rafael A. Porrata-Doria, Jr., currently a Professor of Law at Temple University School of Law, has been teaching at that institution since 1983 in the areas of international and comparative law, international business law, European Community law, securities and corporate law. He has been a visiting professor at the University of Puerto Rico and Rutgers-Camden Law School and has also taught at the Lauder Institute of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He has taught at Temple's summer session in Rome in 1984 and 2010 and at Temple's summer session in Athens in 1986, 1987 and 1988. Before teaching, he was in the private practice of law in Philadelphia and Miami, Florida.

A native of Santurce, Puerto Rico, he holds B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. degree from the Yale Law School. He is admitted to the practice of law in Florida, New York, Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico. He speaks Spanish, English, French and Italian.

Professor Porrata-Doria is the author of a number of books articles in the areas of corporate, securities and international law and has also made a number of scholarly presentations in the United States and abroad in the last twenty years. He has served as a consultant to the World Bank, American Law Institute and the Senate of Pennsylvania. His most recent work, "MERCOSUR: The Common Market of the Southern Cone," was published by the Carolina Academic Press and received an award from the Inter-American Bar Association.

Professor Porrata-Doria has also been active in professional and community activities for many years and is currently a member of the boards of directors of several charitable institutions. He is a member of

the American Law Institute and, in 2003, was awarded the Yale Medal, Yale University's highest alumni award.

#### **PROFESSOR DAVID A. SONENSHEIN**

Professor David A. Sonenshein teaches at Temple University School of Law. A graduate of Cornell University and the New York University School of Law, he has taught at Boston University, DePaul University, and was the Lyle T. Alverson Professor of Law at George Washington University Law School. He was named the I. Herman Stern Professor of Law at Temple in 1992. In 2004, Professor Sonenshein was honored as one of the University's finest teachers, receiving the University's Lindback Award for Outstanding Teaching. In 2007, Professor Sonenshein was awarded the University's Great Teacher Award.

Professor Sonenshein is co-author with the late Irving Younger and Professor Michael Goldsmith of the casebook, *Principles of Evidence*. In addition, Professor Sonenshein has co-authored ten other books on Evidence as well as numerous articles on the subjects of Evidence and Civil Procedure. He is in Rome to teach a course at La Sapienza, Università di Roma.

#### **LARRY BENDESKY, ESQUIRE**

Larry Bendesky is Co-Counselor of the Temple American Inn of Court. He is a Shareholder of Saltz Mongeluzzi Barrett & Bendesky in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he concentrates his practice on complex civil product liability cases. He is considered one of Pennsylvania's premier product liability and construction accident attorneys. As a trial lawyer, Mr. Bendesky has been lead or co-counsel in numerous high-profile, highly complex cases. He has handled more than forty cases resulting in verdicts or settlements over \$1 million. He served as trial counsel in the Tropicana Casino structural collapse litigation, which settled for \$101 million, the largest settlement of a construction accident case in American history.

#### **ANDREW CAROBUS, ESQUIRE**

Andrew Carobus graduated from Temple University – Beasley School of Law in 2005. He is currently employed as an Assistant District Attorney with the District Attorney's Office of Philadelphia. He just completed a stint in the Forfeiture Unit of the Office and is currently working in the Trial Division prosecuting cases that arise out of the Northwestern area of the city. He conducts preliminary hearings in all criminal matters but for homicides and family violence/sexual assault cases, and also conducts misdemeanor trials.

Mr. Carobus is the son of Judge M. Faith Angell and Kenneth F. Carobus, Esquire

#### **KENNETH F. CAROBUS, ESQUIRE**

Mr. Carobus is an attorney with the firm of Morris & Adelman, P.C. in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is married to Judge M. Faith Angell. Mr. Carobus handles his firm's complex litigation, mechanic's lien and

bankruptcy matters. He was born in Chicago in 1941, and he was admitted to the Pennsylvania bar in 1972.

He received his B.S. in Social Sciences from Loyola University in Chicago in 1963, J.D. from Georgetown University Law School in 1972 and L.L.M. from Temple University Law School in 1977. He served with the U.S. Army from 1963 to 1969. He was Assistant Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from 1972 to 1976.

Mr. Carobus is a frequent lecturer for the National Business Institute and Lorman Education Services. He is the author of *Debt Collection in Pennsylvania*, published by George T. Bisel Company, Inc. Mr. Carobus is a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute and Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Bar Associations. He also serves on the Philadelphia Bar Association's Professional Responsibility Committee.

### **DANIELLE GROSS**

Danielle Gross graduated from Kutztown University and is currently employed as an arraignment paralegal with the District Attorney's Office of Philadelphia. She obtains all relevant discovery materials on behalf of the prosecution for upcoming criminal cases, and provides the discovery materials to both public and private defense attorneys in the presence of a trial commissioner. She documents the status of every criminal case and ensures that each criminal file reaches the designated courtroom for trial.

### **GERALYN LUCAS**

Geralyn is a global activist for breast cancer awareness and a voice for survivorship. She is the author of *Why I Wore Lipstick to My Mastectomy*, which has been translated into seven languages, including Italian, and was voted a *Border's* "Best Of" Memoir of the Year and was called "Bold" by *People Magazine* and "Immensely Empowering" by *Publishers Weekly*. Her book became an Emmy-nominated movie of the same title, which premiered on Lifetime Television, starring Sarah Chalke (*Scrubs*) and Patti LaBelle, and has gone on to be broadcast around the world. The movie also received an NAACP Image Nomination and won the Grand Prize at the Gracie Awards for Excellence in Radio and Television. Her recent YouTube video, "OUCH!" urging women get mammograms, was short-listed for a Webby Award.

Geralyn's work has appeared in *Newsweek* and *Self Magazine* and she has been profiled on *The View*, *The Today Show*, *CNN*, *20/20* and in *The New York Times*. She is a national public speaker, who recently gave the keynote to an audience of 5,000 at the Oncology Nurses' Society Worldwide Congress. Please visit Geralyn at [whyiworelipstick.com](http://whyiworelipstick.com)

### **SKYE LUCAS**

Skye is a 6th Grader at The Hewitt School in New York City. She recently re-started the debate team at her school, and has served two terms in student government. She is on the board of "Tickled Pink," a Komen fundraiser to increase awareness of breast cancer in mothers and daughters. Skye has also modeled for American Apparel.

### **ROBERT MONGELUZZI, ESQUIRE**

Robert J. Mongeluzzi, a Founder of Saltz Mongeluzzi Barrett & Bendesky in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is widely regarded as one of the nation's most skillful and successful trial attorneys in handling complex cases involving catastrophic construction accidents, electrical accidents, and products liability. A leader in the courtroom and in the legal community, Mr. Mongeluzzi is consistently rated by his peers as at the top of his profession. He holds the record for the largest reported settlement in Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas, a \$75.6 million jury verdict in a 2004 liquor liability trial. It is believed to be the second largest personal injury verdict in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania history.

### **TARA GILL NALENCZ, ESQUIRE**

Tara Gill Nalencz is an associate with the oldest law firm in the United States, Rawle & Henderson, LLP. Her practice involves the defense and trial of catastrophic personal injury matters, focusing on product liability and construction and industrial accidents. Tara graduated from Temple University's Beasley School of Law in 2004. She earned a Master of Arts degree in Spanish Literature from Pennsylvania State University in 2001 and a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1999 from Dickinson College. Upon graduation from law school, Tara served a one-year criminal clerkship for the Honorable Samuel D. Natal of the Superior Court of New Jersey in Camden, New Jersey. Tara later served a two-year civil clerkship for the Honorable Annette M. Rizzo of the Court of Common Pleas of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania.

### **ALEXANDER E. NALENCZ**

Alexander E. Nalencz presently acts as administrator of the Department of Foreign Languages at La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He also teaches within the department when his schedule permits. He obtained his Master of Arts degree in Central and Eastern European Studies from La Salle University in 2007 and his Bachelor of Arts degree in Italian Studies from Dickinson College in 1997. After graduation from college, Alex taught English at the secondary school level in Gorzów Wielkopolski, Poland. With an enduring appreciation for other cultures and languages, Alex is also the former International Administrator of the American College Physicians, headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

### **RICHARD ROCHLIN, ESQUIRE**

Richard Rochlin co-founded the firm Sigman & Rochlin, LLC. His detailed understanding of complicated global finance and investment transactions is one of the strengths of the firm's Connecticut and New York offices.

Before co-founding the firm, Mr. Rochlin was a partner in Shipman & Goodwin's Corporate Trust Practice Group and its Commercial Finance Group. For several years, he was a valuable finance and real estate attorney at international law firms Dechert LLP and Bingham McCutchen LLP. While at Dechert, Mr. Rochlin was a senior member of the Islamic and OIC jurisdictions finance team that Euromoney magazine named "Best Global Islamic Finance Legal Advisor" for 2006-07.



Mr. Rochlin has extensive experience representing a wide range of lenders and borrowers on various types of transactions. These include Shari'ah-compliant transactions involving working capital and acquisition facilities; domestic and international private placements and revolving and term loan facilities including syndicated, bilateral, secured and unsecured. Mr. Rochlin also represents corporate trustees, collateral agents and indenture trustees in multiple capacities, such as domestic and international project financing for both conventional and Shari'ah-compliant deals.

His business and finance clientele also includes investors that he has counseled on private acquisitions and workouts, including multiple bankruptcies of commercial airlines. Additionally, Mr. Rochlin represents closely held corporations and individuals in various commercial financing and real estate transactions.

Entertainment law is an important and emerging segment of Mr. Rochlin's practice. He represents two prominent personalities who appear regularly on the Howard Stern Show (heard on Sirius Satellite Radio) and on Howard TV (on inDEMAND Networks). Mr. Rochlin assists these entertainment clients by negotiating personal appearances, sponsorship agreements, music development deals and employment agreements on their behalf. Stand-up comedians also have called on Mr. Rochlin in increasing numbers to negotiate similar arrangements for them. Mr. Rochlin currently serves as counsel to SP Pictures, LLC, a California-based movie production company that develops 3D movies for national distribution.

Mr. Rochlin also uses his legal skills to benefit community organizations on a pro bono basis. He serves as General Counsel and Secretary to the Collins Foundation, Inc., a local charity that provides leadership training and college scholarships to underprivileged high school students. And Mr. Rochlin is General Counsel to Creative Arts for Developing Minds, Inc., which provides cultural experiences to underprivileged children in the local area. Mr. Rochlin also served as Treasurer for the University of Connecticut School of Law Alumni Association for the 2008-09 term.

#### **MEREDITH L. SEIGLE, ESQUIRE**

Ms. Seigle is the principal of Southampton Legal Services, Inc., a private law firm formerly located in Southampton, Pennsylvania for the past thirty (30) years, having recently relocated to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 2007. She has been practicing and litigating cases in Federal and State Courts for sixteen (16) years. She has a general practice that concentrates on Plaintiffs Civil litigation, including but not limited to insurance litigation, Orphans Court and domestic litigation in the Court of Common Pleas, primarily in the five (5) immediate surrounding counties and the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, encompassing mediations, arbitrations and jury and non-jury trials in both Federal and State Courts. She has also focused on business organization and representation for corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships and proprietorships; real estate and zoning and extensive financial institution construction loan documentation.

Among Ms. Seigle's other activities, she is the trustee to the Joseph Bilinski Charitable Trust, former Secretary to the Admissions Committee of the Union League of Philadelphia, present Membership Chair and former Administrator of Temple American Inn of Court, present Board Member of the Historical

Society for the Eastern District Court of Pennsylvania, present Secretary to Mission Kids Advocacy Center of Montgomery County, present Board Member of Liberty Management Services, former Advisory Board Member of National Penn Bank.

Ms. Seigle received a law degree from Western New England School of Law and her B.A. in International Relations from Lehigh University where she graduated Magna Cum Laude. Ms. Seigle is admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia.

#### **DIANE BERNOFF SHER, ESQUIRE**

Diane Sher is Assistant General Counsel for the School District of Philadelphia, where she represents the School District in the defense of civil rights lawsuits and other litigation. Recently, Diane was on the team representing the School District in the investigation by the United States Department of Justice into alleged racial harassment of Asian students at South Philadelphia High School. The School District's negotiated settlement with the Justice Department received national press coverage, and the proactive steps taken by the School District to address the matter were applauded by the Justice Department.

Before coming to the School District five years ago, Diane was a partner in a Philadelphia law firm where she practiced civil litigation for 23 years in a wide variety of fields, including employment and commercial litigation. She occasionally used her knowledge of Italian to represent Italian companies engaged in litigation in Pennsylvania.

Diane received her law degree from Temple University School of Law in 1978. She received a B.A. in political science with a minor in Italian, magna cum laude, from Temple University in 1975, and was Editor-in-Chief of the Temple News, the daily student newspaper. She attended Temple University's Rome campus both as an undergraduate in 1973 and as a law student in 1976, and translated Italian civil cases into English for a comparative law course on *Diritti Delle Donne*, taught by the late Honorable Lisa Aversa Richette.

Diane has been on the Boards of United Cerebral Palsy and the Bala Cynwyd Library, and has taught writing at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

#### **HARRY J. SHER, ESQUIRE**

Mr. Sher, married to Diane Sher, has been a Philadelphia attorney for more than 35 years, practicing in real estate and civil litigation. He received his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School in 1973 and his B.S. degree from Temple University in 1964. He served two years in the United States Army.

#### **JONATHAN SHER**

Jonathan, son of Diane and Harry Sher, is a college student and delighted to be visiting Rome on his spring break, and to see where his mother went to school some years ago.

## **SCOTT P. SIGMAN, ESQUIRE**

Mr. Sigman co-founded the firm Sigman & Rochlin, LLC. He concentrates his practice in the areas of complex civil and criminal litigation, catastrophic injuries, election law, defamation, fraud, civil RICO, drug forfeiture, and white-collar criminal defense. He has been selected as a "Pennsylvania Rising Star Super Lawyer" by Philadelphia Magazine for 2005 through 2011 and as a "2006 Lawyer on the Fast Track" by The Legal Intelligencer.

Prior to founding Sigman & Rochlin, LLC, Sigman was an attorney at Bochetto & Lentz, P.C. Prior to that, Mr. Sigman was an Assistant District Attorney with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office where he was assigned to the Narcotics Division (in 1999) first as a Law Intern and then as a Prosecutor. Mr. Sigman was specially assigned to criminally prosecute Philadelphia's most serious drug offenders from pre-arrest to post-conviction, litigate the forfeiture of the offender's real estate through a quasi-civil forfeiture hearing and litigate civil actions against some of Philadelphia's worst nuisance bars. Mr. Sigman was also the Weed & Seed Prosecutor for North Philadelphia. In 2004, Mr. Sigman prosecuted Pennsylvania's very first Weapons of Mass Destruction case. During his tenure as an Assistant District Attorney, Mr. Sigman tried hundreds of cases in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

Mr. Sigman received his Bachelor of Arts in Communications, Legal Institutions, Economics, and Government from The American University in Washington, D.C. in 1998. Mr. Sigman received his law degree in 2001 from Temple University where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Temple International and Comparative Law Journal. Mr. Sigman was the Day Division Commencement Speaker and on the 2001 Dean's Honor List. Mr. Sigman was also winner of: the Barrister's Award in Trial Advocacy I and II, Best Paper in Admiralty Law, and the Wapner, Newman & Wigrizer, P.C. Award for Trial Advocacy. Additionally, Mr. Sigman was awarded Distinguished Class Performance in the following classes: Trial Advocacy I, Legal Decision Making, Contracts I, Property, Sales, and the Federal Defenders Clinical.

Mr. Sigman is admitted to Practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the State of New Jersey, the United States District Courts of New Jersey, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Northern District of New York, and Northern District of Ohio, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second, Third and Sixth Circuits, and the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Sigman is also a member of the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and American Bar Associations, Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Associations, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, Temple Law Alumni Association, Temple American Inn of Court, Lawyers Club of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Society, Louis D. Brandeis Law Society, Justinian Society, Union League of Philadelphia, World Affairs Council, Friends of the American Red Cross, Pen & Pencil Club, Pyramid Club, Variety Club, Vesper Club, District Attorneys' Alumni Association, and National and Pennsylvania District Attorneys Associations.

Mr. Sigman has served as a CLE lecturer on the use of technology in the courtroom, criminal law and procedure, election law, and prosecuting felony drug cases for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Philadelphia Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association, Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association, Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute, National Black Prosecutors Association, and the Philadelphia

District Attorney's Office. Mr. Sigman is also a regularly featured guest on Eleanor Dezzi's "Voices of the Village" on 900 AM WURD, ESPN Radio 920 AM, and "It's Your Call with Lynn Doyle" on CN8 as a criminal law correspondent.

Currently, Mr. Sigman serves on the Board of Governors of the Philadelphia Bar Association, as Treasurer of the Lawyers Club of Philadelphia, as a past chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, as Vice President of the Philadelphia Weed & Seed Board, and as an Executive Board Member of the Temple Law Alumni Association.

#### **ELIZABETH A. TURCHI, ESQUIRE, LL.M.**

Ms. Turchi has recently completed her LL.M. degree (Masters) in Transnational Law (focusing on International Public Law and Human Rights) from Temple University Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. She currently serves as a human rights law advocate and is currently the Assistant Director of Study Abroad and Special International Programs for Temple University Beasley School of Law.

Ms. Turchi while obtaining her LL.M in Transnational Law held a contracted position with The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Rome, Italy, where she focused on humanitarian aid law, international treaty law, and cross-border contracts. Before working at the WFP, Ms. Turchi interned at the United Nations Mediation and Ombudsman Office (UNOMS) in New York, NY. In connection with her LL.M studies, Ms. Turchi wrote thesis papers which include: "The Lisbon Treaty and It's Non-Impact on International Legal Personality," "Somali Piracy and Universal Jurisdiction," "Climate Change as the Newest Human Rights Cause of Action" and "Human Sex Trafficking as a New Universal Jurisdiction Crime."

Prior to her current position, Ms. Turchi was a civil litigator in a mid-sized Philadelphia based law. 100% of her practice was dedicated to litigating commercial, real estate and insurance defense law in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, where she is admitted to practice. Prior to her litigation experience, Ms. Turchi spent time consulting at a mid-sized law firm based in Florence, Italy, wherein she focused on cross- border contracts pertaining to biomedical intellectual property.

Ms. Turchi serves as co-chair to the American Bar Associations' Steering Sub-Committee of the International Human Rights Committee, as well as a contributing editor to the ABA's International Models Project on Women's Rights (IMPOWR), for which she writes on compliance and enforcement of the United Nations Convention on Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) with an eye towards India and Sri Lanka. She is also a member of the ABA's Women's Interest Network, the National Lawyers Guild, and the European Professional Women's Network (Milan, Italy- Chapter).

#### **TAMARA L. WIBLE, ESQUIRE**

Tami Wible has been practicing law for 19 years and currently is Associate General Counsel at Drexel University College of Medicine. She primarily handles employment law matters, student discipline

matters and advises the University administration concerning faculty and staff issues. A former partner in a mid-sized firm, Ms. Wible has a background in commercial litigation and employment disputes.

**DAVID WIBLE**

David Wible, married to Tami Wible, is a sales associate for a company that sells cutting edge audio-visual and learning-based technology solutions for the educational market (Primary, Secondary and Higher Education institutions). Although not an attorney, Mr. Wible is his wife's "classic juror" who reacts to her legal arguments on a regular basis at home.