

Calling All Contributors

BY JENNIFER PLATZKERE SNYDER

Welcome to the Fall 2016 edition of The Philadelphia Lawyer magazine! I am your new Editor-in-Chief, Jennifer Platzkere Snyder. While I have been active in the Philadelphia Bar Association since the start of my law career more than 20 years ago, I realize that there are many readers who may not know me.

I am a born-and-bred Philly girl. My mom and grandmom had a restaurant in the Main Line suburbs where we lived, and I would go there every afternoon after school. The family motto was “if you wanted to eat, you had to work,” so everyone in my family chipped in. From eight years old and up, I was a hostess, a waitress, a dining room manager, and a walking dessert cart. Little did I know that I was also becoming well versed in the art of customer service, while also developing vital skills in negotiation, repartee and organizational dynamics.

I thought I would leave Philly at 17 years old but never moved away for a meaningful period of time. After graduating from the all-girl Baldwin School in Bryn Mawr, I lived in West Philly for four years of college at the University of Pennsylvania, where I attended the Wharton School of Business while spending the bulk of my free time performing in plays and musicals. I turned down job offers after college that would have meant a move to New York and instead chose to attend Villanova University School of Law – mostly because I wanted a graduate degree and didn’t see the need for an MBA after having attended Wharton. And I really liked my legal studies class. I fully expected to use my law degree as a launching pad back into the business world – never anticipating that I would actually practice law, let alone for all this time.

I am currently a partner at Dilworth Paxson LLP, where my

practice focuses on labor and employment law. This means negotiating with labor unions, litigating claims of discrimination, harassment and retaliation, and enforcing (or defending against the enforcement of) non-compete agreements. I am a counselor to entrepreneurs as well as Fortune 500 companies on all things related to employees – from hiring to firing and everything in between. I teach people about productive workplace practices and avoiding legal liabilities. I draft policies, procedures and contracts related to workplace issues. Essentially, my job is to solve problems related to work. Since we spend more time at work than doing anything else in our lives, there is no shortage of problems that arise (and, thus, no shortage of billable hours for me).

I was appointed to the Editorial Board of this esteemed magazine back in 2003, by then-Chancellor Audrey Talley, as one of her first acts in office. I was one of a diverse group of young attorneys selected not only for our editorial acumen but to add much-needed diversity to an insular group of long-serving members – the vast majority of whom were older, white men. At that time, no Chancellor in recent memory had taken advantage of the Chancellor’s prerogative to add members to the Editorial Board as she had done, so our appointments were initially viewed with reactions ranging from skepticism to outrage – more palpable than if the President

of the United States made recess appointments to the National Labor Relations Board (which was a big deal in my world when it happened). The initial reaction notwithstanding, I am proud to say that this group, many of whom are still active members of the Editorial Board, warmly welcomed us once we proved we could be as picayune about grammar, style and content as they were.





Any member of the Philadelphia Bar Association can submit an article for consideration, on any topic, legal or non-legal.

As Editor-In-Chief, my primary mission is to ensure that this magazine is serving as many members of the Philadelphia Bar Association as possible. To that end, my goal is to broaden the diversity of authors we publish, which will naturally lead to a diversity of subject matter covered. Any member of the Philadelphia Bar Association can submit an article for consideration, on any topic, legal or non-legal. Even non-members and non-lawyers can submit articles, as long as they write on a topic that would be of general interest to our legal community. Articles should be 1,500-2,000 words and *must* be well written. In the last two months, I have begun engaging in outreach efforts that have already resulted in new content for this edition from authors never before

published here. In addition to wonderful pieces from many of our stalwart authors, be sure to check out the entertaining profile of attorney-cum-comedian-cum-interviewer Randy Maniloff in “A Lawyer Walked into a Bar (Association)” and the article by Board of Governors’ Diversity Chair Sophia Lee on her experiences participating in NAPABA lobbying efforts. If anyone has an idea for an article and wants to discuss it before submitting it, or wants to suggest topics for us to cover, feel free to email me at jsnyder@dilworthlaw.com. ■

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