Honors and Awards

At the State Convention of the Veterans of Foreign War, Department of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg area attorney Robert J. DeSousa was elected to a second term as state judge advocate. DeSousa is of counsel to Dethlefs-Pykosh Law Group LLC in Camp Hill, Penn., where he specializes in wills and estate work. He also serves as a lieutenant colonel in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, where he has been appointed commander for the 728th Regional Trail Defense Team, which covers the Northeastern United States. ... Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the U.S. Supreme Court will receive the American Bar Association Medal, the highest honor conferred by the association, on Aug. 9 in San Francisco, during the 2010 ABA Annual Meeting. Justice Ginsburg was appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States in 1993, after having served 13 years as a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Before her appointment as a federal judge, she was a professor at Columbia University School of Law, Rutgers University School of Law, and the State University of New Jersey in Newark. She also was general counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, served on its national board, and was counsel to the ACLU Women’s Rights Project, a position that coincided with her teaching at Columbia. While active with the ACLU, she argued six cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and submitted briefs in 18 more cases. Her work at the ACLU has been described as having “fundamentally altered the status of women in American society.” The medal is given to an individual judged by the association’s Board of Governors to have rendered exceptionally distinguished service to the cause of American jurisprudence. Established in 1929, the medal has been awarded to only three other women: Shirley M. Hufstedler, former U.S. secretary of education and appellate court judge in both state and federal systems; Sandra Day O’Connor, former associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court; and Patricia M. Wald, former chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and a former judge on the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. ... Vetter & White, of Providence, R.I., is pleased to announce that its partner, George E. Lieberman, has been again recognized as one of the best lawyers in America in the field of Commercial Litigation in the 2010 edition of the Best Lawyers in America. He has also been named again as a “Super Lawyer” in the area of Business Litigation in the 2010 edition of the New England Super Lawyers Magazine. A past president of the Rhode Island Chapter of the FBA, Lieberman currently serves on its Executive Committee and, on the national level, as a vice president for the First Circuit.

Practitioners’ News

Marc S. Raspanti, a partner at Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick and Raspanti LLP, participated on a panel at the Eighth Annual National Institute on the Civil False Claims Act and Qui Tam Enforcement in Washington, D.C., on June 4, 2010. The panel, “State Qui Tam Enforcement,” discussed the current and future course of state qui tam enforcement. Raspanti also recently taught a four-day course at Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul, Minn., entitled “Industry Spotlight: Drugs, Devices, and the False Claims Act.” Raspanti serves as chair of the firm’s White Collar Criminal Defense Group and is founder of the firm’s qui tam practice. ... Boston lawyer Dan Winslow, best known for his stint as chief legal counsel to the successful U.S. Senate campaign of Massachusetts Republican Scott Brown, has moved to Proskauer Rose’s Boston office from Duane Morris. Winslow is now senior counsel to the New York-based firm’s Litigation and Dispute Resolution Department. TFL

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