

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



On Jan. 2, the Philadelphia Association of Paralegals hosted their bimonthly lunch meeting. At the meeting, A. Michael Pratt, Philadelphia Bar Association chancellor, swore in the recently elected 2008 board members. Pictured, from left, are 2008 board members Valerie Dolan, Sharon DeNofa, Renee Mazzeo, Mary Chan, Lyndora Patterson Tiller, Alafia Aycock, Paula Wright and Christine Hewlett.

PROMOTED

Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young has admitted three attorneys to the firm's partnership: Claire DeMatteis, Jonathan Kopcsik and Prufesh Modhera.

As co-chairwoman of the firm's government and public affairs practice group and partner-in-charge of the firm's Delaware office, DeMatteis

focuses her practice on government affairs in Delaware and Washington, D.C., specializing in legislative and regulatory lobbying and business development.

Kopcsik, a member of the firm's investment management/mutual funds practice group and a resident of the firm's Philadelphia office, counsels clients on issues arising under the Investment Company Act of 1940 as well as

other federal securities laws and regulations.

Modhera, a member of the firm's investment management/mutual funds practice group based in the Washington office, counsels clients in matters pertaining to the registration and regulation of investment companies and investment advisers under federal and state securities laws. In addition, he advises clients on the formation of domestic and offshore hedge funds.

Blank Rome has elected Joseph G. Poluka into partnership. Poluka has been with the firm as of counsel for two years, practicing in the white collar, internal and government investigations group and has represented clients in a wide variety of criminal investigations and prosecutions.

Prior to joining the firm, Poluka served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the criminal division of the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Department of Justice. Poluka's prosecutorial experience includes the investigation and prosecution of complex white collar fraud and corruption matters, including bank fraud, bribery, embezzlement, environmental, export (Trading with the Enemy Act), health care fraud, securities fraud (including insider trading), tax and terrorism crimes.

While at the U.S. Attorney's Office, he also served as the deputy chief of the violent crimes, terrorism and immigration fraud section, as well as the coordinator of the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council, a group of more than 85 local, state and federal law enforcement agencies that is tasked with coordinating information sharing and cooperation on terrorism matters. Poluka also was the Patriot Act

spokesman for the district.

Poluka is a frequent author on white collar developments, including the subprime fallout. He is also a member of the Bar Association of the 3rd Federal Circuit, Federal Bar Association, Foreign Policy Research Institute, Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Phi Beta Kappa Society and the Philadelphia Bar Association.

HONORED

Francine Friedman Griesing of Greenberg Traurig's Philadelphia office was recently awarded the American Bar Association's *Probate & Property* 2007 Excellence in Writing award for Best Technology/Law Practice Management Article of 2007. Her award-winning article, "Protecting Against the Loss of the Attorney-Client Privilege in Complex International Transactions," appeared in the March/April 2007 issue of *Probate and Property* magazine.

CLARIFICATION

In the article "FJD Trial Division to Maintain Same Judicial Leadership," which appeared on page 1 of the Jan. 16 edition of *The Legal*, the specific quote by Philadelphia Common Pleas Judge D. Webster Keogh, the administrative judge of the First Judicial District's trial division, that "I don't have any current, immediate plans for change" referred to Keogh's intention to keep the same three judges in place in the Commerce Program.

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