

Dean's Leadership Forum on Diversity—
Pennsylvania Government Embracing Diversity
March 17, 2008

Registration Form — Fee \$25 (\$20 for alumni)

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LINDA L. AMMONS, JD
Associate Provost and Dean,
Widener University School of Law



Linda L. Ammons assumed the deanship of Widener University School of Law on July 1, 2006, becoming the first woman and the first African American to lead the Law School. Shortly thereafter, Dean Ammons established the Dean's

Diversity Advisory Board, comprised of leaders of government, private industry, the bench, and the bar. On March 29, 2007, through the efforts of Dean Ammons and the Board, Widener held its inaugural Annual Dean's Leadership Forum on Diversity. Each forum is to focus on topical issues and solutions to make Widener Law School, this community, and this nation a true democracy. These forums also provide a safe place for lawyers, students, academicians, and non-lawyers to come together to discuss the issues of race, gender, class, religion, ethnicity, and affection in the context of education, law practice in the private and public sectors, and the wider community.

Mail or fax the registration form and payment information, *or* call to register for the

**Dean's Leadership Forum—Pennsylvania
Government Embracing Diversity**

RSVP by Phone: 717-541-3955

RSVP by Fax: 717-541-3991

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Widener University School of Law

Attn: Sandra Graeff

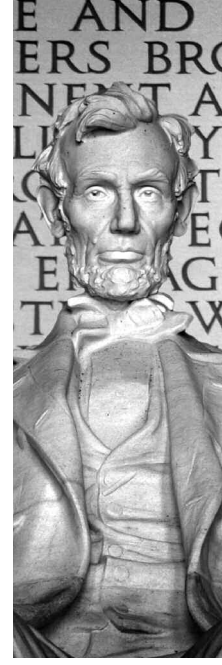
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**Of the People,
By the People,
For the People:**

Pennsylvania Government
Embracing Diversity

Dean's Leadership Forum On Diversity

March 17, 2008
Noon–5:30 pm

*Space is limited. This symposium has
been approved for 4 CLE credits in
Pennsylvania and Delaware.*

*Registration fee for CLE credits is \$25
and \$20 for alumni.*



Widener University
School of Law

Administration Building—A180
3800 Vartan Way, P.O. Box 69382
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9382

ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

Since “of the people, by the people, and for the people” was first spoken at Gettysburg, America has often struggled with the full import of its meaning. In fact, a century and a half after Lincoln’s address, our country still struggles to understand what diversity truly means, what divisions and stereotypes still go largely unnoticed or unaddressed, and how we may become more fully one people without diminishing those differences that can enrich us.

Yet, despite our struggles, we have never ceased to be drawn to the dream Lincoln’s words entail. We understand, as Justice Powell articulated in *Regents v. Bakke*, that America’s “future depends on leaders trained through wide exposure to ... ideas and more ... as diverse as this Nation of many people,” and because of that understanding, we have come to realize that states have a compelling interest in nurturing among their leadership the diversity necessary to govern “widely diverse people, cultures, ideas and viewpoints.” We know that in a society committed to government “of the people, by the people, and for the people,” those who govern must transcend the stereotypes of difference and seek both to value and to foster the potential of each unique human being.

In its 2008 Dean’s Diversity Forum, Widener University School of Law will examine both the demands created by America’s dream of a truly democratic form of democracy and the response of different branches and levels of government to that dream. In doing so, we will bring together respected voices who have encountered these demands and remain at the forefront of drafting the blueprint for diversity in government in America.

Widener Journal of Law, Economics, and Race

Proceedings of this conference will be included in the first issue of the online *Widener Journal of Law, Economics, and Race*. The journal will be published jointly by both the Delaware and Harrisburg campuses.

AGENDA

Noon

Luncheon

1:15–1:45

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- **Linda L. Ammons**, Associate Provost and Dean of Widener University School of Law
- **The Honorable Edward G. Rendell**, Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- **The Honorable Robin L. Wiessmann**, Treasurer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

1:45–3:15

Diversity Visions and Efforts in the Three Branches of Government

- **The Honorable Maureen Lally-Green**, Pennsylvania Superior Court
- **Trent Hargrove**, Chief Diversity Officer for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- **The Honorable Thaddeus Kirkland**, Chairman, Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus

Moderator: **Frank Miles**, Dean’s Diversity Committee and Office of Diversity and Development, Hershey Entertainment and Resorts

3:15–3:30

Break

3:30–4:25

The Diversity Rationale and the Legal Contours of Affirmative Action

- **Trina Jones**, Professor, Duke Law School
- **Robert L. Hayman Jr.**, Professor, Widener University School of Law

Moderator: **Katharine F. Nelson**, Professor, Widener University School of Law

4:25–5:00

Diversity, Leadership, and the Future of Our Cities

- **The Honorable John Street**, former Mayor of Philadelphia
- **Linda L. Ammons**, Associate Provost and Dean of Widener University School of Law

Moderator: **John L. Gedid**, Vice Dean and Director of the Law and Government Institute, Widener University School of Law

5:00–5:30 pm

Closing Questions and Comments for a Panel of All Speakers

Moderator: **Robert C. Power**, Professor, Widener University School of Law

5:30–6:30 pm

Reception

SPEAKERS

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell has served as governor of Pennsylvania since 2003. During his tenure, he has quadrupled Pennsylvania’s participation rate for minority and women owned businesses in Commonwealth procurements. Governor Rendell’s strategic investments have energized Pennsylvania’s economy, revitalized communities, improved education, protected the environment, and expanded access to health care to all children and affordable prescription drugs for older adults. Governor Rendell previously served as chairman of the Democratic National Committee and mayor and district attorney of Philadelphia. *The New York Times* described the Philadelphia renaissance under Mayor Rendell as “the most stunning turnaround in recent urban history.”

Linda L. Ammons is the dean of the Widener Law School. Prior to accepting the deanship here, she was an associate dean at Cleveland-Marshall Law School, executive assistant to former Ohio Governor Richard F. Celeste, and a respected television news journalist. She has been on the faculty of the National Judicial College since 1993. In 2004, the Ohio State Law School honored her with its Moritz Community Service Award.

Trent Hargrove was named one of the 50 most influential African American and minority lawyers in Pennsylvania and has served in some capacity for every Pennsylvania governor and attorney general since 1978. He is a former chief counsel to the Department of General Services and currently serves as Pennsylvania’s chief diversity officer.

Robert L. Hayman Jr. is a professor of Law at Widener’s Delaware Campus. Alumni selected him the Delaware Campus outstanding faculty member in 1999 and 2004, and he was similarly honored by the graduating classes of 1994 and 2003. He has received Widener’s H. Albert Young Fellowship, and his book, *The Smart Culture*, was recognized for its “positive portrayal of people with disabilities.”

Trina Jones is a professor at Duke Law School where she has served since 1995. During law school she was an articles editor for the *Michigan Law Review*. She co-authored *Law and Class in America: Trends Since the Cold War* with Paul Carrington, and her writings on issues of race and color have consistently appeared in the nation’s leading law reviews.

The Honorable Thaddeus Kirkland has served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since 1993 where he has been a leader in the advancement of education particularly for distressed school districts. In addition to chairing the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, he also chairs the Education Subcommittee on Basic Education.

The Honorable Maureen Lally-Green joined the Pennsylvania Superior Court in 1998 after a successful career as both a lawyer and law professor. She has served as the secretary to the Intergovernmental Commission on Race and Gender Fairness and also on numerous Supreme Court committees including chairing the Judicial Council Gender (Recommendations) Implementation Subcommittee.

The Honorable John Street served as mayor of Philadelphia from 2000 to 2008. He has long been recognized as a champion of working people and neighborhoods and is a leader on issues of education and fair housing. Before being elected mayor, he served for seventeen years on Philadelphia’s City Council, including seven years as the council’s president.

The Honorable Robin L. Wiessmann was unanimously confirmed as the treasurer of Pennsylvania on April 30, 2007. She was the founding member and president of Artemis Capital Group, the leading women-owned investment banking firm in the state, and has been honored by the National Women Executives in State Government Association and the Women’s City Club of New York.