

NEWS . Political Notebook

Summer Camp-aign

by *Mary F. Patel*

Published: Jul 23, 2008



Nobody thinks about elections in the middle of summer — especially not state office races.

The presidential election will be first and foremost on voters' minds this fall, but the offices of attorney general, treasurer and auditor general will all be on the ballot — and the campaigns have begun.

Republican Attorney General **Tom Corbett** is seeking a second term against Democrat challenger **John Morganelli**. Incumbent Democrat Auditor General **Jack Wagner** faces GOP candidate **Chet Beiler**.

The race for the treasurer's seat is a bit more visible, because the seat is wide open.

Former state Treasurer **Bob Casey Jr.** left the position in 2007 after unseating incumbent U.S. Sen. **Rick Santorum** in the 2006 election.

Gov. Ed Rendell appointed **Robin Wiessmann** to fill the interim term until a new treasurer could be elected. Wiessmann took the appointment with the condition that she would not run.

Now, Republican **Tom Ellis** is up against Democrat **Rob McCord**, a venture capitalist. Ellis ran unopposed in the GOP primary, while McCord ran against (and outspent) Democratic primary opponents **John Cordisco**, chairman of the Bucks County Democratic Party, **Jennifer Mann**, a state rep from Allentown, and **Dennis Morrison-Wesley**, a former investment salesman from Harrisburg.

Ellis has been a bond lawyer at Ballard Spahr and comes well-funded; his finance chair is Ballard chairman **Arthur Makadon**. Makadon, who usually supports Democrats, has been raising money for Ellis and hosted a fundraiser for him at the firm last week. The event raked in some \$70,000. Guests included Blue Cross executives **Christopher Cashman** and **Christopher Butler**, GOP benefactor **Bob Asher**, SEPTA general manager **Joe Casey**, Montco Commissioner **Jim Matthews** and Ballard lawyer **Ken Jarin**, husband of Wiessmann, who also attended.

Ellis was the Montgomery County Commission chair until he was beaten by former District Attorney **Bruce Castor** for his seat last year.

He says his experience as the commissioner of the third largest county in the commonwealth will put him over the edge in November.



Hugh E. Dillon

Scott Sigman, Matt Ray, Alec Mapa (L-R)

[\(CLICK IMAGE FOR LARGER VERSION\)](#)

Meanwhile, local Republicans are looking ahead to next year's city race for district attorney.

Such was the talk last Friday night at the firm of Bochetto & Lentz, where **George Bochetto**, along with firm associate **Scott Sigman** and entertainment lawyer **Kevon Glickman**, hosted a reception for gay entertainer of the year, **Alec Mapa**.

Mapa, a TV and film star, was honored at the Philadelphia International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

Sigman, a former special narcotics prosecutor in the District Attorney's Office, has been considering a run for DA.

His former boss, District Attorney **Lynne Abraham**, is not seeking re-election.

While Democrats control most of City Hall, Republicans have posited in past campaigns that members of the city's dominant party should not serve as DA or controller, as cozy appearances or conflicts of interest could arise — particularly when Democrats rely on each other for support during election time.

Joe DeFelice, Philadelphia director of the Pennsylvania Republican Party, said he thinks Sigman would be a great choice for DA. "Scott is always out there," said DeFelice, who is also the state campaign coordinator for GOP presidential candidate **John McCain** and is busy opening up a McCain campaign office in Northeast Philadelphia.

Sigman is chairman of the Young Lawyers Division of the Philadelphia Bar Association and has been named a Pennsylvania Rising Star Super Lawyer by *Philly Mag*, as well as being named a "Lawyer on the Fast Track" by the *Legal Intelligencer* in 2006.

"I would like to see new young faces take these seats," continued DeFelice. "Like the **Arlen Specter/Tom Gola** ticket in 1969."

Considered a young turk back then, Specter ran for re-election as DA along with Gola. Their slogan, designed by their then-media consultant **Elliott Curson** was: *They're tougher. They're younger. And nobody owns them.* (Curson occasionally contributes photos to this column.)

Democrats **Dan McCaffery**, Common Pleas Court Judge **Darnell Jones** and **Seth Williams** may all run for DA next year.

At the party, Sigman publicly thanked the guests for coming, and the firm sprang for a top-shelf open bar at Bochetto's Very Well, the bar in the firm basement that Bochetto opened in retaliation to the city's smoking ban.

(rcpatel@aol.com)