

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY

Never work just for money or for power. They won't save your soul or help you sleep at night.

- MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN
ACTIVIST & FOUNDER,
CHILDREN'S DEFENSE
FUND

Firm Life

Schnader recognizes the importance of establishing a healthy balance between one's work and one's personal life, and seeks to encourage and foster a friendly, collegial environment where an attorney can learn, develop and grow both professionally and as an individual. At Schnader, we like to think of ourselves as a family, and the Firm hosts a series of events and activities designed to support, stimulate, and motivate our attorneys and staff. Of course, some events are

designed just for fun, too! Ultimately, it is all about building dynamic relationships with the people you work with, and making sure that the time you spend at work is fulfilling, meaningful and valuable – not just for Schnader as a firm, but for you as an individual. Schnader's activities and annual events include:

The Annual Holiday Party

In each of our offices, attorneys and staff gather at the end of the year to toast to the good events of the past year, and ring in good fortune for the upcoming year. The Philadelphia and Cherry Hill offices come together in a Center City venue to enjoy a night of holiday cheer, dancing, dining, and fun. In the past, it has also been a time for the "Schnader Talent Show," with attorneys and staff invited to showcase hidden – or not-so-hidden – talents for the crowd. The acts have varied, from people collaborating together on skits that poke good-natured fun at some of the Firm's traditions, to individuals who perform original musical compositions. And, more than once, the Firm's Chairman – Ralph Wellington – has entertained the crowd during cocktail hour with music from a small jazz group in which he plays. More than anything, it is a chance to share some 'downtime' with friends and co-workers in a relaxed, informal setting. Other offices gather and celebrate as well, inviting spouses or significant others for an intimate evening of dining and dancing.

Pleasure in the job puts
perfection in the work.
- ARISTOTLE

Sports Fans

Schnader employees are avid sports fans. All the offices come together during football and baseball season to cheer on their favorite team. Come football season, Team Philly proudly wears the Eagles' green – win or lose! And, of course, our Philly office supports our Fightin' Phils', as well as the 76-ers, the Flyers and all of our great local college teams too.



Our other offices are home to strong competitors and avid sports fans too – our Pittsburgh office cheers on the Steelers with their 'Terrible Towels' and celebrates **Pirates Family Day** at PNC Park every year. When they are not out at the ball game, our Pittsburgh colleagues can even look out their window and onto the field. From the West Coast and our San Francisco office to our New York office and all of that city's grand sports traditions, Schnader is home to many devoted sports fans!

The Schnader Softball Team

When summer rolls around, the Schnader softball team springs into action! Each week, attorneys and staff change out of their usual work clothes into more sporty attire, and set off in the early evening to near-by Fairmount Park to participate in a recreational softball league. 'Team Schnader' faces off against other law firms and legal departments from around the city, bringing the best we have to bear against the fierce competition! Afterwards, the group heads off to a local pub for food and drink and to talk over winning strategies for the next game.

The Schnader Café

No need to worry if you've forgotten your lunch or the weather is too bad to run out to Starbucks for that late morning java jolt – the Philadelphia Schnader Café is open and available to serve up whatever you might need, from a hot breakfast or coffee in the morning, to a wrap or a salad for lunch. Prepared by the expert chefs of Eurest, the varied menu includes a variety of breakfast pastries, yogurt, fruit, cereal and freshly made hot items like French toast or omelets at breakfast, as well as a daily lunch menu that can include – on any given day – homemade meatloaf and potatoes, a “stir fry bar” or an Indian food festival with tandoori or curry chicken, tikka masala, naan, and basmati rice. Sandwiches, a salad bar with an array of fresh items, and soups from Au Bon Pain are all also available daily. You can even choose from a daily ‘Weight Watchers’ selection, which was made available after a group of employees organized a regular Weight Watchers meeting at the Firm and requested the addition to the menu.



Our other offices may not have a café, but gourmet dining is often just steps away!

Associate Retreats

Schnader is committed to fostering an environment where a young attorney can learn and grow into a savvy, seasoned professional. At Schnader, you won't have the opportunity to live up to your potential – you'll have the opportunity to go beyond it. The annual Associate's Retreat – which is just one component of a larger training program – is designed to introduce you to the newest and latest in the profession while allowing you to brush up on skills that may have become a little rusty. [Click here to read about professional development at the Firm.](#)

But professional development is not the only thing accomplished at the annual event. Associates from all over the firm get to know each other over the two days they are together by taking part in such activities as team cooking, Schnader Jeopardy, and the “Get to Know a Lateral” game. Last year, the associates had dinner under starry skies in the Fels Planetarium at the Franklin Institute followed by the opportunity to view the unique and extraordinary exhibit, “King Tut and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs.”

“Never be afraid to sit awhile and think.”
- LORRAINE HANSBERRY
PLAYWRIGHT

“Above all, Schnader's attorneys seem to understand that the practice of law is a profession--not simply a business--and the firm strives to create a collegial work environment that encourages associates to take leadership roles in the firm, to refine our legal skills, and to make positive contributions in our communities so that we may better serve our clients.”

- MORGEN CHESHIRE

ASSOCIATE, SCHNADER

*Read more about my associate experience
by clicking [here!](#)*

First Thursdays

After a long day's work, sometimes it can help to unwind and take a moment to share a story or a laugh with a colleague. From an odd experience in court, to an interesting story in the media, getting the perspective of a friend or mentor can help motivate or provide a different point of view. Of course, it is good just to relax too! Because of all that and more, each office takes the time to bring attorneys and staff together.

The Firm's Philadelphia office hosts a series of ‘First Thursdays’ events throughout the year. An informal, after-work event held in the Firm's spacious two-story atrium and main-floor conference area, First Thursdays offer partners, associates, and staff a chance to unwind with light food and drinks.

Schnader Wellness, Weight Watchers at Work, Yoga and Red Cross Blood Drives

Health and wellness are highlighted at Schnader through the work of the Schnader Wellness Committee and Schnader's “Weight Watchers at Work” group. Periodically throughout the year, the Schnader Wellness Committee hosts events, lunchtime lectures, and “wellness fairs” to emphasize the importance of establishing and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. From inviting medical experts in to discuss the regular medical tests every person should consider, to preventing disease, to developing and offering programs to help people understand how exercise and good nutrition can improve your life, Schnader Wellness looks to bring informative, interesting, and entertaining programming to the Firm.

The Committee also plans and coordinates several **“Wear Jeans to Work”** fundraisers throughout the year – for a small donation, attorneys and staff are invited to wear jeans to work, with all of the money raised going to worthy causes. Although the Committee has only been in existence for a few years, they have still managed to raise thousands of dollars which have been donated to charities such as the American Cancer Society.

“When health is absent, wisdom cannot reveal itself, art cannot manifest, strength cannot fight, wealth becomes useless, and intelligence cannot be applied.”
- HEROPHILUS
GREEK PHYSICIAN AND SCHOLAR

The Firm makes available a medical evaluation program for all attorneys and directors. This evaluation is strictly confidential and provided at no cost. The program offers a comprehensive physical examination, extended consultation with a physician, and diagnostic tests and procedures with a focus on early detection and prevention.

Schnader also has an active **“Weight Watchers at Work”** group which meets regularly throughout the year at lunchtime. The members are advised and guided by a trained Weight Watchers leader, who comes to the Firm each week and offers the group an opportunity to learn and talk about nutrition, real-life recipes, activities/exercises, strategies for the tough times, and general tips for weight loss. Additionally, the group offers each other support and encouragement in their weight loss journey. All in the Firm are welcome to join if they are looking for a way to jump start a weight loss program, or are even just looking to lead a healthier lifestyle.

Yoga classes are a staple of both the Philadelphia and New York offices as a way to provide low-impact exercise, increase flexibility and relieve stress. In Philadelphia, classes are held several times a week during lunchtime and led by a member of Schnader’s administrative staff who has been practicing and teaching yoga for years.

And, true to the Schnader spirit of ‘giving back,’ the Firm hosts several American Red Cross blood drives a year, and firm-wide individuals are encouraged to participate if they can.

The Schnader Family - Take Your Child to Work Day, the Tomato Contest, Summer Ice Cream Party, Staff Appreciation Day, and More!

Throughout the year, Schnader hosts a series of events that recognize that in many ways, we all are one ‘family’ with lives and interests that extend beyond the four simple walls of the office.

Each spring, the Firm celebrates **‘Take Your Child to Work Day,’** by inviting the children of attorneys and staff to visit Schnader for the day and experience a unique view into a “day in the life” of their parents. Last year, the day’s events included a series of “challenges” for the children based on the popular TV program Survivor. Dressed in matching T-shirts and ‘tribe bandanas,’ the kids were split into teams and given different tests and puzzles that helped them understand



the ins-and-outs of practicing law, and at the end of the day were given awards for the various 'challenges' they had won.

Everyone had a wonderful time, and fortunately, nobody was voted off the island!

Another annual event that many look forward to is the **Schnader Tomato Contest**. The Firm's most talented green thumbs gather at the end of the summer growing season with their garden's finest for a Firm-wide tasting and vote. Led by [Albert Momjian](#), who competes enthusiastically, Schnader attorneys and staff from each of our different offices are invited to submit their very best. Over lunch, people gather in the Firm's main conference center to sample the entries, along with Italian delicacies like roasted red peppers and fresh crusty bread, and vote to decide just who is Schnader's "Top Tomato." The competition may take place in Philadelphia but this year's top tomato was a fierce competitor from the New York office.



It is not all vegetables, though. Schnader also has an annual **Ice Cream Party** to celebrate the end of summer. Held in the Café, different flavors of ice cream and yogurt are topped with a wide range of toppings to make a cool finish to the day and a nice way to "top off" The summer season.



It is said that no man is an island – and, similarly, no attorney is an island either. Our success as a Firm depends on the efforts of many different people performing a variety of different jobs, which is why Schnader celebrates "**Staff Appreciation Day**" each year. Last year, this meant the staff was invited to slip out to the "Schnader Casino" for some fun and (table) games! Spread throughout an entire floor in the building that the Philadelphia office occupies, the Schnader Casino offered games of chance, card games and roulette, as well as raffles, popcorn, snacks and soft drinks. In other years, Staff Appreciation Day found the arrival of the "Schnader Beach and Boardwalk" at the Firm, and staff could be found enjoying cotton candy, popcorn, and water ice. Carnival-style games were played. Everyone received a beach towel and wonderful gifts were raffled off throughout the event.

Litigation Bowling Event - The Litigation department comes together every year for a special family event. Sometimes it's baseball at New Jersey's Campbell Field to see the Camden River Sharks play, or it could be bowling at Lucky Strike lanes in downtown Philadelphia.



"When people go to work, they shouldn't have to leave their hearts at home."

- BETTY BENDER

It Takes a Village - The Schnader family also looks to touch the community we all live and work in, and seek to make a positive difference for those who may be in need. In addition to encouraging and supporting attorneys in pursuing pro bono matters, the Firm as a whole supports **Caton Village** – a halfway house where women who are recovering from the horrors of addiction can live together with their children as rebuild their lives.

From running a legal clinic to assist the mothers in advancing their needs, to providing costumes and hosting the children at the Firm for Halloween trick-or-treating around the office, to fulfilling the children's Christmas and holiday gift wishes through donations of money and gifts, every member of the Schnader family has participated in offering a helping hand to the women and children of Caton Village.



Biking for a Cause

"Team Schnader" participates each year in the American Cancer Society City-to-Shore Ride to raise money for this noble cause.

Real success is finding your lifework in the work that you love.

- DAVID MCCULLOUGH,
AUTHOR