

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors Meeting
April 26, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Chair Brandi Brice.

Upon consideration by the Board, the minutes of the March 29, 2012 Board meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Joseph Prim presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending March 31, 2012. He reported that dues revenue is lower than expected, as has been previously reported, but that Executive Director Ken Shear continues to work hard on the dues issue. Treasurer Prim also reported that Lawyer Profiles are not selling as well as expected. Executive Director Shear noted that the Association is taking steps to keep expenses down by leaving vacant staff positions open. At this time the Association workforce has been reduced by three staff persons and those positions will not be filled. After consideration, the Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted by the Board.

Chancellor John Savoth began his announcements by reporting that he attended the Support Center for Child Advocates recent fundraiser. He commended Support Center Executive Director Frank Cervone and his staff for doing a great job with organizing a compelling event. Chancellor Savoth then reported that he met with Chief Justice Ron Castille to discuss holding meetings throughout the Commonwealth to present on the issue of Civil Gideon, in the same manner that Jonathan Lippman, Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals, was able to gain traction with an education campaign on the issue among New York State's bar leaders and bankers. Chancellor Savoth also reported that he appeared for his first on-camera interview with *Comcast Newsmakers*.

Chancellor Savoth informed that the Long Range Planning Council's Task Force on Health Insurance is looking into and negotiating group health insurance coverage for the Association's members, with the hope that discounted health insurance can be promoted as a benefit of membership. Membership is also an important issue of concern for the Long Range Planning Council and strategies for improving membership numbers and benefits are constantly being discussed. Chancellor Savoth will continue to provide the Board with updates on the health insurance coverage negotiation and on membership.

Chancellor Savoth reported that the kickoff event for the Military and Veterans Assistance Program will be held on May 21 at 1 p.m. with Chief Justice Castille and Justice Seamus McCaffery in the Supreme Court Courtroom. The event will be the public unveiling of the Association's programs designed to help veterans to assimilate back into civilian society.

Chair Brice announced that she has been attending LRIS committee meetings and commended them on the great job they are doing and for the revenue that they continue to bring into the Association.

Chair Brice welcomed Maria Feeley, Vice Chair of the Women's Rights Committee to present on the Resolution in Support of United States Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women ("CEDAW"). Ms. Feeley informed that CEDAW is the first treaty to address the elimination of discrimination against women, that it took the United Nations 15 years to draft the treaty, that the United States has a bipartisan tradition of supporting human rights via international treaties and that a treaty can only be ratified with at least two-thirds of the Senate supporting it. Ms. Feeley also informed that 186 countries have ratified or acceded to CEDAW and that the United States is the only industrialized democracy of seven countries, which countries include the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Sudan and the Somali Republic, yet to ratify CEDAW. President Barack Obama has sent CEDAW to the State Department for evaluation and it is possible that this matter will come before the Senate this year. The Women's Rights Committee, Women in the Profession Committee, Civil Rights Committee and Public Interest Section all support CEDAW. After consideration by the Board, the resolution was unanimously passed.

Chancellor-Elect Kathleen Wilkinson commended Ms. Feeley for introducing, and the Sections and Committees and this Association for supporting, the resolution. She also informed that the Women's Rights Committee and the Interbranch Commission on Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness are hosting a luncheon CLE discussion on May 1 entitled, Addressing Inequities and Securing Fairness and Equal Justice in Pennsylvania's Court System.

Chair Brice invited Criminal Justice Section Chair Kevin Mincey and Brad Shuttleworth to lead a discussion on the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania Administrative Governing Board's Administrative Order No. 02-2012 regarding Payment of Court Appointed Counsel for Indigent Representation. Former Criminal Justice Section Chair and long-time practitioner Troy Wilson was also present for the discussion. Mr. Shuttleworth explained that Judge Herron's Order calls for all court-appointed counsel fee petitions approved for payment on or after July 1, or approved for payment but not paid before July 1, to be forwarded to the Treasurer of the City of Philadelphia for payment; however, the Order does not also set forth a mechanism for the fees to be paid. Mr. Shuttleworth contacted the Counsel Fee Unit and the Assistant City Treasurer and neither knew how to pay the fee petition or knew of a mechanism in place for payment of the fee petitions. He further explained that, if fee petitions are not paid, it will have a significant impact on criminal law and family law practitioners, who depend on these fees to sustain their livelihoods. Mr. Mincey acknowledged that the separation of the payment of fees from the judiciary is a good idea but agreed that a mechanism must be in place for the guaranteed payment of fees, or the quality of the court-appointed bar will suffer. Mr. Wilson explained that this matter is not simply about getting attorneys paid, but about leveling the playing field by making resources available for fair and equal access to justice for indigent criminal defendants. Chancellor Savoth informed the Board that the purpose of the discussion was to educate the Board about the issue and to get a sense of the Board as to next steps. It was the sense of the Board that (a) the Board expresses its

concern as to what it has been told about the April 3, 2012 Order of the First Judicial District Administrative Governing board and (b) the Chancellor should begin discussions with appropriate judicial and executive branch officials regarding the Order and then to report back to the Board.

Chair Brice invited Young Lawyers Division Chair Melanie Taylor to report on upcoming Law Week events. YLD Chair Taylor reported that Law Week is well-staffed and that a mock trial of Goldilocks will be featured. She also requested volunteers for the Lawyers for a Day event, which will take place on Friday, May 4 at City Hall and at the Criminal Justice Center.

Vice-Chancellor William Fedullo requested that the passing of Don Goldberg, a legendary Philadelphia criminal lawyer, be acknowledged. Scott Sigman also sought acknowledgement for the recent tragic passing of Jamie Egan, a former Assistant District Attorney.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sophia Lee
Secretary

Board of Governors
Attendance
April 26, 2012

Voting Members:

Present:

John E. Savoth
Kathleen D. Wilkinson
William P. Fedullo
Sophia Lee
Joseph A. Prim, Jr.
Wesley R. Payne, IV
Brandi J. Brice
Scott P. Sigman
Stacy A. Tees
Kimberly M. Ruch-Alegant
John Encarnacion
Gina Furia Rubel
Brian S. Chacker
Eric H. Weitz
Kay Kyungsun Yu

Jennifer Segal Coatsworth
Ourania Papademetriou
Nikki Johnson-Huston
Melanie J. Taylor
Lawrence S. Felzer
Wanda E. Flowers
Brad V. Shuttleworth
Gordon W. Wase
Brad J. Begelman
Robert T. Szostak
Hon. A. Michael Snyder
Michael E. Bertin
George F. Nagle
Rudolph Garcia
Regina M. Foley

Absent:

Jacqueline G. Segal
Marc J. Zucker
Pedro Ramos
H. Marc Tepper
Rachel Branson

Scott W. Reid
Rachel Branson
Aneesh A. Mehta
James A. Rocco, III

Non-Voting Members:

Present:

Michael B. Hayes
Louis S. Rulli
Judy Stouffer

Lawrence J. Beaser
Kenneth Shear

Absent:

Wendy Beetlestone
Scott F. Cooper
Heather Austin
Daniel J. Siegel
Asima Panigrahi
Andrea Malone

Flora Yarnall
Cheryl A. Disch
A. Michael Pratt
Sayde J. Ladov
Abraham C. Reich