

**Philadelphia Bar Association  
Board of Governors Meeting  
April 25, 2019**

Board Chair Amber Racine opened the meeting and entertained a motion to amend the minutes of the meeting of March 28, 2019. Chancellor Rochelle Fedullo made a friendly amendment to the minutes to modify her remarks and, as amended, the minutes were approved on a motion by Judge Sandra Moss (ret.), seconded by Immediate Past Chancellor Mary Platt.

Treasurer Marc Zucker stated that his report for March 2019 reflected good news in that the Association is in the black – i.e., ahead of projected budget for that point in the year – by \$40,000 because revenues were up by \$18,000 and expenses were lower by \$20,000. Although at the present time dues collected are \$36,000 less than collected at the same point last year, this result was expected and incorporated in the budget. As dues are now coming in from larger firms, the year to date numbers will be better at the end of next month. Overall the Association expects to perform within budget for the year based on results to date.

Chancellor-Elect Snyder moved to accept the treasurer's report, and was seconded by Chancellor Fedullo, and the report was unanimously approved.

Board member Susan Lin and Nadia Hewka of Community Legal Services presented a "Resolution Calling on the Pennsylvania Courts and Administrative Law Agencies to Implement Policies Limiting Communications with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) by Court or Agency Personnel and Monitoring ICE Access to Courthouses, Hearing Offices and Probation Offices for Immigration Enforcement." Lin explained that the resolution was drafted after consultations with the First Judicial District made it clear that action would most likely be undertaken upon direction by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, which explains why the current version of the resolution is directed to courts generally. Upon recommendation of Chancellor-Elect Snyder, the Resolution also directly addresses workers' compensation hearings and other administrative proceedings. The resolution is supported by the Workers' Compensation Section, the Immigration Law Committee, the Delivery of Legal Services Committee and the Public Interest Section. Lin emphasized that the purpose of the resolution was to ensure that all litigants would feel safe in accessing the courts without fear of any concerns raised by ICE's presence and noted that in that regard the Philadelphia Sheriff's Department now requires ICE personnel to report their presence and purpose in court. She further observed that the ABA has passed a similar resolution, another similar resolution is pending before the PA Bar Association and that the New York Bar Association is considering similar measures.

Board member Louis Rulli commented that the proposed resolution was consistent with earlier resolutions of the Association, such as the resolution reacting to the recent partial federal government shutdown, seeking to ensure the courts generally remain open at all times to all litigants. In response to a question raised as to instances where there is a legitimate need to ascertain the status of litigants, Chancellor-Elect Snyder noted this can be an issue in the context of Workers' Compensation but that there are other methods to collect any relevant information needed without asking for an individual's immigration status. In the context of bail hearings, questions are posed regarding the likelihood of the accused being a flight risk and whether s/he

has meaningful connections in the community, to avoid unnecessary disclosure of immigration status. In this regard the proposed Resolution is consistent with the current “sanctuary” policy in the City of Philadelphia.

Board member Riley Ross said this proposed resolution could be of significance to the consideration of a similar motion by the PA Bar Association at its upcoming May meeting.

Chancellor-Elect Snyder moved for approval of the resolution, and Judge Moss (ret.) seconded the motion, which was passed with one vote (Jennifer Seme) in opposition.

Board member Mark Mazzanti presented a “Resolution Increasing the Dues of the Workers’ Compensation Section,” to raise the dues in ten dollar increments over the next few years (from the current \$20.00), primarily to pay for enhanced WiFi service in the city-rented space at 8<sup>th</sup> Street just north of Arch Street where workers’ compensation hearings are conducted. Chancellor-Elect Snyder moved for acceptance of the resolution, Chancellor Fedullo seconded and the resolution passed unanimously.

Toby Oxholm and Family Law Section Chair Kristine Calalang presented a “Resolution Calling on the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons to Expedite the Process by Which Pardon Applications from Non-incarcerated Citizens Can Be Heard.” Oxholm explained that individuals released from jail and seeking to restart their lives in their community face challenges due to their criminal records such as not getting jobs, DHS not placing children with individuals with criminal backgrounds and other impediments, quoting the Fels Institute and PHL Works on the dire impact on such individuals of their criminal records. Although all those with criminal records ultimately can benefit from pardons, those who are no longer incarcerated and are instead working in the community are the prime focus of the Resolution, which has the backing of the Family Law Section, the Business Law Section and the Criminal Justice Section. Oxholm further noted that resolutions such as this can and do make a difference, stating that a resolution passed earlier in the year by the Association dealing with the pardon process had a demonstrable impact on what the government intended to do with respect to then proposed changes to the process.

Chancellor Fedullo moved to accept the resolution and was seconded by Chancellor-Elect Snyder. The resolution was approved unanimously.

YLD Chair Michaela Tassinari offered a presentation of forthcoming Law Week activities which included daily programs by YLD including going into classes, giving free legal advice, offering high schoolers tours of City Hall and the Criminal Justice Center to see courts in action and, at the end of the week, mock trials where school children would be jurors in cases involving Jack and the Beanstalk and Goldilocks. Volunteers were being sought to participate in one or more of these events, particularly for the lawyer in the class room events and to provide free legal advice or referrals for legal assistance to either LIRS or appropriate local legal services nonprofits.

Assistant Secretary Ira Lefton reminded board members of their obligations to fulfill their pro bono and diversity requirements and to complete reporting forms and disclosure forms regarding each of these initiatives.

Executive Director Harvey Hurdle gave his report structured around the three themes of the year. As to the first, "Meeting the Numbers," Hurdle noted that the Association was \$40,000 ahead of budget currently and that the Association was on course to be on par with last year's budget. CLE and LRIS were both doing well and, although the revenue from USI was less than last year (due to the structure of its contract with the Association), BPU was a new affinity member and firms which used its services would generate revenue for the Association.

Section/committee activity as measured by use of the Association's facilities may be declining in some instances but that will be further analyzed.

In terms of "Building the Platform," a new IT vendor is being approved and its systems should be up and running by the end of June. The Membership data base might end up moving from a server to the cloud and that prospective move is currently being analyzed. Most important of all, the new LRIS platform on the internet is up and running and, in a rarity for such efforts, was completed on time and on budget and now will offer 24/7 service.

In terms of the third theme, "Raising the Profile," the Association is pushing City Council to better address housing needs for low income tenants facing eviction and is working with CLS to seek \$3.5 million to provide a right to counsel for such tenants. The Association was mentioned three times in the Philadelphia Inquirer regarding the efforts of the Judicial Commission and it is going to work with a PAC and use social media to push for the election of those deemed qualified or highly qualified by the Commission. Finally, marketing of the new LRIS website will be undertaken after election-related efforts are concluded.

Director of Public and Legal Services Charles Klitsch demonstrated how the new LRIS software system would operate. Among other enhancements, panel attorneys will be able to log on to the website directly from their own desks, displacing 18 old year software. On line, real time referrals will now be possible. Acquisition of the new software was the result of a joint undertaking by the Philadelphia, New York City, Brooklyn and San Francisco Bar Associations. When referrals are offered to a prospective client the pictures and bios of the attorneys will be shown. Due to the enhancements now incorporated in the LRIS website, it can compete more effectively with other online legal services that do not carry out the vetting of attorneys whose services are being offered that LRIS carries out. Klitsch noted one favorable indication of the new website's appeal: thirteen people reached out to it during its first week of operation even without the benefit of a full launch (coming in June). To build on the website's appeal, the Association will be working with appropriate marketing firms to enhance on line marketing including on Google.

Chancellor Fedullo praised the ongoing efforts of the staff and the board, noting that the new public relations team was working well and had generated a lot of radio coverage including directly from Council chambers and also focusing on the work of the Judicial Commission. In that regard, Chancellor Fedullo pointed out that the Inquirer had praised the Judicial Commission as the only authoritative source of information regarding judicial candidates and that a member of the Philadelphia Democratic City Party had referred to the Bar Association as "the angels" when it came to judicial elections.

Chancellor Fedullo observed that emails to the Association membership regarding "wins" for the Association such as the Inquirer's praise of the Judicial Commission would be sent out with

greater frequency and that, when sent out under an individual's name, such as that of the Chancellor, met with greater acceptance and response.

The quarterly association event was a great success in a new venue and met with much positive feedback (and in so noting Chancellor Fedullo singled out Immediate Past Chancellor Platt for thanks and congratulations). Chancellor Fedullo read a letter of gratitude and appreciation from a member of the 60 year club, to note the importance of the event in honoring those who have contributed to the history and success of the practice of law in the City. Chancellor Fedullo described her speaking, at the invitation of USDC ED PA Judge Rufe, to a group of 55 lawyers and law students from Italy (who were dumbfounded by the process by which judges are elected in state court in Philadelphia) and at two naturalization ceremonies, which are always among the best events in which she participates.

Board member Seme, as a member of the ABA's diversity and inclusion committee, spoke about its judicial intent opportunity program which seeks funding for minority students (mostly first years) to serve as extern/interns for judges, supported by \$2500 stipends. Participants have higher graduation rates, higher bar examination passage rates and higher rates in obtaining judicial clerkships upon graduation. The local effort seeks to get potential interns/externs and clerks with ties to Philadelphia, because judges themselves prefer such local ties. Donors to the effort – which seeks \$2500 from the PHL legal community -- would be able to attend the local federal district court's events for the intern/externs participating in the event this summer. Jen herself volunteered to contribute \$500.00 towards this goal which was immediately matched by board member Michael van der Veen.

Board Chair Racine spoke of the need for volunteers to work on Election Day regarding the Judicial Commission endorsements. Vice Chair Kamau noted that volunteers did not need to be 18 years old and suggested enlisting volunteers from the networks of individual members such as churches, Rotary Clubs etc.

Chair Racine stated that thanks would soon be issuing to those board members who had met the commitments made at the initial January meeting and thereafter and remarked that the board as a whole had committed to contribute \$20,000 to the Association – which was incorporated in the budget. She also noted that various charity drives for pillows and blankets, and for books for grades K to 8, are ongoing and concluded her remarks by congratulating Riley Ross on an award to be given his law firm at the annual Barristers' Gala on May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Warwick Hotel.

There being no further business, board member Seme moved to adjourn, was seconded by board member Rulli and on a unanimous voice vote adjournment was approved.

**Board of Governors Attendance**  
**April 25, 2019**

**Voting members present**

Rochelle Fedullo  
Hon. A. Michael Snyder (Ret.)  
Ira Lefton  
Marc Zucker  
Matthew Olesh  
Amber Racine  
Nicholas Kamau  
Katayun Jaffari  
Susan Lin  
Hon. Sandra Mazer Moss (Ret.)  
Maureen Olives  
Jennifer Seme  
Meghan Claiborne  
Francesca Iacovangelo  
Alisha Rodriguez  
Michael van der Veen

Dominique Ward  
Diane Penneys Edelman  
Lawrence Felzer  
Dino Privitera  
Riley Ross  
P. Douglas Sisk  
Neelima Vanguri  
Michaella Tassinari  
Leon Goodman  
Kris Calalang  
Maureen Farrell  
Alexander Barth  
Erin Siciliano  
Mark Mazzanti  
Mary Platt  
Reginald Shuford

**Absent:**

Lauren McKenna  
Jennifer Coatsworth  
Neil Maskeri  
Benjamin Barnett  
James Berardinelli

Hillary Ladov  
Marcel Pratt  
Brenda Marrero  
Cheryl Upham

**Non-voting members present:**

Leslie John

Harvey Hurdle

**Absent:**

Lawrence Beaser  
Abraham Reich

Butler Buchanan  
Wesley Payne

**Invited guests present:**

Priscilla Jimenez  
Louis Rulli  
Jacqueline Segal