

Philadelphia Bar Association

Board of Governors Meeting

October 27, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 P.M. by Chair Brad Shuttleworth.

Upon consideration by the Board, the minutes of the September 21, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Wesley R. Payne, IV, presented the Financial Report for the period ending September 30, 2015. He reported that the Association is in good financial condition. Bottom line is that we are still doing well, with net revenues at approximately \$45,000 above the red line, due to expenses being under budget by \$216,000. We are still lagging in dues collection by \$109,000.00.

After consideration, the Treasurer's Financial Report was unanimously accepted by the Board.

The Chair then asked for the Chancellor's announcements.

Chancellor Dandridge reported that the Bar Association has been getting a plethora of awards. We recently received a proclamation from the Mayor for our efforts regarding business continuity day.

The Chancellor stated that in his opinion, and that of many others, the Bench-Bar Conference was exceptional. Chancellor Dandridge expressed his appreciation to the staff and to Julia Swain, the chair. In the Chancellor's opinion, the conference was a tour de force. The Chancellor commented that Judges who attended the conference have written many letters to say how much they enjoyed it.

Mark Tarasiewicz and the Chancellor have continued their law firm visits. They have done about 20 major firms this year and have been well-received by the firms.

Pepper Hamilton hosted an international LLM reception on October 7. We have many foreign LLM students in Philadelphia; about 50 students were in attendance.

The Chancellor also remarked on his attendance at the VIP event at the Reading Terminal, the Hispanic Bar Reception at The Society of Colonial Dames, and the Juvenile Law Center Reception held at the Bellevue. Over 800 people attended the Juvenile Law Center gala, which served as a wonderful tribute to Bob Schwartz, the long-time Executive Director and its cofounder, who is retiring from his position this year.

The Chancellor remarked upon the ongoing discussions with Drexel University and the Kline School of Law regarding our CLE venture. The Chancellor introduced Tara Phoenix, the new Continuing Legal Education Director, to the Board.

Chancellor Dandridge also discussed the Chancellor's Forum on October 26 with Terri Morrison entitled Kiss, Bow, and Shake Hands. This was an excellent forum on how to deal with different cultures.

This evening we are holding a reception for those who have committed to support the Campaign for Qualified Judges. All retention Judges who have been listed as "recommended" by the Judicial Commission and who have agreed to sign the pledge not to directly solicit campaign contributions from lawyers have been invited.

Another Chancellor's forum is scheduled in November with Holly Petraeus of the Consumer Finance Protection Board who will talk about efforts to protect veterans or service members from scams.

On November 12, the Diversity Law Group will sponsor a National Diversity and Inclusion Symposium at the Union League. The focus of the program is on unconscious bias. The morning speaker will be Professor Jerry Kang of USC Law School.

On November 13, the APABA-PA Dinner will be held at the Sheraton University City. During the day, the Chancellor will be in Washington, D.C. for the Interamerican Bar Association 75th anniversary celebration; the Philadelphia Bar Association was one of the charter members.

The Chancellor reminded everyone that November 7 is the date of the Andrew Hamilton Benefit Bash for the Philadelphia Bar Foundation and encouraged everyone to come.

On October 22 the Justinian Society held a luncheon at which Jim Kenney was the speaker. On October 28, the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association will hold its annual Musmanno Award Dinner.

At the annual Red Mass last week. Judge Jerry McHugh received the Thomas More Society Award. Judge McHugh's speech was scholarly and fascinating, befitting the brilliance of the award's namesake. Kathleen Wilkinson drew attention to fact that the Philadelphia Lawyer had pictures of our history with the event.

The Chancellor indicated that we just wrote a letter to the American Bar Association which has set forth a pilot program that is similar to LRIS and which was done without our permission or knowledge. The Chancellor sent Paulette Brown, the President of the ABA, a letter to indicate that most Bar Associations have their own Lawyer Referral program and that the ABA has hired a private contractor to solicit for lawyer referrals which would cause serious damage to the established Lawyer Referral programs of

many local Bar Associations. The vendor engaged by the ABA, Rocket Lawyer, is charging \$4.95 just to make the call to an attorney to refer the matter.

The Chancellor noted that Graham Laub did a great program entitled Giants of the Business Bar with Amy Boss.

Chair Brad Shuttleworth asked Jamie Funt and Tom Innes to introduce Keir Bradford Gray the new Chief Defender. Ms. Gray expressed her delight at being asked to take over the role of the Chief Defender.

Next, Tom Innes and Jamie Funt introduced a resolution that has been unanimously passed by the Criminal Justice Section and the Public Interest Section to support Senate Bill 400 that would require the Attorney General, in any case where there is a death of a person involving law enforcement personnel, to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate and independently prosecute. This would take the investigation out of the local prosecutor's office and give it to the state. It is felt that this bill would promote justice and fairness. There are certain issues with the bill, including the duration of the special appointment. Tom and Jamie and the section would like to see the term be 5 years instead of the 3 years called for in the Bill. Larry Beaser discussed language in the Bill which leaves out the possibility of the appointment of outside counsel if appropriate or if outside counsel is needed because of the subject matter of the investigation. Leona Walters, an aide to Senator Haywood, the author of the bill, participated in the conversation. Chancellor-Elect Gaetan Alfano supports the resolution but indicated that he believes that this Bill is dead on arrival in the General Assembly. It is possible to tweak the Bill, but the resolution seeks to further the process of the Bill.

The Bill is unanimously supported by the Criminal Justice Section Executive Committee and the Public Interest Committee. Larry Beaser made several technical changes which were accepted by the Section co-chairs. A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution. The resolution passed unanimously.

Al Dandridge asked Abe Reich to come up to salute Abe for 20 years of service as our ABA delegate. The Chancellor presented Abe with a plaque commemorating his service to the Association and the legal community in this role.

Brad Shuttleworth asked if there were any new business to discuss. It was noted that Roberta West is being honored tomorrow evening for her leadership of the LEAP program.

Chair Brad Shuttleworth asked for any items of Good and Welfare.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Judge A. Michael Snyder (ret.)

Assistant Secretary

**Board of Governors
Attendance
October 27, 2015**

Voting Members:

Present:

Albert Dandridge
Gaetan Alfano
Deborah Gross
Hon. A. Michael Snyder
Wesley Payne
Mary Platt
Brad Shuttleworth
Natalie Klyashtorny
Peter Newman
Erin Siciliano

Ira Lefton
Jeffrey Rosenthal
Julia Swain
William Fedullo
Graham Laub
Robert Muench
Su Ming Yeh
Steven Rothberg
Robert Casey

Absent:

Jacqueline Segal
Lauren McKenna
Rachel Gallegos
Rachel Kopp
Emily Marks
Dawn Tancredi
Rahat Babar
Lawrence Felzer
Jeremy Menkowitz
Kathleen Kirkpatrick

Kevin Mincey
Myisha Lacey-Tilson
Rachel Keene
Eric Weitz
Maria Bermudez
Erin Lamb
Dina Ronsayro
Scott Small
Jennifer O'Leary
Joseph Turchi

Non-voting Members:

Present:

Jennifer Coatsworth
Mark Taraseiwicz
Lawrence Beaser

Kathleen Wilkinson
Abraham Reich
Butler Buchanan

Absent:

Sophia Lee
Vivian Luckiewicz

Molly Peckman
Rachel Branson

Steven Bizar
Steven Sher
Heather Austin
Andrew Laver
Hilda Thompson
Cheryl Disch

