

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors Meeting
May 27, 2021
Meeting held via Zoom**

Chancellor Lauren McKenna called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and provided a welcome and turned the meeting over to Chair Riley Ross.

The minutes from the April 29, 2021, Board meeting were considered. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Treasurer Matthew S. Olesh presented the Treasurer's Report for the year through April 30, 2021. Treasurer Olesh told the Board that the Association is running approximately \$22,000 behind budget. Treasurer Olesh stated that there was an uptick in membership dues for the month of April; however, the revenue from membership is approximately \$44,000 behind where they were budgeted to be for the year. He told the Board that membership revenue is still significantly ahead of where the Association was at the same time last year and he reminded the Board that the goal for membership revenue is a return to the numbers reached in 2019. Treasurer Olesh told the Board that there is still an expectation that the budget for revenue from membership dues will be met.

Related to other areas of revenue, Treasurer Olesh told the Board that revenue from LRIS was somewhat down while revenue from CLEs are ahead of budget by approximately \$4,000. He mentioned that it will be interesting to see how the CLE revenue numbers develop given the new member benefit of free CLEs. Treasurer Olesh stated that the overall revenue is behind budget by approximately \$97,000 but still \$64,000 ahead of where revenues stood a year ago.

Related to expenses, Treasurer Olesh told the Board that the Association is doing a good job of keeping expenses down; expenses are approximately \$74,000 under budget. He credited the Association staff for their work in keeping expenses down and noted that as a result of those efforts the Association is not too far behind its overall budget. Treasurer Olesh also reminded the Board members that the figures from the PPP loan, which were included with the written materials provided ahead of time, were not factored into these numbers he provided during his oral report.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

The Board next considered a resolution calling on the Governor to formalize the process of, and commit to, deciding within 90 days all pardon applications from non-incarcerated citizens that have been recommended by the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons and heard a presentation from Public Interest Section Chair George Donnelly and Taylor Pacheco of Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity. Public Interest Section Chair Donnelly provided the Board with an overview of the work that Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity and the larger Philadelphia legal community has done to assist returning citizens, a brief description of the pardon process, and a summary of the recent work the Association has done in this area, including Chancellor McKenna's letter earlier this year to Governor Wolf thanking him for the effort to clear the backlog of pardon applications. He also told the Board that the resolution was unanimously approved by the Public Interest Section.

Taylor Pacheco credited the work of the Association in this area and told the Board that Pennsylvania has made several improvements to the pardon application process, including making the application free and reducing the amount of information required to be provided in the

application. Pacheco told the Board that the Board of Pardons continues to meet and that a backlog will develop and/or grow unless the applications are given prompt and consistent attention. She told the Board that the resolution calls on Governor Wolf to implement a standardized period of review to act on applications within 90 days, a time period that is consistent with how long it has taken Governor Wolf's to act on pardon applications.

A discussion followed during which the Board discussed the potential for unintended consequences from the resolution, concerns related to diluting any future Association positions taken related to the requirement that fines and costs be paid prior to pardon applications being considered, concerns as to how the resolution would be received by Governor Wolf, the perspective of a pardon applicant who is waiting on Governor approval with little knowledge of when action may be taken on the application, the significance of the 90-day time period, whether the Association's 2019 resolution sufficiently enabled the Association to respond to these concerns, and why the resolution did not include incarcerated individuals in addition to non-incarcerated individuals.

Following the discussion a motion was made and seconded and the resolution passed unanimously, with two Board members abstaining from the vote.

The Board next heard a presentation from Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention Chair Niki T. Ingram on a resolution to amend Philadelphia Bar Association Bylaws Section 7.3.2 to add a seat for the Clifford Scott Green Chapter of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association to the Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention. Commission Chair Ingram told the Board that Municipal Court Judge Charles Hayden made this request to Chancellor McKenna and pointed out that, in light of ongoing diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, it made sense for the African American judges to have a voice in the Commission's process. Commission Chair told the Board that both she and Chancellor McKenna thought the suggestion made sense and she added her belief that it would add a very valuable voice to the Commission.

Assistant Treasurer Jennifer Coatsworth told the Board that she is very supportive of the resolution and recommended its passage and that the Board consider a future resolution to include representation from LGBTQ+ and National Bar Association Women Lawyers Division groups as well.

A motion to approve the resolution was made, seconded; and passed unanimously.

The Board next heard from Chancellor McKenna about appointments made to the Committee on Elections and the need for Board approval of those appointments. Chancellor McKenna moved for the appointment of the following individuals to the Committee on Elections: Ryan Becker, Marissa Bluestine, Diane Edelman, Debby Freedman, Denise Mandi, Dino Privitera, Alisha Rodriguez, Jeffrey Rosenthal, Riley Ross and Andre Webb.

The Board unanimously approved the appointments.

Next, Chair Ross asked three members of the Board to present their Board commitments. Board Member Angela Middleton told the Board that she is an appointed member of the Board through her role on the Executive Committee of the Barrister's Association of Philadelphia. She told the Board that she has decided to focus on membership for her Board commitments and that she is

sponsoring at least two law school student memberships as well as sponsoring a young lawyer's membership. She said that she will be drawing from the current membership of the Barrister's Association for those law students and young lawyer.

Diversity Chair Reggie Shuford told the Board about his background, including that he was appointed to the Board by past Chancellor Rochelle Fedullo. He said that he has already sponsored a young lawyer's membership and that he has also committed to liking, re-Tweeting and sharing Association social media posts, which he has done and will continue to do; that he has worked with a section or committee to plan or participate in a CLE program; and that he has committed to attend quarterly meetings.

Board Member Bethany Nikitenko told the Board about her background and about her commitments. Those commitments include following the Association on social media and liking; retweeting and sharing posts with her network; to bring her firm up to 100% membership, which they have already done; to work with a section or committee to plan and be a presenter in a CLE, which she is doing with the Young Lawyers Division; to have her firm sponsor one of the quarterly meetings; and to commit to attend all quarterly meetings and the Bench Bar conference.

Chair Ross had no other announcements.

Board Vice Chair Kristine Calalang and Family Law Section Outreach Committee Chair Nadège Tandoh presented a report on the Rattles, Rings and Baby Things charity drive. Vice Chair Calalang thanked the Board and Family Law Section Outreach Committee Chair Tandoh told the Board that a total of 274 items were collected and that the staff at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia were very thankful. She then announced the winners of the charity drive: Honorable Mentions went to the Association's staff and the Probate and Trust Law Section; 4th Place went to the Solo and Small Firm Management Committee; 3rd place went to the Board's team; 2nd place went to the Family Law Section; and 1st place went to the Tax Section. Board Vice Chair Calalang thanked everyone for their generosity.

The Board next heard a report on the activities of the Membership Committee from Chancellor-Elect Wesley R. Payne IV. Chancellor-Elect Payne told the Board that the next 30 days are critical to the Association and its membership efforts. He said that they have had conversations with all of the Committee and Section Chairs about reengaging members who have not yet renewed their membership. Chancellor-Elect Payne asked the Board members to reach out and make contact with non-renewed members and said that the Board members will receive an email from Manager of Member Services Andrea Morris-Tracey with a list of non-renewed members and asked all of the Board members to sign up to make a personal outreach to non-renewed members to encourage them to renew their memberships. Chancellor-Elect Payne also mentioned the incentives to encourage individuals to renew their memberships, including a free membership to a committee or section.

The Board next heard Executive Director Harvey Hurdle's report which began with Manager of Member Services Morris-Tracey providing more specific instructions regarding outreach to non-renewed members. She showed the Board members the live spreadsheet to track this outreach and told the Board that she will check the spreadsheet daily and take any follow-up steps noted from the Board member's outreach to the non-renewed member.

Executive Director Hurdle then provided the Board with an update on the Association offices and

expressed his hope that some members may be able to participate in the next Board meeting from the newly updated Boardroom. Executive Director Hurdle also requested Board members to vote for the Association for CLE provider in the Legal Intelligencer's best of survey.

Regarding the budget numbers and membership, Executive Director Hurdle told the Board that they will be analyzing the LRIS membership and noted the slowdown in settlement and court proceedings. He also told the Board that he has asked Association staff members to envision what the Association should look like in five years and that he and the staff will have ongoing conversations about that issue. Executive Director Hurdle also mentioned how proud he was of the work of the Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention, noted that for the second consecutive election only individuals recommended by the Association were elected, and thanked the work of the individuals involved with that Commission.

Chancellor McKenna made the following announcements:

- Chancellor McKenna recognized Board members Wendi Barish, Nicholas Kamau and Craig Levin for their success in the recent judicial election. Chancellor McKenna also provided the Board with a review of the work of the Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention, including the fact that over 32,000 households received two direct mailings with the Association's judicial ratings and that the Association's digital campaign attracted over 20,000 page views to the ratings website and garnered more than 1.5 million impressions through social media and digital ads. She thanked the staff of the Association and the Commission for their work.
- Chancellor McKenna told the Board about the judicial poll which was recently concluded and that the 600+ responses received was a significant increase from the number of responses to the poll in recent years. She thanked Director of Public and Legal Services Charlie Klitsch and the Association staff involved with this effort. She also told the Board that both Common Pleas Court President Judge Fox and Municipal Court President Judge Dugan are particularly interested in seeing the results of the poll.
- Chancellor McKenna told the Board about the recent Spring Quarterly Meeting, which was a really good conversation about the issues involved with the return to work after Covid. She told the Board that the event received a lot of press, including from Law 360 and the Philadelphia Business Journal, and that the event reached more lawyers than an standard quarterly meeting would have.
- Chancellor McKenna noted the recent program on the 50th Anniversary of Pennsylvania's Equal Rights Amendment and remarked on the work of Women's Rights Committee Chair Judy Berkman and Kathy Jaffari in putting together the program.
- Chancellor McKenna also mentioned the April 2019 resolution regarding ICE and courthouse arrests, told the Board that those issues have now be addressed by the Biden administration, and that she is proud that the Association had the foresight to speak out about that issue when it did.
- Chancellor McKenna told the Board that she would love to have broad Board involvement at the Bench-Bar conference and asked all members to register for the event when registration opens.

- Chancellor McKenna told the Board about an upcoming program on June 14th regarding the recent ABA report (*Practicing Law in the Pandemic and Moving Forward*) by Bobbi Liebenberg and Stephanie Scharf, in which Liebenberg, Scharf, and others will be speaking on this important topic. She told the Board that this event will be a Chancellor's forum that will be open to other local bar associations because of the amount of interest in hearing from Liebenberg and Scharf.
- Chancellor McKenna underscored the need for Board members to assist with outreach to non-renewed members and the importance of attracting and engaging members.
- Chancellor McKenna also congratulated the Barrister's Association on their recent scholarship event.
- Chancellor McKenna told the Board that there are a lot of efforts around diversity, equity and inclusion which she will report on at future meetings.
- Chancellor McKenna concluded her announcements by recognizing and thanking the Association staff for all of the work they have done under very challenging circumstances during the pandemic.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Stackow
Secretary

**Board of Governors Attendance
May 27, 2021**

Voting members present:

Lauren P. McKenna	Andre J. Webb
Wesley R. Payne, IV	Melanie J. Foreman
Marc J. Zucker	Damaris L. Garcia
Michael J. Stackow	Angella Middleton
Michael T. van der Veen	Scott S. Small
Matthew S. Olesh	Ying Zhou
Jennifer S. Coatsworth	Ernest Holtzheimer
Riley Ross	Marissa Bluestine
Kristine L. Calalang	Eileen G. Murphy
Diane Penneys Edelman	Arly Smith-Pearson
Bethany R. Nikitenko	James R. Malone, Jr.
Wendi Barish	Mark Mazzanti
Erin Lamb	Hon. A. Michael Snyder
Craig R. Levin	Reginald T. Shuford

Absent:

Lawrence S. Felzer
Dino Privitera
P. Douglas Sisk
Neelima Vanguri
Nipun J. Patel
Lauren Banton
Denise M. Mandi

P. Michael Jones
Maureen Farrell
Joyce C. Sun
Jordan Strokovsky
Nicholas S. Kamau

Non-voting members present:

Lawrence J. Beaser
Abraham C. Reich

Harvey Hurdle

Absent:

Wilson M. Brown
Butler Buchanan, III

Invited guests present:

Louis S. Rulli
Rochelle M. Fedullo

George Donnelly

