

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board Of Governors Meeting
February 26, 2004**

The Chair, Mr. Ronald A. Kovler, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

The Chancellor introduced the Honorable John Street, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia. Mayor Street gave a speech about lawyers, their value to the City, his support of all lawyers and law firms and his plans for business development.

The Chair asked for approval of the Minutes of the January 29, 2004 meeting. Upon motion made and seconded, the Minutes were approved as submitted.

The Chair introduced Mary Platt, the Treasurer. Ms. Platt gave the Treasurer's report noting that the Association had over \$83,000.00 in dues, which was over budget. There was also had a payment to LRIS in the amount of \$130,000.00. With expenses down, there was a net variance of \$261,592.00. She also advised that the Auditor has met with the Committee and will make a presentation within the next three or four weeks. Upon motion made and seconded, the Treasurer's report was approved.

The Chair introduced Chancellor Bevilacqua. Mr. Bevilacqua remarked that our Bar Association has a great interest in tax reform, especially regarding unincorporated partnerships. In testimony before the City Council, he emphasized the need to deduct payment to partners. He will be working with the Tax Section to provide draft legislation to the City Council. He noted that the Bar Association strongly supports the initiatives of the Tax Reform Commission.

Chancellor Bevilacqua also provided testimony in Harrisburg regarding caps in preparation for the vote of March 9, 2004. His testimony was consistent with the resolution passed by this Bar Association in October 2003.

The Chancellor has been working to facilitate the introduction of legislation in Harrisburg with regard to the Business Court that he believes is necessary for the City.

The Chair presented his announcements and complimented the YLD on the Mock Trial in which he was a Judge. He encouraged all to participate in this program. He also discussed the mentoring program sponsored by YLD.

The Chair reported that there was a breakfast meeting with the Chairs of all of the Sections and that the consensus of that group was in favor of the Civil Litigation Section.

The Chair introduced Kim Jessum, Chair of the YLD. Ms. Jessum mentioned that there was an upcoming luncheon honoring Edward Chacker, Esquire; Montgomery, McCracken; and Citizen's Bank for their support and commitment to the YLD.

The Chair introduced Mary Maran, Esquire, of the Criminal Justice Section to present the resolution urging Senators Specter and Santorum to co-sponsor S. 1091: Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act. This Act would provide debt relief to those lawyers who serve in the

District Attorney's Office or in the Public Defender's Office. Providing this relief would enable talented and experienced attorneys to stay in these positions. There was discussion as to whether or not other lawyers in the public interest area should be included in this resolution. Kim Jessum, Chair of the YLD, reported that the YLD supported this resolution only if it included other public interest lawyers. Chancellor-Elect Chirls remarked that there were other initiatives in place to address the financial needs of other public interest lawyers. After further discussion, the resolution was limited to lawyers who work in the Public Defender's Office and in the District Attorney's Office as addressed by the bill. Upon motion made and seconded, the amended resolution passed. Kim Jessum, Chair of the YLD, voted in opposition to this language.

The Chair introduced Robert Meek, Esquire, for a presentation of a resolution from the Civil Rights Committee regarding enemy combatants. After discussion, upon motion made and seconded, the resolution passed with one dissent by Mr. Cohen.

The Chair introduced Janet Ginzburg, Esquire, for presentation of a resolution from the Civil Rights Committee regarding the Criminal Records Provision of the Older Adult Protective Services Act. Ms. Ginzburg noted that this provided an opportunity to draft legislation. There was discussion to table this resolution until legislation was drafted. Upon vote, the motion to table failed. After further discussion, it was noted that the Elder Law Committee had no opposition to this resolution. Upon motion made and seconded, this resolution passed.

The Chair introduced Ralph Teeters, Esquire, representative of the Probate Section, to report on the activities of that Section. Mr. Teeters noted that the Probate Section is involved in significant projects to bring e-mail filing to the Probate Courts, to complete the red book that would provide a manual for Orphan's Court practice, and to attract law students and younger lawyers to the probate practice through their Outreach Committee. They have also created a committee to educate the public about problems regarding financial and estate planning and abuses in financial products.

The Chair introduced Laura Fox, Esquire, to submit a report of the Real Property Section. Ms. Fox explained that Section has a diverse group of lawyers which allows for many interesting discussions at their meetings. They are planning social activities in the spring and their annual luncheon at the end of the year.

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Sayde Joy Ladov
Secretary