

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors
March 2, 2005**

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:14 P.M.
2. Upon motion made, and seconded, the minutes of the January, 2005 meeting were approved as submitted.
3. Upon motion made, and seconded, the Treasurer's report was approved. There exists a revenue surplus of approximately \$175,000 and the budget is under in the amount of \$10,000 in expenditures. The surplus is due to, inter alia, dues being received ahead of budget.
4. Chancellor Chirls announced that the speaker for the April quarterly will be Senator Joseph Biden of Delaware. On March 10, 2005, the Bar Association will hold a reception for members of City Council. This reception has been arranged by Chancellor Chirls and Michael Pratt. Bar Association representatives attended the ABA Mid-Year Meeting in Salt Lake City. It was noted by the Chancellor that Judge Shiller of the Eastern District and Senator Hatch of Utah presented an excellent program on the relationship of the Federal Judiciary and the Legislature. Our group received several ideas from other bar associations for future programs, but noted that we appear to be at the forefront in many areas of service to our membership. Of note, Chancellor Chirls stated that our Association has more innovative programs involving immigrant issues than those of associations located in states and cities on our nation's borders. He further stated that we have started a new committee entitled Law Practice for New Americans. Chancellor Chirls further informed the Board that he testified before City Council on the issue of the elimination of the Business Privilege Tax. Board Member Stewart Weintraub assisted in this matter. He had a meeting with agencies looking to promote international trade in our City. He had lunch with the consuls of Chile and Mexico. Our LRIS program has begun a Spanish outreach project. Finally, he thanked all for attending the Chancellor's dinner at which he had a wonderful time, or so he represented to the Board.
5. Ken Shear addressed the Board concerning a request by the National Constitution Center to borrow the Association's portrait of Chief Justice John Marshall for a special exhibit. It was recommended that a formal agreement be drafted for review and approval by Larry Beaser. There will be a full review of the applicable insurance policies to ensure the complete coverage of the artwork while away from our offices. A resolution was presented and seconded to accomplish the above and approved unanimously.
6. Natalie Klyashtorny, Chair of the Young Lawyer's Division, announced that the YLD will hold its annual meeting on March 9, 2005 at the Bellevue Hotel. The guest speaker will be Billy King, General Manager of the Philadelphia 76ers. Natalie will officially assume the duties of Chair at the meeting and the annual service awards will be presented. YLD representatives will visit four area law schools to discuss future bar involvement by the prospective graduates. Volunteers are needed for the Division's Mentoring Program.
7. Rudolph ("Rudy") Garcia and Abe Reich spoke on their attendance at the ABA Mid Year Meeting in Salt Lake City. Abe provided the Board with an overview of the general areas of interest addressed by the representatives to this year's meeting. Rudy, picking up on the presentation he made to the Board in January, detailed his efforts to influence the wording of the Proposed Standards For Conduct of Jury Trials. He was successful, through hard work prior to arriving at the meeting, to convince a large number of delegates that an amendment was needed to address the issues of jury size and unanimity. Ultimately, a compromise was reached prior to the vote which directly effected these issues of importance to our Association. The Board commended Rudy for his tireless work on this significant issue.

8. Bruce Franzel and Lisa Washington next addressed the Board on behalf of the Charter and By-Laws Committee. Bylaw changes, involving the creation of the Civil Litigation Section and the Nominating Committee were approved by resolution for presentation to the membership at the April Quarterly Meeting.

9. Tom Wilkinson next addressed the Board on behalf of the Civil Litigation Section/Rules and Procedure Committee/Federal Courts Committee concerning the proposed legislation entitled the Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act (Rule 11). He urged the Board to oppose said legislation. It would eliminate any discretion by the Judge's on the imposition of Rule 11 sanctions. He noted that the ABA House of Delegates opposed the legislation, along with the Pennsylvania Bar Association House of Delegates and the National Conference of State Supreme Court Justices. After accepting suggested changes to the wording of the proposed resolution by Larry Beaser, the matter was passed unanimously.

10. Representatives from the Public Interest Section and Solo & Small Firms Management Committee presented a resolution regarding pending bankruptcy legislation. It was felt that the legislation was overreaching, making attorney's personally responsible for a client's representations which would, in effect, severally hinder pro bono representation in this area. The resolution to oppose the legislation was unanimously approved.

11. Finally, the Chair gave her announcements which were noteworthy in their brevity, given the approaching dinner hour. She acknowledged the hard work of the Military Affairs Committee behind the energy of member Jim Kennedy.

The meeting thereafter adjourned with fond thoughts of spring but the reality of March rain.

Respectfully submitted:
John E. Savoth
Secretary