Philadelphia Bar Association  
Board of Governors Meeting  
July 28, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Chair Regina Foley.

Upon consideration by the Board, the minutes of the June 29, 2011 and June 30, 2011 Board meetings were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Joseph Prim presented the Treasurer’s Report for the period ending June 30, 2011. Treasurer Prim reported that the Association’s position is stable, dues are just about on target and the budget is positive by $102,000.00. After consideration, the report was unanimously accepted by the Board.

Chancellor Rudy Garcia began his announcements with a reminder that, just before the last Board meeting, the Association had initiated suit against the City of Philadelphia and that it was the first time in the Association’s history that it ever initiated suit. Chancellor Garcia was pleased to report that, as of this meeting, the matter has resolved and worked out better than he could have hoped for. On July 7, 2011, the Board of Ethics held a special meeting and passed a resolution that it would not exercise its authority to enforce against violations of the City’s lobbying law until 30 days after the effective date of the regulations implementing the law, which regulations are still being drafted. As a result of the Board of Ethics’ resolution, the Association withdrew its suit without prejudice to its ability to refile, if necessary.

Chancellor Garcia expressed his gratitude to the Board for its leadership and swift action at the June 29, 2011 emergency Board meeting to authorize the litigation in the first instance, helping to protect the Association’s membership from the dire consequences of an overbroad lobbying law. Chancellor Garcia also expressed his gratitude to Executive Director Ken Shear for his courage to proceed with suit and for recognizing that it was necessary action on behalf of the membership. Finally, Chancellor Garcia thanked the City and the Board of Ethics for working with the Association on this important issue and for conducting themselves in way that preserves a strong relationship among the parties that is based on mutual understanding and a desire to work together to address concerns. Bill Fedullo commended Chancellor Garcia and Larry Beaser for their extraordinarily high level of advocacy in connection with this matter.

Chancellor Garcia updated the Board that the amicus brief authorized at the last Board meeting to be filed on behalf of the taxpayer in the Miller case was filed with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on July 21, 2011. He also reminded the Board of the upcoming Bench-Bar Conference scheduled for October 14 and 15, 2011 and the National Diversity Summit scheduled for November 8, 2011.

Chair Foley remarked that the Bench-Bar Conference brochure should have been received and that early bird registration ends on September 16, 2011. She also
complimented the Diversity in the Profession Committee and the Business Law Section on its recent program that garnered excellent attendance and dialogue. Vice-Chancellor Kathleen Wilkinson also commended everyone for their efforts, including Scott Reid as moderator and Diversity Director Naomi McLaurin on her article supporting the business case for diversity. Chair Foley announced that a program co-sponsored by the Bar-News Media Committee and the Diversity in the Profession Committee is scheduled for September entitled, “Meet the Diverse Media.”

Chair Foley welcomed Immigration Law Committee Co-Chairs Wendy Castor Hess and Teresa Rodriguez to present a discussion on proposed legislation regarding immigration issues and on the Pennsylvania Compact. Ms. Hess discussed the plethora of proposed anti-immigrant legislation in our Commonwealth, including the following: mandatory E-verify for all Pennsylvania employers with related penalties for undocumented workers found in the workplace, including the loss of a Pennsylvania license to do business; requirement that local law enforcement check the immigration status of all individuals legally stopped; allowing anonymous complaints from those who suspect a co-worker is undocumented and forcing the local District Attorneys to investigate; penalties directed against “sanctuary cities” like Philadelphia that provide services to immigrants regardless of status; making English the official language of the Commonwealth and the school system; and issuing separate birth certificates to children born in the U.S. to unauthorized immigrants with the hope that the U.S. Congress will abolish citizenship for such children. Ms. Castor prevailed upon the Board to support and sign on to the Pennsylvania Compact, which is a non-partisan declaration of principles, which includes supporting federal solutions, respecting law enforcement, supporting families, strengthening the economy and promoting a free and welcoming society, to guide Pennsylvania’s immigration discussion and policy-making. Chair Foley thanked Ms. Hess and Ms. Rodriguez for their presentation. Consistent with a resolution adopted by the Board one year ago, the Association will be signing the Pennsylvania Compact.

Chancellor Garcia recommended the appointments of Alex Braden, Janaki Catanzarite and Dylan Steinberg to the Philadelphia VIP board, which appointments were unanimously approved by the Board.

Chancellor Garcia recommended the appointments of the following individuals to the Association’s Elections Committee: Brandi J. Brice, Jeffrey Campolongo, Carolyn M. Chopko, Regina Foley, Scott W. Reid, Gina Furia Rubel, Louis S. Rulli, Michael D. Shaffer, H. Mark Tepper and Mark J. Zucker. He reminded that, in order to serve on the Elections Committee, such an individual cannot run for any office of the Association. He also reminded that the Committee’s purpose is to engage in outreach for potential candidates and to educate the membership about declared candidates. The Board unanimously approved the appointments.

Chair Foley reminded the Board about Philadelphia VIP’s 30 for 30 pledge. Chancellor Garcia announced that he, Charlie Klitsch, John Savoth and Mark Tarasiewicz will be participating in the upcoming National Conference of Bar Executives.
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sophia Lee
Secretary

Board of Governors
Attendance
July 28, 2011

Voting:
Present:
Rudolph Garcia                        H. Marc Tepper
Kathleen Wilkinson                   John Encarnacion
Sophia Lee                           Scott Reid
Joseph Prim                          Marc Zucker
Regina Foley                         Sandra Jeskie
Brandi Brice                         Julia Swain
Jeffrey Campolongo                   Judith Stein
Michael Shaffer                      Ourania Papademetrio
Sean Sullivan                        Cheryl Gaston
Pedro Ramos                          David Prewitt
Scott Sigman                         George Nagle
Stacy Tees                           Hon. A. Michael Snyder

Absent:
John Savoth                          Nikki Johnson-Huston
Jacqueline Segal                     Gina Rubel
Wesley Payne                         Scott Cooper
Danielle Banks                       Richard Seidel
Richard Harris                       Carolyn Chopko
Kimberly Ruch-Alegant                Melanie Taylor
Brian Chacker                        Thomas Fitzpatrick

Non-voting:
Present:
William Fedullo                      Kenneth Shear
Louis Rulli                          Andre Dennis
Abraham Reich                        Judy Stouffer

Absent:
Larry Beaser                         Sayde Ladov
Wendy Beetleston                     Kim Jessum
Asima Panigrahi                      Nancy Gimbol
Flora Yarnall                        Cheryl Disch