

**Philadelphia Bar Association  
Board of Governors Meeting  
March 29, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m. by Chair Brandi Brice.

Upon consideration by the Board, the minutes of the February 21, 2012 Board meeting were unanimously approved.

Chair Brice invited David Faw to present the Independent Auditor's Report. Mr. Faw reported that the audit process commenced on March 6 and that the final meeting took place on March 20, totaling a 15-day audit process, which is an excellent result. Mr. Faw reported that the audit process is governed by the Audit Committee, whose members fulfilled their obligations, as did the management team who worked on the audit. The Report will be finalized and released the following day. Among the highlights from the audit, the bottom line was positive \$237,000 for the year and, over the last ten years, the Association has added \$2 million to its net assets. The findings were all favorable; there are no letters of comment and no recommendations outside of housekeeping, e.g., lobbying activities. The audit process was well-organized and very well-run. Upon consideration by the Board, the draft Independent Auditor's Report was unanimously approved.

Chancellor John Savoth began his announcements by thanking Chief Financial Officer Susan Knight and the leadership of the Association's staff for their diligence and focus in completing the audit in a timely manner. Chancellor Savoth also thanked Immediate Past Chancellor Rudy Garcia for his leadership last year in obtaining the excellent bottom line results.

Chancellor Savoth discussed the position taken by the Association to strongly oppose the Voter ID bill signed into law by Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett last month. He noted that there is strong support from the membership for the Association's position, with some members saying that the Association is not doing enough. The Association does not have any plans to file a lawsuit contesting the legislation, but the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia and the ACLU will publicly fight the legislation on constitutional grounds. He also noted that some members do not support the Association's position. Nevertheless, he assured that the Association remains relevant and continues to have impact on these important issues. Chancellor Savoth invited the leadership and anyone else interested to feel free to discuss this issue with him.

As to the Quarterly Meeting, Chancellor Savoth remarked on the balance that was struck in the agenda, including the impactful comments from Dean Robert Reinstein on behalf of the Liacouras Committee receiving the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Diversity Award and the lighter commentary from former Governor Ed Rendell and MSNBC personality, Mike Barnicle. Chancellor Savoth asked that if anyone has any suggestions for future Quarterly Meeting speakers to please let him know. Immediate Past

Chancellor Garcia thanked Chancellor Savoth for his generous and heart-felt comments at the Quarterly Meeting. Professor Lou Rulli also commented on the balance of the Quarterly Meeting and remarked that the comments made on behalf of the Liacouras Committee left people with a sense of purpose. Rainy Papademetriou reminded that the Association remains relevant. Al Dandridge noted the bravery of the five individuals who comprised the Liacouras Committee for their report and commented on how pleased he is that the Association stood up 40 years ago.

Chair Brice invited Amara Chaudhry, Vice Chair of the Public Interest Section, to present on the Resolution Affirming Religious Freedom, which opposes Pennsylvania House Bill 2029. Ms. Chaudhry explained that the full and revised text of the resolution will be presented for vote at a future meeting, but wanted to take this opportunity to advise the Board of some of the background relating to the resolution. She did note that the resolution has been unanimously approved by the Civil Rights Committee, the Public Interest Section, and the Family Law Section. She also noted that similar resolutions have been passed by Philadelphia's City Council as well as Pittsburgh's City Council. The ABA has opposed similar bills in other jurisdictions, and a similar resolution is pending before the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Both the Catholic Conference and the American Jewish Conference oppose the legislation and, in fact, the Pittsburgh Area Jewish Committee was the first to oppose the bill. Ms. Chaudhry explained that House Bill 2029 is facially neutral, but violates Article I, Sections 3 and 4 of the Pennsylvania Constitution as it is intended to target Shariah law, a reference to the Islamic faith. On page 2 of the co-sponsorship memo of House Bill 2029, the following statement is made: "The embrace of foreign legal systems such as Shariah law, which is inherently hostile to our constitutional liberties, is a violation of the principles on which our nation was founded." Bills similar to House Bill 2029 have been presented in 25 states (most of them defeated in legislative committee) but all come from a single source – the American Public Policy Alliance, whose mission, as stated on its website, is to "protect American citizens' constitutional rights against the infiltration and incursion of foreign laws and foreign legal doctrines, especially Islamic Shariah Law." At this time, there is no indication that the bill will be fast-tracked. Accordingly, a revised resolution will be presented at a future Board meeting.

Assistant Treasurer Wesley Payne presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending February 29, 2012. He reported that the Association is operating under budget by about \$110,000, which is mainly driven by fewer dues receipts, although he does expect dues receipts to pick up in the near future. Lawyer Profiles started on March 1, which will bring in additional revenue. The Association is not in any different position than it was at this time last year. After consideration, the Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted by the Board.

Chair Brice invited Judy Berkman to present the Resolution to Support Funding for HEMAP and Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention, Conciliation and Representation. Ms. Berkman informed the Board that the Delivery of Legal Services Committee, the Public Interest Section and the Real Property Section support the resolution. She advised the Board that the purpose of the resolution is to urge the Pennsylvania Attorney General to

exercise her discretion to allocate the settlement funds received from a lawsuit against several national banks for mortgage loan servicing and foreclosure abuses to re-launch and restore Pennsylvania's nationally-acclaimed Homeowners Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program. After consideration by the Board, the resolution was unanimously approved.

Vice Chair Mark Zucker invited members of the Board to make their announcements. YLD Chair-Elect Aneesh Mehta announced that Law Week will take place from April 30 to May 4 and that volunteers were needed for LegalLine. He also announced that the YLD Scholarship Reception will be held at Estia on June 14.

Chancellor-Elect Kathleen Wilkinson reported that she offered testimony on merit selection during a hearing held at the National Constitution Center; Charlie Klitsch and Mark Tarasiewicz were also present at the hearing. She advised the Board that she attended the ABA's Bar Leaders Institute and spoke with Laurel Bellow, the ABA's President-Elect, about the Association's important work. Finally, she announced that Director of Diversity Naomi McLaurin recently provided remarks at the Mayor's Conference.

Vice-Chancellor William Fedullo announced that he, Executive Director Ken Shear and Chancellor-Elect Wilkinson attended the County Bar Leaders Meeting in Lancaster.

Immediate Past Chancellor Garcia updated the Board that argument was scheduled for two matters for which the Association filed amicus briefs, including the matter brought before the Association by the Tax Section distinguishing between exceptions and exemptions, and the matter involving the issue of whether the Superior Court could deny an appeal for a party's failure to file post-trial motions where a matter on remand received no new testimony.

Ms. Papademetriou thanked the Board for their participation in Philadelphia VIP's Awards Ceremony at the Wilma Theatre.

Judge Michael Snyder announced upcoming Bar Academy events, including an event at the Victor Café on May 17, a performance at the Academy of Vocal Arts on May 2, and an Uffizi exhibit at the Michener Museum on June 20.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sophia Lee  
Secretary

Board of Governors  
Attendance  
March 29, 2012

Voting Members:

Present:

|                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| John E. Savoth        | Jennifer Segal Coatsworth |
| Kathleen D. Wilkinson | Ourania Papademetriou     |
| William P. Fedullo    | Eric H. Weitz             |
| Sophia Lee            | Aneesh Mehta              |
| Jacqueline G. Segal   | Wanda E. Flowers          |
| Wesley R. Payne       | Michael Bertin            |
| Brandi J. Brice       | Gordon W. Wase            |
| Marc Zucker           | Larry Felzer              |
| Kimberly Ruch-Alegant | Brad J. Begelman          |
| Scott P. Sigman       | Nikki Johnson-Huston      |
| Stacy A. Tees         | Rudolph Garcia            |
| H. Marc Tepper        | Robert T. Szostak         |
| John Encarnacion      | Hon. A. Michael Snyder    |

Absent:

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Joseph Prim      | James Rocco       |
| Scott Reid       | Kay Yu            |
| Pedro Ramos      | Melanie Taylor    |
| Gina Rubel       | Regina Foley      |
| Brian S. Chacker | George F. Nagle   |
| Rachel Branson   | Brad Shuttleworth |

Non-Voting Members:

Present:

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Lawrence J. Beaser | Heather Austin |
| Louis S. Rulli     | Kenneth Shear  |
| Judy Stouffer      |                |

Absent:

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Michael Hayes     | Flora Yarnall    |
| Scott F. Cooper   | Cheryl A. Disch  |
| Wendy Beetlestone | A. Michael Pratt |
| Daniel J. Siegel  | Sayde J. Ladov   |
| Abraham Reich     | Andrea Malone    |