

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors Meeting
March 27, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Chair Eric Weitz.

Upon consideration by the Board, the minutes of the February 26, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Wesley R. Payne, IV presented the Financial Report for the period ending February 28, 2014. He reported that the Association is doing well and above budget by approximately \$212,545. Revenues are up by over \$130,000 largely due to performance of LRIS, which is ahead by over \$110,000. Membership dues are up by over \$34,000 which is likely to decrease slightly as the year progresses and they are annualized. Total expenses are under budget by just under \$82,000, which should level out throughout the course of the year. After consideration, the Treasurer's Financial Report was unanimously accepted by the Board.

Chancellor Fedullo remarked that the Association's Quarterly Luncheon held March 11, 2014 was a terrific event. Immediate Past Chancellor Kathleen Wilkinson was presented with a gold snuff box, which is an exact replica of the one presented to Andrew Hamilton for his defense of John Peter Zenger in 1735. The gold box is presented annually to the immediate-past Chancellor and is inscribed with the message "acquired not by money, but by character." JoAnne A. Epps, Dean of the Temple University Beasley School of Law, received the Philadelphia Bar Association's Justice Sonia Sotomayor Diversity Award, in recognition of her strong commitment and substantial contributions to diversity and promoting full and equal participation and inclusion in the legal profession. Additionally, Philadelphia School District Superintendent Dr. William Hite, Jr. delivered a powerful speech, and the "stars of the show" were the students from the Dobson Elementary/Middle School in Manayunk who were guests at the event. Chancellor Fedullo noted that it was "thrilling" to visit the school and, with Karen Buck, Executive Director of the Senior LAW Center, witness the learning process with Patricia Cruice, Principal of that school. Chancellor Fedullo stated that the School District plans to announce the details of the Association's school sponsorship program, which will enable local lawyers to make a difference in children's lives.

Chancellor Fedullo reported that he visited the U.S. Attorney's Office on March 18, 2014 for an excellent presentation organized by U.S. Attorney Zane Memeger and Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert K. Reed on the impact of violence on young children delivered by Dr. Sandra L. Bloom, Association Professor of Health Management and Policy at the School of Public Health of Drexel School and Co-Director there of the Center for Nonviolence and Social Justice, and Founder and Executive Director of the Sanctuary programs.

Chancellor Fedullo announced that the Association continues to move forward with Civil Gideon efforts, and has submitted documentation relating to that issue to Chief Justice Ronald Castille. The Brown v. Board of Education filming project has commenced and is

anticipated to be unveiled at a celebration at Mother Bethel Church on May 2, 2014. Chancellor Fedullo has done a number of radio and TV interviews, including at Community College and Channel 53, and a blog with Philadelphia Magazine which addressed various initiatives including the Philadelphia School District Project and the Civil Gideon effort. Further, an interview at Comcast is scheduled for March 28, 2014. The first Law School Laboratory program featuring past Chancellor Alan M. Feldman, Esquire, Carol Nelson Shepherd, Esquire, and Ezra Wohlgelemer, Esquire was a great success. A second Laboratory program is being planned.

Chancellor Fedullo announced the upcoming Chancellor's Forum on the Access to Justice Initiative scheduled April 3, 2014, featuring Deborah Leff, Acting Senior Counselor, U.S. Department of Justice Access to Justice Initiative, and including panelists Catherine C. Carr, Executive Director, Community Legal Services, Kevin V. Mincey, Mincey & Fitzpatrick, LLC, and Chancellor Fedullo. The Judicial Commission Task Force is scheduled to meet on April 4, 2014. Chancellor Fedullo will be honored at a golf event at the Philmont Country Club on April 28, 2014. The Association is co-sponsoring an event about Youth Court at the U.S. Attorney's office on April 23, 2014. Chancellor Fedullo attended the Hispanic Bar Association event that featured "speed mentoring" during which a number of local law school students from Temple University Beasley School of Law, Widener, Rutgers, and Drexel law schools participated.

Chancellor Fedullo was pleased to report that Gerald Austin McHugh, Jr. has been appointed a U.S. District Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of PA. He received his judicial commission on or about March 28, 2014. Chancellor Fedullo noted that now-Judge McHugh is a brilliant lawyer and great human being, and expressed that he is very happy and proud for him. Chancellor Fedullo further reported that Marilyn Heffley has been appointed a Magistrate Judge and her appointment will be on or about April 23, 2014.

Finally, Chancellor Fedullo announced that Megan Watson has been appointed to the Philadelphia V.I.P. Board.

Chair Eric Weitz raised the agenda item of the reappointment of Marlene L. Olshan to the Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention. Upon consideration by the Board, the appointment of Ms. Olshan was unanimously passed.

Chair Weitz introduced David G. Faw, CPA, for consideration of the Independent Auditor's Report. Faw noted that the process has been a team effort throughout. He commended Executive Director Mark Tarasiewicz for his support and help during his first Auditor's Report, and Association Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administration Susan Knight on her organization, efforts and assistance, and noted that Ms. Knight is an outstanding and indispensable asset to the Association and the audit team. An Audit Committee thoroughly reviewed the Auditor's Report and Firm 990 in detail on March 20, 2014. Faw summarized that the Audit was as routine as possible given the complicated financial structure of the Association, and the Association has done well with excellent

prospects for 2014. After consideration, the Independent Auditor's Report was unanimously approved by the Board.

Chair Weitz commended the Audit process and noted that it was a tribute to everyone involved to have such a "flawless audit" during a significant transition year for the Association. Chair Weitz commended Ms. Knight's hard work and significant assistance and contributions.

Chair Weitz spoke on the Association's Law School outreach effort and noted its impact on the future of the Association. He reported that, led by the efforts of Assistant Secretary Hon. A. Michael Snyder and Parliamentarian Michael Hayes, the Association has exercised extensive efforts towards involving local law school students, and surmised that the outreach could be better coordinated. In an effort to improve these efforts, the Association is planning a project to coordinate various Association leaders from different sections and committees, including but not limited to the Young Lawyers Division, to plan presentations and build relationships with the area law schools. The project will include having liaisons at each local law school and alumni participation in an effort to cultivate each school's relationship with the Association and encourage students to become members of the Association.

Chair Weitz also plans to attend the Delivery of Legal Services Committee meeting, with the intent to promote better broadcasting of the activities of the various Sections, Committees and affiliations throughout the Association. Chair Weitz praised Chancellor Fedullo and thanked him for his tireless efforts on behalf of the Association.

Chancellor Fedullo praised the Association staff and congratulated Public Interest Coordinator Merrill Zebe for receiving the Excellence Award on March 18, 2014 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He specifically thanked Mark Tarasiewicz for the energy and dedication he has displayed in his role as Executive Director. He declared that he is very proud of him; proud to be his friend; and, proud to be his first Chancellor. Further, he commended the entire Association Staff and declared them to be "the best staff in any Bar Association in America." Chancellor Fedullo thanked Assistant Executive Director Paul Kazaras, Director of Public and Legal Services Charles Klitsch, and Director of Communications and Marketing Meredith Avakian-Hardaway for their hard work and exceptional efforts.

Chair Weitz introduced Philadelphia Bar Foundation President Deborah Gross, Esquire to present a report on the activities of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. Chair Weitz commented that the Philadelphia legal services community is probably the most robust, well organized, and well-funded in the United States, and praised the Foundation for its strong and successful efforts to that end.

Deborah Gross reported on some of the Foundation's accomplishments in 2013 including giving \$600,000 in grants, holding a three-day CLE for non-profit attorneys on trial advocacy, establishing the Sheppard Fund and the Kenneth Shear Civil Gideon Legal Justice Essay Competition and Scholarship Fund, and working on a civil justice center

currently targeted to be built on Vine between 8th and 9th Streets. To accomplish these goals, the Foundation has scheduled its 26th Annual Golf & Tennis Classic on June 16, 2014 at the Philadelphia Cricket Club including golf at the Wissahickon Golf Course and grass and clay tennis courts. Gross encouraged participation and sponsorships.

Assistant Secretary, the Honorable A. Michael Snyder (ret.) presented a report on comments by the Workers' Compensation Section regarding proposed amendments to Special Rules of Administrative Practice and Procedure Before the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board (Chapter 111) and Workers' Compensation Judges (Chapter 131). Snyder reported that, on February 22, 2014, the Pennsylvania Bulletin published proposed changes to the special rules of the administrative practice and procedure before the Workers' Comp Appeal Board and the Workers' Compensation Judges. The proposed rules included a notice that comments could be submitted not later than 30 days from that date. On or about mid-March 2014, the Workers' Compensation Section received a notice that comments could be submitted. The Section's Executive Committee met and reviewed the comments, and determined that most of the comments were not substantial, worthy or appropriate for comment. The Committee did, however, determine that the proposed rule change to create a motion practice within the Workers' Compensation practice did require a response. The Committee concluded that the Workers' Compensation practice would not benefit by a motion driven practice, which could unduly delay the receipt or reinstatement of benefits to an individual working or acting without compensation while out on workers' compensation, and could increase legal costs for those unable to pay.

Because of the impending deadline for comments, Chancellor Fedullo agreed to hear comments to the Proposed Rules setting forth the opinions of the Section's Executive Committee if they were presented with a vote from the Executive Committee that showed the percentage of approval or disapproval, with the understanding that the comments did not represent the opinions of either the Cabinet, Chancellor, or Board of Governors. Those comments were then drafted and submitted to Elizabeth A. Crumb, Director, Workers' Compensation Office of Adjudication in Harrisburg, PA on March 18, 2014.

That letter, specifically stating that it was setting forth the opinion of the Executive Committee of the Workers' Compensation Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association, acting on behalf of the Workers' Compensation Section of the Association, addressed Proposed Rules Sections 131.53(a) and 131.53(b) of the Special Rules. The letter related the Executive Committee's opinion that the proposed additions and changes to Rule 131.53(b) are unnecessary and could cause delay and lengthen the time for litigation. As a result, it is detrimental to claimants, employers, and the Court. Accordingly, the Executive Committee requested that the proposed additions and changes to Section 131.53(b) of the Special Rules be eliminated and not enacted.

Judge Snyder reported that the letter was received by the Workers' Compensation Office of Adjudication timely, but the Executive Committee has not yet received a response. He thanked the Chancellor and Cabinet for their cooperation and graciousness in helping move the matter forward swiftly in order to submit the comments timely.

Chair Weitz added that the Workers' Compensation Section is equally divided between claimants, employers, and Judges, and it was the Section's unanimous position to ask the Association to support this submission. He explained that it was necessary to circumvent the Board in order to meet the comment timing requirements.

Board Member Jennifer Segal Coatsworth announced that fellow Board Member Rachel E. Kopp gave birth to Remi Jarah on February 9, 2014.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jacqueline G. Segal
Secretary

Board of Governors
Attendance
March 27, 2014

Voting Members

Present:

William Fedullo
Albert Dandridge
Gaetan Alfano
Jacqueline Segal
A. Michael Snyder
Wesley Payne
Eric Weitz
Brad Shuttleworth
James Rocco
Jennifer Coatsworth
Ourania Papademetriou
Natalie Klyashtorny
Rachel Gallegos

Lawrence Felzer
Rahat Babar
Jeremy Menkowitz
Peter Newman
Erin Siciliano
Kathleen Wilkinson
Marc Zucker
Edward Beitz
Michael Ecker
Lee Schwartz
Judy Berkman
Jeffrey Dashevsky

Absent:

Mary Platt
Rachel Branson
Kay Yu
Dawn Tancredi
Rachel Kopp
Emily Marks
Lauren McKenna

Maria Bermudez-Harris
James Funt
Scott Small
Amara Chaudhry-Kravitz
Lauri Kavulich
Howard Goldberg

Non-Voting Members

Present:

Lawrence Beaser
Mark Tarasiewicz
Sophia Lee
Louis Rulli

Rochelle Fedullo
Deborah Gross
Judy Stouffer

Absent:

Michael Hayes
John Savoth
Kevin Mincey
May Mon Post
Heather Austin
Hilda Thompson
Richard Alonso
Cheryl Disch
Sayde Ladov
Abraham Reich

