

**Philadelphia Bar Association  
Board of Governors Meeting  
May 26, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by Chair Regina Foley.

Upon consideration by the Board, the minutes of the April 29, 2011 Board meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Joseph Prim presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending April 30, 2011. Treasurer Prim reported that finances were running on schedule and that the budget is positive almost \$60,000 because of an overage from LRIS. He further reported that we are running above budget on membership dues and below budget on expenses. After consideration, the report was unanimously accepted by the Board.

Chancellor Rudy Garcia began his remarks by noting the passage of another busy month. Chancellor Garcia welcomed Judy Stouffer, a new representative to the Board from the Paralegals Association. Ms. Stouffer was recognized to announce an upcoming panel sponsored by the Green Ribbon Committee entitled, "The Road to Green: Cost-Saving Sustainability Tips for Legal Departments and Law Firms of All Sizes," which is scheduled to take place at the Bar Association's offices on June 2, 2011. The panel will be followed by a dinner at Bistro 7 to benefit St. Christopher's Foundation for Children's Dine In/Help Out efforts to bring affordable, healthy, farm-fresh food into North Philadelphia, one of the neighborhoods most impacted by hunger in America. Bistro 7 and Montgomery McCracken are both sponsors of the event.

Chancellor Garcia discussed the recent primary election results and noted that every winning Democratic judicial candidate was recommended by the Association's Judicial Commission. He reported media appearances in connection with the Association's judicial recommendations, including on *Newsmakers with Jill Horner*, *@Issue with Steve Highsmith* and *Fox News*. Chancellor Garcia also reported his attendance and participation in the following events: the First Judicial District's Education Committee Meeting; YLD Casino Night; the Third Circuit Conference; the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Annual Dinner; the Philadelphia Bar 5K Run; the Barrister's Scholarship Dinner; and Temple Law School's Graduation Awards Ceremony. Chancellor Garcia further reported that due to a scheduling conflict on May 19, he could not attend a Senate hearing held by State Senator Stewart Greenleaf on the issue of joint and several liability, but that Chancellor-Elect John Savoth was available to attend and testified on behalf of the Association on that issue. Chancellor-Elect Savoth stated that he was honored to represent the Association at that hearing.

Chancellor Garcia announced that, on May 23, he moved for the admission of 22 members to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court and that Chief Justice John Roberts made an appearance at a reception following the admission ceremony. On May 24, Chancellor Garcia hosted a Chancellor's Forum featuring the area law school deans. He recognized and thanked Brian Chacker and Abby DuFrayne for their efforts in organizing

the Forum. On May 26, Chancellor Garcia met with judges to discuss the judicial elections and the work of the Judicial Selection Commission.

Chancellor Garcia recognized Larry Beaser and Pedro Ramos, Co-Chairs of the Philadelphia Lobbying Ordinance Task Force to discuss the Association's participation in providing comments to draft regulations that interpret Philadelphia's lobbying ordinance passed last year. Mr. Beaser explained that "lobbying" as defined in the ordinance, is "an effort to influence legislative action or administrative action," which broadly defined, includes many of the activities regularly conducted by lawyers. He also explained that the ordinance defines "lobbyist" to include attorneys at law, thus, potentially subjecting lawyers to lobbying disclosure requirements that could violate the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct. Mr. Ramos added that the draft regulations and the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQ") document were issued at the same time, but that the FAQ interpreted the regulations beyond what is constitutionally permissible and therefore require revision. A hearing is scheduled to take place on June 15 and the Association's sections and committees have been invited to provide comments to the Co-Chairs in advance of the hearing. Chancellor Garcia thanked Mr. Beaser and Mr. Ramos for their leadership on this issue, which sentiment was echoed by Chair Foley.

Chair Foley announced that the Association's Quarterly Meeting is scheduled to take place on June 27 and will feature as its keynote Judge Jonathan Lippman, Chief Judge of the State of New York and a strong advocate for equal access to justice. She also announced that the Annual Bench-Bar Conference is scheduled to take place October 14-15 at Harrah's Resort in Atlantic City. Finally, Chair Foley reported that bar associations of 15 counties have approved resolutions similar to that of the Association on the issue of joint and several liability.

Chair Foley recognized Megan Watson, Vice Chair of the Family Law Section, to present a resolution in opposition to legislation prohibiting the appointment of parenting coordinators. Ms. Watson explained that H.B. No 525 prohibits judges in child custody matters from appointing parenting coordinators, who assist the disputing parties with communications difficulties by reconciling short-term issues that cannot be timely heard by a judge. Ms. Watson also explained that the Rules Committee of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has issued proposed rules establishing the qualifications for parenting coordinators. She concluded that H.B. No. 525 raises a constitutional separation of powers issue in that the legislative branch is taking the decision to appoint parenting coordinators out of the hands of the courts and therefore the proposed legislation should be opposed. Upon consideration by the Board, the resolution was unanimously approved.

Chair Foley recognized Riya Shah, Co-Chair of the Legal Rights of Children Committee, to present a resolution supporting efforts to improve the right to counsel for juveniles. In response to the Luzerne County judges scandal and statistics showing that, while 99% of Pennsylvania youth are represented, in Luzerne County over half of juveniles appeared without counsel, Senate Bill No. 815 was introduced to ensure that all juveniles are entitled to a non-waivable right to counsel. In Senate Bill No. 815,

indigence is presumed and statewide funding for counsel is embedded in its language. Upon consideration by the Board, the resolution was unanimously approved.

Chancellor Garcia presented two new candidates to serve on the board of Philadelphia Legal Assistance (“PLA”), Ed Chacker and Joe Tate. The goal is to create identical boards as between PLA and Community Legal Services (“CLS”). Mr. Chacker and Mr. Tate currently serve on the board of CLS. The Board unanimously confirmed their appointments.

Assistant Secretary Jacqueline Segal was recognized to remind and follow-up with the Board about its *pro bono* requirement pursuant to Section 216 of the Bylaws. She noted that certifications are due by July 8, 2011 and that she has not yet received certifications from every member of the Board. Secretary Sophia Lee then presented on Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program’s (“VIP”) “30 for 30” pledge, wherein members of the bar are challenged to pledge 30 hours of *pro bono* legal service this year in recognition of VIP’s 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sophia Lee  
Secretary

Board of Governors  
Attendance  
May 26, 2011

*Present:*

Rudy Garcia	Kimberly Ruch-Alegant
John Savoth	Scott Sigman
Kathleen Wilkinson	Stacy Tees
Sophia Lee	H. Marc Tepper
Jacqueline Segal	John Encarnacion
Joseph Prim	Gina Rubel
Wesley Payne	Marc Zucker
Regina Foley	Melanie Taylor
Brandi Brice	Thomas Fitzpatrick
William Fedullo	Judith Stein
Larry Beaser	Ourania Papademetriou
Jeffrey Campolongo	Cheryl Gaston
Michael Shaffer	David Prewitt
Sean Sullivan	Hon. A. Michael Snyder
Pedro Ramos	Kenneth Shear

*Absent:*

Danielle Banks

Richard Harris

Brian Chacker

Nikki Johnson-Huston

Scott Reid

Scott Cooper

Richard Seidel

Carolyn Chopko

Sandra Jeskie

Julia Swain

George Nagle