

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors
October 26, 2006**

Daniel Paul Alva, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

Chancellor Alan Feldman began by announcing that the Bench Bar in Atlantic City was a huge success with 450 members of bench and bar in attendance. He further praised the quality of the CLE courses and announced that more than 30 scholarships had been given allowing public interest and government service lawyers who normally could not afford to go, to do so. He congratulated the Co-chairs Laura Feldman and Ron Kovler and said the Bench Bar was one of the best ever.

Chancellor Feldman also discussed the recent Funding for Education Chancellor's Forum attended by Paul Vallas and Chakka Fattah. Over a hundred attended what was an excellent forum.

Chancellor Feldman announced that the Park Service had withdrawn its proposal to build a six to eleven foot high fence around Independence Mall and stated that Senator Spector and others were very helpful in leading this effort.

The Fall Quarterly Luncheon on October 30 had 600 who had signed up. A VIP-CLS Gala and End of the Year events were planned and the Board was urged to attend all these events.

Chancellor Feldman also congratulated the YLD Chair Michael Hayes on a successful Fall Spectacular at Sesame Place.

Chancellor Feldman announced that Pennsylvania Bar Association President Ken Horoho would be speaking at the November Board meeting and that afterwards there would be a reception at the Marriott. All are encouraged to attend.

Past Chancellor Peter Hearn's firm is the 123rd law firm to participate in the Raising the Bar Campaign and the campaign is closing in on \$1.5 million in pledges.

The Chair recognized Philadelphia Bar Foundation President Bob Lane who spoke about the Andrew Hamilton Gala and predicted it would be a great event.

The Chair recognized Jeff Abramowitz, Co-chair of the Bar Association Team which participated in the American Cancer Society Bike-A-Thon again this year. \$1.7 million was raised in a day, net of expenses. He congratulated all the law firms who participated. He recognized the significant contributions made by the late Steve Saltz, one of the first co-chairs, and presented a commemorative plaque and framed shirt which was presented to a representative of the Saltz Mongeluzzi law firm. He also presented plaques to the Association and to the Chancellor.

The Chair recognized Ken Shear, Executive Director of the Association, who gave the Treasurer's report (in the absence of the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer) and advised that the Treasury is sound and that dues are up over 2005. He introduced the new editor of *The Philadelphia Lawyer*, Adrienne Cornwall. He also announced that there are 12,259 members of the Association, 10,454 of which are dues paying with the balance being judges, honorary, members, and ten percent out of county. He said as a result of providing 583 free memberships for first year associates, fifty two percent renewed for the second year. The Lawyer Referral Service revenue has exceeded the budgeted amount and the Bench Bar exceeded budgeted expenses by \$2,000.

The Chair recognized Chancellor-Elect Dalton who presented a proposed 2007 budget. The Chancellor-Elect stated that there will be a decrease in special events charges in 2007, a \$67,000 reduction in income because a tenant who used Association space no longer needs to rent the space. In addition, the staff expenses will increase as there were vacancies in staff last year. Upon motion made and seconded, the budget was adopted.

The Chair requested that the minutes of the September 2006 Board meeting be approved. Upon motion made and seconded they were approved.

The Chair recognized George Badley who spoke to the Board about an amicus assistance issue he had on a case with regard to waiver of appellate rights. Suggestions were made that he seek input from other committees of the Bar and draft a resolution which contained appropriate language to show whether his issue was of a nature that the Association would have interest in supporting.

The Chair called upon Chip Becker and Carl Solano to present on a resolution from the Appellate Courts Committee Urging Adoption of the Proposed Amendment to Pennsylvania Rule of Appellate Procedure 1925. It was noted that technical amendments to the rule were needed to avoid prejudice. Attorney Solano pointed out that Madame Justice Newman had spoken about some of these issues to the State Civil Litigation Section. Attorney Solano expressed his view the Supreme Court might be amenable to these changes, which have the support of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and other appellate rules committees. Upon motion made and seconded, the Resolution passed unanimously to urge adoption of the proposed amendments.

The Chair then called upon Matthew Hamermesh to present a resolution regarding the Association's participation in an Amicus Brief in Support of the Connecticut Bar Association Constitutional Challenges to Certain Provisions of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005. The Act challenges debtors' relationships with clients. He addressed whether the issue was of a compelling interest, whether it impacted a fundamental principle of law, and stated that any participation by the Association would be on a pro bono basis. Upon motion made and seconded, the Resolution passed unanimously.

The Chair called upon State Civil Litigation Section Co-chairs William Fedullo and Kathleen Wilkinson. Attorney Fedullo thanked all the officers of the Section and the co-chairs of the Committees of the Section. He reported on the 2006 activities of the Section including honoring

Past President Judge Massiah Jackson at the Section's first meeting of 2006, followed by a State of the Court address by President Judge Darnell Jones. The Section was graced with a special appearance by Madame Justice Sandra Schultz Newman who gave an outstanding presentation on appellate issues, including Rule 1925 at its October Section Meeting. The Section had an informative presentation on the Koken decision with Harris Bock and Dan Ryan at a Spring Section meeting. Attorney Fedullo also mentioned an upcoming program by Compulsory Arbitration under the leadership of Lynn Martosella and John Rodden on raising arbitration limits. The Section also had Judge Mark Bernstein and Larry Bendesky present a seminar on Evidence at the Bench Bar as well as a Medical Malpractice Seminar highlighted by direct and cross examination by Bobbie Pichini, Jim Colleran, Dan Ryan, Kevin Wright, and Jim Beasley, Jr., which was moderated by Rules Committee Chair Robert Szostak. He also thanked Rules Committee chair David Prewitt and Medical Legal Chairs Nadeem Bezar and Heather Hanson. The Section is working with President Judge Jones on the National Judicial College Advanced Evidence course which will take place May 27 to 31, 2007. Lastly, the Board was invited to the Holiday party at the Westin on December 12th at 5:30pm. Attorney Wilkinson added that this year the Section has been represented when members of the legal community were honored such as Arbitration Manager Joe Hassett of the Arbitration Center for saving a litigant's life and when Frank Checovage was honored by the court upon his retirement.

The Chair then called upon Young Lawyers Division Chair Michael Hayes who spoke of the recent event at Sesame Place.

The Board adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Wilkinson
Assistant Secretary