

Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors
October 25, 2007

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:07 P.M. and upon motion made, and seconded, the minutes of the September 27, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved.

2. Mary Platt and Marla Joseph next presented a Resolution on behalf of the LPM Division to approve the Law Practice Management Vendor Procedure and Application. The proposed application includes the following features: Requirement that each vendor identify three (3) references; Give consent to check for complaints with the appropriate bureaus; Provide one (1) hour of free consultation; Meet with a committee member; and, pay an application fee of \$100.00. The gist of the resolution is to approve this application process. After discussion, the resolution passed unanimously.

3. Paul Kimbol presented a Resolution on behalf of the Pension Plan Committee instituting technical amendments to the Association's Pension Plan. The changes are being made as required by the Pension Protection Act of 2006. The changes are required by the IRS to be filed before January of 2008. The Resolution passed unanimously.

4. The Treasurer's Report was given by Executive Director, Ken Shear. To date, dues collection is over budget by approximately \$95,000.00, with 100% being collected. 92% of all revenue has been collected, with the Association being over budget by \$114,000.00 on revenue. Expenses are over budget by \$35,000.00, with a positive variance of \$79,000.00. Upon motion and second, the report was approved unanimously.

5. The Chancellor gave her announcements. The Bench Bar was very successful, along with the October Quarterly and Sandra Day O'Connor Award and the Association's hosting of the National Association of Bar Executive's Communication Directors meeting. Chancellor Elect Michael Pratt reported on the successful judicial debate hosted by the Association. 3 candidates for the Supreme Court gave presentations and the event was televised on PCM and covered by various print media. The event was moderated by Lynn Marks. The Board approved the reappointments of Steve LaCheen, Harold Cohen, Richard Freeman, John Gregory, and David Grunfeld to the Editorial Board of the Philadelphia Lawyer magazine. Finally, upon request of the Chancellor, the Board approved the name change of the Committee on the Legal Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men to the LGBT Rights Committee.

6. Theodore K. Cheng, Esquire, on behalf of the NYC Bar Association, gave a presentation via telephone requesting the Association join an Amicus Brief challenging the Government's Warrantless Surveillance Programs. The Brief is due on November 8, 2007. The Petition for Certiorari to the Supreme Court has been limited solely to the issue of standing. Board members questioned whether the issue was moot since the passing of the Protect America Act. Mr. Cheng stated that the statute dealt with a different factual scenario than the facts of the case presently being appealed, and, also, the statute was set to expire in 2008. After a discussion by the Board on the appropriate process it should follow in signing on to the brief, the Association's participation was unanimously approved.

7. The Chancellor rose to request the Association submit an Amicus Brief in the Third Circuit in the Gardner case. It was determined that the cabinet must analyze the case to see if it was proper for the Association to get involved. Such action was approved, with one negative vote.

8. The Chair gave her announcements.

9. The Chancellor Elect presented the proposed Budget for 2008. He stated that the proposals are very conservative. It anticipates approximately 4 million dollars in revenue, with a dues increase of 5%. There is a decrease on the expense side, including approximately \$80,000.00 from the travel budget. The newly created position of Diversity Coordinator led to an increase in salaries for the staff. After brief discussion, the Budget unanimously passed.

10. Mary Tracy presented a Resolution from the Delivery of Legal Services Committee to Restore Taxpayer Standing to Challenge Administrative Decisions in Philadelphia. Michael Pratt recused himself from the proceeding. Legislators were not aware that the amendment to the legislation that eliminated this right in Philadelphia only had been added to the underlying bill. The taxpayers of our city have been permitted to appeal zoning decisions for 50 years and this legislation eliminated that right. Community groups have already been denied standing based upon the Act. After the acceptance of a friendly amendment, the Resolution passed with one opposed and two abstentions.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved at 5:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:
John E. Savoth
Secretary