

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors Meeting
September 30, 2004**

The Chair called the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes of the July 29, 2004 meeting were approved as submitted.

Ms. Platt gave the Treasurer's Report noting that the Association is financially well positioned. A motion was made and second to approve the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by acclamation.

The Chancellor, Mr. Bevilacqua, gave his remarks and urged all to attend the Just the Beginning Programs. He noted that the recent Chancellor's forum on detainees, organized by Bob Meek, was filmed by 60 Minutes. The Chancellor thought it was an excellent program and expects that some of it will be aired. The Chancellor commended all the participants for their work. He further reported that the Professional Responsibility Committee held a sold out program, which discussed the new Ethics Rules. A free lunch and a free hour of CLE was provided. The Chancellor believes that programs like this should be done regularly as a reward for member loyalty. The Chancellor noted that there will be a prayer breakfast the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

He also noted that the ABA has asked us to comment on the Draft of Standards Relating to Jury Trials. The recommendations of the Association will be considered by the House of Delegates at the ABA Mid Year Meeting in February.

The Board of Directors of VIP asked the Board of Governors to approve the appointment of Matthew D. Lee and Brennan J. Torregrossa to their Board. The appointments were moved and second and approved by acclamation.

The editorial board of the Philadelphia Bar Reporter requested that Lawrence Felzer, Heather J. Halloway, Stacy Z. Jumper and Asima Panigrahi be appointed to the Editorial Board. Their appointments were moved and second and approved by acclamation.

The Chair of the Board, Mr. Kovler, made his announcements and asked everyone to attend the Bench Bar Conference. The State Civil Litigation Section has tweaked their bylaws and the section should be up and running by January 2005.

The Chair then introduced Judi Bernstein-Baker. Ms. Bernstein-Baker presented a resolution on behalf of the Public Interest Section supporting the extension of SSI benefits to refugees and humanitarian immigrants. Ms. Bernstein-Baker advised that, as a result of the 1996 Welfare Reform Act, changes were made to benefits distributed to refugees who arrived after August 1996. Those benefits were limited to seven (7) years. Since refugees can become citizens in five (5) years, it was thought that this would be a good idea. However, many people cannot naturalize in five (5) years. Senator Santorum has not signed onto this Bill. However, Senator

Specter has. A motion to approve the resolution was made and seconded. After a friendly amendment was made, the resolution as amended was approved by acclamation.

Thereafter, Philip Bertocci of CLS's energy unit presented a resolution opposing SB689. SB689 would revamp Chapter 56, which controls public utility codes and the PA Public Utility Commission's Customer Service Regulations. The bill would lift the ban on wintertime termination, among other things. The resolution was moved and seconded. The resolution passed with one (1) Governor dissenting.

George Newman, from the Criminal Justice Section, presented a resolution in support of the Board of Judges instituting performance standards for Court appointed attorneys. He noted that the judges of criminal court are in support of this resolution that provides power to the screeners to police their own members. Dan Alva reminded the Board that this resolution was three (3) years in the making. The resolution was moved and seconded. After a friendly amendment modifying the fourth "Whereas" clause, the resolution passed by acclamation.

The Chancellor- Elect, Mr. Chirls, made a motion to remove the previously tabled resolution to adopt the recommendations of the Pro Bono Task Force for Bar Leadership to become active participants in pro bono work. The motion was seconded. Upon the call of the question, the motion to table was rejected. Thereafter a motion was made to approve the amendments, which was seconded. Mr. Sullivan offered a brief history of the resolution and amendments thereto. A lively discussion was entertained and the resolution was passed.

Thereafter, Vice Chancellor Feldman advised the Board that Daniel Paul Alva has been selected to be his Chair of the Board of Governors.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Sayde J. Ladov
Secretary