

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors
January 27, 2005**

1. The Chair addressed the Board at 4:16 P.M. There being no quorum at this juncture, the Chair directed that the Board would proceed with agenda items not requiring a motion and vote.

2. Chancellor Chirls thanked the staff for its hard work in organizing and running the Chancellor's reception. He also acknowledged staff members Areetha Carter and Stephanie Krzywanski for their hard work on ensuring that the Board Retreat was a success. He felt that the Retreat showed good energy and many useful ideas came out of it. The Chancellor stated that he met with Mayor Street and discussed, inter alia, the issues of immigration and Family Court. He spent a day in Harrisburg on behalf of the Association discussing SB669 dealing with the certification and use of interpreters in Court. He met with Representative Dwight Evans and discussed the Real Estate Transfer Tax Bill. He also met with the lobbyist for the Builder's Industry Association and the Southeastern Delegation of the State Legislature. With the latter, he emphasized the importance of the regional transit system for use by jurors, victims, and witnesses in our Court system. He met with representative from the Bureau of Licences and Inspections. The Chancellor's dinner, scheduled for February 2, 2005, will be attended by the French Trade Delegation. Finally, he directed the Board's attention to his letter to the editor in the Philadelphia Inquirer regarding Tort Reform.

3. At 4:22 P.M., the meeting was called to order with the necessary quorum present.

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

5. Upon motion made, and seconded, the Treasurer's report was approved. It was noted by Assistant Treasurer, Scott Cooper, that total revenue for 2004 was \$358,000 over budget and expenditures were \$24,500 under budget. Regarding 2005, the Association has already received a fee of \$106,000 from LRIS. With regard to the budget surplus, they will meet with the Association's investment counselor to determine how it should be invested.

6. The Chair made her announcements. She detailed the numerous sections and committee meetings she had attended during the month. She noted that there is a tremendous collaboration between the bench and bar with many judges actively participating in the section and committee meetings. The Chair asked that the Board try and attend as many meetings as they individually can.

7. Jeffrey Abramowitz and Steve Saltz appeared as co-chairs of the American Cancer Society Bike-A-Thon committee. Mr. Abramowitz stated that 2004 was the first year the Association sponsored a team in the event, with 171 riders participating. The entire ride had 3600 riders and raised 1.1 million dollars. The Association raised over \$100,000. The committee's goal is to double that amount this year for the Ride which will take place on July 10, 2005. There will be a kick-off party on May 13, 2005 at the Camden River Sharks Stadium. Mr. Saltz thereafter asked the Board for the Association to fund a team again this year and to establish a permanent committee to ensure its involvement into the future. A motion was made and seconded and thereafter unanimously approved.

8. Rudolph (“Rudy”) Garcia made a presentation to the Board on the extensive work he has done to address the Association’s Comments and Input on the ABA Draft Standards Relating to Jury Trials. He detailed the changes he will suggest on behalf of the Association but stated that even if the changes are not accepted, he will vote in favor of the Standards because of their overall importance.

9. Sayde Ladov addressed the Board with a report on the status of the Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS). In 2004, the LRIS generated \$464,277 in referral fees for the Association. This represented a 43% increase from 2003. Consult fees are up 7% which means that more cases are “in the pipeline.” She spoke of the advertising campaign involving billboards and ads in the Metro newspaper. These contributed to the “Branding” of this service in the public’s perception. A foreign language Legal Line will be emphasized this year. Furthermore, the LRIS panel will re-evaluate the panel criteria established ten years ago. It was acknowledged that Association staff member Charlie Klitsch has been appointed to the ABA’s LRIS Standing Committee which will provide our Association with an important voice on the national level.

10. Ms. Ladov next addressed the Board in her capacity as co-chair of the Bench Bar for 2005. It will take place from September 30 through October 1st. The location this year will be the Tropicana on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City. Co-chair for the event is Mitchell Bach.

11. Sharon Browning and Joe Sullivan gave an extensive presentation on the state of Pro Bono in our community. Their comments are contained in the Delivery of Legal Services Committee’s Annual Report on Pro Bono Task Force Recommendations dated January 27, 2005.

12. Finally, in new business, Assistant Treasurer Scott Cooper presented a resolution in support of the Philadelphia Eagles Football Team’s participation in the Super Bowl on February 6, 2005. Said motion was approved unanimously, but only after several members mumbled concern that such action might, in fact, have a negative effect on the karma of the team and the city. Given the outcome of the game, Mr. Cooper might do well to avert the stares of disgruntled Board members at its next meeting.

The meeting thereafter adjourned without incident.

Respectfully submitted:
John E. Savoth
Secretary