

Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors
April 25, 2008

Stephanie Resnick, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

The Chair requested that the minutes of the March 27, 2008 meeting be approved. Upon motion made and seconded, they were approved.

The Chair recognized Treasurer Jeff Lindy who presented the financial report through the end of March. The Association expenses are slightly over budget in the area of the Bar Retreat and member services. The Treasurer's report was moved, seconded, and accepted unanimously.

Chancellor A. Michael Pratt requested the Board's approval to appoint Mark S. Schwarz, Executive Director of Regional Housing Legal Services, as an appointee to the PLAB. Chancellor Pratt reported on the Chancellors' visit to Washington, DC, where they met with many Representatives in Washington with regard to money for legal services.

Chancellor Pratt reported on the Lobbyist Disclosure Act and then yielded to former Chancellor Beaser who gave a presentation on behalf of the Lobbying Task Force. Even monitoring laws could be considered lobbying. Chancellor Pratt then advised that the Philadelphia Bar Association and Larry Beaser took the lead on this issue in Harrisburg. Changes to the Act are under way in Harrisburg as a result of these efforts.

Chancellor Pratt reported that he continues to look for a liaison to City Hall to monitor City of Philadelphia legislation of interest to the Association.

Chancellor Pratt discussed the work of a Task Force which is working on issues of increasing funding for education. Chancellor Pratt also discussed the work of the Judicial Commission and the plebiscite. He updated everyone on the Bench Bar Conference in Atlantic City, the status of plenary sessions, and entertainment for the conference.

Chancellor Pratt advised the Board that he and Ken Shear participated in an education summit at the Governor's Mansion, which was held by the Honorable Marjorie O. Rendell. Judge Rendell wants to have regional mini summits around the Commonwealth and the Association to be a host for such a summit this fall. At the summit, Chancellor Pratt discussed the Advancing Civics Education (ACE) program being held by the Association. Allegheny and Pennsylvania Bar Associations also attended.

The Chair expressed her thanks for the work of the sections and committees. Ken Shear was recognized. He stated that long time Association staff member Areetha Carter, Esquire would be leaving the Association transferring to Texas with her husband, with her last day on May 19. Mr. Shear stated this will be a significant loss to the Association and noted all the work she has done. The Board gave a round of applause to show appreciation for her work.

The Chair then recognized Jenimae Almquist and Barbara Potts who presented on the Advancing Civics Education (ACE) program. Barbara Potts explained how the program will begin with ninth graders. Attorneys will go into the classroom once a month to speak to students on civic issues. Jenimae Almquist urged attorneys to sign up. Chancellor Pratt gave praise to the committee chairs, stating that many members of the legal community are very interested in this work.

The Chair then recognized Doug Gaston, General Counsel of Comcast, who presented on the activities and initiatives of the In-House Counsel Committee. They had a meeting in February and cocktail party. They are considering partnering with the Business Law Section and other associations to try to meet needs of in-house counsel that are not already being met. There may be a general counsel roundtable and other programs for in-house counsel. They also want to look at CLE opportunities with PBI, how to promote diversity and writing articles.

The Chair then recognized Wanda Flowers of Sunoco to present a report on the activities of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee. Wanda Flowers explained how there is an ADR program at Sunoco. They will have a meeting on May 8 at noon and have invited a speaker who will talk about use of ADR in the employment arena. She announced that an ADR program will be done at the Bench Bar Conference this year.

The Chair announced that in July 2008, Joanne Epps will become the new dean of Temple Law School, after a nationwide search. The Chair congratulated Associate Dean Epps and advised the Board that she joined the faculty in 1985, taught many subjects, and has been Associate Dean since 1989. Associate Dean Epps has been involved in ABA committees and task forces and is a delegate to the ABA. She has been active in the community, including the Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Bar Associations. The Chair recognized Scott Cooper, a Temple Law School alum, who gave positive remarks about Associate Dean Epps. Joanne Epps thanked the Association and said she is looking forward to continuing to work with members of the bar. Her faculty would like to have more initiatives with the Association. She is planning to reach out to other law schools as well in an effort to advance the Philadelphia legal community as a whole.

The Chair then recognized Kim Jessum, Nik Heble and Michael Berkowitz from the Intellectual Property Committee who presented a Resolution Opposing Section 11 of the Patent Reform Act. They explained the duty to disclose when a patent application is made and failure to do so is grounds for invalidating patents. There is no duty to do a search at present but one must disclose what is uncovered. The Resolution is designed to oppose the portion of the Patent Reform Act that would put an undue burden on the patent applicant and subject applicants to different standards, and thus cause delay and increased cost.

A motion was made and seconded. There was discussion. The Chair recognized Doug Gaston who explained that the quality of the patents could be higher if this work was done at the outset, and also could help in regard to cost and efficiency. Michael

Berkowitz explained how the Reform Act puts unnecessary burdens on attorneys. A friendly amendment was made and accepted that this Resolution would not affect any other part of the Reform Act. Chancellor Pratt asked if the presenters would want to come back in May as there was concern expressed by the Board with regard to hearing more from the other side about the Resolution. Former Chancellor Reich gave the time table of the ABA should the Association want to get anything presented at the ABA level. A Motion to table was made, four abstained and the rest were in favor. The Motion to table carried.

The Chair then recognized Michael Berkowitz to talk about the 5 K Run and Walk on May 18, 2008. Members of the Association are raising money which will go to the Support Center for Child Advocates.

The Chair then recognized Troy Wilson to present from the Criminal Justice Section a Resolution Seeking Support of Court Appointed Counsel Fees in Philadelphia. He explained that the Modified Guaranteed Fee System, which dictates predefined rates for court appointed counsel fees in Philadelphia, historically has not been enough to adequately compensate court appointed attorneys. This is currently the subject of a lawsuit. The recent City of Philadelphia budget does not have any allotment for an increase for court appointed lawyers. A motion was made and seconded. There was discussion. Questions were raised as to the breadth of the resolution, and whether a task force should be created. There was further discussion that there had been similar issues in the past. There was discussion that from a young lawyer's perspective, this is a way that young lawyers can build their practice. Ninety percent of the defendants are indigent, Treasurer Jeff Lindy reported. The Resolution passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sayde Ladov who announces the YLD Comedy night on May 10, 2008, and the HAP benefit, following the meeting. Jeff Lindy announced the Boston Law School gathering following the meeting as well.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

KATHLEEN D. WILKINSON
Secretary

Board of Governors
Attendance
April 24, 2008

Present:

A. Michael Pratt
Sayde Ladov
Joseph Prim
Judy Berkman
Matthew Perks
Jacqueline Segal
Maria Feeley
Stephen Foxman
Denis Lawler
Rochelle Fedullo

Kathleen Wilkinson
Scott Cooper
Stephanie Resnick
Regina Foley
Carlton Johnson
Michael Berkowitz
Brian Chacker
Donna Woelpper
Cindy Rosenthal
Stacy Tees

Sophia Lee
Jeffrey Lindy
Gaetan Alfano
Kim Jessum
Michael Hayes
Karen Detamore
Deborah Weinstein
Judith Drasin
Michael Goss

Absent:

Wesley Payne
Jeffrey Gross
Scott Sigman
Stewart Weintraub

Rosemary Pinto
Richard Seidel
Jane Dalton

Grace Manno
Reetu Dandora
Daniel Siegel