

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors Meeting
June 25, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair Brad V. Shuttleworth.

Upon consideration by the Board, the minutes of the May 28, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved, with one friendly amendment.

Assistant Treasurer Mary Platt presented the Financial Report for the period ending May 31, 2015. She reported that revenues are under budget by approximately \$77,059, which is largely due to the collection of dues being down by approximately \$93,060. Expenses are under budget by approximately \$75,470 but it is anticipated that this will level out over the course of the year and stay within the budget. This results, however, in a current deficit of approximately \$1,590. As a result, the Association is striving to save money and cut costs in an effort to end the year within the budget. After consideration, the Treasurer's Financial Report was unanimously accepted by the Board.

Chancellor Albert S. Dandridge, III reported that he attended the Widener University "Jurist Academy" program. The program enables students from various colleges to get a sense of the law school experience by attending informational programs, meeting lawyers and judges, and practicing and refining oral argument, analytic, and test-taking skills. Chancellor Dandridge was excited to attend since his firm has sponsored the program, and he enjoyed speaking with the participants whom he found attentive and bright. Additionally, Chancellor Dandridge attended a program in support of the Philadelphia School System along with Past Chancellor William Fedullo and Philadelphia School District Superintendent Dr. William R. Hite, Jr.. At the well-attended event, the Association was recognized and commended for its support of the school system.

Chancellor Dandridge and Bar Association Executive Director Mark Tarasiewicz have been visiting some of the City's larger law firms in order to spread the word on the Association's recent efforts, and inquire how the Association can be of assistance. Chancellor Dandridge further reported on the Association's Quarterly Meeting held June 9, 2015. He congratulated Catherine C. Carr, Executive Director of Community Legal Services on her receipt of the Sandra Day O'Connor Award, and praised The Honorable Timothy K. Lewis on his delivery of a powerful Judge A. Leon Higginbotham Jr. Memorial Public Interest Lecture. He congratulated the Association's 50-, 60-, 65-, and 70-Year Club members who were honored at the event. Additionally, Chancellor Dandridge spoke about his recent trip to London, England with an ABA delegation to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta. While there, he visited various cathedrals, the Supreme Court, and landmarks relevant to the historic document, and learned about the history of the document and its impact on the U.S. legal system and other democracies.

Finally, Chancellor Dandridge delivered a moving history of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, the first African American Episcopal Church in the U.S., founded in 1792 by Reverend Absalom Jones (the first Episcopal priest of African American descent and the first

rector of St. Thomas' Church), and the Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, founded in 1794 by Bishop Richard Allen. The Chancellor explained the connection between those churches and the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, where the tragic mass shooting recently occurred.

Chair Shuttleworth initially reminded the Board that, while Board members may participate in Board meetings by telephone, they may not vote via telephone. The Chair congratulated Bar Association Director of Communications and Marketing Meredith Avakian-Hardaway on being installed on June 11, 2015 as President of the Philadelphia Public Relations Association for a one-year term, and Board member Lawrence Felzer on being installed on June 8, 2015 as President of the Beasley School of Law – Temple Law School Alumni Association.

Chair Shuttleworth reported that Board member Ira Lefton presented the Association with the opportunity to join in an amicus brief written by attorneys at Reed Smith LLP supporting PA Governor Tom Wolf's reprieve of the death penalty. With a submission deadline of June 17, 2015, the ACLU joined, and the NAACP and Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts considered joining. Although the issue arose with the scheduled execution of Terrence Williams, Wolf made it clear that the reprieve was not for Williams but, rather, because of broader perceived problems with the death penalty in PA and across the country. Points raised in the brief included the inadequacy of representation for those on death row; the racial disparities in the application of the death penalty; and, the over 326 exonerations based on DNA evidence alone. The Association's position on this issue is consistent with the Board's 1997 Resolution calling for a moratorium on the death penalty.

Criminal Justice Section Co-Chair Thomas J. Innes, III, on behalf of Co-Chair James Funt, presented a Resolution in support of Senate Bill 166 and House Bill 1175 on Legislation Providing for Expungement of Certain Second Degree, Third Degree, and ungraded Misdemeanors. The Resolution seeks to expand the ability to expunge, in PA, non-violent misdemeanors including second and third degree misdemeanor convictions and unclassified misdemeanor convictions. Innes explained this would often pertain to the expungement of an individual who has made a mistake, due to youth or lack of funds, following a misdemeanor of the second degree if they have been arrest-free for ten years, and following a misdemeanor of the third degree if they have been arrest-free for seven years. The Senate Bill passed unanimously and is now in the House Judiciary Committee, and is supported by Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Ferman and Berks County District Attorney John Adams. Upon consideration by the Board, and following certain friendly technical amendments, the Resolution was unanimously passed.

Bench-Bar Chair Julia Swain presented on the Annual Bench-Bar Conference scheduled to be held October 16-17, 2015 at the Borgata in Atlantic City. Registration is open and early bird savings run through September 18, 2015. 23 CLE credits are offered. Speakers include Benjamin L. Crump, Esquire, President Elect of the National Bar Association and civil rights, personal injury, and wrongful death trial attorney in Florida who gained national recognition for representing the family of Trayvon Martin after he was fatally shot by George Zimmerman in 2012 in Sanford, Florida. Crump will present the program "We Can't Breathe: the Struggle to Resuscitate Due Process in Police Excessive Force Cases." The program will be moderated by

Special Advisor to the Chancellor and past President of the Barristers' Association of Philadelphia Rachel Branson. Also speaking will be Marshall M. Goldberg, Esquire, practicing attorney and noted television and film writer of many projects including "L.A. Law," "Paper Chase," "Newhart," and "It's Garry Shandling's Show." Goldberg will speak on "Narrative Skills and the Law," which he teaches at Stanford Law School and The University of Michigan Law School, on how to present compelling story telling in legal situations. The Friday night grand reception will include live entertainment by the award winning Vincent James Band. This year's Scholarship Chair is Regina Foley, and the goal is to raise \$10,000 in scholarship funds to enable public interest and government attorneys to attend the conference at a reduced or no cost, to enhance the mix of attendees to better reflect a cross-section of the Association's legal community. Swain thanked the Bench-Bar Committee members including Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas President Judge, The Honorable Sheila Woods-Skipper, The Honorable Sandra Mazer Moss, PBI representatives Tara Phoenix and Lisa Muench, and the Bar Association staff.

Workers' Compensation Section Co-Chair, The Honorable Tina Rago, on behalf of Co-Chairs Geoffrey Dlin and Megan Dougherty, presented a Resolution regarding PA Senate Bill 413. The stated purpose of the Bill, introduced to the PA General Assembly on February 12, 2015, was the reformation of the Administrative Law practice in the Commonwealth. The Bill, however, rising from the Joint State Government Commission Report issued in 2015, advocates the creation of a central hearing panel for all administrative adjudications in the state, including workers' compensation matters, which would undermine the current workers' compensation practice in PA. The PA Supreme Court has recognized the complexities of workers' compensation practice when it approved a special certification for attorneys practicing in that field. Further, the premise to consolidate the workers' compensation into a centralized administrative practice as a cost-saving measure is faulty since the Workers' Compensation Office of Adjudication and the Bureau of Workers Compensation are funded through a special assessment paid by Employers and Insurers, rather than a general fund. The Workers' Compensation Section advanced a Resolution addressing these concerns and requesting that the Bill be amended to exclude from centralization the PA Workers' Compensation System, including the Workers' Compensation Office of Adjudication, the Workers' Compensation Judges and the Workers' Compensation Appeal Board. Upon consideration by the Board, and following certain friendly amendments, the Resolution was unanimously approved.

Chair Shuttleworth introduced Assistant Secretary Hon. A. Michael Snyder, who spoke on two requirements for Board members. Initially, Snyder spoke of the *pro bono* requirement, pursuant to Bylaws Section 216A, that requires each Board member, whether appointed or elected, to certify, for the period ending June 30, that they (1) have undertaken one new *pro bono* matter; (2) are employed on a full-time basis by a public interest organization; or, (3) have provided alternative support if they are prohibited from handling a *pro bono* matter based upon his or her position or is prevented from handling a *pro bono* matter due to other circumstances. Snyder reminded the Board members that the Certification must be returned to him or Director of Public and Legal Services Charles Klitsch on or before July 6, 2015, or resulting action may be considered under Bylaws Section 212, which may include reporting the delinquent Board member's name to Philadelphia VIP Executive Director Sara L. Woods, Esq. for the assignment of a *pro bono* case. Second, Snyder spoke to the Board members about the Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan and Individual Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan Checklist, which was

adopted by the Board in December 2014, and reminded the Board members that, by year's end, they will be expected to certify that they have engaged in a minimum of four activities on the Checklist or prepare an essay describing activities they have engaged in to foster and promote diverse and inclusive behavior.

The agenda item to discuss the Board of Governors "Boots on the Ground" project, presented by Real Property Section Chair Steve Rothberg and Board Chair Brad Shuttleworth, was tabled until a future meeting, due to Rothberg's unavailability.

For the good and welfare, the Board congratulated Chair Shuttleworth on the birth of his son, Jack Wallace Shuttleworth, and Board member Jeremy Menkowitz on the birth of his son, William Monroe Menkowitz.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,
Jacqueline G. Segal
Secretary

**Board of Governors
Attendance
June 25, 2015**

Voting Members:

Present:

Albert Dandridge
Jacqueline Segal
Deborah Gross
Hon. A. Michael Snyder
Mary Platt
Brad Shuttleworth
Rachel Gallegos
Natalie Klyashtorny
Emily Marks

Rahat Babar
Lawrence Felzer
Peter Newman
Erin Siciliano
Kathleen Kirkpatrick
Ira Lefton
Julia Swain
William Fedullo
Joseph Turchi

Absent:

Gaetan Alfano
Wesley Payne
Lauren McKenna
Rachel Kopp
Dawn Tancredi
Lawrence Felzer
Jeremy Menkowitz

Nycole Watson
Rachel Keene
Kevin Mincey
Jeffrey Rosenthal
Eric Weitz
Maria Bermudez
Erin Lamb

Graham Laub
Robert Muench
Dina Ronsayro
Scott Small

Su Ming Yeh
Steven Rothberg
Robert Casey
Jennifer O'Leary

Non-voting Members:

Present:

Jennifer Coatsworth
Mark Tarasewicz
Lawrence Beaser

Vivian Luckiewicz
Kathleen Wilkinson

Absent:

Kathleen Wilkinson
Sophia Lee
Louis Rulli
Molly Peckman
Rachel Branson
Steven Bizar
M. Kelly Tillery
Heather Austin
Hilda Thompson
Cheryl Disch
Abraham Reich
Butler Buchanan

