

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors Meeting
November 20, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Chair Eric H. Weitz.

Upon consideration by the Board, the minutes of the October 27, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

Assistant Treasurer Mary F. Platt presented the Financial Report for the period ending October 31, 2014. She reported that the Association is doing well and the revenue is over budget by approximately \$170,902. She noted that, due to meetings and the Bench Bar, expenses are over budget by \$73,937, but revenue of \$96,965 remains largely due to the performance of Lawyer Referral and Information Service ("LRIS"). After consideration, the Treasurer's Financial Report was unanimously accepted by the Board.

Chair Eric H. Weitz introduced Pension Committee Co-Chair Jonathan Clark to present consideration of the Resolution Adopting Amendment No. 1 to the Philadelphia Bar Association Pension Plan. Clark reported that the Resolution is not a material amendment but, rather, for clarification purposes, to change the definition of compensation to calculate accrued short term disability payments, which, for covered participants, are insured under the pension plan. Assistant Executive Director Paul Kazaras clarified that amendment is effective retroactive to January 1, 2014. Chair Weitz noted that the Resolution simply adds one more item that is included in the calculation of compensation to determine credit for short term disability under the plan.

Chair Weitz introduced City Policy Committee Co-Chairs David L. Hyman and Denise J. Smyler to report on the City of Philadelphia policy matters. Initially, Hyman congratulated Smyler for being appointed General Counsel for Governor Wolf's transition team. The Committee is working with leadership to assemble a forum to address the present issue of the pending reelection of all of City Council's 17 members, and the mayoral campaign. The Committee conducted a city policy committee meeting to highlight the issue of gentrification, attended by Councilman Kenyatta Johnson representing the 2nd District, Brian Abernathy, Executive Director of the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, and Jeff Allegretti on behalf of Point Breeze Redevelopment, and the meeting was well attended. The Committee is working with Philadelphia City Council Office Manager Zenobia Harris to put together a group of constituent service representatives in January 2015, and provide a full briefing on the Association's lawyer referral service, LRIS. Finally, a current focus of elected officials, both locally and in Harrisburg, is school funding, and the Committee plans to conduct a forum on that subject in 2015.

Chancellor William P. Fedullo commended Hyman and Smyler on a job well done, and thanked each of them for their firm's support of his Philadelphia School system initiative and for sponsoring a Philadelphia school.

Chair Weitz introduced Civil Gideon Task Force Co-Chair Joseph A. Sullivan to report on the Civil Gideon and Access to Justice Task Force. Co-Chair Sullivan reported that the Task Force had a very busy and largely successful year. First, on behalf of himself, Co-Chair Catherine C. Carr, and the Task Force, Sullivan thanked Chancellor Fedullo, Chancellor-Elect Albert S. Dandridge, III, and Vice Chancellor Gaetan J. Alfano for giving the Task Force the opportunity to deliver to the Board a report describing the Task Force's 2014 activities. Sullivan reflected that the Task Force is in its 6th year, having been launched by former Chancellor Sayde J. Ladov in 2009 and having the strong support of every Chancellor since that time. Further, Sullivan thanked the Association's Leaders for their tremendous support.

Sullivan explained that the Task Force works to support Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Allegheny County Bar Association and the Philadelphia Bar Association to create and support a statewide entity called the Civil Legal Justice Coalition, with the goal of getting the word out of the importance of representation for those in the need of fundamental services on a statewide basis. In support of the goal to secure greater support from the state legislature for this purpose, the Task Force formed a statewide coalition with three co-chairs including Jennifer R. Clarke, Executive Director of the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia, Sam W. Milkes, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, and James W. Creenan, President of the Allegheny County Bar Association. The Task Force held hearings across Pennsylvania in 2013 under the auspices of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Chairman Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf. Sullivan also thanked now Judge Gerald Austin McHugh, Jr. for being instrumental in getting the agreement of Senator Greenleaf to conduct these statewide hearings, and Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille for agreeing to be the Honorary Chair of the coalition and testifying on issues of Access to Justice at one of the three statewide hearings.

At the hearings there was testimony in support of legal services for the poor given by members of the state judiciary, legislative business leaders and individuals. Individuals delivered moving accounts on how, without legal counsel, they would have likely lost important benefits and rights including healthcare benefits, support, access to their children, or their home. The hearings culminated in the release of 68 page report in May 2014 sent to every member of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and many other state and local officials. The report made numerous findings and three principle recommendations. The first recommendation was that the State Legislature annually appropriate an additional fifty million dollars for civil legal services including to indignant individuals to tackle the areas of healthcare, housing and access to children. The second recommendation was that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court establish an "Access to Justice Commission" to study access to justice, and implement measures to expand access to justice, and offers 11 specific findings in support of that Commission. Sullivan elaborated that more than 30 states have such commissions, and the Task Force believes that the formation of a commission in Pennsylvania would be a helpful tool to advance both the awareness of the issue and the development of practical solutions. The third recommendation was to urge the Commonwealth to work towards establishing a right to counsel in civil matters where basic human needs are at stake. In addition to the moving testimony of many witnesses on their receipt of free legal counsel, Chief Justice Castille testified about the urgent need for legal services to be funded in the same way that roads, the police, and other necessary expenditures are funded, to ensure that necessary funding is appropriated annually.

The Task Force engaged in additional projects including: (1) a family law working group; (2) a housing working group; and, (3) an education and communications working group. Sullivan elaborated that (1) the family law working group is chaired by Women Against Abuse Legal Center Director Molly Callaghan and Megan E. Watson, Esquire. With the vigorous support of the Administrative Judge of the Family Division Margaret T. Murphy, the family law working group has worked tirelessly to create a Help Center in the new Family Court building, including plans for five computer terminals, a copier and a work space for unrepresented individuals, and staffing by pro bono volunteers from the private bar, Philadelphia Legal Assistance, Women Against Abuse and Drexel Law School. (2) The housing working group is chaired by Ethan D. Fogel, Esquire and Chair, Real Property Section Judy F. Berkman. The group expanded the landlord-tenant Help Center with the strong support of Municipal Court President Judge Marsha H. Neifield, who is a member of the Task Force. The Help Center has provided pro bono representation to hundreds of unrepresented litigants, tenants and landlords in a number of matters including the eviction process. Sullivan opined that the Help Center receives no government funding and, notwithstanding generous private funding and a generous grant from the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, funding remains a serious problem. The Help Center was lucky to have the staff assistance of a Drexel Law post graduate fellow for the next six months. (3) The education and communications working group, chaired by Chancellor-Elect Dandridge and Chancellor's Cabinet Addition – Pro-Bono Chair Louis S. Rulli, is disseminating information about the Task Force.

Sullivan noted that members of the judiciary have been critical to the Task Force's progress. The Association's 2014 Bench Bar Conference included a program "New Developments in the Civil Right to Counsel and Access to Justice Movement in Pennsylvania" featuring Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas President Judge Sheila A. Woods-Skipper, and Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts Honorable Fern A. Fisher, who is Director of the New York State Courts Access to Justice Program. Further, President Judge Woods-Skipper created a First Judicial District Access to Justice Committee, chaired by The Honorable Marlene F. Lachman. The Task Force is grateful to those and all judges who have assisted, including but not limited to the Honorable Denis P. Cohen, the Honorable Charles Hayden, the Honorable Annette M. Rizzo, the Honorable Rosalyn K. Robinson, and the Honorable John Milton Younge.

Finally, the Task Force is looking at new developments in other states such as Maryland and Massachusetts (particularly Boston) where there is a vigorous pursuit of right to counsel and progress on creating Access to Justice Commissions.

Chancellor Fedullo thanked Sullivan for the Task Force report, and also for Sullivan's firm's support of his Philadelphia School system initiative and their sponsorship of a Philadelphia School.

Real Property Section Chair Berkman added that the Section's meeting that same day held a forum with six panelists discussing Civil Gideon real property related issues including mortgage foreclosure and landlord/tenant problems. She reported that Judge Rizzo plans to resign from the Court of Common Pleas and join JAMS.

Chancellor Fedullo congratulated Philadelphia Bar Foundation Deborah Gross, Jessica R. Hilburn-Holmes, Maya Brown and Cecilia Driscoll for hosting the Andrew Hamilton Benefit Gala, which was attended by approximately 600 guests and raised approximately \$400,000 for the Bar Foundation. He congratulated Daniel A. Rendine, Philadelphia Jury Commissioner and Daniel M. Rendine, practicing law for 56 years at age 105, on being bestowed the Twentieth Annual Beccaria Award by the Justinian Society of Philadelphia and the Association's Criminal Justice Section on November 5, 2014. Chancellor Fedullo reported on the November 6, 2014 Chancellor's Forum, "Understanding the Science of Climate Change" featuring noted climate scientist Richard B. Alley, Ph.D. of Pennsylvania State University, Robert B. McKinstry, Jr. who heads the Climate Change and Sustainability Initiative at Ballard Spahr, LLP, and Stephen G. Harvey who presented the proposed Resolution "Supporting Action on Climate Change" to the Board in June 2014, and complemented the panel on an insightful discussion. The Chancellor spoke about the November 10, 2014 Chancellor's Forum "Inside the Drexel Law Gift" featuring Thomas R. Kline and Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law Founding Dean and Law Professor Roger J. Dennis. Chancellor Fedullo reported that he attended the Dobson Elementary School on November 14, 2014 accompanied by SeniorLAW Center Executive Director Karen C. Buck and 194th District State Representative Pam DeLissio for the induction of the student council and safety panel, and he commended Dobson School Principal Dr. Patricia Cruice.

Chancellor Fedullo reported about a November 15, 2015 program at Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law which he attended with Association Treasurer Wesley R. Payne, IV. At that time, the Chancellor spoke on opening statements and delivered an opening, and Payne explained closing statements and delivered a closing. The Chancellor was delighted to learn that Dean and Professor JoAnne A. Epps announced that the program will continue. Chancellor Fedullo congratulated Philadelphia VIP Managing Attorney Ourania "Rainy" Papademetriou and Association Director of Public and Legal Services Charles Klitsch on being honored by the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations in Conversation Hall on October 29, 2014 for their efforts in creating a new mediation program that PCHR will be implementing. Chancellor Fedullo announced an upcoming breakfast discussion on November 25, 2014 hosted by the Louis D. Brandeis Law Society on Recent Trends in Israeli Law at the Philadelphia Bar Association Conference Center with Ron Harris, Dean, Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University, and he thanked Dean Harris along with Association Assistant Secretary Honorable A. Michael Snyder and Eden Aaronson, the Philadelphia contact for the American Friends of Tel Aviv University, for what he was sure to be a poignant discussion in light of recent international events.

Chancellor Fedullo announced the November 26, 2014 Chancellor's Forum, "Champions of Negotiation" featuring the Honorable Judge Jack A. Panella of the Pennsylvania Superior Court, 1978-1985 Heavyweight Champion of the World Larry Holmes, and the Honorable Jacquelyn M. Frazier-Lyde of Philadelphia Municipal Court. The Chancellor's announced the last Law Firm Laboratory is scheduled to be held on December 3, 2014 at the Bar Association Conference Center on "Starting and Building a Successful Law Practice & Serving the Changing Needs of Tomorrow's Clients," Part 2: "Making the Leap Into Private Practice," featuring Stephen G. Harvey, Chancellor's Cabinet Addition – Special Advisor to the Chancellor Kevin V.

Mincey, Family Law Section Representative Lee A. Schwartz, and “The Morning Team” Co-Host Rhonda Hill Wilson. Chancellor Fedullo announced that the Pennsylvania Bar Association is awarding the Bar Medal, the highest honor conferred by that Association, to Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille on November 20, 2014.

The Chancellor announced a number of events scheduled to be held on December 4, 2014. First, the Education Law Center is honoring Education Law Center Executive Director Rhonda Brownstein, who is leaving the Center at the end of 2014. The Chancellor, who received the Center’s Education Champion Award on September 17, 2014, commented that the award is very deserving since Brownstein has done a wonderful job in that role. Second, the Louis D. Brandeis Law Society is holding their Annual Chanukah Party at the National Museum of American Jewish History, where they will be honoring former Chancellor Abraham C. Reich with the Benjamin F. Levy Community Service Award. Third, the Family Law Section is holding its Annual Dinner and Award Presentation at The Westin Philadelphia where they will be presenting the Herbert R. Weiman Sr. & Jr. Award to Chief Justice Castille.

Chancellor Fedullo reported that on December 11, 2014 a portrait of the Honorable Joseph O’Keefe will be unveiled in City Hall, which is well deserved since he has been a judge for the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas since 1983 and was appointed Administrative Judge of the Orphans’ Court of the First Judicial District in 2000. The Chancellor recognized Chancellor’s Cabinet Addition – Projects and Programming Advisor Rochelle M. Fedullo for delivering a speech earlier that same day at the naturalization ceremony at the Immigration Center at the Federal Courthouse, and congratulated her on delivering a heartfelt moving speech. The Chancellor announced the upcoming Annual Turkey Drive sponsored by The Barristers’ Association of Philadelphia on November 22, 2014 to ensure that all those in the community have a good Thanksgiving meal. The Chancellor reported that donations will be accepted up to the day of the drive and may be sent to the Barristers’ Association directly at P.O. Box 58448, Philadelphia, PA 19102 or to Barristers’ Association Immediate Past President Amber Racine at Raynes McCarty at 1845 Walnut Street, 20th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Board Member Lawrence S. Felzer announced a happy hour to raise funds for the Barristers’ Turkey Holiday Drive that same evening at 6:00 p.m. at Tavern on Broad, 200 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia.

Chancellor Fedullo spoke about the Annual Meeting Luncheon scheduled on December 9, 2014 at the Hyatt at the Bellevue. At that meeting, Chancellor-Elect Albert S. Dandridge, III will be introduced as the Association’s 88th Chancellor. Also at that meeting, the Honorable Benjamin Lerner of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas will be presented with the Justice William J. Brennan Jr. Distinguished Jurist Award, and former Chancellor Mark A. Aronchick will receive the PNC Achievement Award. Chancellor Fedullo noted that the Board elections will be held that same day, and urged everyone to get out and vote in the contested elections.

Chair Weitz spoke about the Bar Association, generally. He commented that the Association’s many different sections and committees offer cutting edge activities, legal education, and events. He noted that both the Criminal Justice Section and the Family Law Section are both considering moving their meetings to their respective courthouses in an effort to increase the convenience to members and encourage meeting participation. Chair Weitz also remarked on the value of live interaction rather than by electronic means to encourage and foster

personal relationships which can lead to growth of the Association. He remarked on the “amazing” environment in Philadelphia to practice law, and on the power of the Association as a “force in this City” to stand up for important causes. He encouraged Association members to expand their horizons and “step a little further outside [their] comfort zones” by interacting with members outside of their regular practice area.

Chair Weitz recognized Special Advisor to the Chancellor Kevin V. Mincey, who announced an upcoming training sessions offered by Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity on the topic of expungement of criminal records to be held on November 24, 2014 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia. Additionally, Mincey announced an Expungement Clinic sponsored by the Barristers’ Association of Philadelphia to be held on December 6, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Community College of Philadelphia.

Bar Foundation President Deborah R. Gross reported on the activities of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. Gross reflected on the Bar Foundation’s Andrew Hamilton Benefit Gala held November 8, 2014 at the National Constitution Center. She said it was an “amazing event.” She remarked on the 2014 Philadelphia Bar Foundation Pro Bono Award that was bestowed upon Mincey & Fitzpatrick, LLC in recognition of their commitment to providing over \$1 million worth of pro bono services to the Barristers’ Association Expungement Clinic, and she praised the speech delivered by Kevin V. Mincey upon the firm’s receipt of that honor. Additionally, Gross handed out to the board members the new Bar Foundation brochure, “Fifty Years of Impact,” that was released to coincide with the Foundation’s 50th year. The brochure describes the work of the Foundation and honors many of the Foundation’s former Presidents. Gross elaborated that the Foundation conducted video and tape recorded interviews of many of the former Presidents during the course of this project.

Chair Weitz congratulated President Gross and the Bar Foundation on a wonderful Gala, and the Mincey & Fitzpatrick, LLC firm on a well-deserved award.

Past Chair Marc J. Zucker asked the Board for a moment of silence in memory of his predecessor on the Board, Former Chair Brandi J. Brice. Chancellor Fedullo announced that the Bar is discussing a scholarship or program in Brice’s honor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,
Jacqueline G. Segal
Secretary

**Board of Governors
Attendance
November 20, 2014**

Voting Members

Present:

William Fedullo
Albert Dandridge
Gaetan Alfano
Jacqueline Segal
Mary Platt
A. Michael Snyder
Eric Weitz
Brad Shuttleworth
James Rocco
Rachel Gallegos
Rahat Babar
Lawrence Felzer

Peter Newman
Erin Siciliano
Kathleen Wilkinson
Marc Zucker
Maria Bermudez
James Funt
Lee Schwartz
Scott Small
Judy Berkman
Jeffrey Dashevsky
Lauri Kavulich

Absent:

Wesley Payne
Rachel Branson
Jennifer Coatsworth
Ourania Papademetriou
Kay Yu
Natalie Klyashtorny
Rachel Kopp
Emily Marks

Dawn Tancredi
Lauren McKenna
Jeremy Menkowitz
Edward Beitz
Michael Ecker
Amara Chaudhry-Kravitz
Howard Goldberg

Non-Voting Members

Present:

Mark Tarasiewicz
Lawrence Beaser
John Savoth
Sophia Lee

Rochelle Fedullo
Kevin Mincey
Deborah Gross
Judy Stouffer
Abraham Reich

Absent:

Michael Hayes
Abraham Reich
M. Kelly Tillery
Heather Austin
Hilda Thompson

Richard Alonso
Cheryl Disch
Louis Rulli

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