

**Philadelphia Bar Association  
Board of Governors Meeting  
December 17, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kamau at 4:05pm and he wished the Board Happy Holidays. He suggested that the business meeting of the meeting should be completed so that the Board would be able to enjoy the treats they were sent by the Chancellor and the Executive Director.

The minutes from the November 19, 2020 Board meeting were considered. Secretary Coatsworth thanked Assistant Secretary Kirkpatrick for the excellent minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded and passed unanimously.

Treasurer Zucker presented the Treasurer's Report. He referenced that this will be his last report and expressed gratitude for the opportunity. The Association is ending the year on a solid financial footing, despite tremendous challenges.

Through eleven months, almost the full year, although the revenue is not as high, the expense savings were so much greater that the Association came out ahead. Revenues through the end of last month were almost \$200,000 higher than had been projected, and expenses were about \$50,000 less than expected. Viewed another way, the Association took in about \$150,000 more than it spent in that 11-month period.

The Association met and exceeded the revenue budget by \$20,000. More specifically, the Association exceeded its revenue target in all of the major revenue centers (dues by \$94,000, LRIS by \$80,000 and CLE by \$110,000).

In order to get a jump-start on membership renewal for 2021, the Association accelerated the process and billed and started collecting 2021 dues as of November 16, 2020.

Treasurer Zucker expressed that it has been an honor serving as Treasurer, and he expressed his appreciation to CFO Susan Knight, Executive Director Hurdle and the rest of the staff, as well as Chancellor Snyder, the Cabinet and the Board for their tremendous efforts in keeping the Association's financial house in order.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Director of Public and Legal Services Charles Klitsch presented an update on the proposed state constitutional amendment for election of appellate court judges by district. The proposed constitutional amendment has come to the forefront quickly and will need to be addressed early in the new year. The bill passed in the last legislative session as HB 196, which has been discussed by the Board on several occasions. However, to amend the PA constitution, the identical proposal must be approved by two consecutive sessions of the general assembly then must be published at least three months in advance of a general election to be voted on by the public. The last session of the legislature ended on November 30, and the new legislature will be sworn in the beginning of January 2021. Legislators introduce memoranda in December that they intend to introduce in the following session, often it is legislation that didn't pass in the last session or that which has particular importance to the legislator. On December 1, 2020,

Representative Russ Diamond indicated that it is his top priority to reintroduce the legislation in 2021. Republicans are still angry with the PA Supreme Court about the gerrymandering decisions, then with the new decisions siding with the governor about the COVID measures and more recently about the election, this gave them even greater motivation to move with this legislation. They now have even greater majorities in both chambers of the legislature. If they vote on this and pass it in both houses by the last week in January or the first week in February, it gives sufficient time for it to appear on the ballot in May. The Association has been working with Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts and its new Executive Director, Former Chancellor Debbie Gross, on a coalition that includes bar associations from across the state, good government groups, business groups and other associations to see what can be done to slow down or stop the bill. This may require legislators to try to call for hearings or propose amendments. If it does pass in time for both houses, the next step will be an education campaign to educate the voters. This will be a lot of work and there will be a lot of effort that needs to be made and it will be a challenge.

Reggie Shuford added that a lot of groups have been thinking about strategies for opposing the legislation. Riley Ross asked which other Bar Associations would be involved and several bar associations were on a recent call that Former Chancellor Gross convened. It is unclear how many associations will support it. Larry Beaser indicated that it is important to work to defeat the bill first and if not successful to work on the education aspect of the strategy, informing the voters of the anti-democratic nature of the measure and the fact that it deprives voters of their vote. Chancellor-Elect McKenna added that it is important to know that there is a need to ramp up education about this across the commonwealth. Some of the bar associations were not aware of the issue, so some of the challenge is to get the issue on the radar of various organizations, which is part of what the task force is focusing on. Secretary Coatsworth indicated that the PBA Governors are also very opposed to the proposal and can work on their local county bars and she informed Former Chancellor Gross of this potential set of allies during a Pennsylvanian for Modern Courts Advisory Board call. There are certain counties where the legislators might be targeted, such as Delaware County and the PBA Governor there could be helpful. Executive Director Hurdle indicated that a call of the five collar county executives proved that there is a good chance of cooperation at least with those counties to get something done and those Boards will soon take a position. Chancellor Snyder pointed out that it is important that people must realize that because it is a constitutional amendment, it cannot be vetoed by the governor. The fact that it is being raised on the ballot in a primary is even more dangerous. Riley Ross indicated that education will be important, because on the ballot it will be written in a way that makes it seem very favorable. Craig Levin indicated that he has been working on the Wards from an education perspective and he has been working to educate them so that the ward leaders get their constituents out, because it is important to get the vote out in very high numbers in Philadelphia and Allegheny County.

Executive Director Hurdle presented his Executive Director's report. He reminded everyone that at noon tomorrow is the Racial Justice Symposium and encouraged the Board to attend. He indicated that the 2021 membership renewals have yielded \$108,000 in dues so far. The staff is tracking against 2019, not 2020. By December 31, 2018, the Association only had \$123,000 and there are no group memberships yet, but individuals - this is all individual giving. This is actually ahead of 2019, which is not enough for a trend, but a good start. Invoices are going out tomorrow, but will be a lag due to the use of office addresses. For Board members continuing on the Board, next year, the governance work will be separated from the retreat. The

Board was asked to reserve January 7 for a governance meeting and January 16 will be the retreat. The full schedule will come out shortly.

The furniture for the Board room has been ordered, but has not yet arrived. The hope is that it will be delivered by the end of January or beginning of February. The team has devised a great plan for generating revenue and will be expecting the Board to help with sponsorships for next year, which will be discussed at the retreat. Executive Director Hurdle has been in touch with the Atlanta and Boston Bar Associations about their sponsorship programs. There are indications that the stimulus package will include funding for C6 organizations which will be helpful for the Association.

He thanked the staff. They had a holiday party with the staff and they played family feud. He is really proud of the staff, because they did a great job and stuck together. He thanked Chancellor Snyder and Chair Kamau for all their service and hard work. He enjoyed his morning calls with Chancellor Snyder very much and the humor they exchanged.

Board Chair Nicholas Kamau recognized outgoing officers and members of the Board of Governors:

Reuben H. Asia  
Benjamin R. Barnett  
Meghan E. Claiborne  
Former Chancellor Rochelle M. Fedullo  
Francesca A. Iacovangelo  
Thomas J. Innes, III  
Leslie E. John  
Kathleen Kirkpatrick  
Hillary Ladov  
Alisha S. Rodriguez  
Dominique B.E. Ward  
Randi L. Rubin  
James P. Tolerico  
Cheryl A. Upham  
Michael P. Zanan

Chair Kamau made his announcements. He indicated that he came onto the Board with many of those who are cycling off and it has been a wonderful experience. Chancellor Snyder indicated that all outgoing board members will get a certificate. Also, the outgoing Board chair gets a commemorative gavel. He commended Chair Kamau for his excellent work leading the Board in this most unusual environment. He indicated that he has had the pleasure to get to know Chair Kamau for three years and he has always impressed him. He has done an outstanding job as Board chair. He managed discussions but allowed everyone's voice to be heard. Chancellor Snyder indicated that Chair Kamau was someone whose opinion he valued and he considers a wise advisor and a friend. Chair Kamau displayed the gavel that he received, which is in a beautiful box with a plaque that reads the Amber M. Racine Board of Governors Gavel and expressed gratitude for the gavel and the opportunity to serve. He indicated that he was particularly honored to be the first Chair to receive the gavel named after Amber M. Racine. He recalled when he came onto the Board Amber was so helpful and giving of herself. He looked to Amber as a role model for this position. She was the Chair for nearly two years

effectively, so he really looked up to her. He expressed gratitude to Chancellor Snyder for the opportunity to serve and expressed that the Board was AMAZING. The expectations were much different for the year than what occurred. He indicated the Board has been extraordinarily successful and accomplished so many things, but not in the ways that were anticipated. This includes the financial success we achieved notwithstanding the pandemic. He praised the Section and Committee Chairs for their engagement. The Board is engaged, even on Zoom. The impact the Association had in the legal community is unparalleled; it showed up when needed. He thanked Executive Director Hurdle and the staff for all of their work who helped make the organization and this year successful.

Chancellor Snyder provided his Chancellor's announcements. When he made his speech last December, he never anticipated an apocalypse. He wanted the Section and Committee Chairs to be engaged and they met and exceeded that challenge. Sections and Committees hosted town halls so that members were aware of the work that was being done on their behalf. The officers and Board were incredible and supportive. He praised the staff for all they have been able to do despite the challenges. The Board came together and addressed difficult issues and had rich discussions and was able to have a successful year. He is confident that the decisions that were made were correct. The Board actions that were taken were responsive to the world around us and allowed us to take action on a public scale. The Association took strong positions where the courts were not acting quickly enough or fully comprehending the economic situations of litigants. This includes municipal court and family court, which came about due to the actions of the Board and the communication with the court. He is very proud of this work. The Board was very highly participatory. He also praised the number of CLE programs that were planned and produced successfully with high attendance. He also lauded the amount of sponsorship that the Association was able to attract even for virtual events. He also highlighted the three quarterly meetings that were held virtually with attractive and very interesting keynote speakers that attracted attendance and engagement. He knows that Chancellor Elect McKenna will lead in a progressive fashion and he praised her speech and the fact that the plans she laid out at the Annual Meeting will include an aggressive plan for speaking out on important issues. He remembered that Former Chancellor Fedullo said at every meeting that she loved this job and he agreed. This is the best job he has ever had and he loved it. He expressed that despite the losses, particularly of Amber, this was a good year and he offered a toast to the Board.

Chancellor Elect McKenna added that this is a year that we were all challenged and we have all learned. She indicated how much she enjoyed working and learning with Chancellor Snyder and praised him as the only person who could have lead us so ably through all of these challenges.

The meeting was then adjourned, indicating next year, no Covid, at 4:48pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer S. Coatsworth  
Secretary

**Board of Governors Attendance  
December 17, 2020**

**Voting members present:**

Hon. A. Michael Snyder (Ret.)  
Lauren McKenna  
Wesley Payne  
Jennifer Coatsworth  
Kathleen Kirkpatrick  
Marc Zucker  
Matthew Olesh  
Nicholas Kamau  
Riley Ross  
Meghan Claiborne  
Alisha Rodriguez  
Dominique Ward  
Diane Penneys Edelman  
Lawrence Felzer  
Dino Privitera

Neelima Vanguri  
Wendi Barish  
Kris Calalang  
Craig Levin  
Andre Webb  
Hillary Ladov  
Michael Zanan  
Randi Rubin  
Maureen Farrell  
Arly Smith-Pearson  
Reuben Asia  
James Tolerico  
Mark Mazzanti  
Rochelle Fedullo  
Reginald Shuford

**Absent:**

Benjamin Barnett  
Francesca Iacovangelo  
Michael van der Veen  
James Berardinelli  
P. Douglas Sisk

Erin Lamb  
Nipun Patel  
Tom Innes  
Cheryl Upham

**Non-voting members present:**

Lawrence Beaser  
Leslie John

Abraham Reich  
Harvey Hurdle

**Absent:**

Butler Buchanan

**Invited guests present:**

Louis Rulli  
Natalie Klyashtorny  
Nikki Johnson-Huston  
Hon. Sandra M. Moss (Ret.)