

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors Meeting
10th Floor Board Room
September 27, 2018**

Upon confirmation that a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order at approximately 4:13 p.m. by Chair Katayun Jaffari.

A motion to approve the [minutes](#) of the Board's August 30, 2018 meeting carried unanimously.

Treasurer Regina Foley presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending August 31, 2018. The Association failed to meet its overall year to date budget by \$104,496. Revenues were short, relative to the budget for that period, in the amount of \$266,181, primarily due to reduced sponsorships (which were \$91,000 under budget and we do not anticipate the sponsorship revenue we hoped for will come through), and LRIS performance (which was under budget by \$128,693, and we are hoping this resolves before the year's end), and dues (which are \$14,024 less than last year at this time). On the positive side, expenses were lower than expected, in the amount of \$161,685, attributable to cost cutting measures, timing of payments, reduction in salary and benefit expenses due to open positions (though a portion of this will be offset by consulting expenses) and the fact that the new CLE position budgeted to start in April has been postponed until November. However, the reductions were not low enough to offset the reduced revenues. Board members were encouraged to make calls, because this does yield new members. A motion to approve the report carried unanimously.

Treasurer Foley then presented a report on the IRS Audit. There had been an issue with the communications contract, and the Association was required to change the name, which it did. The IRS has accepted its response as sufficient regarding the publications, and the Association will receive a confirming letter.

Chief Financial Officer Susan Knight reported on the Solicitor Agreement with BPU, which administers the Association's benefit plan. A member benefit plan is being developed by BPU that would allow smaller organizations to be part of a bigger plan and receive the benefits of the bigger plan. There is an official agreement that is required, which is in the process of being finalized. The announcement of the new member benefit will be introduced at the Bench Bar conference, since BPU is a sponsor of the conference. This will be a new revenue stream for the Association. The program is designed with criteria similar to USI Insurance Services criteria. There will be a special Board meeting via conference call, so the contract can be discussed and hopefully approved before the Bench Bar conference.

Association Legislative Counsel Anthony L. Crisci of Crisci Associates next presented a report regarding the legislative activities in Harrisburg that are of interest to the Association. The next legislative liaison meeting is in two weeks, and Board members were invited to attend. Mr. Crisci reported that the General Assembly is back in session (briefly – 6 or less session days before they break for election cycle) after a summer recess. This time of year is "clean up mode," meaning the only legislation under consideration is that which is already passed by one chamber and is not bogged down by leadership. There are three main issues being considered during this period: the size of the General Assembly (which is not expected to change at this

time), the statute of limitations with respect to allegations of child abuse against the Catholic church (the House passed this bill and sent it to the Senate, which said it would send something back, but Senate leadership does not agree with the terms in the House bill), confiscation of weapons in protection from abuse cases (the House passed a bill that allows seizure of weapons in domestic abuse). There is a lot of talk in the Capitol about elections and a “blue wave” in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Victory appears likely for Governor Wolf and Senator Casey. Races with the potential to change the composition of the House will focus on this geographic area and Allegheny County. Legislators also mentioned that property taxes are a big issue for constituents, which raises the issue of the tax on legal services, and which Mr. Crisci will continue to monitor. He also discussed the rape kit backlog legislation, which was a focus of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and passed unanimously in the Senate, but may not be taken up by the House due to the short amount of time in this session. Mr. Crisci will come back to report before the end of the year and after the election.

Immediate Past Chancellor Deborah R. Gross, in her capacity as Elections Committee Chair, provided an update on the committee’s activities. The committee members are working to find candidates for the Board and all of the line officer positions as well as the Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee, and there have been a number of inquiries. There will be a table at the Bench Bar conference to encourage people to run, and there will be petitions there so potential candidates can complete them and signatures can be verified onsite. Chief Financial Officer Susan Knight will staff the table through the conference, but Board members are needed to help as well. The application deadline for candidates is the Monday after the Bench Bar conference.

Assistant Secretary Jennifer S. Coatsworth reminded the Board members of their obligations pursuant to Association bylaws to complete their Pro Bono requirements and provide her with a certification of same. She also reminded the Board members of their obligation to complete their Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan Checklist, as the principles of diversity and inclusion are some of the foundational values of the Association.

Chancellor Mary F. Platt reported on the proposed Strategic Plan for the Association. She said that unlike strategic plans that set annual deadlines for doing specific items, the purpose of our Plan is to state our priorities and provide a framework for the ED, Chancellor, Board and Staff to work within. The goals identify what the Bar Association should be trying to do and the strategies are very general in nature so that the incoming Chancellor, Executive Director, Board and staff can discuss each year what actions they need to take in order to pursue the strategies and may consider changes to the Plan itself.

Chancellor Platt reported that the discussions at the Bar Leaders Retreat in January were used to draft the initial vision, values and goals in the draft Plan. Chancellor Platt then formed a Task Force to work with Jennifer Lewin at the ABA to develop the Plan. The Task Force included the chancellors, Mark Tarasiewicz, Charles Klitsch, Amber Racine, Kathy Jaffari, Maureen Farrell, Matthew Olesh, Deborah Gross, and Michaela Tassinari. Four Board members selected and led four work groups, which included at least one staff member. Each work group and the Budget Enhancement Task Force developed one of the goals and general strategies related to the goal that the Bar needs to pursue to accomplish each goal. One of the purposes of the Plan is to provide continuity from year to year as leadership changes. The Plan was approved unanimously.

Chancellor Platt then reported on the status of the Executive Director search. The Executive Director Search Committee has received several applications, and the position description is on the Bar's website, the ABA site and other websites. Diversified Search reached out to several candidates to encourage them to apply. The Committee is working on narrowing the field to three candidates to be interviewed by the Committee in November. There will be three special Board meetings on November 12, 13 and 14 for the Board to interview the top three candidates. The three candidates will also meet with the staff on November 15. The Search Committee will then interview the final three candidates and make the decision to recommend one candidate to the Board at the November 29 meeting. Chancellor Platt is hoping to announce the person selected on December 1, and to have the new executive director start by January 1.

Chancellor Platt next provided her monthly announcements. As noted earlier, help is needed with membership and personal outreach. Board members were asked to contact the persons that Andrea Morris Tracey identified as not renewing their memberships and Sections were asked to contact their members who had not renewed their membership yet. An update was given on the status of the Freeman's auction. The consignment agreement was signed, and half of the art collection was shipped to Freeman's yesterday. The sale is scheduled for November 14 and they are scheduling an evening reception during the week before the sale starts. The reception will be in the evening, but the sale might be in the daytime. The Bench Bar Conference is coming up, and it is our biggest event of the year, so all Board members are expected to attend and promote it. Pro Bono Week is also coming up, and Board members were encouraged to attend. There will be CLEs that will teach people to represent clients in pro bono cases, and there will be a seminar on establishing a formal pro bono program. A Chancellor's Forum on separation of powers is being developed. The Board was encouraged to submit nominations for the Justice Brennan Distinguished Jurist and PNC Wealth Management Achievement Awards.

Chair Jaffari gave her announcements. She reminded members that the Association calendar is on the back of the agenda, including the CLE Calendar. The next Board meeting will be October 30 at the Kline Institute of Drexel Law School, and there will be an election forum following the Board meeting with a reception.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Coatsworth
Assistant Secretary

**Board of Governors Attendance
September 27, 2018**

Voting members present (by phone or in person)

Mary Platt

Rochelle Fedullo

Hon. A. Michael Snyder (Ret.)
Jennifer Coatsworth
Regina Foley
Matthew Olesh
Katayun Jaffari
Amber Racine
Maureen Farrell
James Funt
Maureen Olives

Benjamin Barnett
Francesca Iacovangelo
Michael van der Veen
Dominique Ward
Deborah Gross
Kevin Mincey
Michaella Tassinari
Timothy Holman

Absent:

Marc Zucker
Edward Beitz
Angela Giampolo
Wendy Hess
Teresa Rodriguez
Adam Taylor
Susan Lin
Neil Maskeri
Hon. Sandra Mazer Moss (Ret.)
Jennifer Seme
Meghan Claiborne

Nicholas Kamau
Alisha Lubin
Vincent Barbera
Eric Siegel
James Berardinelli
Ann Funge
Molly Tack-Hooper
Jill Jenkins
Erin Siciliano
David Shapiro
Hon. Tina Rago

Non-voting members present:

Priscilla Jimenez
Harry Reichner

Wesley Payne

Absent:

Lawrence Beaser
Gaetan Alfano
Thomas Brophy
Robyn Addis
Abraham Reich

Butler Buchanan
Elisa Advani
Hilda Thompson
John Gregory

