

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors Meeting
September 24, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Amber Racine at approximately 4:05 pm.

1) Approval of July 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the July 25, 2019 meeting were considered. Chancellor Rochelle Fedullo made a minor amendment to the spelling of the name of the Rabbi at the Abramson Center for Jewish Life – the correct name is Rabbi Erica Steelman. With that amendment, a motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded and passed unanimously.

2) Treasurer's Report

Assistant Treasurer Matt Olesh gave the Treasurer's Report for the periods ending July 31, 2019 and August 31, 2019. As of the end of August, the Association is approximately \$35,000 behind the projected yearly revenue in the Association's budget (up from approximately \$15,000 behind at the end of July). Dues are ahead of budget by approximately \$56,000, but LRIS is behind by approximately \$43,000, and CLE is behind by approximately \$24,000 (although it was noted that budget projections for CLE were on the aggressive side).

The Association has spent approximately \$84,000 less than what was budgeted through the end of August (up from approximately \$63,000 through the end of July). The primary drivers of this are overhead (under budget by approximately \$35,000), LRIS (approximately \$20,000) and supplies (approximately \$20,000). In addition, CLE has incurred approximately \$16,000 less in expenses than budgeted.

Overall, the Association is ahead of budget in the amount of \$48,770 through the end of August.

In addition, the Board Engagement Fund was discussed, and it was reiterated that the purpose of that budget line item is to increase board engagement.

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

3) Presentation of Resolution Opposing House Bill 365

George Gould, Community Legal Services, and Judy Berkman, Regional Housing Legal Services, presented Resolution Opposing House Bill 365, Printer's No. 2490 and Any Similar Legislation Allowing Removal of Individuals from Residential Property by Police Without Due Process for the Board's consideration. They informed the Board that this bill allows police to remove residents from residential properties solely based upon an affidavit alleging them to be squatters without any further court procedure or process. This, they asserted, was a fundamental

violation of due process rights. In addition, the bill does not account for the fact that individuals may reside in a property with the right to be there, but may not be “owners of record” or even “tenants of record.” Moreover, this bill could create scenarios where victims of domestic abuse can be thrown out of their residence if they happen to not be listed on a deed. While there was certainly recognition by the resolution’s presenters that squatting is a problem, this was asserted to be an overreaction that will likely cause the deprivation of due process rights. The resolution was supported, either officially or unofficially, by DLSC, the Public Interest Section, and the Real Property Section.

At present, the bill has passed the PA House, and is now in the Senate. Governor Wolf’s position on the bill is unknown. George and Judy fielded additional questions from the Board regarding the process that would be implemented under the bill, as well as what it actually means for a person to have a “reasonable opportunity to secure and present credible evidence showing that the person is an owner or tenant or a guest or invitee of an owner or tenant,” as is required by the bill in subsection (c). An amendment was proposed to add to the resolution that it was not adequate under due process requirements for the police to be making a determination about such evidence.

With that amendment, a motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. All who voted were in favor of the resolution with the exception of Jennifer Coatsworth, who abstained.

4) Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Harvey Hurdle gave the monthly Executive Director’s report. He noted that the Association is already ahead of budget for the year already for membership by approximately \$21,000, which is significant in meeting the goal of having a growing Association. He also noted that the Finance Committee and Board will be presented with a budget in the coming weeks, and it is intended that Association leadership and staff will be presenting a balanced budget. Harvey also expects that we will be hitting the bottom line budget number for the year and wind up with a smaller deficit than projected.

Harvey discussed the recent forum on the “Exonerated Five,” which was well attended and generated noteworthy media coverage. He also noted the Association winning a Harrison Tweed Award from the American Bar Association, becoming the first Association to win it five times.

Harvey mentioned the new practice of utilizing reward points obtained from the Association’s credit card to send staff members to conferences so that they could learn from other bar associations.

Harvey and Merrill were part of a coalition of advocates who recently met with Councilwoman Helen Gym about right-to-counsel legislation, and the hope is that the legislation will be up for a vote by the end of October.

LRIS advertising spending is down, but we expect to use the rest of the money in that budget line item to bring in ChatterBlast to help with promoting LRIS via social media.

At the moment, the Association is knee-deep in systems renovation. Currently, the Association is overhauling how members sign up for membership and events, with a goal to implement this by mid-November. In addition, the Association's systems will have updated virus protection, among other updates, and we are in the process of outsourcing support. The Association is also in the process of planning for office renovations.

Finally, Harvey mentioned the Judicial Commission. The Commission is back at work reviewing judges who are up for retention. Harvey noted that most media coverage about judges now seems to include at least a reference to whether or not the judge was recommended by the Commission when a candidate, which shows that the Commission and Association are part of the conversation even more than before.

5) Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Fedullo gave comments of appreciation for the Association's staff and their hard work. She also noted the work that has been ongoing for the past ten years that put the Association in the position to receive the Tweed Award.

Chancellor Fedullo also noted the importance of the right-to-counsel legislation, and how critical it is that all individuals facing eviction have an attorney to represent their interests.

Chancellor Fedullo discussed the program about the "Exonerated Five," stating that frank conversations about race and racism were important and that she was proud of the Association for doing such a great job with the program.

She also noted that Bench-Bar was coming up, and that she hoped to see everyone on the Board in attendance.

Finally, Chancellor Fedullo noted upcoming events, including an October 21, 2019 program discussing life-changing experiences with respect to elder care, and a November program with Dr. Hite, Superintendent of the Philadelphia School District.

6) Chair's Report

Chair Racine reminded the Board that the annual certifications are past due regarding (a) the Board's pro bono requirement and (b) the Association's Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan. She also asked the Board to identify individuals in their firms/offices who would be appropriate to speak to BPU about benefits, etc. She noted her appreciation for Board members who have made phone calls to remind previous members to renew their membership, noting that such efforts have already yielded over \$5,000. After a discussion of upcoming events, Chair Racine closed her remarks by noting her appreciation that the Board Engagement Fund was closing in on its goal.

7) Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Olesh
Assistant Treasurer

**Board of Governors Attendance
September 24, 2019**

Voting members present

Meghan Claiborne
Jennifer Coatsworth
Diane Penneys Edelman
Maureen Farrell
Rochelle Fedullo
Francesca Iacovangelo
Katayun Jaffari
Nicholas Kamau
Susan Lin
Mark Mazzanti
Neelima Vanguri

Lauren McKenna
Matthew Olesh
Maureen Olives
Dino Privitera
Amber Racine
Alisha Rodriguez
P. Douglas Sisk
Hon. A. Michael Snyder (Ret.)
Cheryl Upham
Dominique Ward

Absent:

Benjamin Barnett
James Berardinelli
Alexander Barth
Michaela Bowser
Kris Calalang
Lawrence Felzer
Leon Goodman
Hillary Ladov
Brenda Marrero
Neil Maskeri

Hon. Sandra Mazer Moss (Ret.)
Mary Platt
Marcel Pratt
Riley Ross
Reginald Shuford
Jennifer Seme
Erin Siciliano
Michael van der Veen
Marc Zucker

Non-voting members present:

Butler Buchanan
Harvey Hurdle

Leslie John
Wesley Payne

Non-voting members absent:

Lawrence Beaser
Abraham Reich

Invited guests present:

Louis Rulli