

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors
March 26, 2009**

Gaetan Alfano, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

The Chair announced that Agenda Item 7 was withdrawn.

The Chair requested that the Minutes of the February 26, 2009 meeting be approved. The Minutes were approved.

The Chair recognized Assistant Treasurer Wes Payne who presented the financial report through the end of February. He reported that while the budget is behind, dues were to be paid by April 1, and 81% of dues were in. Staff is keeping an eye on expenses. Executive Director Ken Shear stated a very large dues check was received from a very large firm on March 26. One or two more large dues checks were expected on March 27. He also reported that expenses are down in the area of salaries and there is a hiring freeze for the balance of the year. A revised budget anticipating additional issues will be presented at the next meeting. The Treasurer's report was moved, seconded, and accepted unanimously.

Chancellor Ladov discussed with regret the demise of the law firm of Wolf Block, with the tipping point being the economy. The attorneys are expected to land in other firms. She reported that Philadelphia firms are adjusting, and resizing given the current economic climate.

Chancellor Ladov reported that earlier in the week she and Executive Director Shear met with Congressman Brady to discuss judicial and retention elections. Congressman Brady told the Chancellor that he appreciates the judicial commission work done by the Association and that he feels strongly that parties support qualified candidates.

Chancellor Ladov also discussed a new building for family court with Congressman Brady who asked her for a one-page précis with the long-term goals of the project. The Chancellor, joined by Judge Kevin Dougherty and Court Administrator David Lawrence, will be going to New York in April to see state of the art family court buildings.

Chancellor Ladov advised the Board that the City of Philadelphia Mayor's proposed budget cuts will have a substantial effect on the First Judicial District. Chancellor Ladov intends to meet with the Association's legislative liaisons to the City of Philadelphia to see what further can be done concerning the budget and its effect on the courts. The Chancellor sent a letter to the Editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer on this subject, which was being run on March 29. The Chancellor and the Executive Director also met with the Philadelphia Inquirer Editorial Board on March 25.

Chancellor Ladov reported on plans to present a Resolution on Civil Gideon at the next Board meeting. She advised the Board that on May 13, there will be a program for Lawyers in Transition given by the Lawyer Practice Management Section. Chancellor Ladov reminded the Board of the April 1 Quarterly luncheon where former Chancellor A. Michael Pratt will be

honored. She also asked the Board to attend the upcoming spring events for various pro bono providers who need support in these economic times.

The Chair suggested we all support the remaining Philadelphia basketball team, Villanova University's Wildcats, in the playoffs in the NCAA.

The Chair recognized David Faw, the Association's Auditor, to present the 2008 Audit Report. He explained procedures, controls, and how nonprofits such as the Bar Association should handle audits. He is now required to see if clients can demonstrate they can prepare their own report for the auditor to look at. Mr. Faw reported that the Association CFO Susan Knight is able to capably produce this document. Mr. Faw also discussed new requirements required in the tax return that nonprofits file. It now takes much more time and information to prepare the tax return. Mr. Faw advised the Board that the Association Audit Committee met and the Association Treasurer will sign the return shortly. Mr. Faw also stated that the Bar Association's records are well organized, the Association received a clean opinion, and the Association is solvent. There will be a conflict of interest policy which will need to be adopted for Board members at the next Board meeting. A motion was made and seconded, and the Audit Report was approved unanimously.

The Chair then recognized Larry Felzer from the LGBT Rights Committee, to present a Resolution Supporting the Expansion of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to Include Protection for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity or Expression. He reminded the Board that by Resolutions dated March 21, 2002 and September 30, 1999, the Board had already provided its support of local, state and federal legislation to include protections from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and sexual identity. Mr. Felzer stated that this expansion of the Human Relations Act would only apply to employers so it will not affect a solo practitioner; religious institutions would be exempt unless they receive public funding. He pointed out that the City of Philadelphia has an anti-discrimination law, but the rest of the Commonwealth does not have such laws. Lobbyist Tony Crisci advised Mr. Felzer that he believes this Resolution will help assist in passage of this expansion of the Human Relations Act. Mr. Felzer reported that the Resolution also has the support of the Civil Rights Committee, Public Interest Section and the Young Lawyers Division. A question was asked what the policy is of determining if there is an opposing view to a Resolution. Chancellor Ladov explained how input is normally sought from other committees and sections before resolutions are presented. Counsel to the Board Larry Beaser explained that resolutions come out of the sections and committees and the Board has authority to make the positions of the Bar Association. Chancellor Ladov also explained how the Association tries to take positions on issues that affect the profession as well as human rights issues. Upon motion made and seconded, the Resolution passed unanimously.

The Chancellor then spoke about negotiations with PBI, the CLE provider for the Association. She reported that the Association is trying to enter into a new agreement with PBI which is fair to the Association. Chancellor Ladov also reported that some of the sections and committees are concerned with the exclusivity of PBI and she is working on this concern.

Brian Chacker announced a happy hour at JL Sullivan's co-sponsored by SEPTA and the Trial Lawyers and invited the Board to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen D. Wilkinson
Secretary

Board of Governors
Attendance
March 26, 2009

Present:

Sayde J. Ladov
Scott Cooper
Rudolph Garcia

Kathleen Wilkinson
Gaetan Alfano
Wesley Payne

Richard Seidel

Michael Hayes
Michael Berkowitz
Reetu Dandora
Richard Harris
Mary Platt
Eric Milby
David Prewitt
Grace Sweeney

Jacqueline Segal
Maria Feeley
Jeffrey Campolongo
Michael Schaffer
Brian Chacker
Troy Wilson
Laura Feldman

Stacy Tees
Jeffrey Gross
Regina Foley
Sean Sullivan
Albertine DuFrayne
Patricia Dubin
Daniel Blickman

Absent:

Sophia Lee
Joseph Prim
Grace Manno
Rosemary Pinto
Karen Detamore
Danielle Banks
A. Michael Pratt
Stephanie Resnick
Judith Stein
Christine Paul