

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors
February 23, 2006**

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:12 p.m. and upon motion made, and seconded, the minutes of the January, 2006 meeting were unanimously approved.

2. Assistant Secretary Kathleen Wilkinson, pursuant to Association Bylaw 216, explained the Pro Bono Requirement for membership on the Board. Forms were passed out for members to fill out which will enable them to receive a Pro Bono case if needed to complete their requirement.

3. The Chancellor next gave his announcements. He discussed the Merit Selection Initiative and the status of SB100. He met with Senator Anthony Williams and four (4) member of the Court of Common Pleas and Municipal Court. He reported on the Association's delegation's attendance at the ABA Mid-Year meeting. Abe Reich, Association delegate, along with Rudy Garcia, touched upon some of the highlights of the meeting. A detailed report will be given at the Board's March meeting. The cabinet, due to time constraints, authorized the Association's participation as Amicus Curiae in the Judicial Pay Raise Case pending before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. The Chancellor is scheduled to testify before the A.O.P.C. on April 2, 2006 regarding the issue of the accessibility of docket records on the Internet. The Chancellor had a very constructive lunch on February 21, 2006 with the respective Presidents of the Minority Bar Associations.

The Chancellor next raised the issue to the Board as to whether the Association should voice a position on Campaign Finance Limits for the Mayoral race as it applies to "undeclared candidates". Regarding this issue, the Chancellor met with the City Policy Committee chairs, section chairs, and the Chancellor Elect and Vice Chancellor. He noted that an e-mail was sent to the Large Firm Management Committee membership soliciting opinions. He requested authorization from the Board to communicate to the media the Bar's position that individuals should observe the limits set by the law even if they are undeclared. During an engaging discussion with the Board, it was noted that the danger lies in the fact that the law is not binding on those who've not officially declared their candidacy and may create an unfair advantage to those who chose not to follow it. Ultimately, it was the sense of the Board that the Chancellor should state that the general position of the Association's leadership is that the undeclared candidates should comply with the law.

4. Upon motion made, and seconded, the Treasurer's report was approved. At this juncture, the Association is ahead on dues by \$91,000 and revenue is up \$78,000.

5. The Chair next presented his announcements. He called upon Executive Director Ken Shear who passed out a copy of the magazine Greater Philadelphia Regional Review in which our participation in a workshop in Chicago last year concerning the resurgence of that city was noted.

6. Marc Sonnenfeld addressed the Board as lead counsel for the Association in our participation as Amicus Curiae in the Judicial Pay Raise case currently before the Supreme Court. The Brief is available on the Association's Website. Oral argument is scheduled for Philadelphia on April 4, 2006.

7. A resolution was presented by Bill Clark on behalf of the Business Law Section supporting the repeal of RPC and LLP Annual Fees and Enactment of H.B. 709. After a very brief discussion, the resolution was unanimously passed.

8. A resolution was presented by Tsiwen Law and Michael Carroll on behalf of the Civil Rights Committee regarding the DREAM act. After another brief discussion, and acknowledgment that this proposal was strongly supported by both parties, the resolution passed unanimously.

9. Tony Crisci, the Association's lobbyist in Harrisburg, updated the Board on many issues, including the following legislative items:

- General Assembly is currently in recess
- Pay Raise is still an issue in Pennsylvania, even though it's not very hot in the Southeast section of the Commonwealth. 25 incumbents have decided not to run again because of it.
- The election year budget is being developed and is a significant focal point on the Hill
- SB 100-Merit Selection is active and its proponents are pushing for a public hearing
- SB 669-Foreign Interpreters Bill is active
- HB2089-English Only Law continues to be opposed by our Association
- HB698-Prohibition of the Death Penalty on the Mentally Retarded in coming up for a floor vote. It concerns the issue of pre-trial determination vs. post-trial determination. This will be a tough battle in the House.
- SB435- Joint and Several Liability is being opposed by the Association. He is not sure if it will see the light of day prior to the elections.

10. Board member Marsha Levick made a presentation on the Equal Justice Conference, which will take place in Philadelphia from March 30, 2006 through April 1, 2006. The Conference will take place at the Loews Hotel. On Friday, March 31st there will be a Philly Dance Party for the attendees at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue that is being hosted by the Philadelphia Bar Association to which all Board of Governors are invited. Marsha noted that there would also be a Civil Gideon Symposium on Tuesday the 28th with seminars being held at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and then the Constitution Center. It was unanimously determined by the Board, with the passionate delivery by Ms. Levick, that the "Philadelphia Host Committee Rocks!"

11. Deborah Weinstein gave a brief update on the Law Practice Management Task Force.

12. Executive Session

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved at 5:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:
John E. Savoth
Secretary