

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors
January 26, 2006**

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m. and upon motion made, and seconded, the minutes of the December, 2005 meeting were unanimously approved.

2. Upon motion made, and seconded, the Treasurer's report was approved. There was a change in net assets over 2005 in the amount of \$263,000. The annual audit will take place on February 27 and 28th.

4. The Chancellor next gave his announcements. He listed certain priorities he has for the coming year, including the Law Practice Management Committee chaired by Debbie Weinstein. Merit Selection will be a significant focus. The Chancellor met with Anthony Williams and has a meeting set up with Senator Vincent Fumo. He has also met with the Trial Lawyers on the issue. Lynn Marks will chair a Chancellor's Forum on the issue of Merit Selection, at which both sides of the issue will be presented. The first Chancellor's Forum took place in early January, addressing the recent Intelligent Design case tried in the Middle District. It was well attended and well received. The Chancellor wrote to Senator Arlen Specter expressing his concerns on the practice of sitting judges testifying at the confirmation hearing of Judge Alito. He stated that it unduly politicized the process. He has set up meetings with the Justices of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on the issues of CLE Pro Bono credit and Merit Selection. Philadelphia will host the annual Equal Justice Conference this year, at which leading Public Interest Attorneys from throughout the country will converge on our city to address the state of equal justice. Concerning the issue of security at City Hall, the Chancellor has forwarded a letter to Mayor Street detailing his concerns about the proposed changes and how they will affect our membership and their clients.

A motion was made and seconded and unanimously approved to appoint the following individuals to the VIP Board of Directors: Alec Kerr, Mark Momjian, Peter Newman, Jesse Rodriguez, Antoinette Dendtler, and Jacqueline Lessman.

5. Executive Director, Ken Shear, thereafter officially acknowledged Beth Huffman in her position as Director of External Communication and Public Relations. He also acknowledged and praised the work of Stephanie Krzywanski, who will be leaving the Association to start her own company. The Board applauded her significant contributions over the past 5 years.

6. The Chair next presented his announcements.

7. A resolution was presented by Michael Churchill and Janet Stotland on behalf of the Delivery of Legal Services Committee supporting increased educational funding in Pennsylvania. Due to a client conflict of interest, Treasurer Scott Cooper and Counsel Larry Beaser recused themselves from consideration of the resolution. Mr. Churchill provided the Board with a history on the inequity of educational funding in Pennsylvania. The Commonwealth is currently the seventh most unequal funder in the nation, with a discrepancy range of approximately \$7,000 to 18,000 per student. The motion was presented, seconded, and after a discussion, passed unanimously, with the above noted individuals having recused themselves.

8. 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.

9. Ken Shear next spoke on the idea of discounting PBI/CLE fees for membership in the Association's Sections. A motion was presented to set a reserve in the budget for the discount, then seconded. After discussion, including the future inclusion of the YLD in the program, the motion passed unanimously.

10. A discussion was held on the concept of the Annual Law Firm Pro Bono Reporting requirement as originally developed by the Pro Bono Task Force. Mary Gay Scanlon presented. Several aspects of the problem were discussed, including the significant lack of reporting by the large firms and the concern that firm management has of being singled out among their peers if the Association were to attempt to enforce a form of mandatory reporting. It was also noted that the reporting is currently confined to larger firms and several members of the Board felt that perhaps all members of the Association should be held publicly accountable for their pro bono work. It was also noted that the lack of reporting created a dearth of data in which to fully analyze the state of pro bono representation in our community. After a lengthy discussion, it was determined that other cities' approach to this dilemma would be reviewed and analyzed and the Board would further review the process at a future meeting.

11. Sharon Browning, Executive Director of the VIP program, presented the annual State of Pro Bono report to the Board. She eloquently listed the challenges our community faces, which include: educating the bar; providing more lawyers to the poor for basic living requirements; increased fund-raising efforts; further involvement of the top management of the larger firms, and the creation of a large data base to work off of (see item 10 above).

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved at 5:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:
John E. Savoth
Secretary