

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors Meeting
January 24, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by Chair Brandi Brice.

Upon consideration by the Board, the minutes of the December 20, 2011 Board meeting and the January 6, 2012 Board meeting, which was held during the Bar Leaders Retreat, were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Joseph Prim presented the preliminary Treasurer's Report for the period ending December 31, 2011. Treasurer Prim reported that the Association's financial position at the end of last year was excellent with more revenue received than expected, particularly from LRIS, and fewer expenses than budgeted. Revenue from membership dues was less than expected. The annual Association audit will soon be conducted and the Board will be informed of the results of the audit in March or April. After consideration, the preliminary report was unanimously accepted by the Board.

Chancellor John Savoth began his remarks by noting that the January 4 Chancellor's Reception was a great start to the year. The Bar Leadership Retreat that followed was energetic and he thanked Chair Brice for her efforts at the retreat. Chancellor Savoth reported on his other activities, including addressing the Pennsylvania Paralegals Association and installing their new members, appearing on Bob Rovner's radio show wherein he discussed this year's agenda, attending the YLD's annual meeting and writing an op-ed piece for the Daily News which is pending publication. He thanked Chancellor-Elect Kathleen Wilkinson for delivering the morning address at the Barristers' Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast on his behalf.

Chair Brice congratulated Diversity Director Naomi McLaurin for being named a Women of Distinction at the Barristers' King Breakfast. Chair Brice then announced that she has a Twitter account set up to tweet about Association activities and that the YLD annual meeting was a fantastic event.

Chair Brice invited Executive Director Ken Shear to address the Board. Executive Director Shear enthusiastically shared the good news that he received earlier in the afternoon from the Philadelphia Public Relations Association, which announced that it is inducting Associate Executive Director Mark Tarasiewicz to its Hall of Fame. Mark is the second youngest person to be inducted to the Hall of Fame. Previously, Dan Cirucci, who was also affiliated with the Association's communications staff, was inducted in 2003. Executive Director Shear lauded his dynamic communications staff as having both a wonderful legacy and a great future.

Diversity Director Naomi McLaurin was invited to provide an update on the Office of Diversity's priorities for 2012. She will continue with internal efforts to serve as a resource for the Association's sections and committees and will assist with programs and recruiting speakers. She will create an Office of Diversity webpage where visitors to

the site can link to a variety of diversity and inclusion resources. She will be writing as much as possible this year, not only for the Association, but also for a national audience, and will accept some speaking engagements. She will continue to collaborate with the affinity bar associations and with national diversity organizations such as the Minority Corporate Counsel Association and the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession. Finally, she will continue to serve as a resource for diversity directors in law firms with diversity officers. There will be no national symposium this year but planning for a 2013 symposium will begin later in the year.

Executive Director Ken Shear was invited to address the Board about membership issues. He thought the first meeting of the year would provide a good opportunity to discuss the strengths and challenges to membership. He prefaced the discussion by noting that large voluntary bar associations across the country are facing the same issues as our Association and that a Membership Task Force, co-chaired by Jacqueline Segal and Matthew Perks, has been convened to evaluate the membership situation.

Executive Director Shear handed out a chart that tracked membership statistics from 2009 to 2011 and explained that Philadelphia is in a perfectly bad storm with the following elements: a poor economic situation; a shrinkage in lawyers practicing in Philadelphia County; law firms scaling back in hiring new law school graduates; a significant shift in demographics with more senior members retiring or requesting senior membership status; changes in law firm procedures where attorneys are not automatically signed up for Association membership; and diminishing interest by young lawyers to get involved. The greatest loss in membership dues comes from attorneys who have practiced between four and 10 years and those practicing 10 years or more. The net loss over the three-year period amounted to \$376,095. Executive Director Shear wants to evaluate different membership models, including creating law firm memberships as opposed to individual memberships, and encouraging other hybrid memberships such as concurrent membership to Jenkins Law Library, among other strategies for increasing membership. He did emphasize that, despite the report on membership, the Association remains in good standing and is not in crisis.

Membership Task Force Co-Chairs Segal and Perks were invited to address the Board and to discuss some of the strategies adopted so far in addressing the membership concerns. Co-Chair Segal described several initiatives that have been implemented or are being planned for implementation, including the following: a road show led by Immediate Past Chancellor Rudy Garcia and Executive Director Shear at mid-size and large law firms to discuss the benefits of membership; a membership survey to members and non-members soliciting feedback on membership; joint programming with DELVACCA to broaden the membership base with in-house counsel; appealing to the membership of the affinity bar associations; targeting young lawyers through YLD programming, including this year's inaugural YLD annual meeting; obtaining young lawyer contact information by requiring registration of non-member attendees; receptions with area law students; first year free membership notices to those who have recently passed the bar; and follow-up with nonmembers who attend Association events. The members of the Board provided feedback on these and other initiatives.

Vice Chancellor William Fedullo reflected on the recent passing of several Association members, including Steve Dranoff, Steve Levy, Richard Curtis and Bernard Siegel.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sophia Lee
Secretary

Board of Governors
Attendance
January 24, 2012

Voting Members:

Present:

John E. Savoth
William P. Fedullo
Sophia Lee
Jacqueline G. Segal
Joseph A. Prim, Jr.
Brandi J. Brice
Marc J. Zucker
Regina M. Foley
Wanda E. Flowers
John Encarnacion
Gordon M. Wase
Brad J. Begelman
Rudolph Garcia

Kay Kyungsun Yu
Melanie J. Taylor
Gina Furia Rubel
Rachel E. Branson
Jennifer Segal Coatsworth
Ourania Papademetriou
James A. Rocco, III
Eric H. Weitz
Brad V. Shuttleworth
Michael E. Bertin
Lawrence S. Felzer
Robert T. Szostak

Absent:

Kathleen D. Wilkinson
Wesley R. Payne, IV
Pedro Ramos
Kimberly Ruch-Alegant
Scott Sigman
Stacy Tees
H. Marc Tepper

Brian S. Chacker
Nikki Johnson-Huston
Scott W. Reid
Hon. A. Michael Snyder
George F. Nagle
Aneesh A. Mehta

Non-Voting Members:

Present:

Michael B. Hayes

Judy Stouffer

Kenneth Shear
Louis S. Rulli

Flora Yarnall

Absent:

Scott F. Cooper
Wendy Beetlestone
Daniel J. Siegel
Asima Panigrahi
A. Michael Pratt

Sayde J. Ladov
A. Michael Pratt
Andrea Malone
Cheryl A. Disch