

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors
June 24, 2010 Minutes**

The Chair Richard Seidel called the meeting to order at 4:13 p.m.

Chancellor Scott Cooper gave his announcements. He reminded members to attend the upcoming Quarterly luncheon. He recently attended the Historical Society of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania dinner and Community Legal Services' Breakfast of Champions, with Professor Laurence Tribe as the keynote speaker. He addressed the National Academy of Arbitrators. He met the Mayor and others regarding the Nominating Panel for the Board of Property Assessment Appeals. He attended the Federal Bench Bar Conference, which he reported was excellent. The District Attorney was a key speaker. He stated that the Association hosted the PA Senate Judiciary Committee, which held a hearing in the Conference Center on reducing witness intimidation. He presented opening remarks on the re-opening of Jack Myers Lawyers Lounge in the Criminal Justice Center. A golf outing was held by the Philadelphia Bar Foundation which he attended.

The Chancellor also attended the installation of Ron Kovler as President of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association. Attorney Kovler mentioned his strong ties with the Philadelphia Bar Association. The Chancellor has undertaken an effort to reach out to neighboring bar associations including those in South Jersey and Delaware. He spoke briefly about the proposed Philadelphia Family Court building and recent publicity.

Michael Berkowitz was recognized to speak about the June 8 Intellectual Property Committee event at the Union League. He reported that the event was very well attended and honored recently retired Federal Circuit Chief Judge Paul Michel.

There was discussion whether to have the Association July meeting at the Phillies ballpark on the same day as the YLD meeting on July 29. There was discussion as to the logistics of the meeting.

The Chair acknowledged Scott Reid for the positive press the Association is getting on finding a diversity director as well as participation by various members of the Association. Interviews of potential candidates will be set up in the near future.

The Chair recognized Michael Churchill to introduce Michael Masch, Chief Business Officer for the School District of Philadelphia. Mr. Churchill referenced the Resolution Urging the General Assembly to Adopt an Educational Funding Formula to Provide Adequate Funding for Students in All Districts, adopted by the Board in May 2008. Mr. Churchill stated that the Philadelphia School District is one of the largest in the country and the largest in Pennsylvania. It receives funding in the same way as every other school district in Pennsylvania. Student enrollment has gradually declined but is starting to increase again. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has raised tuition levels, so some former parochial school students are moving into public schools. Charter schools have also had an impact. Charter schools have to show improvement in the academic performance of their students. The District is sponsoring 67 charter schools, and the upcoming budget will have models for promise academies and

renaissance schools. The number of English language learners and special needs children has increased. There are large numbers of low income students.

With regard to funding, the School District receives half of their money from Pennsylvania, a third from taxes, and the rest in stimulus from the federal government and the state government. The additional funding has helped with reduced class size, and more counselors. However, tax collections are flat due to the recession. Funding from the state may be lower in the future, a pension funding crisis may be looming, and federal stimulus money may disappear. They have also studied if there are any funding gaps. Local and state funding had declined due to the recession, but federal aid increased to help offset the decline. He then discussed the tests that have been mandated by the “No Child Left Behind” 2002 legislation. Reading and math adequacy has gone up over the last seven years. Graduation rates have also gone up. There is summer school and longer school days with the funding currently available. There was discussion by the Board as to the goals, whether there should be national standards.

The Chair made a motion to approve the Minutes of the May meeting, which was seconded and the Minutes were approved. Treasurer Joe Prim advised that the Treasury is in good shape from monies received by LRIS, but dues are under by approximately \$69,000. The staff is trying to address this issue and Chancellor Elect Rudy Garcia has begun a Membership Task Force to study the issue of dues. Upon motion made and seconded, the Treasurer’s report was approved.

The Chair recognized Abe Reich to present on co-sponsoring a Resolution by the ABA regarding gun violence. He reported that the ABA Resolution is consistent with an August 2004 Resolution passed by the Board. The intent of the ABA Resolution is to assist in determining the owner of the original gun through the addition of a microstamp which contains a code. The cost is approximately \$6 a gun. Opposition may be presented by the NRA. The ABA has requested that the Philadelphia Bar Association co-sponsor this Resolution with the ABA. There was discussion as to straw purchases and impact on Second Amendment. A motion was made and seconded that the Association support the ABA Resolution. The motion was passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen D. Wilkinson
Secretary

Board of Governors
Attendance
June 24, 2010

Present:

Scott Cooper
Kathleen Wilkinson
Larry Beaser

Rudolph Garcia
Joseph Prim
Sophia Lee

Richard Seidel
John Savoth
Regina Foley

Stacy Tees
Kimberly Ruch-Alegant
Lou Rulli
Albertine DuFrayne
Alfred Fuscaldo
Scott Reid

Michael Berkowitz
H. Marc Tepper
Karen Detamore
Judith Stein
Sean Sullivan
Lou Rulli

Scott Sigman
Scott Reid
Jeffrey Gross
Jacqueline Segal
Ken Shear

Absent:

Wesley Payne
Maria Feeley
Mehrin Masud-Elias
Danielle Banks
Jeffrey Campolongo
Richard Harris
Michael Schaffer
Pedro Ramos
Brandi Brice
Stacy Tees
Sayde Ladov
Gaetan Alfano
Carolyn Chopko
Lee Applebaum
Peter Berson
Shanese Johnson
Angus Love
Hon. A. Michael Snyder
Daniel Blickman
Tom Wilkinson
A. Michael Pratt
Andre Denis