

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors
March 31, 2005**

Ms. Toland, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

The Chair requested that the minutes of the March 2, 2005 meeting be approved. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Mary Platt presented the Treasurer's report for the period ending February 28, 2005. She reported the Treasury is positioned well as of this time and ahead by \$192,000. Upon motion made and seconded, the Treasurer's report was approved.

Ms. Platt made a further announcement concerning changing the money manager for the Merrill Lynch investment of the Association. She reported that Peter Rohr, Merrill Lynch financial advisor, recommends the Association's investment funds be moved into a more diverse portfolio known as IXIS.

Executive Director Ken Shear made a special announcement and called Mark Tarasiewicz, Director of Publications and New Media into the Boardroom. He asked that the Board recognize and commend Mr. Tarasiewicz for his ten years of extraordinary work for the Association.

Chancellor Andy Chirls made a number of announcements. He announced that Senator Biden would be the keynote speaker for the upcoming Quarterly Luncheon. He also announced a Chancellor's Forum entitled "The Impact of Immigration Reform" to be held on April 20. He noted and passed around two articles which appeared in recent newspapers about the work of the Association in the area of immigration, "El Espagne Foreign Language and Minority Press" and Far Northeast Citizen-Sentinel, "Panelists At Bar Association Meeting Speak of Minority/Ethnic Concerns." Chancellor Chirls noted that he would be appearing on *Puerto Rican Panorama* in the near future to discuss the Association's immigration initiatives.

Chancellor Chirls also announced that the Judicial Commission had already begun releasing the ratings for judicial candidates. He noted that this release is much sooner than in previous years. He pointed out that on Sunday April 2nd he would be on a local radio program to discuss the Commission and the ratings.

Chancellor Chirls also announced that he would be attending a statewide meeting in June in Harrisburg on judicial safety. Additionally, he noted that in anticipation of the passage of the resolution on this agenda, he is already scheduled to meet with Senator Specter on the Real ID Act of 2005.

Chancellor Chirls thanked everyone for attending the successful reception with City Council at the Loews last month. Lastly, he announced that former Board Chair Ron Kovler would be meeting with federal legislators on changes in tort law, funding for legal services and debt relief.

The Chair announced that on May 11 at the Loews from 6pm to 8pm, the Young Lawyers' Division would have a fund raising auction, with further details to follow.

The next item of business called for nominations of Board representatives to be placed on the Nominating Committee. Marsha Levick, Deborah Weinstein, and Marla Joseph were unanimously endorsed by the Board to serve.

The Chair recognized Sayde Ladov who gave an update on the status of LRIS. She reported that she is confident LRIS will meet its budget this year. They have tried to make it a more user-friendly environment and have also made Spanish more accessible to users of LRIS. Ms. Ladov noted that LRIS is working on ads that will run on local cable stations. She reported that the Association is trying to brand the name "LRIS" and make LRIS well known throughout the area for those in need of legal services.

The Chair recognized Tony Crisci, the Association's lobbyist. Mr. Crisci pointed out that this Association was the first in the State to have a lobbyist. He reported on how he follows up on resolutions adopted by the Association. He noted that he often sits down with the appropriate representative and where necessary, a letter may also be delivered on behalf of the Chancellor. He also reviewed current bills on which the Association has taken a position, including adverse possession, tax transfers, court interpreters, business code changes, older adult protective services and the death penalty ban on the mentally retarded. In response to a question by Vice Chancellor Dalton, Mr. Crisci indicated that the Association's efforts in Harrisburg have been effective. He also encouraged partnering with the Pennsylvania Bar Association where appropriate. There was discussion of whether the Association should look into a PAC such as the Pennsylvania Bar Association set up in recent years.

The Chair recognized Paul Kimbol of the Pension Committee who presented a resolution making technical amendments to the Association's Pension Plan. Upon motion made and seconded, the resolution passed unanimously.

The Chair then recognized Michael Carroll and Judy Bernstein-Baker who presented a resolution on behalf of the Civil Rights Committee opposing the Real ID Act of 2005 (H.R.418). They first pointed out that this legislation is tied to other legislation such as tsunami relief and has not been the subject of public hearings. They then stated that this proposed legislation would make state issued driver's licenses serve as the a uniform national identification card rather than serve the intended purpose, which is to regulate drivers. In addition the legislation raises the burden of proof for asylum and applications for relief from removal. It also affects procedural remedies with regard to removal. The resolution recommends the Association urge the Senate to reject the Real ID Act and that the Senate encourage public hearings on the issues raised by the Act such as immigration and asylum. Upon motion made and seconded, the resolution passed unanimously.

The Chair introduced Judi Cassel, Director of Global Philadelphia and Schinjoo Cho, Global Philadelphia's liaison with the Asian community, to discuss how those with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) can gain access to city services. Ms. Cassel gave a detailed presentation noting that 8% of residents of Philadelphia have LEP and 17% have a language other than English spoken at home. The City is also looking at language issues in License and Inspections and evaluating ways to provide assistance with translation services, including the use of a language line and document translators. Funding was requested from William Penn Foundation, which led to hiring Ms. Cho. Ms. Cho explained how she is assisting the Asian community. The Board thanked them for coming.

The Board adjourned at 5:23pm to enjoy the rest of a nice March evening.

Respectfully submitted:
Kathleen D. Wilkinson
Assistant Secretary