

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors Meeting
May 23, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by Chair Marc Zucker.

Chair Zucker recognized Chancellor Kathleen Wilkinson's birthday today. Chair Zucker also acknowledged the passing of Chancellor-Elect William Fedullo's mother, whose service will take place this coming Saturday at the Church of the Epiphany.

Upon consideration by the Board, the minutes of the April 23, 2013 Board meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Wesley R. Payne IV presented the Financial Report for the period ending April 30, 2013. He reported that we are operating over-budget by \$221,000, which is attributable to dues revenue coming in \$32,000 below budget, expenses running \$45,000 below budget and LRIS revenue coming in over-budget by \$198,000. After consideration, the Treasurer's Financial Report was unanimously accepted by the Board.

Executive Director Ken Shear reported that sponsorships for the Bench-Bar Conference are exceeding expectations, even as sponsorships for the Association are generally not going as well. The Bench-Bar Co-Chairs and staff members Mark Tarasiewicz and Tracey McCloskey are doing a great job with obtaining sponsorships. Chancellor Wilkinson echoed the sentiment about the Bench-Bar Co-Chairs Maria Feeley and Julia Swain, and Vice-Chairs John Encarnacion, Scott Reid and Mindee Reuben, all of whom are personally engaging sponsors.

Chancellor Wilkinson reported that she attended the second of two hearings on access to civil justice this morning. She previously attended the May 7 hearing that took place in Harrisburg, wherein the Pennsylvania Bar Association President presented testimony. A hearing in Pittsburgh will take place later on in the year. Professor Lou Rulli commented that Chancellor Wilkinson was eloquent in the testimony she provided today to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Chancellor Wilkinson reported that the child abuse reporting bill discussed during the last meeting no longer has the same sense of urgency and that the Association continues to work with lobbyist Tony Crisci. Chancellor Wilkinson announced that the House Judiciary Committee advanced bills eliminating traffic court and increasing mandatory retirement age of judges from 70 to 75. Chancellor Wilkinson also announced that two more meetings were held with the U.S. Coast Guard and that another program is being planned for September.

Chancellor Wilkinson reported that the results of the May 21 primary demonstrated that voters appeared to have listened to the recommendations of the Commission on Judicial Selection. Executive Director Shear further elaborated that there were nine vacancies, including six on the Court of Common Pleas and three in the Municipal Court, and that seven of the nine elected were recommended by the Judicial Commission. Of the two who were elected but not recommended by the Judicial

Commission, one shares a name with a past mayor and the other was an attorney active with a union. The individual who drew ballot position number two but was not recommended, was not elected. Ads and editorials ran as well as publication handed out to publicize the Commission's findings. Overall, turnout was light for the primary.

Chancellor Wilkinson reported that she appeared on radio interviews with WURD's Barbara Brandt and Clear Channel's Lorraine Ballard, as well as interviews on BEN and KYW. She attended and provided remarks at the Naturalization Ceremony that took place on May 1, which is Law Day. In connection with Law Week, Chancellor-Elect Fedullo volunteered with a legal aid clinic and Professor Rulli spoke to high school students. Chancellor Wilkinson also reported that Diversity Director Naomi McLaurin presented before the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Women in the Profession Committee on the subject of women of color not advancing in their careers as well as their counterparts.

Chancellor Wilkinson reported that Vice-Chancellor Al Dandridge, Chancellor-Elect Fedullo, Scott Reid and she attended a ceremony to become admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. She also attended *The Legal Intelligencer's* Diversity Lawyers of the Year luncheon yesterday, wherein Vice-Chancellor Dandridge and Board Members Nikki Johnson-Huston and Rachel Gallegos were recognized. Chancellor Wilkinson announced that she presented the Gideon Award to Judge Scirica today.

Chair Zucker announced that he attended the Chancellor Leadership Institute presentation wherein Board Members Nikki Johnson-Huston and Kay Yu served as panelists and reported that it was a wonderful event.

Nikki Johnson-Huston provided a diversity report. She thanked Diversity Director McLaurin for her partnership and reported that the Diversity in the Profession Committee Chair is Kevin Mincey. Ms. Johnson-Huston reported that she attended the Barristers Association Scholarship Soiree and the Chancellor's Leadership panel featuring the next generation of legal leaders. Upcoming events include the following: June 13 YLD Diversity Scholarship Reception recognizing five outstanding law students, which will be held at the Franklin Institute, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., featuring DELVACCA President Grace Manno as the keynote speaker; June 16 event at Bala Golf Club honoring Judge Renee Cardwell Hughes and Scott Reid; and May 28 Judicial Intern Opportunity Program ("JIOP") reception at the U.S. Courthouse. Additional programming is expected for the summer and fall. Diversity Director McLaurin reported that she had the opportunity to spend time with her counterparts at the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Allegheny County Bar Association. In June, she will be speaking with JIOP program participants about career options. She will also be addressing the law student participants in the Montgomery Bar Association 1L Diversity Program.

Regional Housing Legal Services Managing Attorney Judy Berkman and Real Property Section Chair Rick Vanderslice presented on pending legislation to prevent fraudulent conveyances of real estate. Ms. Berkman explained that Philadelphia's City Council is considering Bill Number 130324 which would impose costly new local recording requirements and procedures at the City's Department of Records with the

intended purpose of preventing the recording of fraudulent deeds. She explained that state law already exists to govern the manner in which deeds must be recorded and that the pending bill would require employees of the Department of Records to undertake a legal analysis and evaluate property transfer documents without the expertise or insurance underwriting provided by the title insurance industry. The likely result of the pending legislation, she explained, would be the halting of the timely recording process for any document submitted for recording while such evaluation takes place.

Furthermore, the bill, if passed, would not prevent fraudulent conveyances because it is black letter law in Pennsylvania that title has already passed to the buyer by the time a deed is presented for recording and it is too late to obtain title insurance at that point. Further, the procedures required by the Bill would not stop the most common types of fraud, which are forged signatures and signatures obtained by duress or coercion. Executive Director Shear explained that he has spoken about the progress of this bill with the Association's city lobbyist, David Hyman, who made the recommendation that we take the opportunity to speak directly with Councilman Greenlee, the chief sponsor of this bill. Lobbyist Hyman suggested that the Association avoid putting out a hard decision in the form of a resolution, which could alienate City Council, and, instead, work and negotiate with City Council. The sense of the Board was that the Association should proceed as recommended by our lobbyist. A report on the status of the bill will be provided at the next meeting.

Chancellor Wilkinson presented a Resolution Supporting Study of Pennsylvania Bar Admission Rule 205 Governing Admission of Foreign Lawyers. Chancellor Wilkinson explained that if a foreign lawyer wishes to apply to be member of the Pennsylvania Bar, there are more rigorous requirements here than in other jurisdictions. The Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners has suggested changes to make it easier for foreign lawyers to become members of Pennsylvania Bar, including reducing the number of credit hours and adding to the types of courses that can be taken. These changes will be significant if Philadelphia wants to be a global city. Currently, graduates of foreign institutions do not stay in Philadelphia, but go to New York and Washington, D.C. because it is easier to become lawyers in those jurisdictions. Chancellor Wilkinson, through the resolution, is seeking to appoint a task force to examine the pros and cons to these proposed rule changes. Upon consideration by the Board, the resolution was unanimously approved.

YLD Chair Aneesh Mehta reported on the results of the Comedy Night that took place on May 9 to benefit the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. The event raised between \$17,000 and \$18,000, and had 150 people in attendance. YLD Chair Mehta thanked the Board for its support.

Congratulations were conveyed to Larry Beaser and Vice-Chancellor Dandridge, who will be recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award from *The Legal Intelligencer* on June 27.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sophia Lee

Secretary

**Board of Governors
Attendance
May 23, 2013**

Voting Members:

Present:

Kathleen D. Wilkinson
Albert Dandridge
Sophia Lee
Jacqueline Segal
Wesley Payne
Mary Platt
Marc Zucker
Eric Weitz
John Encarnacion
Nikki Johnson-Huston
Rachel Branson
Jennifer Coatsworth

James Rocco
Kay Yu
Rachel Gallegos
Natalie Klyashtorny
Rachel Kopp
Brad Shuttleworth
Aneesh Mehta
Kevin Mincey
Gordon Wase
Richard Vanderslice
Christian Petrucci

Absent:

William Fedullo
Brian Chacker
Scott Reid
Gina Rubel
Ourania Papademetriou
Emily Marks
Dawn Tancredi
John Savoth

Brandi Brice
Edward Beitz
Barbara Sicalides
Meredith Brennan
Sara Jacobson
Mark Cohen
Howard Goldberg

Non-Voting Members:

Present:

Michael Hayes
Lawrence Beaser
Kenneth Shear

Louis Rulli
Judy Stouffer

Absent:

Rudolph Garcia
Deborah Gross
Justine Gudenas
Heather Austin
Hilda Thompson

Richard Alonso
Cheryl Disch
Abraham Reich
A. Michael Pratt
Sayde Ladov