

**Philadelphia Bar Association  
Board of Governors**

**December 18, 2008**

Chair Stephanie Resnick called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

The Chair recognized Denise Smyler and David Hyman who reported on the activities of their lobbying efforts for the Philadelphia Bar Association. Denise Smyler is working on a formal reporting process and trying to get City Council to alert them to any issue. Ms. Smyler highlighted her background with the historical commission. David Hyman stated that he is very proud to represent his profession before City Council. He explained the great challenges that will face government in the future. He spoke of his background as a partner with Kleinbard, Bell and Brecker.

The Chair requested that the Minutes of the November meeting be approved. The Minutes were approved.

The Chair recognized Treasurer Jeff Lindy who presented the report for the last eleven months. The Association's expenses are \$208,000 over budget with revenue exceeding budget by more than \$400,000. Some of the expense is attributed to the longer Bench Bar this year. Upon Motion made, and seconded, the Treasurer's report was accepted.

The Chair recognized Chancellor A. Michael Pratt who recognized the newly elected Board members, Jeff Campolongo, Sean Sullivan, both in person, and announced the other three successful candidates, Michael Shaffer, Regina Foley, and Danielle Banks. He also congratulated incoming Vice Chancellor Rudy Garcia.

Chancellor Pratt then discussed that the Association is holding forums with outside groups and other bar associations to discuss issues of diversity. He reported there was a reception last week with the Government and Public Service Lawyers. The panel emphasized the importance of being part of the Philadelphia Bar Association. The District Attorney played an active role in this panel. Chancellor Pratt reminded the Board about a positive meeting he had with District Attorney Lynn Abraham a few months ago.

Chancellor Pratt also announced that a meeting was held before the Board meeting earlier in the day with the City's Department of Public Property and is pleased to report that the Association will remain in all of its present space for the next seven years. Chancellor Elect Sayde Ladov reported that the Association has offered to help the City with issues of concern through use of the Association's resources of sections and committees. Chancellor Pratt was given recognition by the Board for his skills and relationships with the City in helping the Association remain in the current space.

The Chancellor then recognized and congratulated Chancellor Elect Sayde Ladov on her wonderful speech at the recent Quarterly.

The Chair then expressed her appreciation to the Board. The Chair and Chancellor Elect pointed out the work done this year on diversity and presented a gift to Chancellor Pratt.

The Chair then called upon Stella M. Tsai, Executive Committee member of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania, who presented a Resolution Opposing Use of Racial Slurs in Business Names. She explained how the owner of a food business is fully aware that the name of the business is a problem and offensive to the Asian community. The Daily News published an editorial, but did not seem to understand the issue.

Vice Chancellor Scott Cooper advised the Board that the Cabinet discussed whether there is a connection of this issue with members of the Association. There was a general sense at the Cabinet level about diversity and the Association's commitment to support diversity.

While everyone has First Amendment rights, the consensus of the Board was this is not the kind of language that should be tolerated. There was discussion whether if the Board did not support this Resolution it would be inconsistent with the Association's interest in Diversity and that the use of this type of language is just wrong to use. A motion was made and seconded. There was further discussion of the importance of lawyers standing up for what is wrong or right and that this could happen with other ethnic groups and is wrong. There was discussion whether to try to change the law and whether a media campaign should be conducted. There was a suggestion to add a reference that the Association will support any law consistent with the goals set forth in the Resolution, and made other adjustments to the proposed Resolution. The Resolution as amended passed unanimously.

The Chair then recognized Sara Woods, Executive Director of Philadelphia VIP, who presented a report on the State of Pro Bono efforts. They have received an increase of 36% in requests for assistance and cases being referred out are up 56%. The number of volunteers is up 23%. VIP is marketing better and using contacts better. They are in a stable financial condition and they have 12 members of their staff. They are grateful for the contributions of the Association, making more partnerships with corporations and judges. They are working on many diverse issues and coordinating the response to the mortgage foreclosure problem. They are implementing their strategic goals and recruiting more volunteers. Philadelphia is a national pro bono model. VIP is working on a study to evaluate internally their efforts. Overall, the state of pro bono work in Philadelphia is good. There was recognition given to Former Chancellor Alan Gordon and Treasurer Jeffrey Lindy who were pivotal in the creation of the Pro Bono Task Force several years ago.

The Chair recognized Elise Bruhl, Co-chair of the Appellate Courts Committee. She reported that they have held CLEs and sponsoring joint events with the Family Law and Public Interest Sections, including doing work with the Third Circuit. Chancellor Elect Ladov praised the work of Elise Bruhl and the Committee.

The Chancellor then thanked the Board members. He presented plaques to outgoing Board members. He also presented a crystal gavel to Chair Stephanie Resnick. The Chair then thanked the Bar staff for all of their work.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Kathleen D. Wilkinson**  
**Secretary**

Board of Governors  
Attendance  
December 18, 2008

*Present:*

A. Michael Pratt  
Sayde J. Ladov  
Jeffrey Lindy

Kathleen Wilkinson  
Scott Cooper  
Joseph Prim

Sophia Lee  
Gaetan Alfano  
Wesley Payne

Judy Berkman  
Jeffrey Gross  
Karen Detamore  
Rochelle Fedullo  
Stephanie Resnick

Michael Hayes  
Jacqueline Segal  
Donna Woelpper  
Cindy Rosenthal  
Matthew Perks

Stacy Tees  
Rosemary Pinto  
Daniel Siegel  
Maria Feeley  
Kim Jessum

*Absent:*

Regina Foley  
Carlton Johnson  
Grace Manno  
Michael Berkowitz  
Reetu Dandora  
Richard Seidel  
Jane Dalton  
Deborah Weinstein

Brian Chacker  
Scott Sigman  
Stephen Foxman  
Judith Drasin  
Denis Lawler  
Stewart Weintraub  
Michael Goss