

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors
November 30, 2006**

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m. and upon motion made, and seconded, the minutes of the October 26, 2006 meeting were unanimously approved.

2. The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer, Scott Cooper. The Association currently has a \$142,000.00 positive variance. Moreover, the total Revenue budget had been fully collected by the end of October.

3. The Chair acknowledge the new Editor of the Philadelphia Lawyer Magazine, John Gregory, who is, thus, a new member of the Board,

4. The Chancellor gave his announcements. The first ever Chancellor's forum was held for the Candidates of this year's Bar elections. Based upon an idea by Harold Datz, the event was well received by a near full house. Senate Bill 669-The Court Interpreter Bill, was signed into law by the Governor with Past Chancellor Andy Chirls in attendance and recognized by the Governor. Chancellor Feldman participated in a round table discussion at the Philadelphia Inquirer with other civic leaders to discuss various issues currently facing the City of Philadelphia. Ken Shear also participated in another similar forum. The AOPC announced that criminal records are now available by internet access. Lynn Marks briefly addressed the Board and informed it that the initial release does not include Philadelphia records. There is a concern, as discussed by the Board at previous meetings, that there is a serious potential for misinformation with this process, particularly regarding pre-conviction arrests. The Public Interest Law Section will have a party, at which it will award its Andrew Hamilton Award to Tom Gilhool. Three more firms joined the Raising the Bar Campaign, bringing the current total to 128 firms. The Annual Meeting of the Association will be held on December 5th with the introduction of our 80th Chancellor, Jane Dalton. Chancellor-Elect Dalton noted that the Pandemic and Disaster Planning Committee has been meeting and recently heard a presentation from the City Solicitor on what the City has thus far done in this area. The Committee is also working on creating methods to ensure that the legal community is kept abreast in the circumstance of events which may cause an interruption in our justice system.

5. A legislative update was next given by Tony Crisci, the Association's Government Relations Counsel. He reported on the late counting results from Chester County and that it appeared that the Democrats would control the House by 102-101. He was uncertain at this juncture who the Speaker would be. The vote for the Speaker will officially occur on January 2, 2007. Finally, the status of the Worker's Compensation Judges was changed after the election to enable them to receive a pay raise without the negative implications which followed the legislatively induced pay raise of the preceding year.

6. The Honorable Anne Lazaras of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas discussed the First Judicial District's awarding of Pro Bono Awards to four lawyers: Arthur B. Jarrett, Anne Maxwell, Daniel T. McWilliams, and Berto M. Elmore. Judge Lazaras acknowledged the support of Judge Fitzgerald and the guiding force of Toby Oxholm to initiate this annual award.

7. A resolution was presented by Ken Fleisher on behalf of the Real Property Section regarding several bills and resolutions introduced in City Council pertaining to the City Charter and a ballot question for the creation of a Blue Ribbon Panel to recommend amendments to the zoning code. After some discussion and an acknowledgment that several aspects of the initial resolution have been rendered moot by recent developments, the Board unanimously passed a shorter resolution.

8. Board member Mark Cohen gave a report on security in City Hall. He recently attended a meeting with the facilities manager. It has been decided that there will be no fee for counsel to obtain access badges and that the application for such has been simplified to a single page. It has also been decided that counsel will be permitted to have clients and witnesses “tailgate” through the door when they have an access badge. The Board, at the behest of the Chancellor, acknowledged the hard work of Mr. Cohen on this important issue.

9. The incoming President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Andrew Susko, next addressed the Board. Current President Ken Horoho was delayed in arriving from Pittsburgh. Mr. Susko stated that the retention of sitting judges will be a top priority for the PBA next year. A task force has been appointed, which is being co-chaired by Mr. Susko and Dave Hickton of Pittsburgh. A report from the committee is due at the start of the New Year.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved at 4:46 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:
John E. Savoth
Secretary