

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors Meeting
October 25, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Brandi Brice.

Upon consideration by the Board, the minutes of the September 27, 2012 Board meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Joseph Prim presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending September 30, 2012. He reported that the Association is under budget on the revenue side by about \$170,000, which is considerably better than what was anticipated at last report. He also reported that the Association's staff was able to cut expenses, which is a testament to how adaptable they are to revenue changes. After consideration, the Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted by the Board.

Chancellor John Savoth began his announcements by reporting on the various engagements he attended over the last month on behalf of the Association, including the following events: a luncheon with INTERPOL Secretary General Ronald Noble; the Legal Clinic for the Disabled Silent Auction; the Justice Musmanno Award Dinner, wherein former Chancellor Ed Chacker was honored; the Bench-Bar Conference, which was a tremendous success and will be discussed in greater detail later; the APABA-PA Annual Banquet, which was a wonderful affair organized under the leadership of APABA-PA President Jennifer Lin with Board Member Kay Yu playing a role; the Justinian Society's Fall Luncheon Quarterly, wherein Justice Scalia signed books and provided interesting remarks. Chancellor Savoth acknowledged Annette Ferrara as the new Justinian Society Chancellor. Chancellor Savoth also met with Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds-Brown and remarked that the Association has a positive relationship with various members of City Council and that City Council is always open to the Association's ideas. Chancellor Savoth was unable to attend the Hispanic Bar Association's Annual Scholarship Reception, but noted that Immediate Past Chancellor Rudy Garcia was honored for his work on behalf of the community. Chancellor Savoth thanked former Chancellor Garcia for his good work. Chancellor Savoth also spoke at the First Judicial District's Pro Bono Awards Ceremony on October 24, wherein Parliamentarian Michael Hayes and Board Member Scott Sigman were among the honorees.

Due to the resignation of Kim Jessum, Chancellor Savoth appointed Michael Hayes as Treasurer for the Campaign for Qualified Judges, which appointment was unanimously approved by the Board.

Chancellor Savoth also commented that earlier in the day, Judge Allan Tereshko resigned as Supervising Judge of the Court of Common Pleas Civil Division and that Judge New is now serving in the role as Supervising Judge. Chancellor Savoth will provide more information as it comes. Chancellor Savoth also remarked that in connection with Judge Thomas Nocella's resignation, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* has

portrayed the work of the Association's Judicial Selection Commission in a favorable light.

Chancellor Savoth then reported on the success of the Bench-Bar Conference. Leading into the year, Chancellor Savoth had considered canceling the Bench-Bar because, over the years, it was progressively becoming less attended. When Mark Tarasiewicz and Tracey McCloskey learned of the construction of the new Revel casino in Atlantic City, Ms. McCloskey negotiated a favorable contract with Revel, which contributed to the overall success of the event. Chancellor Savoth remarked that the CLEs presented this year were extraordinary and that Bench-Bar Chair Maria Feeley did a phenomenal job of putting it all together, even as her baby boy was born just two weeks prior to the conference. The conference was also a success from a financial standpoint; average attendance approached 300 for the last five years, but this year's attendance was 550 and it may be the first time that the Association breaks even or may be in the black with the conference. Chancellor Savoth recognized Robert Szostak and Mark Cohen for encouraging attendance by the judges from the five counties. Chancellor Savoth remarked that the Bench-Bar was a wonderful weekend and that he received positive feedback from the attendees.

Chair Brice invited the Association's lobbyist Tony Crisci to present on the 2011-2012 Session of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Mr. Crisci reported that, practically speaking, the General Assembly has completed its term for 2011-2012, although the session is not officially over until November 30. Despite the introduction of 371 bills, excluding appropriation bills, during the past session, there remain many unfinished matters, including those impacting liquor privatization, better roads and highways, mass transit, state workers and the Philadelphia School District. He acknowledged the Association's role in working successfully with coalition members to impact several issues, including the stalling of a corporate code bill, where there was disagreement among the business community, the state bar and local bars on advertising with LLCs, Senate Bill No. 9 regarding proof of citizenship for public benefits, and Voter ID, which the courts handled. The debate continues of whether sales tax should apply to legal invoices, an effort driven by the more rural counties as a means of property tax relief, especially when state and local governments cannot find money. We can expect to see workers compensation reform, which will be presented by governor next year, as well as more tort reform and venue change ideas. With the upcoming election, he did not expect to see much change in the political composition of the General Assembly, although we could see our first female Attorney General elected. When asked about when we can expect to see a full complement of Supreme Court justices, Mr. Crisci reported that appointments move slowly in Harrisburg.

Chancellor-Elect Kathleen Wilkinson presented the Association's 2013 budget. Speaking as steward of the Association and seeking budget approval for the next year, Chancellor-Elect Wilkinson explained that there is a budget gap to manage of approximately \$170,000. A committee was formed to examine how to manage the gap and to explore alternative sources of income. A number of factors have contributed to the budget shortfall, including fewer lawyers practicing in Philadelphia, fewer firms paying

dues at a 100% rate, and the termination of a royalty contract. On the expense side, the Association has made major cuts, including eliminating three staff positions and freezing salaries under the proposed 2013 budget. The Association does not want to eliminate any additional staff. As a result, further necessary cuts had to be made to certain areas of the Association's budget. Chancellor-Elect Wilkinson emphasized that these cuts are not punitive and are not directed at any particular organization.

The proposed budget also includes a line item for alternative sources of income in the amount of \$155,000. Executive Director Ken Shear and staff have formed a committee to identify alternative and creative sources of income, for example, reaching out to sponsors of the Bench-Bar to seek additional sponsorships and to law firms to try to bring them back to former levels of membership.

The two organizations impacted by the budget cut include the Young Lawyers Division and Philadelphia VIP. Discussions have taken place with the leadership of both organizations. It was reported that the YLD understands that the 2013 budget reflects the amount that they have been spending for the last two years and that the Association will continue to help the YLD to find sponsors for its events. In 2011, the YLD spent approximately \$28,000 and it is anticipated that the annualized spend for 2012 will be \$25,163. Discussions have also taken place with current VIP President Mark Levy, its incoming president and its Executive Director Sara Woods, all of whom have been gracious about the upcoming reduction, at the same time that have emphasized the need for creative fundraisers and for encouragement to every lawyer to write a check to VIP.

Board Member Rainy Papademetriou recognized that the Association created VIP 31 years ago and that the budget cut is difficult for VIP and Ms. Woods, but also appreciated the continuing pledge to support VIP. Mr. Szostak and Judge Michael Snyder both reassured that the Association's Sections will not let VIP be sacrificed. Board Member Lou Rulli noted that the budget is a document created at the beginning of the year and is not set in stone. Chancellor-Elect Wilkinson recognized Al Dandridge, who assured that the Business Section will continue to support VIP. Parliamentarian Hayes stated that the Association and Board need to be realistic about budget items, aligning anticipation and hope. YLD Chair Melanie Taylor thanked the Board for its support of YLD and expressed hope that YLD can continue to expand programming going forward.

Chancellor-Elect Wilkinson recognized VIP Executive Director Woods, who thanked the Association for 31 years of support and expressed her pride that VIP serves as the pro bono arm of the Association. She also reminded that the Association has contributed \$125,000 each of the six years that she has been at the helm of VIP and explained that the significant cut to VIP will surely impact the operations of VIP and asked that the Board continue to partner with VIP to assure that services are adequately provided to its 3,000 clients. Ms. Woods also explained that foundation funding overall has decreased by \$50,000, which is another gap in VIP's budget that must be replaced.

Executive Director Shear noted that the Association is now paying \$167,000 annually in rent, which was not previously required and is now an ongoing expense item in the budget. He explained that, at this time, the proposed budget is the best budget that can be presented to the Board. It was assured that allocations can be revisited as the year progresses.

Upon consideration by the Board, the 2013 budget was approved, with two nays by Board Members Brian Chacker and Scott Sigman and two abstentions by Ms. Papademetriou and Eric Weitz.

For the good and welfare, an announcement was made that an upcoming lecture will take place at Penn Law School on the Voter ID issue and will include the two lead lawyers from Arnold & Porter and PILCOP Executive Director Jenny Clark on the panel. Ms. Taylor announced that the YLD will hold its Harvest for the Homeless at Ballard Spahr on November 3. Immediate Past Chancellor Garcia announced that the Election Forums will take place on November 14 and 15. Chancellor Savoth announced that Family Day at the National Constitution Center will take place on October 27. Chancellor-Elect Wilkinson reminded that the Andrew Hamilton Gala will take place on November 3. It was also acknowledged that Chancellor Savoth's birthday is October 26.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Sophia Lee
Secretary

Board of Governors
Attendance
October 25, 2012

Voting Members:

Present:

John Savoth	Ourania Papademetriou
Kathleen Wilkinson	James Rocco
William Fedullo	Eric Weitz
Sophia Lee	Kay Yu
Joseph Prim	Rudolph Garcia
Wesley Payne	Melanie Taylor
Brandi Brice	Aneesh Mehta
Marc Zucker	Brad Shuttleworth
Scott Sigman	Gordon Wase
Stacy Tees	Larry Felzer
Marc Tepper	Brad Begelman
Brian Chacker	Robert Szostak
Gina Rubel	George Nagle
Rachel Branson	A. Michael Snyder

Absent:

Jacqueline Segal	Scott Reid
Pedro Ramos	Jennifer Coatsworth
Kimberly Ruch-Alegant	Regina Foley
John Encarnacion	Wanda Flowers
Nikki Johnson-Huston	Michael Bertin

Non-Voting Members:

Present:

Michael Hayes	Louis Rulli
Kenneth Shear	Judy Stouffer

Absent:

Lawrence Beaser	Flora Yarnall
Scott Cooper	Andrea Malone
Wendy Beetlestone	Cheryl Disch
Daniel Siegel	Abraham Reich
Heather Austin	A. Michael Pratt
Sayde Ladov	