

Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors
September 25, 2008

The Chair Stephanie Resnick called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Executive Director Ken Shear introduced Martha Phan, the Association's new Director of Communications & Marketing.

The Chair recognized Treasurer Jeff Lindy, who presented the financial report of the period ending August 31, 2008. The Association is \$74,000 over budget due to Member Services being over budget by \$28,000 and finance for IT Expense being over budget by \$11,000. A motion was made, seconded, and the report was accepted unanimously.

The Chair then recognized Vice Chancellor Scott Cooper, who presented a Resolution Establishing Guidelines for Sections, Committees and Divisions to Participate in Bar Association Elections. Vice Chancellor Cooper reported that there were some topics that could not be addressed by the committees working on election procedures and the sense of the Board at the last meeting was to have an appropriate resolution formulated. He advised the Board that the proposed Resolution was discussed with the Elections Committee. For those groups who want to endorse a candidate, the Resolution is designed to require those groups to follow certain due process requirements. In response to one of the Member's questions, Vice Chancellor Cooper advised the Board that committees or sections had power to endorse candidates, but there were no guidelines for them to follow. The Resolution would be the first time there would be guidelines for the committees and sections to follow, with the intent for notice to be given to all candidates of meetings of sections and committees. Another member was appreciative of the guidelines and asked that any venues be wheelchair accessible. A motion was made and seconded. The motion to approve the Resolution passed unanimously.

The Chair then recognized International Law Committee Co-chairs Jeremy Heep and Michael Scullion to provide a report on the activities of this Committee. A list of meetings and seminars was provided at the meeting. The committee meetings include hearing from two French lawyers; discussion of the situation in Darfur; and other programs on international law. Upcoming programs include a court of appeals judge from England who will speak on efforts to improve diversity. The Committee continues to participate in a program with lawyers in Lyon, France. There are continuing efforts to form a relationship with the Israeli bar as well.

Chancellor A. Michael Pratt then presented some announcements and action items. One member, Danielle Banks, has resigned from the Elections Committee. Chancellor Pratt recommended Rachel Branson to replace her. A motion was made for her to be appointed, was seconded, and accepted unanimously. Chancellor Pratt then stated that Mayor Nutter is forming a task force to study ethics in regard to City finance and selected the Philadelphia Bar Association to work on this task force.

Chancellor Pratt announced that there will be a series of programs to provide diversity training tools to attorneys. The first is October 7 on Business Development. Others will be networking, transitioning to private practice, navigating partnership track.

Chancellor Pratt announced the next Quarterly will be October 20, with Judge Sheppard and Bobbie Liebenberg receiving awards. There will be a panel on the role of women in Philadelphia instead of one speaker. He also announced that next week the Vice Chancellor and

Chancellor Elect will go to a conference in London of bar leaders. He further announced that the ACE program will send lawyers into schools next month to begin doing programs. Other bar associations from around the Commonwealth are interested in this program. One of the speakers will be Justice Fitzgerald. Lastly, Chancellor Pratt congratulated the co-chairs, staff, and PBI for the excellent Bench Bar.

The Chancellor then discussed the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program. He introduced Marlene L. Olshan, CEO of Big Brothers, Big Sisters. Ms. Olshan explained that there are 75,000 children at risk, 40,000 who will not graduate high school, and 40% who have a parent in jail in the City of Philadelphia. She described two programs, one where they can bring kids to the workplace or you can go to their school. They have about 35 attorneys involved so far but would like many more.

The Chair requested that the minutes of the July 31, 2008 meeting be approved. They were approved.

The Chair then recognized Marc Sonnenfeld as Counsel for the Association. The Board previously authorized the filing of a brief in *Grider v. Keystone Health Plan Central, Inc.* in support of a Petition for Mandamus which was not granted on a sanctions issue. The underlying case is over and the issue is now going up to the Third Circuit. The issues involved the filing of general objections and appealing to decisions of a magistrate and discovery master, which resulted in sanctions. A motion was made and seconded in favor of a Resolution to permit the filing of the amicus brief. The motion carried; three were opposed and voted against the Resolution. Chancellor Pratt recused himself during this presentation.

The Chair recognized Abe Reich, who presented on the ABA's Report 114 concerning admission requirements to law school. He reported that the Association's support was appreciated and the Motion was tabled 192 to 191 due to amendments being tendered very close to the time of the vote. The issue has been moved to February and is specially listed to that time. The Chair recognized Andre Denis who spoke about revision of the order of the ABA mission, goals, and objectives for the ABA. The word "co-equal" is now used to describe the co-equal goals as "serving members" and "service to the law."

The Chair then recognized Karen Buck and Joe Sullivan who presented on the Federal Court Reentry Program and activities of the Delivery of Legal Services Committee. Called "STAR" program, the Committee has been trying to help ex-offenders re-enter the world. The program has grown to 26 participants who meet before Magistrate Rice. The program was an initiative of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Law students will also be involved in these programs and will prepare forms to identify what problems could be addressed. A benefit of the program is to lessen years of probation after successful participation in the program.

The Chair joined in the excellent remarks made by Chancellor Pratt with regard to the Bench Bar.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen D. Wilkinson
Secretary

Board of Governors
Attendance
September 25, 2008

Present:

A. Michael Pratt
Kathleen Wilkinson
Joseph Prim
Regina Foley
Wesley Payne
Michael Berkowitz
Jeffrey Gross
Judith Drasin

Sayde Ladov
Sophia Lee
Stephanie Resnick
Carlton Johnson
Rosemary Pinto
Karen Detamore
Deborah Weinstein
Michael Goss

Scott Cooper
Jeffrey Lindy
Judy Berkman
Michael Hayes
Jacqueline Segal
Maria Feeley
Donna Woelpper
Rochelle Fedullo

Absent:

Gaetan Alfano
Grace Manno
Jane Dalton
Daniel Siegel
Cindy Rosenthal

Jim Jessum
Richard Seidel
Scott Sigman
Stephen Foxman
Stewart Weintraub

Mathew Perks
Reetu Dandora
Brian Chacker
Denis Lawler
Stacy Tees