

Philadelphia Bar Association

Board of Governors Meeting

April 29, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 4:09 P.M. by Chair Brad Shuttleworth.

Upon consideration by the Board, the minutes of the March, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Wesley R. Payne, IV, presented the Financial Report for the period ending March 31, 2015. He reported that the Association is in good financial condition. We are under budget for revenues by about \$66,000, representing slower collection of dues. Dues collection has been extended to mid-April. Expenses are about \$71,000 under budget for now. We are where we felt we would be at this time. After consideration, the Treasurer's Financial Report was unanimously accepted by the Board.

Maria Bermudez was called upon to discuss Law Week on behalf of the YLD. YLD has done a program regarding the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. This program has been presented to a number of schools. In addition, the topic is being presented to 85 high school students during Lawyer for a Day. In addition, the elementary schools are seeing the Goldilocks trial. This year, for the first time, Legal Advice Live was presented to parents in the schools. There have been about 25 submissions for the \$1,000.00 scholarship essay contest. YLD has also presented a program involving fair school funding.

Chair Brad Shuttleworth then asked Treasurer Wes Payne to present regarding a resolution to reduce the value of artworks owned by the Association to \$1.00. Presently, the art is carried as a liquid asset worth approximately \$1,683,500.00. Previously, the collection was carried as having a value of \$1.00, but in approximately 2000, the decision was made to carry the art as a liquid asset in the event that the Association wanted to buy a building and to use the art as collateral for a loan to buy a property. The auditor for the Association, David Faw, had previously advised that this action of making it seem as if the Association had more liquid assets was not as transparent as it should be. Therefore, the Resolution would, once again, show the art collection as having a value of \$1.00. After discussion, the Resolution was unanimously approved.

Treasurer Wes Payne then presented a second Resolution to the Board for its approval. This Resolution asked for permission to sell the Daniel Garber painting, *Old Tree-Chalfonte* which has been on loan to the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art for many

years. The painting has not been on display for quite some, and does not have any specific relevance or relation to the practice of law or the legal system. Currently, the painting has been valued at approximately \$950,000.00, and the Bar Association has been advised that there is a potential buyer for the painting. Sale of the painting would produce funds to provide additional reserves to a 6 month operating level for the Bar Association. After discussion, the Resolution was unanimously approved by the Board of Governors.

Chair Brad Shuttleworth then asked A. Harold Datz, Chair of the Commission on Judicial Retention and Selection, to report on the work of the Commission for this year's judicial elections. Mr. Datz reported that the Commission has investigated 48 candidates so far, 42 are complete, and 6 are pending. 3 candidates were rated "Highly Recommended", 28 candidates were rated "Recommended" and 11 candidates were rated "Not Recommended." The Commission has been meeting every Friday since the beginning of January. 140+ people were assigned to investigate the candidates with over 2200 hours being spent to perform these investigations. The final ratings will be issued the next Tuesday. The next chore is circulating these ratings to as many people as possible. Mr. Datz and the Chancellor appeared on a radio show this past weekend speaking about the process. The Board was asked to place these recommendations on their social media pages to give the recommendations greater publicity. In addition, the Bar Association, for the first time, has printed over 60,000 flyers to list its recommendations and each Board of Governors member is being asked to volunteer to act on street teams to distribute these recommendations on Monday May 18 and Tuesday May 19. Mr. Datz asked the members of the Board of Governors to complete the judicial poll as to their experiences with sitting judges who are running for retention. This is the largest number of candidates that have ever been reviewed by the Commission.

When questioned by Former Chancellor Fedullo, Mr. Datz indicated that fewer than 10 candidates did not participate in the review process. Mr. Datz also commented favorably on the media's treatment of the Commission's process and recommendations. Chancellor Dandridge called the Commission the hardest working group of people that he had ever seen in his life. He further said that the process is completely non-political and is not, in any way, racially biased. Chancellor Dandridge expressed his strong desire that the Bar Association's recommendations be taken seriously, that we each be willing to fight to get our views out on the street, so that ultimately we win in our campaign to insure that Philadelphia gets, and keeps, only the best judges.

Chair Brad Shuttleworth then asked the Chancellor for his announcements.

During the past month, Chancellor Dandridge indicated that on 3/30 he and Meredith Avakian-Hardaway and the co-chairs of the Workers Comp Section went to the USO facility at the Airport and presented some supplies donated by the Section.

On 4/7 we had a great program at the National Constitution Center that was co-sponsored by the Louis D. Brandeis Law Society and the Bar Association featuring a dialogue with Judge Herbert Stern, a former federal judge who presided over a trial in West Berlin involving two hijackers who attempted to get into West Germany from East Germany. The case involved significant issues of the right to a jury trial in an American court, and the issue of judicial independence. Judge Stern was interviewed by Jeffrey Rosen, the CEO of the Constitution Center.

Chancellor Dandridge and Mark Tarasiewicz have been making a walking tour of the major law firms in the city to ask them what the Bar Association can do for them. Chancellor Dandridge feels that this has been very productive and fruitful. The major firms are saying that we need to keep up the effort to bring good judges to the city.

Chancellor Dandridge also indicated that he went to Temple's Beasley Law School to hear Joe Tucker do a speech on trial tactics. He attended the Dispute Resolution Institute's Annual Personal Injury seminar and had the opportunity to speak.

Chancellor Dandridge attended a program at Bryn Mawr College on April 17 at which the Katherine Hepburn Medal was awarded to Justice Sotomayor. Justice Sotomayor had been invited to attend the Quarterly Luncheon, as she was a friend of Nelson Diaz, who was going to be given the Sotomayor Diversity Award. Unfortunately, Justice Sotomayor could not attend the Quarterly Luncheon. However, Chancellor Dandridge commented that he had an opportunity to speak to Justice Sotomayor who told him that she read Nelson Diaz's speech delivered on the occasion of him receiving the Sotomayor Diversity Award.

Chancellor Dandridge also appeared at the Support Center for Child Advocates event last week which was amazingly successful. Last week, Chancellor Dandridge received an award at the Union League from the Turning Points for Children, one of our Boots on the Ground cohorts.

Chancellor Dandridge indicated that we are getting ready to launch the Bar Association's career center, an interactive on-line system to allow firms to put their postings for job openings on the system on the Bar Association's website.

Chair Brad Shuttleworth made the following announcements:

There are 48 people running for 12 judicial vacancies. 60,000 flyers are being printed and need to be distributed. Members of the Board are asked to volunteer to distribute these flyers. Each volunteer of the street teams will receive a T-shirt and a baseball hat.

Of great importance was the fact that yesterday was the Chancellor's birthday. A rousing, if not entirely harmonious, version of "Happy Birthday" was sung to Chancellor Dandridge.

Chair thanked Faiz Mandviwalla for his hard work with the Bar Association during his internship.

This month we have the Bar 5k charity run. Brad is running in it. This will assist the Support Center for Child Advocates.

The Bar Association sent out a message from the legislative action center re: the governor's proposed budget which includes an item for a tax on legal services. Chair Brad Shuttleworth asked everyone to send a message to their legislators about their opposition to this tax.

To cap off Law Week, there will be a Twitter Chat on Legal Aid that we will participate in.

Brad Shuttleworth asked if there were any new business to discuss.

Chair Brad Shuttleworth asked for any items of Good and Welfare.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Judge A. Michael Snyder (ret.)

Assistant Secretary

**Board of Governors
Attendance
April 29, 2015**

Voting Members:

Present:

Albert Dandridge
Deborah Gross
Hon. A. Michael Snyder
Wesley Payne
Mary Platt
Brad Shuttleworth
Lauren McKenna
Rachel Gallegos
Rachel Kopp
Natalie Klyashtorny

Lawrence Felzer
Peter Newman
Kathleen Kirkpatrick
Jeffrey Rosenthal
Julia Swain
Nycole Watson
William Fedullo
Maria Bermudez
Graham Laub
Robert Casey

Absent:

Gaetan Alfano
Jacqueline Segal
Emily Marks
Dawn Tancredi
Rahat Babar
Jeremy Menkowitz
Erin Siciliano
Ira Lefton
Kevin Mincey
Rachel Keene

Eric Weitz
Erin Lamb
Robert Muench
Dina Ronsayro
Scott Small
Su Ming Yeh
Steven Rothberg
Jennifer O'Leary
Joseph Turchi

Non-voting Members:

Present:

Jennifer Coatsworth

Mark Tarasewicz

Absent:

Lawrence Beaser
Kathleen Wilkinson
Sophia Lee
Louis Rulli
Vivian Luckiewicz
Molly Peckman
Rachel Branson
Steven Bizar

M. Kelly Tillery
Heather Austin
Andrew Laver
Hilda Thompson
Cheryl Disch
Abraham Reich
Butler Buchanan