

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors Meeting
February 21, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by Chair Brandi Brice.

Upon consideration by the Board, the minutes of the January 24, 2012 Board meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Joseph Prim presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending January 31, 2012. Treasurer Prim reported that the lawyer profiles feature on the Association's website will be online shortly and that expenses are on track. He also reported that the unaudited 2011 budget figures showed that the Association came in over budget on revenue by approximately \$217,000. Executive Director Ken Shear reported that dues revenue has been coming in slowly at the start of this year and that expenditures have been reduced to keep costs in line, but that he also expects dues revenue to start to increase as the year progresses. After consideration, the Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted by the Board.

Chair Brice invited Louise Hayes from Community Legal Services to present the Resolution in Opposition to Reinstatement of an Asset Test in the Food Stamp Program. Ms. Hayes explained that the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare ("DPW") has informed the federal Food and Nutrition Service that it intends to reinstate an asset test in the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP or food stamps). The asset test would make families ineligible for benefits if they have more than \$5,500 in savings and would make households with an elderly or disabled member ineligible if they have more than \$9,000 in savings. The imposition of the asset test sends out the wrong message that families should not save for a new home, for further education or for a medical emergency. Based on these asset limits, it is estimated that 4,000 households would be made ineligible for SNAP benefits. Currently, 879,000 households receive SNAP benefits. DPW already applies a means test, as required by federal law, which measures a person's income to determine SNAP eligibility and there are no plans to eliminate this means test; DPW checks income for each applicant, including bank statements. The administration of SNAP is paid half by the federal government and half by the state government, and imposition of the asset test would cost money for the Commonwealth because the state would pay half the staff costs of verifying information about assets for 879,000 households. Governor Corbett announced that he could require the imposition of the asset test administratively, without the need for legislative action, effective May 1, 2012. After consideration, the Board voted unanimously to support the Resolution.

Chancellor John Savoth began his remarks by reporting on his activities since the last Board meeting. He attended the AJC annual dinner, where Former Chancellor Abe Reich was honored with the Judge Learned Hand Award; he extended his congratulations to Mr. Reich. Chancellor Savoth also attended the Pennsylvania Bar Association Mid-Year Meeting and noted that the leadership of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, including President Matthew Creme and President-Elect Tom Wilkinson, is in lockstep

with the Association, which commitment he finds both beneficial and heartening. He also attended the ABA Mid-Year Meeting, where he made contact with the Texas State Bar Association about its military affairs committee and discussed potential collaborative efforts. On February 7, he was honored by the Justinians at a luncheon. Chancellor Savoth then provided an update on his plans for a concert to benefit the public interest community and announced that a production company, EMS Productions, has been retained to conduct a feasibility study. A report is expected for the next meeting and the timing for the concert is for year-end. Chancellor Savoth also announced that the Bench-Bar Conference will take place October 5-6 at Revel in Atlantic City. Maria Feeley will chair this year's Bench-Bar Conference.

Chancellor Savoth attended the Bruce Springsteen kick-off event at the National Constitution Center ("NCC") and noted that NCC President and CEO David Eisner is a true partner to the Association. He also encouraged the Board to join as members of the NCC to show our support. Chancellor Savoth also met with the editorial board of the Philadelphia Inquirer earlier in the day.

Chancellor-Elect Kathleen Wilkinson was invited to publicly acknowledge and thank her intern from France, Thomas Bernard. During his stay in Philadelphia, he was a regular participant in Association section and committee meetings and wrote an article for the *Bar Reporter*. She commented about how much she enjoyed working with him and wished him the best of luck as he heads off to a law firm in Paris.

Chancellor Savoth presented the Resolution Reaffirming the Association's Commitment to Alternative Dispute Resolution and Dissolving the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee as a Standing Committee. He explained that the State Civil Litigation Section works hand-in-hand with the ADR Committee and that the ADR Committee would have more structure as a committee of the State Civil Litigation Section. After consideration, the resolution was unanimously approved.

Abe Reich was invited to provide a report of the ABA's Mid-Year Meeting. Mr. Reich reported that it was a one-day meeting and that contentious issues were tabled until the August meeting. He did note that Resolution 111, which was co-sponsored by the Association, relating to accommodations for the LSAT, was passed with little fanfare. Mr. Reich also reported that a presentation is expected at the August 2012 or February 2013 meeting relating to a review of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Announcements were then made for the good and welfare of the Board. Gina Rubel announced that the public relations awards luncheon to honor Mark Tarasiewicz will be held at the Four Seasons on May 7. Vice-Chancellor William Fedullo announced that Rainy Papademetriou will be honored by Center City Crime Victims Services. Philadelphia VIP's Annual Awards Ceremony will be held on March 19 at the Wilma Theatre. Chancellor Savoth will be honored by Widener Law School on March 28. Chancellor Savoth announced that the Barristers are hosting an event in the U.S. Courthouse Ceremonial Courtroom on February 22, honoring the three chief judges of

the Third Circuit, the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the Magistrates, all of whom are African-American.

Executive Director Shear announced that the Quarterly Meeting has been confirmed for March 28, with MSNBC's Mark Barnicle providing the keynote address. He will be introduced by former Governor Ed Rendell. Executive Director Shear noted that the Diversity Award winner will be announced. Immediate-Past Chancellor Rudolph Garcia will be presented with a gold box, an exact replica of the one presented to Andrew Hamilton for his defense of John Peter Zenger in 1735. The gold box is presented annually to the immediate-past Chancellor and is inscribed with the message "acquired not by money, but by character." The inaugural Justinian Society and Comisky Family Lifetime Achievement Award in memory of Marvin Comisky and Judge G. Fred DiBona will also be presented to retired Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Edward J. Bradley.

Scott Sigman requested a moment of silence to honor Maureen Rowley, a former chief federal defender for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, who recently passed away.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sophia Lee
Secretary

Board of Governors
Attendance
February 21, 2012

Voting Members:

Present:

John E. Savoth
Kathleen D. Wilkinson
William P. Fedullo
Sophia Lee
Jacqueline G. Segal
Joseph A. Prim
Brandi J. Brice
Scott P. Sigman
Stacy A. Tees
H. Marc Tepper
John Encarnacion
Gina Furia Rubel
Rachel E. Branson

Jennifer Segal Coatsworth
Ourania Papademetriou
James A. Rocco, III
Kay Kyungsun Yu
Melanie J. Taylor
Wanda E. Flowers
Brad V. Shuttleworth
Gordon W. Wase
Brad J. Begelman
Robert T. Szostak
Hon. A. Michael Snyder
Rudolph Garcia
Regina M. Foley

Absent:

Wesley R. Payne
Marc J. Zucker
Pedro Ramos
Kimberly M. Ruch-Alegant
Brian S. Chacker
Nikki Johnson-Huston

Eric H. Weitz
Aneesh A. Mehta
Michael E. Bertin
Lawrence S. Felzer
George F. Nagle
Scott W. Reid

Non-Voting Members:

Present:

Michael B. Hayes
Louis S. Rulli
Judy Stouffer

Andrea Malone
Abraham C. Reich
Kenneth Shear

Absent:

Lawrence J. Beaser
Scott F. Cooper
Wendy Beetlestone
Daniel J. Siegel
Asima Panigrahi

Flora Yarnall
Cheryl A. Disch
A. Michael Pratt
Sayde J. Ladov