

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors Meeting
May 31, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Chair Brandi Brice.

Upon consideration by the Board, the minutes of the April 26, 2012 Board meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Joseph Prim presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending April 30, 2012. He reported that dues revenue was down in April, Lawyer Profiles are not being used as anticipated and that expenses are also down but not enough to make up for the revenue shortfall. However, Treasurer Prim does expect the gap to close as we move through the year. After consideration, the Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted by the Board.

Executive Director Ken Shear announced that Elaine Lippe, a 27-year employee of the Association is retiring. Ms. Lippe began working with the Association in 1984 as an administrative assistant and, over the years, supported the Communications Department, the Executive Director and the Chancellor. The Association staff held a number of events celebrating Ms. Lippe's retirement. Executive Director Shear called her a friend, a companion and an ally, and noted that she will not be sitting still in retirement. Ms. Lippe received a standing ovation from the Board for her service to the Association.

Chancellor John Savoth began his announcements by reporting on the numerous events he has attended and participated in since the last meeting, including the following: Duane Morris' George Boyer Lecture featuring University of Pennsylvania Law School Professor Randall Kennedy, whose speech was extraordinary on race relations; Young Lawyers Division's Law Week, which was a very successful event under Melanie Taylor and Aneesh Mehta's leadership; Legaline at the Free Library, for which he served as a volunteer; Naturalization Ceremony, wherein he spoke; the Lawyers Club reception recognizing Chief Judge J. Curtis Joyner and the federal judges on the Eastern District; the Goldilocks Trial organized by Scott Sigman and Judge Annette Rizzo, wherein he spoke; the Senior Law Center Prom, for which he acknowledged Larry Feltzer for his tremendous efforts; and the Hall of Fame Induction for Mark Tarasiewicz, which he called a well-deserved recognition of Mr. Tarasiewicz's work. Chancellor Savoth also attended the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Annual Meeting in Lancaster, wherein Tom Wilkinson was elevated to the position of President; he acknowledged Mr. Wilkinson as an excellent leader who is balanced in his approach and is a good friend of the Association. Chancellor Savoth continued by reporting that he attended and moved for the admission of Association members during the U.S. Supreme Court admissions ceremony in Washington DC; presented the Gideon Award to Chief Federal Defender Leigh Skipper at Temple Law School's Commencement Ceremony; and attended the Widener Law School Commencement Ceremony. Chancellor Savoth also attended the Veteran's Court Graduation at Justice McCaffery's invitation; the Barristers

Association's Scholarship Dinner, wherein Charlie Cunningham, Danielle Banks and Judge Patrice Tucker were honored; the public unveiling of the Veterans Assistance Program with Chief Justice Castille and Justice McCaffery; and the ACE culminating event at the Constitution Center, wherein he addressed 200 public school students. Finally, Chancellor Savoth reported that, in connection with the recent indictment of Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Joan Orié Melvin, he has called for her resignation through an Association press release, as the indictment presents significant challenges in perceptions of the Court.

Chair Brice announced that she attended The Legal Intelligencer's Women of the Year event wherein Diversity Director Naomi McLaurin was honored; the Pennsylvania Bar Association's House of Delegates Meeting; and, with Diversity Director McLaurin, the ceremony at the Criminal Justice Center to rename the courthouse to the Justice Juanita Kidd Stout Center for Criminal Justice.

Chancellor Savoth reported that the Task Force on Health Insurance is in process of approaching law firms to learn of interest in negotiating a reduced rate prescription plan. Chancellor Savoth will continue to provide the Board with updates on the health insurance coverage negotiation.

Chair Brice welcomed Public Interest Section Vice Chair Amara S. Chaudhry to present the Resolution Affirming Religious Freedom. Ms. Chaudhry reminded the Board that she had presented two months earlier and that, with the help of Larry Beaser, she is before the Board again with an amended resolution. The resolution has already been unanimously passed by the Public Interest Section, the Family Law Section and the Civil Rights Committee. Ms. Chaudhry explained that the Pennsylvania General Assembly is considering House Bill No. 2029, entitled "American Laws for American Courts," which bill demonstrates a clear intention to target Pennsylvania Muslims and the Islamic faith. While facially neutral, the co-sponsorship memorandum circulated by the bill's sponsor specifically warns of "Shariah law, which is inherently hostile to our constitutional liberties." Resolutions against the bill have been passed by Philadelphia and Pittsburgh's respective city councils, and other religious and interfaith groups have opposed such legislation, including the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League. The American Bar Association has also passed a resolution opposing similar legislation. Because of the bill's discriminatory legislative history and against the backdrop of a national campaign to integrate anti-Muslim animus into mainstream society, Ms. Chaudhry, on behalf of the Public Interest Section, requested that the Board pass the resolution. Upon consideration, the resolution was unanimously passed by the Board.

Chancellor-Elect Kathleen Wilkinson presented new business and announced that she attended a City Council hearing sponsored by Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds-Brown, who is seeking to examine women's involvement on executive boards. Chancellor-Elect Wilkinson attended the hearing as a member of the Forum of Executive Women, but will also monitor the situation for the Association.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sophia Lee
Secretary

Board of Governors
Attendance
May 31, 2012

Voting Members:

Present:

John E. Savoth
Kathleen D. Wilkinson
William P. Fedullo
Sophia Lee
Jacqueline G. Segal
Joseph A. Prim, Jr.
Brandi J. Brice
Marc J. Zucker
Scott P. Sigman
Stacy A. Tees
Kimberly M. Ruch-Alegant
Nikki Johnson-Huston
Gina Furia Rubel
Eric H. Weitz

H. Marc Tepper
Ourania Papademetriou
James A. Rocco
Melanie J. Taylor
Aneesh A. Mehta
Lawrence S. Felzer
Hon. A. Michael Snyder
Brad V. Shuttleworth
Gordon W. Wase
Brad J. Begelman
Robert T. Szostak
Regina M. Foley
Rudolph Garcia

Absent:

Wesley R. Payne, IV
Brian S. Chacker
Pedro Ramos
John Encarnacion
Rachel Branson
George F. Nagle

Scott W. Reid
Rachel Branson
Jennifer Segal Coatsworth
Kay Yu
Michael E. Bertin

Non-Voting Members:

Present:

Michael B. Hayes
Louis S. Rulli
Judy Stouffer

Lawrence J. Beaser
Kenneth Shear

Absent:

Wendy Beetlestone
Scott F. Cooper
Heather Austin
Daniel J. Siegel
Asima Panigrahi
Andrea Malone

Flora Yarnall
Cheryl A. Disch
A. Michael Pratt
Sayde J. Ladov
Abraham C. Reich