

## **Philadelphia Bar Association**

### **Board of Governors Meeting**

**October 27, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 P.M. by Chair Eric Weitz.

Upon consideration by the Board, the minutes of the September, 2014 meeting were corrected to reflect that the Education Law Center raised \$100,000 at its gala. After several other minor corrections to the minutes, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Wesley R. Payne, IV, presented the Financial Report for the period ending September 30, 2014. He reported that the Association is in good financial condition. At present, we are ahead of budget by approximately \$112,000. Expenses are running at about break-even. The Bench-Bar produced good results; although expenses were up, revenues were up more. LRIS is ahead of expected revenues by approximately \$70,000. After consideration, the Treasurer's Financial Report was unanimously accepted by the Board.

The Chair then called upon the Honorable Gerald A. McHugh, Jr., Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, lauding Judge McHugh's personal and professional accomplishments.

Judge McHugh and his wife have adopted the Lee School, Chancellor Fedullo announced. Judge McHugh stated that our support of the schools sends a message to show that we are stepping in where government has not. Judge McHugh endorsed the importance of the cause, stating that the need to support public education is as great a need as is the campaign for equal access to justice.

Assistant US Attorney Robert Reed congratulated the Chancellor for the work that he is doing with the schools, and noting how great the need for the schools is. He introduced Mr. James Williams, Principal of Kensington Health Sciences Academy for remarks regarding the Support Our Schools Program. Mr. Williams indicated that his school is located in one of the poorest congressional districts in the US. 95 % of his students qualify for free lunches. Poverty in a community often creates voids that are filled by other elements of society that are far less savory. It is unrealistic to expect these children to perform like those less disadvantaged. These children cannot be expected to perform on a standardized test according to expected norms, because these children come to him roughly 3 1/2 years below grade level. He stated that the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education has stated that he believes that the solution for schools with similar demographics is that they should just be closed down and disburse those children out into the community to make their own way. What we do can and will change the lives of

many children for the better, opening a world to them that would not have been available without these efforts. More and more internships are necessary for these children to succeed. Internships give the children a powerful message that their efforts will be rewarded financially. Therefore, we have to work to create these internships and to fund them. Mr. Williams stated that it is necessary to raise the bar, and once you do so, the children will respond and will strive to achieve. What is necessary is to say to the children, "I believe in you; I have expectations for you, and I will work to help you meet those expectations."

Chair Eric Weitz then asked Abe Reich to speak.

Abe Reich spoke as Chair of the PNC Award Committee, who announced that the PNC Award this year will go to Mark Aronchick. Mark has distinguished himself throughout his career, but this year, in particular, in his actions in support of same-sex marriage.

The Chair then asked the undersigned to briefly report on the Law School Outreach Initiatives, first asking members of the Board of Governors to sign up to volunteer to go to the law schools to be a part of the outreach initiatives. It was reported that we have met with administration at Penn, Villanova, Drexel, Rutgers, and have also spoken to administration at Temple. We have attended student fairs at Drexel, Villanova, Rutgers, and Temple. Penn has indicated their support of our efforts and has agreed to allow us access to their student activity calendars so that we can find appropriate events for our attendance. Our efforts so far have met with great interest from the students. We are now planning events at the schools in January or February to present programs dealing with both communications styles and a discussion from hiring partners as to what they do and don't want to hear. The undersigned thanked Brad Shuttleworth for his exceptional help during the absence of co-chair Michael Hayes, during his time in training with the JAG corps. We will now have three people actively working to spearhead this initiative.

Chair Eric Weitz then asked the Chancellor for his announcements.

The Chancellor talked about the loss of our dear friend, Brandi Brice, and indicated our intent to create a scholarship in her memory that will be initially funded by Chancellor Fedullo and Al Dandridge. The Chancellor again asked the Board to take a moment of silence to remember Brandi, and to extend a prayer to her family.

The Bench-Bar was a super event. Chair of the Bench-Bar, Shelli Fedullo did a phenomenal job. The Chancellor thanked Shelli, Julia Swain, the sponsors, the staff, those at the Borgata, the presenters, including the judges and lawyers who worked to make the programs successful. In particular he thanked the First Ladies of Rock and Soul and Felix Cavallieri, whose performance made the event truly spectacular.

Relative to the issues going on regarding the Supreme Court a statement was issued during the Bench Bar that was level and neutral; another similar statement will be issued today. It is hoped that these actions will allow this chapter to be ended. However, these events point out the need for merit selection of appellate judges, in particular, and also point out the value and importance of the work of the Judicial Commission and the need for people to listen to the findings of the Commission.

Reporting further, Chancellor Fedullo stated that the Education Summit was a huge success. Dr. Hite did a great job as did others talking about the problems of school funding. Chancellor Fedullo noted that Mr. Williams is a great example of the type of principals that Dr. Hite is bringing to the system. Law firms are continuing to join in supporting the public school initiative. Archer Greiner is adopting a school, as are Pepper Hamilton (thanks to the efforts of Joe Sullivan and Tom Cole), David Hyman and Kleinbard Brecher, Mary Gay Scanlon and Ballard Spahr, and also Debbie Gross.

Last week the Friends of Farm Workers held an event where Joe Sullivan was honored. Then the Trial Lawyers held the Musmanno Dinner where the incredible Bobby Picchini was honored. The Hispanic Bar held an event where the speaker was Judge Quinones. The APABAPA dinner was held with great success with a 9 course meal. Tsiwen Law and Dennis Morikawa were honored as Lawyers of the Year and Sophia Lee was also mentioned and honored.

Yesterday at Mother Bethel Church was a great event. Reverend Tyler and Congressman James Clyburn spoke. The event was a powerful event, in particular because of our very special affinity with Mother Bethel.

Tonight Alan Feldman and his wife Maureen Pelta are being honored by JSpan. Tomorrow the Justinians are honoring Justice Correale Stevens. Also, tomorrow night is the Israel Bonds event honoring Sayde and David Ladov, at which Admiral Joe Sestak will speak.

On November 10 there will be a Chancellor's Forum with Tom Kline and Dean Harris of the new Kline Law School.

On November 25 we are having a Chancellor's Forum with Dean Ron Harris of the Tel Aviv University Law School in co-sponsorship with The Brandeis Law Society.

On November 26 we are presenting a combination Chancellor's Forum and Bar Academy program with former heavyweight champion Larry Holmes and Judge Jack Panella and Judge Jackie Frasier-Lyde called Champions of Negotiation.

Lee Schwartz and Judge Rau and Judge Dubow were honored by The First Judicial District for their pro bono activities.

A Chancellor's Forum on November 6 is being put together by Steve Harvey and will feature Richard Alley.

On November 5, the Justinians and the Criminal Justice Section are presenting the Beccaria Award to Dan Rendine, Sr. and Jr. Dan Rendine, Sr. is 105.

SB 76 is dead for a little bit, but the sales tax issue will come back. Chancellor-Elect Dandridge will have to deal with it next year. We put together a coalition with Bucks, Montgomery, Delaware and Chester County Bar Associations to urge that the bill be taken off the table or killed.

Election Day is coming up. It is incredibly important to go out and vote, and to encourage our clients to vote. Many issues are critical.

Chair Eric Weitz made the following announcements:

The Chair called upon Chancellor-Elect Albert Dandridge to present for consideration the 2015 Philadelphia Bar Association Budget.

Chancellor-Elect Dandridge reported that the budget that is proposed is a balanced budget and is not dramatically different from this year's budget. On the revenue side, we are budgeting less for membership dues which is reflective of that which we have achieved this year. Al and Mark will go out to the large firms to strongly encourage them to do a bit better next year as to membership dues. Al says that we are going to act preemptively to encourage the firms. LRIS continues to do well, so we are budgeting a little less for LRIS because we can't always expect them to perform as they have. The number is conservative, but reachable.

We are planning another Diversity Summit, which potentially will produce a surplus. We are going to partner with The Diversity Law Group to put on this summit. In conjunction with this, Al intends to promote opportunities to women of color.

On the expense side, we feel that LRIS advertising on KYW radio has not been as effective, so we are eliminating that expenditure.

We are going to schedule several Chancellor's Forums and will spend money to put those on.

We are going to spend a little more money on the Executive line item because of the judicial elections.

We are going to spend a significant amount of money updating our website, which needs the update

The budget was accepted by the Board.

Chair Eric Weitz asked Bench-Bar Committee Chair Rochelle Fedullo to report on the 2014 Bench-Bar Conference.

Shelli reported that we had great attendance, the programs were great, and Bar staff is amazing. We had almost 500 people attending. 72 judges attended. This was one of the highest attendances ever. We financially did slightly better than breaking even. Julia Swain did a great job in getting sponsors, as did Tracey McCloskey. The concert was all paid by donations and was not part of the fees at all.

The Chancellor then announced that Rainey Papademetriou and Charlie Klitsch will be honored as being among the architects of the PCHR mediation project on October 29 at Conversation Hall in City Hall.

Judy Berkman announced that the Real Property Section would be holding its annual event on November 6 at Chifa.

Judge Snyder announced that Abe Reich will be receiving the Louis D. Brandeis Law Society Ben Levy Community Service Award at the annual Chanukah Party on December 4 at the National Museum of American Jewish History.

Lee Schwartz announced that the new Family Court is opening November 17. In recognition of that accomplishment, Justice Castille is being honored by the Family Law Section.

Debbie Gross, President of The Bar Foundation, announced that Kevin Mincey and his firm are being honored by the Bar Foundation with the Pro Bono Award which will be presented at The Bar Foundation Andrew Hamilton Gala.

Finally, Chancellor Fedullo indicated that he had received a call from Mayor Nutter to ask the Bar Association to get engaged to create a program to expunge the record of those convicted of small amounts of marijuana possession, under 25 grams. The Chancellor and other Bar Leadership will be meeting with Mayor Nutter, District Attorney Seth Williams, Judge Woods-Skipper, and Judge Neifield and the Public Defender, and Kevin Mincey to put this program together.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Judge A. Michael Snyder (ret.)

Assistant Secretary

**Board of Governors Attendance  
October 27, 2014**

**Voting Members**

**Present:**

William Fedullo  
Albert Dandridge  
Wesley Payne  
Mary Platt  
A. Michael Snyder  
Eric Weitz  
Brad Shuttleworth  
Jennifer Coatsworth  
Ourania Papademetriou  
James Rocco  
Natalie Klyashtorny

Dawn Tancredi  
Rahat Babar  
Lawrence Felzer  
Lauren McKenna  
Kathleen Wilkinson  
Marc Zucker  
Edward Beitz  
Michael Ecker  
Lee Schwartz  
Amara Chaudhry-Kravitz

**Absent:**

Gaetan Alfano  
Jacqueline Segal  
Rachel Branson  
Kay Yu  
Rachel Gallegos  
Rachel Kopp  
Emily Marks  
Jeremy Menkowitz  
Peter Newman

Erin Siciliano  
Maria Bermudez  
James Funt  
Scott Small  
Judy Berkman  
Jeffrey Dashevsky  
Lauri Kavulich  
Howard Goldberg

**Non-Voting Members**

**Present:**

Mark Tarasiewicz  
Lawrence Beaser  
Abe Reich  
Sophia Lee

Rochelle Fedullo  
Kevin Mincey  
Deborah Gross  
Judy Stouffer  
Abraham Reich

**Absent:**

Michael Hayes  
John Savoth  
M. Kelly Tillery  
Heather Austin  
Hilda Thompson

Richard Alonso  
Cheryl Disch  
Louis Rulli