

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors Meeting
October 29, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Chair Marc Zucker. Chair Zucker started the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation in Executive Director Ken Shear's retirement dinner at the Rittenhouse Hotel.

Upon consideration by the Board, the minutes of the September 24, 2013 Board meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Wesley R. Payne IV presented the Financial Report for the period ending September 30, 2013. He reported that, for the month of September, the Association is operating with a budget surplus of \$183,000, thanks in part to a successful Bench-Bar Conference. He also reported that revenues are \$178,000 over budget, with LRIS doing well, and that expenses are coming in under budget by \$6,000. After consideration, the Treasurer's Financial Report was unanimously accepted by the Board.

Chancellor Kathleen Wilkinson began her announcements by echoing Chair Zucker's expression of appreciation that over 300 people were in attendance at Executive Director Shear's dinner, including people who travelled from across the state and the country to attend. She thanked Tracey McCloskey and Mark Tarasiewicz and the Dinner Host Committee led by John Savoth, Alan Feldman, Deborah Willig, Abraham Reich, Frank Devine and herself, as well as the dinner sponsors including USI, Precise and *The Legal Intelligencer*. All of the living Chancellors were part of the Host Committee and Executive Director Shear was presented with the snuff box. Chancellor Wilkinson recognized that it was an honor to serve as Chancellor during Executive Director Shear's last year with the Association.

Chancellor Wilkinson reported that it was another busy month, having participated in the following events: September 25 signing of the bill seeking more women on corporate boards with whom the City does business; September 26 to 27 National Conference of Bar Presidents Executive Council meeting in Columbus, Ohio; September 30 meeting with Superintendent Hite; September 30 Red Mass and St. Thomas More Dinner honoring Justice Fitzgerald; October 1 Philadelphia VIP breakfast to discuss the importance of pro bono work; October 7 testimony before Councilmen O'Brien and Greenlee at a hearing regarding the City's RFP, wherein she testified that indigent representation must be taken seriously and the councilmen recognized the work of the Association on this matter; various press releases and media coverage on the Judicial Commission and its recommendations for retention of judges; October 9 and October 22 Chancellor Forums, including a forum examining international human rights laws; October 17 participation in a naturalization ceremony as a part of Global Philly 2013; October 17 Hispanic Bar Association Scholarship Dinner; October 21 Legal Services Corporation program wherein Joe Sullivan received an award; and October 23 Pro Bono Day at the First Judicial District wherein she provided remarks. Today, a hearing is taking place in Pittsburgh on the formation of an access to justice commission.

Chancellor Wilkinson reported that there was excellent attendance of over 300 participants in the Bench-Bar Conference. She acknowledged the attendance of three justices of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and expressed appreciation for the great programs and speakers. In particular, she acknowledged keynote speaker Duquesne Law School Dean Ken Gormley for his remarks. She also noted that representatives from the Allegheny County Bar and Montreal Bar Association were in attendance.

Education Law Committee Co-Chair Mary Gay Scanlon presented a resolution on youth courts. The concept of youth courts has been around since 1990 to promote restorative justice, wherein matters involving youth offenders with low grade offenses – in Philadelphia, it only entails school-level offenses – would be heard outside of the juvenile justice system. The resolution will give support to the youth court system in our public schools, where the youth courts created so far have had the effect of slowing down suspensions. It will be up to the schools to determine what types of offenses will be heard by the youth courts, but the youth courts should provide opportunities for cutting off bad behavior early and allowing peers to talk to peers. Gregg Volz, who is currently the Director of the Youth Court Support Center housed at EducationWorks, assisted in presenting this resolution. With a friendly amendment to the resolution eliminating any reference to arrests and upon consideration by the Board, the resolution was unanimously passed.

Family Law Section Chair Michael Bertin reported on the activities of the Family Law Section. He reported that the annual meeting is scheduled for December 17 and that the Section has had record attendance at all events throughout the year. The Section has held joint meetings with the Fee Dispute Committee and the Solo and Small Firm Management Committee. The Section has also engaged in outreach to law schools to encourage membership with the Association. Two programs at the Bench-Bar were heavily attended by judges and masters and, next month, a program will be held on PTSD. The Section still has work to do this year, including weighing in on a bill on sibling standing in custody cases and on proposed rules in juvenile court. Chair Bertin also recognized the hard work of Chancellor Wilkinson and thanked her for her dynamic, steady force, professionalism and work ethic.

Probate and Trust Law Section Chair Susan Collings reported on the activities of the Probate and Trust Law Section. She reported that at least 10 committees meet monthly and provided some highlights of the committees' work. The Legislative Committee has been working on a draft statute on how to deal with digital assets upon death. The Tax Committee recently had a meeting on the Medicare tax and the impact of U.S. Supreme Court's DOMA decision on Pennsylvania residents. The Orphans' Court Litigation Committee discussed an important recent Commonwealth Court decision on income taxation of trusts in Pennsylvania. The Publications Committee publishes three issues annually. The Elder Law Committee published a revised guide on guardianship on the Section's website. The Education Committee presented an informative program on "What Doctors Wish Lawyers Knew About Health Care Powers of Attorney," which was well-attended in person and via the web. On building membership, the Section has been committed to developing its younger lawyers, recognizing the long learning curve involved in training in this area of law and has been successful in reaching out to younger

lawyers and to area law students. The Diversity Committee has been working with Naomi McLaurin to reach out to affinity groups to increase membership. Efforts have also been made to contact former Section members as to why they have not renewed their membership.

Chancellor Wilkinson commended both Sections for their excellent work. She also reminded about upcoming events on November 8 with Richard Negrin and Romy Diaz, November 25 with immediate past ABA President Laurel Bellows and Roberta Liebenberg, and December 5 with Jami Wintz McKeon, the new woman managing partner of Morgan Lewis.

Chancellor-Elect William Fedullo presented the 2014 Philadelphia Bar Association budget. He reported the good news that VIP will receive \$100,000 from the budget, an increase from last year, and that the YLD will receive \$25,000, along with a promise that every YLD event will be supported by the Association. Upon consideration by the Board, the budget was unanimously approved.

Chancellor-Elect Fedullo announced that, as Chair of the Campaign for Qualified Judges, a reception for recommended judges will take place later in the evening and he encouraged Board members to attend. The purpose of the reception is to help fund campaigns for judges who have agreed not to raise funds in light of receiving a recommendation for retention.

It was announced that YLD Chair Aneesh Mehta is a new father.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sophia Lee
Secretary

**Board of Governors
Attendance
October 29, 2013**

Voting Members:

Present:

Kathleen D. Wilkinson
William P. Fedullo
Sophia Lee
Wesley Payne
Marc Zucker
Eric Weitz
John Encarnacion
Nikki Johnson-Huston
Jennifer Coatsworth
Ourania Papademetriou
James Rocco
Kay Yu

Rachel Gallegos
Natalie Klyashtorny
Rachel Kopp
Emily Marks
Brad Shuttleworth
John Savoth
Edward Beitz
Gordon Wase
Sara Jacobson
Richard Vanderslice
Christian Petrucci

Absent:

Albert Dandridge
Jacqueline Segal
Mary Platt
Brian Chacker
Gina Rubel
Scott Reid
Rachel Branson
Dawn Tancredi

Brandi Brice
Aneesh Mehta
Barbara Sicalides
Kevin Mincey
Meredith Brennan
Mark Cohen
Howard Goldberg

Non-Voting Members:

Present:

Kenneth Shear
Lawrence Beaser
Judy Stouffer

Louis Rulli
Rudolph Garcia
Deborah Gross

Absent:

Michael Hayes
Justine Gudenas
Heather Austin
Hilda Thompson

Richard Alonso
Cheryl Disch
A. Michael Pratt
Sayde Ladov