

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors
January 29, 2004**

The Chair, Mr. Kovler, called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

The Chair asked for approval of the minutes of the December 2003 meeting. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were approved as submitted.

The Chair deferred the treasurer's report and introduced the Chancellor, Mr. Bevilacqua.

The Chancellor remarked that the retreat was an unqualified success and thanked Mr. Kovler, Mr. Shear and senior staff for their efforts. The Chancellor remarked on his vision speech and reiterated his desire for a Business Court division within the Court of Common Pleas. He noted that a Task Force had been created to examine the work of the Judicial Commission. The Chancellor also announced that Justice Scalia would speak at the first quarterly luncheon in April. The Chancellor also spoke of his efforts to lobby members of the legislature who were present at the Pennsylvania Society meeting in New York. The Chancellor attended the family law and criminal justice section year-end meetings.

The Chancellor was recently a guest on a local radio station and had recently attended the Mayor's inauguration. The Chancellor attended a swearing in of Judge Panella, one of the three new superior court judges. The Chancellor also appeared on Comcast Newsmakers. The Chancellor offered remarks at the first naturalization ceremony of the New Year.

Chancellor Bevilacqua noted that the committee met to strategize the most appropriate manner to commemorate the 50th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*. The Chancellor also welcomed the ABA leadership to Philadelphia at the Constitution Center. On January 19, 2004, the Chancellor attended the Martin Luther King breakfast, hosted by the Barristers Association. The Chancellor noted that he had also recently offered remarks to the paralegal association. The Chancellor met with Chris Lewis of the Judicial Review Board who advised the Chancellor that no complaints come out of Philadelphia.

The Chancellor also attended the Pennsylvania Bar Association mid-year meeting. The Chancellor has been continuing the push for tax reform and the Association has gotten good press in this regard. There has been some lawyer bashing because of the KOZ (Keystone Opportunity Zone). The Chancellor complemented Dan Cirucci on his work with the press. The Chancellor believes that the legal service community is an under-appreciated segment of the tax base noting that reform of the business privilege tax is a fairness issue.

The Chair introduced Mary Platt who gave the Treasurer's report. Ms. Platt noted that the Association had a great year in 2003 and pointed out that there was a positive variance of over \$100,000. As a result, money is being moved to the investment account. Upon motion made and seconded, the treasurer's report was approved

The Chair gave his announcements and thanked all who participated in the retreat. The Chair said surveys requesting evaluation of the retreat are forthcoming. The Chair is trying to attend as many committee and section meetings as possible. Mr. Kovler noted that the arbitration committee will be holding its meetings at the arbitration center. Mr. Kovler reported on the progress of the lawyers' conference center at City Hall noting that several proposals have come in. The Chair anticipates that the cost of creating the conference center will be funding from private sources.

The Chair noted that there would be reports at future meetings from the Tax Section, Young Lawyers Division and an update on rebuilding the Association's web site.

The Chair introduced Kim Jessum, Chair of the Young Lawyers Division. Ms. Jessum advised that the Executive Committee of the YLD had had its first meeting. She noted that the YLD is seeking mentors for its mentoring program as well as volunteers for the Mock Trial competition. She noted that volunteers for the Mock Trial were specifically needed on February 14, 21 and 28

at the Criminal Justice Center. CLE credits are being offered, at a nominal rate, to those who volunteer on these Saturdays.

The Chair introduced the Honorable Anne Lazarus, Chancellor of the Brandeis Law Society. Judge Lazarus announced the creation of the Louis Brandeis Law Society and explained that the Society came about as a result of the divergence of priorities between Tau Epsilon Rho national and the local Philadelphia chapter. Ken Shear was welcomed as the first Friend of the Brandeis Society (a category of membership for non-lawyers).

The Chair introduced Elissa Cherkin of the American Cancer Society who talked about the American Cancer Society's annual Bike-A-Thon which takes place this year on Sunday, July 11th. Members Steve Saltz and Jeff Abramowitz were recognized and communicated their request that the Bar Association sponsor a team for the Bike-A-Thon. Mr. Saltz suggested that the Bar Association form a team who would wear tee shirts identifying the rider as a team member. Mr. Saltz pointed out that often individuals with cancer feel ostracized and a Bar Association team would demonstrate the Association's commitment and would help to reduce that feeling. Mr. Saltz requested the Bar publicize the team in its publications as well as help to promote it in the Legal Intelligencer. He noted that the committee would go to law firms to solicit participation. He asked the Bar to underwrite the costs for the team shirts as well as a food pavilion at the end of the bike route. He also noted that there would be a wall of memory erected at the park where the route ends. Mr. Saltz asked for the creation of a committee.

Past Board Member Rich Seidel offered \$2,000 to underwrite the costs and asked that Stu Agins, his former law partner and Board Member, who died from cancer, be acknowledged. Ms. Ladov matched Mr. Seidel's offer in honor of Mr. Agins and Diane Greitzer, a past board member who also died from cancer.

The Chancellor moved a resolution in support of the creation of a committee to oversee fielding a team to ride in the American Cancer Society Bike-A-Thon. After discussion, upon motion made and seconded, the resolution passed unanimously.

The Chair moved a resolution of appreciation for Larry Beaser's years of service to the organization. Upon motion made and seconded, the resolution passed unanimously.

Bill Fedullo was introduced as Co-Chair of the Task Force on the Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention. Mr. Fedullo explained the work of the Task Force noting that they are exploring other ways to communicate the results of the Commission. Mr. Fedullo asked for input and said he would like to come back in April to further report.

Ken Shear, Executive Director gave the update on Bench Bar Conference, as Mr. Lindy was not available. He communicated that the conference will be held at the Borgata on November 5-6, 2004.

Mr. Seidel was introduced to give an update on the Task Force on the Civil Litigation Section. He noted that the primary questions are whether the section should be created and which committees should be subsumed into a new section. Two meetings have taken place. The Task Force was divided into teams and will be contacting members of the Board for input. This is not the first time this idea has been floated. The timetable for the next report is April.

The Chancellor welcomed Joe Sullivan as Counsel to the Board. The Chancellor also welcomed Buck Buchanan as an appointed member of the Board.

Mr. Giacobetti was recognized and announced that the Justinian Society would honor the Chancellor in February.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Sayde Joy Ladov
Secretary