

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors
July 28, 2005**

Ms. Toland, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

The Chair recognized Judge Jeffrey P. Minehart who gave a presentation on the operation of Philadelphia's gun court. Judge Minehart explained the jurisdiction of the court which covers gun possession cases. Judge Minehart explained that last year 400 to 500 cases were disposed of by gun court.

The Chair requested that the minutes of the June 23, 2005 meeting be approved. Upon motion made they were approved.

Treasurer Mary Platt presented the Treasurer's report for the period ending June 30, 2005. She reported the Treasury is positioned well as of this time and ahead by \$313,976. Upon motion made and seconded, the Treasurer's report was approved.

Chancellor Andy Chirls made a number of announcements. He urged all board members to register for the Bench Bar being held in Atlantic City on September 30 to October 1. He welcomed Larry Beaser back, after a brief medical absence. The Chancellor also advised the Board that the bar is planning many fall events and there is a lot happening on the legislative front.

The Chair recognized Tony Crisci, the Bar Association's Government Relations Counsel. Mr. Crisci explained how the Pennsylvania legislature was not able to finish all business until July 6. There were \$280 million in state budget cuts. However, there were pay raises to the judiciary and legislators. There was passage of a bill on providing court interpreters. However, there currently is no appropriation provided in the bill and there will need to be some further work by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on budgeting.

Mr. Crisci also reported that the Philadelphia Bar Association will have input on judicial selection in Philadelphia with respect to the bill pending before the legislature. Mr. Crisci also discussed that there is a fee bill pending to raise filing fees to cover criminal court expenses and gun court. In addition, he believes there will be more legislation developed in Harrisburg on joint and several liability in view of the Supreme Court's recent decision finding unconstitutional the way existing legislation was passed in this regard. Members of the Board pointed out that the Philadelphia Bar Association has already gone on record as being opposed to changes with regard to joint and several liability.

The Chair reported that the Bar Reporter now features a Section of the Bar Association each month. The Chair also reported that the Association met with PBI last month and they are more willing to give CLE credit even if the program is a luncheon or other program at the Association's location. PBI asked that they be given 30 days notice and is willing to charge a fee of \$25 for an hour of credit. Association members can also participate in luncheon programs without earning CLE or paying this credit.

The Chair announced that the Bar Association's team raised \$80,000 in the recent Cancer Society Bike-a-thon. The Chair reported that the Association is working with the City with regard to common issues. The Chair also reported on recent programs held by Civil Rights, Young Lawyers, Women's Rights, Women in the Profession, and others, all of which were well attended. The Chair announced that there is an upcoming Worker's Compensation event and a VIP outing. The Chair asked Assistant Secretary Wilkinson to remind board members of their pro bono obligations and to return their pro bono forms.

Michael Carroll and Angus Love presented a resolution on behalf of the Civil Rights Committee on the Treatment of United States Military Prisoners. They explained how the Association previously condemned the use of torture or other cruel or degrading treatment. They pointed out that there have been allegations of abuse of human rights of detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad, Iraq under the jurisdiction of United States Military Forces. It was noted that the American Bar Association and many other associations had spoken out against such abuse and it was requested that the Association pass a resolution against such abuse and urging that proper methods be followed. Upon motion, the Resolution was passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Laura Feldman. She gave a brief introduction of a resolution and introduced Dan Weinstock, a Philadelphia attorney. Mr. Weinstock presented a resolution opposing attempts to deport Omar Lezama de la Rosa, his brother-in-law, who recently was incorrectly arrested and charged with a crime in July 2005. After being cleared of any involvement with the crime, all charges were withdrawn. Thereafter, Mr. de la Rosa was detained by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement office which has initiated deportation proceedings arising out of a criminal conviction for assault which occurred in 1999. Mr. Weinstock reported that in 2000, it was determined there was no basis for deportation based on the 1999 conviction. Mr. Weinstock stated that there should be no basis for deportation at this time since Mr. de la Rosa was cleared of any involvement with the 2005 crime. Mr. Weinstock further reported how Mr. de la Rosa had been a contributing member to society. Board members Danny Alva who is Mr. de la Rosa's attorney, abstained from discussion and vote. Alan Feldman and Mark Tanner, partners of Mr. Weinstock, also abstained from discussion and vote. A discussion then took place noting that while this is one individual, these circumstances warranted review of the Board. Upon motion, those voting on it passed the resolution unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 5:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen D. Wilkinson
Assistant Secretary