

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Equal Justice for the Poor Committee/Task Force on Delivery of Legal Services to the Needy II

FROM: David Keller Trevaskis, Esquire

DATE: May 16, 2003

RE: Annual Meeting Meeting Minutes

The meeting began at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, 2003

Attending the meeting were Al Azen, David Baxter, John Bogdanovicz, Hon. Joy Flowers Conti, Susan Emmons, Liz Fritsch, Sylvia Hahn, Hon. Justin M. Johnson, Christine Kirby, Dana McDermott, Sam Milkes, Iva Munk, Milton Munk, Robert Racunas, Lou Rulli, Cynthia Sheehan and Harvey Strauss. Joe Campagna, Norma Chase and newly appointed co-chair James DeAngelo participated via conference call.

Dale Schell and David Keller Trevaskis represented the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Robert Racunas, Co-chair of the Equal Justice for the Poor Committee, presided over the meeting.

Bob Racunas began the meeting by welcoming everyone with special acknowledgment of Judge Joy Flowers Conti of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania and Judge Justin M. Johnson of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Bob informed the group that the Committee was still intending to return to its former name as the Legal Services to the Public Committee as soon as procedural issues were completed. Bob also welcomed Jim DeAngelo as the new co-chair of the Committee and explained the new two-tiered chair position that was recently approved by the Board of Governors. Co-chairs will now step down in alternating years so that one chair is always current with ongoing issues. Bob also voiced the Committee's appreciation for the efforts put forth by Jeff Ernico during his tenure as co-chair. Appreciation was also extended to the members of the Delivery of Legal Services to the Needy II Task Force and its tri-chairs, Hon. Joy Flowers Conti, Jeff Ernico and Cliff Haines for their leadership and assistance in the adoption of the Access to Justice Act.

Bob then introduced a new Task Force on Loan Forgiveness, which has come about as a result of the efforts of Lou Rulli. Lou, Maureen Kelly and Sam Cooper will co-chair the Task Force.

Subcommittee reports were presented. Since the Law School Subcommittee has been waiting for the loan forgiveness task force to get established before formalizing its mission, no report was given for that group.

David Trevaskis gave the local support report and shared the county-by-county map showing areas with strong local pro bono programs and the areas without such programs. Al Azen noted that the IOLTA Pro Bono grant program had targeted grants into a number of the weak areas.

Cathy Carr discussed the Statewide Pro Bono Conference, which took place the day before this meeting. She and others at the meeting noted that the event was widely viewed as a success. Liz Fritsch will take over as chair of the Statewide Conference Subcommittee for 2004.

Bob Racunas asked Christine Kirby to discuss Cy Pres efforts as part of the Development Subcommittee's report. A general discussion of Cy Pres noted that some money has passed to legal services through this procedure but that a lot more needs to be done. Strategies such as making presentations to class action and trust and estate lawyers, as well as to members of the bench, were shared.

Sam Milkes gave a brief update on PLS efforts and shared an article he had written that was published in the April 20, 2003 Harrisburg Patriot-News.

Al Azen reported on the IOLTA status, a mixed bag of news – success in the case before the Supreme Court a positive; lower interest rates and IOLTA collections for the fund a negative. Al also noted that five counties are not collecting the full range of fees the AOPC believes should be collected under the Access to Justice Act and he discussed briefly the litigation going on concerning the new law.

David Keller Trevaskis presented a copy of his Pro Bono Report, which was presented to the Board of Governors earlier in the week. The report focused on David's pro bono activities for the past quarter and will appear on the PBA web page. David also noted that the first pro bono electronic newsletter is scheduled to go out to all PBA members on May 6, 2003.

Dale Schell distributed instructions for joining the Legal Services to the Public listserv. To subscribe, it is necessary to fill out the form found at www.pabar.org/listservform.shtml.

The committee expressed thanks for the excellent work and support of David Keller Trevaskis and Dale Schell of the PBA.

The next meeting is scheduled for Committee/Section Day in Harrisburg on June 6, 2003. A time of 1:30 p.m. for that meeting was chosen by the group and passed on to Diann Stinney at the PBA.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.