Rededication Ceremony

100th Anniversary

July 10, 1995
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

As president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, I am pleased to welcome you to our beautiful historic Bar Headquarters in Harrisburg for this special ceremony in recognition of the association's 100th anniversary.

On July 10-11, 1895, a group of stalwart, visionary lawyers met at Bedford Springs to set forth a blueprint for the young Pennsylvania Bar Association chartered only days before on July 1. These noble gentlemen shared a common goal of forming an association that would become a leader statewide on issues and legislation relating to the legal profession, the justice system and the protection of the rights of all citizens.

Today, we honor our founders, their vision and their commitment to ensuring an effective statewide voice for all lawyers. On this special occasion, we also pay tribute to our distinguished leaders, past and present, who have served this association so honorably and so well.

As we commemorate this 100th anniversary, let us be guided by the same sense of purpose as our founding fathers. Let us dedicate ourselves to a new century in which the Pennsylvania Bar Association will continue to work for justice and will remain committed to upholding the honor and the dignity of the Bar by recognizing our diversity and acknowledging that the strength of our commitment is evidenced by equality within our association.

Arthur L. Piccone, Esq.

PRESIDENT
PENNSYLVANIA BAR ASSOCIATION
THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS

In 1895, the possibility of legislative regulation of the practice of law in Pennsylvania was the catalyst for the establishment of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. In January of 1895 lawyers from across Pennsylvania met in Harrisburg to discuss the possible creation of a statewide organized bar. At that time, there were 39 local bar associations, and the individual counties did not have the resources to combat statewide legislative issues.

Following meetings designed to frame plans for the new association, the Dauphin County Court issued the charter for the Pennsylvania Bar Association on July 1, 1895. The first meeting of the new association was held on July 10-11 in Bedford Springs. John Simonton of Dauphin County served as the first president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

The first office of the association was located at 1612 Market Street in Philadelphia. The PBA was headquartered in Philadelphia until 1934, when the office moved to Harrisburg and Barbara Lutz was hired as the full-time executive secretary. In 1950 the PBA purchased the Maclay Mansion, which became the permanent home of the association. The Bar Center continued to grow with the purchase of the Fleming Building in 1972 and the Chancery Building in 1988. Plans are currently underway to add the Barco Building to the PBA campus.

The bar association has seen many organizational changes throughout its first 100 years. The original governing structure provided for an Executive Committee made up of regional directors and three representatives from each of the eight established zones. The Junior Bar Conference, now known as the Young Lawyers Division, was organized in 1935, and sections
and committees were set up in 1940. By 1959 the PBA was ready for organizational restructuring and created the Board of Governors to replace the Executive Committee. In 1966 the PBA House of Delegates was created, with David F. Maxwell serving as the first chair. A year later, Frederick H. Bolton, the first full-time executive director, was hired.

Throughout its 100-year history, the PBA has played an active role in legislative affairs and legal reform. The PBA supports, among numerous other issues, judicial reform measures, funding for legal services and pro bono participation. Public image has been of concern to members of the association for many years, and recent bar presidents have played an important role in enhancing the image of the profession. As we near the end of the 20th century, we have experienced the rewarding involvement of women and minority participation due in large part to increased awareness of bar leadership to the expanding number of women and minorities in the profession.

From the original 592 charter members, the association has grown to over 28,000 members in 1995. As the Pennsylvania Bar Association begins its second century of service to the profession and public, members are being confronted with new legal reform measures, debates over whether law is a profession or a business, quality of life issues and advancing technological changes. Although society and the day-to-day pressures of practicing law have changed since 1895, the cooperative effort that was the basis for the establishment of the Pennsylvania Bar Association is as relevant today as it was 100 years ago. When the history of the next 100 years is recorded, it shall be our cherished hope that our commitment to fairness and equality will ensure our continued relationship with justice for all.
OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Over the past century, the Pennsylvania Bar Association has been successful in gaining the support of lawyers from across the state to recommend many significant pieces of legislation and court improvements resulting in substantial changes in the practice of law. The first suggested measure, a proposal for the creation of a board of legislative commissioners, eventually evolved into the creation of the Legislative Reference Bureau in 1913.

By 1905, the PBA was instrumental in the adoption of 16 major proposals sent to the Legislature. Additionally, after years of urging from the PBA, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that admission to practice before the court was identical in every court in the state. The PBA also presented to the Supreme Court a draft of uniform rules which were eventually adopted in 1937.

Even though the PBA was at the forefront of supporting a means of reporting complaints of misconduct by attorneys since 1928, it was not until 1972 that the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court was created. Another early position supported by the PBA was merit selection of judges. Today, the PBA continues to advocate merit selection of appellate judges and other means of judicial reform.

The PBA was a principal player in the 1970 creation of the Commonwealth Court. This new court resulted from a 1967 constitutional convention, which had been recommended earlier by the PBA. Other legal reform measures coming out of this convention included a mandatory retirement age for judges and merit-retention elections for appellate judges.

Since the late 1950's, the PBA has been actively involved in continuing legal education. As a result of successful seminars held by the PBA's Committee on Continuing Legal Education, the Pennsylvania Bar Institute was formed in 1965. Twenty-seven years later, the PBA had a major role in the Supreme Court's adoption of Mandatory Continuing Legal Education.

In recent years, the PBA has continued its support of legislative initiatives brought on by the changing needs of society. The PBA has been instrumental in the passage of many pieces of new legislation, including the AIDS Confidentiality Act and Living Will legislation. Both of these initiatives resulted from the work of PBA committees.

The PBA continues to review and draft measures designed to bring about modifications to the present legal system that address ever-changing areas of the law. However, this work could not have been done without the dedicated men and women who volunteer their time in service to the profession.
REMEMBERING

They were dedicated to their purposes. They had great concern. There were no statewide uniform standards for admission to the bar. There were no uniform rules of practice. Initially, to address those concerns, they convened at Bedford Springs on July 10, 1895, and thereafter. Their vision lives on after 100 years. They were the founders of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Through their perseverance and the commitment of the members who followed, the Pennsylvania Bar Association became the impetus for new legislation and educational opportunities. By calling attention to weaknesses in the court system and in the administration of justice, the PBA helped strengthen the justice system of the Commonwealth. Additionally, it provided an opportunity to share with other lawyers good debate, good food and good fellowship.

As Henry Thomas Dolan said in his 75th anniversary history of the association, “It was a strong start by strong men, well chosen.” One hundred years later, it is even stronger and broader, reaching out to men and women, to young and old, to all races and backgrounds and making them all a part of its ongoing efforts to serve its membership and the public.

H. Reginald Belden, Jr., Chair

PBA
Centennial Celebration Committee
PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE PBA

John W. Simonton 1895  J. Paul MacElree 1944-1945
Samuel Dickson 1895-1896  John C. Buchanan 1945-1946
Philander Chase Knox 1896-1897  Edmund C. Wingerd 1946-1947
William U. Hensel 1897-1898  Owen J. Roberts 1947-1948
Stanley Woodward 1898-1899  Eugene D. Siegrist 1948-1949
Lyman D. Gilbert 1899-1900  John Smith 1949-1950
William Scott 1900-1901  Charles F.C. Arensberg 1950-1951
Alexander Simpson Jr. 1901-1902  Edward J. Fox, Jr. 1951-1952
C. LaRue Munson 1902-1903  W.C. Sheely 1952-1953
Nathaniel Ewing 1903-1904  J. Wesley McWilliams 1953-1954
Thomas Patterson 1906-1907  Arthur Littleton 1957
Robert Snodgrass 1907-1908  J. Villard Frampton 1958
M. Hampton Todd 1908-1909  F. Brewster Wickersham 1959
Edwin Smith 1910-1911  Thomas W. Pomeroy, Jr. 1961
George R. Bedford 1911-1912  William A. Schnader 1962
George B. Orlandy 1912-1913  Desmond J. McGee 1963
Hampton L. Carson 1913-1914  C. Brewster Rhoads 1964
Henry J. Steele 1914-1915  William W. Litke 1965
George B. Gordon 1915-1916  W. Walter Braham 1966
Cyrus G. Derr 1916-1917  Gilbert Nurick 1967
William H. Steake 1917-1918  Andrew Hourigan, Jr. 1968
Edward J. Fox 1919-1920  Marvin Comisky 1970
Paul H. Gautier 1920-1921  H. Reginald Belden 1971
A.M. Holting 1921-1922  Alexander Unkovic 1972
Frank C. McGirr 1922-1923  William M. Power 1973
Richard Cochran 1923-1924  Lewis H. Van Dusen, Jr. 1974-1975
George E. Alter 1924-1925  Irwin Benjamin 1975-1976
Harry S. Knight 1926-1927  Carl E. Glock 1977-1978
George Wharton Pepper 1928-1929  Sidney L. Krawitz 1979-1980
Harold B. Beiler 1933-1934  Albert P. Massey 1984-1985
Aaron S. Swartz, Jr. 1935-1936  Ira B. Coldren, Jr. 1986-1987
William M. Hargens 1940-1941  Thomas L. Cooper 1991-1992
Fred B. Gerner 1941-1942  William C. Cassebaum 1992-1993
PBA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

CHAIRS
David F. Maxwell 1966-1968
Richard Henry Klein 1968-1971
James A. Montgomery, Jr. 1971-1973
James W. Stoudt 1973-1975
Carl Rice 1975-1977
Frank B. Boyle 1977-1979
Stanley H. Siegel 1979-1981
John J. Maffei 1981-1983
Carl W. Brueck, Jr. 1983-1985
J. Thomas Menaker 1985-1987
Paul L. Stevens 1987-1989
Frank J. Berasutti 1989-1991
Leslie Anne Miller 1991-1993
John L. Doherty 1993-1995
H. Reginald Belden, Jr. 1995

PBA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Barbara Lutz, Executive Secretary 1920-1968
Frederick H. Bolton, Executive Director 1967-1977
Peter P. Roper, Executive Director 1978-1986
Theodore Stellwagon, Executive Director 1986-

Theodore Stellwagon
PBA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1995-1996
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James F. Mundy President-elect
Vincent J. Grogan Vice-President
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H. Reginald Belden, Jr. Chair, House of Delegates
Jon F. LaFaver Secretary
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Dianne I. Nichols At-large Governor
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Sandra S. Piccone
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Cathi L. Radner
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James Stevens Sell
Kathryn Lease Simpson
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PBA REDEDICATION CEREMONY COMMITTEE

Carroll F. Purdy, Jr., Chair
Allen Levinthal
William H. Nast, Jr.
Leonard Tintner
To enhance the science of jurisprudence; to promote the administration of justice; to see that no one, on account of poverty, is denied his or her legal rights; to secure proper legislation; to encourage thorough legal education; to uphold the honor and dignity of the Bar; to cultivate cordial relations among the lawyers of Pennsylvania; and to perpetuate the history of the profession and the memory of its members.