

# The Value of Being Chancellor? Service

by **Audrey C. Talley**

Why would anyone want to be Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association?  
The hours are long. Much of the time is spent in the public eye. There are complex issues and personalities to consider at every turn. There isn't much room for error. And you can't quit your day job.

Different people offer different reasons for wanting to be Chancellor, especially at this time of the year.

I can't speak for those who were or those who want to be.

I can only say that I sought to be Chancellor so that I could take advantage of the opportunity to serve the profession and the public. That was my reason for seeking the position in the first place and it remained the guidepost that I returned to again and again throughout this year of service.

As I look back over the year I can only say that serving as Chancellor fulfilled all my expectations, and then some. I met so many wonderful peo-



ple, attended so many memorable events and shared so many special moments with colleagues and friends that I feel grateful and deeply enriched. But all of this must be placed in the context of service.

I cannot list all the ways in which your Association served the public and the profession this year. But I can say that two areas of public service that I am very proud of were our efforts to support our public interest community and law-related public interest agencies and our campaign to inform the public about the judicial elections and

the Judicial Commission's ratings.

This year we began to carry out the excellent recommendations of our Pro Bono Task Force Report and we demonstrated our commitment to funding public interest agencies both through the Bar Foundation and the Bar Association. We also developed new ways to encourage pro bono service and we launched the Citizens Pro Bono Awards to honor individuals and law firms that set the pace for pro bono. Last December, I vowed that "we will not relinquish our nationally recognized leadership role in the area of public service." I believe we have enhanced that role during 2003 and I look forward to continued progress.

I also said that we would give Philadelphia voters a comprehensive guide to the judicial elections. This year, for the first time we gave Philadelphians detailed information that explains what we should expect from judicial candidates and what we should look for in judges. In a simple question-and-answer format we explained how the judicial election

system works in Pennsylvania; how and why we rate the judicial candidates and the retention judges and how voters should go about evaluating the candidates. Through our Campaign for Qualified Judges we launched several innovations including an online Voters' Guide, pop-up windows featuring the judicial ratings and mass e-mails to targeted voters. I wish I could say we were successful in electing all "Recommended" candidates. We were not. The political realities of life in Philadelphia did not permit that, especially in a mayoral election year. But we were able to disseminate our message with some success and we also won strong editorial support from the media.

In the area of service to the profession we also made significant strides in 2003.

One of our biggest victories, the end of the New Jersey Bona Fide Office rule, was the result of eight long years of work dating all the way back to 1996. This was the kind of sustained effort

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## Board OKs \$3.55 Million Budget for 2004

by **Jeff Lyons**

The Board of Governors has unanimously approved the Association's \$3.55 million budget for 2004. The action came at the Board's Oct. 30 meeting.

### Philadelphia Bar Association Budget for 2004

#### Sources of Funds

Membership Dues	\$1,912,452
Lawyer Referral Service	567,458

## BAR REPORTER

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lawyers face so many pressures today and often times have no place to turn.

## FRONTLINE

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spanning many Chancellors that serves as a fine model for championing the best interests of our members. Of course in this case the end result was good news for the consumers of legal services as well and that made it doubly gratifying.

This year we also invited our members to take advantage of a new online research service by accessing palawlibrary.com at up to half off the regular rate. Palawlibrary.com is a Pennsylvania-focused legal research tool that provides quick and convenient access to judicial opinions, trial listings, court rules and news archives. If you haven't already tried it, you should.

At the same time we continued to look out for the economic interests of our members by leading the fight against a provision in the business privilege tax that effectively penalizes businesses conducted in partnership versus those conducted in corporate form. This tax inequity impacts many Philadelphia law firms and we presented testimony to the city's Tax Reform Commission on this problem. During the year I also had the opportunity to testify before a legislative committee in Harrisburg about proposed changes in the way group

health insurance rates are calculated. These changes could further contribute to the already rising cost of health insurance for our members. We've spent a great deal of time this year working very hard to try to hold the line on all of your insurance rates, including malpractice insurance. This is an ongoing and difficult challenge but the Association is committed to staying the course.

We also hosted a special half-day Chancellor's Symposium on The Impact of Government Policy on Business. We brought the business and legal community together and heard from many of the city's top business leaders including Lincoln Financial Group Chairman and CEO Jon Boscia and Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce President and former Gov. Mark Schweiker. This was part of our continuing effort to find common ground with the business community and work together on areas of mutual concern.

Of course many of the happiest moments involved sharing the pride of being a Philadelphia lawyer with so many of our members and friends. Hearing from presidential historian Michael Beschloss in April and Dr. Cornel West in June at our successful quarterly luncheons will always be remembered as highlights of the year.

of the candidates who will just start their leadership journey (my jealousy

Likewise, we welcomed a capacity crowd in July for the first substantive seminar ever held in the new National Constitution Center and that program was broadcast on WHYY-TV and other PBS stations.

But no event was more thrilling than the October luncheon presenting the O'Connor and Ginsburg Awards when 1,500 of you came out to see and hear Justice O'Connor and Justice Ginsburg as they spoke so eloquently about their own experiences as women, as lawyers, as jurists and as leaders. As I sat on the dais at that luncheon and looked out over so many smiling faces in the audience I thought about the opportunity to serve the public and the profession and what an honor it has been to lead this Association during the past year.

Last year at this time as I addressed the members at our Annual Meeting I talked about the importance of serving others and how that ethic must always be a vital part of what it means to be a Philadelphia lawyer. Going forward, let us make sure that the words "Philadelphia lawyer" continue to have an active, genuine meaning for the profession and the public by rededicating ourselves to service.

*Audrey C. Talley, a partner at Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, is Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. Her e-mail address is chancellor@philabar.org.*

## BEVILACQUA

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member of the Litigation Section of the American Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association and a former Chancellor of The Justinian Society of Philadelphia.

Always community-oriented, Bevilacqua is a founding member of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce, has served on the boards of several area hospitals and providers, has chaired the Social Justice Commission of the order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA), and is a member of the council of 1000 of the National Italian American Foundation. He has been honored for his work by the OSIA, the City of Altoona, the Philadelphia City Council and the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives.

Bevilacqua lives in Philadelphia with his wife Phyllis. They have two children, Gabriel, 27 and Patrick, 23.

Our 77th Chancellor is ready to think globally and act locally as he leads the Association into 2004. Come hear Gabriel L.I. Bevilacqua at our Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at noon at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue, Broad and Walnut streets.