

**Minutes of the  
Intellectual Property Law Section Council Meeting  
August 9, 2012**

Teleconference  
{Dial In number: 866-906-0123 Pass code: 3752058}

**1. Attendance**

Present: Anna Budde, Adam Strauss (by phone), Karl Ondersma, Tamara Clark, Chad Kleinheksel, Kendra Mattison, David Berry, Kristen Isaacson Spano, James Dottavio (by phone), Ryan Bailey of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE), Jeff Kirkey (ICLE)

Absent: Kristin Murphy, Steven Hansen, Amanda Conti-Duhaime

**2. Call to order**

Chair Anna Budde called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

**3. Introductions**

Each member of the Council in attendance introduced themselves.

**4. Future Meeting Dates**

September 13, 2012, Lexington Lansing Hotel  
October 11, 2012, Lexington Lansing Hotel

**5. Reports**

**A. Treasurer's Report**

Karl Ondersma reported that the balance as of July 31, 2012 is \$115,372.51 and expenses (10/01/2011 – 07/31/2012) were \$83,123.23. (Subsequent to the August 9, 2012 meeting, revised financial reports provided by the State Bar indicated ending fund balance as of July 31, 2012 to be \$114,605.71 and expenses for the noted period to be \$83,890.03.) Detailed financial reports provided by the State Bar are available from Karl on request.

**B. USPTO Elijah J. McCoy Office Grand Opening Gala**

Anna Budde distributed a written report to Council regarding the Gala. Council members express opinion that Gala was well received and the council thanked Anna for her efforts.

**C. Spring Seminar – Final Report**

Ryan Bailey distributed a final report on the Spring Seminar and reported that 267 individuals registered for the seminar, with 240 actual attendees. This was up from the

199 attendees in 2011. Evaluations of speakers were provided with report – with overall evaluation total of 5.8 out of 7.0, which was noted as being consistent with past seminars. Comments indicated that breakout sessions were well received, but evaluations for speakers from breakouts seemed to be lower. General impression was that four speakers for a single breakout topic seemed to be too many, and that two speakers with a moderator seemed to be appropriate for time allotted.

#### D. Summer Institute – Preliminary Report

Ryan Bailey distributed a report on the Summer Institute and reported that there were 154 registrants, with 152 actual attendees. Attendance was down from past summers, even from comparison to past institutes held at Traverse City. Speaker and program evaluations, however, were high, with an overall score of 6.54 out of 7.0. ICLE representatives indicated scores were high relative to programs held by other State Bar sections, but that comparisons of evaluations and attendance with other sections was difficult based on practice area changes, timing and number of seminars.

#### E. Proceedings

David Berry reported that next issue of IPLS Proceedings is intended to be distributed to council next week for review. Ongoing difficulty getting content for issues. Noted that could include a report on Gala and advertisement for upcoming Fall Seminar.

#### F. Writing Competition

David Berry reported on the second year of the writing competition. The first year of the competition resulted in three entries. Efforts to increase awareness of competition were undertaken for second year in order to get more submissions, including through State Bar and direct contacts with professors at Michigan law schools. However, only two entries were submitted for second year of competition. David will send an email regarding winner.

Discussion was made regarding whether IPLS should continue with writing competition. Awards are \$500 – 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$300 – 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and \$200 – 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Comment was that as part of our activities the writing competition has value. Discussed possible options for increasing participation, such as proposing potential topics for writers to select from.

### 5. Continuing Business

1. Opening Gala: Anna believes that all sponsorships have been paid, which is reflected in the large balance currently held by the IPLS. Noted that Ford Motor Co. required a reimbursement based on advance payment made by Ford to secure venue. All other invoices are believed to have been paid.
2. Fall Seminar in October 10, 2012 at St. John's: Jeff Kirkley reported that this is first Fall Seminar since 2009, which had previously been on an every other year schedule and directed toward introductory level presentations. Still working on confirming USPTO lunch speaker. Stephanie Stenberg was coordinating with Jeff to finalize this. Current plan is to coordinate with Robin Evans of Detroit PTO. Program is affordable – registration is open on ICLE website, brochure has gone out, one email sent. Currently have 31 registrants. Previous Fall Seminars had approximately 120-

170 attendees in Troy and 35-40 in Grand Rapids. Recommendations made to ICLE to send information to law schools, and ICLE will investigate communicating information to MIPLA board.

3. Consent Agenda: Anna Budde provided listing of Consent Agenda items, which were items of previously approved and continuing section policies, as follows:
  1. Council members may submit an expense report to the Section for mileage to attend the meetings, including the Annual Business Meeting held at the annual Intellectual Property Law Summer Institute.
  2. The Section will pay expenses for attending Summer Institute for the Section's Chair, Vice Chair, and moderators, and that the Chair and/or Vice Chair should each serve as a moderator of one of the tracks provided the track is in the person's practice area (i.e., a patent lawyer would not have to moderate the trademark track and a trademark attorney would not have to moderate the patent track).
  3. The Section will pay the Summer Institute seminar fee for any council member whose employer will not reimburse the seminar fee, on that council member's written request to the Chair for the Section to do so.

David Berry moved to approve Consent Agenda items, and Kendra Mattison seconded. Approved unanimously.

## **6. New Business**

- A. Pro Bono Program: Karl Ondersma reported that the funds remaining from the Gala are currently estimated to be \$38,888.22. Finalization of payment by all sponsors is ongoing, as well as payment of all invoices by the section and reimbursement to one sponsor, Ford, that paid the advanced deposit on the reservation to the Henry Ford.

IPLS was previously asked by PTO that if there were funds remaining from the Gala to use the funds to establish an IP pro bono program. Anna Budde reported on prior investigation of Minnesota's pro bono program, as well as past effort by IPLS to start a program that was halted when third party entity that was to review inventions to determine those that merited assistance was disbanded.

Dave Berry and Jim Dottavio volunteered to investigate possibilities for IPLS pro bono programs.

- B. Relationship with Detroit Patent Office: Inquiry as to how our section can support the Detroit Patent Office. Suggestion was made to invite Robin Evans from Detroit Patent Office to attend a meeting and discuss how this might be accomplished and

what needs the Detroit Patent Office might have. Karl Ondersma will contact Robin Evans to extend invitation to attend a future meeting.

- C. 2013 Spring Seminar: Monday, March 25 at Kellogg Center in Lansing. Deadline for information of speakers and topics is October 15, 2012. Six to eight sessions for full day, including a lunch speaker.
  - a. ICLE will extend invitations to USPTO to provide a speaker for both the patent and trademark sessions. Regarding patent track speaker, request will be to provide speaker on topic of new rules.
  - b. Discussed potential lunch speakers. Dave Berry will extend invitation to John Welch.
  - c. Dave Berry will contact Robert Stohl as a possible speaker.
  - d. Discussed potential topics for spring seminar.
  - e. ICLE will provide listing for next meeting of proposed topics as well as listing of past topics for planning purposes.
  
- D. 2013 Summer Institute: ICLE has requested that speakers and topics be set by October 31, 2012.
  
- E. IPLS Proceedings:

Dave Berry will continue to work on IPLS Proceedings for the upcoming year, with assistance from Tamara Clark and Chad Kleinheksel. All council members should consider suggestions on obtaining articles.

Next issue will publish after Labor Day, with a target of publishing three times per year. Following issue would then be set for approximately Christmas, with materials completed by approximately Thanksgiving. Third issue would target the March/April time frame.

Noted that the State Bar has been transitioning from paper to electronic publications, so we will need to consider this transition for future publications.
  
- F. Writing Competition

Dave Berry will consider proposal for next month regarding whether to continue, or potential options to consider.

## **7. Formal Adjournment**

Motion: by Kristen Spano to adjourn. Seconded by Chad Kleinheksel. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.