

Intellectual Property Law Section

Minutes of August 9, 2007 Meeting

Call to Order and attendance: The meeting was called to order by council chair Laura Slenzak at 9:30 am. In attendance were council members Denise Glassmeyer, Laura Slenzak, Jake Grove, Jennifer Warren, Kevin MacKenzie, Don Wallace, Julia Voutyras. Also present were Stephanie Law, Lora Freeman and Lynn Chard of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education.

Actions of Council:

1. Council reviewed the reimbursement requirements for attendance of council members at Council sponsored events. Given the solvency of the Council treasury and the desire of the council to assure that no member is unduly burdened due to their service on Council, the Council considered and adopted a policy for reimbursement of members of Council for the registration costs for all Council sponsored seminars. Council members must apply to the secretary treasurer for reimbursement following the guidelines outlined by the State Bar of Michigan.

2. Council also reviewed the policies regarding mileage reimbursement for attendance at Council meetings. Council members can apply for mileage reimbursement for attendance at Council meetings and for attendance at Council-sponsored seminars. Council members must apply to the secretary treasurer for reimbursement following the guidelines outlined by the State Bar of Michigan.

3. Council welcomed Lora Freeman, ICLE seminar content coordinator, and Stephanie Law, ICLE seminar site coordinator to the meeting along with ICLE Director Lynn Chard.

4. Council remains aware that the popularity of the Spring Seminar means that we are in danger of outgrowing the Kellogg Center venue. In order to assist us in determining whether another venue was feasible, Stephanie Law of ICLE presented geographic data about the Seminar attendees. Two-thirds of the attendees came from southeastern Michigan; with 1/3 coming from other areas of the state. After reviewing the data, council indicated its desire to keep the Spring Seminar in the Lansing area if possible.

- **Additional action needed:** Determine whether any alternate venues are feasible and lock in contract for site for 2009 Spring Seminar.

Following the request of Council in April 2007, Stephanie Law circulated a listing of highly rated speakers at the Summer and Spring seminars for us to study and help determine speakers and topics to revisit.

- **Actions required by council:**

Forward copy to absent members

Determine any that we recommend inviting back for either seminar.

6. Council considered a suggestion by Laura Slenzak to consider having vendors or non-law firm sponsorship at one or more of our Seminars. This was prompted by the request a legal recruiting firm to sponsor the Fall Seminar. While this is a worthwhile idea, at the present time, Council did not see the need to accept financial sponsorship for the Fall seminar. Some Council members expressed concern that having a legal recruiter sponsoring the Fall Seminar would discourage some firms or companies from sending their associates, admins and/or legal secretaries. Given the late date, it was decided to decline this offer for the Fall Seminar.

Continuing Action Items:

1. Fall Seminar on PCT Basics -- Occurs October 22 and 23 and is geared toward paraprofessionals, admins and newer attorneys. Lora Freeman reports that all is on schedule and that 10 registrants have already pre-registered. Four to five firms have indicated interest. Mailings will go out by the end of the month. Council moderators will be Mark Davis and David Wisz

- **Needed:** Council members to host the speakers Carol Bidwell and Micheal Neas on Sunday night 10/21 in Troy and Monday night 10/22 in Grand Rapids. So far Denise Glassmeyer and Kevin MacKenzie have indicated that they can act as hosts in Troy.
- **Future action at upcoming meeting:**
 1. Confirm moderators.
 2. Confirm hosts for the two dinners.
 3. Brief report from ICLE on registration and event status.

2. Summer Seminar 2008 -- The 34th Annual Intellectual Property law Summer Institute will be held at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island July 17-19, 2008 and will be moderated by Council member Denise Glassmeyer.

- **Actions taken:**
 - Council confirmed the desire to ask Jon Steel and Kate Spelman to return to speak at the Summer Seminar. Tom Irving was also highly regarded as was his colleague Brian Diner. Given the good reception that both speakers receive, Council decided to alternate its invitation for Patent Update speaker between Mr. Diner and Mr. Irving.
 - It was also decided to invite David Bernstein to return as the trademark update speaker and to inquire whether Marybeth Peters was available to provide a specialized topic on Copyright practice
 - Thursday advance sessions were well received and will be continued. Mr. Diner will be asked to give one and ICLE will investigate whether a joint session with Kate Spelman and Marybeth Peters would be feasible.

- ICLE will also inquire about room availability for any additional advance sessions.
- Because China IP was so ably discussed at the most recent Summer Seminar, there was some discussion about continuing the topic at the Spring Seminar and seeking a Speaker and topics centering of EPO law at the upcoming Summer Seminar.
- **Speaker topics** It was agreed that, where possible speaker topics for Spring and Summer sessions would be developed jointly and would be assigned to the respective Seminar based on timeliness and Council's general understanding of the expectations of the attendees. Many of these topics these topics are captured on a working document that is being circulated and modified by the Council members. Council is happy, once again, to have the experience and suggestions of ICLE as these decisions are being made.
- **Additional actions needed at upcoming meeting:**
 - Additional speaker and topic suggestions with particular emphasis on non-patent track.
 - Confirm Update speakers' acceptances.
 - Discuss Corporate Council Luncheon speaker and Women's Breakfast speaker. Can one of our seminar speakers also serve in this capacity?

3. Spring Seminar 2008 – The annual Spring Intellectual Property Law Seminar will be held at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing on Monday, March 17th. The co-chairs will be David Wisz and Jennifer Warren. Julia Voutyras and Denise Glassmeyer agreed to assume responsibility for the Law Student Round Table Session.

4. Proceedings of the IPLS

An issue should be ready for distribution before the Fall Seminar

Deadline and future publication dates are as follows:

January 15 for the February '08 issue; and

April 15 for the May '08 issue.

5. Training program for new patent practitioners (aka "Patent Basics")

Council has discussed the possibilities of providing a Patent Basics training seminar at a suitable Michigan location. The target audience would be attorneys new to patent practice; i.e. those with experience of five years or less.

Jake Grove has discussed this with Patent Resource Group. PRG indicates it could provide a one-day patent course. The cost is expected to be between \$800.00 and 900.00 per person with PRG assuming the responsibility and costs for promotion booking etc. The topic under consideration is "Crafting and Drafting Applications and Amendments".

Actions taken: Council indicated that Jake Grove should contact PRG and indicate that we would like to investigate a date in early February 2008.

6. Next Meeting – It was agreed that the next meeting will convene at Christy's Bistro in the Sheraton Hotel, 925 South Creyts Road, Lansing MI at 9:30 am. Council members will be notified of any changes to this schedule by email.

Adjournment -- The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 am.

Respectfully submitted

Denise Glassmeyer