

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW SECTION**

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2011**

A meeting of the State Bar of Michigan's Labor and Employment Law Council was held on December 15, 2011 at the Birmingham Country Club, Birmingham, Michigan.

PRESENT: Timothy Howlett, Robert Boonin, Daniel Swanson, Darcie Brault, Jeffrey Steele, Brian, Koncius, Gary Francis, Susan Hartmus and John Runyan.

ABSENT: Lawrence Murphy, Bradley Glazier, Ronald Robinson, Gloria Hage, Niraj Ganatra, Richard Mack and Dennis Boren.

The meeting was chaired by Timothy Howlett, Acting Chair of the Council.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes to the November 14, 2011 meeting of the Council were APPROVED as read. (Moved by Darcie Brault, Seconded by Jeffrey Steele)

2. **CHAIR'S REPORT:**

The Chair noted that the Council should be particularly pleased that it has been able to offer significant events on a quarterly basis to the Section's members.

With respect to the Holiday Party and the Mid-Winter Meeting, special appreciation was extended to Darcie Brault for her work in planning and marshalling both events. Appreciation was also extended to Dan Swanson and Susan Hiser for their work on the Holiday Party, and to Jeffrey Steele for his work on the Mid-Winter Meeting (particularly with respect to his negotiations with the DAC).

The Chair also reported that Varnum has agreed to host the next Council meeting at its Novi Office. Discussion as to the locale for future meetings will be held at that meeting.

3. **HOLIDAY PARTY:** As reported by the Committee, the entertainment for the party (which was to immediately follow the Council meeting) will be a short performance by the barbershop quartet, the Forum Shoppers. It was also reported that a record pre-registration of nearly 130 has been received for the event, with revenue expected to exceed \$5,850. Last year the revenue was closer to \$4,000. The locale, later date, shorter program, 2 e-blasts and a postcard contributed to this improved attendance level.
4. **MID-WINTER MEETING:** Jeffrey Steele reported that the plans for the January 20-21, 2012 meeting at the Detroit Athletic Club are nearly finalized. Initially, he reported, the DAC proposed dramatic price increases for the event. Ultimately, the DAC agreed to hold the price at that charged during the prior few years, with only some elements being nominally

increased. A motion was made by Jeffrey Steele, seconded by John Runyan, to authorize Daniel Bretz to sign the contract with the DAC on the Council's behalf. Motion PASSED.

As for the Saturday program, in addition to the Update Rally, there will be panel of judges discussing "Behind the Bench: Best Practices before State and Federal Judges." The panel will include: Hon. Nancy Edmunds (ED Michigan), Hon. David Viviano (Macomb County) and Hon. Philip Rodgers (Grand Traverse County). Dan Swanson will serve as the moderator. E-blasts with registration forms have been sent out. An article in Law Notes will promote the event, as well as notice in the Bar Journal. Registration deadline is January 6, 2012.

Darcie Brault reported that for the Friday dinner, Hon. Claudia House Morcom has accepted the Council's desire to recognize her work on civil rights by issuing a special award, the Award for Courage and Vision, to be presented by Steve Babson, author of *The Color of Law*. Mr. Babson will also sell and sign copies of his book during the After-Glow. In addition, the family of Past-Chair George N. Wirth will be present to accept the Distinguished Service Award for George N. Wirth, *in memoriam*.

A motion was made by Robert Boonin, seconded by Dan Swanson, for the Council to reimburse any speaker, Council member or judges attending the Mid-Winter Meeting who live more than 75 miles from the DAC. PASSED. The Council will also pay for Judge Rodger's hotel room at the DAC for Friday night.

5. **SPRINGBOARD:** Susan Hiser reported that the Committee will hold a planning meeting immediately prior to the Mid-Winter Meeting, at the DAC. The current plan is to hold the event at the Big Rock on Thursday, June 14, 2012. Susan Hiser and Brian Koncius will check with the Big Rock as to its availability for that date.
6. **WEST-SIDE EVENT:** Discussion was held regarding the desire to repeat the holding of an event on the west-side of the state, similar to that held last year. The Chair will approach Larry Murphy and Brad Glazier regarding the potential for such an event.
7. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Daniel Swanson reported that the State Bar has just hired a new auditor and that has resulted in a delay of nearly two months for the monthly financials for October and November to be issued. Some preliminary figures were received with respect to the Fund Balance and Dues. It was noted that current dues revenue is almost \$7,000 less than last year, but the State Bar indicates that typically only 90% is posted by this time of year. Daniel Swanson will inquire of the State Bar as to the membership counts as compared to last year, and the extent that there are new members who have had their first year of dues waived per the newly amended bylaws.
8. **LAW NOTES:** No report regarding Law Notes was provided.
9. **OLD BUSINESS:** No old business was presented to the Council.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

John Runyan indicated that the Bar Journal is planning its 2013 editions, and inquired as to whether a request should be made for an issue to be dedicated to employment law. The Council indicated a desire for such an issue. John Runyan will check with Bar Journal to determine if that will be possible.

Discussion of the website was discussed. Tim Howlett noted that it needs updating and that he will follow-up with the State Bar to do so.

11. NEXT MEETING: The next Council meeting will be held on January 9, 2012 at Varnum's Novi Office.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Boonin, Secretary