

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

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
November 14, 2011**

A meeting of the State Bar of Michigan's Labor and Employment Law Section was held on November 14, 2011, at the Varnum offices in Novi, Michigan.

PRESENT: Timothy Howlett, Susan Hiser, Gloria Hage, Ron Robinson, Gary Francis, Greg Ulrich (Board of Commissioners from State Bar; Liaison for our Section)

PRESENT BY TELEPHONE: Jeffrey Steele, Richard Mack, Dan Swanson, Darcie Brault

ABSENT: Robert Boonin, Lawrence Murphy, Brad Glazier, Brian Koncius, John Runyan, Niraj Ganatra, and Dennis Boren

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

1. **Approval of Agenda** – The Council approved the Agenda.
2. **Approval of Minutes** – (October 10, 2011 Council Meeting) – Moved by Susan Hiser, support by Gary Francis; the minutes for the meeting were approved as submitted.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – Dan Swanson stated that he does not have the Treasurer's Report for this month because he has not received the necessary information from the State Bar. He will have both this month's and last month's Treasurer Reports at our next meeting.
4. **Chair's Report**
 - a. Tim Howlett advised the Council that he had met with Heather Anderson of the State Bar to discuss issues related to his unexpected assumption of his new role on the Council. He received materials from Ms. Anderson and will wait to go through them at the next Council meeting when there are more members present.
 - b. Tim Howlett reported that State Bar offices will be closed between Christmas and New Years this year. For the Mid-Winter meeting, any program materials that we need the State Bar to copy must be presented to them prior to the holidays.
5. **Bernard Gottfried Memorial Labor Law Symposium October 12, 2011 WSU** – Tim Howlett reported that we had previously decided to pay for 10 scholarships to the Labor Law Symposium and that a condition to obtaining the scholarships was that the recipients join our Section. Unfortunately, George had already communicated to Wayne State University that we would be willing to sponsor up to 20 and hadn't had a chance to discuss the condition of Section membership, so 17 students attended the Symposium anticipating a scholarship. Because of the misunderstanding, we discussed paying for all

17 this year and allowing them to become members of our Section without paying the membership fee, so long as they are currently members of the Student Section. A motion to reimburse Wayne State University \$425.00 to cover the cost of the 17 attendees was made by Gloria Hage, support by Ron Robinson, and passed by the Council members present. Gary Francis, who attended the conference as a speaker, provided information regarding the substance of the conference.

6. **December 15th Holiday Party** – The Section Holiday Party will be held at the Birmingham County Club on December 15, 2011. Susan Hiser reported that the Forum Shoppers (Judge Giovan's quartet) will be the entertainment for the evening. Darcie Brault reported that we have decided to pay \$85 to have an employee of the Birmingham County Club sell tickets at the door. Dan Swanson will do the publicity for the event, and has already sent out an e-blast.

7. **Mid-Winter Meeting, January 20-21, 2012**

- a. Darcie Brault reported on the presentation of a "Visionary Award" to the Honorable Claudia House Morcum and the Honorable Anna Diggs Taylor for their work early in their careers in the Civil Rights movement, as documented by Steve Babson in his book, "The Color of Law." Steve Babson will set up the history underlying the awards during the Friday dinner, and Darcie Brault will present an award to Judge House Morcum. Judge Taylor declined the award and will not be in attendance at the dinner. Steve Babson will give a short talk about his book and then be available after dinner to sign copies. Darcie Brault will introduce Steve Babson and will present the award.
- b. The Distinguished Service Award will be presented to George Wirth. Ron Robinson updated the Council by stating that George's son, Kevin, will accept the award on George's behalf, and both Kevin and his mother will be there, and possibly other family members. Ron will present the award.
- c. Jeff Steele reported that he has been in correspondence with the Detroit Athletic Club for the event. He is working on tweaking the menu since the prices have been raised on several menu items, particularly on coffee. Regarding Saturday's program, Jeff is working with Gary Francis and John Runyan to finalize the details. They have decided to have a panel of Judges speak to guide litigants in drafting motions, oral argument, and other issues. Suggestions have been for the Judges to discuss likes and dislikes, effective and non-effective tactics, and pet peeves. The committee is considering reaching out to Judge Edmunds of the United States District Court and to Judge Shelton of the Washtenaw County Circuit Court. Some discussion was held as to whether to have a Magistrate Judge or possibly a Judge from the Western District of Michigan serve on the panel. Jeff suggested that if anybody has ideas for a particular Judge to email those ideas to him. Greg Ulrich informed us that the State Bar can do a survey of at the time of registration, whereby registrants can weigh in as to what topics they

would like discussed and those topics can be presented to the Judges in advance of the program.

8. **Westside Event** – No formal report was provided.
9. **SpringBoard** – Susan Hiser advised that the SpringBoard Committee typically meets just prior to the Mid-Winter Meeting in a room at the DAC to kick off discussions for this year's SpringBoard. They intend to do the same this year.
10. **Lawnotes** – No formal report was provided.
11. **Old Business** – No formal report was provided.
12. **New Business** – No formal report was provided.
13. **Next Meeting Date: December 15, 2011 at 4 p.m. at Birmingham County Club** – At this meeting, the Council will need to make certain that everything is in place for the Mid-Winter Meeting.
14. **Adjourn** – The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hartmus Hiser
Acting in the absence of Robert A. Boonin, Secretary