

ELDRS Section Meeting  
February 2, 2019  
State Bar of Michigan Office, 306 Townsend, Lansing, MI 48933

**Attendance:** In person - Christopher Smith\*, Kelly Quadorkus\*, Christine Caswell\*, Robert Mannor\*, Susan Chalgian\*, Ray Harris\*, Howard Collens\*, Theresa Rich\*, Tracey Rowens\*, Maria Messina Wiersma\*, Todd Tennis, Jean Doss, Erin Mortenson, John Roy Castillo, David Kerr, Catherine Jacobs; by phone - Nick Ryan\*, Sara Schimke\*, Angela Hentkowski\*, Greg Kish\*, Jackie Rygiel-Sprague\*, Terri Winegarden\*, Liz Vincent\*, Sanford Mall\*, the Hon. Douglas Wozniak, Harley Manela, John Payne, Don Rosenberg, Lisa Anderson, Beth Swagman, Krystal Danielak, Jim Steward, Erma Thomas, Samuel Lebowski, Ryan Long, Robert Longstreet, David Sprague, Paul Sturgul

\*Denotes voting member

Chair Chris Smith called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Theresa Rich made a motion and Howard Collens seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Kelly Quardokus made a motion and Maria Messina Wiersma seconded to approve the December 2018 minutes. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Bob Mannor reported that ELDRS expenses are growing and that the Section needs to look at costs, especially the fall conference. Chris asked Bob to have a report on the Section's income and the 2019 budget for the March meeting.

**Spring Conference** – Harley Manela reported that author Ron Fornier would be the lunch speaker for the spring conference. Maria Messina Wiersma and Tracie Rowens are working on a discounted rate for new bar passers and attorneys and possibly a breakfast program. Bob Mannor presented materials for sponsorships and asked members to reach out to their contacts. Harley suggested the Section could switch back to contributors if we can't get sponsors, but Bob thinks we could do both.

**Membership Committee** - Tracie Rowens and Maria Messina Wiersma reported that they worked incredibly hard to find information on new Bar passers but eventually sent them a welcome message along with a promotion for the Spring Conference. The promotion will be e-blasted to Young Lawyers as well. Chris Smith said he would look to Council members to serve as ambassadors to the Young Lawyers. Tracie reported that the committee hoped to have a new lawyer breakfast and VIP seating for them.

Maria reported that there has been great success with the webinars. For the first one, 70 people registered and 49 attended. For the second one, 104 registered 64 attended. Kelly is working on one for processing PEME. Recordings are available, but we have to figure out where to store them. The advantage to the webinars is that they add value to Section membership and can be added as the need arises.

**Administrative Law Committee** - Sara Schimke and Greg Kish reported that they will be doing a webinar on February 21 reviewing changes in the BEMS. They also sent an e-mail this week to look at how the

Section may be advocates for DHHS on caseload and the doling out of caseloads. There is a serious problem with how many people are unrepresented.

**Lunch Motion** - Chris Smith asked for a motion to approve reimbursement of lunch for the legislative training following today's Council meeting. Bob Mannor so moved and Kelly Quardokus seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Legislative Committee** - Todd Tennis reported that a record number of bills passed very rapidly during the Lame Duck session. Michigan now has a lot of new legislators, and Todd and Jean Doss are trying to get to know people in the governor's office. Committee assignments have been made, and Rep. Doug Wozniak (R-Shelby Twp.), an ELDRS member, is on a number of key committees. Todd and Jean have been working to set up a meeting with the new DHHS director, Robert Gordon. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer will share her policy initiatives during the Feb. 12 state of the state. Her proposed budget will also show where her priorities are.

An issue already listed as a priority from legislative leaders and the governor is no-fault insurance reform. Also, the Section discussed SB77, which would allow for electronic monitoring devices to be placed in nursing homes with the permission of the patient and the patient advocate.

David Kerr was acknowledged for his work on the committee that wrote the directed trustee legislation. The legislation was supported by ELDRS and went through the legislative process with no negative votes.

Chris Smith got 47 responses on to his survey asking about Section priorities and getting rid of *Jensen* is the first priority while waiver issues were second.

The Legislative Committee will host a Legislative Day in either late May or early June. Chris Smith said the committee is asking for \$2,500 for breakfast, lunch, a meeting room, and materials. Howard Collens made a motion that the Section approve the spending of up to \$2,500 for meals, a meeting room, and materials for an ELDRS Legislative Day to be held this spring. Bob Mannor seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Litigation Committee** - Ray Harris had no report as there are no current cases pending. Chris Smith asked for funding of the NAELA foundation be promoted at the Spring Conference.

**Fall Conference Committee** - Angela Hentkowski reported that the committee is interested in having Mark Carlson as the keynote speaker. He is asking for a \$3,000 stipend instead of the usual \$2,500. Carlson is the pioneer of person-centered treatment in nursing homes. Kelly Quardokus made a motion to approve an honorarium of \$3,000 for Mark Carlson, which was seconded by Maria Messina Weirsma. Motion passed unanimously.

**Bylaws Committee** – Howard Collens reported that the committee will be meeting this month.

**Newsletter Committee** – Christine Caswell reported that because of the extremely cold weather, the Bar was closed, delaying the registration link for the Spring Conference. Hopefully the newsletter will go out in the next week.

**Miscellaneous** – ELDRS will continue with gotowebinar for now, while waiting to see how the probate section does with Zoom. Ray Harris made a motion, seconded by Susan Chalgian, to pay \$1,068 for gotowebinar through February 2020. Motion passed unanimously.

Chris Smith reported that there are problems with SBM Connect so he has no desire to take down the Modern Firm site at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.