

ELDRS Section Meeting
November 7, 2018
State Bar of Michigan Office, 306 Townsend, Lansing, MI 48933

Attendance: In person - Christopher Smith*, Kelly Quadorkus*, Christine Caswell*, Robert Mannor*, Caroline Dellenbusch*, Nick Ryan*, Susan Chalgian*, Ray Harris*, David Kerr, Catherine Jacobs, Beth Swagman, Erin Mortenson, John Roy Castillo; by phone - Howard Collens*, Angela Hentkowski*, Greg Kish*, Tracey Rowens*, Maria Messina Wiersma*, Jackie Rygiel-Sprague*, Liz Vincent*, Terri Winegarden*, Harley Manela, John Payne, Don Rosenberg, Ryan Long, Lisa Anderson, Laurie Brewis, Kimberly Browning

*Denotes current council member

Chair Christopher Smith called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

1. Roll Call and Attendance were taken by Christine Caswell.
2. A motion was made by Caroline Dellenbusch and seconded by Nick Ryan to adopt the amended agenda. Motion passed.
3. A Motion was made by Ray Harris and seconded by Susan Chalgian to approve the October Minutes. Motion passed.
4. Treasurer's Report - Bob Mannor did not have a report as it is the year-end audit for the State Bar and the report is not yet available.

Committee Business

5. Fall Conference Committee - Angela Hentkowski reported that the conference went well, but there are still some issues with Mission Point and the final bill. Chris Smith, Sara Schimke, and Angela will negotiate the final pricing with the hotel. Chris commented that it was a great conference and thanks to Angela and everyone on the committee. The next Fall Conference will be October 2-4, 2019 at Crystal Mountain. Discussion was held about Amanda Murray co-chairing the committee with Angela in 2019 and taking over as the chair for 2020.

Spring Conference Committee - On October 5, 2018, an e-mail motion was made by Angela Hentkowski and seconded by Caroline Dellenbush to authorize Harley Manela to plan, organize, execute contracts, and any other power necessary to manage the Spring Conference for a tentative date of Friday, March 15, 2019 at the Inn of St. John's, and authorizing a \$1,000 payment made payable to Mall Malisow & Cooney PC for organizing the conference. As required by the Section bylaws, a three-day waiting period was held, and the motion passed on October 8.

Harley Manela has since signed a contract with the Inn of St. John's to hold the Spring Conference on March 15, 2019. Discussion was held about sponsorships, vendors, and the rates for lunch and attendees. Bob Mannor moved and Caroline Dellenbusch seconded to approve the ELDRS 2019 Spring Conference to be held on March 15, 2019 at the Inn of St. John's in Plymouth and to set registration fees at \$150 for section members, \$200 for non-section members, and no fee for attorneys from non-profits (who will have to pay for their own lunch). Motion passed. Bob Mannor and Jackie Rygiel-Sprague will help Harley find sponsors and vendors.

6. Membership and Education Committee - Maria Wiersma and Tracey Rowens discussed the committee's three goals for 2018-2019:
 - Back to Basics Webinar Series – Because advanced courses are taught by other organizations, ELDRS will host monthly webinars on the basics of elder and disability rights law. Both attorneys and their staff will be able to attend.
 - Increase membership by 50. The current membership base is 1,172 (via State Bar demographic report).
 - Determine opportunities to increase membership with emphasis on increased diversity.

Discussion was held about possible topics and outreach to new attorneys.

7. Litigation Committee - Ray Harris reported that the committee has not had much activity lately. The fund has \$5,600 at this point. Letters will be sent to former donors who did not donate in 2018. The committee is looking for a disability related case that ELDRS can support.
8. Legislation Committee - Susan Chalgian thanked Kelly Quardokus for all of her work establishing the committee. Susan moved and Kelly seconded that the section support HB 6129, 6130, 6131, 5362, 5398 as written, removing trust protectors and creating director trustees, allowing different people to perform different tasks for the trust with limited liability, and also updating certificates of trust.

A roll call vote was held with 14 approving, 4 absent, and one unable to vote due to technical difficulties. There were no abstentions or no votes. Susan expects the legislation will pass in February or March. Chris said that the Section needs to set its legislative priorities for the next session. Capitol Services will be conducting a legislative training for the Section, and there will a legislative day in March or early April.

9. Administrative Policy Committee - No report. The committee will have discussions with DHHS and will respond as items come out.
10. Bylaws Committee - Howard Collens will be joined by John Roy Castillo and Caroline Dellenbusch in reviewing the bylaws.

11. Newsletter Committee - Christine Caswell – A motion was made by Bob Mannor and seconded by Kelly to pay Caswell Law PLLC, \$500 and edition of the Section newsletter, totaling \$2000 for the calendar year. Motion passed with Christine Caswell abstaining.
12. Technology - Erin Mortenson is serving as the technology person for the Section.
13. SBM Connect – Chris stated that the Section is being encouraged by the Bar to move to SBM Connect. This will be discussed at the next meeting and Chris will reach out to the probate section to see how it has been working there.
14. Misc. Business – Chris said that he expected every Council member to be on a committee and will follow up with members to see which committees they choose. Committees are also open to non-members and staff.

Next Meeting: December 1, 2018: State Bar of Michigan, 306 Townsend St, Lansing, MI 48933