STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN - LITIGATION SECTION
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 30, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

Conference Call Number: 866-906-0123
Passcode: 7904817#

The following council members were present by telephone:

Dari Bargy
Stephen Fox
Dan McGlynn
Gary Peterson
Chris Hullinberger
Michael Donnelly
Bernard Schaefer
Sherry Taylor
Mike Cooney
Jay VandeWyngearde

Ex Officio: David Centner (voting)

Council members absent: Al Dib, Gary Springstead, Thad Morgan, Marcy Tayler, Mike Butler, Dave Moffitt

Guests: Lisa Gerhin, ICLE

I. Call to Order, Welcome and Announcements – Dari Bargy

Chairman Bargy called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

II. Minutes – Minutes of November 1, 2012 Meeting

A request for approval of the November 1, 2012 meeting minutes was made by Chairman Bargy. Secretary Mike Donnelly reported that he was advised of some additional changes that needed to be made to the minutes by Steve Fox. It was agreed that those changes would be made and the minutes would be approved via electronic vote.

III. Financial Report – Dari Bargy

a. Treasurer's Report

Chairman Bargy reported that Marcy Tayler was unable to make the meeting due to a last minute scheduling conflict. However she briefly reviewed the Treasurer's Report with the Council.

b. Budget

Chairman Bargy briefly reviewed the proposed budget for 2012-2013. Steve Fox noted he would be requesting an increase in the amount of the donation to the Michigan mock trial program later in the meeting.

IV. Committee Reports

a. Litigation Technology Committee – Steve Fox

Chairman-Elect Fox reported that 45 people had signed up for the litigation technology seminar. He will be making an additional distribution of the information regarding the seminar through the Section's LinkedIn page as well as on the Section's list server. Steve Fox encouraged all of the Council members, particularly those from larger firms, to circulate the information regarding the seminar internally at their law firms and encourage participation.

b. Program/Education Committee – Mike Cooney

Mike Cooney reported that the 2013 summer conference is scheduled for Mackinaw Island. The program is going to be provided by Robert Musante and he will be presenting a program called the "Artful Dodger". Mike then reported that the Council still needed to decide on what the program would be for the Fall 2013 Masters in Litigation Program. Lisa Gerhin of ICLE reported that she had several potential options, but was recommending Richard Gabriel. Mr. Gabriel is a jury consultant. After an extended discussion, the Council requested that Lisa and Mike get the proposed agenda from Mr. Gabriel as well as previous participation figures in his program and circulate that information. If Mr. Gabriel's program does not look like it will produce sufficient turnout, there is a potential expert witness program that can be scheduled.

c. Publications Committee

Chairman Bargy reported that Dave Moffitt has resigned as the Publication Chair. Since that time there have been two people that have expressed interested in assisting with the Publications Committee. The first is Michael Fawaz of the Howard & Howard law firm. The other is Paul Hudson.

d. Legislative/Rules Committee

Council member Dan McGlynn reported that the primary subject still being reviewed by the committee is the attorney inventory rule. He reported that he had spoken with the head of the Masters Section who proposed the rule. The head of the Masters Section indicated that the primary motivation in pushing the rule was simply to bring Michigan in line with other states. It was agreed that the sentiment of the Section members is against the rule. Mr. McGlynn will draft a position statement against the rule and circulate it to the Council for approval.

e. Nominating/Membership Committee

Steve Fox indicated that there was nothing to report at this time from the Nominating/Membership Committee.

f. Public Service Committee

Steve Fox reported that he spoke with Tom Cavalier and that there was nothing to report from the public service committee. However, Steve Fox did confirm with Tom that there still needed to be a vote to approve the $12,000 donation to the Access to Justice Fund.

IV. Old Business

a. Contribution to Michigan Center for Civic Education – Mock Trial

Steve Fox reported that we needed to approve the amount of the Section's donation to the Michigan Center for Civic Education Mock Trial program. Steve requested that we increase the amount of the donation from $5,000 to $6,000 for 2012-2013. He made the motion and it was seconded. The motion was approved unanimously to increase the donation from $5,000 to $6,000 to the Michigan Center for Civic Education Mock Trial program.

V. New Business

Dave Centner reported that there are now 785 total members on the Section's LinkedIn page. He requested that Council members consider adding content to the LinkedIn page. He indicated it was a particularly good place to note recent developments in law or to inquire about trends in the law.

In further new business, Sherry Taylor reported that she had spoken with Dean Naussbaumer at Cooley Law School regarding the MotorCity Pipeline programs. Dean Naussbaumer requested that the Section make a $6,000 donation to the Pipeline Programs. The request was for $1,000 to the Just the Beginning Foundation, $2,500 to the ABA Council for Legal Education and $2,500 to the Wolverine Bar Association Judicial Externship Program. The Council requested additional information regarding the Programs prior to taking a vote on the request. Sherry Taylor indicated that she would circulate the information and the matter could be addressed at the next opportunity.

VI. Next Meeting

The next Council Meeting is set for March 14, 2013 in person at 6:15 p.m. at P.F. Chang's, Eastwood Town Center, 2425 Lake Lansing Rd., Lansing Michigan 48912.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.