

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
INSURANCE AND INDEMNITY LAW SECTION  
COUNCIL MEETING**

Date: July 23, 2018  
Time: 4:30 p.m.  
Location: Seikaly, Stewart & Bennett, P.C.  
40445 Northwestern Hwy., Ste. 250  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
Minutes: By Jason J. Liss, Secretary

Present:

<u>In Person:</u>	<u>By Telephone:</u>
Larry Bennett	Gus Igwe
Hal Carroll	Bob June
Patrick Crandall	Gail Stork
Rabih Hamawi	Renee VanderHagen
Matt LaBeau	
Jason Liss	
Lauretta Pominville	
Nicole Wilinski	

1. CALL TO ORDER – 4:03 p.m. – Larry Bennett, Chairperson.
2. SUMMARY OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:
  - Gus discussed the presentation to be given as a part of the annual program at the next business meeting. The speaker will be from Atain Insurance and the topic will be a behind the scenes look at the underwriting and claims handling of a property and casualty insurer. A general discussion followed concerning the logistics of the event, including the anticipated attendance and food order. A discussion concerning the ballot followed. Rabih's, Lauretta's and Matt's terms are expiring. Lauretta volunteered to become an officer.
  - There was a discussion regarding the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Bazzi v Sentinel Ins Co*. Bob, who worked on the amicus brief submitted by the Michigan Association for Justice (MAJ), gave a summary of the *Bazzi* arguments and opinions. Larry asked Bob if he would convert his *Bazzi* brief into an article for the journal.
  - Hal suggested promoting our section meeting with the negligence section. Jason to promote our program on MAJ's Listserve once the title of the program and the agenda are finalized.
  - Larry advised that Madelyne Lawry suggested that our meetings follow a set schedule in terms of programming. Lauretta, who is on the Program Committee,

advised that the by-laws require us to identify the four (4) meetings at the annual meeting. Larry offered that we should only identify the months when the programs will occur, since we will not know if the speaker or the venue will be available that far in advance. The months for the meetings were identified as:

- Fall – State Bar Annual Meeting;
- Winter – mid-January;
- Spring – shoot for April;
- Summer – shoot for July.

Suggestions made for increasing the turn out for the summer meeting, including holding the meeting in Traverse City and/or giving an Achievement Award.

- General discussion regarding the Program Committee, whose current members are Laretta, Nicole and Renee. Gail volunteered to join the committee.
  - Gail suggested that we have some kind of written guidance about how the committees are to function.
  - Rabih suggested that the Program Committee needs the ability to function independently and not be micromanaged by the council.
  - There was general consensus that the Program Committee should be given a budget and authority to work within that budget independent of the entire council.
  - Larry estimated that a budget of \$3,000 to \$4,000 per program would be adequate.
  - Hal suggested that the Program Committee scheduled a meeting within a week or two after the annual meeting in order to discuss the committee and the work to be done.
  - Jason, as Chair-Elect, will necessarily be a part of this Program meeting.
- Larry will ask Madelyne Lawry to find out how to implement the already approved 1<sup>st</sup> year free membership (E-blast, renewal form, introductory email and direct reach out were suggested possibilities).
- Hal suggested putting new members on the supplemental mailing list for the journal.
- The annual newsletter expenses are approx. \$5,000.
- Renee, who had set-up a table at the Young Lawyer's Section meeting at Boyne, summarized her experience. She estimated there were 60 to 70 attendees and ours was one of six groups there.

- Discussion regarding Scholarship:
  - Renee advised of a minor setback: the gentleman who helped to set it up and oversee it at Cooley Law School had left, though Renee had been given two contacts.
  - Renee had been advised that the topic was too vague, and so narrowed it.
  - Some submission have been received but not yet in Renee's possession.
  - We are supposed to select a winner next month so the award can be presented at the annual meeting.
  - Renee will contact the other law school and determine which school will be the next target for the scholarship.
- Madelyne to take over the annual meeting logistics, i.e. plaques, gavel, food, getting room and forms.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – motion to approve minutes passed.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Per Nicole:

- Year to date through June 2018, revenue is \$20,595.00, up from \$19,275.00 same time last year.
- Year to date through June 2018, expenses are \$19,291.46, up from \$13,231.86 same time last year. The bulk of the increased expenses is attributable to administrative services incurred from using Madelyn Lowry (approx. \$2,300) and because the expenses for last year's annual meeting were submitted late and recorded this year rather than last year.
- Total membership is 1028, representing an increase of 48 attorneys and 55 paid members from last year; 218 free members, down from 228 same date last year.
- Ending fund balance is \$34,441.08, down from \$39,131.69 same time last year.

5. EDITOR'S REPORT - distributed. Hal additionally advised of the need for articles for the next issue and advised he would be sending an E-blast. Hal additionally discussed the Bar Journal project and advised that he had received one article so far. Hal further advised that we can have up to four articles of 10,000 words.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- Laretta advised that she had reached out to Bob Hendrix, who was at the Leadership Forum and is the Chair or Chair-Elect of the Marijuana Section, to

discuss whether our two sections could do something together. Laretta will ask whether they want to contribute an article for our Bar Journal project.

7. PROGRAM / MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – No separate report.

8. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – No Report.

Motion to adjourn made, seconded and approved at 5:35 p.m.