

**State Bar of Michigan
Information Technology Law Section**

Council Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2011 @ 6:00 PM

Location

Copper Canyon Brewery
27522 Northwestern Hwy.
Southfield, MI 48034

I. Call to Order – Charles Bieneman, Chair

Council Members Present: Charles A. Bieneman, Karl A. Hochkammer, Ronald S. Nixon, Michael Vincent Gallo, Susanna C. Brennan, William Cosnowski, Jr., Daniel John Henry, William J. Lamping, Jr., Jeanne Marie Moloney, Vincent I. Polley, Isaac T. Slutsky, David R. Syrowik, Christopher Falkowski, Mark Malven

Council Members Absent: Charles Bieneman noted the excused absences of Nilay Sharad Dave, Brian A. Hall, Tatiana Melnik, Claudia Rast, and Carla Perrotta.. Also not present: Jeanne M. Dunk.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:20 p.m.

II. Reading and approval of prior meeting minutes

Karl Hochkammer, Chair-Elect and 2010-11 Secretary presented the minutes for the March 10, 2011 council meeting which were read and unanimously approved. Mr. Hochkammer noted that the minutes for the September 21, 2011 section meeting would be presented for approval at the next meeting of the council.

Charles Bieneman, Chair and 2009-10 Secretary presented the minutes for the September 22, 2010 section meeting which were read and unanimously approved.

III. Treasurer’s Report and Proposal of 2010-11 Budget – Michael Gallo, Treasurer

The 2011-12 FY budget was presented and discussed among the council. Changes from last year’s budget were discussed, including increasing allotment for council meetings to add another meeting, bring more value, and attract greater attendance. The council also discussed amending to the proposed budget to increase the Seminar Expense allowance from \$200 to \$500 to allow this line item to send a member to an approved seminar. In order to be eligible, the member would be required to present information learned at the seminar at a subsequent section meeting. A vote was taken to approve the proposed budget as amended and it passed unanimously.

IV. **Introduction of New Members**

A break from the agenda was held so that new and old members of the council could introduce themselves to each other.

V. **Committee Reports**

A. **2011 ICLE Seminar/Annual Meeting – Charlie Bieneman**

Mr. Bieneman noted the success of the 2011 Seminar, but tabled the discussion for new business.

B. **Newsletters – Michael Gallo and Ron Nixon**

Mr. Gallo noted that six issues of the Michigan IT Lawyer were published in the past year and he is always looking for content suggestions, including article submissions and member profiles. He also noted that the cost to the section for the magazine and e-newsletter is a set charge (\$300 for magazine; \$150 for the e-newsletter) by the State Bar, and that the amount budgeted corresponds to the actual number of issues planned.

Mr. Nixon noted that he has not been as active this year with the e-newsletter as in prior years and requested that someone else take over. The council agreed to allow Mr. Nixon to step down as sole editor. Mr. Bieneman proposed to find a replacement. Mr. Nixon offered to assist any who would volunteer.

The council further discussed the purpose of having both the magazine and e-newsletter. It was suggested that it was worth it to have more frequent contact with the section membership. Messrs. Polley and Cosnowski noted that they do not recall having received these mailings, and discussion was had about the effectiveness of the listserv. Mr. Bieneman proposed that this discussion would be taken up under New Business.

C. **Writing Award – Dave Syrowik**

After discussion the council unanimously approved the following 2011 Edward F. Langs Writing Award winners and authorized the Secretary and Treasurer to contact the State Bar to authorize the issuance of the following awards:

First Place (\$750): Darrin Dimoff
Second Place (\$500): William R. Frehe
Third Place (\$250): Megan Nicholls

Mr. Syrowik further discussed that students are actively pursuing writing contests such as this and that they will have sufficient submissions for the next award.

D. **Proprietary Rights – Dave Syrowik**

Mr. Syrowik noted the changes under the new Patent Act, including moving to a first to file system, and will report in the future on developments.

E. **Other committees**

The By-Laws Revision Committee: Reported no progress. Mr. Cosnowski, Mr. Falkowski, and Mr. Hochkammer volunteered to the committee and to report back to the council regarding suggested revisions. One area concern was regarding the flexibility with our ability to waive membership dues to law students. Also noted were the concerns that caused to the committee to be formed last year: the difficult process of commenting on legislation. Mr. Falkowski noted that the State Bar imposes some limits to the revisions that may be made.

Paul Raine Memorial Committee: Mr. Bieneman wanted to resume efforts to come up with a suitable memorial for Mr. Raine. Mr. Bieneman, Mr. Lamping, and Ms. Paulson will suggest appropriate ones at the next meeting.

VI. **New Business**

A. **Discuss Possible New Committees / Initiatives for 2011-2012**

1. **LinkedIn / Facebook other social media:** Mr. Lamping will continue to work on Facebook page. Mr. Malven noted that he transferred ownership of the Linkdin account to Mr. Bieneman and Mr. Gallo. Mr. Bieneman suggested that we need a procedure to pass the keys to these accounts as the council members change.
2. **Relationships with other Sections that hold successful events:** Mr. Falkowski recommended the Health Care Law Section as one with strong overlap. Mr. Hochkammer will discuss with Matt Keuten of that section ideas for partnering with our section.
3. **Facilitating recruitment / job search activities:** Mr. Bieneman suggested that assisting with internships or job searches is one of the benefits the Section could provide its members. Ms. Brennan volunteered to provide suggestions. Mr. Falkowski volunteered to assist with recruitment of members.

B. **Speakers / additional meetings:** Mr. Bieneman suggested having more substantive presentations at section meetings, and recommended ICLE committee assist with finding speakers for section meetings.

C. **Discussion of 2012 ICLE Event:** The Council discussed the success of the 2011 event. Mr. Bieneman suggested that, having organized and moderated it for the last four years, it was time to step down. The Council discussed with approval his recommendation that the Chair-Elect assume that role every year. Mr. Hochkammer suggested a committee to help organize it, which also met with approval.

Mr. Hochkammer, Mr. Malvern, Mr. Bieneman, Ms. Moloney, and Mr. Slutsky all volunteered to participate in the committee.

- D. **Discussion of Spring Section Event:** Mr. Bieneman noted for the past two years we have partnered with DetroitNET.org events for our Spring networking event. However, their Spring event is mainly for recruiting and very crowded. The Council discussed exploring the DetroitNet's other events to find perhaps a better fit for our Section's objectives. Mr. Bieneman and Mr. Slutsky will attend their November event and report back to the council.

- E. **Business from the floor:** Discussion resumed on members' problems receiving communications from the listserv. Mr. Slutsky accepted his nomination to investigate alternatives to the listserv and propose them at the next meeting. Mr. Gallo volunteered to investigate the problems with the current listserv and whether they can be remedied.

VII. Adjourn

Upon a motion, which was seconded and unanimously approved, Mr. Bieneman adjourned the council meeting at approximately 7:43 p.m.

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