

MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 17, 2009, GENERAL PRACTICE SECTION

Present: Richard White, Chair
Elizabeth Silverman, Chair Elect
Maury Klein-Treasurer
Bill Roy
Fred Sakklah
Clark Davis

Sheldon Stark, ICLE

Excused absences: Chris Carlson, William Cataldo and Lynn Carlino

Minutes of Prior Meeting:

The minutes for the meeting held on November 19, 2009 were not available.

Treasurers Report:

Maury Klein reported that he has not received any additional updated information regarding the 2009-2010 dues revenue. The current available balance is approximately \$3,000.00-\$5,000.00 taking into account expenses that have yet to be processed.

Newsletter Report:

The November/December 2009 issue of the General Practitioner has been published. All of the members in attendance had received their copy. A newsletter was sent to all new lawyers. There is a notice on page 7 of the newsletter inviting those who received the complimentary issue to join the section. Several articles from prior editions are also published at the General Practice website for their perusal.

Old Business:

a) Name of Section- Bill Roy and Clark Davis are working on the language to submit to amend the Bylaws of the General Practice Section to change the name to General Practice Section Solo and Small Firm.

b) Solo and Small Firm Institute Scholarship update-Clark Davis reported that he had been advised that \$1,880.00 of the \$2,000.00 allocated for scholarships to attend the Solo and Small Firm Institute had been awarded at the rate of \$145.00 per individual. He also reported that as the thenChair of the Section, he understood that he would be giving prior approval before any scholarships were awarded. He reported that he had only approved three (3) people at the beginning of the scholarship process. Also, Mr. Davis reported that he understood that the

scholarships were only to be offered for the date of Thursday, September 17, 2009 which would coincide with the Annual Meeting of the General Practice Section. The cost for a one day attendance is \$80.00 as opposed to \$145.00 for attendance at both days. Mr. Davis indicated that he would follow up with the State Bar of Michigan regarding these discrepancies. A general discussion was held which confirmed that the Council had approved up to \$2,000.00 in scholarships. Mr. Stark indicated that he has been in contact with Carey Thrush of the State Bar and was unaware of the restriction that applicants had to be approved by Mr. Davis in advance and that the scholarships were only to be for Thursday, September 17th and not the two full days of the conference. Mr. Stark also indicated that he had assumed that the \$3,000.00 contributed by the General Practice Section included the \$2,000.00 in scholarships. Mr. Stark indicated that a total of 63 scholarships were awarded. The State Bar awarded 31, ICLE awarded 20 and the General Practice Section awarded 12. Maury Klein, Treasurer, indicated that the scholarship funds were in addition to the \$3,000.00 contributed directly to sponsor the Solo and Small Firm Institute seminar and that the State Bar had charged the Section \$3,000.00 to sponsor the seminar and \$1,880.00 for the scholarships.

General discussion was held regarding which other sections are sponsors of the Institute and their contributions as sponsors. It was agreed that the discussion regarding the Sections' contribution to ICLE be continued at the next meeting. Maury Klein raised the issue that due to the current financial projections that contribution to the 2010 Solo and Small Firm Institute may not be possible.

New Business:

a) Implementation for electronic newsletter. A discussion was held regarding converting members to receiving the newsletter electronically as opposed to print. Mr. Klein indicated that the prior discussion and decision of the Council was to allow attorneys to opt into receiving the newsletter electronically. The Chair and Clark Davis disagreed with Mr. Klein's recollection of the prior discussion. The Chair indicated a preference to making an announcement to all members that henceforth the newsletter would be transmitted electronically but allow members to opt out of receiving the newsletter in this form.

b) Mentoring Program for new attorneys. The Chair discussed whether the General Practice Section Council would consider a mentoring program beneficial. Maury Klein indicated that the List Serve serves an important mentoring function as new lawyers can ask the entire section legal questions and receive the benefit of older, more experienced attorneys.

c) Law School involvement- Freddie Sakklah raised the issue that, in order to raise membership, we should consider developing ties to the local law schools to increase visibility of the Section with the goal to hopefully raise membership with the young lawyers after they graduate and begin practice. Mr. Sakklah indicated that many of the schools do have Solo and Small Firm events where they request speakers and provide a forum to introduce the Section to the students. Mr. Sakklah also suggested that in order to generate interest, that the law reviews of each of the law schools should be contacted and solicited to submit an article for publication on an approved

topic. The council agreed to contact local law schools with respect to promoting the Section. Bill Roy will contact University of Michigan, Freddie Sakklah will contact MSU; Dick White will contact Wayne State and Elizabeth Silverman will contact U of D.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday in January, January 21, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Sea Grille Restaurant.