

MINUTES FOR GENERAL PRACTICE MEETING OF OCTOBER 16, 2008

PRESENT:

Elizabeth A. Silverman
Maury Klein
Clark Davis
Fred Sakallah
Lynn Carlino
Chris Carlson

Excused Absences: William Cataldo, William Roy and Richard White

I. Minutes of Prior Meeting:

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the General Practice Section were approved.

II. The Chair's Report

a. Oakland Press Article, 10-10-08

1. Judges Abo and Takahara with Steve Silverman

Both Clark Davis as well as Elizabeth Silverman previously met with Steve Silverman and the two Judges from Japan, Judge Abo and Takahara featured in the article. The Judges were sent to the United States by the Japanese Supreme Court to study the American Legal System.

b. Publication: A Practical Guide to Hiring a Lawyer

This publication is available from the State Bar at no cost. It may be helpful to have this publication available for clients

c. Form: Unauthorized Practice of Law Complaint Form

This form will be available in a standardized version. It may be reprinted in the Newsletter in the upcoming issue.

d. SBJ Article: Beyond Bias- - Cultural Competence as a Lawyer Skill

1. MSBJ June, 2008, P 38

The Chair commended the members to read the article. The subject was also presented by the Keynote Speaker at the Annual Meeting.

e. Community Legal Resources, Detroit Request for \$5,000.00.

The Chair noted that this Organization's primary activity is rendering advice to non-profit organizations. The Chair will further investigate and report.

f. Liaison Designations

Fred Sakallah-Young Lawyers, Lynn Carlino-Animal Law and Paralegal, Maury Klein-Bankruptcy and Elizabeth Silverman- Business Law and Family Law.

g. First Case Legal Research Data Base Software

The Chair is investigating this product which is represented to be competitive with both Lexis and Westlaw. Additional information shall be forthcoming.

h. Real Estate Broker's License for Attorneys

Fred Sakallah indicated that he will investigate and report back to the council regarding the issue of the requirements of obtaining of a broker's licence by a licensed attorney.

i. Letterhead

The new letterhead is available.

j. Section name change

Fred Sakallah and Clark Davis will meet to confirm what additional steps, if any, are necessary to accomplish the name change which was approved at the annual meeting changing the name of the General Practice Section to General Practice Solo and Small Firm Section.

III. Treasurers Report- The Treasurer reported a balance of \$9,379.05, however, this did not include the expenses for several meetings which were paid for by Mr. Sakallah. Mr. Sakallah agreed to coordinate with Chris Carlson to submit the appropriate documentation for reimbursement.

IV. Newsletter Report;

Maury Klein reported regarding the progress being made on the next issue of the Newsletter. The deadline to submit any article is November 10, 2008. Mr. Klein will also coordinate the awarding of the two (2) ICLE Partnerships to 2009 Section Members who also attended the Annual Sol and Small Firm Seminar.

V. ABA Meetings/Seminars.

1. Mid Year, Boston: February 11-17
2. Annual-Chicago: July 30– August 4

VI. Guests-

a. Amed Elsayed- Mr. Elsayed spoke to the group regarding his work as an interpreter. Mr. Elsayed has worked with the United Nations, and received his MBA from Connecticut, obtained his doctorate and has worked as a professor in Vermont. Mr. Elsayed spoke to the council regarding the need to understand the cultural aspects as well as the literal ability to interpret and translate, in several different courtroom situations.

VII. Old Business

Fred Sakallah reported that 12-13 new members did register at the Annual Meeting.

VIII. New Business:

There was none.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at the Sea Grille Restaurant.