

Litigation Section Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2014

Present: David Castleberry, Heather Thuet, Hon. Stephen Roth, Hon. Kate Toomey, Christian Kesselring, Jess Krannich, Greg Gunn, Michael Stahler, Tim Pack, Jon Hafen, Sade Turner, Devin Quackenbush,

By Phone: Rod Andreason, Jen Tomchak

Excused: Heather Sneddon, Ryan Frazier, Kent Holmberg, Keith Call, Dan Steele.

1. **Secretary's Report** (Michael Stahler, Secretary): MAS discussed minutes and no change were made and the committee accepted them as is without any objection. David noted that there were some minor changes with the Agenda and Michael noted that we would follow the Agenda that had set forth the goals for each committee.
2. **Treasurer's Report** (Rod Andreason, Treasurer): Rod stated that he had requested financial reports from the Bar and will be receiving them shortly. He also explained that there were some left over expenses since June 2014 including the Women and Law Conference that the Committee had paid for Heather Sneddon to attend and George and David's events. Rod concluded that the Section was well within budget and that we should have enough money to continue to fund operations.
3. **Chair's Report** (David Castleberry, Chair): David explained how he had reviewed current operations and had discussed what needed to be done and assignments. Talked to committee heads and others regarding input on what needed to be done. He went into immediate concerns:
 - a. Evening with the Second District: Summer 2015: Jen said she was happy to stay on and help organize the event if needed.
 - b. Evening with the Fourth District: Spring 2015. David would like to reach out to these areas to get more involvement from other parts of the state. Devin Quackenbush joined from Orem and expressed interest in helping plan the reception.
 - c. Assignment and Duties List: David circulated a list of assignments and goals and went through some of the items on the list (see below).
4. **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Membership** (Holmberg). Kent was not present, but David indicated that Kent was willing to continue was the chair. Michael was the only other active member. He said that the committee tried to attend CLE events to recruit new members. There was a discussion regarding what the Section is doing to recruit and retain new members. Currently, the Section gives new attorneys a free one-year membership. The Committee is interested to know how many of these attorneys we retain. David said that he would like to know how many members the Section currently has (numbers vary) and what goal would be appropriate. He also is going to look into attending the admissions ceremony and introducing the Section to the new admittees. The Committee wants to have a presence at the event.
 - b. **Technology** (Kesselring). Christian Kesselring has taken over the committee. David expressed his gratitude to Shane Goddis for his help and said that he looks forward to Christian's work. Christian said that he was aware that the committee was working on, (1) revising the website page so that it could be more easily updated and easier to use, (2) having a "paywall" in place with videos of our CLE's behind them for members to use, and (3) televising our CLE's. Michael stated that the Bar is not in favor of the Section having our CLE's available for free for members because it would cut into Bar revenue. Michael noted that currently the Bar does use our Section's CLE's for their video library. Christian said that he knew that this was a delicate issue. Michael said that the upcoming CLE lunch will have video broadcast option through the Bar's vendor for \$8.00 per person. The Committee is interested in seeing how this goes.

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- c. **Bench Books** (Jess Krannich and Sade Turner). Both Jess and Sade expressed interest in continuing with the Bench Books. There was some discussion regarding the Bench Books and how difficult it was to get Judges to update their profiles. David mentioned that he had to corner some judges at meetings and events to get new information. It was suggested that we send the Judges their profiles with missing or outdated items highlighted for them to update so as to make it easier for them.
 - d. **Law Student Relations** (Tomchak). Jen expressed interest in heading up this committee. Michael was the only other person that was helping her, so they do need help. Michael volunteered Greg Gunn to assist with the Committee and he agreed to do so. Jen said that January's mixer was well received but that she would like to do it at another time to accommodate schedules (the last event was around the time of a major examination). Jen said that she would be in contact with the University of Utah's Litigation Society in order to discuss ideas as to how we can work with them. The Litigation Society had asked for us to allow their members to attend our CLE's and to set up a mentoring program with them. In our June meeting we decided to pass on the mentoring program because of the time and commitment it would require.
5. **Annual Convention.** Jon and Heather reported that, overall, the Section's CLE track was very well received. Overall, however, attendance at Snowmass was very low. John explained that there will be two law review articles coming out of our CLE panels. As the person who coordinated the Saturday track, he said that both were well received and that he got good feedback that day. The Judge's panel, during the last slot, was not as well attended. He expects that our events will get good reviews. Snowmass attendance was not good. Jon said that he would be very surprised if we do go back. The event will be in Sun Valley next year and the Bar is considering moving it to Park City in the future or back to San Diego. Jon said that the Bar wants to increase attendance amongst those that normally can't afford to go out of State. He cited record attendance at the Fall Forum. Jon will meet with the Bar President to discuss. Overall the Bar was very disappointed with attendance and is questioning if dues should be used to underwrite essentially a summer vacation for lawyers at larger firms. Despite these concerns, judicial attendance was excellent with 28 judges in attendance. Judge Toomey said that this is not going to be the norm because there might be concern with having so many judges out of state with Utah tax dollars benefitting Colorado business. Judge Toomey said that the mixers were very good. Jon added that there were other meetings that were taking place around the time of the convention that drove attendance and interest. One event, the leadership meeting, was for leaders of the respective sections. There was some discussion regarding the Annual Convention being in Park City. While it may increase attendance, there is some fear that people will not engage their families and that the mixers will not be as well attended. The social mixers are a crucial part of the event. The bottom line, however, is that the Bar wants to find ways to boost revenue for the event and doing it local may be the solution. Judge Roth commented that the CLE's he saw were very good and solid and thanked Jon for his efforts. Heather reported that the Judicial Panel on Jury Behavior was so well received that she got requests for a follow-up event. She would like to have a CLE with a mixer. David suggested that this be a part of the "Night with the Third District" event.
- 6. **Golf and CLE:** David said that Dan Steele would like to continue to run these events.
 - 7. **PGAL:** David said that Keith Call will continue to serve as our liaison with the PGAL.
 - 8. **Modest Means:** Jen will continue to serve as our liaison with the Modest Means program.
 - 9. **Recently-Completed CLEs & Sponsorships:** David said that he attended the Confidentiality Provisions in Settlement Agreements Rise and Shine and that it was well attended. He said that the speaker did a good job.

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10. **Future CLE's:** David reminded members to please **market their CLE events and to send Summer Shumway notice of the event.** We need to have our site reflect current and future events. Please be sure to follow up with Summer if needed.
11. **Newsletter:** David was still trying to reach Kelly Nash to see if he was still interested in doing the newsletter. Rod Andreason has offered to help out and wants to reformat the newsletter so that it is a monthly or quarterly blitz Email with a listing of events and links for folks to see what is going on. It's been hard to get newsletter going, so this might be a way to get things going.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 am. The next meeting will be at 8:00 am on Wednesday, September 10th.

Special thanks to Heather Thuet for filling in for the last few minutes of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

/S/ Michael A. Stahler

Secretary for the Executive Committee