

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
CRIMINAL LAW SECTION COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 17, 2009  
(amended)**

**The meeting was called to order at 6:43 p.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Gilbert, John T. Hammond, Jon Posner, Gerald Surowiec, Stephen Gobbo, Michael Marutiak, Elaine Spiliopoulos, Steve Taratuta, Dan Levy, Mike Brady, Charlie Marr, Jim Shonkwiler, Opolla Brown, Matthew Smith, Barbara Lavine

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bruce Timmons

**ABSENT WITH NOTICE:** Graham Teel, Erika Julien, Ken Melkin, Marty Krohner, *Ralph Simpson*

**ABSENT WITHOUT NOTICE:** None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Everyone acknowledged receipt of the Agenda and it was approved

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from the December 16, 2008 Meeting of the Council were approved with the following correction: under Absent With Notice – Elaine Spiliopoulos. She should have been counted as Present.

Minutes from the January 20, 2009 Meeting of the Council were approved with the following corrections: under Old Business = name correction = Judge Hammond and that the Annual Meeting Committee was formed and that its members are Erika Julien, Steve Gobbo and Michael Marutiak.

**APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT:** The Treasurer reported that we have a balance of \$98,017.78 in our account. It was noted per previous requests that there are still dues coming in. A Motion was made by Opolla Brown on behalf of the Shanty Creek Seminar Committee to reimburse one of the speakers for his mileage to and from the seminar location. While this is not our normal custom to reimburse for mileage, it was approved because the speaker did not accept overnight accommodations due to a family emergency. Barb Lavine sent the Section a Thank You letter on behalf of the Citizens Alliance on Prisons and Public Spending for the \$2500.00 donation. The Report of the Treasurer was approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Shanty Creek Seminar Committee – This year’s seminar was considered a success. We had 18 people show for the 1<sup>st</sup> session, 17 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> session and 16 for the final session. All of the feedback from the attendees was positive. All of the feedback from the speakers was positive and all said they would be happy to do it again in the future. Improvements suggested: Sign-in sheet, name tags and speaker evaluation forms. Chair Matt Smith to sign the contract for next years Shanty Creek Seminar.

Legislative Committee – The Council was asked to review and comment on 13 upcoming bills in the House/Senate.

Bill 4405 – Tabled;

Bill 4314 – Approved;

Bill 4136, 4372 and 172 – Tabled (This is the substance of our policy meeting on Mackinac and we will formulate an answer at this meeting);

Bill 4112, 4113, 4114, 4115 271, 272 and 273 – Support in Principle – Create a structure for prisoners released from prison to have a government issued I.D. card if they cooperate while in prison (this could be used as an reason to deny parole if the prisoner does not comply with the requirements of gaining an ID card while still incarcerated).

Bill 4040, 4041 and 4042 – Support in Principle

Bill 4057 and 4060 – Tabled (1 abstained from voting)

Mackinac Island Spring Conference – The topic will be Mental Health Courts and there impact.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Appointment of a Conference Coordinator – Tabled

Law School for Legislator’s – We were hijacked and had no real input.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Annual Meeting – On going planning at this time

Propose amendment to the Judicial Canons regarding nepotism – Tabled

**GOOD AND WELFARE**

Resolution of the Criminal Law Section – Approved (See Attached)

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.**