

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 15, 2009 GENERAL PRACTICE SECTION
COUNCIL MEETING

PRESENT: Clark Davis, Bill Cataldo, Maury Klein, Bill Roy, Richard White, and Elizabeth A. Silverman.

ABSENT: Excused: Lynn Carlino, Unexcused: Fred Sackllah and Chris Carlson

I. Minutes of Prior Meeting:

The minutes of the November and December meetings of the General Practice Section council were reviewed and approved.

II. Chair's Report:

A. Letterhead-We are still waiting for updated letterhead for the General Practice Section.

B. Guests from other sections-Present at the meeting were Marjorie Manian, President and Susan Gasparian, Vice President of the Armenian Bar Association. Also present was Arthur Hamisch, from the Law Student Section. A representative from the Women's Lawyer's Association will attend the February meeting.

III. Committee Reports-

A. Section Name Change-William Roy has taken over responsibility to effectuate the section name change to General Practice Solo and Small Firm Section. The requisite number of signatures were obtained on a petition to effectuate the change which will be sent to the State Bar for Publication in the State Bar Journal.

B. Real Estate Brokers Licence for Attorneys-No updates.

IV. Treasurers Report-Treasurer, Chris Carlson was not in attendance. However, Mr. Carlson contacted the Secretary and indicated the fund balance was \$25,668.42 as of December 31, 2008.

V. Newsletter Report- The current issue is at the printers and should be distributed shortly. The next deadline for articles is February 12, 2009.

VI. Legislation/Court Rules/Requests-

A. 2009 Solo Institute Seminar-The President, Clark Davis, will arrange for a room for our annual meeting at the 2009 Annual State Bar meeting and Solo Small Firm Institute.

B. The Insurance and Indemnity Law Section has offered to publish notices or announcements of upcoming General Practice events in their quarterly Journal of Insurance and Indemnity Law.

C. Proposed Amendment of MRE 611-Legislation has been proposed to allow individual Judges the right to determine reasonable standards regarding the appearance of parties and witnesses. The standards are to assist in evaluating the demeanor of witnesses and parties

and to insure accurate identification. This issue arose in the trial courts regarding whether a witness can be required to bare their face to determine their expression and truthfulness while testifying. Members should submit any comments to Elizabeth A. Silverman at:

asatty@aol.com

VII. Old Business:

A. Notice to ICLE Contest Winners-Maury Klein contacted both of the winners as well as Sheldon Stark to coordinate the award of two ICLE memberships for one year to each of the contest winners.

B. As council member Freddy Sackllah had failed to submit an article for publication in the newsletter, he is no longer authorized to represent the section at the ABA 2009 Mid-Year Meeting in Boston, MA. The alternate, Elizabeth A. Silverman is authorized to attend on behalf of the section.

VIII. New Business:

There was no new business.

IX. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on the third Thursday of February, February 19, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., at the Sea Grille.