

MEETING OF JANUARY 27, 2010
PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Present: Fred Baker, John Juroszek, Pat Crowley, Larry Shoffner, Richard Kraus, Gerard Mantese, Linda Watson, Sarah Cahill, Nelson Miller, John Tatum, Marc Melamed, John Runyan, Jason Hanselman, Francine Cullari, Beth Baergen, Josh Ard, Joe Kimble, Chris Trudeau, David Cohen, and staff (Linda Novak and Nancy Brown).

Absent: Elmer White, Steve Savickas, Bill Fleener, Brian Draper, Steve Conley (all excused)

1. We paid tribute to Fred Melamed with a moment of silence and asked Linda to publish his name in memoriam in the PWAC membership listing in the next issue of the Journal.
2. A. We approved and scheduled the short story issue for August 2011.
B. We approved and scheduled the Pro Bono Initiative issue for October 2011, to be edited by Chris Trudeau and John Runyan.. Contact: Dionnie Wynter, SBM Justice Initiatives paralegal.
C. We approved and scheduled the Domestic Violence issue for September 2011, to be edited by Fred Baker and Linda Watson. Contact: Amanda Chubb, SBM Justice Initiatives administrative assistant, on behalf of Domestic Violence Committee.
D. We approved and scheduled the Diversity in the Legal Profession issue for November 2011, to be edited by Gerard Mantese and Rick Kraus. Contact, Greg Conyers, SBM Director of Diversity.
3. Tech report: Heinonline launch in January requires home page rework. Heinonline is currently behind a closed door on the SBM website, so its location is not readily apparent to users. The BJ articles since 2000 will remain available through the website. For now we will retain the indexes, which end at September 2006, but add a note to website users that they can now search the entire BJ database through Heinonline. A question remains about access to Heinonline through the state bar website by non-SBM members. Need to clarify that with Kevin Marmion if agreement is not clear. **NOTE: After the meeting I obtained the executed agreement from staff. The agreement is unambiguous. It provides, at VI (G): “The Company shall provide complimentary access to the Michigan Bar Journal to State Bar of Michigan members through IP [internet portal] access.” (Emphasis added). Later, the agreement includes an undertaking to revisit such access if the cost of “traffic/visits to the Journal by the State Bar members” exceeds revenue attributable to the Journal. Thus, we are not entitled to provide access to the Heinonline material to the public at large through our website. That puts the ball in staff’s court to devise a way to make it available only to members, and to make it easier for members to find and use it.**

Nancy advised that we are launching a blog, which Janet Welch will edit.

4. We discussed and reaffirmed the handling of requests to modify our copyright license agreement with contributors of (noncopyrighted) articles. We won't alter our agreement, but we did (and may in the future) offer to provide a written assurance, at the editor's discretion, that we would not publish the article in any form other than that in which it was provided to us, or grant anyone else the right to do so.
5. We discussed the "good reads" column proposal by Brian Draper, but concluded that we have not the staff to do it. Brian can volunteer to do it if he wishes. (Brian, that was not intended to be snide, only resigned to the need to pass on another good idea that we cannot accommodate).
6. Article inventory status: we are not stale: 9 from 2009 await publication. But we have 10 more awaiting review, and a new batch of 10 in the wings. As we have only one general issue slated for 2011, Linda is going to move some issues a bit to create more general issues. Point of information: *The working dogs of the Article Review Committee are John Juroszek, Francine Cullari, and Brian Draper, to whom much is owed for their unflagging efforts. Thank you!*
7. Eastern District Rule changes. We will leave it to Linda (and Julie Turcotte?) to get back to Mr. Orzame to work out a link arrangement between the SBM website and the Eastern District website's announcements of rule changes, rather than republishing all rule changes in the e-Journal and/or uploading them to the SBM website.
8. Possible new member, Nick Krieger. The committee is at full strength, so we can not nominate him now, but we can let Mr. Krieger know if a vacancy occurs. **NOTE: Since this meeting, I suggested to John that he urge Mr. Krieger to apply by the May deadline for committee applications, so that I (or my successor) can suggest his appointment to the incoming president during the annual call to the committee chair concerning appointments for the president's term.**
9. We discussed John Juroszek's questions concerning the quality of video and sound in the virtual court videos of S Ct administrative conferences, the possibility of including time markers in them, and how long to keep these videos up on the website. The material is provided by GTV folks, so we cannot modify it. Linda will look into the best shelf life and report a recommendation.
10. The "n word" controversy prompted by my review of *Calvin*. We discussed how best to address this and other potentially offensive words. At the time of the meeting, I (FB) had ordered, but not yet received, a copy of the New York Times *Style Manual*, which I have since received. Contrary to representations made during the communication with the irate reader/member, and to the belief of others who were involved in the discussion, it is silent on the use of the "n word." So is the NY Times website's discussion of editorial policies. **Acting with dictatorial certainty, I responded to the letter to the editor by the complaining member by stating that we shall henceforth "refrain from spelling out the word in full if it were ever necessary to refer to it." That is the Journal's editorial policy**

as of the publication of the March 2009 Journal, since Linda ran my response. So: “n-----“is our policy. We do not have a policy for the other words Carlin covered in his routine, but do we have a brilliant editor who exercises a wise discretion in these matters.

11. Theme issues and columns are in good shape for the next several months.

Your faithful and obedient servant, etc,

Fred