

April 13, 2009
Labor and Employment Law Section Council
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:30 p.m. at the Ann Arbor Marriott Ypsilanti Eagle Crest, 1275 S. Huron, Ypsilanti MI 48197.

In Attendance: Daniel Bretz, Jeffrey Donahue, George Wirth, Joseph Starr, David Calzone, Robert Boonin, Timothy Howlett, Niraj Ganatra, Dennis Boren, Brad Glazier, Megan Norris, Darcie Brault, Dan Swanson, Robert Palmer, Andrew Nickelhoff, Shel Stark **Absent:** Larry Murphy, Barry Goldman.

- 1. Approval of Agenda.** The Agenda was approved.
- 2. Approval of Minutes.** The Minutes were approved.
- 3. Treasurer's Report**

George Wirth circulated the April 13, 2009 Treasurer's Report. Discussion re: changes in some of the categories. Mid-Winter meeting net cost appears to be approximately \$11,000. Discussed declining balance. Committee of all former Treasurers to discuss and make recommendation for a global 2010 budget. (Calzone, Bretz, Donahue, Brault, and Wirth).

4. Chair's Report

a. *Draft of letter to Ann Smith re: Judicial code of Conduct* circulated by Dan Bretz. Please comment to Bretz directly by April 20, 2009 as the comments are due back to Smith by April 30, 2009.

b. *AAA request for "marketing" sponsorship.* Discussion regarding 1) nature of seminars; 2) will we now be inundated with like requests? 3) are we diluting our own marketing efforts (Megan pointed out we have an event June 4 and AAA has an event June 3); 4) should we try to bargain for discounts? 5) frequency is a concern; 6) the two webinars we did agree to sponsor had broad subject matters. After discussion, consensus decision was not to sponsor. J. Donahue and Dan Bretz will notify AAA of the Council's decision.

c. *Request for Comment.* Proposal re: Supreme Court Justice Disqualification procedures. Consensus of group was that there was no interest in making official comment.

d. *Dues Increase.* A motion was made to increase dues from \$30 to \$35. The motion was seconded. The vote was 14-1 in favor of raising dues.

5. Spring Seminar

June 4, 2009, 4:00 p.m. at "The Big Rock."

Megan Norris reported on the progress of the committee. Some of the topics for round table discussions will be economics of law firms, bankruptcy impact on litigation, litigation war stories. The timing will be changed slightly compared to last year. Ticket price increased by \$5 over last year to account for inclusion of valet parking. Publicity: Legal news, mailing(s), e-blast(s). **Bretz encourages all council members to attend.**

6. ICLE

April 2 and 3, 2009 Seminar. Shel Stark joined us to discuss the event. Overall favorable impressions reported from those council-members who attended. Stark passed his “responders” report. (short discussion re: the LELS Council piloting an ICLE “responder” loan program). Notably 37.5% of the attendees were attending for the first time. The attendance was drawn primarily from Wayne and Oakland Counties. There was discussion of the small number of plaintiffs’ attorneys attending and generally. Dave Calzone urged that Stark should not give up on the breakfast event.

George Wirth moved to reimburse \$2500 to ICLE for the LELS-sponsored portion of the program. Seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor.

7. Mid-Winter Meeting Planning Committee Report

Rob Boonin reported on “The Book.” Major concern re: affordability. The Marriott prices appear similar to the DAC. MGM was too high. Greektown was non-responsive. Marriott/RenCen told us they could work with us for \$23,000 (all-in). Discussion.

Plan is that by the next meeting: Boonin will get a hard printout from the Book, George Wirth and Boonin will get hard proposals from the Ypsilanti Marriott and we will compare with the DAC. Some discussion re: having the May meeting at the Book to check it out.

8. Annual Meeting Planning Committee Report

Tim Howlett reported that the committee will have a conference call April 28, 2009 to discuss various issues around planning the annual meeting, particularly the program topics.

9. Lawnotes

No report.

10. Old Business

None.

11. New Business

None.

12. Next Meeting Date and Location

May 11, 2009, possibly at the Book.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 pm.