

December 8, 2008
Labor and Employment Law Section Council
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:30 p.m. at Andiamo Novi, 42705 Grand River Avenue, Novi, Michigan.

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

1. **Approval of Agenda.** The Agenda was approved.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** Larry Murphy moved for approval of the Minutes for the November 10, 2008 meeting. Megan Norris seconded. The Minutes were approved with one change; Niraj Ganatra attended the November 10, 2008 meeting via telephone.
3. **Treasurer's Report.** George Wirth provided the Treasurer's report. The State Bar has started to receive dues from LELS members. George reported that the State Bar received \$33,884 in dues payments as of October 31, 2008. George also reported that the total income for the Section as of September 30, 2008, was \$89,409. The Section's spending continues to exceed its revenue, but the Mid-Winter Meeting costs are lower than last year. The anticipated deficit for the Mid-Winter Meeting is \$13,200. The group discussed other possible ways to reduce expenses, including moving the Mid-Winter Meeting back to the Ypsilanti Marriott (from the DAC), an electronic version of Lawnotes and eliminating the "beef" option for dinner at the Mid-Winter Meeting dinner.
4. **Chair's Report.**
 - a. **Status of Bylaw Amendment.** Dan Bretz reported that the by law amendment will be reviewed by the Board of Commissioners on January 16, 2009.
5. **December Holiday Reception:** Joe Starr reported that the State Bar sent E-Blasts to all LELS members on November 14, 2008 and December 8, 2008. A postcard reminder was mailed to all LELS members on or about November 17, 2008. Joe also reported that he spoke with Deb Gordon and that she informed him that she signed the contract, made plans for the audio/visual presentation and confirmed the speaker (Herschel Fink).
 - a. **Attendance:** Joe reported that he had received 50 checks for payments through December 8, 2008, and that he sent the money to the State Bar.
 - b. **New lawyer initiative:** Joe reported that the "bring your associate" initiative never materialized for this event. Megan Norris volunteered to take the lead in renewing the initiative for the Mid-Winter Meeting.

- 6. Mid-Winter Meeting:** The Council agreed that there will not be a meeting of Council members prior to the Friday night event. It was further agreed that “red meat” would not be a dinner option this year in an effort to save money. Rob Boonin reported that attendees would receive two tickets (different colors). One ticket will be for a drink during the cocktail reception. The second ticket will be for the After Glow.

 - a. Saturday Program:** Rob Boonin reported that he was unsuccessful in persuading Judges Lawson, Edmunds and Victoria Roberts to speak at Saturday’s event. Larry Murphy volunteered to contact a Western District Judge. Dan Bretz volunteered to contact Judge Sean Cox.
 - b. Dinner Speaker:** Darcie Brault is in communication with the speaker (Philip Dine) but was absent from the meeting (excused).
 - c. Motion:** George Wirth moved for the Council to continue its tradition of donating \$1,000 to the Michigan law school of choice by the Distinguished Service Award recipient, Shel Stark. The Motion was supported by Brad Glazier. The motion was passed unanimously by a voice vote.
 - d. Publicity:** Rob stated that he would contact the State Bar about publicizing the event in the Michigan Bar Journal.
- 7. Law School for Legislators:** Jeff Donahue, Dan Swanson and Megan Norris are slated to appear for this event at the State Bar Building in Lansing on February 11, 2009. Right now, they do not know anything else about the event other than that they are supposed to provide a primer on various areas of Labor and Employment Law. This event is open to all legislators.
- 8. ICLE:** The brochure for the Annual ICLE Employment Law Seminar has been mailed. Shel Stark passed around copies of the brochure. Stan Moore is leading a new lawyer program but this is open to anyone who wants to attend. The issue of how to handle distribution of two free passes to the event will be decided at the next meeting.
- 9. Lawnotes:** It was reported that the Section is creating an index of Lawnotes articles for the LELS Website. Older issues are needed. There was a brief discussion about possibly selling advertising in Lawnotes to raise revenue. This issue was not resolved.
- 10. Old Business.** Jeff Donahue passed around the results of the 2006 LELS Survey. 87% of those surveyed listed Lawnotes as a section program/activity that was “very important”.
- 11. New Business.** None.

12. Next Meeting Date and Location: January 12th at 12 p.m., location: Varnum's offices in Novi (39500 High Pointe Boulevard, Suite 350, Novi, MI 48375, 248/567-7400).

13. Adjourn

Dated: December 31, 2008

Joseph A. Starr for Darcie R. Brault; Secretary

Labor and Employment Section