February 9, 2009
Labor and Employment Law Section Council
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:20 p.m. at the Varnum Law Offices at 39500 High Pointe Boulevard, Suite 350, Novi, MI 48375.

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

1. **Approval of Agenda.** The Agenda was approved.

2. **Approval of Minutes.** The Minutes were approved.

3. **Treasurer's Report.** George Wirth circulated the February 9, 2009 Treasurer's Report. Discussion re: seminar income; Discussion re: balance of income and expenses.

4. **Chair's Report.**

a. Bylaw Amendment: The Bylaw Amendment regarding the Council's ability to raise section dues passed. Candace Crowley from the SBM has agreed to re-type all of our Bylaws which will be published.

b. Cell phone Court Rule Amendment: Proposal to change MCR 8.115 was discussed and it was determined that although it is an issue which meets the protocol for consideration by the Council, the Council decided not to comment.

c. MSU Speaker: Jeff Donahue will follow up request for speaker by MSU.

5. **Mid-Winter Meeting Report**

General Comments: Great meeting, excellent educational program, particularly Judge Neff, Megan Norris/David Calzone presentations, afterglow well-attended, approximately 60, band was determined to be a draw.

Section Member Comments from cards: Robert Boonin provided analysis of comment cards, demographic charts. Ideas for speakers for next year: Jimmy Hoffa, Jr., Maureen Dowd, Posner, Mikva, Bok, Tribe, Tom Gerghegan, Robert McCormick.

Venue: one commenter talked about change of venue; George Wirth commented re: union staff an important aspect of venue selection, Dan Swanson suggested casinos may be appropriate alternative. Also discussed Inn at St. John's which now has a room to accommodate Friday reception/afterglow. However, non-union. Consensus that if seriously considering another venue, need to do so immediately. Committee formed to

contact casinos and Book Cadillac and make comparisons: Dan Swanson, Joe Starr, Darcie Brault, Robert Boonin.

Some logistical problems with the Reading Room at the DAC. Would have to change the weekend in order to get the room next to the Dining Room. Discussed possible change to February 5 and 6 if can get the other room.

May have been a few people who were unable to reserve rooms at the DAC. They did fill up.

DAC bill $23,489.42; 227 dinners served; 30 no shows/40 walk-ins; question whether drinks were "all in" the bill. May be that "now and later" ticket dichotomy led to fewer use of tickets. Discussion that spend of $30,000 to $31,000 with income of $20,000 is sustainable, but loss greater than $10,000 likely to be unsustainable into the future given dues income and other major expenses.

NLRB Meeting: Dennis Boren reported that the meeting went well, approximately 20 attendees, from 3:30 to 5:15.

6. **Law School For Legislators** February 11, 2009; discussion of number of anticipated participants. May consider setting a mandatory minimum next time. Dan Swanson, Jeff Donahue and Megan Norris will update Council next month.

7. **Spring Seminar** Megan Norris and Dan Swanson met with the planning committee (10 – 12 members) and selected a date: June 4, 2009, a place: The Big Rock (same as last year), and a format: Round table format. Discussed possible topics, both practical and substantive. Three 45 minute sessions with opportunities to network. Raise ticket price to pay for valet.

8. **ICLE** April 2 and 3, 2009 Seminar

   Still need two names for scholarships.

   Sponsoring breakfast for new lawyers. Please publicize as only four people have signed up.

   Registration is down, but not by much. With so much new material, expectation is that the numbers will increase.

9. **Lawnotes**

   Short discussion of approximate $40,000 expense; discussion of possible opt-in for electronic copy.

10. **Old Business** None.

11. **New Business**

Consider discounts for government and in-house counsel for the Mid-Winter meeting Dinner.

12. Next Meeting Date and Location March 9, 2009, Varnum Law Offices at 39500 High Pointe Boulevard, Suite 350, Novi, MI 48375

13. Adjourn