

**January 12, 2009**  
**Labor and Employment Law Section Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:15 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, Robert Palmer, Niraj Ganatra, Larry Murphy, Barry Goldman, Dennis Boren, Brad Glazier, Megan Norris, Darcie Brault **Absent:** Dan Swanson, Andrew Nickelhoff

1. **Approval of Agenda.** The Agenda was approved.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** The Minutes were approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report.** George Wirth provided the Treasurer's report. Wirth noted that the SBM releases their reports the third week of each month. Report provided was trial statement for the month of December.
4. **Chair's Report.**
  - a. **RA Liasion.** Kirsten E. Gramzow is our liaison of the Representative Assembly ("RA") of the SBM. She sent a letter of introduction, copy of which was provided. She also promoted the RA's two annual awards: the Michael Franck Award and the Unsung Hero Award, advising that members may access the website at [michbar.org/generalinfo/awards.cfm](http://michbar.org/generalinfo/awards.cfm).
  - b. **Annual Meeting.** The SBM asked if we intended to have our 2009 meeting in conjunction with theirs. We have in the past always done so and voted by consensus to do so again. Discussion: Other sections do not. Our by-laws state that we will have it in conjunction with the SBM, so if we wanted to change our past practice, we would have to amend the by-laws.
  - c. **Requests for Comments.** Two requests for comment were made including a change to the rules of evidence and the case evaluation process. Per protocol, no comment will be made.
  - d. **By-Law Amendment.** Dan Bretz reports that he hopes to hear next week that the amendment to the by-laws to allow the council to set section membership dues was approved. He will advise.
5. **December Holiday Reception.** Joe Starr reported that 95 attended while 106 paid to attend the event. There was a total loss of approximately \$800. General discussion regarding the excellent quality of the event.

- 6. Mid-Winter Meeting.** Robert Boonin reported that everything is pretty much set; a mock up for the program was distributed. Some issues with the timing of the e-blast and registration form, but so far there were 16 registrations, expecting more within the next few days. Some discussion re: a correction to the DSA past-recipient list for the program. Some discussion regarding whether we should start a networking campaign to encourage attendance.

  - a. Friday Arrangements.** There was an agreement to decrease the price for a table for ICLE from \$85 to \$75 due to number of Stark supporters attending. Darcie Brault reported that the speaker is set. Jeff Donahue graciously agreed to pick him up at the airport. Borders will have books and staff to sell them immediately following the talk.
  - b. Saturday Program.** Speakers materials should be submitted to the SBM by deadline or bring copies.
- 7. Spring Seminar.** Megan Norris reported that there will be a meeting just before the Mid-Winter Meeting cocktail hour. Communications have been sent to Dan Swanson's contact list. The goal is to set up a date, place and format at that meeting.
- 8. Law School for Legislators.** Jeff Donahue, Dan Swanson and Megan Norris have communicated with the SBM, have date, time, place and plan, and are hopeful about attendance/time constraints. They will report back.
- 9. ICLE.** Shel Stark was unable to attend the meeting at the last minute. Concern raised that ICLE Seminar conflicts with ABA/EEO meeting. Spring Seminar committee will determine who receives the ICLE admissions we receive based upon our support of the ICLE Seminar.
- 10. Lawnotes.** Deadline for submissions is 2/1/09.
- 11. Old Business.** None.
- 12. New Business.** Dennis Boren and Jeff Donahue presented idea re: different types of membership in the section for non-SBM members, e.g. attorneys in Ohio, International Union Representatives, business agents, etc. Would have to change by-laws. Could not vote. Discussed what cost would be. Dennis and Jeff volunteered to form a committee to look at whether and how to change the bylaws to allow for non-lawyers to be section members.
- 13. Next Meeting Date and Location.** February 9, 2009, noon, Varnum Law Offices at 39500 High Pointe Boulevard, Suite 350, Novi, MI 48375.
- 14. Adjourn.**

