

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW SECTION**

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2011**

A meeting of the State Bar of Michigan's Labor and Employment Law Section was held on October 10, 2011 at the Varnum offices in Novi, Michigan.

PRESENT: Timothy Howlett, Darcie Brault, Robert Boonin, Jeffrey Steele, Lawrence Murphy, Brad Glazier, Brian Koncius, Ron Robinson, Susan Hiser, Gloria Hage, John Runyan, and Gary Francis.

ABSENT: Dan Swanson, Niraj Ganatra, Richard Mack and Dennis Boren

The meeting was chaired by Tim Howlett, Acting Chair of the Council. Tim explained that under the Section's Bylaws, in the event of the Chair's death, the Chair-Elect assumes that position in an acting capacity. Chair George Wirth passed away on September 23, 2011.

1. **Approval of Agenda** – The Council approved the agenda.
2. **Approval of Minutes** (September 15, 2011 Council Meeting and September 15, 2011 Section Annual Meeting) – Moved by Darcie Brault, support by Ron Robinson, the minutes for both meetings were approved as submitted.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – Rob Boonin presented an estimated year-end report of the Section's financials. A final report will not be received from the State Bar for another week or so. Rob also provided a proposed budget (attached) for the 2011-12 Fiscal Year. Discussion was held explaining various components, including the fact that the Spring Meetings and Holiday Party are to be break-even ventures. A discussion was also held regarding the history of the fund balance.
 - a. Moved by Rob, supported by Susan Hiser to adopt the budget as proposed.
PASSED.
4. **Chair's Report**
 - a. The Chair advised the Council that we will continue to meet on the second Monday of each month, subject to three anticipated exceptions. i) The December meeting will likely be held immediately prior to the Holiday Party. ii) There likely will not be a meeting in July. iii) The September meeting will likely be held immediately prior to the Annual Meeting.
 - b. The Chair also reported that he will soon be meeting with Heather Anderson of the State Bar to discuss issues related to his unexpected assumption of his new role on the Council.

5. Recognition of George Wirth

- a. The Chair reported that George Wirth will receive special recognition by the ICLE at its annual employment law symposium.
- b. The Chair reported that he and a number of other Council members attended the Memorial Service held by George Wirth's family. Condolences of the Section were extended to the family, and the family remarked how much he enjoyed his Council work. Richard Mack arranged for and presented a plaque to the family to recognize George's service to the Section and the profession.
- c. An announcement via the ListServ will be drafted by Darcie Brault and sent to the membership to advise them of George's passing and the family's wishes for how donations should be handled. The announcement will also explain that Tim Howlett will serve as Acting Chair for the current year, and serve as Chair next year, per the Bylaws.
- d. Discussion was held about nominating George for the Distinguished Service Award, to be presented at the Mid-Winter Meeting.
 - i. Motion by Darcie Brault, support by Ron Robinson to so honor George. PASSED. Subject to the family's acceptance, to be coordinated by Ron Robinson, the announcement of the honor will be made later in the year in the normal course of planning the Mid-Winter Meeting.

6. Annual Meeting

- a. Ron Robinson was congratulated on ordering the perfect amount of food for the September 15th meeting, and has been designated the Food Czar for future Annual Meetings.
 - b. The Chair extended the Council's appreciation to the 2011 Annual Meeting Committee (Larry Murphy, Brad Glazier, Tim Howlett and Ron Robinson) for putting together a program that was of high quality, timely, and well received.
7. **Gottfried Memorial Labor Law Symposium** – This Symposium is being held at Wayne State University on October 13, 2011. The Section is sponsoring it by providing scholarships to cover the registrations of up to 10 law students to attend. It was noted that a condition for the scholarship should also be that the student join the Section as a Student Member (for which there are no dues). Tim will follow-up with the appropriate contacts on this point. Gary Francis will make an announcement at the Symposium of the dates for the Section's upcoming Holiday Party and Mid-Winter Meeting.
8. **December Holiday Party** – Consensus was reached to hold the holiday party at the Birmingham Country Club, as with the past two years. The desired date (subject to the

Club's availability) is December 8, 2011, with a fall-back being December 15, 2011. Program concepts were discussed, including possibly inviting the Michigan Friars to provide entertainment. Darcie Brault, Susan Hiser and Brian Koncius agreed to serve as the Program Committee. Firming-up the date will be coordinated by the Committee through Dan Swanson.

9. **Mid-Winter Meeting** – Committee Chair Jeffrey Steele reported that the “Up-Date Rally” speakers are committed and that the DAC has been reserved for January 20 and 21. The menu will be similar to last year’s menu, and it is believed to be at last year’s rates.
 - a. Brian Koncius moved, supported by Ron Robinson the decision to present a “Visionary Award” to Hon. Claudia House Morcom and Hon. Anna Diggs Taylor for their work early in their careers in the civil rights movement, as documented by Steve Babson in his book “The Color of Law.” PASSED. The author will set up the history underlying the awards during the Friday Dinner, and Darcie Brault will present the awards to the recipients. The author will be available after dinner to sign copies of the book for those wishing to buy copies.
 - b. The Friday program will also include the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award, subject to final approval and arrangements with George Wirth’s family.
 - c. The rest of the Saturday program will be quickly planned by the Mid-Winter Meeting Committee: Jeffrey Steele (Chair), John Runyan, and Gary Francis.

10. **Law Notes** – No formal report was provided.

11. **New Business** – Discussion was held about the possibility of co-sponsoring and planning a CLE-type program in Grand Rapids in May, along the same lines as that held earlier this year. There was general support for pursuing this program further, and Larry Murphy and Brad Glazier will seek out the appropriate contacts with the Grand Rapids/Kent County bars to ascertain their interest and, assuming that there is an interest, to begin the planning process.

12. **Next Meeting** – November 14, 2011 at noon, at Varnum’s Novi Office

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Boonin, Secretary