

Minutes 10/17/08

Law Student Section, State Bar of Michigan.

Meeting, U of M

Those present: --- Jean Humbrecht, Dwayne, Jessica Greenia (Treasurer), Alan Hamish (Chair), Charles W. Skinner (Secretary), Doug Koenig, Patrick Lannen, Lisa Meerchart, Ryan Shannon, Candace Crowley

Meeting called to order at 11:19 AM

The chair opened the meeting with discussion of the recent meetings attended by the chair.

The minutes of the prior meeting were approved by voice vote and without objection.

Appointment of new members to the council. A motion was made and properly seconded to accept new members into the council who were present. The new members were accepted by majority vote.

REPORTS, INFORMATION AND OLD BUSINESS

A report was delivered by the treasurer on the state of the finances of the Section. The presented budget was presented, with short discussion. A motion was made to accept the budget as stated. The motion was seconded and the budget was accepted by voice vote without objection.

A request was made by the chair for nominations for chair-elect of the section, as that position was open. Charles W. Skinner nominated Doug Koenig as chair elect. Being properly seconded, short discussion was had about the duties of the chair-elect. Doug was unanimously approved as the new chair elect.

The president reported that several sections of the state bar are very interested in working with the Law Student section. Specifically, Labor law, Real Estate, and other sections. Discussion was had regarding connections that the various members have with the sections. Business Law has had connections with some of the U of M students. The Business Law Section has made a "student seat" available on their governing council for a student. Interested students should contact Alan Hamish for more information.

University of Detroit Mercy College of Law – we are looking to find out what types of events and involvement the students are interested in. The business law and labor law sections seem to have interest in working with students and the Law Schools

The litigation section is looking to be involved, and they are sponsoring the 1L competition. The Lawyers and Judges section is also looking to be involved. We are looking to make sure the schools know we exist, and to get involved.

U of M is going to have a panel in the near future from Dickens and Wright that there is lots of IP work being done in Michigan and how it is a growing field.

If you are interested in holding an event, there are many attorneys that are willing to come and speak at events through the sections. Contacts can be made through the Chair or through Candace Crowley.

Candace mentioned that the 50 percent of the state's 40K lawyers are over the age of 50. 25% of the state's lawyers are over 60. There is a large interest in keeping attorneys in Michigan, and any ideas to get people to stay here and be involved in the Sections is encouraged.

Litigation Section is willing to come into schools and do deposition instructions and training on basic deposition practice. This could be a one-time big group training day, or it could end up being a multi-school approach.

Anything that we can do to help each other out at the governing council level is useful. We want to offer some benefit as the Law Student Section to the students at the law schools.

Candace suggested that if we hold an event at a particular school, that we also invite all the Law Student Section members throughout the state. That way, we get people involved cross-school. Increasing attendance will hopefully get everybody thinking about how to further generate interest across the schools.

If you don't have a job already, getting section members to come and present at your school is a great way to make connections with lawyers and firms. There are also opportunities to partner with lawyers and law schools to write journal articles.

Discussion was had regarding the availability of other sections at reduced prices and attendance of their events. Last year, one of the members was able to attend lots of section meetings, and how those sections want student members to be able to recruit members into their fields.

There have been a number of e-mails requesting further information. The chair has offered to draft and send a news-letter roughly monthly in order to keep the section members up to date on information.

COMMITTEES

1L Oral Advocacy Competition – Last year, we had a very successful competition. The event is usually in January. There is only oral arguments. No written briefs. It will be closed-research, and likely Michigan based. Last year the problem was voter registration and election law (photo-IDs). We had practitioners and Judges with Young Lawyers.

This year, we have sponsorship from the Litigation Sections. WE will try to keep the topic to one of the first year classes (torts, contracts, Civil Procedure, maybe property).

The hope was that the event could be held at Wayne or MSU. Since it's not research, just oral advocacy, discussion was had about how much research needed to be done to prepare the problem and the underlying briefs.

The event is usually held round-robin, with multiple competitions. The accommodation is up to 70 students, last year we had roughly half of those numbers. It is busy. January is probably the least busy, but you want the students to have a clue on what they are doing.

Jean agreed to become the chair of the Oral Advocacy committee. Saturday event. We are leaning toward the 24th of January or the 31st of January. A choice was made to host on January 31st. We will look at the various schools' availability for the event.

Golf Outing: The reason we didn't hold the outing in October was that most of the sections don't hold summer meetings, and thus couldn't approve funding. A basic description of the event was given. (50 students and 50 attorneys). The event will be held in April.

We are still looking at approximately \$9000 in costs to get this off the ground. It will be a really fun event. Whoever heads this committee will need to organize the fund-raising and the selection of who will be able to play.

Alan (chair) agreed to head up the Golf committee. There are two suggested dates (the 18th and the 25th of April).

A suggestion was made to hold the golf event in May. We will decide the exact day at a future meeting after Alan has spoken with Fox Hills.

1L Oral Advocacy Committee Members

Lisa
Ryan
Doug Koenig (dry run for ACS Moot Court in March)
Dwane
Jean (Committee Chair)

Golf Outing Committee Members

Alan Hammish (Committee Chair)
Charles Skinner
Patrick Gottry
Jessica Greenia

Committee to hold speaking engagements – This may be easier done on a school –by – school level

NEW BUSINESS

Candace is looking to support the law student sections. If you desire state bar staff help on communications or other ideas, please contact her.

The Chair solicited ideas for recruitment and being more successful at recruitment.

How to tell the students what we're doing. By actually having activities to actually recruit is useful. Getting a speaker and getting visible gives students a reason to join. We've got activities that we're ready to promote. Getting the minutes approved and posted as soon as possible will help us to become visible and getting other members involved in the committee structures.

Discussion was had regarding e-mail from the State Bar Association. For free, we get 4 lists of e-mail addresses per month. We can be given the e-mail addresses.

Alan will talk to West-Law to be able to discuss TWEN access. We can publish on TWEN to get in touch and distribute information. The LSS also has a page on the State Bar website, and we have the ability to set up our own domain name (which would link back to the State Bar webpage). 3 years for \$115. This is set up through the State Bar tech division. Right now MichiganLawStudents.com or .org would be available.

The next meeting will be held via teleconference, and we will hold it Friday November 21st at 11:00 AM. There will be an e-mail reminder from the Chair

Meeting adjourned by the chair without objection at 12:25 PM.

Attendance: Jean Humbrecht, Dwayne, Jessica Greenia (Treasurer), Alan Hamish (Chair), Charles W. Skinner (Secretary), Doug Koenig (Chair-Elect), Patrick Lannen, Ryan Shannon, Lisa Meerchart.