

SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 15, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brian Comstock. Present were Executive Committee members Jeanine Lutzenhiser, Al Armstrong, Pat Mead of the WSBA, Jim Riehl, Joe Gordon, Eleanor Doermann, Steve DeForest, Dudley Panchot, Carole Grayson and Morrie Shore (by phone.) Not able to be present were Kevin Plachy of the WSBA, Scott Osborne, and Ron Thompson.

CHAIR'S REPORT AND REPORT FROM PAT REGARDING THE BAR RESTRUCTURING ISSUE

The Washington State Supreme Court decided to follow the recommendation of the WSBA Supreme Court Work Group and therefore will not bifurcate the Bar. It was mentioned that Chief Justice Fairhurst has announced her retirement from the Court, and as a consequence this might delay further work on the structure of the WSBA. The Court's vote was close, 5-4 against bifurcation, with Justice Fairhurst voting with the majority. Steve wondered what effect Justice Fairhurst's retirement would have on the Court's stance on bifurcation. Brian wondered what the key issue of the 5-4 decision was; Pat indicated that the key issue was whether the Bar structure should remain unchanged, but that, in his opinion, it was unclear how firm the individual Justices voting with the minority were on the question of bifurcation. Carole wondered who would be chosen as the new Chief Justice and what affect that could have on the restructuring process, if any.

Pat mentioned that he may be getting an assistant.

Carole asked if we could get a new WSBA organization chart; Pat said yes.

Brian asked if anyone could attend the BOG meeting scheduled for November.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our treasurer, Ron, could not attend due to a health issue with his wife. Pat indicated that he received information as of yesterday that our financial situation remains unchanged.

OUR MINI-CLE

Happy news: Eleanor disclosed that due to our mini-CLE on September 30, our Section netted \$1,280. There were 90 attendees in total---50 Senior Lawyers Section members and 40 paying customers. All present agreed that Eleanor had done a superb job, and had set a great precedent for future Section revenue-generating mini-CLEs.

Pat indicated that the World Peace Through Law Section sponsors monthly webinars, and their membership is growing. Eleanor mentioned that the Small and Solo Practice Section also does mini-CLEs.

OUR FUTURE PUBLICATION

Brian stated that our written communications with our Section membership are key to our mission. Carole (mentioning that our Publications Subcommittee has now become our Communications Subcommittee) suggested that we employ our listserv to disseminate information, solicit Section member input (so members can feel included) and focus on shorter news blasts. Al wondered whether listserv blasts will identify the subject of the blast in the subject line (to draw attention of the reader) and whether members must sign up for the listserv. Pat replied that membership on the Section listserv is automatic and that one must request to be deleted from the service. Al wondered why he hasn't received any notifications from our listserv, and Pat replied that is because no one has posted anything.

Brian called for leadership and ideas. Brian cited the publication of the Michigan equivalent of our Senior Lawyers' Section as an example. Eleanor offered to post mini-CLEs/webinars two to three times a year. Carole suggested that Eleanor post on listserv and that Brian contact Scott in the meantime. Pat suggested posting current issues before us (along with our thoughts) on the listserv. Steve asked Brian to call Scott and then contact the rest of the Executive Committee individually by phone (with the exception of Al, Carole and Jim, who volunteered to serve as Communications Subcommittee members) for their thoughts on the matter.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary's September meeting Minutes were approved by Motion, and Al was given authority to make stated corrections to the text. Al also indicated, with respect to the Committee membership roster, that, as Christina Meserve's term as BOG Liaison had expired, her name and contact information was replaced by that of Tom McBride, our new BOG Liaison.

ANNUAL CLE—APRIL 2020

Carole, our CLE Subcommittee Chair, suggested next year's theme—"Children as Vulnerable Persons." She set forth a list of possible presenters: former Justice Bobbi Bridge; attorney Bob Van Siclen; Miriam Korngold of Kids in Need of Defense (K.I.N.D.); attorney and past-presenter Karen Boxx; U.W. Dean Mario Barnes; a representative from the Northwest Justice Project; attorney Andrew Ackley; and attorney/professor Bill Covington.

Eleanor and Jim suggested having some balance in the program to maximize the appeal to potential attendees.

STRAW POLL REGARDING CHANGE OF SECTION NAME

A straw poll of our attending Executive Committee members showed that most of the members preferred simply retaining our name, Senior Lawyers. Steve was a dissenter, preferring a different Section moniker.

ADJOURNMENT

Brian adjourned the meeting.

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place at the Broadmoor Golf Club at 10:30 am on November 19, 2019.