WORKERS' COMPENSATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, August 10, 2018

CONDENSED MINUTES

In attendance:  
Judge Denise Krass
Judge Scott Olin
Judge Todd Seelig
Maria Ciccotelli
Andrea Cicero Rock
Patrick Cummings
Jon Paul DeMarco
Danielle DeRosa
Jeffrey Gross
Alexis Handrich
Kelly Hemple
Ian Landman
Mark Mazzanti
Eric Pearson
Christian Petrucci
Joseph Ring
Amit Shah
Judge Michael Snyder
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CONDENSED MINUTES

1. Meeting is called to order. Motion for approval of May 2018 meeting minutes is seconded and all are in favor.

2. Discussed the Spring Party of June 14, 2018 and unanimous agreement that event was successful and generated revenue.

3. Per Maria Ciccotelli, Section’s Bench Bar CLE will be held October 13, 2018 at 9:45 AM. Panel will discuss alternatives to opiate medications and impact on utilization review process. Motion for approval of $2,500.00 sponsorship for Bench Bar is seconded and all are in favor.

2. Bar Association budget enhancement discussion: Per Alexis Handrich, request was sent to Section chairs with proposal that Section make contribution to Association equal to 20% of treasury to reduce Association’s deficit. Request made mention to nationwide research study which indicated some metropolitan bar associations are structured where sections pay percentage of revenue to their association. Judge Seelig mentioned that he was contacted in June by then Bar Association Executive Director Mark Tarasiewicz. Judge Seelig discussed this request and invited the executive director and Chancellor Mary Platt to come to the August 10, 2018 meeting to further discuss the request. Judge Seelig requested further information including examples of other metro-bar associations who “charge” sections for use of staff/resources (how common is this model) and a list of the other sections in the Bar Association and what their contribution would be compared to our section. No one from the bar association staff or Chancellor Mary Platt attended the August 10, 2018 meeting and the requested information was not received. Section reviewed response from Family Law Section and agreed with their comments that the Bar Association needs to solve their fiscal issues and should not look to the Sections to cure their financial deficits. It was noted that our Section makes donations to the Association through the Bar Foundation and Bench bar sponsorship. It was also noted that many if not most of our members have only joined the Philadelphia Bar Association because of our section, and the Bar Association receives the general dues money of those members. It was also noted that our Section is unique in that much of our treasury is from vendor sponsorships and that our sponsors expect this money to be used for events that the sponsors are able to attend and advertise at. Section engaged in a thorough discussion about this request.

Motion to vote as to whether Section should take portion of treasury and contribute it to Bar Association and all opposed. Unanimous vote that the Section not donate/contribute a portion of our treasury to the Bar Association’s to help cure fiscal issues. Note, Judge Snyder was not in attendance during vote.
4. Bylaws: Alexis provided update concerning Section’s proposed amendments to Association bylaws. Section requested amendment regarding appropriation of Section funds. The current bylaws indicate that “all funds raised by Section shall be funds of Association”. Section proposed the following amendment: “All funds raised by or allocated to a Section shall be funds of the Association; however, all funds raised by any Section, including but not limited to Section dues and sponsorship funds, may only be used by the Association upon approval by majority vote of the Executive Committee of the Section.” Section also requested amendment to bylaw regarding designation of another person to represent member. Current bylaws indicate that “No Board Member may designate another person to represent such member at a meeting of, or to cast any vote in the deliberations of, the Board.” Section proposed amendment to include an exception, as follows: “with the exception that any current chair/co-chair of the Section, may substitute, in the event of an absence by its Section Representative, at any meeting of the Board and may cast a vote in the deliberations of the Board at such meeting.” Finally, the Section proposed amendment to Section description as follows: “The Workers’ Compensation Section shall promote the objectives of the Philadelphia Bar Association within the specialized field of workers’ compensation law. Accordingly, the Workers’ Compensation Section, through its Executive Committee and subcommittees, will seek to advance the development of relevant law in conjunction with judicial, legislative and administrative bodies and to provide required continuing legal education to its members. The Workers’ Compensation Section shall remain steadfast in its commitment to promote diversity within the Section and the Association, to offer leadership and guidance on professional responsibility and civility within the Section and the Association, to arrange networking events for collaboration and interaction among its members and others within the legal community, and to provide opportunities to support and serve its local community.”

Voting members approved the proposed amendments via e-mail vote and same has been submitted to Bylaws Committee

5. Committee Updates:

a. Board of Governors: Per Judge Krass on behalf of Judge Rago, Judge Krass provided update from previous Board of Governors’ meeting and advised recent votes of no consequence to our Section.

Judge Snyder provided update regarding search for new executive director and expectation to fill position by December. In regard to the Association deficit, Judge Snyder advised that through course of year the budget enhancement team is tasked with going to every department in Association with goal of finding ways of cutting expenses and increasing non-dues revenue. Over course of year, Association has found $125,000.00 in savings. Deficit that was originally published was not nearly as dire as current state of affairs as deficit is actually under $90,000.00. To increase revenue, Association has retained new insurance company and will also offer a
pension plan to members. Association has also negotiated discounted lease and renovations that will give members ability to use facilities for revenue producing activities. Association is also selling paintings that are in storage at Jenkins Library.

b. CLE: Per Kelly Hemple the next CLE presentation will discuss the use of social media and surveillance and the following CLE presentation will discuss issues with use of interpreters in litigation.

c. Legislative: Christian Petrucci advised that Protz made it through the House. There has been no Senate movement on the bill. No other bill movement at this time.

d. Treasurer: Eric Pearson provided treasury update. Section has about $26,000.00 in revenue, with $4,300.00 generated from Spring Party. Eric has requested that the sponsorship figure be separated from the registration figure on the ledger and will update Section accordingly.

e. Fundraising: Jeffrey Gross is fundraising for the Halloween and holiday parties. Judge Rago and Judge Krass scouted locations for Halloween party. Ideally, party will be held at Brickwall Tavern, assuming Section can rent ramp to accommodate all. Section will co-host Halloween event with the Young Lawyers Division and Solo and Small Firm Committee.

f. Charitable Events and Community Service: Judge Krass provided update on behalf of Jennifer Etkin and Deborah Richman. Section raised $400.00 for Alex’s Lemonade Stand at the Spring Party. Section is collecting for Children’s Village during CLE today. Charity for September 14, 2018 CLE will likely be CHOP’s Reach out and Read program and charity for Halloween Happy Hour will be Team Foster. The Saint John’s Hospice holiday luncheon will be held on November 14, 2018 and November 15, 2018.

Motion for approval of $750.00 sponsorship for St. John’s Hospice Fall Gala seconded and all in favor.

g. Marketing: Kelly Hemple authored an article for *The Bar Reporter* to be published in August 2018 regarding the United Service Organization’s new facility at the Philadelphia International Airport. Jon Paul DeMarco volunteered to draft the next article.

h. Membership: Ian Landman provided figures for Section membership over the past 5 years. In an effort to boost membership, Ian compared the Spring party registration with the current membership list and e-mailed non-members regarding the benefits of membership.
i. Arts in the Court: Judge Olin advised that the final two donor panels were written and should be completely shortly.

j. YLD: Patrick Cummings advised our Section will co-host a Halloween party with the Young Lawyers Division. Ian advised the YLD is looking for firm sponsors for the September 26, 2018 North Bowl event.

k. PBA: Joseph Ring deferred update until next meeting and confirmed Hershey conference is scheduled for October 4, 2018 and October 5, 2018.

l. Diversity and Inclusion: Alexis provided update for Kaitlin Files regarding the Youth Court program. School has not begun and Kaitlin has not received a response regarding whether youth court is on the curriculum and what opportunities our Section can offer. Kaitlin also reached out about potential opportunity to coach a team for the Mock Trial program or LEAP at Temple University Beasley School of Law. She will also try to get on list for invitation that is sent out by program inquiring as to whether attorneys want to participate. Section members may be able to contribute to LEAP day which is shorter time commitment.

m. Law School Liaison: Deferred.

n. Of Counsel: Update provided.

6. New Business:

a. Alexis reported that the Survey Monkey results revealed Section members would prefer replacing current WI-FI with hotspots throughout hearing office or at least in attorney conference rooms. Judge Seelig suggested we reach out to local provider to determine whether it would be more reasonable than price quote to obtain faster internet at hearing office. Jon Paul DeMarco volunteered to assist with process of upgrading internet.

b. Co-chairs were contacted by Bill Lynch, Chair of Workers’ Compensation Section of the Chester County Bar Association with request to circulate information on listserv regarding the closure and relocation of the Malvern hearing office. Unanimous agreement that Section will not prepare listserve announcement until formal announcement is made by Department of Labor and Industry.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle R. DeRosa
Secretary