WORKERS’ COMPENSATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, September 14, 2018

CONDENSED MINUTES

In attendance:

Judge Audrey Beach
Judge Sandra Craig
Judge Denise Krass
Judge Tina Maria Rago
Judge Todd Seelig
Maria Ciccotelli
Andrea Cicero Rock
Danielle DeRosa
Jennifer Etkin
Kaitlin Files
Jeffrey Gross
Alexis Handrich
Mark Mazzanti
Eric Pearson
Christian Petrucci
Deborah Richman
Joseph Ring
Amit Shah
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1. Meeting is called to order. Motion for approval of August 2018 meeting minutes is seconded and all are in favor.

2. Per Maria Ciccotelli, Section’s Bench Bar presentation is finalized. Request made for volunteers to man Section’s table to collect donations for Ronald McDonald House. Motion to approve $200.00 purchase of items from Ronald McDonald House website to use for charity purposes at Bench Bar is seconded and all are in favor.

3. Committee Updates:

   a. Board of Governors: Per Judge Tina Maria Rago, amendments to the bylaws of the Philadelphia Bar Association were considered at the August 30, 2018 Board of Governors meeting and were approved for submission to members. Judge Rago reported that the Board of Governors agreed to the majority of Section’s proposed amendments, including the description of Section. Board of Governors declined to include language in amendments that specific funds are belong solely to the Section, partly due to tax implications; however, Board assured that sponsorship money would not be touched by Board. Suggestion made that we continue to keep written documentation of sponsorship money. In that regard, Alexis Handrich volunteered to send correspondence to all 2018 sponsors documenting sponsorship and Section agreed we will implement this process going forward. Board also rejected Section’s request that Section chair be permitted to act as liaison due to fiduciary duty issues.

   Judge Rago advised that other sections are in the process of amending their bylaws and suggested Section consider previously discussed amendments, including e-mail voting and increase of membership dues. Judge Rago reminded of process required to attempt to amend Section bylaws and suggestion was made that we begin this task in 2019.

   b. CLE: Per Maria, November CLE will be “Issues with Use of Interpreters in Workers’ Compensation Hearings” presented by Judge Terry Knox, Andrea Graf, Juan Rodriguez and Eduard Papaj. The January CLE will consist of a judge panel discussion regarding WCAIS tips.

   c. Legislative: Christian Petrucci advised a legislative liaison meeting was not held last month and as such update was deferred. Christian also mentioned that Section has not presented a legislative CLE in recent months and Alexis suggested same in early 2019.
d. Treasurer: Eric Pearson provided treasury update and advised that there is an approximate $26,000.00 surplus. Judge Denise Krass reminded that membership fees only cover Wi-Fi, thus surplus is due to sponsorship efforts.

e. Fundraising: Jeffrey Gross advised that fundraising is complete for October 25, 2018 Halloween Party. Discussion ensued regarding date of Holiday Party and December 5, 2018 was selected, assuming venue is available.

f. Charitable Events and Community Service: Deborah Richman advised that October charity is Team Foster, November charity is Women Against Abuse, and December charity is Toys for Tots. Section will be hosting luncheon at St. John’s Hospice on November 14, 2018 and November 15, 2018.

g. Marketing: Judge Denise Krass prepared a save the date for the Halloween event and will forward same for submission in the Philadelphia Bar Reporter. Judge Krass reminded of the October 15, 2018 article deadline and Andrea volunteered to draft same regarding Bench Bar. The next deadline for article submission if November 15, 2018 and Deborah volunteered to draft same regarding Halloween event and related charity. A spirited discussion ensued about sponsorship issues.

h. Arts in the Court: Deferred.

i. YLD: Patrick Cummings deferred update.

j. PBA: Joseph Ring advised Matthew Wilson won the 2018 Irvin Stander Memorial Award. He further advised that the PBA Workers’ Compensation Fall Section Meeting is scheduled to occur October 4, 2018 and October 5, 2018.

k. Diversity and Inclusion: Kaitlin Files advised that a teacher from Strawberry Mansion High School reached out to discuss interest in bringing students to court to observe proceedings. Judge Snyder and Alexis Handrich suggested using a mock trial approach rather than allowing them to observe actual hearings. Judge Craig suggested combination or observation of actual court proceedings and mock trial, such as allowing students to observe call of the list and then performing a simulation of hearing with testimony in another courtroom. Judge Krass suggested multiple simulations. Kaitlin suggested dates of November 9, 2018 and November 16, 2018 and co-chairs advised they will meet with Judge San Angelo to discuss.

l. Law School Liaison: Deferred.

m. Of Counsel: Judge Snyder reported on the Consignment Agreement for the sale of the Association’s art collection, currently located at Jenkins Law
Library. Judge Snyder also reported on the status of the search for a new executive director and the engagement of Diversified Search to assist in that process. He made request that Section provide one time contribution to Association to help with deficit issue. Judge Seelig noted this was thoroughly discussed at last meeting and motion to defer this discussion of one time donation carried unanimously.

6. New Business:

   Reminder to Committee to contact co-chairs regarding interest in Committee positions for 2019.

   Judge Snyder encouraged members to attend the Brandeis Law Society's program, Jewish Law Day, which will include a free ethics CLE and reception to follow on September 20, 2018.

   There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle R. DeRosa
Secretary