WORKERS’ COMPENSATION SECTION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, January 25, 2019

MINUTES

In attendance: Judge Craig
Judge Farese
Judge Krass
Judge Olin
Judge Rago
Patrick Blair
Maria Ciccotelli
J.P. DeMarco
Ashley Drinkwine
Kaitlin Files
Jeff Gross
Kelly Hemple
Alexis Handrich
Alex Kwasny
Mark L. Mazzanti
Matt McGeehan
Eric Pearson
Christian Petrucci
Joseph Ring
Anna Rio
Andrea Rock
Judge Michael Snyder
WORKERS’ COMPENSATION SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Friday, January 25, 2019  

CONDENSED MINUTES

1. Meeting is called to order. Motion for approval of November 2, 2018 Minutes is made, seconded and all are in favor.

2. Introduction is made of the Co-Chairs for 2020-Judge Nancy Farese, Andrea Graf and Anna Rio. Introduction, as well, of the 2019 Executive Committee Members Co-Chairs – Judge Sandra Craig, Kelly Hemple and J.P. DeMarco. Introduction, also, of other Executive Committee Members [Secretary Danielle DeRosa; Treasurer Eric Pearson; Fundraising and Events Committee Jeffrey Gross; Law School Liaison Ashley Drinkwine, Legislative Liaisons Ruxandra Osgood, Geoffrey Dlin, and Christian Petrucci; PA Bar Liaison Joseph Ring; YLD Liaison Patrick Cummings; Arts in the Court Committee Judge Scott Olin and Cathy Surbeck; Charitable Events Committee Judge Tina Rago, Jennifer Etkin and Deborah Richman; New Membership Matthew McGeehan; Marketing and Communications/Web Liaison Judge Denise Krass, Judge Tina M. Rago and Maria Ciccotelli; Board of Governors Representative Mark Mazzanti; CLE Committee Maria Ciccotelli and Patrick Blair; Diversity and Inclusion Kaitlin Files and Jenna Messa, and lastly Of Counsel Judge A. Michael Snyder].

3. Discussion that the Holiday Party will likely be held this year on December 4 at a new Cescaphe venue, “Lucy” (231 So. Broad Street).

4. The WC Section Awards/Martha Hampton luncheon is scheduled for May 3, 2019. The venue will return to the 2017 location at the Sheraton Society Hill.

5. The Irvin Standers Award announcement has been published at the Association’s website and will be circulated on the list-serve. Ashley Drinkwine as Law School Liaison will be circulating the announcement at the area law schools. Application can now be submitted electronically.
6. Committee Updates:
   a. CLE: Per Maria Ciccotelli, the February CLE will discuss medical marijuana in the context of workers’ compensation claims. The speaker will be Jenifer Dana Kaufman. The March CLE will include a representative from the UEGF and will include discussion as to legislative changes. Further discussion that a CLE to come later in the year will qualify for an ethics credit. Also, some two-hour presentations will be considered.
   b. Treasurer: Statements for October, 2018 and November, 2018 were presented to the Committee. Noted that with respect to sponsors, thank-you letters will be sent to each sponsoring entity. These will be sent along with confirmation as to the amount donated and specific beneficiaries.
   c. Charitable Events and Community Service: Charities for this calendar year are
      Saint John’s Hospice – 1/25/2019
      PAWS – 2/22/2019
      USO – 3/22/2019
      Philadelphia Children’s Alliance – 4/12/2019 (Note: Teddy Bears much desired)
      Sean Strong – 5/03/2019 (Cash donations preferred)
      Alex’s Lemonade – 6/19/2019 (Money donations requested)
      Aid for Friends – 8/16/2019
      Women Against Abuse – 9/20/2019
      Ronald McDonald House – 10/11-12/2019 (Atlantic City Bench-Bar Conference)
      Children’s Village – 11/15/2019
      Toys for Tots – 12/04/2019 (Holiday Party)
      Note: Additionally with respect to Saint John’s Hospice, volunteers from the Section are requested to appear at the 4/03/2019 and 8/07/2019 lunch service to assist in food service. Note further, the Section, through member donations, will cover the costs of catering for the 11/21/2019 luncheon which will be done by the Bocce Club.
      Judge Rago initiates discussion of having representatives from some of the charities to speak at the Awards/ Hampton Luncheon.
   d. Web Liaison: Judge Krass requests emails regarding nominees for the Martha Hampton Award. Maria Ciccotelli again reminds the Committee of our Facebook presence @Philly Workers’ Comp.
e. Diversity and Inclusion: The Section-sponsored mock trial term starts 1/31/2019 and runs through 2/08/2019. The team sponsored by the Section is from the Academy at Palumbo. Kaitlin Files notes that the student team members are very motivated. Volunteers are requested, but must first obtain the necessary child protection clearances from the Department of Human Services.

f. Arts and the Courts: Judge Olin notes that the Bar Association is selling most of the paintings previously housed in the Jenkins Law Library facility. As to the Section-sponsored paintings hung in the Arch Street venue; a panel listing the individual donors should be placed at the venue by the end of February. Further, funding for the preservation work necessary for these paintings is now in place.

g. YLD: Deferred.

h. Board of Governors: On 1/19 Mark Mazzanti attended as the Section’s delegate to the Bar Association’s Board of Governor’s Retreat. The Judicial Rating Commission has now made the category of “highly recommended” a permanent option, to go along with the other ratings of not recommended and recommended. All Association members are urged to take note of and make use of the Lawyer Referral Information Service. The performance of the Association’s CLE program overall was lauded. There was discussion about increasing inter-section cooperation with respect to community service, charity, CLE, and social events. The Board of Governors will profile a section or committee each month in the Philadelphia Lawyer Periodical. All Association members were urged to canvass their respective firms to increase membership in the Association. Further, all Board of Governor members were committed to increasing membership, and all pledged to pay the $22.00 cost of at least one law student’s annual membership.

7. Fundraising/Events:
   All enjoyed the Spring Party location at the Cescaphe venue at the Water Works. The Spring event, therefore, will likely repeat at that location.

8. Legislative Liaison:
   No new Workers’ Compensation legislation is on the imminent horizon.

9. Of Counsel:
   Judge Michael Snyder, in his capacity as Chancellor Elect of the Philadelphia Bar Association discusses the procedure necessary for a possible proposed increase in our Section dues to $30.00 per annum versus the current $25.00. The Association is searching for new insurance vendors to obtain group pricing on health and perhaps also workers’ compensation
coverages. Discussion that all member sections of the Association have been asked to each contribute $550.00 to the Association to assist, generally, in defraying costs. Discussion at some length as to sponsorships sought by the Bar Association not conflicting with sponsorships sought by our Section. Further discussion that universe of current and potential future sponsor seems adequate for both the Association and the Section.

Discussion as to the Bar Foundation’s project to build the “Equal Justice Center” at 8th and Race Streets. Judge Snyder advises that contributions will now be sought from major corporations in the City. Judge Snyder also mentions the Association’s appreciation of the Section’s annual $1,000.00 contribution to the Foundation.

Motion for adjournment made, seconded and approved by all.

Meeting adjourned.

Mark L. Mazzanti