WORKERS’ COMPENSATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, February 23, 2018

MINUTES

In attendance: Judge Audrey Beach
Judge Denise Krass
Judge Tina Maria Rago
Judge Todd Seelig
Maria Ciccotelli
Patrick Cummings
Danielle DeRosa
Caroline Diehl
Ashley Drinkwine
Jennifer Etkin
Alexis Handrich
Kelly Hemple
Mark Mazzanti
Christian Petrucci
Joseph Ring
Andrea Rock
Amit Shah
Catherine Surbeck
WORKERS’ COMPENSATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Friday, February 23, 2018

CONDENSED MINUTES

1. Meeting is called to order. Motion for approval of November 2017 and January 2018 meeting minutes is seconded and all are in favor.

2. Workers’ Compensation Awards Luncheon will be held April 20, 2018 at 11:30 AM at the Ritz-Carlton. The keynote speaker will be James Fitzgerald, an American criminal profiler, forensic linguist, and author. A motion to approve the $2,500.00 speaker fee and purchase of book for each attendee, not to exceed $12.00 per book, carried unanimously.

3. The Spring Party will be held June 14, 2018. The Co-Chairs will perform site visits in the upcoming weeks.


5. Committee Updates:
   
a. Board of Governors: Judge Tina Maria Rago provided an update regarding the recent Board of Governors meeting wherein membership and increasing membership dues were discussed. The Public Interest Section is undertaking a revision of their bylaws.

b. CLE Committee: Kelly Hemple provided an updated concerning upcoming CLE seminars. On March 16, 2018, Section will host “Yellow Freight After WCAIS and Beyond” CLE luncheon presented by Marla Joseph and Neil Dombrowski. There will be no seminars in April, June, and July. The next CLE seminar will be in May, likely on issues with Bureau forms.

c. Legislative Committee: On February 6, 2018, the Section conducted an emergency vote by e-mail as to whether the Section should draft a resolution in opposition to Senate Bill 936. The motion failed with 4 votes in favor and 4 votes against. Discussion was held regarding pros and cons of the Senate Bill and voting members of the defense bar indicated they would discuss and reconsider their position.

d. Treasurer: See Treasure’s Report.

e. Fundraising: Judge Seelig advised that per Jeffrey Gross, the Section has $7,500 in sponsors for the Workers’ Compensation Awards Luncheon. Jeff has begun fundraising for the Spring Party as well.

f. Events: Deferred.
g. Charitable Events and Community Service: The sub-committee is collecting charitable donations for the United Service Organizations (USO) at today’s lunch and learn seminar. Sub-committee is inquiring with USO about a sponsorship opportunity relating to their new construction and will provide an update at the next meeting. The next collection will be for Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society. The Section will coordinate a volunteer opportunity at John’s Hospice to occur Monday, March 19, 2018 and plans to coordinate another opportunity in June 2018.

h. Marketing and Communications Committee: Suggestion was made that the awards luncheon be promoted in the April Bar Reporter. Concerning membership, the Section’s membership list was circulated for review and recruitment.

i. Arts in the Courts: Catherine Surbeck advised that Pond Lehocky will sponsor the preservation of the Section’s paintings by making two installment payments of $2,500.00, totaling $5,000.00, over the next two years for preservation donated by law firms.

j. YLD Liaison: Per Patrick Cummings, the YLD is interested in a joint happy hour with our Section. Discussed sponsorship and an event to occur in September.

k. PBA: Joseph Ring provided an updated regarding the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA). He advised the PBA Workers’ Compensation is opposing HB 1840 as written, but is not taking a position for or against the reinstitution of Impairment Rating Evaluations. The Section is concerned HB 1840 may spawn unnecessary litigation, but is not formally opposed to alternative legislation regarding Impairment Rating Evaluations.

l. Diversity and Inclusion Committee: Caroline Diehl indicated the Committee will be moving in a different direction this year. She proposed that the Section commit to promoting administrative law in local classrooms, which will not require a monetary investment like past projects.

m. Of Counsel: Deferred.

6. New Business:

a. The copier at the Philadelphia Hearing Office operates at a loss. An announcement will be made at the upcoming CLE to obtain feedback from Section members as to whether it is worth renewing the lease for same.
b. Members will discuss the Social Media Proposal made by the Solo, Small and Mid-Size Firm Management Committee and propose a response by the Workers’ Compensation Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.