WORKERS' COMPENSATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, February 24, 2020

CONDENSED MINUTES

In attendance:  Judge Tina Maria Rago- Co-chair
                 Andrea M. Graf - Co-chair
                 Anna V. Rio - Co-chair
                 Judge Sandra Craig
                 Judge Denise Krass
                 Judge Scott Olin
                 Judge Todd Seelig
                 Judge Michael Snyder
                 Judge Audrey Timm
                 Kimberly Costello
                 Kaitlin Files
                 Jeffrey S. Gross
                 Alexis Handrich
                 Jenna L. King
                 Mark L. Mazzanti
                 Christian M. Petrucci
                 Eric B. Pearson
                 Joseph L. Ring
                 Caitlyn Sullivan
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CONDENSED MINUTES

1. Meeting is called to order by Co-chairs. Motion for approval of the January 2020 Condensed Minutes is seconded and passed unanimously.

2. Ms. Graf updated the committee on recent business.
   a. The co-chairs attended the Philadelphia Bar Section Leaders’ Meeting with Judge Snyder.

   b. Bench-Bar is scheduled for October 23-24. Committee members are reminded to mark their calendars. Two CLE topics are needed, and members are encouraged to contact the co-chairs or CLE subcommittee with any suggestions. Judge Craig recommended using topics with cross-over to other sections, such as knee replacement or anatomic classes.

   c. The Mission 25 Committee met with Catering by Design. Invitations to the gala will be sent electronically. Judge Rago notes that a few personalized invitations will be sent to honorees. Messrs. Pearson and Gross reported that budgeting and fundraising were on target. Judge Snyder recommended inviting the past ten years of Bar Association chancellors. Mr. Pearson recommended twenty-five years to cover the entire history of the Workers’ Compensation Section. Judge Rago recommended twenty-six years to cover the chancellor who approved the section.

   d. Nominations for the Martha Hampton Award will start April 1.

   f. The National Museum of American Jewish History will host the 25th Anniversary Gala on June 25. The contracts have been signed, and the email announcement will be sent shortly. Guests are encouraged and the museum will be open to attendees. The event will last from 6PM to 10PM. As a reminder, there is no awards luncheon or spring party this year. The Martha Hampton Award will be presented at the gala.

3. Committee Updates:

   a. CLE: Two additional CLE topics are needed; however, the remainder of the year is fully planned. The March CLE will address WCAB rule changes and a substitute commissioner will be found for Commissioner Crawford, who cannot attend.

   b. Fundraising: Mr. Gross secured three sponsors for the gala at $2,500 each. The committee is looking for firms to sponsor a booklet for the event.
c. Legislative Update: Mr. Petrucci reported that there is nothing new to report.

d. Charitable Events and Community Service: Checks for $250 were issued to the charities approved at the January meeting. The list of volunteers for serving lunch at St. John's Hospice was full within 3 hours, and the subcommittee will be adding another St. John's date. The Fairmount Park Conservancy was selected as the charity for the Gala. A motion for a $2500 donation to Fairmount Park Conservancy was seconded and passed. Mr. Fox will also create a donation page for the Section's Facebook page.

e. Marketing and Communication: The “News” section of the webpage has been fixed and photographs will be going up.

f. YLD: Deferred.

g. PBA: Larry Chaban of Allegheny County is the recipient of the Irv Stander Award this year. The award will be presented at the WC Fall Section Meeting in September at Hershey. Section leadership will change during the PBA Annual Meeting which will be held in Philadelphia this year. Chair-Elect, Eric Betzner, will become the chair.

h. Diversity and Inclusion: Ms. Files reported that both of the Section’s mock trial teams won and will advance to the next round. The committee discussed hosting a celebration for the mock trial participants. The committee also discussed providing t-shirts or folders. The discussion was tabled for the March meeting. Ms. King indicated that she would get estimates on costs.

i. Arts in the Court: Judge Olin reported reaching an agreement with the artist and Commonwealth regarding the display of the new artwork. Motion was made to attach a copy of the agreement to the meeting minutes. That was seconded and approved.

j. Law School Liaison: The Irv Stander Award will be presented at the May Lunch and Learn. Applications have been sent to local law professors, and the deadline will be April 17. In light of final exams, Judge Seelig moved to extend the deadline to April 24. This was seconded and passed unanimously.

k. Membership: The subcommittee is working with Andrea Morris Tracy to send out membership emails. Judge Rago and Judge Snyder recommended encouraging associate members in the counties.

l. Wi-Fi: Judge Seelig reported that the wi-fi password was changed, and the network is now reserved for Bar Association members.
m. Of Counsel and Board of Governors Update: Judge Snyder reported that the Board of Governors will issue a statement in support of the Allegheny County Bar Association regarding inappropriate comments made from the bench by a sitting Judge.

A resolution was passed for final oversight over articles in Philadelphia Lawyer and Bar Reporter.

Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham is secured as the speaker for the June Quarterly Meeting; however, there has not been a date set.

n. Treasurer: Mr. Pearson reported that the Section is in good financial standing. Section dues are in and receipts are up.

o. Bar Reporter: Judge Rago encouraged members to think of topic ideas, especially for anything related to the 25th Anniversary.

p. Of counsel: Judge Snyder discussed recent diversity initiatives, including the creation of a diversity panel for the Philadelphia Bar Association.

The Association is also involved in promoting reform of the parole and commutation process in the Commonwealth.

4. New Business: Next month's meeting is scheduled for March 20. This will be a shortened meeting from 11AM to 12:15AM. An email reminder will be sent. On May 17, the Bar Association is hosting a 5k race.

There being no additional business for the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:46AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph L. Ring
Secretary