WORKERS' COMPENSATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, January 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
                Christopher M. Fox
                Caroline E. Gentilcore
                Jeffrey S. Gross
                Alexis Handrich
                Kelly Hemple
                Alexander J. Kwasny
                Mark L. Mazzanti
                Christian M. Petrucci
                Katherine Mutschler
                Eric B. Pearson
                Joseph L. Ring
1. Meeting is called to order by Co-chairs. Motion for approval of the November 2019 Condensed Minutes is seconded and passed unanimously.

2. Ms. Graf updated the committee on recent business.
   a. The Section Holiday Party received positive feedback. Many attendees spoke favorably about the location.

   b. The inaugural luncheon enjoyed a good turn out from section members. There were two full tables from the WC section. Judge Snyder reported that the "Meet the Chancellor" event on 1/7/20 had 400+ in attendance, despite bad weather.

   c. Judge Rago, Ms. Graf, Ms. Rio, and Mr. Mazzanti attended the Bar Leaders Retreat and reported that it was beneficial. At the Retreat, they discussed ways of increasing the benefits of bar association membership.

   d. Ms. Graf made a motion to approve future attendance at the Bar Leaders' Retreat, which would be around $40-50 per attendee. Several members seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

   e. The Bench-Bar Conference is scheduled for 10/23 to 10/24/2020 at Borgata Hotel. Registration is open.

   f. The National Museum of American Jewish History will host the 25th Anniversary Gala on 6/25/2020. The contracts have been signed, and 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: Ms. Hemple announced that the CLE committee is in the process of selecting future CLE topics and will be meeting after the CLE today. The committee has discussed coordinating with the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Family Law section for a 2 hour CLE preceding this year's Halloween Happy Hour. Judge Krass noted that this will be the 5th anniversary of Halloween Happy Hour.
b. Fundraising: Mssrs. Gross and Pearson reported $55,000 in fundraising for 2019. Mr. Pearson circulated a copy of the Treasurer's Report to the committee. The Committee at large thanked Mr. Gross for his fundraising efforts.

c. Legislative Update: Deferred.

d. Charitable Events and Community Service: Ms. Handrich reported that the approved donations from November 2019 were disbursed. This year's charities are as follows:
   i. January: St. Johns Hospice
   ii. February: PAWS
   iii. March: Aid for Friends
   iv. April: Children’s Alliance
   v. May: USO
   vi. August: Alex’s Lemonade Stand
   vii. September: Children’s Village
   viii. October: Ronald McDonald House (Bench-Bar) and Women Against Abuse (Halloween Party)
   ix. November: St. John’s Hospice
   x. December: Toys for Tots

Ms. Handrich made motion to approve a one-time $250 donation to each of the 10 charities for a total expense of $2,500. This was seconded by several members and approved unanimously.

e. Marketing and Communication: Mr. Fox reported that the Section’s Facebook Page is posting news about events, updates, awards, and the monthly CLEs. He encouraged Section members who are on Facebook to support the page.

Mr. Fox invited members to send Section related photos for the Facebook Page.

Judge Rago requested that the Section set up an Instagram account for pictures.

The Committee at large discussed moderation of any offensive comments made to the Facebook account. A motion was made for the co-chairs to serve as moderators of any comments, and Mr. Fox will remove any comments or postings at the direction of the co-chairs. The motion was seconded and passed.

Judge Krass updated the Committee on the website. An update is in progress with estimated conclusion in March 2020. Judge Krass has forwarded any updated information, and this should be posted to the website with completion of the update.
Judge Seelig reported that the 8th Street wi-fi password is updated. Members can check their email for the password. It will be changed one time per month.

f. YLD: Deferred

g. PBA: Mr. Kwasny reported that a proposed updated NTCP form was provided to the PBA for comment. Further updates will be provided as information becomes available.

h. Diversity and Inclusion: Ms. Files indicated that more attorney volunteers are needed for the Mock Trial Program. This year, the program will be fielding two teams and needs more volunteers for next year. Judge Rago reviewed the certification process and background checks required.

A proposed sign-up program for volunteers was tabled for discussion at the August 2020 meeting.

i. Arts in the Court: Judge Olin announced that the committee obtained insurance on the paintings through a rider on the Bar Association's policy. The Committee's new artist is Jennifer Costello-Okanura, and her commission is $2000. This will be $5000 per painting after framing and finishing.

Judge Olin discussed the first painting from Ms. Costello-Okanura, which will be the Wanamaker Building Holiday Light Show.

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 4/17/20. In light of final exams, Judge Seelig moved to extend the deadline to 4/24. This was seconded and passed unanimously.

k. Membership: The co-chairs reminded the Section members to ensure that their dues are paid. Reminder emails will be sent out, and members are encouraged to recruit from their firms. For firm-paid dues, please ensure the firm signs up the member for the WC Section.

l. Of Counsel and Board of Governors Update: At the Board of Governors Meeting on 12/16/19, Judge Snyder attended a presentation regarding the Innocence Project and lack of commutations in Pennsylvania.

The Bar Association is hiring a social media consultant, Brittany Robinson.

The Bar Association’s cost-cutting measures have been successful and reduced expenses by $102k more than expected.
Board of Governors members are sponsoring law students for Bar Association Membership. Individual section members are encouraged to sponsor a law student individually or as part of his/her firm. The cost is $20 per student. Judge Rago will send out an email to Section members.

At the 12/23/19 meeting, the Board discussed a response to proposed HB 196. Under this bill, Judges would be elected by region, rather than state-wide. The Board is discussing a response to the proposed legislation.

m. Treasurer: Deferred.

n. Bar Reporter: Ms. Graf reported that this Section’s first article for the year was submitted.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph L. Ring
Secretary