

COLORADO BAR ASSOCIATION

SOLO AND SMALL FIRM SECTION

Minutes of August 24 2011 meeting

Members present:

Joe Lusk, Chair James Duve, Past Chair; Eric Nesbit, Treasurer; Christopher Hayes, Secretary; Dave Spreccace; Andy Friedman; Mark Larson, Mark Miller, Phil Shuey, Barbara Hahn, Sheri Roswell; Martha Karnopp

By Phone: No Phone attendees

YLD Representative: Jennifer McGinn

CBA/CLEC Staff present: Reba Nance
Heather Clark
Brandi Rome
Lauren Eisenbach

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 after a quorum was determined.

I. Minutes of April Meeting

Following a motion made and seconded and discussion, the minutes of the council meeting of [], 2011 were approved, subject to correction of the date and the addition of Mark Larson as an attendee.

II. Treasurer's Report

Eric Nesbitt presented the Treasurer's report for the period ending 7/31/2011. The ending balance of the Section's account was \$18,963.58 on July 31, 2011. Expenses for the month of May consisted mostly of the administrative fees that CBA charges the section (as it charges all sections) for staff support.

The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously following the making and seconding of a motion.

III. CBA news affecting the Solo and Small Firm Section

a. The ABA Solo-Small Firm Section will hold its annual meeting at the Westin in Denver, October 20-22. Reba Nance reported on the upcoming meeting program. Discussion was held concerning ways the CBA S-SFS could participate.

b. Lauren Eisenbach reported on a number of CBA programs of interest to our Section

i. The program on buying and selling a law practice was held May 2011; it was reported to have been well attended.

- ii. Two programs on social media have been held; about 50 people attended each.
 - iii. “Hanging Your Shingle” was held August 18-20 and was well attended. The lunchtime Q&A was very popular. The council discussed the possibility of adding an Advanced Track to the program next year.
 - iv. “Small Firm/Big Success” programs are to be webcast on the 2nd Monday of each month, and are expected to be an effective Section outreach tool to build membership.
 - v. Section membership has exceeded 500 since the dues reduction went into effect.
- c. Reba Nance announced that the e-filing focus group project is ongoing.
 - d. Casemaker is still awaiting its “Elite” upgrade release. Training has been delayed pending the upgrade.
 - e. The council discussed the ongoing privacy task force, and urged Members to provide feedback to the CBA.

IV. Legislative Liaison Report

Legislative Liaison reported with no news.

V. Old Business / New Business

- a. Law School outreach: Reba reported that the CBA has done many law school outreaches and that they are worthwhile. Joe Lusk reported having discussed an outreach program with DU; Jennifer McGinn advocated doing outreach to both law schools. There was general discussion concerning how to put on a program, and when. The sense was that early spring is probably the best time. A motion was made and passed to organize a committee to put on an outreach in 2012. Committee members to be: Joe Lusk, Phil Shuey, Chris Hayes, and Jennifer McGinn.
- b. Happy Hour: Jennifer reported that happy hours have been going well, but she would like to see more participation by section members. The Council discussed the adoption of a policy to have Section sign up forms at these events, and Reba helpfully reminded Council members how to get the signup form from the CBA website.
- c. Jennifer proposed a an event to be held in October in honor of the first anniversary of the Section’s Happy Hour programs. The goal is to bring in 100 people with extra food and drink attractions, music, a raffle, etc. She asked for a

budget of \$1200-\$1500. After discussion, a motion was made and approved. In addition, a further motion was made to form a committee to shape policy recommendations for how to use Section funds in the future.

- d. Fee discount: Discussion was held concerning how to implement a fee discount for students and lawyers in their first year. There was a great deal of discussion and many ideas, but no consensus. Phil Shuey was appointed to lead a committee to formulate some recommendations.
- e. Branding: Dave Spreca reported on his investigations into efforts to brand the Section. The goal is to identify and differentiate the many practice areas that the Section members represent. Much discussion was had concerning slogans, the distinction between solos and small firm practitioners, the issue of whether it is possible to isolate the membership into a directory with pictures, and the discussion was ultimately tabled.
- f. Facebook: Joe Lusk reported back on his investigation into whether Facebook presence was potentially valuable for the Section membership. He attended an ABA webcast on the subject and recommended that the Section not establish a Facebook presence as a Section.
- g. Barbara Hahn proposed that the Section fund a project to demonstrate how to develop a Blogspot page for solos/small firm practitioners. The Section Council agreed to fund the project up to \$1500.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by motion at 1:45

/s/ Christopher Hayes

Christopher Hayes, Secretary
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