

COLORADO BAR ASSOCIATION

SOLO AND SMALL FIRM SECTION

Minutes of January 25, 2012 meeting

Members present:

Joe Lusk, Chair; Christopher Hayes, Secretary; Eric Nesbitt, Treasurer; Mark Miller; Phil Shuey; Dave Spreace; Barbara Cashman; Jim Duve; Andy Friedman;

By Phone: There were no phone attendees

Absent: (excused) Sheri Roswell
(excused) Jennifer McGinn
(excused) Mark Larson

CBA/CLEC Staff present: Reba Nance
Lauren Eisenbach

Other Attendees: Matt Willson (Blog project)
Lisa Travis Fisher (CBA)

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 after a quorum was determined.

I. Minutes of October 26, 2011 Meeting

Subject to a revision to reflect that Barbara Cashman was present at the October meeting and not Martha Karnopp, the minutes of the council meeting of October 2, 2011 were approved unanimously following a motion made and seconded.

II. Treasurer's Report

Mark Nesbitt read the Treasurer's report into the record. A motion to accept the report was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

III. Legislative Liaison Report/CBA Board of Governors' Representative Report

There was no news reported by the Legislative Liaison.

Mark Miller, the Section representative to the CBA Board of Governors, attended the BoG meeting on October 29, 2011. The main item of interest to the BoG was the Section proposal to offer a six month free trial membership to new bar admittees.

Mark reported that the CBA is looking for consistency in its membership policy, and to serve that wants to limit the number of sections that a member can sign up for at the beginning. Other sections expressed interest in the free trial membership concept after hearing of it from our Section, and the BoG wants to develop some guidelines to

implement it on a bar-wide basis. The BoG will consider the issue again at the Spring meeting. A motion was made and seconded to keep the Section dues at \$15 for all members, while we wait for the BoG to decide on a policy. It was approved unanimously. Lauren Eisenbach will distribute the notes that Mark Miller provided.

IV. Old Business: CBA – DBA Programs report

- a. The Small Firm/Big success program continues on the 2nd Monday of each month. The next program is to be “Lawyers Working Together” presented by Chip Mortimer. Fee Agreements will be the subject of a future program. Announcements are sent out via C-Brief; announcements and past programs will also be listed on the SoloInColo blogroll. Reba solicited new topics for this program series.
- b. In response to Reba’s solicitation of new topics, it was suggested that the Section put on a panel program reviewing various practice management applications for computers; it was also suggested that we stage a “Mini Tech Show” modeled on the ABA annual Tech Show. After discussion, a committee was appointed consisting of Phil Shuey, Andy Friedman, and Eric Nesbitt. Reba will investigate sponsorship opportunities.

V. Other Old Business

- a. E-Filing: Reba is still looking to organize focus groups in the substantive areas of probate, water, domestic relations, civil litigation, and fee collection. Reba solicited the participation of Section members. The goal is to have the new E-Filing procedures in place by 12/21/12. (Note that at the October Section Council meeting, the following council members agreed to participate and provide input for our section: Mark Miller, Dave Spreccace, and Phil Shuey).
- b. Casemaker Elite has been released in Beta. The new system is reported to have lots of really useful features; CBA will begin offering training starting 2/17/12.
- c. The Holiday party was well attended and generally considered a success. It yielded an unknown number of new Section members; perhaps as many as 20. The “table captains” concept worked well.
- d. Law School Outreach: DU will be putting on a panel of practitioners on 2/2/12 and has solicited the participation of our Section Council members. Discussion was held concerning the message to convey to the school and the students. Phil Shuey volunteered to represent for the Section Council.
- e. Fee discount proposals: See the BoG report.

VI. New Business

- a. Participation of the Section in the September “Hanging Your Shingle” program: Lisa reminded that the program in September is not that far off. Andy Friedman

and others brought up the subject of doing a related program concerning tech resources for solos/small firms in conjunction with the “Shingle” program. Much discussion was held concerning the cost and logistics of such a project. It may be possible to use the 3rd floor classroom at the CBA for this event. A committee (previously noted) was appointed to investigate this issue.

- b. Joe Lusk attended the first Westminster Happy Hour networking event and reported it was well attended. Several people asked for Section signup sheets.
- c. Reba reported that the Solo listserv has encountered some “netiquette” issues and described a recent incident in which a listserv participant disclosed client and strategy information. She asked for help in developing a set of rules and guidelines and to investigate whether and how to restrict listserv access to Section members (or at least attorney Bar members) only. Dave Spreccace and Chris Hayes volunteered to work with her on that issue. Reba also reported on a proposal to set up a list of attorneys who are willing to take referrals of clients who may have limited ability to pay (the “Low Pay/Slow Pay” proposal). She also reminded us that Consult a Colleague is now up and running.
- d. Barbara Cashman introduced Matt Willson and requested another \$1500 to fund his continued work on the website project. Matt is developing instructional materials on how to “Unify Your Information Across the Free Service” sites such as Facebook and LinkedIn. The goal is to teach lawyers how to maximize their keyword density to raise their Google search ranking. \$1500 will be used to create another Vimeo clip with this instructional material, to be placed on the Blog. A motion to approve the request was made, seconded and approved unanimously with one member absent from the room.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by motion at 1:40

/s/ Christopher Hayes

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