

Colorado Bar Association-- Solo-Small Firm Practice Section
Minutes of Council meeting, April 22, 2009

Council members present were:

Scott Walker, Chair

Martha Karnopp, Secretary

Brian Popp, Past chair

Barba Hahn, newsletter editor

Jim Duve

Joe Lusk

Andy Friedman

Reba Nance, CBA staff

Present by telephone: Joe Bernstein, YLD rep.

Absent: Andy Toft, Brd. Of Gov. rep.

Eric Nesbitt, treasurer (family emergency)

Julian Isbicky

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:15 pm. Minutes of the 3/26/2009 were adopted.
2. Reba Nance expressed her thanks to Brian Popp for introducing the speakers at the CLE seminar on how to deal with rude lawyers, and for putting it together.
3. Scott Walker thanked everyone on the council for their assistance and support during his term as chair.
4. Jim Duve suggested an idea he had for a CLE seminar on how to wind up a practice due to death or disability of an attorney, and also how to prepare for that. There are many issues involved, including a transition team, family, pending litigation, accounts receivable, E&O tail insurance, and more. Reba said there is an ABA book on Succession Planning: Transition, Termination and Succession.
It was suggested that the seminar be ½ to 1 day. Jim Duve will head the committee to put it together. Reba, Scott and Martha will help. We need to see when we can get on the calendar for one day. Brock will have input from CLE, including the brochure.
It was suggested that every networking session in May discuss this topic and bring up ideas they would like to see addressed in the CLE.
5. Andy Friedman suggested we have other “themed” networking meetings throughout the year, possibly every other month. Brian suggested using the vignette video tapes. Reba said there is a new, redone manual to accompany them. Jim suggested for one theme the topic of website development.
6. In discussion of the SSF section, Reba said that CBA has decided to run focus groups, including with the young lawyers and may move to the SSF section, to see what attorneys are needing at this time. Andy F. suggested another theme topic for networking meetings could be

“what can the CBA do for you?” Reba said there is concern about how the economy will affect dues payment. Brian said we have about 4-5,000 members, and \$11,000 in our account. We discussed possibly lowering the dues, or finding another way to encourage/reward participation. Michelle said that the government law section does six free CLE meetings with lunch each year.. Joe L. moved, and Brian seconded, that we table the discussion about dues.

7. The issue of new officers was addressed . We need a chair-elect, secretary, and one council member-at-large. Martha will draft an email asking for volunteers and Michelle will send it out. The deadline is May 1.

8. Brian moved to adjourn the meeting, Jim seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Update since the meeting:

CBA Solo-Small Firm Section candidates for 2009-2010:

Chair (1-yr term): Martha J. Karnopp, Aurora

Chair-elect (1-yr term): Jim Duve

Secretary (1-yr term): David Spreccace

Treasurer (1-yr. term): Eric L. Nesbitt, Highlands Ranch

Immediate Past Chair (1-yr term): Scott N. Walker, Ft. Collins

Four Council Members at Large (2-yr terms, max. 3 consecutive terms):

2-year term expires 6/30/2011

(new) Paul Zarlengo, Denver

(new) Michelle Rabouin, Durango

* Andrew I. Friedman, Denver (2-yr term expires 6/30/2010)

* Joseph H. Lusk, Wheat Ridge (2-yr term expires 6/30/2010)

Board of Governors Representative (2-yr term expires 6/30/2011):

Andrew M. Toft, Denver

Newsletter Editor (at discretion of council):

Barbara Cashman Hahn, Denver

CBA Young Lawyers Division Representative (1 yr, max 3 consecutive terms):

Joseph Bernstein

The duties of chair-elect are to attend meetings, fill in for the chair as needed, and step into the chair position the following year.

The secretary provides minutes of the meetings.

Council members-at large attend meetings and determine section policies and activities.

I want to note that both Brian Popp and Scott Stauffer, former chairs of the section, offered their services as members-at-large if they were needed to fill any vacancies. I appreciate their willingness to serve, and I am happy that we have new people wanting to participate. I think Michelle will add a level of geographical diversity beyond the Front Range.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha J. Karnopp, Secretary