

Solo-Small Firm Practice Section—Colorado Bar Association

Minutes of Council meeting, August 17, 2007, 3:00 pm

Council members present in person:

Brian Popp, Council Chair

Scott Walker, Chair Elect

Scott Stauffer,

Andrew Toft, Board of Governors representative

Jim Duve

Andy Friedman

Michelle Gersick, CBA staff

Reba Nance, CBA staff

Martha Karnopp, Secretary

Council Members present by telephone:

Henry Smith, immediate past chair

Julian Izbiky

Sean Bell, Young Lawyers Liaison

Guests

Brock Wood – CBA/CLE, former EC member

I. Approval of April 2007 minutes: There were no minutes.

II. Treasurer's report: Brian announced that Joe Cohen, treasurer, had resigned that morning (8/17), so there is a vacancy in that position. However, after the meeting was adjourned but while there was still a quorum in the room, a volunteer for the treasurer's position came in and was ratified. He is Eric Nesbitt, at [eric@nesbittlawoffices.com](mailto:eric@nesbittlawoffices.com).

Brian is immediate past Treasurer. He reported that as of 6/30/2007 the section account balance was \$5,313.75.

A question was asked as to the source of revenue. The section collects revenues from section dues and spends its funds on programs. Most of the revenue comes in the first month or two (July/August). Revenues since July 1 have been \$5,000, so the new balance is \$10,369.99.

III. Old Business:

A. The appointments to office for the section made by email voting in 6/2007 were ratified by acclamation.

B. Discussion of the Business of Law Seminar, scheduled for Sept. 28.

Brock Wood reported that there will be 5 hours of general credit and .5 hrs. of ethics. The brochure had just gone to the mail house. He passed around a brochure.

Two national speakers: Edward Poll at no cost, and Ellen Friedman from the PA Bar (equivalent position to Reba's and friend of Reba's). Her only cost will be airfare.

Question: How much will the section be charged for the seminar? Only expense is Ellen's airfare.

Motion was made that members of the Council attend the seminar for free. Reba confirmed that this has historically been done. It was agreed to unanimously.

There was discussion of Brock speaking to other sections about the Bus-of-Law seminar, including the Hanging Your Shingle program, in progress during the meeting with 75 attendees.

Question: Should the attendees of that program be given an additional discount? Consensus was no.

C. Emergency Board of Governors meeting held 7/27/2007, report by Andy Toft.

The meeting was poorly attended. The topic was the Judicial Performance Task Force.

A decision was made (not unanimously) to approve the task force's recommendations and send them on to the Executive Council.

Some of the recommendations:

Rather than being nonpartisan, judgeships should be more bipartisan.

The Chief Justice should not be on the committee reviewing his/her performance.

Something about juries.

There should be public hearings on retention.

Andy wasn't sure why it was an emergency meeting; it only needed to be done before the November meeting.

D. By-law revision: There will be a presentation on this topic at the next meeting, by Henry Smith and Scott Walker.

E. Future meetings of the section Council.

Brian proposed Sept. 12; December 12; March 12, all at noon. Henry moved to have the September meeting during the lunch break at the Sept. 28 Bus-of-Law seminar. The motion carried. It was agreed that we would wait until that meeting to confirm the December and March dates.

Henry said he had had a hard time getting a quorum at meetings, and suggested combining the Council and Section meetings.

F. Section meetings: Brian suggested the following dates for Section meetings:

Sept. 28 (Bus-of-Law seminar); December ?? (holiday party); March 26 at noon (possible CLE)

After looking at the CBA calendar, it was agreed to have the holiday party on December 20. Brian pointed out that that is the traditional date for the DBA Young Lawyers Division holiday party, and they might join in on ours. Michelle will look into date with CBA-CLE who has control of room for calendar purposes

IV. New Business.

A. Newsletter issues: Brian said we are still looking for a newsletter editor. With an electronic format, it should be an easier job than it looks. Reba suggested there are articles from the ABA that we are welcome to cut and paste into our newsletters. Andy Friedman stressed that it should be brief and easy to read, much like the CBA weekly newsletter.

B Scott Stauffer said that the section used to do pitches to the graduating seniors in law at DU and CU in the spring, and he would like for us to renew that practice. He said we need to start planning that now. Michelle and Reba will look into dates in February and March. Scott Walker volunteered for the CU presentation.

C. Michelle said she wants a networking meeting in Fort Collins.

Andy Friedman suggested that the downtown networking meeting move to a downtown location, perhaps at the CBA office with a BYO lunch.

D. Henry said that the Health Insurance Task Force seems to be stalled, and he is trying to get it going again. Anthem was working on a program, which has been postponed until next May.

Rich Johnson is exploring a better program.

E. Brian said we have no topic yet for the March CLE program/section meeting, and we should think about it. Perhaps we could re-invent the out-of-town meeting? We have the money in the budget. A webcast might help with attendance from around the state also.

Julian said we need a program of more substantive small business law, which is practiced by many around the state. Perhaps we could combine such a program with the Business Law Section. We will continue this discussion next time.

F. Young Lawyers Division. Sean Bell said he invites the Young Lawyers Division to the Solo/Small Firm section events. Henry wants to make sure the Bus-of-Law seminar is promoted to the YLD, perhaps at a reduced rate? The reduced rate was not agreed to.

It was also suggested that we could offer the YLD reduced section dues for a year.

Brian suggested that the DBA-YLD send an ad hoc member to the section.

The meeting was adjourned, to enjoy the great BBQ buffet.

Minutes submitted by Martha J. Karnopp, secretary.