

COLORADO BAR ASSOCIATION

SOLO AND SMALL FIRM SECTION

Minutes of October 27 2010 meeting

Members present:

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

CBA/CLEC Staff present: Reba Nance
Ali Gerkman
Heather Clark

The meeting was called to order at 12:15

I. Minutes of August 25 Meeting

The minutes of the council meeting of August 25, 2010 were approved with the following changes:

Correct the spelling of Michelle Gersic's name

Note that the Newsletter is to be sent three times in the coming year, in October 2010, February 2011, and May 2011 (not four as reported in the minutes if the August 25 meeting)

With those changes, the minutes were approved unanimously following a motion made and seconded.

II. Treasurer's Report

Eric Nesbitt presented the Treasurer's report for the three month period ending September 30, 2010. Chariman Duve noted that the reported revenue of \$5040 represents 336 members.

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

III. Legislative Liaison Report

- a. Joe Lusk reported that he attended the CBA borad of governors meeting, which did not deal with issues specific to our section.
- b. Joe reported that CBA has asked section committees to remind their members that the CBA speaks for the membership, and the sections should refrain from representing their own public posititions.

IV. Old Business

a. Report on pending changes to the Rules of Professional Responsibility:

Reba reported on proposed changes to Rules 1.15 and 1.16a concerning the practitioner's responsibility to retain client files that explain financial issues and that change the definition of "client property" to exclude client files. The changes to Rule 1.16a are still in draft and have not been finalized and promulgated. The existing rule 1.15 remains in force, but does not expressly address the issue of client file retention. The proposed new rule will provide a 10 year period after which the lawyer may dispose of client files as s/he sees fit.

b. Casemaker

CBA will make a Casemaker digest available to CBA members at no cost for one year. Information and a tutorial are available on Casemaker. The group discussed the Casemaker fee structure but did not take any action.

c. CLE in Colorado

Ali Gerkman updated us on CLE programs proposed to provide a series of one-hour lunch programs on topics geared to solo and small firm issues. Launch date is January 10, 2011, programs will run on the 2nd Monday of each month, with the exception of the last, to be held May 23, 2011.

The group discussed potential topics and pricing, and resolved by sense of the committee that the programs should be priced as low as possible, with no differential for attending in person or remotely.

The first program is to deal with "The Lawyer as Employer" – employment issues for the solo/small firm .

V. New Business

a. The members discussed various ideas to promote section membership and to create more value for members of the section. Ideas discussed were:

Organize a subcommittee to explore CLE topics of interest to the membership;

Set up a "Blog Committee" to maintain the section blog using a mixture of council and non-council members

Recruit more section members outside of the metro area to participate and to form their own interest group as a subset of the Solo/Small Firm section

Heather and Ali discussed the ways in which the CBA staff are using listservs, RSS feeds, blogs and newsletter to reach additional potential members; Reba reviewed topical contents.

b. CLE Programs

Reba discussed the proposed Tech Conference, and a 1-day Solo and Small Firm conference. Discussion was held concerning the preferred content of such meetings, and it was agreed to address Ethics and Professional Responsibility in the tech context. Andy Friedman proposed addressing business development and client relations specifically. The Council agreed to use funds left over from sponsorships of the “Hanging Your Shingle” program to support the Tech Conference.

c. Networking Meetings

Discussion was held concerning the monthly networking meetings that the Section sponsors. As noted above, a number of issues and concerns were aired, together with ideas to promote section membership. The discussion was tabled without resolution.

d. Cooperation with Young Lawyers Division:

Joe Bernstein shared some ideas concerning ways to reach younger lawyers. He noted that YLD hosts an annual open house and invites other sections to attend; he recommended that SSF have a representative at this function

Joe suggested setting up a Referral Board to help members more effectively build networks and find reliable lawyers to whom to refer matters

He recommended that we investigate establishing a mentor program for young lawyers. Andy Friedman noted that there are issues presented by such a program, particularly the problems of confidentiality and imputed liability.

e. Zoomerang Survey

The survey was reported to be in draft form; the committee members were invited to review it and provide comments by email to Jim and Heather.

f. Holiday Party

Discussion was held concerning a holiday party for the Section. The date was confirmed to be December 13, between 11:30 and 1:30.

g. Newsletter, Website, Membership

Barbara Hahn reported that the newsletter was ready for templating and delivery.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by motion at 1:45

/s/ Christopher Hayes

Christopher Hayes, Secretary
The Hayes Law Firm LLC
1580 Lincoln Street Suite 700
Denver, CO 80203
303 860 1800
Chayes@Hayeslawfirmllc.com