Solo and Small Firm Section Council Meeting April 19, 2012

Minutes

The Section Council convened by conference call on April 19, 2012. Council members in attendance were Chairperson Linda F. Knapp, Tony Dessausure, John Nichols, Monet Pincus and Alex Postic. Representing the Bar were Courtney Kennaday and Shelby Crawford.

Chairperson Knapp called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Ms. Knapp welcomed all present and called for corrections to the minutes of the last meeting, held February 16, 2012. Hearing none, the minutes of the February meeting were adopted as written.

Announcement of Election Results

Ms. Knapp announced that Alex Postic was elected to serve as Chairpersonelect. The following were elected to fill three vacancies as Council members: Emily Johnston, David Wyatt, and Tracy Frick. It was noted that these three new council members would be invited to the next meeting.

Report from Section Liaison

<u>Section Funds:</u> Ms. Kennaday reported the current Section balance, as of March 31, 2012, was \$14,403.59. Year-to-date revenue was \$11,800.00 and year-to-date expenses were \$12,591.84.

Membership: Ms. Kennaday reported that there were currently 582 members of the Section, slightly down from 583 at the previous meeting. Ms. Kennaday remarked that the Listserv has been very busy and several new members have been added to the Listserv recently.

Planning for the 2012 Solo & Small Firm CLE and Annual Meeting

<u>Update on Schedule:</u> Ms. Kennaday reported that the schedule for the conference was nearing completion and thanked the Council members for their help in recommending speakers. Ms. Kennaday announced several of the speakers who have been confirmed for the conference, including Jim Calloway and Barbara Seymour. The Council discussed dropping the proposed substantive law track due to space constraints and having an all-day vendor track instead. The Council also discussed having a speaker during the luncheon this year. Mr. Nichols suggested inviting Bar President Angus Macaulay to be the luncheon speaker. Ms. Knapp agreed and remarked that this would show the section members that the Bar and the Bar President care about solo and small firms.

<u>Barbecue:</u> Ms. Kennaday provided information and prices from several potential caterers for the barbecue social to be hosted by the Section on September 13, 2012. The Council discussed charging a fee to members for attending the barbecue. Ms. Knapp proposed charging \$5 for those attending the conference and \$10 for those not attending the conference. Mr. Postic noted that this would provide an additional incentive for members to attend the conference. Ms. Kennaday noted that she would discuss charging this fee with CLE.

<u>Scholarships:</u> The Council decided to again offer a scholarship for the cost of the conference to one individual based on need. The Council also discussed offering one entire scholarship for a member of the Young Lawyers Division instead of splitting the cost of the scholarship with YLD as was done last year. Ms. Kennaday would make contact with the YLD officers.

Solo & Small Firm Awards

Ms. Knapp proposed that the Section begin offering awards for solo and small firms honoring commitment to community service, contributions to the profession, and mentoring. Mr. Postic remarked that this was a great idea since small firms are often overlooked. Ms. Knapp made a motion that the Council explore the idea of giving awards and come up with recommendations on how to proceed. The motion passed and Ms. Knapp and Ms. Pincus volunteered to be on the exploratory committee.

Future Meetings and Conference Calls

The next meeting was scheduled for June 14, 2012.

<u>Adjournment</u>

All present business of the Committee being concluded, Ms. Knapp then adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p.m.