

Solo and Small Firm Section
Council Meeting
August 25, 2011

Minutes

The Section Council convened on August 25, 2011, at the Bar Building. Members in attendance were Chairperson Linda F. Knapp and Council members Tony Dessausure, Ken Lester, John S. Nichols, Monet Pincus, Alexandre T. Postic and Flo Vinson. Representing the Bar were Courtney Kennaday, Jeff Manning and Cyndi Nickerson. Also in attendance was Kali Campbell Turner, Bar Government Affairs Director, and Council Member ex-officio Catherine S. Hendrix.

Chairperson Knapp called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

Ms. Knapp welcomed all present and called for corrections to the minutes of the last meeting, held June 23, 2010. Hearing none, the minutes of the June meeting were adopted as written.

Guest Speaker

Ms. Kennaday introduced Kali Campbell Turner who reported to the Committee about her role as lobbyist for the Bar and also in overseeing the judicial qualification process for the Bar. Ms. Campbell gave a detailed report of the initiatives and pending legislation of interest to small firm lawyers. These included changes to the Probate Code, family law Bills, appointments of guardians-ad-litem, abolishment of common law marriage and court funding. Ms. Campbell urged the Council to involve the Section's membership in upcoming events such as the lawyer/legislature party prior to the Bar Convention in January. After a question and answer period, Ms. Campbell took her leave with the Council's thanks.

Section Fund Balance

Ms. Kennaday reported the current Section balance, as of June 30, 2011, was \$15,195.43. Year-to-date revenue was \$9,720.00 and year-to-date expenses were \$6095.25.

Membership Drive

Ms. Kennaday reported that there were currently 486 members of the Section, up from 475 at the previous meeting. People were joining in order to attend the September 23 Solo & Small Firm Conference.

Preliminary Report of CLE Scholarship Committee

The Committee reported on the number of applicants for the Scholarship. A decision of who would receive the Scholarship would be reached later that day. The Council discussed the need to continue the CLE Scholarship from time to time.

2011 Solo & Small Firm CLE and Annual Meeting

Ms. Kennaday and Ms. Nickerson reported on the progress of the conference to be held in Columbia on September 23. Ms. Nickerson reported on the venue and exhibitors. Ms. Kennaday reported on last minute details and preparations and advised the Council on their roles at the CLE. The Council offered suggestions for prizes as incentive to those filling out the Section Survey at the Conference. Ms. Kennaday was to complete the Survey and obtain prizes.

Future Meetings and Conference Calls

The Council discussed proposed dates for upcoming meetings. The next in-person Council meeting was to be held November 3, 2011. The Committee also discussed meeting at the Convention in January at the lawyer/legislature party.

Adjournment

All present business of the Committee being concluded, Ms. Knapp then adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m. The members of the CLE Scholarship Subcommittee then went into closed session with Ms. Kennaday to evaluate Scholarship applications and choose a recipient.