

Solo and Small Firm Section
Council Meeting
December 8, 2011

Minutes

The Section Council convened on December 8, 2011, at the Bar Building. Council members in attendance were Tony Dessausure, Ken Lester, John S. Nichols, Monet Pincus, and Alexandre T. Postic. Attending telephonically were Chairperson Linda F. Knapp, Council member Flo Vinson, and Section members Ellen Babb and Jenny Moser. Representing the Bar were Courtney Kennaday, Jeff Manning and Cyndi Nickerson.

Chair-elect Nichols, acting on behalf of Chairperson Knapp, called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. Mr. Nichols welcomed all present and called for corrections to the minutes of the last meeting, held August 25, 2011. Hearing none, the minutes of the August meeting were adopted as written.

Section Fund Balance

Ms. Kennaday reported the current Section balance, as of October 31, 2011, was \$14,933.19. Year-to-date revenue was \$500.00 and year-to-date expenses were \$762.24. The balance did not yet reflect expenses for the Solo & Small Firm Conference held in September.

Membership Drive

Ms. Kennaday reported that there were currently 508 members of the Section, up from 486 at the previous meeting. The council discussed ideas to increase membership. Mr. Manning reported that the Bar was launching a branded community website for the convention and that technology could be used for the Section as well. Further, the Bar was launching a member survey in 2012 and the results could be helpful for the Section. Mr. Nichols asked Ms. Kennaday to send a reminder to Section members to sign up for the Attorney Information System (AIS).

Report from the 2011 Solo & Small Firm CLE and Annual Meeting

By all accounts, the conference was a big success, with almost 200 people in attendance. The feedback from attendees and vendors was overwhelmingly positive. Ms. Nickerson presented the seminar financials to the Council and would submit a final bill to the Section for the conference luncheon.

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

Ms. Nickerson reported that the Marriott Columbia had been reserved for September 14, 2012 for next year's conference. Mr. Manning presented a proposed marketing calendar to Council and explained the development of a "micro-site." As a theme for the event, Mr. Manning proposed "Small Firms, Big Opportunities," which the Council approved. The Council suggested potential speakers and topics.

Report on Section Survey Results

There were 98 survey responses completed at the Solo conference and 23 completed online. The majority of respondents marked affordable group medical insurance as an "extremely important" issue affecting their practice that should be pursued by the Section. On the issue of whether malpractice insurance should be mandatory, most respondents supported the proposition but did not favor it being a pursued by the Section. The majority of respondents found funding for court appointments to be extremely important and an issue the Section should pursue. On the issue of future conferences, most respondents did not wish to attend a two-day conference.

Amendments to Bylaws

The Council voted to amend the Bylaws to expand the size of Council from seven members to nine members by adding two additional member seats.

Announcement of Networking Event

Council decided to alert Section members to the Bar sponsored legislative reception to be held the Wednesday prior to the Convention (January 18).

New Item

Ellen Babb suggested having a local Section meeting in Charleston. Ms. Kennaday was to pull together names of local members for Ms. Babb to contact.

Future Meetings and Conference Calls

Council would endeavor to meet in conjunction with the Bar Convention and by conference call in February.

Adjournment

All present business of the Committee being concluded, Mr. Nichols then adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.