

Solo and Small Firm Section
Council Meeting
June 23, 2011

Minutes

The Section Council convened on June 23, 2011, at the Bar Conference Center. Members in attendance were Chairperson Ken H. Lester and Council members Catherine S. Hendrix, Linda F. Knapp, John S. Nichols, Monet Pincus, Alexandre T. Postic and Flo Vinson. Attending by telephone was Council member Tony Dessausure. Representing the Bar was Courtney Kennaday.

Chairperson Lester called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

Mr. Lester welcomed all present and called for corrections to the minutes of the last meeting, held February 11, 2010. Hearing none, the minutes of the February meeting were adopted as written.

Section Fund Balance

Ms. Kennaday reported the current Section balance, as of April 30, 2011, was \$15,349.35. Year-to-date revenue was \$9,720.00 and year-to-date expenses were \$5,941.33. Expenditures since the last meeting included "save the date" cards for the upcoming Solo & Small Firm Conference and 40% reimbursement to the Bar for staff cost.

Membership Drive

Ms. Kennaday reported that there were currently 475 members of the Section. Some of the declining number of members since last year could be attributed to people who joined the Section before the Hot Tips seminar but did not renew in 2011.

Announcement of Election Results

The 2011-2012 Council members were announced. It was noted that Mr. Postic had been asked by Chairperson Lester to serve an additional one-year term due to Mr. Nichols being elected Chairperson-elect.

Goals for 2011-2012

The Council reviewed the 2010-2011 Goals and adopted the same for 2011-2012, with minor alterations. The Council was interested in establishing an assistance program or "scholarship" to assist small firm lawyers in attending the upcoming CLE. A subcommittee was formed with Ms. Hendrix and Ms. Pincus to study the criteria and process for awarding a scholarship. The Section may wish to reach out to another Section or Division to co-sponsor. Ms. Knapp would contact the Young Lawyers Division, among others.

2011 Solo & Small Firm CLE and Annual Meeting

Ms. Kennaday reported on the progress of the conference to be held in Columbia on September 23.

New Business

The Council discussed:

- Whether the Section should take a position on the malpractice insurance disclosure issue
- Amending the Section Bylaws to expand the size of Council from seven members to nine
- Sponsoring a CLE on substance abuse or mental health issues to comply with new MCLE rule
- Sponsoring a "starting a law firm" seminar for new lawyers
- Taking advantage of Bar President Marvin Quattlebaum's focus on small firms
- Surveying Section members at the Conference to find out what is important to them. Give survey as part of a prize-drawing.

Change of Chairpersons

Chairperson Lester thanked the Council for its hard work during his term and welcomed incoming Chairperson Knapp.

Future meetings and conference calls

The next Council meeting will be announced at a later time.

Adjournment

All present business of the Committee being concluded, Mr. Lester then adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m.