

**Solo and Small Firm Section
Council Meeting
December 13, 2012**

Minutes

The Section Council convened on December 13, 2012 at the Bar Conference Center. Council members in attendance were Chairperson John Nichols, Linda Knapp, Tony Dessausure, and Alex Postic. Attending telephonically were council members David Wyatt and Monet Pincus. Representing the Bar were Courtney Kennaday, Shelby Crawford, and Marley Douglas. Nancy Layman, a member of the Senior Lawyers Division, was also in attendance.

Chairperson Nichols called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Mr. Nichols welcomed all present and called for corrections to the minutes of the last meeting, held June 14, 2012. Hearing none, the minutes of the June meeting were adopted as written.

Remarks from Nancy Layman, Senior Lawyers Division

Nancy Layman thanked the Council for having her and explained that the Senior Lawyers Division is interested in creating a joint CLE between the Senior Lawyers Division, the Elder Law Committee, and the Solo and Small Firm Section. The proposed CLE would address issues such as diminished capacity, succession, and how to transition from the practice of law to retirement. Topics covered could include professional tail liability, tax implications, and how to handle client files when retiring. The Council expressed interest in the proposed joint CLE program and thanked Ms. Layman for her presentation.

Report from Section Liaison

Section Funds: Ms. Kennaday reported that the current Section balance, as of November 30, 2012, was \$11,059.74. Year-to-date revenue was \$1,180.00 and year-to-date expenses were \$4,447.10.

Membership: Ms. Kennaday reported that there were currently 597 members of the Section, up from 564 at the previous meeting. She noted that the Council had expressed interest in identifying members who decided not to rejoin the Section in order to ask why they decided not to rejoin. Ms. Kennaday explained that there is currently no way to identify such members with the current system.

Report on 2012 Solo & Small Firm Conference and BBQ

Ms. Kennaday introduced Marley Douglas, the new liaison for the Solo and Small Firm Conference. Ms. Douglas thanked the Council for its support of the program and Ms. Kennaday for her hard work. Ms. Douglas reported that attendance numbers, while still on point, were slightly down from last year's Conference. Ms. Douglas also explained the Conference financials and went over survey results and comments from the Conference attendees. She noted that the survey results indicated that many members would be interested in a marketing track at the next conference. Ms. Douglas reported that around 50 people attended the BBQ. The Council suggested that the BBQ be a ticketed event next year, or perhaps a more scaled down event.

Discussion of 2013 Conference

Ms. Douglas reported that many Charleston area solos have requested that the Conference be held in the Charleston area next year. Ms. Douglas presented information on two possible locations in Charleston for the 2013 Conference. After discussion of these options, Ms. Knapp made a motion to hold the 2013 Conference at the Charleston Marriott. The Council agreed. The Council also decided to hold the 2014 Conference at the Greenville Hyatt.

The Council then discussed possible topics/tracks and speakers for the 2013 Conference. The Council decided to add more hands-on, practical topics and more marketing at next year's Conference. The Council also discussed including only one hour of ethics CLE that would focus on substance abuse and mental health. Other topics discussed were creating a Policy & Procedures Manual specifically for SC lawyers, creating a session just for law office staff, and distributing door prizes differently at the next Conference.

National Dialogue Program, ABA GPSolo

Mr. Postic reviewed his Memorandum outlining his recent trip to the National Dialogue discussion as part of the ABA Solo, Small Firm and General Practice 2012 Fall Leadership meeting.

Goals for 2012-2013

The Council reviewed the updated goals and objectives for FY2012-2013 and adopted them as written.

Solo & Small Firm Awards

The Subcommittee for the awards project discussed reconvening after the first of the year.

Future Meetings and Conference Calls

Chairperson John Nichols was to be contacted to set the date for the next meeting after the Bar Convention.

Adjournment

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