

## **Litigation Section Executive Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes October 11, 2017**

**Present:** Jeremy Adamson, Joe Amadon, Keith Call, Erik Christiansen, Judge Dawson, Doug Farr, Megan Garrett, Sarah Hafen, Christian Hansen, Mike Harmond, Matt Koyle, Jess Krannich, Anthony Loubet, Jim Magleby, James McConkie, Bryan Pattison, Judge Pohlman, Judge Roth, Cameron Sabin, Michael Stahler, Dan Steele, Katy Strand, Peter Strand, Jenifer Tomchak, Heather Thuet, Melanie Vartabedian, and Christina Wilson.

**Excused:** Rod Andreason, Rob Crockett, Jason Greene, Jon Hafen, Ian Hiatt, John Hurst, Whitney Krogue, Kirstie Ingle, Phil Lott, Commissioner Micken, Kim Neville, Matt Orme, Tim Pack, Thomas Seiler, Heather Sneddon, Sade Turner, David Wilkins and Dallas Young,

#### **1. Welcome and Chair's Report (Michael Stahler)**

Mr. Stahler noted that there are a number of things on the agenda, including a proposed budget, the Professor Terrell event, the Golf CLEs, a quarterly breakfast, and a sponsorship request for the Homeless Shelter law program Youth Clinic. Mr. Stahler noted that membership in the section is down to 1680 members. He also noted that due to some timing issues, there were some empty chairs at some of the CLE events. Mr. Stahler encouraged everyone to promote the Section, especially to younger lawyers. Mr. Stahler noted that our Section has been asked to participate in a proposal to live stream our CLE events. The first CLE event to live stream is on January 8, 2018. If you are in charge of a CLE, please consider live streaming as an option. Mr. Stahler noted that live streaming might not be available at the federal courthouse. People can watch a live streamed CLE for \$10.

#### **A. Approved September Meeting Minutes:**

Mr. Farr requested that he be noted as present at the September 2017 meeting. He was not listed as present in the minutes. With that correction, Ms. Hafen made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Farr seconded the motion. The meeting minutes from September 2017 were approved.

#### **2. President Elect's Report (Heather Sneddon):**

There was no President Elect's report except to note that Ms. Sneddon is working hard on Fall Forum.

#### **3. Treasurer's Report (Jenifer Tomchak):**

Ms. Tomchak reported that with 1680 members, we received more than \$55,000 in dues. The State Bar takes \$11,000 for administrative fees. The current balance is approximately \$137,000. Last year at this same time, we had a balance of \$45,000. Based on the new numbers, we have adjusted the budget. We have added \$1000 to the website. There was \$3,473 that had not yet been accounted for in the budget. There was a discussion about whether to use that amount to increase the holdback buffer or to apply it to a new projects account. The Section decided to put

the \$3,473 into a new projects account to give the board some flexibility in how the money is used. The budget is intended to spend all but the \$15,000 holdback buffer.

Mr. Stahler noted that this is the second year that we have tried to do an upfront budget. Mr. Stahler noted that the financials have been very helpful. Mr. Stahler noted that Ms. Tomchak has done a great job. Ms. Thuet noted that we should now be able to compare month-to-month on a year to year basis, so we can see each month how we did compared to the same month in the prior year. Ms. Tomchak indicated that we have done so and reported what the month-to-month comparison was.

The amended budget – amended as indicated above -- was presented. Ms. Strand moved to approve the budget. Mr. Amadon seconded. The budget was approved as amended.

#### **4. Recently-Completed Events:**

Ms. Thuet reported on the Professor Terrell event on September 21, 2017. It was an excellent program. Professor Terrell was an amazing presenter on effective legal writing. Everyone who attended enjoyed the program. People walked away with new ideas for persuasive legal writing. The judges on the panel at the Friday night event expressed their great appreciation to the Litigation Section for making the event possible. We had 98 attendees. We came out better than budgeted.

Ms. Tomchak reported on the Bar Review event following the Professor Terrell event. Many people came for the Bar Review event. Members of the Bar Commission attended. It was a really nice kick-off event. Mr. Stahler encouraged everyone to attend Bar Review events. They were started two years ago and they are great events to promote the Section and get to know other lawyers outside of work. Ms. Tomchak is in charge of the Bar Review events. Consider hosting an event at your law firm. Christensen & Jensen hosted a nice event two years ago.

Mr. Call reported on the Rise & Shine Event “Avoiding Legal Malpractice” on September 21, 2017. Ms. Turner arranged the event. While the attendance was modest, the presentation was outstanding. Attendance might have been impacted by the Professor Terrell event.

#### **5. Committee Reports:**

Mr. Stahler reported that if you are not going to the Moab event, please consider attending the Fall Forum. The Litigation Section has a deposition track it will be presenting at the Fall Forum.

Mr. Sabin noted that he is involved in planning the Spring Convention. There is an upcoming meeting, but not much has happened so far.

Ms. Tomchak reported on the Annual Meeting. The committee meets on the first Monday of every month. This year, the Bar is trying to plan the convention around a theme – “Coming Together.” Justice Lee is using his connections to attract a keynote speaker. Traditionally, there are three tracks at the annual meeting: Litigation, Transactional, and three

general tracks. This year, they will be changing the general tracks to Nuts & Bolts, the Practice of Law, and Hot Topics.

Ms. Tomchak noted that she, Judge Dawson, and Ms. Thuet are working on the convention. Mr. Christiansen noted that he would like to be involved in the annual convention as well. Mr. Stahler noted that this might be the last convention in Sun Valley. Ms. Tomchak noted that the Bar is concerned about how to get more people to attend. Scholarships? Price breaks? New tracks with targeted CLE topics? The annual meeting has run between \$10,000 to \$20,000 in the red. The Bar wants to close that gap. If you have ideas, please let Ms. Tomchak know your ideas. With John Lund as the President this year, he has a flare for great events and a great attitude. The Annual Meeting will be July 25-28 – right after the Pioneer Day weekend.

Mr. Harmond reported on Law Student Relations. He noted that there will be a panel about careers in the law field. There will be a panel discussion, with different types of lawyers on November 2 in the S.J. Quinney Moot Courtroom.

Mr. Krannich reported on quarterly CLEs. Mr. Krannich noted that Ms. Turner had organized a legal malpractice event at the federal courthouse. About 30 people attended the event. The content of the event and feedback from the event was that it was very helpful. The smaller group size led to an open discussion.

Mr. Krannich noted that he needs to plan next year's program. We want to organize programs to avoid duplication. There are 8 people on the CLE committee. They are short one member. With respect to the Courthouse CLE series, we got an e-mail from the 5<sup>th</sup> District. They are working on a program to broadcast the event live statewide. They want to do the event on January 8, 2018. The hosting will be done at the Law & Justice Center.

Ms. Strand talked about a half-day CLE. They are looking at February 2018 dates. They are looking at a Thursday evening event, and a half-day event on Friday. They are working with Professor Rosenberg and Ms. Strand discussed his book on litigating for social change. Professor Rosenberg is a great speaker. The tentative dates are February 15-16, 2018.

Ms. Thuet talked about the Moab event. There are hotel rooms still available. There are about 30 people currently registered. Please consider attending.

Ms. Hafen reported on bench books. She and Ms. Tomchak met with Ms. Turner. They will shortly be getting the ball rolling. Mr. Stahler reminded people to publicize the bench books. Mr. Steele noted that some of the bench books are outdated given recent retirements or changes in positions among judges.

Mr. Sabin reported on publicity. He has taken over the *Zealous Advocate*. Mr. Sabin reminded people to send pictures to him of events for the publication.

Mr. Call reported on Public Service. The Committee is going to sponsor the Refugee Justice League of Utah. They are going to organize a lunch around the sponsorship.

Ms. Thuet reported concerning Health & Fitness that there are efforts being made to potentially procure memberships at the Gym at City Creek mall. The Litigators running group also is still going, as is yoga.

Mr. Stahler reported that he is working on the Trial Academy for March 21-23 with Mr. Hafen.

Ms. Garrett gave a brief membership reported. She delivered flyers to 240 new admittees.

Given the time, the sponsorship request was tabled for the November meeting. Motion to adjourn was made and granted.