



## NEW LAWYERS SECTION

Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2009

**Members Present:** Lacey Anderson, Michael Miller, Sam Edmunds, Paddy Browne, Chrissy Mann, Charlie Delbridge, Troy Tating, Nicole James Gilchrist, Lindsey McCune, Lauren Wood, Jaimie Palmer, Todd Schenk, Colin Kreuziger, Margie Meier, Mathea Bulander, Sitso Bediako, Rebecca Vandenberg, Suzanne Todnem, Evan Weiner, Bob Ambrose, Elise Peterson, Jessica Karich, Shanda Pearson, Larry McGee.

### I. Opening Business

- A. Call to Order and introductions at 5:40 P.M. at the MSBA offices. Meeting chaired by Lacey Anderson.
- B. The minutes of the September, 2009, meeting were presented. Sam Edmunds moved to approve the minutes. Michael Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

### II. New Business

- A. Budget. Treasurer Charlie Delbridge reported that \$11,700 remains in the budget and noted that all savings from the ABA-YLD Fall Conference shall be put towards the Spring Conference.
- B. New Membership Committee co-chair. A statement of interest was received from Chrissy Mann. If approved, she will join Todd Schenk as co-chair. Todd Schenk moved to approve Chrissy Mann as Membership co-chair. Seconded by Charlie Delbridge. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.
- C. Fall '09 Swearing In. Lacey solicited volunteers to attend the swearing in ceremony. Margie inquired regarding the length of shifts. Lacey suggested two shifts. Elise inquired about free membership for new admittees. Jessica Karich notified the section of the St. Thomas breakfast prior to the ceremony. Margie and Troy volunteered to attend the swearing in on behalf of the section.
- D. Bylaws discussion. Charlie and Sam are revising the section's bylaws. They asked for input from the section regarding the various bodies that should exist within the section. Elise discussed the ADR section and how things work there. Lacey suggested that officers should have authority between section meetings and that the larger leadership group should only

be advisory. Nicole concurred that there should be an advisory counsel and suggested that the group could work on ABA-YLD initiatives. Larry suggested that the executive committee should make decisions between meetings in emergency situations but that they should be ratified by the whole body. Sam and Charlie discussed how other sections work. Mike pointed out that the leadership group should include the ABA representatives. Charlie suggested just defining the group without giving it actual responsibilities. Sam and Charlie will take the feedback for use in revising the bylaws, which will be considered at the next meeting.

- E. Social update. The Winter Social will again be at Nami. So far one sponsor has committed. Chanel will be calling firms to obtain more sponsorships. Lacey suggested that NLS member firms should be contacted. The fundraiser will again be for Toys for Tots. Admission will be one toy or \$10. Drink tickets will be provided. This is a Tri-Bar event so HCBA and RCBA are helping and contributing. Sam pointed out that HCBA gets sponsorships to cover all expenses, while we have a budget line item devoted to the event. Lindsey discussed HCBA and its work on this event. Mike discussed Depo International and suggests that we get a similar sponsorship. Lacey pointed out that this was expensive last year but that Nami was a great venue for the event.
- F. Community service update. Jessica thanked the section for contributing coats and winter gear. The section should continue collecting coats through December. Jessica passed a list around to volunteer for Feed My Starving Children, which is a fun group where members can get to know each other and do something good for the community. Possible dates include Jan 11, Feb 16, Mar 20, and Mar 27. May do two or more of these depending on interest. Locations include Eagan, Chanhassen, and somewhere up North. Suzanne asked whether the organization is secular in nature. Jessica and Lindsey discuss the organization's Christian roots, but state that participation is invited by all groups.

Margie suggested that the section participate in the Santa Run. It is a run down Nicollet Mall in costumes. Jessica stated that it will occur on December 5, a Saturday, in the afternoon. Margie thought it starts 4pm. Lacey reminded the group that our winter social is scheduled the Thursday before. It is decided by consensus that the fall group section event will be the Santa Run. The cost is \$100 per person. The event raises money for Minnesota legal aid. Margie met with Patty Lazarus. Jessica will contact Patty. Jessica and Margie will coordinate the section's participation.

A short discussion occurred regarding the Polar Plunge and it was urged that a new lawyers team should be formed. Registration is open. It takes place in Maple Grove. People wear costumes and a party occurs afterwards. Lacey will put out a notice to the section.

G. CLE update. Margie stated that today's CLE on gender diversity in the courtroom was very good and well attended. Margie and Mathea have the rest of the year's CLE schedule is penciled in as follows:

- November. Panel of judges to discuss oral and written arguments. Judges to include Judge Peterson from Hennepin County and Judge Althouse from Ramsey County.
- December. In house attorney from Piper Jaffrey to discuss in house practice.
- January. Financial planning for new lawyers. Tom Haunty will again be invited to provide advice to our members on their personal financial planning. It was pointed out that this event occurs every year and we had discussed not continuing with it. Margie and Mathea stated that we'll have this event just one last time.
- February. Judge Cahill will present a CLE on technology.
- March. CLE on professional responsibility and best practices to avoid malpractice claims.
- April – CLE on setting up your practice for new lawyers.

Lacee raised a concern that the Tax Law Section has its meeting from 330-430 on our meeting Thursdays. We were asked to move our CLE and meeting times. Discussion took place but no decision was made.

H. ABA-YLD Schedule:

- Midyear. Orlando. Feb. 4-6, 2010. Statements of interest are due to Lacee by Dec. 14, 2009. The section will vote on attendees at the Dec. 17 meeting.
- Spring Joint Conference: St. Thomas, USVI. May 13-15, 2010.
- Annual Convention: San Francisco. Aug. 5-10, 2010.

Discussion occurred regarding the YLD's annual service project. This year it is called *They Had a Dream – young leaders of the civil rights movement*. The section should consider bringing this project back to Minnesota. Mike discussed how we can get money from the YLD to help our work on YLD service projects. Mike also suggested Choose Law, but Lacee expressed concern about too many folks trying to get into the schools.

I. Law School Reception. The reception is planned for February 2, 2010, with a social to follow. The topics of the presentation will include new lawyers' experiences in finding a job out of law school, what a new lawyer's practice is like, and similar topics. There will be a question and answer session at the conclusion of the presentation. Lacee stated that we

need NLS members for the panel. Sam is interested in volunteering. Lacey will likely be the moderator.

- J. New liaisons. None.
- K. Hearsay update. Shanda was in attendance via phone. She stated that they could use more articles for the fall edition. Sam expressed concerned about the *Call for Authors* not getting received. Ashley can be contacted regarding problems like this.

### **III. Reports**

#### **A. Officer Reports:**

- 1. Secretary (Sam Edmunds): suggested a happy hour following tonight's meeting.
- 2. Treasurer (Charlie Delbridge): gave budget report earlier in the meeting. No other report.
- 3. Vice Chair (Christina Weber): Not present.
- 4. Chair (Lacey Anderson): No further report.

#### **B. Liaison Reports:**

- 1. Elise gave a report from the ADR Section.
- 2. The Probate and Trust Section discussed legislation. Their conference will be June 7-8. A CLE will occur on Dec. 3 at Dorsey and Whitney on a litigation topic.
- 3. The Bankruptcy Section just had its institute. There will be a CLE on Nov. 17.
- 4. The Animal Law Section had a CLE on October 17. It wants people to do committee work including getting an animal law clinic at one of the law schools.
- 5. Legislative Committee. Mike attended the meeting this week and noted that if any of us attend other section meetings and hear adverse reactions to legislative proposals, we should let him know. Mike stated that the committee discussed uniform code stuff – nothing too exciting.

Lacey took this opportunity to solicit for a bankruptcy attorney referral for a position through her company.

### **IV. Adjournment**

Larry moved to adjourn the meeting and Charlie seconded. The meeting was adjourned without opposition at 6:34 PM, and those interested moved on to happy hour at Lyon's.

