



NEW LAWYERS SECTION

Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2010

Members Present: Mike Goodwin, Lauren Nuffort, Charlie Delbridge, Sam Edmunds, Sitso Bediako, Sarah DeMoss, Jennifer Santini, Anne Stoudt, Lacey Anderson, Munazza Humayun, Becky Fritz, Larry McGee, Jan Jeske, Janie Paulson (by phone), Jennifer Lurken (by phone).

Guests Present: Ashley Hacker, Mario Sullivan (by phone).

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:41 p.m. at the MSBA office, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Meeting was chaired by Charlie Delbridge.

- a. Introductions
- b. Approval of November 2010 Meeting Minutes

There was a motion by Sam Edmunds to approve the Minutes of the November 2010 meeting, which was seconded by Mike Goodwin. Having no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion to approve the November 2010 Minutes was passed.

2. New Business

- a. Winter Tri-Bar Social Report (Anne Stoudt)

The Winter Tri-Bar Social was a huge success, raising \$900 from 77 attendees. The money was donated to the Toys for Tots program during the KARE11 10 PM telecast on December 7, 2010.

Charlie Delbridge congratulated Anne and others for their great work in putting together the event.

- b. Mario Sullivan – Candidate for ABA Young Lawyers' Division Secretary/Treasurer

Sitso Bediako introduced Mario Sullivan, a candidate for the Secretary-Treasurer position of the American Bar Association (ABA) Young Lawyers Division (YLD). Mario explained some of his reasons for running for the Secretary-Treasurer position. He is concerned with the likely cuts to the YLD budget, and wants to get national conference costs under control, while at the same time increasing participation by affiliates. He mentioned an idea to hold more regional

conferences to increase affiliate participation. Mario also hoped to provide more tailored assistance to YLD affiliates.

Mario also proposed to focus on diversity and pipeline projects to increase diversity in the YLD and increase active participation at YLD meetings. He also felt that while the YLD does a tremendous job developing public service projects each year, the YLD should do more to maintain earlier projects. Mario also believed that the YLD should do a better job assisting affiliates in executing their public service projects.

Mario wanted to improve membership benefits. In particular, he is interested in creating a program to help attorneys explore alternative legal careers. In conclusion, Mario said he hopes to have the opportunity to serve and improve the work of the association and the profession.

Sam Edmunds asked whether there are other candidates running and why delegates should vote for Mario. Mario responded that the other candidate running for the position is Alan Fowler. Mario believed that he had been more involved in a variety of activities. He believed that he had the leadership experience, the knowledge of the YLD, and an understanding of its budget to eventually run the organization. Mario stated that Alan has not had the same leadership experience in the division that Mario has had. Mario believed that his experience outside of the Division would be extremely helpful in helping him lead the division. As an example, he discussed his idea that the YLD needs a dedicated fundraising staff person to help with its efforts in addition to the volunteers who currently work on fundraising.

Sitso asked Mario to talk about the details of when the election was to occur. Mario responded that the election will happen at the annual meeting in August in Toronto.

c. District Representative Election Policy (Jennifer Lurken)

Jennifer discussed the request from the ABA YLD to have each district come up with an election policy for electing future district representatives. Jennifer is asking each affiliate to select a person to serve on a committee to help her determine the policies for District 17, which is the district that includes Minnesota and Wisconsin. The ABA YLD has set a deadline of April 1, 2011 to submit the policy.

Charlie asked for volunteers to serve on the committee. Two volunteers made themselves known: Lauren Nuffort and Lacey Anderson. Lacey asked if the plan is to simply finalize a draft or if there will be an open process. Jennifer said nothing has been drafted. The plan is to have an open process. During discussions at the meeting, Lacey requested to be on the committee, and Lauren expressed her willingness to help or join any other related volunteer opportunities.

A motion was made to name Lacey to the committee to draft District 17 district representative election policy by Munazza Humayun and Larry McGee. There was a second by Lauren Nuffort. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer also announced that if there were any questions about the upcoming mid-year meeting in Atlanta, members could contact her.

- d. ABA Mid-Year Meeting – Atlanta Georgia
 - i. Conference Dates – February 10-12, 2011
 - ii. Registration Deadline – January 14, 2011
 - iii. Statements of Interest
 - 1. Charlie Delbridge
 - 2. Sam Edmunds
 - 3. Sitso Bediako

Charlie Delbridge provided a background about the ABA mid-year meeting and reminded the NLS membership that the section had allotted funding for four members to attend the mid-year meeting at \$550 each. Only three statements of interest were submitted prior to the meeting from Charlie Delbridge, Sam Edmunds, and Sitso Bediako.

Charlie asked for a motion to send Charlie, Sitso and Sam to Atlanta. At that point in time, a floor statement of interest was presented by Munazza Humayun. Charlie then asked for a motion to send four representatives to the ABA mid-year meeting. A motion was made by Larry McGee and Mike Goodwin, seconded by Lacey Anderson. Having no discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. The registration deadline for the ABA mid-year meeting is January 14 in order to avoid the higher cost of registration. Charlie also briefly reviewed the reimbursement process and stated that receipts should be submitted to Sam Edmunds.

- e. New Lawyer Mentoring Program
 - i. Received 163 responses

Charlie reported for Christina Weber and provided some background as to the proposal to create a mentoring program that links NLS members to members of the GP Solo section, small firm section, and one other section of the MSBA. In response to a survey of NLS members regarding their interest in such a program, we received 163 survey responses from members who would be interested in participating in the mentorship program. Other sections have expressed interest as well. Charlie relayed that more information will be available next month about the program.

- f. Serving Our Seniors Update

Sam Edmunds reported that there will be a Serving Our Seniors event as early as January 2011. He is working on different aspects of the events. Sam also said that there likely will be a second training in January. He may not broadly advertise the next training because there are currently plenty of volunteers and he may not be able to find volunteer spots for all the people who already agreed to participate.

Sam asked members to contact him if they wanted to serve on the committee to organize the Serving Our Seniors. In particular, Sam was looking for people to step up and coordinate with a specific facility to organize Serving Our Seniors events.

There was a question from Sarah DeMoss asking if the training would be the same as the earlier training. She expressed the concern of earlier volunteers that additional training on the wills portion of the project would be helpful. Sam said he would incorporate the comments and open up the next training for prior trainees to come and get a refresher.

- g. Financial Presentation by Lacey Anderson and Neil Denmann
 - i. January 19, 2011
 - ii. Location - MSBA Offices

Lacey Anderson discussed that the New Lawyer Section was bringing in a CPA to discuss issues of wealth management. The program will be designed to help train people on how to get out of debt, how to set up their own firm, and also how to address wealth management issues if they are trying to figure out where to invest. Food and beverages will be provided on January 19 and the session will be held at 4:30 p.m. at the MSBA offices.

3. Reports

- a. New Lawyer Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates (Mike Miller)

Not present and no report submitted.

- b. Committee Reports

- i. Hearsay Publication (Andy Loose and Janie Catherine Paulson)

Sam Edmunds said that there will be a January 27 deadline for submissions. Janie said that the current issue will be out in the next week or two. Janie also stated that Hearsay tends to have fewer submissions for the winter issue, so it is a good time for interested authors to submit articles.

- ii. CLE Committee (Margie Jennings-Meier and Mathea Bulander)

Next month's CLE will be on deposition tips and techniques at 4:30 before the next NLS meeting.

- iii. Social Committee (Anne Stoudt)
 - 1. Spring Tri-Bar Social
 - a. April or May, 2011, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
 - b. Guthrie Theater is questionable
 - c. Additional Funding for ABA Leaders (Sam Edmunds)

Anne stated that a date had not been set for the spring social because the Guthrie has not set its schedule and cannot set its schedule for use of its space for another few months. Anne was comfortable at setting the event at the Guthrie.

2. Fashion Show – March, 2011?

Anne informed members that the HCBA New Lawyers Section did a fashion show last year. The HCBA NLS had a great turnout for their fashion show but opted not do it again this year. Anne wanted to gauge whether the MSBA NLS was interested in doing a fashion show.

Charlie asked if this was designed to be a fundraiser. Anne said no that this tends to be just more of a fun activity to do. Last year's theme was what to wear in court and socially.

Charlie asked about a budget. Anne said that last year there was no budget and that Anne would be working with sponsors to set up the event.

Lacey Anderson asked if Charlie would be willing to model, and Charlie demurely declined. Anne said she would need people to volunteer as models.

A concern was raised regarding whether sponsors would be willing to sponsor both a fashion show and later a spring social. The early sense that Anne received is that most sponsors would probably be willing to sponsor both, but she will also probably also set the date of the fashion show so that it is not quite so close to the social. Anne relayed that she needs to raise approximately \$4,000 for the event and she currently has about \$500 already raised.

Sam Edmunds discussed the funding of ABA YLD leadership to attend one of our spring events. The hope is that by inviting ABA YLD leadership, it could facilitate getting more Minnesota new lawyers involved in the ABA YLD and in ABA YLD leadership. There is also interested in having Minnesota host an ABA YLD conference.

Sam made a motion to allocate \$1,000 to bring YLD leadership to Minnesota at the time of the spring social. Lacey Anderson seconded the motion. Sam referenced that up to five people would be coming, but those people would also have their own sources of funding. Larry McGee asked if the section had sufficient funds to support this. Sam said there was approximately \$500 left over from the winter social. Sam also mentioned that originally the other \$500 would come from the left over not used to send the representatives to the Atlanta mid-year conference. However, that money can likely come from member and affiliate outreach. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Sam also made a second motion to establish a special committee called the YLD Conference Host Committee. Jennifer Santini asked about the process for hosting. Sam explained that we are in the running to host a conference. The two conferences that are decided by the YLD chair are the fall and spring conferences. The people we want to invite to come to Minnesota are the decision makers for those conferences.

Jennifer Lurken said that she got an email from next year's YLD chair asking about Minnesota's intent to host a conference. Minnesota will need to file a proposal next fall with the details. Minnesota would likely seek to host the conference in Spring (May) 2013. Jennifer said that Chris Rogers is the focus of most of our discussions in terms of having this conference.

Sam's motion to set up a special committee was seconded by Lacey Anderson. Larry McGee asked about the effect of the committee and how would we maintain continuity of the committee considering it was a special committee. Sam assumed that the special committee would be established to deal with the work in the next year and that he wanted to establish the special committee now to authorize the spending of the money. There was no further discussion. A vote was taken and the motion to establish a special committee passed.

- iv. Community Service Committee (Lacey Anderson)
 - 1. Charity for Spring Social

Lacey stated that we decided to stick with a local charity, Teens Alone, which helps homeless teens with family issues. Lacey is also planning a Feed My Starving Children event in the spring. If anyone is interested in doing an event before, Calvary Lutheran Church in Golden Valley is planning to do a Feed My Starving Children event at their facility on January 9 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. and there are 160 slots for that event.

- v. Outreach Committee (Mike Goodwin)

Mike Goodwin said that we are up to 43 followers on Twitter and we have doubled the size of our Linked In group.

c. Officer Reports

i. Secretary (Sitso Bediako)

Sitso asked people to make sure that they signed in so that they could be recorded in the Minutes.

ii. Treasurer (Sam Edmunds)

Sam stated that the Section has \$11,342 left in our accounts. Thus, according to Sam's calculations, the Section has spent about \$3,000.

iii. Vice-Chair (Charles Delbridge)

Charlie Delbridge is working with Ashley Hacker to fix the New Lawyers Section website. If anyone has any comments about the website, please let Charlie know.

Anne Stoudt mentioned that the social director was not listed on the site. Sam Edmunds suggested changing the title of the Officers page to "Leadership" and including the committee chairs. Becky Fritz also mentioned that the CLE information was not always correct.

Sam Edmunds raised a question about how it would be possible to get the New Lawyers Section page to the top of search results. Becky Fritz stated that the way to improve the priority of your link is to get lots of other links from your website, to link to Google Maps and also update your web page frequently. Munazza Humayun asked about having an event page on the site. Charlie said he would see about having a new page. Munazza suggested updating and adding pictures of events to that page.

iv. Chair (Christina Weber)

Not present. Charlie previously reported Christina's information.

d. Affiliate Reports

i. District Representative to YLD (Jennifer Lurken)

Jennifer had no further information to report. Lacey Anderson added that she is a member of the Affiliates Team and that during the spring ABA YLD conference in Las Vegas there is an opportunity for affiliates to

showcase their work. Lacey suggested that the MSBA New Lawyers Section should have a showcase at that event.

ii. Hennepin County (Sitso Bediako)

Nothing to report.

iii. Ramsey County

No one present to make a report.

e. Liaison Reports

i. Family Law (Munazza Humayun)

The Family Law section is having a CLE from 1:30 to 4:30. The title of the CLE is called Seeking Safety Across Borders: Cases Involving Domestic Violence and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, 1:30 to 4:30 on Friday, December 10, at the Guthrie.

Bryan Lake is seeking comments on the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act.

ii. Immigration Law (Sarah Brenes and Munazza Humayun)

AILA is holding a CLE on small and solo practitioners regarding ethical issues for people starting practice in immigration. Additional CLEs from the immigration law section will be coming up in the future.

iii. Children and the Law (Becky Fritz)

On December 17 there will be a CLE from 7:30 to 9:30 in the morning on titled Immunization and Newborn Testing which will be co-sponsored with the MSBA Health Law Section and the MSBA Food and Drug Law Section.

iv. Probate and Trust Law (Jennifer Santini)

No probate and trust section meeting. Meeting was cancelled.

v. Health Law (Jason Seashore)

Charlie Delbridge received a report regarding Health Law Section. The report was identical to report from the Children and the Law Section.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m. without objection.

GP:2906460 v1