



NEW LAWYERS SECTION

Meeting Minutes – March 10, 2011

Members Present: Caitlin Kee, Sam Edmunds, Trusha Patel, Dan Stahley, Stacey Keenan, Mike Goodwin, Jen Santini, Lacey Anderson, Christina Weber, Charlie Delbridge, Meg Hennessy, Sitso Bediako, Evan Weiner, Scott Uzzle, Anne Stoudt, Michael Miller, Julie Nagorski, Kevin Sieben.

Guests Present: Ashley Hacker.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m. at the MSBA office, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Meeting was chaired by Christina Weber.

- a. Introductions
- b. Approval of February 2011 Meeting Minutes

There was a motion by Sam Edmunds to approve the Minutes of the February 2011 meeting, which was seconded by Sitso Bediako. Having no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion to approve the February 2010 Minutes was passed.

2. New Business

- a. Report from ABA Mid-Year Meeting

Sam Edmunds reported that the ABA Mid-Year meeting was excellent. The YLD Assembly had some interesting resolution debates. The Meeting Gala was held at the Georgia Aquarium.

Michael Miller reported that the House of Delegates meeting was relatively uneventful, as there were no contested resolutions.

Sitso Bediako discussed the four YLD resolutions that passed and will move to the House of Delegates.

- Resolution 1YL – Truth in Law School Education – was adopted by unanimous consent. It urges all ABA-approved law schools to report employment data in a more accurate manner. The resolution further urges ABA-approved law schools to increase transparency on graduate salary information, including national median salary and the actual costs of a law school education.

- Resolution 2YL – Student Loan Reform – urges government and commercial lenders to assist students/former students not covered by the student loan overhaul law (March 30, 2010) and develop and implement other programs to assist law students and graduates with student loan debt.
- Resolution 3YL – Flextime – urges law firms to formalize flextime procedures and programs and to support the advancement of flextime lawyers.
- Resolution 4YL – Independence of Judiciary – urges Bar Associations to support the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and judicial elections.

b. ABA Spring Conference – Las Vegas, Nevada

i. Conference Dates – May 12-14, 2011

ii. Statements of Interest

1. Kevin Sieben
2. Sam Edmunds
3. Evan Weiner
4. Christina Weber

Four statements of interest were submitted by Kevin Sieben, Sam Edmunds, Evan Weiner, and Christina Weber. The Section had allotted money to send up to 6 attendees to the Spring Conference. Charlie Delbridge moved to send the four members who submitted statements of interest to the Spring Conference. Sitso Bediako seconded the motion.

Discussion on the motion followed. Sam raised the issue of the current allotment for reimbursement of \$350 per person and inquired whether the remaining unused funds could be re-allocated to the conference attendees to defray costs.

Michael Miller proposed a friendly amendment to the motion to send members to the Spring Conference and moved to allot the remaining conference budget (\$700) to the four conference attendees.

Sitso Bediako asked if we have sufficient funds for the Sections 9 Days in June event, and whether the remaining conference funding should be held over for the 9 Days in June event.

Christina Weber described the 9 days in June event to the membership and the concern that the Section may not have sufficient funds to cover expenses associated with the event. The Section has allotted \$1,300 to pay for the 9 Days in June event.

Sam Edmunds discussed the concern that if we hold back from spending too much, we will not fully use our budget. Sam suggested that the Section will likely have leftover money from the Spring Tri-Bar Social to allocate towards the 9 Days in June event.

Anne Stoudt stated that she anticipated spending the \$1,500 currently allotted to the Spring Tri-Bar Social based on current fundraising totals.

Lacey Anderson asked about the money set aside for ABA YLD leadership to attend the Spring Tri-Bar Social and suggested that the leftover funds might be needed for that visit.

Michael Miller suggested that if the Section needs additional funds, it could make a supplemental request for funds from the MSBA.

Sitso Bediako seconded the amended motion to send the four interested members to the Spring Conference and to reimburse them at \$525 per person (up from \$350). A vote was taken and the motion carried.

c. ABA Young Lawyer House of Delegate Position

i. Michael Miller

Christina Weber reported that Michael Miller submitted a completed questionnaire to serve as the Young Lawyer Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates. No other member expressed interest in being appointed as the Young Lawyer Delegate. Michael said the appointment for the position would be voted on during the April MSBA Assembly meeting.

Sam Edmunds moved to send a formal expression of support from the Section for Michael's re-appointment. Lacey Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Michael stated that, in two years, the ABA Young Lawyer House of Delegate position will be an open position, as he will be ineligible to run again.

d. Minnesota State Bar Association – Strategic Plan

Christina Weber presented background information on the MSBA Strategic Plan and announced that each section could comment on the plan. Christina asked that any comments from members be submitted to her by April 1, 2011.

e. Serving Our Seniors Update

Sam Edmunds reported that implementation of the Serving Our Seniors program continued to be delayed due to the delay in receiving information regarding

insurance coverage. The sites of Serving Our Seniors events have been selected. Sam hopes to have the first event soon, and expects to have additional events in the summer.

f. 9 Days in June Update

Charlie Delbridge stated that the schedule for the 9 Days in June events in Minneapolis has been announced. The programmatic portion of the day would run from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., followed by the MSBA President's Reception. Notable speakers include Kenneth Starr, former independent counsel during the Clinton Administration.

g. Elections/Committee Chairs for 2011/2012 Bar Year

i. Secretary and Treasurer

Christina Weber announced that the Section's May meeting will be moved to May 19 due to the ABA YLD Spring Conference. Elections will be held at the May 19 meeting. A nominating committee comprised of Christina, Lacey Anderson and Michael Miller will oversee the nomination process. Statements of Interest in an officer position are due to Christina by May 2, 2011.

The Nominating Committee will automatically nominate Charlie Delbridge as Chair and Sam Edmunds as Vice Chair. However, anyone can run for any of the positions.

Normally, the current Secretary would be nominated to become Treasurer. However, Sitso Bediako informed the Section that he will be leaving Minnesota at the end of the bar year and is not running for Treasurer. As a result, there are open positions for both Treasurer and Secretary.

Lastly, anyone who is interested in being a chair of a committee should contact Charlie Delbridge.

3. Reports

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

There was no additional report.

b. Committee Reports

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

No report was submitted

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

The CLE preceding the March meeting (Legal Ethics with Ken Jorgensen) was well attended. The April CLE will likely cover bankruptcy. The May CLE will precede the Spring Tri-Bar Social.

iii. Social Committee (Anne Stoudt)

1. Spring Tri-Bar Social

- a. May 5, 2011, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- b. Britt's Pub

The Spring Tri-Bar Social will be held at Britt's Pub, benefiting the nonprofit organization, Teens Alone. There will be a \$10 admission charge to raise money for the organization. Anne is hoping to get a representative from Teens Alone to attend the event.

Lacey Anderson discussed soliciting donations for the event and sought help from members to contact firms for donations. The typical request from firms was to be \$250.

Christina Weber also asked members to ask their firms to support the Spring Tri-Bar Social. Sponsoring firms will be recognized on a poster at the event.

2. Fashion Show

- a. March 31st – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- b. Gaviidae Commons

The Fashion Show will be held on March 31, 2011. A new name for the event needed to be selected per request of HCBA NLS, since the HCBA used the name LAWless when it held the Fashion Show in 2010. During the meeting the name "Fashionably Social" was settled upon.

Anne requested additional volunteers to model the donated outfits. Charlie Delbridge, Lacey Anderson, Jen Santini and Christina Weber volunteered.

Anne also asked for suggestions on how to make the models stand out as they are walking in the space among the event attendees.

iv. Community Service Committee (Lacey Anderson)

1. Charity for Spring Social

2. Contacting Law Firms for Donations

Lacey is working on setting a date for a community service project for Feed My Starving Children.

v. Outreach Committee (Mike Goodwin)

Mike reported that Facebook upgraded the Group's pages to allow pictures. Mike requested that members send him copies of any pictures from Section events or YLD conferences for posting on Facebook.

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 \$9,047 left in its account.

iii. Vice-Chair (Charles Delbridge)

No further report.

iv. Chair (Christina Weber)

No further report.

d. Affiliate Reports

i. District Representative to YLD (Jennifer Lurken)

No report.

ii. Hennepin County (Sitso Bediako)

No further report.

iii. Ramsey County

No report.

e. Liaison Reports

i. Legislative (Michael Miller)

Mike stated that the Legislative Committee will meet next week.

ii. Health Law (Jason Seashore)

The next CLE is on Employment Law Issues for Health Care Organizations. The CLE will be held on Friday, March 18, 2011, at Nicollet Island Inn from 7:30-9:00 a.m. Law students attend for free.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m. without objection.