



NEW LAWYERS SECTION

Meeting Minutes – November 11, 2010

Members Present: Jennifer Santini, Anne Stoudt, Jason Seashore, Sarah DeMoss, Janie Paulson, Christina Weber, Charlie Delbridge, Sarah Brenes, Laura Orr, Andy Loose, Lacey Anderson, Lauren Nuffort, Kristine Linnihan, Munazza Humayun, Evan Weiner, Becky Fritz, Sitso Bediako, Larry McGee, Erica Stock, Joe Larson, Sam Edmunds, Anna Horning Nygren, Jayne Sykora, Elise Peterson (phone).

Guests Present: Ashley Hacker.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. at the MSBA office, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Meeting was chaired by Christina Weber.

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

There was a motion by Sam Edmunds to approve the minutes of the October 2010 meeting, which was seconded by Christina Weber. Having no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion to approve the October 2010 Minutes was passed.

2. New Business

Prior to the discussion of new business, Sam Edmunds gave a brief report about the ABA YLD Fall Conference. Sam reported that the conference was excellent and that there was great CLE programming. Sam participated in the Affiliates Roundtable and learned about the programming done by other YLD affiliates.

- a. Winter Tri-Bar Social
 - i. December 2, 2010 – 5:00-8:00 p.m.
 - ii. Faces Mears Park in St. Paul
 - iii. Toys for Tots Fundraiser

MSBA NLS Social Chair Anne Stoudt and HCBA NLS Social Chair Jayne Sykora discussed the details for the upcoming Winter Tri-Bar Social on December 2, to be held at Faces Mears Park. The Winter Tri-Bar will again be a fundraiser for Toys for Tots, but in contrast to past years, attendees are being asked to make a minimum of \$10 donations. Toy donations are not being requested because of the logistical difficulties in getting the toys from the event to the Toys for Tots program. Cash or check will be accepted at the door.

Christina Weber announced that the proceeds from the Tri-Bar will be donated to the Toys for Tots program through the KARE11's program. Christina expects that the donation will occur during the 10 p.m. broadcast on December 7. She will be looking for member to attend the KARE11 event.

Hennepin County Bar Association offered to start a Facebook event page for the Tri-Bar. Jayne Sykora also mentioned that a "tweet-up" invite will be set up.

Sam Edmunds asked about how information on the Facebook event page would be shared with followers of the MSBA. Jayne stated that the MSBA could link to and forward the event page.

Anne Stoudt asked that members re-distribute the invitation. Anne also reiterated that the plan is to collect money and not toys. Christina emphasized that cash provides greater flexibility to Toys for Tots.

- b. ABA Mid-Year Meeting – Atlanta Georgia
 - i. Conference Dates – February 9-15, 2011
 - ii. Registration Deadline – January 14, 2011
 - iii. Statements of Interest Due to Christina – December 6, 2010

The conference is the ABA Mid-Year Meeting in Atlanta. Statements of interest are due on December 6, 2010. The travel budget for this conference is to send 4 people at \$550/person. It was noted that splitting rooms could help to save on the cost of attending the event.

- c. Spring Tri-Bar Social

It was announced that the Spring Tri-Bar Social will be held at the Guthrie. The event space has 360 degree windows and should be a great venue at a good price. The event will likely be held on April 7 or 14. The date of the Spring Tri-Bar should be known by the Winter Tri-Bar.

Lacey Anderson discussed the possible options for charities who would benefit from the Spring Tri-Bar. Those options included: Habitat for Humanity, Mary's Place, Washburn Center for Children and the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY). Lacey welcomes other suggestions and a decision will be made at a future meeting.

Christina stated that the Section will make a big push for law firm support of the Spring Tri-Bar, rather than trying to get firm support in the winter when typically the firms are inundated with requests. She wants the Spring Tri-Bar event to be a big event in terms of both attendance and fundraising.

Anne reiterated that the Spring Tri-Bar event will be free to Members. The Spring Tri-Bar will also include the HCBA and RCBA New Lawyers Sections.

d. Serving Our Seniors Update

Sam Edmunds reported that the first Serving our Seniors training was held prior to the meeting. Sam is working our insurance coverage and photocopying issues, but generally the planning for the program is coming along.

Sam is looking for ideas of facilities serving low income seniors to approach as part of his outreach efforts. If anyone has suggestions, please let Sam know. Sam expects that the next training will occur in December.

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)

Andy relayed that a number of articles were received for the fall Hearsay issue. The editing process is ongoing and the issue should be out in a week.

The next call for authors for the winter issue should be going out shortly.

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

Co-chairs not present. Ashley Hacker relayed that she had been in email contact with Margie and Mathea. She was not certain if a plan was set for December. It is believed that the CLE may involve preparing expert witnesses.

iii. Social Committee (Anne Stoudt)

Anne had no further information to report.

iv. Community Service Committee (Lacee Anderson)

Lacee stated that the Section winter coat drive was underway. Lightly used and new coats, hats, and scarves will be accepted now through January. Lacee will collect the winter gear.

Lacee is also planning a community service event at Feed My Starving Children in the spring.

Separately, Lacee informed the Members that there will be a financial presentation in January geared toward new lawyers. The presentation focuses on wealth management skills,

how to manage debt, how to start a legal practice and managing finances. Lacey will be presenting with a colleague and is checking to see if CLE credit may be possible.

v. Outreach Committee (Mike Goodwin)

Not present, and no report was submitted. Christina reminded Members that they could follow the section on Twitter and LinkedIn.

c. Officer Reports

i. Secretary (Sitso Bediako)

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

ii. Treasurer (Sam Edmunds)

Sam discussed the current balance of the Section's account. He reminded Members that he will have a current ledger at each meeting. Sam stated that everything was on track.

iii. Vice-Chair (Charles Delbridge)

Charlie did not have any information to report to the Section.

iv. Chair (Christina Weber)

Christina did not have any information to report to the Section.

d. Affiliate Reports

i. District Representative to YLD (Jennifer Lurken)

Not present and no report submitted.

ii. Hennepin County (Sitso Bediako)

Sitso announced that the HCBA NLS was holding a CLE on November 16 discussing how to make it through your first year of practice.

iii. Ramsey County

Not present and no report submitted.

iv. Potential YLD Conference in Minnesota

Sam Edmunds state that there is interest in hosting an ABA YLD conference in the Twin Cities, ideally during Spring 2013. There is a plan to make a pitch to the ABA leadership over the next few months. The biggest hurdle to hosting a conference will be raising the necessary funds. The conference will require a minimum of \$40,000.

e. Liaison Reports

Women in the Legal Profession (Anna Horning Nygren) – WILP is hosting a time management CLE over the lunch hour on December 2. All are welcome to attend.

Also the Diversity Committee and WILP are updating the SAGE Best Practices survey to see what had changed with regard to gender and minority equity since the last survey.

Tax Law (Erica Stock) – The next Tax Law Council meeting would be held on December 3 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. All are invited. The likely discussion will be the recent election and the impact on tax law.

Labor and Employment (John Lassetter) – The fall Labor and Employment Institute will be held at Minnesota CLE on November 18.

Elder Law (Laura Orr) – The Elder Law Section Governing Council voted to form a new committee related to Minnesota’s Medicaid State Plan. Congress provides federal funds “to States which have submitted, and had approved by [CMS], State plans for medical assistance.” 42 C.F.R. § 1396. State plans must meet extensive federal requirements. 42 C.F.R. § 1396a. The new committee will work to keep the section informed about proposed and approved changes to the plan.

Elyse Farnsworth, Section Services Director at the MSBA, informed the Elder Law Section Governing Council that a group of attorneys wish to form a Social Security/Disability Law Section. The proposed section will pertain to work with SSI/SSDI benefits. The group will need fifty (50) members to become a section.

Immigration Law (Sarah Brenes and Munazza Humayun) – The Immigration Law Section was approached to co-sponsor a CLE with the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) on Monday November 15 on Somali Asylum Seekers and Litigation Techniques. However, the co-sponsorship request was withdrawn.

Real Property (Christina Weber) – Real Estate Institute will take place November 12 and 13 at RiverCentre.

ADR (Elise Peterson) – The ADR section meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 12:30-1:30 pm. The meeting is open to all.

Civic Education Committee (Elise Peterson) – The committee is working on its Lawyers in the School project for next year. If any Members are interested in participating, contact Tamara Patton, MSBA liaison to the committee, at tpatton@mnbar.org or 612-278-6309.

Life and the Law (Elise Peterson) – The Law Student Working Group launched its website. The Law Student Working Group was also recognized with an award from the ABA.

Health Law (Jason Seashore) – The Health Law Section is co-sponsoring a CLE titled “Clinical Trials 201 for Lawyers” with the Food & Drug Law Section on November 19.

4. New Business (cont’d)

a. New Lawyer Mentoring Program

Christina, along with Janie Paulson and Sarah McGuire are working on setting up the mentoring program. As background, there is a concern that there are a large number of new lawyers setting up solo or small firms. There is a desire to make sure that these new lawyers have resources and do not feel isolated from the rest of the legal community.

A survey will be sent to gather information about interest and see if there are enough potential mentors and mentees. The GP Solo and Civil Litigation Sections are working with the New Lawyers Section. Likely there will be a test on a small scale to figure out the program first, before expanding.

If anyone else is interested in serving on the planning committee, let Christina know. When you receive the survey, please fill it out and forward the link to others.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m. without objection.