

OUTSTATE PRACTICE SECTION
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 2, 2011 @ 4:45 p.m. by conference call

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Carlson, Sam Rufer, Mike Ford, Steve Peloquin, Dennis O'Toole, Candy Riordan

COUNCIL LIAISON: Tamara Patton

GUEST: Dan O'Connor, Young Lawyers Section representative

CALL TO ORDER: 4:51 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: There was an amendment made to the minutes from the November 1st meeting. The Secretary's report was amended to identify Dennis as the second on the motion to approve the minutes. Steve moved to approve, motion was seconded by Sam, and the amended minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: At the time the Treasurer's Report was addressed, the Treasurer was no longer present at the meeting.

YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION REQUEST: Mike stated he had conversations with Dan O'Connor, the section representative, as well as with Frank Harris and Tim Groshens, MN CLE and MSBA staff. It was reported that there were 3,266 lawyers licensed in Minnesota that resided out of the state. Of this number, 951 were current MSBA members. 1,272 lawyers resided in Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota, leaving approximately 2,000 outside of those four states. Tim Groshens told Mike there currently were no programs in place for these attorneys. Dan O'Connor wished to concentrate on the social aspect between the sections. He suggested planning social events in larger cities coupled with CLE opportunities, possibly through videoconferencing. Dennis and Paul both remarked it seemed a good opportunity to establish contacts with out of state lawyers for referral purposes. Although there was no formal action taken by the Council, Dan O'Connor agreed to plan a pilot project and to touch base with Mike on this event and to further explore other opportunities.

OUTSTATE COUNCIL WEBSITE STATUS: Discussion was held regarding linking the proposed website with the MN Find a Lawyer website. Tamara provided information that modifications would be necessary to do so but suggested that this may be a much simpler process rather than a duplication of what is basically already available. She informed that profiles can be created at the minimal cost of \$40/year and that the website could be redirected from the site already printed on the brochures. Further, Find a Lawyer was the primary search engine used by

MSBA offices for receipt of public inquiries. Mike expressed that perhaps our efforts should be directed toward marketing this site with assistance of MSBA staff. Tamara stated there would be no expense to the section for linking to the website and agreed to provide a quote for the modification work at our next meeting.

MN SUPREME COURT CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM TASK FORCE: Mike provided background on this issue. He stated the recommendations of the task force were to adopt the federal process governing disclosure and to provide for an expedited hearing process for a case of less than \$100,000. Dennis commented it was his understanding an increase in the conciliation court amount was being discussed as well. Currently, the task force recommendations were being reviewed by Chief Justice Gildea and would be put out for comment. Mike suggested soliciting comment from the membership and offered to provide Tamara a draft of a recommendation of support for the consideration of the council.

OTHER BUSINESS: Tamara reported to the council that she would be on maternity leave soon and that Sue Bores would act as our interim liaison. Due to the New Year holiday, the council also decided to reschedule the next meeting for Tuesday, January 10th.

ADJOURN: There being no other business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Candy Riordan