

Trial Lawyers Section Executive Council Meeting

Enchantment Resort

Sedona, Arizona

Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Menzanita Room

MEETING MINUTES

CALL-IN NUMBER – 888-376-5050, PARTICIPANT CODE – 5946785215#

CHAIR CODE – 10457#

Present: Ted Eastmoore, Hector More, Wayne Helsby, Cliff Higby, Skooter Kinman, Tom Edwards, Vickie Sproat, Stuart Ratzan, John Williams, Terry O'Connor, Chris Knopik, Tom Bishop, David Roy, Dennis O'Connor, Honorable Amy Smith, Sandy Sanborn, Charlie Bartlett, Darryl Lewis, Pat Lowry, Mindy McLaughlin, Courtney Grimm, Eugene Sherman and guest Eugene Pettis

By phone: Basil Bain, Katherine Hunter, Bob Palmer, Wil Murphy, Sid Matthew

Absent: Bob Harris, Kim Cook, Jay Cohen, Bill Partridge, Kim Ashby, Chris Knight

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks - Ted Eastmoore
 - Call to Order by Chair Ted Eastmoore.
 - Welcome and Appreciation by Florida Bar President Eugene Pettis.
2. Meetings/Social Committee - Charlie Bartlett
 - Ted Eastmoore provided a report on the activities for the Sedona meeting.
3. Approval of Minutes – January 18, 2014 Exhibit 1
 - The minutes of the January 18, 2014 meeting were approved by acclamation.
4. Financial Reports/Budget Committee - Courtney Grimm Exhibit 2
 - Eugene Sherman reported on the status of the Section's finances and the financial reports. Chair Eastmoore reminded the Council that an additional contribution to the Foundation was dependent on the Section's finances at the end of the year.
5. Committee Reports
 - A. Summit - Hector Moré
 - Hector More reported on the success of the Summit and thanked the Committee, as well as the Council, for their assistance in making the Summit such a success. The 2015 Summit is tentatively slated to be hosted in West Palm Beach in January 2015.

- Mock Trial - Charlie Bartlett/Kim Cook

No report.

- Teachers Law School - Mindy McLaughlin/Katherine Hunter

Mindy McLaughlin reported that the plan is to host the 2015 Teachers Law School with the Summit in West Palm Beach and the Committee has started reaching out to the surrounding school districts regarding the dates for the school.

B. Advanced Trial Advocacy - Tom Bishop/Bob Palmer

- Tom Bishop reported that the Seminar is scheduled for May 13-17, 2014 and the faculty that has been organized is phenomenal, including members from England and Barbados. Bishop requested that the Council assist with recruiting participants. The Committee has selected recipients for the Mansbach and the Burton Scholarships: Maria Hale and Mark Berlick, respectively and the Committee's recommendation was approved unanimously by the Council after a **MOTION** and second.

C. Bylaws - Stuart Ratzan

- No report.

D. Civil Trial Update/Certification - Bob Palmer

- Bob Palmer reported that the seminar was held in February, attendance increased and the speakers as well as participants thought the location change back to Tampa was a positive move.

E. CLE - Tom Edwards/Mindy McLaughlin

- Medical Malpractice Seminar

Tom Edwards reported that the Seminar was held in March, was well attended and received rave reviews.

- Evidence Seminar

No report.

F. Council of Sections – Courtney Grimm

- No report. The January meeting of the Council of Sections was canceled.

- G. Discovery Handbook - John Williams
- No report.
- H. Leadership Academy - Vicki Sproat
- No report.
- I. Legislative Committee/Lobbyist's Report - Tom Bishop
- Tom Bishop reported that a white paper was presented regarding the evidence legislation on domestic violence matters, resulting in heavy modification to the proposed language. The committee continues to monitor all bills for any that may affect to access to courts. Currently, the Section is supporting the advancement of legislation appropriating a \$50,000 contribution to the Chester Bedell Memorial Foundation for the Teachers Law School. Chair Eastmoore reported on the appropriation legislation and on the naming of the school in honor of Sandra Day O'Connor. The Council previously approved the naming and is presently seeking Justice O'Connor's approval. Discussion ensued regarding the appropriation of funds.
- J. Long Range Planning - Wayne Helsby/ Hector Moré
- No report.
- K. Membership - Chris Knight
- No report.
- L. Professionalism Guidelines/TLS Release - Stuart Ratzan
- No report.
- M. Publications - Kim Ashby
- Chair Eastmoore reported that the latest Advocate has been published and requested that Council members consider ways to "spice up" future editions.
- N. Special Projects - Kim Ashby/Pat Lowry
- No report.

O. Website/Social Media - Courtney Grimm

- Courtney Grimm reported that in compliance with the Bar's directive it was confirmed that the Section's website is ADA compliant. Additionally, a proposal had been obtained from the site's current webmaster to update the website and include a page for the Chester Bedell Memorial Foundation. The costs of three different options for redesign were presented and a **MOTION** was made by Tom Bishop to approve a Website Redesign and Development with a page for the Chester Bedell Memorial Foundation in the amount of \$4,950.00. The motion was seconded by John Williams and unanimously approved.

P. Liaison to Florida Bar Committees

- ABOTA - Joe Kinman

Skooter Kinman reported that the Section received contributions from ABOTA to the Teachers Law School. Also, ABOTA has determined at this time not to take a stance on the legislation regarding judicial nominations by the Governor.

- ADR - Joe Kinman

No report.

- Civil Procedures Rules - Joe Kinman

No report.

- Evidence Committee - Joe Kinman

No report.

- Judicial Administration Rules - Joe Kinman

No report.

- Judicial Ethics Advisory - Pat Lowry

No report.

Q. Board of Governors Liaison - Jay Cohen

- No report.

R. Judicial Liaison - Hon. Amy Smith

- No report.

S. Future meetings – Hector Moré

- Hector More reported on the upcoming meeting, June 25 - 28, 2014 - Annual Bar Meeting – at Gaylord Palms, Orlando. Judge Hatchett will be the speaker for the Chester Bedell Luncheon. The remaining meetings for 2014 have been set:
August 21- 24, 2014 – Ritz Carlton – Naples
November 13-16, 2014 – The Alford Inn – Winter Park.

6. Old Business

- None.

7. New Business

- The Bar's Leadership Academy Committee has requested that a liaison from the Section participate on the Committee. Chair Eastmoore has appointed Vickie Sproat to represent the Section. Chair Eastmoore requested that the Council consider the idea of a stipend to assist with the liaison's participation.
- Chair Eastmoore reported that the Nominating Committee had met and recommends that the Secretary/Treasurer position be filled by Tom Bishop. A **MOTION** was made by Charlie Bartlett and seconded by Mindy McLaughlin to accept the Committee's recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.