

**THE FLORIDA BAR  
TRIAL LAWYERS SECTION  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 18, 2008  
Miami, Florida**

The Florida Bar Trial Lawyers Executive Council met on Friday January 18, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency in Miami Florida. Chair Robert Palmer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The minutes were taken by Secretary Glenn Burton.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members of the Executive Council were present: Robert Palmer, Cliff Higby, Glenn Burton, Robert Mansbach, Norman Vaughn-Birch, Bill Fuller, Kim Ashby, Craig Gibbs, Frank Bedell, Jim Clark, Bill Hahn, Jep Barbour, Courtney Grimm, Eileen Moss, Jon Lynn, Tim Sullivan and Mary Kay Simpson. Also appearing was Yvonne Sherron, from The Florida Bar in place of Connie Stewart, and Bob Harris, our Legislative Consultant.

The following members of the Executive Council were absent: Sandy Sanborn (Although his Golf Tee Proxy was present), John Williams, Chris Knopik, Ed Cheffy and Kim Cook.

The minutes of the October 13, 2007 Meeting of the Executive Council were read and approved by all.

- I. Financial Report** - The financial report for December 2007 was reviewed. No legitimate questions arose concerning the report and it was approved.
- II. CLE Committee Report** - The next Seminar is the Damages seminar Chaired by Chris Knopik. We are still trying to determine whether it will be offered live and as a Webinar. The Advanced Trial Advocacy Seminar is set for the May 6-10. We are hoping to have 48 students this year, so please send someone from your firm and talk to others that could benefit from this exceptional program. We have no present plans to put on a Seminar at the Annual Convention for economic reasons.
- III. Mock Trial Committee Report** -The Mock Trial competition was a huge success this year. A very special thank you was extended to Eileen Moss and Jon Lynn for putting on such a successful program.
- IV. 2007 Discovery Handbook** – No report.
- V. Legislative Committee Report** – Bob Harris presented the Legislative report. He will continue with the Friday morning conference calls starting on March 7<sup>th</sup>. He will also send out periodic email reports on current legislative issues. It is still too early to evaluate what bills will be heard but he believes that the issues will include a) 19 new judges b) a

Fabre bill c) Tax on attorney fees d) other matters that the Legislature wants input from us about. A discussion was held about our scope of concerns for access to courts issues.

**VI. Website Committee Report** – Due to extreme difficulty in working with our web site company, Gonzo Systems, we will replace them with NetPhils. Hopefully this will afford us the opportunity to make worthy advances in our web site. Our new Website Committee Chair is Eileen Moss. She will look into new features.

**VII. Membership Committee Report** – The executive council has created a new committee dedicated to promote new membership and to preserve existing memberships in the Trial Lawyers Section. Our first Chair of this Committee is Courtney Grimm. She will be developing this committee with the help of John Williams.

**VII. Old Business** – 1. The revised Professional Guidelines have been sent to the County and Circuit Judges for their approval. 2. The speaker for the Bedell Luncheon in June will be Judge Gerald Tjoflat. Next year the speaker will be Laurence Tribe. We will split the fee for each speaker with the Bedell Foundation.

**VIII. New Business** – 1. Arbitration clauses in medical care and in business generally, are probably headed for the Legislative arena. We have created a subcommittee to get involved in the issues from the access to courts standpoint. The members are Bill Hahn, Tim Sullivan and Kim Ashby. 2. Yvonne reported that our long time Bar Staffer Connie Stewart will be retiring in February. The Bar will assign a new Representative with no input from us. A discussion was held as to what to do for Connie to thank her for her years of service to the section. Norman Vaughn-Birch will lead a group to recommend the answers to the question. 3. Our next meeting will be at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs May 1-4. We need to know by March 1<sup>st</sup> who is going and reservations need to be made by April 1<sup>st</sup>. The meeting will be Saturday morning. Dinners will be set for Thursday and Friday Night. Breakfast will be served at the Saturday meeting. 4. Frank announced that he is setting up the meetings for his term in office. His tentative plan is to have a meeting December 11-14 in New York City. More to follow.

**IX. Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted, Glenn Burton