

**Minutes
Trial Lawyers Section
Executive Council Meeting
Buena Vista Palace, Orlando
Friday June 21, 1996**

The meeting was called to order by Bill Wilson.

The Minutes of the April 13, 1996 meeting were approved without amendment. The meeting summary of the January 12, 1996 meeting at the Hilton at Walt Disney World Village was approved without amendment.

Financial Report

The Financial report for May 31, 1996 was reviewed. The beginning fund balance was \$213,680 and the ending fund balance was \$243,638.

Nominating Committee and Election of Council Members

The nominating committee presented the following names for nomination:

Mark P. Buell, Tampa (two year term)
Dominic M. Capparello, Tallahassee
Scott J. Feder, Miami
Kelly G. Hamer, Ocala
Thomas D. Masterson, St. Petersburg
Thomas P. Scarritt, Jr., Tampa
M. Therese Vento, Miami
Roy R. Watson, II, West Palm Beach

The section at large elected Dominic M. Capparello, Tallahassee; Scott J. Feder, Miami; Thomas P. Scarritt, Jr. Tampa and Thomas D. Masterson, St. Petersburg. Kelly G. Hamer, Ocala; Mark P. Buell, Tampa; M. Therese Vento, Miami and Roy R. Watson, II, West Palm Beach were elected by proclamation by the Executive Council.

Committee Reports

CLE Committee

Michael G. Tanner reported on the upcoming CLE schedule. All of the seminars have program chairs except the October 9/10 seminar. He thanked those who have agreed to participate as program chairs for the upcoming year.

Discovery Handbook Update Committee

Michael G. Tanner asked the council to assist in the revision of the Discovery Handbook. Each chapter has been assigned. Anyone interested in assisting the committee was asked to contact Mike. The revisions or additions should be completed by December.

Legislation Committee

Buddy. Jacobs introduce Rep. Tom Warner and Rep. Robert D. Trammell to the council and they in turn gave a summary of this past legislation session and possible issues in the upcoming session. Buddy then discussed specific issues that will need to be watched as the upcoming session approaches.

Bylaw Committee Rule Change

The Bylaw changes that were proposed at the April 13, 1996 meeting were approved by the council and will be presented to The Florida Bar Rules and Bylaw Committee. The changed language will read . . . For the purpose of this sections bylaws and this paragraph Florida Legal Assistant shall mean a person who **is employed by and supervised by a member of The Florida Bar of law firm and** who has satisfied the following minimum requirements: . . .

Proposed Amendment to Rule 4-1.5 (f)(4)

John M. Kest reported on the proposed amendment to Rule 4 - 1.5 (f)(4) .After a discussion of the council they recommended section 4-1.5 (f)(4) be changed to allow a 30 percent contingency fee in cases with awards between \$2 million and \$3 million where liability is admitted, but the case goes to trial. The rule currently allows 20 percent. For cases yielding awards of more than \$3 million, the committee recommended that the fee be increased from 15 to 20 percent. John will pass the councils recommendation on The Florida Bar.

Joint Technology Seminar with College of William and Mary Courtroom 21

The courtroom 21 demonstration was not available for the annual convention meeting this year. The council voted to invite them for the Annual Meeting in June '97 and to present a free seminar/demonstration on the courtroom of the future.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting

Tampa Airport Marriott, Tampa, The Florida Bar General Meeting September 6, 1996