

Minutes
Trial Lawyers Section
Executive Council Meeting
Great Abaco Beach Resort
March Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas
March 7/8, 1997

The meeting was called to order by William B. Wilson, Chair. The minutes of the January 24, 1997 meeting were approved as submitted.

The detail financial statement was reviewed the beginning fund balance was \$245,404 and the ending fund balance was \$346,842.

Committee Reports:

CLE Committee:

Tom Scarrett reported on the 1997/98 CLE Seminars. Several seminars do not have program chairs and the council members were asked to volunteer and to contact Tom if they are interested in chairing a seminar. Neal O' Toole and Brian Duffy will co-chair the 1998 Board Certification Review Seminar. The council discussed variation of the Cert Review. It was decided that the seminar would be taped and that video playback should be scheduled. Also discussed was the removal of the Cert Review Seminar from under the guidelines of the CLE Committee and that it should become a Section sponsored seminar. This proposal was tabled until the June meeting. At which time a report could be given to the council weighing the advantages and disadvantages in this action. One of the seminars (October) has not been assigned a topic to date. Several topics were discussed. Tom will be contacting the council to explore their suggestions. This seminar does not have a program Chair at this time. (See attached 1997/98 CLE schedule)

Bylaws Committee:

The Bylaw Committee suggested several changes to the bylaws. The legislative committee is mandated by the BOG and must comply with these standards. The council voted to change several committee names. They deleted the following committees, Advanced Trial Advocacy Committee, Basic Trial Advocacy Committee, the Law School Liaison Committee, Newsletter Committee and the Video Tape Library Committee. The new Education and Publications Committee would include the Advanced Trial Advocacy Committee and the Basic Trial Advocacy Committee. The committees that were added were Executive Committee, Judicial Relations Committee and the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee. Also developed were description for the new committees. These descriptions will not be included in the bylaws but will be included with the bylaws. A copy of these descriptions is attached to the minutes. The bylaws with the proposed changes will be presented to the Council at the June meeting to be voted on and submitted to the BOG following the meeting.

Litigation Reform Committee:

The committee is developing guidelines for a Model program for Expedited Trials. The proposed forms were presented to the council (forms attached to the minutes).

Several suggestions to implement this plan were discussed and the council was encouraged to contact lawyers and judges who would be willing to try the model program and report the results back to the council. The committee will report back to the council at the June meeting if and how the model has been utilized.

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ADR Committee:

The ADR Committee will present and 1/2 day seminar at the Annual Meeting in June. The committee will coordinate the seminar. The seminar will include a luncheon with a guest speaker. The seminar is scheduled for Wednesday, June 25, 1997. Bernie Kessler, Chair of the ADR committee will be the program chair.

Discovery Handbook Committee:

The 1997 Discovery Handbook was mailed to all Judges and Trial Lawyers Section Members in February. Again the publication was well received and the requests are coming in daily. We will again publish a revised handbook in 1998 Mark Buell will head up the committee. The cost of printing the handbook was \$.55 a copy and the mailing cost was \$.40 per copy. The handbook was also included in the Bridge the Gap Seminar.