

Meeting of Trial Lawyers' Executive Council

Bermuda

May 2, 2009

The Florida Bar Trial Lawyers' Executive Council met on Saturday, May 2, 2009, at the Elbow Beach Resort in Bermuda. Chair Frank Bedell called the meeting to order at 9am. The minutes were taken by Bob Mansbach, Secretary.

- 1. Roll Call:** The following members were present: Frank Bedell, Bob Mansbach, , Robert Palmer, Courtney Grimm, Cliff Higby, Lou Prats, Wayne Helsby, Kim Ashby, Pat Lowrey, Ted Eastmoore and John Williams. Also present was past chair Dom Caparello and Board liaison Sandy Sanborn. The following members were absent: Glenn Burton, Kaye Simpson, Stuart Ratzan, Eileen Moss, Jon Lynn, Kim Cook, Hector More, Craig Gibbs, Norm Vaughan-Birch, Tim Sullivan, Cal Warriner and Chris Knopik. W. Paige Graham was unavailable due to another bar commitment, and Valerie Yarbrough attended in her stead.
- 2. Minutes:** The minutes of the March 7, 2009 meeting in Miami were unanimously approved, the reading having been waived. Martin Dyckman's name needs to be corrected.
- 3. CLE Committee Report:** Bob Palmer reported on the May Trial Advocacy seminar, which for the first time in many years is sold out. We are trying to figure out if this seminar can ever break even. We could have up to 64 given the law school's expansion. Dom suggested a Medicaid set aside seminar/webinar. Bob Palmer is working on a medicine for lawyers seminar with Kim Cook and Glenn Burton.
- 4. Membership:** given Glenn's absence, that report was delayed to June. However, it was discussed that all sections have suffered declining membership. Kim suggested that we look at what the RPPTL section has done with their seminars and planning to boost their solidarity.
- 5. 2009-10 Travel:** We are slated to travel to San Antonio in the spring of 2010. There has been a suggestion to cancel the mid year meeting, and it has been reset for Orlando at the Hilton near Downtown Disney. Wayne is lining up judges for the mock trial competition. Our next meeting is in June, following the luncheon.
- 6. Financial Report:** A financial report as of was presented and approved. We are in good financial shape.
- 7. Legislative:** the session has been extended to May 8. The worker's compensation bill passed, limiting attorneys' fees. It is likely some type of graduated filing fee will pass. As to the ABOTA suit against the legislature and the governor, it is in Leon County now, before Judge Sheffield. There will be some level of legislative review of the clerks' budgets/funding.
- 8. The Daubert** issue was determined to be too divisive to be a section wide issue.
- 9. June 2009 Luncheon:** It will be combined with the Criminal Law section. Both sections have had declining attendance at their respective luncheons. We need to get a larger group to

hear the speaker. We also need to move the luncheon time to 12:30 next year. Kim Ashby will invite the 5th DCA. Can we comp the judges?

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.

Submitted by Bob Mansbach, Secretary/Treasurer