

TRIAL LAWYERS SECTION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Alford Inn
300 E. New England Avenue, Winter Park, Florida
Saturday, 15 November 2014 at 9:00 a.m.
New England Room

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Hector Moré, Courtney Grimm, Thomas Bishop, Wil Murphy, Katherine Hunter, Joseph Kinman, Wes Smith, Sid Matthew, Tom Edwards, John Williams, Bill Partridge, Chuck Ingram, Chris Knopik, Wiley Hicks, David Roy, Wayne Helsby, Charlie Bartlett, Sandy Sanborn.

By Phone: Mindy McLaughlin, Pat Lowry, Kim Ashby, Stuart Ratzan, Vickie Sproat, Dennis O'Connor, Terry O'Connor.

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks – Hector A. Moré
 - Welcomed everyone to Winter Park.
2. Meetings/Social Committee – Charlie Bartlett
 - No report.
3. Approval of Minutes – 23 August 2014 Exhibit 1
 - The minutes of the 15 November 2014 meeting were approved by acclamation, with one amendment adding Pat Lowry as having been appointed to the *Daubert* White Paper Committee.
4. Financial Report/Budget Committee – Tom Bishop
 - Current fund balance is \$601,334.
 - Hector Moré explained amendments and changes to the budget from previous years to effect cost savings.
 - The financial reports and budget were approved by acclamation.

5. Committee Reports

A. Summit – Mindy McLaughlin

i. Mock Trial – Charlie Bartlett

- All 12 law schools to attend.
- 21-23 January.

ii. Teachers Law School – Katherine Hunter

- 17 teachers currently committed, and more expected.
- Organizing good slate of speakers.
- Program to take place in West Palm Beach.

B. Advanced Trial Advocacy – Tom Bishop

- Co-Chairs Wil Murphy, Dennis O'Connor, and Chuck Ingram.
- Still working on finalizing dates, expected to be during May 2015.
- Program to take place at University of Florida College of Law.

C. By Laws – Stuart Ratzan

- No report.

D. Civil Trial Update/Certification – Chuck Ingram

- New standards proposed for civil trial certification.
- Civil Trial Certification Committee has asked TLS/EC to comment on new standards.
- Motion by Partridge, seconded by Bishop, to review report, and provide input, with any modification to be voted upon electronically within 30 days. Motion carries by acclamation.

E. CLE – Tom Edwards

- Civil Trial Certification to take place 26-27 February in Tampa.
- Evidence Seminar to be presented on 19 March in Tampa.

F. Council of Sections – Courtney Grimm

- Upcoming meeting on 24 January 2015.

G. Discovery Handbook – John Williams

- Working with Wes Smith on updates to 2015 handbook. Should be ready by early 2015.

H. Leadership Academy – Vickie Sproat

- Update on academy process and selection of candidates.
- All TLS/EC members encouraged to recommend good candidates to apply.

I. Legislative Committee/Lobbyist's Report - Tom Bishop

- Legislative Leadership Day to take place 11 February 2015.
- Report on outcome of elections.
- New leadership in senate and house. Will be making efforts to meet and discuss legislative plans of new legislative leadership prior to session.
- Report on expected legislative initiatives.
- Gave legislative awards to Representative McBurney and Senator Bradley at awards luncheon in Jacksonville on 10 November 2014.

J. Long Range Planning – Hector Moré

- i. Discussion of Gift to Foundation and future plans for same.
- ii. Discussion of ATA location.
 - Now settled that University of Florida will remain location for near term.

K. Membership – Wil Murphy

- No report.

L. Professionalism Guidelines/TLS – Stuart Ratzan

- No report.

M. Publications – Kim Ashby

- Members of the Council should forward their thoughts on the type of publication best serving the needs of the Section.

N. Special Projects – Kim Ashby/Pat Lowry

- No report.

- O. Website – Courtney Grimm/David Roy
- Finalizing website.
- P. Liaison to Florida Bar Committees – Joe Kinman
- i. Civil Procedures Rules
- The proposed amendment to the offer of judgment rule has been rejected.
 - Forms are being prepared of sample offer of judgment rules for consideration by the committee.
- ii. Evidence Committee
- No report.
- iii. ABOTA
- National Meeting at the Naples Ritz Carlton 22-24 January.
- vi. FLABOTA
- Bob Palmer is this years President. New Presidents have been named for next year.
- v. Judicial Ethics – Pat Lowry
- Judicial campaigns have now ended. Reports were made of instances of abuse that were addressed accordingly.
 - Tom Edwards has been named to a Judicial Management Council by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court of The Florida Bar President. Council to put together commission to address funding for access to courts.
- Q. Board of Governors Liaison – Wayne Helsby
- i. Board of Governors Report Exhibit 2
- See report attached.
- R. Judicial Liaison – Hon. Amy Smith
- Assisting with assembly of judges and faculty for Teachers Law School in West Palm Beach.

- S. Future Meetings – Hector Moré
 - i. January 21-24, 2015 (Mock Trial and Teachers Law School) – Marriott, West Palm Beach, Florida
 - ii. April 9-12, 2015 – Auberge Del Mar, Del Mar, California
- 6. Old Business
 - *Daubert* Rule White Paper Committee has met, and has roughed out initial draft. Draft will be circulated prior to next meeting for consideration by council members.

Whereupon the meeting was adjourned.