

TRIAL LAWYERS SECTION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 20-23, 2016
SAWGRASS MARRIOTT GOLF RESORT & SPA, PONTE VEDRA BEACH

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Courtney Grimm – Chairperson, Tom Bishop – Vice Chair, Hector Moré – Immediate Past Chair, John Williams, Tom Dart, Wayne Helsby, Terry O’Connor, Wes Smith, Tom Edwards, David Roy, Wiley Hicks, Katherine Hunter, Mindy McLaughlin, Sandy Sanborn, Skooter Kinman – Secretary/Treasurer, Chase Early – Section Administrator

By Phone: Dennis O’Connor, Wil Murphy, Chuck Ingram, Herman Russomanno, and Bob Harris

Absent: Jeff Goodis, Chris Knopik, Charlie Bartlett, Kim Ashby, Vickie Sproat, Ted Eastmore, Nick Mizell, Darryl Lewis, Bill Partridge, Judge Amy Smith

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks – Courtney Grimm: Thank you to all who attended and helped out with Mock Trial Competition and Teachers Law School. Need to know who plans to attend the Austin, Texas meeting, for how many days, and what would people like to do.

2. Approval of Minutes – November 28, 2015

- Approved by unanimous vote.

3. Financial Report/Budget Committee – Skooter Kinman

Current Fund Balance \$562,337; Total Revenue down by \$33,784; Total Expenses up by \$18,548.

- Budget Amendment of \$5,000 (or more if necessary in discretion of Executive Committee) to pay for printing/mailing of Discovery Handbook approved by unanimous vote.

4. Committee Reports

A. Mock Trial – Wiley Hicks: Everyone congratulated Wiley for great job, as well as Wayne H., Tom E. and Kim Maxon who helped run the competition, as well as all Executive Council members who came to help out serving judges and jurors. Thank you gifts to Kim Maxon (Wayne Helsby’s legal assistant) and Kim Hathy (Tom Edwards’ legal assistant) up to \$500 will be given. We need to better publicize the Mock Trial and Teachers Law Schools including articles in The Edge, Florida Bar publications, and on our website.

B. Teachers Law School – Wes Smith: Everyone congratulated Wes for a great job, as well as Katherine H. and Courtney G. for their assistance. Special thanks to Mr. Perfect and

Terry O'Connor for their presentations. Phillip Little will hopefully let us know when the annual meeting of Social Studies Directors takes place in 2016. Suggestions to eliminate Teachers attending the trial, having them attend only half of the trial, attending trial other than Friday afternoon. Thank you gift to Terri Martinez (Katherine's legal assistant) up to \$500 approved. Need to send thank you letters to all speakers and teachers.

C. Legislation Committee/Lobbyist's Report – Tom Bishop/Bob Harris:
The Legislature is in session, and various bills of possible interest were noted. We have five spots at a luncheon next week in Tallahassee to be filled by Tom B., Courtney G., Sandy S., Wayne H. and Wil M. Tom B. suggests its' time to make our presence known on the judicial term limits issue and draft a paper on it. Suggestion made to create a Constitution Review Commission Committee. Tom E. reports our Daubert paper is almost final, but the "conclusion" needs tweaking and will be ready for filing with the Florida Supreme Court when appropriate.

D. Council of Sections – Tom Bishop/Skooter Kinman: Nothing to report.

E. Publications/Social Media – Kim Ashby: Courtney G. congratulates Kim A. and Wil M. for publishing First Edition of The Edge, which will go out quarterly with an update monthly. Suggestion to include advertisement of the Med. Mal. Seminar. John W. requests a blurb mentioning the Discovery Handbook.

F. Website/Social Media – David Roy: Thanks Courtney G. for all of her contributions and suggestions. Decision made not to publish a schematic showing mock trial team progression to finals, just announce the winner. Tom Dart has name of a new Web guy for us to use.

G. Membership – Wil Murphy: Membership is down. Need to send out a letter shortly before dues time to members to renew membership. Hector M. suggests a letter to other section members as well.

H. Civil Trial Certification – Chuck Ingram: About 50 applicants so far.

I. CLE – Mindy McLaughlin: Everything is running perfectly. Civil Trial Bd. Certification Course is set for February 4 and 5, and may get sold out, and is being webcasted this year. Med Mal Seminar is set for March 11, 2016 at USF, downtown Tampa.

J. Discovery Handbook – John Williams: It's finished, ready to be mailed out.

K. Leadership Academy – Vickie Sproat: No report.

L. Trial Advocacy – Tom Bishop: Dennis O. and Chuck I. are co-chairing, set for May 10-14 at University of Florida Law School in Gainesville. Four scholarships will be awarded to Legal Aid. The Florida Bar Foundation has appointed someone to help make the selection. An advertisement should go out right away.

M. Board of Governors Liaison – Wayne Helsby: Nothing to report.

- N. Liaison to Florida Bar Committees – Skooter Kinman: Nothing to report.
- O. Judicial Liaison – Amy Smith: No report.
- P. Bylaws/Release/Professionalism Guidelines – Chris Knopik: No report.
- Q. Long Range Planning – Ted Eastmore: No report.
- R. Special Projects – Kim Ashby: No report.
- S. Meetings/Social Committee – Terry O’Connor/Courtney Grimm: Need to know who is going on Austin trip and for how many days, and what would people like to do there.

April 14-17, 2016 The Driskill Hotel, Austin, Texas
June 15-18, 2016 Florida Bar Annual Convention, Hilton Bonnet Creek,
Orlando

5. Old Business

A. Foundation Gift – Hector Moré: Sponsorship of four Fellowships to Trial Advocacy Course.

B. Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Request: - No report.

6. New Business – Courtney G. reports that Ted E. wants to do something re: Bedell Foundation Lunch. Perhaps have it on Thursday during the Mock Trial Competition/Teacher Law School.

- Motion to purchase projector with Elmo capability unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

 Jan. 25, 2016

Joseph F. Kinman, Jr. – Secretary/Treasurer