

TRIAL LAWYERS SECTION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 16-17, 2016  
HILTON ORLANDO BONNET CREEK

**MEETING MINUTES**

Present: Courtney Grimm – Chairperson, Tom Bishop – Vice Chair, Tom Dart, Wayne Helsby, Tom Edwards, Wiley Hicks, Mindy McLaughlin, Dennis O’Connor, Wil Murphy, Chuck Ingram, Ted Eastmoore, Terry O’Connor, David Roy, Vickie Sproat, Herman Russomanno, Bob Harris, Bill Partridge, Kim Ashby, Tom Edwards, James Messer, Skooter Kinman – Secretary/Treasurer, Chase Early – Section Administrator

By Phone: Wes Smith, Nick Mizzel

Absent: John Williams, Hector Moré, Jeff Goodis, Darryl Lewis, Katherine Hunter, Chris Knopik, Sandy Sanborn

---

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks – Courtney Grimm: Courtney recognizes guest speakers Bill Schifino – President of The Florida Bar and Michael Higer – Vice President of The Florida Bar, as well as declared candidates for 2018 President of The Florida Bar Michelle Suskauer and Lance Scriven.

Courtney reports that the Trial Lawyers Section Chester Bedell Luncheon was well attended, Ted Eastmoore said it was the best luncheon we’ve ever had.

2. Approval of Minutes – April 14-16, 2016:

- Approved by unanimous vote after amendment to reflect Jim Messer attended by phone, and correction of spelling of Ted Eastmoore’s name.

3. Financial Report/Budget Committee – Skooter Kinman

Year-to-date revenue is approximately \$396,807 with expenses of \$466,072, however, this does not include roughly \$65,000 income from ATA yet to be posted.

4. Committee Reports

A. Leadership Academy – Vickie Sprout: Our Leadership Academy Reception had a great turnout, kudos to Vickie for job well done. President Schifino has requested \$10,000 contribution for LA, although we do not get to designate recipients of the donation (\$3,500 per fellow). Do we continue giving \$10,000 to LA, or just \$5,000 to sponsor LA Reception? Consensus is to just contribute money to LA Reception, negotiate whether to contribute additional \$5,000 to LA for Fellows sponsorship. T. Bishop moves to continue giving \$5,000 to sponsor LA Reception.

- Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Tom Bishop moves to amend 2016-2017 budget to include no more than \$10,000 for LA purposes.

- Approved by unanimous vote.

B. Advanced Trial Advocacy – Tom Bishop: Gives thanks to co-chairs Dennis O’Connor and Chuck Ingram (and Chase E. as well) for great work. Skooter and Kim convey request/suggestion from BLSE that we survey all the Board Certified attorneys attending the ATA as to whether they believe attendance at the ATA should be equivalent of a jury trial for purposes of receiving jury trial credit for certification, particularly as to experience, training, and pure stress. Some Board Certification Committees may not consider the ATA and NITA courses as the equivalent of a jury trial and may try to eliminate ATA attendance as a substitute for a jury trial.

C. Publications/Social Media – Kim Ashby: Kudos to Kim, Will and Chase for great job on getting out monthly publication and two issues of The Edge.

D. Membership – Wil Murphy: we are currently at 6100 members, our goal is 6500 to 6600.

E. CLE – Mindy McLaughlin: It’s been a successful year, with higher attendance. We will need larger room for the Civil Trial Cert. Review seminar, our Tech. seminar is moving forward, we received a very nice letter from the Evidence Hot Topics Program Chair saying how great Chase is.

F. Civil Trial Update/Certification – Chuck Ingram: 23 of 28 people passed the recent exam. Approval for more credit for longer trials is percolating through the system. Full-time mediation will count as trial practice after 15 years.

G. Discovery Handbook – J. Williams: No report.

H. Legislative/Lobbyist’s Report – Tom Bishop/Bob Harris: We will need to re-educate lots of new incoming legislators. Bob recommends we be proactive with the upcoming Constitution Revision Commission as it may very well affect the way the court system looks in 2018. Tom B. suggests a conclave with Legislators to answer questions, explain who we are.

Tom B. moves to amend contract with Bob Harris as our lobbyist from \$60,000 to \$70,000.

- Approved by unanimous vote.

Tom Bishop moves to amend 2016-2017 budget for lobbyist contract from \$60,000 to \$70,000.

- Approved by unanimous vote.

I. Mock Trial – Wiley Hicks: Thanks to Tom Edwards for all his efforts. Wiley is getting early jump on the problem for next year. Questions if something is going on with Cooley Law School.

J. Teachers Law School – Wes Smith: Nothing to report but needs to know when and where we will be having it.

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

L. Website/Social Media – David Roy: Still rocks.

M. Board of Governors Liaison – Wayne Helsby: Praises Courtney for her great presentation to the Board of Governors.

N. Liaison to Florida Bar Committees – Skooter Kinman:

- ADR – Nothing to report.
- Civil Procedure Rules – Summary Judgment Rule 1.510(c) will be changed to provide that responsive filing deadline is 5:00 p.m., two days before the hearing, if by e-mail. Forms for making Proposals for Settlement have been passed.
- Evidence Committee – Daubert argument is set for September 1, 2016.
- Judicial Administration – Nothing to report.

O. Judicial Liaison: Amy Smith has resigned.

P. Bylaws/Release/Professionalism Guidelines – Chris Knopik: No report.

Q. Long Range Planning – Ted Eastmoore: Nothing to report.

R. Special Projects – Kim Ashby: Nothing to report.

5. Old Business – Courtney mentions Lobano, they want our help.

6. New Business –

A. Nomination Committee – Kim Ashby and Dennis O'Connor are unanimously approved to serve a second 3 year term. Chris Knopik has resigned. New members Wiley Braxton Gillam (Jacksonville), Paul Scheck (Orlando), Orman Kimbrough (Orlando) and Patricia Crauwels (Sarasota) are unanimously approved as new members. Mindy McLaughlin is the new Secretary/Treasurer. Chris Knopik has resigned. Judge Amy Smith has resigned.

B. Courtney expressed her thanks to everyone who worked so tirelessly to make her year so successful, and in appreciation, gave everyone engraved Yeti cups. In appreciation for Courtney's graciousness and elegance of service, Tom B. presented Courtney with a new iPad.

C. Meetings – Tom Bishop: Tom’s first meeting will be September 1-2, 2016 at the Amelia Island Ritz Carlton. Future meetings will be at the Biltmore in Coral Gables in November, and Sawgrass in January of 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. EST at the Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek.

Joseph F. Kinman, Jr.  
Joseph F. Kinman, Jr. – Secretary/Treasurer

June 20, 2016  
Date