

MINUTES OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW SECTION

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

May 1, 2009

I. Call to Order – Alan Forst (called the meeting to order.)

II. Secretary/Treasurer Report:

A. Consideration of Minutes – Jonathan Oliff, Damon Kitchen, Robert Miles, Robert Turk and Ray Poole attended the last meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously, with amendment, without further discussion.

B. Financial Statement – The financial statement was reviewed. Alan Forst stated we met our target for the hotel; however attendance at the Advanced labor Topics was low. Bob Turk thanked Alan for his assistance in obtaining the excellent speakers. Due to the quality of the program, the Section may have substantial after-market sales.

The current fund balance is \$163,761. There were no questions regarding the financials.

III. Committee and Subcommittee Reports:

A. Membership Outreach - Scott Fisher reported that the membership directory is proceeding with Flagship. Once the advertising covers the costs, Flagship will start the production process. Alan recommended that the membership directory should be broken down by county and then by certification with the Executive Council listed separately. Angela can assist with this categorization. The goal is to have the membership on the website by June.

Scott reported that the St. Pete seminar on June 19th is set with the Bar allowing the Section to have membership applications available during the seminar. Ethics credits will be provided in addition to the other credits. Alan suggested we focus on working with local voluntary bar associations, as historically we have done this and had sufficient attendance.

B. ABA Liaison – Alan Gerlach attended the ABA's EEO meeting in Orlando where Bill Cassidy spoke. He reported it was an exceptional program.

C. Law School Liaison – Jonathan Oliff gave the report. He intends on meeting with law schools to arrange for different groups to speak to the schools. He is waiting for the names of the scholarship recipients. Alan suggested to locate one or two practitioners in the local area to speak at a law school. John stated he is also looking to the Executive Council to see if anyone has an interest in law school presentations and will send an email to those on the Council for their interest.

D. Local/Voluntary Bar – No report.

D. New Membership - No report.

E. Long Range Planning – Cary Singletary provided the report. They are working with local bars and organizations to combine efforts as to increase Section membership.

F. Legal Education - Alan stated the seminar in D.C. is excellent. The low attendance may be due to the economy. Jill Schwartz reported she is working with Greg Hearing for the Presidential Showcase seminar on June 25, 2009. We are allotted 2 hours and 45 minutes (2:15 to 5:00 p.m.) for the showcase. Greg thanked Alan for his work on the D.C. conference and stated they are working with the ABA for a presentation in Tampa. August 28th is the Seminole Hard Rock seminar. Zascha Abbott reported that most of the speakers are committed for this event. Greg stated that David Block has handled the Webinars with great programs, even though sparsely attended. David announced the upcoming ADA Webinar set for June 2009. Alan stated that Roger Clegg will speak about Diversity issues at a Webinar. There was discussion about potential after-market sales of the Webinar materials and packaging the materials with a discount. Alan stated we have done so in the past. Greg agreed to consider a package rate for the Webinars. Marguerite Longoria stated that Angela should send an email blast to remind members about the availability of materials.

G. Judicial Outreach – Zascha Abbott reported they have a seminar planned for June 12th that involves lunch with the judges in Miami-Dade County. The legal staff of DCBA was also invited. She wants to have the same program in Broward and Palm Beach counties. Alan remarked this is a great development.

H. Publications – Alan reported that the Check-Off materials were excellent this year and that four issues will be published for the Section’s calendar year. Another edition will be distributed before the Florida Bar’s annual meeting (editor’s note—we met our deadlines but the Florida Bar was unable to take this on in mid-June; thus, the next edition will come out in July). The Section is saving money by not distributing hard-copies of the Check-Off. There was no report from Frank Brown on the Florida Bar Journal. It was noted that Marguerite has an article published in the Journal.

I. Website – No report from Marc Snow received. Alan stated the Section Website is being updated and if anyone wants to add information, they should speak with Angela.

J. Special Projects - Leslie Stein is working on a diversity seminar with the Florida Bar and that the Florida Bar has offered to co-sponsor the event in October. Alan Forst stated there was a proposal by the Florida Board of Governors to make mentoring mandatory; however, this proposal was eventually dropped. NELA serves as a good role model for mentoring its members. Eric Holshouser stated the issue is whether new lawyers want to be mentored. Cathleen Scott suggested we look to the Basic Skills course for ideas about mentoring. Alan Gerlach stated they are the Committee is still investigating the idea of working with Florida law schools to establish unemployment appeals clinical programs. Alan Frost recommended the Section refrain from moving forward with the unemployment program until he is no longer the Chair of the Section.

IV. New Business

Alan noted that the By-laws were adopted by the Bar and will be effective next year. Now, the former Chairs of the Section will no longer count towards the 22 (lowered from 24) Council members. This should help retain former Chairs on the Council while allowing for new members. Steve Meck commented that Alan Forst has done an outstanding job with the Bylaws.

V. Chair's Report

Alan reported that the Presidential Showcase seminar is an excellent opportunity for the Section. The next meeting is June 25th in Orlando followed by a reception. Alan urged the Section's Executive Committee members to attend the Council meetings and reception.

The meeting was adjourned.

ROLL CALL

Sherril Colombo
Alan Forst
Eric Holshouser
Greg Hearing
Marguerite Longoria
Donald Ryce, Jr.
Cynthia Sass
Robert Turk
Zascha Blanca Abbott

PHONE ATTENDANCE

Steve Meck
Jill Schwartz
David Block
Scott Fisher
Alan Gerlach
Damon Kitchen
Daniel Levine
Robert Miles
Shane Munoz
Jonathan Oliff
Ray Poole
Cary Singletary

GUESTS

David Adams