

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 22, 2003**

**I. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by Courtney Wilson, Section Chair.

**II. Secretary/Treasurer's Report:** Damon Kitchen reported that the Section has an account balance of \$ 139,723, which was down from the beginning of the year balance of \$146,611. Total Section revenue was \$31,322, whereas total section expenses were \$38,210. As of October 14, 2002, Section membership was down from 2,529 to 2,238.

Minutes were amended to reflect that David Linesch, Walter Aye, Susan Dolin and Ron Rosengarten were absent with excuse during the 10/24/02 meeting and that Leslie Stein had been present at the meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**III. Committee Reports:**

**A. CLE Committee:** Susan Dolin reported that the Advanced Labor Topics meeting will be held at the Hotel Casa Monica in St. Augustine, Florida. Susan said that there are some really good speakers lined up for the program. There will be a long range planning dinner, but there will be no speaker at the dinner. The second day of the program will include a luncheon speaker. The program will consist of two full days. The Executive Council Meeting will be from 5:15 p.m to 6:30 p.m. on Friday. Reception to follow.

**B. EEO Committee:** No report

**C. Employee Benefits:** Frank Brown issued a written report.

**D. Federal Labor Standards Committee:** Scott Fisher reported that the committee had held a meeting and that it has ideas for a Check-Off article.

**E. Individual Rights Committee:** No report.

**F. Labor Relations Committee:** Alan Gerlach reported that he held a telephone conference with his committee; attendance was not very strong, but two members agreed to write Check-Off articles

**G. Legislative Committee:** No report. Steve Meck stated that he will wait until new bills are filed to provide a report.

**H. Litigation/ADR Committee:** Sherril Columbo reported that she held a

committee conference call with her committee, but only 4 or 5 members attended. Sherril further reported that the committee has Check-Off articles on Mediation and Severance Agreements. The Committee also established an e-mail group to pass ideas back and forth.

**I. Long Range Planning Committee:** Cary Singletary stated that he felt the retreat went very well and had been a success.

**J. Pro Bono/Special Projects Committee:** No report.

**K. Publications Committee:** Michael Spellman apologized for no Check-Off to date; however, he stated that he was expecting an issue out soon and then publishing two more Check-Offs before June.

**L. Judicial Education Committee:** Cynthia Sass reported that the committee will use the Certification CLE materials to hold educational programs for circuit court judges in the State. Jill Schwartz reported the programs are well received by the judges. According to Jill, Ray Poole will be working on a program in Jacksonville for April or May; Leslie Langbein will be working on a program in South Florida and she and Cynthia will do local programs in Central Florida.

#### **IV. Chair's Report:**

**A. Section Website:** Courtney reported that the Section's website is up and running. Now the Section needs people to look at it and give the Executive Council suggestions on how to refine and improve it. Anyone having links should give them to Courtney and Walter. The Section also needs people to perform work. This will be done through a Website Committee. The site is [www.laboremployment.org](http://www.laboremployment.org).

Walter Aye made a motion to approve funding for the website in the amount of \$6,000 for 12 months. This motion was seconded and approved.

**B. ABA Outreach:** Courtney reported that Bill Powers of the ABA wants to partner with the Section to interact more with the ABA. Courtney said he thinks this is a good idea to explore via a new committee.

#### **V. New Business:**

**A. Long range Planning Retreat.** Cary Singletary suggested that the Section needed to wait until it received Lisa Gunther's report, before discussing this matter further.

**B. Electronic Format for Check-Off.** Walter Aye asked if the Check-Off information should be made electronically available on the Section's Website at the same time as the hard copy, or whether there should be a lag in putting it out online. The general consensus of the members of the Executive Council in attendance was that it should be placed on the website simultaneously with the mailing of the hard copies. Michael Spellman asked if the Check-Off should only be sent electronically as opposed to in

print. He said that this would save costs of printing and would make it possible to get the editions out more quickly. All Executive Council members in attendance agreed that there is a movement in this direction, but no motion was made to move exclusively to an electronic mailing format.

**C. Continuing Legal Education Joint Ventures.** Courtney Wilson posed the question of whether the Section should partner with Stetson or other schools for joint CLE programs on US and Florida law issues. David Linesch moved that the Executive Council pursue those discussions. Susan Dolin seconded this motion. The motion carried with Alan Forst and Alan Gerlach voting "nay."

**D. Committee Reorganization:** Courtney Wilson stated that the Executive Council must approach the Board of Governors to change its committee structure. Courtney suggested if any Executive Council members wanted to propose the existence of a new committee, each should write a paragraph stating what the committee will do prior to the next meeting, so that the Executive Council can vote on these committees and then submit this proposal to the Board of Governors. Courtney stated that he will try to make an announcement to all Executive Council Members regarding the creation of new committees by a date certain so that these proposed committees can be submitted for a vote by the next Executive Council Meeting. Ron Rosengarten stated that if the Executive Council is going to reduce the number of committees, it needs to think whether it is still going to require committee membership as a requirement of Executive Council membership.

Rob Sniffen stated that last time committees were restructured, there was a delay by the Board of Governors in considering the new committees.

Courtney raised the issue of memorializing and formalizing the criteria for nominating officers on the Executive Council. Dave Linesch suggested that the Executive Council wait to address this once Lisa Gunther's report from the retreat was finalized. Courtney was concerned that the total Section membership should have a say in this. Dave suggested that the Chair and Chair-Elect appoint a committee to select the criteria to make nominations. Angela Froelich agreed to prepare an annual summary of our CLE program attendance for the next meeting going back for a few years.

**E. CLE Program Materials.** Angela stated that all of the Section's programs are paid for by the Florida Bar CLE Committee. She said the Florida Bar CLE Committee required the Sections to pay for programs if the CLE materials are not received by it at least 5 weeks before the program date.

**VI. Old Business:** None

**VII. Adjournment:** Dave Linesch moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:00p.m.

**Members in Attendance**

Courtney Wilson  
Cathy Beveridge  
Cynthia Sass  
Damon Kitchen  
Alan Forst  
Cary Singletary  
Alan Gerlach  
Frank Brown  
Cathy Stutin  
Robbie Miles  
Leslie Stein  
Rob Sniffen  
Michael Spellman  
David Linesch  
Ron Rosengarten  
Sherril Columbo  
Walter Aye  
Jeff Mandel

**Members with Excused Absences**

Wendy Morris  
Allan Weitzman  
Steve Meck  
David Block  
Leslie Langbein

**Members Absent Without Excuse**

Marcus Snow  
Neil Chonin  
Greg Hearing  
Eric Holshouser  
Marilyn Holifield

**Guests in Attendance**

Scott Fisher  
Jill Schwartz