

MINUTES

June 27, 2019 Executive Council Meeting

Labor and Employment Law Section, The Florida Bar
Wyndham Grand Jupiter at Harbourside Place, Jupiter, FL

Cathleen Scott, Chair
David Adams, Chair-Elect
Robyn Hankins, Legal Education Director
Hon. Alan Forst, Secretary-Treasurer
Zascha Blanco Abbott, Immediate Past Chair
Angela Froelich, Section Administrator
Joshua Chilson, Board Liaison

Scott Atwood
David Block*
Deborah Brown*
Hon. Frank Brown*
Sacha Dyson
Robert Eschenfelder
Karen Evans
Yvette Everhart*
Chelsie Flynn*
Jennifer Fowler-Hermes*
Gregory Hearing
Eric Holshouser
Hon. Robert Kilbride
Damon Kitchen*
Leslie Langbein*
Jay Lechner*
Brian Lerner
Carlo Marichal*
Patrick Martin
Steve Meck*
Gregg Morton*
Marlene Quintana
Hon. Stephanie Ray
Cynthia Sass*
Jill Schwartz*
David Spalter*
Leslie Reicin Stein
Bob Turk
Cristina Velez*
Lindsey Wagner

Guests

Lori Adelson
Josie Bellamy
Priscilla Hament
Bob Kofman
Angeli Murthy*
Peg Sauggs
Michael Tanner
Renee Thompson
Maja Hartzell (FSU)
Rohan Palmer (FAMU)
Alan Persaud (FIU)
Franklin Sandrea-Rivero (St. Thomas)
Deanna Santo (UM)
Sajmir Xhikola (Cooley)
Scott Hawkins
Chris Hammon
Andy Hament

*Appearing by phone

I. Call to Order

Chair Cathleen Scott called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Robyn Hankins did a roll call to determine EC attendance in person and by phone. Josh Chilson, Board Liaison, “reintroduced” himself and noted that he had been reappointed as Board Liaison for the coming Board year. He gave a brief review of some of the actions taken by the “Big Board” and then introduced Michael Tanner, a candidate for Florida Bar 2020-21 President-elect. Mr. Tanner then gave his introductory “pitch.” Later, during the Chair’s Report, the other candidate, Renee Thompson, gave her introductory pitch.

II. Secretary/Treasurer Report

The April 12, 2019 Minutes were approved (Eschenfelder/Adams motion). Judge Forst stated that the Section was doing fine financially. As of May 31, the Section had spent about \$58,000 less than it had brought in. Judge Forst noted that the bill for the annual meeting, reception, gifts, Scott Atwood’s bar tab and scholarships still needed to be paid, but progress had been made with our fund balance.

III. Committee Reports

Chair Scott referenced the written committee/subcommittee reports that were attached to the agenda. She noted that each committee/subcommittee had set goals at the beginning of the year and had been asked to report on the progress in meeting those goals.

Website: Brian Lerner announced that the new website is up and running, with a new look, a new logo, and updated content. The new logo will be on all Section material, including David Adam’s yacht (he couldn’t get the real thing, so he bought a bathtub replica). The vendor for the website is ELINK. Brian noted that it took eight months to get the website developed and running, “like giving birth” he said. The air then filled with thought bubbles over the heads of all the mothers in the room, but I digress. Brian thanked Yvette Everhart and Frank Brown for their assistance in editing content to be placed on the website. He noted that there is room for growth, with Section leadership having the ability to add content without relying upon the vendor to do so. He also mentioned the “great price” of about \$6000-7000. Brian noted that the Section would be paying a separate monthly pay for the vendor to host the site and keep it secure. In an update from last meeting’s minutes, Brian stated that the vendor assured him that the website is ADA compliant. However, there is an issue with ADA compliance and The Check Off that is being addressed.

IV. Chair's Report

Chair Cathleen Scott noted that it has been a great year, though she was exhausted, as her year in the captain's seat coincided with a busy professional year, two high school graduations, and knee surgery. Nonetheless, it was a "memorable and fun" year. She thanked everyone who helped her steer the ship. She gave a special notice of appreciation (and gift) to Section Administrator Angie Froelich, noting she served us while also being the Section Administrator for two other sections. A ten-minute standing ovation followed (kinda).

Nominating Report: Exhibit M of the agenda listed the proposed officers and E/C members. Eschenfelder/Hearing moved for adoption of the nominating committee's proposed slate, and the EC approved it. Next year's officers will be David Adams (Chair), Robyn Hankins (Chair-Elect), Sacha Dyson (Legal Education Director), Scott Atwood (Secretary/Treasurer) and Cathleen Scott (Immediate Past Chair). All of the EC members whose terms were set to expire in 2019 were reappointed for another two-year term. Lindsey Wagner was promoted from alternative EC member to full member, replacing Sacha Dyson. There is one EC slot for a term expiring in 2020 (replacing Scott Atwood) that was not (yet) filled.

V. Adjournment

Following the vote, Cathleen proposed that the meeting be adjourned. Moved by A/E or E/A. Meeting adjourned at 5:32. The Section then moved into the awards portion of the meeting.

VI. Awards:

Volunteers of the Year: Brian Lerner (website) and Robert Eschenfelder (archiving of the EC meeting minutes and editor of the Bar Journal articles). Cathleen also announced that an "Away Suitcase" was being awarded to officers and CLE chairs for their work in the past year: Atwood, Morton, Quintana, Cabassa, Sass, Hearing, Hankins, Forst, Abbott, Adams, Eschenfelder, Lerner and Marichal.

Law School Scholarship: Five of the scholarship recipients were on hand to receive a certificate and have their information projected on the screen. A \$1000 check was to be mailed to each recipient. Cathleen also included a pocket Constitution in the recipients' swag package. Judge Stephanie Ray made all but one of the presentations. Deanna Santo was presented her certificate by her father, a former New York Supreme Court Justice (he surprised her—highlight of the afternoon).

Outgoing Chair gift: New chair David Adams recognized Cathleen for her stewardship of the Section and gave her a Tumi backpack. David then announced, “I’m the captain now.”

Hall of Fame: There were five recipients of this posthumous honor this year. Robyn Hankins read the criteria for induction, including being pillars of the community and profession. The following individuals were inducted (with the name of the individual who introduced the induction noted in parentheses: Thomas Steele (Sacha Dyson); Alan Gerlach (Greg Hearing, filling in for Steve Meck); Bill Radford (Chris Hammon); Russ Hamilton (Bob Turk and Andy Hament); Margaret Cooper (Scott Hawkins). Family, friends, and former associates/partners were on hand for the HoF inductions. There is no physical HoF, but a copy of each HoF certificate is displayed on the Section’s website.

VII. Next Executive Council Meeting

The next scheduled meeting, October 17, 2019, will be in conjunction with the 45th Annual Public Employment Labor Relations CLE Seminar, in Orlando.