MINUTES

June 18, 2020 at 5 p.m.

Meeting held via Zoom

Present: Adams, Hankins, Atwood, Dyson, Scott, Froehlich, Abbott, Barack, Block, Brown, Hon. Brown, Columbo, Eschenfelder Everhardt, Flynn, Hon. Forst, Fowler-Hermes, Ingram, Hearing, Holshouser, Hon. Kilbride, Kitchen, Langbein, Lerner, Martin, Meck, Munoz, Morton, Murthy, Hon. Ray, Rotbart, Sass, Schwatz, Spalter, Stein, Turk, Velez.

Absent: Evans, Foslid (excused) Johnson, Lechter (excused), Marichal, Quintana, Wagner (excused).

Chair David Adams opened the meeting, and introduced three guest speakers. Gary Lesser and Lorna Burton-Brown are running for Florida Bar President-elect designate. They introduced themselves and explained their platforms. President Stewart then addressed the group and thanked them for their service.

After the guest speakers, Chair Adams asked for the treasurer’s report from Mr. Atwood. Mr. Atwood stated that due to the pandemic, and the reduction of activities and consequent reduction in expenses, the Section continues to have more funds than normal, although CLE revenue is down. The balance was $175,534 at the last accounting. Mr. Atwood stated that a number of events have been rescheduled, as opposed to cancelled, and so some of those funds would eventually be used. The minutes for April 2020 were then presented by Mr. Atwood. A motion to approve was made by Hon. Kilbride and seconded by Mr. Martin, and they were approved unanimously.

Mr. Adams then gave his Chair’s Report. He announced that the Advanced Labor CLE in Washington, DC had been rescheduled to April 2021, on either 8-10 or 15-17, at the Madison Hotel. In light of the pandemic, the Labor Skills Seminar that was going to be in Tampa in August 2020 has been tabled for the time being, and may be considered for next year.

Ms. Dyson then gave her CLE Chair report. She stated the Section had been very busy with CLE programming, and Mr. Adams thanked her for her efforts. She stated that the CLE committee had met to discuss the future, but didn’t have answers as to when people will be able to return to live CLEs. Consequently, the Section committee is considering taking some of the online CLEs and having some of the speakers available for a live Q&A session through InReach. Chair Adams thanked Ms. Dyson for her hard work and dedication.

Hon. Robert Kilbride made a Council of Sections report. He stated that President Stewart had addressed them and noted that registrations online have been higher for the Annual Meeting than in person in past years. He noted that Bar certification is important to continue and that a Bar poll showed that 60 percent of people relied heavily on that in the choice of an attorney. President Stewart also reported that for those attorneys adversely affected by the pandemic there are resources and a hotline, and that there was help for Bar dues.

Mr. Eschenfelder then presented on the Florida Bar Journal. He stated he had received several good articles, but is always soliciting more, and that the article of the year awards would be awarded to Ronald Engerer and Christine Arlin.

Ms. Murthy provided a written report on the FLSA judicial poll, and that there would need to be a decision on how to distribute it.

Mr. Adams then announced certain individuals were getting awards, and would be getting an Alexa Echo. All CLE Chairs, the Section officers, Mr. Eschenfelder and Mr. Johnson for the bar publications, and the volunteers of the year Ms. Everhart and Ms. Velez would be getting special awards. Ms. Hankins thanked Chair Adams for his hard work and Zoom capabilities in a difficult year.

The law school scholarships winners were then announced by Ms. Velez. They were Nailah Bowen, Randy Hernandez, Jaime Noicely, Katryna Santa Cruz, and Carla Sanchez.

Mr. Adams then announced that Hon. Frank Brown was the recipient of the Section’s Lifetime Achievement Award. Hon. Brown is a staple of the Section, as a past Chair. He is currently the Chairman of the Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, former partner at Carlton Fields, and a well-respected Board-certified attorney.

Mr. Meck then presented the family of Bill Powers with the Hall of Fame. He made an excellent presentation on Mr. Powers’ qualifications, noting Mr. Powers’ significant role in the development of PERC in the 1970’s, and his admission to the College of Labor & Employment Lawyers, and his active participation in the ABA.

Chair Adams then presented the slate of officers and Council members, which was adopted unanimously. Ms. Hankins was elected Chair, Mr. Atwood Chair-elect, Ms. Dyson Secretary/Treasurer, and Mr. Morton as CLE Chair. Chair Adams thanked Ms. Froelich for her hard work, and turned over the gavel to Ms. Hankins.

New Chair Hankins addresses the Council. She thanked Mr. Adams for his service, and presented him with a gift virtually. She then stated she was looking for new ideas and to get with her about any ideas members may have. With regard to CLEs, she said she planned to do some Zoom seminars in addition to the regular offerings. Ms. Murthy was added to the Council as a voting member.

Ms. Froehlich then noted that the next meeting would be held on October 22, 2020 at the Rosen Plaza hotel in Orlando.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10.