



NEW LAWYERS SECTION

Meeting Minutes – May 19, 2011

Members Present: Christina Weber, Charlie Delbridge, Sam Edmunds, Donika Pentcheva, Jaimie Palmer, Kevin Sieben, Lacey Anderson, Michael Miller, Sitso Bediako, Anne Stoudt, Mike Goodwin, Tené Wright, Elise Peterson, Joshua Dorothy, Cassie Fortin, Jason Seashore, Evan Weiner, Munazza Humayun (phone).

Guests Present: Kim Basting, MSBA Liaison.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. at the MSBA office, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Meeting was chaired by Christina Weber.

- a. Introductions
- b. Approval of April 2011 Meeting Minutes

After a review of the April 2011 Minutes, it was noted that Kevin Sieben was not listed as a member present. There was a motion by Charlie Delbridge to amend the April 2011 Minutes to add Kevin Sieben as a member present and to approve the amended Minutes. Mike Miller seconded the motion. Sam Edmunds thanked Sitso Bediako for taking the minutes this bar year. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

2. New Business

- a. New Lawyers Budget – Bar Year 2011/2012

Sam Edmunds explained the one-page proposed Section budget for the 2011-2012 bar year. The budget is similar to the 2010-2011 budget in that \$14,500 will be allocated to the Section. A request to increase the allocation was denied.

Sam moved to approve the budget, which was seconded by Charlie Delbridge. Sam discussed some more details of the budget. He noted that the ABA YLD District Representative travel line item was part of funding that occurred over three bar years. The District Representative would receive \$1,000 in 2011-2012, which, when combined with the \$400 received in 2010-2011 and the \$600 in 2012-2013, would result in a total allocation of \$2,000 received over the three years. The Section will also send one fewer member to an ABA YLD conference.

A vote was taken and the motion carried.

- b. ABA Annual Meeting – Toronto, Canada
 - i. Conference Dates – August 4-9, 2011
 - ii. Statements of Interest:
 - 1. Maxwell Felsheim
 - 2. Cameron Davis
 - 3. Nadia Gilkes
 - 4. Tené Wright
 - 5. Kevin Sieben
 - 6. Mike Miller – No funding required
 - 7. Sam Edmunds – No funding required

The ABA YLD portion of the ABA Annual Meeting is August 4-6, 2011. There was an overwhelming response from members indicating interest in attending the conference, although some of those expressing interest initially did not in the end submit statements of interest.

Minnesota is entitled to send seven delegates to the Annual Meeting Assembly. HCBA New Lawyers will send one delegate, and the Section will send six.

Nadia Gilkes withdrew her name from consideration as a delegate. Maxwell Felsheim has not confirmed his interest in attending the conference. However, Christina Weber presented the Officers' recommendation that the Section approve the slate of delegates minus Nadia Gilkes.

Mike Miller moved to approve the slate of delegates consisting of Maxwell Felsheim, Cameron Davis, Tené Wright, Kevin Sieben, Mike Miller, and Sam Edmunds. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Funding for the conference was to be allocated among four attendees at \$700 per person. Mike Miller did not require funding, leaving five attendees seeking funding. There was a proposal to change the allocation to fund five attendees at \$560 per person. In the event Maxwell could not attend, the travel funding would be split among Cameron, Tené, Kevin, and Sam.

Elise Peterson moved to allocate the funding among five attendees, with a division among four attendees in the event Maxwell could not attend. Lacey Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

- c. Officer Elections
 - i. Committee Nominations:
 - 1. Chair – Charles Delbridge
 - 2. Vice-Chair – Samuel Edmunds
 - 3. Treasurer – Margie Meier
 - 4. Secretary – Jennifer Santini
 - ii. Other Candidates
 - 1. Treasurer – Donika Pentcheva

Christina Weber explained that per the Section Bylaws, a Nominating Committee, made up of Mike Miller, Lacey Anderson, and Christina, met to nominate a slate of candidates. Per the Bylaws, the Nominating Committee recommended nominees for the open treasurer and secretary positions and nominated current Vice Chair Charlie Delbridge for Chair and current Treasurer Sam Edmunds to Vice Chair.

The Nominating Committee select Margie Meier to serve as the next Treasurer and Jennifer Santini to serve as the next Secretary.

There was also interest expressed by Donika Pentcheva from the floor to run for the position of Treasurer. At the meeting, Donika stated that she was under the impression that no one had opted to run for Treasurer. Christina explained that the Secretary and Treasurer positions were simply open elections, where there was no incumbent who, per the Bylaws was automatically nominated for the position. Members had previously submitted statements of interest allowing the Nominating Committee to select a slate. Donika chose to withdraw her interest in running from the floor.

Christina sought a motion to approve the slate. Mike Miller moved, seconded by Joshua Dorothy. A vote was taken and the slate was approved. Congratulations to the new Officers for 2011-2012.

d. Committee Chairs for 2011/2012 Bar Year

Charlie Delbridge discussed the Committee Chairs and Publication Editors positions. In addition to editors needed for *Hearsay*, committee chairs (or co-chairs) are need for the CLE, Outreach, Community Service, and Social Committees. Charlie will make the appointments over the summer. If any members are interested in the positions, please contact Charlie.

e. Liaison for 2011/2012 Bar Year

Sam Edmunds, as Vice Chair, will take statements of interest from people who would like to serve as the Section's liaison to other MSBA sections and committees. Sam asked members to start thinking about which sections and committees they would like to serve as the liaison for.

Christina Weber said that all sections and committees are listed on the MSBA New Lawyers Section website.

f. Serving Our Seniors Update

- i. Estate Planning Event – May 21, 2011 – Ham Lake Senior Center
- ii. Upcoming events at Lakeville and Eagan Senior Centers – May/June

Sam Edmunds reported on the program. Serving Our Seniors is a project of the ABA Young Lawyers Division and has been implemented in at least 20 states. The first event in Minnesota is in May, and Sam is hoping to have events in June (one in Blaine and another in Eagan). Sam explained that the Section has a late start due to insurance issues.

Sam is willing to answer any questions about the program. Sam is also looking for volunteers to help at the Ham Lake Senior center event for administrative help, and also administrative help at the next two events.

g. 9 Days in June Update

The last day of the 9 Days in June is June 23 at Target Field. 9 Days is the modern version of the MSBA's Annual Convention. The events are spread out over the state to get greater participation. The Section is putting on a social event at 8:30 p.m at the Legends Bar. The Section will be hosting a band. All members should attend.

Charlie Delbridge also informed members that 6.25 CLE credits can be obtained, along with a reception for approximately \$30. There is also a Lawyers with Talent portion. All information about 9 Days in June is on the MSBA website.

3. Reports

a. New Lawyer Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates (Mike Miller)

Mike said that the YLD meeting in Las Vegas was great. Mike said that the ABA Annual Meeting will be the next meeting of the ABA House of Delegates. Mike had not seen the resolutions for the meeting, but the resolutions should be released soon. If anyone is interested in learning about the resolutions, feel free to contact Mike. Mike believes that the House of Delegates meeting should be much more active and contentious than the Midyear meeting.

Mike also has free ABA memberships for any Section member who is not currently a member. Mike referred to current Section members who have leadership roles in the ABA YLD. Lacey Anderson is on the Affiliates Team. Sam Edmunds will be the Associate Editor of *The Affiliate*, a YLD publication. Jennifer Lurken is the current YLD District Representative. Mike is on the National Conferences Team. Jennifer Daugherty is running unopposed for the YLD Assembly Clerk position. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved in the ABA YLD, and if any members are interest, they should speak to those who are currently active in the YLD.

b. Committee Reports

i. Hearsay Publication (Andy Loose and Janie Catherine Paulson)

No report.

ii. CLE Committee (Margie Jennings-Meier and Mathea Bulander)

Margie reported that she and Mathea spoke about ideas for next year. One idea is to come up with an opportunity for a Section member to present a CLE for speaker's credit.

Christina Weber said that 600-700 people attended the nine CLEs held in 2010-2011.

iii. Social Committee (Anne Stoudt)

1. Spring Tri-Bar Social Report

a. Raised approximately \$2300 for Teens Alone

Anne said that the Tri-Bar was successful. Approximately 100 lawyers attended. Anne was hoping for a larger attendance, but was happy with the turnout. Anne thanked everyone who attended.

Anne said that the per person cost (given the number of actual attendees) of the event came out to \$90 , and that it may have been a bit on the high side.

The ABA YLD leadership who attended the Tri-Bar were very impressed with the event. The event raised \$2,300 for Teens Alone.

iv. Community Service Committee (Lacee Anderson)

Lacee said that the donation to Teens Alone had been dropped off. The proceeds would provide approximately 30+ hours of counseling.

v. Outreach Committee (Mike Goodwin)

Nothing to report.

c. Officer Reports

i. Secretary (Sitso Bediako)

Sitso reminded members to sign in for the Minutes. Sitso also thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as Secretary for the year.

ii. Treasurer (Sam Edmunds)

Sam discussed the Section's ledger and stated that the Section will spend most of its budgeted amount. Approximately \$36 will be left if all

spending occurs as planned. Sam has copies of the ledger for members to review.

Christina Weber explained that the Section's budget comes from the MSBA's General Funds. The Section has to use its budget or lose it, unlike other MSBA sections that have their own source of funds and can roll over money from year to year. In the past the Section operated with caution regarding its spending, but the MSBA raised a concern that the Section was not spending its funds. Now, the Section is more active in making sure to fully use its resources.

Sam explained that the ABA YLD leadership came to Minnesota for the Tri-Bar event and were very impressed with Minnesota. It was announced at the 2011 YLD Spring Conference in Las Vegas that the 2013 YLD Spring Conference would be held in Minneapolis. The event will likely be staged at Graves Hotel, with events at Target Field and Windows on Minnesota. Next bar year, the work of the ad hoc Conference Host Committee will need to continue, as will fundraising for the Conference. The recommendation from the YLD is to raise \$50,000. Sam said that the Host Committee will aim for \$100,000.

Sam said that the Conference will go on regardless of the amount that is raised, but the resources improve the quality of the Conference.

Mike Miller asked that members contact the host committee with any ideas for a unique venue in which to hold the Conference Gala.

Christina informed the members that the cost of the Gala to attendees in Las Vegas was \$85, but the per plate cost of the food served was approximately \$200.

Lacey Anderson mentioned that a conference held in Montreal involved Cirque du Soleil, and another involved fire-breathing performers.

iii. Vice-Chair (Charlie Delbridge)

Charlie awarded honors to members of the Section who made an outstanding contribution to the work of the Section over the bar year.

Sam Edmunds received an award for his work coordinating and organizing the visit of the ABA YLD leadership, leadership of the Host Committee work for the YLD Spring Conference in 2013, his work to implement the Serving Our Seniors program in Minnesota, and his work as Treasurer for the Section.

Anne Stoudt was recognized for her superb work as Social Chair, including her work to raise funds for each event.

Christina Weber was honored for her excellent leadership of the Section.

iv. Chair (Christina Weber)

Christina thanked everyone for their hard work. She noted that it was a privilege to serve a chair and found it to be a rewarding experience. She encouraged anyone looking for leadership opportunities to get involved with the Section.

d. Affiliate Reports

i. District Representative to YLD (Jennifer Lurken)

No report.

ii. Hennepin County (Sitso Bediako)

The HCBA New Lawyers Section is having an outing at the St. Paul Saints game on June 25, 2011. If anyone is interested in attending, contact the HCBA.

iii. Ramsey County

No report.

e. Liaison Reports

i. Health Law (Jason Seashore)

The Section holds its Annual Health Law Conference on June 17, 2011. Jason will also be the Section's social media coordinator.

f. Miscellaneous

Sam Edmunds discussed the affiliates showcase. Sam commended Mike Goodwin for his terrific work in putting together a slideshow for the event. Lacey Anderson was also commended for her work putting together a display.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m. without objection. Section Happy Hour followed at Kieran's Pub.