



## NEW LAWYERS SECTION

Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2011

**Members Present:** Christina Weber, Charlie Delbridge, Bill Peffer, Joe Larson, Sitso Bediako, Michael Miller, Matt Gilbert, Becky Fritz, Mathea Bulander; Evan Weiner, Munazza Humayun, Sam Edmunds; Larry McGee; Anne Stoudt, Elise Peterson, Matt Lutz

**Guests Present:** Ashley Hacker, Alan Fowler (by phone).

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. at the MSBA office, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Meeting was chaired by Christina Weber.

- a. Introductions
- b. Approval of December 2010 Meeting Minutes

There was a motion by Charlie Delbridge to approve the Minutes of the December 2010 meeting, which was seconded by Bill Peffer. Having no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion to approve the December 2010 Minutes was passed unanimously.

### 2. New Business

- a. Tamara Patton – Civic Education Volunteer Opportunities

Christina Weber introduced Tamara Patton, MSBA Civic Education Committee manager. The Civic Education Committee was formed due to the American Bar Association's request to get lawyers more involved in civic education in the schools. The Civic Education Committee is looking for greater attorney participation in two programs it runs.

Lawyers in the Schools match lawyers with schools to do a presentation four days a year: Law Day, Presidents Day, Election Day, and Constitution Day.

Operation Mediation is a peer mediation program in certain schools throughout the area. Previously, attorney mediators went in to coach students in a formal mediation process. Now, the focus is on training students to do informal mediation amongst themselves. The work involves creating videos with students and helping students to learn how to use conflict resolution skills.

Many schools are looking for lawyers to participate. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Tamara Patton (612-278-6309).

b. 9 Days in June

Charlie Delbridge discussed the MSBA 9 Days in June format for its annual convention. Charlie attended the planning committee meeting, and the committee wants the NLS to be involved. In the past, the NLS has held a social event, but the committee is looking for something different and more creative for an event to be held on the last day of the convention in Minneapolis at approximately 7:30 p.m. Suggestions from the planning committee included speed networking, and a social event coordinated with the minority bar associations.

Mike Miller asked about the location. A location had not yet been confirmed. Mike also asked why the planning committee wanted something different. Charlie said that the committee wants better attendance at the event, including more of the senior attorneys.

Charlie sought volunteers to develop ideas for any event.

Joe Larson asked about the format of the 9th day and suggested a band for an NLS event. Charlie stated that the 9th day was typically a full day of speakers and CLEs. Christina Weber also stated that last year there was a President's Reception and a Talent Show. Christina said that a band has been selected in the past; it is possible that a band would bring in more people. However this creates a tension with trying to have small group discussions.

Mathea Bulander suggested bocce ball as a possible small group activity.

Mike Miller wanted to know how adamant the committee was in requesting that the NLS change its event. Christina stated that the event will still be social in nature. Her initial reaction was that the NLS should partner with another section or minority bar associations. Charlie will monitor developments and get back to the Section once a location is decided.

c. Alan Fowler – Candidate for ABA Young Lawyers Division Secretary/Treasurer

Christina Weber introduced Alan Fowler, who is running for ABA Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Secretary Treasurer. Alan provided information on his background and why he was running for YLD Secretary Treasurer. His goal is to innovate, promote progress and change through the YLD and to inspire change in the ABA and in the profession. He believes that the YLD must be a national advocate for young lawyers. He is interested in having the YLD address the rising costs of law school, ABA accreditation of schools, the economic model of law firms, and the work-life balance issues facing young lawyers. Alan wants the YLD to effectively advocate for these issues on a national level.

Alan wants the YLD to use technology more effectively to make young lawyers' lives easier. He also believes that the YLD should promote and reflect the diversity of the profession and the society. He wants to broaden the scope of the YLD to incorporate a greater variety of geographic participation and practice settings. Alan wants to generate relationships with other young professional organizations on substantive projects, not just social. He believes that the YLD can learn from other organizations. Alan also wants to develop a pipeline for YLD members to continue engagement after YLD members "age-out." He also wants to focus on affiliate support, and not be a top-down organization.

Mike Miller asked about potential YLD budget cuts. Alan wants to plan to sustain more with less, but also hopes to develop relationships to attract other sources of funding.

Alan will be happy to take any further questions and comments for NLS members.

- d. ABA Spring Conference – Las Vegas, Nevada
  - i. Conference Dates – May 12-14, 2011

Christina Weber stated that the next conference will take place in Las Vegas. She believes that statements of interest will be due some time in February 2011. If you are interested in attending, feel free to send Christina your statement of interest now.

- e. Serving Our Seniors Update

Sam Edmunds stated that preparations are going well. The only remaining issue is to resolve insurance coverage. The next training will be held on January 20 at 5:00 p.m. It will be a 1.5 hour training session, designed to be a bit more in depth. For the rest of the year, it appears that there will be events in Dakota County, and at the Ham Lake Senior Center.

- f. Financial Presentation by Lacey Anderson and Neil Denmann
  - i. January 19, 2011
  - ii. Location - MSBA Offices

Christina Weber reminded members that the Financial Presentation will be on January 19 starting at 4:30 p.m.

### 3. Reports

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

Mike provided a handout summarizing resolutions up for debate at the midyear meeting of the House of Delegates. If anyone has a strong feeling on an issue, please talk to Mike.

b. Committee Reports

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

No report was submitted

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

Christina Weber presented the report from Mathea Bulander. Today's (January 13) CLE was a good event. Next month's CLE will be on Criminal Law, and may take a number of forms.

The March CLE will be an ethics CLE. April and May are currently open.

iii. Social Committee (Anne Stoudt)

1. Fashion Show

- a. February, 24 2011, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- b. Gaviidae Commons

Anne said that Fashion Show plans are in the works, but she needs models. Three men and three women are needed. It is possible that Anne may need additional men. She emphasized that the show is not a big commitment and is mostly an opportunity to talk to friends in clothes that are not yours. The sponsors are on board with the event.

2. Spring Tri-Bar Social

- a. April or May, 2011, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- b. Guthrie Theater is questionable
- c. Additional Funding for ABA Leaders (Sam Edmunds)

Since the Guthrie Theater cannot yet confirm a date, May 5, 2011 has been selected as the date of the event so that ABA YLD leadership can attend. Now that the date is set, a new venue may need to be located. If anyone has a great venue in mind, please let Anne know.

Bill Peffer suggested the Walker Museum.

iv. Community Service Committee (Lacey Anderson)

1. Charity for Spring Social

Christina Weber reported for Lacey. Christina reminded members that Teens Alone will be the charitable beneficiary of the Spring Social. Outreach efforts to raise funds will take place soon.

v. Outreach Committee (Mike Goodwin)

No report.

c. Officer Reports

i. Secretary (Sitso Bediako)

Sitso asked people to make sure that they signed in so that they could be recorded in the Minutes.

ii. Treasurer (Sam Edmunds)

Sam stated that the NLS is in line with our budget, and the numbers have reconciled with the MSBA information. Sam informed the Section that the MSBA requested a submission from the NLS of its budget. The budget is submitted in a three-year format. The NLS request from 2011-12 bar year is \$15,500. Sam will appear before the operations committee in March.

Sam reached out to ABA YLD regarding visiting Minnesota. The ABA YLD leadership expressed interest in visiting Minnesota.

Christina Weber suggested to Sam that the budget request also incorporate funds to keep Serving our Seniors going in the next bar year.

iii. Vice-Chair (Charles Delbridge)

No further report.

iv. Chair (Christina Weber)

Minnesota Lavender Bar Association is holding its annual conference. For information, contact [info@mnlavbar.org](mailto:info@mnlavbar.org).

d. Affiliate Reports

i. District Representative to YLD (Jennifer Lurken)

No report.

ii. Hennepin County (Sitso Bediako)

Joe Larson announced that the HCBA NLS Nuts and Bolts CLE would take place February 15 and 17, 2011. The CLE is free and the keynote speaker will be former chief judge of the Minnesota Supreme Court, Eric Magnuson.

iii. Ramsey County

No report.

e. Liaison Reports

i. ADR (Elise Peterson)

The ADR section has an upcoming CLE and encourages all to attend. The CLE is at 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.

ii. Life and the Law (Elise Peterson)

Next meeting is January 25, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. There will be a discussion of a bike ride to raise money for Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers. Anyone interested should attend the meeting.

iii. Civic Education (Elise Peterson)

If anyone is interested in volunteering in the schools through the Civic Education Committees efforts, please contact Tamara Patton as soon as possible.

iv. Family Law (Munazza Humayun)

The Family Law Institute is March 28 and 29, 2011. There is a special track for newer lawyers.

v. Health Law (Jason Seashore)

Next meeting is January 21, 2011 at 7:30 a.m. The meeting will be a legislative preview. The Vice Chair of the Health Law Section has been selected to head the MN Department of Human Services.

vi. Women in the Legal Profession (Anna Horning Nygren)

WILP is looking to get involved with Day 9 of the 9 Days in June, and would like to partner with NLS.

vii. Miscellaneous

Members are invited to head out to a happy hour after the meeting.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m. without objection.