



## NEW LAWYERS SECTION

Meeting Minutes – October 14, 2010

**Present:** Maria Maier, Mary Fenske, Christina Weber, Charlie Delbridge, Luke Frasz, Janie Paulson, Nicole Swanegan, Elise Peterson, Matthew Lutz, Anna Yakle, Sarah DeMoss, Sarah Breneo, Todd Schenk, Rebecca Randen, Stephanie Del Toro, Marissa Olsen, Mike Goodwin, Daniel Reynolds, Erica Stock, Kyle Brehm, Jason Seashore, Dan Morris, Steve Fenske, Larry McGee, Sara Payne, Sara Brand.

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. at MSBA office, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Meeting was chaired by Christina Weber.

- a. Introductions.
- b. Approval of September, 2010 Meeting Minutes

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

### 2. New Business

- a. Swearing-in Ceremony—October 29

Christina stated that there will be both an MSBA booth and an ABA booth set up at the swearing-in ceremony for new attorneys on October 29. Volunteers will be present at both booths to inform the newly sworn-in attorneys about those two organizations. The MSBA booth already has enough volunteers. However, the ABA booth is still looking for volunteers. Those interested should contact Mike Miller.

The ceremony is at 10:30 AM, and the booths will be open both before and after the ceremony.

- b. Winter Tri-Bar Social
  - i. The Winter Social will be held on December 2, 2010 from 5:00-8:00 p.m.
  - ii. It will be held at Faces Mears Park in St. Paul.

- iii. The event will be a fundraiser for Toys for Tots. Attendees will be asked to bring \$10 or a new toy.
  - iv. Additionally, Kare 11 will provide some amount of news coverage for the event. We will want volunteers to appear on camera. More details will be forthcoming.
- c. Blog contest – Minnesota-Grown Blog Award
- i. [www.practiceblawg.com/top25](http://www.practiceblawg.com/top25) See website for more details.
  - ii. Entries being accepted through October 31.
  - iii. If anyone runs, or knows about, a blog that may be eligible for the award, please see website.
- d. ABA Mid-Year Meeting – Atlanta Georgia
- i. Christina provided an explanation, for those that had never attended an ABA conference, of what they were all about. Attendance is encouraged, as they are a great opportunity.
  - ii. Conference Dates – February 9-15, 2011
  - iii. Registration Deadline – January 14, 2011
  - iv. Statements of Interest are due to Christina by December 6, 2010. We'll vote at our December meeting on who receives funding.
- e. Spring Tri-Bar Social

Christina explained that we had tentatively planned to have the Spring social at Target Field. However, we subsequently learned that the prices were much higher than we had thought. This event would end up costing in the neighborhood of \$20,000, which is far more than we could afford. So a new venue must be chosen.

If anyone has ideas for a good venue for this event, let Christina know. We are going to still try to do a bigger event than we've done in past years. Ideas that have been suggested so far include the rooftop at Brit's, the Guthrie, Minneapolis Institute of the Arts, or the Walker Art Museum.

Planning for the event must start soon, because we'd like to unveil the event at the Winter Social. Additionally, we are looking for sponsors.

- f. Serving Our Seniors

This program is being unveiled at the ABA Conference in Sante Fe this weekend. We're working on a CLE that would serve as training for the program volunteers.

Larry McGee inquired about whether progress had been made toward getting this program approved under Rule 2B of the Continuing Legal

Education Board, so that employees of the Judicial Branch could participate. We didn't know, but believe that Sam is working on this.

A number of people suggested other organizations that should be contacted in order to find volunteers, or to find helpful resources or information, or that for some other reason would be a benefit to coordinate with. Those include elder law associations at the law schools, the elder law section, and the MJF coordinators at the law schools. Apparently, similar programs were done as a part of National Health Care Decisions Day (April 16). The people that helped coordinate that event might be a good resource for us.

### 3. Reports

a. New Lawyer Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates (Mike Miller): No report.

b. Committee Reports

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

Janie Paulson reported that they are currently in the editing process for this issue, and will hopefully have the issue out in mid-November. She encouraged everyone who wanted to be published to consider writing for Hearsay. Even those who have not been practicing for long can have valuable insights.

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

Christina Weber reported that the CLE immediately prior to the meeting had been very, very well attended.

iii. Social Committee (Anne Lindberg)

No additional report. The Winter and Spring Socials were discussed earlier in the meeting.

iv. Community Service Committee (Lacey Anderson)

No report.

v. Outreach Committee (Mike Goodwin)

Anyone who hasn't friended, linkedin with, or followed the Section on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter, respectively, should do so.

c. Officer Reports

i. Secretary (Sitso Bediako)

Christina says to sign in legibly.

ii. Treasurer (Sam Edmunds)

No report.

iii. Vice-Chair (Charles Delbridge)

No report.

iv. Chair (Christina Weber)

The Law Student Mixer last month was a great success, and was well attended by law students, and by young attorneys for them to mix with (over 200 law students and 75 attorneys).

d. Affiliate Reports

No reports.

e. Liaison Reports

Judiciary Committee (Evan Weiner): Evan reported on the work the coalition for impartial justice is doing regarding judicial elections. That coalition is a broad-based initiative. They were working on a constitutional amendment, but it was not successful. The coalition may be seeking assistance from volunteers in the future.

ADR Section (Elise Peterson): The ADR Section holds a CLE on the second Tuesday of the month at noon. It is free to MSBA members. Contact Ashley Hacker to register

Life and the Law Committee (Elise Peterson): This committee organized a successful bike ride this summer in/around Duluth.

Civic Education Committee. This committee has a new MSBA liaison: Tamara Patton. This committee is working on a program called Lawyers in the Schools. Contact Tamara for more information.

Immigration Law Section (Sarah Brenes): There is a CLE coming up on October 28 at noon, called "Issue Spotting in Family Immigration Law: Birth, Marriage and Death."

Tax Section (Kyle Brehm and Erica Stock): The Tax Institute is coming up on December 2 and 3.

Health Law Section (Jason Seashore): On October 15 at the Nicollet Island Inn, the section is having a CLE program.

Civil Litigation (Janie Paulson): This section is concerned with the number of new attorneys that are hanging out their own shingle, and getting in over their heads. The section is considering some kind of training program for such new lawyers.

Family Law Section (Munazza Humayun): The next issue of the Family Law section's publication, the Family Law Forum, will address the impact of the economic downturn on family law. Deadline for submissions is December 1st; however, they encourage people to submit their entries by November 1st so that they can be reviewed and feedback can be provided. The following issue will include GLBT and ARTS topics; deadline for submissions is February 1, 2011. Submissions/questions should be sent to Linda Wold at [linda.wold@comcast.net](mailto:linda.wold@comcast.net).

General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section (Sarah McGuire): The section is researching a mentorship program for new solo/small practice attorneys. Contact Sarah McGuire if you have input.

Practice Management and Marketing Section (Sarah McGuire): No update.

Employee Benefits Section (Natalie Kohner): The section is currently busy planning its January 20, 2011 workshop. The workshop will include several breakout sessions on topics such as healthcare, mental health parity, ERISA litigation, and the future of retirement plans. They are meeting next Monday to flesh out more of the details. Any member of the NLS section who is interested should feel free to contact Natalie at [NWK@andersonhelgen.com](mailto:NWK@andersonhelgen.com).

Labor and Employment Law Section (John Lassetter): The annual Labor and Employment fall institute will be on November 18, 2010 at the CLE conference center in Minneapolis. The full brochure of the classes/seminars that are being offered is now up on Minnesota CLE's website. It's always a good program and a good way for new lawyers to meet folks that practice labor and employment law. Other CLE and social programs are in the works, but no set dates as of yet.

Human Rights Committee (Tokunbo Okanla): The committee met on September 20 and discussed opportunities for involvement in the coming year. They are considering a legal services trip to the Gulf Coast.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m. without objection.