

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
State Bar of Nevada – Construction Law Section
April 11, 2012

Location of Meeting: Telephonic

Present at Meeting: Andrea Pressler, Michael Kimmel, Debra Pieruschka, and Evangelin Lee

I. Treasurer's Report

A. Balance: through February 2012 the balance is \$16,328.81. The balance through March 2012 is not available yet.

II. Subcommittees

A. *General Membership Meeting*

- i. The next general meeting will be held on July 18, 2012. Andrea will follow up with Linda at Sunshine Reporting/Litigation Services on videoconferencing the meeting with the Litigation Services office in Las Vegas.
- ii. The Board is still considering raffle prizes such as restaurant gift certificates that may generate interest and increase attendance.

B. *Publications - Newsletter*

- i. Debra met with Dee Golightly and Travis Barrick recently. Dee volunteered to be the chairperson of the publications section. Debra agreed to work with Dee on the newsletter. Andrea will send an email announcing Dee as the chairperson and turn over the newsletter to him. Dee will then send an email to the section asking for newsletter topics for the next issue which he hopes to have published by June 15th before the State Bar's annual meeting. Based off that email, a topic and a deadline for article submissions will be set by at least June 1, 2012. The publications committees will then review the articles, make edits, and prepare the newsletter.
- ii. Additional assistance from the UNLV law school and UNLV journalism school is probably not necessary since the publications committee will handle the editing and preparation of the newsletter.
- iii. To generate interest and encourage section members to submit newsletter articles, the Board would offer their support to have a selected article published on a higher level such as the State Bar's Nevada Lawyer magazine, or Communique.
- iv. The Board discussed the production of the newsletter in a written format, in addition to email, and broadening its circulation to the judiciary and non-members of the section. Publication costs will be researched.

- C. *March 28, 2012 State Bar of Nevada Section Leadership Luncheon*
- i. This luncheon was an opening of the dialogue with the State Bar, Supreme Court, District Courts, and the Section Leadership. The event was attended by many members of the state judiciary, in addition to chairpersons of various sections.
 - ii. After introductions, one of the first issues was legislative activity. The Business Law Section gave an overview of their legislative efforts. During the legislative session, the Business Law Section prepares bill drafts. When the Legislature is not in session, they monitor bills, maintain a list of proposals on statutes, prepare bills and propose bills. Bill proposals are submitted to the Board of Governors for review since each State Bar section, including the Construction Law Section is an extension of the State Bar. Thus, any papers and briefs prepared by the Section should be sent to the State Bar for prior approval before being released to the public.
 - iii. The State Bar has a lobbyist on staff. Lori Wolk has more information.
 - iv. Supreme Court Justices Hardesty and Douglas indicated that the footnotes in their opinions identify the locations where there should be legislative rewrites.
 - v. The Nevada Supreme Court wants the Sections to be more active in educating the judiciary on the laws and issues pertaining to their Sections.
 - vi. An email listserv was suggested among the sections to encourage dialogue. The State Bar manages it on a set fee, while the Section moderates it.
 - vii. Networking and social functions such as conferences crossing over among different sections, and other social opportunities were highly encouraged. Currently, the gaming law, family law, and public law sections hold their own conferences and the judiciary enjoys attending them. In a similar vein, Justices Cherry, Hardesty, and Douglas said that they are more interested in CLEs that are more substantive and specific on its area of law rather than the more general CLEs.
 - viii. The Justices strongly encouraged each of the sections to submit amicus briefs when they are requested. Currently, only the family law section is active on submitting amicus curie briefs. Communication to the individual Sections will be improved to relay such requests. The Sections' amicus curie briefs serve to educate the judiciary on the law, rather than advocate for a particular position.
 - ix. The Justices would like the Sections to become more involved at the State Bar's annual meeting.
 - x. The Justices asked the Sections to increase participation in pro bono work.
 - xii. A method to increase Section participation by designating board positions as opposed to committee chair appointments was discussed. The notoriety of being a board member was more attractive to members of another Section and they were able to increase participation.

D. *ABA Construction Law Forum*

- i. Sponsorship: Evie and Debra will attend the ABA Forum on the Construction Industry reception on April 26, 2012 at the Bellagio Hotel. They will meet with David J. Theising, Esq. and be introduced to the Forum members.

E. *Survey*

- i. Discussion regarding the next survey is tabled for a future board meeting closer to the State Bar of Nevada Annual Meeting in June.

F. *Committee Clarification*

- i. Andrea will contact individuals from the survey to determine their interest in the subcommittees and appointment.
- ii. Discussion on the potential amendment to the bylaws regarding clarification to the committee classifications is tabled for a future next board meeting for implementation prior to the July membership meeting.
- iii. The topic of adding more board positions will be discussed next month and in June.

G. *Nevada Lawyer Article*

- i. Justice Hardesty invited the Sections to comment on Nevada Supreme Court opinions in an article for the Nevada Lawyer. The Board is interested in preparing an article that will present an intellectual discussion of such an opinion from all perspectives without advocating for a particular position.

H. *Transitioning into Practice ("TIP") Kick-off event*

- i. This is an inaugural event for new lawyers and seasoned attorneys for a pilot program of the State Bar that is replacing the Bridging the Gap Program. Participation from the Sections is being encouraged by the State Bar to ensure the program's success and as a method to recruit more members. Members of the judiciary are attending this kick-off event. The Southern Nevada kick-off event is being held at the Vdara/City Center on Monday, April 23, 2012. The Northern Nevada kick-off event is being held at the same time and date at the Northern Nevada Bar Center. Andrea will attend the Northern Nevada event and Debra demonstrated interest in attending the Southern Nevada event.

G. *Annual Meeting*

- i. The synopsis of the program and the bios of Caryn Tijsseling and Paul were provided to the State Bar.
- ii. The board is still waiting for information from the State Bar on the availability of certain Justices for their possible participation during the Construction Law program.
- iii. Paul Matteoni, who is on the Board of Governors asked Andrea's firm for sponsorships. She replied and asked if there was a sponsorship opportunity

on behalf of the Construction Law Section. No word yet on sponsorship opportunities.

- iv. Andrea and Debra are attending the Annual Meeting on behalf of the section. Mike may attend in Andrea's place if Andrea cannot attend for some reason.

III. Other Items

A. *New Business*

- i. None.

B. *Next Board Meeting*: May 16, 2012 – 3:00 p.m.