

WOMEN & THE LAW SECTION
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2007, 12:30 - 1:30 P.M.
GREENBERG TRAUIG OFFICES, WILMINGTON, DE

IN ATTENDANCE: Betsy McGeever, Stephanie Symons, Laina Herbert, Pam Meitner, Dawn Jones, D. Fon Muttamara-Walker, Maria Paris Newill, Megan Mantzavinos, Debbie Gottschalk

I. APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES: The minutes of the May 2, 2007 and May 31, 2007 Meetings were approved unanimously, with two typographical corrections to the May 31 minutes.

II. CHILDCARE AWARDS: Invitations for the awards dinner were circulated last week. The committee also met last week. They are generally satisfied with the quantity and quality of the nominees, although there are still too few nominees from Kent and Sussex Counties. The possibility of having a Downstate award, covering both counties, was discussed. Claire DeMatteis is handling fundraising, and is soliciting individual, as well as corporate, donors.

III. WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AWARD: The award is being given to Judge Johnston, who was nominated by this section. The awards luncheon will be held on October 24 or 25.

IV. SUBCOMMITTEES: Existing subcommittees include Childcare; Legislative; Awards; Technology; Arsht Fellowship; Retreat; and the Incarceration Committee (now defunct, as it was created to support the opening of the women's Level IV facility). Maria would like to confirm that leadership is in place for each of the active subcommittees, and to have each of them meet during the month to plan their activities for the year. Debbie Gottschalk gave an overview of the Legislative Subcommittee. Its main activities are monitoring state legislation and planning the Annual Legislator's Lunch. The committee consists of about 5 or 6 members, and tends not to be very active in the fall. Patty Schwartz has already begun to plan the retreat.

V. GRACE COTTAGE: Maria Newill reported that Judge Crowell has contacted her about continuing visits to and sponsorship of Grace Cottage. In the past, the Section's support of Grace Cottage has cost about \$150 for the entire year. A motion to continue such support was made, seconded, and carried unanimously.

VI. "GIRLS' NIGHT OUT": Patty Schwartz has offered to host for November 7. As we have done most years in the past, the event will be potluck, with each attendee bringing either a side dish or a dessert, and a donation for the Arsht Fellowship Silent Auction. This year, the requested donation is gift cards to be assembled into a door prize for the Silent Auction.

VII. ARSHT FELLOWSHIP & SILENT AUCTION: The Arsht Fellowship Silent Auction will be held this year on November 15. The Fellowship this year is \$8,000.

VIII. LEGISLATORS' LUNCH: The Legislators' Lunch is being planned for February 6, 2008.

IX. RETREAT: This year's Retreat is being planned for February 29-March 1, 2008. Patty Schwartz has been doing the planning. For the first time, there may be Retreat events planned for the daytime on Friday, e.g. focus groups and stress management workshops. No word yet on what the CLE topic will be.

X. RECRUITMENT: Discussion focused on coming up with new ideas for membership drives: the cocktail party we have done in the past for new admittees has never been very successful. The section will be mentioned at the annual conference for new admittees. Some type of downstate outreach was also suggested.

XI. DIRECTORY UPDATE: There will be an effort this year to update the Section Directory, as the current one is over 10 years old. Victoria Watson will be working on the Directory. Additional volunteers are needed.

WOMEN & THE LAW SECTION
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2007, 12:30-1:30 p.m.
GREENBERG TRAUIG OFFICES, WILMINGTON, DE

IN ATTENDANCE: Krista Butler, Maria Paris Newill, Cheryl Ann Ward, Patricia Schwartz, Chris Demsey, Karla Levinson, Laina Herbert, Betsey McGeever, Suzanne Seubert, Stephanie Symons, Laura Brooks, Brett Zeitlin, Pam Meitner, Jessica Zeldin, Megan Mantzavinos

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the September meeting were approved unanimously, subject to the notation that this year's Arsht Fellowship is \$8,400 (not \$8,000 as stated in the minutes)

II. CHILDCARE AWARDS: the awards dinner is tonight in Dover.

III. WOMENS' LEADERSHIP AWARD: the awards luncheon is scheduled for October 24 at the Hotel DuPont. Space is probably limited, so section members were encouraged to buy tickets early.

IV. SUBCOMMITTEES

A. ARSHT FELLOWSHIP/SILENT AUCTION: Patty Schwartz reported, noting by way of background that the upcoming Silent Auction, is the fifth one the Section has sponsored. They are held biennially. The event usually draws 90-100 people, and raises about \$20,000. Patty expects the fund to have about \$250,000 in it following the silent auction.

She will need lots of volunteers to help set up the day of the auction, and is also looking for donations, including "white elephant" items and baskets of wine (which tend to be the best sellers). There will be a raffle again, to include the collection of gift cards.

The event will be held November 15. It will start earlier this year, at 5:30 and end at 7:30 to accommodate the "Tale of Two Cities" production at the Baby Grand. Tickets for the silent auction are \$50 this year, and it is open to all, though invitations are sent only to members of the Bar. Invitations will be mailed on October 10. One Section member asked if the invitation could be posted on the Section website or e-mailed, so that it would be easier to pass on.

GIRLS NIGHT OUT will be held at Patty's house again this year. The donation requested this year is gift cards for the silent auction. The event will begin around 5:30/6:00, and as always, is not limited to women.

B. ANNUAL RETREAT The retreat committee is comprised of Patty Schwartz, Pam Meitner and Dawn Jones. It will be held at the Bellmoor again. The meeting room has been reserved beginning at noon on Friday. Friday afternoon will consist of workshops and focus groups on stress management: it is not a CLE and there is no cost. The Saturday CLE will consist of a panel of General Counsel discussing how in-house counsel picks general counsel.

C. LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE: Maria Newill reported in Debbie Gottschalk's absence. The Legislative Luncheon has been scheduled for February 6 - a room in the Community Service Building has already been reserved

V. GRACE COTTAGE: Brett Zeitlin, Judge Crowell's law clerk, was in attendance, explained the program, and asked for the Section's continued support. The total cost to the Section last year for the Grace Cottage program was \$77

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. RECRUITMENT: Ideas included reaching out to in-house counsel admitted to practice under Supreme Court Rule 55, and opening a teleconference line for meetings to encourage participation by downstate members.

B. Maria Newill reported that a \$1,000 donation was made to DVLS in memory of Christine McDermott.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

WOMEN & THE LAW
January 2, 2008, 12:30 p.m.
Greenberg Traurig, Wilmington, DE

IN ATTENDANCE: Christine Demsey, Stephanie Symes, Suzanne Seubert, Mindy Clifton, Victoria Counihan, Ayesha Chacko, Laina Herbert, Megan Mantzavinos, Betsy McGeever, Debbie Gottschalk

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from the December, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved.

II. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE: Stephanie Symonds reported that the Legislative Subcommittee has not met since the last Section meeting.

B. CHILDCARE: Mindy Clifton reported that the Childcare Subcommittee has not met since the last Section meeting.

III. GRACE COTTAGE: Suzanne Seubert will provide information about the next Grace Cottage visit at the next meeting.

IV. LEGISLATIVE LUNCH MEETING: The meeting will be held from 12:30 to 2:00 on February 6. Respond to Debbie Gottschalk.

V. RETREAT:

The Saturday CLE consists of a panel discussion of corporate counsel. There are multiple programs on Friday. The exact nature of these programs aren't firmly established yet, but are generally centered around stress management. Dr. Tavani will be speaking.

VI. DIRECTORY: Changes to the draft directory form were circulated with last month's minutes. The most recent change is a prompt for a "business address." Forms will be circulated by e-mail, and are due March 1.

VII. WOMENS' LEADERSHIP AWARD: Nominations are due May 1. The honorees are usually active in mentoring women, but need not themselves be women. The section discussed timing issues associated with presenting the slate of nominees in time for Section approval and to meet the deadline.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS: Discussion concerning outreach to new admittees through the ListServ. ListServ guidelines were also discussed.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Legislative Lunch

B. Childcare. The guidelines for large family settings are being rewritten. The issues are the same as when the guidelines for childcare centers were being revised, especially purchase of care percentages. A large family setting has been defined as one which takes more than 6 children.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55.

WOMEN & THE LAW
April 2, 2008, 12:30 p.m.
Greenberg Traurig, Wilmington, DE

IN ATTENDANCE: Mindy Clifton, Maria Paris Newill, Ayesha Chacko, Betsy McGeever, Victoria Counihan, Fon Walker, Dawn Jones, Leslie Heilmon, Suzanne Seubert, Pam Meitner, Debbie Gottschalk, Megan Mantzavinos

I. GOVERNOR'S CHILDCARE AWARDS: Mindy Clifton reported that there is again some concern that the event has run its course. In the past, the event has been sponsored and the awards funded by the Section with significant support from the Family & Workplace Connection. Family & Workplace Connection is now a part of Children & Families First, but it does not appear that that will affect their commitment to the event. The Section now has to decide whether to continue its sponsorship and support. A typical budget for the event is between \$13 and \$16,000. If we are going to continue to sponsor it, someone from the Section needs to commit to organizing it and raising funds.

The general sense is that the Section should continue to sponsor the event at least until the Stars program is up and running. No single person wanted the responsibility of organizing and fundraising, but several people were willing to serve on a committee.

A Motion was made for the Section to support the Governor's childcare awards, provided that Children and Families First will give its support, and provided that the Section could identify six members to serve on the committee. The Motion was seconded and passed unanimously, and a deadline of April 15 was set to enlist additional volunteers for the committee. Maria Newill will circulate an e-mail to solicit volunteers once we confirm Children and Families First's support.

II. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: Debbie Gottschalk reported for the Legislative Committee.

A. S.B. 110 (to amend the Landlord Tenant Code to preclude eviction of victims of domestic violence because of incidents of domestic violence) passed the Senate, but has not been heard in the House. The Real Property section opposed the bill. A compromise is currently being worked. Other proposed legislation the subcommittee is tracking includes H.B. 286 (aimed to increase participation in the SCHIP program); H.B. 71 (repeal of mandatory minimum sentences. The bill is stuck in committee and is not likely to go anywhere this session); and S.B. 41 (regarding discrimination of the basis of sexual orientation), as well as proposed legislation regarding joint custody for service members returning from active duty, and regarding the Stars program. The legislation regarding the Stars program appears to contain revisions to the pilot program, rather than changing the program itself.

B. Family & Workplace Advocacy Day is April 9 in Dover.

III. GRACE COTTAGE VISITS: Visits continue on the third Tuesday of every month.

IV. RETREAT

A. The Friday program was discussed briefly. Maria Newill was told that the fact that the Friday program was free made it difficult for the Bar Association to manage registrations.

B. The 2009 retreat is being planned for April 3 and 4 at the Bellmoor. A committee has already formed and is having its first meeting on April 8.

V. DIRECTORY UPDATE: Victoria Counihan reported that the forms for the Directory are in. We received a few forms from non-members at the retreat, and will be reaching out the people who submitted them to join the Section.

VI. WOMENS' LEADERSHIP AWARD. Suzanne Seubert reported that the awards luncheon is in October. A committee has formed, but needs to meet.

X. ANNUAL PICNIC. The annual picnic will again be held at Tania Culley's house on June 11.

XII. NEW BUSINESS:

Pam Meitner advised that she is putting together a presentation on Lise Meitner, and is looking for womens' and girls' groups to present it to.

Fon Walker is collecting toiletries for distribution to Child, Inc.

Betsy McGeever reporting on upcoming Bar Association events, including the Pro Bono Breakfast on April 8; the Law Day Lunch on May 5; and the Bench & Bar Conference on June 4. She also noted that a book on the history of the Delaware Bar authored by Helen Winslow and Pat Hannigan was cited in a recent opinion of the United States Supreme Court.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.