

**DELAWARE STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
LITIGATION SECTION**

Minutes of the Meeting convened at 12:20 p.m. on April 15, 2004:

1. Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved without objection.
2. Catherine Damavandi presented the results of her investigation into the replacements to the federal discount rate and the need for amendment to the statute establishing the legal rate of interest. Since the new "primary rate" is approximately 2% higher than the former "discount rate," Catherine suggested that we propose to amend the statute to permit the rate of interest to be calculated by using the "primary rate" plus 3.5%. This proposal accounts for the change between the old "discount rate" and the new "primary rate." This proposal was presented to and approved by the DSBA Litigation Section members in attendance at the meeting. Catherine Damavandi volunteered to organize the legislative proposal for this amendment.
3. Andy Ahern suggested that the Litigation Section volunteer to present two hour presentations on the nuts and bolts of trial practice for new lawyers. Andy Ahern reminded the section about the upcoming Trial Practice Forum and encouraged members to submit any ideas or topics they may have for future Trial Practice Forums. Bill Doerler suggested putting together a presentation on the new 2 hour training course for the limited pro bono program.
4. Kimberly Gattuso reported that September 22, 2004 has been selected as the date for the Fundamentals of Civil Litigation seminar. Kimberly Gattuso stated that letters to the various Courts requesting their participation during the seminar would be sent out by the end of the month.
5. Andy Ahern reported that the DSBA Technology Committee may have adopted policies and procedures regarding a list serve for 2004 at their last meeting. Andy Ahern thanked Catherine Damavandi for her efforts in compiling the litigation section's email list.
6. Alex Mili reported on his efforts in developing a web site for the Litigation Section. Alex Mili has been invited to participate in the April 20, 2004 DSBA Technology Committee meeting to discuss the web site. Dominick Gattuso suggested that the Litigation Section may want to contact students at the University of Delaware or Widener University to assist in the web design. Alisa Moen offered to contact one of her friends to see if he would assist in the web design.
7. Andy Ahern reported on the community outreach efforts of the section. Specifically, Andy Ahern and Kimberly Gattuso volunteered to update the Court of Common Pleas Pro Se materials and meet with Jackie Aff from the Court.
8. Andy Ahern proposed restructuring a DSBA Speaker's Bureau to provide year long assistance to various organizations through speaking engagements. Andy Ahern indicated that he would follow up on this topic after law day since so many attorneys are volunteering to speak for that event.

9. Andy Ahern thanked Albert Manwaring for his In re: article and encouraged the section members to contribute to the publication.

10. Andy Ahern discussed the proposed Court of Common Pleas legislation regarding raising the jurisdictional limit from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and expanding the Court's jurisdiction with criminal matters.

11. Alisa Moen volunteered to help organize the Litigation Section's social. Possible locations included Pharaoh's, Toscana or Sugarfoot.

12. The nominations for the Election of Officers and Council Members were accepted by the Litigation Section. Terms will begin on July 1, 2004.

13. Albert Manwaring sought comments from section members as to how we as a group can market the section to bring value to the members of the section and attract new members.

14. Albert Manwaring also inquired as to whether or not there is or should be an ombudsman for Superior Court. Andy Ahern volunteered to find out who the ombudsman is for District Court.

15. Andy Ahern addressed the amendments to the section's By-laws. The amended By-laws were adopted without objection.

16. The next Section meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2004 at noon at the offices of Saul Ewing, LLP. Contact Kimberly Gattuso to confirm your attendance so she can make sure lunch is available for all – 421-6868 or via email at kgattuso@saul.com.

17. The meeting adjourned at 1:13 PM.