

**Women & The Law
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, October 7, 2015 12:30pm
DSBA Offices**

IN ATTENDANCE: Kathleen Miller, Natalie Woloshin, Kyle Evans Gay, Michelle Whalen, Christina Hillson, Stephanie Smiertka, Tamika Crawl-Bey, Christine Demsey, Jill DiSciullo, Leslie Spoltore, Karen Poppel, Loren Barron, Nichole Warner, Mindy Clifton, Stacy Newman, Sarah Ennis, Kristen Swift, Christie Di Guglielmo, Lauren DeLuca, Roopa Sabesan, Katherine M. Moughan. Present by phone: Laina Herbert

I. Introduction

Natalie Woloshin welcomed everyone and introduced the Section's 2015-2017 Board. Section meetings will be held the first Wednesday of every month. The next meeting will be November 4, 2015 at the DSBA offices.

II. Recap of October 6th Women Rainmakers Event and Reception (Kathy Miller)

Kathy Miller thanked Young Conaway for hosting, and congratulated those who organized the workshop. Thanks to all who attended. There was a great turnout. The Section will work to continue this event and look for other ways to collaborate with IWIRC and Women in Chancery.

III. Section Initiatives

Natalie Woloshin discussed how the Section hopes to be more inclusive of government and public sector attorneys as well as newer attorneys. The Section will also seek to bridge the gap between new attorneys, more experienced attorneys, and the judiciary with networking events. In addition, the Board hopes to support programming geared toward work/life balance.

IV. Committees Launch

Natalie Woloshin requested volunteers to Chair and to serve on the Section's various committees. She described the responsibility of each, and asked interested members to send an email to the Co-Chairs indicating their interest.

V. Awards Committee Update

Loren Barron reported that the Awards Committee met on Sept 25 to consider five nominees for the Women's Leadership award (Judge Jan R. Jurden, Kathleen Jennings, Pamela Meitner, Yvonne Saville, and Lisa Goodman). The names of the three finalists were sent to Lewis Lazarus. Rose Killian was nominated for the Distinguished Mentoring Award. Please consider sending the Awards Committee nominations, but please provide specific information about your nominee. Nominations that consist of merely a name are difficult for the Awards Committee to consider. Chris Demsey shared that in the past the Awards Committee has made nominations for Trailblazers Award and ABA women's awards.

VI. Changes to Bylaws

The Board shared that there is a need more people on the Executive Board. As per Section 6.1 of the Section Bylaws, the “Council” shall consist of the officers of the Section, the immediate past chair(s), and give members of the Section elected at large. It’s also important to have a cross-section of membership represented on the Council.

Mindy Clifton suggested that in the past the Council has no met, so perhaps we don’t want to appoint people to a position where they will never be consulted. Natalie Woloshin suggested that the Section could be more active if there are more people involved in leadership roles, because this takes some of the burden off of the elected officers. Many members do not run for officer positions in part because the two-year term can seem a daunting task.

Chris Demsey said that the Council was also formed for those situations where a vote or an action had to be taken prior to the next scheduled Section meeting.

Mindy Clifton noted that the “shall” in the proposed Section 6.1 should be removed to ensure that the Section is not bound to have representative membership from certain sectors of the profession. The statement is hortatory, not mandatory.

VII. Proposal to Start a Referral Bank

A bank of Section members’ practice areas would be helpful for referral purposes. An electronic form is preferable to a paper form, but the DSBA has in the past resisted electronic forms. Perhaps we can put it up on the website, where it will be available to anyone. Chris Demsey suggested that members be specific when describing their practice area (i.e. whether you do plaintiff or defense work within a specific topic area). Tamika Crawl-Bey suggested that another way to connect would be to create a LinkedIn group for the Section. She volunteered to set it up. The group would be closed so that all communications would only be visible to the Section membership. Natalie Woloshin also noted that the Section officers need to update the Section’s DSBA page.

VIII. Good and Welfare

The Historic Old New Castle Designer Show House is Chief Justice Wolcott’s family residence. The show house is ongoing until November 8th. Beverly Wik has offered to organize a group of Section members to gather at her home in New Castle before attending the show house. Chris Demsey noted that the house is owned by Sunday Breakfast Mission and all proceeds go toward the Mission. Contact Natalie Woloshin if you are interested in attending.

IX. Annual Women & the Law Retreat

Save the date for the Annual Women & the Law Retreat on March 4-5, 2016.