

## MINUTES FROM CLE MEETING, JANUARY 25, 2007

Attendees: Chair Patricia Alexander  
Vice Chair John Schutz  
Co-Vice Chair Kathy Beamer  
Co-Secretary Amy Hamlin  
Co-Secretary Doug Greenbaum  
Larry Katz  
Carmen Gillett  
R. T. White  
Eddie Stephens  
Charlotte Karlan  
Holly Schuttler  
Bonnie Sockel-Stone  
Allison Kapner  
Robyn Vines  
Odette Bendeck  
David Manz  
Joseph Hood  
Ingrid Keller  
Liz Alpert

### A. Welcome and Call To Order:

1. The Chair began the meeting at 8:10 AM
2. The names of the attendees are listed above
3. On January 23, 2007, the Chair sent committee members an e-mail with two attachments: the minutes from the November 16, 2006 CLE Committee Meeting and the Agenda for the January 25, 2007 meeting
4. Tom Sasser assigned the Committee the task to appoint seminar Chairs and CLE topics through 2010, which is the focus of today's meeting

### B. Minutes of November 16, 2006 CLE Meeting

1. Everyone received the minutes from the November 16 meeting
2. It was moved and seconded to approve the November 16, 2006 minutes, as is.
3. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Committee

### C. Old Business

1. The Chair gave a status report from Debby Beck from the Legislative Update seminar held in July.
  - a. The seminar made \$17,000.00
  - b. Telephonic seminars have no overhead

- c. A question was raised: what is the amount of money in the budget for this seminar
  - d. The Chair will look at the budget to see if there is a designation between live and telephonic seminars
2. The Mechanics On Cert Review held on December 8, 2006, had a good attendance; We do not have a record of how many people attended this meeting yet

D. Updates on Seminars/ New Business

- 1. The brochure for the Military Issues Affecting Family Law Practice has been published; the seminar is called Lunch N' Learn
  - a. Copies of the brochure were available for review at this meeting.
  - b. The telephonic seminar is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2007, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM
  - c. Robyn Vines stated that Lucy Espey-Francis approved the brochure; however there is another speaker that is not listed
  
- 2. Prior to this meeting, Howard Raab reported to the Chair on the Equitable Distribution seminar scheduled for March 15 and 16, 2007.
  - a. The title for the seminar is, "Crunching And Massaging The Numbers, A Financial Workout for Matrimonial Lawyers"
  - b. The seminar is ready
  
- 3. David Manz gave a report for the Spring Retreat in Key West.
  - a. People should arrive in Key West on Thursday, April 19
  - b. The seminar is Friday morning
  - c. David was able to get two good psychologists to talk about stress and the family law lawyer.
  - d. The second speaker will talk about addition issues and client issues in family law practice; How do you approach it; where do you send people
  - e. It should be a good program
  - f. We are staying at the Westin, formally known as the Hilton
  - g. There is a sunset cruise
  - h. On Friday afternoon, David has secured a charter boat for anyone who wants to fish; an alternative is a butterfly museum on Duval Street
  - i. The Section dinner is Saturday at Mangos
  - j. Debby Beck expects that approximately 60-65 people should attend the seminar

4. There is still an open slot for a telephonic seminar in May 2007 which we need to fill in May.
  - a. We can do another Lunch and Learn from 12:00 to 2:00 PM
  - b. We should not have a problem finding speakers
5. Allison Kapner is still working on a speaker list; please e-mail her any names of potential speakers, speakers that you like, including their bio, and topics that you would like speak about
6. There was some discussion about a new seminar
  - a. John Schutz volunteered to do a children's issues or child support seminar
  - b. Someone suggested that we could do a seminar about relocation; the seminar at the Fall 2006 retreat in Vermont was very good and Diane Kirigin did a great local seminar about relocation
  - c. Robyn Vines will be the Chair and Doug Greenbaum will be the Co-Chair
  - d. There was a comment that maybe we should not do the relocation seminar just yet because the statute is too new and there may not be enough material
  - e. Someone else made a comment that there are problems with the relocation statute and attorneys are having problems interpreting the language
  - f. It was suggested that we could do a telephonic relocation seminar in September because there might be some forms and caselaw by then
  - g. It was moved and seconded to do a relocation seminar with Robyn Vines as Chair and Doug Greenbaum as Co-Chair in 2007; Eddie Stephens can be a Co-Chair for equipment/technical issues
  - h. The Committee voted and the Motion passed for this seminar.
  - i. The Chair stressed that we need to work on this seminar quickly
7. There will be an annual meeting in June
  - a. The Committee previously voted not to make a presentation for the Presidential Showcase
  - b. The Chair believes that we need to make a presentation in 2008
  - c. The Bar mails a letter with the deadline for ideas, we would then put on our presentation; and the Bar decides if our presentation is presidential material
  - d. We should be creative because it could be our year to shine
8. Tom Sasser attended the meeting to share his concerns regarding the CLE programs
  - a. Tom cautions this committee on a long term level
  - b. He has grave concerns about the budget because he has heard that there are programs that have made money for other sections but are now losing money
  - c. The Legislative Update seminar had more people attend than the year

- before but the rumor is that the “net, net” number is actually a negative number and our costs didn’t go up at all
- d. The Bar is assessing CLE administrative costs that we have never had before
  - e. The Bar charges the Family Law Section \$14.50 per head to process administrative fees
  - f. If you send a form to register for a seminar, the first \$14.50 from that seminar is going to the Bar to process this form
  - g. It is unclear if the Bar will charge a portion of Debby Beck’s salary against us
  - h. If this is the case, it will be very hard for any CLE to make money
  - i. The best example is the Counsel Section’s budget - generally \$7,000 for the entire year and this money is spent on three major meetings and one retreat; we’re now at the almost ½ way point and the budget now reflects that over \$3500 is gone, with only one meeting; \$500 was spent on traditional council expenses, the rest of the money was administrative costs that have never appeared before. These administrative costs did not appear on the budget as of last year
  - j. Other sections may have to stop putting on CLEs and th sections may go bankrupt
  - k. We will all have to look at this very carefully.
  - l. Tom thinks the Bar is looking to spread its overhead to other sections or to shut smaller sections that the Bar thinks is necessary
  - m. He advised that the CLE Chair will have to look at the CLEs to see which ones make money and which ones do not
  - n. On another note; our section was the first to get sponsorships and displays at CLEs. Jorge Cestero was the first to get approval for vendors and sponsorships. As a result, the Family Law Section had an exemption. We have received complaints from Bar Staff that we spend too much money on food and non-educational events (like cocktail hour). But, as we have added activities, our attendance has increased. The Bar thinks that afternoon snacks are unnecessary - but, corresponding with the money spent on these things, we have had increased attendance. The Bar thinks that people will still come to seminars if the fee is high but less food and activities are offered. If we go back to a generic seminar, attendance may drop. Bar policies are arbitrary and we are told what to do. There is no appellate process for these decisions.
  - o. JJ Dahl is our Bar representative. Debby Beck alone cannot sign off on the food/beverage contracts
  - p. The Family Law CLE Committee is on track in every other regard. We have money making seminars. The Cert Review program is larger than ever. We are planned out for the rest of the year. We have good attendance for seminars.

9. Terry Fogel gave us the flier for the Trial Advocacy seminar
  - a. This advanced seminar is scheduled for August 16 to 19
  - b. The location is the Ritz Carlton Golf Resort in Naples, where we had the Leadership Committee meeting last summer
  - c. The format has been changed from previous years; for example, the attendees will not be videotaped
  - d. Experienced lawyers will be there to assist/critique work
  - e. Due to technical difficulties, not all the presenters/facilitators were printed on the brochure
  - f. She will re-confirm the attorneys who will attend
  - g. The goal is to have eight groups with eight attorneys
  
10. Fall Retreat Update
  - a. Allyson Hughes is not present to give a report on the Fall Retreat
  - b. The Chair will speak with Allyson regarding the Retreat and give a report during the February telephonic CLE meeting
  - c. The Fall Retreat will be in-state
  - d. The Sante Fe trip is scheduled for April 23 or 24, 2008; this retreat is still in the planning stages
  - e. This date is the same date for the ABA retreat in Monterey, California and close to the AAML May seminar in Tampa
  
11. Allyson Hughes will appoint the Chairs of the Mechanics Of Certification Review, as the new Family Law Section Chair
  
12. John Schutz will have an outline, including speakers, at the next meeting, for the October 2007 Agreements seminar
  
13. There is an open slot for February 2008
  - a. There was a suggestion to do mental health issues; clients get Baker Acted and Marchmann Acted during cases - what do you do when this happens
  - b. Holly Schuttler volunteered to be the Chair and Charlotte Karlan volunteered to be the Co-Chair
  
14. We can do a telephonic seminar in May 2008
  - a. We can do another ethic panel
  - b. The last ethics seminar was a conversation format; it will be a different program with different judges
  - c. No one had an objection to an ethics seminar
  - d. Odette Bendeck will be the Chair and Eddie Stephens will be the Co-Chair
  
15. Legislative Update Seminar in 2008
  - a. Jeff Weissman is the Chair for the seminar in 2007 and R. T. White is the Co-Chair

- b. R. T. will be the Chair for the 2008 seminar
- 16. John Schutz volunteered to Chair the Champagne Divorce On A Beer Budget in August 2008
- 17. Carmen Gillett volunteered to Chair a Dependency seminar in September 2008
- 18. The 2008 Fall Retreat might be a cruise
- 19. There was discussion for a potential Co-Habitation/Termination of Alimony seminar in November 2008
  - a. This month is hard because we have moved things around in other years
  - b. Would this be a timely seminar; the statute has only been in effect for a year and a half
- 20. During the next meeting, we will start with seminars for 2009
- 21. During the November meeting, it was decided that the Committee will send "Thank You" certificates to all speakers
  - a. Amy Hamlin will contact Debby Beck about ordering the certificates
  - b. Amy and Doug Greenbaum will be responsible for sending the certificates to all speakers
- 22. It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

(Submitted by Amy Hamlin)