

Maryland State Bar Association
Consumer Bankruptcy Section
Executive Council Open Meeting
Far East Restaurant
Rockville, Maryland
Minutes
April 30, 2008

Attendees:

L. Margulies	D. Gorius	M. Wolff	B. Weiss
M. McLean	C. Fascetta	P. Anderson	M. Caskey
C. Krohn	R. Rogers	A. Gordon	M. Kivitz
L. Robinson	B. Tayman	S. Levenson	H. Ammerman

MINUTES:

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:15. M. Wolff, Section President and Executive Council Chair, presided and thanked everyone for coming.

II. Chair's Report

A. Nominations and Elections of New Officers

M. Wolff announced that elections would occur at the May 2008 meeting to be held in Columbia, Maryland at "That's Amore Restaurant," with the final meeting to be held in June 2008 in Ocean City, Maryland from 8:00 to 10:30 am.

B. Budget

As of April 30, 2008, \$1298 remained in the Section's budget with additional funds available from the MSBA, not to exceed a total of \$2100. Discussions of whether sufficient funds remained in the budget to allow for the Columbia, Maryland dinner, refreshments at the Ocean City presentation as well as support for the future educational program planned with the Chapter 13

Trustees. M. Wolff requested clarification from committees regarding anticipated expenditures.

III. Committee Reports:

A. Ocean City Presentation, June 13, 2008

- B. S. Levenson and B. Tayman reported that PowerPoint presentations were being developed for the meeting and that the focus would be Maryland's new foreclosure law; bankruptcy legislation, strategies for dealing with lenders; and lien stripping. Discussion of anticipated expenditures for the projector, room fees and refreshments.

Discussion ensued regarding the benefit to new members if the materials could be made available in print through the Section.

C. Nominations Committee:

Interest from section members was sufficient to support the required 50% turnover of council members. The Chair, R. Rogers presented the Committee's recommended slate of officers and explained the by-law election procedures.

a. Election of Officers:

The nominations committee presented the following slate of officers for the year 2008 executive council: Chris Fascetta, Chair; M. McLean, Vice Chair, M. Cantrell, Secretary. D. Gorius moved to accept the proposed slate of officers, P. Anderson seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

D. Section's Belsky Award

M. McLean was nominated to head the Section's Belsky Award program for outstanding efforts on behalf of the consumer bankruptcy section. M. Wolff requested that individuals interesting in serving on the committee with M. McLean approach her after the meeting..

IV. New Business: Open forum; no new business was discussed.

1. Chapter 13 Fees: L. Margulies as the Liaison Section Chair indicated that a written Proposal would be forwarded to the Bench in early May, 2008.

2. Chapter 13 Training Program: a program designed in collaboration with the Chapter 13 Trustees to teach the “nuts and bolts” of chapter 13 consumer bankruptcy practice. The anticipated timeframe for the program is September 2008. Location would ideally be somewhere in Columbia, Maryland, which the Section agreed would be the most central to all members.

3. M. Wolff introduced the Bankruptcy Academy program being sponsored by a joint Bench, Bankruptcy Bar Association and Maryland State Bar Association Liaison Committee comprised of Judge Lipp, M. Wolff, L.Katz, B. Weiss. All agreed to support the Bench’s efforts to promote the program.

4. M.McLean circulated a sample Voluntary Consent Order for Wage Payments to the Chapter 13 Trustee. All agreed that the idea was a good one so long as it was voluntary. Some discussion of the potential additional burden on Chapter 13 Trustees on cases dismissed prior to confirmation. It was agreed that M. McLean should pursue the idea further with the Chapter 13 Trustees.

V. Adjournment

Upon motion by the Chair, seconded by M. McLean, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.