

MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
CONSUMER BANKRUPTCY SECTION
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES^{V2}

LOCATION: Columbia, MD – That’s Amore Restaurant
OCTOBER 16, 2008

ATTENDEES:

Michael Cantrell	Michael Wolff	Richard Stolker	Larry Robinson
Laura Margulies	Scott Robinson	Sari Kurland	Dan Press
Harris Ammerman	Nancy Grigsby	Terri Lowery	Mary Park McLean
Chris Fascetta	Charles Broida	Curtis Coon	

MINUTES:

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:31 pm by Christopher Fascetta, Section Council President.

II. MINUTES

The Minutes from the September 8, 2008 Council Meeting were discussed. A motion for approval of said Minutes was made by Michael Wolff and seconded by Mary Park McLean. The motion passed.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Brown Bag Committee

Mary Park McLean advised that she had recently sent out an email to members advising of the dates on which Brown Bag luncheon seminars are scheduled to take place in Rockville, the first of which is Wednesday, October 22, 2008 and will address small chapter 11 cases.

Christopher Fascetta advised that he had been contacted by the chair of the Tax Section of the MSBA regarding the possibility of a joint presentation on a topic of interest. The Tax Section has a venue in Baltimore for a cocktail party presentation and wants two people for the Consumer Bankruptcy Section to participate. Mary Park McLean advised that she had sent to the Tax Section a list of names from the Consumer Bankruptcy Section (“Section”) who also practice in the area of taxes.

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Christopher Fascetta suggested that he would contact the chair of the Family Law section to determine if it has any interest in developing any joint presentations.

Social Committee

Sari Kurland indicated a willingness to chair a holiday party, if a budget can be detailed for her. She and Christopher Fascetta will discuss possible dates for the party.

Fundraising Committee

Christopher Fascetta, Tony Aquia and Craig Stewart are investigating the possibility of a golf tournament to take place in the Spring. Mary Park McLean made a motion to allow Craig Stewart to contact golf clubs and develop a proposal for the tournament to be reviewed by the Council. The motion was seconded by Christopher Fascetta and passed.

CLE Committee

Christopher Fascetta advised that Bud Tayman is now chairing the committee developing the Ocean City presentation, in conjunction with Alex Gordon.

Pro Se Project Committee

Mary Park McLean advised that she had met with members of the Bankruptcy Bar Association to discuss the Pro Bono project. Jeff Nesson, Dan Press, Scott Robinson, Mark Scurti, Brett Weiss, Curtis Coon, and she are on the Section's Pro Bono Project Committee, with Michael Wolff and Christopher Fascetta serving as substitutes.

A joint meeting with the Bankruptcy Bar Association is scheduled for October 30, 2008 to place issues on the table for discussion, including malpractice coverage, location of clinics to review documents to determine if people are pro bono or "low bono" and funneling people to the appropriate agency for assistance.

The Pro Bono Action Center, MVLS, Civil Justice, Sharon Goldsmith, Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, Montgomery County Pro Bono Foundation, Phillip Robinson and Legal Aid are also participating in the Project. Scott Robinson volunteered to contact the pro bono group in Prince George's County, Maryland and Michael Wolff volunteered to contact the same group in Montgomery County, Maryland, to inquire if they would like to be involved.

There was general discussion regarding accumulating data to determine how many pro bono and “low bono” cases are already being handled by members of the Section.

IV. Old Business

Appendix F revisions

The revised Appendix F proposal has been circulated throughout the Section Council. Dan Press will email to Council members a copy of the final version. If Council members have any objections to the same, then they must email the Council listserve with the same. Subsequently, next week, the final version of the proposed revised Appendix F will be circulated to the members at large through the Section’s website, the listserve, the MSBA, the Bankruptcy Bar Association, US Trustee’s office, the Chapter 13 Trustees and 341 meetings. Christopher Fascetta will develop a cover letter to accompany the document. Once the proposed Appendix F is circulated to the masses, they will have until October 31, 2008 to offer comments.

Nuts and Bolts Seminar Results

Nancy Grigsby advised that approximately 260 people participated in the seminars, with 38 panelists and 360 pages of materials. She further advised that approximately \$500 to \$700 was left over, after expenses are paid. The Trustees would like to return said moneys to Section and have it earmarked specifically for educational programs.

There was general discussion regarding a “Nuts and Bolts” type seminar for Chapter 11 cases and one for advanced consumer bankruptcy issues.

Membership

Christopher Fascetta reported that the number of Section members have increased over the same number two years ago.

V. New Business

Peer Review Concept

There was general discussion prompted by Michael Wolff regarding the possibility of referring bankruptcy practitioners to the MSBA panels that are convened for MSBA bar members that are in professional crisis. Michael Wolff volunteered to contact the MSBA to obtain more information about the panels that are convened and then report back to the Council.

Council Vacancy

It was noted that Lisa Jenkins recently resigned from the Council. Christopher Fascetta stated that he would contact Richard Rogers to determine the steps necessary to have a replacement appointed.

VI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Richard Stolker, and seconded by Curtis Coon. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned shortly after 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,



/s/ Michael T. Cantrell

Secretary