

**MINUTES OF  
MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
CONSUMER BANKRUPTCY SECTION COUNCIL MEETING**

November 17, 2010  
McNamee Hosea  
6411 Ivy Lane  
Greenbelt, MD

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Jeffrey Nesson, Section Chair.

**Members Present**

Jeffrey Nesson	David Piekarz
Sari Kurland	David Portney
Tanya Kripetz	Marc Kivitz
Richard Stolker	Antonio Aquia
Bud Tayman	Diana Theologou
Stan Levinson	Mary Park McLean
R. Martin Caskey	D. Phillip Anderson
Douglas Gorius	Stacey Rogan
Dan Press	

**Members Not Attending:**

David Cohen	Wilbur W. Bolton, III
Christina Hamilton	Richard London
Scott C I Borison	Candy Thompson
Kevin D. Judd	

**Other Attending:**

Martine Jean

**Minutes**

The minutes of the Council meeting of October 19, 2010 were approved on motion of Antonio Aquia seconded by Tanya Kripetz.

1. **Committee Reports**

- a. **Brown Bag** – Baltimore Brown Bag scheduled for November 18, 2010 moved from Nancy Grigsby's Office to Rosenberg Martin Greenberg

located at 25 S. Charles St., 21<sup>st</sup> Floor, Baltimore, Maryland due to space concerns. Richard Stolker listed by Skype at the last brown bag set up by David Cohen and said that it worked well. Antonio Aquia will talk to David Cohen about Skype for tomorrow's brown bag. Sari Kurland asked how to get the word out about the availability on short notice. Richard Stolker and Jeffrey Nesson suggested that the list serve be used.

There are currently no brown bag's scheduled for Greenbelt. Mary Park McLean committed to arranging four evening brown bags for the Greenbelt area and suggested that Fred Carter who recently spoke at a BBA function be a speaker. Dan Press and Sari Kurland volunteered to assist Mary Park McLean.

- b. Budget- Sari Kurland stated that there is nothing new to report. Approximately \$300 was spent last month for dinner for the meeting and \$200 for this month's meeting. Sari Kurland mentioned that there is one restaurant meeting scheduled for May and the Ocean City expenses.
- c. Mentor-Mentee – Richard Stolker stated that more volunteers are needed and there is a special need for volunteers in Prince George's County. Dan Press suggested that we should not be concerned about lining up volunteers geographically.
- d. CLE - Bankruptcy training program – Jeffrey Nesson suggested that we arrange small group sessions and again stated that someone needs to volunteer to be in charge. David Portney stated that he and Candy Thompson had been speaking about arranging multiple ½ day seminars on advanced topics. Mr. Portney stated there are too many beginner CLE's. Mr. Portney asked for postings of topics and stated that he and Ms. Thompson are prepared to move forward with preparations. Jeffrey Nesson stated that the MSBA is available to assist with the preparations. Marty Caskey inquired regarding mandatory CLE's and stated that we need to know when and how the process in Maryland will be structured so that we are prepared to provide CLE credit. Richard Stolker, Bud Tayman and Dan Press went over some of the other jurisdictions requirements for accreditation and the difference between Ethics CLE credit and regular CLE credit. Mary Park McLean inquired as to whether or not we have given up trying to profit from the CLE's. Mr. Nesson states that our focus should be on getting the CLE's prepared and worry about the money afterwards. Mr. Portney and Mr. Kivitz states that the focus should be on the education and not the money. Stacey Rogan mentioned that we could perhaps use materials from prior sessions.

Marc Kivitz suggested that a nuts and bolts seminar still be held. Jeffrey Nesson is to contact the Trustees and the Court regarding participation in a nuts and bolts seminar. Jeffrey Nesson, Dan Press, Antonio Aquia, Stacey

Rogan and Richard Stolker volunteered to form a committee for a nuts and bolts seminar. Richard Stolker suggested U.S. Trustee participation in addition to the panel trustees and Court.

Mary Park McLean questioned as to where we were with utilizing the program taped from the Courthouse. She stated that the Gore Reporting relationship ended as the connection was with Alex Gordon. Dan Press stated that Michael Wolff knows how to link the program to our website and Mary Park McLean volunteered to put an announcement out notifying people of its availability and access. Ms. Kurland asked if the recording was limited to members to encourage membership.

Jeffrey Nesson suggested small group meetings limited to first five people that respond and encouraged all individuals to host a meeting. Richard Stolker volunteered to conduct one said meeting. It was questioned whether or not limiting space and no moderator would be fruitful as all parties present may not have enough knowledge about a topic to discuss the same.

- e. Newsletter - The deadline for articles was two days ago, but deadline has been extended. Dan Press now has three articles, Antonio Aquia's being the only timely article received. Mr. Press indicated that he has an article on Supreme Court decisions and on the new Homestead Exemption. Richard Stolker asked if there was a limit on how short or long the articles could be. Mr. Press stated that there was no limit, but if necessary may cut an article if too lengthy. Jeffrey Nesson stated that the MSBA charges for print editions of the newsletter but the electronic version is free.
- f. Marketing - Sari Kurland requested a list of attorneys who have filed bankruptcy cases. Diana Theologou volunteered to provide Ms. Kurland with a list of names if possible. Mr. Caskey said that a list from his office would have to be hand deciphered and compared to the MSBA and Consumer Bankruptcy Section lists. Mr. Nesson stated that the target should be filers who are not section members. Mr. Nesson suggested that brochures should be available at Section 341 meetings and suggested marketing to new inductees by doing public service announcements at induction ceremonies. Mr. Caskey expressed concern that resistance may be had when the court is asked for devotion to a particular organization (ours) versus the BBA or NACBA. Diana Theologou stated that the brochure needs to have substance. Stacey Rogan suggested that items to be included in the brochure are the Brown Bag Luncheon's, the Newsletter and the listserve. Marty Caskey expressed concern over the cost of a brochure. Mr. Nesson indicated that it was a matter for the budget. Mary Park McLean stated that Ms. Kurland should attempt to get the MSBA to underwrite the cost because they ultimately benefit. Bud Tayman suggested using the newsletter as a brochure. Mary Park McLean

suggested that an application for membership be included in the newsletter. Tanya Kripetz stated that she had previously created an application and she will forward it to Mr. Press for inclusion in the newsletter. Antonio Aquia suggested having brochures or pamphlets posted at State Court Clerk's offices for defendants. It was suggested that the Court may not allow said distribution and there was a concern expressed that creditor's counsel may remove the brochures/pamphlets.

- g. Website - Douglas Gorius stated that he had looked into developing a website separate from the MSBA website. He stated that the MSBA stated that it would have to be at our own cost. He stated that the MSBA website is very constrained and Mary Park McLean and Sari Kurland agreed with his assessment. Mr. Gorius indicated that he will continue to look into this. Antonio Aquia and David Portney are working with the MSBA on updating the information that is available on the MSBA website and used an example of a link to a brochure entitled "should I file for bankruptcy" which was written in 1988 and last updated in 1991. It was suggested to offer updating the information for the MSBA in exchange for brochure costs. Jeffrey Nesson suggested contacting John Anderson with the MSBA regarding the Website.
- h. Ocean City – Bud Tayman stated that there was nothing to report at this time.
- i. IT Update - Richard Stolker stated that he had discussed teleconferencing our meetings through Skype with Lawrence Hicks, the IT representative at the MSBA. Mr. Hicks stated to Mr. Stolker that the MSBA has gotomeeting.com capability which is an audio feed with slide presentations. Mr. Stolker requested that Avaya Communications be contacted and Mr. Hicks agreed to contact them but stated that it was most likely not a possibility as Avaya Communications was out of their price range.

- 2. Holiday Party – Candy Thompson was approached about having a holiday party at her house. Ms. Thompson states that she cannot do Christmas or anything near the holidays but would be willing to host a post holiday party in the early spring.

It was decided that a December meeting will be held on Decmeber 16, 2010. Tanya Kripetz and Dan Press suggested a happy hour meeting. Sari Kurland suggested that the location be somewhere near Columbia (a mid-way point). It was suggested that the happy hour occur at the Rams Head Inn in Savage, Maryland. Diana Theologou volunteered to look into a good location and post on the listserv location and time.

- 3. New Business – Mary Park McLean reported on the update of Gordon on Foreclosures. She stated that the real estate section was taking the lead and there was some delay. Douglas Gorius stated that he contacted Judge Schneider regarding the

portrait for Judge Keir. Judge Schneider indicated to Mr. Gorius that it was too early to discuss the matter.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 by the motion of Richard Stolker and seconded by D. Phillip Anderson.