

Maryland State Bar Association
Consumer Bankruptcy Section
Executive Council Meeting
Baltimore, Maryland
Minutes
February 6, 2008

Attendees:

J. Nesson	M. Wolff	A. Gordon	N. Grigsby
M. McLean	D. Piekarz	S. Levenson	C. Coon
M. Cantrell	H. Ammerman	T. Aquia	R. Stolker
L. Robinson	B. Tayman	L. Margulies	C. Krohn
R. Rogers			

MINUTES:

I. Call to Order at 6:20 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:20. M. Wolff, Section President and Executive Council Chair, presided and thanked everyone for coming.

II. No minutes to review for the November 2007 meeting in Rockville, Maryland Meeting Minutes. C. Krohn to submit the minutes at a later date.

III. Nominations Committee Report

Presented by R. Rogers; Chair. Committee comprised of L. Jenkins, council member, and Scott Robinson, non-council member.

Mr. Rogers indicated that roughly 50% of existing council members terms are due to expire at the conclusion of the fiscal year in July. These individuals will be forced to exit the council according to Section Bylaws. The council then informally voted by a showing of hands on whether to amend the bylaws to allow existing council members to remain. The consensus of the council was to intensify recruitment of new members rather than amend the bylaws to retain existing council members. This conforms to the Section's goals of ensuring the regular rotation of leaders so that the organization remains membership-driven.

- IV. CLE Committee, Brown Bag Lunches:
- A. M. McLean reported on a successful Brown Bag on Adversary Proceedings vs. Contested Matters and the need to for better outreach to the Baltimore section of the bar. J. Nesson volunteered to assist with Baltimore Brown Bags.
 - B. A. Gordon reported on Legislative efforts to amend existing state foreclosure law. A discussion ensued regarding the coming MICPEL on Foreclosure Law. The council decided that it would be best to postpone such a program until mid-July or later.
- V. New Matters:
- A. M. Cantrell solicited member responses to the use of the list-serve to post an announcement regarding the formation of a lender-only blog (information exchange)

T. Aquia moved to allow M. Cantrell to post the announcement. R. Rogers seconded. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote of the council.
 - B. Laura Margulies reported on the progress of the Local Rules/ Liaison Committee

A five-point plan was proposed. R. Rogers moved and J. Nesson seconded a motion to post the five-point proposal on-line for a vote by the council within two weeks time. The Motion passed without dissent.

A second motion proposed by S. Levenson and seconded by R. Stolker required that each council member vote on each of the five items on the list. The motion carried by a majority of three votes with nine council members favoring the motion and 6 opposing.
- VI. Bench Initiatives
- M. Wolff discussed two problems of interest to the Bench:
- A. The pro-se problem wherein 25% of consumer bankruptcy filings are filed without assistance of counsel and generally fail; and
 - B. The lawyer competency problem: discussion ensued as to whether the Section ought to establish a separate competency committee or, instead, utilize existing MSBA mentoring programs. The council did not reach consensus on whether the problem was substantive or procedural (i.e., one involving calendaring, time management; escrow fund management and the like).

VII. Adjournment

Upon motion by T. Aquia, seconded by L. Robinson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm.