

Maryland State Bar Association
Consumer Bankruptcy Section
Executive Council Open Meeting
Bar Association Headquarters
Baltimore, Maryland
Minutes
September 4, 2007

Attendees:

J. Nesson	D. Gorius	M. Wolff	R. Grossbart
M. McLean	P. Anderson	M. Caskey	D. Piekarz
M. Cantrell	H. Ammerman	T. Aquia	R. Stolker
L. Robinson	M. Scurti	L. Margulies	

MINUTES:

I. Call to Order

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

II. Review of May 14, 2007 Columbia, Maryland Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the May 14, 2007 council meeting were reviewed by the council. Upon motion by M. Caskey, seconded by D. Gorius, the May 14, 2007 minutes were accepted.

III. Chair's Report

A. Consumer Bankruptcy Section Committees

M. Wolff reviewed the work and goals of each of the Section's Committee's and requested Council members consider what Sections they would be interested supporting in the coming year. The activities of the following sections were discussed: Pro Bono, CLE, Local Rules, Membership, Social, Nominating, Ocean City Presentation, and Legislation. A new Section was explored – the Liaison with Chapter 13 Trustee's Section.

B. Budget

No final budget numbers from last fiscal year were provided; however, M. Wolff was concerned that the Section might have run over budget last year. Discussion regarding fund raising strategies were discussed including a gold outing and packaging of the Ocean City power point presentation as a new member incentive. M. Wolff asked members to consider options for next month's meeting.

C. Maryland Bar Journal

M. Wolff indicated that the next issue would be focused exclusively on bankruptcy issues and noted a lack of submissions from the Section. September 20, 2007 is the deadline for submissions for the next issue. L. Margulies volunteered to submit an article.

D. 2007 MICPEL CLE Programs

The chair noted that both the topics and dates for the Sections mandatory MICPEL presentations had already been selected by MICPEL. The two programs will be held on Thursday, November 29, 2007 Advanced Bankruptcy Matters and on Friday, April 18, 2008 on Foreclosure Matters. MICPEL had allotted a ½ day for the November program and a full-day for the April, 2008 program. M. Wolff indicated that he would like to see more involvement from the Council as a whole.

E. Social Events

Tanya Kripetz was nominated and accepted the position of Chair of the Social Events Committee. M. Wolff solicited assistances from the Council to assist Ms. Kripetz in planning and fund raising for such events.

F. State Bar Foundation

Discussion of the grant cycles ensued – grants are given twice per year. M. Scurti noted that the Section had received such a grant for its Pro Bono project. M. Scurti further noted that the MSBA generally could assist the Section in surveying its membership and compiling survey results. Some discussion regarding a survey in bankruptcy fee-related matters followed.

G. Bench Initiatives

M. Wolff reported that Judge Lipp was soliciting assistance from the Section in mentoring and assisting with problem lawyers.

M. Wolff further reported that Judge Catilota is soliciting assistance for the approximately 20% of filings that can be attributed to pro se filers. Council members expressed concerns regarding fees and attorney liability under the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 2005.

- III. Committee Reports:
None at this first meeting of the fiscal year.
- IV. New Business: Open forum; no new business was discussed.
None
- V. Adjournment

Upon motion by M.Caskey, seconded by D. Gorius, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.