

**DELIVERY OF LEGAL SERVICES**  
**SECTION COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**

**September 15, 2003**

**In attendance:**

Winnie Borden  
Tracy Brown  
Susan Erlichman  
Edward Friedman  
Michele Gilman  
Richard Granat  
Lauren Kallins  
Francine Krumholz  
Amelia Lazarus  
Mark Scurti  
Sally Stanfield  
Bobbie Steyer  
Debra Weimer

The meeting was held at the Maryland Disability Law Center and called to order at 6:40 pm. The minutes of the May 22, 2004 meeting were approved by voice vote.

- A. Mission of the Section Council : Lauren Kallins passed out copies of the Section's Bylaws and asked us to comment on the current Mission Statement contained in Section 2. The scope of such mission was discussed by the group.
  
- B. Work Group Reports:
  - 1. *Mission Outreach*: The group discussed the need for a better connection between the membership in the Section Council and the Committee. Susan Erlichman mentioned that a letter was sent out to Section Council members several years ago jointly with the Nominating Committee and we discussed the feasibility of repeating this effort.
  - 2. *Annual Meeting*: Sharon Goldsmith was absent so this was put on next month's agenda.
  - 3. *IOLTA*: Susan Erlichman reported on the Honor Role Program but stated that the Committee was not advocating this currently due to the low interest rates. Mark Scurti mentioned the U.S. Trustees Program and the possibility of tapping into the unclaimed monies held by Chapter 7 Trustees which are exempt. Susan suggested getting

suggestions from other national organizations on how to increase IOLTA funding. Edward Friedman suggested the possibility of raising filing fees again. Lauren promised to invite Buzz Winchester, or his replacement, to the next meeting.

4. *Loan Forgiveness*: Michele Gilman gave an update on the new program at UB due to the recent grant. Deb Weimer agreed to review the MD statute that provides more general loan forgiveness and report back to the Section Council as to whether there are recommendations we might make to improve the usefulness of the statute.
5. *Lawyer Referral*: Lauren Kallins mentioned the Conference in late Spring which receives \$800 in funding. Winnie Borden discussed the differences between her agency and regular lawyer referral. Mark Scurti mentioned attending the conference last year and stated that they had focused on better marketing. Susan Erlichman, another attendee, mentioned the value of the panel on unbundled services.

C. Liaison Reports:

1. *Legislative Liaisons*: Lauren reported that there was a Committee in the past. She mentioned the debate on the proposed tax on free legal services and stated that the Bars were against this concept. The group also discussed the funding of the judicial system through a direct appropriation last year. Susan reported that the MLSC received a \$425,000 cy pres award, thanks to the work of an MVLS employee.
2. *PBRC*: This report was deferred, as Sharon Goldsmith was not in attendance.

D. Other Reports:

1. *Treasurer's Report*: Amelia Lazarus reported that the current budget is \$8060, with \$800 for the Lawyer Referral Conference, \$4000 for the Annual Meeting, and the balance for food. Amelia asked about the possibility of reducing the food budget and reallocating some of the funds. Mark Scurti, who is a member of the MSBA budget committee, advised that guidelines of the Budget and Finance Committee would not permit such a reallocation.

E. Presentations:

A presentation was given by Richard Granat on web-based law firms, unbundled legal services, and on his own venture, [www.mdfamilylawyer.com](http://www.mdfamilylawyer.com). He gave a demonstration of his own website, explained its operation, and mentioned the conference he had attended three years ago on unbundled legal services. Richard also mentioned NOLO.com, where unbundled legal services are provided, and legalzoom.com, where paralegals provide legal review. Richard suggested that lawyers should be able to offer the same types of services.

Lauren Kallins questioned whether this approach would actually reach the low-income population. Richard Granat explained that these sites and his own are targeting moderate income clients and operate as “virtual” law firms. Another concern expressed by Council members was the feasibility of using limited retainer agreements, as these are not currently recognized under Maryland law.

Following his demonstration, Richard distributed copies of a memo dated July 15, 2003 from Mike Millemann to Bob Rhudy, analyzing the results of the Rodowsky Committee Report on unbundled legal services, a project commissioned by the ABA. Council members discussed the Rodowsky Report and the feasibility of unbundled legal services. Richard suggested forming a workgroup to discover ways in which the Section Council might support such efforts. Susan Erlichman mentioned Ann Crawley’s involvement and Mark Scurti asked about the nexus between this Committee Report and the Collaborative Law Project. Richard Granat offered to contact Ayn Crawley and Dennis Murphy and report back to the Section.

F. Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

Lauren Kallins explained that there was a conflict with the next scheduled meeting date of November 12<sup>th</sup> and promised to e-mail some possible new dates to members. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

**NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR  
NOVEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003  
MD BAR CENTER  
6pm**

*Submitted by Amelia Lazarus, Secretary*