**Maryland State Bar Association, Consumer Bankruptcy Section**

**Council Meeting, November 29, 2017**

**King’s Contrivance, Columbia, MD**

**Call to order**

**Introductions/Attendance**

John Schropp Mary Albrecht Jordan David Mintz

Jeff Nesson Bud Tayman Leslie Pladna

Brett Weiss Michael Wolff Jeanne M. Crouse

Phil Anderson Michael Cantrell Richard S. Stolker

Terri Lowery Rasneek Gujral Richard London

Fred Nix Dan Press

**Approval of Minutes** – October 4, 2017 and October 24, 2017

* 10/4 Correction: Bud is chair of the OC committee, there is no co-chair
* 10/4 Correction: John is not listed as in attendance, but he gave his report
* Minutes with corrections approved
* Need to send to Patrick Tandy to put on the MSBA website

**Treasurer’s Report**

* Budget is correct per Richard Stolker

**Chair Report/Administrative Matters**

SCORE Information

* Representatives from SCORE came to the last meeting and left brochures
* Volunteer service of retired executives that can step in and help with non-legal things

New Council Members

* Terri needs a new nominations chair in January
* Three section members wish to be on the council to fill the vacancies left by Mary Park McLean and Jillian Kindlund
  + Sari Kurland
  + Victor Palmiero
  + William Steinwedel
* Have to pick two of the three, cannot vote in all three
* Vote results:
  + Sari Kurland
  + William Steinwedel

**Committee Reports**

Brown Bag Lunches – Jeff Nesson and Lindsay Rausch

* Lindsey may not be able to assist, therefore Jeff may need help organizing brown bags
* Mike Wolff is presenting the first one on Ch 7 issues at his office
* Dan Press/Brett Weiss will present Ch 11 issues at the next one
* Richard Stolker suggested an evening program with one of the open meetings as people cannot always meet up for lunch
* Brett Weiss/Mary Jordan could do a presentation on LGBT issues and real property
* Jeff suggested that we rename the brown bags in honor of Mary Park McLean who worked so hard to make the brown bag program a success
* Vote results:
  + Approved – Mary Park McLean Brown Bag Program
* Could use as a round table, have a set time to meet regardless of if we have a presenter
* Ch 13 plan? Let trustees do initial trainings and do our own on them when we have experience and know what the issues are
* What are our electronic options?
  + Limit to 8 people who can join
  + Should ask the MSBA tech people
  + Richard Stolker will ask the MSBA tech guy

Newsletter – Jeanne Crouse

* Will get it out this month
* Wayne has been very helpful
* Richard Stolker pointed out that the Labor & Employment section had a $4k bill for production of newsletter

Mediation – Terri Lowery

* Anyone still interested?
* Judge Harner is still trying to set something up

Board of Governors – John Schropp

* Budget/Finance needs to get into shape for MSBA and get a 5 year plan
  + Tate & Tryon completed its audit of the MSBA
  + MSBA Budget & Finance Committee meeting on 11-30-17; John Schropp is attending as a member of the Committee
* CLE Program
  + Want to increase content
  + Want to have more professional programs
  + Trying to create an institute for faculty development
* Updated the best-selling titles
  + Average age of the authors is 75
  + Need to revamp
* Victor Velazquez is making whirlwind changes
  + 56% of MD lawyers are members
  + Problems with keeping members
    - Members do not feel they get any benefit from being part of the MSBA
  + Tech is archaic
  + Mike Wolff suggested that maybe we should give millennial attorneys a form file or a phone a friend session as a benefit of membership
  + Rasneek Gujral suggested we invite Victor to an open meeting
* New bar card with biometrics
  + Anne Arundel and Montgomery will not honor the current card
  + Montgomery does honor the card, but has random search days for everyone
* Need to make a list of ideas to improve membership

Legislative Report – Richard London

* 1st meeting to organize section in January
* Thinks there will be more activity on consumer protection because of the roll back by the feds
* Not all of these changes will help the consumer
* Brett Weiss/Michael Wolff/Rasneek Gujral will work on a round table, possibly with the law schools, with Frosh/practitioners about current issues
  + May bring more membership by getting more involved with students

Ocean City Program – Bud Tayman

* Do not know the date yet
* Organizational phone call hasn’t happened with the tax section yet
* Copyright to materials? No agreement was signed
  + In CLEs, there is an agreement
* Terri volunteered to co-chair
* The conference is June 13-16, our program is usually the Friday, so the 15th

**New Business**

MSBA requests for opinions

* MSBA keeps sending out last minute requests for opinions and it is hard to get opinions that fast from a whole section
* Committee for tax sale – Michael Cantrell
  + Public meeting in November
  + BoG took no position
  + Maybe better notices should be sent out to help homeowners understand the process like they do for foreclosure
  + Sprung on BoG, so how can they decide what their opinion is without time to think about it
  + Smaller counties do not want the expense of foreclosure sales and the current tax certificate sale is more efficient
  + Dan Press suggested the County Attorney sue/foreclose like they do in VA as part of their salaried duties
  + Tax certificate sale creates a question that Due Process is gone
* Difficult to get information out to the section and get an opinion on these issues because they become time sensitive when they are sent out with such a small turn around window
  + People clearly have opinions, but do not send them to Terri is the time allotted
  + Suggested to send out these matters to the Council and give a deadline, then the Council will vote on the differing opinions, then there will be a second vote to adopt one of those opinions
  + Can give a majority view an minority view if a position cannot win approval

MDEC Problems

* Rasneek Gujral brought it up on the list serve because the bankruptcy attorneys will be filing Suggestions of Bankruptcy in state court and should know how to use it before it goes state wide
* Had problems with clerks accepting the Suggestion without a Notice of Appearance and fee
* Richard Stolker reminded group that the rule says to give notice to the state court, it doesn’t say that we have to ensure they accept it. He files it and his obligation is done, regardless of if they reject it
* MDEC has a Notice of Bankruptcy filing code
* Should we do a brown bag on MDEC?
  + MDEC has self-training on the website, so probably unnecessary
* Someone on the list serve was previously a clerk and suggested training for the clerks as the judges are given in-services on these issues, but it’s the clerks that are rejecting them because they are not given the appropriate training
  + Tiffany Franc responded to that e-mail stating that she prepared the presentation for the judges and has the material

**Adjournment** at 8:25 p.m.

Next meeting on January 31, 2018