

**WOMEN & THE LAW SECTION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
AUGUST 31, 2005, 12:30 P.M.  
GREENBERG TRAUIG, LLP, WILMINGTON, DE**

IN ATTENDANCE: Mindy Clifton, Lydia Swann Cox, Maria Paris Newill, Jill DiSciullo, Debbie Gottschalk, Kathaleen McCormick, Susanna McDonald, Dana Spring, Sheriden Black, Jacqueline Powell, Suzanne Seubert, and Megan Mantzavinos

**I. APPROVAL OF APRIL 2005 AND MAY 2005 MINUTES.**

The minutes of the April and May 2005 meetings were unanimously approved (M. Newill moved; S. Seubert Seconded).

**II. LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE - Debbie Gottschalk reported.**

The Subcommittee currently consists of two members, but they are always looking for more.

The Subcommittee monitors legislation of interest of the Section, and hosts the Section's annual meeting with State Legislators. This year's meeting is expected to be held in February. Neither the Subcommittee nor the Section takes a position on many issues due to constraints imposed by DSBA. A notable exception to this is the Section's endorsement last year of H.B.36. In addition, the Subcommittee helped draft the most recent amendments to H.B.36. The Bill passed in the house last year, but was still in committee in the Senate as of the end of the last legislative session.

An item of interest for the Subcommittee this year is a possible amendment to the Landlord - Tenant Code to permit victims of domestic violence to get out of a lease early (the Landlord-Tenant Code currently permits tenants in certain specified circumstances to break their leases). The proposed legislation does not have a sponsor yet, although a number of agencies, including the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, are interested in it. The question was raised whether the Section would be interested in taking the lead in finding a sponsor for and pursuing the legislation. This will be on the agenda at the October meeting.

**III. SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEMALE INCARCERATION: Suzanne Seubert reported.**

Following the press conference held at the (unopened) Women's Level 4 facility last May, the Governor put together an effort to get the facility opened. An opening ceremony is scheduled for a Saturday in late September or early October.

The main project of the Subcommittee recently was opening the Level 4 facility. The Subcommittee's other projects include monthly visits with the girls at the New Castle County

Detention Center. Also, the Subcommittee's efforts were instrumental in getting Grace Cottage re-opened.

Lydia Cox raised the issue of the e-mail which was distributed in ListServ last week regarding disparate DUI sentences for men and women. The issue is being investigated by the attorney general's office. Presently, it is believed to be a DOC problem.

A Second DUI conviction carries a mandatory 60-day prison sentence. Women uniformly serve the entire 60 days, but men serve only 7 days, with the remainder under house arrest. It is presently believed that the reason for this is that there is no room in the men's facilities to keep the DUI offenders for more than 7 days, but there is room in the women's facility to keep them for the entire 60 days. It is noted that, regardless, the treatment is very obviously disparate.

The matter was referred to the Subcommittee on Female Incarceration for further handling.

IV. GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR CHILDCARE SUBCOMMITTEE - Mindy Clifton reported that the Section is a longtime supporter of the awards, but that this is the first year we have taken an active roll in the awards. The awards dinner is on September 22, at the Sheraton in Dover. There will be several exhibition tables geared toward the childcare providers in attendance and four or five volunteers from the Section are needed to staff the tables, and to help distribute the awards.

V. ROXANA ARSHT SCHOLARSHIP SILENT AUCTION - Mindy Clifton reported

The auction will be held on November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Hotel DuPont. Patty Schwartz is coordinatng the event and needs about 20 volunteers at the Silent Auction tables. She is also still look for donations.

The award is a fellowship to subsidize the income of a new attorney who is working in or wants to accept work in the public sector. The recipient must be no more than three years out of law school.

VI. LADIES' NIGHT OUT

The Section's annual "Ladies' Night Out" will be held at Patty Schwartz's house at 6:00 on November 2. Patty will coordinate the potluck: once you RSVP, she will tell you what to bring.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS - Mindy Clifton

A. Reorganization of Subcommittees - The Sections subcommittees currently include Awards, the Governor's Awards for Excellence in Childcare, the Subcommittee on Female Incarceration, the Legislative Subcommittee, the Delaware Human Rights Subcommittee, and the

Technology Subcommittee. Sign-up sheets for each Subcommittee were passed around.

The Section needs a new representative to the DSBA's Technology Committee. Susanna McDonald volunteered to be the Section's Technology Representative.

The Technology Committee was charged with coordinating a Section Directory, to be located on the Section's webpage.

A new Subcommittee was established, called the Recruitment Subcommittee, with Jill DiScullo as chair.

B. Annual Retreat - The Retreat is expected to be scheduled for March or April of 2006. Patty Schwartz will handle the CLE, a program designed for Enhanced Ethics credits.

We will still need a committee for Friday night activities. This will be formed closer to the event.

C. Morgan Stanley Information - Susan Haggerty of Morgan Stanley has approached the Section to determine whether we would be interested in a short presentation on financial planning. It was determined that there was interest in a presentation. It will be scheduled for March or April (whichever month we do not schedule the Retreat). The possibility of approaching Ms. Haggerty about a money management program for the girls at the detention center was raised.

D. Judicial Openings - Suzanne Seubert noted that the Awards Subcommittee started out as a Nomination Committee to help attract attention to women candidates for judicial openings. Currently, there is one opening in Superior Court, and two or three in Family Court.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:15 p.m.

**WOMEN & THE LAW SECTION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
NOVEMBER 2, 2005, 6:00 P.M.  
PATTY SCHWARTZ'S RESIDENCE, WILMINGTON, DE**

IN ATTENDANCE: Section membership, including Patricia Schwartz, Cheryl Ward, Mindy Clifton, Maria Newill, Betty McGeever, Susanna McDonald, and Megan Mantzavinos

**I. ROXANA ARSHT FELLOWSHIP SILENT AUCTION UPDATE.** Patty Schwartz reported that she is still seeking donations of gift baskets for the Silent Auction. She decided not to do the Wheel of Fortune which was discussed at the last meeting as an additional fundraiser; opting instead to have five items to raffle at the check-in table. It was thought that this might be a good way to take up the time needed to collect the bid sheets on the Silent Auction items. Patty is still looking for volunteers for the event.

**II. RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE.** Mindy Clifton reported that the committee is planning a happy hour for one week after the swearing in ceremony, which is on December 9. The Happy Hour will be held in Wilmington; the committee is currently looking into Washington Street Alehouse Cavanaugh's was suggested as another possible location. The committee is planning on sending e-vites to new admittees.

**III. NEW BUSINESS.** A daycare center Rule Revision task force. Mindy Clifton reported that the Task Force was approached the Section for support with drafting and presenting revisions to the rules. Mindy has agreed to represent the Section on the task force, but encouraged any other Section members with a special interest in daycare regulations to consider taking her place.

IV. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:20 p.m.



WOMEN AND THE LAW  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
December 7, 2005

IN ATTENDANCE: Victoria Watson Counihan, Mindy Clifton, Jill DiSciullo, Kathaleen McCormick, Susanna McDonald, Patricia Bartley, Cathy Reese, Karen Jacobs Loudon

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the October and November, 2005 meeting minutes were approved.

LADIES NIGHT OUT: Patty Schwartz reported that the Event was fun, food was good and the section collected many books for the women's Level IV facility book drive.

ROXANNA ARSHT FELLOWSHIP SILENT AUCTION: Patty Schwartz reported that the auction was a success. \$17,000 was raised on items donated (including \$1100 in the raffle) and \$12,000 in cash contributions was also raised (with \$10,000 of that being a cash contribution by Adrienne Arsht). Patty is interested in soliciting volunteers to take over the silent auction in 2 years. She said the 140 items she got were not hard to get. It was discussed that we should add minimum bids and minimum bid increments next time and it was decided that once every two years is enough. It was discussed that having the brochure on line in advance was helpful and open bar was helpful. Patty reported that the application process for the scholarship is done once every 3 years and is organized by Regina Mullen.

RECRUITMENT SUBCOMMITTEE: Jill DiSciullo reported that there will be a Happy Hour at Washington Street Ale House on December 13 from 5:30 to 7:30 and we will invite new admittees to the bar by passing out flyers at the new admission conference and by asking each section member to bring someone.

LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE: Kathaleen McCormick reported that there was no update on H.B. 36; that we should let Kathaleen or Deb Gottschalk know of any topics we are interested in for the February legislators meeting; and asked the Section to co-sponsor an informational session on February 22<sup>nd</sup> for issues of gender based housing discrimination and eviction for domestic violence, which the Section voted to sponsor at the \$100 level.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEMALE INCARCERATION:

1. It was reported that the Level IV facility's library is now full.
2. The Subcommittee is looking into some health issues in the prison system.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AWARD: Nominations are due March 1, 2006.

RETREAT: Patty Schwartz reported that the retreat is planned for April 7, 2006 at the Bellmoor in Rehoboth, DE. The program will be enhanced ethics of at least 3 credits, but

the topic has not yet been selected. It was discussed that the Friday Night committee should consider giving door prizes.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE: Susanna McDonald reported that she attended the DSBA Meeting and discussed the technology updates, including video conferencing between Dover and Wilmington for Section meetings, updating web pages and section directories on line.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Social Listserve - the DSBA reported a complaint by one person that the Section's listserve was being used for social announcements and suggested creating a separate listserve for social events. The Section decided not to create a separate listserve at this time.

B. Day Care Center Rule Revision Task Force - Mindy Clifton reported attending a meeting on the rule revisions and that the revisions will have a rough impact on purchase of care day cares. It was discussed that this is an important issue that the Section should discuss more fully before pushing any legislators to take action, so it was decided it should be discussed at the January meeting and we should consider whether to bring it up at the February legislators meeting.

C. DSBA is looking for non-profit attorneys and people experienced with non-profits that could be hired to work or serve on boards.



**WOMEN & THE LAW SECTION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2006, 12:30 P.M.  
OFFICES OF GREENBERG TRAUIG, WILMINGTON, DE**

IN ATTENDANCE: Mindy Clifton, Susanna McDonald, Maria Newill, Cheryl Ward, Debbie Gottschalk, Suzanne Seubert, Jessica Zeldin, Sheriden Black, Megan Mantzavinos.

**I. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES:** The minutes of the December meeting were unanimously approved.

**II. RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE:** Mindy Clifton reported for Jill DiSciullo on the happy hour the Section held for new admittees on December 13. Invitations to the happy hour could not go out until a few days before because the Bar Examiners could not release the names of the admittees until after the swearing-in ceremony. Still, the turnout was good, with new admittees and section members in attendance.

**III. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Debbie Gottschalk reported:

- 0.1 No significant developments with regard to H.B.36;
- 0.2 The proposed legislation to amend the landlord-tenant code to allow victims of domestic violence to terminate a lease is still in the drafting phase; and,
- 0.3 Invitations to the legislative luncheon went out in early January. It is scheduled for February 1 (in lieu of the Section's regular February meeting), in the Community Service Building.

**IV. SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEMALE INCARCERATION:** Suzanne Seubert reported that the Subcommittee has not met in a few months, but has still been working on securing computer equipment and training for the Women's Level IV Facility. Specifically, the grant application is proceeding; however, it was learned that the University of Delaware has already donated 2-3 computers, and that the Department of Labor may have more. The next step will be to contact the Level IV Facility to determine what their needs are. Assuming that the Level IV Facility's needs are met, the question was raised whether the grant application might be directed toward getting equipment for Grace Cottage or the Detention Center.

The next Subcommittee meeting is to be determined.

**V. AWARDS COMMITTEE:** Suzanne Seubert reported that the Section was seeking nominations for the Women's Leadership Award, as well as women nominees for some of the other awards given by the Bar Association. A list of the awards given was distributed, and it was noted that not all of the awards are annual. Several potential nominees were discussed, but the

Committee is asking for as diverse a pool of nominees as possible. The deadline for nominations for the Women's Leadership Award is sometime in February.

**VI. RETREAT:** The Annual Retreat will be held on April 7-8, at the Bellmoor Inn Spa Garden Conference Center in Rehoboth Beach. The Friday night committee will be meeting shortly. The CLE topic has still not been determined.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Mindy Clifton reported that the National Association of Women Business Owners is having a networking event on February 23, from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn on Naaman's Road. Section members were invited to attend.
2. Debbie Gottschalk queried on the status of revisions to the daycare regulations. It has been determined that exemptions to the rules cannot be made through the rules themselves, but will have to be done through legislation.

Another concern is that the regulations, while they will improve quality of care, could raise the cost of care and put some centers out of business. There is also a negative effect on government subsidized "purchase of care" children.

It was noted that the issue needs further discussion among the Section before we take a position.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m.



**WOMEN & THE LAW SECTION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
MARCH 1, 2006, 12:30 P.M.  
OFFICES OF GREENBERG TRAUIG, WILMINGTON, DE**

IN ATTENDANCE: Maria Paris Newill, Cheryl Ward, Chris Demsey, Julia Graff, Stephanie Symons, Suzanne I. Seubert, Margaret Juliano, Karen Jacobs Loudon, Kathaleen McCormick, Jessica Zeldin, Miranda Clifton, Victoria Counihan, Megan Mantzavinos.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the January 4, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

**II. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Kathaleen McCormick reported:

- 0.1 H.B.36: No new developments to report;
- 0.2 Landlord/Tenant Issues for Victims of Domestic violence.
  - A. Legislation: A meeting of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council to discuss the proposed legislation is scheduled for today. The current version of the proposed legislation has support from the Landlords' Association. Senator Blevins has agreed to sponsor the bill. The Landlords' Association did not support additional amendments to the proposed legislation. The plan is to go forward with the version approved by the Landlords' Association.
  - B. Domestic Violence Housing training event recap was provided by Kathaleen McCormick.
- 0.3 Legislative Luncheon report. The turnout for the luncheon was great; Debbie Gottschalk is interested in feedback on the format of the luncheon. The discussion on childcare regulations was raised, and it was questioned whether the Section was interested in taking a position, and whether a presentation of some sort to educate Section members would be helpful.

Debbie Gottschalk did a great job of putting the luncheon together and should be acknowledged.

**III. SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEMALE INCARCERATION:** Suzanne Seubert reported.

The discussion centered around the grant application which was made for computers for the Level IV facility, since it turned out that the computers were not necessary. It was

reported that the nonprofit organization which applied for the grant changed it to further one of their own projects.

- IV. **RETREAT:** Mindy Clifton reported that the brochures for the retreat were recently mailed. The CLE has been put together and was included in the program.

Cheryl Ward reported on the activities of the Friday night committee. She asked Retreat attendees to bring a business card to the Friday night event.

It was reported that the Section has approached several vendors about the possibility of donating door prizes for Friday night.

A question was raised whether the Section should set money aside to pay for supplement attendance at the retreat (specifically, lawyers in public service or smaller firms, whose employers do not cover the cost.) **A motion was made to make \$500 available to distribute at the discretion of the Retreat Committee as scholarships for individuals to attend the Retreat. Notice of the availability of the scholarships will be given in an e-mail about the retreat. The motion was seconded, came to a vote, and was carried with unanimous approval.**

- V. **GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION:** Mindy Clifton reported that the Subcommittee is in need of members. It was noted that the Subcommittee raised over \$18,000 for last year's awards.

- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:** 2 items raised

1. Materials from the Coalition on Human needs was circulated. The materials address proposed Federal deficit reduction legislation which would cut funding for Medicaid, student loans and other programs. The legislation passed the House. It was noted that the Section would not be able to take a position on the legislation, but that individual Section members may want to consider doing so.
2. The University of Delaware and the Delaware Commission for Women is holding a Women's Leadership conference on March 7 or March 8. The Conference is hosting a number of women from Afghanistan. The Section has not been contacted directly about the event, but more information can be posted on Listserv if it is received.

- VII. **AWARDS COMMITTEE:** Suzanne Seubert reported that the Women's Leadership award would not be presented at the Bench & Bar Conference. The committee had a slate of names ready and recommended that the Section vote on them today, but was willing to open deliberations for the consideration of additional nominees.

**The committee recommended that the Section nominate Claire DeMatteis, The Honorable Mary Johnston and Karen Jacobs Loudon. Each nominee's credentials were discussed and excerpts from the nomination forms read. A motion was made to submit the slate of nominees to DSBA's Awards Committee in the order noted above. The Motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:35 p.m.



WOMEN & THE LAW SECTION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
MAY 3, 2006, 12:30 P.M.  
GREENBERG TAURIG, WILMINGTON, DE

IN ATTENDANCE: Susanna McDonald, Victoria Counihan, Mindy Clifton, Megan Mantzavinos, Debbie Gottschalk, Kathaleen McCormick, Diane Clarke Streett, Jessica Zeldin, Suzanne I. Seubert, Chris Demsey, Claire DeMatteis

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the March 1, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

II. LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE: Debbie Gottschalk reported. There are no action items, but the subcommittee is providing a list of pending legislation believed to be of interest to the Section. The process which must be used for the Section to endorse legislation takes 3 months.

- \* internet hunting
- \* age restrictions on certain video games
- \* S.B. 274 (termination of leases for victims of domestic violence)  
passed the Senate
- \* bill re: minimum mandatory sentencing
- \* bill re: healthcare in prisons (has been introduced, but is not expected to go anywhere)
- \* bill to exempt nursing mother from jury duty

Other matters of interest which may be introduced next year:

\* extending Family Court jurisdiction to cover foreign children (18-21) who have agreed out of foster care, but cannot return to their native countries, to obtain immigrant status.

\* effort to increase purchase of care for daycare to 75% of market rate (this issue in particular was one which it was agreed that the Section should focus on next year, with an eye toward getting executive committee approval to endorse legislation.

III. SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEMALE INCARCERATION: Nothing to report.

IV. GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDCARE EDUCATION: Claire DeMatteis reported. There is concern about whether it is worth continuing the awards. It may have run its course, but we are going to try it one more time, this time with more advertising downstate. The awards dinner is September 28.

V. RETREAT: Mindy Clifton reported positive feedback, and a record to turnout of 70 attendees. Next year's retreat will be March 3 and 4.

WOMEN & THE LAW SECTION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
September 6, 2006  
GREENBERG TAURIG, WILMINGTON, DE

IN ATTENDANCE: Mindy Clifton, Debbie Gottschalk, Paulette Sullivan Moore, Jessica Zeldin, Megan Mantzavinos

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the May 3, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

II. GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDCARE & EDUCATION: Mindy Clifton reported that planning for the awards is going smoothly. Claire DeMatteis is coordinating the awards this year, and has shifted the focus for soliciting donations from law firms to corporations. The amount raised - about \$18,500 - is roughly equal to the amount we raised last year.

III. LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE: Debbie Gottschalk reported.

A. The bill to amend the Landlord - Tenant Code to allow victims of domestic violence to terminate their leases passed. The bill signing ceremony was held in June.

B. The non-discrimination bill died in the Senate.

C. The proposal to impose age restrictions on video games did not go anywhere. A similar law was recently struck down as unconstitutional in Illinois.

D. The bill relating to minimum mandatory sentencing did not pass. Nor did the bill relating to healthcare in prisons.

E. The bill to exempt nursing mothers from jury duty was pulled once the judiciary expressed its opinions that the bill was not necessary.

F. The bill which would extend Family Court jurisdiction for refugee children aging out of foster care hit a roadblock.

G. The purchase of care was increased, but not by very much, and in any event, the increase does not come near 75% of the market rate. It is expected that they will seek to increase the number of families who have a co-pay.

H. Regarding plans for the legislative luncheon, we will probably wait to have it in February. There are 5 open seats in the House this year, so December may be a little too soon.



I. Senator Henry had introduced legislation to prohibit consideration of individuals' credit rating in setting insurance premiums. There was a counter proposal which was influenced by the insurance industry, and the bill failed, but it did open a dialogue on the issue.

J. The bill regarding a pilot needle exchange program in the City of Wilmington passed.

K. In the next legislative session, there may be a proposal to amend the Landlord-Tenant Code to prohibit landlords from evicting victims of domestic violence because of calls to the police for domestic disputes. The provision was removed from the bill relating to early termination of leases because it lacked the support of the Landlords' Association.

IV. LADIES' NIGHT OUT will be on 11/1, in lieu of the November meeting.

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Reception for new Widener Dean. The Section had originally been asked to help plan the DSBA's reception for the law school's new Dean. Now we are only being asked to make a financial contribution. There was discussion regarding what, if anything, the Section should do. A notion was made to donate \$125.00 to area women's shelters, and to purchase a gift (such as a pen) to be given along with a letter indicating we had donated money, and extending an open invitation to our meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Turnout for this year's Bench and Bar Conference was high.

C. Combined Campaign for Justice 2006. Volunteers are needed to make calls to Delaware attorneys to remind them about the Combined Campaign.

D. Grace Cottage visit. The next visit is September 21. The Section is paying for refreshments.

E. Annual Picnic. Thanks to Tania Culley for hosting again.

F. Section Members have authored two articles to appear in ABA Publications. The first is an article about a former female judge who was interviewed by Betsy McGeever. The second, by Claire DeMatteis, is a look at the progression of woman lawyers in Delaware.

G. Governor's Early Childhood Care & Education Council. Mindy is looking for alternate representatives to represent the Section on the Council. The meetings are from 9 - 12 on the second Friday of every month.

H. Overview of activities in 2006-2007 year.

\* the Subcommittee on female incarceration seems to have fallen by the wayside; revitalizing this subcommittee might be a good topic for discussion at the next Ladies'



Night out.

- I. Governor's Summit on Early Childhood Education - October at Dover Downs.