

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.

**WOMEN & THE LAW SECTION
MINUTES OF MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 2006, 12:30 P.M.
OFFICES OF GREENBERG TRAUIG, WILMINGTON, DE**

IN ATTENDANCE: Mindy Clifton, Maria Paris Newill, Jessica Zeldin, Susanna McDonald, Paulette Sullivan Moore, Matt Rifino, Victoria Counihan, Megan Mantzavinos.

I. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES: Subject to Amendments proposed by Kathaleen McCormick, the Minutes of the October Meeting were approved.

II. LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE: Kathaleen McCormick reported:

A. Mindy Clifton mentioned the possibility that the Legislators' Luncheon might be moved to the Second Wednesday in February.

B. There are no updates regarding the proposed changes to the elective share legislation discussed at the October meeting.

III. LADIES' NIGHT OUT RECAP: Mindy Clifton reported that, as usual, the event was well attended. Thanks to Claire DeMatteis for opening her home to the Section for the event.

A brief business meeting was held during the November 1 event, during which Mindy Clifton reported that the Bar Association had approached the Section about co-sponsoring a seminar addressing the topic of stress management, called "Rules of the Jungle." The Section members in attendance voted unanimously to participate.

IV. RULES OF THE JUNGLE SEMINAR: Mindy Clifton reported that the seminar was scheduled for December 7 at DSBA headquarters in Wilmington and for January 25 at the Terry Campus in Dover. It will also be presented in Georgetown on a date to be announced. Registration for the Wilmington presentation is closed.

V. DELAWARE COALITION FOR WOMEN COAT DRIVE: Mindy Clifton reported that we are working on this project with the Delaware Coalition for women. Donations can be dropped off at Claire DeMatteis's office - there is no deadline or end date.

VI. NEW ADMITTEE HAPPY HOUR: Mindy Clifton reported tentative plans for a happy hour in January or February. There was discussion regarding the difficulty we have had in years past getting contact information for people who have not yet been admitted. It was also noted that low turnout among new admittees has been a problem with this event.

It was proposed that the Section make money available to subsidize attendance of new admittees at the Retreat. The possibility of making eight \$50 scholarships available to anyone admitted to the bar in 2006 or 2007, on a first-come, first-served basis was discussed. This was discussed as an alternative to hosting a happy hour. A Motion was made to make the scholarships available. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. The Grace Cottage visit for December has been moved up one week to December 14. Questions should be directed to Judge Crowell.

B. The Annual Retreat is scheduled for March 2 and 3 at the Bellmoor in Rehoboth Beach. The food for the Friday night event will be the same as last year. Andrea Rocanelli is coordinating the CLE. The Friday night committee will begin meeting after the holidays.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Paulette Sullivan Moore reported that proposed amendments to the PFA Statute are being worked on for the upcoming legislative session.

B. Debbie Gottschalk reported that the new Womens' Level IV facility is being used as a drug treatment facility and not for work release. Women on work release are still going to the Plummer Center. In addition, it was noted that even if the facility were being used for work release, there are some issues regarding safety and the facility's accessibility to public transportation.

There was discussion about possible revival of the Subcommittee on female incarceration, and possibly inviting someone who has more familiarity with the facility to come speak to the Section.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.

**WOMEN & THE LAW SECTION
MINUTES OF MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2007, 12:30 P.M.
OFFICES OF GREENBERG TRAUIG, WILMINGTON, DE**

IN ATTENDANCE: Debbie Gottschalk, Stephanie Symons, Pam Meitner, Matthew Rifino, Paulette Sullivan Moore, Victoria Counihan, Susanna McDonald, Mindy Clifton, Megan Mantzavinos.

I. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES: Passed.

II. LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE: Debbie Gottschalk.

A. The legislator's luncheon will be held February 7 from 12:30 - 2:00 in the First Floor Conference Room in the Community Service Building.

Paulette Sullivan Moore made a motion that the Section buy lunch for all attendees of the luncheon. The Motion was seconded by Victoria Counihan and passed by unanimous vote.

Section members' invitation to the luncheon will be distributed through the list serv. RSVP to Debbie Gottschalk.

Legislative issues of interest to the Section have been communicated to the legislators.

B. Bill tracking will start again now that the legislature is back in session. Someone from the legislature subcommittee checks every Friday for bills which may be of interest to the Section.

Section members should let Debbie know if there is any legislation which might be of interest to the Section. Former House Bill 36 will be re-introduced this year. Other possible legislation which may be proposed this year include: 1) a bill which would prohibit consideration of a person's credit score in setting insurance premiums; 2) possible extension of Family Court jurisdiction to individuals up to age 21; and, 3) expansion of persons protected by the PFA statute, and possible provisions for better enforcement of violations.

III. RULES OF JUNGLE SEMINAR: Mindy Clifton reported that the New Castle County seminar in December was full, and got positive reviews. The Kent County seminar is scheduled for January 25 at the Del Tech Terry Campus. The Sussex County seminar hasn't been scheduled.

The seminar fulfills the Enhanced Ethics CLE requirement. A tape of the seminar is available for viewing.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Retreat. Andrea Rocanelli is coordinating the CLE on the topic of mentoring. The Bellmoor has offered discounted oceanfront rooms and spa packages for anyone who stays

on Thursday night.

We need someone to coordinate the Friday night activity.

V. NEW BUSINESS: Mindy Clifton reported that we are working on this project with the

A. Delaware Coalition for Human Rights agenda. The “agenda” is a list of the issues the coalition expects to see in 2007. Includes elder law issues/advance healthcare directions and the Level IV facility. Mindy will be contacting Brian Bartley and Judge Delpesco and inviting them to speak about the status of womens’ prisons.

B. Mindy reported that she received a thank you note from Peoples’ Place for the Sections donation in honor of Dean Ammons.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:20 p.m.

WOMEN & THE LAW SECTION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2007, 12:30 - 1:30 P.M.
GREENBERG TRAUIG OFFICES, WILMINGTON, DE

IN ATTENDANCE: Stephanie Symons, Debbie Gottschalk, Christine Demsey, Pam Meitner, Suzanne Seubert, Victoria Counihan, Paulette Sullivan Moore, Mindy Clifton, Megan Mantzavinos.

I. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES: The minutes of the December, 2006 and January, 2007 meetings were approved unanimously, with changes to Section VIII of the December minutes.

II. LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE: Debbie Gottschalk reported that the DSBA lobbyist has asked for all DSBA legislative initiatives by April 30. We are not going to have time to do what is necessary to officially support legislation by then, but we do have time to notice legislation for approval at the May meeting.

Specific legislation which has been identified as being of interest to the Section.

- The SURJ bill on Mandatory Minimum sentences passed the house. It does not need our support.

- SB9 (non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation) has not been introduced yet.

- SB10 (extending benefits for State employees to domestic partners, regardless of marital status or sexual orientation).

- SB31 (to prohibit use of credit score in setting auto insurance premiums).

- SB65 & 66 (one is to increase the purchase of care amount for childcare vouchers, the other introduces a framework for childcare centers to be rated and to set higher purchase-of-care reimbursement rates for higher - rated centers).

- SB57 (to extend protection of the PFA statute to dating and same-sex couples).

Debbie will send out an e-mail with the bills attached. There was discussion of inviting Evelyn Keating of the Family and Workplace Connection to address questions regarding SB 65&66, and Sen. Blevins and Rep. Marshall to address questions regarding SB57.

There was discussion regarding possible legislation to open Family Court proceedings. The Section has never discussed whether to take a position on the issue, but we may want to coordinate with the Family Law Section.

III. RULES OF JUNGLE SEMINAR: Mindy Clifton reported that the Sussex County seminar will be held on May 22, at the Delaware Tech campus in Georgetown.

IV. 15TH ANNUAL RETREAT: Mindy Clifton reported a good turnout, and an excellent speaker. Next year's retreat will be held on February 29 and March 1 at The Bellmoor. Patty Schwartz will coordinate the CLE.

V. ANNUAL PICNIC: Mindy Clifton reported that the picnic will be held on June 13 at Tania Culley's home. A brief business meeting will be held so the Section can elect new officers. Megan Mantzavinos offered to coordinate refreshments.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Membership directory. The Section has been discussing compiling a membership directory for some time, possibly making it accessible from the Section's web page.

Suzanne Seubert and Victoria Counihan offered to chair a subcommittee to work on a directory.

B. Governor's Childcare Awards. The 9th annual awards have been termed a "transitional year." They will be cutting down on the number of awards given, and using it as a vehicle to introduce the STARS program. The Section is transitioning out of primary sponsorship. We will need volunteers for the awards, which may be held at the Hotel DuPont instead of in Dover.

C. Section Dues for 2007-2008. DSBA has asked whether we want to increase our Section dues from \$20 to \$25. It was noted that we have money left over every year, and there was concern that if dues were increased, it might discourage younger lawyers, DAGs, nonprofit attorneys, and public defenders from joining. It was decided to keep the annual dues at \$20.

D. Allocation of leftover funds from 2006-2007. Last year, we put half the leftover funds in the `Arsht Fellowship and half in the Governor's awards. Grace Cottage expenses have been covered out of operating funds. The Section moved to allocate the remaining funds the same as last year, ½ to the Roxana Arsht Fellowship and ½ to the Governor's Award.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:42 p.m.

WOMEN & THE LAW SECTION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2007, 12:30 - 1:30 P.M.
GREENBERG TRAURIG OFFICES, WILMINGTON, DE

IN ATTENDANCE: Mindy Clifton, Victoria Counihan, Debbie Gottschalk, Jennifer Ranji, Suzanne Seubert, Megan Mantzavinos

I. APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES: The minutes of the April, 2007 Meeting were approved unanimously, subject to one change in Section II (changing the word "respond" to "extend" in the section relating to SB57.

II. CHILDCARE SUBCOMMITTEE Evelyn Keating of the Family and Workplace Connection attended the Section meeting to explain the Stars Program, a quality rating and improvement system for childcare facilities. Similar programs are currently used in 22 other states. Presently, fifteen facilities in Delaware are participating in a pilot program and voluntarily submitting to the rating system. Delaware's program will be mandatory only for facilities which receive state or federal money, and purchase of care reimbursement rates will correspond to a provider's Stars rating.

There was discussion of purchase of care issues generally, including concerns about facilities which are already struggling with low reimbursement rates, and how such facilities will be able to implement many of the requirements of the Stars program, e.g. hiring and retaining degreed teachers (though it was noted that many components of the program do not cost anything).

III. LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE: Debbie Gottschalk reported regarding Senate Bill 57 (to expand the protection of the Protection from Abuse Statute to dating couples), and the difficulties that the proposed legislation has encountered in defining the types of dating relationships which will be subject to the protection of the statute. Other states list factors for the court to consider in determining whether the relationship is "substantial;" the Family Law Section is comfortable with this approach. There were also concerns over projections that Family Court's PFA caseload would increase by 200-250 cases per year statewide; however, the court at this point anticipates being able to handle the increase without additional funding.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

An additional business meeting will be held on May 31 for the purpose of electing officers and voting on the Women's Leadership Award.

WOMEN AND THE LAW
MINUTES OF MEETING
May 31, 2007

IN ATTENDANCE: Victoria Watson Counihan, Mindy Clifton, Kathaleen McCormick, Pamela Meitner, Debbie Gottchalk, Jessica Zeldin

RULES OF THE JUNGLE SEMINAR: Mindy Clifton reported the seminars were a success. DuPont is even using the video and the model for an in house program. So far the section has provided 250 CLE participants to DSBA seminars this year.

OFFICERS: The slate of new officers for 2007 - 2009 were voted on and approved as follows:

Chair - Maria Newell
Vice-Chair - Victoria Watson Counihan
Secretary - Megan Mantavinos

ANNUAL PICNIC: The annual picnic is June 13, 2007 at Tania Culley's house. RSVP's to Megan Mantavinos.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AWARD: The Nominating Subcommittee selected Judge Mary Johnston to receive this year's award. Runner up was Karen Jacobs Loudon. Also considered by the Subcommittee were Drew Fennell and Helen Winslow. Those present voted on the selection and it was approved.

LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE: Debbie Gottschalk reported on the Legislative Subcommittee's recent meeting and recommended the section support several legislative measures this session, as follows:

- A. As a result of the meeting with legislators, the section was invited by Senator Sorenson to come to the Family Law Forum meeting on June 14, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the issue of opening up Family Court proceedings further. All section members are invited to attend. It will be held in Dover.
- B. Both bills updating the marriage laws already passed both houses, so no position is needed by the section. One updated the current law on underage marriage and the other updated the law on marriage of the mentally ill.
- C. Senate bill 57 - which expands the definition of PFA to include dating and same sex couples - was discussed. The Subcommittee recommended the section support the bill. It was voted on and approved.
- D. Senate Bill 110 - which prohibits landlords from discriminating against victims of domestic violence in evictions or not renting to them - was discussed. The Subcommittee recommended the section support the bill. It was voted on and approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Pamela Meitner reported on a new U.S. Supreme Court case of Ledbetter that ruled that a woman was not discriminated against even though she was the lowest paid of six other men in her same position, based on a technicality that she didn't report the discriminatory acts to the EEOC within 180 days.
- B. Debbie Gottschalk reported on the Multicultural Judges and Lawyer's Section's Diversity Retreat.
- C. Mindy Clifton reported that the section received a letter from Evelyn Keating that purchase of care funding had dropped and urging section members to address this need with their representatives.
- D. Governor's Awards for Excellence in Early Childcare and Education - Mindy Clifton reported that the awards banquet would be held on October 4, 2007 and it was being considered whether to hold it in New Castle County at the Hotel DuPont this year, although a final decision had not yet been made.