

WOMEN & THE LAW

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2008

12:30-1:30 p.m.

GREENBERG TRAUIG

IN ATTENDANCE: Lauren Maquire, Judge Crowell, Paula Reid, Nancy Stanford, Ayesha Chacko, Mindy Clifton, Pam Meitner, Maria Paris Newill, Christine Demsey, Megan Mantzavinos

I. APPROVAL OF MAY, 2008 MINUTES. Passed

II. GRACE COTTAGE

Judge Crowell gave an explanation of what Grace Cottage is and how she and the Section became interested in it. They are planning this year's activities and visitations, and welcome the Section's support. The Section has paid for pizza for the monthly visits to Grace Cottage for the past few years, but the program does not need additional support right now.

ACTION ITEM: A motion was made to continue support for the Grace Cottage program. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

III. GOVERNOR'S CHILDCARE AWARDS

Mindy Clifton provided details for the event, which is scheduled for September 23, along with copies of the invitation. The Section donated \$1,300 to the event this year, and an additional \$14-16,000 was raised.

IV. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Arsht Fellowship. The Section donated \$1,300 to the Fellowship.

B. CLE. (To be addressed under Retreat heading)

C. LEGISLATIVE. Paulette Sullivan Moore is now chairing this committee, and is looking for volunteers

V. 2009 RETREAT

Mindy Clifton reported that the Retreat has been rescheduled for February 27 and 28. Like last year, there will be a Friday afternoon program, which will include a wills and estates CLE, and another program on health and wellness. There will be a dinner instead of happy hour.

For the Saturday program, the speaker will be Lisa DeCaro on the use of language and other non-verbal communication in the courtroom. An alternative proposal for a seminar on

capital punishment was thought to be too “heavy” for the retreat, but the committee suggested that we might support another seminar on the topic.

VI. DIRECTORY UPDATE

Victoria Counihan is working on compiling the submissions for the Section directory. She is looking for helping formatting the data to give to the Bar Association.

VII. DIRECTORY UPDATED

Maria Newill reported that Christine Demsey is the Section’s nominee. The awards committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow to vote on the recipient.

VIII. SECTION PICNIC

Maria Newill reported that the picnic was held at Tania Culley’s home and had a good turnout.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

None was raised.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mindy Clifton reported that, in addition to having a seat on the Governor’s Council for Early Childhood Care and Education, the Section also has a seat on the Governor’s Stars Council. The next meeting of the Stars Council is September 5: Mindy is planning on attending but wouldn’t mind having an alternative.

B. Several members noted that the need for a project for the year, and the possibility of holding a strategic planning/brainstorming session. Options discussed included a clothing or book drive, the “scholarship” for new lawyers to attend the retreat, and the possibility of a speaker at a meeting or at “girls’ night.”

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:25.

WOMEN & THE LAW SECTION
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2008 12:30 P.M.
GREENBERG TRAUIG
1007 N. ORANGE STREET, SUITE 1200, WILMINGTON

IN ATTENDANCE: Maria Paris Newill, Christie DiGuglielmo, Pam Meitner, Victoria Counihan, Jennifer Ranji, Dawn Jones, Kristen Salvatore DiPalma, Nancy Sanford, Paulette Sullivan Moore, Stephan Symons, Mindy Clifton, Laina M. Herbert, Megan Mantzavinos,

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the September meeting were approved, subject to two changes.

II. GOVERNOR'S CHILDCARE AWARDS: Victoria Counihan reported that 400 people attended the awards dinner in Dover. This was the 10th anniversary of the awards, and the 8th year they have had Governor Minner's support. Fundraising was difficult this year due to the slowing economy. It is unclear at this point whether we will continue with the event in the same format, given that a new governor is about to take office, and there is increasing focus on the Stars program in early childhood education.

III. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. **ARSHT FELLOWSHIP:** Laina Herbert advised that there was nothing new to report, as this was an off-year for the silent auction.

B. **LEGISLATIVE:** Paulette Sullivan Moore advised that there was nothing to report at this point.

C. **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE:** Megan Mantzavinos volunteered to represent the Section on the DSBA's Technology Committee.

D. **CHILDCARE:** (Discussed in Section II above)

IV. GRACE COTTAGE: Pam Meitner requested that dates and times of Grace Cottage visits be posted on the meeting agendas.

V. DIRECTORY UPDATE: Victoria Counihan reported that the directory should be completed soon.

VI. RETREAT: Mindy Clifton reported that the speakers have been booked and only need to be confirmed, and the flyers sent out. The Friday program includes a wills and trusts seminar designed to help attendees manage their personal estates and affairs (and not toward an estates and trust practice).

Friday night's program will include dinner at "Confucius" in Rehoboth Beach. The Saturday program addresses courtroom presentation, as well as presenting oneself and relating to clients and other attorneys.

It is uncertain whether the Section will be offering scholarships for the retreat this year. We will likely address the issue closer to the time of the retreat.

VII. WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AWARDS: Chris Demsey is the recipient of the award. One Section member e-mailed to suggest that anyone who was unable to attend the Awards Luncheon donate the cost of the ticket to the Arsht Fellowship. After discussion, it was decided not to take any formal action on the suggestion.

VIII. "GIRLS" NIGHT OUT: Will be November 5 in lieu of the November meeting, and will be held at Karen Jacobs Loudon's house. Christie DiGuglielmo will coordinate the food. Judge DelPesco may speak.

IX. PICNIC REPORT: Maria Newill states that this was on the agenda as a reminder.

X. OLD BUSINESS: None.

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Maria Newill reported that she was contacted by the chair of the New Jersey Women's Bar Association about the possibility of a joint event (possibly with Pennsylvania and Connecticut as well).

B. Victoria Counihan reported that she was approached by George Tsakataris, who was trying to get DSBA support for the Emanuel Dining Room. He was trying to get Sections to commit to one day per year to buy, prepare and serve a meal. Section members who have participated in projects like this in the past noted that it would cost about \$150 to do one lunch, and would take anywhere from four to nine volunteers. Serving lunch takes about 1½ hours.

ACTION ITEM: A motion was made to commit the Section to supporting the Emanuel Dining Room Project, to buy, prepare and serve meals for one day per year. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

C. **COMBINED CAMPAIGN:** Mindy Clifton reported that the Combined Campaign lost some grants and needs more money than in prior years, and inquired whether the Section would be willing to commit some of its funds. The decision was made to table the request and wait to see how much money we have closer to the end of the fiscal year.

WOMEN & THE LAW SECTION
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2008, 12:30 P.M.
GREENBERG TRAURIG
1007 N. ORANGE STREET, SUITE 1200, WILMINGTON

IN ATTENDANCE: Laina Herbert, Nancy Stanford, Jessica Zeldin, Paulette Sullivan Moore, Pamela Meitner, Victoria Counihan, Ayesha Chacko, Maria Paris Newill, Aida Waserstein, Megan Mantzavinos

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the October, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

II. GOVERNOR'S CHILDCARE AWARDS: Maria Newill advised that the Section needs to decide whether to continue the awards with the new administration. It was noted that governor-elect Markell pledged support for the awards prior to being elected, but the question of whether it is necessary to continue the awards with the implementation of the Stars program needs to be considered. The matter was assigned to subcommittee for consideration and recommendations.

III. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

CLE: Discussion as to whether the Section should sponsor a CLE besides the retreat was had. No further action at this time.

Legislative: Paulette Sullivan-Moore reported that the committee will have a business meeting before the next Section meeting, and another one in March. The February Section meeting is the legislators' lunch. Maria will e-mail invitations in January: RSVP will be required.

Technology: Megan Mantzavinos reported on the November 20 meeting of the DSBA Technology committee. DSBA is in the process of redesigning its website and is soliciting comments and suggestions from the sections. The new website will include an "e-commerce" page, which will allow members to pay dues and register for CLEs online; and a universal search function which will allow people to search all PDF documents on the site. DSBA is also considering a link from its website to a Facebook or LinkedIn group for DSBA members, or alternatively some sort of bulletin board or chat room on the site.

IV. GRACE COTTAGE: Maria Newill reminded that visits to Grace Cottage continue.

V. RETREAT: Pam Meitner reported on efforts to collect door prizes, noting businesses which Section members patronize as a potential source. Donors are recognized in the program materials.

VI. DIRECTORY UPDATE: Chris Demsey's secretary has offered the secretarial support needed to proceed with the project.

VII. WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AWARDS: 2008 recipients are Chris Demsey and Drew Fennell.

VIII. "GIRLS" NIGHT OUT: Thanks to Pam Meitner for arranging the "fireside chat" with Judge Del Pesco. Maria Newill noted that no suggestions for new ideas/projects were offered at the November meeting.

IX. PICNIC: Nothing to report.

X. OLD BUSINESS: None.

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Adding or maintaining a charitable component to Section events. It was noted that we are working with the Sussex branch of the Food Bank of Delaware for the retreat, but there are also lots of other charities in Southern Delaware, e.g. Brandywine Counseling.

It was suggested that the Section collect old cell phones for the Delaware Coalition against Domestic Violence in connection with February's legislative lunch.

B. Emmanuel Dining Room. Victoria Counihan reported that she has not heard whether DSBA has approved the plan to commit to preparing and serving one meal per month. A few other sections committed to one day out of the year.

C. Maria Newill reported participating in a conference call with representatives of women's bar groups. The president of the New Jersey group is trying to establish a national or regional network to share information, ideas and projects.

D. The possibility of conducting some sort of strategic planning session to generate new ideas for the section was raised.

E. Internet and computer issues was suggested as a CLE topic for next year's retreat. Possible issues could include research alternatives, blogs, and ethical issues associated with marketing and disclaimers. Assign to retreat subcommittee for consideration. Other suggestions relating to the retreat included 1) a planning meeting held on the same weekend as this year's retreat; 2) increasing attendance from larger firms by appointing one person in the firm to solicit and coordinate attendance; and 3) outreach to cooperate counsel.

The meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

WOMEN & THE LAW SECTION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2009, 12:30 P.M.
GREENBERG TRAURIG
1007 N. ORANGE STREET, SUITE 1200, WILMINGTON

IN ATTENDANCE: Christie DiGuglielmo, Patricia Schwartz, Andrea Rocanelli, Chris Demsey, Suzanne Seubert., Laina Herbert, Nancy Stanford, Paulette Sullivan Moore, Pamela Meitner, Ayesha Chacko, Maria Paris Newill, Megan Mantzavinos

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the December, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously, with changes and clarification added to the “Women’s Leadership and New Lawyers’ Award” sections.

II. RETREAT: Pam Meitner and Laina Herbert reported that we will be collecting donations of anything that can be put into a basket for new mothers, including toiletries and paper products, and new or gently used clothing. The retreat committee is still soliciting donations for door prizes. The Bellmoor is encouraging Thursday and/or Saturday night stays. The price of the extra night includes a facial or massage at the hotel’s spa.

III. ARSHT AUCTION: Laina Herbert reported that the date for the next auction has been set for November 19, 2009. More information regarding donations will follow.

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

A The Section continues to solicit new ideas for projects or agendas. One suggestion was to resume our participating in the Habitat for Humanity Womens’ Build. Another was to paint the inside of Grace Cottage. The possibility of seeking to participate in the National Association of Women Lawyers was also mentioned.

B. Nominations for officers are still open. A slate was proposed as follows: Chair: Megan Mantzavinos; Vice Chair: Ayesha Chacko; Laina Herbert: Secretary.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

WOMEN & THE LAW SECTION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2009, 12:30 P.M.

GREENBERG TRAURIG

1007 N. ORANGE STREET, SUITE 1200, WILMINGTON

IN ATTENDANCE: Maria Paris Newill, Laina Herbert, Betsy McGeever, Mindy Clifton, Christie DiGuglielmo, Nancy Stanford, Ayesha Chacko, Pam Meitner, Paulette Sullivan Moore

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the January, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously, with changes to the nomination of officers section.
- II. GOVERNOR'S CHILDCARE AWARDS: Mindy Clifton reported that our liaison at Family and Workplace connection is leaving her post. Motion to discontinue this project was unanimously approved.
- III. ARSHT FELLOWSHIP – Laina Herbert reported that the silent auction event will take place on November 19, 2009. Donations of all kinds will be accepted.
- IV. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – Ayesha Chacko reported the purpose of the monthly meetings is to discuss technology related issues of each section of the bar association. The DSBA may implement some form of social networking site, to encourage communication between members.
- V. GRACE COTTAGE – The Section's idea to paint the inside of the Grace Cottage was approved by Vivian Rapposelli. The Section will take steps to schedule time to begin this project.
- VI. LEGISLATIVE LUNCH- Paulette Sullivan Moore thanks everyone for their support and attendance of this event. There was an interest in revising legislation to change the definition of adoptive parents, allowing for more focus on the best interests of the child in maintaining a relationship with the parent. This stems from the Delaware Supreme Court's recent decision that a person must have legal parental status to seek custody of a child.
- VII. 2009 RETREAT – Thank you to the committee for organizing this event. The event was a great success.
- VIII. W & L DIRECTORY UPDATE – suggestions on formatting and loading the directory onto the web site are welcome.
- IX. ELECTION OF OFFICERS – the proposed slate of officers was approved unanimously: The new officers include: Chair: Megan Mantzavinos; Vice Chair: Laina Herbert; Secretary: Ayesha Chacko.
- X. W & L PICNIC REPORT – the picnic will be held in June 2009.
- XI. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Women's Leadership Award – Suzanne Seubert reported that the deadline to submit nominations to Maria Paris Newill is May 1, 2009.
 - b. Thank you to Maria Paris Newill for her service to the Section.

WOMEN & THE LAW SECTION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2009, 12:30 P.M.
GREENBERG TRAURIG
1007 N. ORANGE STREET, SUITE 1200, WILMINGTON

IN ATTENDANCE: Christie DiGuglielmo, Pam Meitner, Jessica Zeldin, Colleen Pulkrabek, Karen Jacobs Loudon, Victoria Counihan, Ayesha Chacko, Maria Paris Newill, Megan Mantzavinos

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the March 4, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

II COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Technology. Ayesha Chacko reported that the Bar Association is working on setting up blogs which would be linked to the DSBA website. Each section will have a blog.

III. LAW DAY LUNCHEON: Maria Newill reported that the Law Day Luncheon is scheduled to take place at the same time as the May Section meeting. It was noted that many section members plan to attend the Luncheon; however, there is business that needs to be covered in May, so it will not be practicable to allow the luncheon to stand in lieu of a meeting. A motion to move the next meeting to a date and time later in May was made, seconded and carried unanimously. The new date and time will be announced by e-mail.

IV. WIDENER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW FUNDING REQUEST:

Maria Newill reported that Widener Law School has approached the Section requesting \$2,500 to support the Jurist Academy. It is unknown how much money is left in the Sections treasury. It was suggested that we defer decision until the end of the year to see how much money is left over. It was also noted that it is not clear that the request is in line with the Sections's mission.

A motion was made to decline sponsorship of Widener's Jurist Academy. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

V. RETREAT: A call for volunteers to plan the 2010 Retreat was made. Mindy Clifton, Karen Jacobs Loudon, Pam Meitner, Dawn Jones, Fon Walker and Christie DiGuglielmo volunteered.

The speaker at this year's retreat recommended another speaker for the next retreat: Lanize Zuptko.

VI. DIRECTORY: Victoria Watson reported that the directory is in the process of being typed.

VII. PICNIC: June 17, 5:30 p.m.

VIII. ROXANA CANNON ARSHT FELLOWSHIP: Laina Herbert reported that she has begin collecting donations for the Silent Auction. It was suggested that we emphasize 100% participation for donations.

IX. OLD BUSINESS: None.

X. NEW BUSINESS: None.

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

**WOMEN & THE LAW SECTION
MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 20, 2009, 12:30 P.M.
GREENBERG TRAUIG, WILMINGTON, DE**

IN ATTENDANCE: Patricia Bartley Schwartz, Maria Paris Newill, Mary Matterer, Christie DiGuglielmo, Paulette Sullivan Moore, Laina M. Herbert, Ayesha S. Chacko, Amy Quinlen, Suzanne I. Seubert, Megan T. Mantzavinos,

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of minutes from the April 2009 meeting was passed until September.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. **ARSHT FELLOWSHIP:** Laina Herbert reported that the silent auction will be held November 19. Section members are asked to consider donating auction items. The Fellowship lost approximately \$85,000 in the recent market downturn.

B. **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Paulette Sullivan Moore reported:

1. S.B. 84 regarding *de facto* parenting. The Legislative Committee proposed that the section endorse the legislation. A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously. Next step is to ask the Executive Committee of the Bar Association to endorse the legislation. The Family Law Section has endorsed, but has not yet gone to the Executive Committee.

2. The Violent Crimes Compensation Board bill has not been drafted yet. The bill will change the way the board operates so that it functions as more of an appellate body, allowing for the staff to make initial decisions.

C. **TECHNOLOGY LIASON:** Ayesha Chacko reported that the Bar Association's new networking website will be presented at the Bench & Bar Conference.

D. **CHILDCARE:** Mindy Clifton reported

The Governor's Awards for excellence in early childhood education have been discontinued.

E. **NOMINATIONS:** Suzanne Seubert reported on the Committee's nominations for the Women's Leadership Award, (Karen Jacobs Loudon), and the award for outstanding service to the Bench & Bar (Andrea Rocanelli). Helen Winslow was recommended as a runner-up for the Women's Leadership Award.

A motion was made to nominate Karen Jacobs Loudon for the Women's Leadership Award, with Helen Winslow as runner-up; and to nominate Andrea Rocanelli for the Outstanding Service to the Bench & Bar award. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

III. GRACE COTTAGE:

Plans for the project to paint Grace Cottage continue. Sherwin-Williams will donate paint; colors to be picked out by Grace Cottage staff. The staff will do the prep work. It is unknown at this point whether other supplies will be donated.

IV. 2010 RETREAT:

Mindy Clifton , Karen Jacobs Loudon, Pam Meitner, Dawn Jones, Fon Walker and Christie DiGuglielmo have volunteered for the Retreat Committee.

V. W&L DIRECTORY:

The directory is not yet completed. The question was raised as to whether the Directory should be online or if the paper copies should be distributed to members

VI. PICNIC:

The picnic is scheduled for June 17. RSVP to Christie DiGuglielmo.

VII. Congratulations to Andrea Rocanelli on her appointment to the Bench. Investiture is scheduled for May 22.

IX. RECENT LOCAL NEWS HEADLINES:

A variety of opinions were expressed regarding the email and video circulated by Chief Justice Steele. Some Section members were offended; others were not and did not think the issue was worth the Section's time. Concern was also expressed regarding the use of state e-mail to circulate the video.

A motion was made that the Section make no public statement regarding the e-mail. The motion was then withdrawn.

Following discussion, a second motion was made, to make no specific response to Steele's e-mail. The motion was seconded and carried with 6 members in attendance in favor of the motion; 4 members opposed. Cheryl Siskin and Laina Herbert abstained from the vote.

A third motion was made, for the section to make the issue of cultural competency (including, but not limited to, gender, race, religion and sexual orientation) in the Judiciary an agenda item in the fall. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously with one abstention (Laina Herbert).

X. W&L FUND ALLOCATION

The Section typically has about \$3,000 left over at the end of the year. Last year, the Section voted to allocate half of the leftover funds to Retreat Scholarships, and half to the Childcare Awards.

The Bar Association has suggested that the funds can be donated back to it.

Other suggestions included: 1) donation to the Office of the Child Advocate; 2) donation to the Independent Living Program at the West End Neighborhood House; 3) use to pay dues for membership in a national women's bar organization.

A motion was made to donate all leftover funds to the Arsht Fellowship. The Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Section members were asked to keep an eye out for Retreat speakers for next year.

B. It was noted the HB 5 appears to have died again.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.