

WOMEN & THE LAW
MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, September 2, 2009, 12:30 p.m.
Marks, O'Neill, O'Brien & Courtney, P.C.
913 N. Market Street, Suite 800, Wilmington, DE

IN ATTENDANCE: Kara Swasey, Vanessa Tiradentes, Maria Paris Newill, Megan Mantzavinos, Christie DiGuglielmo, Betsy McGeever, Paulette Sullivan Moore, Laina M. Herbert, Suzanne I. Seubert, Pam Meitner.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2009 meeting with changes. The motion was seconded and carried with 9 members in attendance in favor of the motion. Kara Swasey abstained because she did not attend the April meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2009 meeting with changes. The motion was seconded and carried with 9 members in attendance in favor of the motion. Kara Swezey abstained from the vote because she did not attend the May meeting.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Roxana C. Arsht Fellowship and Silent Auction Committee: Laina Herbert asked for volunteers to help set up on the day of the auction. It was discussed that an e-mail via Listserv will be sent to the Section members asking for donations.

Legislative Committee: Paulette Sullivan Moore reported that S.B. 84 passed and was signed. The Section agreed to call a special meeting to decide whether it would support the revamping of the Victim's Compensation Assistance Program. The bill was passed and signed. Paulette Sullivan Moore will give a report on the program at October's Section meeting.

III. DIRECTORY UPDATE: Christine DiGuglielmo asked the Section for suggestions regarding publishing the Section directory. The Section discussed posting the directory on the DSBA's website with a password so that it can only be accessed by persons with the password. A motion was made to put the directory on the DSBA's website with a password and send an email to section members with the password. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

IV. 2010 RETREAT: Pam Meitner, Mindy Clifton and Christine DiGuglielmo have volunteered to plan the 2010 Retreat. This group was going to follow up with Judge Rocanelli and Shaku Bhaya to determine if they are interested in helping to plan the retreat. A chair of this committee has not been selected. Maria Paris Newill received, The Little Black Book: a Lawyer's Guide to Creating a Marketing Habit in 21 Days, by Paula Black. The Section discussed whether this was a potential topic for the retreat. The speaker at the 2009 Retreat

recommended Lanize Zuptko. Laina Herbert reported that she contacted Jayla Boire, at Mindy Clifton's request, and Ms. Boire is interested in speaking at the 2010 Retreat.

V. GRACE COTTAGE: Megan Mantzavinos reported that she had not been contacted by Judge Kroll's office regarding the Grace Cottage visits. The visits have typically occurred every third Thursday of the month. Suzanne Seubert and Paulette Sullivan Moore discussed their experiences at Grace Cottage. The group discussed ways to involve other women's groups with Grace Cottage. A suggestion was made to ask the New Lawyer's Section to participate in the visits. Paulette Sullivan Moore suggested inviting Denise Bray to a Section meeting to discuss the needs at Grace Cottage. The Section discussed its painting project to be held at Grace Cottage on October 17, 2009. Christine Demsey will be leading the project. A motion was made to continue supporting the Grace Cottage program. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

VI. OLD BUSINESS: Suzanne Seubert asked for an update regarding the awards and Betsy McGeever reported that the DSBA Awards Committee had scheduled a meeting in September to consider the Section's nominations. The awards luncheon will be held on December 8, 2009.

VII. NEW BUSINESS.

A. Paulette Sullivan Moore discussed a program whereby students from Villanova provide legal services to immigrants through this program. She was contacted about expanding this program into Delaware. Maria Paris Newill suggested that Paulette talk to Vivian Rapposelli. Pam Meitner suggested that Paulette talk to Chris White at Legal Aid. Pam Meitner offered to discuss this with Widener.

B. **29th Annual Hall of Fame of Delaware Women.** Maria Paris Newill asked if the Section wanted to nominate someone for the award. Betsy McGeever proposed a nominee and offered to submit the nomination. A motion was made to accept the nominee Betsy proposed. It was seconded and carried unanimously.

C. **Committees.** Megan Mantzavinos reported that the Section needs to review its committees, dissolve the defunct ones and develop new standing committees as appropriate.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:55 p.m.

**WOMEN & THE LAW
MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Wednesday, December 2, 2009, 12:30 p.m.
Marks, O'Neill, O'Brien & Courtney, P.C.
913 N. Market Street, Suite 800, Wilmington, DE**

IN ATTENDANCE: Laina M. Herbert, Betsy McGeever, Susan DelPesco, Megan Mantzavinos, Mindy Clifton, Laura Willis, Suzanne Seubert, Maria Newill, Paulette Sullivan Moore, Ayesha Chacko.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2009 meeting with changes. The motion was seconded and carried with 10 members in attendance in favor of the motion. A typographical error was corrected on page 2 of the minutes.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Roxana C. Arsht Fellowship and Silent Auction Committee: Thank you to everyone who was able to join us at the event! Laina Herbert reported that the event raised approximately \$16,732.00 not including outstanding items that have not yet picked up and ticket sales from the raffles. Auction items can be picked up at the DSBA.

Legislative Committee: Paulette Sullivan Moore reported that the Legislative Luncheon will take place on February 5, 2010 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. on the 1st floor of the Community Service Building.

III. 2010 RETREAT: Pam Meitner reported that speakers are lined up for the Retreat. Friday's topics include giggle yoga and networking for women. Saturday morning's lecturer will speak on communicating bad news and dealing with difficult situations. This will also include discussion among a panel of judges. The planning committee is looking for a charity to support. Suggestions included a business clothing drive or contributing money to a swing set for Exceptional Care in Newark.

IV. GRACE COTTAGE: The painting project was a success. Many volunteers participated.

V. LADIES NIGHT OUT: Thank you to Karen Jacobs Loudon for hosting the event, and Pam Meitner for helping to organize it.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **Emmanuel Dining Room:** Each year on October 9, beginning October 9, 2010, the Women & Law Section will provide food and serve lunch at the Emmanuel Dining Room.

- B. Proposed DSBA bylaw change re: Public Statements, Legislation and Public Policy (Section 10.2): Megan Mantzavinos will draft a letter and circulate to Paulette Sullivan Moore and Betsy McGeever expressing that the Women & Law Section opposes the bylaw change.

VII. NEW BUSINESS.

- A. Use of restraints on incarcerated women during child birth: Susan DelPesco reported a recent 8th Circuit Court of Appeals decision, *Nelson v. Correctional Medical Services, et al.*, in which the court held that shackling incarcerated women during childbirth is unconstitutional. While a few states (CA, IL, NY, VT) have statutes in place to address this issue, Delaware does not. She requested our section's support of proposed legislation in Delaware. A motion to support legislation was made, subject to further information and research on the issue. The motion was seconded and carried with all in attendance in favor.
- B. Litigation Section's Proposal re: Delaware State Bench-Bar Liason Program: The purpose of the program is to allow for liaisons between the Delaware Superior Courts and Delaware legal practitioners to address issues between the courts and practitioners. Our section does not take a position with regard to this program.
- C. Women & the Law Bylaws: A suggestion was made to amend the bylaws to allow for telephonic participation in meetings and to address voting issues. A motion to form a bylaw subcommittee at the next section meeting was made. The motion was seconded and carried with all in attendance in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.

**WOMEN & THE LAW
MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, January 6, 2010, 12:30 p.m.
Marks, O'Neill, O'Brien & Courtney, P.C.
913 N. Market Street, Suite 800, Wilmington, DE**

IN ATTENDANCE: Christie DiGuglielmo, Debbie Gottschalk, Ayesha Chacko, Megan Matzavinos, Paulette Sullivan Moore, Pam Meitner.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2009, with two abstentions due to their absence from the December meeting. The motion was seconded and carried with 4 members in favor of the motion.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative Committee:

- Paulette Sullivan Moore reported that the Legislative Luncheon will be held on the ground floor of the Community Service Building on February 5, 2010 at 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. To date, seven legislators will be in attendance. A motion was made to use the section funds to pay for the lunch. The motion was seconded and carried with all members in attendance in favor.
- Proposed legislation regarding the use of restraints on incarcerated women during child birth includes a provision that restraints shall not be used except for extraordinary circumstances. A draft statute was presented for consideration. Attending section members gave feedback on the proposed legislation. A motion to endorse the concept of proposed legislation was made. The motion was seconded and carried with all members in attendance in favor.
- Proposed legislation regarding sexual relationships in detention facilities. The current statute criminalizes conduct for both the victim and perpetrator, causing underreporting of crimes. This statute proposes criminal liability on employees, visitors, contractors, and volunteers at detention facilities. A motion was made to support the concept in principal with recommended changes. When there is a final draft, it will be considered for support by the section. The motion was seconded and carried with all members in attendance in favor.
- Legislation regarding bailable offenses: Currently the Delaware constitution states that there is no bail for a capital offense. The proposed legislation allows the general assembly to decide what a bailable offense includes. A motion to oppose the proposed legislation was made. The motion was seconded and carried with all members in attendance in favor.

III. 2010 RETREAT: Pam Meitner reports that the topics include (1) less yes, making productive choices, and how to say no; (2) healing power of laughter; (3) managing difficult people; (4) networking for women; (5) delivering bad news and handling tough conversations; (6) life blueprint: making life more productive; and (7) ethics panel on failure to communicate to a client, taking on too much work, and marketing efforts.

IV. GRACE COTTAGE: The next meeting will be held on January 21, 2010. The group will play Pictionary.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Proposed DSBA bylaw change re: Public Statements, Legislation and Public Policy (Section 10.2): No further updates. Megan Mantzavinos sent a letter to DSBA expressing that the Women & Law Section opposes the bylaw change.
- B. DSBA/General Assembly Partnering – Legislative Committees of interest to the section: The purpose is to establish partnerships between the section, legislative committees, and members of the general assembly.

VII. NEW BUSINESS.

- A. A motion was made to allow use of Section funds for reimbursement of the costs associated with the Grace Cottage painting project, up to \$200.00. The motion was seconded and carried with all members in attendance in favor.
- B. A motion was made to allow reimbursement to Paulette Sullivan Moore for reimbursement for stamps used to send out letters regarding participation in the legislative lunch event. The motion was seconded and carried with all members in attendance in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.

WOMEN & THE LAW
MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, May 5, 2010, 12:30 p.m.
Marks, O'Neill, O'Brien & Courtney, P.C.
913 N. Market Street, Suite 800, Wilmington, DE

IN ATTENDANCE: Ayesha Chacko, Megan Matzavinos, Suzanne Seubert, Christine Demsey, Laina Herbert, Craig Martin, Michelle Quinn, Pam Meitner

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded and carried with all attending in favor of the motion.
- II. GRACE COTTAGE:** The section is interested in hosting an event on August 19, 2010.
- III. ANNUAL PICNIC:** The annual picnic will be held on June 16, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at Tania Culley's home. The Section will have a quick meeting to discuss the nominee for the Women's Leadership Award.
- IV. ROXANNA C. ARSHT FELLOWSHIP AND SILENT AUCTION:** The organizers of the Combined Campaign for Justice have asked our Section to skip a year and hold this event in even years instead of odd years because it conflicts with their theater production. The members present at the meeting were inclined to decline this request because it is the Section's only source of income for this cause. This will be placed as an agenda item for the first fall meeting.
- V. WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AWARD:** Suzanne Seubert encourages members to submit nominations for this award. Any member that is interested in joining this committee should contact Suzanne directly.
- VI. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Leftover Section Funds:** We have \$3,829.01 in remaining funds. A motion was made to give the leftover funds to the Roxanna C. Arsht Scholarship. The motion was seconded and carried with all attending in favor of the motion.
 - B. Veteran's Law Committee Report:** Craig Martin of the Veteran's Law Committee spoke about the possibility of forming a focus group to identify and examine issues facing Delaware's women veterans. There is a gap in service at the VA hospital for female veterans. There are no OB facilities for women at the VA. Women are forced to drive to a distant location for these services. Additionally, the availability and adequacy of treatment for psychiatric issues has been questioned. This focus group would look at the state of the law and how women are treated. The Veteran's Law Committee would like this group to include lawyers. Anyone who is interested should contact Craig Martin.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:50 p.m.