

WOMEN & THE LAW
MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, September 8, 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 Mantzavinos, Bonnie Copeland, Suzanne Seubert, Laina M. Herbert.

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded and carried with all attending in favor of the motion.
- II. GRACE COTTAGE:** Upcoming visit dates are September 16, 2010, October 21, 2010, and November 18, 2010 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- III. EMMANUEL DINING ROOM:** The Section will be serving lunch on October 9, 2010. Six to seven volunteers are still needed. Contact Megan Mantzavinos if you are interested.
- IV. 2011 RETREAT:** Members who are interested in helping plan the event should contact Megan Mantzavinos. Suggestions for CLE and speaker topics are welcome.
- V. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. The Veteran's Law Committee focus group to identify and examine issues facing Delaware women veterans is still in the planning stages. It will be finalized by the beginning of 2011. The Veteran's Law Committee still looking for anyone who is interested in joining this group. All those interested should contact Craig Martin.
- VI. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. The Historical Society of Delaware is hosting an event: Delaware and the Struggle for Women's Suffrage on Wednesday, September 15, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Ann Boylan will speak.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Pam Meitner, Paulette Sullivan Moore, Kenisha Ringgold, Megan Mantzavinos, Suzanne Seubert, Laina M. Herbert

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded and carried with all in favor of the motion.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative Committee:

Paulette Sullivan Moore explained the section needed to appoint a new chair of the Legislative Committee because she has taken a new position in Washington, DC and is unable to remain chair of the committee. Paulette will contact Megan Mantzavinos with the names of persons interested in serving as committee chair.

Paulette also discussed change to legislation (16 Del. C. § 903) proposed by the Attorney General's Office and opposed by counselors that would require mandatory reporting of certain minor-to-minor behavior by counselors to Delaware Family Services. The proposed change would discourage minors from talking about these acts and eliminate a counselor's discretion in reporting behaviors where minor is not in imminent harm.

III. EMMANUEL DINING ROOM:

Megan Mantzavinos reported the section was scheduled to volunteer at the Emmanuel Dining Room on Saturday, October 9, 2010. Details regarding scheduling section members to volunteer were discussed.

IV. RETREAT 2011:

Pam Meitner discussed the need to select a date for the 2011 retreat. The format of the retreat, including the charity component and potential presentation topics, such as another presentation by Dr. McNicholas, a presentation by Dr. Carol Waldhauser, a presentation by Rina

Marks, and the death penalty CLE program suggested to the section by some of its members in 2008, were discussed.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

The DSBA has hired Susan Simmons to serve as its pro bono coordinator. Susan Simmons is available to provide ideas for pro bono activities and assist the section with its pro bono work. The DSBA is encouraging each section to provide pro bono services. Attendees discussed whether the section's regular participation in Judge Kroll's Grace Cottage program by providing pizza each month would satisfy the DSBA's requirement. Laina Herbert agreed to discuss this with Susan Simmons and report the results of this conversation at the next section meeting.

Attendees discussed the Delaware Girls' Initiative video being shown at Theatre N to social workers on October 6, 2010.

Attendees also discussed the upcoming Christopher W. White Distinguished Access to Justice Awards Breakfast to be held on October 26, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. at the Hotel DuPont.

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

**WOMEN & THE LAW
MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, December 1, 2010, 12:30 p.m.
Marks, O'Neill, O'Brien & Courtney, P.C.
913 N. Market Street, Suite 800, Wilmington, DE**

IN ATTENDANCE: Christine DiGuglielmo, Megan Mantzavinos, Sara M. Rutigliano, Michelle Quinn, Paulette Sullivan Moore, Pam Meitner, Laina M. Herbert.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded and carried with all in favor of the motion.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative Committee:

Megan Mantzavinos introduced Christine DiGuglielmo as the new chair of the Legislative Committee. The section members discussed the section's annual legislative lunch and determined it should be held on February 4, 2011 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Paulette Sullivan Moore indicated the section needed to reserve the room at the Community Services building and agreed to contact a member of the section who worked in the Community Services building to reserve the room. Paulette also suggested that the invitations to the legislators should be sent soon and recommended sending one by e-mail to their address at Legislative Hall and one by U.S. mail to their home. At the end of the meeting, Paulette reported that she talked to Kathleen McRae, the new executive director at the ACLU, and Kathleen is going to reserve a room at the Community Services building for our legislative luncheon. Paulette also invited her to attend the meeting and our section meetings. The section also discussed inviting the person who replaced Umbreen Bhati at the ACLU to join our section. Paulette offered to extend an invitation to him.

Awards Committee:

Megan indicated that the DSBA nominations committee did not receive our nomination for the mentoring award and the award will not be given this year. Laina Herbert agreed to follow up with Suzanne Seubert regarding the timing of circulating nomination forms for the vote in June. The members discussed circulating the nomination forms at the section's April business meeting.

III. RETREAT 2011:

The retreat will be held on March 4-5, 2011 at the Bellmoor Inn in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Pam Meitner reported that Prof. Laura Little is scheduled to speak at the retreat on Saturday, Shaku Bhaya and Yvonne Takvorian Saville will present a negotiating and mediating seminar on Friday, and Dr. McNicholas and one of her colleagues, a vascular surgeon, will also present on Friday. The Committee is currently looking for a second speaker on Saturday because Attorney General Biden has National Guard drills and will not be able to join us at the retreat. Pam indicated that the Committee is going to circulate a questionnaire at this year's retreat seeking comprehensive input from attendees. The dinner for this year's retreat will be held at Mariachi's, a Mexican restaurant, and members will enjoy a buffet dinner as well as select beverages. Pam reported that the Committee has decided to support Bear Hugs for Babies at this year's retreat. Michelle Quinn explained that the charity provides newborns and their caregivers with supplies. The Committee will begin working on the brochure. Laina agreed to follow up with Shaku Bhaya regarding contacting Jill Biden to speak at the retreat. The possibility of getting CLE credits for Jill Biden's talk about work/life balance was discussed. Pam suggested inviting Betsy McGeever to join the Committee's next conference call on Monday, December 6, 2010 at 12:00 p.m. to discuss Laura Little's presentation.

IV. GRACE COTTAGE:

Megan reported that the next Grace Cottage event will be Thursday, December 16, and she expects to receive an update from Judge Crowell's law clerk regarding the topic of this month's visit.

V. EMMANUEL DINING ROOM:

Megan reported that the section's first experience with Emmanuel Dining Room was a success. The section committed to serving at the Emmanuel Dining Room October 9th of every year.

VI. LADIES NIGHT OUT:

Megan reported that the November Ladies Night Out held at Patty Schwartz's home was well attended and the section met their goal of raising funds to furnish a room at the Sunday Breakfast Mission. The Sunday Breakfast Mission will be holding an open house on December 11, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Sunday Breakfast Mission and the section will be recognized at the open house.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

Megan received a letter from Craig Martin indicating that the women's veterans working group will meet for the first time on December 15 at 5:00 p.m. at Richards, Layton & Finger. She indicated that Betsy McGeever will be involved in this working group and attend the meeting. Michelle Quinn also volunteered to attend this meeting.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

Debby Gotschalk sent information regarding the Delaware Adolescent Program, Inc. ("DAPI"). The DAPI is a private, non-profit state agency founded in 1969 to provide services to and support the educational development of, pregnant and parenting teens and their families. The DAPI would like the Women & Law Section to participate in mentoring the women in its program.

The DSBA's pro bono initiative was discussed. Megan and Laina reported that Suzanne Simmons, the DSBA's pro bono coordinator, indicated that the DSBA's initiative is focused on the delivery of actual pro bono services by section members to the under-served members of the Delaware community. The attendees discussed Ms. Simmons' response that its work with Grace Cottage, the Roxana C. Arsht Fellowship and the Roxana C. Arsht Fellowship Silent Auction did not satisfy the DSBA's initiative. The section discussed that many of its members participate in pro bono activities independent of the section and any section-sponsored pro bono would likely take resources away from the members' current pro bono activities. Christine pointed out that the Women and Law Section was more of an interest group, rather than a practice group, and it would be difficult for the section to find a pro bono activity where the members were providing direct legal services in an area that they were all familiar with. The attendees discussed the fact that the section has very diverse backgrounds in no one particular field. A major component of the Women and Law Section is community service, not direct legal service.

Pam suggested taking a poll of the meeting attendees' pro bono activities. Megan indicated that she had in the past participated in one or two PFAs each year, Christine said she has one major pro bono case, Laina indicated she served on the Federal Civil Panel representing a prisoner who was denied treatment for his Hepatitis C, Pam indicated she was guardian ad litem, and Michelle said she assisted DVLS with drafting wills.

The attendees discussed the community service activities that it has been involved in this year as well as over the past few years, including participating in the Grace Cottage program on a monthly basis as well as supplying pizza to the program each month for several years and painting rooms at Grace Cottage this year. The attendees discussed the Section's involvement in initiating the Grace Cottage mentoring program. Moreover, after Judge Crowell identified a need at Grace Cottage, the section provided supplies to Grace Cottage and worked with the Court to pressure the State to take a look at the situation there. In addition, the section has committed to serving one day each year at the Sunday Breakfast Mission starting in 2010. When the women's prison opened several years ago, the section was instrumental in getting them computers.

The attendees also discussed that the section is responsible for the Roxana C. Arsht Fellowship, including selecting the recipients. The purpose of the Roxana C. Arsht Fellowship is to encourage law students, recent law school graduates and attorneys newly admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Delaware to pursue careers in non-profit sectors in Delaware. In an effort to encourage attorneys to work in public interest positions, the Fellowship offers financial assistance for three years to each recipient selected. Recipients must work for a non-profit organization that provides legal services that benefit the Delaware community, underrepresented groups, or indigent persons in Delaware and the recipient's annual salary may not exceed \$50,000 to be eligible for the Fellowship. The section is also responsible for the bi-annual Roxana C. Arsht Fellowship silent auction and it donates a substantial portion of its remaining section funds to the Fellowship each year.

For the past three years, the section has supported a charity at its annual retreat, including Brandywine Counseling, Exceptional Care for Children, a residential health-care facility that improves the lives of technology-dependent children and their families through skilled nursing, transitional and palliative care, and SAFE, a battered women's shelter with facilities in Kent and Sussex counties. This year the section will support Bear Hugs for Babies. The section regularly comments on legislation that affects women and women's issues. The section also has a representative on the women's veterans working groups sponsored by the Veterans Law Section. The attendees discussed presenting these activities to the DSBA again in lieu of sponsoring another pro bono activity.

Finally, the attendees discussed that if the DSBA requires it to engage in a direct pro bono activity, they would contact Tanya Culley and/or the women's veterans working group to find out if they needed any assistance. The group discussed an issue raised by Suzanne Seubert at a previous meeting regarding people needing help navigating social services and whether it should explore this topic if required to provide direct pro bono services.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

WOMEN & THE LAW
MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, January 5, 2011
Marks, O'Neill, O'Brien & Courtney, P.C.
913 N. Market Street, Suite 800, Wilmington, DE

IN ATTENDANCE: Ayesha Chacko Bennett, Laina M. Herbert, Shana Pinter, Christie DiGuglielmo, Michelle Quinn, Eve Ormeroel, Emily Preslar, Pam Meitner.

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2010 meeting, with changes to the Emanuel Dining Room service dates from "October 9th of every year" to "one day in October each year." The motion was seconded and carried with all attending in favor of the motion.
- II. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Prickett, Jones & Elliott will host the legislative lunch on February 4, 2011 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.
- III. 2011 RETREAT:** Pam Meitner reported that addition to the other speakers, Matt Denn will be speaking on children's legislation and related topics. 6 CLE credits will be given for attendance. Topics include women's vascular health and identification of emergencies (speakers: Dr. Cathy McNicholas and Dr. Sonia Turf), negotiation techniques for women (speakers: Shaku Bhaya, Yvonne Saville, Mary Pat Thyng), enhancing persuasiveness, the new durable power of attorney (speakers: Beverly Wick and Mary Culley). Participants may donate to Bear Hugs for Babies. The wish list is available online. A movie will be played at the hotel on Friday evening.
- IV. GRACE COTTAGE:** Visits occur on the third Thursday of every month.
- V. EMMANUEL DINING ROOM:** The WL Section will be serving lunch on October 9, 2011. Volunteers are needed.
- VI. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. The Veteran's Law Committee focus group will hold a meeting on January 6, 2011 in Dover, DE at 2:30 p.m. Melanie George will encourage future meetings to occur in New Castle County so that more people can attend. Michelle Quinn will attend this upcoming meeting.
 - B. DSBA Pro Bono Initiative: Suzanne Simmons was hired by the DSBA to coordinate pro bono efforts. The WL Section's efforts in organizing the Roxana Arscht Fellowship Silent Auction will count towards pro bono efforts on behalf of the Section.
 - C. Delaware Adolescent Program Mentoring: No new information to report.
 - D. Veteran's CLE program at Widener on Monday, January 10, 2011: This program will deal with providing assistance to returning veterans with applying for certain benefits.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Pam Meitner suggested that long term planning for the Section should include consideration of whether we should provide pro bono services to women or whether we should try to capture the volunteer work that we do as a section. Suggestions for pro bono activities included providing services to women veterans in the form of a monthly clinic and taking on court appointments through the Chancery Court for adults with guardianship issues.

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

WOMEN & THE LAW
MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, April 6, 2011
Marks, O'Neill, O'Brien & Courtney, P.C.
300 Delaware Avenue, Suite 900, Wilmington, DE

IN ATTENDANCE: Ayesha Chacko Bennett, Laina M. Herbert, Megan Mantzavinos, Stacey Smith, Michelle Quinn, Lisa Passante, Pam Meitner.

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded and carried with all attending in favor of the motion.
- II. 2011 RETREAT:** According to feedback, most who attended the Retreat this year were pleased with the format and location. Vivian Rapposelli is interested in speaking about child issues. Master Ayvazian expressed interest in talking about issues in Chancery Court other than corporate law. Suggestions for topics include "Darkness to Light-Ending Childhood sexual abuse" with a related discussion by someone from the Office of the Child Advocate, a presentation of associated ethical issues by Patti Schwartz, and a leadership program by Tony Middlebrooks,
- III. Chair's Report on Joint Meeting of the DSBA Section Chairs and Executive Committee Legislation:** If the Section wants to take a position on certain legislation, they must discuss this with the DSBA.
- IV. GRACE COTTAGE:** The next visit is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2011.
- V. EMMANUEL DINING ROOM:** The next visit is scheduled for Sunday, October 9, 2011. Volunteers are needed. If you are interested, contact Megan Mantzavinos.
- VI. NOMINATIONS/AWARDS**
 - A. Women's Leadership & Mentoring: nominations for the Women's Leadership and Mentoring awards are due May 20, 2011.
 - B. 2011-2013 Section Officers: nominations and voting will take place at the next meeting.
- VII. OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Women Veterans' Affairs Group: During the teleconference with Delaware legislators, a very short time was spent discussing women veteran issues. Stacey Smith will find out from Craig Martin how our group can help bring these issues to the forefront.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. National Association of Women Lawyers – Night of Giving: Lisa Pisante joined the meeting to discuss the possibility of hosting the "Night of Giving" event. This event is replicated in cities around the country to encourage membership and provide a networking opportunity for women lawyers. A charity is selected to receive donations. Lisa asked the Section to co-sponsor the event. This would involve helping with marketing and obtaining sponsorship. If our Section co-sponsors, a suggestion was made to tie in this event with new admittees, and hold it sometime in December. Anyone who is interested in being a part of the organizational committee should contact Pam Meitner.
- B. Roxana C. Arsht Silent Auction: The Auction will be held on October 13, 2011 in the Gold Ball Room of the Hotel DuPont. Donations are needed. Please contact Laina Herbert if you have questions.

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

WOMEN & THE LAW
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, May 4, 2011
Marks, O'Neill, O'Brien & Courtney, P.C.
Wilmington, DE

IN ATTENDANCE: Michelle Quinn, Christie Di Guglielmo, Shana Pinter, Pam Meitner, Megan Mantzavinos, Suzanne Seubert, Stacey Smith

I. MINUTES: The minutes of the April meeting were approved unanimously.

II. GRACE COTTAGE:

The next Grace Cottage visit will take place on May 19.

III. EMMANUEL DINING ROOM

The Section will be serving lunch at Emmanuel Dining room on Sunday, October 9. Megan Mantzavinos will coordinate volunteers and arrange to buy food.

IV. ANNUAL PICNIC

Will be held on a Wednesday night in June. Megan Mantzavinos will coordinate.

V. NOMINATIONS/AWARDS

Nominations are due on May 21. Last year's nominee for the Women's Leadership Award was Andrea Rocanelli; strong runners-up included Shaku Bhaya, Jan Jurden and Drew Fennell. Last year's nominee for the Mentoring Award was Shaku Bhaya; that nomination was inadvertently not acted upon by the committee and will be made again this year.

The tentative slate for 2011-2013 officers includes Laina Herbert for Chair, and Michelle Quinn and Christie DiGuglielmo. A vote on the new officers was deferred to the June meeting, as the slate has not yet been finalized.

VI. Old Business

There was little to report in follow-up to a possible event with NAWL for one of their "nights of giving." Michelle Quinn was able to confirm that events occur at other times besides October.

WOMEN & THE LAW
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, June 22, 2011

IN ATTENDANCE: Laina Herbert, Stacey Smith, Michele Quinn, Tania Culley, MC Landis
Megan Mantzavinos

I. AWARDS

Megan Mantzavinos presented the Awards Committee's recommended slate of nominees for the Women's Leadership Award: the first choice is June MacArtor. Runners up are Shaku Bhaya and Jan Jurden. The committee's nominees for the Distinguished Mentoring Award is Shaku Bhaya. Ms. MacArtor's background and qualifications, as set forth in several letters recommending her, were reviewed. A motion was made to nominate June MacArtor for the Women's Leadership Award; the motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

A second motion was made to nominate Shaku Bhaya for the Distinguished Mentoring Award; the motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

II. 2011-2013 Officers

A motion was made to nominate a slate of officers for the Women & the Law Section as follows:

Chair:	Laina Herbert
Vice Chair:	Michelle Quinn
Secretary:	Christie Di Guglielmo

The motion was seconded and approved by a unanimous vote.