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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Agenda Item #15

Memo

To: New York State Bar Association, Executive Committee
From: Timothy J. Fennell, Esq.
Date: 1/18/2012
Re: Liaison Report

I am approaching the end of a three-year run acting as liaison to the TICL Section, the Trial Lawyers Section and the Committee on Procedures for Judicial Discipline. Past President Getnick first appointed me as liaison to TICL and Trial Lawyers with the thought that their scope and activities merited the same liaison. Past President Younger and President Doyle have agreed with that approach and I believe that it has merit and I would recommend it to future leadership. There are significant overlaps in THE membership of the two Sections. Each Section has been committed to seeking membership and leadership from both the Plaintiff and Defense side of the Bar.

Both Sections have accepted President Doyle's diversity challenge with open arms. The current Chair of TICL, Tom Maroney, whose term ends at the annual meeting, dedicated time at the summer meeting in Bar Harbor, Maine, to the diversity challenge. As a result, TICL dedicated its fall Executive Committee meeting to the specific goal of opening the Section to diverse members of the Bar. Instead of holding the meeting at a resort hotel, it chose to schedule the meeting in Brooklyn and invite diverse members of the Bench and Bar to its meeting and to a reception following. Despite this effort, TICL's membership continues to decline and remains less diverse than the overall NYSBA membership. The Executive Committee, however, is more representative of the overall NYSBA membership and will have a woman, Jean Gerbini, as its incoming Chair.

TICL plans a summer meeting in Montreal in 2012. They have been active sponsors of the Young Lawyers Trial Academy and remain in a financially sound position. They have continued to sponsor a unique program for insurance company claims adjusters titled "Law School for Claims Adjusters".

The Trial Lawyers Section has also had declining membership and suffers from the same demographic problems as does TICL. They have energetic core leadership and are working on involving District representatives who will take a more active approach to membership.

The Trial Lawyers' most active effort is in the sponsorship of the Moot Court Law School Trial Competition; this year being held at Hofstra Law School. Several of its members involve themselves as coaches and judges of the competition. This is a wonderful program and certainly puts NYSBA's brand out there to law students in a very positive way.

Trial Lawyers and TICL sponsor a dinner at the annual meeting, which is very well attended and honors a member of the judiciary as well as giving awards to Section members who have distinguished themselves in the prior year. This year's dinner will be at Cippriani's on Wall Street and will honor Judge Pfau.

Trial Lawyers' finances are in excellent condition. They have also been a gold level sponsor of the Young Lawyers Trial Academy. Their leadership has put the appropriate focus on the diversity challenge, which, hopefully, will carry through during the next term of officers.

The Committee on Procedures for Judicial Discipline has had a relatively dormant year after a very busy 2010. The Committee is led by the Hon. Jacqueline Silberman. It will hold a meeting during the annual meeting in New York in conjunction with the NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Respectfully submitted,

TIMOTHY J. FENNELL, ESQ.