

THE NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
COMMERCIAL AND FEDERAL LITIGATION SECTION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Commercial and Federal Litigation Section held in accordance with the rules of the New York State Bar Association on January 30, 2019.

Members Participating in Person

Robert Holtzman, Chair
Natasha Shishov, Secretary
Hon. Melissa Crane
Paul D. Sarkozi
Gregory K. Arenson
Jay Safer
Gerald Hathaway
Jeremy R. Feinberg
James Wicks
Michael Cryan
Christie McGuinness
Alan Brody
Douglas Tabachnik
Kevin J. Quaratino
Hon. Andrea Masley
Hon. Helen Freedman
Jay Himes
Hon. Jennifer Schecter**

Members Participating by Telephone

Laurel Kretzing, Chair-Elect
Jonathan Fellows, Vice-Chair
Matthew Maron
James Potter
Clair P. Gutekunst
Courtney R. Rockett
Alan Mansfield

***Indicates Guest Speaker for the meeting*

Section Chair, Robert Holtzman, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and welcomed the Honorable Jennifer Schecter, Justice of the Supreme Court, Commercial Division, New York County, as guest speaker at the meeting.

Guest Speaker: Honorable Jennifer Schecter (Justice of the Supreme Court, Commercial Division, New York County)

Justice Schecter discussed her practices within her part. She explained that she prepares a lot before taking the bench and that her decision is usually clear before oral argument. She further discussed her desire to give attorneys an opportunity to argue cases and encourages junior attorneys to argue cases. To further

this goal, she permits multiple attorneys to argue in the same case. Since her decisions are usually made based on the motion papers and the applicable law, she encouraged practitioners to send a junior attorney to argue so they gain experience.

Tribute to Justice Ira Gammerman

Douglas Tabachnik spoke about the career of Justice Ira Gammerman, who passed away earlier this week. Judge Gammerman loved what he did. He was a mentor to his colleagues and the lawyers.

Annual Meeting Review

Jonathon Fellows gave a review of the annual meeting. Two great CLE programs were presented, and the lunch was a success. Second Circuit Judge Richard Sullivan gave a wonderful speech in accepting his award.

Resolving E-Discovery Disputes Efficiently in Arbitration and in Court CLE Program Review

The program was held on January 29, 2019. This was the second program of its kind, with last year's program being held at JAMS in April 2018. This year the program was held at Kramer Levin with 45 people attending, including neutrals, practitioners and law students. JAMS co-sponsored and Mark Berman and Judge Frank Mass were recognized for their hard work in putting this program together.

Evening at Thurgood Marshall Courthouse Review

Laurel Kretzing gave a review of this program, which was co-sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section. She thanked to the Second Circuit for hosting the event during the government shutdown.

Spring Meeting Update

The Spring Meeting will be held on May 3rd through 5th, 2019 at the Equinox in Vermont. The programs are being coordinated, which include a program on arbitration and trials, featuring Judge Timothy Driscoll and Jonathon Fellows, which will be themed after the My Cousin Vinny movie. There will also be a business development panel presented by the Women's Task Force and an Ethics program.

Other Business

Upcoming programs include: 1) Smooth Moves, scheduled for May 23, 2019 from 5pm to 8pm at Lincoln Center. The CLE program will deal with diversity among arbitration panels. Preet Bharara will be receiving the Honorable George Bundy Smith Award, 2) March 12, 2019 CLE program run by Women's Initiative Taskforce, 3) Ethics and Civil Program will be held in April 2019.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:14pm.