

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Commercial & Federal Litigation Section held in accordance with the rules of the New York State Bar Association on June 27, 2018

Members Participating in Person

Robert Holtzman, Chair
Laurel Kretzing, Chair Elect
Natasha Shishov, Secretary
Stephen Roberts
Mark Davies
Greg Aronson
Ron Hedges
Laura Deslak
Alan Brody
Hon. Helen Freedman (Ret.)
Tony Harwood
Frank Maas

Members Participating by Phone

Jonathan Fellows, Vice Chair
Anne Sekel, Treasurer
Mark Berman
Alan Mansfield
Ignatius Grande
Vince Syracuse
Hon. Karla Moskowitz (Ret.)

Section Chair Robert Holtzman called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and congratulated former Chair, Mitch Katz, Secretary Jamie Sinclair, and Treasurer Sandra Rampersaud, on their leadership last year. The Chair introduced the new officers of the Section and provided a summary of the former Chairs dinner, held on June 25, 2018.

Motion to approve April 26, 2018 Minutes

The April 26, 2018 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Bench Bar Forum Update

Mark Berman gave an update on several bench/bar programs the Section has been hosting around the State. In April, a program was held at Brooklyn Law School, which had approximately 30 to 40 attendees, including Judge Lawrence Knipel, Judge Sylvia Ash and several other judges. A second program was held in Buffalo, which had approximately 22 attendees, including Judge Deborah Chimes and Judge Henry Novack. A third program was held in Queens, which had approximately 40 attendees, including Judges Marguerite Grays, Leonard Livote and Joseph Risi.

Follow up letters to attendees were sent after the Queens and the Buffalo programs. A bench/bar program is scheduled to take place in Syracuse in July.

The 21st Century Courtroom: Using Integrated Courtroom Program Update

Mark Berman gave a summary of this CLE program, which was held at the Supreme Court, Westchester County. Judge Linda Jamieson and Judge Gretchen Walsh participated in the program, which featured a mock traverse hearing in a new commercial division high tech courtroom. There were approximated 35 attendees.

House of Delegates Update

Mark Berman gave a House of Delegates update. The President's Reports, presented at the HOD, highlighted a number of task forces that have been implemented by the NYSBA President, Michael Miller, including: (1) task force that will be dealing with personal attacks on the judiciary; (2) task force concerning judicial candidates; (3) task force to update the report on wrongful convictions; (4) task force concerning the incarceration release programs; (5) task force concerning mass shootings and assault weapons; (6) task force put together to assess the roll of paralegals and prepare NYSBA guidelines on paralegals; and (7) working group established concerning the enactment and modification of laws concerning and affecting Puerto Rico.

The following reports were also presented and approved at the HOD: (1) A report recommending an amendment to Article 18B of the County law, which would increase the sign counsel rates and provide for annual adjustments to Article 18B Attorneys; (2) the NYSBA Women in the Law Committee will be converted to a Women in the Law Section; (3) a report recommending that Puerto Rico be permanently exempt from the Jones Act.

Report on the Proposed Revisions to Civility Standards

Tony Harwood discussed this draft report regarding proposed revisions to the Civility Standards. The EC recommended that the words "best of their abilities" be removed from paragraph 7B and with that change, the report was unanimously adopted.

Proposed revisions to the Com Fed Bylaws

Robert Holtzman discussed proposed revisions to the Bylaws of the Section. The report and revisions were unanimously approved and adopted.

Other Business

Ron Hedges discussed CLE programs scheduled for 10/30 through 11/2, the theme of which will be technology. Reminders to the EC will be sent out.

Robert Holtzman announced that the EC officers will be in touch with committee chair throughout the summer to discuss committee goals for the upcoming bar year.

Robert Holtzman also addressed the issue of membership and encouraged EC members to invite and bring a new person to an event and act as their sponsor.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05p.m.