

**MINUTES OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SECTION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
September 13, 2013**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Norm Cole called the Executive Committee (EC) to order at 12:05 P.M. at the Oregon State Bar Offices in Tigard, Oregon.

Committee members attending or absent were:

Exec Board Member	Present in Person	Present by Phone	Absent	Comments
Bohy, Ronald	X			
Ogawa, Jenny	X			
Chen, Bin	X			
Cole, Norm	X			
Edmunson, James	X			
Guarrasi, Robert	X			
Harrell, Tom		X		
Jacobson, Jacqueline	X			
Johnson, Dale	X			
Lesh, Allison	X			
Olney, M. Kathryn		X		
Oswald, John	X			
Parks, Carol		X		
Schoenfeld, Steven		X		
Semple, Keith	X			
Sencer, Nicholas		X		
VavRosky, Dennis	X			

II. MINUTES

A motion passed to approve the EC Minutes for the July 12, 2013 meeting.

III. SPECIAL REPORT

Prior to the Chair's report, the EC had a discussion with Helen Hirschbiel, OSB General Counsel, who attended the meeting to discuss the attorney referral service fees.

We discussed the fact that the Social Security Section has met with Helen and the Board of Governors (BOG) to propose that social security cases be exempted from the fee

splitting system. She was not able to predict whether the BOG would approve the request, but indicated that it was well received and encouraged us to make a similar proposal.

We also discussed the section registry project. Helen suggested that moving forward with that may be premature if we are able to obtain an exemption. She also indicated that the BOG may have some concerns about competition with the attorney referral service based on the way we are planning to distribute the registry information. If the EC still wants to move forward, she suggested that we submit a proposal to the BOG, but she was not able to predict how the BOG would vote.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Norm Cole reported that the section sent Casey Hepburn a floral arrangement with our condolences for Rodger's death. The EC observed a moment of silence in his honor.

The Oregon Minority Lawyer's Association thanked the section for our \$500 donation. The EC also sent a letter to departing WCB chair Abigail Herman thanking her for her service.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Ron Bohy reported that as of August 31, 2013, our section account had a balance of \$26,761. We are anticipating \$6,000 in expenses for the Bench Bar Forum. The Campaign for Equal Justice has requested a donation from the excess we have in our account.

The proposed 2014 budget was circulated and approved by the EC.

The OSB is increasing its assessment for each section member from \$6.50 to \$8.00. Without an increase in dues, this will decrease section revenue by an estimated \$508 in 2014.

The committee discussed the fact that OSB has historically encouraged sections not to maintain large balances in their section accounts from year to year. No proposal was made to address this issue.

The EC authorized Treasurer Bohy to negotiate the 2017 contract with Salishan. For 2014-2016, we have negotiated the room rate so that it is consistent with the State per diem rate. This will keep the ALJs and other State employees from having to pay the

difference between the room rate and the per diem rate, and will hopefully encourage more to attend.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Access to Justice

Prior to the meeting, Rob Guarrasi circulated a proposal to submit to the BOG requesting an exemption from the fee split now required by the attorney referral service. The committee approved a motion to have Rob present the proposal to the BOG with minor revisions.

B. Communications/Tech

Rob Guarrasi reported that the October 13 issue will contain reports regarding the Going Forward committee, our proposal to the BOG, the Daughtry to Professionalism and Service Award name change, and the upcoming Bench Bar Forum.

C. Salishan

No report.

D. Workers' Compensation Section Professionalism and Service Award

Dale Johnson circulated the new award criteria and voting protocol approved at the last EC meeting.

E. Legislative / Rules

No report. Still having difficulty getting responses from the committee members to schedule a meeting. Need a chair for the Rules committee.

Legislative Committee chair Keith Semple will update the section on what is going on at the MLAC Medical Access Committee.

F. Nominating Committee

No report.

G. Bench / Bar Professionalism Committee

The date for the forum has been changed to 11/1 in order to hold the event in the lodge, which the Oregon Gardens had double booked for our original date. Notice of the change will be distributed to section members by mail and email. A block of rooms has been arranged for people who want to stay overnight.

The presentations and food are lined up and an article describing the results of last year's survey will be distributed.

Treasurer Bohy indicated that he had not received a copy of the proposed contract, which needed to be approved by the EC and OSB. Following the meeting, the contract was distributed and approved by the EC.

The Bench/Bar EC meeting will start at 11 AM at a location to be announced.

H. Going Forward

Steve Schoenfeld reported that the new admittees swearing in is in October at Willamette University. He was going to confirm the date and look into distributing some materials about workers' compensation practice at that event.

The EC approved a \$50 sponsorship donation to the OSB New Lawyer's Division.

Larry Schucht has submitted a proposed curriculum for a workers' compensation class to the University of Oregon.

Larry and Julene Quinn will give a presentation at Al Lyons' workers' compensation class at Willamette University.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None

IX. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The Executive Committee Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:35 p.m.
The next meeting will be at 12:00 P.M. on October 11, 2013, at the offices of the Oregon State Bar.