

MINUTES OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SECTION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF:

DECEMBER 4, 2009

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Matthew L. Roy called the Executive Committee (EC) meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. at 1 Lincoln Center, 10300 SW Greenburg Road, Suite 210, Portland, Oregon.

Present in person were: Matthew Roy (Chair), Matthew Fisher (Chair-Elect), Holly Somers (Past-Chair), Dale Johnson (Secretary), Julie Masters (Treasurer) and Members- at-Large Dennis VavRosky, Jackie Jacobson, Jill Riechers, and Dean Lederer, and OSB liaison Suzanne Cushing.

Present by telephone, until telephone contact was lost, were: Members-at-Large Adam Stamper and Jennifer Roumell.

Absent were: Members-at-Large Rob Guerrasi, Jim Edmunson, Art Stevens, and Chuck Mundorff, and BOG liaison Barbara DiIaconi.

**II. CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Roy reported that he completed the Annual Section Report and submitted it prior to the deadline of December 1, 2009.

**III. MINUTES**

Motions to amend the minutes of the October 30, 2009 meeting were made as follows:

Under Committee Reports, Going Forward Committee: The following will replace that portion of the minutes preceding "The committee is hoping to partner with the Professional Liability Fund . . .": Member Lederer reported that the committee was working on budget issues. He was asked whether \$2,000.00 would be sufficient and he stated he didn't want to commit to a number until the committee completed its work, but he didn't think the amount was unreasonable.

Under Old Business: To replace “she” in the first sentence with “the Board,” the minutes will read: Somers reported that the Board was continuing to investigate the possibility of free internet access at the WCB offices.

The motions to amend passed. The minutes of the October 30, 2009 EC meeting, as amended, were approved.

#### **IV. TREASURER’S REPORT**

Treasurer Masters reported. Ending fund balance as of 8/31/2009 was \$21,892.00, with Bench /Bar expenses pending. With regard to complimentary section memberships, ten were provided last year. OSB has no way of limiting the number. This year, twenty new admittees have requested the free membership. Masters will research whether the new admittees are joining the section once the free membership expires and will report to the EC at the January meeting. Suzanne Cushing will advise the EC on when new admittees qualify for the free section membership and when they begin paying dues.

#### **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **A. Going Forward**

Member Lederer reported. Rob Guerrasi or Jackie Jacobson will act as EC liaison to the committee after Member Lederer completes his term of office on 12-31-09. The committee is willing to work with the Salishan Committee on possible break-out (introduction to workers’ compensation law) sessions, at Salishan, for new lawyers. Discussion was held about mentoring opportunities and introduction of new lawyers to established lawyers, either at Salishan or at Bench/Bar Forum.

##### **B. Salishan**

Member Jacobson reported. The Committee is looking for guidance from the EC about an In Memoriam section and moment of silence at the Conference. In order to establish a policy on the matter, a motion was made that the Salishan Committee prepare written obituaries for section members for publication in the Salishan materials, but will not solicit for them, and the EC Chair, at the Conference, will present a moment of silence for section members who have died. Chair Roy moved to amend the motion to allow the EC Chair discretion to say more, particularly when a relative of the deceased is a current section member. The motion, as amended, passed.

##### **C. Communication**

Masters had no report.

#### **D. Daughtry Award**

Somers reported. Notice of the process was given at the Bench/Bar Forum. The nomination deadline is February 12, 2010. The final EC decision deadline is April 16, 2010.

#### **E. Legislative / Rules**

Telephone communication with Member Roumell ended before she had a chance to report. She e-mailed her report. The new rules on attorney fees were signed December 4, 2009. OSB wants to know if there is legislation the section would like to sponsor.

#### **F. Bench / Bar**

Member Riechers reported. There were 115 (96 pre-registered and 19 at the door) people in attendance for the Bench/Bar Forum on November 13, 2009. The Forum came in under budget. Riechers moved that the EC approve a \$50 Borders gift card for the child abuse reporting speaker, Courtland Geyer, who was called upon as a last minute substitute and gave a well-received presentation. The motion passed. A motion to commend Riechers for her years of excellent work on the Bench/Bar committee was made and passed.

#### **G. Access to Justice**

Johnson had no report.

#### **H. New Technologies**

No report. Jacobson will check into search procedures for obtaining Van Natta cases through FastCase.

### **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

Somers reported that the Board's Information Management Division is looking into free internet access.

Chair-Elect Fisher will appoint Steve Schoenfeld to a one-year term to balance the EC committee for 2010. Term will begin on 1-1-2010 and end on 12-31-2010.

### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

The Nominating Committee lost two members to the EC (Current member VavRosky and incoming member Nick Sencer). Fisher asked outgoing EC members Lederer and Riechers to fill those positions (defense and ALJ) alongside current Nominating

Committee member Phil Garrow (claimant's attorney). Lederer and Riechers accepted the appointments.

The EC took a moment to praise the work of outgoing members Somers, Lederer, Riechers and Stevens. The committee also recognized Matt Roy's strong leadership as 2009 Executive Committee Chair.

The Executive Committee meeting was adjourned by Chair Roy at 1:30 p.m.

The time and place for the first meeting of 2010 will be January 15, 2010, at noon, at the Oregon State Bar offices.