

MINUTES OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SECTION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

OF:

JUNE 19, 2009

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Matthew L. Roy called the Executive Committee (EC) meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. at the Oregon State Bar offices in Tigard, Oregon.

Present in Person were: Matthew Roy (Chair), Dale Johnson (Secretary), Julie Masters (Treasurer), and Members-at-Large Chuck Mundorff, Jennifer Roumell, and Rob Guarrasi, and Suzanne Cushing (OSB liaison).

Present by telephone were: Matthew Fisher (Chair-Elect) and Members-at-Large Dean Lederer, Jill Riechers, Jim Edmunson, Adam Stamper, Art Stevens, and Jackie Jacobson.

Absent were: Holly Somers (Past-Chair) and Member-at-Large Dennis VavRosky and Barbara DiIaconi (BOG liaison).

**II. MINUTES**

The minutes of the May 15, 2009 meeting were approved.

**III. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Masters reported. The annual meeting at Salishan took in \$33,415. It had been budgeted for receipts of \$34,000. The meeting expenses are not final, a bill for \$20,000 was just received, but expenses are expected to be less than the budgeted amount, \$35,000. The ending fund balance as of May 31, 2009 was \$45,037. The 2009 budget was based on an expected increase in Section membership (opening membership to non-lawyers) that did not occur.

**IV. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Roy suggested gifts for Salishan Committee members. Discussion followed and it was moved that the EC provide a \$100 gift certificate to Sally Curey (Committee Chair) and \$50 gift certificates for Borders Bookstore for her

committee members. The motion was approved. Treasurer Masters volunteered to obtain and deliver the gifts.

## **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Salishan**

Mundorff reported. The Conference was considered a success. Sally Curey will continue as Committee Chair in 2010. Costs were reduced this year and the committee will continue to look at cutting costs. Feedback at the Conference generally was positive, but included requests to put dessert back on the lunch menu. Member Mundorff announced that he will leave the committee after this year. The EC will need to find a new liaison in 2010.

### **B. Communications**

Masters reported. She is still looking into Somers' suggestion of a message board on the Section website before and during the Salishan Conference. A card introducing new OSB admittees to our section will be passed out, just as in 2008, at the OSB swearing-in ceremony this fall. The EC has budgeted for complimentary memberships for new admittees.

### **C. Daughtry Award**

No report.

### **D. Legislative / Rules**

No report.

### **E. Bench Bar / Professionalism**

Riechers reported. The committee is ahead in its process this year due to work by the Access to Justice standing committee (see below). A Reporting Child Abuse presentation is in the process of being confirmed.

### **F. Access to Justice**

Johnson reported. Access to Justice (AJ) met on June 8, 2009. Results from the AJ Survey were totaled and amounted to about 7% of the membership. Chair of the Access to Justice committee, Bruce Smith, will review the written comments and will draft a report for the committee's approval before forwarding the report to the EC. The AJ continues to work on the November Bench Bar panel presentation. So far, Jennifer Flood (Ombudsman) and Ivan Guirado (WCB contract interpreter) are on the panel. Others may include Tanya Beck (WCB interpreter scheduler) and a member of SAIF's bilingual team. AJ is soliciting

new members for the committee, particularly claimant's attorneys. Two have shown initial interest and will decide soon.

### **G. Going Forward**

No report.

### **H. New Technologies**

Stevens reported. He agreed to chair the new committee. Stevens offered examples of how video hearings, webcams, and paperless discovery could be useful to workers' compensation practice. He doubted that video hearings would be implemented in the workers' compensation system. Others suggested that WCB is interested, but due to financial constraints, video hearings currently are not feasible. Others related their positive experiences with paperless technologies. Stevens will put together a committee with four other Section members before the next meeting.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Mundorff recommended that the Daughtry Award process begin earlier in the year than it has been. He suggested that we discuss the process this fall, so everything is ready to go in January, 2010. This was tabled until Somers, a current and returning member of the Daughtry Award committee, returns for the July EC meeting.

Johnson raised the issue of the inequality of the numbers of defense and claimant's bar representatives on the 2010 EC. The matter was tabled at Fisher's request for the next EC meeting.

The next EC meeting is scheduled for Friday July 17, 2009, at noon, at the OSB offices in Tigard, Oregon.

The Executive Committee meeting was adjourned by Chair Roy at 1:05 p.m.