

OFFICER MEETING - MINUTES

MSBA Section of Intellectual Property Law

April 16, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

By Teleconference

Participating Officers:

Ms. Donna Thomas, Chair of the Section
Mr. Michael Yang, Treasurer
Mr. Larry Guffey, Immediate Past Chair
Mr. Mike Oliver, Chair, Communications
Ms. Sherry H. Flax, Chair, Publications and Chair-elect
Ms. Konstantina M. Katcheves, Secretary
Mr. Vasilios Peros, Chair, Programs
Ms. Kathryn M. Goldman, Chair, Membership

Non-participating Officers:

The meeting was called to order by Donna Thomas at 11:00 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

Minutes will be circulated for approval after review by Chair.

II. Budget, Mike Yang

The Treasurer provided update on the budget. Of our approved budget of \$4,434 this year, we have \$1,459 available for the remainder of the year. The Board of Governors decision on next year's budget request of \$9,010 should be announced in May or June, 2009.

Committee Reports

A. Communication Committee – M. Oliver, Chair

M. Oliver updated on the status of the web-site project. Only update remaining is updating last years material. Materials were requested in word format not pdf for upload into the web-site. L. Guffey raised issue of increasing our web-site database by obtaining information from the MSBA's database. M. Oliver to prepare request for information on IP Section members from MSBA database.

B. Membership Committee – K. Goldman, Chair

There was a drop in our membership from 588 to 571 in March, because in March of every year the MSBA eliminates from its rolls any members who have not paid their dues for nine months. The drop was unrelated to the actions of the Section. K. Goldman reported that the MSBA indicated that typically there is a 10% attrition rate in membership when dues are

implemented, but this year could be different due to the poor economy. Discussion was had relating to drop in law firm's coverage of attorney association dues. Concern was discussed relating to competition with other associations. K. Goldman reported on approaching student membership as a tiered approach during the year and upon graduation. K. Goldman reported that social events will be on hold until we have a budget which can accommodate a social event. The membership committee will prepare a letter to members encouraging renewal which will be sent out at the time the MSBA sends its dues invoices.

C. Program Committee – V. Peros, Chair

V. Peros reported on success of Bilski program (approximately 45 attendees), and indicated that it is unlikely we will have another program (other than the Annual Meeting program) before the next bar year. V. Peros reported that the next planned announcement for the Annual Meeting program will be done in May, and we may be able to offer part or all of such program as a webinar. The Annual Meeting program is being done in coordination with the Annual IP Law Update this year. V. Peros is working on a program schedule for the next bar year (which may include programs on trade secrets and damages in IP litigation). Discussion was had regarding charging non-members for participation in programs in the next bar year.

D. Publication Committee – Sherry Flax, Chair

S. Flax provided a status update regarding the IP Law Update, which will include approximately 30 articles covering trademark, copyright and patent matters. Discussion was had to reduce the costs relating to the IP Law Update by providing the publication via CD only, with limited print copies provided at the MSBA Annual Meeting. S. Flax updated on next issue of the IP Newsletter, which is planned to be released in September.

E. Chair of Section – Donna Thomas

D. Thomas reported that she had contacted all nominees selected by the nominating committee for the positions of officers and council members at large, as well as all persons who had expressed interest who were not nominated. Discussion was had regarding the preparation of a letter from the chair to the membership next year to increase registration at our website and have at least limited contact information for all of our members available at the site (with the ability for members to provide more detailed information). D. Thomas to contact Paul Carlin to determine whether we can charge non-members for participation in programs next year under the rules of the MSBA and MICPEL.

Next Officers Meeting will be held on May 13, 2009 by teleconference at 12 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes by Secretary: Konstantina Katcheves