

OFFICER MEETING - MINUTES

MSBA Section of Intellectual Property Law

February 11, 2009 at 12:00 p.m.

By Teleconference only

Participating Officers:

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

Non-participating Officers:

Mr. Mike Oliver, Chair, Communications

The meeting was called to order by Donna Thomas at 12:00 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

Minutes will be circulated for approval after review by Chair.

II. Budget, Mike Yang

Treasurer provided update on budget. It was reported that there was no change from last report. Treasurer asked for continued updates from the committee chairs. Section Chair and Treasurer will coordinate to budget Section costs for the remainder of the year. The Section Chair has contacted our budget and finance liason, Judge Kershaw, regarding the Section's budget submission, and will follow up with him when he returns from vacation next week.

III. Committee Reports

A. Communication Committee – M. Oliver, Chair

M. Oliver delivered an email update to the Section Chair which was forwarded to the Officers. The committee had a test of the VOIP for webinar that worked well. It was reported that the Section would like to require future webinars to be done VOIP, to save money. This will necessitate a microphone and speakers at the site where a speaker is located, and speakers for users (speakers and microphones for users who want to ask questions). VOIP is the use of the internet to receive the audio. It makes it easy for the organizer to mute and unmute people, so it makes it easy to have a panel of speakers all located in different places (physically). M. Oliver requested that the publications committee send him, preferably in text or word format, all of the articles for the on-line newsletter at least two weeks before any planned distribution, so that he can generate the newsletter. M. Oliver has started on the security system for users, but that will be a much longer term

project. The purpose of the security system is to make the website editable fully by whoever the Section designates. It was reported that there was very poor attendance for the VOIP test – indeed, only a few committee members even responded.

B. Membership Committee – Kathryn Goldman, Chair

K. Goldman updated on the status of membership. It was reported that the membership count is at 588 members, which is a 4% increase from last month (58 new members this year). No report on a Committee meeting. K. Goldman updated on the plans for a social networking event. It was reported that sponsorship will likely be difficult because firms are in cutback mode. The status of the welcome letter and marketing letter was discussed. The Section would like to send an announcement to members regarding the dues assessment for next year in the newsletter (if it is published in March) and in an email communication to the listserv in April. K. Goldman will follow up on soliciting University of Maryland and University of Baltimore law schools student membership. The chair also noted that the Section will have an opportunity to publish an announcement promoting our Section in the Young Lawyers Section's Summer edition of *The Advocate*.

C. Program Committee – Vasilios Peros, Chair

V. Peros updated on the status of programs. One speaker backed out of the next program on trade secrets scheduled for 2/19 - they are looking for a replacement speaker and will decide by 2/13 whether to cancel and reschedule the program for April. Over 40 people have already signed up. Discussion was had on the long distance telephone charges related to the webinar dial-up. Discussion was also had on future programs including Annual Meeting format. Some discussion was had whether the speakers for the Annual Meeting should be solicited from the authors of the Annual IP case law update. It was decided the Program Committee and Publications Committee will coordinate the IP law update and the Annual Meeting program. There is also a program tentatively scheduled for 3/26/09 to review the *Bilski* case – this will likely be webinar only.

D. Publication Committee – Sherry Flax, Chair

S. Flax reported on content of the eNewsletter and provided a status update regarding the newsletter project and other publications. M. Oliver requested feedback on providing newsletter content and substance. S. Flax reported that there have been 10-11 submissions for the Bar Bulletin, so content requirements are complete. The Bar Bulletin will be published March 15. Any articles that are not selected for the Bar Bulletin will be considered for inclusion in the eNewsletter. Section Chair agreed to write a “letter from the Chair” submission for the first newsletter.

IV. Submission for 2008-2009 Annual Report

Section Chair will draft proposed report and distribute for comments next week.

V. Legislative Agenda

The Section Chair sent through the listserv information regarding pending IP legislation and requested that members submit information regarding any other IP bills that they would like the Section to track and update. Discussion was had regarding the Section's role in taking positions on legislation; Tina K. to inquire of the Business Section how they handle this matter.

VI. Nominating Committee

Chair to identify proposed members of the nominating committee for nomination of next year's officers and vacancies in the ranks of council members at large – proposed members of the nominating committee to be submitted for approval of the Section officers at the 3/11/09 meeting.

VII. Calendar of Events

Next Officers' Meeting to be held on Wednesday 3/11/09 at 12:00 p.m. at Saul Ewing. Next Section Council meeting will be in March 2009 or early April – date to be confirmed by Section Chair.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.
Minutes by Secretary: Konstantina Katcheves