

ELDER LAW SECTION
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
Loews Portofino Bay Hotel, Orlando
Thursday, January 12, 2017

I. Call to Order - Welcome Ellen Morris, Chair

In attendance: Ellen Morris, Carolyn Landon, David Hook, Collett Small, Steve Hitchcock, Jason Waddell, David Weintraub, Horacio Sosa, John Clardy, Heidi Brown, Travis Finchum, Howie Krooks, Javier Centonzo, Sam Boone, Enrique Zamora and eleven (11) guests.

Attending By Phone: Len Mondschein, Donna McMillan, Stephanie Villavicencio, Jill Burzynski and John Frazier

II. Approval of Minutes Carolyn Landon, Secretary

Approved Unanimously

III Chair's Report Ellen Morris, Chair

Ellen reported that the Section is doing well financially. The Committees and their Chairs are working hard. The next CLE at The Florida Bar's Annual Convention in June will be VA Benefits. The June Convention will be held in Boca.

IV. Past Chair's Report David Hook, Past Chair

David reported on the status of the Web page. The first mock up should be in February or by the time of the Strategic Planning Committee meeting in March. Like most Sections of the Bar, we will no longer have password protection. This change is to make the Web page more user friendly.

V. Chair Elect Report Collett Small, Chair-elect

Collett reported that today's Essentials of Elder Law program has received excellent comments and we expect more of the same Friday and Saturday for the Annual Update program.

VI. Treasurer's Report Steve Hitchcock

We have a fund balance of over \$190,000.00 and almost \$64,000.00 in net income. The Bar has gone to a new accounting system. The Software allows us to drill down the actual versus the prior year. We are almost dead even with last year in revenue and expenses. This Event is very well attended.

- VII. Substantive Division Jason Waddell, Vice Chair
- a. Exploitation and Abuse Committee Erika Dine/David Weintraub
David reported average attendance at meetings is 6 members.
- b. Probate and Estate Planning Committee Horacio Sosa/Amy Collins
 No report
- c. Guardianship Committee Victoria Heuler/Debra Slater
 No report
- d. Legislative Committee William Johnson/Scott Selis
Bill continues to take the lead this year as Scott has stepped in as Vice Chair of the Section. He expects a very busy year with POLST, guardianship and electronic wills. Our lobbyist, Brian Jogerst, is aware of our concerns regarding the electronic wills.
- e. Medicaid/Government Benefits Committee John Clardy/Heidi Brown
 No report
- f. Special Needs Trust Committee Travis Finchum/Howie Krooks
Travis announced the Committee is having monthly meetings and has 3 different sub groups: Trigger Trusts; ABLE & SNT, and QSNT & Elective Share.
- g. UPL Special Committee John Frazier/Len Mondschein

Report Filed. John reported a judgement against a non attorney Medicaid planner. The Bar's typical response is a letter of advice.
- h. Financial Products Special Committee Jill Burzynski
 No Report
- I. Veterans Benefits Committee Javier Centenzio

Javier is putting together the Veterans Affairs Benefits seminar for the June Bar meeting in Boca. It will be 4 hours including 1 hour of ethics.
- j. Mentoring Special Committee Stephanie Villavicencio
Each committee should present a program.

- VIII. Administrative Division Scott Selis, Vice Chair
- a. CLE Committee Sam Boone/Marjorie Wolasky
 Sam would like input from members on future seminars.
 - b. Newsletter Kristina Tilson
 Kristina is having trouble getting articles. Ellen requested an article from each Committee by next Friday.
 - c. Council of Sections Report David Hook
 No report
 - d. Certification Special Committee Ed Boyer
 No report
 - e. Law School Liaison Special Committee Enrique Zamora/Alex Cuello
 The next symposium at St. Thomas Law School will be on March 9, titled “The Future of Elder Law - How are the Changes in Demographics Affecting the Elder Law Community”.
 - f. Web Page Report David Hook
 See Past Chair’s report
 - g. Sponsorship Special Committee Jason Waddell
 Sponsorships are up this year. Guardian Trust is a Section sponsor and they brought food and drinks for this meeting. Elder Counsel is also a Section sponsor.
 - h. Membership Special Committee Donna McMillan/Robert Morgan
 Donna will have a sign up sheet at the Seminar and will encourage non-member attendees to become members of the Section
- IX. Board of Governors Report Sandy Diamond
 No report
- X. Liaison Reports
- a. AFELA Report Cary Moss
 No report but the joint collaboration of AFELA and the Section was noted by Ellen. She also reminded us of the difference between the focus of the two groups: AFELA’s focus is on practice management and outreach. The Elder Law Section’s focus is substantive.
 - b. FSGA Report Scott Greenberg/David Hook
 No report

c. RPPTL Report
No report

Charlie Robinson/Marjorie Wolasky

d. NAELA Report

Howie Krooks

The passing of the SNT Fairness bill is a big win.

It is expected that Block Grants or Per Capita Caps will be coming this year.

NAELA has put together a task force on how to deal with the bill and how to protect members to make sure Elder Law practitioners stay informed.

e. Task Force Update

Ellen Morris/Sam Boone

Sam Boone announced that NAELA is putting together a grass roots initiative to help states that are not as active as Florida. He suggested that we all get to know our legislator so when we have issues we can give them input

XI. New Business
None.

XII. Old Business
None.

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Carolyn Landon, Secretary