

**WOMEN & THE LAW SECTION  
MINUTES OF MEETING - FEBRUARY 2, 2005  
COMMUNITY SERVICE BUILDING - WILMINGTON**

IN ATTENDANCE<sup>1</sup>: Betsy McGeever, Pat Hannigan, Melissa Heestens, Dana M. Spring, Raelena Taylor, Jessica Zeldin, Debbie Gottschalk, Melissa Freeman, Suzanne I. Seubert, Patricia Tate Stewart, Regina M. Mullen, Frances Gauthier, Jennifer Ranji, Jill D. Sciullo, Mindy Clifton, Maria Newill, Susan DePesco, Nancy Stanford, Helen Winslow, Joan Schniekart, Alison Goodman, Megan Mantzavinos, Margaret DiBianca, Lydia Swanson-Cox, Sheridan Black

I. MEETING WITH LEGISLATORS: Sen. Karen Peterson and Reps. Deborah Hudson, Pam Maier, Diana McWilliams and Melanie George discussed a number of issues of interest to the Section.

II. H.B. 99 (Reintroduced as H.B. 36): Debbie Gottschalk presented new features added to former H.B. 99, which has been reintroduced in the current legislative session as H.B. 36. The new bill contains several “Whereas” clauses at the beginning of the bill, the purpose of which is to better define the scope of the legislation by making clear what it does not do, e.g. allow for marriage of same-sex couples. It also contains three sections, 29-31, which were not in H.B. 99. Otherwise, the bill is the same as H.B. 99. After some discussion aimed at clarifying the meaning and intended effect of Section 29, the Section voted unanimously to support H.B. 36 (Suzanne Seubert moved; Betsy McGeever seconded).

III. SECTION TESTIMONY BEFORE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE REGARDING STAFFING FOR WOMEN’S LEVEL IV FACILITY: Jennifer Ranji sought the Section’s approval of testimony in support of funding for corrections officers to staff the new women’s level IV facility. The request was approved unanimously (Suzanne Seubert moved; Mindy Clifton seconded).

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<sup>1</sup> Section members who were in attendance for the business portion of the meeting (agenda items II and III).