

**WOMEN & THE LAW SECTION
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 1, 2006, 12:30 P.M.
OFFICES OF GREENBERG TRAUIG, WILMINGTON, DE**

IN ATTENDANCE: Maria Paris Newill, Cheryl Ward, Chris Demsey, Julia Graff, Stephanie Symons, Suzanne I. Seubert, Margaret Juliano, Karen Jacobs Loudon, Kathaleen McCormick, Jessica Zeldin, Miranda Clifton, Victoria Counihan, Megan Mantzavinos.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the January 4, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

II. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Kathaleen McCormick reported:

- 0.1 H.B.36: No new developments to report;
- 0.2 Landlord/Tenant Issues for Victims of Domestic violence.
 - A. Legislation: A meeting of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council to discuss the proposed legislation is scheduled for today. The current version of the proposed legislation has support from the Landlords' Association. Senator Blevins has agreed to sponsor the bill. The Landlords' Association did not support additional amendments to the proposed legislation. The plan is to go forward with the version approved by the Landlords' Association.
 - B. Domestic Violence Housing training event recap was provided by Kathaleen McCormick.
- 0.3 Legislative Luncheon report. The turnout for the luncheon was great; Debbie Gottschalk is interested in feedback on the format of the luncheon. The discussion on childcare regulations was raised, and it was questioned whether the Section was interested in taking a position, and whether a presentation of some sort to educate Section members would be helpful.

Debbie Gottschalk did a great job of putting the luncheon together and should be acknowledged.

III. SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEMALE INCARCERATION: Suzanne Seubert reported.

The discussion centered around the grant application which was made for computers for the Level IV facility, since it turned out that the computers were not necessary. It was

reported that the nonprofit organization which applied for the grant changed it to further one of their own projects.

- IV. **RETREAT**: Mindy Clifton reported that the brochures for the retreat were recently mailed. The CLE has been put together and was included in the program.

Cheryl Ward reported on the activities of the Friday night committee. She asked Retreat attendees to bring a business card to the Friday night event.

It was reported that the Section has approached several vendors about the possibility of donating door prizes for Friday night.

A question was raised whether the Section should set money aside to pay for supplement attendance at the retreat (specifically, lawyers in public service or smaller firms, whose employers do not cover the cost.) **A motion was made to make \$500 available to distribute at the discretion of the Retreat Committee as scholarships for individuals to attend the Retreat. Notice of the availability of the scholarships will be given in an e-mail about the retreat. The motion was seconded, came to a vote, and was carried with unanimous approval.**

- V. **GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION**: Mindy Clifton reported that the Subcommittee is in need of members. It was noted that the Subcommittee raised over \$18,000 for last year's awards.

- VI. **NEW BUSINESS**: 2 items raised

1. Materials from the Coalition on Human needs was circulated. The materials address proposed Federal deficit reduction legislation which would cut funding for Medicaid, student loans and other programs. The legislation passed the House. It was noted that the Section would not be able to take a position on the legislation, but that individual Section members may want to consider doing so.
2. The University of Delaware and the Delaware Commission for Women is holding a Women's Leadership conference on March 7 or March 8. The Conference is hosting a number of women from Afghanistan. The Section has not been contacted directly about the event, but more information can be posted on Listserv if it is received.

- VII. **AWARDS COMMITTEE**: Suzanne Seubert reported that the Women's Leadership award would not be presented at the Bench & Bar Conference. The committee had a slate of names ready and recommended that the Section vote on them today, but was willing to open deliberations for the consideration of additional nominees.

The committee recommended that the Section nominate Claire DeMatteis, The Honorable Mary Johnston and Karen Jacobs Louden. Each nominee's credentials were discussed and excerpts from the nomination forms read. A motion was made to submit the slate of nominees to DSBA's Awards Committee in the order noted above. The Motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:35 p.m.