

MINUTES OF THE WDMO FEDERAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE

January 17, 2013—12:00 p.m.

Kansas City, Missouri (Offices of Stueve Siegel Hanson LLP)

Present (in person and via teleconference): Lisa Nouri, Erica Mynarich, Julia Kitsmiller, Lynnette Siegel, Andrew Hirth, Joe Whisler, Larry Miller, Jill Morris, Doug Harpool, Christine Blegen, Travis Poindexter.

The meeting began at 12:00 p.m.

Introduction of New Members

Lisa introduced the new members of the committee, who were welcomed by all.

Approval of Minutes

Larry Miller moved to approve the minutes from the September and October 2012 meetings. Travis Poindexter seconded the motion. With no opposition, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

Old Business

Recap of Criminal Law CLE. 100-150 people attended the CLE, which was a big success. The panel with the judges was great, with the two new judges present as well and Chief Judge Gaitan and Judge Fenner. Lisa has received numerous requests for additional information on the speakers. People appeared to like the venue at the courthouse and having access to the judges. Lisa expressed thanks to Travis Poindexter, Brian Gaddy and Willie Epps for all of their help.

EAP. Jill Morris, the new EAP Administrator, attended the meeting in person. She introduced herself, and provided her background. Jill stated she is eager to get going with the EAP program, and hopes that everyone appreciates it. She is currently reviewing the draft survey the committee worked on, and she will send the survey to a number of bar members by the end of January. She may also conduct focus groups with members of the bar in the spring. Jill plans to review the list of neutrals for any changes that need to be made. She will have CLEs for the neutrals to get more shared experience on the issues. She also plans to review the current General Order for any updates that need to be made. She stated she would be happy to come back and report to the committee on the survey input she receives. Her direct line is 816-512-5088.

Community Outreach Efforts. Ann (or someone else) needs to email the slideshow to new members so they can see it. Julia explained the program and how it works and encouraged new members to participate. She explained that Diana Diaz administrates the program and that nearly everyone has presented. She explained how SWMO and Central MO were recently added. It is a chance to see the judges in a different light and to get to know the community. Erica and Christine were asked to think about appropriate groups to whom we might present.

On a separate note, the committee again thanked Doug Harpool for handling the amazing retirement gift for Judge England.

New Business

Election of New Vice Chair/President Elect. Julia nominated Travis Poindexter. Travis expressed a willingness to fulfill the position, but was concerned as term expires next year. The committee decided to table the nomination until the next meeting to seek input from the court.

Scheduling of Meetings. The committee discussed future meetings and how we should meet in Jefferson City. Lisa explained that this was a great venue last year, and very interesting. The committee is not going to meet in June. But Lisa expressed the overall importance of understanding that attending meetings in other divisions is beneficial and highly encouraged.

Program Ideas. Lisa had concerns about the criminal bar getting burnt out on the CLEs in Kansas City. Travis thought everyone likes it, and he thinks the survey results would be helpful for evaluating same. It was determined that after a review of the survey results, the FPC should form a subcommittee to explore how to proceed. Mike Oliver and Dave Ketchmark may be put in charge of a Springfield Criminal Law CLE. Lisa thought the same speakers would be good in another city. Mike said there are very few people in the Springfield bar who do exclusively criminal work. Erica commented on a recent CJA CLE in Kansas City, and a lot of attorneys did not want to travel to KC twice in one month, so they had to choose between the CJA and the criminal CLE. Travis inquired about the size of the criminal bar in Springfield, and Erica replied it was not very big. But, the federal public defender there put on a little CLE in Springfield and about 30-35 people attended (for CJAs). Judge Whitworth had a CJA CLE in Jefferson City and was a good turnout. He thought there would be a good turnout for a criminal CLE in Springfield.

The committee questioned whether there would be any interest in a civil Ethics CLE in Kansas City. Christine stated that people always seem to need the ethics credits, but Bartlett has an ethics component so it may compete. Why not combine them? Julia stated there had not been an ethics portion for Bartlett in the last few years. But the needs are very different for ethics between the civil and criminal bars. She is willing to talk to Brian Gaddy and see about doing some free ethics CLE that is combined yet still distinct. Christine stated she would be agreeable to working on the criminal part with Larry. Doug agreed to work on the civil part (with help).

The committee discussed a KCMBA article. Christine agreed to do it. The way to make it happen is to submit an article, and she is happy to work on that with Lisa and Willie for the civil viewpoint.

Community Outreach for Diversity Bars. The committee discussed whether to have a social function or a meeting, inviting some members of those bars to explore this more. Lajuana Counts is president of FCAS and she may want to work on it. Larry Miller said he would contact Lajuana (with Travis) and they will report back.

At 12:50 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.