

Minutes of February 7, 2015 Meeting of Women and the Law Section of the State Bar of Texas

Having determined a quorum was present, Nora Bryant, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 A.M. on February 7, 2014 in Houston, Texas. Attending the meeting in person were JoAl Cannon Sheridan, Carmen Samaniego, Judy L. Ney, Melissa Dorman, Nikki Chargois-Allen, Elizabeth von Kreisler and Carolyn F. Moore; attending by telephone were Paula Whitten-Doolin, Ronnie Harrison, and Deborah Race.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by JoAl Cannon Sheridan and a second by Judy L. Ney, the minutes of the November 13, 2014 teleconference meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Judy Ney, treasurer, reported that we have \$26,557.91. She said that we have paid the money we owed in co-sponsoring a Texas Women Lawyer event and that we will need to spend money on new brochures that are to be printed for the Section by the State Bar.

Comment Reports

Membership Report

Our membership is 790 compared to 666 in March of 2014. We may try to use another free advertisement in the *Texas Bar Journal* to seek new members. There may be an article about the Section in connection with Women's History Month in the March *Texas Bar Journal*.

Newsletter/Website

Everyone agreed that the Section's most recent newsletter was very good. Paula Whitten-Doolin said she will do another book review. Others suggested the following topics: discussion on the perception of women by themselves and on the perception of women by men, invisible attorneys, multi-tasking, heart disease, young women with alcohol problems, attitude of firms in taking women back after leave for pregnancy/childcare, alternative careers, problems caused by debt from law school, and running a law office. Carmen Samaniego volunteered to ask a friend to write an article on the best way to leave the practice of law. Elizabeth von Kreisler volunteered to ask a friend to write an article on intellectual property. Carolyn F. Moore volunteered to write an article on women's health. Nora Bryant said she would talk with Angie Webster to find out the deadline for newsletter articles.

New Business

State Bar Annual Meeting (San Antonio, June 2015)

Our reception will be on June 18, 2015 from 5:30 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. in the hotel. Our annual meeting and continuing legal education program will be June 19, 2015, from 10:30 A.M. until noon in the convention center. U.S. District Judge Keith Ellison, of Houston; Hilda C. Galvan, Partner-in Charge, Jones

Day, of Dallas; Collyn Peddie, The Law Offices of Collyn Peddie, of Houston; and District Judge Renee Yanta, of San Antonio will be panelists on a program entitled *Status Report on Sticky Floors and Glass Ceilings*. Gift cards, or some other gift, will be given to the panelists. Paula Whitten-Doolin will ask that a State Bar photographer take photos at the meeting. Following the presentation, the Section will have its annual meeting that should end by noon.

The planning committee will give attendees to the reception tickets to be exchanged for alcoholic beverages at the reception. The planning committee is expecting 50 people to attend the reception. Carmen Samaniego will invite local women judges to attend the reception and anticipates that the local women lawyers' association will give money to defray expenses for the reception.

AWARDS

Ronnie Harrison, chair of the committee, said she will ask Tracy Nuchols to send e-blasts requesting nominations for the Sarah T. Hughes and Louise Raggio awards to Section chairs and other attorneys. Judy L. Ney, Nora Bryant, and Carolyn F. Moore are also on the committee. The awards will be presented at the annual meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

Linked In

Nora Bryant will send out another e-mail encouraging all members of the Section to join the Section's *Linked In*.

Texas Women Lawyers' CLE – Friday, February 27, 2015

Melissa Dorman will distribute water bottles (with the Section's name) to attendees of the continuing legal education program.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Thursday, March 26th (by teleconference), 4:30 P.M.

Thursday, May 14th (by teleconference – if needed)

Thursday, June 18th – Reception for Annual Meeting, 5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P. M. (San Antonio)

Friday June 19th – Annual Meeting/ CLE Program, 10:30 A.M. – noon (San Antonio)

Upon motion by JoAl Cannon Sheridan and second by Elizabeth von Kreisler, the meeting was adjourned at 11:44 A.M.

Respectfully submitted this 23rd day of March, 2015.

Carolyn F. Moore

Secretary