

WOMEN AND THE LAW SECTION
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2008 Teleconference

Council members in attendance: Tonya Carter, Chair; Carol Jendrzey, Vice-Chair Membership; Chantel Crews, Secretary; Ralph Brock, Treasurer; Carmen Sameniego, Immediate Past Chair; Patricia Blackshear, Mara Blatt, Shannon Dacus, Melissa Dorman, Ronnie Harrison, Andrea Johnson, Hon. Deanie King, Hon. Carolyn Moore, and Hon. Judy Ney.

Council members absent: Teri Danish, Chair-Elect; Nicole Gonzalez, Vice-Chair Newsletter; Alison McCall, Chronologist; and Louise Raggio.

- I. **Call to Order** – Tonya Carter called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- II. **Approval of Minutes /Secretary’s Report** – Chantel Crews presented the minutes from the November 12, 2007 teleconference. Carolyn Moore moved to approve the minutes, with a second from Mara Blatt. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- III. **Treasurer’s Report** – Ralph Brock presented the Treasurer’s Report. The Section has a balance of \$16,143.49. Judy Ney moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report, with a second from Andrea Johnson. The Treasurer’s report was accepted unanimously.
- IV. **Committee Reports**
 - A. **Website** – Tonya provided the Website update. She said the website had not been updated recently, but she would be adding information regarding the SBOT Annual Meeting. She also talked about using portions of our newsletter articles in on the first page of the website and providing a link directly to the newsletter from the teaser. Please send any new ideas or articles to Tonya.
 - B. **Newsletter** – Tonya said she has been unable to contact Nicole Gonzalez regarding the newsletter. Carol Jendrzey volunteered to help put the newsletter together based on the draft which had been circulated to the Council. Mara offered to copyedit the newsletter once it was ready. Tonya said she had individual articles which could be included, and will revise the President’s letter for the newsletter.
 - C. **CLE**
 1. **Possible Joint CLE with Women in the Profession** – Judy Ney reported the book “Women Pioneers in the Law” will not be released before April 2008. The earliest we could do a joint CLE with the Women in the

Profession Committee would be at the SBOT Annual Meeting or sometime this summer. Tonya thought a CLE event this summer would be great. The book will be in hardback, and priced on the high-end (\$100-\$150/copy). Judy said she was hoping to get a manuscript of the book sometime in February.

2. **Roadshow (Brownsville)** – Tonya reported the Brownsville Roadshow has not been rescheduled yet, but Teri Danish has met with representatives of the University of Texas at Brownsville and a local task force to get the Roadshow scheduled and ready to go. Carmen Sameniego reported the University of Texas at San Antonio wants to do the Roadshow each year! Great job Carmen!

D. Membership

1. **Listserv** – Carol said we had not received information from the SBOT regarding Section members who did not renew their memberships. Tonya requested Carol contact Kathy Casarez for the membership data. Carol said she also received several new names from Alison McCall from the swearing in ceremony.

E. Chronology – No report.

F. Legislative – No report.

- V. State Bar Updates** – Carolyn and Judy provided the State Bar updates. Carolyn advised March 3 was the deadline for nominations for SBOT Section representatives. The current openings are for one large and one medium size section. Please let Carolyn know if you are interested in being nominated; you can be nominated if you are a member of a large or medium-sized section. Section Representative are great for networking and leadership development.

Judy reported that Roland Johnson of Fort Worth and Claude Ducloux of Austin had been named as the SBOT President-Elect nominees. Judy is also running for one of four Houston Director positions on the SBOT Board. Overall, things are going well at the SBOT. All of the windows at the SBOT building are being replaced this year. Also, Section pro bono projects are being considered for awards. Judy said the Military Law Section was providing legal advice to soldiers coming back from overseas. There are many women in the military now, and Judy suggested our Section team up with the

Military Law Section in this project. She will contact the Military Law Section and see how we might get involved.

VI. Business

A. Council Retreat – Patricia Blackshear asked whether the Council wanted to choose another date for a Council retreat. Tonya suggested a happy hour or dinner at the SBOT Annual Meeting as an unofficial retreat. Mara suggested renting a limo so that no one would have to worry about transportation. Judy said the Annual Meeting will take place in downtown Houston, and there will be many places within walking distance of the hotels. The Council discussed a retreat in the summer months, and Mara suggested making the first face-to-face meeting of the year (in August) the retreat. The Council thought that was a great idea, and Tonya suggested making sure the old Board members were invited to join the new Council members. We will still have a happy hour/dinner at the Annual Meeting for this year's Council.

B. Annual Meeting 2008/Houston – Tonya provided the Annual Meeting report for Teri. Tonya said she knew our Section meeting had been set for 1:00 -2:30 p.m., but did not know which day of the Annual Meeting (Thursday 6/26 or Friday 6/27).

1. Awards – committee appointments, recipient suggestions, deadlines – We will use the Texas Bar Journal ad to announce our winners, but will utilize e-mail to advertise nominations for the Sarah T. Hughes and Ma'at Justice Awards. Carol suggested sending the e-mail to the various women bar associations across the state. Carmen said Kathy Casarez will send the award information to the Section Chairmen, who in turn will forward the information to their members. The SBOT can also send the information to all local bar associations, and the information can then be forwarded to local bar members.

The Awards Committee consists of the current chairman (Tonya), chairman-elect (Teri), and immediate past chairman (Carmen).

Tonya requested suggestions for nominations. Shannon Dacus suggested reviewing past nominees. Mara said the list of past nominees was dwindling, and we would need to come up with more names. Tonya said she would send the e-mail regarding the awards next week, and asked everyone to keep thinking of nominees for the awards.

2. **Topics/Agenda** – Andrea reported our Section was participating in the Diversity Forum again, and speaker Judi Craig is on board for the Section meeting, or the Diversity Forum, or both events. Once Andrea has coordinated with other Sections, she will be able to tell us more. Andrea has contacted Holly Wilkerson to let her know the WAL Section is ready to assist with the Diversity Forum. The Diversity Forum will not be at the same time as our Section meeting. Tonya asked whether the topic had been finalized. Andrea said she would meet with Teri and get the Diversity Forum mapped out.
3. **Booksale** – Ronnie reported she already had lots of books and bags, and she hoped things go well with the booksale. Tonya said she would assist Ronnie.
4. **T-Shirts** – Tonya said she did not want to print new t-shirts this year since we have so many left over from last year. She said she would like to discount and sell the existing shirts before getting new ones. We have not broken even yet from the t-shirt expense of last year. The shirts have 2007 printed on the front, however; some Council members expressed concern regarding whether people would buy outdated shirts. The Council decided to donate the leftover shirts after the Annual Meeting, but only after we try to sell them. We could try to tie in the shirts with the booksale and include a shirt with the books and bag for \$25. Ralph reminded the Council that if we do tie in shirts sales with the booksale, we must keep the shirt funds separate since the booksale funds were designated for charity. Carmen asked whether we could look for a different charity to which we would donate the funds from the booksale. Perhaps a Houston charity would get more local support in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. Ronnie suggested picking a charity from the Texas Bar Foundation list. Tonya requested any ideas for new charities should be e-mailed to the rest of the Council.
5. **WAL Happy Hour or Dinner** – Already discussed, but please e-mail any ideas to the Council.

C. Other Business

1. Andrea reported Texas Women Lawyers is having a great annual CLE in Austin on February 22nd. She has e-mailed information on the CLE to the

Council. The CLE costs only \$100 (a great bargain) and is entitled “Excellence in Law, Excellence in Life.” The CLE features great speakers including Ann Daley and Sara Holtz and other great Texas speakers. Please register as soon as possible.

2. Carolyn asked whether we need another Ma’at Justice award. Mara said she still had three papyrus. Mara was unsure whether we still had the domes, however, and said she would double-check. Ralph showed an expenditure from last year for the purchase of additional domes. Judy suggested making sure we had several of the domes on hand for future awards. Mara said it should not be a problem to order additional domes and get them here in time for the awards ceremony.

VII. Next Council Meeting: 4/12/08 in person changed to **4/19/08**, in Austin.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned – 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chantel Crews, Secretary