

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE
WOMEN AND THE LAW SECTION OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS
NOVEMBER 21, 2002

Call to Order/Welcome

Misty Ventura of Dallas, Chair, convened the meeting by teleconference at 6:05 P.M., determined a quorum was present, and welcomed those attending the meeting. The following officers announced their presence: **Judy L. Ney** of Houston, Chair-Elect; **Cynthia Reppert** of Austin, Vice Chair-Newsletter; **Lisa R. Hernandez** of Plano, Treasurer; **Susan R. McMenemy** of Lubbock, Chronologist; **Hon. Deborah L. Ingraham** of Austin, Immediate Past Chair. Council members announcing present were **Lisa Smith** of San Antonio, **D'Metria Benson** of Dallas, **Ralph H. Brock** of Lubbock, and **Avo Stevens Butler** of Sherman.

Myra Blatt of El Paso, council member, and **Carolyn F. Moore** of Lubbock, Secretary, joined the conference late, with valid excuses.

Absences were excused for **Louise B. Raggio** of Dallas, Emeritus Member; **Teresa Oxford** of San Antonio, Vice Chair-Membership; **Christy Drake-Adams** of Austin, council member; and **Sherry Wetsch** of Houston, council member. Also not attending the meeting were council member **Ronnie Harrison** of Houston; Board Advisors **Kim J. Askew** of Dallas, and **Linda Butter** of Longview; and State Bar Liaison, **Kristie Brasfield** of Austin.

Secretary's Report

Ms. Ney presented the report for Ms. Moore. Ms. Reppert moved, with a second by Ms. Ingraham, that the minutes of the September 14, 2002 meeting be approved, as amended to reflect that Deborah Ingraham rather than Misty Ventura is responding to the letter from the prisoner. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Hernandez reported that as of September 30, 2002, the section has \$6,401.28. Ms. Benson moved, with a second by Ms. Butler, that the treasurer's report be accepted. The motion passed.

Chair-Elect's Report

Ms. Ney reported that Nancy Rapaport, Dean of the Law School at the University of Houston, will be the speaker at the Section's Annual Meeting at the State Bar Convention in Houston. The meeting will be on Thursday, June 12, 2003, from 3 P.M. until 5 P.M. Ms. Ney will try to get monetary support and underwriting for the meeting from the local women's bar in Houston.

Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Report

Ms. Ventura will speak with PDP staff about opportunities for officers and members of the council to speak at CLE events sponsored by the State Bar of Texas. She reminded officers and members who are interested in speaking at a CLE even to send her e-mail expressing their interest.

Newsletter/Mailing

Ms. Reppert stated that the newsletter will be mailed on or about November 22, 2002.

Deadline for submitting items for the next newsletter is February 1, 2003. The newsletter, which will be mailed at the end of February, may contain an interview with Sarah Weddington about new actions on **Roe v. Wade**; interviews with two new University of Texas law professors; and a report on the discrimination claim by Professor Daisy Floyd that Texas Tech University officials failed to follow an announced plan to choose an interim dean for the law school and allegations that Tech's president announced that he was predisposed not to select a mere educator or a woman for the dean's position.

Membership Report

Ms. Ventura explained that our current membership of 448 members should increase this month. Ms. Ingraham and Ms. Drake-Adams attended the swearing-in ceremony for newly licensed attorneys in Austin on November 18, 2002. They visited with the newly licensed lawyers, gave them information about the Section, and encouraged them to take advantage the Section's offer of free membership for newly licensed lawyers. The free membership will continue through May 31, 2003, the end of this bar year.

Pro Bono Report

A report was not given.

Chronologist Report

Ms. Butler will send Ms. McMenemy all the material that she has on chronology. She will also send a box of information about the Section to be in archived at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Ms. Ventura will send the officers and council members an e-mail with information about the Section's archives.

Website Report

Ms. Ingraham said that the site is being updated. Soon the site will include the Section's minutes of meetings and newsletters. In addition the site will have information about continuing legal education.

Proposed Policies

Officers and council members approved Ms. Ventura's proposal to combine the committee for the Ma'at Justice Award and the committee for the Sarah T. Hughes Award. Ms. Ventura asked that anyone who wanted to be on the combined committee to contact her.

Ms. Ingraham has four crystal capital domes that are used as awards for the Hughes winner.

Gender Bias Task Force Liaison Report

Ms. Ingraham, Section liaison to the Task Force, attended the most recent meeting. She said that the Task Force members, some of whom are new to the Task Force, are interested in incorporating racial bias into their goals or forming a new Task Force on Racial Bias.

New Business

State Bar of Texas Board of Directors – Minority Director Nominees

After Mr. Brock described the duties of the minority directors of the State Bar of Texas and after considerable discussion by council members and officers, Ms. Butler moved, with a second by Ms. Ney, to nominate Ms. Benson as minority director. Ms. Ingraham moved, with a second by Ms. Blatt, to amend the motion to add the names of Ms. Ney and Ms. Ventura, as well as any other council member or officer who so desired, as nominees by the Section to be minority director of the State Bar of Texas. The motion, as amended, passed.

Ms. Ventura will send a letter of nomination for Ms. Benson, Ms. Ney, and anyone else who sends her a resume in time for her to have the nomination letter at the State Bar of Texas by 5 P.M. on Monday, December 16, 2002.

Ms. Moore will send a letter of nomination for Ms. Ventura.

State Bar of Texas Committee Appointments

Ms. Ventura encouraged all officers and council members to fill out a request to be appointed by Betsy Whitaker, State Bar President-Elect, to a committee of the State Bar. She said that anyone could notify her of a desire for an appointment or anyone could fill out an interest form and send it to the State Bar by December 30, 2002. The interest form

is on page 931 of the November, 2002 **Texas Bar Journal**. The form is also on the State Bar's website.

Women's Legislative Days – March 3 & 4, 2003, in Austin

Ms. Blatt moved, with a second by Ms. Reppert, that Ms. Ingraham be the Section's liaison with power to make decisions on the Section's involvement at Women's Legislative Days. The motion passed. Ms. Ingraham said that the Section would be a sponsor and have a table at the event.

Ms. Ventura asked that Ms. Ingraham write an article for the newsletter about the Section's involvement with Women's Legislative Days.

ABA Women of Color Project

Ms. Ventura said that she received an e-mail about the ABA project. Leaders of the project hope to conduct research on substantive issues affecting race and are seeking information. Ms. Ventura will ask Kristie Brasfield to send information about minority bars in Texas to the project leaders.

Old Business

Task Force/Conference on Women's Bar Organizations

Ms. Blatt said that she will report on this topic at the February meeting. She asked that people send her ideas for the Task Force/Conference.

National Conference of Women's Bar Associations

Ms. Butler moved, with a second by Ms. Benson, that the Section pay \$275 to join the NCWBA. The motion passed. The association's web site is www.ncwba.org. Treasurer, Lisa Hernandez, will forward the Section's dues check to NCWBA.

Texas Women Lawyers (TWL) Meeting

Ms. Ventura, Ms. Benson, and Ms. Ingraham have recently attended meetings of TWL. They agreed that TWL is making an impressive reorganization attempt. Ms. Ventura said that the Section could discuss joining TWL at the February meeting.

Mr. Brock said that anyone interested in joining TWL could find out about the organization by reviewing the TWL web site. Ms. Ventura said that she will e-mail officers and council members about the web site.

Officers and Council Members Job Descriptions

Ms. Ventura is updating descriptions of the duties of officers and council members.

Other new business

Ms. Ingraham sated that Judge Deborah Hankinson, winner of the 2002 Ma'at Justice Award returned the \$100 travel reimbursement check sent to her by the Section. Justice Hankinson explained that she had received reimbursement for travel from the State Bar of Texas.

Pregnancies

Ms. Ventura announced that she is expecting her first baby on June 6, 2003. She said that Ms. Hernandez is expecting her third boy in April 2003.

Next meeting

The Section's next meeting will be in Austin on Saturday, February 22, 2003, from 10:30 A.M. until 2:30 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

(Original signature on file)

Carolyn F. Moore
Secretary

November 27, 2002