

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE
WOMEN AND THE LAW SECTION OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS
SEPTEMBER 14, 2002, IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

Call to Order/ Welcome/ Quorum

Misty Ventura of Dallas, Chair, convened the meeting, determined a quorum was present, and welcomed the following officers: Judy L. Ney of Houston, Chair-Elect; Teresa Oxford of San Antonio, Vice-Chair for Membership; Lisa R. Hernandez of Plano, Treasurer; Susan R. McMenemy of Borger, Chronologist; Hon. Deborah L. Ingraham of Austin, Immediate Past Chair; Louise B. Raggio of Dallas, Emeritus Member; and the following council members: Lisa Smith of San Antonio, Christy Drake-Adams of Austin, Mara Aysa Blatt of El Paso, Ronnie E. G. Harrison of Houston; and Kristie Brasfield, Director of the Office of Minority Affairs and State Bar of Texas Liaison to the Section. Also attending via telephone were council members D'Metria Benson of Dallas and Sherry Wetsch of Houston.

Absences

Deborah Ingraham moved with a second by Mara Blatt, to excuse absences for members who sent in reasons for their inability to attend the meeting. The motion passed. Members with an excused absence for the meeting were Carolyn F. Moore of Lubbock, Secretary; council members Ralph H. Brock of Lubbock, Avo Stevens Butler of Dallas; and Board Advisors Kim J. Askew of Dallas, and Linda Butter of Longview.

Cynthia Reppert, Vice-Chair- Newsletter, was also absent.

Announcements

Deborah Ingraham announced that Teresa Oxford would be awarded the Belva Lockwood Outstanding Young Lawyer Award from the Bexar County Women's Bar Association at the Bench Brunch on November 3, 2002, in San Antonio.

Teresa Oxford moved, with a second from Mara Blatt, that the following dates be approved as the schedule of meetings for the Section: November 21, 2002, by telephone; February 22, 2003, in Austin; April 30, 2003, by telephone; and June 13, 2003, in Houston at the Annual Meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Meetings that are held in Austin will begin at 10:30 A.M.

Secretary's Report

Deborah Ingraham moved, with a second by Mara Blatt, that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Women and the Law Section of the State Bar of Texas, June 14, 2002, in Dallas, Texas, be approved. The motion carried.

Judy Ney, acting as secretary in the absence of Carolyn Moore, and read aloud to attendees the following information:

On July 23, 2002, the Section Council voted to approve a motion by Teresa Oxford, with a second by Lisa R. Hernandez, that the Women and the Law Section offer travel reimbursements to recipients of the Sarah T. Hughes and the Ma'at Justice Award up to \$100.00.

On August 2, 2002, the Section Council voted to approve a motion by Carolyn F. Moore, with a second by Teresa Oxford, that Deborah Ingraham, Immediate Past Chair of the Women and the Law Section, be the Section's liaison to the Texas Supreme Court's Gender Fairness Task Force for this State Bar Year, June 1, 2002 through May 30, 2003.

On August 13, 2002, Carolyn F. Moore, Secretary, wrote to Clara E. "Betsy" Johnson on Section letterhead, stating that the Section does not take a position, for or against, the appointment of judges. This letter was in response to a letter written to the Section by Ms. Johnson.

Treasurer's Report

Lisa Hernandez presented the Treasurer's Report, reporting that the current balance is \$7,299.35. She gave members reimbursement forms to fill out and return to her. She reminded members that the mileage reimbursement rate is now \$0.345 per mile. Members voted to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Chair-Elect's Report

Judy Ney said that she, Ronnie Harrison, and Sherry Wetsch, all from Houston, comprise the subcommittee to plan the Section's Annual Meeting, which will be in Houston in mid June 2003.

CLE Report

Misty Ventura gave a history of the Section's previous CLE events. Some of the programs were in-house productions, other programs were held in conjunction with PDP, now TexasBar CLE, or with Texas Women Lawyers. She emphasized that the Section should get involved in other CLE programs as sponsors so that the Section can get recognition and increase its membership. She asked attendees to send her an e-mail list of potential speakers for CLE programs, along with topics for the speakers. She and Christy Drake-Adams will work on the Section's CLE program.

Newsletter/Mailing

Deborah Ingraham said that the deadline for submitting articles to the next newsletter is September 16, 2002. The newsletter will be mailed on October 15, 2002. Other

newsletters that will be published during the year will include copies of the Section's minutes of meetings. She asked that each officer and council member write one article for the newsletter this year.

Membership Report

Teresa Oxford distributed a list with the names of Section members. She said that membership is now 484. She will e-mail a copy of the list of Section members to anyone requesting a copy.

Ms. Oxford said that Deborah Ingraham and Christy Drake-Adams would represent the Section at the next ceremony for newly licensed attorneys. The two representatives will hand out information about Section membership after the induction ceremony in Austin in November of 2002.

Ms. Oxford said that as the Section's name has more exposure, membership should increase. She stated that both the newsletter and web site are two ways that the Section gets good publicity for activities of the Section. She will develop a definitive list of why people should join the Section. The list can be placed in the Section's brochure, newsletter, and web site.

Pro Bono Report

Ronnie Harrison stated that the Section sent \$1050.00 to the Women's Advocacy Project from proceeds raised during the June 2002 State Bar Annual Meeting in Dallas. Ronnie, along with Leo and Judy Ney, sold miniature dancing-cow figurines to raise the funds.

Deborah Ingraham stated that she would respond to a letter from a prisoner requesting help from the Section. She will send the prisoner a list of volunteer legal aid organizations that might provide the help requested by the prisoner.

Chronologist Report

Susan McMenemy said that she was excited about working on the chronology project of the Section. Louise Raggio suggested that women who were past presidents of the State Bar should be interviewed.

Web Site Report

Deborah Ingraham said that the Section's web site could be viewed at www.txwomenlawsection.org. She requested help in getting links for the site. She is considering providing links to other legal services and explaining on the web site that the Section does not offer legal services.

New Policy

Mara Blatt, with a second by Teresa Oxford, moved that the travel expense policy for recipients of the Sarah T. Hughes and Ma'at Justice Award be \$100.00 per person upon request. The motion passed after discussion. Deborah Ingraham and D'Metria Benson abstained from voting.

Vacant Council Position

Ronnie Harrison suggested that the Section consider Jennifer Rustay of Houston to fill the vacant council position, which expires in 2004. Misty Ventura appointed Ms. Rustay, subject to Ms. Rustay becoming a member of the Section.

2002-2003 Section Goals

Ms. Ventura stated that her emphasis for 2002-2003 is to identify and implement specific goals of the Section.

Council Member Job Descriptions

Ms. Ventura described duties of officers and council members. She said that she and Judy Ney would work on a job description for Chair-Elect.

CLE event

Mara Blatt moved, with a second by Deborah Ingraham, that the Section sponsor a local bar leaders conference, site to be determined later, to network with women bar leaders. The motion passed. Misty Ventura appointed Ms. Blatt to be in charge of planning the conference.

Louise Raggio Lecture Series

The Louise Raggio lecture series will be October 2, 2002 in Dallas.

National Conference of Women Bar Associations

Misty Ventura requested that the Section pay \$100.00 to become a member of the National Conference of Women Bar Associations. Attendees voted to approve the request.

Texas Women Lawyers

Misty Ventura will attend the September 20, 2002 meeting in Dallas of Texas Women Lawyers and report on the meeting at the Section's next meeting.

Council of Chairs of Sections of the State Bar

Misty Ventura attended the Council of Chairs' first meeting of the year recently. She said that perhaps the Section's legislative committee should be reactivated to review all the legislative materials from the State Bar.

Attendees voted not to sponsor a writing contest for law students.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

(Original signature on file)

Carolyn F. Moore
Secretary

September 26, 2002