

CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION

SENIOR LAWYERS COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

MEETING MINUTES

The CBA Senior Lawyers Committee met on Wednesday, September 19, 2007 at the Graduate Club in New Haven. In attendance were James Kambas, Chairman; Beth Griffin; Martin Burke; Dick Fisher; Manny Psarakis; Bob Peeters; Ed Hyde; the Honorable Michael Mack; Diane Whitney; and Lou Pepe.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Jim Kambas, at approximately 6:15 p.m. Lou Pepe was appointed temporary, acting, non-permanent, serving without prejudice Secretary. The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and approved.

Subcommittees

Chairman Kambas renewed his request for volunteers for the various subcommittees. He reminded everyone present that the work of the Senior Lawyers Committee cannot get done without active subcommittees.

New York State Bar -- Mandatory Retirement Requirements

Chairman Kambas then raised the subject of the New York State Bar Association's recent resolution opposing mandatory retirement requirements in law firms and the resolution of the ABA House of Delegates supporting that position. He noted that this topic is obviously related to the work of the Senior Lawyer Committee and suggested that the issue be studied by a special task force. Manny Psarakis agreed to chair that task force, which will review the New York State Bar Association's report; consider the pending lawsuit by the government against the Sidley Austin firm; review other materials; and report back to the Committee. Lou Pepe reminded the Chair that CBA President, Bill Prout, has asked for a report and recommendation from this Committee to the CBA House of Delegates on this subject.

Publications Subcommittee

Dick Fisher, Chair of the Publications Subcommittee, reported that the Senior Lawyer Committee is up and operating on the CBA website. The link to our Committee now includes meeting dates, the mission statement, minutes of previous meetings, and other materials that may have been distributed to members.

Retirement Survey

Chairman Kambas reported on the work he and Dick Fisher are doing on the preparation of a "Retirement Survey" which, when completed, will be sent to members of the Bar Association to determine their plans, objectives, etc. in retirement.

Legislative Liaison

Chairman Kambas then reported that every CBA Section and Committee must have a legislative liaison, who would have the job of interfacing with the CBA lobbyists during any legislative session to respond to the CBA's lobbyists' inquiries made concerning proposed legislation affecting the work of that section or committee. Dick Fisher volunteered to fill that role for the Senior Lawyers Committee.

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers -- Connecticut

Beth Griffin, Executive Director of Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers -- Connecticut reported on the work of that fine organization, which is devoted to helping lawyers in the state who are suffering from impairment as a result of alcoholism, drug addiction, gambling addiction, or aging problems.

Pro Bono Work

Diane Whitney reported on her efforts to develop a program to facilitate the utilization of retired or semi-retired lawyers to do pro bono work. She reported that her next step would be to meet with President Prout to report her progress to him and to determine how to coordinate her efforts with the CBA Pro Bono Committee. Diane's current thinking is that the first phase of any such program would probably be to integrate it with the existing legal aid providers, because a structure, framework, and process is already in place there. Everyone agreed that retired lawyers are an invaluable resource for pro bono work and that this effort should be pursued vigorously.

Seminar -- Law Firm Succession

Lou Pepe reported that a syllabus for a seminar dealing with law firm succession has been completely finalized; the panel (with one vacancy) has been selected and committed; a venue has been selected (CBA Headquarters); and a date confirmed (March 28, 2008). Everyone was encouraged to attend and encourage others to attend.

Judge Mack's Presentation

Judge Mack presented the evening's program. He explained that, after being in private practice, the corporate world, and a member of the Superior Court bench (the result of two different appointments), he is now a Judge Trial Referee in Waterford Juvenile Court handling primarily termination of parental rights cases. He presented a fascinating and moving description of his experiences with those cases. Judge Mack emphasized that, notwithstanding the debilitating and emotionally draining effect of that work, he finds that it is extremely rewarding, because it is the one place that a Judge can make an obvious, real and immediate difference.

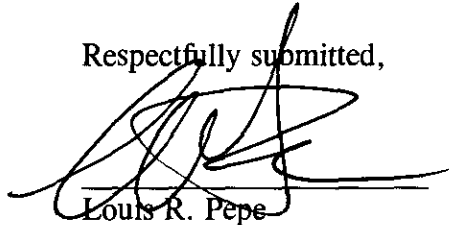
Future Meetings

The Chairman then led a discussion on the preferred venue for future meetings. It was decided that New Haven presents the least inconvenience to the members -- at least on a collective basis. It was further agreed that The Graduate Club would be utilized for the meetings.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Louis R. Pepe
Acting Secretary