

CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION
JOINT MEETING
INSURANCE PROGRAMS FOR THE BAR COMMITTEE
SENIOR LAWYERS COMMITTEE
MAY 14, 2008
MINUTES

The Connecticut Bar Association Insurance Programs for the Bar Committee and the Senior Lawyers Committee met at The Graduate Club in New Haven on May 14, 2008. The meeting was called to order by Jim Kambas, the Chair of the Senior Lawyers Committee, at 6:30 p.m. Attending were Jim Kambas, Ken Laska, Jennifer Cavalier, Robert Wolfe, Sherwood Willard, Ed Hyde, Manny Psarakis and John Kronholm. Mr. Kronholm is the agent for the insurance programs sponsored by the CBA for its members.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss liability issues for senior lawyers, particularly those that are retired from active practice but still providing legal services to some clients and to non-profits. Mr. Laska and Mr. Kronholm discussed the insurance coverage provided to members of the CBA which includes not only liability insurance but also, health insurance, life insurance and long term care insurance. With respect to liability insurance, the program provides continuing coverage for claims related to practice before retiring if the attorney or his/her firm was a member of the Bar program for three years before retirement. The "tail" program would not cover work done after retirement. There is a part time policy available through the CBA which provides coverage for those working an average of 20 hours per week. It was suggested that this policy might be appropriate for an attorney that was doing pro bono work during retirement. Other possibilities were that the organization requesting the service would provide liability coverage although it was not clear that this would protect a consulting attorney. Mr. Kronholm indicated that CNA, the carrier for the current CBA liability program, did have a program for covering active attorneys who provide pro bono legal support in addition to their more traditional client representation.

Mr. Hyde discussed a proposal being considered by the House of Delegates which is intended to facilitate services from retired attorneys to non-profits. Tentatively called the Emeritus Project, the CBA would register senior attorneys who wish to volunteer their time in a specific area and provide attorneys from the register to non-profits seeking legal advice. The non-profit would provide liability coverage unless the attorney was otherwise covered. No action has been taken to date on this proposal.

Some examples of the most frequent claims considered by the Grievance Committee of the Bar were real estate matters and statute of limitations issues. Mr. Laska also discussed interventions with senior attorneys who were no longer able to maintain their practices.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sherwood S. Willard
Acting Secretary