

Minutes of the Federal Practice Section Meeting
May 21, 2008

In attendance were:

Anne Louise Blanchard, George Cahill, Hon. Warren W. Eginton, Charles Goetsch, Hon. Janet C. Hall, Jeffrey Hellman, Carol Ikari, Hugh Keefe, Hon. Mark R. Kravitz, Ethan Levin-Epstein (co-chair), Nancy Martin, Patrick McHugh, Christopher Perry, Christopher Rooney, Jacob Zeldes, David Schaefer, Hope Seeley, Tim Shearin, Frank Silvestri.

The meeting was called to order by co-chair Ethan Levin-Epstein at 6:38 p.m. at the Quinnipiack Club in New Haven.

Anne Blanchard presented the Civil Practice Committee's request for the district judges to consider an amendment to paragraph 2(b) of the Standing Order on Civil Cases Local Rules. Currently, the Standing Order requires filing by 60 days after the filing of the Complaint, petition for removal, or transfer of a matter. The proposed amendment moves the date for filing motions for class certification to 90 days after the filing of a defendants' answer. The Executive Committee unanimously supported sending the proposed amendment to the District Judges for their consideration. Judge Kravitz noted that the judges would be meeting shortly and would consider the proposed amendment to the Standing Order.

Co-chair Ethan Levin-Epstein reminded the Executive Committee that the Federal Practice Section is presenting at the June 9, 2008, CBA's Annual Meeting and requested Section members' attendance. He also noted the September 19, 2008, Bench-Bar meeting, with a tentative schedule of a keynote speech by Judge Winters, an overview of the 2007-08 Supreme Court session, a presentation of Election Law issues, a discussion of Law in Film and Pro Bono Awards.

Ethan Levin-Epstein reported that there was approximately \$18,315.17 in the Section's Treasury.

A discussion then ensued regarding the mandatory mentoring program for new attorneys. Section members noted that the concept was a good one, however concerns were expressed regarding cross-firm confidentiality issues, and potential discipline of new attorneys where their mentor failed to participate, potential malpractice claims against a mentor etc. The Section will send a letter to Louis Pepe outlining these concerns.

Ethan Levin-Epstein reminded Section members that the Annual Social is June 17th at Pine Orchard.

Ethan Levin-Epstein announced the new co-chairs of the Federal Practice Section, thanked Jonathan Tropp for his work as co-chair and noted it had been a pleasure serving as co-chair with him. The Federal Practice Section extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation to Jonathan Tropp and Ethan Levin-Epstein for their work as Section chairs.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Louise Blanchard,
Secretary