

## MINUTES OF THE OREGON STATE BAR DEBTOR-CREDITOR SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

8 August 2014

The meeting was called to order at the 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Bankruptcy Court in Portland, Oregon at approximately 3:05 pm by Caroline Cantrell, Chair. The Eugene Bankruptcy Court was also linked by teleconference, and members could attend by phone.

Committee members attending, either in person or by phone, were Caroline Cantrell, Susan Ford, Dave Hercher, Rich Parker, Clarke Balcom, Jason Ayres, Judge Randall Dunn, Leslie Gordon, Justin Leonard, Carolyn Wade, Natalie Scott, Vanesa Pancic, and Britta Warren. Karen Lee from the OSB also attended. US Bankruptcy Court Clerk, Charlene Hiss also attended by phone.

1. The minutes from the meeting of 20 June 2014, with a correction of one word suggested by Judge Dunn, were approved after a motion to approve by Judge Dunn and a second by Carolyn Wade.
2. Committee Reports and Assignments.

CLE: Leslie Gordon reported that the CLE program in conjunction with the 2014 Annual Meeting is scheduled for 24-25 October in Eugene, at the University of Oregon Law School. The subjects and faculty are mostly finalized, and it looks to be a very good lineup.

Consumer Bankruptcy: Judge Dunn reported on the last meeting, held on 8 July 2014 at the Bankruptcy Court, with individuals also able to participate by phone. There was a presentation by representatives from Banner Bank, who spoke about the bank's policy of extending mortgage loans for residential purchase to qualifying debtors in an ongoing chapter 13. The next meeting will be on 11 September 2014.

Legislation Committee: Rich Parker reported that there are some potential changes being considered for proposal to the 2015 legislative session, regarding money judgments in foreclosures.

Pro Bono Committee (Portland): Vanesa Pancic reported that there have been an average of 12 to 15 attorney volunteers per session, with 190 cases opened, and 2038 hours reported, so far this year.

Pro Bono Committee (Eugene): Carolyn Wade reported that 9 attorneys are having cases referred to them, with 14 pro bono clients served in the recent period. Tom Huntsberger is trying to get data on the invoices that were to be submitted for reimbursement, but have not yet been received.

Saturday Session: Judge Dunn reported that there was nothing to report yet regarding next year's Saturday Session. He did inform the committee that, regarding the appointment of the new judge to replace Judge Perris, there would be interviews in San Francisco later in September, and we should know who the new judge will be at some point soon after that.

Annual Meeting: Susan Ford reported that preparation for the Annual Meeting to be held at the University of Oregon is on track. We are pursuing the concept of a "dine around" approach at various area restaurants with each person paying for their own meal. They are getting together a list of

restaurants that will participate. There was a discussion of possible venues for the 2015 Annual Meeting and CLE in Portland. PSU is potentially a good venue, with similar costs and facilities to U of O. Karen Lee pointed out that "University Place" (the former Red Lion) should not be considered, since the Bar had had a poor experience there. But PSU has several new and newly renovated facilities on the main campus that should be explored. Lewis & Clark Law School was discussed, but it was considered to be too isolated. The MAC Club was considered, but it will be undergoing renovations starting in May 2015. Hotel DeLuxe, was also mentioned as a possibility. Both Hotel DeLuxe and PSU are on the MAX light-rail line

Newsletter: Justin Leonard reported that the deadline for submissions for articles for the next edition is 1 October 2014. Among the subjects expected to be covered will be an article on the definition of "serve" per the rules, an article on final resolution of partnership disputes by Serena Morones, and a report on the new bankruptcy judge to replace Judge Perris.

New Lawyers: Clarke Balcom reported that the New Lawyers committee is planning more social get-togethers later this year. Also, Tim Eblen has reported that there is an additional New Lawyers organizer in Eugene, Emily Ferrell, who will be organizing activities there.

CARE (Portland): Britta Warren reported that she did reach out to the non-profit organization, Financial Beginnings, that Clarke had mentioned, and they are interested in exploring possible partnering and incorporating the efforts of our two programs.

CARE (Eugene): Carolyn Wade reported that there is nothing to report currently on CARE Eugene.

Website: Jason Ayres reported that it would appear we need to bug people to get more recent updates to Kent for the Web site. There is no active WOMBAT committee in Oregon. Should Kent just delete data on WOMBAT meetings, officers, and listserv, since there are none? Jason will follow up with Laura Walker to confirm she has resigned.

Local Rules: Natalie Scott reported that the committee is active and committed. The group is looking at a comprehensive survey of differences in judges' application of the rules. Someone has volunteered to take over as chair from Dave Hercher. This will be announced more broadly once finalized. Dave stated that a draft of the annual report is expected soon.

Award of Merit: Susan Ford reported that we will be giving an Award of Merit at the Annual Meeting this year. The recipient has been selected by the committee. (Approved by the Executive Committee, but confidential until the announcement at the Annual Meeting.) The Award of Merit Committee consists of past section chairs and past recipients.

Nominating: Susan Ford reported that it is expected that the committee will meet the last week of August to approve the slate for next year. This will be announced once the proposed slate is approved.

Federal Bar Association: Nothing to report.

Donation Requests: No donation requests.

3. Treasurer's Report: Rich Parker reported that the financial situation is still a bit grim, but we're holding our own. We're looking at cutting down on the pro bono expenses. Total is \$5,500 this year so far. Last year was approximately \$7,000. Eugene was told they would get no more funds unless we receive timely invoices. None have been received, so the consensus is they will not receive any funds. Bar rules direct that invoices be submitted within 30 days. Dave Hercher has been working on a budget spreadsheet he started to put together when he was treasurer. The OSB categories are not totally clear as to what they relate to, and the objective is to communicate these more understandably.

4. Discussion of a Possible Dinner to Honor Retiring Judge Perris: The idea of forming a committee for organizing events to honor retiring judges was discussed. We would need to raise funds for these. Judge Perris's retirement date is 14 January 2015. Possibly an event could be held in February. Judge Dunn and Susan Ford volunteered to be on the committee. Judge Dunn moved that such a committee be formed, the motion was seconded by Rich Parker and was then unanimously approved.

5. Discussion of a Possible Survey of Section Members: Rich Parker proposed that we look into doing a survey of who our members are and how we can serve them better. Karen Lee said that Justin Dobbs is the Survey Monkey expert at the OSB. He can help put together questions that elicit participation and useful data. The section has 700 members, but only about 120 show up regularly at section functions. Already available in the OSB database are the name, address, county, and date first licensed in Oregon, for each member, but not age, total years of practice (if formerly licensed elsewhere), or other data.

6. Adjournment: There was a motion and second to adjourn the meeting, and by acclamation, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:33 pm.

Submitted by:

Clarke Balcom, Secretary