

**OREGON STATE BAR – DEBTOR-CREDITOR SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, October 6, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Agate Beach Inn, 3019 N Coast Hwy, Newport, OR 97365 (The Cove Room)

Members present: Cassie K. Jones (Chair), Douglas R. Ricks (Chair Elect and Interim Treasurer), Stephen Raher (Secretary), Judge Teresa Pearson (advisory member), Zachary Conway, Daniel Bonham, Holly Hayman, Tony Kullen, Laura Zaro.

Members not present: Erich M. Paetsch (Past Chair), Rosemary Zook (Treasurer), Jeanne Sinnott

Guests present: Karen Lee (OSB Liaison), via Zoom.

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order.** The chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.
2. **Minutes.** Mr. Conway moved to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2023 meeting as circulated, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. **Treasurer’s Report.** Mr. Ricks led a discussion on the Section finances. Financial results of the Annual Meeting (being held this weekend) will likely determine whether the Section needs to seek a waiver of OSB’s reserve rule. Mr. Kullen moved to authorize the Chair and Mr. Ricks to seek a waiver of the OSB reserve rule, in their discretion, which motion passed unanimously. The Committee held a general discussion concerning 2024 budgetary issues including possible uses for any remaining reserve, and funding for the pro bono clinic.
4. **Award of Merit.** Mr. Raher moved to approve granting the William N. Stiles Award of Merit to Laura L. Donaldson. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Website Updates.** Ms. Zaro has been working on committee page updates. The Committee discussed restructuring the “Recent Opinions” page to reduce duplicative work.
6. **Newsletter Competition.** Implementation of the student writing competition is slightly behind track due to intellectual property issues, but the competition will launch soon.
7. **New Lawyer CLE.** The Committee held a discussion regarding a potential CLE for new lawyers. October 26 had been set as a tentative date, but the event will likely need to be rescheduled.
8. **Committee Updates.**
 - Annual meeting: Registrations this year are low. The Committee discussed surveying all membership about reasons why people did not attend this year. The Committee will receive a financial summary at the next meeting.
 - Legislative: Mr. Kullen reported that not much happened this year and advised that exemption reform did not pass this year, but will likely return in the future. He also

reported that OSB will undertake a research project on debt collection in conjunction with the Pew Charitable Trust, to inform longer term legislative proposals. The Section's bill passed this year; adopting UCC chapter 12 might be a Section bill for 2025 (section bills are only considered in odd years).

- Newsletter: Mr. Paetsch was not present at the meeting, but had previously provided the Committee with an update on the newsletter via email.
- NWBI: the 2024 Northwest Bankruptcy Institute will be held on April 12-13, at the Hilton in Bellevue, Washington.
- Pro bono: Ms. Hayman reported that the budget requests for both the clinic itself and the pro bono reception will likely increase for 2024. The Downtown location doubled the rent and the clinic can no longer afford the previous location. Outside of Portland, the need for pro bono counsel is largely being met by direct referrals with irregular clinics in Medford, Bend, and Pendleton. The Committee discussed options for reducing the costs associated with the annual pro bono reception.
- New Lawyers: Ms. Hayman and Judge Pearson working on event.
- Local rules and forms: annual proposed amendments are currently out for comment through October 20.
- FBA: Mr. Kullen reported that FBA is focused on returning to in-person events, but it is still difficult to hold events at the District Court.

9. Next meeting. The next meeting will be on Thursday November, 16, 2023 at noon, via Zoom, and will include voting on the budget and new Committee members.

10. Adjourn. There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Stephen Raher, Secretary