

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

Friday, September 27, 2024, 11:00 am

Hybrid Format: In-Person Salishan Coastal Lodge, 7760 US-101, Gleneden Beach, OR 97388 and Via Zoom

Members present in person: Cassie K. Jones (Past Chair), Douglas R. Ricks (Chair), Stephen Rahe (Chair Elect), Holly Hayman (Treasurer), Zachariah Conway (Secretary), John Thomas (Member), Daniel Bonham (Member), Laura Zaro (Member), Garrett Eggen (Member), Ian Wallace (Member), and Judge David W. Hercher (Advisory Member).

Member not present: Jeanne Sinnott (Member).

Guest Present via Zoom: Karen Lee (OSB Liaison).

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order.** The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:14 AM
2. **Minutes.** Ms. Jones moved to approve the minutes of the August 07, 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Treasurer's Report.** Ms. Hayman reported that the final budget is due in November, our draft should be ready in October, and that she is reviewing past year's expenses and will likely have more to report at the next meeting. The committee discussed the proposal to increase the section membership dues and then tabled the topic to later in the meeting. Regarding the budget - the section is not likely to spend the funds budgeted to Community Service expenditures. The projected expenses for the annual meeting will be different from expected, but most other expenses should be in line.
4. **2025 Budget.** Ms. Hayman reported that the final budget must be approved by October 15 if we increase our section member dues. If we do not increase those dues, the budget must be approved by December 1. The main budget items include the annual meeting, newsletter, and pro bono events.
5. **Nominating Committee.** The executive committee discussed the formation of a nominating committee to solicit people to serve as its officers and members. The deadline for completing an approved slate to submit to bar is December 13. The committee must vote on the slate by the last week of November. Ms. Jones will serve as both liaison and chair of the nominating committee. The section bylaws allow the committee to consist of at least 2 members of the section and one outside member. The committee currently includes one outside member: Laura Donaldson. Ms. Jones requested a volunteer from within the committee. Mr. Eggen volunteered. Mr. Rahe voted to form the nominating committee. The motion passed unanimously.
6. **Section Member Dues.** Mr. Ricks outlined considerations for increasing the section member dues, including that: (1) the cost of the annual meeting has increased dramatically from year to year. If the registration fee for the annual meeting continues to increase, it may draw fewer attendees; and (2) our Section's fee is higher than similar sections, if we further increased that fee we'd be on the very high end for similarly sized sections. Other sections have similar annual meetings. Some other sections may have subsidies from other firms in certain contexts, e.g., sponsoring an alcohol function. However, subsidies may only be like-kind, not actual dollars. Ms. Lee shared that some sections have decided not to increase fees due to the need to spend down budget reserves. Other

sections choose not to increase fees over concern about creating a barrier to entry. There is no cap on the dues amount. Mr. Ricks shared, for comparison’s sake, an invitation he received from an Eastern District of Washington bar member group which charges \$55 for membership. Ms. Jones expressed her understanding of the consensus of the committee – that this is not the right time to increase dues but it’s something to keep on our radar. The \$30k cost of the annual meeting is an issue the committee will need to address as well. Discussion continued over increasing the dues to subsidize the annual meeting and encourage attendance to it. The committee discussed the value the section newsletter provides to members. No motion was made regarding dues.

7. 2024 Goal Setting and Follow Up. Mr. Ricks noted that the website has been improved. The undersigned requested that any suggestions re website changes, updates, or corrections be emailed to him. The committee discussed future goals, including a Law school newsletter for next year. Ms. Hayman suggested encouraging a new lawyer’s CLE.

8. Committee Updates. The various Section Committees provided updates as follows:

Committee	EC Liaison
Annual Meeting & CLE	Ian Wallace - No updates
Consumer Bankruptcy	Ian Wallace - Circle of love happening. Reece Petrik has taken lead on this
Legislative	John Thomas - No updates
Newsletter	John Thomas - Ramping up. Shadowing Erich Paetsch.
NWBI	Jeanne Sinnott – not present/no updates
Pro Bono (consolidated)	Holly Hayman - Pro bono reception in Portland did not happen this year; working towards having the event appropriately next year. Clinic is going well. The court’s pro bono, limited scope program could benefit from additional focus from our section. Including, seeking more people to serve and possibly inheriting the program. Discussion was held over the variety of reasons the program isn’t best handled by the court. E.g., the court is not the best gatekeeper as to who should qualify to apply for a free attorney to represent them in the case that judge will preside over.
Saturday Session/Other CLEs	Jeanne Sinnott– not present/no updates
New Lawyers	Daniel Bonham volunteered to act as liaison for the balance of this year.

9. Next Meeting. Mr. Ricks set the next Executive Committee meeting to Friday, November 22, 2024, at 12PM. Agenda items for the next meeting will include review and approval of the budget and of a new slate. The meeting will be held in-person at Sussman Shank and via Zoom.

10. Award of Merit – Ms. Jones shared that the Award of Merit Committee selected the Honorable Thomas M. Renn to receive the 2024 William N. Stiles Award of Merit. The undersigned moved to approve the selection. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Adjournment. There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:05 PM.

Submitted by:
/s/ Zachariah D. Conway, Secretary