

Minutes of the Women and the Law Section Council Meeting
October 17, 2005 by Telephone Conference

Call to Order

Mara Blatt called the meeting to order at 5:05 P.M., announcing a quorum.

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Misty Ventura moved, with a second from Teri Danish, the approval of the minutes of the August 20, 2005 meeting with the following changes: (1) the spelling of Chantel has only one "l" and (2) Teresa Oxford agreed to procure rather than write an article on bankruptcy. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Ralph H. Brock presented a report showing that the Section had \$7,898.98 as of September 30, 2005. His report was accepted.

Committee Reports

Annual Meeting - Carmen Samaniego said that the Section's annual meeting continuing legal education program may be the beginning of, or a continuation of, a roadshow on the topic "Top Ten Things a Woman Needs to Know about Health Care."

CLE - Mara Blatt agreed to help Ms. Samaniego in getting a roadshow ready, explaining that deciding on the topics is the most difficult part, followed by getting speakers in towns where the program will be presented. Ms. Samaniego agreed to send a list of health care topics to council members. She asked council members to rank the topics, in order of preference from one to ten, as early as possible, so that she can have an outline of topics by December 5, 2005.

Chronology – Kathy Cannon is trying to locate the Section's chronology files so that she can present to the council a list of all the Texas lawyers who have previously been interviewed by members of the Section and plan on whom to interview during this year. She will talk with Kathy Casarez about locating the chronology files. In addition, Mara Blatt agreed to contact Suzanne Duvall, past chronologist, about locating the files.

Newsletter – Lisa Hernandez will contact Lynette Blenkinsop of the State Bar to learn what needs to be sent to the State Bar so that the Section's newsletter can be published. Ms. Hernandez will notify the council of a deadline for presenting articles to her for publication in the newsletter.

Teresa Oxford said that as soon as she receives a promised article on bankruptcy and domestic relations orders, she will forward it to Ms. Hernandez. Mara Blatt will

solicit items for the newsletter from local specialty bars and she will send Ms. Hernandez an article for the newsletter about Judge Mary Lou Robinson.

Nominations/Awards – Even though Mara Blatt has not been able to talk personally with Beryl Crowley, Executive Director of the Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism (TCLEP), Ms. Crowley knows that the Section desires to talk about combining the TCLEP’s Sandra Day O’Connor award and the Section’s Sarah T. Hughes award, which draw from the same pool of nominees and have the same nomination criteria. Ms. Blatt will talk with Ms. Crowley as soon as possible. The next ceremony for the Sandra Day O’Connor Award is scheduled for May 5, 2006.

Ms. Blatt said that she requested that Kathy Casarez provide her with a list of all the previous winners of both the Hughes and O’Connor awards.

Website - Teresa Oxford said that she has the pass code to update the Section’s website, thanks to Brian Anhalt, who was referred by Lisa Hernandez. Ms. Oxford moved, with a second from Shannon Dacus, that the Section authorize payment of \$400.00 to Mr. Anhalt to completely update the Section’s website and to pay him \$75.00 an hour once a quarter to update the website. The motion passed.

Teresa Oxford requested that council members send her information for the website as quickly as possible.

Membership - Misty Ventura will send a letter to all non-renewing members of the Section, requesting that they pay dues to continue their membership. She will also send information to Section members via the Section’s listserv.

Susan Hightower volunteered to be at the Induction Ceremony for new lawyers in Austin on November 21, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. Ms. Hightower will give the newly licensed lawyers information about the Section and will encourage them to join the Section.

Old Business – none

New Business - Mara Blatt will forward to the council an invitation to a fundraiser for Women’s Advocacy Project in Houston on October 20.

Adjourn – Mara Blatt adjourned the meeting at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted.

Carolyn F. Moore
Secretary
October 19, 2005

