

Notes/Minutes

Idaho State Bar DR Section

State Bar Offices

November 15, 2013

To: Mahmood Sheikh

From: Deborah Ferguson, Chair DR Section

Date: November 15, 2013

Re: Minutes and Notes from Focus Group Lunch Meeting

The session was called to order by Deborah Ferguson, Chair of the DR Section, with additional welcoming comments from Britt Ide, Vice Chair and Lou Engelhardt, non—attorney council member. Each stated their professional affiliations.

Introductions of all present followed, with approximately 15 individuals present in person and on the phone. Anne-Noelle Kerrick, Deborah Ferguson, Britt Ide, Honorable Judge Minder, Anthony Martinez (Vice President of Idaho Mediation Association), Janice Beller (Student Honorable Jesse Walters, John Stellman, Tom Callery

The Chair, Deborah Ferguson, asked how we should go forth. What should be the format? The previous years there have simply been 4 luncheon CLE meetings per year, January, April, August and October.

The key question of “What is our purpose,” was asked.

Britt Ide stated that the purpose of the DR Section is to answer the question of how do we go about growing the definition of who our stakeholders are and how we, together, can “grow the pie.”

Maureen Laflin asked what will the DR Section do? How can the DR Section take a leadership role in the implementation of Rule 16b?

A participant also stated that working with the Idaho Mediation Association was also very important, and that IMA was welcomed to the conversation to establish a long-term appropriate working partnership.

Someone asked what the benefits of DR Section would be? CLE’s?

A key challenge mentioned is geographic and the topic of List Serv was discussed in detail. The goal is to help each other. Expressed was a willingness to reach beyond the Bar.

Judge Minder asked: What is the identity of this group? A discussion followed. Some said leadership was important. Others suggested studying problems, sponsoring training to enhance the skills of DR members, etc. Maureen Laflin noted that this is a different time and we ought to consider how we move ahead. (Effectively, I believe Maureen was asking a key strategic question: we can either do different things, or do things differently, which phrase comes from Michael Porter and other strategic thinkers and experts in the field).

Suggestions made that DR expand practices into the tax arena, real estate, etc.. There are so many opportunities out there. The goal is to grow the profession, that is, growing both attorney and non-attorney mediator collaborations.

Maureen mentioned February 22nd and 23rd, 2014, as a day the U of I is hosting an event in Boise. They will need assistance and support and would like to have volunteers from the DR Section membership.

The topic of a Survey Monkey was brought up and discussed. A committee was assigned to review previous section surveys and provide questions to Mahmood so that Survey Monkey could be used to see what interests the section members. Question to ask the Idaho State Bar membership what the Bar wants out of this new initiative of the DR Section?

Three action items were agreed upon:

- 1) Survey Monkey will be conducted in coordination with the staff of the IS Bar Offices.
- 2) There will not be a January Section meeting as the council would like to use the time to capture the needs of the section and revisit goals and objectives going forward.
- 3) IMA Board of Directors will submit a statement and/or proposal of what its membership would like to see happen in partnership with the Idaho State Bar. What are the linkages and how can such linkages be made fruitful and beneficial to all concerned?
- 4) It was agreed that information about the upcoming even being organized by Maureen Laflin and the University of Idaho, School of Law, would be provided to the section members to inform and ask for volunteers.

Maureen asked what people want in training? What do they want to learn?

Judge Walters made the comment suggesting that the DR Section should focus on benefits for members. The idea of putting out a ListServ is a great idea. Also, through the monkey survey, is to ask its members what they want, i.e., to get feedback. The topic of mentoring was also mentioned.

Judge Walters made the suggestion that we should reach out to the District Presidents. Ask them about what they need and want.

The Chair, Deborah Ferguson, asked when IMA could submit its statement and Anthony Martinez indicated that it could be done soon and most likely within the next couple of weeks, as it needs to be coordinated with the statewide IMA Board of Directors.