

LITIGATION SECTION GENERAL MEETING
Minutes of December 17, 2010 Meeting

1. **Attendance:** Proper notice having been given, the following Litigation Section members attended in person: John Zarian (Councilperson, Chairperson), Jeff Parry, Ben Hoopes, Chris Cuneo, Jim Martin, William R. VanHole (Councilperson, Treasurer), Kelly A Cameron, Mindy Willman, Joe Pirtle, Nathan Gamel, Joyce Hemmer, Dana Herberholz, Chad Bernards, Wendy Olson, Megan Goicoechea, Bob Wetherel, Lance Salladay (Councilperson), Kent Whittington, Mark Geston (Councilperson), Richard C. Fields, Don Harris (Councilperson, attended by phone), Erika Birch, Michelle Points (Councilperson), and Mahmood Sheikh (ISB).

2. **Chairman:** John Zarian conducted the meeting. Motion was made and seconded for approval of the prior meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous in approval.

3. **Treasurer:** Referring to Sun Valley CLE, Bill VanHole reported that we should have charged more. Litigation section was \$3,200 below on revenue and \$3,400 over-budget. However, the goal of using up surplus funds has been furthered.

4. **Charitable Contributions:** John Zarian explained the Charitable Contribution Committee and its goal of returning with charitable contribution recommendations in January. Motion was made and seconded to set the charitable contribution budget at \$3,500. The vote was unanimous in approval. Call made for volunteers for the Committee. Joe Pirtle volunteered to be committee chair. Jim Martin, Mark Geston, and Wendy Olson also volunteered to serve on the committee. Committee membership to remain open to volunteers until January 2011.

5. **CLE Calendar:** John Zarian asked for topic requests. A topic suggestion was made concerning recent changes to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and Judge Bush suggested Judge Dale's law clerk as a possible speaker on this topic.

6. **Trial Skills Academy:** Michelle Point and Don Harris reported that they are working on securing speakers and mentors for the Trial Skills Academy.

7. **Lunch with Judge:** John Zarian introduced Magistrate Judge Bush who spoke on the federal judiciary and brought attention to increases in case load over the past decade (10% bankruptcy, 17% civil, and 60% criminal). Judge Bush pointed out that despite Idaho's impressive increases in efficiency, we are reaching a point where efficiency cannot compensate for having so few judges. Judge Bush's greatest concern is that there is less and less time for judges to ponder complicated legal questions because of their heavy caseloads. Judge Bush suggested that the Litigation Section make the issue of additional district judges a priority.

8. **Reminder for next meeting:** John Zarian suggested putting the judicial concerns raised by Judge Bush on the agenda for the next meeting. He also recognized Michelle Points' work in connection with the issue of *The Advocate* sponsored by the Litigation Section.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.