

Commercial Law & Bankruptcy Section Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2023 Meeting

Present: MTC; Tecla Druffel; Brian Tucker; Patrick Geile; Reed Cotten; Jeff Andrews; JB Evans (joined late); Teresa Baker (ISB)

Guest: Hon. Noah Hillen

Meeting started at: 4:10 pm

1. Call to Order – Brian started the meeting at approximately 4:10pm

2. Judge Hillen – Pro bono opportunities

Judge Hillen discussed increasing pro bono opportunities for bankruptcy attorneys. Judge's wondering how to encourage pro bono BK work, and whether the Court can do things to make it easier. Judges have ideas, maybe create some sort of cooperative system. Maybe volunteers to be on roster from pro bono work for pro se cases – court could reach out when a case happens. Is this something attorneys are interested in doing? What is the scope of cases that attorneys are willing to cover? In past, some push-back from consumer debtor bar who sees it as competition. Maybe adversary proceedings – nondischargeability or student loan cases?

Brian comments – definitely a practice area where pro bono work could be helpful. Maybe have a discussion on the listserv. Board to discuss further, including discussion of continuing conversation with Judge Hillen & Meier.

Further discussion by the board on the topic. Patrick assigned to discuss issue further with Judge Hillen and report via email.

3. Approval of minutes from last meeting - Approval moved by Jeff; seconded by Reed. All voted in favor.

4. Budget - Teresa sent budget info from past seminar. Without funds from federal courts, short by about \$10k. With the federal funds, seminar slightly positive. Can use funds for next seminar in CdA.

5. 2024 Seminar Discussion

Discussion from Jeff. Potential topic: reading credit reports. Seems to be some interest in having someone present on that. "Legal comedian" presenter? Jeff to discuss with the presenter – maybe during a break.

6. Brown Bag Lunch discussion

Discussion by Teresa of listserv and maybe having a listserv training from the Vendor at a future brown bag session. No other updates from Reed – have two next speakers lined up.

7. Donation Requests

Brady Dunn at Timberline HS.

Access to Justice Fund Run.

Motion by MTC to say “no” to Timberline request; amendment by Brian to also say “no” to Access to Justice Run. Seconded. All voted in favor of motion (to deny both requests).

8. Summer Meeting Schedule

Discussion of whether to meet during the summer months. Jeff indicates he likely wouldn't “need” summer meetings. Decision to skip June & July meetings – reconvene in August.

9. Additional Business

Brian discussed the Board of Judges meeting and whether to attend. Patrick recommended attending.

Upon motion and second, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.