

THE NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
COMMERCIAL AND FEDERAL LITIGATION SECTION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Commercial and Federal Litigation Section held in accordance with the rules of the New York State Bar Association on June 26, 2019.

Members Participating in Person

Laurel Kretzing, Chair
Natasha Shishov, Secretary
Daniel Wiig, Vice-Chair
Mark Berman
Robert Holtzman
Hon. Helen Freedman
Gregory Arenson
Viktoriya Liberchuk
Stephen T. Roberts
Mark Davis
Kevin J. Quaratino
Hon. Karla Moskowitz
Stephen Hochman
Paul Sarkozi
Ignatius Grande
Michael S. Oberman
Douglas T. Tabachnik
Jay Himes

Members Participating by Telephone

Jay Safer
Richard Friedman
Clair Gutenkunst
Michael Fox
Rachel Morgenstern

Section Chair, Laurel Kretzing, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Welcome Remarks

Laurel Kretzing welcomed the EC to the first meeting of the 2019-2020 bar year.

Review of April 29, 2019 Meeting Minutes (Tab 1)

April 29, 2019 minutes were unanimously approved.

Creation of Young Lawyers Committee

Laurel Kretzing suggested the creation of a committee where young commercial litigators will have a say in structuring the events and programming. Creation of the ComFed Young Lawyers Committee and the appointment of Kevin Quarantino and Viktoriya Liberchuk, as co-chairs of the committee, was unanimously approved.

Appointment of new Committee Chairs

The appointments of Scott Malouf, as co-chair of the Social Media Committee, and Stephen L. Brodsky, as co-chair of the Federal Judiciary committee, were unanimously approved.

Spring Meeting Review

Laurel Kretzing presented a report on the 2019 Spring Meeting. Four panels/programs were put on at the meeting, which discussed the topics of arbitration, the women's initiative, ethics, through example lead by "My Cousin Vinny", and a social media update.

Report from the NYSBA House of Delegates

Robert Holtzman reported on the June NYSBA House of Delegates, whereat Hank Greenberg was installed as President of the NYSBA for the 2019-2020 bar year. During his address, Mr. Greenberg discussed the building of a Virtual Bar Center Bar and plans to upgrade NYSBA's technology, which will include developments in five areas: (1) the NYSBA website; (2) Content; (3) Products such as CLE programming and publications; (4) the Communities portal; and (5) a concentration on global membership, which would expand the membership and participation of non-NY resident, but NY admitted, attorneys to participate in the bar.

Laurel received an e-mail from the Section Caucus, requesting that ComFed complete a questionnaire concerning the redesign of the NYSBA website. Any member interested in providing input should e-mail Laurel.

Also announced at the HOD was the formation of the committee on the association's structure, which will examine how to best restructure the association to benefit current members and attract new members, and the report by the committee on immigration, which proposed to adopt, as NYSBA policy, the statutory right to counsel in immigration proceedings.

The Mental Health task force also presented to the Section Caucus. They are looking for input. Anyone who is interested should reach out to Robert Holtzman.

This year, there will be a NYSBA Gala dinner (1/30/20) during the Annual Meeting, instead of a president's dinner, which will be held at the Museum of Natural History.

Report on Smooth Moves Program

Laurel Kretzing reported on this program, whereat Preet Bharara and Joon Kim were the recipients of the George Bundy Smith Pioneer award. The CLE presentation, “The Color of Neutrality: Increasing Diversity in Alternative Dispute Resolution”, was a success.

Mark Berman noted that the event is great, but it fails as a membership tool. ComFed must do better in converting those that are in attendance to become members. Suggestions included a post-event outreach and using the check-in list to contact people after events and offer reduced membership.

NYSBA Reception with Federal Law Clerks Update

Mark Berman provided an update of this event, which will be held on July 10th. The event is an informal cocktail party for the clerks that are ending their federal clerkships. This is the second year we are participating in this NYSBA event. Ambassadors from NYSBA are there to speak to the clerks. An e-mail will be sent out to the EC seeking ambassadors.

Bench Bar Forum Programs Update and Review

Mark Berman provided an update on the various bench/bar forums across the State, which included programs in NY County (170 attendees), breakfast in Westchester (65 attendees) and Albany County (27 attendees).

Mark Berman also discussed the successful Technological Courtroom program in Justice Scarpulla’s courtroom. A reprise of that program is being scheduled to take place in Queens County in the Fall and in Nassau County when Justice Driscoll has the technology installed in his courtroom.

Young Lawyers Mixer Update

Rachel Morgenstern provided an update on the upcoming young lawyer’s mixer, which is being co-sponsored by ComFed and the Women in the Law Committee.

Other Business

The Shira A. Scheindlin Excellence in the Courtroom event is scheduled for November 13, 2019 in the ceremonial courtroom of the SDNY. Application for the Kay Scholarship will be uploaded to the ComFed website.

The ComFed EC meetings going forward will be held at Foley & Lardner LLP.

Laurel Kretzing requested that committee chairs email her and Natasha Shishov with the most recent contact information and plans for the upcoming bar year.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:20.