

**May 26, 2000**  
**Meeting of Consumer Law Council of**  
**State Bar of Texas**  
**Omni Hotel, Houston, Texas**  
**4 pm**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Rentfro. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

**Treasurer Report** by Cheryl Turner. We have \$14,000.00 in bank and expect \$1,000.00 as our share of the net profit from the Ultimate Insurance Seminar. The Gross Receipts were \$61,000.00 less cash expenses of \$39,000.00 to equal gross profit of \$22,000.00. The co-sponsor State Bar deducted \$20,000.00 for overhead. There were no motions but a discussion was had about ways to increase our revenues.

**Meetings and By Laws.** The bylaws require three meetings per year which was done by our meeting last year at the State Bar, the meeting in Austin and this meeting. A similar schedule is proposed for next year.

**Membership** – Manuel H. Newburger – Manny visited with big firms and law schools about membership. He also talked to TBLS about changing name of section to Commercial and Consumer Law Section. There was a discussion about marketing to new lawyers and about email advertisement through the State Bar. Membership is about 1,500 down 120 from previous year and down from as much as 2300 a few years ago. There was a discussion about a name change to **Commercial and Consumer Law Section** and whether it would affect marketing and membership. There was a discussion about preparing an article by the Consumer Law Section for Texas Bar Journal. Need 6 month lead time. There was also a discussion about manning a booth or otherwise attending the Swearing In of New Lawyers and at the Bar Convention.

**Advanced Seminar** - Tracy McCormick said \$425.00 fee scared people off. Discussion about competing seminar at Hyatt Hill Country Resort. We need a different weekend next year and a discussion about merging with Ultimate Insurance Seminar. Noted that both University of Texas and University of Houston have dropped DTPA related seminars. Discussion about targeting seminar brochure to likely audience, i.e. Computer Law Section for E-commerce and Litigation Section for Class Action from this years topics.

**Ultimate Insurance** – Charles Levy – See financial

**Comprehensive** - Cheryl Turner – Scheduled for the Bar Center in Austin for November 3 and 4. Cheryl needs help because we will have not administrator, therefore director Cheryl Turner has extra burden.

**Annual Meeting** - Mark McQuality June 24<sup>th</sup> 9:30 – 11:30 AM in San Antonio. CLE by John Dwyer and Mark Kincaid. Get hotel reservations at Rivercenter.

**Projects** - Brief discussion about Arbitration as a special project.

**Public Service John Jones**- Discussion about articles for State Bar, Legal services for poor-Access to Justice – Pro Bono Committee created by Texas Supreme Court. This State Commission by Supreme Court may merge with IOLTA. John Jones on Task Force. Legal Services Corporation of Washington DC is using a model used by Washington State. Discussion about the model.

**Texas Journal of Consumer Law** – by Richard Alderman as reported to Mark McQuality – Distribute issue on CD by Computer Law Section @ Bar for \$2.- Also may put Journal On-Line @ Consumer Law Website. Discussion about cutting costs by changing quality of cover. Discussion about getting cited by West Statutes.

**MDL** – Mark Aschermann. Debbie Bullian and Ed Walton will assist Mark Aschermann in drafting the Consumer Law Council response to the State Bar.

**Nominations** – Mark McQuality, Debbie John Dwyer, Tim Chavenec, and \_\_\_\_\_ will announce at State Bar Council. Kit Clark resigned.

**Old Business** – None

Comments from State Bar Representative Steve Sewell(?). Fee sharing and conflict of interest issues for the MDL were his primary concern.

Meeting adjourned at 5:16 PM.

Mark Ascherman,  
Secretary Pro Tem

**Attendees:**

Tracy McCormack  
Ed Walton  
Mark L. Aschermann  
Mark “Q” McQuality  
John Dwyre  
Skip McCormick  
Manuel Newburger  
Cheryl Turner  
Nicolas Von Kreisler

**Present by Phone Conference:**

Sealy Hutching  
Susan Haney  
John James  
Steve Sewell  
Kathy Casarez