

MARCH 30, 2001
Meeting of Consumer Law Council of
State Bar of Texas

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark McQuality at the Windham Gardens Hotel in Dallas Texas.

Minutes. The minutes for December 16, 2000 and September 16, 2000 were reviewed and approved.

Resignations. John Jones and Susan Haney have resigned from the Council.

Financial Report. Wait for Cheryl Turner. Mark McQuality reported that there was approximately \$12,000.00 on hand but no more revenue.

Insurance Seminar – Tim Chovanec, The State Bar was disappointed at the turnout of 75 or so (not counting speakers) at this Insurance Seminar. Positive reaction from the attendees about the program. The program does not expect a big turnout from the Houston video presentation. Chovanec complained that the State Bar had not sent any notice about the seminar until shortly before the program and there was no link on State Bar website. The program needs 90 people or more to make money. The State Bar also printed the wrong address for seminar on the brochure. The State Bar attempted to notify people through phone calls from Cathy Casarez. Discussion about future and Richard Alderman discussed a seminar with University of Houston.

Mark Aschermann discussed basic consumer Toolkit of Auto Fraud from initial client interview to closing argument.

Elliot Shavin is a professor with SMU and reported that SMU currently has no consumer law CLE programs. He thinks that any SMU programs on Consumer law should draw well.

Ed Walton – State Bar will sponsor a competing seminar on insurance if the State Bar Consumer Law Council drops seminar.

Insurance Seminar – UT and South Texas both had 100 attendees.

Richard Alderman – the Expense of a seminar at UH Hilton is nominal. Only advertising costs were significant

Dan Rentfro- **Motion that Ultimate Insurance Planning Committee come back to council to discuss logistics and make recommendations for next years seminar and do so within time frame of contract with State Bar.** 2nd by Richard Alderman. Discussion by Tim Chovanec about deadline concern. Chovanec wants a 2 year plan because of deadline. **Motion passed by Voice Vote.**

Advanced Business Seminar: \$260.00 per day or \$520.00 for 2 day seminar. E Commerce is \$20 per hour for 12 hours or \$240.00. Discussion by Ed Walton that the Advanced Business Seminar is no longer our program even if some of our friends have been invited to speak. Further discussion about trying to revive the Advanced DTPA seminar. Dan Rentfro said that for the time being the Advanced DTPA seminar was dead.

Cheryl Turner comments.

The DTPA topic drew good interest at the Advanced Civil Trial seminar.

Seminar needs lunch time networking or Ethics program.

Seminar needs to make money.

We need to conduct seminars as a section.

The Seminar should be organized with Interchangeable Parts.

Comprehensive Seminar – Cheryl Turner reported that with the resignation of John Jones and Susan Haney, only Cheryl Turner and Elliot Shavin are left. Ed Walton and Richard Alderman were added to committee. Cheryl Turner will report later about location, topics and finances for prospective seminar. No definite plans at this time.

Arbitration Project. Dan Rentfro. Problems with Consumer Arbitration needs to be published even if it criticizes the to State Bar. The report should discuss and explain the types of ADR and the merit and demerits of each type. The project should discuss how to disseminate information about arbitration and the differences between mandatory and voluntary arbitration. He also cautioned about politicizing grant proposal to State Bar.

Ed Walton said arbitration is not a consumer friendly forum.

Elliot Shavin said BBB has a good arbitration.

Rick Alderman discussed a 125 pg report on arbitration that he had reviewed.

Dan Rentfro move o appropriate enough money to conduct a meeting to plan Arbitration Project. No motion needed because funds in budget.

Public Service: Discussed his program of videos and lesson plans for HS Teachers. Rick Schell had nothing. Co-chair John Jones resigned from Council.

Journal of Consumer Law: Need more advertising. The \$500.00 sponsorship is less than the cost of comparable advertising. The next issue will feature an article on Tortious Interference.

Membership: No report.

Consumer BR: No report.

Web Page: John Dwyre reported that it will cost \$12.50 per month with 30MB space. We may want advertising and we could provide a link to lawyers with specialty in Consumer Law. John Dwyre @ dwyre.com will post websites of council members if information received by April 15th. Executive Council will have final authority to implement the Website.

MDP-UPL Mark Aschermann No report.

RCLA: McQuality passed out possible bills. No other bills discussed.

Future Meeting: Saturday June 16, 2001 at Austin at 11:00 AM.

Future Business: Discuss the change of name of Consumer Law Section to Commercial and Consumer Law Section.

Eliot Shavin moved to "Vote by e-mail and submit the proposed name change for publication to State Bar." Motion Passed by Voice Vote. Opposed by Ed Walton.

John Dwyre moved to change name to Commercial and Insurance Litigation Section. 2nd by Ed Walton. Motion failed.

Meeting Adjourned.

Mark Aschermann,
Secretary

Attendees:

Tracy McCormack
Ed Walton
Mark L. Aschermann
Mark "Q" McQuality
John Dwyre
Skip McCormick
Cheryl Turner
Rick Schell
Richard Alderman
Dan Rentfro
Elliot Shavin
Tim Chovanec