

MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2001 CONSUMER LAW COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tracy McCormack at the Hill County Hyatt in San Antonio. All Council members (except Sealy Hutchings) were present. The Chair made comments about declining membership, tight budget, future meetings in Austin, and committee assignments. The latter are memorialized in a handout which is attached hereto. Steve James asked to be taken off the webpage committee and assigned to the arbitration project committee, to which the Chair assented.

Minutes: The minutes of the June 16, 2001, council meeting were reviewed and approved after amendment to reflect that Dan Rentfro was a speaker at Advanced Business and Commercial Litigation seminar.

Treasurer's Report: Charles Levy reported that a \$31,375 check has been received from the Bar based on an estimated 1200 members. We have received a \$3500 bill from the State Bar including charges going back to December 1998, which is being reviewed. The treasurer's report was approved.

Arbitration Project: Eliot Shavin reported that the arbitration project has four goals: (1) the publication and distribution of 10-20,000 brochures; (2) a section membership survey to find out how consumers in Texas have fared with arbitration; (3) contacting the major arbitration services in Texas to get cost and panel background information; and (4) publish the results of (2) and (3) in an article. A motion to approve the publication of a brochure carried 8-5.

Comprehensive Consumer CLE: Cheryl Turner reported that the time is right for a comprehensive consumer seminar.

Ultimate Insurance CLE: Charles Levy reported that he has still received no accounting from the State Bar. The committee must discuss taking back the seminar, which is okay with the Bar.

Advanced Business & Commercial Litigation CLE: The sentiment was expressed that we need to do this seminar whether we make money or not.

Consumer Law Journal: Richard Alderman reported that the Section is supposed to spend \$24,000 and the Project puts in \$6,000. The publishing cost is \$29,000. We will save \$3-4,000 this year by publishing only three issues (due to the floods in Houston). The Journal will go on the website a month and a half to two months after it is mailed.

Membership: No report.

Public Service: A call-in show is planned in Houston in October.

Website: John Dwyre reported that the website will be up at the end of the week at a cost of \$250 or less. A single contact person should be appointed. A small website (20 mg) costs \$130/month. Advertisements can be placed. A motion to set up the website as soon as possible was defeated. A motion to adopt the report of the committee and to authorize the committee to formulate website design changes was approved.

Old Business: A motion to amend the bylaws to allow telephonic Council meetings to vote and conduct business was approved. A motion to change the name of the section to the "Consumer and Commercial Law Section" was amended to change the name to the "Consumer, Commercial and Insurance Litigation Section," and approved as amended.

New Business: The Chair commented that the three goals of the section are (1) bring in money, (2) public service, and (3) get the website up and running.

Adjournment: Upon motion and second, the council meeting was adjourned.

Attendees: Tracy McCormack, Chair
Richard Alderman
Cheryl Turner
Eliot Shavin
Charles Levy
Steve James
Manuel Newburger
Russ Horton
James McMillen
Joseph Callier
Mark Kincaid
Mark McQuality
Craig Jordan
Ed Walton