

MEMORANDUM

To: Alan Aronson, Chair; Phil Knabler, Co-Vice Chair; Membership Committee
From: Jodi Cooke
Date: December 5, 2011
Re: Notes from Membership Committee Meeting 12/1/2011

Present: Alan Aronson, Jodi Cooke, Jason Burnett, Judge LaRose, Tom Messana, Mark Nichols

Discussion:

1. Law Student Receptions
 - Receptions have been held at Miami, UF, FSU, and FIU (with great success).
 - Upcoming receptions to be held at Ave Maria, Coastal, and possibly Cooley (new law school in Tampa).
 - We've added 225-250 new law student email addresses to the BLS listserv.
 - Judge LaRose asked about Stetson. Alan explained that their students have been assisting with the 607 revision project.
 - Mark Nichols reported that his Committee (Business Litigation) was concerned that the price of a law student membership in the BLS was too high (\$20). Alan explained that the BLS cannot lower it any more because the "big" Bar requires at least that much for "administration" costs. Students can, however, join the listserv for free, which gives them access to pretty much everything.
 - The Biz Lit section is also concerned about the fellowship program anticipated and funded by the section a few years ago. They wonder what the status is and whether that project fell under the Membership Committee. Alan confirmed that it did not.

2. Mentoring Program
 - Alan reported that the Supreme Court justices are getting complaints from lower court judges about the growing number of new attorneys who show up in Court with no clue what's going on. The assumed cause is the lack of jobs in firms, which requires new attorneys to hang out their own shingle despite having no practical experience. He suggested a mentoring program for young attorneys and/or law students.
 - The Committee agreed it was a good idea. The details discussed were:
 - o 1-3 year lawyers
 - o Lunchtime CLEs on the basics of being a business lawyer
 - o Mentoring lunches in major cities
 - o Possible collaboration with the YLD
 - Alan will email section members to see who may be interested in participating.

3. CLEs
 - Lunchtime CLEs are supposed to be performed every month, with each substantive committee responsible for submitting one speaker. No substantive committees have submitted a speaker to date.
 - o Alan has done 16 Securities CLEs.
 - o Need to remind Committee Chairs of responsibility to submit topics/speakers.
 - CLE on Law of Lawyering for New Lawyers? (ties in to mentoring program)
 - Tom Messina communicated that the Bankruptcy-UCC Committee wants to do a ½ day seminar on UCC Article 9 (3-4 speakers in Tampa & Miami) and asked how the process works. He and Judge McEwan will spearhead. Alan confirmed that we need to clear the date and budget with Mary Ann.
 - o Alan suggested that NRAI may be willing to sponsor.
 - o We should videotape, too, for resale afterwards.
4. Mindy Mora, Brian Gart, and Steph Nagin joined the meeting for an update on the Committee's work to date, which Alan gave them. They liked the idea of a mentoring program and were glad to hear the law school receptions have been going so well.
5. Next meeting: June 2012 during the 2012 Annual FL Bar Convention at the Gaylord Palms Resort in Orlando.