

FLORIDA BAR – BUSINESS LAW SECTION – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES (9/3/11)

1. Call to order: Chair Alan Aronson called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. Section Chair Mindy Mora welcomed the Committee members. Mr. Aronson invited the members to introduce themselves.
2. History and purpose of the Membership Committee: Mr. Aronson explained that the Membership Committee oversees the Section's non-substantive committees. The Section has approximately 5,000 members, which has remained constant, although the Bar's general membership has increased. The Committee is reaching out to the Bar as a whole and to the law schools to recruit Section membership. The Committee is sponsoring several law school meet-and-greet events. It is important that the Committee's members promote the Section among the Bar and law schools. Members are invited to "adopt" local law schools. The Committee is also reaching out to the paralegal community and schools, and to the local voluntary bar associations.
3. Section membership benefits and costs: Law students use the networking opportunities. Newer lawyers largely use the Section's resources. More experienced lawyers use the Section to stay up-dated, for CLEs, and to network. Membership fees vary among practicing lawyers, affiliate members, and law students.
4. Law school/student involvement: Law students may join the Section as affiliate members. Law students are working on such substantive projects as the Chapter 607 initiative. The law schools' Association of Law and Business organizations are vehicles for promoting the Section among law students. Mr. Aronson proposed a conference call among the Committee and the law school business law organization leaders.
5. Intellectual Property Committee: The IP Committee is sponsoring a symposium on March 1 and 2, 2012 in Orlando. Committee Chairs are asked to promote the symposium among their members. The Membership Committee will assist with informing the Section's members about the event.
6. Substantive continuing legal education: E-mail CLE notices are circulated to approximately 12,000 recipients. The substantive committees are requested to sponsor at least one lunch CLE every six months, and to post those events on the Section's website. The Membership Committee will assist with informing the Section's members about the CLE programs. There is no cost for the luncheon CLE programs. They can be conducted by teleconference, with the materials posted on the Section's website and transmitted by e-mail. CLE events can easily be postponed and rescheduled if needed. Mr. Aronson has been working with other States' Bars to coordinate CLE credits. The American Bar Association has offered national speakers for Section CLE events, which can occur by teleconference.

7. New lawyer membership: The Committee will consider including Section materials with the new lawyer “Bridge-the-Gap” cycle materials. The impediment to doing this to-date has been the cost to the Section.
8. Future events: The Committee’s membership will be on the Section’s website. The Committee will try to hold multiple meetings during the course of the year.
9. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.