

**The West Virginia State Bar
Young Lawyer Section Executive Committee Meeting
The Blennerhassett Hotel
Parkersburg, West Virginia
January 12, 2019**

MINUTES

Members present: Interim Chairperson Cofer, Secretary Hayhurst, Immediate Past Chair Smith, Mrs. Counts-Smith, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Lockhart, Mr. Duty, Mrs. Koreski, Mrs. Brunicardi-Doss, Mr. Raber, Ms. Bias, Ms. Thompson, Ms. Marcum, Mr. Bradford, Mr. Moore, Mr. Zak and Mr. Belcher.

Members not present: Mr. Chapman, Mrs. Nichols, Mrs. Bright and Mr. Henry

Non-members present: President Dean Rohrig, President-Elect Ann Haight, Vice President Monica Haddad, Dean Gregory Bowman of the WVU College of Law and Executive Director Anita Casey

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to Order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Cofer.
2. **Ascertainment of Quorum** – Quorum is present.
3. **Review/Approval of Minutes from October 13, 2018, Meeting**

Under Item 6.B in the Minutes, the name of individual to help Anne Wilson is missing. It was determined that Mr. Chapman was to be that person.

ACTION TAKEN: Angela moved to approve Minutes with the aforementioned change. Mr. Raber seconded the Motion. There was unanimous approval of the Motion by the members present.

4. Reports of Officers:

A. Acting Chairperson Cofer

1. Moved into Chair role after resignation of Chairperson Amores. Hopes to continue moving things forward with Young Lawyer Section after the tenures of Mrs. Amores and Mrs. Smith.

B. Secretary Hayhurst – No report.

C. Immediate Past Chairperson Smith – No report.

5. Update on Board of Governors' Meeting – Chairperson Cofer

- A. Update on By-laws. Rory Perry has been called into conference with Supreme Court on February 7, 2019. Hope is that changes will be explained and approved soon thereafter.
- B. Bridge the Gap was explained to the BOG.

6. Report of WVU Law School Representative – Mr. Gordon

- A. Mentoring program – Anne Wilson, student at the law school, is working on the mentorship program. Actively looking for lawyers to be mentors of students at the law school. Mentors do not have to show up on campus, but just reach out to them regularly.
- B. Request for more young lawyers to be present. Either through lectures or a presentation on the YLS. There is a desire for us to be more present.
- C. A virtual tour is in the works for the law school.
- D. WVU COL Alumni Facebook page is up and running. Please like and share.
- E. There is a movement to get more involved in the ABA. Nick Casey will be presenting at the law school regarding the ABA.
- F. There is active research and movement among the students looking into bringing the “Diploma Privilege” back to West Virginia (i.e. graduates automatic entry to the Bar). There is a nationwide movement on this issue, in limited respects. The COL needs more out of state students and this can be used as a recruiting tool. It would effect reciprocity with other states.
- G. Reminder by Chair Cofer that Professor Trichta will be having a panel of young lawyers in April and encourages participation by the members.
- H. The Homecoming tailgate was a great success. There is a plan to continue that and a request that the YLS continue involvement.

7. Committee Reports and Old Business

A. Young Lawyer Education and Mentoring

1. Practice Handbook – Mrs. Counts-Smith

- i. Mrs. Counts-Smith has updated the Practice Handbook chart, which she passed around to all members. Each member has been assigned a chapter(s) for overseeing. Please communicate with authors to get updates made to the chapter, if necessary. If there is a need for an author for the chapter, please let her know if you know someone who is willing to be an author or even if you are willing to draft/update the chapter. Please communicate all updates/changes with Mrs. Counts-Smith. Don’t be afraid to ask for help.

2. Bridge the Gap – Chairperson Cofer

- i. April 8, 2019
- ii. Written materials due by February 18, 2019 (including handouts)
- iii. Location change to Charleston Convention Center (fka Charleston Civic Center) due to construction at the Embassy Suites

- iv. Room requirements due to State Bar by March 4. Let Mr. Hayhurst know whether your speaker requires a room by March 1.
- v. Agenda reviewed and updated, which has been attached under Tab 1.

3. Young Lawyer Mentoring Program – Chairperson Cofer

4. Admissions Ceremonies – Chairperson Cofer and Ms. Bias

- i. The next admission ceremony is January 30, 2018 at 10am. If you can attend, please do so to represent YLS and your district to help introduce new lawyers to the Bar.

B. Law Student Education and Mentoring

1. Lunchtime Lecture Series – Mr. Zak

- i. Mr. Zak plans to do a lecture later in January, which will be similar to his BTG seminar presentation.
- ii. He plans to do two lectures a semester. If anyone is interested in presenting, please contact Mr. Zak.

2. Bar Exam Box Lunches – Ms. Bias and Mrs. Counts-Smith

- i. The July event went very well with great participation.
- ii. Plans are underway for the February Bar Exam.

C. Community Outreach

1. Special Projects/Public Service Committee – Ms. Bias

- i. The Christmas project was really well done and received by the family. Christmas gifts, household supplies and dinner were provided to the family. A note and card were received from the family thanking the YLS for their contributions.
- ii. Discussion about helping those affected by Federal Government shutdown. The Sub-Committee will meet and confer about possible projects and report back to the Committee.

2. WVU Women’s Business Center and Entrepreneurship – Mr. Lockhart

- i. Mr. Lockhart has not heard from the Center for over a year.

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Lockhart moved that this item be removed from Agenda. Immediate Past Chair Smith seconded the Motion. The Motion was unanimously approved by the members present.

D. YLS Technology Committee – Ms. Bias

1. YLS Website – Ms. Bias

i. No update.

2. Social Media – Ms. Bias

i. Promoted the Christmas community service project with great success.

E. Budget Committee –Ms. Koreski

1. Budget Committee will be meeting on February 19, 2019 at the State Bar Center. Chairperson Cofer will send out proposal to the members – please send feedback to Ms. Cofer prior to the meeting, should you have any.
2. Mrs. Koreski attended the December meeting. Overall, State Bar operates on approximately \$3 million budget per year. Consistent decline over the last five years. Projected revenue for next fiscal year of approximately \$2.8 million, with expenses just over \$3 million, which results in a projected budget of about \$275,000. ODC and JLAP are a large part of the budget, which are controlled by the Supreme Court but under our budget. There will be a need for budget cuts, including possibly the YLS budget. Had previously made a large contribution of about \$100,000 to Legal Aid – possibly looking at cutting that and other areas.
3. Most recent budget was passed around for review by the members.

F. JLAP Liaison – Mr. Zak

1. There will be a JLAP Conference in April at Stonewall which is open to all members of the Bar.

G. Bylaws Revision – Immediate Past Chairperson Smith

1. According to Rory Perry, the changes to the By-laws have been made to what should have been submitted.

H. Annual Meeting – Chairperson Cofer

1. Young Lawyer of the Year and Mentor of the Year
 - i. Nomination deadline is February 11, 2019. Winners must be chosen by February 22, 2019.
 - ii. Mr. Moore will chair the committee. Mrs. Koreski will assist.

I. District Events for the Current Year – District Representatives

1. Each member has \$250 to do a district event. Please plan and execute a district event.

J. Other Old Business

1. Attendance requirements – If you have excessive unexcused absences from quarterly meetings, the State Bar will not pay for your attendance at the Annual Meeting.

8. New Business

A. African American Representative Vacancy

- i. No response to the request for nominations sent out by the State Bar.
- ii. Chair Cofer reached out to Mountain State Bar Association. Lindsey McIntosh was recommended to her. Chair Cofer reached out to Ms. McIntosh and she expressed interest in the position.

ACTION TAKEN: Mrs. Brunicardi-Doss moved for the appointment of Ms. McIntosh as the African American Representative. Mr. Zak seconded the nomination. The appointment was unanimously approved by the members.

9. Regional Officer Reports – No reports.

10. Next Executive Committee Meeting – April 7-8, 2019: Embassy Suites, Charleston, West Virginia

Additional upcoming meetings:

July meeting date and location to be determined by incoming President Ann Haight. She is trying to hold the meeting in Elkins, WV, but has not yet been confirmed.

11. Adjournment

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Raber moved for adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.