

THE NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
COMMERCIAL & FEDERAL LITIGATION SECTION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Commercial & Federal Litigation Section held in accordance with the rules of the New York State Bar Association on Thursday, September 7, 2017.

Members Participating in Person

Mitch Katz, Chair
Robert Holtzman, Chair-Elect
Laurel Kretzing, Vice-Chair
Greg Arenson
Mark Berman
Alan Brody
Peter Brown
Michael Cryan
Richard Dircks
Lou DiLorenzo
Chris Donati
Clara Flebus
Claire Gutekunst
Tony Harwood
Helene Hechtkopf
Hon. Robert A. Katzmann*
Hon. Andrea Masley
Karen Greve Milton*
Hon. Karla Moskowitz
Ben Nagin
Hon. Sylvia Hinds-Radix
Lesley Rosenthal
Natasha Shishov
Rebecca Smithwick
Doug Tabachnik
Jim Wicks
Dan Wiig

Members Participating by Phone

Jamie Sinclair, Secretary
Sandra Rampersaud, Treasurer
Clara Flebus
Courtney Rockett

**indicates non-executive committee member*

*** indicates guest speaker for the meeting*

The meeting came to order at 6:00 p.m. Section Chair Mitch Katz called the meeting to order and invited Second Circuit Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann to begin his remarks.

Guest Speaker: Second Circuit Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann

Judge Katzmann focused his remarks on the Court's Justice for All: Courts and Community program, which focuses on civic education initiatives and programs in the court. The Chief Judge described the upcoming events affiliated with the Justice for All initiative, which include special naturalization ceremonies being held in connection with Constitution and Citizenship Day, which takes place on September 18, 2017, and the Special Session of Court: Hands Lecture on Great Judges of the Second Circuit which will be held on September 27, 2017. The Justice for All initiative also includes civic education programs, historic reenactments, courthouse visits, student contests and more. The Chief Judge also remarked that the Court is holding a Teacher's Institute and a new interactive learning center will be opening on the 5th floor. The Chief Judge concluded his remarks by taking comments and questions from Executive Committee members.

Approval of June 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The July 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

Approval of July 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The July 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

Approval of August 8, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The August 8, 2017 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

ABA Summer Meeting Recap

The Executive Committee members discussed various tracks of the ABA Summer Meeting which were attended by Executive Committee members.

Nominations for Officer Positions

Chair-Elect Robert Holtzman invited Executive Committee members to share nominations for officers of the Section with Melanie Cyganowski.

Financial Support for Scheindlin Award and Evening at Thurgood Marshall Events

Chair-Elect Robert Holtzman reminded Executive Committee members of these upcoming events scheduled in the Fall. Because both events occur in federal courthouses, signage for sponsors cannot be used and thus sponsorship options are limited. Accordingly, the Section proposed to request firm sponsorship of these programs in exchange for advertisement space in the *Litigator* and the Section Newsletter.

Litigation Academy Committee Volunteers

Section Chair Mitch Katz discussed the newly created Litigation Academy Committee, which will assist in planning the Commercial Litigation Academy for Spring 2019 at Fordham Law School. Mitch Katz advised that the financial burden component for the Kaye Scholarship applications has been eliminated this year, and encouraged Executive Committee members to encourage younger lawyers to apply for the Scholarships.

NY 246751666v1

NY 246776694v1

Committee Highlights

Vice-Chair Laurel Kretzing advised that moving forward, Committees Chairs will be invited to give an informal report on the current efforts of their respective Committees at the Executive Committee meetings.

Section Ambassador

Mitch Katz requested the Section's assistance in setting up lunchtime programs with Mark Zauderer at law firms. The lunchtime programs will target young lawyers and encourage them to get involved in the Section.

Further Marketing of Women's Task Force Report

Section Chair Mitch Katz solicited the Executive Committee members' assistance in publicizing and creating awareness around the Women's Task Force report. Executive Committee members discussed various ideas for ways to implement the Task Force Report's inclusive mission at their firms and in their practice.

Other Business

Section Chair Mitch Katz announced the creation of an *ad-hoc* committee to serve as a liaison to the Second Circuit. The Committee will assist the Circuit in its outreach initiatives and determine best practices to support the Circuit's initiatives. Mark Berman announced that the NY Bar and Bench forum will be held November 28, 2017. Claire Gutekunst reminded members of the membership challenge and suggested regular reporting on the Section's membership statistics. Various other matters were discussed.

The meeting concluded at approximately 7:30 p.m.