

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Commercial and Federal Litigation Section held in accordance with the rules of the New York State Bar Association on January 15, 2020.

Members Participating in Person

Laurel Kretzing, Chair
Daniel Wiig, Vice-Chair
Mark Berman
Susan DeSantis**
Stephen A. Hochman
Viktoria Liberchuk
Jessica Moller**
James Wicks
Kevin Quaratino
Ignatius Grande
Jay L. Himes
Hon. Frank Maas

Members Participating by Telephone

Catherine Carl
Deborah Edelman
Courtney Rockett
Anne Sekel
Natasha Shishov

**Indicates guest attendees and speakers at the meeting

Section Chair, Laurel Kretzing, called the meeting to order at 6:13 pm.

Guest Speaker

Susan DeSantis, NYSBA Chief Communications Strategist

Ms. DeSantis spoke about her background at the NY Law Journal and how she is able to use her background and contacts to help assist in publicizing events for NYSBA members. She explained that the Communications Division of NYSBA can do a lot for members, and that the NYSBA section that get most prominence in terms of press attention and publication are the ones that give a lot of information to the Communications Division well in advance of their upcoming events. The more detail and more enticing description of events, the better. Ms. DeSantis also explained that it is important to get that information to NYSBA with as much advanced notice as possible so they the Communications Division can publicize the event, try to get coverage of the upcoming event from various media outlets, and disseminate information through her daily email to NYSBA

members and on the NYSBA website. Ms. DeSantis encouraged the Section to communicate with her and her team on a more regular basis to ensure that the Communications Division has the most up-to-date event information that can then be publicized. In addition, Ms. DeSantis encouraged the Section to communicate with NYSBA's Marketing Director, who can assist in publicizing events and other information via social media.

Ms. DeSantis also answered various questions posed by those in attendance, including how to better publicize the Section's upcoming diversity and inclusion event on February 5, 2010, and how to make event descriptions more interesting by doing things such as highlighting the prestige of speakers.

Ms. DeSantis can be contacted at sdesantis@nysba.org, (518) 487-5780 (office) or (201) 575-5756 (cell).

Review of December 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the December 4, 2019 meeting were amended to include Stephen Hochman as having attended in-person, and to correct the spelling of Kevin Quartino's last name. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Report on Appointment of Members at Large

Laurel Kretzing provided a report on the appointment of members at large to the Executive Committee. Members at large are periodically appointed to serve 2-year terms. There are currently 26 members at large, and all current members at large were contacted to determine their interest in being reappointed. A motion was made and seconded to appoint the following individuals to serve a 2-year commencing June 1, 2020:

Hon. Jeremy Feinberg
Hon. Helen Freedman
Hon. Sharon Grubin
Hon. Frank Maas
Hon. Andrea Masley
Edward Beane
Michael Cryan
J. Scott Greer
John Grubin
Claire Gutekunst
Stephen Hochman
Alan Mansfield
Grant Shehigian
Natasha Shishov

The motion was unanimously approved.

Annual Meeting Update

Daniel Wiig presented an update on the Section's events at the upcoming NYSBA annual meeting. There are currently 5 sponsors, 18 tables purchased, 110 people registered for CLE, and approximately 200 people for luncheon registered. There are currently 45 active judges who will be in attendance. Mr. Wiig encouraged everyone to keep spreading word to maximize sponsorships and attendance.

Evening at Thurgood Marshall Courthouse Update

Anne Sekel presented an update on the upcoming Evening at Thurgood Marshall Courthouse scheduled for evening of January 28, 2020. There will be hors d'oeuvres served while attendees will have an opportunity to network with fellow section members. The Chief Judge will be giving opening remarks, and several District and Circuit Court judges also will be in attendance. NYSBA's Young Lawyers Section recently agreed to promote this event.

Becoming an Ally: Four Trailblazing Jurists Discuss Diversity & Inclusion CLE Program Update

Kevin Quaratino and Viktoria Liberchuk presented an update on the Becoming an Ally: Four Trailblazing Jurists Discuss Diversity & Inclusion CLE Program scheduled for February 5, 2020. The event format is going to be that of a moderated interactive panel discussion, with four prestigious jurists from diverse backgrounds sitting on the panel. The discussion is intended to focus on supporting young lawyers, female lawyers, and lawyers from diverse backgrounds in their career advancement by answering questions posed from a diverse attorney perspective (e.g., "What do I do if the partners in my firm don't see me?"). Flyers for the event have been handed out at various events and are posted in the elevators at 60 Centre Street, and the event is being publicized electronically via email and on the NYSBA homepage. NYSBA's Young Lawyers Section recently posted the event on the Communities page.

Other Business

Mark Berman provided an update on a meet and greet event that will be hosted together with the Monroe County Bar Association as a way for attorneys in the Rochester area to meet a new commercial division judge in Rochester/Monroe County. A similar event is being considered for downstate to welcome a new commercial division judge in Brooklyn.

The Section's next Executive Committee meeting will be held on February 4th at Farrell Fritz in Uniondale.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.