

STATE BAR OF NEW MEXICO
ELDER LAW SECTION
MINUTES OF 2006 ANNUAL MEETING

The Elder Law Section of the State Bar of New Mexico held its annual meeting on April 7, 2006.

The meeting commenced less than promptly at 11:58 AM after a very nice repast of Section provided sandwiches and beverages. The secretary was a bit slow in eating his Turkey and Green Chile sandwich and thus the delay. Some speculated that he would have a hard time eating and listening at the same time.

Mary Smith, the Section Chair begin with a warm welcome to the 19 who were present, including many members of the board of directors and the officers. Ms. Smith, whose stated goal was to bring membership from 98 members to over 100 during her term encouraged membership in the section.

Officers of the Section include Mary Smith, Section Chair; Amanda Hartmann, Chair Elect; Mary Ann Green, Treasurer and keeper of the fisc; and Dwight Hurst, Secretary.

Elder Law persons of the year, Micah Rose and Rae Ann Shanley were lauded for their Elder articles submitted to the State Bar. Rose waxed profound on Medicaid and Private right to Action. Shanley wrote a workmanlike article on Capacity, discussing the case Gonzales v. Oregon involving the Death With Dignity Act, the first state law authorizing physicians to prescribe lethal doses of controlled substances to terminally ill patients. The two articles will be posted by Tony Horvat on the Elder Law website.

It was determined that articles such as these will be emailed to the membership of the Section to give the members more bang for the buck.

Sadly, it was revealed that Brian Jennings has no email and is apparently rather unrepentant about his condition.

Mary Ann Green was present with a financial report for year to date which revealed very little spending. In fact we have spent a negative \$5.20 which if continued would result in a rather large surplus for the Section. Collections year to date have totaled a robust \$1,590. We have a carryover of \$731.47 from 2005, representing mostly unused scholarships because of Katrina. Green proposes to spend \$2,201.47 in the following manner during 2006:

Administrative Expense (copies, postage, supplies, etc.)	\$ 200.00
Board meetings (mileage, teleconferences, refreshments)	\$ 221.47
Social	\$ 700.00
Resource directory update	\$ 100.00
Scholarships	\$ 810.00
Subscriptions	\$ 45.00
Website fee	\$2,201.47

As mentioned above, we have 98 members in the club.

Mary Smith encouraged those attending to attend the social and reception immediately following the afternoon CLE. Booze and nibbles can work hand in hand with networking possibilities and pressing the flesh.

Activities for 2006 were next discussed under the able leadership of Smith.

Bryan Jennings is the CLE liaison for seminars. If we are not able to put on a CLE event at the Annual Bar Convention in 2006 then a CLE will probably be presented sometime during autumn. The annual Bar Convention will be held during July.

The Section will continue giving partial scholarships to attend worthy CLE events with the caveat that the attendee has to report on his or her knowledge upon returning from the event. The conundrum which must be weighed is the cost to the budget for social events as a result of skimming off scholarship awards. After some discussion it was decided that we could survive on our budget for socials. It was pointed out that Patty Wagner during October of 2004 attended the National Conference on Aging. Patty reported on the conference and her experiences. Amanda Hartmann reported on her CLE experience at last year's Annual Bar Convention.

We want to encourage participation in Section activities and Mary Smith will work toward that end as Chair.

It was reported that the Health Law Section may partner with the Section in an upcoming CLE event.

The Resource Directory update reported that we have very good materials on line and very good links to other websites. The website is updated annually and in the past has been done by a law student. Section members who might be interested are invited to volunteer for the job and receive a little pay, but failing that, we will resort to using law students for this purpose. Veronica Cordova is

our website guru. Pat Stelzner will liaison with Cordova on the website. Hopefully if Pat will start attending meetings we will force her to personally report on her website and directory liaisoning. Added to the site is a link to the Senior Legal Handbook.

The handbook for guardians and conservators is being redone. Mary Ann Green reports this is a very good resource tool. This handbook is found on the La Familia website.

The Office of Senior Affairs has a handbook which is a Quick Guide for Senior Services.

Other suggestions for useful links from our website are solicited.

Because of the finicky nature of state officials with regard to the wording of income diversion trust, suggested forms will not be posted at the website. State rules, however, will be posted.

An upcoming event which may merit a scholarship is the Sixth Annual Conference on Aging in Washington, DC which will be held April 20-23, 2006.

Other activities which will be considered or conducted during the year are:

1. An on line newsletter would be a good thing if anyone is interested in doing this. The newsletters could be as little as e-mail blasts to members or more lengthy articles and news items. The goal is to produce the newsletter twice a year initially and that it be commenced by December 31 in some format.

2. Regular workshops on emerging issues with CLE credit will be explored. The problem with getting CLE credit will be tackled by the formidable Chairperson. These will be short brownbag type events.

3. Seminars at senior centers were discussed. If interested, contact, Richard Spinello.

4. Upcoming Section meetings are scheduled on July 28th and October 27th at 3:00 PM.

It was pointed out to the group that it is not difficult to get on the board should a person have an interest.

It was pointed out that Lori Millet is spearheading a group to investigate annual filing with respect to guardianships and conservatorships and she would appreciate non-paid help to assist in this endeavor.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM as the attendees thundered off to the scintillating Elder Law seminar which immediately followed.

M. Dwight Hurst