

MINUTES OF THE 2009 FALL BOARD MEETING
BRASSTOWN VALLEY RESORT AND SPA
YOUNG HARRIS, GA
October 24, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Staten Bitting at 8:30 a.m. Sally Akins, Staten Bitting, Evelyn Fletcher Davis, Jennifer Davis, Salty Forbes, Warner Fox, Ted Freeman, Mel Haas, Bubba Hughes, Jo Jagor, Kirby Mason, Walter McClelland, Matt Moffett, David Nelson, Lynn Roberson, Bob Travis, and Jason Wilcox were in attendance.

The first order of business was the approval of the 2009 Board meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved.

The Board then voted to accept the proposed new members into the GDLA in a unanimous fashion.

Next, the Executive Director, Jennifer Davis, distributed the list of delinquent members. The list was passed around and the Board and Board members agreed to contact individuals on the list as well as members from their firm. Staten Bitting also asked the President has established a formal effort to invite younger lawyers to attend the annual meeting and to mentor them at the annual meeting and elsewhere.

Matt Moffett gave the report for the Educational Committee. He discussed the Exponent Human Factor CLE on November 11 (will be receiving another email on this matter). Also, Matt

will follow up on developing several webinars to provide for members in the next year. First one will be planned before the end of the year. It will cover recent legislative updates.

Jo Jagor gave an excellent report on the 2009 Deposition Boot Camp and discussed planning for the 2010 program. The 2009 program received fantastic evaluations and had 30 attendees. Jason Wilcox volunteered to handle Boot Camp 2011. The GDLA had a relatively small profit on the Deposition Boot Camp and Jo was authorized \$2279.00 to do a cocktail party in Atlanta to thank the younger lawyers. If there are any excess funds from that cocktail party, and it is appropriate, then we will plan another one outside of Atlanta.

Trial Academy Chair Lynn Roberson, discussed the schedule at Callaway Gardens. She has developed an excellent experienced faculty who is willing to donate their time to the Trial Academy. She will send out a notice advertising the program and encouraging firms to save the date. There will also be a mailing for the Academy. Firms will be encouraged to send individuals to the Academy and seek input from firms with regard to what they would actually like Associates to do there.

Next, the Substantive Law Committees were discussed – the various subcommittees have 20 – 84 members. Subcommittees contribute to the Law Journal and the Newsletter. They also provide news flashes for our website. There are several Vice Chairs needed for certain of the committees. Among the expectations for the subcommittees is to use the Committees to present a webinar. Also, the committees function as opportunities for individuals to show their interest in the Association and be considered for board members.

Kirby Mason and David Nelson discussed the website. The website has been significantly improved. There was a discussion of the contents of the website, including the various programs offered by the GDLA and the Substantive Law Committees. Sponsorships were discussed for the websites and plans will be finalized by the Website Committee by year end.

Bob Travis gave the report for the Judicial Relations Committee. Bob is seeking individuals who are willing to testify for the Committee and is seeking additional members to serve as Vice Chairs.

The next item on the Agenda is Upcoming meetings. We discussed and scheduled a Judges' Reception and Board meeting in Atlanta for February 4 – 5. The Judges' Reception was tentatively scheduled at the 191 Club in Atlanta at 5:30 on February 4. A Spring Meeting of the Board has been tentatively scheduled in Savannah on April 22 for a judicial reception and then a Board meeting on April 23. We will consider the Mansion or Bohemiers in Savannah. The Annual Meeting for 2010 is scheduled for June 10 – 13, 2010 at the Ponte Vedra. We will contact Steve Kyle regarding the Annual Meeting for 2011, although the board members expressed sentiments that Atlanta should not be a potential location.

Ted Freeman discussed the status of the Law Journal. Presently he has 10 articles committed with April 1 deadline for submission and the publication will be in May.

The Winter Issue deadline is November 2.

Sally Akins discussed the sponsorships and exhibitors from the DRI meeting. Jennifer Davis received 30 cards from potential DRI suppliers. We will use those as potential sponsors. Presently GDLA only has sponsorships of silver, gold, and platinum.

Evelyn Fletcher gave the report from the 2009 DRI meeting. She also discussed the Women's Seminar at the Westin in Scottsdale, Arizona for March 25 – 26 and encouraged attendees. Lynn Roberson, Jennifer Davis and Staten Bitting also attended the DRI meeting. The participation of other SLO organizations was discussed to use as potential feeder systems through the Younger Lawyers Division. A question the Board has to address is how we can involve to a greater degree younger lawyers in the Board and the Association and how to reward and encourage younger lawyers to participate.

A presentation will be made to younger lawyers for the Spring Meeting.

Lynn Roberson discussed the National Center for Judicial Excellence. The Amicus committee discussed that there have been 2 requests for amicus briefs. It was also discussed how to provide more support for Chair, Jamie Westin.

The Board of Directors made a motion to nominate Jeff Ward as a new Board Member from Brunswick, and the motion passed unanimously.

It was decided to activate a committee for long range planning, to be composed of a past president, current Board member and two younger lawyers. Salty Forbes made a proposal to make a donation to the Richardson fund of \$500 and to request contributions by email and blasts and newsletter. This motion passed unanimously.

Mel Haas gave the Treasurer's report and the current financial status of the Association.

In the President's report, it was discussed at the next annual meeting to have speakers to include lawyers, judges, past presidents, and in-house counsel.

There being no further business before the Georgia Defense Lawyers Association, the meeting was adjourned.