

GDLA Winter 2008 Board Meeting Highlights Powell Goldstein, Atlanta, GA February 22, 2008

Submitted by N. Satten Bitting, secretary/ treasurer, and redacted by Steve Milano, executive director.

A meeting of the Board of Directors was specially called for February 22, 2008 at noon at the offices of Powell Goldstein in Atlanta. The purpose of the meeting was to approve business of the association not approved at a meeting was held February 9, 2008 in Phoenix, Arizona because of questions raised as to the sufficiency of the quorum at that meeting.

Attending the February 22nd meeting were officers Ted Freeman, George Duncan, Jo Jagor, Warner Fox, Walter McClellan, Bob Travis, Hall McKinley, Dave Nelson and Staten Bitting. Also present was the executive director, Steve Milano. The meeting was called to order by GDLA president Bob Travis.

1. First order of business was a motion to approve new members. A list was provided by admissions chair Salty Forbes. George Duncan moved that all be approved. Ted Freeman seconded the motion. The list of new members was approved unanimously.
2. The next item of business was approval of the minutes of the Fall 2007 board meeting. George Duncan moved they be approved. Ted Freeman seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Next item of business was the treasurer's report. Staten Bitting presented the association's income and expenses since the beginning of the fiscal year and a current bank balance. George Duncan moved the report be approved. Ted Freeman seconded and the report was approved unanimously.
4. The next item of business was consideration of the contract of the executive director. The Board went into an executive session, with Steve Milano not present. A contract between the GDLA and Steve Milano & Associates, LLC was approved.
5. Jo Jagor gave a report on the upcoming Skits and Suds CLE seminar for YL.
6. Discussion occurred regarding the 2008 annual meeting. It was generally agreed a reminder card should be sent several months before the meeting suggesting people reserve the dates on their calendar. It was also generally agreed that the brochure should be mailed no sooner than 90 days before the start of the meeting. The board discussed the 2009 annual meeting, scheduled to be the third-year "couples getaway" at an "exotic" locatin. The possibility of a resort in Costa Rica was discussed, and the consensus was this was not likely to be appealing to the membership. A Caribbean site was generally agreed to be the preference. A suggestion was made concerning a resort in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Additional information on this will be provided at the April 4, 2008 Board meeting.
7. A report from the Judicial Committee was received regarding a nomination for Ware County/ Waycross.

No further business came before the meeting and it was adjourned shortly after 1:00 p.m.

Highlights from the February 9, 2008 meeting of members of the GDLA Board of Directors, Phoenix, AZ

Submitted by Jimmy Singer, executive vice president, and redacted by Steve Milano, executive director.

President Travis called the meeting to order . Eight Board Members were physically present; Bob Travis, Jimmy Singer, Lynn Roberson, Evelyn Fletcher, Joe Jagor, Steve Kyle, Warner Fox, and Bruce Welch.

Attending by phone were Salty Forbes and Staten Bitting. Also in attendance was executive director Steve Milano.

The meeting began with a challenge to the quorum of nine members "at" the meeting. All agreed to proceed with the agenda since a number of board members had planned to attend but at the last minute emergencies arose, and to take votes and enter discussions, but to follow that with another board meeting in the near future when at least nine members could be physically present.

The Admissions Committee moved for admission of 30 individuals. All were accepted unanimously by those present and on the phone. That was followed with the discussion concerning a possible change to the by-laws creating a special category for younger lawyers. It was agreed a decision would be tabled until the Spring meeting in April.

Staten Bitting gave the treasurer's report. All bills are paid and current and the association is financially sound.

The Board then went into executive session to discuss the contract of Steve Milano & Associates, LLC.

The board ended executive session and President Travis gave a report on membership recruitment and retention. He discussed scheduling lunches with the larger law firms, which are planned between now and the April board meeting. Additionally, the Skits and Suds scheduled for February 28, 2008 was discussed as a way to draw younger lawyers.

As a way of assessing how the GDLA is fulfilling its mission, the question was asked "If the association disbanded, would it be missed?" The Board gave a resounding "yes" on the GDLA itself, the brief bank, the blast e-mails, the charge book, the fellowship and marketing opportunities, trial academy, and hopefully the growing input by the Substantive Law Committees, among others. The Board agreed that the "16 Reasons to Join the GDLA" as set forth in our membership recruitment brochure would be continually evaluated, and Evelyn Fletcher volunteered to update the brochure. We also agreed that we would evaluate the format of the brochure. A more slick, multi-colored, fold-out brochure was suggested to enhance the image of the GDLA.

Jo Jagor discussed the younger lawyers committee. She and Evelyn are making efforts to gather information for the creation of a deposition boot camp. The association agreed that the YL committee should have a page in the newsletter. Details were given on the upcoming Skits & Suds CLE seminar. A mentor program was also discussed. Since the Bar now has in place a formal mentor program, the discussion was tabled at present as it was of questionable benefit to the younger lawyers.

Steve Milano provided Johnny Foster's report on the Substantive Law Committees. There are 13 in place.

Steve Milano reported on the Worker's Compensation Academy. The minutes were reviewed from a prior Board meeting when it was determined not to hold the academy for calendar year 2008. Mr. Milano will work with Johnny Foster and Rick Thompson, the Chair of the Worker's Comp SLC, to determine whether efforts to put on an academy would be beneficial in 2009, particularly if we begin a deposition boot camp.

Lynn Roberson gave an update on the Judicial Relations Committee. The GDLA has been receiving requests for input on all judicial appointments. It was agreed it is good for the association to have a voice, and the Board viewed this function as very important to furthering our goal of public service to not only the judiciary, but the defense community at large.

Steve Kyle gave the report on the 2008 annual meeting scheduled for Ponte Vedra. Jimmy Singer gave the report that the program has been set and all speakers are on board. It has been approved for a six hours of CLE, with two trial, one ethics, one professionalism and two general.

There was much discussion on the location of the 2009 annual meeting, and annual meetings in

general and their costs. There was discussion of two locales, Exuma and Costa Rico, and the attendees agreed that based on a number of factors presented by Steve Kyle, we should proceed with researching other options. Evelyn Fletcher volunteered to research Caribbean venues which met certain criteria regarding air travel and costs.

A report was given by Steve Milano on the trial academy. There were 29 attendees, which is slightly down, but overall it was a success.

Steve Milano gave a report on sponsorships and exhibitors. We have several potential new sponsors and Mel Haas, sponsorship chair, will meet with them concerning possible sponsorships and the level of commitment.

There was no report of the Amicus Committee.

Bruce Welch gave the DRI report. It was brought to the attention of the Board that DRI receives a copy of the GDLA blast e-mails and should be providing information about experts to the members who send them. Bruce will check to make sure this is being done when he attends the annual DRI State Representatives meeting in March.

There was no old business. Under new business, Forcon wishes to begin a biomechanics seminar and it is being scheduled for March 20, 2008 Steve Kyle, Matt Moffett and Steve Milano will work with Forcon on this. There is also a potential new sponsor interested in hosting an e-discovery seminar. Warner and Steve Milanowill work with them.

A change in name of the GDLA was discussed, though briefly. There does not seem to be a consensus from anyone that the name should be changed or that it would be beneficial to change the name.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 11:30 a.m.