

**Executive Council Minutes- 1/18/08- Miami, FL**

Members in Attendance:

Tom Conroy  
Ray Malca  
Mark Zientz  
Tim Jesaitis  
Eric Stiffler  
Rick Morales  
Dawn Traverso  
Jacqueline Blanton  
George Cappy  
Jeff Jacobs  
Seth Abrams(guest)  
Paul Anderson  
Rick Thompson  
Martin Leibowitz  
Nancy Cavey  
Richard Chait  
Glen Wieland  
Alan Aronson  
Stewart Colling  
Tom Sculco-JCC Liaison  
Steve Kronenberg  
Mike Rudolph  
Fred Deutschman  
Brian Carter  
Richard Sicking(guest)  
Robert J. Strunin  
Alan Kalinoski  
Chris Petrucelli  
Bill Berke  
Christopher Smith  
Paul Hawkes (guest)  
Tim Dunbruck  
Fausto Gomez (guest)  
Paolo Longo (guest)  
Tuwana McMillan  
Raul De La Heria  
Jake Schickel (FL Bar)

**I. Mark Zientz brought the meeting to order.**

### **Introduction of Guests–**

Hon. David Langham, Hon. Paul Hawkes and Jake Schickel were introduced.

### **II .Minutes from August 2007 meeting-**

Minutes Approved without change.

### **III. Treasurer’s Report –**

Jacqueline Blanton was appointed as the new treasurer.

The 2008-2009 Budget was approved . Prior to approval an explanation was provided that explained that there was an error in printing figure which should have been \$1000.

### **IV. Committee Reports-**

**A. CLE Liaison-** Lunch and Learn seminars will continue for the foreseeable future. Consideration is being given to possibly offering bundled seminar programs.

**B. Section CLE-** No Report

**C. Winter Meeting-** The winter Seminar will be held at Copper Mountain Colorado from March 2-7, 2008. Fantastic Room rates have been obtained as with rates ranging from \$178-268 for units up to 1 Bedroom, and \$338-410 for 2 bedroom gold units. These properties are all gold level, and located in the center village. The cutoff date for reservations is 2/1/08. Right now about 10 registered.

**D. Workers Compensation Forum-** Rick Thompson explained that next year’s seminar will be held April 23-25 at the Swan Hotel, Orlando. We will partner with the WCCP to put on this event. Consideration is being given to moving next year’s seminar and holding it Champions Gate in Orlando.

**E. News & 440-** Will be switching to an e-mail publication format to all section members. There will be twenty or so hard copies going to the JCC’s.

**F. Judiciary Committee-** No Report.

**G. Legislative Comm. -** Workers Compensation has again become an issue. Hearings have recently been held and Alex Sink has become involved due to problems stemming from 2003 changes. A “restoration of Benefits” theme now prevails because the amount of actual benefits that have been taken out of the system. Instead of the number suggested by NCCI, it appears that benefit reductions in fact exceed 50% under the present scheme.

**H. Rules Comm.-**New Settlement/Gen Release being developed so that all parties can utilize a uniform document.

**I. Council of Sections-** No report.

**J. Technology Comm. -** CLE page has been very active. We are in process of further slight upgrades. We currently have link to JCC orders through the DOAH website.

**K. Trial Advocacy-**Next Seminar will be held June 5 - 6at Univ. of Miami. This will be a new program at a more intermediate level with a total of 24 seats available.

**L. Appellate Issue Comm. - Emma Murray-** all briefs have been filed and the oral argument will occur in April. An Amicus Brief filed on behalf of the Section has been approved by the Board of Governors.

**M. Certification-** No report.

**N. Professionalism-** Meetings occurring on professionalism with Judge Langham taking the lead. Consideration is now being given to regional seminars on professionalism given the current climate.

An Ad Hoc committee consisting of Tom Conroy, Tuwana McMillan and Mark Zientz was appointed to consider nominees for the newly formed Albert M. Frierson Professionalism award.

**O. Pro Bono-** None

## **VI. Chairs Report-**

Richard Chait has been appointed the Chair-Elect Designate to succeed Tuwana McMillan.

Jennifer Dietz has resigned her seat on the Exec. Council. A publication will occur to all FL Bar members advising of the vacancy. Anyone can be considered for appointment.

David Mitchell, William Rogner and Diana Castrillon had their absences excused.

The retreat location was confirmed to be in May 15-17, 2008 in Dallas, TX. A room block has been reserved at Hotel ZAZA.

## **VI. Chair Elects Report**

Consideration being given to having next years retreat (2009) in Las Vegas.

## **VII. New Business**

Judge Hawkes talked about the dire need for the First DCA to have additional space due to their heavy caseload which has increased from 2950 in 2002, to a present level of 4150 through 2007. They would like to create a specialized unit and apportion some of an additional \$800,000 in existing revenue to offset this situation.

A motion to Endorse and Request Board of Governors to take a legislative position in favor of this request was made, and unanimously approved by all.

Judge Langham spoke about the changes to the DOAH website. There is now an ability to search JCC orders from all over the state in a goggle fashion by search term and name. He encouraged all to continue to use electronic filings as it speeds the process in the system. They are currently talking about formulating six or seven new forms including a

new uniform Joint Pretrial Stipulation. These should be finalized in the next few weeks and posted on the DOAH website. He also proposed quarterly meetings between himself and the Section chair to address problems and concerns within the system and throughout the state.