

LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
**DIVERSITY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**11:00 a.m. Thursday, August 28, 2008**  
**Louisiana Bar Center, New Orleans**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 11:10 a.m. with Co-Chairs Wayne Lee and Hon. Ricky Wicker presiding. The following committee members were present:

**In Person:**

Jesse Brown  
Guy Delaup  
Chauntis Jenkins  
Wayne Lee  
Claudeidra Minor  
Dean Larry Ponoroff  
Ranie Thompson  
Hon. Ricky Wicker  
Kelly Legier (LSBA Staff Liaison)

**By Phone:**

Kim Boyle, LSBA President-Elect  
Ariel Campos  
Beth Foote, LSBA President  
Jennifer Medley  
Hon. Carl E. Stewart  
Ranie Thompson  
Hon. Max Tobias (briefly)

Wayne Lee and LSBA President Elizabeth Foote thanked committee members for participating on the Diversity Committee.

**I. MINUTES**

Ariel Campos and Jennifer Medley moved to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2008 meeting. The motion passed without objection.

**II. COMMITTEE PROGRAMS**

**A. *LSBA Minority Involvement Section Minority Job Fair***

Mr. Lee briefly discussed the Minority Job Fair and asked Kelly Legier to give a detailed report. She reported that the Minority Involvement Section successfully hosted the Fair on August 15, 2008 at Tulane University Law School. Approximately 160 students and graduates logged on to create online accounts, 90 submitted resumes in time to participate in the interview bidding, and about 60 students participated in the events the date of the Fair. Over 50 employers participated in the Fair. This was the largest and most diverse group of employers in the Fair's 20-year history. A copy of Ms. Legier's written report and the program from the event were included in the meeting materials. Committee members who attended the Fair commented that the employers were very pleased. Mr. Lee commended Ms. Legier and the LSBA staff for the success of the program and thanked Dean Ponoroff and the Tulane University School of Law for hosting the job fair. The Committee then discussed follow-up suggestions. The consensus of the

Committee was to continue assisting the Minority Involvement Section with the Fair. The following people volunteered to serve on the Job Fair Planning Committee: Jesse Brown, Judge Wicker, and Carlos Davila-Caballero.

Ms. Legier discussed the Symplicity computer program that was used for registration and scheduling. She explained that the Minority Involvement Section had agreed to reimburse the LSBA for the \$3,700 annual fee charged by Symplicity after receiving sponsorship donations. However, if the Section repaid the fee, the Section would lose money on the Fair. Judge Wicker moved that the Committee absorb the Symplicity expense, and Claudeidra Minor seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection.

### ***B. Second Annual Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession***

Ms. Legier gave an update on the efforts to identify a hotel that could accommodate approximately 150 people. The LSBA Facilities Coordinator, Jessica Cassioppi, is awaiting responses from hotels in the New Orleans area. The dates identified so far include February 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, and March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Committee members discussed changes and improvements that the subcommittee should consider when planning the event. The following people volunteered to serve on the Conclave subcommittee: Chauntis Jenkins, Jennifer Medley, Ariel Campos, Carlos-Davila-Caballero, Angela White Bazile, and Hon. Max Tobias. Marta-Ann Schnabel, immediate past chair of the committee, also will be invited. Subcommittee members present selected September 25 as a possible subcommittee meeting date.

## **III. FUTURE OUTREACH**

### ***A. Outreach to Firms***

Committee members discussed at length the last draft of the diversity commitment statement. Judge Wicker moved that Committee members present the commitment statement as written to a group of large law firms, get their feedback, and then present the feedback to the Committee. The motion was seconded and passed without objection. The following Committee members volunteered to approach the law firms to get feedback:

Chauntis Jenkins:	Taylor Porter
Wayne Lee:	Stone Pigman; Adams and Reese; Chaffe; Cook, Yancy
Judge Wicker:	McCranie Sistrunk; Haley McNamara; Blue Williams; Lobman Carnahan; LeBlanc Butler; Winhurst Guidry
Dean Ponoroff:	Liskow and Lewis; Baker Donelson; McGlinchy Stafford
Kim Boyle:	Phelps Dunbar

### ***B. Judicial Outreach***

Ms. Legier explained the proposal made by Jim Thorns regarding having a small book version of his "Great Day in Black" portrait collection installed in the Supreme Court Library, and a larger collection installed at the Louisiana Museum of Politics in Baton Rouge. Mr. Thorns also requested permission to have a portrait of Justice Revius Ortique, Jr. (deceased) hung at the LSBA Bar Center. Committee members discussed both proposals.

The Committee instructed Ms. Legier to determine Justice Calogero's wishes concerning the installation of the collection and whether his intentions are to include the ceremony with the Red Mass reception. The Committee also instructed her to contact the Secretary of State about the process for adding the collection to the museum. The Committee agreed that after Ms. Legier gathers the information, Judge Wicker and Mr. Lee would evaluate the facts and hold a vote by email, if necessary.

### *C. Outreach to Children*

Ms. Legier gave a report on the status of the Edutainment pipeline project. The Diversity Department has been in discussion with Karen Chatman Edutainment and the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education to plan a pipeline initiative in middle schools, high schools, and colleges involving a voter education/registration program. The initiative would coordinate volunteer lawyers making presentations to students about the Voting Rights Act, using Karen Chatman's hip hop musical piece to get the children's attention. Ms. Legier explained that the Department will implement this program after the Diversity Committee approves the expenditures needed. President Foote expressed her concerns regarding the innovative program, and suggested that the Committee give Ms. Legier the authority to move forward and to do the project in whatever manner the funds allowed. Judge Wicker moved that the Committee give Ms. Legier authority to move forward with the project and to spend up to \$5,200 in the endeavor. Jennifer Medley seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection.

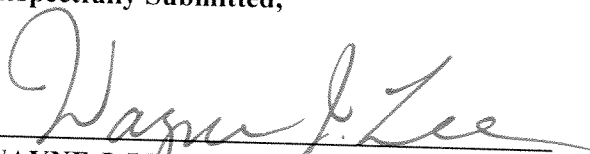
### **IV. BAR JOURNAL**


The Louisiana Bar Journal editorial board has agreed to have a diversity issue. Mr. Lee asked Committee members to consider volunteering to submit articles. No one volunteered to write articles. Mr. Lee advised that members will be recruited later.

### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

Committee members agreed to meet again on **October 30, 2008 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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WAYNE J. LEE

  
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HON. FREDRICKA HOMBERG WICKER