

Minutes of the December 8, 2001 Meeting  
Of the Public Information Committee

The Public Information Committee held its regularly scheduled meeting on Saturday, December 8, 2001 at Middleton Bar Center in Baton Rouge. Present at the meeting were: Tim Maragos, chair, Yigal Bander, Mike Rubin, Lori Ruello, Ann Scarle and Chuck Davoli, attending in person and Sandra Cosby, Elizabeth Hollins, Patrick Jackson, Kym Keller, Mary Mouton, Packard Phillips, Jeff Ory, Melanie Mulcahy participating by telephone. The meeting began at 10:10 a.m.

[http://www.lsba.org/Public\\_Resources/statewide\\_lawyer\\_referral\\_and\\_.html](http://www.lsba.org/Public_Resources/statewide_lawyer_referral_and_.html)

The progress of the new Statewide Lawyer Referral Service was discussed. Mike Rubin requested that representatives from existing local referral services be included on the governing board in order to provide experience and expertise to the statewide plan.

Chuck Davoli, chair of the Committee on Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities, spoke to the committee on ways to coordinate its efforts to create a referral network for disabled persons with the statewide LRS. After discussion, including comments from Mike Rubin, the committee recommended that those attorneys interested in assisting the disabled join the statewide LRS. The committee felt it was important to the potential clients that the attorneys to whom they will be referred have malpractice insurance. The committee also felt it best that there not be two referral programs run by or through the LSBA. All agreed that the lawyer-to-lawyer referrals within the committee could continue to be operated by Chuck Davoli's committee as always has been done, since this internal consultation and referral among lawyers is not a part of the statewide LRS.

Chuck Davoli also urged there be more interaction between his committee and the PIC, and Mike Rubin, by Chuck's request, appointed Chuck an ex-officio member of the PIC. He will also notify Tim Maragos as to the date of his committee's next meeting.

The Committee members were all reminded of their need to contact the specific LSBA Section heads in order to obtain a representative from that Section to serve on the LRS Board. Lori Ruello will send each PIC member a copy of the letter that went to the respective Section head, which will be a reminder.

Every Committee member will also contact the Section head to ask that the Section review the LSBA brochures and Tel-Law tapes ([http://www.lsba.org/Public\\_Resources/tel\\_law.html](http://www.lsba.org/Public_Resources/tel_law.html)) concerning that Section's area of expertise. If necessary, the Section will prepare revisions of those brochures and/or transcripts and these will be edited for style by the PIC and the appropriate revisions published. Those PIC members who do not have a Section contact yet will be given one by Lori.

Yigal Bander had reviewed the brochures and noted two areas of omission. The "Lemon Law" brochure [http://www.lsba.org/Public\\_Resources/is\\_your\\_car\\_a\\_lemon.html](http://www.lsba.org/Public_Resources/is_your_car_a_lemon.html) currently makes no reference to the additional remedy of redhibition, and the brochure on the Judicial System [http://www.lsba.org/Public\\_Resources/the\\_judicial\\_system.html](http://www.lsba.org/Public_Resources/the_judicial_system.html) makes no reference to the fact of prescription. He will draft suggested changes and forward them to Lori.

The Law School for Journalists program, held Friday, December 7, 2001, was considered a success, judging from the feedback comments received. Approximately 9 attorneys and 9 members of the media attended the half-day program at the LSU Law School. Patrick Jackson volunteered to chair the next program, which will be held in Shreveport, probably in April. He will contact the local bar to coordinate that program, and will review the past programs for ideas.

[http://www.lsba.org/Bar\\_Information/Disaster\\_Plan\\_approved.PDF](http://www.lsba.org/Bar_Information/Disaster_Plan_approved.PDF)

Sandy Cosby has begun reviewing the Disaster Response Plan to determine what names need to be "plugged in" to the blanks so that the plan can be implemented in the event of a disaster. Brian Jackson, who was unable to attend the meeting, has made some contacts with law enforcement agencies. Melanie Mulcahy, who represents the Young Lawyers Section, has been making contacts around the state to ensure that the volunteers will be in place to provide assistance to victims. A "mock" disaster will be planned for sometime in February or March so we can test the plan and make sure all the pieces are in place.

[http://www.lsba.org/Awards/crystal\\_gavel\\_awards.html](http://www.lsba.org/Awards/crystal_gavel_awards.html)

The Crystal Gavel Award description and nomination forms awards were distributed. Lori said that this information is also available on LSBA.org. Mike Rubin noted that two award recipients have been chosen. He encouraged the committee to seek nominations as he plans to present 15 awards this year.

To date, the one project which has not really moved forward is the Law School for Non-Lawyers. Mike Rubin suggested that Beth Foote be contacted in Alexandria for assistance in putting a program together there. The Family Law Section has provided an outline for the program.

The next PIC meeting will be held Saturday, February 23, 2002 at the LSBA offices in New Orleans.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.