

MINUTES
Executive Committee
January 8, 2009
Helena, MT

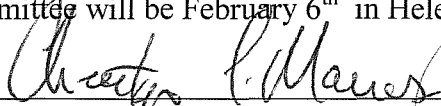
Chris Tweeten called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. In attendance were Cindy Smith, Joe Sullivan and Shane Vannatta. Staff in attendance were Chris Manos. Following were actions of the Committee:

- Approval of December 4, 2008 Meeting Minutes - Minutes for December 4, 2008 were reviewed and approved.
- President's Updates – Chris Tweeten gave the following updates: First, he reported that he is not aware of any comments yet received by the Supreme Court on the dues petition. Second, he reviewed that the Executive Cmte would have weekly calls on Mondays at 12:15 to review the Bar's Bill Watch list. Next, he indicated that the Bar's blog is up and running and he has made a first posting. Finally, he attended and helped with introductions at the Law School for Legislators program on January 6th with good attendance and presentations.
- Past President's Updates – There was no report.
- Pres-elect Update – Cindy Smith reported that work is being done to determine a cost effective location for the board retreat and staff is doing cost comparisons with the Double Arrow and Helena locations.
- Treasurer's Updates – Joe Sullivan reported that the Ad Hoc budget review committee(Jane Mersen and Darcy Crum) had met yesterday to do a detailed review with suggestions/recommendations for the Bar's budget. There will be another meeting scheduled early March, once a Court decision is made on the dues petition. At that meeting, recommendations for the board meeting April 3rd will be drafted. Joe, also gave an update on the Law Related Education Cmte and VISTA project with Abby Houle regarding a legal guide to the courts. There is an outline being developed and anticipated drafts to be circulated in the coming weeks.
- Board Chair Update – Shane Vannatta had nothing new to report.
- Bar Counsel Report – Betsy reported that the Fee Arb petition is done and filed with the Court. She is working on the changes to the advertising rules and a petition will be ready later this month or early February. She has also worked with the Professionalism Cmte on the Road Show and Rookie Camp and will have a report for the next Executive Cmte meeting. Also being finalized is the UPL Commission petition for rule changes. Finally, there will be a conference call with the Chair of the Character & Fitness Cmn and the working group that recommended the changes in the investigative option with the National Conference of Bar Examiners to finalize a MOU with everyone and determine next steps.
- Executive Director's Updates – Chris Manos reported on several items. First, it has been determined due to the dues petition comment period and uncertainty regarding the Court's date for a decision that two statements will be sent to bar members. One will be the license tax with a due date of April 1st and a second once the Court's

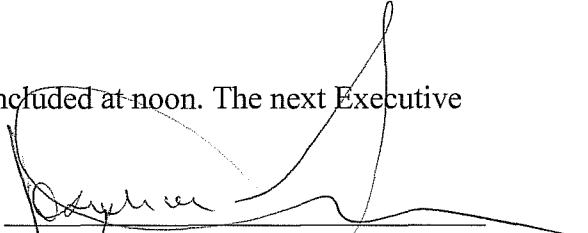
decision on the dues petition is rendered. Second, Chris attended the latest Court's E-filing task force meeting Dec 17th and there was continued review of standards with completion of this phase of the work by the January meeting. Implementation of any system is still 18-24 months away. Third, there was a recent meeting with MLSA and the VISTA coordinator to review the pro bono mediation program in Helena and its continuation. Next, there is a scheduled board meeting for the Montana Justice Foundation Jan 15-16th and the top agenda item will be the decrease in IOLTA funding due to the drop in interest rates and bank's willingness to work on these accounts with the economy. Finally, a new Equal Justice Coordinator has been hired to replace Ann Gilkey. That is Janice Doggett who will also be part-time – 20 hours per week with similar responsibilities and beginning February 2nd. Also the Bar's health program has been conducting health wellness screening with an incentive of a premium holiday in July for 60% participation of enrolled offices or firms.

- Other Business – None

There being no further business the meeting was concluded at noon. The next Executive Committee will be February 6th in Helena.



Christopher L. Manos
Executive Director



Joseph M. Sullivan
Secretary/Treasurer