

Public Policy Committee Meeting
Monday, June 12, 2023
3 p.m. CDT

Minutes

The following individuals participated in the meeting: John Pierce, Baxter Drennon, Steve Siros, Roy Prather, David Levitt, Danielle Waltz, Chris Turney, Lauren Motes, and Jay Ludlam.

1. DRI Publications

- a. All Public Policy Committee groups should consider developing written scholarship.
- b. Short articles (< 800 words) for *The Voice*, or more fleshed out pieces for *FTD* or *IDQ*.
- c. Could become the bases for presentations at DRI seminars, webinars, and/or eventual white papers.

2. TPLF Task Force (David Levitt, Chair)

- a. Task force met on May 26. Topics addressed:
 - i. Visibility
 - ii. White paper update
 - iii. SLDO toolkit
 - iv. Supplemental Letter to Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure
- b. See full [Meeting Minutes](#) for more information.
- c. Applied but were not selected for Annual Meeting showcase theater.
- d. Task force is on the agendas for either the July or August SLC leadership meeting and the July 27 State Legislation and Rules Task Force meeting.
- e. John suggested that David and Danielle have a conversation with Baxter about SLC engagement in this area.

3. Social Inflation Task Force (Chris Turney, Chair)

- a. Group has grown.
 - i. Conference call earlier in the day had @ 10 in attendance, which has become the norm for monthly calls.
 - ii. Members of the task force include a jury consultant, insurance company reps., trial attorneys, and national counsel.
 - Get a broad brush of what's happening across the country.
- b. Next is deciding what to output.
 - i. Easy to complain about the problem, but what to do about it?
 - iii. Task force is taking a more practical approach: What can trial lawyers do with their cases to help?
 - iv. Will be joining with the Litigation Skills Committee for a part of their March 2024 seminar in Miami.
 - Plan for an invitation meeting, with in-house counsel, insurance reps, and trial lawyers to discuss litigation management strategies to push back on plaintiffs' tactics.
- c. Chris to see what they can come up with in terms of an article for *The Voice*.

4. AI Working Group (Brett Tarver, Vice Chair)

- a. Group just up and running.
- b. Enthusiastic group. Looking for a couple more members, esp. more female lawyers.

- c. Working on an outline for what they want to focus on within this huge area, e.g.,
 - i. ChatGPT;
 - ii. How clients are using AI (setting valuation, reserves, fees);
 - iii. How law firms are and will be using AI;
 - iv. Jury verdicts;
 - v. Among many more.
 - d. Looking to present information in the form of recommendations (e.g., for increasing efficiency), ethics and professionalism pitfalls, etc.
 - e. John suggested that the bullet point listing of the committee's scope could be the basis for an article in *The Voice*.
5. Climate Change and Sustainability Task Force (Steve Siros, Chair)
- a. Task force is still working on what the task force is and what its focus will be.
 - i. Continuing to try to populate the group. Currently four; ten would be incredible.
 - b. Survey of Corporate Council Committee has been approved.
 - c. [Article published](#) in the June issue of *The Voice* about recent SCOTUS cert denial, rendering energy companies unable to remove state law-based lawsuits.
 - i. An issue to keep an eye on as cases work their way through the various states.
 - ii. This is an issue that DRI members are dealing with.
 - iii. Generally, the issue of eliminating federal common law is troubling.
 - iv. Eventually, planning to flesh this topic out for a more substantial article.
 - v. Opportunity for SLC engagement.
 - Possible outreach to individual SLCs asking for people to serve on task force: e.g., YL, Lit. Skills, Toxic Torts, C3, Insurance Law
 - Chris would be willing to talk to Lit. Skills chair about putting out a post (e.g., practical, "what do you need lawyers to be doing to help"). Ditto Brett and YLC leadership.
 - d. Recent [Wind Energy Seminar](#): should think about connecting task force with that group.
 - i.
6. SLC Engagement Task Force (Baxter Drennon, Chair)
- a. Wants to help to get every group fully staffed.
 - b. Groups with needs should reach out to Baxter, tell him what you're looking for (brief email is fine), and he will go to the appropriate SLCs to recruit.
 - c. Baxter recently presented at the SLC Leadership.
 - d. Eventually, the goal is to have it engrained in the SLCs that when issues come up they should reach out to the Center as a resource.
7. Other Business
- a. Blockchain Working Group: not currently populated, but still a group that we want to get up and running.
 - b. Data Privacy and Protection: getting up and running.
 - c. Nonlawyer Ownership of Law Firms Task Force
 - i. Considering the Access to Justice component.
 - d. Center online Community is populated with all members of Center groups.
 - ii. Ready to be used: libraries, list serves.
 - e. Next Public Policy Committee meeting: July 24.