

Insurance Council Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2025 • 1:00 p.m. Central
The Offices of Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons, LLP • Dallas, TX

Council meeting began at 1:00 p.m. Bill Seward took roll.

In Attendance: *Christopher Avery, Darin Brooks, Shannon Conway, Christina Culver, Robert Cunningham, Blair Dancy, Rebecca DiMasi, Jennifer Johnson, Katherine Knight, Jonathan Lisenby, Daniel Lockwood, Jason McLaurin, Henry Moore, Matthew Paradowski, Lauren Parker, Matt Rigney, Steve Schulwolf, James Willis, and Assistant Director Bill Seward.*

Chair's Report: Rebecca DiMasi

Rebecca welcomed attendees, summarized the agenda for the meeting and reviewed the informational items included in the agenda packet.

Approval of Minutes: Jennifer Johnson

Jennifer presented the minutes from the January 22, 2025 Council Meeting. No changes to the minutes were suggested. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded and approved.

Budget Report & Overview: Christopher Avery

Chris reviewed the current financial report. The financials are in good shape and tracking appropriately for this time of the year. Chris noted the 2025 annual sponsorships are tracking well above budget. The next Treasurer should consider working with the sponsorship committee to develop a proposal for adjusting the sponsorship levels and benefits in future years. Blair Dancy noted that as revenues increase the Council should keep an eye on planned expenditures to make sure they remain in line with State Bar policies and expectations.

Legends Award Committee Recommendations: Rebecca DiMasi

Becca shared confirmation that John Tollefson's family will be in attendance at the June Advanced Insurance Law Seminar to receive last year's award for John. Discussion was held regarding the timing and appropriateness of giving out a Legends Award for 2025.

A motion was made to accept the Legends Award Committee's recommendation of Christopher Martin as the 2025 Legends Award recipient. Motion seconded and approved.

Bill Seward will order the physical award to have available for presentation at the June seminar.

CLE Report: Jennifer Johnson

101 Course & Advanced Seminar – Jennifer reported that the State Bar would soon be in contact about the Section's preferences for food and beverage during the seminar. Jennifer will need to confirm the sponsors of the Wednesday welcome happy hour event following the 101 Course. Attendees onsite volunteering to sponsor included Matt Rigney, Christina Culver, Darin Brooks, and Jason McLaurin, and it was noted that Jim Cooper had also previously committed.

Webinars – Steve Schulwolf reported that the March 25th webinar had 135 registrants with 87 in attendance. Two more webinars are in the works with dates to be determined. There has been no recent movement on potential webinar collaborations with other Sections or groups but that it is a work in progress.

Publication Report: Jason McLaurin

Journal – Jason reported that editing is currently underway on the late Spring issue of the Journal. The Summer issue has also already been started. Darin Brooks is currently reaching out to potential alternate designers. Changes to the managing editors are currently in progress with two more needed. Darin and Jason outlined the general editing process for anyone that may be interested.

Nominations Committee Report: Robert Cunningham

Bob presented the draft initial report of the Committee and noted that interviews with the candidates are currently underway. The Committee meets on April 11th to make their recommendations. Bob outlined the Council and Officer openings and renewal plans for the existing Council members, along with the judicial liaisons and potential judicial liaison candidates. The Committee's report is due to the executive officers for consideration by the Council at their April 23rd meeting.

Website Rebuild Update: Katherine Knight

Katherine reviewed some of the features and design attributes of the new website and some "punch-list" items she is working on with the designers. The current goal is to launch the new site by the end of April. The new Social Media Policy will be added to the new website in the 'Council Only' area.

Katherine requested to include more photos on LinkedIn. The Section's LinkedIn is now up to 551 followers.

Scholarship Committee Update: Blair Dancy

Blair reported that the two 2024 Student Writing Competition award winners had been informed of their wins and Bill Seward was working on processing the scholarship award payments of \$4,000 for first place and \$2,000 for second place. Bill will also look into ordering each of them a small plaque. The Committee will be assigning Council members to the various law schools for campus visits and promotion of the next student writing competition this Fall.

There being no new or additional business, Rebecca thanked Thompson Coe for hosting the meeting and luncheon, and reminded attendees of the upcoming networking event at The Rustic.

A motion was made to adjourn. Motion seconded and approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm Central.