

**Professionalism Committee CBA
Minutes
May 10, 2006**

The committee was called to order. Attendees: John Curp, Pam Vest, Kate Graham, Steve Hardwick, and Steve Santangelo. The minutes of the April 12th meeting were approved. We had a lively discussion of committee activities over the past year and potential future activities, as summarized below.

This year we heard from Judge Eric Brown, Franklin County Common Pleas Court, and Denise Platfoot Lacey, Secretary of the Ohio Supreme Court's Commission on Professionalism. Two Capital students participated in the civility program that we created a few years ago. We held our meetings at the law schools with featured speakers, District Court Judge Rose at Moritz and Supreme Court Justice O'Donnell at Capital. We continued with our professionalism seminar program, which we have done 4 years at Capital. Sally Bloomfield gave the capstone speech. We finally saw our law school integration initiative established with the help of Donna Sweet and staff at the CBA, and through the dedication of Mark Petrucci who deserves many, many thanks. And, the task could not have been accomplished without the support and assistance of Professors Tibbles and Travaglio. Please GIVE THEM A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!!!

We moved and agreed to dissolve the subcommittee on law school integration. However, the new Chair may want to consider creating a new subcommittee for next term that focuses on publishing the program at the law schools such at the start of each semester, and monitor the program to ensure use and update of volunteers and the like.

Jeff Hartranft, who could not attend the meeting, requested that the following be passed along. The Better Lawyer Editorial Board is looking for an experience attorney to write an 800-900 word article on what new or young lawyers can do to enhance professionalism. Jeff is looking for a writer. The article is not due until July 28 and will be published in the insert to the Bar Briefs magazine. Please contact Jeff at 233-4804 if you have any questions about the article or wish to volunteer.

The following ideas were discussed that may be of interest to the new Chair who takes over in the fall, depending on the goals and activities of the committee.

- Consider whether monthly meetings (usually 8) are necessary or less frequent meetings would be more productive.
- Work to establish a professionalism program at Moritz, as with Capital, and/or a joint seminar with the schools. Include evaluation sheets for students who attend the program.
- Follow up with Denise Platfoot Lacey on her meeting with the committee in November regarding how our committee can work with the Commission
- Get involved with new lawyers training as speakers on the topics of professionalism and civility.

- Contact other committees and work with them on any CLEs to include professionalism component.
- Develop programs with new lawyers that focus on professionalism in litigation and in transactional legal services.
- Get involved in the call to defend the legal system from attack, involving appropriate defense and criticism of judges and lawyers by writing articles, speaking engagements, or arrange a luncheon with appropriate participants and invite the press.

For the committee members who attended our meeting, I hope that I did not forget to include any ideas. If so, I apologize and feel free to correct me.

Finally, on a personal note, I want to thank everyone for your service and your assistance over the past two years that I have been Chair of the committee. I have enjoyed my time and welcome whoever takes over and wish that person the best. I will be happy to assist him or her in any way possible in the undertaking.

Pam Vest,
Chair, Professionalism Committee
CBA