

RESOLUTION 09-02-2007

DIGEST

Conference of Delegates: Location of Meetings

Recommends the Executive Committee and Board of Governors adopt a policy regarding the location of the annual meeting to preclude meeting in Monterey.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION DISAPPROVE

History:

No similar resolutions found.

Reasons

This resolution recommends the Executive Committee and Board of Governors adopt a policy regarding the location of the annual meeting to preclude meeting in Monterey. This resolution should be disapproved because it is based on the false premise that there are no factors taken into consideration in determining the location of the State Bar Annual Meeting.

To the extent this resolution is addressed to the Executive Committee (now the Board of Directors,) it addresses a matter that is beyond that organization's control. The State Bar determines the location of the Annual Meeting and the desires of the CDCBA Board of Directors are not primary, or even incidental, in the priorities which are considered in making such a determination.

A number of factors are considered in determining the location of the State Bar Annual Meeting, including the location and availability of facilities of sufficient size. The Conference, frankly put, is but a tag-along. The cost of various facilities, even if of sufficient size, is another factor, as is the effort to generally alternate the meeting between a north and a south location each year. Clearly, the proponent would be less concerned about the inconveniences of getting to Monterey were the Annual Meeting held in San Diego or Long Beach each year. The inconvenience to a participant in one year is generally balanced by the proximity to the Meeting in the next.

TEXT OF RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations recommends that the Executive Committee of the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations and the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California adopt a policy regarding the location of Conference Meetings as follows:

WHEREAS Conferences have been held in cities that are geographically isolated, in that major air carriers do not serve them, and thus delegates to such Conferences must drive there, necessitating even those flying in to land at a nearby airport and rent a car; and

WHEREAS Conferences have been held where the meeting facilities are geographically separated and not within easy walking distance of each other, thus requiring delegates to choose between attending the conference on any given session or attending MCLE programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations recommends that the Executive Committee of the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations not schedule meetings of the Conference in any city which is not served by a major airline carrier or which lacks facilities for both the Conference and MCLE programs within easy walking distance of each other; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations recommends to the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California that it not schedule future meetings of the State Bar Convention in any city which is not served by a major airline carrier or which lacks facilities for both the Conference and MCLE programs within easy walking distance of each other; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations recommends to the Executive Committee of the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations and to the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California that it explore the possibility of legally terminating existing contracts for holding the Conference and the State Bar Convention in any city which is not served by a major airline carrier or which lacks facilities for both the Conference and MCLE programs within easy walking distance of each other.

PROPONENT: San Diego County Bar Association

STATEMENT OF REASONS

Existing Law: There are no factors for consideration in determining the location of the State Bar Annual Meeting.

This Resolution: Recommends consideration of factors in the scheduling of location of the State Bar Annual Meeting and the Conference of Delegates.

The Problem: Because of the geographic isolation of the City of Monterey, delegates to the 2006 Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations were required to drive a substantial distance, even after flying into nearby airports served by commercial airline carriers. Those delegates seeking to fly to the Conference had to purchase airline tickets and rent cars because of the lack of major airline service to Monterey. These logistical problems and their associated excessive costs likely are responsible for a relatively low attendance at the 2006 Conference. In gazing at the Conference floor last year, one could see deserts of empty chairs.

Delegates who attended the Conference, but who also wanted to accrue MCLE credit were compelled to choose between those objectives because the facility hosting the Conference was not within walking distance of the facility where MCLE classes were being conducting. While bus service was provided between the facilities, the time commitment for catching a bus to and then from the MCLE facility negated about half a day of Conference attendance. Delegates should be able to duck into MCLE programs when their attendance at the Conference is not essential and still participate in the Conference. Last year this was virtually impossible.

The Conference and the MCLE activities have outgrown the facilities of many cities. The Conference should only be held in locations that can easily be accessed from all of the major

cities of the state, any of which have facilities that will allow delegates to attend both the conference and MCLE events.

IMPACT STATEMENT

This resolution does not affect any other law, statute or rule.

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COUNTERARGUMENTS

STATE BAR BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The State Bar has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with the CDCBA (and the predecessor Conference of Delegates), and will continue to keep the needs and preferences of its delegates and alternates in mind as it secures locations for future meeting sites. However, this resolution would restrict the already limited location options for holding the State Bar Annual Meeting, and would unnecessarily prohibit the State Bar from holding its Annual Meeting in Monterey.

As a matter of practice, the State Bar considers many factors before it selects a site for the Annual Meeting, including attendees' location preference (Monterey has the highest meeting attendance), participant costs, available meeting space and hotel rooms, accessibility, and local attractions. The general geographic location also is considered since the State Bar annually rotates between northern and southern locations for the benefit of its attendees. As a practical matter, the actual choices for meeting sites are very limited.

Terminating existing contracts is not feasible, and replacement sites would need to be found in any event.