

Latin American Bar Activities Section - Annual Meeting Minutes

State Bar of Michigan Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency, Dearborn September 16, 2011 LABAS Annual Meeting

-Meeting called at 9:40 a.m.

-Attendees were:

- Cliff Flood, General Counsel for State Bar of Michigan
- Candace Crowley, Director of External Development for State Bar of Michigan
- Bill Smith
- Alfredo Casab
- Jim Feinberg
- David Maquera
- Lawrence Garcia
- Tonatzin Alfaro-Maiz

Pursuant to Article VII, Section 3 of the current by-laws, a quorum existed to transact business.

-Candace Crowley provided opening remarks and handed out proposed amendments to Bylaws

-Lawrence Garcia moved for adoption of the proposed amendments

-Tonatzin Alfaro-Maiz seconded Lawrence Garcia's motion

-Motion carried by unanimous voice vote [Article VII, Section 4 of the current by-laws, requires action to taken to be by majority vote].

-No dissents

-Election Ballots for Council Positions were distributed by Candace Crowley; The election ballot included the following candidates: Tonatzin Alfaro-Maiz, Carlos Alvarado-Jorquera, Alfredo Casab, Lawrence Garcia, David Maquera, Bill Smith, Burke Webb, and Jonathan Young.

- Jim Feinberg submitted his name as a write-in candidate
- Jim Feinberg also retracted his mail-in ballot submitted prior to 9/8/11
- Two other ballots were previously submitted by 9/8/11
- All attendees submitted ballots to Candace Crowley
- Candace Crowley and Cliff Flood tallied votes
- Candace Crowley announced the newly elected LABAS Council members: Tonatzin Alfaro-Maiz (1 yr term), David Maquera (3 yr term), Jim Feinberg (3 yr term), Lawrence Garcia (1 yr term), Alfredo Casab (2 yr term), Bill Smith (2 yr term), and Carlos Alvarado-Jorquera (2 yr-term) were elected to the LABAS Council

-Candace Crowley and Cliff Flood both left Section Annual Meeting at 9:53 a.m.

The Amended By-laws decreased the Council size to 7 members and includes only 3 officers, rather than 4.

-Next item of business was to elect the following officers:

- Chair
- Chair-Elect/Secretary
- Treasurer

-Before nominations for officers were made, a brief discussion regarding the mission of LABAS took place

- Bill Smith suggested fostering ties with legal communities or associations located in Latin America such as Costa Rica
- Tonatzin Alfaro-Maiz indicated a preference for LABAS to focus more on domestic issues, reach out to young attorneys, and promote issues important to Latino/Hispanic communities or constituencies
- Lawrence Garcia posed the question of whether the new Council knows what dues paying members expect from LABAS
- Jim Feinberg opined that it might be difficult to keep track of other Latin American Bar associations
- Lawrence Garcia posed the additional question of whether anyone in meeting knew what activities LABAS would engage in for the next 12 months
- Jim Feinberg then made the observation that given the time constraints, the Council members should begin electing a Chair, Chair-Elect/Secretary and Treasurer
- Lawrence Garcia made the following suggestions for LABAS to engage in during the next 12 months: 1) Hold meetings to bring LABAS members together, 2) Support lawyers with Bill Smith to undertake special projects, and 3) promote future Latino/Hispanic lawyers at Colleges, High Schools, and Law Schools via internships or other opportunities.
- Tonatzin Alfaro-Maiz recounted the history of LABAS about how it was originally started by ethnic Latinos/Hispanics who networked but promoted ties to home countries
- Jim Feinberg suggested that the Council should solicit input from members on what LABAS' mission should be or the direction it should take
- Tonatzin Alfaro-Maiz noted that there is \$12K in LABAS' account for activities

-After the close of the foregoing discussion, the following nominations for Officers were made:

- Lawrence Garcia nominated himself for Chair, which was seconded by David Maquera
- Bill Smith nominated Tonatzin Alfaro-Maiz for Treasurer, which was seconded by Jim Feinberg
- Jim Feinberg nominated David Maquera for Chair-Elect/Secretary, which was seconded by Lawrence Garcia
- There were no other nominations
- All three candidates were elected by unanimous voice vote with no dissents
- Lawrence Garcia is the new Chair
- David Maquera is the new Chair-Elect/Secretary
- Tonatzin Alfaro-Maiz is the new Treasurer

-Jim Feinberg suggested sending a letter to members requesting input/ideas

- Lawrence Garcia will draft the letter

-Remaining Council Members are Jim Feinberg, Bill Smith, Carlos Alvarado-Jorquera, and Alfredo Casab

-Meeting ended at 10:25 a.m.