

## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION OF THE STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN**

A meeting of the Council (“**Council**”) of the International Law Section (“**Section**”) of the State Bar of Michigan (“**State Bar**” or “**SBM**”) was held on November 16, 2011, at Ginopolis Restaurant, 27815 Middlebelt Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334.

The following officers of the Council were present in person: Margaret A. Dobrowitsky, Chairperson; Jeffrey F. Paulsen, Chairperson-Elect; and A. Reed Newland, Secretary. The following voting members of the Council were present in person: Debra Clephane, Linda Armstrong, Gregory Fox, Eve Lerman, Aaron Ogletree, Sonia Salah and Daphne Short. Other Members of the Section also attended the meeting. Names of each of the attendees will be filed with these meeting minutes.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Margaret A. Dobrowitsky, Chairperson of the Section, called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30 pm.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Chairperson circulated an agenda for the meeting, which was approved as presented.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

At the Chairperson’s request, attendees introduced themselves and described their professional affiliations and interest in international law matters.

### **NOTICE AND QUORUM**

The Secretary presented a written notice of the meeting that was mailed or delivered to all members of the Council and to Members of the Section in accordance with the Section’s Bylaws. The Secretary said that the notice will be filed with the minutes of the meeting.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

The Secretary circulated a draft of the minutes of the Council meeting held on May 18, 2011. Upon motion made and supported, the Council approved of the minutes without correction. The Secretary reported that approved minutes of the Section Council meetings are regularly posted on the Section website at [www.michbar.org](http://www.michbar.org) and that the approved minutes would also be posted to the Section website.

### **PLAQUE PRESENTATION TO PAST CHAIRPERSON**

The Chairperson presented a Plaque to Past Chairperson (2010-2011) Cameron DeLong for his long and dedicated service as Chairperson, Officer and Council member, and expressed her hope

that he would continue to provide the Section the benefits of his experience for years to come.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Secretary, A. Reed Newland, presented the unaudited financial statement of the Section for the twelve months ended September 30, 2011 and the related detailed trial balance for the same period, prepared by the Finance & Administration Division of the State Bar. As of the twelve months ending September 30, 2011, the revenues of the Section were \$12,410.00, and expenses for the same time period were \$15,881.79, resulting in Net Income (Loss) of (\$3,471.79). The Section's ending fund balance as of September 30, 2011 was \$18,051.59. Mr. Newland pointed out several errors were made but corrected the same day by the SBM's Finance & Administration Division in the detailed trial balance for the same period. None of these affected the Section's financial picture as otherwise presented. Upon motion made and supported, Council approved of the financial statements. The Chairperson noted that the Section's financial statements are generally reprinted in the *Michigan International Lawyer*.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

The Chairperson introduced the Officers, Council members, Committee Chairpersons and Law Student Representatives. The Chairperson reported that she was pleased with the attendance at Section meetings this year and hoped that ILS members would continue to attend Council meetings and programs organized by the Section. She encouraged members to invite other members to also attend.

The Chairperson noted that the Executive Committee has had discussions about raising revenue by attempting to increase the number of Section members or potentially raising membership dues (currently at \$30 per year) as well as discussions on how to lower current Section expenses. It was agreed that there would be further discussion at later Council meetings.

## **MICHIGAN INTERNATIONAL LAWYER**

Cameron DeLong reminded the members present at the meeting of the Section's publication entitled *Michigan International Lawyer* ("MIL"), and of the importance of keeping the pipeline for articles of interest flowing, primarily from the law firms, presenters, Council members and, of course, all Section members.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Chairperson invited the Section's Committee chairs to report on their activities. Aaron Ogletree, co-chair of the International Trade Committee (ITC), reported on the upcoming *International Bridge Debate* program that the Section was co-sponsoring with Wayne State Law School, to be held Tuesday, November 29, 2011. Mr. Ogletree reported on other activities of the ITC, including the presentation by Frank Walwyn of Weir Foulds on *Multi-Jurisdictional Litigation*, scheduled in conjunction with the Section's next quarterly meeting on Wednesday,

January 25, 2012, @ Butzel Long's offices in downtown Detroit. The Chairperson noted that committees were free to discuss and implement programming, and that it was anticipated that the committees would request funds to support future programs that support the Section's goals. It was noted that the use of Section funds had to be approved by the Section Council or if needed the Section Executive Committee due to the timing of a funding request. It was also noted that Section committees do not have separate standing and that they operate under the auspices of the Section and the SBM.

## **SBM-ILS LINKEDIN GROUP**

Jeffrey Paulsen and Sonia Salah updated the Section on the establishment and growth of the Section's LinkedIn Group as a means of increasing and improving communication among Section members. Over 90 members have joined since it was organized. The Chairperson thanked both Mr. Paulsen and Ms. Salah for their continuing efforts to promote the site.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The Council and Section's members discussed several suggestions to encourage the professional development of some of the Section's younger members and encourage more people to join the Section: a Law Student Reception, a Gala event, a Career Fair and a Mentorship Program, were among the ideas mentioned. Although no specific actions were taken, the Section welcomes these initiatives and the opportunities to support them financially and encouraged the members willing to get involved to contact the Officers or Council members for more follow up. The Section also anticipates further discussions on these topics.

The Chairperson also invited the Section's members' ideas on ways for the Section to lower its expenses, including making the Section's newsletter electronic. Various ways to canvass the membership for ideas were discussed, and included surveying the membership to learn whether they would accept a dues increase or prefer that the Section reduce its expenses. Harvesting ideas from other Sections' experiences was also discussed, although no specific actions were taken as a Section.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

## **DINNER AND PROGRAM**

The section provided dinner, followed by the presentation by Stephen Anway, a partner at Squire Sanders & Dempsey (US), LLP, made a presentation on *International Arbitration: Commercial and Investment Treaty Arbitration*.

Respectfully submitted,

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A. Reed Newland, Secretary  
International Law Section  
State Bar of Michigan