



IMMIGRATION LAW SECTION

Minutes
April 28, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.
Via [Zoom](#)

- I. Meeting was called to order at 12:05pm
- II. Council attendance
 1. Brad Maze
 2. Abril Valdes Siewert
 3. Arturo Alfaro
 4. Kimberly Budin
 5. Russell Abrutyn
 6. Chris Dutot
 7. Marva de Armas
 8. Jonathan Conteras
 - Quorum reached 8/16
 - 21 members in attendance
- III. Minutes approved: Motion by Brad Maze | Seconded by Abril Valdes Siewert | Approved 9-0
- IV. Agenda approved
- V. Members' open comment
 - Jason Lee- helping with the Afghan asylum seekers. Working on a project that will help translate forms from English to Arabic, Dari. If anyone speaks Dari, please reach out to Jason or MIRC
 - Reggie Pacis- Commissioner appointed by Gov. Snyder for Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission and they have an event coming up in May
- VI. Reports
 - A. **Chair Report**
 - a. 2022 Goals – Realignment/Committee restructuring - Committee activities to be rolled into three groupings
 - i. Publications
 1. Rebecca R. and Farah Al-khersan are taking the lead as Co-Chairs. We want to use this as a way to promote and educate people about education
 - ii. Scholarship

1. Establishing scholarship opportunities (see Treasurer report)
- iii. Coordination with other SBM sections
 1. We also need to prepare for our annual meeting, likely in person. We will be encouraging members to join. We have more than 350 members, but we hope to get higher attendance. Will try to do it during a weekend (not MSU game)
- b. Federal Bar Association Event, May 13-14 Detroit, MI
 - i. Brad is helping to plan this. Several activities and speakers of interests. There will be a strong MI immigration lawyer participation in this event
 - ii. Russel Abruytyn, Farah Al-khersan and Brad will all be speaking on panels
- c. OPLA Meeting on 5/12/2022, 3pm @ Detroit- USCIS
 - i. Kerry Doyle (ICE) will be speaking
 - ii. Prep meeting on 4/29/22, noon with AILA-National by Zoom
 1. Many of our ILS members are involved and welcome joining and supporting
- d. Council Elections
 - i. Conducted via Zoom poll by vote of present section members
 - ii. Farrah Hobballah elected as Corresponding Secretary with a vote of 18-0-3
 - iii. Caterina Amaro-Luedtke elected to the Board of Directors with a vote of 15-3-3

B. Vice Chair Report

- a. Calling for everyone to encourage their friends and colleagues to participate in the section.

C. Treasurer

- a. Budget Overview and Updates
 - i. \$30,608 in account
 - ii. Received over \$11,500 in member fees
- b. Scholarship Committee
 - i. Farah Hobballah is co-chairing
 - ii. Goal to help develop new immigration attorneys
 - iii. There is plenty of funds to maintain the scholarships
 - iv. Two \$1000 scholarships
 1. Scholarship #1: Personal needs
 2. Scholarship #2: Merit based
 - v. Potential Criteria:
 1. Staying and practicing in Michigan
 - vi. Auturo and Farrah will be working to plan outreach

D. Section Representatives

- Solo/Small Practice Section (Alexandra Gillet) - none
- Family Law Section (Fawzea Abusalah) - none
- Criminal Law Section (Edward Bajoka) - none

E. Subcommittee

a. General

- i. Committees are not being dissolved, but we are focusing them to collaborate more with the two priority committees.
- ii. If you have not signed up for a committee and would like to please email Kim Buddin at kbuddin@aclu.org or our section email at sbm.immigrationlaw@gmail.com and we can get you connected with the appropriate chairs.

b. Events/Programming Committee (Abril Valdes Siewert)- none

- **Membership Committee (Chris Dutot)- none**

- **Publication Committee (Rebecca Robichaud)-None**
- **Community Outreach Committee (Brad Maze)- none**
- **Public Policy Committee (Kim Buddin)**
 - Please join!
 - Richard Kessler and Hassan Elsouri interested in joining
- **Budget Committee (Arturo Alfaro, Treasurer)**
 - Committee will be responsible for overseeing and developing the Scholarship committee.

F. Congressional Liaison Reports (Sarah Yore-Van Oosterhout, Ellie Mosko)- none

VII. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 25 at noon

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 12:52pm