



IMMIGRATION LAW SECTION

MINUTES

February 23, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.

Via [Zoom](#)

Council in attendance:

1. Brad Maze
2. Abril Valdes Siewert
3. Kimberly Buddin
4. Arturo Alfaro
5. Russell Abrutyn
6. Christopher Dutot
7. Marva De Armas
8. Elisheva Mosko
9. Rebecca Robichaud
10. Sarah Yore-Van Oosterhout

10/16 quorum

35 participants via zoom

- I. Call to order and opening remarks
- II. Recording Secretary roll call of Council members
- III. Approval of the Minutes from March 31, 2021, April 28, 2021, June 30, 2021, and July 28, 2021

Motion to approve by Vice Chair, Second by Recording Sec, Minutes approved.

- IV. Approval of the Agenda
Motion to approve by Chair, Second by Vice Chair, Agenda approved.

- V. Reports

A. Chair Report

- a. 2022 Goals – Re-opening, Re-engagement, Re-assert
 - i. - "Re-engage" with fellow ILS members - monthly "brown bag" lunch by Zoom (intervaled from two weeks after the monthly meeting) whereby we share experiences practicing immigration law in Michigan. We could have a panel of two-three persons and make it a

round table where we all share secrets of the trade/our successes and failures. Some of the topics could include:

1. Solo/Small firm practitioners --
 2. USCIS - Detroit -- tricks of trade, interviews, RFEs, NOIDs, Officers, Supervisors
 3. Detention in Michigan
 4. Detroit Immigration Court
 5. Border-related waivers and visas
 6. Federal appeals practice in Dist Court and 6th Cir Ct of Appeals
 7. Non-profit/pro-bono opportunities
 8. Run-down from those who practice criminal law in MI -- how Courts are dealing with Immigration-related issues
 9. OPLA dealings -- successes/failures
- b. Federal Bar Association Event, May 13-14 Detroit, MI
- i. Collaboration and event to gain membership in our section
 - ii. Farah Hobballah member that is on board of both organizations (Brad to connect)
- c. Vacancy on Executive Board: Corresponding Secretary and BOD. Description of roles can be found in our bylaws [here](#)

B. Vice Chair Report

- a. Amici Briefs submitted December 2021
 - i. MCL 750.81a(1) CIMT analysis
 - ii. *In re BMG* for Unaccompanied Children

C. Treasurer

- a. Budget Overview and Updates
 - i. Fiscal year Oct 2021
 - ii. \$30,868 current balance

D. Section Representatives Appointments

- Solo/Small Practice Section (2021 Rep: Alexandra Gillet) confirm interest
- Family Law Section (2021 Rep: Fawzea Abusalah) confirm interest
 - Farah Hobballah will help as Co-Chair
- Criminal Law Section (2021 Rep: Edward Bajoka) - Eddie will continue as representative

- Others?

E. Subcommittee

a. **Joining committees (Brad) - Descriptions Below**

- Events/Programming Committee (Abril Valdes Siewert)
 - Collaborate with membership and intersecting sections who can contribute their knowledge and expertise to the legal and non-legal community.
- Membership Committee (Chris Dutot)
 - Increasing Membership through activities.
 - Contact: Dutot@millercanfield.com
- Publication Committee (Rebecca Robichaud)
 - Writing competition for law students
 - Email article ideas
 - Member and attorney collaboration with law students as co-authors
 - Contact: Rebecca Robichaud- fh4104@wayne.edu
- Community Outreach Committee (Brad Maze)
 - Church events, naturalization workshops, food drives, give back to community throughout the state
- Public Policy Committee (Kim Buddin)
 - Members needed
 - Timeline issues with voting members and approval
 - Making sure that we're tracking federal and state policies. Amicus briefs
 - Streamlining process with public policy procedures
- Budget Committee (Arturo Alfaro, Treasurer)
 - Approximately \$6k budget per event
 - Mentoring, speed networking, pro-bono events, and clinics
 - Scholarship

F. **Ad Hoc Committee - Congressional Liaison Reports** (Sarah Yore-Van Oosterhout and Ellie Mosko Co-Chairs)

- i. congressional liaisons panel for educational and advocacy opportunities
- ii. How can we use these liaisons to better serve our clients
- iii. Contact: syore@lia-michigan.org

V. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 30 at noon

VI. Membership Updates -

1. MIRC looking for pro-bono attorneys to represent Afghan asylum seekers. Contact: afghanprobono@michiganimmigrant.org Register here for the Afghan Asylum Pro Bono Kick Off Meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYlceGgqD4sGtwAhtvFUMLk2jJs4lNrWQwQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYlceGgqD4sGtwAhtvFUMLk2jJs4lNrWQwQ)
2. Service is tomorrow 2/24/22 from 1pm-3pm Address of funeral home for Judge Hacker's spouse. 30895 W. Huron River Rd, Flat Rock, MI

VII. Adjourn -

Motion by Chair, Second by Vice Chair, motion to adjourn passes. Meeting ends at 12:51pm