



IMMIGRATION LAW SECTION

MINUTES

May 25, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.

I. Meeting called to order at 12:04pm

II. The Recording Secretary conducted roll call of Council members. 12/18 council present. Quorum reached

Council members present:

1. Brad Maze
2. Abril Valdes Siewert
3. Kimberly Buddin
4. Farah Hobballah
5. Arturo Alfaro
6. Russell Abrutyn
7. Ruby Robinson
8. Ellie Mosko
9. Rebeca Ontiveros-Chavez
10. Rebecca Robichaud
11. Sarah Yore-Van Oosterhout
12. Caterina Amaro-Luedtke

Council members absent:

1. Jonathan Contreras
2. Chris Dutot
3. Tania Morris Diaz
4. Marva de Armas
5. Ahndia Mansoori
6. Alexander Gibson Vernon

20 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

III. Minutes approved. Motion by Chair Maze seconded by Secretary Farah

IV. Agenda approved

V. Membership open comment

- Some issues with different zoom links for the meeting– the E-board will look into it to resolve

VI. Reports

A. Chair Report

- a. New Initiatives under way
 - 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
 - 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)
 - a. Events Committee
- b. Federal Bar Association Event, May 13-14 Detroit, MI- Thanks to all who participated! Great reviews about how useful SBM's information was!
- c. **Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA)** Meeting on 5/12/2022- Thank you, it went very well!

B. Vice Chair Report

- a. Had a few meetings with people who are interested in presenting to our section or being more involved.
 - i. OPLA Detroit Chief Counsel Tara Harris
 - ii. Fred Kastia tour for young lawyers
- b. Catholic Charities "casa amiga" looking to do something with us— fundraising opportunities, clients
- c. Met with **Johanna Kononen** Director of Law and Policy, Michigan Coalitions to End Domestic Violence- informed trauma training and on motions to quash/subpoenas to protect survivors

C. Treasurer

- a. Budget Overview and Updates
 - i. 333 paid memberships
 - ii. \$30,708.46 balance
 - 1. We have about \$11,000/year from membership fees. We can look into different proposals. We should allocate no more than ½ the budget to scholarship and resources. We could allocate approx. \$8,000-9,000 this year for scholarships, donations, service projects.
 - 2. Abril proposed: Family day/bbq on the west and eastside for members and their families
 - 3. Ruby proposed using funding for the MIRC created booklets for people proceeding pro se— printing, folding and distributing to detention centers, offices, court. Either as a donation to MIRC or directly taking it on.

- a. Rebecca O. can find out information to make this a direct project for ILS
 - 4. Ruby proposed using reserved money for interpretation services— firms could also pay into that.
 - a. It helps any member of this section- whether a government attorney or private or non profit because it ensures proper communication. And two it encourages pro bono work (Rebecca O.)
 - b. Abril proposed adding this to the next Council meeting
 - c. List of organizations
 - d. Can work with Lighthouse and MIRC initially
 - 5. Pro-bono asylum attorneys needed for Central American and migrants
 - 6. Proposals should be submitted to Arturo
 - 7. Community outreach and budget should work together to create plans
- b. Scholarship Committee
 - i. Need more people to sign up! Please let Arturo know if you are interested
 - ii. Two proposed scholarships:
 - 1. Merit based scholarship
 - 2. Personal need scholarship

D. Section Representatives

- Solo/Small Practice Section (Alexandra Gillet)
- Family Law Section (Fawzea Abusalah)
- Criminal Law Section (Edward Bajoka)

E. Subcommittee

- a. Events/Programming Committee (Abril Valdes Siewert)
 - i. See Vice-Chair report above
 - ii. Annual meeting— do it with criminal law section Abril will reach out to Elaine
 - iii. We would need to form an annual meeting adhoc cmte.
 - 1. Kim Buddin and Reggie Pacis volunteered
 - iv. Brad: open table/round table discussion have been helpful in the past
 - v. We will reach out to folks for help. If you are interested
- Membership Committee (Chris Dutot)
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- Publication Committee (Rebecca Robichaud)
 - For the publications committee we met and we are working on developing a checklist to edit the articles received last year. Abril is checking on how we can get a section newsletter started. We are not soliciting new articles at this point but when we are able to take new articles to edit and place we will let everyone know!

- Community Outreach Committee (Brad Maze)
 - See Chair report
- Public Policy Committee (Kim Buddin)
 - SB 588/ HB 5087- expression of legislative intent in support of in-state tuition rates for certain non citizen students (no hearing scheduled). Cmte. is watching
 - Drive safe bills- will submit a recommendation at next meeting
 - Non removable offenses/please: California bill- diversion of drug offense, encourage parties to plea to public nuisance.
 - Police reform in light of GR (Richard)
 - <https://www.aclumich.org/en/news/call-immigrant-justice>
 - Lots of overlap between traffic stops, cultural training, drivers education
 - Sub-committee is looking to uplift any work. Potentially creating and circulating to members for their clients: What To Do when stopped by police
 - Some existing resources: [ACLU of MI Know Your Rights](#)
 - ICE transfers for folks who had credible fear interviews denied (Houston) and Chicago office has quickly denied review. [Complaint filed](#). MIRC possibly filing (Hassan and Kerry)
- Budget Committee (Arturo Alfaro, Treasurer)
 - Contact Arturo if interested in joining
 - See Treasurer's report

F. Congressional Liaison Reports (Sarah Yore-Van Oosterhout, Ellie Mosko)

- a. None

VII. Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 29 at noon

VIII. Motion to adjourn by Chair Bradley Maze and seconded by Vice Chair Abril Valdes Siewert
Meeting adjourned at 12:58pm