



## GOVERNMENT LAW SECTION

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2020 via Zoom

A meeting of the Government Law Section was called to order by Chair Stremers at 10:10 a.m.

#### **I. ATTENDANCE AND EXCUSED ABSENCES**

**Present:** Bluhm, Fales, Fisher, Forsyth, Joppich, McGee, Mills, Mithani, Mullhaupt, Nettleton, Rosati, So, Stremers, Tamm, Walling, Watza, Williams

**Absent:** Forbush, Hitchcock, Sluggett, Zeits

**Motion to Excuse Absences:** Nettleton      **Support:** Rosati  
**Council approved by unanimous vote**

#### **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion to Approve Agenda:** Nettleton      **Support:** Fales  
**Council approved by unanimous vote**

#### **III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- a. Report of Nominating Committee presented at Tab A of Council Packet with recommended slate.
- b. Call for Nominations from the floor yielded no additional nominations.

**Motion to Approve slate presented by the Nominating Committee:** Fisher  
**Support:** Rosati.  
**Council approved by unanimous vote**

- c. Passing of the gavel accomplished virtually!

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion to Approve Minutes of August 8, 2020 Regular Meeting:** Rosati **Support:** Mithani  
**Council approved by unanimous vote**

#### **V. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Mills advised the Financial Statement reports status of funds remain stable at higher levels than previous years due to lack of conference costs. No substantial change in position from last meeting.

## **VI. AMICUS COMMITTEE**

Mithani reported no new requests for amicus support. Mithani and Mills will reconcile list of support and expenses. Discussion regarding amicus update in January edition of *Briefly*. Bluhm thanked Council for joining in *City of Troy* case last meeting. Williams noted strong behind the scenes work of the Amicus Committee.

## **VII. GLS Briefly Editor**

Mills and Fox presented report detailing click and open rate of Briefly over the past few years, and plans for future articles. Mills requested author and article ideas. Council extended appreciation to Mills and Fox for the work.

## **VIII. Social Media Committee**

Council conferred regarding whether to coordinate membership and social media committee activities. Seth Koches, as a member of the committee, noted difficulties imposed by COVID. Mithani asked whether this committee's work helped increase readership/click rate of *Briefly*. Joppich acknowledged crossover between the membership and social media committees, but the separate work and purpose is enough to remain separate. Council acknowledged Section website as an area for improvement and possible task of the social media committee. Bluhm and others support separate committees to increase opportunity for participation from membership.

## **IX. Membership Committee**

Chair Mullhaupt discussed purpose of Committee, appointing Koches (Bauckham Sparks firm), Alannah (Plunkett Cooney firm), Tamaris Henegan (City of Adrian), Julie Dufrane (City of Troy), and Chad Karsten (Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes).

## **X. OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Michigan Bar Journal Government Law Issue In 2020. Council thanked all involved in July 2020 Bar Journal, especially Bluhm and Williams as editors. Kolb acknowledged Fisher's article as meaningful to her practice.

## **XI. New Business**

- a. 2020-2021 Tentative Meeting Schedule

Council discussed tentative meeting schedule, gaining consensus to schedule October meeting for October 10, instead of October 3.

Council discussed Winter Seminar and potential impact of COVID-19. Rosati reminded Council of the State Bar expectations regarding timing for receipt of conference information, agenda, and staff/service needs. Walling offered to coordinate with The Henry as a possible physical location, with Council acknowledging potential need to turn to virtual format. Council selected February 12, 2021 as date for Winter Seminar.

b. Appellate Practice Section - Annual Meeting Sept. 24, 2020 via Zoom

**XII. COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Kolb glad to join and looking forward to working with Council.

Bluhm advises 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit decision in billboard case and the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Circuits taking up commercial sign issues. Fisher referenced 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit decision invalidating on-premises v off-premises signs.

Discussion about and extension of appreciation to Executive Board for leadership. Williams updated Council regarding efforts to amend Open Meetings Act.

Next meeting is October 10, 2020 at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT: 10:43 a.m.**