



GOVERNMENT LAW SECTION

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN GOVERNMENT LAW SECTION MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2021

Monthly Meeting by Zoom

CALL TO ORDER: A Zoom conference meeting of the Government Law Section was called to order by Chair, Catherine Mullhaupt on March 6, 2021 at 10:00 am.

1. Attendance and Excused Absences:

Present: Bluhm, Fales, Fisher, Forsyth, Kolb, McGee, Mills, Mithani, Mullhaupt, So, Stremers, Walling, Watza, Zeits

Absent: Forbush, Joppich, Nettleton, Rosati, Sluggett, Tamm, Williams

Motion to Excuse Absences: Mills
Council approved by unanimous vote.

Support: Walling

2. Approval of Agenda:

Motion to Approve Agenda: Fisher
Council approved by unanimous vote.

Support: Bluhm

3. Approval of February 12, 2021 Minutes:

Motion to Approve Minutes: Walling
Council approved by unanimous vote.

Support: Fisher

4. Treasurer's Report:

No updates.

5. SBM Marketing Presentation:

Darin Day, Director of Outreach and Constituent Development, and Jennifer Hatter, Lawyer Services and Outreach Coordinator, from the State Bar of Michigan offered Council strategies for broadening and diversifying GLS membership. Day stated as part of any initiative to increase and diversify membership, Council should first review and discuss the following concepts: values (why people should join GLS); audience (who we want to join GLS) and messaging (how best to get communicate our values to the target audience). Day noted that the standard value propositions suggested by most sections of the SBM include opportunities to learn, educational programming, networking and mentorship. Day suggested that Council utilize its Membership Committee to help develop the section's values. Once the Council has defined its values, it should define its audience and then determine how best to engage people who (1) want to be part of the GLS and are not aware of it; and (2) people who are aware of GLS but do not think membership is worth it.

Day and Hatter suggested using various tools to improve messaging, including social media accounts, the bar journal, the GLS website, and e-blasts. Day acknowledged that there is some value in offering discounted or free memberships, but also noted that without stated/defined values and the proper messaging, this type of offer will not have the intended effect of increasing and diversifying membership. Day and Hatter suggested providing avenues for more participation by younger members who want to help. They

also encouraged GLS to survey the membership about GLS goals and values. And, they suggested partnering or initiating conversations with the Young Lawyers Section, the cultural affinity bar associations in Michigan, and the SBM Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Committee. Council was very receptive to the ideas offered by Day and Hatter and committed to continuing the discussion on how best to increase and diversify GLS membership in the coming months.

6. Seminars and Meetings:

a. 2021 Virtual Winter Seminar – Friday, February 12, 2021

Mullhaupt reported on the results of the online survey that she circulated to the Winter Seminar attendees. Feedback was quite favorable, with more than a majority who responded finding the seminar well run, useful, and informative. All survey participants thought the programming length was appropriate, and the vast majority agreed that they would participate in another virtual seminar if one were offered by GLS.

Council has access to the full-recorded version of the seminar and could offer a link to those who were unable to attend the seminar. Council agreed that we should provide a link to this particular seminar on our section website for members to access without cost, and further consider how best to provide members and non-members with access to future recorded seminars.

b. MAMA/GLS Summer Educational Conference.

i. 2021 MAMA/GLS Summer Educational Conference (June 18-19, 2021)

Mullhaupt provided an update on MAMA's negotiations with the Grand Hotel regarding hotel rooms for the Summer Educational Conference scheduled for June 18-19, 2021. Because there is no attrition clause in MAMA's contract with the Grand Hotel, MAMA has decided that it in lieu of entering into a new agreement with the Grand Hotel that would also obligate MAMA to contract with the Grand Hotel for the 2023 Summer Educational Conference, MAMA would like to reserve some hotel rooms per the contract and release whatever rooms are being held for MAMA on or before the contracted-for release date of May 18, 2021. Mullhaupt also noted that MAMA would like to know whether GLS members would be interested in booking any of these rooms for the weekend of June 18-19, 2021. Finally, Mullhaupt and Fales acknowledged that irrespective of its discussions with the Grand Hotel over the reservation of rooms, MAMA is not interested in providing any joint educational programming with GLS during the weekend of June 18-19, 2021.

Motion to accept MAMA's position that GLS and MAMA will not hold a joint seminar at the Grand Hotel in June 2021:

Forsyth

Support:

Walling

Council Approved by Unanimous Vote.

Given that MAMA is not interested in holding a joint educational conference in June 2021, Council discussed holding an educational conference addressing DEI-related issues later in August or September 2021, either with or without MAMA's involvement. Council also discussed the idea of meeting at the Grand Hotel during June 19-20, 2021 to engage in strategic planning. Mullhaupt will informally poll the Council, and members of the Social and Membership Committees, to determine interest in booking rooms at the Grand Hotel over June 19-20, 2021 in order to participate in strategic planning for the benefit of the section. Council will revisit this issue during its April 2021 meeting.

7. New Business:

Council discussed when to hold the June 2021 Council meeting and decided to address this issue at the April 2021 meeting.

8. Old Business:

None.

9. Committees:

a. Amicus Committee:

No updates.

b. *Briefly* Committee:

No updates.

c. Social Media Committee:

d. Membership Committee:

Mullhaupt is planning to initiate a joint meeting of the Social Media and Membership Committees and will reach out to the Committees' members to schedule.

10. Correspondence:

None.

11. Council comments:

None.

Council adjourned the meeting at 11:59 am.

Minutes taken by Mithani