

American Indian Law Section  
Business Meeting  
January 19, 2023  
12:00 pm EST  
via Zoom

Minutes

**Welcome - Call to Order**

Sarah Zlotnicki called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

**Attendance:**

Sarah Zlotnicki; Kaitlin Gant; Lauren Mulhern (through SZ proxy); Amy Wesaw (through SZ proxy); Emily Paski (not in attendance); Jen Saeckl (through SZ proxy); Yasmeen Farran; and Anna Bruty (not in attendance); Judge Yost Johnson and Katrina Kapture.

**Approval of Minutes (12/22/22)**

SZ made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Judge Yost seconded. Motion passed (7 for, 0 against, 0 abstain).

**Approval of Meeting Agenda**

SZ made a motion to approve the agenda. KG seconded. (8 for, 0 against, 0 abstain)

**Approval of Closing Meeting**

YF made a motion to close the meeting. Judge Yost seconded. (8 for, 0 against, 0 abstain)

**I. Unfinished Business**

A. Updates from Committees.

- a. Advocacy and Education Committee. No updates
- b. Communication and Membership Engagement Committee. No updates

B. Annual Meeting

- a. State Bar does not have annual meeting anymore (approximately before COVID, they have stopped it)
  - b. Judge Yost indicated that the bylaws will need to be amended
  - c. Don Wheaton ([don@lawyerhousecalls.com](mailto:don@lawyerhousecalls.com)) would be a resource for amending bylaws for section by the state
  - d. Potentially, do it during TICA (Sarah will look into if the date of TICA will work)
  - e. Judge Yost - focus on recruitment, perhaps offer some training, maybe connect it with another event
  - f. Maybe have presentations on how firms can diversify their investments
  - g. Maybe next meeting, make a list and finalize which ideas we want to use for the presentation
  - h. Training on ICWA/MIFPA
  - i. Maybe focus on more practical trainings
  - j. If law firms come in, they are willing to be sponsors for lunch, etc. (maybe ask firms to submit proposals about what they would speak about)
- C. AILS/MSU ILPC Annual Conference Update.
- a. Sarah will follow up with ILPC
- D. Diversity Lunch with ADR Section.
- a. No new updates, previous date was incorrect
- E. Section Liaisons
- a. Liaisons benefits (Judge Yost):
    - i. If something comes up in the courts have different support and potential lobbyists
    - ii. Formalize process of getting input on bills that cross different legal areas more formally and quickly
    - iii. If we do proceed with that, you have to be more explicit when things are confidential
    - iv. Bylaws are silent on liaisons
    - v. Children's Law Section and Family Law Section liaison potentially Judge Yost after we review the by-laws
    - vi. Include in next month's agenda about liaisons

## **II. New Business**

### **A. Brackeen**

- a. They do not know how long this will go
- b. The question now is can this shoot down MIFPA?
  - i. Yes it could because MIFPA will then be based on race and not nationality
- c. What can be done now? Can we be proactive?
- d. A lot of MI tribes submitted amicus briefs
- e. The idea now is that if it is struck down, tribes will start taking more jurisdiction (updating tribal codes to create more jurisdiction)
- f. Katrina can draft an alert saying here are things that can be done in preparation
- g. Can we protect MI
- h. Sarah will contact the ILPC
- i. CIP tribal court is meeting today and Katrina is a part of that and she will see if they are discussing next steps
- j. Neoshia may have something written already that could be published in the Family Law Section Journal of the MI Bar

## **III. General Updates**