

State Bar of Michigan
American Indian Law Section
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2025
12:00 p.m. EST

Call to Order at 12:01 p.m.

Welcome- Roll Call

Anna Bruty - present

Sarah Zlotnicki - present

Kathryn Petersen – by proxy

Katilin Gant – present

Stacey Rock – present

Peter Schinkai – present

Hon. Tina Yost Johnson – not present

Katrina Kapture - present

Amy Wesaw – not present

Yasmeen Farran – present

Laura Foerster – not present

Payton Jakiemiec - present

Jasmin Guillen - present

Levi Rickert - present

Approval of Agenda – Peter made a motion to add State Bar journal to the agenda, Stacey seconded. Approved (8-0-0)

Approval of October Meeting Minutes (10.08.25) Yasmeen motioned to approve, Peter seconded. Approved (8-0-0)

I. New Business

a. Great Lakes Legal Symposium

Levi Rickert from Native News Online called in. Said he is looking for a partnership for 1 day symposium in March. Location tbd. Legal aspects of business. Tribes getting into deals with people who don't understand dealing with Tribes, deals falling apart once the bank is involved. Need guidance on topics that need discussion, and proposal lists topics. Target audience? Wants to attract newly elected Tribal Council, etc.

Anna asked for clarity that they aren't asking for money, maybe a co-hosting arrangement? Levi affirmed.

Stacey likes the opportunity.

Anna asked for thoughts about target audience.

Stacey said it will be a diverse audience. Depending on how the symposium is set up, ie breakout sessions, targeted to different career paths.

Levi wants to get non-Indian lawyers there. Anna suggests email.

Kaitlin attended the leadership training, says there are a number of ways to communicate with other sections, she has the contacts and can advertise the event. Yasmeen suggests reaching out to firms to get non-lawyer professionals who work in business, Native American student groups

Anna and Kathryn will be Levi's point of contact.

Anna summarized needs: publicity, option to co-host, not looking for monetary donation

Levi signed off.

Anna said she likes the co-host idea. Yasmeen asked if there were conflicts with the MI bar, but that might not be an issue. Gerry doesn't think so, but he will reach out to the state bar. He thinks the SBM would approve and encourage.

Kaitlin said SBM won't mind unless we take a public policy stance.

Gerry will reach out to SBM with the proposal.

Yasmeen suggests putting a disclaimer on the materials saying AILS doesn't endorse opinions.

- i. Stacey motioned to approve AILS's participation in the event with caveat that we will reassess if Gerry comes back with any issues from SBM.

Kaitlin seconded. Approved (8-0-0).

- b. State Bar Journal

Peter said he is still trying to track down writers for the September 2026 bar journal. They need 4 articles, due by end of April, final by June 2026. Several people have expressed interest, but Peter hasn't heard from them. Anna said she'd write an article. Yasmeen said she will too. Stacey said she'd do an article about peacemaking and restorative justice. She thought Laura had one planned too.

Peter will reach out with clear deadlines.

II. **Unfinished Business**

- a. Annual Meeting Suggested Topics

Gerry says: (1) invite all 12 Tribal Courts and give them time to talk about their court, what they do, etc. (2) invite justice Kavanaugh to speak (3) invite Darren Day from SBM.

Date – looking at August, preferably a Friday. Need to set it soon, Stacey suggests plan to send out save the date by January/February. Can advertise at the Legal Symposium.

Location – Looking at Traverse City, up North. Committee will start reaching out.

- b. Events Google Form

Kaitlin got forms back, didn't get a lot of responses: Intertribal relations, navigating sovereign immunity issues, etc. Mr. Perry volunteered as a panelist; Kaitlin has his contact information.

Stacey says Sag Chip is big into education.

- c. List of ideas for Gerry Mason to bring to SBM

Gerry says if we want to present anything at Mackinac Island, we need to get that arranged very soon. Anna thinks we may have already missed the deadline. Stacey suggests that if they get us in we should talk about Tribal Courts. Peter thinks we missed the 2025 and 2026 deadline. Gerry said he'd ask and get us set up for 2027, we just have to tell him what we want to present.

Gerry had dinner with James Dyer, the Administrator from Leelanau county. He was treasurer for the FLRSB. Gerry thinks someone should reach out to him and get him involved, he is an attorney. Anna said she'd reach out.

III. General Updates

Motion to Adjourn (Anna), Seconded (Peter). No vote due to loss of quorum.