

State Bar of Michigan
American Indian Law Section
Meeting Agenda
February 11, 2026
12:00 p.m. EST

Welcome- Roll Call

Anna Bruty

Sarah Zlotnicki

Kathryn Petersen

Katilin Gant

Stacey Rock

Peter Schinkai

Hon. Tina Yost Johnson

Katrina Kapture

Amy Wesaw

Yasmeen Farran

Laura Foerster

Payton Jakiemiec

Jasmin Guillen

Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve by KP; Seconded by LF (approved 11-0-0)

Laura ask to put articles under unfinished business, Anna wants to discuss the location for annual conference under general updates

Approval of December Meeting Minutes (01.14.26)

Motion to approve by LF, seconded by SZ

I. New Business

- a. HB 5445: Legislation on dedicated family court; to add training specifically for ICWA, DV, abuse/neglect; add non-rotating bench, etc.
Laura said she's happy to contribute, Gerry offered to assist. Gerry told Judge this morning that he would help in any way, and he can talk to the Commissioners. Laura asked about the ICWA training, suggests adding MIFPA, and noted that they aren't listed in the legislation. Judge TYJ explained that ICWA/MIFPA aren't listed separately in the legislation because they are part of several case types and therefore part of several trainings, but, there is still room to comment. Gerry and Laura are of the opinion that these laws are often overlooked, so they should be specifically listed. Judge TYJ doesn't think there will be pushback on that, family law section will support. Judge TYJ says Wozniak is trying to get bipartisan review, they're passing other family law legislation, and they need support as soon as possible. She says the statute provides three things: education; one family, one court; and if you run for a family law seat, you can't just switch to another court.

Anna asked if we should take a vote. Laura supports voting to support with comments. Stacey suggests giving us a week to review or waiting until next meeting. It was decided to leave the voting open until end of day on Monday. Judge TYJ suggests taking a motion to support HB 5445 with condition that 1104(a) shall specifically set training to include ICWA and MIFPA. We will have an emergency meeting at 9am on Monday. Judge TYJ made Motion to table until emergency meeting at 9am Monday, Laura seconded. comments in by Sunday

II. Unfinished Business

- a. MILS Donation – tabled to next month.
- b. 2026 Young Lawyers Summit Sponsor Request – Laura explained that last month we were leaning toward not doing this, for scheduling and budgeting reasons. SZ made motion to vote, KG seconded. All in favor of voting no, except Peter abstaining.

III. General Updates

- a. Anna asked about Annual Conference locations – discussed leaning toward Soaring Eagle because it's mid-state and has a museum.
- b. Laura is working on MMIW article and asked if anyone has a copy of a study on causes of death (published last year) that was taken down from the FBI website. Gerry and Judge TYJ have some contacts he will reach out to.

Laura moved to adjourn, Judge TYJ seconded.