

State Bar of Michigan
Criminal Law Section Council Meeting Minutes
11/17/2020 Electronic Meeting by Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm

- Attendance
 - Present (12) voting members: Christina Hines, Ryan Zemke, Bruce Timmons, Anthony Greene, Edwar Zeineh, Cassandra Green, Kahla Crino, Edward Hess, Stephanie Farkas, Takura Nyamfukudza, Christina Piatkowski, Opolla Brown
 - Present Non-voting Members (1): Elaine Spiliopoulous
 - Excused Absences (7): Michael Marutiak, Sofia Nelson, Goran Antovski, Hon. Martha Anderson (due to resignation), Jennifer Lamp, Nicole Huddleston, Doug Lloyd
 - Unexcused Absences(4): David Gilbert, Matthew Smith, Hon. Michael Clarizio, Stephen Gobbo
 - The Secretary and Chair confirmed that a quorum was present.
- Chair Remarks
 - The Chair stated that her priority this year was to work on diversity and inclusion on the Council through conference and scholarship. The Chair stated that she was interested in finding a way for the Council to finance internships at public defender and prosecutor's offices for people from diverse backgrounds. The Chair expressed concern that some people from diverse backgrounds may not be able to accept unpaid internships. The Chair expressed an interest in fostering diversity through scholarships and improved diversity on the Council. The Chair also stated that programs and training for the upcoming year would focus on implicit bias and perhaps learning about blind charging policies. The Chair stated that she welcomes ideas for furthering these goals from the rest of the Council and Section.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of draft agenda
 - Before meeting adjourned, the Chair raised the issue of approving the draft agenda. Timmons commented that approval was moot. No further discussion or action by Council.
- Approval of Council meeting minutes from June Meeting, Annual Meeting, and Follow-up Meeting.
 - Approval passes unanimously (12) by voice.

Treasurers Report

- Nelson was not present with excused absence. Due to the close of the fiscal year, no financial reports were provided by the SBM.

Committee Reports

- Legislative and Court Rules
 - Chair and Timmons agreed to table the items on agenda for discussion until next meeting to facilitate discussion among more than 12 committee members.
- Midwinter Conference
 - Farkas reported that the Midwinter Conference will be via Zoom on February 13, and that it will focus on the topics of diversity, implicit bias, and racial justice. The committee is interested in Professor Keith Maddox as a presenter on implicit bias and topics including blind charging policies, virtual trials, and speedy trial issues because of COVID-19. Farkas also reported that the Council might have to consider compensation for speakers but that the Council will save money by not having to rent a venue.
 - Zeineh moved to approve a budget of up to \$10,000 for the Midwinter Conference, and Farkas seconded. Passes unanimously by hand vote (12) at 7:01 pm.
- Annual Meeting
 - The Chair inquired of the Council if it was interested in doing another joint conference and if there was general approval for the Chair to reach out to other sections. The Council expressed no opposition and agreed that a vote was not required. Zeineh expressed specific support for the relationship building aspect of joint programs.

Representatives to Council Reports/Discussion

- None.

Old Business

- None.

New Business and Updates

- Timmons reminded the Council that committees are not limited to Council members.
- The Chair informed the Council that Judge Martha Anderson is stepping down for the Council.

- The Chair informed the Council that there are Council vacancies for Michigan Judges Association and Access to Justice.
- Timmons raised the issue of whether Executive Board members should or could resign their Council positions in order to appoint additional Council members.

Announcement of Next Meetings

- December 15, 2020 at 6:30 via zoom
- January 19, 2021 at 6:30 via zoom
- February TBD (zoom)
- March 16 (zoom or in person)
- April 20 (zoom or in person)
- May 18 (zoom or in person)
- June TBD (zoom or in person)
- July TBD (zoom or in person)
- August TBD (zoom or in person)

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Zeineh and seconded by Hess. Motion unanimously passed by voice vote (12).
- Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kahla Dawn Crino (P71012)
Secretary, Criminal Law Section
November 17, 2020

Minutes approved by the Council, *as revised*, by a unanimous voice vote at the Council's January 19, 2021 meeting. Motion to approve made by Zeineh; seconded by Gilbert.