

Idaho State Bar Diversity Section Minutes
January 23, 2015
By telephone conference call

In attendance

Jason Gray, Section chair
Kinzo Mihara
Linda Pall
Don Burnett
Dean Cathy Silak
Mahmood Sheikh, Idaho State Bar Deputy Director

1. **Before the Meeting**-Call to Order. Section Chair Jason Gray called the meeting to order. He said that the group could engage in some informal discussion while waiting for others to join the conference call.

In the absence of the secretary, Linda Pall was appointed secretary pro tem.
The group discussed some of the old business of the Section.

FINANCES: The status of the most recent (December 31, 2014) financial report was discussed. The status of the October 30, 2014 seminar sponsored by the Section, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act received rave reviews. It was also a financial success with a positive balance of more than \$2,000.00. Pall said that the records did not reflect \$700 she contributed to the Section to help underwrite the seminar, plus \$100 from Anthony 'Tony' Park, which would have made the seminar even more productive. Jason said that he would inquire an follow up with the Bar staff.

Pall had also been asked to expend up to \$100.00 to purchase an appropriate item to honor Susie Boring Headlee on her retirement as Mediation director of the federal District Court in Idaho. Pall purchased an elegant pitcher that was engraved with the section's appreciation for Boring-Headlee's work and especially her assistance to the Section. Pall was asked to make the presentation at her retirement celebration later in January to honor her for her contributions to the Section and to the cause of justice in Idaho over many years. It was moved, seconded and approved.

Jason formally opened the meeting.

2. **Treasurer's report** – In the absence of the Treasurer, the budget proposal for 2015 was discussed instead. Jason sought Section option

Kinzo expressed concern and perplexity over the State Bar's allocation of administrative costs. There proceeded a relatively long and opaque discussion of Section frustration. Recent amounts budgeted have been: \$3,200 in 2012; \$1,800.00 in 2013; \$2,000 in 2014. The proposal for the 2015 budget offered by the State Bar is \$2,500.00. This appeared adequate but given the opaque manner of calculation, the group still found it hard to understand.

Governing Board expenses were tentatively budgeted at \$100.00. Those attending felt the amount should be increased to \$500.00.

Kinzo objected to having \$2,100.00 budgeted for committee work. It should be allocated elsewhere in the budget, more associated with actual expenditures and the purpose of the Section. Also, the Annual Meeting award breakfast should be included. To avoid the problem we had this year over the retirement gift, there should be \$200 budgeted for the purpose of awards.

Those present agreed that the Budget's goal should be to avoid deficits. Jason will work with the ISB staff and the Section Treasurer to make sure this is accomplished.

3. **CLE**

225th Anniversary of the Ratification of the Bill of Rights in 2016 Discussion was had about the previously approved plan for this major seminar effort for 2016 in Moscow and Boise, on September 15 and 16, 2016, to coincide with Constitution Day. Pall was appointed to coordinate this seminar effort with an Advisory Committee.

Kinzo expressed enthusiasm for this program which would be coordinated with Constitution Day Saturday, September 17, 2016, feeling that it was a great idea. Pall suggested the Steering Committee should include Section chair Jason Gray, Federal Magistrate Judge Candy Dale, retired Dean and Interim President of UI Don Burnett, Dean Mark Adams of the University of Idaho College of Law, Dean Cathy Silak of Concordia Law School, and Judge Sergio Gutierrez. Several other names would be submitted to Jason for appointment this spring. It was moved, seconded and passed by the group to approve the program outlined for the September 2016 seminar with regular updates at Section meetings.

Option for an Annual Meeting Seminar sponsored by the Section. Pall disclosed that we had the option of inviting a Ninth Circuit Federal Judge to discuss the status of diversity in 9th circuit cases and administration at the Annual meeting of the State Bar in July. The group endorsed the plan and the Bar would let us know whether our proposal had been selected.

4. **Love the law! Report:** The Love the Law! Committee Report was given by Chair Jason and LTL! Committee members Kinzo Mihara and Linda Pall in the absence of

chair Jana Gomez. The Scholarship Program for spring 2015 to assist needy diversity students with funds for application, LSAT preparation and other application costs is being proposed. A detailed discussion followed about the accreditation status of Concordia School of Law because of the school's failure to win accreditation at this time. In order to sit for the Idaho State Bar, one must graduate from an accredited law school which Concordia is not at this time.

Dean Silak offered the assistance of Brian Bava, Concordia's admissions director to work with the LTL! Committee to sort this problem out. Students selected for the scholarship would have the costs paid directly to the purveyors of the services, such as LSAC and other providers.

The Section left to the Committee the question of law school standards for inclusion for the scholarship applicants. Overall, the group favored moving forward. Pall moved with Kinzo seconding, that the Section approve three \$1,100.00 Pre-Law Application Scholarships to be awarded in the spring of 2015 by the ISB Diversity Section LTL! Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Announcements.

Dean Silak announced that an award presentation and reception is planned for Friday, March 6, 2015, at Concordia School of Law in Boise at 5:00 P.M. Those to be honored as "Leaders in Law" are Judge Sergio Gutierrez of the Idaho Court of Appeals and Dr. Bertram Grandon, president of the College of Western Idaho.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Pall, Secretary Pro Tem.